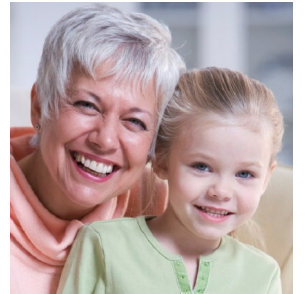


Seasons

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR



JANUARY 2020

There's an App for That!



The West
Virginia
Baptist

Convention app is now available for Android and Apple products. Download yours today!



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Happy 2020! A NEW BEGINNING!

As a teacher, I love the first day of school. I always impress upon my students that they have been given another chance to change bad habits and continue to improve for another year of study. The past can make us better students if we learn from it! Isn't that also true as Christians? How great that our God is a God of second chances over and over again. No matter how many times we mess up, He never stops loving His children, always offering forgiveness and a new beginning in our walk with Him.

ABWM of WV has been given a new year of opportunities to bring Jesus to this hurting, broken world. I recently heard Pastor David Bush at Crab Orchard Baptist Church in Beckley speak on Hebrews 10:22-25. Through his passionate delivery of God's word, I grabbed onto this scripture as the perfect formula to start the new year as servants of Jesus Christ.

2019: THANK
YOU FOR
THE
LESSONS.

2020: LET'S
DO THIS.

Hebrews 10:22 (NKJV) – “**LET US DRAW NEAR** with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” I love that this verse is before the others. How do we draw near? Notice it requires action on our part - take time to read God's word and meditate on it, pray, be still so we can hear Him speak to us in the depths of our hearts - to draw near in an intimate love relationship with God. We are promised in James 4:8 “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you . . .” How else can we weather the storms of life and still have peace beyond understanding? Disappointment and frustration will come at times as you serve Jesus through the women's ministries. But staying near to God will help us walk by faith, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) – “**LET US HOLD FAST** the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” Pioneer missionary Adoniram Judson traveled to Burma (now Myanmar) in 1813. After six years of sharing the gospel at great personal sacrifice, not one Burmese had trusted in Christ. Yet, God tells us to hold on without wavering. Then, in 1819, the first Burmese convert believed that Jesus suffered death for his sins and was baptized. Today, there are more than two million believers in Myanmar (Burma), and 40% of the Karen people to whom Adoniram Judson directed his ministry are now Christians. We, too, have been called to serve in various positions throughout ABWM of WV. It is easy to become discouraged when we work hard to minister to our women locally or at our state gatherings and attendance is less than expected. But God says to hold on because He is faithful! I Corinthians 3:6 reminds us that sowing is our responsibility and the results are God's.

Hebrews 10:24 (NKJV) – “**And LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO STIR UP LOVE AND GOOD WORKS, . . .**” Elizabeth Johnson Carter stirred up love and good works after reading a plea for supplies from the wife of a missionary in India who was ministering to women held in seclusion. Mrs. Carter's efforts led to organizing circles of women across West Virginia in the late 1800s to help meet the needs of missionaries on the field. Elizabeth Johnson Carter became the first state president of what is now ABWM of WV. Our organization of women's ministries is one of the strongest across the nation. Why is that? To be successful as servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, let's follow this formula from Hebrews:

***LET US draw near to God,
LET US hold fast without wavering, and
LET US meet the needs of others with love and good works!***

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT YEAR OF MINISTRY IN 2020!



ABWM President Kathy Hudson
Ravenswood First Baptist Church
1263 Park Avenue
Ravenswood, WV 26164
Phone: 304-373-8938
E-mail: kathykayhudson@gmail.com



MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS



Judy Staats
Love Gift Coordinator
Summersville Baptist Church
709 Bright Pond Road, Summersville 26651
Phone: 304-872-4757
E-mail: jdstaats52@gmail.com

I presently serve as adult choir director, adult programs director/CD Board, circle chair and assist with collection for local food pantry. I am the Hopewell Association ABWM president 2014-2021. I am married to John Staats, retired Nicholas County Personnel Director and former NCHS band director. John and I have a son, Eric Staats, Parkersburg South High School director of bands and daughter-in-law Hope Staats, Roane County High School band director; three adopted grandchildren. Our daughter, Winifred Eilert, is an attorney in Florida. Judy's hobbies include: reading, sewing and gardening. As WVABWM Love Gift Coordinator, I encourage all of you to promote Love Gift participation this year as a portion will go to the WVBC. The 2020 goal is \$100,000.

Elizabeth (Libby) Young
First Vice-President
Nutter Fort First Baptist Church
2184 Marshville Road, Salem 26426
Phone: 304-783-4714
E-mail: el.young@aol.com



I am Elizabeth (Libby) Young, a servant of our Savior Jesus Christ. I live in Harrison County, going west, right outside of Clarksburg. I am retired from office management and accounting. I am a member of First Baptist of Nutter Fort. I sing in the choir and am the President of ABW. I enjoy crafting and watching nature! I served on the board as coordinator of Church and Community in the past. I am looking forward to working on the ministry of WV Hope.



Melanie Swisher
Spiritual Growth Retreat Coordinator Elect
Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill
305 Gatewood Ave., Oak Hill 25901
Phone: 304-372-1822
E-mail: mswisher@boe.jack.k12.wv.us

I am the wife of Charles Gregory Swisher, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Hill, WV. A native of Mingo County who graduated from Williamson High School, Pikeville College with a BS in Education and WVU with a Master of Social Work. I have enjoyed 37 years as an educator and social worker in Mingo, Jackson, Kanawha and currently at New River Intermediate in Fayette County. I have been married for 23 years with four children and one grandchild. I enjoy my family, which includes my church family and my ABW circles, the Velma Huffman and Evalena McCutchen. Hobbies include reading, baking, cooking and crocheting.

Liz Stewart
Mission and Service Coordinator Elect
Reedy Baptist Church
216 Wilson Street, Ravenswood 26164
Phone: 304-531-1052
E-mail: ls@pcwv.com

My name is Liz Stewart. I am truly humbled and honored to serve as Coordinator of Mission and Service. Currently, I am working with Reedy Baptist as well as Comunidad Nueva Esperanza, although Ravenswood FBC still holds a special place in my heart as "home church." I am also serving as President Elect for Good Hope Association ABW. I have five children, two of them are adults, and three are still young and at home. I have a passion for ministering to women caught in the bondage of addiction and human trafficking. The Lord used me to begin an addictions ministry in my hometown of Ravenswood. My current employment status is full-time student. Missions and service work have always been near and dear to my heart, I look forward to serving and growing with all of my WVABW ladies.



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!!!

This year we have a **CHANGE IN PROCEDURE** for scholarship applications. Instead of calling and requesting an application packet be mailed to you, you can now go on our website and print it off at your convenience.

- Go to our website ---- www.wvbc.org
- There is a search bar at top right hand of the page that is marked by a little magnifying glass
- Put your cursor there and type American Baptist Women and hit enter
- A square will appear on the left side of the page that says "American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV"
- Put your cursor there and click
- Our American Baptist Women's page is now open
- Scroll down until you see Scholarship/Loan Application and click on that
- When it opens up, right click on your computer mouse and click on the word print
- There are seven pages to be printed
- Application cannot be completed on line but must be printed and mailed
- **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS** - They must be received by the Scholarship/Loan Coordinator no later than **MARCH 1, 2020**.

Jane W. Mullen
Scholarship/Loan Coordinator
Harrisville Baptist Church
1108 E. Main St./ PO Box 257
Harrisville, WV 26362-0257
Phone: 304.643.5993
E-mail: Ljwm1108@zoominternet.net



WV HOPE ALTERNATIVE - WHITE CROSS

Thank you, **Joyce Ross, Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church in Ona, Guyandotte Association**, for your Letter to the Editor suggesting that more information be forthcoming about sponsoring international White Cross projects.

- Go to InternationalMinistries.org.
- Scroll down the page until you see a brown box in the center that says "Find a White Cross Project" There you will find page after page of White Cross projects to choose from.
- One word of caution - pre-determine your mailing costs because sometimes it's quite expensive.

WV American Baptist Women's Ministries

2020 Special Project



Handicapped-Accessible Restroom Parchment Valley Conference Center Administration Building Goal \$12,000

The place “where lives are changed” is constantly striving to meet the needs of their clientele. The American Baptist Women of West Virginia are pleased and excited to announce that the construction of a totally handicapped-accessible restroom facility in their main building has been selected for our Special Project for 2020.



The office area in the dining hall will be relocated to the opposite end of the building and the current office space will house the new restroom facility. Construction is scheduled to commence sometime during the 2019-2020 winter season. Please be in prayer for all involved with this much-needed upgrade to a facility we all love.



If you would like to make a contribution to the cost of this project, please send your payment to: Amy Starkey, State Treasurer, WV ABWM, 921 Whispering Pines Road, Ravenswood, WV 26164. (ABW groups please go through your usual payment channels).

Margaret Pratt
Church and Community Coordinator
Racine First Baptist Church
533 River Road, Racine, WV 25165
Phone: 304-941-4552
E-mail: Nateandabismom1@gmail.com



WV Hope Transitional Information

Ladies,

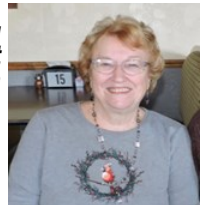
As the new State Executive Board First Vice President, I find it exciting to be in charge of the WV Hope project. This ministry will give American Baptist Women an opportunity to help those in our association areas, thus giving it a personal touch! Let's give our new ministries prayers and sincere thoughts. When this ministry was created in 2019, we first had to determine if this alternative to White Cross would be well received and thankfully it was. We also knew there would have to be adjustments made as we went along and this message is to make you aware of those changes that were put into place at the State Board Meeting in November.

- **Beginning in 2021 the term for the ministries will be from January – December.** This is to streamline this ministry to conform with the same time frame as our Mission Outreach Project, Special Project and Love Gift, all of which consume a calendar year.
- **The ministries in place now**, which normally would change in June 2020, will **stay the same until the end of December 2020**. This will give you a longer time to meet your goals for collection.
- Your new ministries will be in your **association packets handed out on Women's Day 2020**, and will be effective January 2021 - December 2021.
- Your year-end reports are due to association officers by January 15th and then to me, WV Hope Coordinator, by January 30th.
- Weirton Christian Center will always remain as one of the yearly recipients of our WV Hope Ministries.
- If you have **ministries in your area** that might need our assistance, please get those to me by **April 15, 2020**.
- My committee and I will meet during the Annual Conference in June to determine both the number of ministries and the ministries to be selected for 2021.
- I asked for three volunteers for this committee through our weekly emails and three wonderful ladies volunteered the very day the email went out! Committee members are:

Nancy Elkins - Oak Hill, Fayette Association
Dee Wanner - Charleston, Kanawha Valley Association
Rosemary McDonald - Bridgeport, Union Association
Kathy Hudson - Ravenswood, Good Hope Association
Libby Young - Committee Chair, Salem, Judson Association

If at any time you have questions or need further information, please contact me.

Elizabeth (Libby) Young
First Vice-President
Nutter Fort First Baptist Church
2184 Marshville Road
Salem 26426
Phone: 304-783-4714
E-mail: el.young@aol.com



Thank you, **LaAnna Blake**,
New Baptist Church, Huntington
(Guyandotte Association)
for your WV Hope logo entry.



**M O P
2020**

Camp Alpha

**\$6,000
Goal**



Camp Alpha is a church camp located in Ryazan, Russia who hosted their first campers in 2017. The camp currently consists of two picnic shelters, two large metal storage containers repurposed into cabins and outhouses for restroom facilities. Tents provide additional housing for the campers. Meals must either be brought in from local churches or cooked on-site over an open campfire. Taking into account the rustic nature of the camp, it's amazing that 65 kids were in attendance in 2019! The WVBC partnership with the Russian churches has helped them to create the camp in resemblance to our very own Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia have adopted Camp Alpha for their MOP 2020 project. We hope our goal of \$6,000 will help make improvements to the camp that will encourage more children to come meet Jesus at Camp Alpha!

For more information, contact Dee Lallemon at 304-482-2976 or dlallemon@yahoo.com.

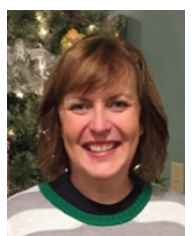
Donations can be sent through your ABW Associations and then to:

Amy Starkey, ABWM-WV Treasurer
921 Whispering Pines Rd.
Ravenswood, WV 26164

Dee Lallemon
Mission and Service Coordinator
Emmanuel Baptist Church

6 Amanda Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26104
Phone: 304-482-2976

E-mail: lallemon@cascable.net



WV HOPE CONTINUATION . . . We traveled to Quinwood to interview a stranger and returned with not only a friend - but a relative!



In August, President Debbie Higginbotham, President-Elect Kathy Hudson, Secretary Karen Nicholson and Communication Coordinator Sue Hamric traveled to Quinwood, West Virginia (Greenbrier County) for a road trip that will be etched in our memories forever. We had received information that in addition to the Dunbar First Baptist Church relic, there was another bench from the Herald of Hope Chapel Car located at **Quinwood First Baptist Church (Hopewell Association)** in the town of the same name. To add to that excitement, information surfaced that there was a member of the Quinwood First Baptist Church whose family had actually worshipped on the Herald of Hope Chapel Car. Thus the road trip was scheduled and we set out to interview **Charlotte Johnson**.

Charlotte and her friend, Patsy McClung, met us at the Quinwood First Baptist Church and provided us with a history of the church. Charlotte, a member for many years, attended worship services with her family on the Herald of Hope Chapel Car, although she has no recollection of that attendance as she was only a small child and the youngest of four children. We learned a great deal about this fascinating lady --- she was born in 1931; attended Camp Cowen the first year that it opened and was housed in the Fairmont Cabin; she attended Bluefield Business College; and has four children, all adults in the medical profession. Charlotte remembers Fanny Newton, wife of Rev. William Francis Newton, both missionary of the Herald of Hope Chapel Car and founder of Quinwood First Baptist Church, as she was a good friend of Charlotte's parents.



We were provided lunch by these gracious ladies – hot dogs from the famous Hilltop Restaurant in Quinwood along with potato salad and Charlotte's homemade Lemon Lush. It was during this luncheon conversation that Kathy Hudson (family roots in neighboring Nicholas County) and Charlotte began to put all the pieces in place and discovered that they are, indeed, distant relatives! What fun it was! After that, we drove down the hill from the church to where the Quinwood Railroad Depot was located and where the Herald of Hope Chapel Car once stood. According

to the information in a book entitled **Herald of Hope by Nancy Richmond**, the Herald of Hope was relocated in 1932 to nearby Marfrance where it was placed on a stone foundation and used as a church for the community. We also visited that site. The Chapel Car stayed there until 1939 when a new church was built. It was then retired from service and sold to Imperial Smokeless Coal Company and moved back to Quinwood where it was used as the mine office until the closure of the company. It was then side railed on the tracks and stood empty for several years. The Herald of Hope was eventually scrapped and the chapel car passed into history, but its legacy lives on in many facets and especially those that involve meeting new sisters in Christ. Thank you, Charlotte Johnson, for an unforgettable adventure!



2019
Spiritual
Growth
Retreat



Announcements and Upcoming Events

ANNUAL MEETING 2020 -

Women's Day Thursday, October 15th Summersville Baptist Church



March 28 - Union Association Spring Rally - Simpson Creek BC
April 16 - Hopewell Association Spring Rally - New Prospect BC
May 19 - Guyandotte Association Spring Rally - Union BC
Sept. 15 - Guyandotte Association Fall Rally - New BC
Sept. 17 - Hopewell Association Fall Rally - Olive Branch BC

State Executive Board
March 14, 2020

Parchment Valley Conference Center



BOARD MEETING



Women's Conference

Saturday, June 6, 2020

"Where in the World . . . ?"

Sandy Currey, Coordinator

(Friday night lodging available)

Sept. 18 - 20

"From Trash to Treasure"

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Kim Pickrell, Coordinator



ANNUAL
MEETING



Summersville Baptist Church

ABWM of WV

Women's Annual Meeting Day

Thursday October 15, 2020

Margaret Pratt, Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE!



WV AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

June 6, 2020

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Pre-Conference Activities and Lodging Friday, June 5th

Sandy Foster Currey
Conference Coordinator
Oakwood Baptist Church

4614 Noyes Ave.

Charleston, WV 25304

304-545-7471

sandyfostercurrey@gmail.com





Beth Moore Bible Study Library

The First Baptist Church of Spencer has graciously donated ten Beth Moore Bible Studies to the American Baptist Women's Ministries. Each Leader's Kit includes a Leader's Guide, Workbook and DVD's (with the exception of A Heart Like His which is on VCR tape). The length of the studies varies. The only thing your group would have to purchase would be the workbooks and they can be ordered from Living Proof Ministries store website or from Amazon.

If you or your group would like to borrow one of these studies, please contact me at suehamric@suddenlink.net and I'll make arrangements to get the Leader's Kit to you.

The studies are:

- A Heart Like His - A Study of King David
- Mercy Triumphs - A Study of James
- Lives of Integrity; Words of Prophecy - A Study of Daniel
- Jesus the One and Only
- Stepping Up - A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent
- When Godly People Do Ungodly Things
- To Live is Christ - The Life and Ministry of Paul
- The Beloved Disciple - The Life and Ministry of John
- The Patriarchs - Encountering the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Living Beyond Yourself - Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit

WV HOPE MAILING INFORMATION



All gift cards, checks or tangible items collected for any of the four current **WV Hope** Ministries should be sent directly to the ministry at the address listed on their flyer that was in your packets.

Exception!!! WV Hope Gift Cards for the Baptist Campus Ministries Leaders should be sent to the state office to WVBC, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg 26102 to the attention of Jennifer Huber (Rob Ely's secretary) for equal distribution to the BCM leaders statewide.



EVENT PLANNING MADE EASY!

OUR ONLINE PLANNING CALENDAR

It seems that in current times every day is a National Day for something! If you are looking for a date on which to plan an event for your group, check out the **“Planning Calendar”** on the ABWM web page. Not only will you find national, state and local dates of interest, but lots of other information both serious issues and fun such as: January 4th is National Spaghetti Day; January 11th is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day; February 7th is National Send a Card to a Friend Day; February 9th is one of my favorites - National Pizza Day!! Think of the possibilities! Check it out for a host of ideas for activities and meeting dates (***website instructions on Page 4*** and elsewhere in this publication).

Women’s Day
Alderson Broaddus University
October 18, 2019
Mission Outreach Project



Dee Lallemon, State Mission and Service Coordinator (***Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg Association***) and Carrie Gasaway, State Registrar (***Judson Baptist Church, Teays Valley Association***) in a skit to promote the 2019 Mission Outreach Project “Rice for students in Thailand.” From contestant squeals to audience participation and laughter from all in attendance, what fun it was! The goal was to accurately guess the current amount of money raised for the “Rice” project. Carrie sometimes listened and sometimes ignored the audience help and accurately guessed the right amount. Her grand prize - a 25 lb. bag of rice! What fun it is to serve our Lord and Savior!



Are you a New Year's resolution kind of person? I'm usually not one myself, but this really helped me as I started the 2019 year. Last year I made a card and put it on my bathroom mirror. It is the first thing I see in the morning and the last thing at night. I've updated it for 2020 and want to share it with you. It helps me start the day and end the day in prayer. Many of our New Year's resolutions fall flat simply because we do not make them in Jesus' name. We make them in our own name, in our own strength, on our terms, for our personal gain and benefit. They fail by February because they're so focused on us - on self.

Christian resolutions and disciplines are not about self-fulfillment or self-preservation, but about increasing our capacity to *die* to self as part of being born again; the old self dies and the new self comes to life ([John 3:3-7](#)).

What makes Christian "self-improvement" any different than any other self-help? The "self" being improved suddenly becomes a servant to others! A humble, intentional, joyful worker for others' joy in Jesus. The Apostle Paul could have said, "Make no personal growth resolutions from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Personal development is about being the best "you" possible. Expand your skills, gifts and talents as you study and grow. "Investing in yourself is the best investment you will ever make. It will not only improve your life; it will improve the lives of all those around you." When you accepted Christ, you began a journey. This journey will continue all your life. Our personal growth is the evidence of God's work in our lives. As we look to Jesus, the transformation that has happened spiritually will begin to manifest itself in us in tangible and practical ways. We will change and grow, becoming more and more like the One we follow.



*First Resolution for 2020:
Seek God's face, and pray
David's prayer every morning
for the next year.*

*"Create in me a clean heart,
O God: restore within me a
sense of being brand new.
Do not throw me far away
from Your presence, and
do not remove Your
Holy Spirit from me."
Psalm 51:10-11 (The Voice)*

The motivation for personal development is created when you realize that you want more as you are going through a life transition. We live in the information age. We can access the information we need to learn anything in seconds, but information isn't enough. Without inspiration and revelation, information is just noise. The process of personal development cuts through that noise. This development is more than doing more: it is also about doing less. While you likely will need to study God's word and adopt new ways of thinking, you will also need to let go of old ideas, thoughts and patterns in order to grow more fully.

As we envision this new year let's stop for a minute and check our vision. Do we have 20/20 vision? Do we need a checkup? If we are experiencing problems, we might need corrective lenses or even more drastic corrective measures. The good news is: when our vision isn't 20/20, it is correctible. Let's start this year in prayer as we continue our own individual and unique journey of personal development as we travel the same road. "As Christians, remember that: Earth is (our place of work) and Heaven is (our retirement)."

Yvette Shafer
Personal Development Coordinator
Shuck Memorial Baptist Church
2678 Chestnut Flats Road, Lewisburg, WV 24901
304-646-7413
yvettes@gmail.com



TIDBITS



Instructions on finding our Web page: (1) Go to wvbc.org (2) In the search bar in the upper right hand corner (beside the magnifying glass) type **abw** (if that doesn't work, type **American Baptist Women**) and hit enter (3) There we are - just click on the page and off you go!



Join us on **Facebook** - American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV for inspirational messages and information updates. On December 31st we reached 2,203 followers!

SCHOLARSHIP Application

Don't forget 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. Next selection process will occur in March 2020.



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 - Just go online and read it in its entirety (web page instructions listed above).



Heads up! The 2020 WVBC Annual Meeting has been moved back to its original format of Thursday and Friday. This year's meeting will be held at the Summersville Baptist Church and the **American Baptist Women's Annual Meeting will be on THURSDAY, October 15th, not Friday.**



Women's Conference

Yes, there's a change for 2020 - but one that you'll love! **This year's conference (June 6th) will be held in its entirety in the Santrock Building** at Parchment Valley Conference Center! Woohoo! No more climbing the hill, changing buildings, etc. Look for more details in the April edition of *Seasons*! Don't miss it!



Thank you, **Zola Miller (First Baptist Church of Spencer, Good Hope Association)** for all the wonderful photos of ABWM events that you have provided us over the years!



2020 Updates are now on our website - Mission Outreach Project Flyer, Special Project Flyer, amended bylaws, committee appointments, Planning Calendar and more. Check frequently for updates.



Visit us on the web:
[www.wvbc.org/Partners/
AB Women's Ministries](http://www.wvbc.org/Partners/AB%20Women's%20Ministries)

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 2020 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 my renewal or _____ new subscription to *SEASONS* for _____ year (s).

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
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Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019**

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