

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

We are asking for continued prayers for healing and the speedy recovery for ABCORI staff member, Lucien Martin.

We express praise to God for the safe travel and arrival of our Executive Minister, Rev. Tom Wiles

From the ABCORI President

Greetings-

Rejoice—our new Executive Minister is en route and expected to arrive on Friday, beginning work next Monday. Pray for safe travel for him!

Today I am writing in response to the many thoughts that have been shared electronically regarding the RI State Council of Churches' Statement on Marriage Equality. I truly appreciate the way many of you are stating your deepest convictions regarding God's plan for marriage. I think that the dialogue reflects the strength within our American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island Association—that Soul Liberty which allows and even requires each individual to study Scripture and conscience in order to formulate his or her beliefs.

I am writing as the President of the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island, and in consultation with some other leaders of our association because some of you have called upon your ABCORI leadership to state an ABCORI position. However, I am also writing as an individual. ABCORI has not met in session since the RISCC statement so there can be no official response to the Council of Churches' Statement. I am incorporating the comments made by the leaders I consulted, and I thank them for their thoughts.

Recognizing that our congregations, pastors, and congregants are not of one mind concerning same sex marriage I need to specifically state that there is no ABCORI position on the issue. No one, not the Board of Ministries, the Executive Minister, nor any individual member of an ABCORI church or ABCORI staff can credibly speak for ABCORI or her member congregations. This is the fundamental reality of Baptist polity. As important as this issue is socially, when we identify ourselves as American Baptists we must recognize that whatever we say must be offered in a manner consistent with our polity. Each individual church must also determine if and how it can engage in this discussion as well.

Therefore, the fundamental question for us all is how to be Baptist in the face of these controversial situations. We have great diversity within our region and yet we are bound together by our covenant relationship and our common beliefs. The defining factor in our association must be our commitment to serve Jesus Christ and to uplift each other in our Christian walk. We need to determine how we can “agree to disagree” and still uphold each other in Christian love. In the next month as we welcome Rev. Tom Wiles as our new Executive Minister and Rev. Robert Auld as our new

President, I pray that we will be able to engage in dialogue and reaffirm our fundamental Baptist principles.

In Christian Service,
Donna D. Sherman, President

From the Desk of the Operations Manager

Staff/Volunteer Update

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Executive Minister, Rev. Tom Wiles and Hospitality Coordinator, Rev. Shyral Wallis whom will both begin their employment with ABCORI next week. We are thrilled to add their gifts, skills, and abilities to our talented group of volunteer and staff lead organization.

Your Mission Dollars at Work

We need your continued support in raising the level of our mission support dollars. The following is the comparative two year summary of American Baptist Mission Support as of December 31, 2012.

ABMS CATEGORY	YTD THRU DEC. 2012	YTD THRU DEC. 2011	\$ DIFF.	% DIFF.
UNITED MISSION BA- SICS	\$170,433	\$220,589	(\$50,156)	(22.7%)
LOVE GIFT	\$4,364	\$5,449	(\$1,085)	(19.9%)
UNITED MISSION DES- IGNATIONS	\$3,181	\$3,526	(\$345)	(9.8%)
TOTAL UNITED MIS- SION	\$177,977	\$229,564	51,587)	(22.5%)
AMERICA FOR CHRIST	\$21,430	\$17,273	\$4,157	24.1%
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	\$25,063	\$35,531	(\$10,469)	(29.5%)
WORLD MISSION OF- FERING	\$17,023	\$16,969	\$54	0.3%
R.M.M.O.	\$17,137	18,567	(\$1,431)	(7.7%)
REGION OFFERING	\$550	\$300	\$250	.3%
INSTITUTIONAL SUP- PORT	\$2,575	\$2,210	\$365	16.5%
SPECIFICS	\$35,218	\$36,907	(\$1,689)	(4.6%)
TARGETED GIVING	\$8,628	\$7,073	\$1,554	22.0%
TOTAL ABMS	\$305,599	\$364,395	(\$58,796)	(16.1%)

From Eldercare Ministries

The Lieutenant Governor's office and DEA have been holding state wide listening sessions to address the needs of those caring for people afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease. Two of the sessions are being held in February.

Linked here is a [flyer](#) announcing the information for the upcoming Alzheimer's Listening Sessions.

The first will be Tuesday, February 19th at 6pm at Progreso Latino in Central Falls. The second will be Thursday, February 28th at 6pm at Dorcas International Institute.

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.

Around Our Churches

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). 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

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.

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.

Jeff Woods

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

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 or call him at 508-525-6221 or Linda Martin at 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

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

Date	Time	Event	Location
2013			
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	Calvary Baptist Church
Feb 18	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
Feb 9		Sabbath Time Retreat	Canonicus
March 4	7pm	Annual Business Meeting	Calvary Baptist Church

March 17	4pm	Deacon & Deaconess Day	Onley Street Baptisy Church
April 8	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
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

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

Please use Arial 10pt font – Thank you