

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

### **From the Executive Minister**

I am honored and excited to join the ABCORI family! Your staff has been open and welcoming. I congratulate you on gathering such a committed and gifted staff to serve you and God's mission in Rhode Island.

Although I am still in the process of unpacking and getting settled in the offices, it has been a joy to begin meeting with the Board of Ministries, the participants of the Elder Care Valentine luncheon, the Providence Baptist Theological Circle, the Baptist Heritage Center, as well as a number of your individual leaders and pastors. I am thrilled to be part of a ministry team that is looking forward for God's movement and mission in our Region and beyond.

Thanks to the amazing and gracious hospitality of Don and Ginny Rasmussen I have a place to stay while I await the arrival of my wife, Linda. Linda is completing her teaching contract for North Platte Public Schools in North Platte, Nebraska. At the close of the school year we will complete our move and settle into the task of becoming Rhode Islanders. We look forward to building relationships with you all.

In the meantime we all have good work to do. I look forward to meeting with the Transition Team today, with all the Ministry Teams on Tuesday, February 26th, and with all of you at the Annual Business Meeting on March 4th. I will be in Valley Forge, PA, at the ABCUSA ministry center for much of next week where our national staff will provide me with some excellent training for my work with you. I will be praying for all our churches as I am away and looking forward to returning with access to some new information and tools for serving you.

I am excited about all the opportunities to meet you, worship with you, and minister alongside you. I have a great desire to be in as many churches as possible as quickly as possible. Please don't miss the worship opportunities with your congregation. I may have the opportunity to be with you and I look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings+  
Tom Wiles  
Executive Minister

### **From the Desk of the Operations Manager**

Greetings

Last month President, Donna Sherman shared an a matching gift opportunity regarding the \$500 Love Gift for Linda project. I would like to offer a word of thanks to those individuals who have responded and have already contributed to the wonderful labor of love. As of 2/14/13 we have received \$250 for Linda's Love Gift offering. Praise God! We are half way to achieving our matching gift goal of \$500. *If you are able to participate, please send your Love Gift to ABCORI and indicate*

*in the Memo line "Love Gift for Linda." Remember no gift of love is ever too small and every monetary gift and/or prayer given to uplift and encourage our Executive Minister, Rev. Tom Wiles and his family will be cherished, appreciated and I'm sure received as a tangible expression of the love that God extends to each of us.*

Blessings – Nikita McCalister

The original enotes message from President, Donna Sherman is below:

*In keeping with "Healthy Pastors" ABCORI will provide for Rev. Wiles' wife, Linda, to visit RI once this year when she finds time in her school contract. The purpose of this trip is to help locate housing and become acquainted with the area. Another offer has been made to the churches of ABCORI to further support our Mission of Healthy Pastors. A matching gift of \$500 will be donated to a "Love Gift for Linda" to allow her to travel several times until she is able to make the final move at the end of the school year. This means if you will donate to the Love Gift each dollar will be matched up to \$500. The monies will specifically be available to Linda for travel to and from RI and be shepherded by the Board of Ministries. These are tough economic times, for our new Executive Minister's family also. If you are able to participate, please send your Love Gift to ABCORI and indicate in the Memo line "Love Gift for Linda." Blessings on you. Donna Sherman*

### **Annual Business Meeting**

The Annual Business Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) will be held **Monday, March 4, 2013, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broad St., Providence. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m.** Delegates selected by your church are expected to attend and guests are welcome. Parking is in a secure lot next to the church. Download the agenda [here](#)

### **Around Our Churches**

**Sabbath Day, February 9th has now been scheduled for Saturday, March 9th.** If you have not already registered there is still time and room for more. We will gather in Shaub Lodge to a cozy fire – note change of venue.

**Meet the ABCORI Executive Minister. All are invited to come and meet the Rev. Tom Wiles,** Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island. Stop by and welcome Tom and Linda Wiles at the home of Dan and Reppa Cottrell at 25 Harney Hill Road, Coventry, RI on Sunday afternoon February 24th anytime between 3:00 – 6:00 pm.

**Mar. 17 4PM Deacon & Deaconess Day Olney Street Baptist Church**

**The First Baptist Church in Swansea, the 3rd oldest Baptist congregation** in the Americas, the oldest in Massachusetts, is sponsoring a tour to Baptist heritage sites in Wales. John Myles, our founding pastor, founded the first Baptist congregations in Wales beginning in 1649. The tour is led by the Rev. Dr. Charles K. Hartman as a part of our congregation's 350th celebration. The tour is scheduled for June 12-20, 2013 and will visit Cardif, Swansea, Oxford and London. Brochures with registration form and other information available from Charlie Hartman ([revdochart@gmail.com](mailto:revdochart@gmail.com)).

Some brochures will be available in ABCORI office.

**First Baptist @ Quonnie, 5073 Old Post Road, Charlestown (RI)** Contact the pastor at (401) 862 3133 Available at no cost: 1973 Traditional (Model 632) Conn Organ - two keyboards, 26 pedal notes, 44 stops, good condition

**“Reach out to support the friends and family of Sandy Hook Elementary by adopting a prayer bear.** There are 55 bears left to reach the goal for the second delivery of bears to the Newtown United Methodist Church. Bears are \$10 each and are hand stuffed and prayed over. Adopters can name their bear and include a note of condolence and encouragement if they desire. Please contact First Baptist Church in Wickford for more information. 401.294.4595 or [office@wickfordbaptist.org](mailto:office@wickfordbaptist.org)

**First Baptist Church of Pawtucket April 13, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.** Ham & Bean Supper with entertainment.

**The Congregational Life Team announces All church Worship Sunday** to be held on April 28, 3 pm, at First in America. Watch enotes for further details.

### **2013 LENTEN SCHEDULE: A Journey With Faith in Jesus**

*North & West Providence Cluster of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island*

Services are on Wednesday evenings during Lent and on Good Friday at 7 p.m. All services are followed by refreshments. Attendees are invited to bring a nonperishable food item for the Emergency Food Pantry at Church of the Master. The monetary offering received during these services will be given to the Good Neighbor Heating Fund, and the James Children’s home in India that was founded by Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence that supports 12 girls. Funds are being raised to complete the building, and will house a total of 24 girls who range in age from 5 years old to 16 years old. \*\*In case of inclement weather please contact the hosting church or check your local news broadcasts to see if services are cancelled.

**\*\*\*During the Lenten series each weekly offering is to be split in half. A check for one half can be sent to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church with “James Children’s Home” in the memo line, and the other half can be sent to Georgiaville Baptist Church with “Heating Fund” in the memo line.**

Graniteville Baptist Church

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Rev. Rebecca Law

Rev. Dr. Paul Lawrence

82 Serrel Sweet Rd.

262 Academy Ave

Johnston, RI 02919

Providence, RI 02908

231-6542

351-2347

Allendale Baptist Church

Rev. Angie Henrichon

545 Woonasquatucket Ave

North Providence, RI 02911

231-7669

Georgiaville Baptist Church

Rev. John Marr

100 Farnum Pike

Smithfield, RI 02917

232-5925

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Rev. Jim Miller

529 Charles Street

Providence, RI 02904

861-1061

Church of the Master

Rev. Alex Gaete

15 Valley Street

Providence, RI 02909

861-5568

## **Around Our State**

**Support Local Artists Facing Homelessness and other Challenges:** The 7th Annual "From the Heart" art show sponsored by McAuley House takes place on Thursday, February 7th from 5-7 pm at McAuley House, 622 Elmwood Ave. in Providence RI. The show, which is free and open to the public, features the artwork of women and men facing challenges such as homelessness, poverty, addiction and mental illness. Come celebrate them as they heal, create, grow and give back. The sale of artwork benefits the artists and McAuley House programming.

## **SPNM**

**Want to share a van?** South Providence Neighborhood Ministries would like to explore options with a church or group that owns a van and would consider sharing it. SPNM willing to share costs. SPNM needs the van on weekday afternoons for its afterschool program, and possible options for some summer day use as well. SPNM wants to explore options that are mutually beneficial. Contact Yvette Kenner, Ex Dir, at 401-461-7509 or Whitney Bancroft at 401-783-4231.

**SPNM looking for volunteers.** Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. Working with the kids after-school (play games, do a craft, do a science experiment, cook) can be done one time, a couple days one week, one day a week for several weeks, for 1-2 hours. Make your own schedule! Call Amy at 461-7509.

Also needed is a team to clean the hardwood floor and paint walls in the back hallway. This is probably 2 half days of work for 2-4 people. Call Yvette at 461-7509..

## **Search for Executive Minister for ABC of Dakota**

Dear Colleagues:

I wanted you to know that the search for a new executive minister for ABC of the Dakotas has officially opened. Dr. Riley Walker announced his retirement at the fall 2012 ABC of Dakotas meeting and has agreed to continue to serve while the search committee discerns the next leader for this region.

Thank you in advance for letting others know of this opportunity. Please feel free to forward this announcement and region profile. All nominations and applications should be sent to Bob Weiss via email: [baweissguy@yahoo.com](mailto:baweissguy@yahoo.com).

Jeff Woods

[ABCD Executive Minister Proposed Announcement.docx](#)  
[ABC of the Dakota's Regional Fact Sheet and Profile-final.docx](#)

## **CONFERENCE FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS**

The Conference for Church Musicians will be held July 13-20, 2013 at the Green Lake Conference Center. This will be 49th annual conference planned by The Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians. Conferees of all ages have the opportunity to work with nationally and internationally renowned clinicians in both ensemble and workshop settings. Workshops are designed to further educate and train those involved in church music leadership. In addition to daytime activities, the conference has six evening concert programs. The 2013 clinicians include: Marty Haugen-worship; Robert Hobby-adult choir; Timothy Waugh-youth choir; Vicki Hancock Wright-children's choir; Anna Laura Page-Handbells; Ernest Gross-instrumental; Jeremy Bankson-organ; Jan Corrothers-piano. Further information regarding the conference and registration is available on our website at [www.fabm.com](http://www.fabm.com) or by calling (812) 371-5390.

## **Baptist Peacemakers**

The next meeting of the Baptist Peacemakers of RI will be held on Sunday, March 10, at Lime Rock Baptist Church in Lincoln, RI, at 2:00 pm. We welcome all to join us.

Also 100 scholarships (first come first served) are available to people of color for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America 2013 Summer Conference at Gonzaga University, Spokane Washington. If interested call the BPFNA office at 1-704-521-6051 and ask to speak to LeDayne.

## **MissionWorks 2013**

If you missed MissionWorks 2012 you missed an exciting and inspiring time with our missionaries. The food, speakers, accommodations, workshops, fun and fellowship with brothers and sisters passionate about mission was outstanding. But I have some good news MissionWorks 2013 planning is already underway and the team is very excited about this year's theme and program. You will want to save the date October 18-19, 2013 at the Sheraton Four Points, Leominster, MA. Remember to mark your calendar today and look for more information to follow in the coming weeks.

## **Mission Opportunity**

There will be a Short Term Mission opportunity to New Orleans: April 13-20, 2013 The project is the rebuilding of homes that were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. For more information contact group leader Rev. Steve Youd at [steveyoud@gmail.com](mailto:steveyoud@gmail.com) or call him at 508-525-6221 or Linda Martin at [linda@abcori.org](mailto:linda@abcori.org) or 401 294-6318 ext. 103. See more information in tabcomnotes

## **Church Buildings Available for Rent**

Graniteville Baptist Church Johnston, RI is offering the use of the sanctuary and fellowship hall on Sunday afternoons and evenings, as well as weekdays/evenings as needed. The rental fee will be \$150 per week, or a monthly fee of \$500. Please call the church at 231-6572 or email [granitevillebaptist@cox.net](mailto:granitevillebaptist@cox.net)

2 chapels ( upstairs chapels seats 150 and downstairs 50), Rear Parking  
Rent \$250.00 for 2 hours for 20 people. Rent will increase based on number of people.  
Call Mrs. Richard E Whitney  
Church address: 1568 Lonsdale Ave. Lincoln RI 02865.

## **The ABCORI Calendar 2012**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2013</b>			
Jan 23	6pm	Operations meeting	North Scituate Baptist Church
Jan 25-26		AB Women's Ministries Spiritual Retreat	Canonicus
Feb 2	1:30 pm	Annual Spelling Bee	South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
Feb 7	4pm	Personell Committee	Canonicus

Feb 7	7pm	Properties Committee	Canonicus
Feb 12	6pm	BOM	Clavary Batist Church
Feb 18	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
March 4	7pm	Annual Business Meeting	Calvary Baptist Church
March 9		Sabbath Time Retreat	Canonicus
March 17	4pm	Deacon & Deaconess Day	Onley Street Baptisy Church
April 8	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
April 13	6pm	Ham & Bean Supper	First Baptist Church Pawtucket
April 13	4 pm	Baptist Peacemakers of RI Concert	Community Church of Providence
April 20		AB Women's Ministries Spring Gathering	FBC, Hope Valley
April 28	3pm	All Church Worship Sunday	First Baptist Church in America
April 27		Sabbath Time Retreat	Canonicus
June 14-15		Annual Conference for Women and Girls	Canonicus
June 21-23		Amer. Baptist Mission Summit/Biennial	Overland Park/Kansas City
July 3	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist