

# American Baptist Women & Girls' Gathering 2007

American Baptist Women Ministries of New York State

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Adam's Mark Hotel, Buffalo, NY

April 27-29, 2007

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## *Our New Theme is: Come to the Edge!*

During the past several years we have been challenged as God's women to deepen our spiritual lives and maintain a closer walk with Jesus Christ. Now we are being called to *Come to the Edge* and begin whatever tasks God is calling us to take. The theme's Scripture references are reassuring and remind us of the many times God promised to be with His people when they were called to take risks for Him.

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### **Keynote Speaker** **Jan DeWitt**

Our keynote speaker for Saturday and Sunday will be Jan DeWitt. Jan began her professional ministry as Director of Christian Education at the First Baptist Church of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In 1976, she started the Center for Women at Sioux Falls College and served as its first director. The Center's program focused on helping women discover their gifts and to do life planning. These themes are very much a part of Jan DeWitt as a person and as a speaker and retreat leader.

Continuing her lifelong involvement in the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., Jan was a member of the denomination's General Board for seven years and served on the program committee for the Biennial meetings for 1979 and 1981. She was Administrator of the Macedonia Ministries' Lay Witness Program for the Personal and Public Witness Unit.

As Program Associate and later Vice President of Program at Green Lake Conference/American Baptist Assembly (1983-1998), Jan planned conferences and served as a resource person and leader of conferences. Since her retirement in 1998, she serves as a speaking Ambassador for the conference center, strengthening relationships with "Friends of Green Lake" through the Development Department on a part-time basis. She also speaks at women's conferences and retreats across the country.

Jan did her undergraduate studies in the areas of psychology and sociology at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon, and received a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education from Berkeley Baptist Divinity School.

She and her husband, Bill, are the parents of three children, and have nine grandchildren. They reside in Sioux Falls, SD and Green Valley, AZ and are members of the First Baptist Church in Sioux Falls.

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### **Our** **Missionary** **Debbie Kelsey**



Debbie & her husband, Jim, are currently on US/Puerto Rico assignment after having served as our International Missionaries in Belgium. In their Nov. journal entry they have announced that their new assignment will be to assist the Evangelical Christian Baptist Union of Italy. Their ministry will include pastoral and church leadership training with English-speaking migrant churches. Debbie will work with the Union to develop ministries to women who have been trafficked into Italy to work in the sex industry. Debbie and Jim have 2 sons, Luke and Ben.

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### **Bible Study Leader** **Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins**

Our Bible Study Leader for Sunday morning will be the Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, who works for our Minister's and Missionaries Benefit Board as our regional representative. Before joining MMBB in 2001, Betty was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Manchester Center, VT. An avid reader, especially of mysteries, Betty also loves to preach and to teach. Her ministry has also gone global. She has preached in Jamaica several times, brought greetings from the US

when preaching in the People's Republic of China and has taught workshops in Covington, England.

## Friday Night Concert New Beginnings

New Beginnings is a choral ensemble of both men and women who have performed in the United States and abroad. A diverse group founded in 1980 by Ellie E. Robinson, New Beginnings was selected as Ambassadors of Goodwill to travel to their sister city, Dortmund, Germany in 1999. Their wide repertoire includes anthems, spirituals, hymns, classical pieces, gospel and theatrical songs. We are pleased to welcome New Beginnings!

Also Friday night we will hear from Beth Sedziol. A young woman from Niskayuna, NY and attends Clifton Park Center Baptist Church in Clifton Park, N.Y. Beth has studied both piano and voice, takes part in many activities. She has dedicated her life to Christ. It is a joy to welcome Beth as a featured soloist.

**AB G.I.R.L.S. FOR AGES 12-18  
(7<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)  
THIS YEAR'S THEME:  
XTREME FAITH - BEING BOLD FOR JESUS**

### Friday 4/27

6:30 p.m. – Gather with AB Women & G.I.R.L.S.  
7:00 – Main meeting hall for concert  
9:30 p.m. – Get Acquainted FUN,  
Devotions, Singing, Snacks



### Saturday 4/28

6:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 A.M. – Gather with AB Women  
About 9:30 – 2 choices: ceramic or mission project  
11:00 A.M. – Xtreme Faith – Be bold for Jesus  
12 noon – Lunch  
1:15 P.M. – Practice Worship Songs with AB  
G.I.R.L.S. from Buffalo  
3:00 – Faith in Motion – Interactive Bible Study  
4:00 – Splash in the Pool or rest time  
6:00 – Banquet  
9:00 – Singing, Devotion, DVD “Extreme  
Days”, snacks



### Sunday, 4/30

6:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 A.M. – Practice Worship Songs for Service  
9:30 – Worship with AB Women  
12:00 – Say Good-byes and Head HOME

As you can see, we have a full weekend planned and we hope to see all of you there. We thank everyone who came last year--we enjoyed the time spent with you! We'll have help from other gifted women this year so come and see what's happening!

~ Sue Maxfield

Convention Mission Project  
Cornerstone Manor, Buffalo, NY  
New socks & underwear for children & adults,  
bras (any size), disposable pull ups (sizes 3 & 4),  
disposable diapers (medium through toddler  
sizes), baby wipes, puppets, tissues, bristle  
blocks, foam puzzles for toddlers, small Dixie  
cups, large wooden beads for stringing, Lysol  
spray/antibacterial soap, rag dolls, post-it notes,  
masking tape, highlighters, three ring notebook  
dividers (all sizes), black & red pens

## Tentative Schedule for AB Women

### Friday, April 27, 2007

1:00-6:30 – Registration begins  
6:30 p.m. – Convention begins  
7:00 p.m. – Inspirational Concert  
9:00 p.m. – Ice Cream Social, hosted by Springbrook  
(formerly Upstate Home)  
9:45-11:00 p.m. – Workshop for Mother's of  
young children  
9:45-11:00 p.m. – Workshop for Caregivers  
9:45-11:00 p.m. – Workshop for Generation X  
(women in their 20's & 30's)



### Saturday, April 28

6:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
(the workshops below are held in individual dining rooms)  
7:00-8:00 a.m. – Breakfast Workshop – Financial  
Planning with ABC Foundation  
7:00-8:00 a.m. – Breakfast Workshop – Senior  
Housing Bible Study  
7:30 – Registration begins  
8:30 – Singing & program begins - Jan Dewitt  
10:30-10:45 – Break  
11:00 – Missionary Speaker, Debbie Kelsey  
12:00-1:30 – Luncheon  
1:30-2:45 p.m. – First set of Afternoon Workshops  
3:00-4:15 p.m. – Second set of Afternoon Workshops  
4:15-6:00 p.m. – Free time to swim, shop in the  
Bookstore, rest, etc.  
6:00 p.m. – Banquet & Program  
9:00-11:00 – Time to visit and reflect on the weekend



### Sunday April 29

6:30-8:00 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 – Singing  
8:45-9:30 – Bible Study led by Rev. Wright-Riggins  
Worship Service with Jan DeWitt  
Special Music & Communion



**We depart having been challenged to COME TO THE  
EDGE, as we take risks for His purposes!**