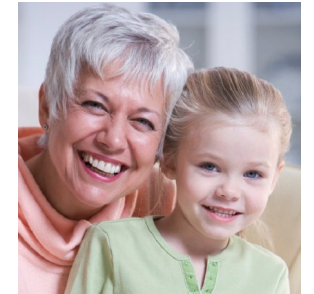


Seasons

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



Spiritual Growth Retreat

"Hats and Holiness"

September 15-17, 2023



Parchment Valley Conference Center



Women's Day

*"Engaging God Mentally
and Emotionally"*

October 19, 2023

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

FALL 2023

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



The West
Virginia
Baptist

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



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.

From the Desk of the President

As I start to write my last article as your President, I am reminded of a parallel memory and the joy it brings me, even to this day. The memory is from when I was still working. I commuted over an hour each way daily for a period of ten years. During those long car rides, I listened to the "oldies" station and as the seasons changed so did the station's playlist. When summer came around each Friday from Memorial Day until Labor Day two songs were faithfully played, Summertime and On the Way to Cape May. Many Fridays I thought about how nice it would be to be going to the beach. I thought about all the happy times and the memories we had already created with family and friends. I had this internal longing and those songs reminded me of it. That longing was to be with and make memories with the people who were the very reason I made that commute and worked all those years. My work, commute and efforts were all toward an end of serving those I loved most. So, as I am winding down the last few months of this area of service, I am reminded of all of you that I have been privileged to serve alongside. You have been incredible collaborators (servants) of Christ, just as the Word says in Ephesians 6:6 "not with eye service, as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ doing the will of God from the heart."

Just as work is an exchange of our effort, time, talents and attention toward an end, so is our service. When we work it is to provide for ourselves and those we love. Serving is a specific kind of work, work that indicates a direction. You can work without regard for others, but you cannot serve that way. Serving is labor for somebody else. It will make all the difference in the world today if you are serving instead of working. When we serve, whether it is toward those we love, our neighbors, or someone completely unknown to us; we are exchanging our effort, time, talents and attention toward an end. As the verse mentioned above, we are doing the will of God from the heart. We do not expect to receive back from our doing. We expect that we have already received and so our outpouring is a response, not an obligation.

There is great profit for you and for others if your labor today is serving, but there is a difference between just serving and serving the Lord. You can serve a person, a ministry, or a cause, but serving the Lord is something altogether different. Serving will affect the way you work and serving the Lord will affect how you serve.

What is the difference between serving the Lord and serving the Lord with gladness? Have you ever met someone who in their serving wasn't glad about it? I have and I may have resembled that person at different times in my own life. How you serve the Lord is very important. God tells us to "serve the Lord with gladness." In just five short words, the Bible gives us a game plan for today. When you put all three parts together (serve – the Lord – with gladness) you will find a day with purpose, delight and the blessings of God, no matter what today may bring. The action of what we do for the Lord is never as important as how we are found doing it. Thank you again for an incredible year of serving together.

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Another year is flying by and fall is quickly coming to knock on our doors. Has your relationship with the Lord grown this year? Have you been able to keep up with daily devotions and study of the Word that you promised yourself back in January? I keep asking myself where “the lazy days of summer” have gone. We started this journey together talking about ladies of great faith in Biblical times and

current day. Ladies, who strived to remain faithful even in dark days of death, tragedy and in normal everyday living when God called them to their “burning bush.” Every day is another page in your faith journey even those bad hair days.

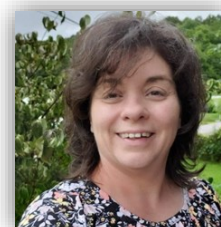
Recently, I have been studying two books “The Well-Watered Woman” by Gretchen Saffles and “Your God Is too Glorious: Finding God in the Everyday” by Chad Bird. Both books really focus on being rooted in truth and growing daily with the Lord. Instead of looking or searching for our next big event or outreach, focus on the everyday faith. Remember those women of faith we spoke about and ones we admire in our own lives. Think how their everyday faith carried them through some “big event” without that everyday faith, they wouldn’t have been rooted. Maybe you are someone new to the faith. This is even more reason to get into your Bible and daily walk with the Lord. Whatever season our faith-walk, we always need the nourishment of the Word and Father.

Often our “everyday” speaks louder to those around us than those big moments. John 14:27 says “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” In other words, “It is well with my soul” my inner being. Is it for you? Fall is my time to reflect, regroup and meditate; it can be yours too. Did your daily walk go crazy and your quiet time get to busy, too loud to hear or focus on God? Then hit the reset button like Martha who was worried about all the wrong things or the woman at the well, you too can get up and start anew. By “touching” the hem of His garment (opening His Word) your life will be forever changed, a daily renewal in a dry and parched world.

For some, their faith walk is pretty routine by now. Peace in whatever circumstance is found in their daily walk with the Lord. They continue in that steadfastness like Priscilla, who Paul calls his co-worker in Christ in Romans 16:3. Daily time with the Lord leads them to that quality so many of us admire; the dedication of seeing and being with God in the everyday. Like Joni Erickson Tada, when she feels that overwhelming feeling which she admits almost hits her as soon as she awakens because of her need for complete care by others. That first thought needs to be go to the Lord: sing His praise, dwell in His presence and find His strength for the day.

In this “Season” I challenge you to look and truly evaluate your daily walk in the everyday. Do you need to touch the hem of Jesus, to reset your walk or continue in steadfastness? Fall is a time of change; seeing the leaves true inner colors, look at yours. Silence the noise, carve out time, hit reset, seek that Godly peace, so it will be well with your soul. Remember it was a normal day of sheep tending for Moses when God called him from a burning bush “Ordinary” days can turn into an extraordinary life.

Sherry Husted
Personal Development Coordinator
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304-927--2061



Church & Community

At the beginning of this year, we asked you to give us a list of the community mission projects that your circle and church support. The purpose is that we could share different ministries and missions that are being implemented around the state. You ladies never cease to amaze me as to your humility and generosity in giving. During our Women's Conference in June, we displayed those missions on the wall.

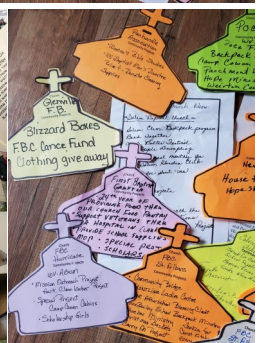
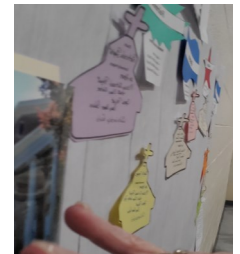
There were 16 churches responded and from those 16 churches, over 107 Community Mission projects were placed on the wall. These projects are in addition to the 65 Honor Roll Churches who give faithfully to our annual Special Project, Mission Outreach Project and Scholarship Girls. These 16 churches represent only a small portion of our 201 active circles throughout West Virginia. Margy Higginbotham from Oak Hill Baptist Church stated, "After Covid, the number of women have decreased in our women's ministry and also pushed our church attendance to where it seemed that we were dying out. But when I was working on this project for the mission wall, I realized that God is alive and well in all the things our people do for Him. We actually do more that I ever thought we did. Little is much when God is in it."

The following is just a glimpse of some of the mission and ministry going on around our beautiful state through the hands and feet of our women and their churches:

Local Food Pantries * Shoebox Ministry * Disaster Relief, * Knitting/Quilting/ Sewing Ministries * Backpack Ministry * Supply school/hygiene items to students in need * Local veterans homes: serving meals/giving donations * Coat drives * Gabriel Project * Local Recovery Centers * Meals for shut-ins and Sr. Citizen centers * Weirton Christian Center * Women's Choice * Community Christmas Food Baskets * Socks, mittens and knitted hats for Warm Hands, Warm Hearts * Apple Butter Festival Ministry * Garden Club Meal Ministry * Partner with local Chamber of Commerce to support community projects * Genesis Center * Decorate a parking meter with mittens & gloves for anyone in need to take * Prayer Blanket Project * COPS 4 Kids Collections * House to Home Ministry * Frontline Ladies Center * Sojourners Domestic Violence Center * STAR Club Afterschool Blessing Closet * Carry On Project * Scholarships to Camp Cowen for community kids * Mission trips—lap blankets * Blizzard Boxes * Yard Sale Give Away * Cancer Fund * Ronald McDonald House * Lily's Place * Thomas Hospital Hospice * CAMC ICT—Treat bags for families * Branches—Women's Domestic Violence Shelter * Golden Girls Home * Union Mission * Fruits of Labor-field trip lunches * Heart and Hand Thrift Store * The Sowing Circle-Lap Quilts * East End Resource Center * UM Crossroads Men's Shelter * Blessing Bags for 104 Elkins Manor residents * Backpacks for ER Department-Davis Medical Center * Facebook Community Prayer Ministry



Nancy Adkins
Coordinator of Church & Community
(304) 610-1008
nancyadkins07@gmail.com



2023 Mission Outreach Project

Restoration Retreat for Indigenous Women Leadership Development

Goal: \$6,000



Our 2023 Mission Outreach Project (MOP), will benefit countless lives in Mexico. Keith and Debbie Myers have a vision to minister to women in Mexico through several Indigenous Women Leadership Retreats. Similar to our WV ABW Spiritual Growth retreats, the women in Mexico will come together to grow in the knowledge of God's word.

The purpose statement for the retreats reads as follows: **To disciple women so that they have the tools to disciple others.** The women attending the retreat will receive valuable materials that will equip them to witness to others. Every lady who attends one of the retreats will receive: transportation, Bibles, food, lodging and teaching materials.

Keith and Debbie will be equipping the women to do great things in God's kingdom work. Our support of the MOP Project is vital to the success of the Restoration Retreats. We get to be part of the vision to equip these sweet ladies with God's word so that they may witness to others. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, Debbie Myers voiced "Hope" that we would be as generous to the campaign as we were to the Chicken Project in 2015. This year's MOP Project goal is \$6,000. With prayer I know we can come together to reach and exceed the goal. Continue to lift Debbie and Keith in your prayers as they minister to the people of Mexico. Please let me know if I can offer any assistance.

Mail donations to:

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

**ABW Groups go through your
usual channels for payments*

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



2023 Special Project

PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER Covered Campfire Seating Section and Playground Equipment

Goal: \$12,000



Send donations to:

Amy Starkey
WV ABWM Treasurer
921 Whispering Pines Road
Ravenswood, WV 26164

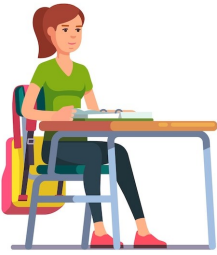
**ABWM Groups go through your usual channels for payments.*



Nancy Adkins
Church and Community Coordinator
First Baptist Church of Hurricane
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Scholarship Thoughts



As you know the Scholarship Program is half scholarship and half loan. Upon graduation the girls are asked to repay half of the money received. The best gift we can give our girls is a zero repayment balance at graduation.

How can you do this you might ask? You can send a donation of any amount to our State Treasurer, Amy Starkey, and mark it as a repayment.

Be sure to tell Amy which girl should receive credit. Many of you may think, "How will ten or twenty dollars help?"

Let me do the math for you!! Each scholarship girl is assigned to at least 10 churches. The repayment this year is approximately \$650.00. If each church would send \$50-\$65 dollars, she owes nothing for this year. I understand that all churches cannot send \$65 dollars. If you are a larger church consider sending a little more. If you are a smaller group, send what you can. Now I am not saying that this is the only gift you can give your scholarship girl. Your ladies can do whatever their hearts desire. The girls appreciate everything you do for them.

The girls also love to get cards and notes of encouragement. I always thought it would be fun for each of the ladies in the church to write a short note in a card. Then have one person be responsible to mail out one of the cards every few weeks so that your girl is always receiving an encouraging note, a scripture thought, or just a note saying we are praying for you. Please do remember to pray for all of our scholarship recipients daily.

Each church should have received the name of their Scholarship Girl and her contact information. The names were given to the association counterparts in June. If you have not received the name of your girl, please contact Jane Mullen. Any ladies out there whose church has not been participating but is interested in communicating with one of the girls can also contact Jane. She will connect you with one of our wonderful young ladies.

Finally, start reminding the senior girls who are members of your church to apply for a scholarship. They may go online at www.wvbc.org to print an application which is due by March 1, 2024. Also, if a current recipient attends your church, remind them that they need to reapply each year. Interested girls may also contact Jane Mullen directly.



Jane Mullen
Scholarship Loan Coordinator
1108 E Main Street /PO Box 257
Harrisville, WV 26362-0257
304-643-5993
ljwm1108@zoominternet.net



Lou Ann Nicholas
Associate Coordinator
202 Maryland Avenue
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
304-622-0988
lanicholas13@aol.com

Women's 139th Annual Meeting

Thursday, Oct 19, 2023

"Engaging God Mentally & Emotionally

TIME

Registration at 9:00
Program at 9:30

COST

\$6.00
includes lunch

**"Now
prepare
yourself
mentally
and
emotionally
to follow the
Eternal One
your God."**

WHERE

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

1655 Blizzard Dr., Parkersburg, WV 26101

Key Speaker · Claire Cottrill

Special Music · Ginny Prunty

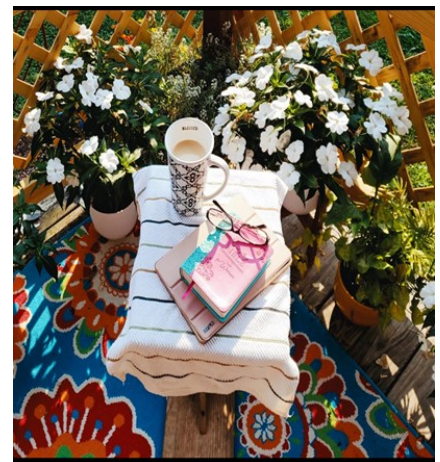
Mission Speaker · Joyce Reed
Anita Guiterriez

**1 Chronicles
22:19a (Voice)**

**2024 · WV Hope Ministries
Mission Outreach Project
Special Project**

Lunch · 11:30 - 12:30

Speaker and Communion · 12:30 - 2:00



Please register by October 9th at www.wvbc.org or on the
WVBC Annual Meeting Registration Form.



Below is a Blessing Calendar to help you remember specific blessings for each day of a month. I'm promoting its use because of a special offering to be received at Women's Day on October 19, 2023 at South

Parkersburg Baptist Church, which happens to be my home church.

Follow the suggested giving and bring those coins (or bills) with you to Women's Day where they will be added to coins from American Baptist women from all over the state. We will have a "noisy" offering received during the programming. The "noisy" comes from dropping the coins into a metal container.

This will be a fun way to give to the offering which will go to Mt. State Mission offering, as chosen by the WV ABWM state board. You may want the daily personal offering you give to also be "noisy," so I suggest using a tin can or maybe a mason jar for this purpose.

I look forward to the NOISE of WVABWM women giving from the heart!

Please don't forget your regular Love Gift giving. Our goal for 2023 is \$100,000. The latest report given from WVBC is through June and totals \$47,552.63. I want to thank those association Love Gift Coordinators for their faithful reporting.

Whether you're using the calendar for the Women's Day offering or the Love Gift box for your daily thanksgiving, I know you are acknowledging God's blessings in your life.

Love Gift Coordinator
Georgia Parsons

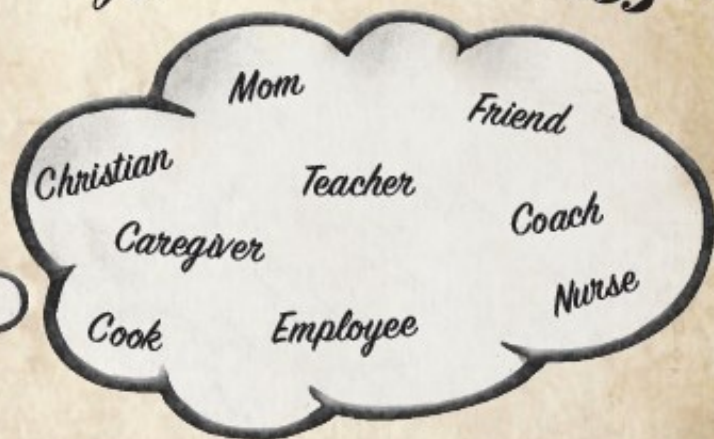
South Parkersburg Baptist Church
606 Ruby Street, Belmont, WV 26134
304-665-2822
gpbelmont@suddenlink.net



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Just for Love make a gift.	2 Did you get or give a hug today? Give 25 cents.
3 Were you blessed by the pastor's message? Give 25 cents.	4 Thank God for good health. Give 30 cents.	5 Give 5 cents for each letter in your first name.	6 Did you feel God's love today? Give 25 cents.	7 Did you have enough to eat today? Give 50 cents.	8 Did you see the sky? Give 15 cents.	9 Children are a blessing. Give 10 cents for each one.
10 If you went to church. Give 25 cents.	11 For each pet you have, give 10 cents.	12 Give 3 cents for each state you have visited.	13 Coffee break today? Give 10 cents per cup.	14 Sacrifice your snack give 25 cents.	15 Did you read a good book this month? Give 25 cents.	16 Did you shop today? Give 10 cents.
17 Did you feel the love of your church family? Give 25 cents.	18 Did you receive a card or letter today? Give 20 cents.	19 Give 2 cents for each pair of shoes you have.	20 Just for love give a special gift.	21 Can you see to read this page? Give 50 cents.	22 Did you call a friend today? Give 15 cents.	23 Did you read your Bible today? Give 20 cents.
24 Did you enjoy the music today? Give 25 cents.	25 Do you have a warm bed? Give 15 cents.	26 Give 3 cents for each house plant you have.	27 Give 2 cents for each button on your outfit today.	28 Give 20 cents if you know someone loves you.	29 Instead of having a soda give 50 cents.	30 For each safe journey this month give 10 cents.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia Spritual Growth Retreat

"Hats & Holiness"



**Does Your Daily Walk
Exude Holiness,
Regardless of the
Hat You Are Wearing?**

**"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and
be holy. Without holiness no one will see the Lord."**

-Hebrews 12:14

September 15-17, 2023

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Keynote Speaker ~ Kathy Hudson

Willa's Bookstore ~ Brian & Sara McClure ~ Worship Leaders

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

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV

Spiritual Growth Retreat - Hats & Holiness

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

September 15-17, 2023

Registration must be received by September 1, 2023.

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 - \$116.00/per person, **roommate listed below.**
 () Double Occupancy - \$116.00/per person, will accept assigned roommate.
 () Triple (3) or quadruple (4) \$110.00/per person, roommates listed below. (To take advantage of this price, at least 3 per room is required. It is essential to share a bed and must be pre-arranged.)
 ** Three (3) handicapped rooms are available. Please indicate if needed -- includes handrails on toilets, tubs and walk-in showers.

Air Conditioned Cabin (Dorm) Rooms:

- () \$96.00 per person (bring your own linens)

Cabin room sleeps 10 people, 5 single size bunk beds.
 ~ Roommates listed below or on attached sheet.

**Check-in begins on
 Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. or
 Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in Hill Hall.**

Part-Time Registration:

- () \$25.00 Full Time Registration Fee
- () \$ 7.00 Saturday Breakfast
- () \$ 7.50 Saturday Lunch
- () \$ 9.00 Saturday Dinner
- () \$ 7.00 Sunday Breakfast
- () \$20.00 Bunkhouse/Dorm (per person)
- () \$27.00 One Night's Lodging, 3-4 to a room (per person)
- () \$30.00 One Night's Lodging, Double Occupancy (per person)

_____ Total

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 4:30-8:00 p.m.**

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

Please bring your Bible and your favorite hat!

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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