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### ABCORI Bi-Weekly E-Notes

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[www.abcori.org](http://www.abcori.org)  
[www.canonicus.org](http://www.canonicus.org)  
[www.johnclarke.org](http://www.johnclarke.org)  
[E-Note Guidelines](#)

**THE WEEK AHEAD**– this information is now in the [Calendar](#) on the last page.

#### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Our precious soldiers, male and female, serving and returned, their families, communities and loved ones, as we mark the fifth year of the war in Iraq.

#### FROM LILIANA'S DESK

Can you feel the Spring coming? Despite the lingering cold of Winter, there are so many signs of new life that one cannot help but anticipate the wonders of the approaching season. Squirrels are out and birds are chirping; already some trees display the announcement of newly born leaves, and Holy Week is at our door.

Lent came early this year and amazingly, Palm Sunday is already upon us. I'd like to encourage you to consider your personal spiritual walk this Passion Week. Remember when you were a baby in the faith and were learning all things about God and God's Word? Meditate about the special times when the Holy Spirit touched you and taught you new things. Think about your own growth in patience, love, faith and mercy. Then ask God to allow you to look ahead and have a vision of your life in the next ten or twenty years. Where do you want to go from here? Is there any spiritual development that you would still like to achieve?

I believe that we are "learning beings" and we keep learning as long as we are alive. As God has brought us together to minister to the people in this Region, I think that our strength will come from our faith journey and the new things we can discover about ourselves, about each other, and about God. May this coming Resurrection Sunday bring a renewed desire to engage the walk, new discernment of God's Spirit in our midst, and the gift of spiritual and relational vitality to us all. Happy Easter!

#### NOTES from the DIRECTOR of ADMINISTRATION, Liz Lussier

**RESOURCE PACKETS:** The Resource Packet (formerly the QRP) has been mailed. The contents are divided into specific sections for churches, pastors, youth, missions, Elder Care, and other related ministries. This revision is a direct result of the ABCORI survey feedback that you provided last December and January. We trust that the distribution of the information in the packets will be more user-friendly. Packets also contain **ANNUAL GATHERING information** and **registration forms**, and the invitation to the **POOLED FUND DINNER** on March 31. Much of this information is also available on our ABCORI website.

**SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES have arrived!** Churches may pick up packets of 10 brochures at the main office at Canonicus. Those on our camp mailing list will receive their copy in the mail.

**CAMPERSHIP INFORMATION:** Important scholarship information will be mailed next week to each church. If you have not done so already, please designate one person in your congregation to oversee the dissemination of this material to your youth! **Campership money is available** so that every ABCORI young person may receive partial financial support to attend at least one week of summer camp.

**ABCORI WEBSITE:** The website continues to expand and now contains more helpful information. If you have not accessed the site in the past month, please take a few minutes to review its contents. [www.abcori.org](http://www.abcori.org)

#### ELDERCARE NEWS

It is not too late to be thinking about **Grandparents Camp** for Summer 2008! The program has been set and it looks to be another great week of intergenerational camp! As usual, grandparents and grandkids, from around New England and beyond, will be gathering in July at Canonicus to spend some quality time together. Accommodations are in the comfortable and air-conditioned retreat houses with meals at Shaub Dining Hall. Activities include vespers, campfires, swimming, boating, fishing, waterslide, hikes, arts & crafts and a service project. Mid-week we will spend a day at Watch Hill at the beach and one evening will be a trip to the Big Apple Circus in Charlestown! The dates for Grandparents Camp are July 6 –11<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$250 per person. Camperships are available by contacting Kathy Black at (401)294-6318, ext. 102. Registrations are online at [www.canonicus.org](http://www.canonicus.org).

Save-the-Date for this year's **Volunteer Appreciation Banquet** to be held at Canonicus on Thursday, May 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Invitations will be going out after Easter.

### **30TH ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK FOR HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS**

Join the members of People's Baptist Church, 1275 Elmwood Ave. Cranston, for all or part of a walk, this Good Friday (March 21st at 9AM) as we once again "walk the talk" to raise awareness and raise financial support to feed the poor and homeless in RI. Each step we take helps to alleviate some of the need to feed RI. The walk culminates at the State House. Pastor Don & Karen Heath have walked on Good Friday for the past 20 years. Call Pastor Don Heath for info in walking or pledging. 467-8220  
<http://www.goodfridaywalkforhungerri.org>

### **HOLY WEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

The Ministers Alliance of RI (see attached flyer) Monday through Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and on Good Friday Noon – 3:00 p.m. and evening service 7:00 p.m. Union Baptist Church, 50 Lupine Street, Pawtucket, RI (401) 724-8887

### **HIGH PRIORITY APPEAL FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE– YOUR HELP NEEDED!**

To Mission Service Coordinators from Virginia Holstrom (Ex. Director of AB Women's Ministries) to spread the word that a high priority appeal has been received from Church World Service for **Clean Up Kits**. After an active early winter (Southern tornadoes, Midwest floods) CWS has only 48 Emergency Clean Up Buckets on hand at the warehouse in New Windsor, MD. What makes this even more dire is the timing. After record snowfalls across the upper Midwest and in the Northeast, March thawing will likely cause flooding soon. Assembling Clean Up Kits makes a great service project for church groups, Scout troops, etc. More info can be found online at <http://www.churchworldservices.org/kits/cleanup-kits.html>

### **CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER AND TALENT SHOW**

Saturday, March 15, 2008, Spring Green Memorial Church call 463-8328. A single seating at 5:00 pm, followed by the entertainment. Tickets are available now and seating is limited. Tickets purchased in advance: \$10.00 (ages 13 & up); \$5.00 (ages 6-12); FREE (ages 5 & under - no ticket needed). Please add \$1.00 to the above prices for tickets purchased at the door. All proceeds will go to support our youth & young adults who are attending the American Baptist National Youth Gathering in Colorado, this July.

**BEHOLD** our new email address [wcbc01@verizon.net](mailto:wcbc01@verizon.net) Warwick Central Baptist Church

### **ABCORI MISSION EXPLOSION TO INDIA**

Meeting April 3, for final preparations to the upcoming 10-day mission trip to India, first week of June 2008. The cost of the trip is around \$2500. Anyone, including those who intend to travel in the future, can attend this meeting for prayer and/or strategic intelligence gathering. Several people are not going but will be our prayer partners, and some are willing to help with raising funds for this mission endeavor.

Those who have signed up to go on this exploratory trip to investigate the building construction of the James Children's Home must obtain a valid passport from a local post office, which takes about 5 or 6 weeks. Your passport must be enclosed with Visa application while applying for a Tourist Visa from the Indian Embassy in New York. Applying for a visa by mail takes very long. The tourist visa is granted at the NY Indian Embassy, on the same day, if submitted in person before 9:00AM. More information is going to be presented about the Trip and the James Children's Home ministry in the upcoming meeting on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 262 Academy Avenue, Providence, RI. Please call the church at 351-2347 if you have any questions. Dr. Paul Lawrence

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY KNITTERS**

An invitation to get together Monday, April 7, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. North Scituate Baptist Church, 619 West Greenville Road (Rte. 116). Bring your work and a bag lunch; the North Scituate Knitters will provide drinks and dessert. We will have time to fellowship and share our stories. Please **RSVP** Ann Aldrich: phone 934-0798 or email [Rossena24@aol.com](mailto:Rossena24@aol.com).

### **BEAVER DAY!**

Our first Beaver Day of the season Saturday, April 12 at Canonicus. Join Matt Black and the maintenance crew in getting the property opened up and ready for the summer camping season. The day will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm with a variety of jobs. Come on your own or bring a work party from your church. The more the merrier! Lunch is included. Please let Matt know you can help out by calling (401)294-6318, ext. 105 or emailing him at [matt@abcori.org](mailto:matt@abcori.org).

### **OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS**

It is no surprise to anyone that our state is in the midst of a budget crisis that is adversely impacting many of our most vulnerable citizens. As a council of churches, we have been and will continue to work with other faith leaders and members of our government to try to help mitigate the impact of these cuts. One area that has been of particular concern to many in our constituency is healthcare for children. The Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is spearheading an effort to inform and mobilize citizens around this issue. We are passing this information along to everyone on our list because of the number of persons who have expressed a desire to speak to this issue. Contact Neighborhood Health Plan's Craig O'Connor – 401-459-6189 and see: <http://ritecareworks.org/index.html>

**FINANCIAL SEMINAR**

"On Saturday, April 12th a Crown Financial Seminar: The Road to Financial Freedom, will be held at the North Scituate Baptist church. The seminar will discuss the way of handling your finances God's way and includes a hands on budget workshop for you to begin your own Road to Financial Freedom. The cost is \$25.00 for the seminar and this includes a workbook and CD. Prepayment is required. You can register for this seminar at [www.crown.org](http://www.crown.org) or call the church at 647-3238 for more information. The seminar will begin promptly at 8:30 and end at 4:30. A lunch will be provided for a cost of \$6.00."

**ON-LINE SPRING SEMINARS FOR LAITY AND CLERGY FROM ANDOVER NEWTON**

These seminars are for you if you are interested in enhancing your own spiritual growth, learning more about the Bible, developing your leadership skills, deepening your faith, expanding your church's ministry. ●**Empowerment Seminars** are in-depth seminars primarily intended as continuing education for clergy, but open to everyone. Never Call Them Jerks with Arthur Paul Boers April 21 – May 16 Disciple-Forming Congregations with Jeff Jones April 28 – May 23. ●**Enrichment Seminars** are less intense, for both laity and clergy, offered at different levels. This spring's seminars are: Brushing Up on the New Testament – April 28 - May23, Teaching Peace and Justice with Children – April 7 - May 2, Islam: A Basic Introduction – April 7 - May 2

For full seminar descriptions go to our website at [www.ants.edu/learn](http://www.ants.edu/learn) and click on Seminar Listings in the menu on the left. To register click on Register for LEARN Seminars. For further information contact Jeff Jones, Director of Distance Learning, at [jjones@ants.edu](mailto:jjones@ants.edu).

**MISSIONARY IN RESIDENCE**

Enrique Newman, from Honduras, will be in RI for the month of March. Please contact: Marilyn Gustafson at (401) 295-5581 or [marilqus@aol.com](mailto:marilqus@aol.com) to arrange speaking engagements. Visit: <http://newmanmissions.com/Site/Home-1.html> and learn more about this ministry.

March 16	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Central, Jamestown	Worship Speaking forum
March 16	6:30 p.m.	Community Christian Fellowship Plainfield, CT	Speaking forum
March 30	11:00 a.m.	Phillips, Cranston	Speaking forum
March 30	4:00 p.m.	Shawomet, Warwick	Speak and potluck supper
April 6	9:30 a.m.	Pawtuxet Baptist, Cranston	Speak during worship
April 6	5:00 p.m.	Iglesia La Esperanza, Providence	Speaking forum
April 13	10:00 a.m.	Central Baptist, Westfield, MA	Speaking during worship
April 20	10:15 a.m.	First Baptist, Pawtucket	Speaking during and after worship
April 20	4:00 p.m.	First Baptist, Hingham MA	Speak at Mission Dinner

**Shawomet Baptist Church:** On March 30, at 4:00 p.m. Enrique Newman will be the missionary speaker at our potluck supper. All are cordially invited to come and hear him, bring your favorite dish to share. Please call the church office at

The ABCORI <a href="#">Calendar</a>			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
March 13	7-8:00 p.m.	Informational Forum #1 New Structure	First, East Greenwich
March 14	10:30 a.m.	Children In Poverty Initiative	Lawrence Building
March 15	5:00 p.m.	Corned Beef & Cabbage and a Talent Show	Spring Green Memorial
March 16	6:30 p.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for RI Food Bank	Lakewood, Warwick
March 17	4:00 p.m.	Investment Committee	Phillips Memorial
March 20		TIM Group meeting in Greene Retreat House	All Staff
March 21	<b>ALL DAY</b>	<b>ABCORI OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
March 21	9:00 a.m.	Good Friday Walk	Peoples Baptist, Cranston
March 24	<b>Due:</b> Reports all Boards, Committees, Taskforces, Affiliated Organizations...		
March 27	12:00 p.m.	Baptist Heritage Center	Motter
March 30	<b>4-5:00 p.m.</b>	Informational Forum #2 New Structure	United, Newport
March 31	6:00 p.m.	Pooled Fund Dinner	Warwick Central
April 1	<b>Due date</b>	<b>2007 Annual Church Report</b>	<b>Mail or complete on-line</b>
April 1	5:00 p.m.	New Life 2010	Community, Providence
April 1	7 p.m.	DCL	Community, Providence

April 2	7-8:00 p.m.	Informational Forum #3 New Structure	Congdon Street Baptist
April 3	7:00 p.m.	India Mission Explosion meeting	Mt. Pleasant, Providence
April 4 & 5	Friday & Sat	Spirituality & Stewardship biennial event	Crowne Plaza Worcester MA
April 5	9-3:00 p.m.	ABWMRI State Meeting	Memorial,- Seekonk
April 7	11-2:00p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministries Knit-Together	North Scituate
April 12	9-3:00 p.m.	Beaver Day	Canonicus
April 19	9-3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus – Tefft Chapel
April 21	6:00 p.m.	AB Women’s Ministries Board	Phillips Memorial
April 22	7:00 p.m.	Board of Mission	Berean Baptist
<b>April 26</b>	<b>8:15- 5 p.m.</b>	<b>ABCORI Annual Gathering Session B</b>	<b>Central Baptist—Westerly</b>
May 1	6:00p.m.	Volunteer Banquet	Shaub Lodge, Canonicus
May 5-7		Ministers Retreat	Block Island
May 9-11		175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festivities	1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist of Woonsocket
May 17	11 a.m.-3p.m.	Open House Summer Camp	Canonicus
May 20	4:00 p.m.	S & A	N. Scituate
May 31		Beaver Day	Canonicus
June	1 <sup>st</sup> week	Mission Trip to India	James Children’s Home,India
June 6 & 7		ABWM June Conference	Canonicus
June 22		Week One of Camp	Canonicus
June 22	4:30 p.m.	ABCORI Celebration of Faith	Calvary Baptist Church
Sept 19-21		ABCUSA World Mission Conf.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Baptist–Suffield CT
Sept. 29	6:00 p.m.	Mission Celebration – ABCORI	TBA
Oct 4		Crop Walk	Goddard State Park Warwick
Oct 18	3 – 8 p.m.	ABW Fall Meeting	TBA

[CALENDAR ON LINE](#)

AS SPACE ALLOWS