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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 in the [Calendar](#) on the last page.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- The Rev. Donald A. Fonda passed away last weekend while traveling with his wife, in Italy. Please keep his wife Jeanne and their family in your prayers.
- Traveling Mercies for: Rev Dr Joyce Duerr departing for Kenya and Tanzania October 18
- The 50,000 Rhode Islanders and their families, collecting unemployment (8.5%) and seeking gainful employment

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

I've been thinking a lot about the economy lately. Well, who hasn't? Economists say that the economic conditions today are identical to those of 1928 and they predict for 2010 a depression similar to that of 1930's. People of faith though, want to believe that our faith will bring about a miracle and that this crisis will go away. I happen to have a different position. I believe this is probably the worst economic crisis in my lifetime, and it is not going to improve that easily, not through politics, not through prayer. This is not lack of faith, but rather the understanding that we as Americans need to learn the concept of sacrifice and to humble ourselves. We have come to a point of progress, technology and comfort that is insulting to those who live in poverty, both here and abroad.

Can the American people lower their lifestyle, status and possessions in order to have a more just distribution of wealth and resources? Let's take the issue of SUV's, for example. Are we aware of the fact that emissions of large vehicles are polluting the air we breathe, at the same time that they consume more gas and therefore increase our dependency on oil? Are we aware that, in spite of our complaints, we pay less for gas than most people around the world do? We are, indeed, a privileged society.

I'm talking about this, not from the point of view of politics, but rather of stewardship. We are on this Earth to manage God's resources to the best of our abilities. With cancer, asthma, and allergies of all types on the rise, with stress and depression assaulting the lives of thousands and with the dehumanizing approach of corporate America, that we have experienced in the last few decades, I am tempted to say that we are failing as stewards. Can we reverse this situation? Can we go back on our steps and start caring for God's creation as a whole, including the environment, human beings, and their relationships?

This is where my faith comes to bear. I do believe our Lord is a God of opportunities, and we can still put our act together and please God with our choices and decisions. We can choose to live lives that honor all of God's children, and not just the people like us. We can live simpler lives and trust the Lord to provide what we need. If we stop playing the power game, we may keep playing; but if we want to win it all, we may end up forfeiting it all.

As for us, a people of faith, our job is to obey God in everything we do. We should be faithful and sincere in our quest to relate to God through Jesus Christ. Our ethical choices should respond neither to the platform of any political party, nor to the best investment of the day. We must accept life as it comes our way, continue to the hope humanity needs to survive, and leave the results to God. We must be ready to sacrifice a little of our comfortable lifestyle. We must remember to support the widow, the orphan and the foreigner. Moreover, we must fully trust the Lord of Life and reflect His love and grace in everything we do. All of which implies an amazing responsibility for our life in common.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK

Thank you to all those who volunteered this past Monday at the Canonicus Fall Festival, and a special thank you to volunteers Carolyn Lynch and Judy Brown, the Fall Festival Coordinators, for giving of their time and talent in preparation to help make the day such fun!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to have a **Simeon's Ministry Training session** with volunteers from your church who would like to lead worship in a local nursing home or an assisted living community. This five-hour seminar equips and encourages lay people in a much-needed ministry to our institutionalized elders who have lost the opportunity and ability to attend their house of

worship. Plan now for a weekday or Saturday training in preparation for beginning this ministry at Christmas or at the start of the New Year. Contact Kathy Black at (401)294-6318, ext. 102 or at Kathy@abcori.org for more information.

CANONICUS NEWS:

Volunteers needed for building Prayer Walk at Canonicus

We need help on Saturday October 25 to complete laying the stones for the outline of the prayer walk. It is about two thirds complete so come join us in completing this part of its structure. The stones are small – about the size of a potato so the work is not terribly strenuous. Bring gloves and something to carry the stones (grocery store green bags are work well). We are meeting at 9:00 at the prayer walk. It is easy to find: Enter Canonicus at the main gate, turn left after passing the office and it is in the first large field on the right. It is a great opportunity to be out in the fresh air in the beauty of Canonicus while helping out. Rain date – Sat., Nov 1.

HEALTHY PASTORS – PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

Installation Service

You are invited to the installation service for the Rev. Leigh M. Johnson as the pastor of Phenix Baptist Church on Sunday October 26 at 3:00 P.M. 2 Fairview Avenue, West Warwick RI. Refreshments will follow.

Clergy are invited to gather at 2:30 to robe and process in.

Clergy and Professional Staff Families:

Cliff and Carol Hockensmith invite you to a Free Buffet Dinner at Tefft Chapel, Canonicus, on Friday, November 14! Join us for music, fellowship and information that can complement your ministry. Flyer with details [Here](#)

HEALTHY CHURCHES – CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES

An Evening in Pink: A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson

Presented by Congdon Street Baptist Church Deaconess Board (flyer [Here](#)) Friday, October 24, 2008 - 6:00 p.m.

A Braised Beef Supper – Saturday, October 25, at North Foster Baptist Church. There are two settings one at 5:00 and one at 6:15. Call the church office (647-5815) to make a reservation. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children

COOL CONGREGATIONS CONTEST

Now you can check on your house of worship's energy efficiency **and** win \$10,000! RI Interfaith Power and Light's new on-line [carbon calculator for congregations](#) enrolls your congregation in the contest. So check it out!

- \$5,000 for the congregation with the lowest overall emissions per congregant
 - \$5,000 for the biggest carbon loser - the congregation that shrinks its footprint the most
- Subscribe to their newsletter [Here](#) "...developing a religious response to climate change in RI"

WHOLE GOSPEL – SOCIAL WITNESS MINISTRIES

Church of the Master, Olneyville, is in **need of support for its breakfast ministry**. Every Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m., September through June, they feed 100 or more hungry people. You, as an individual, a group or church can volunteer in two ways: in service at the breakfast or financially Contact 861-5568 to make volunteer arrangements. The COTM Feeding Ministry is licensed by the State of Rhode Island Health Department with at least one state certified Food Handler at each breakfast. Your generosity and commitment to help and support this ministry, for the disadvantaged, will be greatly appreciated.

Helping Our Returning Vets –

The RISCC is working cooperatively with the Veteran's Administration and the RI National Guard to promote a workshop to help prepare faith leaders for some of the issues faced by soldiers returning to the United States. The workshop will be open to leaders from all faith traditions and will run from 8:30am to noon. There is no cost for the workshop, but we do ask that you contact Dolores at RISCC (401-461-5558) to indicate your intention to attend one of the workshops in the following locations:

- Monday, November 3 at Temple Sinai in Cranston
- Wednesday, November 5 at Immaculate Conception Church in Westerly
- Thursday, November 6 at Community Baptist Church in Newport

WHOLE WORLD – EVANGELISTIC WITNESS MINISTRIES

Urgent Call for Volunteers on the West Coast

National Ministries needs more volunteers for the Blitz Build on the Gulf Coast. For a bulletin-insert click [Here](#). We hope local churches will include this in worship bulletins on Sunday. Thanks so much for your help spreading the word.

MISSIONARY COMING TO RHODE ISLAND

Magda Aguirre, missionary to El Salvador, will be in RI November 8-17th. She would like to visit as many churches as possible during that time. Right now there are 2 Sunday mornings and evenings available. If you are interested in having Magda speak or make a presentation in your church, please contact Linda Martin at linda@abcori.org or 401 294-6318 x103.

Consider supporting our family of ABCORI churches at these upcoming Events:			
		Dinners	
Oct 25	4-7pm	Pasta Dinner – call 353-8756	Emmanuel, Prov.
Oct 25	5 & 6:15 pm	Braised Beef Dinner call for tickets	North Foster Baptist
Oct 25	5:30 pm	Harvest Supper with Indian Pudding	Chepachet Union
Nov 8	5pm	Swiss Steak Supper – tickets required	First Hope Valley
		Bazaars/Holiday Fairs	
Oct 18	7:30 – 2pm	Harvest Breakfast and Harvest Bazaar	Greenville
Nov 1	9am – 2pm	Come One! Come All! Holiday bazaar	Church of the Master
Nov 8	9am – 3pm	Holiday Bazaar –flyer Here	Roger Williams Bapt.
Nov 8	9am – 3pm	Bazaar	Seekonk Memorial
Nov 15	9am – 1pm	Holiday Bazaar	Georgiaville Baptist
Nov 22		Holiday Bazaar	Oaklawn Baptist
Nov 22	9:30 – 3pm	Old New England Bazaar	Phillips Memorial
Dec 6		“Christmas by the Bay”	1 st East Greenwich
Dec 6		Christmas Bazaar	Chepachet Union
Dec 13	8am – 3pm	Holiday Book & Media Sale	Warwick Central

The ABCORI Calendar			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
Oct 18	3:00 p.m.	SPNM Chocoholic Frolic & Silent Auction	Canonicus
Oct 18	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Grant Writing Course ABCORI/TABCOM	1 st Baptist Attleboro
Oct 18	7:00 p.m.	Hymn Sing with Jinwoo Chun	1 st West Warwick
Oct 19	3:00 p.m.	134 th Anniversary Opening Celebration	Berean Baptist
Oct 20	7:00 p.m.	Grief Recovery workshop	Philips Memorial
Oct 21	4:00 p.m.	Operations	N. Scituate
Oct 21	7:00 p.m.	AG09 planning team – all welcome	United, Newport
Oct 21	7:00 p.m.	RIBES	Shawomet, Warwick
Oct 25	2:30 – 8 p.m.	Fall Mission Meeting AB Women and Girls	1 st N. Kingstown
Oct 25	9-3:00 p.m.	Squirrel Day	Canonicus
Oct 26	3-5:00 p.m.	Installation Rev. Leigh Johnson	Phenix
Oct 26	7:00 p.m.	The Blackwood Gospel Quartet	Seekonk Memorial
Oct 27	7:00 p.m.	Grief Recovery workshop	Philips Memorial
Oct 28	9:00 a.m.	Emotional Intelligence Seminar–Ministers Council	Shaub
Oct 30	4:00 p.m.	ABCORI Investment Committee	Church of the Master
Nov 1	6:00 p.m.	<i>So More Can Find Hope</i> ABCORI Fundraiser	Shaub, Canonicus
Nov 1	night	set clocks back 1 hour – daylight savings ends	
Nov 4	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	1 st N. Kingstown
Nov 6		Ministers Council & SCOM	Lawrence
Nov 8		Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer	
Nov 11		Veterans Day – ABCORI office closed	
Nov 12	9:00 a.m.	BiRST	Motter
Nov 13	noon	Baptist Heritage Center	Motter
Nov 14	6 -9:00 p.m.	Chapel Café - flyer Here	Tefft Chapel Canonicus
Nov 15	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Grant Writing Course ABCORI/TABCOM	1 st Baptist Attleboro
Nov 17	4:00 p.m.	Operations	N. Scituate
Nov 18	7:00 p.m.	Baptist Home Board	Phillips
Nov 20	12 – 2:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Feast	Shaub

Nov 27&28		Thanksgiving – ABCORI office closed	
Nov 30		1 st Sunday in Advent	
Dec 4		Ministers Council & SCOM	Lawrence
Dec 6	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
		2009	
Jan 6, 2009	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
Jan 31	8:30–3:30 p.m.	Spiritual Growth Retreat ABWomen and Girls	Meadowwood
Feb 24	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
Feb 28	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
March 2	7:00 p.m.	Annual Business Meeting (Session A)	First, East Greenwich
March 21	8:30-3:00 p.m.	ABW Spring Meeting	1 st Pawtucket
March 28	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canonicus
April 14	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	North Scituate
April 18	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
April 24-25		Annual Gathering (Session B)	Newport Churches
June 5-6	Fri – Sat.	ABW Annual Conference	Canonicus
October 3	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canonicus
October 24	2:30-8:00 p.m.	ABW Fall Statewide Missions Meeting	TBA
October		World Mission Conference ABC-USA	New Hampshire