

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

Please hold Joan Brown, director of Murrow Children's Home, Muskogee, Okla., and the Rev. Bill Englund, pastor of First Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn., and their families in your prayers. Daughters of both these loyal American Baptists were killed in recent fires. Brown's daughter, Paula Parris, 46, died April 6, at the Hillcrest Burn Unit in Tulsa, Okla. Englund's daughter, April, 21, a student the University of Wisconsin-Stout, was killed in an off-campus fire in Menomonie, Wis., along with two other students, on April 5. Condolences may be sent to Brown at 2540 Murrow Circle, Muskogee, OK 74403 and to Englund at First Baptist Church, 499 Wacouta Street, St. Paul, MN 55101.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

As you have probably guessed by now, my desk seems to move around a lot. This week I write from Orlando, FL where I'm participating in denominational meetings. However, before you begin to feel the pangs of envy, let me tell you that we are about 50 ABC executives meeting in a room from 9 am to 9 pm and dealing with what is, at times, a difficult conversation.

We are attempting to draw a proposal for a new structure for our denominational family. Like our own process of re-structuring, ABC's is full of hope and uncertainty. However, the fact that the journey may be confusing should not prevent us from venturing into our preferred future.

The ABC family is trying to become more Missional and less legislative, which is a more baptistic way of operating together. The bottom line is that, whether as a region or as a denomination, we are seeking the mind of Christ to discern an organic and effective way to live out the gospel together. Please keep praying for us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In preparation for the Annual Gathering, we are in the process of publishing the new ABCORI Directory. Volunteers are needed to help with this project, specifically on Wednesday, April 23 and Thursday, April 24 to bind the pages using the office binding machines. If you are interested in lending a hand on either Wednesday afternoon between 1:30 – 4 pm or Thursday morning between 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, please give Colleen a call at (401) 294-6318, ext. 110. Thank you.

CANONICUS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Summer Leadership opportunities

Canonicus is currently seeking dedicated people to fill leadership staff positions in our summer program. Our summer program runs from June 8 – August 17. Training, room and board are all included in the position. Leadership staff will supervise counselors and staff in the program areas of waterfront and adventure. Information on these positions may be found on our website www.canonicus.org. For more information or to apply, please contact Matt Black at 401-294-6318 ext. 105 or at matt@abcori.org.

Adult & Me Fishing Derby

The 12th annual Adult and Me Fishing Derby will be held on May 9 & May10. There are three different registration options to meet a variety of schedules and budgets The different options are Lodging in our retreat lodges, tenting options or just come the day of the derby. Please visit our website www.canonicus.org for more information and to download a registration form. Or contact our Assistant Camp Director at 401-294-6318 ext 105 or by email at matt@canonicus.org.

Open House

The open house is on a new day this year. Come and visit the camp on **Saturday, May 17** from 11am to 3pm. There will be camp tours and staff to answer any questions as well as the opportunity to register for camp. For more information, please contact the ABCORI office at 401-294-6318. Rain or shine.

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND YOU

NCD was founded in the early 90's on a research project and is the only scientifically valid study in the area of measuring church health. The study revealed what most knew intuitively... healthy churches grow! Since then, 70 countries have launched national NCD partnerships and over 45 thousand surveys have been utilized worldwide.

NCD is a long-term process for assisting congregations to be effective in fulfilling Christ's great commission to make disciples. Transformation usually begins to happen in the **third** year that the process is used. Follow up assessments have been done in churches that have completed three or more surveys. Between the first survey and the third, the following changes occurred: **1.** Quality increased by an average of 6 points; **2.** the percent of transfer growth decreased, while conversion growth increased; **3.** the workload of leaders decreased.

ABCORI offers the NCD survey and support for the process at a discounted rate. To schedule a presentation of the process at your church call...**Don Rasmussen, 2 Waterman Ave. Cranston, RI 02910-4520401-781-4212**

FROM THE RHODE ISLAND STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Over the last few days, the topic of immigration has been in the fore and the press conference yesterday has raised some questions. We have therefore attached two documents to this e-mail in an attempt to help answer some of those questions.

We are also asking two things of our churches this week:

1. Please include this issue in your prayer concerns. Parishioners may have a range of views on this subject, but I believe all of us can care for each other. I would urge us to be open to understanding all the facets of these issues and look to God for wisdom and direction. Let us pray for a fair and just solution to this issue.

2. We are looking for some churches who would like to be partnered with another church. Our plan is to partner one suburban church with one urban church. This will be a pilot program that we hope to expand in the future. If you would be interested in exploring this possibility, please call Dolores Taylor (461-5558) and let her know of your interest.

Rev. Dr. Donald C. Anderson, Rhode Island State Council of Churches

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMENS' MINISTRIES OF RI

Women from 16 churches were warmly welcomed, by the women of Memorial Baptist Church, Seekonk, last Saturday, for the ABWM "Come to the Edge of Your Community and Expand It" program. Over \$600 was raised for our Children in Poverty and Breaking the Chains state projects. According to the evaluations, everyone enjoyed the day immensely. As in Hebrews 10:24 we did stir up one another to love and good works! -- Laurie Robertson, Coordinator of Church and Community Ministries ABWMRI

HELP SHAPE A LEADER OF TOMORROW -- HOST A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT!

The students are all between the ages of 15-18 years, are English speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) currently has program to match almost every family's needs, ranging in length from a semester to a full academic year.

P.I.E. area representatives match students with host families by finding common interests and lifestyles through an informal in-home meeting. Prospective host families are able to review student applications and select the perfect match. As there are no "typical" host families, P.I.E. can fit a student into just about any situation, whether it be a single parent, a childless couple, a retired couple or a large family.

Make one of these young ambassadors the newest member of your family! For more information on hosting, please visit our website at www.pieusa.org or call toll-free 1-888-PIEUSA1.

2007 COOPERATING CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS – ONLY 38 MORE TO GO!

Again, a BIG Thank you and God Bless to the 34 churches who have completed their reports. Financial information has been entered, the leadership information will begin to be entered after the Annual Meeting of April 26.

\$40,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION (CCCU)

Focused on the Future Scholarship Program is giving away scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2000 and is open to members of CCCU. Application deadline is June 13, 2008 and will be awarded in early August. <http://www.mycccu.com/students/>

175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

The First Baptist Church of Woonsocket celebration begins Friday, May 9, 2008. We are having a Praise Service geared toward youth, and your youth are invited! The singers, choirs and dancers will all be youth. Weekend theme is *"Step into the Future"*. Our speaker that night is Pastor George Anne Famuyiro from Beloved Tabernacle Church in Providence. Service will start at about 7 p.m.

Saturday May 10th, an open house to show off our Church, built in 1890. It is still the same, grand organ still plays, Church artifacts on display. That evening a Dinner/Service at the Broaster House restaurant in Woonsocket - two blocks away. Seasonings will provide the music. Call Susyn Montalvo, at 762-0612 for ticket information.

Sunday morning, a special 175th Anniversary Service with many former Pastors who can recite historic moments, along with local ministers as well as recognition of our oldest members.

MAJORITY SPEAKS: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN MISSION

Designed for lay leaders and local church mission committees, the thrust is to present and engage congregational mission committees in reflection on mission for today and tomorrow. Many hands from various denominations have assisted in preparing this conference. There will be speakers from China, India, Myanmar; also attending are missionaries from numerous countries. At Andover Newton Theological School on May 10, 2008.

ANTS asks that information about this conference be made available to your local congregations - The web link for information and registration is: <http://www.ants.edu/calendar/event/majority-speaks-08>

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES

A perspective on death: "I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says 'There, she is gone!' 'Gone where?' Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: 'There, she is gone!' there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout: 'Here she comes!' And that is dying." ~Henry Van Dyke

PANCAKE DINNER SPONSORED BY CALVCARY YOUTH GROUP

Saturday April 19, 2008 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad St. Providence. Adults \$10 Children \$5, under five years old are free. Contact Calvary church office 9am – 1pm at 461-7507 or Email ympi@abc.org

SPNM VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 6, from 6 – 8:00p.m. at the Phillips Memorial Church. **Guest Speaker:** Anthony Maione, President of the United Way of Rhode Island. Dinner is Pot Luck!! Bring Your Best Dish!!!

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 marilgus@aol.com to arrange speaking engagements. Visit: <http://newmanmissions.com/Site/Home-1.html> and learn more about this ministry.

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

The ABCORI Calendar

Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar

April 12	9–3:00 p.m.	Beaver Day 1	Canonicus
April 15	9:00 a.m.	BiRST	Canonicus
April 16	All Day	Spiritual Retreat- ABCORI & TABCOM staff	Shaub
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		Consultant Group; Investment Com.; 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.	ABCORI Volunteer Banquet	Shaub Lodge, Canonicus
May 1		Ministers Council – SCOM	Lawrence
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Toby Travis, Christian magician	Meshanticut Park Church
May 5	7:00 p.m.	Baptist Home Board	Phillips
May 6	6-8:00 p.m.	Volunteer Appreciation & Annual Meeting SPNM	Phillips
May 5-7		Ministers Retreat	Block Island
May 8	12:30 p.m.	Baptist Heritage Society	Motter
May 9	10-2:00 p.m.	Think Tank	Lawrence
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.	Canonicus Open House Summer Camp	Canonicus
May 20	4:00 p.m.	S & A	N. Scituate
May 21	10 a.m.	EMRC	Lawrence
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 5		Ministers Council – SCOM	Lawrence
June 6 & 7		ABWM June Conference	Canonicus
June 7	8:30-12:30 p.m.	Evangelism Training “Unbinding the Gospel”	Norwood Baptist
June 21	8:30-12:30 p.m.	Evangelism Training “Small Groups”	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