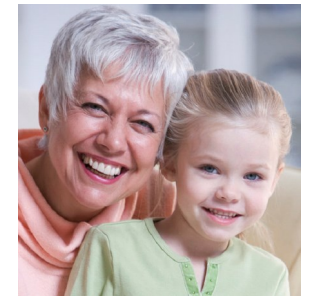


# Seasons

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



## 87th Annual Conference

June 5, 2021

Parchment Valley  
Conference Center



SPRING 2021

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



The West  
Virginia  
Baptist

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



**“... for the EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, for the edifying of the body of CHRIST, till we all come to the UNITY of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we should no longer be children, tossed to and from and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in LOVE, may GROW UP in all things into Him who is the head - CHRIST - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every JOINT supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share causes GROWTH of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:12-16 NKJV**

As I write this page for Seasons, it is the weekend before Holy Week - a time in which we stop and make a conscious effort to remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, taking on the sin of the world, our own sin, upon Himself to become the sacrificial lamb and die on the cross in our place. The symbol of the cross is our constant reminder of the great gift God gave the world on the day His Son was crucified. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 NKJV**

I try to let God lead me in what I should say to my sisters in Christ and fellow servants in American Baptist Women’s Ministries. I was drawn to the verses at the top of the page. I started dissecting the verses and searching for what God wanted me to glean from His word. I put words in ALL CAPS where I thought God was taking me. The scripture focuses on how we are equipped for our calling as believers in our spiritual ministries. We are expected to grow in our faith through spiritual disciplines of prayer and reading and meditating on God’s word. Christ is the head of the whole body and we as believers are expected to do our share for the growth of the body. Perfect message for the president to share! There, I am done!

But the word “edifying” kept blinking like a neon sign. So I took the time to look it up. The word used for “edification” in the New Testament is *oikodomé*, which translates literally as “the building of a house.” “Mutual edification involves helping one another along the road to Christlikeness, and **it requires the participation of all members of the church.** Without mutual edification, the church becomes a collection of spiritual weaklings, a perpetual nursery for spiritual infants, rather than a body ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#)) or a building ([Ephesians 2:20-22](#)).” (gotquestions.org) Wow!

**Now the analogy:** The Gothic arch was a very popular structure in medieval architecture. The primary advantage of the arch was its strength and stability, which it derived from the fact that **each stone in the arch leaned on the one beside it.** The Gothic arch could be a symbol of the church. **The very fact that we need one another gives the church its strength. And the minute we decide to stop leaning on one another, we fall.** Do you see a church window in the Gothic arch? Hmmm . . . not a coincidence!

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## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**2021 - 2022**

American Baptist Women from across the state made it possible to award 14 \$1,500 scholarships

to the following:



**CALE, Lauren**

*St. Albans Baptist Church, Teays Valley Association*

**COPENHAVER, Allison**

*Baptist Temple, Fairmont Association*

**DEVART, Jacinda**

*Beulah Baptist Church, Union Association*

**EARLE, Melissa**

*Petersburg Baptist Church, Eastern Association*

**GAAL, Lauren**

*Hurricane First Baptist Church, Teays Valley Association*

**GAUGHAN, Katie**

*Spencer First Baptist Church, Good Hope Association*

**MITCHELL, Leah**

*Philippi Baptist Church, Union Association*

**PALMER, Elisabeth**

*Worthington Baptist Church, Fairmont Association*

**PALMER, Sara**

*Worthington Baptist Church, Fairmont Association*

**THOMAS, Destiny**

*Ravenswood First Baptist Church, Good Hope Association*

**VICKERS, Carly**

*Hurricane First Baptist Church, Teays Valley Association*

**WELLINGS, Bayley**

*Glenville Baptist Church, Little Kanawha Association*

**WILLIAMS, Rebekah**

*Clarksburg Baptist Church, Union Association*

**WRIGHT, Jodi**

*Hurricane Baptist Church, Teays Valley Association*

# WV American Baptist Women's Ministries 2021 Special Project (Carried Over from 2020)



## **Handicap Accessible Restroom** *Parchment Valley Conference Center* *Administration Building - Goal: \$12,000*



The project of the new, state-of-the-art restroom for Parchment Valley Conference Center (PVCC) has been completed. Upon your next visit you will find the original location of the office for PVCC has moved from one end of the barn location to the other end, which overlooks the grounds.



This handicapped restroom facility meets the specifications of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is easily accessible to those who may have special needs. **It is all automatic** - from the opening of the 40" wide door that can accommodate a wheelchair, the lighting, the flushing of the toilet, the sink and the release of the hand towels at the wave of the hand. Congratulations on a job well done!

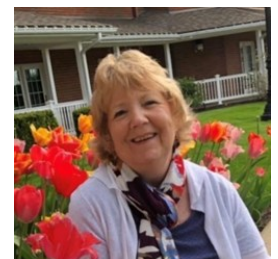


Donations made in 2021 will fulfill our commitment of \$12,000 and any carry over will help with projects at PVCC such as the replacement of heavy tables in Hill Hall to replacing items and repairs needed in the lodges. Thanks to all who have given and continue to give to this amazing place. We hope to return soon and be together during our first event of 2021, the Annual Conference in June.



**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.**

*Mary Ann Wilson*  
**Church and Community Coordinator**  
**Spencer First Baptist Church**  
1638 Charleston Road  
Spencer, WV 25276  
Phone: 304-927-3667  
E-mail: [mawilson@hughes.net](mailto:mawilson@hughes.net)





## **WV Hope 2021 Year End Report**

COVID-19 hit everyone in early spring 2020, preventing Women's Ministries groups and churches from meeting. The yearly cycle for this ministry was changed in 2019 from June through June to January through December to coincide with other ABWM ministries. This report reflects the information received from June 2019 through December 2020.

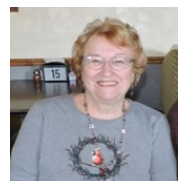
|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of associations reporting: | 16              |
| Churches reporting:               | 81              |
| Number of workers:                | 689             |
| <br>                              |                 |
| Gift cards and monies to WV HOPE: | \$21,805        |
| Local ministries:                 | \$7,651         |
| International ministries:         | \$1,593         |
| Postage:                          | \$637           |
| <br>                              |                 |
| <b>Total:</b>                     | <b>\$31,686</b> |

Other ministries reported by numerous groups: masks for Reed projects; cards to shut ins; food pantries; dinners for funerals; school backpack; gifts to Scholarship girls; holiday meals for Veterans, migrant workers and the homeless; meals for Habitat for Humanity, school children, hospice and many more!

I am so very proud of our Baptist women serving one another in love. They are warriors for our heavenly Father! Many had no WV Hope Officer, but sent reports from their churches. Many did not break down missions and reported only totals. Thank you for reporting.

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 NLT*

**Elizabeth (Libby) Young**  
**First Vice-President**  
**Nutter Fort First Baptist Church**  
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# 2021 Mission Outreach Project

## *House of Hope Medical / Dental Clinic*

### *Bolivia*



**Goal: \$6,000**



# 2021 Mission Outreach Project

## *House of Hope Medical / Dental Clinic Bolivia*

The goal of this project is to provide dental equipment, medications and vitamins to care for over 800 people in Cochabamba, Bolivia. In Bolivia, only children under five-years-old get health coverage. Almost 85% of dental cavities in adults and children go untreated. Access to healthcare is very difficult and indigenous communities are at high risk for completely preventable diseases such as diarrhea and chronic malnutrition.



J D. and Rhonda Reed and Family  
WV Global Servants to Bolivia

The House of Hope in Cochabamba partners with local doctors and dentists to bring mobile clinics to serve vulnerable populations in the city and surrounding provinces. Your support will provide equipment and supplies for two mobile dental clinics and one medical clinic in Cochabamba, Bolivia. These clinics will provide needed medical and dental care on a regular

basis. Through education and screening, this project will prevent diseases and provide local churches with outreach opportunities for ministry to their local communities.

The House of Hope mobile dental clinic will provide care and prevention to 800 people, resulting in improved oral health. The mobile medical clinic will provide annual care to 500 people, resulting in improved overall health in vulnerable populations. These clinics give House of Hope the chance to build relationships with Bolivian doctors and dentists through monthly meetings that build community among the volunteers and offer evangelism and discipleship opportunities. Pray these clinics will have long-term spiritual impact that will bring about true shalom in the community. Pray these clinics will bring improved health for hundreds of children, men and women.

**Lou Ann Nicholas**  
**Acting Church and Community Coordinator**  
**Shinnston First Baptist Church**  
202 Maryland Avenue  
Nutter Fort, WV 26301  
Phone: 304-622-0988  
E-mail: [lanicholas13@aol.com](mailto:lanicholas13@aol.com)



# American Baptist Women's Ministries Of West Virginia

## 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

June 5, 2021

Parchment Valley Conference Center

### ***"A TIME TO SERVE"***

#### ***Special Interest Sessions:***

*Special Project*

*Mission Outreach Project*

*Love Gift*

*Scholarship/Loan*

*WVBC Missionaries*



#### ***WV Hope Ministries:***

*Fruits of Labor*

*House to Home*

*Life Choices*

*Weirton Christian Center*

**Registration Form**

**Page 15**

**Register at 9:00 a.m.**  
**in Hill Hall**

**Program Begins**  
**9:30 a.m.**





# WV Hope Sessions

*(There will be a gift receptacle at each session location for your donations)*



**House to Home**

- **Dietary Needs** - food in easy-to-open cans, ravioli, Vienna sausages, beans, food that can be eaten hot or cold, paper plates, paper cups (cold and hot), plastic silverware, sugar, creamer, coffee and tea.
- **Staples** - laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, towels, Pine Sol, trash bags, deodorant, under garments, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, tents, sleeping bags and candles (used for warmth), checks and gift cards.

**Needs:** diapers, diaper bags (neutral color), strollers, (good condition used) Diaper Genie, large baskets (laundry size), infant Tylenol, Gripe Water, baby Orajel

**Financial Help:** Checks or gift cards!



**Life Choice**



**Fruits of Labor**

## Ways you can help:

- Weekly sponsorships for students' educational programming is \$175 per student. It is fine to send a check and in the memo write "training sponsorship."
- Donate towards the purchase of chef coats (\$25), hats (\$11), aprons (\$8), knives (\$14) and cutting boards (\$9) for students. These are current pricing.
- Send cards with hand-written notes of encouragement, favorite verses, and/or new favorite inspirational books for women.

**GENERAL FUND** - Funds donated will be used for payroll and general expenses. This is one of our chief needs.

**QUARTERS FOR GRADES** - Children earn quarters for attendance, doing homework and for every report card they bring in.

**TRANSPORTATION FUND** - As we are able to transport 68 children at one time with our five donated vans, we have experienced a tremendous increase in the cost of gasoline and maintenance.

**FEEDING PROGRAM** - Healthy snacks, dinner four days per week and blessing bags for long weekends and holidays.



**Weirton Christian Center**

# Announcements and Upcoming Events



## Women's Conference

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

"A Time to Serve"

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Sandy Foster Currey, Coordinator

**Friday, September 17-Sunday September 19, 2021**

"Together We Are Family"

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Melanie Swisher, Coordinator



**Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

State Executive Board Meeting (Evening)

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

Hurricane, WV

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**

**ABWM of WV Annual Meeting Day**

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church (Hurricane)

Mary Davis, Acting Coordinator



# **WV American Baptist Women's Ministries**

## **2021 Spiritual Growth Retreat**

*September 17-19, 2021*

*Parchment Valley Conference Center*



*"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." 1 Thessalonians 3:12*

### ***"In the Works"***

***Local Food Trucks for One Meal***

***Breakfast on Sunday at the Picnic Shelter***

***Amy Bush, Guest Speaker for Saturday***

***Women of the Bible Bingo***

***Prayer Room***

***"Unglued" Bible Study***





## West Virginia State Sales Tax Conference and Spiritual Growth Retreat

Yes, we do have to charge sales tax for our events. There are two ways you can handle this:

1. You can bite the bullet and pay the tax that will be included on your registration form for calculation based on your event cost or
2. You can bypass paying the tax by doing the following:
  - ◆ Have your church send a **yearly** tax exempt form to the state office in Parkersburg.
  - ◆ Write your check for the event amount to your church and give it to your church treasurer.
  - ◆ Ask your church treasurer to issue a check for the event amount made payable to ABWM of WV.
  - ◆ Fill out your registration form (do not calculate sales tax if check is being issued by your church) and attach the check your church has written or put a note on the form that the check is coming from your church (name) and **send it directly to the state ABWM registrar, Carrie Gasaway** (451 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dunbar, WV 25064) – **not to the state office.**
  - ◆ Nothing goes to the state office except your church's tax exempt form.
  - ◆ The sales tax has already been calculated on the 2021 Conference Registration Form.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MISSION TRIP GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH ABWM**

The "Million Women Movement" (2014-2015) account still has  
**funding available for female mission trip participants.**

Just 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 and
- Anything else that is relevant.

**Amy Starkey**  
**State Treasurer**  
**Ravenswood First Baptist Church**  
 921 Whispering Pines Road  
 Ravenswood, WV 26164  
 Phone; 304-531-1052  
 E-Mail: [alastark88@gmail.com](mailto:alastark88@gmail.com)





## **APRIL BIBLE BOOK OF THE MONTH - ZECHARIAH**

Zechariah (meaning Yahweh Remembers) was the 11th of the 12th minor prophets in the Bible. Most other Bible prophets lived before God punished the Jews by exiling them to Assyria and Babylon, in what is now Iraq. The earlier prophets warned the Jews where they were headed if they didn't stop sinning. Those prophets did offer hope though, promising that God would bring the Jews home one day.

Zechariah lived after the exile. The Jews are back in their homeland, rebuilding their nation. But 18 years after their return they are still struggling. They were under the shadow of Persia, a superpower at that time, and were treated like a providence of Persia, not the independent nation of Judah. Farming and herding are tough jobs in the best of times and according to the book of Haggai there was a drought going on. Because of their circumstances they felt distant from God. There was no temple in which to seek God's help. They were in desperate need of good news and Zechariah, through visions and prophecies, delivers just that. He promises God is in control and he will help them finish the temple.

Although Zechariah and Haggai spoke to the remnant of Israel in God's commission at the same time, Zechariah's message was a totally different one. While Haggai had to rebuke the people most of the time because their zeal for the building of the temple wearied, Zechariah speaks more of the city of Jerusalem. He is the only post-exile prophet to give a detailed overview on the history of God's people and the nations connected with Jerusalem.

The Book of Zechariah not only looks at the present situation in which the people were rebuilding the temple. He describes the rejection of the Messiah by His earthly people Israel and their repentance and acknowledgment of the Messiah who will appear to establish His reign of peace. It looks forward to a day when God's sovereignty will be recognized throughout the world and all peoples. Jews and Gentiles will come and worship the Lord.

Zechariah 1-6 records eight dreams or visions from the LORD. For further personal development read and study them.

1. The horseman among the myrtle trees (1:7-17)
2. The four horns and four craftsmen (1:18-21)
3. The surveyor (2:1-13)
4. The vision of Joshua the high priest (3:1-10)
5. The golden lampstand and two olive trees (4:1-14)
6. The flying scroll (5:1-4)
7. The woman in the basket (5:5-11)
8. The four chariots (6:1-8)

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.” (Zechariah 7:9–10, ESV)

When we embrace the five requirements of these two verses, the world will change. As we reflect on the year 2020 and all the ways we accomplished old things in a new way, we have a list that is too long and occasionally too painful to cover in this short space. Let us consider that sometimes we get a little consumed with what God can do for us. He does great things for us because He loves us so much. But there is an expressed expectation of what He requires from His people. Let's continue in prayer as we travel our own individual and unique journey of personal development on the same road together.

**Yvette Shafer**  
**Personal Development Coordinator**  
**Shuck Memorial Baptist Church**  
2678 Chestnut Flats Road  
Lewisburg, WV 24901  
Phone: 304-646-9431  
E-mail: [yvettes@gmail.com](mailto:yvettes@gmail.com)



# MONEY, MONEY, MONEY



## **An Editorial**

*Sue Hamric, Communication Coordinator and Editor of Seasons*

A while back I heard through the grapevine that some have commented American Baptist Women's Ministries was only about money, money, money. That bothered me when I heard it and it bothers me still. Yes, it does seem that all things revolve around money. And, yes, we solicit and encourage local and community projects that involve money. Even if we take a casserole to a grieving neighbor, it costs money. And, yes, we solicit funds for mission projects each and every year. Would it not be lovely if most everything in life did not revolve around that one word?

A motto of our great nation, the United States of America, is "***E Pluribus Unum***" which is Latin for "***Out of Many, One.***" While that language refers to our system of government, it also applies to American Baptist Women's Ministries. When American Baptist Women, individually or as a group, across the state of West Virginia, give what they can to one ABWM ministry, one group of your choosing will benefit from your generosity. "***E Pluribus Unum***"- ***Out of Many One.***

Your donations to this year's ***Special Project, Parchment Valley Conference Center Handicapped Restroom***, will benefit "one" group. Your donations to this year's ***Mission Outreach Project, House of Hope Medical and Dental Clinic in Bolivia***, will benefit "one" group. Your donations to this year's ***WV Hope Ministries***, the recipients of which are diversified, will benefit "one" group per ministry. ***Love Gift***, while distributed to numerous entities, will benefit "one" objective. Your donations to the ***Scholarship Fund*** will benefit "one" group. "***E Pluribus Unum***"- ***Out of Many One.*** If we were to function simply as a religious social organization without goals and commitments to monetarily fund mission projects, we would be ***only*** a religious social organization. But, we work and we promote giving and you work and you promote giving and together we see great things happen.

Don't overlook though the Spiritual Growth opportunities; the Annual Conference for both spiritual and educational opportunities, the opportunity for growth through personal development and the glue that holds us all together, our faith in God and belief in prayer.

I have a plan - one of the 2021 WV Hope Ministries "Life Choice" needs plastic laundry baskets. I have purchased one and it is my goal to intermittently fill it with items needed by all four of the WV Hope Ministries and bring it to conference on June 5th. Will I have spent lots of money? Nope, but I will have spent what I can afford.

It has been said "Money isn't everything, but everything needs money." So in that regard, yes, we plead guilty to the accusations. Remember back in February when I sent out a Monday Morning E-mail Memo with a poem I had written? One line stands out to me still: "God knows all the lives that you daily impact." Let us all be in prayer for both the spiritual and structural foundation and security of the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV  
87th Annual Conference

June 5, 2021

Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall

Registration 8:30 a.m. – Program 9:00 a.m.

## REGISTRATION FORM



**“A TIME TO SERVE”**

Registration is open April 1 – May 15, 2021

\$15.00 \$15.00 Registration Fee

    .90 6% State Sales Tax

       \$7.00 (optional lunch)

       Total Amount Enclosed

*Make checks payable* to AB Women's Ministries of WV

*Mail registration form with fees* to:

Carrie J. Gasaway, 451 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Dunbar, WV 25064

Please print legibly:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Overnight lodging* is available by contacting Parchment Valley Conference Center at 304-372-3675 or [conference@wvbc.org](mailto:conference@wvbc.org).

*Questions* - Contact Sandy Foster Currey, Conference Coordinator at [sandyfostercurrey@gmail.com](mailto:sandyfostercurrey@gmail.com).



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, 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).

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