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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

Liz Lussier, Director of Administration, and family, whose aunt is in critical condition after a fall this week. Please keep them in your prayers. Also, traveling mercies for the La Romana mission trip.

JOY: Rev. Chuck Haines is home from the hospital and doing well.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

Today I want to recommend a book to you. It's from Tony Campolo and the title is "*Red Letter Christians*." I went to Andover Newton to hear Tony preach and he was talking about it, then I bought the book. I am not through yet, but I love it. I love the idea that we must be followers of Jesus. What a novel idea!

It seems to me that sometimes we are so comfortable with the label of "Christian" that we forget what being Christian is all about. Campolo says that we must follow closely the words of Jesus (thus the Red Letters) and make commitments that will revolutionize lives and communities. "We must", he says, "live out the Sermon on the Mount." Tony talks about changing the world through love and our prophetic presence.

This Saturday we meet as a Christian family to celebrate our Annual Gathering. There is so much to celebrate! We have seven churches involved in a new program to become Missional. We have succeeded in promoting the concept of "churches helping churches". We are in the process of networking with the Providence community at large in order to fight for the children living in poverty; and we will vote for a new structure that will make our work more fluid and organic, facilitating participation and minimizing pointless meetings. I think these are the signs of becoming Red Letter Christians.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION – LIZ LUSSIER

The 2008 Annual Directories and Yearbooks are complete! There will be two copies of each available for our churches. They are available for pick up by church representatives, at the Annual Gathering this Saturday, April 26 at the ABCORI table. Those picking up their church documents will be asked to sign for them at that time. If your church does not have representation at the Annual Gathering, call Colleen at the office (ext 110) and let her know if you wish to pick up your copies at the ABCORI office upon your next visit (to save us postage). For your convenience, follow these links to [Directory](#) and to the yearbook [here](#). or go on line via the ABCORI website: www.ABCORI.org. Individuals serving on boards, committees and departments are welcome to pick up personal copies at the office if you do not have internet access to our website.

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.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST

Contributions help National Ministries and American Baptist regions bring Christ-centered transformation to millions across the United States and Puerto Rico through a host of ministries. It's Home Mission on our Doorstep, making a difference. Please give prayerfully—and joyfully! www.abc-afc.org

SEEKING PART TIME FOOD SERVICE PERSONNEL

Canonicus is now accepting applications for part time food prep kitchen staff for its busy year-round conference ministry. Immediate positions available. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone with food prep/line cook experience or someone willing to learn these skills. The position includes early morning and weekend hours with flexible scheduling available. RI Food Service Safety Certification is

helpful but not required for this specific opportunity. For an application, please contact Colleen Tolhurst, Administrative Assistant to the Director. X 110 or colleen@abcori.org

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 is 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.

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.

"HELP SEND ABCORI YOUTH TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

Community Church of Providence pastor Evan Howard will have copies of his novel, *The Lost Epistle of Jesus*, available at the Annual Gathering. Proceeds from the sale of the book will help send ABCORI youth to the National Youth Gathering in Estes Park, CO, July 5-11. Experience the gospel story through the eyes of Dismas, the "good thief" on the cross. It was a finalist in the USABOOKNEWS Best Books awards and is a featured resource of the Alban Institute. A Providence Journal article about the book can be found at http://www.projo.com/religion/content/LB_lost_epistle_03-08-08_IO96TIA_v17.1ade55d.html. For further information, check out www.evandrakehoward.com. The books will be sold for \$15, but larger donations to the youth fund would be gratefully received.

MISSION TRIP TO LA ROMANA

Nearly 40 folks from First Baptist, East Greenwich, and North Foster Baptist Church, along with some friends and relatives, will leave Boston at 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 26 for La Romana, Dominican Republic for another installment of work on the hospital there. They will do construction and electrical work at the hospital, construct and deliver 40 sand water filters, and a medical team will visit the bateys. Please pray for safety for the team in travel and work, and that they may be blessed as they are a blessing to others. They return in the wee hours May 3.

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!!!

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, open house to show off our Church, built in 1890. That evening a Dinner/Service at the Broaster House restaurant in Woonsocket, with Seasonings providing music. Call Susyn Montalvo, at 762-0612 for ticket information. Sunday morning a special 175th Anniversary Service.

REVIVAL - "Personal and Corporate Renewal for Redemptive Ministry"

You are invited to fellowship and worship at the Spring Revival beginning Wednesday, May 14, through Friday, May 16, at Pond Street Baptist Church. Revival Scripture: Romans 12:2. Pre-worship seminars "Faithful Stewards" 6-6:55 p.m. Thursday, May 15 with Rev. Steve Taylor; and May 16 with Mrs. Mary Harrison, Executive Director RI College Crusade. Worship begins at 7:00 p.m. with Spirit filled preaching by Rev. Dr. Harold A Carter, Senior Pastor of the New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore MD.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

We are excited about the growing number of singers (70+) joining the massed choir for the very special worship opportunity sponsored by ABCORI on Sunday, June 22 at 4:30 pm at Calvary Baptist on Broad Street, Providence, based on the Good News translation of Psalm 133:1, titled "Together in Harmony." The Rev. Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins, executive director of National Ministries, ABCUSA, is our featured preacher. Please pass on this invitation to your choir and let them know there is still time to join in making our "joyful noise" that will warm the hearts of your singers and fill their spirits with joy.

Send via email to Stephen at steve.fbc@verizon.net the approximate number of singers who will attend, and your mailing address so we can send the music to you in advance. Individual singers are also welcome. Singers will gather in Calvary's sanctuary at 3:30 for a brief rehearsal followed by the service at 4:30. In the peace and joy of Christian fellowship, Stephen T. Martorella

URGENT CALL TO HELP ON THE GULF COAST – PASTORS PLEASE ANNOUNCE More volunteers are needed for the upcoming 2008 Blitz Build on the Gulf Coast! Can you help us get the word out in your local churches during worship on Sunday?

Twenty more volunteers are needed for the first week, April 28 – May 3. For framing exterior and interior walls, raising roof trusses and roof decking, and installing windows, doors and vinyl siding.

During the week, May 12 – 17, we need more than 50 volunteers. That week will focus on completing vinyl siding, taping and floating sheetrock, painting, and installing trim work, cabinets and landscaping. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Construction skills are not required, but any knowledge of or experience with construction is appreciated. Volunteers are responsible for transportation to and from Baton Rouge and the worksite as well as a weekly fee of \$100 for food and lodging.

National Ministries is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge and the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project 2008 on behalf of ABC-USA to build 11 homes for 11 deserving families. Some of these families were displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and have permanently relocated to Baton Rouge. More information and registration materials are available at www.nationalministries.org, click on Caring Ministries, then Volunteer Ministries. Or contact Victoria Goff, National Ministries' national coordinator of Volunteer Ministries, at vgoff@abc-usa.org; 1-800-ABC-3USA, ext. 2449. We give glorious thanks to God for the 210 generous American Baptists who have already promised their time and talent to this worthy cause. We pray more will be called to this ministry, helping these deserving families find the gift of God's love in the sound of hammers and saws and the sight of God's people working together to provide shelter for those lost in a storm.

Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins, III, Executive Director and National Secretary [National Ministries](http://NationalMinistries.org), American Baptist Churches USA ;800.ABC.3USA, extension 2400.

MAY BREAKFAST CALENDAR

Date	Time	Church
April 26	7 -10:00 a.m.	First, Tiverton
April 26	7 -10:30 a.m.	Limerock Baptist, Lincoln
May 1	6 -11:00 a.m.	Oak Lawn Community, Cranston
May 3	9:00 a.m.	Bethany Free, Pawtucket
May 3	6 -10:00 a.m.	Chepachet Union, Chepachet
May 3	6 – 10:00 a.m.	First, East Greenwich
May 3	6:30 – 10:00 a.m.	First, North Kingstown
May 3	7 – 11:00 a.m.	North Scituate Baptist
May 3	7 – 10:00 a.m.	Norwood, Warwick
May 3	7 – 10:00 a.m.	Phillips Memorial, Cranston
May 3	7 – 11:00 a.m.	Pawtuxet Memorial, Cranston
May 17	7:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Greenville Baptist, Smithfield

MOTHER / DAUGHTER OPPORTUNITY – JUNE 6 AND 7

This year the RI American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Conference will include a program for girls ages 9 to 16. This will give mothers and their daughters a unique opportunity to spend time together and explore their faith at the beautiful facilities of Canonicus.

The girls' program will include their own special time with our guest speaker Myra, a scavenger hunt, and a hands-on project to help the Parajon family in their mission endeavors in Nicaragua. Joining your daughters will be other young girls from across RI. (Some of these young ladies met each other at the Winter Retreat.) They will also have time with the women at meals and in fellowship.

The women will be busy with workshops that include bible study, community outreach, yoga, crafts, and poetry. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Myra Castenada

For a flyer and registration form, please click on the following links: [Registration](#) form; ABWomen /ABGirls [Flyer](#). Registration requested by May 21. Contact Shirley Morris for more information - 463-7040

UTILITY SHUT-OFFS – ESTAS AL PUNTO DE TERNER TUS UTILIDADES RECORTADOS?

If you or someone you know, received a notice of termination or owes a back bill, you can temporarily STOP the shut-off by requesting a fair hearing with the PUC (Public Utilities Commission). At that hearing, an affordable payment plan can be negotiated. Join others on May 1, at 10a.m. at the PUC building, 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick to apply for an informal hearing date. Bring your ID and your Bill.

(Your hearing will Not be on May 1). Call the RI Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty at the George Wiley Center -728-5555 for further information.

The ABCORI <u>Calendar</u>			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
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
April 29	10:00 a.m.	Labyrinth Group - (Staff at Habitat for Humanity)	Lawrence
May 1		Ministers Council – SCOM	Lawrence
May 1	6:00 p.m.	ABCORI Volunteer Banquet	Shaub Lodge, Canonicus
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 9-10		12 th Annual Adult and Me Fishing Derby	Canonicus
May 9-11		175 th Anniversary Festivities	1 st Baptist of Woonsocket
May 14-16	7:00 p.m.	Revival	Pond Street Baptist
May 15		TIM Group; All Staff	
May 17	11-3p.m.	Canonicus Open House Summer Camp	Canonicus
May 18	3:00 p.m.	Ordination Council for Nate Manderson	1st Baptist, Bristol
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 26		ABCORI OFFICES CLOSED	Memorial Day
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 17		S & A	N. Scituate
June 18	9:30– 11a.m	Personnel	Lawrence
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
July 3	11:00	Ministers council & SCOM	Lawrence
July 4		ABCORI OFFICES CLOSED	Fourth of July
July 15	4:00 p.m.	S&A	N. Scituate
July 17		TIM Group; All Staff	
Sept 19-21		ABCUSA World Mission Conf.	2 nd Baptist–Suffield CT
Sept. 29	6:00 p.m.	Mission Celebration – ABCORI	Greenville Baptist
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
Nov 8		Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer	

[CALENDAR ON LINE](#)

AS SPACE ALLOWS