

Seasons



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



*Serving God
in all
SEASONS
of our lives*



JANUARY, 2021

***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**



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CHOOSE FORWARD IN 2021

We just said goodbye to 2020 - the year of the pandemic. It changed daily life; work, school, church, sports, family celebrations, weddings, hospitals, shopping, restaurants, time with friends ... the list is endless! For American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM), board meetings went virtual: no in-person state events, local groups of women rarely met together if at all, spring and fall rallies cancelled, the 2020 financial goals for ministries not met ... enough to be defeated! Darkness creeps in!

I read an awesome devotion dealing with darkness I can't quit thinking about. It is profound spiritual wisdom for all of us as we maneuver through this pandemic.

Devotion: *Plunging Into the Darkness*

Jerry Sittser tells of an experience shortly after he lost his wife, his mother, and his four-year-old daughter in a tragic accident. He says, "I dreamed of a setting sun. I was frantically running west, trying desperately to catch it and remain in its fiery warmth and light. But I was losing the race. The sun was beating me to the horizon and was soon gone. Exhausted, I stopped running and glanced with foreboding over my shoulder to the east. I saw a vast darkness closing in on me. I was terrified by that darkness. I wanted to keep running after the sun."

Sharing the dream with his sister, she pointed out that "the quickest way for anyone to reach the sun and the light of day is not to run west, chasing after the setting sun, but to head east, plunging into the darkness until one comes to the sunrise." That was the turning point - sometimes the only way into the light we long for is straight through the darkness. We go there, not alone, but in the keeping of the God the psalmist acclaims: "To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you." Psalm 139:12

The One-Year Devotion for Women

Yes ladies, we must CHOOSE FORWARD!

Face the darkness of this pandemic by running right through it toward the LIGHT of this world!

God knew the darkness we would face in 2020 on a personal level and as a soldier for Christ.

He gave us scripture for such a time as this to remind us we are not alone (Hebrews 13:5) and to direct and encourage us in the journey. We try

again, thinking outside the box, to fulfill our purpose with our families, with others God chooses to cross our path and as women of faith chosen to bring Christ to the mission field.



I collect quotes I read or hear that bring clarity and wisdom in my walk with God. Be inspired as you run the race forward into 2021 focused on the light - Jesus!

- ◆ *"The presence of Christ brings us His power and ability to use our limited resources in his limitless ways." (Rebecca Manley Pippert)*
- ◆ *"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek his grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest." (Max Lucado)*
- ◆ *"Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one." (Brad Paisley)*

Kathy Hudson,
ABWM President
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MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 2021



SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT – MARY DAVIS

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
BROAD RUN ASSOCIATION
30 Raccoon Run Road, Salem, WV 26426
304.931.4713
primandproper.m@gmail.com

SECRETARY - KAREN NICHOLSON
HURRICANE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
TEAYS VALLEY ASSOCIATION
3 Trail Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526
304.542.3313
varzbk@aol.com



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY COORDINATOR – MARY ANN WILSON UNEXPIRED TERM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SPENCER
GOOD HOPE ASSOCIATION
1638 Charleston Road, Spencer, WV 25276
304.927.3667
mawilson@hughes.net

CONFERENCE COORDINATOR ELECT – NANCY ELKINS

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
FAYETTE ASSOCIATION
620 Jones Avenue, Oak Hill, WV 25901
304.469.4137
ncelkins68@yahoo.com



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR ELECT – SHERRY HUSTED

GILBOA BAPTIST CHURCH
GOOD HOPE ASSOCIATION
21 Washington Street, Reedy, WV 25270
304.927.2061
sherryhusted@yahoo.com



IT'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!!!

- Go to our website -- www.wvbc.org.
- Move your cursor to Ministries.
- When that menu opens, move your cursor to Auxiliaries.
- Next, click on WV American Baptist Women's Ministries.
- Scroll down until you see Scholarship/Loan Application and click.
- There are seven pages to be printed.
- Application cannot be completed online, but must be printed and mailed.
- **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS** - They must be received by the Scholarship/Loan Coordinator no later than **MARCH 1, 2021**.



Jane W. Mullen
Scholarship/Loan Coordinator
Harrisville Baptist Church
1108 E. Main St./ PO Box 257
Harrisville, WV 26362-0257
304.643.5993
ljwm1108@zoominternet.net

Lou Ann Nicholas
Associate Scholarship/Loan Coordinator
Shinnston First Baptist Church
202 Maryland Avenue
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
304.622.0988
lanicholas13@aol.com



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ABWM SECRETARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I am praying it is a great one and that we can look back on 2020 and see how God was moving behind the scenes for our good in the midst of the health crisis storm.

I would like to ask you to take a few minutes and let me know who the ABWM officers are in your church **AND** association. I LOVE to receive mail however I can get it. The board is trying to share as much information as possible concerning the ministries going on around our state, and we can only do it with YOUR help. You have shown us time and time again you are a loving and giving group of ladies, so I am asking for some of that "WV luv'n" now. Please send me an update of your church **AND** association officers. Include names, addresses, emails, phone numbers **AND** the name of your association with your church name, as I file by the associations.

I am confident 2021 will be a year of renewal and sharing, and that with all of you, will be a blessing. Thank you for helping to spread the word about ABWM ministry. You are loved and appreciated and we would be honored to help by flooding you with information to enhance your fellowship times and give you opportunities to grow together as WV American Baptist Women. Happy 2021!

Karen Nicholson, Secretary
First Baptist Church of Hurricane
3 Trail Drive
Hurricane, WV 25526
304.542.3313
varzbk@aol.com



WV American Baptist Women's Ministries **2020-2021 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. Because the ABWM goal of \$12,000 was not met in 2020 due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Baptist Women of West Virginia are continuing fundraising efforts for our Special Project for 2021 to help pay for the construction of a totally handicapped-accessible restroom facility.



The office area in the dining hall has been relocated to the opposite end of the building and the current office space now houses the new restroom facility. *Because of the conference center's monetary deficit for 2020, it is essential that we American Baptist Women of WV strive to fulfill our commitment of \$12,000 for this project.*

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).



Mary Ann Wilson
Church and Community Coordinator
First Baptist Church of Spencer
1638 Charleston Road
Spencer, WV 25276
304.927.3667
mawilson@hughes.net



WV Hope

WV Hope is a new ministry added to the ABWM agenda in 2019 as a way to help those in need in our local areas of West Virginia. There are lots of questions about it as well as some confusion, so here are some pointers to help you decide which route to take with your group/church, etc.:



- *WV Hope ministries are in place from January-December each calendar year.*
- *Ministries selected for 2021 are on our webpage at wvbc.org. (move your cursor to Ministries heading; when that menu opens move cursor to Auxiliaries; when that menu opens, CLICK on WV ABWM.) There you will find not only an information sheet listing their needs, but also a video.*
- *There are no quotas for these ministries. Give what you wish from the goodness of your heart.*
- *You are at liberty to select one or all of those four ministries or*
- *You can go to the International Ministries website. There you will find page after page of White Cross ministries to choose from or*
- *You can select a local ministry in your community to support. If you choose this option, be sure to list the name of the ministry on your year-end report.*
- *If you have a ministry in your area to be considered for the 2022 WV Hope, they must be received by the coordinator (Libby Young - mailing info below) by April 15th of each year.*
- *Just a reminder for those of you who participated in the 2020 WV Hope Ministries: your year-end report is due to your association officer by January 15th and association reports are due to me (contact information below) by January 31st.*

2021 Ministries are:

Fruits of Our Labor, 161 Main Street, Rainelle, WV 25962
Life Choice, 130 S. 4th Street, P. O. Box 1321, Clarksburg, WV 26302
House to Home, 413 8th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
Weirton Christian Center, 117 Ivy Street, P. O. Box 2045, Weirton, WV 26062

Detailed information can be found on our American Baptist Women's Ministries webpage (directions listed above). If at any time you have questions or need further information, please contact me.

Happy New Year and let's make this a hopeful year for others.

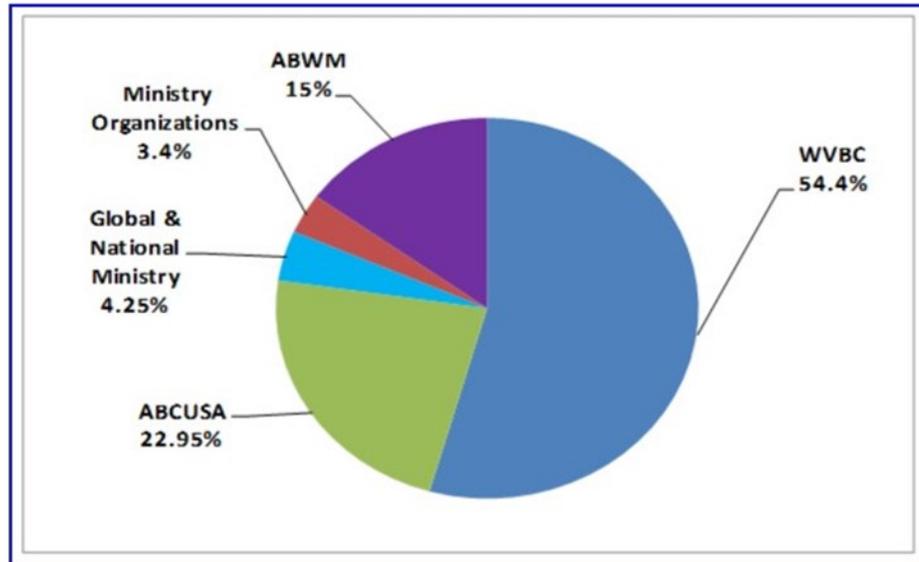
Elizabeth (Libby) Young
First Vice-President
Nutter Fort First Baptist Church
2184 Marshville Road
Salem, WV 26426
304.783.4714
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Love Gift 2021

Goal - \$100,000

(NOT JUST FOR WOMEN . . .)



In 1932, American Baptist Churches faced a \$500,000 deficit, and it was feared the financial crisis would limit God's work in the denomination. American Baptist Churches asked individuals to give financial contributions in excess of their tithes and pledges. Women specifically, were challenged to raise \$150,000 to help meet the crisis. Receiving the challenge, women began the over-and-above contribution called Love Gift. The Love Gift initiative, begun in 1932, outlived the Great Depression and continues today to bless the breadth of American Baptist ministry and mission happening in regions, the U.S. and around the world.

Please mail checks directly to:

WVBC
Attn: Love Gift
PO Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102

Judy Staats
Love Gift Coordinator
Summersville Baptist Church
709 Bright Pond Road,
Summersville, WV 26651
304.872.4757
jdstaats52@gmail.com





ABWM of WV

Love Gift Distribution

Year	Total Collected	ABWM Nat'l 15%	Ministry Orgs. 3.4%	Global/Nat'l Min. 4.25%	ABC/USA 22.95%	WVBC 54.40%
1985	\$ 159,477.00	\$ 23,921.55	\$ 5,422.22	\$ 6,777.77	\$ 36,599.97	\$ 86,755.49
1986	\$ 170,662.00	\$ 25,599.30	\$ 5,802.51	\$ 7,253.14	\$ 39,166.93	\$ 92,840.13
1987	\$ 165,635.00	\$ 24,845.25	\$ 5,631.59	\$ 7,039.49	\$ 38,013.23	\$ 90,105.44
1988	\$ 182,813.00	\$ 27,421.95	\$ 6,215.64	\$ 7,769.55	\$ 41,955.58	\$ 99,450.27
1989	\$ 182,242.00	\$ 27,336.30	\$ 6,196.23	\$ 7,745.29	\$ 41,824.54	\$ 99,139.65
1990	\$ 188,889.00	\$ 28,333.35	\$ 6,422.23	\$ 8,027.78	\$ 43,350.03	\$ 102,755.62
1991	\$ 190,031.00	\$ 28,504.65	\$ 6,461.05	\$ 8,076.32	\$ 43,612.11	\$ 103,376.86
1992	\$ 191,678.00	\$ 28,751.70	\$ 6,517.05	\$ 8,146.32	\$ 43,990.10	\$ 104,272.83
1993	\$ 177,588.00	\$ 26,638.20	\$ 6,037.99	\$ 7,547.49	\$ 40,756.45	\$ 96,607.87
1994	\$ 181,322.00	\$ 27,198.30	\$ 6,164.95	\$ 7,706.19	\$ 41,613.40	\$ 98,639.17
1995	\$ 178,947.00	\$ 26,842.05	\$ 6,084.20	\$ 7,605.25	\$ 41,068.34	\$ 97,347.17
1996	\$ 189,084.00	\$ 28,362.60	\$ 6,428.86	\$ 8,036.07	\$ 43,394.78	\$ 102,861.70
1997	\$ 192,697.00	\$ 28,904.55	\$ 6,551.70	\$ 8,189.62	\$ 44,223.96	\$ 104,827.17
1998	\$ 194,831.00	\$ 29,224.65	\$ 6,624.25	\$ 8,280.32	\$ 44,713.71	\$ 105,988.06
1999	\$ 198,320.00	\$ 29,748.00	\$ 6,742.88	\$ 8,428.60	\$ 45,514.44	\$ 107,886.08
2000	\$ 202,992.00	\$ 30,448.80	\$ 6,901.73	\$ 8,627.16	\$ 46,586.66	\$ 110,427.65
2001	\$ 206,070.00	\$ 30,910.50	\$ 7,006.38	\$ 8,757.98	\$ 47,293.07	\$ 112,102.08
2002	\$ 204,377.00	\$ 30,656.55	\$ 6,948.82	\$ 8,686.02	\$ 46,904.52	\$ 111,181.09
2003	\$ 194,426.00	\$ 29,163.90	\$ 6,610.48	\$ 8,263.11	\$ 44,620.77	\$ 105,767.74
2004	\$ 196,510.00	\$ 29,476.50	\$ 6,681.34	\$ 8,351.68	\$ 45,099.05	\$ 106,901.44
2005	\$ 179,229.00	\$ 26,884.35	\$ 6,093.79	\$ 7,617.23	\$ 41,133.06	\$ 97,500.58
2006	\$ 161,675.00	\$ 24,251.25	\$ 5,496.95	\$ 6,871.19	\$ 37,104.41	\$ 87,951.20
2007	\$ 156,307.00	\$ 23,446.05	\$ 5,314.44	\$ 6,643.05	\$ 35,872.46	\$ 85,031.01
2008	\$ 155,324.00	\$ 23,298.60	\$ 5,281.02	\$ 6,601.27	\$ 35,646.86	\$ 84,496.26
2009	\$ 154,503.00	\$ 23,175.45	\$ 5,253.10	\$ 6,566.38	\$ 35,458.44	\$ 84,049.63
2010	\$ 143,926.00	\$ 21,588.90	\$ 4,893.48	\$ 6,116.86	\$ 33,031.02	\$ 78,295.74
2011	\$ 145,424.00	\$ 21,813.60	\$ 4,944.42	\$ 6,180.52	\$ 33,374.81	\$ 79,110.66
2012	\$ 137,295.00	\$ 20,594.25	\$ 4,668.03	\$ 5,835.04	\$ 31,509.20	\$ 74,688.48
2013	\$ 131,524.00	\$ 19,728.60	\$ 4,471.82	\$ 5,589.77	\$ 30,184.76	\$ 71,549.06
2014	\$ 114,438.00	\$ 17,165.70	\$ 3,890.89	\$ 4,863.62	\$ 26,263.52	\$ 62,254.27
2015	\$ 116,454.00	\$ 17,468.10	\$ 3,959.44	\$ 4,949.30	\$ 26,726.19	\$ 63,350.98
2016	\$ 115,126.00	\$ 17,268.90	\$ 3,914.28	\$ 4,892.86	\$ 26,421.42	\$ 62,628.54
2017	\$ 109,491.00	\$ 16,423.65	\$ 3,722.69	\$ 4,653.37	\$ 25,128.18	\$ 59,563.10
2018	\$ 93,879.00	\$ 14,081.85	\$ 3,191.89	\$ 3,989.86	\$ 21,545.23	\$ 51,070.18
2019	\$ 91,463.00	\$ 13,719.45	\$ 3,109.74	\$ 3,887.18	\$ 20,990.76	\$ 49,755.87
TOTAL	\$5,754,649.00	\$ 863,197.35	\$195,658.07	\$244,572.58	\$ 1,320,691.95	\$3,107,510.46

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 13, 2021
State Executive Board Meeting
Location To Be Determined



Saturday, June 5, 2021
Theme To Be Determined
Sandy Currey, coordinator

Sept. 17-19, 2021
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Theme To Be Determined
Melanie Swisher, Coordinator



Mount Vernon Baptist Church
Hurricane, WV
2021 WVBC Annual Meeting October 21-22, 2021
Women's Annual Meeting Day
Thursday October 21, 2021

M O P
2020-2021

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 onsite over an open campfire. Taking into account the rustic nature of the camp, it is 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 Conference Center.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia have adopted Camp Alpha for their Mission Outreach Project (MOP) 2020-2021 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!

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

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

*She is clothed with strength and
dignity; she can laugh at the days
to come. She speaks with wisdom
and faithful instruction is on her
tongue.*

Proverbs 31:25-26



Women, Word and Works Program Book

This book is a collection of 96 programs written by the WV Resource Team and special guests. You will find programs for local women's meetings or association meetings, for use in large or small groups, for a 30 minute meeting or a day-long retreat. Every women's group will benefit from having this book.

Purchase for new or future leaders of your group!

THIS IS THE LAST TIME THIS BOOK WILL BE OFFERED FOR PURCHASE!!

Pricing: 1 book is \$5.00, plus \$3.35 for shipping/handling per book.

The total is \$8.35 per book.

Please send book to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send a check. Do not send cash.

Make checks payable to: WV AB Women's Ministries.

Mail this form and fee to:

WWW Book, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

2020 STATE BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2020

Parchment Valley Conference Center



**Not business as usual,
but business accomplished nonetheless!**



Our 2021 Motto:

***“We’re Gonna Have
Fun in ‘21!”***

MISSION TRIP GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH ABWM

The “Million Women Movement” (2014-2015) account still has funding available for mission trip participants. Send a letter to Amy Starkey, State ABWM Treasurer and provide the following information:

- The mission trip destination,
- The dates of the trip,
- The total cost of the trip,
- How much funding has been raised,
- How much funding is still needed,
- What ministry is involved,
- Anything else that is relevant.

***Amy Starkey, State Treasurer
Ravenswood First Baptist Church***
921 Whispering Pines Road
Ravenswood, WV 26164
304.531.1052
alastark88@gmail.com



2020 YEAR-END GIVING TOTALS:

Mission Outreach Project - \$6,490.25

Special Project - \$10,270.29

Scholarship/Loan - \$27,633.59

Per Amy Starkey, treasurer

TIDBITS



Instructions on finding our web page: (1) go to wvbc.org (2) move your cursor to the sub-title Ministries (no click); when that menu opens move your cursor to Auxiliaries (no click); when that menu opens up, click on WV ABWM.



Join us on **Facebook** - American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV, for inspirational messages and information updates. Just this past December some posts were viewed by 59,000 people. On December 31, 2020 the page has 3,115 followers! We even have followers in Canada and Mexico!

SCHOLARSHIP
Application

Don't forget the **2021 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. It must be received by the ABWM Coordinator **by March 1st**. Next selection process will occur in March 2021.



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. (Webpage instructions listed above.)

ABWM
MMM

Monday Morning Memo - Keeps you "In the Know" each Monday morning on what's happening as well as reminders, suggestions and information of which we should all be aware. If you would like to receive this Monday e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to Sue Hamric, ABWM Communication Coordinator at suehamric@suddenlink.net.



Updates are now on our webpage — 2021 Mission Outreach Project Flyer, 2021 Special Project Flyer, amended bylaws, committee appointments, 2021 Officer Pictorial Directory, Officer Spreadsheet for easy printing and 2021 WV Hope ministries with an information sheet, videos 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 2021 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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