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American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
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ABCORI Bi-Weekly E-Notes
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THE WEEK AHEAD– this information is in the [Calendar](#) on the last page.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please hold Shirley Morris in your prayers. She was hospitalized over Thanksgiving and is home now and resting.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

Are you reading the ABCORI notes? You've probably noticed that we've changed the format of the notes. To keep up with the current times of electronic communications we've worked hard to produce something that is more in tune with all the emails we receive every day. We are talking about format only, of course. Regarding content, we are trying to be faithful and relevant to the needs of our Region and to our constituents.

Part of our new format is to show only a paragraph of the particular articles, and the word 'more' in blue, which is a link to the rest of the story. The idea is that you will click on the word 'more' and get the rest of the information. Sometimes it is tempting not to go there and to skip part of the newsletter; I know time is tyrant. However, I ask you to visit every link before you discard the articles. The information we publish is relevant to all of us and it reflects the way in which we build God's Kingdom together.

As you read these pages, you keep abreast of what's going on at the Canonicus property; the plans for Summer Camp; the latest developments in relation to Elder Care Ministry; a little bit of what your Executive Minister is doing on your behalf. Moreover, in the new sections that represent the four areas of ministry of ABCORI under the new structure you can find the most recent developments: new trainings, plans and projects are always an invitation to you to participate. Remember that in our new structure, there are no committees, but working groups open to everyone.

Finally, the ABCORI notes always bring you news about the happenings at our churches: special programs, ministries, and fellowship times. By knowing what others are doing, you can spark new ideas for you own church or you can even choose what activities you'd like to be a part of in the near future.

Many of us contribute to the ABCORI notes in one way or another, and many of you send us items to be published. Yet the key person is Sandy Kelly, my Executive Assistant. She's always on top of things and very attentive to all of ABCORI's needs. This publication is very serious to her and she invests a great deal of effort and compassion in it. Thank you, Sandy.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK

Offering insight and recommendations for helping elders stay at home, the UMEC geriatric nurses and case managers are now available to family members, clergy and other church leaders. Our friends at the United Methodist Elder Care Communities, the Linn Health Care Center and Winslow Gardens Assisted Living facilities in East Providence, are taking their expertise on the road. UMEC staff are interested in coming out to speak to church and clergy groups on the services that they are now providing within the community. For more information on how UMEC is expanding to meet the growing needs of elders at home, contact Executive Director Karen Amado (401)438-4456, ext. 139 or kamado@umeldercareri.org.

Center Sage – a resource for leaders of elder ministries, is a publication of the Center on Aging & Older Adults Ministries. This informative newsletter, published twice a year, features articles on a variety of mid-life and older adult ministry concerns, new resource information, suggested models for ministries, and more. To request to be on the mailing list for this free newsletter, email Teri Kline at tkline@gbod.org or phone Teri at (877) 899-2780, ext. 7177. The Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries is a ministry of the United Methodist Church.

JOY FROM VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 11/26/08) —

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) announced today that it has distributed \$1,125,881 to nearly 4,000 retired ABCUSA ministers, missionaries, their surviving spouses and retired lay employees of ABC churches and related organizations in 2008. Checks ranged from \$50 to \$374. [\(Click to read more\)](#)

HEALTHY PASTORS – PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

YOU ARE NEEDED! On January 6, 2009, to attend the *Fighting Poverty with Faith* PRAYER VIGIL, held in our RI State House Rotunda, starting at 3 PM. Come in Vestment attire and join with other clergy and faith groups from RI's diverse denominational family to pray for our legislators at this, the opening of the 2009 RI General Assembly. Please come and please encourage members of your congregation to help fill the rotunda with an outpouring of faith and witness. Let us be the visible witness for those too often overlooked. (Clergy please arrive by 2:45). ABCORI attendees please contact info@abcori.org to confirm your attendance.

HEALTHY CHURCHES – CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES

Holiday Book Sale December 13, 8am – 3pm, Warwick Central Baptist Church Items include hard-cover and soft-cover books, VHS and DVD video, Audio CD's, cassettes, talking books, LP's also puzzles and miscellaneous craft magazines, games...Come early for the best selection

The Christmas Cantata: *One King*

Dec. 13, at 4PM at Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church 118 Main St., Westerly, RI and on Dec. 14 at 4PM at Central Baptist Church, 16 Elm St., Westerly, RI.

Queen's River will be meeting every Sunday in December beginning with the second Sunday, December 14, 11:30 am. We will make a decision based on attendance whether to continue that beyond December. Queen's River will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 3 pm, December 24.

SEE the seasonal calendar-of-events found at the end of the E-notes for more

PARISH PASTOR OF THE YEAR NOMINEES SOUGHT

The Academy of Parish Clergy, an international organization of clergy serving in faith communities of all sizes and in a variety of locales, hosts an annual convocation, which includes a book of the year and Parish Pastor of the Year awards. By January 2, 2009, submissions are due. Go to <http://www.apclergy.org/ParishPastoroftheYear2009NominationForm.html> for nomination form. Academy Parish Clergy [Brochure](#)

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

The Youth Gathering Event will be held on December 21, at Niantic Baptist Church in Bradford RI, Music starts at 5PM, and program begins at 6PM. Program details: MORE

The program will start at 6pm as usual; there will however be music from 5pm until 6pm for those that would like to come early. (Niantic Baptist is the home church of the band Fire Proof that has been performing at the Gatherings for the last year or so.) For those not familiar with our program, the Gathering is a monthly youth worship service sponsored by the Youth Ministry Planning team of ABCORI. The Gathering started in 2001 and has been servicing ABCORI youth groups since then. There is live music, a lesson, small group discussion and of course the three "F's" (fun, food, fellowship). The focus of the lesson in the coming months will be worship. In November, we discussed a little what worship is. This month we will be talking about the purpose of worship. We hope to see you all there. Contact the Youth Ministry planning Team (YMPT) at YMPT@abcori.org if you need directions.

WHOLE GOSPEL – SOCIAL WITNESS MINISTRIES

SPNM SPELLING BEE

Notice! South Providence Neighborhood Ministries 2nd Annual ADULT Spelling Bee will be held on January 24, 2009 from 2 – 5 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad Street, Providence.

You and your church are invited to form a three-person team of spellers to participate in the BEE (cost: \$200 per team), or simply come and cheer on the participants (with \$5 admission). Mario Hilario of Channel 10 TV will be master of ceremonies; Mayor David Cicilline is an invited guest. Food and beverages available; there is ample parking. Call Yvette Kenner at 461-7509 for further details. Join us on January 24!

JOY – The Pond Street Baptist Church received two grants for their "Youths Program" One is from the American Baptist Fund for \$5,000.00 and the other is for \$10,000.00 from One Great Hour of Sharing.

YOU ARE NEEDED! On January 6, 2009, to attend the *Fighting Poverty with Faith* PRAYER VIGIL, held in our RI State House Rotunda, starting at 3 PM. Please come and please encourage your pastor and other members of your congregation to help fill the rotunda with an outpouring of faith and witness. Let us be the visible witness for those too often overlooked. This is the opening of the 2009 RI General Assembly. Join with other clergy and faith groups from RI's diverse denominational family to pray for our legislators. (Clergy please arrive by 2:45 p.m. in Vestment attire) ABCORI attendees contact info@abcori.org to confirm your attendance.





WHOLE WORLD – EVANGELISTIC WITNESS MINISTRIES UPCOMING MISSIONARY TRIP TO INDIA

There will be a short ABCORI Mission Explosion Meeting at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 262 Academy Avenue, Providence, RI on January 15, 2009 Thursday at 7:00 PM. The discussion will be about the upcoming missionary trip to India for 10 days starting from March 17, 2009. The cost of the trip is around \$2500 00 Anyone, including those who intend to travel in the future, can attend this meeting for prayer and/or strategic intelligence gathering.

More information will be presented about the Trip and the James Children's Home ministry in the upcoming meeting on January 15, 2009 Thursday at 7:00 PM. Please call the church at 351-2347 if you have any questions. Dr. Paul Lawrence

Please pray for India and the people of Mumbai (Bombay) in particular. My ministry partners, relatives and friends are in Mumbai and in a few other cities of India. Close to 200 people (including six Americans) were killed with a few hundreds wounded. Terrorism in Bombay has seized the city with shock, despair and anger even after the killing has ended. The fear of future terrorism has captured the minds of most people inside and outside the land of India. I may not get the exact information about the affected ones until I go to Bombay. I have had the privilege of ministering in Mumbai close to the airport and the outskirts of the city. This is not the time for Americans to go to India, but my wife and I are leaving for India in March of 2009. We are taking with us a very limited number of people during this trip. We need to wait for a favorable time probably in 2011 for others to join us. Kindly pray!!

Special Sat-7 Evangelism Opportunity – From: ABWM/RI Mission & Service Ministries

-  Do you have a heart for spreading the Good News?
-  Do you pray for the people of the Middle East?
-  Do you want your Christmas donations to be worth *triple* what you can afford to give?
-  Do you know about the ministry of Sat-7?

Sat-7 is a Christian Satellite TV ministry, which partners with the American Baptist Churches in the USA for well over a decade. Sat-7 creates Christian programming, which they broadcast into even the “closed” countries of the Middle East, such as Iran, encouraging Christians and introducing non-Christians to the Prince of Peace. Despite the poverty and despair, which is rampant in many of these areas, satellite-TV abounds and is often the only source of information from the “outside” world!

Currently, Sat-7 has an unprecedented matching-grant opportunity: a benefactor who will triple-match the funds of new donors [and double-match that of current donors] up to an amount of \$500,000 on donations received before January 15, 2009! Learn more about this exciting ministry at <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/11907> or call 1-866-SAT7 (7287). To subscribe to their email newsletter, contact news-usa@sat7.org. You may even donate to SAT-7 TV via their secure website at www.sat7usa.org. And please don't forget to pray for peace in the Holy Land, especially at this Christmas season! Submitted by Jill Paterson, ABWM/RI Coordinator of Mission & Service Ministries Email: j8patrsn@hotmail.com Phone: 232-5199

XTREME TEAM PROGRAM IN 2009 RUSSIA! -- July 16- August 16, 2009

... Xpress to others what God is doing in the world and in us through global mission. Visit the Xtreme Team website at www.xtremeteamonline.org to apply and to find out more. **Questions?** email bimvolunteers@abc-usa.org or call 800-222-3872 ext. 2366 [Here](#)

OTHER NEWS:

We Are Moving! – Rhode Island State Council of Churches – We are preparing to move into our new offices on Thursday, December 18, 2008. Our new address is 100 Niantic Avenue, Providence, RI 02907. We will be without phone and internet services for the day of the move. However, we hope to be back in action on December 19. Please be patient with us during our time of transition. Our phone number and e-mail addresses will remain the same only our location is changing. Our new home will be right off Route 10; just down the street from the Rhode Island Food Bank.

The ABCORI [Calendar](#)

Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar

Dec 16	1:00 p.m.	BiRST	RI
Dec 18	10:00 a.m.	TIM Group	Motter
Dec 21	6:00 p.m.	Youth Gathering – gathering music 5pm	Niantic Baptist
2009		2009	2009
Jan 4	4:00 p.m.	Ordination Council – Toni DiPina	Congdon St. Baptist
Jan 5	2:00 p.m.	Properties Committee	Lawrence, Canoncus
Jan 6	1 – 2:30 p.m.	Consultants Group	Lawrence, Canoncus
Jan 6	3:00 p.m.	Prayer Vigil for 09 legislative session	RI State House Rotunda
Jan 6	7 – 9:00 p.m.	BOM	Mt. Pleasant Baptist
Jan 8		Ministers Council & SCOM	
Jan 8	5 – 9:30 p.m.	Interfaith Power & Light conference Flyer	La Salle Academy, Prov.
Jan 10	9:30 – 3 p.m.	Financial Planning Seminar Here	Grotonwood in MA
Jan 13	6 – 8:00 p.m.	AG09 planning meeting	Lawrence, Canoncus
Jan 15	7 – 8:00 p.m.	India Mission Trip informational forum	Mt. Pleasant Baptist
Jan 18	6:00 p.m.	Youth Gathering	Wakefield Baptist
Jan 19	7:00 a.m.	25 th Annual MLK Jr Scholarship Breakfast	Rhodes on the Pawtuxet
Jan 24	1:00 p.m.	SPNM Spelling Bee Fund Raiser	Calvary
Jan 27	4:00 p.m.	BFRI – (snow date Jan 29)	N Scituate
Jan 28	1:30 pm	Social Witness Planning Team	Community Baptist Church of Prov.
Jan 31	8:30–3:30p.m	Spiritual Growth Retreat ABWomen & Girls	Canoncus
Feb 5		Minister’s Council & SCOM	
Feb 8	4:00 p.m.	Ordination – Toni DiPina	Congdon St. Baptist
Feb 10	12—1:30 p.m.	Providence Baptist Theological Circle	1 st East Greenwich
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	Canoncus
March 2	7:00 p.m.	Annual Business Meeting (Session A)	First East Greenwich
March 6-7		MissionWorks	Leominster, MA
March 17	10 – 11:30am	EMRC	Motter
March 21	8:30-3:00 p.m.	ABW Spring Meeting	1 st Pawtucket
March 28	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canoncus
Feb 10	12—1:30 p.m.	Providence Baptist Theological Circle	1 st East Greenwich
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
June 5-6	Fri – Sat.	ABW Annual Conference	Canoncus
June 9	12—1:30 p.m.	Providence Baptist Theological Circle	1 st East Greenwich
June 26-28		2009 Biennial—“I am Sending you.” John 20:21	Pasadena CA
Oct 3	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canoncus
Oct 24	2:30-8:00 p.m.	ABW Fall Statewide Missions Meeting	TBA
October		World Mission Conference ABC-USA	New Hampshire

Support our family of ABCORI churches at these upcoming Events

Advent Season			
Dec 6 –13	flyer Here	Festival of the Nativity programs	Wakefield Baptist
Dec 13	5:30-7 pm	Dinner and Concert flyer	Orchard Church, Cranston
Dec 14	3:30 pm	RISCC benefit concert	1 st Baptist, East Greenwich
Dec 20	6:00 pm	Live Nativity flyer	Orchard Church, Cranston
Dec 21	5:00 pm	Quiet Christmas Service Flyer	Warwick Central Baptist
Dec 24	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve by Candlelight	Queen’s River Church
Dinners, Bazaars/Holiday Fairs			
Dec 13	8am – 3pm	Holiday Book & Media Sale	Warwick Central
Dec 13	9 – 11am	Christmas Cookie Bake Sale	Georgiaville Baptist