

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

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Our prayers and condolences go out to the family of Rev. Lincoln Smith Sr. who was called home to the Lord on Wednesday.

From Our Executive Minister

It was a great joy to spend time this week with a number of ABCORI pastors and their spouses on Block Island for a time of reflection and renewal. Rev. Dr. Debora Jackson, Exec. Director of the Ministers Council for ABCUSA, led us in some times of deep prayer and reflection. It was good spiritual work. We are fortunate to have access to such a beautiful site for this annual gathering. I hope even more of our pastors will be able to participate next year!

The time of focused prayer and careful listening with your pastors encouraged me greatly. These women and men love the church. Their conversation was filled with stories of great rejoicing as well as deep concern. It is clear that God is doing some new things. At the same time it is equally clear that it is challenging to discern precisely how and where God is calling us to join the good work of mission and reconciliation. There is so much to do and we often feel that our resources are uniquely limited. The good news is that as we share with and pray for one another we discover remarkable opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

Every encounter I have had with ABCORI churches and pastors has energized me and reaffirmed my joy in being a part of what God is doing through American Baptists in Rhode Island. There is no denying the challenges that our pastors and churches are confronting every day, but there is also no doubt that God is doing some things of significance and power among us.

As we pray together for our pastors and churches, I encourage you to join one of our great American Baptist predecessors from early in the 20th century, Walter Rauschenbusch, as he leads us to pray:

O God, we pray for thy Church, which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task. We remember with love the nurture she gave to our spiritual life in its infancy, the tasks she set for our growing strength, the influence of the devoted hearts she gathers, the steadfast power for good she has exerted. When we compare her with all other human institutions, we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in pity and contrition. Oh, baptize her afresh in the life giving spirit of Jesus! Grant her a new birth, though it be with the travail of repentance and humiliation. Bestow upon her a more imperious responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to the will of God. Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord. Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of the Kingdom of God and the doom of all that resist it. Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny, and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and down-trodden. Give her faith to espouse the cause of the people, and in their hands that grope after freedom and light to recognize the bleeding hands of the Christ. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it. Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory. Amen.

Around Our Churches

Dwight Lundgren, current manager of American Baptist Personnel Services, and formerly the 32nd pastor of the First Baptist Church in America, will be the featured preacher at FBCIA on Sunday, May 19th. He is returning as part of the celebration of the 375th anniversary of the gathering of FBCIA by Roger Williams in 1638. The service begins at 11 a.m., and there is ample parking all around the Meeting House on Sundays

The Choirs of Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church will present a Spring Concert, "Songs From the Heart", on Friday, May 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM in our sanctuary. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 10 and under. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

The Greater Fellowship Baptist Association will hold its 7th Annual Session on May 31-June 2 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Providence. Our 2013 theme is "Building Bridges, Empowering Communities and Embracing Reconciliation." Scripture is from II Corinthians 5:17-21. Dr. Corey Walker, Deacon Harold Metts, and Pastor V.L. Thomas will be facilitators for the workshops. There will also be 2 youth workshops and a special Mass Choir conducted by Rev. Lauri Johnson.

PALMER GRANT

The American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island is a recipient of the \$15,000 Palmer Grant focusing on young adults between the ages of 18-29 years old. The "Keep the Fire Alive" Project is designed to reach and engage young adults (18-29 years old) to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ by: 1) creating community and inclusion among diverse peers; and 2) providing opportunities for participants to be involved in local projects, that will improve the lives of others.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 29th at 7:pm we will host a "Keep the Fire Alive" Mission Café event.

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information please contact Rev. Nikita McCalister at nikitamc@abcori.org, or firealive@abcori.org

Camp Pastor Openings

We still have openings on three weeks of camp this year. They are the following: July 7-12, July 14-19, and July 21-26. If you can help, please call Colleen Tolhurst, 294-6318 ext. 110 and let her know which week you are available. This is a wonderful ministry opportunity for you to connect with our campers and camp staff and have fun too!

To all Chairs of Committees & Teams

A reminder to please email Colleen Tolhurst colleen@abcori.org and copy to info@abcori.org with meeting dates, times and places so they may be recorded in the master calendar at the ABCORI office as well as the e-notes calendar.

From Eldercare Ministries

Senior Helpers is holding an Orientation and Training for anyone who has family members suffering with Alzheimer's or Dementia. Their goal is to help educate families, professional caregivers and staff along with the community on the devastating disease of Alzheimer's and Dementia and it's effect on caregivers. They want to help you provide the highest quality of care and safety in the comfort of your loved one's home.

One of the topics is how to understand the best approach for those who are resistant to or refusing care, and help us guide them to success. Through the use of the Senior Gems program developed by Teepa Snow, we can all better understand the world of dementia. It's all about focusing on what the person living with the disease CAN do instead of what they can't do.

This training is open to the public and will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 from 5:30pm-6:30pm with a support group and discussion session to follow from 6:30pm-7:00pm. This is to be held at Senior Helpers, 60 Quaker Lane, Ste. 63, Warwick, RI. Please call (401) 825-7200 to reserve your seat.

Baptist History and Heritage Course

Join up to learn about the special link Rhode Island Baptists have with Baptist history! Get a better understanding of the principles that guide our practices! Gain a better appreciation of how we're organized both in Rhode Island and nationally. There will be 3 sessions in the fall of 2013. - September 28; October 26 and November 30. The registration deadline is August 15, 2013.

This course has been designed for participation by both laity and those seeking ordination. It has been approved by the Standing Committees on the Ministry of ABCORI and TABCOM and meets requirements in Baptist history and polity. For those seeking ordination, the cost is \$300 and requires participation in all sessions of the course. For others the cost is \$50 per session or all three for \$100. Scholarship assistance is available. For enrollment and information about readings and the location of the sessions contact: Dr. J. Stanley Lemons at jslemons@cox.net.

Church Secretaries: Please color print and post this [flyer](#). Thank you!

Upcoming Webinar Presented by the Ministers Council Spiritual and Personal Wholeness Committee

Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance

Is your church facing a budget crisis? Is your salary stagnant? Does your church fight about money—or keep secrets about it? This webinar will help you learn a way to understand what's really going on (in us and in others) when money becomes an issue in congregational life, and how to lead around money with lowered anxiety and more clarity. What you will take away with you: a new way to approach the money challenges we all face at church.

To register, click <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/538561241>

Presenter: Margaret J. Marcuson

Rev. Margaret Marcuson works with churches who want to create a ministry that lasts and clergy who want to have more impact on the people they serve best. An American Baptist minister, she speaks and writes on leadership and works with church leaders as a consultant and coach. She has presented on the topic of money and ministry to groups around the US and in Canada. Margaret is the author of *Leaders who Last: Sustaining Yourself and Your Ministry* and *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance* (forthcoming). Margaret was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gardner, Massachusetts, for 13 years. She is Vice President for Spiritual and Personal Wholeness for the Ministers Council.

AB Women's Ministries Spring Conference

Calling ALL Women...To our Annual Women's Spring Conference at Meadowwood at Canonicus on June 14-15. Join us for inspiration, new ideas, Bible study, fellowship, an ice cream social and more! Our keynote speaker is Lois Olmstead from Montana, a nationally known author, humorist and inspirational leader. See the attached [flyer](#) and [registration form](#).

The Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition Fifth Annual Conference to Reduce Poverty With Faith

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR - This Year's Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty Conference at Rhode Island College, Donovan Dining Center, Providence, RI on Monday, May 13, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM with an additional optional 2 luncheon session on pressing legislative issues that relate to poverty. You can order your tickets by going to riinterfaithpovertyconference.eventbrite.com

Please contact your state representative and senator and ask them to lower the PAYDAY lending rate from 260% to 36%. To learn more go to www.ripayday.org.

Free Cleaning Services to Cancer Patients

Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemo, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment.

All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

Please pass this information on to bless a woman going through Breast Cancer treatment. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

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](#)

Baptist Peacemakers

The Baptist Peacemakers of RI will meet on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at Community Church of Providence at 2:00 pm. Come join us for refreshments to learn about the scholarship programs available for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Summer Conference at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. The BPFNA summer conferences provide education, fellowship, fun and a desire to work for peace and justice both at home and abroad. Pastors and laity alike who seek support and renewal are encouraged to attend.

Beaver Days At Canonicus

Our second Beaver Day was even more of a success than the first with 32 volunteers attending and accomplishing a number of projects. There is still one day left, so if you were not able to attend either of the first two work days you still have an opportunity to come and help prepare Camp for the arrival of the children. We hope to see you then.

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

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 or by calling (812) 371-5390.

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.

The ABCORI Calendar 2012

Date	Time	Event	Location
2013			
May 23	7pm	Board of Ministries	Canonicus
June 2	3pm - 4pm	Canonicus Open House	Canonicus
June 3	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
June 9	10 am	Annual Blessing of the Animals Service	Liberty Baptist Church
June 11	12pm	Theological Circle	FBEG
June 11	7pm	Board of Ministries	Sumit Baptist Church
June 14-15		Annual Conference for Women and Girls	Canonicus
June 21-23		Amer. Baptist Mission Summit/Biennial	Overland Park/Kansas City
June 25	4pm	Operations Meeting	Church of The Master
June 26	4pm	Consultants Meeting	Canonicus

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

Please use Arial 10pt font – Thank you