

ABCORI Bi-Weekly E-Notes

Info@ABCORI.org

www.abcori.org.

www.canonicus.org

www.johnclarke.org

[E-Note Guidelines](#)

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

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The Duquette's and their family on the loss of baby Sophia.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

As you probably know, I have invested the better part of this year in the implementation of our new ABCORI structure. It has been, so far, a hard but rather rewarding job.

First, we had to clarify some points at the Board of Ministries level. One of the most important tasks in this area was to determine the position of the Affiliated Ministry Organizations (AMO's) in relationship to the ABCORI Board of Ministries (BOM). We sent a letter to all of them: American Baptist Women (ABW), Baptist Home of Rhode Island, Minister's Council, Rhode Island Baptist Education Society (RIBES), Canonicus Alumni Association, and Baptist Heritage Center. In the letter, we asked how they saw themselves in the whole picture of the new structure. We used this opportunity to hold some valuable conversations with our ABCORI partners. The result is that four of the AMO's decided not to send representatives to the Board, but to have an exchange of minutes instead; that way there is a mutual and reciprocal relationship based on transparency of information and good communication. In the case of the Minister's Council and RIBES, due to their involvement with both the preparation and well-being of clergy, they will work very closely to the Pastoral Leadership Team. The President of ABW will be a full member of the BOM, and the representative of the Baptist Home will be a member of the Board without vote.

Second, we had to support the work of Recruitment as they went out scouting for the most appropriate people to fulfill positions as members of the teams. By then it was already summer, so the work of Recruitment was slowed. They made lists of names, called people, waited for call-backs, learned that some were out-of-town, waited longer, wondered about this new structure, made new lists of names, more phone calls, got some declining responses, and then people started saying 'yes.' The best part is that some of those said, "Yes, I'll do it because I believe in this"; "I'll do it because I support ABCORI"; "I'll do it because I have a passion for this or that area of ministry". Now, the vacancies are filled: all 20 of them!

Third, we are now in the face of giving the 'marching orders' to the teams. I had two sessions of orientation with all the team members together where I explained again what the responsibilities of team members are, and what the new paradigm of working together is. We talked about inviting you, our constituents, to tell us what your perceptions are of what needs to be done in our common ministry; we talked about brainstorming sessions and working groups; we clarified the role of team members as servants and not chairs. Then I started meeting with each team in particular, in order to discuss with them the ministry projects that are currently in process, and how do we make the transition to the new model without abandoning those projects. You wouldn't believe the level of excitement! The team members are energized by the prospect of a new focus and shift in the way things are going to be done.

Fourth, as we move into this phase, **you** become the star. This is the time when you can call on specific teams to ask if a particular idea of yours can be implemented as a ministry, or if something you've always thought that ABCORI should do is possible. The only condition is that others are invited to participate and share your desire to see it done. The teams will issue the invitations at your prompting. This is why I have said that this new structure will transform us into a grassroots movement: because our constituents will lead the ministry and the leaders will serve. I believe this was Jesus' way.

The ministry teams are:

Pastoral Leadership

Donna Sherman

Marie Carpenter

Bob Auld

Carl Balark

Esther Irish

Social Witness

Evan Howard

Rick Robison

Bill Crawford

Darin Collins

Laura Ward

Evangelistic Witness

George Barclay
Ken Marrocco
Judy Brown
Sandra Irizarry
Annette Dunn

Congregational Life

Debbie Guilmain
Betty-Rae Taylor
Ron Short
Diane Pomeroy
Leigh Johnson

Please pray for them and call them if you want to discuss any ministry opportunity.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK

We serve a God of Abundance! Eleven individuals from ABCORI attended Part I of the Grant Writing Workshop in Attleboro on October 18. They learned how to better access resources for ministry in our region. Thank you to TABCOM, and specifically Diane Badger, Director of Volunteer Ministry in MA, for inviting us to be a part of this learning opportunity.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON END OF LIFE ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Led by Ms Judith Schwarz of Compassion and Choices, a national nonprofit that helps families faced with end of life decisions. Sunday, November 23rd, 2 PM to 3:30 PM St. John's Episcopal Church, 191 County Road, Barrington, RI. Ms Judith Schwarz, RN, PhD, Clinical Coordinator for Compassion & Choices of NY and the Regional Coordinator in the Northeast for the End of Life Consultation service/National C&C. She provides end of life counseling and support to suffering patients and their families and trains and supervises local volunteers. Please bring your questions and concerns to this event, sponsored by RI members of Compassion & Choices. It is free and open to the public. The St. John's church hall is handicapped accessible with plenty of parking. For more information, please contact Joanne DeVoe at 401-247-3004, joanned@qis.net

HEALTHY PASTORS – PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES**JOY – from the Congregation of The First Baptist Church of East Greenwich**

On Sunday, October 12, 2008, they voted unanimously to extend a call to Rev. Jonathan A. Malone as Senior Pastor and he has accepted. He will begin his ministry January 1, 2009.

Rev. Malone is 35, and married to Rebekah. They have four sons, Anthony, Jeremiah, Micah and Nathanael. He has five years experience as Associate Pastor at 1st Baptist Dayton, Ohio and five years as Senior Pastor of Lower Merion Baptist Church in Bryn Mawr, PA. His Bachelor of Music Studies is from SUNY-Potsdam, NY in 1996 and his Master of Divinity Degree is from Andover Newton Theological School in 2000. Currently, he is working on a dissertation for a PhD in Theology from the University of Dayton.

"Our Search Committee worked long and diligently since July 2007 and we are convinced this thorough effort has been worth the wait." Vern Robinson, Chair Pastoral Search Committee

HEALTHY CHURCHES – CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES

A NYC Shopping Trip - Congdon Street Baptist Church Pastor's Aide Committee is sponsoring a New York City Shopping trip on Saturday, November 15. The bus departs from 17 Congdon Street, Providence at 7:00 a.m. and will leave NYC at 6:30 p.m. **sharp**. The round trip cost is \$35.00 due by November 2. **Please contact** LaVeatter Rankin at 351-4267 to make your reservation and payment arrangements. [Flyer](#)

RIBYF YOUTH GATHERING (RI Baptist Youth Fellowship) – November 16

On October 19, the Youth Ministry Planning Team of ABCORI kicked off the next season of **The Gathering** at Canonicus with 40 people in attendance! The Gathering is a monthly worship service for youth groups, usually held on the third Sunday of the month. The Gatherings starts at 5:30 with a time for games and then the main program starts at 6pm. The program consists of live contemporary Christian music from Fire Proof, a message and small group discussion followed with a time of fellowship at 7pm.

The November 16 gathering will be hosted by Calvary Baptist Church, Providence. For this special Gathering, We are asking youth to bring a canned or non-perishable food item for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. We are also still looking for churches to host the Gathering in December, March and May. If you have any questions about the Gathering or would like to offer your church as a host site please contact Matt Black at 401-294-6318 ext. 105 or by email at ympt@abcori.org.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY ESSAY CONTEST - Baptist Joint Committee [BJCOnline](#)

The Baptist Joint Committee has released details of its annual religious liberty essay contest, which is open this year to all high school students in the 2009 and 2010 graduating classes. The

contest offers a grand prize of \$1,000 and airfare and lodging for two to Washington, D.C. Second prize is \$500, and third prize is \$100. For more information, go to the [contest page](#).

"Explain Leland's statement and draw from historical and contemporary examples, to assess his claim"

Turkey Dinner with settings at The North Scituate Baptist Church

5 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. November 1, 2008. The dinner is served family style. Adults \$11, children 12 and under \$5. For reservations call church office: 401-647-3238. The meal consists of Turkey and Dressing, Cranberry Sauce, Vegetables, Rolls, homemade pie, coffee and apple cider.

WHOLE GOSPEL – SOCIAL WITNESS MINISTRIES

The new Social Witness Team is compiling a list of the social ministries offered by our ABCORI churches. Please help the team by e-mailing Rev Darin Collins (antsgrad@yahoo.com) a description of what your congregation is doing.

Are you helping the homeless? Running a soup kitchen or clothing warehouse? Donating to South Providence Neighborhood Ministries? Are you involved in peace and justice work? Environmental issues? Interfaith or ecumenical work? Whatever your congregation is doing to live out its faith in the world, we want to know about it. Compiling a list of our current social ministries is the first step toward supporting one another and expanding our outreach.

Please respond by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, to Rev Darin Collins (antsgrad@yahoo.com) The next meeting of the Social Witness Team will be held on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1:30 PM AT COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE (372 Wayland Ave., Providence; call 751-9328 for information, or go to www.ccofprov.org for directions).

Please publicize the date of this meeting in your congregation. All interested pastors and lay people are cordially invited to attend. For more information, please contact Reverend Evan Howard at evanhoward@aol.com or call Community Church of Providence.

RIVER OF LIFE LINE MINISTRIES Informational Evening –

The first Annual Event on Reentry. Join Mayor Scott Avedisian, The Rev. Dr. Janice Thompson and others Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 5:30 PM at the East Greenwich Yacht Club. [Flyer](#)

Thanksgiving at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

Again, SPNM will be giving Thanksgiving food boxes to neighbors in need. We realize that many churches support similar efforts in their own churches and communities. However, if you can make an extra effort to share some with SPNM, it will be greatly appreciated. Food boxes will contain food for several days, not just a holiday meal. **Needed:** protein (tuna, canned meats, chili, peanut butter); juices, canned vegetables and fruits; fresh vegetables and fruits; cake mixes; frosting; jello; pudding mixes; cereal; soup; beans (canned and dry); pasta; spaghetti sauce; rice. Also gift certificates to Stop & Shop and Shaw's.

Deliver items weekdays from 9 am-5 pm or on Sunday, Nov. 23 between noon and 2:30 pm.

HELPING OUR RETURNING VETS -

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - AS TWO OF THE WORKSHOPS ARE IN DANGER OF NOT GOING FORWARD DUE TO LOW RESPONSE. contact Dolores (401-461-5558)

The Veteran's Administration, the RI National Guard and RISCC workshop prepares faith leaders for issues faced by soldiers returning to the US. The workshop is open to leaders from all faith traditions. The workshops all run from 8:30 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 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

MISSIONARY SPEAKER will be in RI

Ricardo Mayol, American Baptist Missionary in Chiapas, Mexico will be in Rhode Island. November 6-9, 2008. Three years ago, the Baptist Seminary of Mexico approved the opening of its first regional center in Chiapas, the Mayan Intercultural Seminary, to put it to the service of the native Tzotziles and Tzeltals Mayan people and of the evangelical world in general. Professors Doris and Ricardo have the privilege to serve as leaders of this project. Currently Doris and Ricardo are on U.S./Puerto Rico assignment. If you want to invite Ricardo to speak at your church, please call Sandy at 294-6318 ext: 111.

Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
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	2:30 pm	AG09 Brainstorm working group	Lawrence, Canonicus
Nov 11		Veterans Day – ABCORI office closed	
Nov 12	9:00 a.m.	BiRST	Motter
Nov 13	1:30 p.m.	Social Witness opportunity	Community, Providence
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	Canoncus
2009			
Jan 6, 2009	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
Jan 10	9:30 – 3 p.m.	Financial Planning for Christians Seminar	Grotonwood in MA
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	Canoncus
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	Canoncus
April 24-25		Annual Gathering (Session B)	Newport Churches
Support our family of ABCORI churches at these upcoming Events			
Dinners			
Nov 1	5 & 6:30 pm	Turkey Dinner – call for reservations	N. Scituate Baptist
Nov 8	5pm	Swiss Steak Supper – tickets required	First Hope Valley
Dec 6	TBA	Christmas Luncheon	Central Baptist, Westerly
Bazaars/Holiday Fairs			
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
Nov 22	10am – 2	Annual Christmas Bazaar	Shawomet
Nov 22	9am – 2pm	Holiday Bazaar	1 st N Kingstown
Dec 6		“Christmas by the Bay”	1 st East Greenwich
Dec 6		Christmas Bazaar	Chepachet Union
Dec 6	8am – 2pm	Church Bazaar	1 st West Warwick
Dec 13	8am – 3pm	Holiday Book & Media Sale	Warwick Central