

DEAR FRIENDS

September 2008

Occasional news and updates for Friends of the American Baptist Churches of CT

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the ABCCONN theme for this year (from annual meeting to annual meeting) is *Walking in the Steps of Jesus*. Here are some of the ways we are doing this in our corporate life together.

Our missionaries, who serve Jesus Christ on our behalf all over the world, learn how to walk in Jesus' path in very different ways. We will have an opportunity to hear their stories and their testimonies at the World Mission Conference on September 19-21 in Suffield. I am so excited to be able to learn about the different and sometimes difficult steps these missionaries walk in order to serve. I hope you will be there.

Learning how to become better disciples is part of what it means, I believe, to walk in Jesus' steps. Right now there is a fine team of individuals who are working hard to plan a good learning experience at the Discipleship Fair this year which will be held at FBC, New London on Saturday, October 18. There will be workshops to help us learn how we can walk more confidently in those steps. You will have the opportunity to look at the Biblical walking passages, or learn about how you can make your church more energy conscious, or find help to minister to those new Christians and/or to those who are walking through experiences of grief and crisis. There will also be a workshop to help us teach our children how to be better disciples. If that is not enough, there will be walking tours of New London and opportunities for foot massages!

Walking in Jesus' steps also includes being good stewards of all God has given to us. This year I have asked the Rev. William Keane, pastor of FBC, Branford to lead stewardship workshops for our churches. He has graciously agreed to lead the workshop in two different locations so that no one has to drive too far. The title of these workshops is *Uncommon Cents: The Principles and Practices of Sacrificial Stewardship*. Stewardship is not just the pastor's responsibility – it is the responsibility of all of us who walk in Jesus' path.

I tell you about all these events to point out the reality that they are all made possible by your Friends of ABCCONN gifts. We cannot do this ministry alone. We need each other. Your gifts are critical to this ministry and I am grateful for your generosity. If you have not given a gift or made a pledge yet for 2008, please use the form below. Our goal for 2008 is \$65,000. To date we have received \$30,386 in gifts and pledges.

We walk in different pathways, in different strides, in divergent patterns both as individuals and as congregations, but we walk toward the same goal, that being in faithful relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for caring about our partnership in ministry.

In service to Christ,

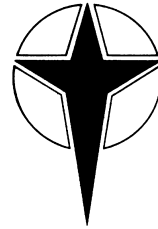
Judy G. Allbee
Executive Minister

FRIENDS OF ABCCONN
Believing in the mission and ministry of
The American Baptist Churches of Connecticut,

I/We offer my/our pledge of \$ _____
Name(s): _____
Address: _____
_____ Phone: _____

____ **Enclosed is my/our gift**
____ **This pledge will be paid in installments _____ weekly _____ monthly**
____ **_____ quarterly between now and December 31, 2008.**
____ **Please send pledge reminders.**

Return to ABCCONN, 100 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105



A Message from Judy Conland

I have had many conversations this summer that included concerns about the economy. The prices of gas, food, medical services, clothes, etc., have had an impact on our lives. We are more deliberate about our spending. Our vacations may be taken closer to home. We grocery shop from a list and use coupons. Our health plans are chosen with care. Many are buying their clothes with an eye on durability, not fashion.

These concerns affect ABCCONN, too. Your support of Friends of ABCCONN has helped us to continue to offer those events and services that you have told us are most helpful to you. As you pour over your budgets please remember how ABCCONN helps you and your church.

I find I need to be more intentional as I budget my spending. Giving to my church and Friends of ABCCONN is still a major way I thank God for all that he has done for me. I hope you feel the same.

Blessings!

Judy Conland
ABCCONN Past President

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UPCOMING 2008 EVENTS

Your money is used to support the following upcoming 2008 events:

Stewardship Workshop

Uncommon Cents: The Principles and Practices of Sacrificial

September 11, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Mansfield

World Mission Conference

Friday - Sunday, September 19-21

Second Baptist Church, Suffield

Register by going online to our website:

www.abcconn.org

Stewardship Workshop

Uncommon Cents: The Principles and Practices of Sacrificial

September 25, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

Christian Tabernacle Church, Hamden

A Workshop on Understanding Ministerial Boundaries Protecting the Sacred

September 30, 2008, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

ABCCONN office.

Registration required.

Building Strength in Small Churches

Featured speaker: The Rev. Alice Mann

October 10, 2008, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pilgrim Way Baptist, Windsor

Registration requested

Discipleship Fair

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

October 18, 2008, 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, New London

more info: www.abcconn.org

Introduction to Interim Ministry: A Training Event

October 25, 2008, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, New Haven.