

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

### **From the Executive Minister**

I have been celebrating this week as my wife, Linda, has joined me in Rhode Island. We are settling into a comfortable space in West Warwick and looking forward to the establishment of new routines and patterns for our life together among you. In keeping with our region's motto and mission statement which calls for "healthy pastors and healthy churches," we will continue our practice of protecting one full day each week (Saturday) to focus on one another and God's gracious blessing of our life together in Rhode Island. If you have suggestions for places to visit and sights to see in our new home state we will gladly receive them and look forward to many months of delightful exploration.

It is also that time of year when all of us turn our focus to summer activities. Just as this is true for families and churches it is true for ABCORI in general and Canonicus in particular. This weekend we will be hosting an Open House at Canonicus and I hope you can take a few minutes on Sunday, June 2, to visit the campus between 2:00 and 4:00 pm to see the improvements and appreciate anew the marvelous space that God has provided.

As you are making your summer plans I hope you will consider including attending the Mission Summit/Biennial Gathering of American Baptist in Overland Park, Kansas (Kansas City metro-area). (Get full information at <http://www.americanbaptists2013.com/>) This will be a fresh experience. In addition to wonderful fellowship and dynamic worship, the participants in this gathering will participate in a series of small group discussions that will shape the missional agenda of our entire denomination over the next several years. We have never tried anything like this before. It is exciting and risky. We participate trusting one another to be able to listen and speak in love and with an awareness of God's presence. It is not too late to make your reservations to attend. As I encourage everyone to participate, I want to specifically challenge each congregation to send their pastor and allow her or him to share the insight and perspective that is uniquely Rhode Island's.

I will be away from the office during the coming week (June 2-8) completing my last set of classes at Central Baptist Theological Seminary continuing my work on a Doctor of Ministry degree focusing on the missional work of healthy congregations. Although there will still be some writing and research before the degree requirements are complete, it will be good to have the last of the residential classwork behind me.

Being away for a few days will be much less stressful because of a decision by our Board of Ministries last week. The Board voted "to create a permanent part-time professional position to maintain financial records and controls, entailing approximately 16 hours per week," I am pleased to announce that Nikita McCalister has agreed to serve in this role for a number of weeks as we pursue a permanent employee. Nikita, as we all know, brings great skill, insight, devotion and passion to this work. Thanks to her (as well as many volunteers) financial processes and controls are now allowing ABCORI to make better decisions for ministry and mission as well as for our financial stability. This is a good step forward for all of us as we encourage one another to be good stewards as individuals, churches, and as a region. God's mission calls for our best management and investment of the resources God has placed in our hands. Thank you, Nikita, for your service in this vital area on behalf of God's ministry and all of ABCORI.

## **Around Our Churches**

**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.

**Annual Rummage/White Elephant Sale will be held at Phillips Memorial Baptist Church**, 565 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston on Saturday, June 8 between 9:00 AM and noon. We will have: clothes, shoes, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, knick-knacks, linens, books, craft-supplies, less than perfect gifts, games and toys, attic, cellar, and garage treasures, available at good prices. Handicap accessible. Event will be held rain or shine.

**Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church invites you to a hymn sing** and time of fellowship on June 9 at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments to follow

## **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](mailto:nikitamc@abcori.org), or [firealive@abcori.org](mailto:firealive@abcori.org)

## **Say "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" To VONNIE DUTTON**

On Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 2525 Harkney Hill Road, Coventry, RI (home of the pastors) an open house style party between 1 PM and 6PM is being held in honor of Vonnie Dutton's birthday. Vonnie turns the big 80, June 6th.

Come say hello. If you wish, bring a dish to add to the celebration. The grill will be available. If the weather is nice (and you like cool water) bring your swim suit.

Come when you can, leave when you must. She will be cutting her cake at 3 PM and who knows when the music may start?? So if you want a target time – there it is.

This is a very 'laid back' party so come relax, lay back and praise God for long lives and good and faithful servants.

### **From Eldercare Ministries**

For individuals and caregivers who use computers electronic health records is a great tool for keeping track. This is NOT medical records but your own person records or those of someone you care for. There are two workshops that will be held in the coming weeks sponsored by Senior Agenda Coalition. One is May 30 in Providence and one is June 8 in Warwick. (see attached flyers)  
[Providence](#)      [Warwick](#)

### **Christian Education**

The Camping and Youth Ministry Team is sponsoring it's second annual Christian Education Training day on Saturday August 24th at Canonicus. Check out the [flyer](#).

### **Baptist Homes of Rhode Island Request for Proposals (RFP)**

The board of the Baptist Homes of Rhode Island (BHRI) is announcing its request for grant proposals from ABCORI Churches. BHRI seeks to award modest funding for projects that serve and benefit Rhode Island seniors. Our grant awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 for exceptional projects or needs. Most grant awards range between \$1,000-\$2,500. Total available grant funds for 2013 is \$15,000.

If you would like to receive an application and guidelines for submitting a grant proposal to the Baptist Home Board, please contact Rev. Michael Burch, Chair of BHRI Grant Committee or Rev. Marie Carpenter, ABCORI Eldercare Ministries, by email or phone.

Michael Burch  
[michael.burch01@gmail.com](mailto:michael.burch01@gmail.com)  
401-595-7594 c

Rev. Marie Carpenter  
[marie@abcori.org](mailto:marie@abcori.org)  
401-932-8553 c

### **OPEN HOUSE AT CANONICUS**

Canonicus Camp will be having their annual Open House on Sunday, June 2nd from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. rain or shine. Tours will be available and you will meet some of the summer staff and be able to ask any questions about camp. You can also register your child for the various camp programs offered this year. Hope to see you there!

## **Peace Fellowship Summer Conference Scholarship**

The Baptist Peacemakers of RI has one scholarship left for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America Summer Conference to take place from July 15th to July 20th at Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA. The amount of the scholarship is \$500 which will cover the meal plan and housing fee with a little extra left over. Because the BPRI partners with the BPFNA, there is a voucher for the registration cost, the value of which is \$225. The total savings is \$725. The BPRI is seeking someone who has never been to Peace Camp before to take advantage of this offer. People who have attended former conferences have had a transforming experience and have made friends from all over North America and other countries. Many pastors come to renew their commitment to their ministry and have returned energized

There are also scholarships available through the BPFNA for young adults and for people of Asian, African American or Latino backgrounds. Check out the website [bpfna.org](http://bpfna.org).

If the cost of transportation is a problem or you have any questions, contact Janet Davies at [jandav36@cox.net](mailto:jandav36@cox.net)

## **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](mailto: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. Even though there will be no formal dinner meal on Friday evening, there will be light refreshments and munchies available to all participants. See the attached [flyer](#) and [registration form](#).

### **International Ministries Ignite Team**

Alex Toro an Ignite Team member from Rhode Island traveled to the Republic of Georgia on May 20th and participated in a morning worship session with leaders Dan Buttery and Jeri Pedzinski. Alex delivered a message to a congregation of people that he never met and whom spoke very little English. His theme to the people was "You are somebody's Jesus Christ". Alex raised all of the money he needed by himself to make this trip possible. He is truly a follower of Christ.

### **From the Youth Ministry Planning Team**

Hello All, The Youth Ministry Planning Team would like to challenge all Youth Groups to attend the next Beaver day Saturday June 8th 9am at Canonicus to get the property ready for summer. There was heavy damage to many of the trees over the Fall and Winter from all the storms and Summer Camp starts very soon. Matt Black Property Manager has many projects planned already and Canonicus will provide free lunch to all attendees.

As an added benefit to helping out on this day YMPT is sponsoring an afternoon fellowship gathering once work is completed for the day. Details are still in the works but we would like to encourage more fellowship among our Youth. We hope to have waterfront open among other activities as well as an evening meal.

Also for Young adults Graduating High school through 29 years old there will be continued fellowship at Council Ring in the evening with a campfire.

Whether you are just starting to attend youth group at your church, are a regular attendee, went to IMMERSE last Summer or are seasoned alumni of camp we encourage you to join us for this wonderful opportunity for service and fellowship!

Please RSVP to [ympt@abcori.org](mailto:ympt@abcori.org) so lunch and dinner meals can be planned.

Please Note: YMPT is trying to obtain as many email addresses as possible for any and all people who are involved in any way with Youth/Young Adults at their Churches. If you know of someone that should on this list please forward their email to me so I may add them to the group.  
[ympt@abcori.org](mailto:ympt@abcori.org)

Blessings

Michelle Burnham (Norwood Baptist)

Coordinator ABCORI Youth Ministry Planning Team

## **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](mailto: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](http://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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2013</b>			
May 27		Office closed for Memorial Day	
June 2	2pm - 4pm	Canonicus Open House	Canonicus
June 3	6:30 pm	AB Women's Ministries Board	Lakewood Baptist
June 3	7 pm	Social Witness Ministry Team	Community Church of Providence
June 9	10 am	Annual Blessing of the Animals Service	Liberty Baptist Church
June 11	12pm	Theological Circle	FBEG
June 11		Baptist Heritage Center Meeting	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 22	4:30 pm	Personnel Committee	Canonicus
June 25	4pm	Operations Meeting	Church of The Master
June 26	10 am	Consultants Meeting	Canonicus