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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.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Please keep Rev. George Finch in your prayers.

FROM LILIANA'S DESK

I know the summer is not over yet, thank God! Nevertheless, we at ABCORI have already begun to think about next year's Annual Gathering. In the fashion of the new structure, we are holding what I call 'brainstorming meetings.' These meetings have the purpose of running ideas back and forth until we get an 'aha!' moment and we know we've found our way.

At the first meeting for the Annual Gathering, a handful of people wrestled with the choice of focus and format for 2009. This is where we need you. There are three good ideas on the table, but we'd like to have more input. Some of the ideas include the topic of Hope for today when there are so many social ills and economic troubles, and Faith for today when we need to deepen our spiritual lives in order to take action for Christ in this world. We have also talked about including testimonials, ending the day with a concert, or just making the whole day a festival of faith and music.

Our brothers and sisters in the East Bay and the Islands are seeking ways to further relationships with their West Bay ABCORI family. Therefore, we are in the process of talking to the pastors of the churches in Newport, in the hopes that we can have the AG there next year.

Would you consider coming to the next meeting so we can 'pick your brain'? Please look to the ABCORI calendar for this Ministry Opportunity date and time (TBA).

MISSION HONDURAS

Our plans to embrace this mission field are moving forward! After a couple of brainstorming meetings, the working group is organizing a special presentation to show you what God is doing in this beautiful country. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the world and needs a lot of attention from us who are called to bless the least of these...

Come to the special presentation on September 6, from 10 am to 12 Noon at First Baptist Church of Pawtucket. The presenters are coming from Massachusetts and they have been in Honduras many times. They'll share experiences, pictures, videos, and stories.

Coming up: Enrique and Stacey Newman return to RI October 2008
First Honduras trip for Rhode Island February 2009

INTRODUCTION TO INTERIM MINISTRY

The American Baptist Churches of Connecticut are organizing a special day of training for interim ministry. Anyone engaged in or considering a call to interim ministry is invited to attend. The Rev. Linda Lea Snyder will be the presenter. This takes place at FBC of New Haven, 205 Edwards St. in New Haven, CT 06511 on Saturday October 25, 2008 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. The cost is \$25. There are CEU's available.

Registration is due by October 20. Please let the ABCORI office know if you need a registration form. ABCORI is trying to raise the bar for interim ministry and we strongly recommend participation in this training.

PREACH OR PONDER

Money can buy. . .
a bed, but not rest
food, but not satisfaction
luxury, but not contentment
stocks, but not security
a house, but not a home
a church, but not a mission.

But what money cannot buy God offers as a free gift.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with that you have; for God has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you'" (Heb 13:5). The financial purpose of the church is not to accumulate as much money as possible, but to give away as much money as possible. Money is a value issue that touches the core of the personality.

A budget is:
A process to plan.
A plan to adopt.
A promotion to interpret.
A project to administer.
A provider for ministry.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Dr. Clifford R. Hockensmith has announced his resignation as Minister of First Baptist Church in Wickford and his retirement from full time parish ministry effective Dec. 31' 2008. Cliff's immediate plans are to join his wife Carol's licensed Mental Health Practice, Perspective Matters, based in North Kingstown. He finished 30 years of American Baptist Parish Ministry this past June. His D.Min. (EBTS '94) is in Marriage and Family Therapy. Cliff will focus his counseling and consultation on the intersection between psychology and religion, reaching out to clergy families as well as the general community.

BLESSING OF THE PETS

On Saturday, September 13, 2pm - First Baptist Church West Warwick invites both you and your pet to this fun event. Not only will we ask God to bless the pets, we will also have an auction, refreshments, a pet Fashion/Talent show, and the event commemorated by pictures. The show will go on rain or shine. We appreciate you spreading the word about the Blessing of the Pets. Funds raised will help defray the high cost of heating oil for the church. Your sponsorship and/or donations would be greatly appreciated.

For more information and to enter your pet into the Fashion/Talent show, please see the attached flyer. First Baptist Church of West Warwick Ph: 401.946.3420

HELPING OUR RETURNING VETS #1 from: Rhode Island State Council of Churches

The RISCC is working cooperatively with the Veteran's Administration and the RI National Guard to promote a workshop to help prepare faith leaders for some of the issues faced by soldiers returning to the United States. The workshop will be open to leaders from all faith traditions. The workshops will run from 8:30 to noon. There is no cost for the workshop, but we do ask that you contact Dolores at the RISCC (401-461-5558) to indicate your intention to attend one of the workshops in the following locations:

- Monday, November 3 at Temple Sinai in Cranston
- Wednesday, November 5 at Immaculate Conception Church in Westerly
- Thursday, November 6 at Community Baptist Church in Newport.

HELPING OUR RETURNING VETS #2

from: ABC-USA National Ministries

[A clergy gathering](#) at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Washington, DC in June reminds us that congregations and ministry professionals can provide pastoral care, support and concern to veterans as they adjust to civilian life. Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (and their families) have especially unique readjustment needs, medical center staff said. To find out more about ministering to these veterans, visit the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) on the Web.

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 08/13/08) —

American Baptists are urged to respond with prayer to the conflict between Russia and Georgia. While a ceasefire agreement was made Tuesday, there are widespread reports of continued violence occurring around the eastern side of Gori, a key town in central Georgia, and in the neighboring province of South Ossetia. International Ministries is sending a \$7,500 emergency grant from One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds to help the Georgian Baptists in their work with refugees and people who are displaced within Georgia because of the conflict.

[\(Click to read more\)](#)

<http://www.abc-usa.org/news/2008/20080813a.htm>

CALL FOR LEADERSHIP PACKET MATERIAL

Please get any church/organization event flyers to the ABCORI office, by August 22. The LRP (formerly the Quarterly Resource Packet) will be mailed to the churches the first week of September.

The ABCORI Calendar			
Items highlighted in yellow indicate additions or changes to the calendar			
August 17	Noon – 4 p.m.	ABCORI Family & Camp Alumni Picnic	Canonicus
August 20	10:00 a.m.	Chocoholic Core Committee	Lawrence
August 21		TIM Group; All Staff	
August 22	due date	Leadership Resource Packet Material	ABCORI office
August 22		Executive Team; Labyrinth Committee	Lawrence
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
August 25	2:00 p.m.	Properties Committee	Canonicus
Sept 1		Labor Day – ABCORI Office Closed	
Sept 2		Register for a Simeon’s Ministry Training	Kathy Black
Sept 2		Consultants Group – Resource Group	Lawrence
Sept 4		Ministers Council & SCOM	Lawrence
Sept 4	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	N. Scituate
Sept 6	10 a.m. – noon	Mission Honduras Special Presentation	1 st Pawtucket
Sept 10		BiRST	Dedham, MA
Sept 11	12:00 p.m.	BHC – Baptist Heritage Center	Canonicus
Sept 13	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
Sept 16	4:00 p.m.	Operations (formerly S&A)	N. Scituate
Sept 18		TIM Group; All Staff	
Sept 19-21		World Mission Conference - ABCUSA	2 nd Baptist–Suffield CT
Sept 24-26	7:00 p.m.	Revival – RISSC and RI Ministers Alliance	Calvary Baptist Church
Sept 27	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Tefft Chapel, Canonicus
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 18	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Grant Writing Course ABCORI/TABCOM	TBA
Oct 19	3:00 p.m.	134 th Anniversary Opening Celebration	Berean Baptist
Oct 25	2:30 – 8 p.m.	ABW Fall Mission Meeting	1 st N. Kingstown
Oct 28		Emotional Intelligence Seminar–Ministers Council	
Nov 4	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	1 st N. Kingstown
Nov 8		Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer	
Nov 15	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Grant Writing Course ABCORI/TABCOM	TBA
Nov 18	7:00 p.m.	Baptist Home Board	Phillips
Dec 6	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
		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	Meadowwood
Feb 24	7 – 9:00 p.m.	Board of Ministries	TBA
Feb 28	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
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 18	9 – 3:30 p.m.	RUAH	Canonicus
April 25	8:30 a.m. -	Annual Gathering (Session B)	TBA
October 3	9 – 3:00 p.m.	Missional Churches	Shaub, Canonicus
October		World Mission Conference	New Hampshire
CALENDAR ON LINE			