

# Seasons

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



## Spiritual Growth Retreat

September 17 - 18, 2022

Parchment Valley Conference Center

**"We Are Family"**



## Women's Annual Meeting Day

October 20, 2022

Summersville Baptist Church

**"Beautifully Blessed"**

\*\*\*\*\*

FALL 2022

**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

*American Baptist Women's Ministries is Christian women receiving and offering gifts in response to our commitment to God. The world and the church need women strong in the Lord, responding to one another and to the needs we see around us. Today, that is the ministry to which God calls us.*

Greetings Dear Sisters,

This will be my final letter to you in Seasons, as your president. I want to thank all of the wonderful ladies on my Executive Board; it has been such a rewarding year. I can't begin to say enough about how cooperative and hard working this group has been.

It was also a pleasure to meet many sisters from many churches as we celebrated annual conference in June. We had 137 registered participants. What a blessing the day was. Thank you all who came by to say hello!

I am looking forward to Spiritual Growth Retreat in September and of course, all who attend will receive a blessing. Please try to come for our Annual Women's Day, Thursday, October 20, at Summersville Baptist Church. God has been so good this year of 2022.

Although I never had a sister in my family life, God has provided me many. I couldn't possibly name all of you. Let me tell you this has meant so much to me. I have laughed, cried, sang, prayed and worshipped with you over the years, so many I can't count them. What a group, you can't beat American Baptist Women.

All believers are called to be servants and I am so thankful to have had this opportunity to serve as your president in 2022. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." I believe I have been a faithful servant to all of you.

Hebrews 13:20-21 "Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Blessings,  
 Elizabeth (Libby) Young

Elizabeth (Libby) Young  
 Nutter Fort First Baptist Church  
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 Salem, WV 26426  
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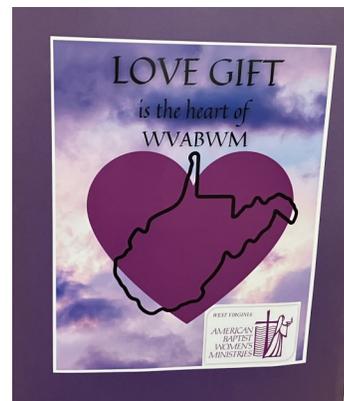
Sometimes as much as we'd like for things to remain the same, they just can't. Seasons Magazine is one of those things. The Executive Board voted (unanimously I might add) to make the following changes to Seasons. We were presented with the mailing list from the state office to update and perpetually maintain, which is as it should be. However, we find there are a lot of unidentified recipients and lots receiving numerous complimentary copies. Because we are to be good stewards of what God has given us, we must make the following changes:

- First and foremost, the subscription rate will change to \$6.00 per year **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. After calculations, it costs more than the current rate of \$5.00 to print and mail three copies per year.
- All subscription information and checks are to be mailed to the ABWM State Treasurer **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**. Amy Starkey, 921 Whispering Pines Road, Ravenswood 26164.
- Secondly, **EFFECTIVE IN 2023** all subscriptions will expire on December 31st of the year to which they are paid. If your subscription is set to expire in March 2024, then it will be extended to December 31, 2024. After 2023 all subscriptions will expire on December 31 of the year in which they are received. To get the most for your money, send your subscription payment in during the months of September through December.
- **EFFECTIVE IN 2023** all expired subscriptions will be purged from the mailing list.
- Thirdly, **EFFECTIVE IN 2023** all complimentary copies to local presidents will be mailed to their respective churches. It is an impossibility to keep up with local changes in officers as hard as we all try. There are over 350 WVBC churches and while they all do not have active ABWM groups, it still is an impossibility.
- All issues of Seasons (Winter, Spring and Fall) will be online on our webpage for viewing free of charge. Visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org); then select ministries; then select auxiliaries and there we are.
- Because the publication of Seasons is a ministry, it is not a profit-making endeavor. It is simply a means to keep us all informed as well as a means for personal development through the coordinator of that ministry. Complimentary copies will be distributed to Association Presidents to your home address as before and to local presidents except now your copies will be mailed to your church address.



# 2022 Goal - \$100,000 (NOT JUST FOR WOMEN . . .)

The theme I choose for a display at Conference was, "**Love Gift is the Heart of WVABWM**". I believe this is so true as WV women have been at the top of National Love Gift giving for many years. But I'm sorry to say our giving has been down. Churches and women's groups have yet to recover from the COVID shutdown. WV giving thru June 2022 was \$34,511.36 which was 6.27% less than in 2021. I recently talked to an association president who said they hadn't met for over 2 years. I encouraged to start meeting, if for nothing more than the fellowship.



I found a writing by Kathleen Moore, 1987 Love Gift Ch. She wrote: "**Love Gift** is a true gift of love freely given and unconditional, helping the whole mission program of American Baptist. It is a part of every effort to bring the message of God's love to everyone. Christian, make love and giving important parts of your every day. Know God's love in your life and do whatever you can to spread the Good News." She challenged us then and I challenge you now to do the same with each coin you drop into your love gift box, or each "L" dollar you add to the giving.

Speaking of "L" dollars, I was amazed at Conference how many didn't know what I was talking about when I mentioned "L" dollars. Do You? Look at the front of a \$1.00 bill and see a letter on the left-hand side. If it's an L, I save it for LOVE (some save G's, too, for GIFT). Involve your family and friends in doing this as you'll be surprised how many you find and how they add up.



There is one thing I want to make clear. Love Gift collected at your meeting goes through your local church treasurer and is sent on to WVBC. The local Coordinator of Love Gift reports this giving to the

Association Coordinator of Love Gift, and she lets me know what each local ABWM has contributed. There are report forms for this process and I will gladly send to any group that requests them.

Remember: "*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*" Proverbs 16:3

**Mail checks to:  
WVBC  
Attn: Love Gift  
P. O. Box 1019  
Parkersburg, WV 26102**

Love Gift Coordinator  
Georgia Parsons  
South Parkersburg Baptist Church  
Parkersburg Association  
606 Ruby Street, Belmont, WV 26134  
304-665-2822  
gpbeltmont@suddenlink.net



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

## **2022 Special Project**

### **CAMP COWEN CABIN RESTORATION**

**Goal: \$12,000**

We celebrate the faithful giving to this special mission and continue camp traditions established many years ago. Many of us have participated as campers and have seen many come to Christ and we are committed to seeing this tradition continue with our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

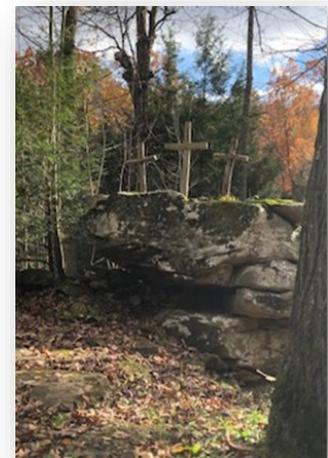


**In 2021, 1,000 campers attended Camp Cowen and 39 gave their lives to Christ. What a celebration!**

ABWM of WV has adopted as Special Project to restore cabins at Camp Cowen. This has included rewiring of cabins, replacement of windows, doors and light fixtures.

Campers will enjoy a safer environment and changes will provide for better ventilation in the cabins. While we are at Camp Cowen we can enjoy the cool night air and awaken to a crisp morning breeze.

*Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10*



ABWM please go through your local channels for payment.

Mary Ann Wilson  
Church and Community Coordinator  
First Baptist Church of Spencer  
1638 Charleston Road  
Spencer, WV 25276  
mawilson@hughes.net  
304-927-3667



# 88th Annual Conference June 4, 2022



*“Along the Road”*

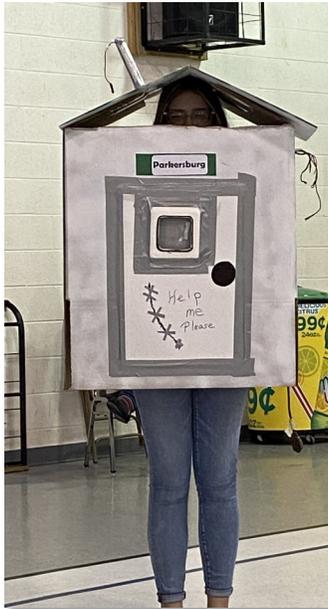


Carrie Gasaway carried the “yellow” theme to the extreme!



Zenna Zwoil  
Calhoun County High School





Talking Cabin #2

Ally Hamric

Parkersburg High School



# We are Family

2022 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

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

"UNGLUED" BIBLE SESSION

MEDITATION/PRAYER ROOM

SPEAKER: AMY BUSH

CHRISTIAN COMEDIANS

PAINT AND PRAISE SESSION WITH

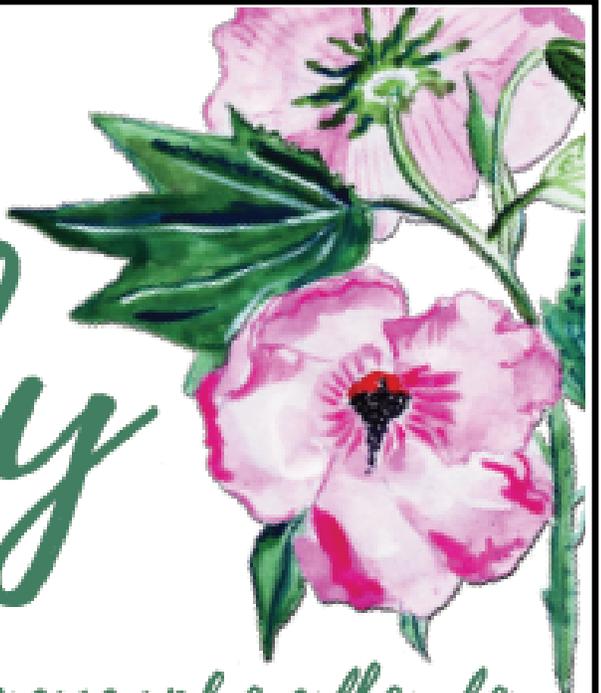
MONA GOODALL (\$10 DONATION)

**SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2022**

PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER

EARLY REGISTRATION: FRIDAY, 7:00-9:00 PM

REGISTRATION: SATURDAY, 8:30 AM



**Women's 138<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, Oct 20, 2022**  
*"Beautifully Blessed"*

**TIME**

**Registration at 9:00  
Program at 9:30**

**WHERE**

**Summersville Baptist Church**  
422 Main St, Summersville, WV 26651

**Key Speaker** · Sandra Lutz

**Special Music** · **Brian and Sarah McClure**

**Installation & Recognition of Officers** · **Kathy Hudson**

**Mission Speaker** · **Debbie Myers**

**2023** · **WV Hope Ministries**  
**Mission Outreach Project**  
**Special Project**

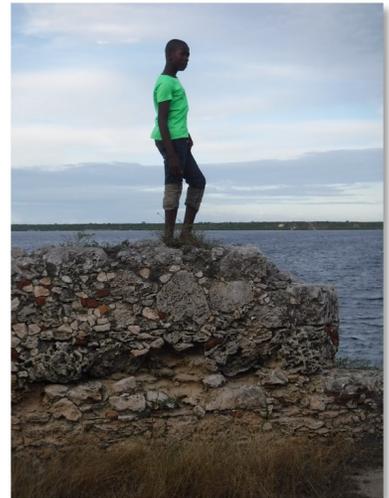
**Lunch** · **11:30 - \$6.00**



**"Blessed  
is she who  
believed,  
for there  
will be a  
fulfillment  
of those  
things  
which  
were told  
her from  
the Lord."  
Luke 1:45**

# 2022 Mission Outreach Project

## Clean Water for Haiti



**GOAL**  
**\$6,000**  
Giving as of  
August  
**\$13,429.19**



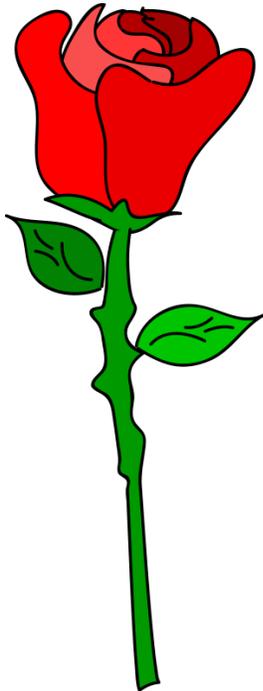
**ABWM please go  
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channels for payment.**

Brenda Rosier  
Missions and Service Coordinator  
First Baptist Church of Grafton  
Union Association  
55 Emery Street, Grafton, WV 26354  
304-672-2873  
Fbc\_missions@frontier.com



## ***“A Special Event”***

At the 2022 Women’s Conference held at Parchment Valley Conference Center on June 4th, we had a very special and not often duplicated event. We were privileged to have our current president, Libby Young, with us as well as six former presidents!



**Rose Marie Durig (1984 - 1987)**

**Eleanor Nicholas (1999 - 2002)**

**Zola Miller (2011 - 2014)**

**Sherry Goldsburg (2015 - 2017)**

**Debbie Higginbotham (2017 - 2019)**

**Kathy Hudson (2019 - 2021)**

**Elizabeth (Libby) Young (Current)**

**Seven presidents at one event! What a blessing!**

**Thank you all for your leadership!**

## **“Nominating Committee”**

Nominating Committee Chairman Georgia Parsons has announced that she and her committee have secured candidates for all of the vacancies that will occur in October.

While none of us know who those wonderful ladies are, we will find out in October! The secrecy is part of the excitement! We all extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Nominating Committee. It’s not an easy job, but they’ve handled it well!

Thank you!

Love Gift Coordinator  
Georgia Parsons  
South Parkersburg Baptist Church  
Parkersburg Association  
606 Ruby Street, Belmont, WV 26134  
304-665-2822  
gpbelmont@suddenlink.net



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fall - that time to fall back an hour, watch leaves fall, find everything apple and pumpkin we can, pull out our comfy clothes, make comfort food and basically have a reset. We see the spectacular color of our West Virginia hills as we go about our days. I heard a sermon that talked about how sometimes God takes us the scenic route verses the direct and quickest route. Looking at your own journey even in this last year or over many years can you see how God used something like illness, a missed trip, a last-minute stop, a beautiful sunset, or even just a stubborn weed to strengthen your spirit or resolve? Every step of the journey is part of our faith story.

We can look at many examples of this in the Bible. Look at Ruth, with the loss of her husband and with the blessing of Naomi (her mother-in-law) she could have returned to homeland, security, and her people, but instead her faith journey took her with Naomi into an uncertain, new land. This new land/life was filled with a bitterly, grieving mother-in-law, hard work, and uncertainty except that promise she made "Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16

We know the rest of the story and can see how her journey lead to many blessings as well as helping to restore Naomi. Could God have allowed her husband to live to have the security that comes with that or Ruth to return to the security of her home? Yes, but that was not her path. Through her faith journey, God shows us how through tragedy, trusting in Him, and how by faith we can be blessed, while being a blessing to others.

Another great example is Mary the mother of Jesus. Now we know the rest of the story with Mary but let us look at that young girl for a minute; the one with all the plans of a wedding, a life with her husband, the plans of making her home and taking care of her family. How in an instant that all can change! In our faith journeys look at the times your journey changed in an instant from tragedies or just an unexpected problem. We can be overwhelmed, bitter or we like Mary can say "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" Matthew 1:46

Now before we leave Mary, look at that young girl who asks the angel "How," seeks comfort and guidance from Elizabeth, and places her trust in the Lord. She just doesn't say oh well and skip along. Our faith and Lord are much bigger than that. Through the Holy Spirit and Godly influences, God shows even in the unthinkable. He will restore, send comforters and bless us. "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." Luke 1:35. Will the way be easy for her or you? No, but He is faithful and through her journey, she birthed a Savior for us all. We can take heart that though everything seems confusing around us, God will guide us every step of the way.

Continued . . .

Finally let's look at Martha's faith journey. She speaks to my heart. Let's look at Martha in Luke 10, She opens her home (heart) to Jesus. He is on His way with friends, and she is plain worried and distracted. She welcomes the Lord but tries to ready everything before He gets there and while He is there. We see her even get fussy with those around her for not helping her work. Oh my, so many can relate with Martha at this point, including myself. We are excited with the "idea" to sit and have supper with the Lord, but get distracted and frustrated with all the things we "think" we need to do to get ready for the Lord. The right devotion book, spot, temperature, music, lighting, a clean heart and the Lord says "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but a few things are needed-or indeed only one." Luke 10:41

Now, let's not leave Martha in this part of her faith journey, thankfully her journey continues as well as ours. She doesn't just stay in this place of faith wringing hands; her faith grows from His teaching. She meets Him when her brother is thought to be dead. Not only does she meet Him, but knows whatever He asks will be done. (John 11:21-22) You see her faith has grown, she rests in Him, she focuses on Him even in her grief and believes He can do all things. She has sat with Him in the chaos of life around. She has invited Jesus into her inner sanctuary. Have you given the chaos over to the Lord?

For our faith to grow, our journeys may have several scenic and some not so scenic overlooks along the way. Sometimes like Ruth it comes in the form of a completely new direction; or like Mary staying the course while seeking the comfort of Godly sisters in Christ, or like Martha we may need to just sit with the Lord.

Fall is a time of beauty and a time to reset your faith walk. There may be times we hear and see the path directly in front of us, but other times we must trust that what Jesus says, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" John 11:40

### Ordinary Women with Extraordinary Faith: YOU



You are our focus this month. Your reflection and faith show Jesus in all you do. You step up in your church, association, and community helping with projects, missions, teaching, cleaning, praying, planning, ministering, and all the "ordinary" things that make your journey extraordinary. There is no "I just" when God is in it, it is extraordinary! Without your hands, prayers, guidance and spirit, there is no one to help train up or guide the next generation. YOU make the difference in your church and community. YOU have extraordinary faith through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Share it, try it out and your "ordinary" life will become a lighthouse for the Lord.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

Sherry Husted  
Personal Development Coordinator  
Gilboa Baptist Church  
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Reedy, WV 25270  
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304-927--2061



# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**September 17 - 18, 2022**

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: "We Are Family"

Melanie Swisher, Coordinator



## ANNUAL MEETING



**Summersville Baptist Church**

2022 WVBC Annual Meeting October 20 - 21

Sherry Husted, Coordinator

Women's Annual Meeting Day

Theme: "Beautifully Blessed"

Thursday October 20, 2022

**ABWM Executive Board**

**Saturday, November 12, 2022**

Santroch Educational Center

Parchment Valley Conference Center

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABWM Executive Board**

**Saturday, March 11, 2023**

Santroch Educational Building

Parchment Valley Conference Center



**BOARD MEETING**

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV

Spiritual Growth Retreat

Parchment Valley Conference Center (Hill Hall) - Ripley, WV

September 17-18, 2022

Registration must be received by September 1, 2022.

Registration form and fees are needed for EACH person registering.

Spiritual Growth Retreat Package

Includes registration fee, two nights lodging, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast.

- Lodges: ( ) Double Occupancy - \$114.00/per person, roommate listed below.
( ) Double Occupancy - \$114.00/per person, will accept assigned roommate.
( ) Triple (3) or quadruple (4) \$104.00/per person, roommates listed below.
\*\* Three (3) handicapped rooms are available. Please indicate if needed -- includes handrails on toilets, tubs and walk-in showers.

- Air Conditioned Cabin (Dorm) Rooms:
( ) \$88.00 per person (bring your own linens)
( ) \$93.00 per person (includes linens)
Cabin room sleeps 12 people, 6 single size bunk beds.
~ Roommates listed below or on attached sheet.

Register/Check-in
Friday evening from 7-9 p.m. or
Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in Hill Hall.

Part-Time Registration:

- ( ) \$25.00 Full Time Registration Fee
( ) \$ 6.00 Saturday Breakfast
( ) \$ 7.50 Saturday Lunch
( ) \$ 9.00 Saturday Dinner
( ) \$ 6.00 Sunday Breakfast
( ) \$17.00 Bunkhouse/Dorm (per person)
( ) \$25.00 One Night's Lodging, 3-4 to a room (per person)
( ) \$30.00 One Night's Lodging, Double Occupancy (per person)

Total

\$10 Donation for the Paint and Praise Session

Walk-ins are welcome. However, meals cannot be assured.

Mail registration forms, including fees, to:
Carrie J. Gasaway
451 22nd Street
Dunbar, WV 25064
panda112260.cj@gmail.com
Phone: 304.552.3760

I cannot receive personal calls at work.
You can reach me between 4:30-9:00 p.m.

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

Please print legibly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_
Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_
Roommate (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_
Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap Needs \_\_\_\_\_



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*

**Subscription rate is \$6.00 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).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Send to:** Amy Starkey, State ABWM Treasurer  
 921 Whispering Pines Road  
 Ravenswood, WV 26164

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
 P.O. Box 1019  
 Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

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