

## **AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF RHODE ISLAND PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

In its years of tradition and innovation the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island has continued to provide opportunities for ministry, action, and fellowship.

2016-17 activities and events:

- The implementation of constitutional and by-law changes that were smoothly managed.
- A one-day Spiritual Growth Retreat held at North Scituate Baptist Church on January 28, 2017, with an attendance that was more than double when it has been a two-day event. This caused the Board to reconsider the past pattern and the next one was scheduled for September 22-23 at Canonicus. Both events were ably coordinated by Laurie Johnson, Coordinator of Personal Development Ministries, and her team.
- A hands-on Mission Day hosted by Ebenezer Baptist Church, Providence, took place on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Attendees visited one of several sites to work and learn, then returned to Ebenezer for lunch and to share what they encountered. Refugees who now live in Rhode Island shared gripping stories of how they left frightening situations to come to America.
- The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was a Tri-State meeting June -3, 2017, jointly planned with the women of Massachusetts and Connecticut and held at Canonicus. It was so well received and attended that a second tri-shared event will take place June 2-3, 2018, and be planned by another joint committee.
- Each year ABWMRI sets a goal and adopts a mission project that begins at the June Conference and ends at the event the following year. The current goal is to again to raise \$2,000 for refugee relief. These funds are dispersed locally to the Refugee Dream Center in Providence and nationally to be distributed through International Ministries where it is most needed for refugee relief.

Canonicus will be the site of a national gathering of ABWomen's Ministries, September 27-30, 2018—a Wellness Retreat called "Harvesting Shalom"—for all women. Local ABW will help in hosting this unique and helpful experience.

This will be my last opportunity to report as President as my term ends in June 2018. It has been an incredible experience to walk with so many committed and gifted women of Rhode Island and of our denomination. One could never imagine a better group to serve with than my Board has been. It is amazing to see the variety of gifts they possess, willingly share, and work together in concert.

I am thrilled that my successor will be Ann McGloshen who has served as President-Elect for the past year. Ann has been my friend for about 40 years. I know her to be competent and committed with a servant's heart possessed by few. ABWMRI is blessed by her willingness to serve in this way as she continues her life of loving service.

Shalom,  
Ginny Rasmussen