

American Baptist Woman of the Year – 2019

Carolyn Grapentine

“She reflects God’s love in her life, her work, and in all her ministries.” “She is tireless in her activities in the church, including Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, bell and chancel choirs.” “She has furthered the work of God’s Kingdom by helping the poor – working on our garden which fed many hungry people.” “She is energetic, creative, and talented. She is always ready to help with food for pot-lucks, hunger meals, and is willing to create menus, shop for food, prepare it and serve it.” “She has traveled overseas on church mission projects and seen first-hand our American Baptist Mission Field.”



Our 2019 American Baptist Women of Michigan’s Woman of the Year has been deeply active for many years in the life of American Baptists in our state. The wife of an American Baptist pastor, she has “...set a high standard for what a pastor’s spouse should be.” One person wrote that “I have never seen anybody do so many wonderful projects with such a wonderful manner!”

As your President, I can attest to how this woman has impacted many people. I have never received as many nominating and supporting letters on the behalf of a candidate for Woman of the Year. They came from her church and from churches in the ABW’s Central Area.

Several people describe her “an angel among us!” One writer commented, “I did not list in my nominating letter all she does for ABW Ministries. You must be aware of that!” Whether in work in advocating for and promoting “Scholarship Girl” or her work in the past as Conference Chairperson, Chair of ABW’s by-law revision, just serving where needed, she has been at the forefront of the work of the Women’s Ministries of the American Baptist Churches of Michigan. She is the wife of Rev. Chris Grapentine and mother to William and Elizabeth.

It is my privilege to introduce the 2019 ABW Ministries Woman of the Year –
Carolyn Grapentine, First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor, MI