

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

## From the Executive Minister

It's good to be back in the office and among our pastors and churches following some extended travel. In mid-March I spent two weeks in Myanmar with a group of American Baptist leaders and scholars as we interacted with our Burmese Baptist brothers and sisters. They are gearing up for a wonderful bicentennial celebration of the Baptist witness in Burma this fall. It was a joy and a challenge to see how the seeds planted by Ann and Adoniram Judson in 1813 continue to bear fruit today. The churches in Myanmar face significant challenges, but are also joyous in their witness and worship.

As many of you are aware, while I was in Myanmar I received word that my mother, Ruth Wiles, passed away following a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's. It was difficult being so far from my family at that time, but I was grateful that my siblings were able to delay the memorial service and burial until I returned. I am so appreciative and thankful for the many messages of comfort and support that you have shared. Every card, every call, every kind word has been an active ministry of healing for me and my family. Thank you for reaching out in so many significant ways.

During the week of April 1-5, I gathered with other ABC Regional Executive Ministers for a time of training and discussion. I am impressed and encouraged by the quality of ministry that is taking place all through ABCUSA. ABCORI is an important part of the ministry. I look forward to new efforts for cooperation that will expand our ministry in Rhode Island and beyond as we work with other Regions facing similar challenges and opportunities.

But, as I said, it's good to be back in Rhode Island. There is a lot going on among our churches and within ABCORI itself. I encourage you to carefully read all the postings in this issue of "e-notes" and celebrate the rich diversity of God's presence in our communities through our churches and ministries.

This Sunday it will be my great privilege to worship and deliver the sermon at Phenix Baptist Church and the following week I look forward to joining in the Deacon Ordination celebration at Mount Hope. The following week we all will join together for the All-Church Worship at First Baptist Church of America on Sunday afternoon.

I am anxious to worship with all of our congregations. I would love to bring words of greetings from your sister congregations, ABCORI, and Camp Canonicus, to preach, or to simply join with you in your acts of worship. I encourage you to let me know when you are planning a special worship opportunity, celebrating a unique ministry or event, or are able to offer me an opportunity to preach and/or share about ABCORI's mission and ministry. I hope to be in your church soon.

Blessings+

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Wiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Congregational Life is excited to announce details for the All Church Worship on April 28. Rev. Tom Wiles will be the keynote speaker. The music artistry of Steve Martorella, the FBCIA Choir, and Mt. Hope Praise & Worship team highlight the afternoon. See attached poster for more specifics.**

[Poster](#)

[Bulletin Insert](#)

### **News from the Board of Ministries**

We shared "Praise Notes" at our last meeting. We are thankful for the experience. Here are a number of the shared thoughts:

Ken was thankful for six events planned at Norwood Baptist related to evangelism and the church being "on fire for the Lord"

Evan gave thanks for the church secretary of Community Church of Providence (I was thankful that she was willing to take notes!).

Wickford Baptist praised God for the opportunity to share in Sunday meals with needy in the community.

Rich was grateful for diversity in his church community.

Bob loved the installation service at his church including the wonderful music and "full" church.

Deb shared her love for the music ministry at Phillips

Allendale Baptist was lifted up as a model for small churches.

Many related the joy of the youth in "Immerse" and the hunger for Christ throughout our region.

Bob was thankful for former Presidents of ABCORI like Donna, Jim and Dan who have led the way so successfully and helped keep the meeting going!

Give praise to our Lord!

## **Around Our Churches**

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

**Sat. Apr. 13th Fisherman's Breakfast at Summit Baptist Church, 1176 Victory Highway, Greene RI** from 4:00am to 11:00am. Eat-in or Take-out.

**On Sunday, April 14, the award-winning Dr. Carolyn Blevins will be preaching** on "Being Woman, Being Baptist," at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in America. She will be joined by her husband, Dr. William Blevins, chair of the Religion Department of Carson-Newman University, who will lead the Sunday Adult Forum at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to enjoy these presentations. On Sundays there is plenty of free parking on the streets and parking lots around the Meeting House at 75 No. Main Street, Providence

**Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church, home of the original May Breakfast, will hold their 146th May Breakfast** on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 from 6 to 11 AM. Adults: \$7.00, Children (12 and under): \$4.00. Our traditional menu of clam cakes, scrambled egg, ham, cornbread, apple pie, coffee & juice is served family style. Come along and bring a friend.

**88th Annual May Breakfast to be held Saturday May 4, 2013 at Norwood Baptist Church, 84 Budlong Ave, Warwick, RI 02888** from 7-10 a.m. served by wait staff. The menu will include eggs cooked to order, bacon or ham, home fries, and baked beans. There also will be cereal, muffins, rolls, pies, juice, coffee, tea or milk. Featured will be a sale of all occasion gift baskets and candy-filled May baskets. Ticket prices; \$8.00 for Adults; \$ 4.00 for Children ages 5-12 yrs. Children 5 and under are our guests! The church is handicapped accessible. Reservations suggested for parties of 5 or more. Tickets may be purchased at the door. CALL 401-941-7040 or email [NorwoodBaptist1@gmail.com](mailto:NorwoodBaptist1@gmail.com)

**Warwick Central Baptist Church 3270 Post Road, Warwick will be holding its 38th Annual May Breakfast** on Saturday, May 4, from 6:00 -10:30 am. All you can eat menu includes fruit salad, scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, ham, home fries, baked beans, muffins. cereal, coffee, tea, milk and Juice. May Baskets will also be available. Adults \$8.00.children 5-12 \$4.00 and children under 5 free.

**Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, 565 Pontiac Ave., Cranston will be holding its annual May Breakfast** on Saturday, May 4, 7:00 – 10:00 AM. Breakfast served on china plates and includes: Traditional RI Johnny Cakes, scrambled eggs, baked beans, ham, fruit pies, juice, coffee and tea. Adults \$8.00 – Children 10 and under \$4.00. Beautiful handmade May Baskets filled with home-made cookies and candy will be on sale.

**Olney Street Baptist Church, 100 Olney Street, Providence**, invites you to its annual May Breakfast on May 4, 8 am – 11 am. Breakfast will include eggs, bacon, sausages, home fries, grits,

biscuits, juice and coffee. Adults: \$5; Children 6-12: \$3; Children 5 and under eat free! Please join us for food & fellowship!

**This year, the First Baptist Church in America, is observing the 375th anniversary** of its founding in 1638 with a series of special preaching events. Dr. Walter Shurden kicked off the year-long series back on Reformation Sunday in 2012, and the next speaker will be the award-winning Dr. Carolyn Blivens preaching on "Being Woman, Being Baptist," on Sunday April 14 at 11 a.m. She will be joined by her husband, Dr. William Blivens, chair of the Religion Department of Carson-Newman University, who will lead the Sunday Adult Forum at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited and welcome to enjoy these presentations. On Sundays there is plenty of free parking on the streets and parking lots around the Meeting House at 75 No. Main Street, Providence.

**Looking for that old hymn you love? Check out the Motter Resource Center** at Canonicus. There are 60 different hymnals in the reference section. Also, while there, go downstaire and check out the "free" table and other "for sale" items. All books are still 75% off the internet price.

### **From Eldercare Ministries**

The Alzheimer's Association of RI is holding its annual Caregiver Conference at the Crowne Plaza on June 25th. This is free for caregivers and is one of the best conferences of its kind in NE.

### **Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter**

3rd Annual  
**"Caregiver's Journey"**

### **A Conference for Alzheimer's Caregivers & Healthcare Professionals**

This event brings together more than 300 Alzheimer's caregivers, consumers, and healthcare professionals. This conference features nationally known keynote speaker and advocate, Stephanie Zeman, author of "*Kisses for Elizabeth*." In addition to Stephanie, we are offering 24 workshops presented by experts in the field of Alzheimer's care.

**Tuesday, June 25, 2013  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Warwick, RI 02886  
8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

**[Click to download brochure with registration.](#)**

## **For our Ministers**

*Greetings from the Ministers Council. To view the latest issue of the Ministers Council newsletter please click on the link below.*

<http://www.ministerscouncil.org/Periodicals/documents/13AprNewsletervol155.pdf>

## **South Providence Neighborhood Ministries**

Music in May, a concert of Christian Music, with a casual buffet dinner and silent auction, on Saturday, May 4 at First Baptist Church, Wickford, to benefit South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. See [flyer](#) for details. Meal tickets available at the door, but a reservation call in advance will be most appreciated.

## **Church/Pastor Anniversaries**

At our All-Church Worship on Sunday, April 28th at 3 PM at First Baptist of America, we wish to honor Pastor's anniversaries of Ordination and church anniversaries. Please submit your info to [colleen@abcori.org](mailto:colleen@abcori.org) as soon as possible.

## **Ministers Council Retreat**

RI Ministers Council Annual Block Island Retreat ... Tuesday and Wednesday May 14-15. If you'd like an extra day of R&R, you may also register for Monday May 13. We are excited that Rev. Debora Jackson, National Ministers Council President, will lead our retreat this year. Register early. The "season" starts on May 15, and we want to be sure you have rooms.

## [Registration Form](#)

### **Beaver Days At Canonicus**

On three special Saturdays help open Camp Canonicus for the upcoming summer camp and conferencing season. Each day runs from 9m to 3pm with lunch provided.

**April 13** - Volunteers will focus on Storm clean-up and opening up the camp water system

**May 11** - Volunteers will open up and clean program areas throughout Canonicus

**June 8** - Volunteers will make the final preparations for the first day of Camp and Staff Training

Although each day has its own focus there will be many projects for all skill levels. If there is a particular project that you or your group is looking to do we please let us know and we make the appropriate arrangements. Click [here for a flyer](#)

#### **Advance registration is helpful!**

Contact Matt Black ~ 294-6318 x107~ 215-4089 (cell)

email: [matt@abcori.org](mailto:matt@abcori.org)

### **Invitation For Choirs**

Greetings. I'm writing on behalf of the Biennial/Mission Summit Planning Committee to invite your church choir, and other singers in your church, to be involved in a very special opportunity to sing with Kansas City based composer Mark Hayes. Mark will direct his beloved anthem "To Love Our God" on Sunday night, June 23 at the Overland Park Convention Center with a choir of singers from around the ABC.

Please see the attached documents to sign up for this unique opportunity. And visit the Biennial/Mission Summit website to learn more about this historic meeting.

[Mass Choir with Composer Mark Hayes](#)    [To Love Our God](#)

[www.americanbaptists2013.org](http://www.americanbaptists2013.org)

Blessings,

Rev. Brad Berglund  
Biennial/Mission Summit Worship Designer  
Brad Berglund  
Office: 720.489.8073

## **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 BPFNA is the recipient of a \$15,000 2012/2013 Palmer Grant award under the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) grant cycle theme of "Discipleship: Engaging the 18 to 29 Years Old Community." We intend to use the funds to continue and expand the companioning program that we launched at Peace Camp in 2012, where 9 pairs of companions were matched. Through this program, young adults are invited into a personal relationship with adults who are at a different place in their own lives. These older companions have already experienced much of what the younger adults are going through and, thus, they have the benefit of "looking back" and sharing their stories.

This year, we hope to double the number of active companions and we invite young peacemakers (age 18-29) to apply for one of the companion spots that will be funded for attending the 2013 summer conference.

If you will be between the ages of 18-29 on July 15, 2013, would like to attend peace camp in 2013 at Gonzaga University and would like to participate in the companioning program throughout the year and into summer conference (July 2014), we invite you to apply for consideration by completing an application by May 15, 2013.

You can find the application here:

<http://www.bpfna.org/companioning-app>

**FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS NEWS WITH ANY YOUNG ADULT YOU KNOW WITH A HEART FOR PEACE ROOTED IN JUSTICE!**

## **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**

Mission Opportunity: Warwick Central Baptist Church is organizing a trip back to the Murrow Indian Orphanage in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The dates are August 10 to 17, 2013. The cost will be about \$1200 per person depending on air fare. This includes lodging, food, car rental, and funds for the mission project. We are restricted by housing as to how many can go. There are about 6 slots open. This is a great opportunity to see what mission work is all about. For more information, contact Lori Bergman at [lori-Bergman@cox.net](mailto:lori-Bergman@cox.net), or 738-0901.

## **The ABCORI Calendar 2012**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2013</b>			
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 9	10 am	Annual Blessing of the Animals Service	Liberty Baptist Church
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