

#### Mission

AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.

#### Vision

Every American Baptist church shall have a vital women's ministry program that empowers women and girls to become and develop as God's person, build God's faith community, and serve God's world.

#### Purpose

As servant leaders, we serve American Baptist churches by encouraging existing vital ministries with women and girls and empowering churches to build such ministries.

With those goals in mind, the ABWM/PNW Region Board would appreciate learning about any women you could recommend who would be willing and capable to serve on PNW committees and/or serve as an elected officer.

**ABWM/PNW Conference** information is also in this Newsletter. I pray that all of you will seriously consider coming together as **one family** next year in Yakima, Washington. We will celebrate with joy what it means to be an American Baptist Woman and learn new ways to serve the Lord.

In closing, let me say that I would love to come and visit your Women's Fellowship to talk about American Baptist Women's Ministries (or even share my missionary work in Myanmar over the last 20 years) or come and join you in a Sunday morning worship.

If you have any questions or just want to chat, please contact me.

Gail M. Aita

26621 128<sup>th</sup> Ave SE,

Kent, WA 98030

Home phone: 253-813-5399

Cell phone: 206-755-2859

E-mail: gailrosemary@gmail.com

Until we in person,

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, <sup>5</sup>For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; <sup>6</sup>Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it until the day of Jesus Christ:*"

Gail

# **Getting to Know Our Officers**

I was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts, a city just outside of Boston. I attended Gordon College, a small Christian college north of Boston where I earned a B.S. in Pre-Theology. I have also earned a master's degree in Special Education from the University of Montana. I recently retired from a teaching career that spanned over 40 years.

For the past twenty years, my husband Paul and I have served as Special Assistants to the Director of Southeast Asia and Japan in International Ministries. During that time we have gone to Myanmar 10 times to teach at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in Yangon as well as other seminaries throughout the

country. We have also visited Kuala Lumpur to work with the Burmese refuges in Malaysia. It is extremely important to both of us to continue ministering to the People from Burma in the greater Seattle area.

Ever since Paul and I were married (in 1968) I have been involved in ABW Ministries. To be honest during the first years of our marriage going to ABW meetings was a way for me to be out of the house and enjoy an evening with other women. But I soon realized how important being an American Baptist Woman was to me. It was being part of a "family", a family that extended not only across the country but across the world. Over the years serving in different capacities of the ABW Ministries organization, I have gained knowledge about, compassion and love for women of other cultures, and a shared vision of how to serve the Lord using the talents that He has given me.

I am privileged to serve as the President of American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Pacific Northwest. I look forward to finding new ways for us to grow and expand our ministry to all women in the Northwest. I pray that God will bless our mission as we all seek to serve Him with our whole hearts.

Shalom, dear Sisters in Christ,

Gail Aita - President

Ed and I will be celebrating our 40th Wedding Anniversary February 14th, 2021; we live in the North End of Tacoma - between The Narrow's Bridge and Point Defiance Park and a 30 minute walk to Grace Baptist Church. Our children are - Eric (43) who is married to Liz - they have two boys, Jacob (22) (wife Bridget) and Nate (17) who will be a Senior at Curtis High School in University Place, WA. Heather (37) is married to Rob and they have four girls, Aly (19) a Sophomore at Whitworth University in Spokane, Charisma (16) a Junior at Wilson High School, Hannah (7) a 2nd grader, and Layla (4) who attends Jack & Jill Cooperative Preschool. The grandkids keep us hoppin'

I began attending Grace Baptist Church when I was two yrs. old and other than the times I lived in Texas, Kansas, or Germany, GBC has been my Church Family - actually, they were my family when I was living elsewhere, too. Since my retirement from United Way of Pierce County in 2014, I've been a Volunteer Secretary for GBC as well as a long-time volunteer for KAIROS Prison Ministry at the women's Prison in Gig Harbor.

I've been involved in PNW/ABW Ministries work beginning around 1985 with the support of Pat Clemensen, Betty Bates, Gail Aita, Terri Simpkins, and many other wonderful ABW Women. Some of the positions I've had the honor to hold: at GBC ABW President, for the Far West Area President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and for PNW Secretary, Coordinator of Personal Development, Conference Chair...many more of which I don't remember.

I am excited about the positive changes that are in the works for PNW-ABW Ministries; I will do my best to continue to serve the Lord and you as the PNW-ABW Ministries Secretary.

#### Nadine Glass—Secretary









I was born and raised in Olympia, Washington. I graduated from Olympia High School. I worked for my Dad in his feed and seed business. Other places I worked through my career were Hutches' Small Fry Store (toy & baby accessories), taught sewing classes, worked for JC Penney's as Head Cashier, finishing my career at East Olympia Post Office.

Along the way I married, raised four children, helped with five granddaughters. I have enjoyed teaching Sunday School and have served on several Boards and Committees.

Jean Heidal got me started in Women's Ministry when she returned to Olympia. That is when I started attending Women's Conference. I was asked to become Treasurer, seven years ago. It is a job I take seriously and consciously. The job requires responsibility, honesty, organization, and neatness. Qualities I pray I have for the job I do. I enjoy helping to plan conferences and attending them. From being involved with the PNW, I have made many friends and friendships.

Janice Holcomb - Treasurer

I was raised on a farm near Nora Springs, Iowa. I attended Mason City Junior College for my first year and graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Home Economics Education. I also have an endorsement for Special Education earned before teaching Family and Consumer Science at Sequoia Middle School. While raising a family, I substitute taught in Renton, Kent, and Highline School Districts. I have also held secretarial positions at Columbia Baptist Church, Rainier Beach Presbyterian Church and served as president of the PTA for Bryn Mawr Elementary School receiving the Golden Acorn award.

After retiring from teaching, I took training as a sewing machine technician and currently run a sewing machine repair business out of my home.

Ever since Alan and I were married (in 1968) and moved to Seattle, I have been involved in youth ministries at Renton First Baptist as a youth leader, then Columbia Baptist as the Rosebuds leader, then at Burien Community Church assisting with various programs and grants such as tutoring and acting as ABW President. I have also served as a den mother and leader in Scouting.

I've always felt Women's ministries important and feel women working together can make great things happen. I am honored to be part of the leadership of the Pacific Northwest American Baptist Women's Ministries as Coordinator of LOVE GIFT.

Currently I am filling the following positions: Secretary/Treasurer of Post 134 American Legion Auxiliary Treasurer of Burien Community Church Chairperson of Joyful Quilters in Evergreen Piecemakers Quilt Guild, Kent Committee Member of Camp Bethel Board

I pray that God will bless our activities in the ABW as we each seek to serve Him with our whole being.

Judith M. Gage—Coordinator of Love Gift



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I was born in 1945 to good Godly Parents and raised in a Christian home on a farm in Nebraska. Our family attended and were very involved in the E.U.B. church so, I have always had head knowledge of

God. When I was 19 and attending college it went from my head to my heart and I have known my eternal destination since that time.

I graduated from S.P.C. in 1967, taught in Napavine 1 year, moved to Hawaii for 3 years, then Nashville for 6 years. In Nashville I met Bill Mosley and married him. Our marriage was rocky from the start and I was always a single parent. I moved to Anacortes in 1977. In 1982 I divorced Bill and was really a single parent to 5 children. I worked hard and God helped me with many gifts from family and church family. I was fortunate to get a farmers home loan and get into the home where I presently live.



Somewhere in my 40s God became Lord of my life. My qualification to be the Coordinator of Personal Development is that I continue to develop. One of my prayers for a long time is that I will hear God's voice guiding me and that I will grow, change and become a better person until the day I die. Also, White Cross was phasing out when they needed someone for personal development. My gifts are organization abilities and remembering words to lots of songs. I don't memorize, God just helps me remember what I know.

#### Betsy Jane Mosley—Coordinator of Personal Development

I am an ethnic Karen born in a small village along the Thai-Burma border. In 2001, with the help of many friends both locally and in the US, my mother, my siblings, and I were able to immigrate to the United States of America as refugees. I graduated with a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Washington and currently work in a community health center in Seattle.



I first came to know American Baptist Churches through the introduction of Rev. Paul and Gail Aita and through my work with the Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle. I had the opportunities to participate in ABWM/PNW annual conferences and regional rallies since 2012. Our church joined the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches in 2017.

When Aunty Gail asked me to serve in the position of Coordinator of Resources in 2018, I gladly accepted. As Coordinator of Resources, I am responsible for preparing the Directory for the ABW Ministries of the Pacific Northwest and the program

booklet for the Annual conference, creating and distributing a quarterly Newsletter to women of the Region, and creating and maintaining the ABWM/PNW website.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and sharing the news of our work in the ministries.

Blessings,

**Tina Po—Coordinator of Resources** 

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#### PNW Women

I was born in Seattle and was adopted when I was two months old and have lived my whole life in Tacoma. In January, my husband, Gary, and I will celebrate our 40th anniversary. I have two stepdaughters that I raised and one son. I have 13 grandchildren. My oldest granddaughter got married on July 4th. It was not the wedding that they had planned, but it turned out good.

I started going to Grace about 38 years ago. My introduction into American Baptist Women was by Nadine. She asked if I would be registrar for conference the year, she was conference chair. That was about 35 years ago, and I believe I have been involved with conference every year since then minus two or three.

I recently lost my sister after a four-year battle with cancer. Thank you to all for keeping me and my sister in your prayers.

I have had a blessed life and will continue to serve God as long as I am able.

#### Lorna Flannery—Coordinator of Literature

It is with honor that I will now serve as the Associate of Literature. I am a asking for your help. Please email me at <u>flanbaker@gmail.com</u> or call me at 253-307-2245 with one of your favorite books that you have read and why it is one of your favorites. I will compile a list of those books and send the list out so we can all learn about all the books that we love to read and be encouraged.



My name is Gayhtoo Thaw. I go by Gayhtoo. I am Karen ethnic from Myanmar, but I believe we are one in Christ. I have lived in greater Seattle since 2008. I love Washington State because we are surrounded by water and mountains. The mountains here reminded me of my birth place. My hobby is singing, playing Ukulele, and hiking.

I am currently a graduate student majoring in social work (MSW) with a concentration in mental health at University of Washington Tacoma and working part-time as an adult behavior health case manager providing counseling and case management services. I would like to continue to work as a mental health counselor after school next year. I'm so excited that starting this October, I will be working with Children, Youth and Family (CYF) program for my practicum and to learn how to work with and serve this population.

My home church is Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle. I serve as a Sunday School teacher and serve in women ministry. I am so excited working with children and young people and my ultimate happiness is seeing them know Jesus personally as their LORD and Savior and grow in grace and knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ.

To God Be the glory both now and forever! Amen.

Gayhtoo Thaw—Coordinator of AB Girls



#### Fall 2

I am a Karen-ethnic young woman born and raised inside Mae La refugee camp along the borders of Burma and Thailand. In 2007, my family and I immigrated to the States as political refugees and have since called Seattle our home for the past 13 years. Whilst I was living inside the refugee camp as a young girl, I always knew deep inside my heart that the Lord knows me and hears my naive prayers. I knew that someday I'd be able to live my wildest dreams: to live and travel freely outside the camp that was enclosed with barbed wires. It has been well over 13 years since the Lord answered my prayer and everyday I am still in awe of the ways the Lord has continually shown up in my life. Everyday, whether I recognize it or not, I would be eventually reminded that the Lord is good and that the God who answered my prayer as a little girl inside the refugee camp is still the same God who is listening to my prayers as an adult.



In this new role as a Coordinator of Young Adult Women Ministry, I am excited for the ways I will grow in my faith and be a resource for young adult women in the Northwest area. I would be lying if I said I am not nervous to take on this role, but more than anything I am confident that the Lord will show up both in the highs and lows for these next three years. My deepest and biggest joys in life is seeing young women thrive not just personally and professionally but also spiritually and I pray everyday that more and more of our young women will come to develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus. I hope you will join me in my prayer.

Blessings,

## Ehler Tha Win—Coordinator of Young Adult Women

# **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

#### Nominating: open position

Scholarship: Kathy Kernan Merletta Roberts

**Finance:** Janice Holcomb Linda Po Verna Smith

**By Laws:** Nadine Glass Jo Selymes Lorna Flannary

#### Conference: 2021

Lorna Flannary (Chair) Kathy Knight Nadine Glass Ehlertha Win Gayhtoo Thaw Janice Holcomb Barbara Reid Gail Aita Georgia McDade Linda Po Tina Po

# **Update from Board Meeting:**

At the August meeting, the Board discussed and agreed to an addition of a new position: Coordinator of Events. Now that the North Puget Sound Area Board and Far West Area Board voted to merge into one with the Region, Coordinator of Events will take the responsibilities of the Area Boards to organize and coordinate meetings and rallies to maintain relationships among the women groups from the churches in the respective areas, and continue to promote the works of the ABWM of Pacific Northwest. Please reach out to any one of our officers if you are interested in filling the position.

# Per Capita

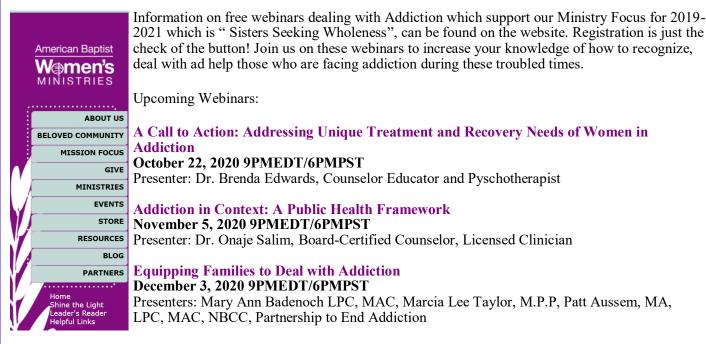
Per Capita is the only means of support that ABWM/PNW has at this time. Historically women of the Pacific Northwest have contributed \$ 4.00 per woman in this ABWM group. In reality, every woman who belongs to an American Baptist Church is an American Baptist Woman. In thinking about donation from your women's group, please consider your commitment to ABW Ministries. Since areas have merged with ABWM-PNW, per capita should be sent to our Treasurer: Janice Holcomb, 4806 Cushman Road NE #158, Olympia, WA 98506.

Thank you for your continued support!

	ABWM/PACIFIC NOR				-	
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Beginning7/14/2020			c		2	020
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Per Capita	\$128.00				INSO	\$80.00
Other Income	\$1.25				WIMA	
	\$1.25				CA	
Expenses Net Income	<u> </u>	\$129.25			Total	\$208.00
Net income	++	\$129.25			Total	\$208.00
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Conf Special Offering	\$70.00		\$70.00		-	
Conf Scholarship	++				-	
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Discretionary						
PNW AB Girls Fund					1	
Love Gift					1	
PNW Young Adult Women's Fund					1	
Nat'l ABW- Support Fund					1	
Total Income			\$7,583.27		1	
Expenses					1	
Miscellaneous Designated Funds					1	
Conference						
Conference Book Store						
Conf Special Offering					1	
Conf Scholarship						
Kachin Scholarship						
Presidents						
Discretionary					1	
PNW AB Girls Fund					]	
Love Gift					]	
PNW Young Adult Women's Fund					]	
Nat'l ABW- Support Fund					]	
Total Expenses		\$0.00				
Balance as of 9/30/20202				\$7,583.27	]	
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September 30, 2020									
	7/14/2020	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance					
Miscellaneous Designated Funds	\$736.57			\$736.57					
Conference	\$2,103.48			\$2,103.48					
Conference Book Store	\$492.90			\$492.90					
Conf Special Offering	\$0.00	\$70.00		\$70.00					
Conf Scholarship	\$877.31			\$877.31					
Kachin Scholarship	\$1,034.00			\$1,034.00					
Presidents	\$278.26			\$278.26					
Discretionary	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00					
	PNW FUN	DS							
PNW AB Girls Fund	\$580.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$580.57					
Love Gift	\$0.00			\$0.00					
PNW Young Adult Women's Fund	\$410.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$410.18					
	NAT'L FUN	DS							
Nat'l ABW- Support Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00					
Nat'l AB Girls-Support Fund				\$0.00					
				\$0.00					
Total Designated Funds	\$7,513.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,583.27					

### Resource: ABW Ministries Web Page ( https://abwomensministries.org/)



If you are not able to attend live, you can access recordings, and past webinar series at the website.

While you are on the website, under "Resources", please consider to subscribe to Leader's Reader, a free bi-monthy email newsletter for information from the national officers and staff of AB Women's Ministries for up-to-date news, and resources for ministries with women and girls.

#### **White Cross Information**

Since White Cross has been a designated ministry of International Ministries and American Baptist Home Mission Societies, the PNW Region Board has voted to no longer have a Coordinator of White Cross on the Board. If your AMW Ministries group would like to continue this vital ministry, you can still do so.

**If you have White Cross questions?** Contact Zofia Dripps in International Ministries (<u>zdripps@internationalministries.org</u> or 610-768-2311) or Kadia Edwards in American Baptist Home Mission t (<u>Kadia.Edwards@abhms.org</u> or 610-768-2449).

White Cross is a program through which American Baptists provide needed supplies to diversified ministries within the mission program of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries. It is essential to the support of the work of both American Baptist Home Mission Societies and International Ministries. It is the joining of mission center workers with local church workers in a united ministry and it is an avenue whereby we as Christians can show our interest in and love for persons of all races and nationalities.

White Cross dates back to April 1919 when women in Ohio organized a mission society called the White Cross Service League. Later that year, both International Ministries and AB Home Mission Societies adopted the White Cross Service program and decided to unite the efforts while keeping two divisions, "overland" and "overseas."

Through International Ministries, Overseas White Cross supports the work of our missionaries and our mission partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, the Philippines, and Thailand as they serve in programs of education, evangelism, community service, and medical care. White Cross also goes to support missions in Myanmar, Haiti, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Chile, Cuba, Panama, Republic of Georgia, Liberia, Palestine, Romania, and Rwanda. Items requested through Overseas White Cross included roller bandages that are sent to the Congo as well as other hand made items and monetary gifts.

Through AB Home Mission Societies, Overland White Cross provides important aid to 60 authorized mission sites. These sites include children's homes and Christian Center work in Alaska; ministries with Native Americans in Arizona, Nevada, Montana, and Oklahoma; Neighborhood Action Christian Centers in urban areas across the country; Race Track ministries; New Church Plants; Asian and Hispanic ministries with community outreach programs; and churches in Puerto Rico as well as a few caring ministry partners. Items requested through Overland White Cross include arts and crafts, school supplies, clothing, hand made items and monetary gifts.

#### White Cross brochures are available through International Ministries. Please

email <u>daniela.glomb@internationalminsitries.org</u>. Additional information can be found on <u>American Baptist</u> <u>Churches' website</u> or <u>International Ministries' website</u>.

#### LOVE GIFT IS 85!

We are celebrating 85 years of Love Gift in 2020. Love Gift is a gift to United Mission and supports American Baptist Mission and Ministry. American Baptist Women's Ministries receives United Mission dollars equivalent to 15% of Love Gift.

You can support LOVE GIFT in the following ways:

- 1. Receive a LOVE GIFT offering at every women's event or meeting in your church.
- 2. Place LOVE GIFT boxes on tables at conferences and board meetings.
- 3. Keep a large jar in back of the church for "Pennies from Heaven for LOVE GIFT."
- 4. Set LOVE GIFT goals for giving.
- 5. Give each family in your church a packet to learn about LOVE GIFT. Include items such as the LOVE GIFT box, the LOVE GIFT brochure, and the website address for American Baptist Missions.
- 6. Every fifth Sunday of a month, receive a LOVE GIFT offering during worship.
- 7. Offer incentives for achieving the LOVE GIFT goal your church sets.

# If your church does not have organized women's ministries you can still participate in LOVE GIFT. To order free LOVE GIFT materials and additional LOVE GIFT boxes visit: www.abwministries.org/store.

- Judy Gage -

# Devotion:

As most of you know I have been given the gift of knowing a lot of songs. When Covid 19 first started it was around the time of my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and I had told my kids I liked "Nobody but Jesus." My daughter Jennifer sang it for me at my party on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. It was a nice party, but many older friends didn't come because of Covid.

Then for awhile my song was "Many Things About Tomorrow" I don't seem to understand but I know who holds tomorrow and I know He holds my hand. That saw me through my time at my daughter's. It was good to be with them, but I like my own bed and bath and I had a skin breakout.

The later part of May I came home and my song became, "The God on the Mountain" He's still God in the valley when things go wrong He'll make them right; and the God of the good times He's still God in the bad times the God of the Day He's still God in the night.

I sing these songs to remind myself that no matter how much I dislike this time in all our lives; God is still there and I can be negative and gripe and complain or I can look for His blessing.

I don't like that my church isn't open, but my daughter Jacque's church in Mt Vernon is so I've been worshipping with some new brothers and sisters.

I listen to my daughter who now has a college senior and a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at home. She and her kids along with several others I know wish school could be back in session. My daughter works for Social Security from home so she has a steady income. My granddaughter who is a Kindergarten bilingual teacher wishes she could teach in person. She's still got a job and was able to purchase her first home.

The end of June I had a heart attack and I now have a stent. I had a difficult week or two, but Jocie and Rosie came to help and I kept singing, When you don't move the mountains, I'm needing You to move, when you don't part the waters I wish I could walk through, when you don't give the answers as I cry out to you, "I will trust," I will trust, I will trust in you.

I say all this to say I don't like Covid and I don't like the negative impact its had and is having ,but I know The One who wins in the end and I can "Count My Blessing." I got a lot of scrapbooks done that have needed to be done for years. I didn't have the time before. While Jocie had to do most of the lifting my entire house has been gone through and I was able to bless other people with two car loads full of things. Because of this time other people have cleaned out and I was able to get donations of clothes and shoes to our church for distribution. I've gotten time to call more people and pray with them and I've had paramedics, a ferry worker, old friends, and my children bless me in numerous ways.

I would ask each of you to stop and think of what blessings you have received during this time and what is the song or songs you can sing because of this. Share this with each other and others that need to hear something positive.

Remember "In Shady Green Pastures" so rich and so sweet God leads His dear children along. Where the waters cool flow bathes the weary one's feet God leads His dear children along. Some through the waters, some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the blood; some through great sorrow, but God gives a song in the night seasons and all the day long."

Even if you think you can't sing; let Him lead you and give you a song.

Betsy Jane Mosley-Coordinator of Personal Development

American Baptist Women of the Pacific Northwest Tina Po 32744 35th Ave SW Federal Way, WA 98023

We would like to hear from you.

Please submit articles and news for our Newsletters and Website to:

Tina.po2001@gmail.com

Also, please let me know if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

We are on the web! www.abwm-pnw.org

### SAVE THE DATE

**2021 CONFERENCE** 

April 30—May 2 2021

# **UPDATE: 2021 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

We are planning on having conference on April 30th, May 1st and 2nd in Yakima or possibly virtually. We will be making a final decision in January. We would like your feedback on whether or not you would attend conference in person and if you would participate in a virtual conference. My email and phone number is in my bio, so please let me know how you feel about having conference.

We will be having a silent auction at conference with your hand crafted items. This may include but not limited to sewing, crocheted, knitted, painted, cooked items or creating a basket of items. If you need something to do, feel free to start working on something to donate.

We missed seeing everyone last year and God willing, we will be able to see everyone this year.

In Christ, Your Conference Committee Lorna Flannery, chairman