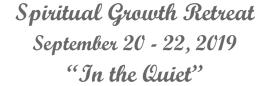


Seasons is a publication of West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries.





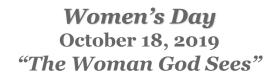
Featuring:
Bookstore
Crafts
Campfire
Bible Study
Door Prizes



Keynote Speaker: Rev. David Bush

Grapevine Chapel Missionary Portrayals

Holy Grounds Coffee and Tea Cafe



**Keynote Speaker: Erin McClure** 

Annual Business Meeting Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers Selection for 2020 Mission Outreach Project and Special Project

**Voting and Announcement of WV HOPE Logo Contest Winner** 



















**AUGUST 2019** 

#### There's an App for That!

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

Love this Pre-Conference photo!

It depicts who we are:

Sisters in Christ

Sisters in ministry

Olotoro III minioti y

Sisters in laughter and fun times

How blessed we are to serve God in our individual and collective capacities!

Special Project 2 President 3 Scholarship/Loan WV HOPE Logo Contest 5 Upcoming Events 6 Person Development 7 Spiritual Growth Retreat 8 Women's Day 9 Mission Outreach Project 10 Tidbits 11 Women's Conf. Follow Up 12 & 13 WV HOPE 14 Spiritual Growth Retreat 15 Registration

# The "Fruit" of Our Labor 2016 Special Project Weirton Christian Center Pre-School Furniture and Equipment \$15,964.95















## From the Desk of President Debbie Higginbotham



They're home! Our son and family have served two years in Uganda as short term missionaries and we are so happy they have returned home. During that time, they adopted our sixth granddaughter who is such a joy! It was not an easy or smooth process getting all the proper documents for her to enter the United States, but through much prayer, persistence and much time at the US Embassy – they are home!

My youngest sister has lived in England for the past 20+ years. She and her family were recently planning to come to Tennessee for our niece's wedding. Four days before leaving England, my sister discovered her boys could not enter the US with their UK passports. They have dual citizenship and the law had just changed. They had to use their US passports (which had expired) to enter the country. What a flurry of activity, persistence, prayer and time spent at the US Embassy a few days before the scheduled flight to get the updated emergency documents to come "home."

Home right now is a hot topic in our news. As *Christians* we cannot ignore the large amount of human beings who are looking for a safe home, a safe harbor from violence, war and poverty. Culturally, we can easily become very territorial even saying to ourselves "don't intrude on my home!" As *Christians* we must strip away politics, legal versus illegal, and consult our scripture so we can have a clear direction. In both the Old and New Testaments accepting the stranger or alien is quite clear. Just a few passages stand out to me; although if you do a search, you will find many passages about strangers and the poor.

- ♦ Leviticus 19:33-34 "When a stranger lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The stranger living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself for you were strangers in Egypt. I am the Lord your God." This sentiment is affirmed by Jesus regarding hospitality to strangers in *Matthew 25:35* "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...."
- Proverbs 14:31 "If you oppress poor people, you insult the God who made them, but kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship."
- Hebrews 13:2 "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."

A story we are quite familiar with is found in Luke 10:30-37 – the Good Samaritan. This raises the question about who is my neighbor and what are we going to do about it? God calls us to be compassionate. We do consider ourselves to be compassionate as we send our dollars away to missionaries or meet local urgent needs or respond to natural disasters. On the entire topic of immigrants we are so divided. Satan has used politics to pull us away from what we find in Scripture about how God's people are commanded to deal with the stranger and with our fellow human beings who are created in God's image. God is still

That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing...
I meant that.
-God

at work in this world! The news media or political leanings may skew what we "should" be doing, but as *Christians* we know that the church of Jesus is still called to touch the lives of others – maybe just one life at a time, but we can come alongside the stranger and minister to them showing the hope that comes through Jesus. The current border situation is frankly overwhelming and complicated. God requires us to love and care for. My prayer is that each one of us help to find safe "home" passage for the least of these. I feel so blessed that my son's and sister's families had the means and support to sort through all the steps to safely come home. Others are just not as fortunate and for them it is life and death as they make that journey. Jesus gives hope and we are to share that hope.

Instead of debating about immigration reform that may or may not happen, let us pray for ways to honor God on how we can love and welcome the stranger/immigrant. The National American Baptist Women's website <a href="https://www.abwomensministries.org">www.abwomensministries.org</a> under Mission has some excellent materials for a bible study focus on immigration to open the discussion on how we can serve.

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

E-mail: higginb@suddenlink.net



#### SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN PROJECTS



This school year, the WV American Baptist Women Scholarship Loan Committee was blessed with the opportunity to present *EIGHTEEN* \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS to qualifying college-aged ladies who are members of our West Virginia American Baptist churches. This is partly due to your generosity in supporting this very worthwhile program. If your ladies group or church organization is looking for a project to support, what better than our American Baptist Women's Scholarship Program?

In addition to a financial contribution to the program, there are three important things that can be done for a scholarship girl:

- ◆ Pray continually for her walk with Jesus, her health, her classes and that she always will follow God's leading in this world.
- Send a card when led to do so. She probably needs to hear from someone that day.
- Send a donation to the state treasurer to be applied to her portion of her scholarship loan. If enough do that, she won't owe a thing at the end of the year.

If you belong to a church that does not have an active women's ministry, you could have a scholarship girl assigned to you all by yourself! Prayers and cards are always solicited.



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

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



#### **HAVE YOUR OFFICERS CHANGED?**

If your local church or association officers have changed or will change at your fall meetings, please make certain that you notify *Karen Nicholson*, State Executive Board Secretary, of <u>all</u> the changes. (Karen Nicholson, 3 Trail Drive, Hurricane 25526 - 304-542-3313 - varzbk@aol.com)

- Association and Local Presidents please notify Karen of not only the incoming officer and contact information, but also who the outgoing officers are.
- Notify *Jane Mullen* (contact info above) if there is a change in the association officer that assigns Scholarship Girls to individual churches.

#### **LOGO CONTEST - WV HOPE**

#### ATTENTION:





We are in need of a logo for our recently created WV HOPE ministry and we are sponsoring a contest for that logo to include all WV American Baptist Women and Girls! Get your thinking caps on and let's see what we can come up with.



Here are the particulars:

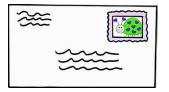
- Submit your entry by mail on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper
- Put your name, address, phone, e-mail, cell phone, etc. in a sealed envelope and staple it to the backside of your entry
- Mail it to Seasons Magazine, c/o Sue Hamric, 49 Billings Road, Reedy, WV 25270
- Remember <u>DO NOT</u> put your return name or address on the outside of your mailing envelope. Just label it WV HOPE logo entry.

All entries must be received by Tuesday, October 1st. The entries will be presented to the Executive Board at their Women's Day meeting on Thursday, October 17th, at which time the board will vote and select three of the submitted logos. On Friday, October 18th, those three entries will be voted on by the entire assembly of WV American Baptist Women to determine the winner.

Please keep in mind that the chosen logo will be utilized by all WV American Baptist Women as the official WV HOPE logo. We can't wait to see your entries!!!!

#### \* NEW SEASONS FEATURE - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR! \*

We'd love to hear from you regarding American Baptist Women issues! Electronic mailings would be best but good, old-fashioned US Postal Service letters are fine too! By sharing your thoughts, you help us all to grow in ministry! Letters must be signed by the writer and include your church and association and must always be positive in nature, even when presenting a negative issue. The letters will be printed verbatim in the subsequent issue of Seasons.



Send letters electronically to <a href="mailto:suehamric@suddenlink.net">suehamric@suddenlink.net</a> or by mail to: Seasons Magazine, c/o Sue Hamric, 49 Billings Road, Reedy, WV 25270.

I can't wait to hear from you!

## Announcements and Upcoming Events



Sept. 7 - ABW PRAY Conference - Hurricane First Baptist

Sept. 12 - Parkersburg Association ABW Fall Rally - Pine Grove Baptist - 5:30 pm

Sept. 15 - American Baptist Women's Sunday

Sept. 19 - Hopewell Association ABW Fall Rally - Mt. Urim Baptist - 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 28 - Union Association ABW Mission Conference - Union Baptist - 8:30 am

Oct. 5 - Raleigh Association ABW Fall Rally - Breckenridge Baptist - 9:30 am

Oct. 10 - Kanawha Valley Association ABW Fall Rally - Hampton Baptist

Dec. 2 - Kanawha Valley Association ABW Christmas Luncheon - Diamond Baptist

September 15, 2019 American Baptist Women's Sunday





"In the Quiet" Psalm 46:10
Parchment Valley Conference Center
September 20 - 22, 2019
Kim Pickrell, Coordinator

State Executive Board Meeting and Dinner Nutter Fort Baptist Church Thursday, October 17th 6:00 p.m.





2019 WVBC Annual Meeting
October 18-19, 2019
Alderson Broaddus University
Women's Day Friday, October 18
"The Woman God Sees" Isaiah 62:4
Lou Ann Nicholas, Coordinator

WV American Baptist Women State Executive Board Meeting Parchment Valley Conference Center November 9, 2019





If you are fortunate enough and you or your church subscribe to the following website (<a href="https://rightnow.org">https://rightnow.org</a>), please, please take advantage of the resources on this site. This summer I decided that I wanted to spend more time learning. I have thoroughly enjoyed working my way through the New Testament using the resources on this site. I have enjoyed listening to sessions by Francis Chan, Louie Giglio, J.D. Greear, Matt Chandler, Jennie Allen, Chip Ingram, Chad Ragsdale, David Platt, Kenny Boyles, Michael DeFazio, Kay Arthur and Keith Loy to name a few. If you don't know where to begin, search your favorite book of the Bible and see what is available. These sessions could be used for an individual, small group, or whole church study.

Let's take a look at the resources for the Bible Books of the Month for the next few months:

#### Philippians - Keith Loy

Joy is a uniquely satisfying experience - a blessing anyone would feel privileged to enjoy on a regular basis. The problem is few people know where or how to find it. Fortunately, the apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians holds the key to joy and the answers it reveals just might surprise you. Writing from a place where few would expect to find joy, a Roman prison, Paul offers extraordinary insight and practical guidance for his readers who have the courage to pursue true joy and satisfaction in their service to King Jesus.

#### Philippians - Michael DeFazio

In this series, Michael DeFazio (New Testament faculty at Ozark Christian College) will walk through the book of Philippians encouraging you to live a cruciform life. This series will show how the gospel changes people.

#### Philippians - Kay Arthur

How do I live the Christian life joyfully regardless of people or circumstances? What is the purpose of suffering and the Christian perspective on death? Do I have "the mind of Christ?" Discover true, deep-down joy in your life that the world cannot take away!

#### II Chronicles - Mart De Haan

Travel to the lands where kings Saul, David and Solomon ruled and gain insights from the legacies they left behind. Join hosts Mart DeHaan and Jimmy DeYoung as they examine the ancient Israelites' request to God for a king, his response and the outcome of their choices. Discover, in this 6-lesson study, the value in being content, trusting God as the ultimate source and acknowledging Him as the one true King.

#### Revelation - Shane J. Wood

In this series, Shane J. Wood, Ph.D. (New Testament faculty at Ozark Christian College) will help you think critically about the book of Revelation and read it for what the text says and not what you have always been told that it says. Shane hopes to simplify the book so that you can deliver a blessing to those who read it.

#### Revelation - Kay Arthur

Chapters 1-3 of Revelation contain God's messages to the seven churches of Asia. See how His messages recorded by John so long ago still speak to the church today. The focus of chapters 4-22 is the end times. Through careful observation of the text, discover exactly what God says will take place. Explore the relationship of the book of Revelation to the Gospels - realize the prophecies and teachings they contain about the last days. Passages concerning biblical prophecy, especially from the Old Testament, are included in this study of Revelation to complete your study of eschatology.

#### **Ecclesiastes** - Tommy Nelson

Whether you are at the top of your world or have just recently heard the worst news of your life, this study will level the playing field. It can be said that no other study by Tommy Nelson captures the essence of life, nor gives insight into how God taught Tommy to navigate through the toughest part of his journey. Looking through the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter by chapter, Nelson seeks, finds and shares

Lou Ann Nicholas Coordinator of Personal Development 202 Maryland Avenue Nutter Fort, WV 26301 Phone: 304-622-0988

E-mail: lanicholas13@aol.com



American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

## Spiritual Growth Retreat

Bookstore Crafts Campfire Bible Study Door Prizes Be still and know that

Jam God

Psolund

Psolun

Míssíonary Portrayals

Grapevine Chapel

Holy Grounds Coffee and Tea Café

Worship Leaders: Amanda Philpott Mandy Emrick

> I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.

Registration form on Page 15 and www.wvbc.org/

## "In the Quiet"

September 20-22, 2019
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Keynote Speaker: Rev. David Bush

### American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV Women's Day

Friday, October 18th Alderson Broaddus University, Philippi, WV







Program location: Milcox Chapel on the Alderson Broaddus University

Lunch in Hamer Student Center

\$6.00 Pre-pay as you register



**Guest Speaker: Erin McClure** 

**Annual Business Meeting** Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers 2020 Mission Outreach Project and

**Voting and Announcement of** 

2020 Special Project



**WV HOPE Logo Contest Winner** 

Women's Day Committee: Lou Ann Nicholas, Coordinator Yevette Shafer, Margaret Pratt, Jane Mullen, Linda Carpenter

#### 2019 Mission Outreach Project (MOP)

Rice for Students in Thailand Goal: \$6,000



#### Description

In the overcrowded city of Chiang Mai, Thailand, it is hard to come by steady employment, much less a living wage. Parents struggle to meet their families' basic needs, and when there isn't enough food to go around, the children are often sent out to the night market to beg.

The House of Blessing is an early childhood education center that serves ethnic minority hill tribe children. When the teachers noticed the

children were frequently absent, exhausted, and their classwork was suffering, they knew they had to help. The House of Blessing established a program where they provide bags of rice to students' families. Each family agrees that the children will not beg on school nights. As a result, children started coming to school more consistently, well rested and ready to learn. However, the program administrators are struggling to provide enough rice to last the whole month.

#### How we can help

\$30 provides one family with enough rice for a month.

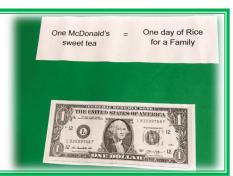
\$360 provides one family with enough rice for one year.

Our goal of \$6,000 would provide 16 families with enough rice for one year!

Monetary donations can be mailed to: American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) Attn: Linda Carpenter 63 Wakefield Place Washington, WV 26281



As a result of your generosity, tummies are being filled with life-sustaining nutrients and children are being educated instead of walking the streets at night begging for food. As of May 31, 2019, ABWM Treasurer Linda Carpenter reports that \$5,697.00 had been collected toward this very worthwhile project and that money is already being forwarded to the House of Blessing. Please continue to give.



## TIDBITS



Our website is now much easier to access. Just go to wvbc.org and in the upper right hand corner there is a search bar. *Type in ABW and hit enter and there we are!!* 



Join us on *Facebook* — <u>*WV American Baptist Women's Ministries*</u> — and now on *Instagram* — <u>abwwestvirginia</u> — for inspirational messages and updates.





If you would like to subscribe to **Seasons**, the cost is \$5.00 per year - publications are in January, April and August. Subscription mailing information is on the back cover of this edition or go online and read it in its entirety at www.wvbc.org on the ABW page.



Congratulations to two of our 2019 Scholarship Girls - *Rebekah McCloy* and *Elisabeth Palmer*, both of whom have secured positions as Summer Youth Interns at Newark Baptist Church in Parkersburg and Parchment Valley Baptist Church in Ripley respectively. So proud of both of you!



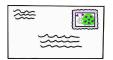
**WV HOPE LOGO CONTEST** - We need a logo and we're challenging you to create one! See details on Page 5 of this publication. Please help spread the word and let the fun begin!



We are pleased to announce that the **2020 Scholarship/Loan Application** is now available for printing from our website. No longer do you have to request an application. Just print it off, fill it out and mail it in. Scholarships for 2019 have already been awarded. Next selection process will occur in March 2020.



Lots of love and best wishes to **Debbie Mulneix** on her 20th Anniversary (July 1st) with American Baptist Churches International Ministries. We so value and appreciate your service!



We are excited to present a new Seasons Magazine feature "Letters to the Editor." See details and rules on Page 5 of this publication. Here's hoping to hear from you!



President *Debbie Higginbotham*; Conference Coordinator *Kim Mack*, Personal Development Coordinator *Lou Ann Nicholas*, Love Gift Coordinator *Kathy Wince* and Treasurer *Linda Carpenter* will all rotate off the ABWM Executive Board at Women's Day, October 18th.

Thank you for your service! You shall be missed by all!



#### Women's Conference Follow Up

Our first one-day conference held on June 1st at Parchment Valley Conference Center turned out to be quite successful. There were over twenty ladies that came on Friday evening to stay overnight. Their planned activities had to be altered because of rain, so they moved indoors to Hill Hall and made the best of it.

Saturday was nonstop action and information. When the evaluation forms were collected and analyzed by the conference organizers, they found most folks preferred and enjoyed the one-day format.

To all who attended, thank you for being part of our experiment and thank you also for making it successful.

The most dangerous phrase in the language is "we've always done it this way."







































#### ...WV Hope Continued



In the April issue of Seasons, President Debbie Higginbotham introduced WV Hope as an alternative to White Cross and explained how the name was derived from a railroad car, only one of seven that was manufactured in our neighboring state of Ohio. West Virginia was the recipient of one of these cars and was named "Herald of Hope" and the railroad circuit for that car resulted in the formation of several of our American Baptist Churches in existence today. Thus, a railroad car used in the

early years for spiritual purposes even today channeled inspiration through the naming of our WV Hope.

Since the publication of that article, we have been contacted by Rev. Frank Miller, Director of Parchment Valley Conference Center, to advise that the small, portable Faber pump organ used in the Herald of Hope Chapel Car is housed in the Historical Society Room at the front of Hill Hall. Having had my interest piqued by the development of this whole scenario, I traveled to the site and was privileged to photograph this artifact. It is enclosed in a glass case thus the photo has reflections but it has been well preserved. Information there revealed that the organ was



inherited by the Gordon L. Withers family in the early 1920's and was used extensively by him and also later by his son, Bill, from the 1930's to the 1970's. The Withers family presented it to the WV Baptist Historical Society on November 7, 1995.



Also, we have learned, as a result of the April Seasons article, that there is a bench from the Herald of Hope Chapel Car located at First Baptist Church, Dunbar, one of the many churches that were planted by the travels of the Herald of Hope. Perhaps the above photo of those early ministry pioneers contains your great aunt or uncle or great grandparents.

Go with me in thought for a moment, if you will, to another era in time. Sit with me on one of those benches, hear the organ playing a hymn from The Baptist Hymnal (1878) or the Rodeheaver Hymnal (1917). Feel the presence of the Holy Spirit as He carries out the "Great Commission" utilizing a servant who was seated on the pictured bench. Our heritage as American Baptists in churches established along the railroad circuit is a culmination of the mission of Rev. W. F. Newton as he engineered the Herald of Hope Ministry. We are who we are today because of the leadership and guidance of our forefathers. We must all pause to reflect on a chronological record of events that have led each of us on our spiritual journey. We should always move forward but never, ever cease to remember our past.

Sue Hamric with President Debbie Higginbotham

<sup>\*\*</sup> If you have knowledge of additional artifacts from the Herald of Hope Chapel Car, please contact us.

#### **American Baptist Women's Ministries** of West Virginia

#### **Spiritual Growth Retreat** "In The Quiet"

#### September 20-22, 2019 **Parchment Valley Conference Center**

Registrations must be received by Sunday, September 1, 2019
Registration form and fees are needed for each person registering.

	n Retreat Package ing, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.	
Lodges: ( ) Double Occupancy - \$112.00/per person, roommate I	listed below.  assigned roommate.  at least 3 per	
Part-Time Registration:  ( ) \$25.00 Registration Fee ( ) \$ 6.00 Saturday Breakfast ( ) \$ 7.00 Saturday Lunch ( ) \$ 8.00 Saturday Dinner ( ) \$ 6.00 Sunday Breakfast ( ) \$ 17.00 Bunkhouse/Dorm (per person) ( ) \$25.00 One Night Lodging, 3-4 per room ( ) \$30.00 One Night Lodging, double occupancy	Mail registration forms, including fees, to: Carrie J. Gasaway 451 22nd Street Dunbar, WV 25064 panda112260.cj@gmail.com Phone: 304.552.3760 I cannot receive personal calls at work. You can reach me between 4:30-9 p.m.  Financial assistance is available for first-timers from the Durig Leadership Fund. Scholarships are based on need.	
Walk-ins are welcome. However, it is suggested that you bring a bag lunch as lunches cannot be assured.	Please submit a written request to:  Debbie Higginbotham  571 Skyline View Drive  Ripley, WV 25271  Phone: 304.372.8602  higgnb@suddenlink.net	
*Make checks payable to AB Women's Ministries of WV  Please print legibly.		
Address C	hone Amount Enclosed ity, State, Zip Code association Email	
	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 2019 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.

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