

I learned to choose serving God and my community over giving into my own insecurity. This is a lesson that I have taken with me these years since and hope to continue to learn. I still am quiet, awkward, though perhaps slightly less of a kid, and I will remain grateful for the experience that I had.

Thank you for supporting the youth in our churches, and thank you for giving me the opportunities from which I have continued to grow to be the woman God is creating me to be."

Through your gifts to Region Offering, other youth have an opportunity to grow in their faith through American Baptist Youth.

Please place your offering envelope in your church's offering or mail a check made out to "American Baptist Churches NYS" with the form below directly to:

American Baptist Churches of New York State  
5865 East Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville NY 13078  
315.469.4236 Fax: 315.492.2369



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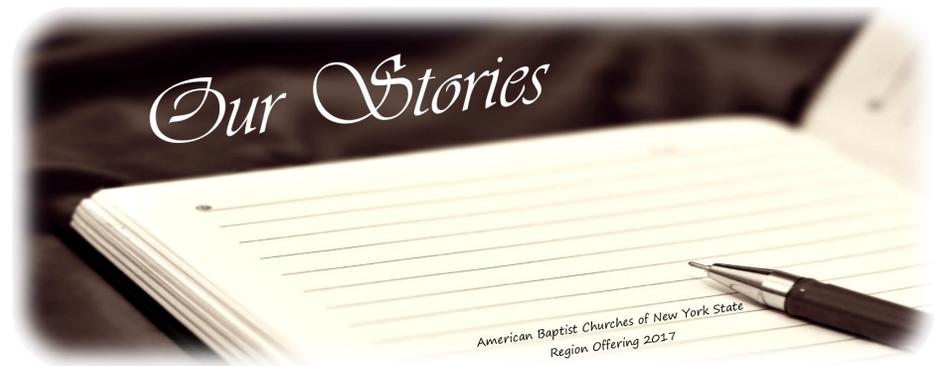
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## AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH

*American Baptist Churches of New York State wanted to hear stories of how the Region impacted individuals throughout the state and beyond. These are their stories, in their words. Amanda Nouvong, a senior at Houghton College, was the American Baptist Youth President in 2012. Here is her story of how this experience shaped her:*

"Hello, American Baptist Family! I am a current senior at Houghton College, (at least planning on) graduating this May with a Bachelor's Degree in Intercultural Studies.

Shortly before starting off my college career, I served as President of American Baptist Youth Cabinet and Chairperson of ABGIRLS commission in 2012. And I had no idea what I was doing going into it, even with a year experience on my belt. I praise God because during my time of serving in these positions, I learned that I didn't have to. That year, my faith had grown exponentially because being a leader was uncharted territory for me. I had (and honestly still continue to) identify as that quiet, awkward kid. How could I be a leader? Even so, Jesus patiently guided me through it and taught me that good leadership means serving those that you are leading.