



HAVE A GREAT
Summer

WHAT'S NEW ABWOTS!

American Baptist Women of the South
an auxiliary of American Baptist Churches of the South

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**From the Pen of ABWOTS
President
Cynthia Bentley**

“To God be the glory. For He is worthy to be praised.”

Greetings Wonderful Women of ABWOTS,

I greet you in the father’s name. May you be filled with His love, faithfulness and peace. May you be strong, true and courageous in all that you do for Christ. "God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn." Psalm 46: 5, NKJV

On behalf of the American Baptist Women of the South, I thank you for your prayers, attendance, and participation at the 56th Annual Session of the American Baptist Churches of the South. The joy of your presence was truly felt as we prayed, sang, worshipped and gathered to share the emotions, ideas and deliverance of the purpose of coming together. We walked in the theme, “Building God’s Community” and raised the scripture, I Corinthians 3:9, NIV "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

The Annual Session was filled with excitement, empowerment and encouragement for all women. The women were involved with the round talk conversations, the presentation with Dr. Sylvia Johnson (ATL) and our community outreach project, “Destined for Greatness” – A local outreach initiative dedicated to youth mentoring, education, and family support. Based in the Greater Atlanta area, this 501(c)(3) nonprofit focuses on underserved youth from single-parent households, also known as Destined for Greatness Outreach Youth Center.

We had a meaningful business meeting which included thoughts and ideas from you as we look forward to next year’s conference. Your contributions are needed to assist in making ABWOTS stronger, creative and transparent to you. We were so grateful for the contributions received toward the community project and a thank you message received from Brother James H. Kyles, Jr. (founder) that reflected their gratitude for such a donation. He Kyles was accompanied by four of the youth from the center who shared what their experiences have been while belonging to the program. We were so proud of these youth and we will continue to pray for them as they contribute to building God’s community by upholding their motto: “Our Mission is to Develop Today's Youth to Become Tomorrow's Leaders”.

Blessed to be a blessing.

**Deacon Cynthia Bentley, President
ABWOTS / ABCOTS**

ABWOTS Birthday Shoutout!

TO ALL OUR SISTERS BORN IN JUNE



May God's light give you happiness -spread it everywhere you go!

Blessings to you!

ABWOTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Highlights from ABWOTS Annual Leadership Seminar and Business Meeting

On Tuesday, April 28 and Thursday, April 30 in Atlanta, Georgia, we held our ABWOTS Annual Leadership Seminar and Business Meeting as a part of the ABCOTS 56th Annual Session. The theme was “Building God’s Community”. We proudly hosted thirty-seven women from the seven areas of ABCOTS in a beautiful space filled with positive energy and enthusiasm.

We were blessed with a dynamic speaker, Rev. Dr. Sylvia Johnson, a minister from the host church, Friendship Baptist Church during the Leadership Seminar. Dr. Johnson focused on the theme of “Building God’s Community” from 1 Corinthians 3:9, emphasizing that we and the church are a work in progress. We all must be on one accord to have unity in the church. She gave examples of biblical women such as Deborah, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Ruth, Sarah and the Samaritan woman at the well, who all worked to build God’s community. Her presentation was very engaging, and uplifting, leading to numerous questions from participants which were welcomed and responded to thoughtfully.

President Cynthia Bentley was our facilitator for a very lively roundtable discussion on “Building God’s Community”. She introduced the subject and gave each table three questions to respond to and asked them to appoint a spokesperson to present their response to the entire group. The tables gave very thoughtful responses that sparked ideas among the women about the challenges and opportunities in building God’s community in today’s world.

To demonstrate the importance of missions to ABWOTS, we showed a PowerPoint presentation on Past Mission Projects. We heard from Mr. James H. Kyles, Jr., founder and executive Director of Destined for Greatness Outreach Youth Center, Atlanta, Georgia, our mission outreach partner for this year. He told us about the work being done at Destined for Greatness in developing youth to become leaders of tomorrow. On behalf of his organization, he expressed sincere gratitude to ABWOTS and the churches for donating to the organization to help further their mission. The ABWOTS Executive Committee also thanks all of you and your churches for the generous donations, making this year’s outreach project a great success. We were also encouraged when hearing from some of the young people who work with Destined for Greatness, representing some of the historically black colleges and in the Atlanta area.

We took the opportunity to recognize women who have been involved in church ministries, ABCOTS, and/or have supported ABCOTS ministry objectives for over 25 years by awarding them with the ABWOTS Silver+ Recognition. It takes women willing to give of themselves as these women have for so many years to keep our churches and ABWOTS strong as we move into the future. Congratulations to the recipients (page 5). We encourage you to suggest women in your church that may be worthy of this honor, but remember, your pastor’s approval is required for someone to be considered for this award.

During the Business Meeting, the Nominating Committee made a plea for volunteers to fill the vacant positions on the Executive Committee shown on page 8. Although the women currently

Highlights from ABWOTS Annual Meetings continued....

filling those positions have served for many years, they are willing to continue to serve for another year. The 2026 budget was approved. During the discussion of the budget, several questions were raised about fundraising efforts to support ABWOTS operations. After discussion a motion was passed for each local church to explore ways to raise money for ABWOTS operations in 2026.

We sincerely appreciated your participation in the women's programs and your valuable feedback in the evaluations. We received twenty-one responses, the majority of which indicated the event met or exceeded their expectations and the topics were very appropriate. The most positive feedback was on the speakers and content of the leadership seminar. As always, the women were glad to meet again in person to fellowship with sisters from across the region.

Suggestions for improving the program included:

- respondents really appreciate the Silver+ Recognition being included, but some felt it would be better to have it earlier during the Leadership Seminar.

Suggested topics for future seminars included:

- Youth related discussions, including how to engage young people between ages of 18 - 40,
- Mental health awareness and overall health discussions,
- Discussion on coping with loss, relationships and difficult people in our lives
- Discussion on building up families and domestic violence.

We were delighted to have American Baptist Churches USA General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain, members of her staff, and representatives from ABCUSA affiliates join us during the annual session. Photos from the Annual Session can be found at [ABCOTS Annual Session | abcots](#) .



2026 ABWOTS Silver+ Recognition

The following women were recognized during the Annual Session for their involvement in church ministries, ABCOTS, and/or have supported ABCOTS ministry objectives for over 25 years.



AREA I

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, MD

Sister Lucinda Hall Sister Ethel Hersey Sister Ann Mullins
Sister Kathryn Rhoden Sister Mamie Stephens

Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD

Sister Hilda Campbell Sister Ruth Muldrow Sister Shirley Parker
Sister Odell Reaves Sister Olivia Stewart

AREA II

Main Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, VA

Sister Dorothy Blount Sister Barbara Davis Sister Millie Dixon
Sister Arnetta Drummond Sister Maurice Seaborne Sister Audrey Tucker
Sister Virginia Walker Sister Phyllis Wellons

AREA IV

First Baptist Institutional Church, St. Petersburg, FL

Sister Sonia Charles Sister Tonya Kittles Sister Joycelene Rose
Sister Hope Crews Sister Cassandra Broughton

AREA VII

Wainwright Baptist Church, Charlestown, WV

Sister Leslie Newman Sister Joanie Washington Sister Sylvia Young

American Baptist Women of the South Annual Session Meeting Photos



American Baptist Women of the South Annual Session Meeting Photos



ABWOTS Needs You!

Are you interested in becoming a member of the ABWOTS Executive Committee?

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your spiritual gifts with others throughout the Region of the South. We are seeking candidates to fill the positions listed below. The term of each position is three years. These positions are critical to the future success of ABWOTS, as we continue to empower women and girls to serve God.

OPEN POSITIONS

Secretary

Treasurer

Coordinator of Events

Coordinator of Young Adult Women's Ministries and

Coordinator of AB Girls

The complete list of the ABWOTS Executive Committee positions with descriptions can be found at [ABWOTS | abcots](#) .

For more information, please contact

Mrs. Kathia Miles: kathiaomiles@hotmail.com (301)233-6721
or Mrs. Clarethia N. Harris: cnhjune@aol.com (727)580-7056.

WHAT'S NEW!

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES



SAVE THE DATE

Building God's Community Women and Girls Conference



JULY 17 - JULY 18, 2026

Hybrid: Online & in person at Select
Locations

"FOR WE ARE CO-WORKERS, WORKING TOGETHER; YOU ARE GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S BUILDING." - 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9



Visit Our Website
WWW.ABWOMENSMINISTRIES.ORG

General Admission/Virtual Tickets: \$50 Late Registration (beginning July 1, 2026): \$75

Registration is now open! [Click here to register for the 2026 WGC](#)

For a printable registration form, please [click here](#).

Printable forms may be [downloaded](#) and completed online or printed. Completed forms must be scanned and emailed to info@abwomensministries.org. Checks must be made out to **AB Women's Ministries with "BGC Conference"** on the For line and mailed to:

American Baptist Women's Ministries
Re: Building God's Community Conference
1075 First Ave Ste. C-210
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Join sisters from all over the country for an exciting time of worship, empowerment and love. We are coming together to dig deeper into what it means to build God's community, individually and corporately. We will have daily worship services, bible study, workshops and fellowship. Mark your calendars and prepare your travel arrangements for our biennial Women and Girls Conference! Lord willing, we will see you there!

Registration will be online beginning July 1, 2026

Cost is \$10.00 per person—Great Time to Join Us!

Save the Date!

for our

2nd Virtual Tea

Saturday, October 24, 2026

— 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (via Zoom) —

Join us for Tea & Fellowship
from the Church or the Comfort
of Your Home!

Building God's Community

I Corinthians 3:9



CHURCH AREA MEETINGS & *Important Dates*

AUGUST 2026

Area VII Annual Meeting

August 21-23, 2026

Lovely Valley Baptist Church
839 Lovely Valley Road
Wirtz, VA 24151



SEPTEMBER 2026



World Mission Offering

September 19, 2026

Area 6 Annual Meeting

September 25-26, 2026

Area 5 Annual Meeting

*For we are co-workers
in God's service;
you are God's field,
God's building.*

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)



OCTOBER 2026



October 3, 2026

Area 1 Annual Meeting

October 9-10, 2026

Area 2 Annual Meeting

October 15-16, 2026

Area 3 Annual Meeting

October 23-24, 2026

Area 4 Annual Meeting



NOVEMBER 2026



November 4-6, 2026

ABCOTS Board of Directors Meeting

November 12-14, 2026

ABCOTS Board of Directors Meeting
Nashville, Tennessee

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH (ABCOTS)

Building God's Community

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH



SAVE THE DATE

ABCOTS
AREA 3

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 15-16, 2026

SOUTH CAROLINA

WEBSITE - WWW.ABCOTSAREA3.ORG
EMAIL - SERVICE@ABCOTSAREA3.ORG

REV. DR. STEPHEN GREENE HOWARD, MODERATOR

STAY CONNECTED AND BE A PART OF WHAT'S AHEAD—VISIT
THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.



**2026 ABWOTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President

Mrs. Cynthia Bentley

Vice-President

Event Coordinator-Co-Chair

Newsletter Coordinator

Mrs. Angelia R. Mumford

Secretary

Event Coordinator- Co-Chair

Mrs. Claretha N. Harris

Treasurer

Mrs. Kathia M. Miles

Chaplain

Mrs. Linda Woodson

Area VII Women's President

Mrs. Georgianna Jones

Spiritual Advisor

Mrs. Adranna Grant