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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.
The ABCORI office is closed Friday, July 4, in observance of our nations Birthday

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Donna Sherman, recovering from surgery.
Rev. Glenn R. and Nancy Ramsey celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

A few weeks ago, I wrote about being Kingdom builders. Many of you made positive comments about that reflection. Today, as I sit at my desk, I wonder what a Kingdom builder is all about today. To say that we live in difficult times is an understatement; life is so complicated that we are not sure how to slow down anymore. There are so many people suffering financial hardship, depression, family problems, loneliness, and the list goes on and on.

The question is how can we be the church in difficult times? Are we ready? I believe that we have accommodated the culture of our day and have failed to realize that we are called to be different. We are called to offer hope, when the world is hopeless; we are called to love in a world of violence; we are called to give and not to receive; and we are called to serve and not to be complaisant.

If we are to achieve our newly sharpened vision of healthy pastors and healthy churches, we must get ready to be the church Jesus expects us to be: a church that offers a new alternative to this complicated and difficult world. We must make a commitment to live simpler lives and be ready to change our lifestyles of consumerism and materialism into lifestyles of grace and self-giving. Health in our midst will begin when we make a decision to live by the values of the Sermon on the Mount.

2009 Annual Gathering

Start thinking ahead to next year's Annual Gathering! According to our new structure, there will not be an appointed committee, but a working group that emerges from a brainstorming meeting. If you are interested in this particular event of the ABCORI family, please join the Congregational Life team on **August 5, at 2 pm the ABCORI office**. You will be a part of an exciting experience that will impact our future.

World Mission Conference

I personally invite you to attend the upcoming World Mission Conference. On September 19-21, 2008, Connecticut will play host to the ABCUSA World Mission Conference. The conference will be held at the 2nd Baptist Church of Suffield. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate American Baptist missions, which your United Mission giving supports. Come meet our missionaries, and hear their Gospel spreading, Good News stories. Please mark the date in your calendar and plan to attend. American Baptists from many different places will be there. In fact, as many as 400 people are expected and a great celebration is anticipated. For information and to register on line go to: <http://www.abconn.org/wmc/details.html>

Mission Honduras

Our next meeting of the Mission Honduras group is July 17th at 7 pm, at the **ABCORI office**. Please do attend this meeting if you want to participate in the planning and promotion of this unique mission endeavor. AB WOMEN'S MINISTRIES, JUDSON PRESS LAUNCH

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK

Grandparents Camp begins this Sunday at Canonicus with 16 participants ranging from 4 to 83 years of age. We anticipate a wonderful week of camp activities including our trip to Watch Hill, to the beach and our evening at the Big Apple Circus. Thank you to everyone who spread the word about this year's program. We appreciate your support!

Elder Care Ministries Training - a *Simeon's Ministry* one day seminar will be offered this fall. It prepares volunteers to lead worship services in our local nursing homes. Anyone interested in participating in this program, please contact Kathy Black before September 1st to register for this training. The one-day seminar includes information on the spiritual needs of institutionalized elders as well as skills and resources for leading worship in a nursing home. Ministering to those with Alzheimer's and related dementia will also be discussed. This is an opportunity to extend the ministry of your church to older adults residing in your community's long-term care facilities. Contact Kathy at (401)294-6318 x 102 or kathy@abcori.org for more information.

A BOOK CLUB FOR WOMEN VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/1/08) —

"SheReads: A Book Club for Women." was launched, on July 1, by American Baptist Women's Ministries in a joint venture with Judson Press.

The first four books selected for SheReads are: *Connected: Christian Parenting in an Age of IM and MySpace*, by Peggy Kendall; *Letters of Light for First Ladies*, by Cecelia Williams Bryant; *To Know God: Small Group Exercises for Spiritual Formation*, by Michael Gemignani; and *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy*, by Rosalie Hall Hunt.

For more information about SheReads: A Book Club for Women, contact the office of American Baptist Women's Ministries at info@abwministries.org or by calling 610-768-2288.

Books may be ordered directly from Judson Press by calling 800-458-3766 or online at www.judsonpress.com. Every two months, four featured selections of Judson Press publications will be offered at a discounted rate, when customers use the promotional code "SheReads."

People interested in participating in SheReads may do so as individuals or as part of a book discussion group. In addition to promoting the book club, AB Women's Ministries is exploring opportunities for discussion of featured selections online or through workshops at national events. "I am so pleased about this new partnership with Judson Press that can resource women's groups that enjoy book discussions. There is a wealth of excellent titles that will be featured in the coming months; it was difficult to choose only four books for the launch," said Virginia Holmstrom, executive director of American Baptist Women's Ministries. "We are excited about our part in helping to make our books more available to American Baptists," said Laura Alden, publisher for Judson Press. "It's a great opportunity for everyone—shared books, shared income, a shared deal—what could be better?"

THANK YOU

for all your prayers. I passed my US citizenship test and all that is now left to do, is for me to take the oath in September. Happy 4th! Liliana

WOMEN OF FAITH, BOSTON, MA - FRIDAY, JULY 25TH – SATURDAY, 26TH

Come join us for this year's conference. Let Barbara McConaghy know you would like to reserve a ticket, she has 6 tickets available, on a first come, first serve basis. The conference cost of \$119 includes lunch for the two days. Barbara has reservations at a Holiday Inn nearby, for an additional cost, split between the participants, if needed. Contact Barbara at 401-941-8524 or by cell 401-497-9623, if you are interested.

HYMN SINGS

Mount Vernon Baptist Church Hymn Sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month. The time is 7:30 p.m. 210 Plainfield Pike, in beautiful Foster RI 02825

SEMI-ELECTRIC HOSPITAL BED

With electric head and foot, manual overall height adjustment, includes two new sets of extra-long sheets and new extra-long mattress cover. Call Sandy Dawley at 481-7441

THE GENERAL BOARD OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

...had opportunity during its three-day meeting in King of Prussia, Pa., to speak about positive features of the proposed new governance structure, as well as to raise concerns. Basing it on a federation model, the Executive Committee made the proposal after a two-year development process. ([Click to read more](#)) VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 06/30/08)

UPCOMING FALL WORKSHOP from the RI State Council of Churches

In response to a request from the Rev. Dr. Dan Cottrell, chaplain at the VA Hospital in Providence, a cosponsored workshop to help pastors and churches prepare to better help returning service personnel to resume their lives after being in combat. We will keep you posted when day and time is known.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM CHURCH OF THE MASTER AND IGLESIA LA ESPERANZA

The friends at COTM (Church of the Master) and (ILE Iglesia La Esperanza) would like to give heartfelt thanks to ALL of you who have generously supported our ministries. May God richly bless you for your generosity and personal sacrifice. Thanks to you, we were able to feed many friends a good quality meal last year, as well as , to teach the English language to our Hispanic, Haitian and Portuguese friends last semester. We will continue the feeding, ESL, and children's ministries in September. Please consider keeping on supporting these centers to help our communities. Thank you - Pastor Alex Gaete

The ABCORI Calendar			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
July 4		ABCORI OFFICES CLOSED	Fourth of July
July 6- 11		Grandparents Camp	Canonicus
July 8	5 p.m./ 7p.m.	Operations / Baptist Fund RI	N. Scituate
July 10	12:00 p.m.	Baptist Heritage Society	Canonicus - Meadowwood
July 17		TIM Group; All Staff	Canonicus
July 17	7:00 p.m.	Mission Honduras	Lawrence
July 18	10:00 a.m.	RUAH planning meeting	Lawrence
July 24	2- 3:00 p.m.	Communications Task Force Wrap-Up	Lawrence
July 28	1 – 4:00 p.m.	Properties Committee	Lawrence
July 29	5:30 p.m.	Recruitment Committee	1 st East Greenwich
August 4	7:00 p.m.	Baptist Home of RI	Phillips, Cranston
August 5	2:00 p.m.	Annual Gathering '09 Working Group	Lawrence
August 12	9:15 a.m.	Personnel Committee Meeting	Calvary, Providence
August 21		TIM Group; All Staff	
August 23	8:30 - 2 p.m.	ABWM Executive Board Retreat	Rathbun, Canonicus
August 24	4:00 p.m.	Ordination Service for Nate Manderson	1 st Bristol
Sept. 1	Deadline to	Register for a Simeon's Ministry Training	Kathy Black
Sept. 2	10-12:00 p.m.	Consultants Group	Lawrence
Sept. 4		Ministers Council & SCOM	Lawrence
Sept. 4	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	N. Scituate
Sept 10		BiRST	Dedham, MA
Sept 18		TIM Group; All Staff	
Sept 19-21		World Mission Conference - ABCUSA	2 nd Baptist-Suffield CT
Sept 27	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	TBA

Sept. 29	6:00 p.m.	Mission Celebration – ABCORI	Greenville Baptist
Oct 2		Ministers Council & SCOM	Lawrence
Oct. 3 & 4	6pm- 3pm	BOM Dinner and retreat ABCORI/TABCOM	Canonicus
Oct. 4		Crop Walk	Goddard Park, Warwick
Oct. 13		Fall Festival	Canonicus
Oct. 18	3:00 p.m.	SPNM Chocoholic Frolic & Silent Auction	Canonicus
Oct. 25	2:30 – 8 p.m.	ABW Fall Mission Meeting	1 st N. Kingstown
Nov. 4	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	1 st N. Kingstown
Nov. 8		Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer	
		2009	
Jan. 6	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
Jan. 30 & 31	5:30 p.m. Fri.- 4:00 p.m. Sat.	Spiritual Retreat ABWM	Meadowwood
Feb. 24	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
March 2	7:00 p.m.	Annual Business Meeting (Session A)	First, East Greenwich
March 28	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canonicus
April 14	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	North Scituate
April 25	8:30 a.m. -	Annual Gathering (Session B)	TBA
October 3	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canonicus