

— Spring/Summer 2026 —

In FORMation

Connecting TABCOM's Friends Of Regional Ministries



TABCOM Annual Gathering 2026

**JOIN US ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 12, 2026 AT
GROTONWOOD!**

Dedicate the new
pavilion

Visit friends

Tour an archival
display about our
camps

Enjoy the music of Dr.
Geoff Hicks

RSVP to
sanborn@tabcom.org

"Why do you give?" I have asked when I have the chance to greet you by phone or during a visit. To a person, you reflect on the power of relationships. These relationships certainly include Ed Guerard (1942-2024), whose contributions as friend and fundraiser for our ministries will last for generations. You also tell me about pastors, camp counselors, family members who taught you about generosity, and friends who have said, "This is worth your time/contribution!"

From the pictures above at our 2026 annual gathering to the stories within, this spring edition of In FORMation is a celebration of relationships. During the annual gathering, a "pickup choir" joined Dr. Geoff Hicks to sing the contemporary Gospel song "I need you to survive." Indeed, God created us to be interdependent, depicting us as a body where each part is in need of all the others. **In our need, you have always responded.** Thank you for your gifts that ensure the survival--and thriving--of our ministries!

Thank you for being a Friend! Peace, Jennifer

Sharing in Memory



Photo provided by Bonnie Sestito
of the basketball court
dedication ceremony
at Oceanwood

Contact Jennifer Sanborn to discuss memorial giving, whether by designating our ministries as the recipient of gifts in lieu of flowers, or by creating a special memorial brick, paver, plaque, or bench in Prescott Memorial Garden at Grotonwood. sanborn@tabcom.org

**It is a sacred gift
to remember with you.**

Our camps/conference centers hold the past, present, and future, often all at once! This is especially true of spaces established in someone's memory, like the basketball court outside Oceanwood's RA Dining Hall.

Bonnie and Joe Sestito provided for this space in memory of their nephew, Scott Wanamaker (1985-2009). While attending family camp with his mother and sister, Twila and Shelly Wanamaker, and family friends, the Sharon Gallo-Dunn family, Scott would race through meals in order to get outside and play. His youthful exuberance is still alive in people of all ages who shoot baskets there.

Memorial gifts help us sustain and upgrade the property and provide critical operations support. Most importantly, they help us remember the people who have found connection, joy, and healing in these places. We are grateful for the recent gifts given for Oceanwood by the family and friends of Charles Henry "Chuck" Rankin III (1949-2026), whose granddaughter attends Christian Youth Conference at Oceanwood, as well as funds from the estate of Sharon Gallo-Dunn (1952-2025).

Thank you to all who have given in memory.

Looking Up Together

A safer, greener gym ceiling for Grotonwood

The gymnasium has been a fixture at Grotonwood since 1988 and continues to be the primary indoor setting for community, connection, challenge, and fun!

Campers attempt the climbing wall, ride Segways, bang on exercise ball-drums, and celebrate team successes. Our churches and retreat guests gather here too.

We need your help to support these camper smiles by replacing the ceiling. Through pledges and initial gifts, we've raised just over \$20,000 of the estimated \$75,000 needed. Support this capital campaign as care for campers *and* creation!



Tiles will be replaced with spray foam technology, sealing in heat and keeping visitors safe.

“You can’t outgive God!”

Nancy Aicardi, Friend Of Regional Ministries donor



Use the QR code at left or visit www.tabcom.org to enjoy the full video conversation between Jennifer and Nancy.

Nancy Aicardi (then Clark) is circled, and her three children are all near her in this Grotonwood family camp picture.



Nancy Aicardi has been a faithful donor to the ministries of Grotonwood and Oceanwood after she was provided scholarships to attend family camp in both settings when her kids were small and she was a single mother.

After learning about tithing in her church, she began to experiment with giving God more of her resources and more of her trust, even when finances were tight. Her infamous “toilet paper story” is a highlight of the recorded conversation linked above, just one of many opportunities when Nancy discovered, “You can’t outgive God!”

She reflects on a season when she stopped tithing and found her circumstances worsened, and then the abundant ways she was supported by others when she gave faithfully. Sometimes she was blessed with money, but often it was in receiving friendship, rides, groceries, and, yes, scholarships to camp.

At family camp she observed the beliefs and faith practices of others, then spent time during the year testing out the truth of these for her own life and circumstances. It was also where she ensured her children learned to swim, and where they discovered the value of serving others through the daily tasks they took on during camp. Perhaps her grandchildren will attend next!

Nancy’s hope is that both settings will remain open and affordable to all who desire the renewal experienced in these treasured places.

Thank you, Nancy, for being part of this vision with your gifts!



Do you know someone who might be a new Friend Of Regional Ministries? Download and share our new brochure at www.tabcom.org!



Make it personal -

Give for what you care about most.

Helping Churches: TABCOM celebrates the ministries of 220+ local churches by equipping leaders for service, awarding grants (e.g., elder ministries, church start/restart), and providing support on everything from energy cost savings to leadership transitions. In addition to general support, donations can be designated for MissionWorks, Preserving Baptist History, and School of Ministry.

Grotonwood: Day camp, overnight youth camp, and adults with disabilities camps are all underway as In FORMation goes to print. Support operations, camperships, or our priority project--replacing the gym ceiling with spray foam technology.

Oceanwood: As a retreat destination for youth camps, church groups, individual ministry leaders, and the community-at-large, Oceanwood continues to be a place of healing and renewal for guests of all ages. Current support will upgrade guest and recreation spaces. TABCOM *leaders are invited to "Pastor Camp" to experience Oceanwood for themselves, 8/24-8/27.*

THANK YOU to the following donors who have chosen within the last year to bless our ministries now *and for the future* with a gift designated for the TransFORMATION Fund:

The Earle Family Legacy Fund
Ralph A. Earle bequest
Susan Joy Earle-Murray
Wilma Eddy
John and Susan Minott
North Baptist Church, New Bedford

Thank you!

www.tabcom.org
www.grotonwood.org
www.oceanwood.org



Give online: Visit our donation page by using the QR code above. Select "Make a payment/donation," then choose from the scrolldown menu. Consider monthly gifts!

Give by check: Complete the enclosed card and make checks payable to TABCOM/Friends; mail to 189 Prescott St., Groton, MA 01450.

Give for the future: Our endowment, the TransFORMATION Fund, now exceeds \$2 million, and we've only just begun! Consider a gift that will last in perpetuity through this Fund.

Give in other ways: Contact Jennifer Sanborn at sanborn@tabcom.org to contribute stocks, via donor-advised funds or your IRA, or to plan a legacy gift through the American Baptist Foundation. All are accepted and appreciated!

(from left) Jennifer Sanborn,
Joan Guerard, & Beth
Bumbarger, celebrating the
TransFORMATION Fund!



2025
Giving:

Friends
make
ministry
possible!

TransFORMATION Fund: \$928,202
TABCOM Core/Helping Churches: \$22,847
School of Ministry: \$7,830
Preserving Baptist History: \$18,549
Grotonwood Operations/Camperships/
Capital Projects: \$136,032
Memorial Garden: \$730
Oceanwood Operations/Camperships: \$17,843
TOTAL 2025 giving to FORM: \$1,132,033