

THE WEEK AHEAD– See the [Calendar](#) on the last page

An Interfaith Tribute to Nelson Mandela

The Rhode Island interfaith community will come together for a Tribute to Nelson Mandela this Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 2:00 PM at the West End Tabernacle Baptist Church, 134 Bridgham Street, Providence, Rhode Island. The event is sponsored by the NAACP Providence Branch, African Alliance of Rhode Island (AARI), Rhode Island Ministerial Alliance, Rhode Island Council of Churches, American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, The Rhode Island Conference United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, The Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island, and The Rhode Island Council for Muslim Advancement.

Through eyes impaired by 27 years of imprisonment, Nelson Mandela had the vision to see the best interest of his country and the essential humanity of all its people. Though focused on the ills and struggles of South Africa, Nelson Mandela became a light to nations around the globe.

Nelson Mandela rejected recrimination in favor of reconciliation. He gave everything he had to heal his country and lead it back into the community of nations, including relinquishing his office and ensuring there would be a peaceful transfer of power. Today, people all around over the world who yearn for democracy look to Mandela's nation and its democratic Constitution as a hopeful example of what is possible.

Nelson Mandela will long be remembered for his activism, courage, independent judgment, dignity and integrity. Our communities will gather to honor his life and commit ourselves to his legacy at this Sunday's Tribute to Nelson Mandela interfaith event.

Media Contact Person: Jim Vincent 401-521-6222 or 401-261-0174

From ABC-USA

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/3/13)—December 1-17, 2013, seventeen American Baptist women are traveling in Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand on a mission encounter co-sponsored by American Baptist Women's Ministries and International Ministries. While there, they are participating in the 200th Anniversary Judson Celebration, meeting women's ministry leaders, and visiting historical Judson sites as well as today's American Baptist missionaries engaged in mission and ministry in Thailand.

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

<http://www.abc-usa.org/2013/12/03/american-baptist-women-deliver-prayers-to-kachin-women-in-myanmar/>

Around Our Churches

Join us for A Christmas Cantata Choirs from Central Baptist Church, Seventh Day Baptist Church, Hope Valley Baptist Church, and First Baptist of Charlestown will perform Cantata entitled "**One King**" Performances: Seventh Day Baptist Church Saturday, December 14, 4:00 PM and at Central Baptist Church Sunday, December 15, 4:00 PM

Christmas Cantata at Central Baptist Church of Westerly The Choir from Central Baptist of Westerly, joined by Choirs from Seventh Day Baptist Church, Hope Valley Baptist Church, and First Baptist of Charlestown will perform a Christmas Cantata. Performances are at Seventh Day Baptist Church (Main Street, Westerly) on Saturday, December 14, 4:00 PM and at Central Baptist Church (16 Elm Street, Westerly) on Sunday, December 15, 4:00 PM

Blue Christmas Service: Christmas can be a sad time for those who have experienced loss of or separation from a loved one. This service is designed with those people in mind. If you struggle during the holiday season, or you desire to support others, we invite you to attend this service.

Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM. Moosup Valley Congregational Church, 81 Moosup Valley Road, Foster (Sponsored by the Foster Clergy Association, Rev. Barry Arruda, {North Foster Baptist Church}, President.

The First Baptist Church in America presents on Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM, the Cumberland-Lincoln Community Chorus Holiday Concert, a fast-paced 90 minute program with a 15-minute intermission, this season's spirited and lively program of holiday music is sure to enlighten, and entertain all ages. Free will offering to assist the Chorus with its continued community outreach program. And on Sunday, December 22, 3:00 PM, join us for In Sweet Rejoicing: Christmas with the Rhode Island Civic Chorale Chamber Choir, featuring seasonal music of Distler, Holst, Rutter and Willcocks. Free will offering: suggested donation \$12. 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI, 401.454.3418.

Enjoy Winter Opportunities at Canonicus

During the month of December you have the rare opportunity to utilize the Meadowwood Conference Center or Shaub Lodge for day or evening events on the weekend. December is a very busy month for our churches. Wouldn't it be a nice change of pace to have a day retreat or to move an Advent activity or celebration to these lovely grounds? We are also offering special discounts for overnight retreats to our churches during the months of December and January. Why not give Linda Martin a call today at 401 294-6318 ext.103? May God bless you with His Glorious Light and Presence this Advent Season.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

Attention all readers! The annual SPNM adult Spelling Bee, a fund-raiser for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries, will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2014, from 1:30 to 4 p.m, at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad St. in Providence. Churches or groups who plan to participate form 3-member teams and pay an entry fee of \$200 (the fundraising part!)/ Come and cheer your team on and enjoy the afternoon! (Cowbells and noisemakers are permitted--between rounds) Individual admission, \$5. Refreshments served after the contest. Barbara Morse Silva of Ch. 10 will again be the Mistress of Ceremonies. This is a way to stir your brain, have a good time, and raise money to support a very worthy cause. Put this on your calendar now and think about joining a spelling team. See you next year, on the 1st day of February!!.

Extend your circle of service. South Providence Neighborhood Ministries is looking for volunteers to serve on standing committees, event committees and the board of directors. Various skills and time commitments are needed. In addition, volunteer positions are available in the food pantry and in the after-school program. Please contact Yvette Kenner, Executive Director, at 401-461-7509 or Yvette@spnm.org.

Leadership Development

Leadership Development Day-January 25, 2014. All ABCORI churches are invited and encouraged to participate. Register early this event fills quickly. Last year there was a waiting list. See flyer for further details.

Creation Care Ideas for Christian Ed

RI Interfaith Power & Light invites all East Bay congregations to share ideas and resources on creation care and environmental stewardship in religious education. This interfaith gathering features Sr. Catherine Walsh, RSM, of Mercy Ecology Center. Tuesday, November 19th. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 324 East Main Rd., Portsmouth; 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Kathy Black at 401-324-9142 by November 12th. [Flyer here.](#)

Baptist Peacemakers:

The Baptist Peacemakers of RI (BPRI) will be meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2014, at 1:45 pm, at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI, 02910. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and for planning the events for the year.

We encourage members of ABCORI churches to attend the 2014 Summer Conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (Peace Camp) to be held at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, from July 14-19. The BPRI has offered scholarships to "Peace Camp" in the past and hopes to do so in the future

A fund-raising concert will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm at Community Church of Providence, 372 Wayland Avenue, Providence, RI, 02906. Featured performers will be Steve Gretz and Leslie Lee. Steve is the pastor of Greece Baptist Church in Rochester NY and has performed with Leslie Lee throughout the United States and at the biennial gathering of American Baptist Churches USA.

For more information please contact Janet Davies at (401) 941-7666 or email her at jandav36@cox.net.

The ABCORI Calendar 2012

Date	Time	Event	Location
2013			
Dec 17	7 pm	BOM	TBA
Dec 19	10 am	TIM Group - third Thursday of the month	Canonicus
Jan 13	6:30 pm	ABW Executive Board Meeting	Lakewood Baptist Church
Jan 24-25		Spiritual Growth Retreat	Canonicus
March 10	6:30 pm	ABW Executive Board Meeting	Lakewood Baptist Church
March 29		Church and Community Spring Gathering	
May 12	6:30 pm	ABW Executive Board Meeting	Lakewood Baptist Church
June 6-7		Annual Conference for Women and Girls	Canonicus

If you have something for The E-notes, please send it to info@abcori.org.

Please use Arial 10pt font – Thank you