



# Safe Church Abuse Awareness, Prevention & Response

## News You Can Use

September 2014

### Abuse Awareness Sunday Sept. 28

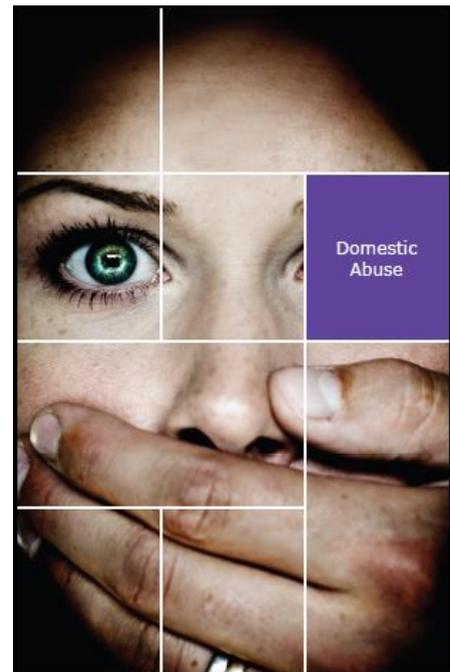
What's happening in your church on Abuse Awareness Sunday? Will church attendees receive a special bulletin insert? Will a service be devoted to a theme? Will there be an

information table? Will there be a public service announcement so that everyone knows who in the congregation to contact when questions or issues of abuse arise? Will prayers and litanies be offered? There are general resources; and also more specific topical resources available on our website. You can also call the Safe Church office for assistance; we can help with ideas or have resources shipped to you. What a difference we could make if each church took advantage of this opportunity to increase awareness about abuse and about Safe Church Ministry.

### WEBINAR October 1 – Domestic Violence and the Role of the Church

Whether you call it relationship or interpersonal abuse, family or domestic violence, it exists even in our churches. And it's not always defined by black eyes and broken bones, but sometimes by shame, intimidation, and fear. This pervasive issue, which affects so many families, must be addressed, but how? What is the church to do? Find some answers in this webinar. Registration is now open. Join us and listen in. Or, invite a few friends over to listen together. There will also be time for questions. Register and find out more at: <http://www.crcna.org/webinars>

Best of all, the webinar will be archived and will be available as an ongoing resource for churches, so that we can become places where there is understanding, and where the healing power of our Lord is known.





## **Listening to Marginalized Voices**

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*Listening to Marginalized Voices* is an exciting challenge from the “justice” collaborative work group here at the denomination. In life and in death, Jesus hung out with those on the margins of society. He has called us to do the same. How can we love our neighbor when we don’t understand what our neighbor is facing or know what the needs are? The church needs to hear these voices! We need to hear these voices. (Some of the voices will be from those impacted by abuse) Plan to sign up to be part of this listening challenge. Details will be coming to you soon.

## **Safe Church Opportunities**

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**FALL CLASSIS MEETINGS – BE THERE!** – Make sure that Safe Church Ministry is on the agenda for fall classis meetings. This is our opportunity to build awareness and offer your team’s expertise as a resource for your classis. Need help or ideas about what to say or do? Give us a call or send us an email. We can help.

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month** – Churches who care can take a stand and join with others in their communities to help end domestic violence. Visit: <http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth.php> for more information, or check with your local domestic violence shelter to find out what opportunities are available in your area. Candlelight vigils are often included in the sponsored activities and are an especially appropriate way for church members to be involved.

**Safe Church New Team Training – Classis Hackensack – Sept. 15** a small group of people will gather in NJ and I will join them virtually via Google hangouts!

**Safe Church New Team Training – Gallup, New Mexico – October 17-18**

**Safe Church Conference – Hamilton, ON – November 1**

**Safe Church Conference – Ottawa, ON – November 7- 8**

**We are happy to welcome you at most of these Safe Church Events!**  
**For more information: Contact Bonnie or Carol at [safechurchministry@crcna.org](mailto:safechurchministry@crcna.org)**

*"They will live in safety and no one will make them afraid." Ezekiel 34:28*