

80131
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island
PO Box 330 Exeter RI 02822-0503
800-294-6318

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

FROM LILIANA’S DESK

It seems to me that making decisions is one of the most difficult things for some people to do. For others though, making decisions comes naturally. There are people who linger forever and never set their minds on anything definite; others act in haste without much consideration to the consequences of their choices.

As an Executive Minister, I always choose to work with people on a consensus basis. By personality and experience, it would be easier for me to make decisions swiftly and firmly. However, I purposely elect the path of dialog and partnership. That is why, as a leader, I convened the rest of the leadership in our Region to work together in finding the best future for all of us. We came together and worked hard to produce a draft of a mission statement and a new structure for the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island.

You will have plenty of opportunity to read and discuss these drafts before casting your vote on a final proposal. I pray that we can find the mind of Christ in this. As Baptists, we believe that together, as a community of faith, we are the repository of God’s words, will and Spirit, for their proper interpretation and application. In other words, when we are together we understand God better. Let us strive to achieve this once again in Rhode Island.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT FORM MAILING

Attention Pastors and church secretaries/clerks: The 2007 Cooperating Church Annual Report is in the mail as of Feb. 1, 2008 and affixed to the envelop is a sticker announcing its content. Please watch for it. This year the “complete and return” date is April 1, (no fooling) due to the change in the Annual Gathering date. You may elect to complete this report **on-line**; those instructions are on the front of the report. Our entire denomination benefits from having current accurate information. Thank you in advance for completing and returning this form.

NOTES FROM LIZ LUSSIER, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Employment opportunity ~ ABCORI is seeking a full time **Food Service Manager/Cook** to oversee the year round food service operation at Canonicus and work in cooperation with our state certified Kitchen Supervisor/Cook. This position requires the applicant to hold, or be in the process of earning, a RI Food Service Safety Manager certificate. Desirable candidates will have a minimum of 3 years’ experience in the food service management position or kitchen supervisory/cook role. For an application and detailed job position & benefits package descriptions, please contact Colleen Tolhurst, Administrative Assistant to the Director, at colleen@abcori.org OR (800) 294-6318 x110.

Communications Survey Update ~ I am pleased to report that more than 30% of you (53) responded to our Communications Survey! Your feedback was excellent and the Communications Task Force thanks you for your thoughtful suggestions and requests. As a result, in the coming weeks and months, we will implement specific changes that will improve the way we communicate with our constituency via the E-notes, website and InterACTion. Beginning this week, all calendar items in the electronic notes are listed exclusively in the calendar portion on the last page. In addition, the calendar and the section “In Our Thoughts & Prayers” will be sent to you weekly. Look for more improvements in coming weeks.

The ABCORI staff wishes to thank the Ministers’ Council for last week’s invitation to join them for fellowship and lunch at Shaub Lodge. What a great way to begin the New Year!

SPELLING BEE ‘Thank You’ ~ The *ABCORI ALPHA-bets* thank their supporters for the generous contributions, making it possible for them to compete at the SPNM Spelling Bee. “Hats off” to the winning team from Beneficent Congregational Church and to our runners-up from Wakefield Baptist – *At Least We’re Tryin’*. SPNM met their financial goal for this ‘FUN’draiser and everyone had a great time.

FRONT DESK PHONE UPDATE

Currently, we have front desk staff and/or volunteers who personally answer your phone calls on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please be patient while we continue to look for volunteer help on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If you get the automated answering service when you call, press #9, and go to the staff directory for faster service. Thank you for your understanding.

MISSIONS@ABCORI.ORG

The Committee on Stewardship and Mission Support (CSMS) encourages you to use this e-mail address to communicate your mission news and mission questions to the greater ABCORI family. If your church is participating in a program or project, tell us about it. We can learn from you. If your church wants information about a program or project, ask us about it. In addition, we will keep a list of mission education and work trips that are sponsored by individual churches or a group of churches to places in this country and around the world. Eventually we want all this info shared on our website. That is our goal, so look for it down the road a bit. Meanwhile, share via e-mail and we will pass along your input and questions.

PIANIST/ORGANIST AND CHOIR DIRECTOR

Seeking a Pianist/Organist and Choir Director: Cross Mills Baptist Church, Charlestown, RI. This is a paid position with vacation. If interested please contact Reverend Paul Rollins at 397 - 2764 or 741 - 7285.

RECAPTURING THE DRAMA OF LENT

The Rev. Dr. Evan Howard, pastor of Community Church of Providence, will lead a series of Wednesday luncheon programs during Lent. The programs will bring together insights from Scripture with Rev. Howard's new novel, THE LOST EPISTLE OF JESUS, to encourage spiritual deepening. Bring a bag lunch and join us at Community Church, 372 Wayland Ave., on Wednesdays, Feb. 6-Mar. 12, from 12-1 pm. (THE LOST EPISTLE is available at www.evandrakehoward.com). For more information, call 751-9328 or 475-0768.

ENHANCED SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AND SIMEON'S MINISTRY

The Village at Waterman Lake, 715 Putnam Pike in Greenville, is embarking on a new spiritual journey and is asking for help. Their hope is to develop an enhanced spiritual activities program designed to bring comfort and inspiration to residents with mild to severe memory impairment and dementia. The Village is looking for compassionate volunteers willing to spend time with residents and help nurture them spiritually as part of this program. Kathy Black will conduct a Simeon's Ministry training seminar for interested volunteers on February 12, 2008 from 10am – 3pm in The Village's Function Room. The Village will provide lunch and refreshments. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact Kathy at (401)294-6318, ext. 102.

ATTENTION MISSION-MINDED FOLKS... BE A HOLY ROLLER!

A White Cross Bandage Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 9:30 am to noon at Lakewood Baptist Church, 255 Atlantic Ave, Warwick. Learn how to make White Cross rolled bandages for our missionaries. Bring any used cotton or cotton-blend sheets you may have. RSVP - Phone Janet Chermis at 737-5622 or email Nancy Bancroft at Nanbanc@Verizon.net by February 28 if you plan to attend.

WINTER CAMPING OPPORTUNITY

Canonicus is pleased to offer a program for campers this winter. Campers will arrive at Canonicus on Sunday night, February 17, and return home Tuesday afternoon, February 19. Accommodations for this program are in our Green and Rathbun retreat lodges. There will be lots of fun winter activities, worship, and devotional time. Cost for this event is \$175. (A limited number of scholarships are available). For more information, please call Matt Black at 401-294-6318 ext 105. Download a flyer [here](#).

FROM OCTOBER TO MARCH

Six great months linked together; they end one year and reveal the beginning of a new year. The joy, the love, the promise of life through the birth in a stable then, the resurrection invites us to be thankful, especially in March 2008.

Yet being human, we reach out, hesitant to attend another activity just one week after Easter. For many pastors and laypersons there is a rush to seek times and places for relaxation and rest. Possibly those first four days could lead into the last two days of inspiration and spiritual recharging!

Begin planning now to attend The Spirituality & Stewardship Event: Friday April 4, and Saturday April 5, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 10 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA. Online registration is quick and easy: visit www.umfne.org. Questions? Call Chris McGuire at 1-800-595-4347 x102 or email chrism@umfne.org.

YOU CAN CARPOOL TO THE SPIRITUALITY & STEWARDSHIP EVENT

If you would like to attend on Saturday, April 5 and wish to carpool please, call Linda Martin at the ABCORI office 294-6318, extension 103 or you can send electronically to linda@canonicus.org. If there is enough interest, we may be able to get a van or use the camp van.

TO ALL PASTORS, CHURCHES AND ABCORI STAFF

Thank you for all your prayers and get-well wishes, sent to me in my time of need. I do not think I would have come as far, both physically and spiritually, with out them. Prayer is powerful and with God, all is possible. Thank you again and God Bless all of you.

Chris Lussier, Maintenance Supervisor, Canonicus Camp and Conference Center

The ABCORI Calendar			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
2008			
Feb 4	Properties Committee		
Feb 4	7:00 p.m.	Baptist Home Board	Phillips Memorial
Feb 5	Envisioning Team, Resource Team, Baptist Fund, DCL		
Feb 7	ECMC, SCOM		
Feb 8	Think Tank		
Feb 8-9	6:00 p.m.	Spiritual Growth Retreat ABWM	Sea Crest – Falmouth, MA
Feb 10	3:00 p.m.	Installation Rev. Diane M. Pomeroy	1 st Baptist Pawtucket
Feb 12	Noon	Theological Circle – Evan Howard	First East Greenwich
Feb 13	BiRST		
Feb 14	Baptist Heritage Center		
Feb 16	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group Chicken Dinner	Wakefield Baptist
Feb 16	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus – Tefft Chapel
Feb 19	4:00 p.m.	S&A	North Scituate
Feb 17-19		Winter Camping Experience	Canonicus
March 1	9 – 12 p.m.	White Cross Workshop	Lakewood Baptist Church
March 2	1:30 p.m.	Ordination of Orlando Irizarry	Calvary
March 3	7:00 p.m.	ABCORI Annual Meeting	Phillips Memorial
March 17	4:00 p.m.	Investment Committee	Phillips Memorial
April 1	Due date	2007 Annual Church Report	Mail or complete on-line
April 4 & 5	Friday 1:00 p.m. Sat. 8:00 a.m.	Spirituality & Stewardship biennial event	Crowne Plaza Worcester MA
April 5	9 – 3:00 p.m.	ABWMRI State Meeting	Memorial Baptist - Seekonk
April 19	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus – Tefft Chapel
April 22	7:00 p.m.	Board of Mission	Berean Baptist
April 26	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	ABCORI Annual Gathering	Central Baptist--Westerly
May 5-7		Ministers Retreat	Block Island
June 22	4:30 p.m.	ABCORI Celebration of Faith	Calvary Baptist Church
Sept 19-21		ABCUSA World Mission Conf.	Second Baptist–Suffield CT
Oct 4		Crop Walk	Goddard State Park-Warwick
Oct 18	3 – 8 p.m.	ABW Fall Meeting	TBA