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American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
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ABCORI Bi-Weekly E-Notes

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[E-Note Guidelines](#)

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

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 03/26/08) — Rev. Dr. David T. Shannon died Saturday, March 22 in Atlanta, Ga. after a period of declining health. He was 74. Perhaps best known as the first African American president of Andover Newton Theological School, Shannon was an American Baptist pastor, educator, representative and author. ([Click to read more](#))

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

Greetings from Puerto Rico! When I left on March 15 for eight days of preaching and ministering to the people of Cayey, PR I had mixed feelings. I excitedly anticipated the experiences God had in store for me here. At the same time, I was sorry to leave RI where we are in the midst of so much happening: the new structure process, plans for evangelism training sessions, the formation of a new Missional church learning community, the visit of Enrique Newman to promote the Honduras Mission Explosion, plus a couple of other things.

I have finished my work here and am resting for a few days. As I do that, I have time to consider all these things and I realize that the best way to gain perspective is from a distance. Allow me to share some of my findings:

- The people of God will maximize their blessings by projecting their ministry outside the four walls of the local churches
- God has a ministry of power ready to be experienced by His people if they surrender to Him.
- People are broken and we have what it takes to heal them
- Unity among the people of God is the key to renewal
- We cannot even imagine the things God will do among us until we humble ourselves and pray

I am well aware that most of these things are not new to you, but a fresh look at what we do and who we are in Christ is a great exercise that will contribute to our overall health as the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island.

NOTES from the DIRECTOR, Liz Lussier

ABCORI STAFF UPDATE: I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Nicholas Greco** to the position of Food Service Manager for ABCORI at Canonicus. Nick was born in Jersey City, NJ and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He earned his degree in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Poughkeepsie, NY. He comes to us with a wealth of experience and a passion for cooking having been employed as chef with the Waldorf Astoria, Tavern on the Green and Windows on the World. Locally, Nick was Commissary Production Manager for Dave's Marketplace gaining many years of experience in health, nutrition, cost control and customer satisfaction. At Canonicus, he will oversee the entire food service operation for both our conference and camp ministries, as well as special ABCORI events. **Buzz Perry**, our Kitchen Supervisor, will continue in his important position and will manage the kitchen when Nick has time off. Nick looks forward to "bringing a world of new delectable culinary dishes" to the conference and camp menus. Nick resides in Warwick. He is an active member of Christ Church in East Greenwich where he appreciates the love of his Christian family with which God has blessed him. Nick writes, "I am the father of a beautiful 10 year old daughter named Sara Harmony and I am blessed in having a major part in her upbringing as we share precious memories together." Please join me in welcoming "Chef Nick" to our ABCORI family!

CAMPERSHIP INFORMATION: Campership packets have been mailed to each church with all necessary campership application information. Please be sure to photocopy this information and distribute to families and friends with children ages 4 - 18. Campership money is made possible through the generosity of donors, endowments, Turtle Team giving, and grants, such as the Champlin Foundations, so that every ABCORI young person may receive partial financial support to attend at least one week of summer camp.

2007 COOPERATING CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS

A BIG Thank you and God Bless to the 16 churches who have mailed these reports to us already and the two who filed it on-line. That is 18 down and fifty-five more to go! Due April 1

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 739-7184

INDIA MISSION EXPLOSION

Anyone interested in being involved in the Mission Explosion to India is invited to a meeting at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 7:00 PM. We will be discussing plans for the initial visit in June 2008. This will be a great opportunity to find out how your church can be involved with this exciting mission opportunity. For questions, please contact Rev. Dr. D. Paul Lawrence at 351-2347.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES

GRANT TRAINING - New Roots Providence invites you to the next opportunity in our free training series. On Wednesday, April 9 and Saturday April 12, New Roots will be hosting the *Introduction to Grantwriting* training led by Ms. Rebecca Johnson. To get information on dates, times and locations or to register for either of the trainings please see <http://newrootsprovidence.org/calendar/>. For any questions, please contact Monsurat Ottun at mottun@provplan.org.

END OF LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CLERGY - Odyssey HealthCare of RI offering, on Thursday, May 8th from 8:30 am to 2 pm at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Providence. The training is based on curriculum developed by the Hospice Foundation of America and draws from the experiences of clergy and leading experts in the fields of pastoral care and thanatology. Odyssey's goal for the program is to provide current information, tools and resources to enhance ministry at the end of life. Participants will receive a copy of the workshop curriculum, as well as a 6 CD series entitled "Clergy to clergy: helping you to minister to those confronting illness, death and grief." A light breakfast and lunch will also be provided. The workshop and materials are provided at no cost to participants by the Odyssey HealthCare Foundation. For more information contact Martha Kay Nelson or Sherilyn Pearce at (401)827-0011 or at nelson@odsyhealth.com. For their informational flyer, click [here](#).

AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

STATE MEETING: On Saturday, April 5th "Come to the Edge of Your Community and Expand It" at Memorial Baptist Church in Seekonk. Lt Col Chaplain Geraldine Youlden will speak, there will be workshops led by Peggy, Donna, Marilyn, Holly, and Alice. Money will be raised for Children in Poverty and the Breaking the Chains project through a blind auction of items donated by churches throughout our area. There will be a free will offering for lunch. The deadline has been extended! Please call Donna at 508-222-1787 by March 28, to ensure enough food & program materials for everyone!

WHITE CROSS OVERSEAS UPDATE - Our Region's assigned 2007-2008 request for Congo/Chile/China is \$3300, of which 26.39% or \$1260 has been received by International Ministries, at Valley Forge. We still need to fulfill the remaining \$2040. If your donation has yet to be mailed, please do so by April 30. For further information or questions, contact Janet Chermis, White Cross Associate, 737-5622

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRIES PARTICIPANTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!

You are invited to meet Monday, April 7th, at North Scituate Baptist Church, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch, drinks and desserts provided. We will gather to share experiences and fellowship. Bring what you are working on. We will tell our stories informally. Please RSVP to Ann Aldrich, by Email Rossena24@aol.com or telephone 934-0798. We look forward to our getting together.

FIRE CODE UPDATE

The new fire code has been passed. Mr. Thomas Coffey, Executive Director of the RI Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal & Review, will review the new code and answer questions at a meeting sponsored by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches on: **Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 3:00 PM. at the Woodridge Congregational Church**, on 546 Budlong Road, Cranston. Please call Dolores Taylor, 401-461-5558, to let us know you are coming. You WILL leave this meeting informed and encouraged.

MISSIONARY IN RESIDENCE OPPORTUNITIES

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

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.	Igelsia La Esperanza, Providence	Speaking forum
April 13	10:00 a.m.	Central Baptist, Westfield, MA	Speaking during worship
April 13	5 – 7:30 p.m.	Cross Mills Baptist, Charlestown	Concert & Pot Luck Supper
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

MISSION BENEFIT CONCERT AND POT LUCK SUPPER: Featuring Chariho Select Choirs: Encore and Bella Razza. Sunday April 13, 5PM, Cross Mills Baptist, 4403 Old Post Road, Charlestown. Enrique Newman and his wife Stacey, ABCUSA, missionaries to Honduras will be present. Pot Luck Supper will immediately follow. A Free Will Offering Plate will be passed with all proceeds going to this mission. For more information, call 364-0140.

49TH ECUMENICAL COMMUNION FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Special Guest Speaker, W. Dennis Aiken, Manager of Investigations and Security for Pratt & Whitney, former FBI agent in charge of "Operation Plunderdome". Saturday, April 19, 2008 7 – 9:00 a.m. Venus de Milo. Sponsored by the RI State Council of Churches. Tickets are \$12. Call 461-5558.

THIRD ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND DINNER OF PICA

The Baptist congregations in Rhode Island are invited to support and/ or attend this Providence Intown Churches Association event, to be held Wednesday, April 23 at the Ivy Garden (formerly Evelyn's Villa) in West Warwick. Silent Auction begins at 6:00 PM with dinner at 7:00. The cost is \$45 per person. Would your church like to sponsor an ad in the program? One quarter of a page is \$25, half a page is \$50 and a whole page is \$100. We are also looking for people or organizations that would sponsor the cost of a dinner for those unable to pay. For more information contact PICA mornings at 454-7422 or e-mail the director, Diana Burdette diana225@verizon.net

CHURCH-WIDE PING PONG TOURNAMENT

On April 26, 2008, a "Balls of Fury" Ping Pong Tournament will be held at First Baptist Church, 1059 Main Street, Hope Valley. Registration and breakfast 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. Challenge at 8:00 a.m. Tournament 8:30 a.m. Registration fee \$10.00 per person. To register contact Rev. Jan Boyer at 539-7553 or fbhvsecretary@verizon.net. Everyone is welcome to enter. There will individual and church team champions. Join us for the fellowship and competition!!

TOBY TRAVIS CHRISTIAN MAGICIAN

Friday, May 2nd at 7:00 at Meshanticut Park Church, 180 Oaklawn Ave, Cranston, RI 02920. Tickets are \$10 for adults/\$5 for children. Call 401-942-4616 for more information. The flyer was included in the Resource Packet.

BAPTIST PEACEMAKERS OF R. I. - The costs of the Iraq War

As we begin the 6th year of the Iraq war, we would like to point out one of its hidden costs. Even in the unlikely event that the war would end soon, spending for future medical care of our wounded, has not been considered. Of the 630,000 soldiers discharged since 2002, some 260,000 need and have already sought VA medical care (35%). A million or more returning soldiers could be added to the VA's responsibility. Congress has left the expense of long-term medical care off the books. The nations' accrued and future costs of 1.4 trillion will be deferred to future generations, along with the added burden of our suffering economy because policy makers have not considered how we would pay for this war and how we will provide care for our service personnel. Let us also remember the loss of our soldiers' lives, soon to exceed 4,000. Ref. statistics: Friends Committee on national legislation, Feb. Bulletin.

"GETTING IT": MINISTRY TO THE FAMILIES OF DEPLOYED TROOPS

"Simply stated, to "get it" means to acquire the information, make the contacts, and leverage the resources available to help parents and other caregivers appropriately respond to some of the needs of children whose parents are away for extended periods of time because of military assignments." O. J. Mozon Jr., Chaplin Corps, US Navy http://www.nationalministries.org/children/docs/Childrens_Corner_2008spring.pdf

The ABCORI <u>Calendar</u>			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
March 30	4-5:00 p.m.	East Bay Information Forum #2-New Structure	United, Newport
March 31	6:00 p.m.	Pooled Fund Dinner	Warwick Central
April 1	Due date	2007 Annual Church Report	Mail or complete on-line
April 1	5 & 7:00p.m.	New Life 2010; DCL	Community, Providence
April 2	9:30 a.m.	Personnel Committee	Lawrence Building
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
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 1	Canonicus
April 17		All Staff; Program Committee	Lawrence
April 19	9–3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus – Tefft Chapel
April 19	7-9:00 a.m.	49 th Ecumenical Communion Breakfast	Venus de Milo
April 21		Properties; AB Women’s Ministries Board	
April 22		Investment Committee; Board of Mission	
April 24	3:00 p.m.	State Fire Code Update	Woodridge Congregational,Cranston
April 26	8:15– 5 p.m.	ABCORI Annual Gathering Session B	Central Baptist—Westerly
April 27	3:00 p.m.	Ordination Council Geneva Urquhart	1 st West Warwick
May 1	6:00p.m.	Volunteer Banquet	Shaub Lodge, Canonicus
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Toby Travis, Christian magician	Meshanticut Park Church
May 5-7		Ministers Retreat	Block Island
May 9-11		175 th Anniversary Festivities	1 st Baptist of Woonsocket
May 9-10		12 th Annual Adult and Me Fishing Derby	Canonicus
May 17	11 a.m.-3p.m.	Open House Summer Camp	Canonicus
May 20	4:00 p.m.	S & A	N. Scituate
May 24	8:30-12:30 p.m.	Evangelism Training “Prayer and Hospitality”	Norwood Baptist
May 31	9–3:00 p.m.	Beaver Day	Canonicus
June	1 st week	Mission Trip to India	James Children’s Home,India
June 6 & 7		ABWM June Conference	Canonicus
June 7	8:30-12:30 p.m.	Evangelism Training “Small Groups”	Norwood Baptist
June 21	8:30-12:30 p.m.	Evangelism Training “Unbinding the Gospel”	Norwood Baptist
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 nd Baptist–Suffield CT
Sept. 29	6:00 p.m.	Mission Celebration – ABCORI	TBA
Oct 4		Crop Walk	Goddard State Park Warwick
Oct 18		SPNM Chocoholic Frolic & Silent Auction	Canonicus
Oct 25	3 – 8 p.m.	ABW Fall Meeting	TBA
CALENDAR ON LINE			

AS SPACE ALLOWS