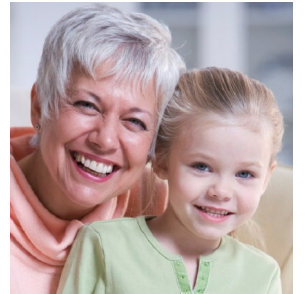
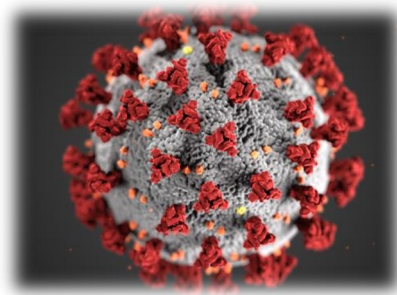


Seasons

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



2020



Dealing with COVID19

AUGUST, 2020

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App for That!***



The West
Virginia
Baptist

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2020 Virtual Conference Theme



President	2
2020 ABWM Projects	3 - 7
Tidbits	8
COVID-19 Reflection	9

I absolutely love the theme "Boots on the Ground" that Sandy Foster Currey chose for our first-ever Virtual State Conference in 2020. Being a Christian in a hostile and broken world is much like being a soldier, sacrificing much for the greater good.

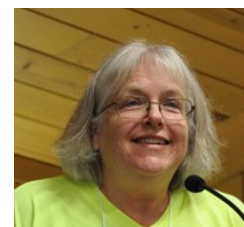
My dad served in the army as a foot soldier in WWII. From time to time, he would give me a glimpse of the sacrifice required to fight the battle against the enemy. He told me of marching through France when the days were so hot that the sweat would ooze from their boots and make mud with the dirt. The seasons changed bringing snow and the men in his unit would huddle together for warmth through the night without a fire so that their location would remain hidden. Especially hard for me to hear was that my dad and his fellow soldiers would sometimes go without food because their location was unknown. He said his commanding officer would always encourage them that the food was coming and to not give up. Yet, the battle continued, and the soldiers had their boots on the ground.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we too are in a battle of good versus evil. Should we be any less dedicated than our soldiers that fight for freedom around the world despite the hardships? We are either all in or not. There is no straddling the fence. Jesus sets the example. Ridicule, mockery, beatings, false accusations, temptations, betrayal and the ultimate sacrifice of death on the cross were all part of what Jesus willingly faced in His battle to bring God and His message of salvation to the lost of this world. So, girls, keep your boots on the ground! The battle is not easy, but there is a world of broken and lost people that need to hear about Jesus and His Love through you!

The pandemic of 2020 could have stopped us dead in our tracks, but good soldiers find another way to fight the battle. As believers in Jesus Christ, our witness is ongoing regardless of what this world throws at us. The shutdown may have stopped us from meeting inside our churches for services, coming together for circle meetings, or renewing relationships with each other at our ABWM state gatherings, but God's army continues to serve. Satan always underestimates the strength of God's army!

I knew that ABWM of WV would not shut down spiritually even though many physical restrictions are in place to fight COVID-19. I challenged the association presidents to share how the ladies in their neck of the woods are still meeting the needs of others and spreading the love of Jesus at a time when hope is most needed. I am blown away at how busy and creative the women have been to meet the needs of others! Love in action!

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



In their own words . . .

Little Kanawha Association (Sharon Radabaugh, President)

Sand Fork Baptist Church

"We finally started having monthly meetings. We usually have about eight or nine ladies to attend. Some of the ladies are helping on Wednesdays to fix meals to send out to our kids, since we can't have BYF. We usually send about 70 meals. Some go to senior citizens. The van drivers are good enough to come in on Wednesday afternoons, and deliver the meals. The youth pastor includes a flyer for the drivers to give out. Our group will hopefully get together in the sanctuary and watch the Virtual Conference on the big screen. Refreshments to follow."

Parkersburg Association (Gerry Prunty, President)

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

"ABWM has not been meeting since February. Our church has participated in reaching out to individuals and organizations. Our people have been making phone calls to church members; sending cards of encouragement; young adults have been reaching out to Homecrest Manor children that is a low income apartment complex near the Church. Others have been delivering meals and going to the store. House to Home is a day center for the homeless and bought them underwear and food. The "New Life Ministry", Gloria Busch is the Leader, provided paper towels, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, laundry detergent and hand soap to this Ministry. Several of our ladies made masks for Wheaton College. Our church is in partnership with a local Elementary School and provided hand sanitizer."

Panhandle Association (Rose Marie Durig, President)

Most churches have not met since March, BUT

- Made masks, and masks, and more masks for family, friends, church services, hospitals and now for school children
- Weirton church is doing what they can for the Christian Center
- Phone calls and cards were sent to shut-ins and surprise food gifts showed up on porches to members of their church fellowship
- People in the church were given 10 names of members of the church to be called each week with a scripture passage (given by the pastor) and prayer requests. (I thought this was good because they by-passed email and gave each member a personal touch by the phone calls. I think new relationships will be built by this old fashion method)
- 101 pair of heavy socks were given to the local homeless
- Health items, diapers and hand quilted blankets and receiving blankets given to local Project Gabriel chapter once they reopened
- clothes being collected for local elementary school's clothes closet.

Logan-Mingo Association (Nancy Ramey, Representative)

Williamson, First Baptist Church

- * Made and mailed 100 masks for Rhonda's House of Hope.
- * Diaper distribution project has continued each month as before. Instead of recipients receiving diapers at our church facility, we arranged for a drop off/pick up location.
- * We celebrate each other's birthdays with drive by parties.
- * Women's Sunday School class (same women as circle) lesson has continued via group texting.
- * Prepared dinner for families of two bereaved members.
- * Two of our ladies have worked tirelessly during COVID to secure housing and food for a homeless person they found living in the local laundromat.
- * Continued to drop off our monthly giving for ABWM budget, the Reed's, and Hold the Rope.

Raleigh Association (Becky Riffe, President)

Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Submitted by Sue Swepston)

- ◆ N.O.W. (Neighbors on Wheels) Outreach Ministry - The N.O.W. Outreach Ministry Team continues to GO during 2020, and the COVID-19 situation, on a weekly basis to share the love of Jesus in our community.
- ◆ N.O.W. furnished, packed and delivered Weekend Blessings - a bag containing snacks that children were given when they picked up their weekly food boxes from the schools.
- ◆ N.O.W. continued a mini-mobile food pantry to serve four locations in our community by providing food and other items it receives through our retail partners. We supply recipes to go with many of the food items we take. We cannot currently meet as a group, but we pack individual family boxes. We have been made aware of many different issues as we are in the neighborhoods and have been so thankful to meet various needs. The food that we supply is the tool that welcomes us into the community and gives us the opportunity to share spiritual food!
- ◆ N.O.W. also stocks an "underwear/sock" supply for elementary students in emergency situations. The guidance counselor at the elementary school keeps us informed of these needs.
- ◆ The experiences we have had in our one-on-one with neighbors in our community have had God moments. We have shared both glad and sad moments with neighbors, and while we have grown from these exchanges, we trust that God has used us in some way to let others see Him through us. And that is our bottom line: to show God's love to our neighbors.
- ◆ We are excited as we continue to seek God's direction for N.O.W. - pray with us for new opportunities to minister and new volunteers. There is a place for all - talkers, backpack packers, cooks, drivers, prayer partners, etc. The only requirement - a willingness to serve and the love of God in your heart! YOU are invited to come and GO NOW!

Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Con't)

Neighbors on Wheels (N.O.W.)



Hopewell Association (Judy Staats, President)

Summersville Baptist Church

Yard Sale to benefit Operation Christmas Child

(Only donations were accepted; nothing was priced)

Raised \$3,076.46!!!

RUMMAGE SALE RAISES FUNDS FOR PACKING SHOEBOXES

By Sharon Paff

The OCC rummage sale went better than anyone expected; our God is so good!

Even though there was less notice than normal for both donators and shoppers, we had plenty of good items to sell and plenty of customers to shop and buy. Also we were very pleased that both workers and shoppers used masks and practiced social distancing. In 2 days we received \$3,076.46 in donations for shoebox packing parties!

As you can imagine, our packing parties will be different this year as well. There will be more information on that later.

As a reminder, if you plan on packing individual boxes (and we hope you do), now is the time to get school supplies. Stores have items such as crayons, pencils,

pens, markers, notebooks, etc, on good sales. There will be some of the older shoeboxes in the library soon if you want to start early. The newer boxes will hopefully come in early September.

Thanks again for all the help and support the church has given and continues to give to this ministry so that children around the world will have the opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus!



Notice of the sale might have been a bit short, but the donations were not!

SBC Kids is hoping to donate
hand sanitizer & disinfecting wipes
to every Nicholas County teacher,
but we need the community's help!

Please drop off items to the church
before August 21.

A collection box will be located outside the
entrance closest to the Secretary's office from
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Mondays - Fridays.
You can also ship directly from Amazon to the
church (422 Main St).

Thank you for helping!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY THINKS "OUTSIDE THE BOX" TO CREATE EVENTS FOR CHURCH & KIDS

What do you do when all your normal Children's Ministry events are canceled or postponed, but you still want to provide activities for the kids and church family?

Our Children's Ministry Co-Directors, Janae Asbury and Leigh Ellen Eades, get creative.

They design events that are social-distancing-friendly but still allow the kids to have fun, fellowship, and know that the adults in SBC Kids miss seeing them every week.

Over 80 people participated in the Drive-Thru Ice Cream Night on Sunday, July 19, 2020.

The following day, SBC Kids hosted a Bike & Trike Hour at the Convention Center.

When Children's Ministry doesn't look exactly like it did before Covid, it takes the creativity of dedicated leaders to keep the program running.



*(Top Right) Caleb and Maci Villers' daughter, Ada, enjoyed her popsicle at Ice Cream Night!
(Bottom right) Leigh Ellen Eades and Janae Asbury smile as they prepare for Drive-Thru Ice Cream Night.
(Bottom left) Kids of all ages enjoyed the Bike & Trike hour.*

Good Hope Association (Sue Harris, President)

Mill Creek Baptist Church (Submitted by Ashley Morris and Rachel Norman)



We wanted to update you on what the ladies from Mill Creek have been doing during the pandemic. At the beginning of March, we were able to host the Mill Creek Baptist Church women's second birthday party. The theme was Proverbs 31:25. We were blessed to be able to have the party before the quarantine started. It was the last time that we were able to fellowship together without the stress of quarantine and social distancing. We sent gift cards to Boyden and Bailee Myers to support them during college. During quarantine some of the ladies from the church got together and made masks for the mask making fundraiser for the House of Hope in Bolivia. We also met to tie knots for the prayer quilts for our graduating seniors. We had 4 graduates this year. We will be sending school

supplies for the Weirton Christian Center. Even though we haven't been able to fellowship together as we normally would it has been a blessing to still be able to perform mission work.

The women from six churches of Good Hope Association (First Baptist Spencer, Gilboa Baptist, Grass Lick Baptist, Parchment Valley Baptist, Mill Creek Baptist, and First Baptist Ravenswood) provided needed school supplies to Weirton Christian Center for the upcoming after-school program. Sandy Confer and Kathy Hudson from Ravenswood, First Baptist Church had the privilege of delivering the school supplies, touring Weirton Christian Center, and visiting with Kim Weaver on Thursday, August 6. It was the last day for their Summer Program with the children.



*"Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, (sisters), we are treading where the saints
have trod; We are not divided; all one body we, one
in hope and doctrine, one in charity.
Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before!"*

BOOTS ON THE GROUND, LADIES!

2020 Zoom Committee Meetings



Global Servant Rhonda Reed and Mom Valma Adams

By making masks for Wheaton College, WV ABWM helped to ascertain a \$10,000 donation to the House of Hope in Bolivia

APOLOGIES!!!

Crab Orchard Circle #1

Crab Orchard Circle #2

For incorrectly listing you in the Eastern Association instead of the correct Greenbrier-Raleigh Association in the April Edition of Seasons Honor Roll of Churches

2020 THE YEAR OF CANCELLATIONS

Executive Board March Meeting - **Cancelled**

Annual Women's Conference - **Cancelled**

Spiritual Growth Retreat - **Cancelled**

Annual Women's Day Meeting - **Cancelled**



2020 THE WAY IT WAS COVID-19

- ◆ On March 14th the Governor of West Virginia issued a stay-at-home order closing all schools and non-essential businesses. Schools would eventually be closed for the remainder of the school year with students being taught in classes online.
- ◆ Gasoline prices dropped as low as \$1.34 a gallon, but there were no long lines at the pumps because there was no demand for gasoline if you had no place to go.
- ◆ There are lines/tapes on the floors of the grocery stores to keep people six feet apart.
- ◆ Stores that are actually open, like Walmart, are closing early to disinfect everything. Restaurants are open only for take out, home delivery and pickup.
- ◆ All major and minor league sports competitions have been cancelled as well as youth sports.
- ◆ Weddings, family celebrations and birthdays have been cancelled. Funerals limited to 10-20 people. People are doing drive-by parades to celebrate birthdays and graduations.
- ◆ Young kids can't understand why they can only see grandparents and other extended family and friends on a screen or through a window if someone visits in person or on Facetime online.
- ◆ Churches are closed and offer services and Bible Studies online.
- ◆ There are shortages of disposable masks and gloves in hospitals; there is a shortage of much-needed ventilators.
- ◆ People are wearing masks; some places require that you wear them to enter. People are even sewing their own cloth masks for sale or donations to medical facilities.
- ◆ Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, bleach, anti-bacterial wipes and anything Lysol or Clorox is in short supply and limited per person - if you can even find them.
- ◆ Store check-outs, pharmacy and even fast-food drive thru vendors have added plexiglass between the employee and the customer. You have to reach around or under to pay.

August 2020

- Restrictions have loosened somewhat but COVID-19 cases now exceed more than 5,000,000 in the United States and the death toll is over 175,000.
- While we continue to struggle, good things have come about as a result of this pandemic. Ministry in all forms has taken on a new dimension and ABWM is included. Committees and boards have met through Zoom; progress has been made; a first-ever virtual Conference was held via video link and had an audience of more than 1,000. We all continue to expand the Gospel, and as quoted in Acts 5:39b by Gamaliel, the top Jewish Scholar and Mentor of the Apostle Paul — ***“But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them . . . ”***



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.*



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