

Seasons is a publication of West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries.





American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia



Love Gift Special Project Women's Day **Conference**

Seasons

White Cross

Scholarship Program Personal Development **Project Good Samaritan** Spiritual Growth Retreat Mission Outreach Project





















APRIL 2018

There's an App for That!

The West Virginia Baptist Convention app is now available for Android and Apple products. Download yours today!

From the Desk of the President



I absolutely love this time of year! This is when the earth wakes up from the long winter nap. I hear the peepers singing lively, the buds of the trees popping out, my bulbs surprising me around my yard, my chickens busily pecking and clucking and just the lovely smell of the air. The passage in Song of Solomon 2:11-12 got it so right:

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone.

Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing is come,
the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

Spring is the anticipation and renewal of what will surface next in the palate of God's spectacular planning. As American Baptist Women we too have been praying and planning in anticipation of how God will use the women of West Virginia to serve and glorify the Father.

We have been focusing on how we can facilitate being more connected with each other as a larger group to provide support, information, prayer and inspiration. Our website has been updated to be more helpful in your planning and to find information. Visit us at www.wvbc.org (click Partners tab, click Auxiliaries, click AB Women Ministries). On this website is an email signup



so that you can receive regular emails and information; the leadership academy classes are listed there to continue taking the classes if you have missed any; as well as Project and Love Gift updates.



Another form of communication is now found on our Facebook page: **WV American Baptist Women's Ministries**. We share a daily devotional or inspirational thought each morning. Any upcoming events or announcements are shared on this page. We are asking that if you have a picture of your group meeting, doing ministry, great new ideas or just saying hello, that you

send them to us so that we can share with your fellow women around the state. Coming up is our June Conference "Hand of the Man" and it will be one you will not want to miss! This will be held at Parchment Valley Conference Center June 1-3, 2018.

You can see why, as we passed through the winter, we are entering this season with such excitement and anticipation! There is such hope and promise, a renewal of vision as we lean on our God to guide us in our shared ministry. God bless each of you!



President Debbie Higginbotham 571 Skyline View Drive Ripley, WV 25271 Phone: 304.372.8602

E-mail: higginb@suddenlink.net





"A person's
most useful
asset is not a head
full of knowledge,
but a heart full of
love, an ear ready
to listen and
a hand willing to
help others."

President	2
Announcements	3
Love Gift	4
Scholarship/Loan	5
Spiritual Growth Retreat	6
Profile Of Esther	7
Women's Conference	8 & 9
Women's Leadership Academy	10
Project Good Samaritan	11
White Cross	12
Treasurer	
ABW Projects	13
Bible Books of the Month	14
Women's Conf. Registration	15

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Announcement – The 2018 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 19th and 20th at South Parkersburg Baptist Church. Women's Day will be on Friday in conjunction with that event instead of Thursday as in the past.

Please help spread the word!



Women's Conference "Hand of the Man" Kim Mack, Coordinator Parchment Valley Conference Center June 1 - 3, 2018



Spiritual Growth Retreat
Jeane Fisher, Coordinator
Good "Fer" You
Parchment Valley Conference Center
September 21 - 23, 2018



Women's Leadership Academy
Session #9—Resources
Resource Team Leaders
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Women's Conference
Saturday, June 2, 2018



Women's Leadership Academy
Session #10—Evaluation
Janey Carrico Leader
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Spiritual Growth Retreat
Saturday, September 22, 2018



2018 WVBC Annual Meeting

Women's Day Friday, October 19

Dr. Sandra Lutz, Coordinator

"Living Loved"

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

ABWM Board Meeting and Dinner – October 18

WV American Baptist Women State Executive Board Meeting Parchment Valley Conference Center Saturday, November 3, 2018





In 2017, women from across the state of West Virginia gave \$109,491.04 toward Love Gift. Although this is quite an impressive number, it is \$5,634.60 less than what was collected in 2016. For the past few years our state goal of \$120,000 has not been met, but our goal for 2018 will remain at \$120,000. Remember to keep a Love Gift box anywhere you might have loose change (in your car, on your dresser, in your laundry room, etc...and keep collecting the L & G dollars). All Love Gift money is sent to American Baptist Churches USA and they distribute it to the following ministries:

- WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION (54.4%) camps, conferences, campus ministries, area ministers, New Church Development, education & evangelism and the West Virginia Baptist
- ♦ AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA (22.95%) research and planning, communications, Biennial, Cooperative Christianity, finance & administration, and local church representation to General Board (support for Executive Council)
- NATIONAL ABWM (15%)
- ♦ GLOBAL AND NATIONAL MINISTRY (4.25%) missionaries in various countries, evangelism, education and healthcare, agriculture and training, emergency relief and development projects
- ♦ MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS (3.4%) curriculum resources, leadership and discipleship development, evangelism, new church planting, Christian centers, justice advocacy and refugee resettlement

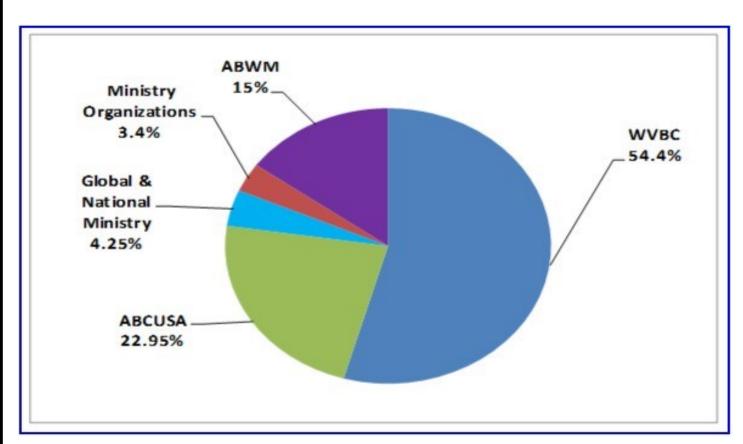
Please continue giving to Love Gift so we can meet our 2018 goal!



Love Gift Coordinator Kathy Wince 421 Big Painter Road St. Marys, WV 26170 Phone: 304.481.4145

Phone: 304.481.4145 E-mail: kathy.wince@gmail.com





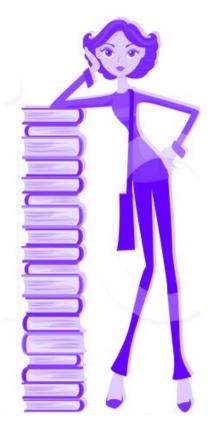
SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS







American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia is pleased to announce that fifteen \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded for School Year 2018-2019 as follows:



Tristen Beha - Emmanuel, Parkersburg Association Ashley Cox - Harrisville, Harrisville Association Marissa Earle - Petersburg, Eastern Association Emily Faller - Hurricane FBC, Teays Valley Association Lauren Gaal - Hurricane FBC Teays Valley Association Stacie Gasaway - Dunbar, Kanawha Valley Association Holly Gerstell - Ravenswood FBC, Good Hope Association Olivia Insani - Nutter Fort FBC, Judson Association Jordan Lallemontt - Emmanuel, Parkersburg Association Kylie Lallemont - Emmanuel, Parkersburg Association Rebekah McCloy - Life Spring Community, Good Hope Association Cari Mize - Ravenswood FBC, Good Hope Association Catherine "Ivy" Shouldis - Grass Lick, Good Hope Association Samantha Wagoner - Ravenswood FBC, Good Hope Association Samantha Warner - Handley, Kanawha Valley Association Gabrielle Williams - Spencer FBC, Good Hope Association

If your ladies' group is looking for a project to sponsor, what better way than to work toward the funding of college fees for our young West Virginia Baptist women. For more information, please contact Rev. Debbie Higginbotham at 304.372.8602.



Jane W. Mullen Scholarship/Loan Coordinator 1108 E. Main St./ PO Box 257 Harrisville, WV 26362-0257 Phone: 304.643.5993

E-mail: <u>Ljwm1108@zoominternet.net</u>



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Session #9 - Resourcing

Presenters - Resource Team
Linda Carpenter, Janey Carrico, Rose Marie Durig,
Pat Hess, Zola Miller
Saturday, June 2, 2018
Parchment Valley Conference Center



You will be introduced to the following:

- How to find programs and adapt them to your group
 - How to develop original and creative programs
- How to use the resources written and provided by the Resource Team

You will have the opportunity at conference to purchase a compilation of all the Women, Word and Works articles, in booklet form, written over the past six years. *To attend this session, please mark your conference registration blank.*

2018 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT





3 John 1:2 - "Dear Friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you even as your soul is getting along well." NIV



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Sandra Lutz September 21- 23, 2018 Parchment Valley Conference Center



Jeane Fisher Spiritual Growth Retreat Coordinator P. O. Box 324 Glenville, WV 26351 Phone: 304-462-8860

E-mail: Jeane.fisher@aol.com



PROFILE OF ESTHER



On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Esther 5:1-2

The book of Esther recounts a fascinating story filled with intrigue and suspense. It has villains, heroes, dastardly deeds and a great rescue. The villain gets his due and the "good guys" win. Truth, in this case, is far better than fiction. And the truth is that one woman, seemingly a pawn in this great story, acted as God's carefully placed servant who quietly exerted her leadership and changed the course of

history. In a culture in which women did not rule, we find in Esther a woman of enormous influence. With God's help, she saved her nation from extinction.

Esther was an orphan who had been raised by her older cousin Mordecai. She "had a lovely figure and was beautiful." (Esther 2:7) and evidently developed the poise to match her physical beauty. Mordecai had raised Esther as his own daughter after her parents' death. Here's a quick plot summary: The Persian King Xerxes selected Esther as his queen. After a series of unjust events, Haman, a sinister official in Xerxes' court, hatched a plan that resulted in a decree to execute all of the Jews in the Persian Empire. The Messianic line was in danger of extinction and God's people were powerless to defend themselves. Only one person could gain an audience with the king to dissuade him from this tragic slaughter.

The young woman, Esther, held the fate of history in her hands. But to act could cost her her life (see Esther 4:9-11). She was the queen of the most powerful empire on earth and enjoyed all of the privileges that such a position offered her. Why should she risk her life to persuade the king to change a decree? Why should anyone risk personal gain or position to help others? Because leadership-as-stewardship is the Bible's only leadership model. The idea that leaders should use their resources to benefit and to develop those under their charge is a foundational truth about leadership. Mordecai's counsel to Esther in 4:14 defines the essence of that leadership approach and should be written boldly across every leader's mind as their single most important tenet: "Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

In essence, Mordecai reminded Esther that God was in charge. Not Xerxes, not Haman, not Mordecai, not Esther - God is the sovereign ruler of events. God's will was going to be done, and Esther was his servant of choice. But God's plan was not dependent upon her. If she refused to act, he would have worked his will through another. Through his statement in 4:14, Mordecai pointed out to Esther that God orchestrates events. Her position of power was by his choice and for his purpose.

Those who lead must view their resources as God's tools for accomplishing his purpose. He affords power and position to accomplish his own ends. To fail to conclude that you have come to your position for such a time as this is to miss what Biblical leadership is all about. Leader-as-steward is foundational to servant leadership, to ethical leadership, to any kind of leadership. Mordecai's counsel to Esther is an essential truth to any leader who would lead as God intends

Excerpt from NIV Leadership Bible

WV AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE June 1 - 3, 2018 Parchment Valley Conference Center

"Hand of the Man"



Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water; Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea; Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently. Put your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee.

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said.
"Why did you doubt me?" Matthew 14:31



Keynote Speaker - Rev. Ron Stoner

Pastor Ron Stoner is a WV native and a graduate of Marshall University. After his marriage to Janice Dolin, they moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where he graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife then returned to WV where he began his pastorate at the First Baptist Church of Ravenswood. He was ordained in 1973 by the 20th Street Baptist Church, Huntington. In 1977, they adopted their two children, Rhonda and Shane, and they now have four grandsons. In 1984, he began as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Charleston. He is a past president of the WV Baptist Convention and has served both the Parchment Valley and Camp Cowen Boards. He is currently Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church of Hurricane.

Kim Mack
Conference Coordinator
1009 Elm Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526
Phone: 304.562.9209
E-mail: kmack@cyclopswv.com





SAMANTHA JO WAGONER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sammi is entering her junior year at Marshall University where she is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. Her career goal is pediatric dentistry. She is a past and current year scholarship girl and her hobbies include walking, yoga and reading. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Ravenswood.

LOIS CASTO, PIANIST
WV ABWM Board Member
Project Good Samaritan Coordinator





BOOK SALE

We solicit your used books! All sales are based on donations and proceeds benefit the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV. All unsold books are donated to the Parkersburg Episcopal Church for their annual book sale to benefit several charities.

LIKE-NEW FLEA MARKET

Fun! Fun! Fun! We solicit like-new items for our flea market. All sales are based on donations and all proceeds benefit the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV. No clothing or furniture, please.





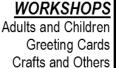
WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Session #9 – "Resourcing" Saturday, June 2nd





COLORING CONTEST
2018 Mission Outreach Project
Trees from Zechariah 3







<u>WOMEN'S OPEN CHOIR HYMN SING</u>

OFFERING INFORMATION

1/2 of Saturday's Offering will go toward the 2018 Special Project Lodge Roofing for Parchment Valley





SUNDAY MORNING

Personal Spiritual Growth - Lisa Simmons Communion



Rose Marie Durig Linda Carpenter Janey Carrico Zola Miller Pat Hess



After carefully planned training and creativity by our Resource Team, the Women's Leadership Academy will conclude with Session #10 on September 22nd at our annual Spiritual Growth Retreat. A celebration of the women who completed all ten sessions will be part of Women's Day on Friday, October 19th at South Parkersburg Baptist Church in conjunction with the WVBC Annual Meeting.

If you did not have an opportunity to attend one of these sessions in person, you may go online to our website (wvbc.org/select partners/select auxiliaries). Click on the session you need to watch. In the event you have questions, please contact Rose Marie Durig at 304.455.2644. In order to receive credit for each session, you must contact Women's Leadership Academy Registrar, Zola Miller, to notify her you have viewed this session. She can be reached by e-mail at zolamiller@suddenlink.net or by phone at 304.927.1091.

Session #1 Characteristics of a Christian Leader - Sandra Lutz - June 4, 2016
Session #2 Spiritual Formation - Debbie Higginbotham - September 24, 2016
Session #3 Developing a Vision for Your Ministry - Lisa Simmons - November 5, 2016
Session #4 Inclusion - Joyce Mills and Zola Miller - February 4, 2017
Session #5 Organization - Jeannie Phillips - April 1, 2017
Session #6 Communications - Valerie Hulme and Rose Marie Durig - June 3, 2017
Session #7 Mentoring/Shepherding - Debbie Myers - September 23, 2017
Session #8 Servanthood/Serving With Heart - Kathy Hudson - February 3, 2018
Session #9 Resourcing - Resource Team (See Listing at Top of Page) June 2, 2018
Session #10 Evaluation - Janey Carrico - September 22

Not only will the Leadership Academy come to an end, but so will our Resource Team. As we end this year at the Women's Day event in October, our Resource Team will dismantle. Don't despair, however, because all of their resource information is on our website at WVBC.org/Partners/Auxiliaries/American Baptist Women/Details. There you can find a multitude of archived information for your women's groups. Their hard work in producing resource materials will remain on the website for you. But change is always difficult. Please know, ladies, that your work is greatly appreciated.

"Thank you, Resource Team, as well as each of the instructors, for providing the Women's Leadership Academy as an opportunity for us to learn and grow into better servants of our Lord."



PROJECT GOOD SAMARITAN "Most Frequently Asked Questions"

- What is PGS? Project Good Samaritan is modeled after the Parable of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10: 25-37.
- ♦ How did **PGS** begin? In 1983, Rev. Roger Fairfax learned while visiting Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, that an out-of-town couple, whose baby was seriously ill, lacked money to eat. All they could afford during the child's stay were crackers, cookies, milk or soft drinks provided by the pediatric pantry. In conjunction with the social services at the hospital, several pastors, representatives of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and monetary help from several churches, this program began.
- What is the purpose of PGS? It is to provide a helping hand to destitute family members of hospital patients by providing a limited number of hot meals and/or initial prescriptions upon the patient's discharge from the hospital. This help is to be granted only as a "last resort" when all other avenues of financial help have been exhausted.
- How is PGS funded? It is funded by contributions from churches and associations. If your church would like to be part of PGS, send your contributions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, through your church/ association treasurer.
- Who needs help? My neighbor needs help. Who is my neighbor? My neighbor is anyone that is in need, not just next door but around the world. In Luke 10:37b, Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."



- How do I know who is in need? The American Baptist Women's Ministries work closely with the social services
 personnel in several hospitals throughout West Virginia.
- Why should I be involved? YOU are God's hands in providing for people who have exhausted all means of payment for their care in the hospital, or purchasing prescriptions when discharged. YOU can provide a helping hand to the family, as they travel, by providing hot meals, transportation or lodging while their loved one is in the hospital.
- When and how can I get involved? YOU can get involved anytime! PGS is sponsored and promoted by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia.

Lois Casto Good Samaritan Coordinator 277 Ches-wal Scott Depot, WV 25560 Phone: 304.755.9213

E-mail: loiscasto@aol.com



If you go online to the International Ministries website (www.internationalministries.org/whitecrossprojects) and search for White Cross information, there is a very detailed and colorful brochure entitled "White Cross: A Shower of Blessings." It states in that brochure, "The need for both funds and practical items given through White Cross is greater than ever."

The brochure explains that mission workers submit lists of specific items they need (such as food, clothing, health supplies for people of all ages and orphanages throughout the world) to the American Baptist Churches Mission Center in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. These requested resources are in addition to what a missionary's budget will allow, but are crucial needs in the field that provides ministry opportunity.

As your White Cross Coordinator, my job is to collect that information and distribute it (along with specific forms and reporting instructions) to the twenty-two associations within the state of West Virginia through the various association presidents. The association presidents then take that information and distribute it to the individual churches within their association. We will also post that information on our website. White Cross is a tangible way for us to be God's hands, so please get involved.

Regina (Reggie) Wright White Cross Coordinator 389 ChesWal Road Scott Depot, WV 25560 304-545-6554 regina.k.wright@gmail.com



From the Desk of our State Treasurer

From the Desk of our State Treasurer Numbers Numbers Numbers



Yes, I deal with numbers. I have always liked numbers. I see numbers as being factual, specific, orderly and practical. But sometimes, like all life, they can be challenging. I believe God has gifted me to serve you, as women of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia as treasurer. I am honored to serve God in this very important ministry.

During 2018 you will be giving to the Mission Outreach Project, Special Project, National Annual Support and the Scholarship/Loan Program. You can also send money for Project Good Samaritan. Your donations to the above projects/ministries follow a path: YOU -- LOCAL CHURCH ABWM TREASURER -- ASSOCIATION ABWM TREASURER -- STATE ABWM TREASURER. Any check sent to the State ABWM treasurer should be made out to: ABWM of WV (not Linda Carpenter).

The treasurer has general oversight of the finances and is responsible for the receipt, deposit, disbursement and investments of all funds; presents written reports, serves as financial advisor on all committees dealing with funds, pays expenses for officers, prepares records for audit and serves as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Linda Carpenter ABWM State Treasurer 63 Wakefield Place, Washington WV 26181 Phone: 304.863.8890

E-mail: <u>llecgrandma@yahoo.com</u>



American Baptist Women's Projects

First Baptist Church of Spencer Prayer Pillow Workshop





First Baptist Church Of Hurricane



Baking and delivering cookies for their homebound





Even at our annual
Women's Day —
We're serving others!



American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia



Bible Books of the Month

Month	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
and	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
January	Mark	Hosea	Proverbs	Romans	Acts
February	Jonah	Philemon	Esther	Joel	Ruth
March	Daniel	Ezra	1, 2 Peter, Jude	Galatians	Ezekiel
April	Zechariah	Nehemiah	Jeremiah	Micah	Zephaniah
May	Nahum	Judges	Lamentations	Hebrews	Malachi
June	Numbers	1, 2 Thessalonians	1 Kings	1 Chronicles	Genesis
July	James	Psalms 1-72	Colossians	Philippians	Song of Solomon
August	Deuteronomy	1 Samuel	2 Kings	2 Chronicles	Exodus
September	Amos	Ephesians	Obadiah	Revelation	1, 2 Timothy, Titus
October	Joshua	2 Samuel	1 Corinthians	Ecclesiastes	Leviticus
November	1, 2, 3 John	Habakkuk	2 Corinthians	Psalms 73-150	Haggai
December	Job	John	Isaiah	Luke	Matthew

<u>APRIL – JEREMIAH</u> - the second of the so-called four major prophets is rightly the so called crying prophet. No other prophet encountered so much opposition and hatred. Although he had to suffer much sorrow by his compatriots during his life and although he constantly lashed the Jews' unrighteousness and their apostasy of the living God, he loved his people up to the end.

<u>MAY – LAMENTATIONS</u> - Although Lamentations do not bear any name of an author, they have been ascribed to the prophet Jeremiah. The Lamentations are written in poetry. The five chapters form five stanzas of one elegy over Zion's fall and are the expression of a heart full of love for the earthly people of Jehovah, a people punished for their sins by losing their kingdom, their land, their city and their sanctuary.

<u>JUNE – I AND II KINGS</u> - The two books of Kings originally formed one book only in the Hebrew Bible. The author of the two books is not mentioned, but was probably the prophet Jeremiah The two books of Kings form the chronological sequence of the history of the people of Israel in Canaan in the sequence Joshua, Judges, First and Second Samuel.

<u>JULY – COLOSSIANS</u> - Written by the Apostle Paul, the occasion of the Epistle was the existence of evil things among them. The Holy Spirit unfolds the truth of the gospel, showing the majesty and glory of Christ, and that He has the preeminence in all things and is the head of creation and head of the Church.

Personal Development Coordinator Lou Ann Nicholas 202 Maryland Avenue Nutter Fort, WV 26301

Phone: 304.622.0988 E-mail: lanicholas13@aol.com



American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

Women's Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 1-3, 2018

Registration is open April 13 - May 18, 2018.

Registration form and fees are needed for **each** person registering.

room is required. It is essential to share a bed and m	ssigned roommate. nates listed below. (To take advantage of this price, at least 3 per				
Part-Time Registration :	Mail registration forms, including fees, to:				
	Carrie J. Gasaway 451 22nd Street				
() \$20.00 Full Time Registration Fee	Dunbar, WV 25064				
() \$15.00 Saturday ONLY - Registration Fee	panda112260.cj@gmail.com				
() \$ 5.50 Saturday Breakfast	Phone: 304.982.1602				
() \$ 6.50 Saturday Lunch	I work and cannot take personal calls. You can reach me between 5:30-9 p.m.				
() \$ 7.50 Saturday Dinner	*Make checks payable to AB Women's Ministries of WV				
() \$ 5.50 Sunday Breakfast	Financial assistance is available for first-timers from the Durig				
() \$21.00 One Night's Lodging, Double Occupancy	Leadership Fund. Scholarships are based on need. Please				
	submit a written request by <u>May 12th</u> to:				
Total	Debbie Higginbotham				
	571 Skyline View Drive				
Walk-ins are welcome. However, it is suggested that you	Ripley, WV 25271 Phone: 304.372.8602				
bring a bag lunch as lunches cannot be assured.	higgnb@suddenlink.net				
Please print legibly.					
Name	Phone Amount Enclosed				
Address	City, State, Zip Code				
Church	ssociation				
Roommate (s)	mail				
Dietary Needs	Handicap Needs				



Visit us on the web: www.wvbc.org/Partners/ AB Women's Ministries

Purpose of AB Women's Ministries

In commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to the mission of the church, and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, American Baptist Women's Ministries provides opportunities for each woman to:

- become and develop as God's person,
- build God's faith community and
- serve God's world.



Subscription / Renewal to SEASONS

If your mailing label has any month in 2017 as an expiration date,

it is time to renew. Subscription rate is \$5.00 per year.

Every association and local president receives a complimentary copy.

I am enclosing my payment of \$	for n	ny renewal	10
new subscription to SEASONS	for _	year (s)

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