

Seasons

Coming Soon!

New Look
New Style
New Seasons

WEST VIRGINIA

AMERICAN
BAPTIST
WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES



Seasons

Inspire, Encourage, Inform

A publication of the American Baptist Women's Ministry of West Virginia

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SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING!

Welcome to the 2024 Winter Edition of Seasons! I am so excited that you received this newsletter and hope you take the time to soak in all of the inspiration and information written and illustrated across these pages. When you're done, please share this newsletter with a friend and encourage her to subscribe.

I have studied and practiced Marketing Communication for many, many years. I have learned to hone my skill of developing just the right message to send to just the right person through just the right channel at just the right time. I'm still not perfect at my craft, but work to improve with every piece

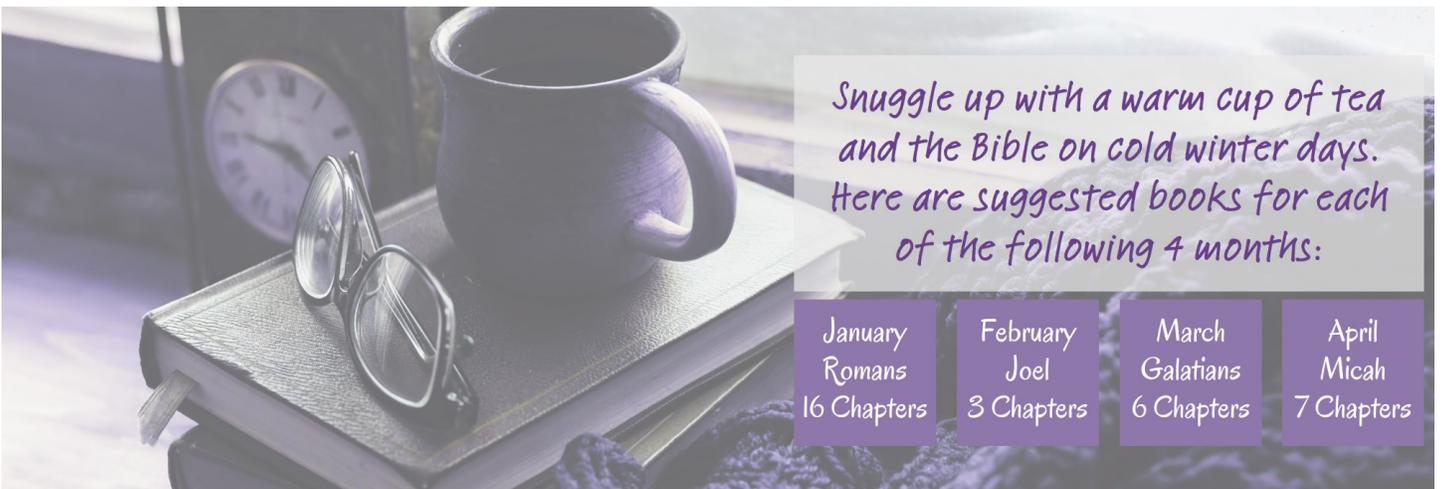
of communication I create. I am humbled that God has given me the opportunity to take on the role of Communications Coordinator for the WV ABWM. I pray I serve Him and you well by providing inspiration and information through this wonderful publication.

It is not uncommon for publications of this type to go through changes and modifications from time to time. In fact, it usually stimulates the readers' interest. You may see some minor changes with this edition, but I am praying that our Spring Edition will cause you to anxiously anticipate every

edition afterward with excitement to read it from cover to cover. I pray you will be inspired, encouraged and informed of what the WV ABWM is doing all across the state; so much so that you get involved, stir up your spirit and find the joy of sharing the story of Jesus with everyone you know. The WV ABWM is here to provide you the tools and support to do just that.

So watch your mailbox in April for our *New Look*, *New Style*, *New Seasons*. Be excited for what 2024 is going to bring. And in all things, praise God!

by Kim Conrad
Communications Coordinator



Snuggle up with a warm cup of tea and the Bible on cold winter days. Here are suggested books for each of the following 4 months:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| January
Romans
16 Chapters | February
Joel
3 Chapters | March
Galatians
6 Chapters | April
Micah
7 Chapters |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|

PROJECT GOOD SAMARITAN

What is PGS? Project Good Samaritan is modeled after the Parable of the Good Samaritan found in **Luke 10:25-37**.

How did PGS begin? In 1983, Rev. Roger Fairfax learned while visiting Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, that an out-of-town couple, whose baby was seriously ill, lacked money to eat. All they could afford during the child's stay were crackers, cookies, milk or soft drinks provided by the pediatric pantry. In conjunction with the social services at the hospital, several pastors, representatives of the Baptist Convention and monetary help from several churches, this program began.

What is the purpose of PGS? It is to provide a helping hand to destitute family members of hospital patients by providing a limited number of hot meals and/or initial prescriptions of patients upon their discharge from the hospital. This help is to be granted only as a "last resort" when all other avenues of financial help have been exhausted.

How is PGS funded? It is funded by contributions from churches and associations. If your church would like to be part of PGS, send your contributions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention through your Church treasurer.

Who needs help? My neighbor needs help. Who is my neighbor? My neighbor is anyone that is in need, not just next door, but around the world. In **Luke 19:37b**, Jesus said, "go and do likewise."

How do we know who is in need? The WV ABWM works closely with the Social Services personnel in several hospitals throughout West Virginia.

Why should we be involved? You are God's hands and feet in providing for someone who has exhausted all means of payment for their care in the hospital, or for purchasing prescriptions when discharged. You can provide a helping hand to the family as they travel by providing hot meals, transportation or lodging while their loved ones are in the hospital.

When and how can we get involved? You can get involved anytime! PGS is sponsored and promoted by the WV ABWM. Please feel free to call me at (304) 206-8247 to join in on this worthwhile ministry.

by **Kim Mack**
Good Samaritan Coordinator

WV HOPE

The WV Hope Committee has selected five organizations for your ABWM to consider. A brief description of each charitable organization is provided below and continued on page 9. Contact information and the organization's website is also included. Most organizations we have partnered with will send a representative to your ABW meeting to give a more in-depth presentation and discussion of their services and how you can assist them with achieving their missions.

Weirton Christian Center

Kim Weaver
P.O. Box 2045
117 Ivy St., Weirton, WV 26062
Website: weirtonchristiancenter.com



Volunteers are always welcome as contributions of Quarters for Grades Program, Youth Leadership Program - \$5 Rewards - DQ, McDonalds, etc., \$10 Walmart gift cards for child's birthday and other gift cards to help purchase shoes, clothing, coats and needs for school (Walmart or Visa cards).

Elk River Backpack Blessings

Angela Brown, Director
P.O. Box 662, Pinch, WV 25156
304-553-2114
Website: www.elkriverblessings.org



We feed over 500 children who attend 11 different schools located in Kanawha County, WV. Children receive two breakfasts, two entrees, two fruits and two snacks for the weekend. It is easier for gift cards and monetary donations to purchase the amount of food we usually purchase at Sams as it can be overwhelming.

Central WV Center for Pregnancy Care

Barbara Kincaid, Director
8 Meadow St.
Buckhannon, WV 26201
Website: cwwcpc.com/



The Corporation is organized exclusively for charity, religious and educational purposes. The Center has a great impact in the community not only to infants and toddlers but to moms needing guidance and education. We also provide support and care for those in need. We welcome contributions of diapers, formula, clothing, cribs, car seats, highchairs, etc.

Introduction of New Officers (Con't on page 11)

Your ABWM Executive Board is here to serve and encourage



Dee Wanner

Serving as your new **President**, Dee explains why she chose to accept this position: I was praying "Here I am use me," so when I got the call if I would fill the unexpired term for 2nd Vice-President Elect, I thought, are you sure Lord? I asked to have a few days to pray about it, but the Lord kept nudging me and I kept thinking I don't know enough about ABW. But He reminded me "if I call you, I will equip you," so I said yes. I feel that the Lord wants me to be more involved with ABWM.



Sherry Husted

A longtime servant of ABWM, Sherry shares her joy of accepting the office of **1st Vice-President**: I have had the privilege of serving as the Personal Development Coordinator for the past three years and have enjoyed getting to know and learn from many of the ladies from all over our great state. It has been an honor working with the ladies that serve on our State ABWM in these last few years. I am anxiously and humbly excited about serving in this position in the coming year and prayerfully hope to serve Dee Wanner and you all well.



Melanie Swisher

Serving as **2nd Vice-President**, Melanie provides a glimpse into her life: I live in Oak Hill, WV, where I'm active at Calvary Baptist Church with my husband, Rev. Greg Swisher. Originally, I am from southern WV where I taught in Mingo County Schools before relocating to Ripley, WV. After teaching for about 14 years, I served children and families of the state of WV as a social worker until returning to my teaching career in Fayette County. We have four adult children: Jillian, Jacob, Cordell and Clayton; one grandson, Nathan and one ornery English Springer Spaniel, Maverick.



Sherry Buckalew

Sherry is your go-to officer for special offerings as the **Love Gift and WV Blessings Coordinator**, and shares a little about herself:

My mom had a real heart for serving others and I inherited that desire from her. The work AB Women do was always a priority for her and it is mine as well. I feel blessed to be asked to fill this office and look forward to serving on the board.



Yvette Shafer

As the incoming **Personal Development Coordinator**, Yvette stated: Through the years I have been involved with ABW in my church and association. I am a former WVABW Personal Development Coordinator. I am the Association representative on the WVBC Executive Board and was appointed to serve as the WVBC representative on the IM General Board. I am eager to be involved once again with an amazing group of hard-working women. To see faith in action is amazing!

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. John 12:26



Where do I send the Money?

LOVE GIFT

Goes to your Church Treasurer who will report the contribution on **Line B** of the WVBC Remittance form. This way your church will get credit for the donation. Your Love Gift Coordinator should send a report to her counterpart in the association. If your association is not functional, please send your report to the current WV ABWM Coordinator. All state officers are listed on the ABWM page @ WVBC.org along with their contact information.

WV HOPE

These donations must go directly to the recipient. You can find their addresses on the ABWM Page @ WVBC.org or you can call or email the current ABWM State Treasurer and she will send you the information.

EVERYTHING ELSE

Mission Outreach Project (MOP), Special Project, WV Blessings, and all other offerings go to your association treasurer. If your association is **NOT** functional, you may send directly to the current ABWM State Treasurer.

by Amy L. Starkey
ABWM State Treasurer
921 Pines Rd. Ravenswood, WV 26164
304-531-1052
alastark88@gmail.com



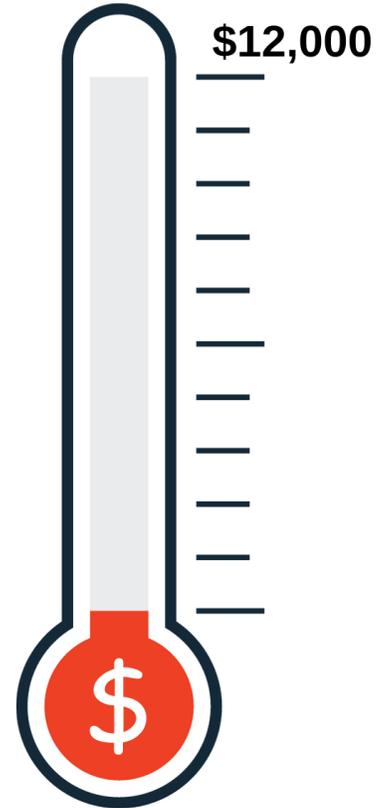
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*A weekly email full of
inspiration and information*

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Email us at wvbwm1883@gmail.com

2024 Special Project



The 2024 Special Project is the WV Mission House located at Parchment Valley. Our WV Mission House is used to house many of our beloved missionaries on home assignment or pastors in transition. The Mission House is showing much wear and tear because it is gaining age and showing it. Our 2024 Special Project will be used to replace the roof and purchase some new appliances.

By raising these funds, we will be able to help keep the rent down significantly for our missionaries because these expenses will not have to be built into their rent. We hope you will consider contributing to this worthy cause as we support our missionaries when they are at home as well as abroad.

by Nancy Adkins
Church and Community Coordinator
nancyadkins07@gmail.com

Save The Date

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Parchment Valley, Ripley, WV
Salina George, Conference Coordinator
xraylena@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

SEPT 27-29 2024

Kim Pickrell
Conference Coordinator
(304) 481-2632
pickrellk@aol.com

Scholarship Girl Information

REQUIREMENTS FOR ABWM SCHOLARSHIP & LOAN

- Active female member of a WVBC church
- Preparing to go to OR already attending college
- Earned a GPA over 2.50 last year

Applications available at www.wvbc.org

Send completed applications to:
Jane Mullen, Scholarship/Loan Coordinator
Email: Ljwm1108@zoominternet.net
P.O. Box 257, Harrisville, WV 26362-0257
PHONE: (304) 643-5993

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2024

If you have any young ladies going to college this fall or already attending college, encourage them to apply for the **ABWM of WV Scholarship/Loan**. The award is distributed as one-half as a scholarship and one-half as a loan to be repaid (interest free) after graduation. The amount varies from year to year depending on the donations given that year and the number of girls applying for a scholarship/loan.

The scholarship/loan is unique as it includes prayer support from several churches. The Scholarship Coordinator makes the church assignments and each church decides how to provide support and maintain communication with their assigned "Scholarship Girl." Many times a church will make a donation toward the girl's loan so she will have less to repay when she graduates.

If your church has not been assigned a "Scholarship Girl," please contact me either by email or phone (listed above). If your church does not have an active women's group or your church is very small, Scholarship Girls can be assigned to individuals also.

Attending college is hard! Although the financial support is appreciated by all of our Scholarship Girls, I know they covet your prayers the most. I ask that you pray for them throughout 2024. Pray for their strength, safety and continued fellowship with Jesus. To the right is a recommended prayer schedule for you to cut out and use this year. This schedule will remind you to pray for every girl individually as well as the group a whole. Thank you!

by Jane Mullen
ABWM of WV Scholarship/Loan Coordinator



Cut on dotted line.
Keep in your Bible.

The prayer of a
righteous person is
very powerful in its
effect.

James 5:16b

Pray on **Monday** for Seniors:
Lauren Cale (Marshall University)
Jacinda Devart (Waynesburg Univ, PA)

Pray on **Tuesday** for Juniors:
Katie Gaughan (La Roche Univ, PA)
Sara Palmer (Cedarville University, OH)

Pray on **Wednesday** for Juniors:
Rebekah Williams (WV University)
Jodi Wright (WV University)

Pray on **Thursday** for Sophomores:
Avonlea Freeman (Fairmont State)
Carsyn Harris (Troy University, AL)

Pray on **Friday** for Sophomores:
Taylor Osborne (Columbia Univ, NY)
Trista Scarberry (Fairmont State)

Pray on **Saturday** for Freshmen:
Breona Anderson (WVU Parkersburg)
Meredith Cottrell (WV Wesleyan)

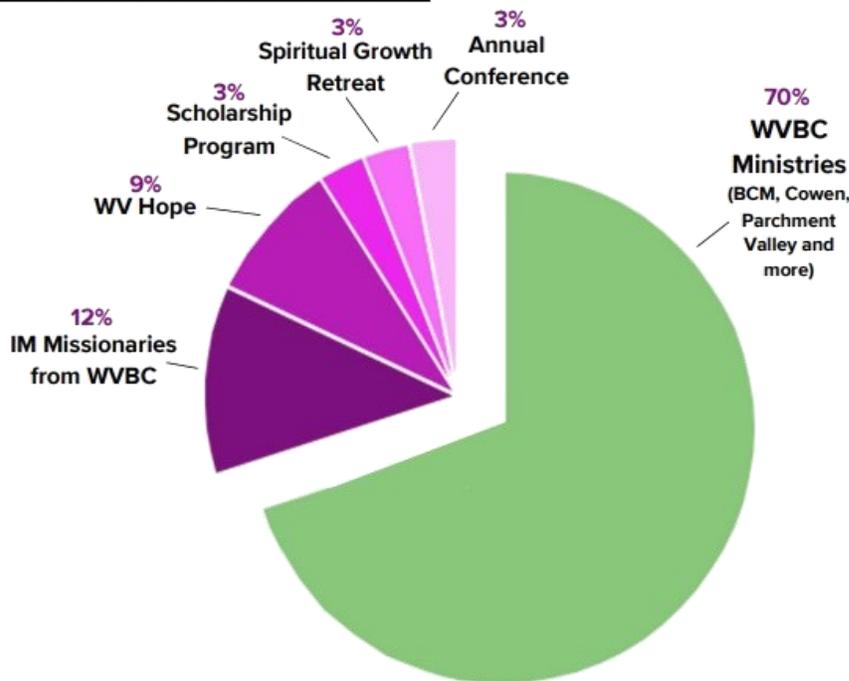
Pray on **Sunday** for all Scholarship Girls!
If a certain name pops into your mind on any day, pray for that Girl. God may have a reason!

A New Offering for the ABWM of WV



During Women's Day 2023, the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV voted to create a new offering called **WV Blessings**. Thirty percent (30%) of the WV Blessings offering will stay with the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV and seventy percent (70%) will go to support the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

The Disbursement of the Offering



How to Participate in WV Blessings

Churches that elect to collect the WV Blessings offering will send their offering to their association ABWM treasurer or directly to the state ABWM treasurer (Amy Starkey). This is the same procedure as the Mission Outreach Project and Special Project.

For More Information

Contact Koreen Villers at 304-531-2917 or villers@wvbc.org.

FAQ's

1. Why are we adding a new offering?

Numerous churches have asked about an alternative to Love Gift due to increasing differences between the priorities of the national ABWM and the ABWM of West Virginia. Those differences were highlighted at the National Annual Meeting on June 23rd, where several bylaw changes were proposed that were inconsistent with the beliefs of our local women's groups. While those proposed changes did not pass, this caused many of our churches to ask for ways to better support the specific ministries they care most about.

2. Is this offering replacing Love Gift?

No. Love Gift will still be offered for churches that want to continue promoting that offering. WV Blessings has just been created as an alternative for those that would prefer to support local ministries.

3. What do we do with our Love Gift offering?

For churches that continue to collect Love Gift, you can still send that offering in through the WVBC Mission Giving Form to the WVBC office.

4. How does this affect our missionaries?

The WV Blessings offering will raise the percentage of giving support to our WV missionaries to 12%, which is an increase over the approximate 1% given through Love Gift.



I have had the privilege of serving as Coordinator of Love Gift on the WV state ABW Ministries board for the past two years and met many of you at Conference and other statewide WVABWM events where I witnessed your passion for Love Gift.

Though there may be changes to where you designate your giving to go, it is still a "love gift" to the Lord. During my time as coordinator, total giving to Love Gift was **\$73,798.44**. Thank you for giving!!

by Georgia Parsons
2022-2023 Love Gift Coordinator



Our new Love Gift Coordinator, Sherry Buckalew (see pg 4) will be taking on the role of overseeing the WV Blessings offering in addition to Love Gift. If you have questions about either offering, you can contact her via email at: buckalwesl@aol.com

WV HOPE Con't

Hope Center Ministries

Brian McClure, Director
6148 Parkersburg Rd, Sandyville, WV 25275
304-679-7870
Website: www.hopecm.com/locations/parkersburg



Hope Center Ministries exists to lead addicts and their families to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Ongoing needs are cleaning supplies, toiletries/hygiene and Bible study materials.

Hope For Appalachia

Erin Flanagan, Director
213 Randolph St., Charleston, WV 25302
P.O. Box 20076, Charleston, WV 25367
304-993-5693
Website: www.hopeforappalachia.org/



Hope for Appalachia provides wrap around services for those going through addiction recovery and those impacted by addiction. Through the Children's Resource Center, we help children and families that have suffered because of the addiction of another family member. Our HOPE Closet is a cabinet that is placed in schools that we stock with toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, soap and deodorant. We are expanding our ministry to include help for women who are pregnant and going through addiction recovery. It is easier for gift cards and monetary donations or to purchase the necessary items needed.

by Sherry Husted
1st Vice President & WV Hope Coordinator
21 Washington St., Reedy, WV 25270
sherryhusted@gmail.com
304-927-2061





TUNNEL DOMES FOR AFRICA

2024 MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT

Help us reach our goal of \$12,000 which would provide 24 domes with covers and/or several tree bags.



Family doctors Anita and Rick train and equip “Health Builders” to combat lifestyle-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, heart and artery disease, diabetes, and malaria in homes, schools, places of worship, and marketplaces. Health Builders also receive training in fruit tree propagation, gardening and poultry skills to help them promote good nutrition, generate income and lead Bible study groups in their communities. Pray with Anita and Rick for a disciple-making movement in South Africa.

Source: International Missions at <https://internationalministries.org/author/ar-gutierrez/>

Background: Doctors Rick and Anita Gutierrez have been missionaries in South Africa for 20 years. Their mission uses health promotion and disease prevention, along with capacity building primarily through agriculture to make disciples for Jesus Christ. In 2018, American Baptist women of West Virginia played a founding role in our Zachariah 3 Tree Project by donating \$10,025. With these funds, we were able to train over time approximately 100 people in techniques of propagating valuable fruit trees using “air layering.” This method is relatively easy to learn, and for approximately \$1.00 worth of materials a new tree can be propagated. These trees have a vulnerable stage requiring shade for 30 to 45 days. During this time, the root system is minute and fragile. Trees at this stage are ideally kept in fiber bags, which optimizes healthy root growth for later transplantation. Additionally, the trees require securing in a triangular fashion against winds which are strong on our coastal region of Africa. While on home assignment in 2023, the Gutierrez team engaged American Baptist Women to make fiber bags for trees (\$4.65 per bag) and 60% shade cloth Dome covers (\$50 per cover).

Each year, approximately 20-30 tunnel domes are cut by hand using PVC by Rick Gutierrez. The PVC is purchased at cost in Durban, South Africa by a friendly

vendor who wishes to help our mission. Each dome measures approximately 16 and three quarters feet in width, 20 feet in length, 8 1/2 feet in height, and covers the ground area of 271 square feet. Material costs per dome is approximately \$450.

The domes are strong, use cable ties as connectors, and could be rapidly disassembled for moving to other locations. They can be used for tree nurseries, housing of chickens, training space for health workers and bible study. The domes are assembled for local missionaries who partner with us in making disciples for Jesus Christ. They become a means of livelihood for these partners, who are living in poverty or at the edge of poverty. For this reason, we see this as a continuous part of our mission in the years going forward. We find this geodesic tunnel structure ideal for the purposes mentioned. Here is a link to the design: <https://www.ziptiedomes.com/geodesic-dome-calculators/tunnel-dome-calculator-0.htm>

I hope you will join us on this amazing missional opportunity. Whether you give financially or through prayers, all support is appreciated.

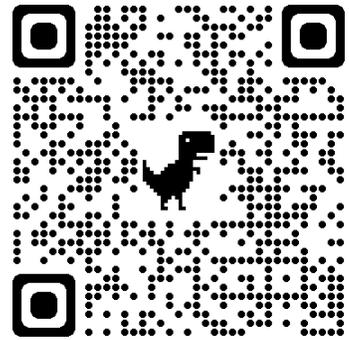
By Brenda Rosier
Mission and Service Coordinator

Want more info on WV ABWM?

You can discover and learn more about what the WV ABWM does for the women's groups and churches across the state. Visit the West Virginia Baptist Convention at this URL:

<https://www.wvbc.org/ministries/auxiliaries/american-baptist-womens-ministries-wv/>

Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to visit our webpage on your mobile device.



Introduction of New Officers (Con't from page 4)



Sandy F. Currey

With years of experience as a servant of God, we are blessed to have Sandy serve as **Mission & Service Coordinator (Elect)**. I have served as Conference Coordinator and also as Coordinator of Spiritual Growth Retreat. God has blessed me through the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries - from the Sand Fork Baptist Church Mission Circle to the B & P Circle of the Charleston Baptist Temple.



Salina George

With **Conference Coordinator** as her first role on the WV ABWM Executive Board, Salina stated: Recently, I felt God calling me to become more outwardly focused and more involved in women's leadership opportunities. After much prayer, the Holy Spirit led me to accept The ABW Conference Coordinator of WV position. I look forward to meeting all the ladies and being able to help spread God's Word.



Kathy Sponaugle

Kathy comes to us as the **Spiritual Growth Retreat Coordinator (Elect)** with experience and willingness to serve:

I belong to the First Baptist Church of Hamlin, where I am the Sunday School Clerk and step in to teach the adult class as needed. I am also a member of the OES Chapter 111 of Hamlin and the GFWC WV, Hamlin Woman's Club, where I have held several offices of leadership including District and State. I am looking forward to traveling the new path God is opening up to me at this time in my life.



Sara McClure

Sara brings youth and energy to the executive board and the **Personal Development Coordinator (Elect)** position. She served on the mission field in Dominican Republic for a year and a half serving to get women off the streets and out of prostitution. Sara has a passion for ministry through both music and spoken word. She spends her free time cackling at funny videos on Facebook and cuddling with her kids.



Kim Conrad

Her creativity and background gives Kim the perfect skills for the **Communication Coordinator** position. In my professional career, I specialize in and teach marketing communications at the college level. I help with social media, websites and other forms of communication for my church and other organizations. God has given me the education and work experience in this field, so I am so very blessed and honored to be given this opportunity to share my gifts with the ABWM of WV.



Kathy Hudson

Taking a stab at a new position, **Northwest Area Coordinator**, Kathy's enthusiasm is obvious in her statement about taking this new role:

I am excited to serve God and the AB women of WV in a newly created position as Area Coordinator for the Northwest section of our state. I am excited to make connections in your neck of the woods. ABWM has been an important part of my life for the past 40 years.

Did you like the Newsletter?
Let us know on



**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.



SEASONS

Subscription / Renewal Form

Subscriptions are for 1 year and expire on December 31st.

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.

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

West Virginia Baptist Convention
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