

**81113**  
**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.

**Submissions for the next Bi-Weekly E-notes due by November 25**

**FROM LILIANA'S DESK**

I know most of us are sick and tired of political campaigns by now, so we celebrate that it's finally over. Our Country has been so divided over politics that we often fail to see the issues from a different perspective. As Christians, even though many of us may have our own partisan sympathies, we must try to analyze reality from the point of view of our God:

1. God loves us all without discriminating among Republicans and Democrats
2. God calls us all to love our neighbors as we love ourselves
3. God invites us to seek the "peace of the city," to care for the poor, to hope against hope
4. God declares us co-laborers in his Kingdom, heirs of his grace, disciple-makers in his name

These simple truths about God may help us reflect upon our values and the direction of our lives. Sadly, Christians often get swayed by the party line and forget to remember God's own character in matters of faith and politics. As Baptists, we believe wholeheartedly in separation of Church and State, and usually agree that we should stay away from politics, partisan politics that is. However, we must also agree that Jesus was a very political figure, and although his kingdom is not of this world, he definitely came to change the prevailing system of his time and establish a new order of things.

This objective of Jesus extends to all the systems of the world throughout history, and the new order he came to inaugurate also applies to our day. If we want to have a clear idea of Jesus' political agenda we need not look further than the Sermon of the Mount. In this treatise of Social Ethics Jesus addresses an ample list of behaviors that affect our life together, from issues of peace to divorce. I call this politics because that is the primal meaning of the word, from the Greek: the well-being of the people.

It is in the Sermon of the Mount where Jesus teaches us the value of humbleness, mercy and righteousness; forgiveness and reconciliation; integrity in word and deed; generosity, love and prayer. If we were to follow his teachings on these topics, we would not need any other guidance. We would be more like him every day, we would reflect his character in everything we do, and we would not be concerned by the politics of the day.

Of course, even though we are not of this world, we are in this world and in it we fulfill our civic duties. I voted for the first time in my life last week. I felt free, and I felt excited. Having political ideas is not bad; what is bad is to forget who we are, or how we are called to behave because our political ideas betray us.

I invite you to put some sobriety into the mix of frantic media reporting, fanatic partisanship, and uncontrolled aggressiveness. Let us pray for a turn of events towards that which will bring peace, equality, justice, and hope to our fellow citizen and to all the peoples of the Earth. Let us work together toward the common good: eliminating poverty, treating all human beings with compassion, and allowing everyone to live and die with dignity.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK**

Volunteers are needed to help assemble the new **Prayer Walk** at Canonicus. Join us on Saturday, November 29 from 9 to 11am. Many hands will make light work of filling in the walk with pebbles. Please call Linda Bausserman at 949-4572 or email her at [linbau@cox.net](mailto:linbau@cox.net) for more information.

**HEALTHY PASTORS – PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES**

**The Providence Baptist Theological Circle's** next bi-monthly meeting is noon on December 9, at First Baptist Church, East Greenwich. Leigh Johnson will initiate discussion on the subject of

"Evolution and Intelligent Design – How should the public schools handle it." This theological discussion group, the second oldest in America, is in its 149th year and is open to both laity and clergy.

**“Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading” with Ronald Heifetz January 6-7, 2009**

Andover Newton’s 2009 Woodbury Workshop – Problem solving no longer does the job. The change required in congregations today is not simply a matter of adding contemporary worship services, beginning a small group ministry or changing the organizational structure. Adaptive change, which goes to the very heart of a congregation’s identity, is essential. The 2009 Woodbury Workshop will explore the skill and art of leading adaptive change in the congregation. <http://www.ants.edu/lifelong-learning/workshops/> for more information, download flyer and register on line.

**HEALTHY CHURCHES – CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES**

**Mission Sunday-** Olney Street Baptist Church- Reverend William Mathis, Associate Chaplain at Brown University is the Guest Speaker at the 11:00 am Worship- Please come and join us.

**Service of Thanksgiving and Praise** November 23 at 7pm Lakewood Baptist. Participating churches include Pawtuxet Baptist, Norwood Baptist, Spring Green Memorial Baptist, and Shawomet Baptist. The free will offering will benefit The Church of The Master’s Food Pantry.

**Choir Leaders Needed:** Community Church of Providence is looking for two leaders (paid positions) for their choir. They need an alto immediately and a tenor for the beginning of January 2009. Rehearsals are one hour long, and held on Wednesday evenings. *Contact Lois Conboy*, through the church office: 401-751-9328

**Nursery Care Provider – Warwick Central Baptist Church**

([www.warwickcentralbaptistchurch.com](http://www.warwickcentralbaptistchurch.com)) is seeking energetic individual to provide nursery care for young children during worship services and other church activities. Applicants must be 18 years or older, and be CPR certified. Previous childcare experience preferred. Forward résumé and contact information to: [wcbc01@verison.net](mailto:wcbc01@verison.net) Subject of message “Nursery Provider” No phone calls please.

**Mass Choir Concert** on November 22, @ 4:30 PM **A Women Ministry celebration** on December 14 @ 11:00 AM both held at Pond Street Baptist Church in Providence, 75 Chester Avenue, Providence

**National Ministries' Workshops for Church Life and Leadership** can help your congregation study American Baptist heritage, engage in discernment about using spiritual gifts, learn about Bible education for children, and much more. Some of these 20 different learning opportunities are new, but many are updated versions of the former Training Time workshops; five are available in Spanish. Workshops are constantly in development, so check frequently for new additions. Remember: new topics and new writers are always needed; e-mail [Cassandra Williams](mailto:Cassandra Williams) with your suggestions.

**The NCD Spotlight** Red light – Caution light – Green light!

What will your church be doing in the next twelve months? Stop Growing? Proceed with Caution? Start Something New? Take a look at what Natural Church Development has to offer [Download NCD Spotlight](#) (PDF, 267 kB) from Natural Church Development

**Christmas Luncheon** on December 6th, 11:30am-1:30pm at Central Baptist Church in Westerly. The menu consists of Chicken Shortcake, salad, vegetable, and dessert. Adults~\$8.00 Children under 12 ~ \$4.00. For tickets, call the CBC office at 596-4929.

**WHOLE GOSPEL – SOCIAL WITNESS MINISTRIES**

**Thanksgiving at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries**

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries will distribute 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 and share some with SPNM, it will be greatly appreciated by hundreds of families. Boxes contain food for several days. 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.

**John Clark Retirement Center** will hold a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday Dec. 6 and solicits any contributions. All invitee from 10 am until 2 pm. Nicki Cicogna, Director

## The ABCORI [Calendar](#)

Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar

|   |                        |  |                                   |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Nov 14  | 6 -9:00 p.m.           | Chapel Café - flyer <a href="#">Here</a>   | Tefft Chapel Canonicus            |
| Nov 15  | 9 – 3:00 p.m.          | Grant Writing Part II ABCORI/TABCOM        | 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 Lodge, Canonicus            |
| <b>Nov 27&amp;28</b>  |                        | <b>Thanksgiving – ABCORI office closed</b> |                                   |
| Nov 30  |                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent           |                                   |
| Dec 4   |                        | Ministers Council & SCOM                   | Lawrence                          |
| Dec 6   | 9 – 3:30 p.m.          | RUAH                                       | Canonicus                         |
| Dec 9   | 10:00 a.m.             | EMSC                                       | Motter                            |
| Dec 9   | noon                   | The Providence Baptist Theological Circle  | 1 <sup>st</sup> East Greenwich    |
| Dec 16  | 1:00 p.m.              | BiRST                                      | RI                                |
|   |                        | <b>2009</b>                                |                                   |
| Jan 4   | 4:00 p.m.              | Ordination Council – Toni DiPina           | Congdon St. Baptist               |
| Jan 6, 2009   | 7 – 9:00 p.m.          | BOM  | Mt. Pleasant Baptist              |
| Jan 10  | 9:30 – 3 p.m.          | Financial Planning for Christians Seminar  | Grotonwood in MA                  |
| Jan 24  | 1:00 p.m.              | SPNM Spelling Bee Fund Raiser              | Calvary                           |
| Jan 25  | 4:00 p.m.              | Ordination – Toni DiPina                   | Congdon St. Baptist               |
| Jan 27  | 4:00 p.m.              | BFRI – (snow date Jan 29)                  | N Scituate                        |
| 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                        | North Foster Baptist              |
| Feb 25  |                        | Ash Wednesday                              |                                   |
| Feb 28  | 9 – 3:30 p.m.          | RUAH                                       | Canonicus                         |
| <b>March 2</b>  | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>       | <b>Annual Business Meeting (Session A)</b> | <b>First, East Greenwich</b>      |
| March 6-7   |                        | MissionWorks                               | Leominster, MA                    |
| March 21  | 8:30-3:00 p.m.         | ABW Spring Meeting                         | 1 <sup>st</sup> 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                         |
| <b>April 24-25</b>  |                        | <b>Annual Gathering (Session B)</b>        | <b>Newport Churches</b>           |
| June 5-6  | Fri – Sat.             | ABW Annual Conference                      | Canonicus                         |
| <b>Support our family of ABCORI churches at these upcoming Events</b> |                        |  |                                   |
|   |                        | <b>Dinners</b>                             |                                   |
| Nov 22  | 5:30pm                 | Roast Beef Dinner                          | Bethany, Pawtucket                |
| Dec 6   | 11:30-1:30             | Christmas Luncheon                         | Central Baptist, Westerly         |
|   |                        | <b>Bazaars/Holiday Fairs</b>               |                                   |
| Nov 15  | 9am – 1pm              | Holiday Bazaar                             | Georgiaville Baptist              |
| Nov 21 &<br>Nov 22  | 3pm – 6pm<br>9am – 3pm | Craft Show                                 | Tabernacle Baptist, Hope          |
| Nov 22  | 9am – 2pm              | 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 <sup>st</sup> N Kingstown       |
| Nov 22  | 4pm - 8pm              | Bazaar                                     | Bethany, Pawtucket                |
| Dec 6   | 9 am                   | “Christmas by the Bay”                     | 1 <sup>st</sup> East Greenwich    |
| Dec 6   | 10am – 3pm             | Christmas Bazaar                           | Chepachet Union                   |
| Dec 6   | 8am – 2pm              | Church Bazaar                              | 1 <sup>st</sup> West Warwick      |
| Dec 6   | 10am – 2pm             | Bazaar – John Clarke Retirement Ctr.       | Middletown, RI                    |
| Dec 6   | 9am – 3pm              | Advent Bazaar                              | Spring Green, Warwick             |
| Dec 6   | 9am – 2pm              | Christmas Bazaar                           | People’s Baptist                  |
| Dec 6   |                        | Christmas Fair                             | Central Baptist, Jamestown        |
| Dec 13  | 8am – 3pm              | Holiday Book & Media Sale                  | Warwick Central                   |