#### Volume 2: Issue 2



#### **WHAT'S NEW ABWOTS!**

ABCUTS ABCUTS

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

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# From the Pen of ABWOT's President Cynthia Bentley



To All of the American Baptist Women of the South,

The year slowly comes to an end as we journey into the season of "Thanksgiving". May your hearts be filled with kindness, compassion and grace.

With gratitude, I am so grateful for your undoubted faith, support and love as you prayed for and with me. As you walked with me during the past year, we served in communities, attended meetings, attended the Annual Session for ABCOTS, attended regional sessions, tuned into the many webinars and zoom sessions, supported ABW Sunday in September, National Day of Prayer, the Shalom Retreat, Sojourner Truth Women's Ministry Conference, and other events that allowed you to attend, send contributions and gather with your sisters in Christ.

May the Lord continue to bless and keep you and your families during this holiday season and your heart's wishes be a true blessing to others. "Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalm 106: 1, KJV

Blessed to be a blessing.

Deacon Cynthia Bentley, President ABWOTS / ABCOTS

#### **Highlights from ABWOTS 1st Virtual Tea**

On Saturday, October 25th, we held our ABWOTS 1st Virtual Tea. Our theme for the program was "Building God's Community and the theme scripture was "For we are co-workers working together; you are God's field, God's Building", 1 Corinthians 3:9.

We proudly hosted women from the seven areas of ABCOTS adorned in beautiful hats and displaying beautiful tea settings. The Zoom space was filled with positive energy and enthusiasm as we listened to uplifting songs, prayers and messages emphasizing themes of faith, community building, and resilience.

The program began with a welcome from President Cynthia Bentley expressing gratitude for the attendees and shared enthusiasm for the afternoon's program, hoping to see everyone at the annual session in April. Dr. James Harrison, ABCOTS Executive Minister greeted the women of the South, expressing excitement for their upcoming annual session in Atlanta hosted by Friendship Baptist Church. He announced that registration for the event will be available sometime in November. Dr. Wayne G. Thompson, ABCOTS President joined the call to greet the women, expressing his honor to witness their work and labor (page 4).

The scripture reading was done by Dr. Ashley Bellamy. Afterward, Sister Linda Woodson read a Tea Poem, "Love Is a Cup of Tea" (page 5). Prayer for the occasion was done by Sister Sandra Simms.

Our guest speaker, First Lady Cathy Williams-Harrison shared her experiences with American Baptist Churches USA, highlighting its five entities and the annual offerings collected to support them. She discussed her involvement with the denomination over 40 years. Cathy also presented the mission and vision statements of ABCOTS, emphasizing their focus on Christian fellowship, cultural diversity, and educational development.

Dr. Harrison joined her to discuss the history and mission of American Baptist Churches in the South (ABCOTS), emphasizing its formation in 1971 as a response to racial divisions in America. They highlighted ABCOTS' commitment to supporting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU's), partnering with organizations promoting social justice, and fostering interracial fellowship. ABCOTS provided opportunities for African American churches to participate in insurance and retirement programs, attracting many members. The organization's goals, including supporting HBCUs and partnering with civil rights organizations, remain central to its mission today.

ABCOTS Executive Minister,
Rev. Dr. James Harrison and
First Lady, Cathy Harrison

MOUNT CARMEL

We played a lively game called "What's in Your Purse?" where participants counted items from a list that they had in their purses. Two participants tied for having thirteen items, winning gift bags as prizes that were mailed to them after the Tea.

#### **Highlights from ABWOTS 1st Virtual Tea (continued)**



Rev. Chastity Veasley

We were blessed by a powerful and motivational message from our guest preacher, Rev. Chastity Veasley. She referenced 1 Corinthians 3:5-10, highlighting the importance of God's role in growth and the unity of the group. The discussion centered on the concept of a home improvement project, drawing parallels to the group's mission of building God's community, with a focus on collaboration and trust in achieving their goals. She emphasized teamwork and unity among women, drawing parallels from Paul's letter to the Corinthians about serving God and building His community. She highlighted the importance of planting and watering seeds of faith in everyday spaces, using various venues including social media, and encouraged active participation in God's work without limitations. Rev. Veasley also discussed the concept of the church as a living, spiritual building, urging believers to

be mobile and responsive to God's call to extend His community to reach those in need of hope and love. She emphasized the need to trust in God's plan and of perseverance in serving His community. Attendees were encouraged to remain steadfast, take breaks for self-care, and continue "Building" God's kingdom through intergenerational bridges and community healing.

The event concluded with remarks from the Vice President, Angelia Mumford and President Cynthia Bentley who expressed gratitude for the turnout for this special occasion. This was a testament to the importance of our staying connected so that we continue to "Building God's Community". We are excited about the future plans of ABWOTS including the newsletter coming in November, the Annual Session in Atlanta in April and ongoing community service activities in our areas and churches.



ABW Ministries Ministry Focus for 2025-2027



#### **Joyful Greetings to You:**

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is with great enthusiasm that I join your excitement in the creation of the first annual Virtual Tea for American Baptist Women of the South. Your bold leadership conveys to all your commitment to broadening our reach for Christ in our region.

Your theme verse, "Building God's Community" 1 Cor. 3:9. — *For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building,* challenges us to embrace both our sacred calling and responsibility to cultivate unity, faithfulness, and purpose as partners in the ongoing work of God.

I am deeply grateful for the tireless dedication of your President, Cynthia Bentley, and her cabinet who continue to serve faithfully in these challenging times. May this convention renew our commitment to partnership — with God and with one another. Let us build courageously, love generously, and serve humbly, knowing that the Master Builder is at work in and through us.

# Dr. Wayne G. Thompson To God Be the Glory

#### Love Is A Cup Of Tea, by Marissa Slack

Hot tea is a precious daily ritual Chamomile, Strawberry, Rosehips — The flavor is insignificant

Steam grazes the apples of my cheeks
It flushes my skin and fills
My body with warmth

I watch the golden liquid swirl Mesmerized by the gentle flow Bewitched by the earthy aroma

The warm liquid melts my worries Even if only for a moment The energy is still around me

When you came into my life You made me feel like tea does — Warm, Peaceful, Happy

You instantly wove tea into our life A mug in the morning while We curl up together on the couch

> Before bed a steaming cup Makes our eyelids heavy We doze off entwined

Tea to soothe sickness Tea to cheer up a bad day Tea to be present with each other

Maybe I love tea for its Mellow flavors and calming properties Maybe I love that tea reminds me of you



## **ABWOTS 1st Virtual TEA Photos**











### **ABWOTS 1st Virtual TEA Photos**



























We are thankful for each one of you and pray that God's blessings in your life will be abundant!

Always Grateful
ABWOTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### **Focus on Area Meetings**



On, August 23, 2025, the Brackett-Morrell Missionary Society, Area VII held their Annual Session at the Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Blainesville, Virginia. The host pastor was the Rev. Priscilla Ousley.

The morning service was opened by a sermon from the Rev. Dorothy Roman, associate minister at the St. Luke Baptist Church, in Berryville, Virginia. Her sermon title: "It's for His Glory" from Joshua 21:45. She spoke of Joshua having taken over from Moses as leader of the children of Israel as they entered the Promised Land. They had waited 40 years trusting and obeying God's word. Now as the leader, Joshua had to lead the Israelites through several battles to reach the Promised Land. Everything we do we must be done for the Glory of God.



Area VII President
Deaconess Georgianna Jones

Afterward our President Deaconess Georgianna Jones asked if our visitor

Vice-President Angelia Mumford for the American Baptist Women Church of the South (ABWOTS) would give us words of greeting from ABWOTS. Vice-President Munford invited our ladies to join ABWOTS on Oct 25, 2025 in our first Virtual Tea.

We also had greeting from Dr. James Harrison, our Executive Minister of ABCOTS. Dr. Harrison informed us that the 56<sup>th</sup> ABCOTS Convention will be in Atlanta, GA, April 28-30, 2026.

That afternoon President Jones delivered her President's address, "The Tragedy of An Apathetic Church". She spoke on the fact we are living in a world where hatred is running wild, morals are unheard of and people are accepting truth for lie and lie for the truth. Our system is broken due to greed and arrogance and because of some people's distorted concept of what Christianity truly is.

The church has always made its presence known during times of trouble. Yet, here in this perilous time when the Christian Community needs the church, it appears nonexistent. If our beloved community is going to be built then it is the church that must build it. We can build our beloved community in simple but powerful ways, such as:

#### Focus on Area Meetings (continued)

- Checking in on our elderly –these can be lonely and uncertain times for our elderly,
- Addressing mental health issues within the black community,
- Bridging the gap between our youth and the church,
- Educating our youth, especially about their own history and our place in the history of the church,
- Giving our youth hope for the future and stop the gun violence,
- · Providing shelter for the homeless,
- Feeding the hungry,
- Providing a voice for the voiceless,
- Advocating for the downtrodden,
- Showing compassion for the immigrant.
- Speaking truth to power.

<u>Area 1</u> The annual meeting was held at Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore MD. They spoke about the open positions including getting a moderator for the area.

ABWOTS President Cynthia Bentley and Vice President Angelia Mumford led the women's session speaking on the ABW Ministries new theme and theme scripture for 2025—2027.

<u>Area II</u> The annual meeting was held at Main Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, VA on October 10-11, 2025.. The theme was "Living For Christ; Serving the Present Age. The theme scripture was from Acts 13:32-42. Presiding was the moderator, Rev. Michael Shannon, Second Baptist Church, Richmond, VA. Bible Study was conducted by Dr. Theodore Brown, Quioccasin Baptist Church. Again they spoke about the open positions, communication and the ABWOTS President, Cynthia Bentley and Vice President, Angelia Mumford spoke on how we need to fill the open positions. ABWOTS Treasurer Kathia Miles spoke about Love Gift.

<u>Area III</u> The annual meeting was held at Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC. on October 17-18, 2025. The theme was "Living for Christ; Serving the Present Age". The theme scripture was from Acts 13:32-42. Presiding was the moderator, Rev. Dr. Stephen Greene, Howard.

### 2025 ABWOTS Thanksgiving "Thanks"



**Giving Thanks** 

Giving thanks for my ABWOTS
Family- Remembering you
warmly and thanking GOD for all
of you. Wishing you a Wonderful Thanksgiving.

Kathia Miles, ABWOTS Treasurer



Thanksgiving Reflections

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, it is important to reflect on the many blessings we have in our lives. Sometimes when we go through difficult times, we tend to forget about the good times and the goodness of God. I am always encour-

aged when I remember one of my favorite psalms that I learned as a child, Psalm 100.



May Our Hearts!

This Thanksgiving season may our hearts overflow with an attitude of gratitude. May our eyes see the love of Christ in all we say and do. May we have ears that hear only you speaking. May we be more sensitive to the needs of others.

Help us with our attitude of gratitude that we may draw strength from deep within our thankful hearts. May we not allow our frustration's and unmet expectations distract us from the reason for the season. Help us to have a Thankful heart everyday. (Phil 4:6 NKJV) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Linda Woodson, ABWOTS Chaplain



Let us practice what we preach about gratitude by showing it in our attitudes and our actions. Let us gladly give thanks to God for his goodness and joyfully praise his name. Let us be thankful to him for blessing and keeping us and our families. Let us show kindness to our brothers and sisters by blessing them, especially the less fortunate. A simple gesture - a smile, a greeting, or a warm meal can work wonders in someone's life, often in ways we cannot anticipate.

May we wake with glad and grateful hearts, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but each day the good Lord gives us.

Claretha N. Harris, ABWOTS Secretary

#### Psalms 100, KJV

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."

### 2025 ABWOTS Thanksgiving "Thanks"



Thanksgiving Message

On the occasion of Thanksgiving, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to each of you. May this season be filled with peace, joy, and meaningful moments shared with family and friends. Thank you for

your continued support and kindness. Wishing you a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

Angelia Mumford, ABWOTS Vice-President, Event Coordinator and Newspaper Publisher



Thanksgiving Message for all the Women of the American Baptist Women of the South

Dear Sisters in Christ,
As we gather with our
families, friends and love
ones during this season of

gratitude, may our hearts be filled with the deep and abiding joy that comes from knowing whom we serve. Thanksgiving reminds us not only to count our blessings, but to remember the Giver of every good and perfect gift. Wishing each of you who is traveling a safe and bless holiday.

Georgianna Jones, Area VII President



Blessing and Thanksgiving American
Baptist Women of the South

May your hearts and home be filled with peace and your lives overflowing with God's goodness.

I am so grateful and give thanks for your servant heart, kindness, pray-

ers and love that you extend each and every day as God's servants.

May God continue to bless you with his everlasting love.

"Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever. Psalms 107

Adranna Grant, ABWOTS Spiritual Advisor

#### WHAT'S NEW!

# Lott Carey Global Ambassadors presents A Virtual Jazz Tea

November 29, 2025, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



To register, click the link below to experience a sophisticated virtual gathering with jazz melodies and fine tea and show off your best hat, fascinator or gele, all for a wonderful cause. Your participation will help enhance the David and Pam Goatley School Library.

Lott Carey Global Ambassadors Virtual Jazz Tea

What's UP ABWM?

Regional Meeting

Tuesday December 9, 2025
8:00pm ET/5:00pm PT

Free & All women are welcome

Registration required

For more information visit www.abwomensministries.org

Typically, What's UP ABWM is done by region, however, this particular gathering is for all regions of ABWM. All regions join us for updates from the national office. Registration required to receive the link. To register, please click here.

#### **WHAT'S NEW!**



### Join ABCOTS in Atlanta, GA 56th Annual Session

Theme: "A Call to Social Justice and Individual Reflection" - Isaiah 1:17
Theme Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

SAVE THE DATE: April 28th - 30th, 2026

Host Area: III Host Church: Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA Dr. Kelly Miller Smith, Jr. Pastor









Remember to send your announcements about upcoming events at your church or in your area to us at abwotswomen@gmail.com for publication in our next newsletter!

#### WHAT'S NEW!

This is a request from Kimberly Clement, a former member of the ABWOTS Executive Committee and former President of Area II Women. Kimberly's husband, Vernon Clement is the current President of ABMOTS. Both of them have faithfully served in ABCOTS, ABWOTS and ABMOTS for many years.

#### Help Kimberly Breathe Easy Again



**Kimberly Clement** 

#### Hey there!

I'm reaching out because I'm raising funds to help with my medical expenses related to Interstitial Lung Disease, brought on by lupus. Because my condition is not getting better, I may need a lung transplant. Every donation makes a significant difference in my journey, so if you could please consider clicking the link below to contribute or share it, I would be incredibly grateful! Thank you for your support!

https://gofund.me/a5d67e668

# **ABWOTS Open Positions**

Coordinator of Mission with Women and Girls promotes the vision for all women and girls to have opportunities to live in the fullness of God's purpose for their lives; studies issues related to executive committee's current emphases on women and girls and suggests materials for study and action; promotes the Women and Girls Mission Fund and special mission projects that empower women and girls; suggests ideas for education and promotion of mission related resources.

**Coordinator of Events** provides leadership in planning all regional women's events sponsored by ABWOTS; oversees and delegates tasks in the implementation of regional ABWOTS meetings and conferences; assures that the conference revenues exceed expenses; and leads the budgeting process for upcoming conferences working with the Treasurer.

Coordinator of AB Girls is responsible for the regional Gathering of Girls and promotes AB GIRLS.

Coordinator of Love Gift is responsible for the education and promotion of the Love Gift offering.

Area President positions for Area I, II, III, IV, V and VI are also open.

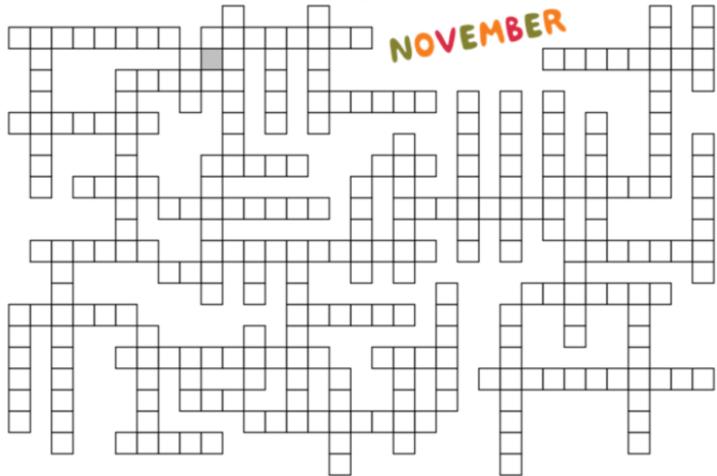




# **Thanksgiving Word Fill In**



Write the words in the correct place on the grid based on the number of letters.



3 letters
car
nap
dad
mom
yam
son
pie

4 letters aunt fall trip

QOBBLE QOBBLE 5 letters train gravy uncle beans acorn feast bread

6 letters apples gobble parade family sister gourds autumn dinner turkey travel

7 letters
grandma
cousins
blessed
foliage
brother
friends
harvest
grandpa

grateful stuffing together pumpkins potatoes thankful airplane daughter football potatoes November

9 letters relatives

© Puzzle Cheer

casserole plentiful tradition

10 letters cornucopia appreciate

11 letters decorations celebration





NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24, 2025



#### ABWM Ministry Focus 2025-2027 "Building God's Community"

As we step into the next two years, American Baptist Women's Ministries will unite under a new ministry theme: "Building God's Community." This theme is both a call and a commitment: to construct lives, relationships, and ministries that reflect God's design and serve God's people.

#### Ministry Focus 2025-2027 Scripture:

**1 Corinthians 3:9**, we are reminded that we are not laboring alone. We are co-workers with Christ, called to cultivate spiritual soil, lay strong foundations, and build together for God's glory.

#### **Condolences to the families**

of

Sister Mozelle Parker in the loss of her husband

and

First Lady Cathy Harrison in the loss of her brother and aunt





#### **Dear ABWOTS**

Thank you for the honor to serve during the Women's Virtual Tea and for the lovely gifts! May God continue to bless you in every endeavor to Build Community for His Glory! Again, Thank You!

Sincerely,
Rev. Chastity Veasley

# 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