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

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS – JOYS, CONCERNS, TRAVELING MERCIES

Donna Sherman, Rev. Donna Maggi, Judy Brown, Rev. George Finch, Rev. Ethel Corbin,

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

On July 5, the Washington Post published an article by Jacqueline Salmon on the issue of "Short Mission Trips." She collects opinions from several people and offers her own criticism of high cost and low value of these popular mission endeavors. I was astounded by her accounts, and I believe these things are real. Of special interest was the story of a church, painted several times over, in one summer, to give the different missionary groups, which arrived to work there, something to do.

While I can appreciate the scenario painted by Ms. Salmon, I have to say that she is referring to a reality that is foreign to our American Baptist way of doing missions. We have learned that pulling out our checkbooks is not nearly enough to mitigate the pain and isolation of different peoples and groups around the world. When we make short-term mission trips, such as those of Mission Explosion, we are establishing relationships and building the Kingdom of God together.

We approach these Missional endeavors in a partnership mentality. We go to serve with our partners abroad, not to make decisions for them. We spend money and then come back empowered to raise more money for the mission in question because we have seen with our own eyes the need and the possibilities. We grow and they grow by the experience of the intercultural exchange. Many may go to the mission field with ulterior motives, but American Baptists around the world have a reputation for embracing people and serving with integrity. You can also get involved!

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ELDER CARE MINISTRIES – KATHY BLACK

Elder Care Ministries is accepting applications for nursing home chaplains in the **ABCORI Chaplaincy Program**. Qualifications for the positions include at least two units of CPE and experience ministering with elders. Interested individuals can contact Kathy Black at Kathy@abcori.org or at (401)294-6318, ext. 102. Deadline for applying is the end of July.

Congratulations to Pond Street Baptist Church on the kick-off, last Sunday, of their **Eldercare food pantry!** Pond Street is looking for support from the ABCORI family in the form of one-time food donations to stock up the pantry. For more information, contact Sister Edwina Louise at Pond Street at (401)331-4681.

NOTES FROM LIZ

3rd Annual ABCORI Family & Camp Alumni Day!

On Sunday, August 17, from Noon until 4PM, Canonicus hosts its **3rd Annual ABCORI Family and Camp Alumni Day!** We will welcome all ABCORI friends, families and Canonicus camp alumni (campers and staff) to have their own picnic and/or cookout on the grounds. Please come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon at Canonicus. We will provide grills, picnic tables and a spectacular view of Lake Adams! Bring your own food, drinks, utensils for the grills, paper products, etc. For your enjoyment, we will have the waterfront open for boating and swimming with certified lifeguards on duty. We welcome churches to offer musical entertainment, so bring your musicians! This event held rain or shine. You are encouraged to RSVP through your church office or by contacting Colleen Tolhurst, Administrative Assistant, at 294-6318 x 110.

CANONICUS CAMP NEWS: Our "INDESCRIBABLE" camp season is now in its 4th week! This week our camp pastor is Rev. Dr. Cynthia Smothers! Each day she shares a special biblical theme about our Indescribable God with the day and overnight campers and the staff, twice a day with each group. Staff morale is very good. Almost 40 camp staffers are employed this year, providing excellent camper/staff ratios. Also, we are pleased that we can offer staff members 2 hours off almost every day. In the midst of our busy summer season, we are gearing up for our American Camp Association (ACA) accreditation

visit. Despite the economic challenges we all face, I am pleased to report that our camper registrations are slightly above those of our peers in other regions. We are appreciative of those who give generously to underwrite our Campership scholarships, making the unique Canonicus camp experience possible for everyone! Limited camperships are still available and we have spaces available in camp programs for weeks 5 – 8. Please contact Rebecca DeLuise, for campership funds and for registration details.

ABCORI 'NEW STRUCTURE' UPDATES:

Operations: (formerly Stewardship & Administration) is seeking volunteer committee members with skills specifically in the areas of Development and Grant writing. Bob Sherman and Don Wolfe, members of Operations, will be contacting ABCORI pastors for recommendations of people from among our congregations, with these skills, and who would consider serving the region, in these capacities. If you wish to receive further details, please contact Liz at the office. I will connect you with either Bob or Don.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE - Sunday July 27, 9:00am

The Foster Clergy Association is holding their 2nd out-doors ecumenical worship service at the Foster Old Home Days. (In case of rain, it will be next door at Foster Center Baptist Church) Rev. Dr. Donald Anderson, the executive minister for RISCC, is guest speaker. Early birds (8am) will find a breakfast fundraiser, sponsored by 4-H leaders, available in the Supper Shed. Directions: RT6 West to RT94 South or RT102 to RT94 North, then on to the fairgrounds.

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD –

One-day workshop, Tuesday, September 23, 8am – 4:30pm, Elmridge Golf Club, Pawcatuck, CT

Rev. Joshua A. McClure designed this workshop for pastors, church officers, Christian Education directors and teachers. The course will discuss the important differences between secular teaching and Christian teaching and will introduce a dynamic teaching method that focuses on understanding God's plan of redemption for humankind, with the emphasis on "knowing" the God of the Bible rather than intellectual knowledge and memorization. Registration for this workshop must be received by 9/3/2008 and is limited to 25. For all information and registration form contact: Kathleen Minchak, psbch@netzero.net or 401-596-1923

WCC SEEKS YOUNG ADULTS FOR ECUMENICAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/16/08) — The World Council of Churches (WCC) seeks ecumenically minded young adults for a variety of young adult service opportunities. The first two programs, deal with urgent issues of social concern: the National Council of Churches' ecumenical workweek in New Orleans, and a weeklong volunteer experience with *No More Deaths*, concerning help and justice for migrant workers on the Arizona/Mexico border. Both opportunities take place the week of August 17 to 23, 2008. For more information on the National Council of Churches' ecumenical workweek, visit www.nccusa.org/justrebuilding. For more information on the *No More Deaths* summer volunteer experience, visit www.nomoredeaths.org. Young adults interested in either of the first two programs, please email webmaster@abc-usa.org for details on the application process. The application deadline is Tuesday, July 22.

Five internships are available in Geneva, Switzerland, for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. The internships, from February 2009 to January 2010, provide an opportunity to learn and work in an international, ecumenical setting. It is an ideal opportunity for young people actively involved in the church and interested in learning more about the WCC and ecumenism, to develop their professional skills and capacities in serving local churches. Interns will develop an ecumenical project that they can implement when they return, from Geneva, to their home community and church. This is a way to ensure that the ecumenical movement is strengthened at a local level, with their church's support.

The five WCC internships available in 2009 are Accompanying Churches in Situations of Conflict; Youth and Ecumenical Relationships; Visitors Program/Media Relations; Faith, Science, Technology and Ethics; Faith and Order. Application forms are available on the youth page of the WCC website: www.ecumenicalyouth.org. **Application deadline**, for all five internship positions is **Sept. 15, 2008**.

ABC MISSIONARY PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE IN LEBANON

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 07/11/08) — The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon, recently completed its Middle East Conference -- an event designed to foster understanding between Christians and Muslims in the Arab world, as well as foster understanding with the western world. Dan Buttry, a global consultant for peace and justice issues with American Baptist International Ministries, was a keynote speaker at the event, held June 16 -20. Buttry was invited by the seminary's Institute of Middle East Studies. ([Click to read more](#))

CHURCHES SEEKING PASTORS

The following American Baptist Churches of RI have search committees and are in various stages of the "search" process. **Please keep them in your prayers.**

First Baptist Church Hope Valley
 Phenix Baptist Church (West Warwick)
 Roger Williams Baptist Church (Providence)
 Olney Street Baptist Church (Providence)
 Lakewood Baptist Church (Warwick)

Harbor Church (Block Island)
 First Baptist East Greenwich
 Greenville Baptist Church
 Graniteville Baptist Church
 Georgiaville Baptist Church

The ABCORI <u>Calendar</u>			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
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 17	Noon – 4 p.m.	ABCORI Family & Camp Alumni Picnic	Canonicus
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 11	12:00 p.m.	BHC – Baptist Heritage Center	Canonicus
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, 2009	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	Meadowood
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
CALENDAR ON LINE			