

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 01, 2014, Volume 17, Issue 07



## One Anothering

We find ourselves these days in a waiting phase. We wait for spring, for the arrival of an interim minister and for the coming of Easter. We begin to see signs of spring. Some plants are beginning to push up through the hard-packed earth. And we've had some warm days between the threats of snow. But we grow impatient because, according to the calendar, spring should be here already! Even Easter is late this year.

The good news is that all three things that we are waiting for will come! Though the arrival of spring weather can't be predicted, it will surely come. The interim committee is in the final stages of arrangements for the interim minister. And, Easter will definitely be here on April 27. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday, the deacons are planning a Maundy Thursday service, and the choir is preparing special music for Easter Sunday.

Still we must wait for the 'fullness of time' for all these things and waiting is always hard. But learning to wait is important because there come in all of our lives times of difficult waiting: waiting for medical results and a diagnosis, waiting for the return of a loved one, waiting to hear about a new job, etc. We all pass through periods of darkness and worry. The disciples were worried about traveling to Jerusalem and begged Jesus not to go. Jesus was determined, however, and they went with them. They knew how much danger he was in. And as the confrontations in the temple escalated, they must have been increasingly anxious. They stayed with him, however, until he was arrested. Their questions of him intensified and they got down to foundational questions about meaning. Once he was arrested, they saw no way out. They had no hope of resurrection even though he had informed them that he would return after three days. They were utterly bereft after his death, as well as concerned about their own safety, and locked themselves away. Jesus too had to have been worried – he knew what was coming. His response however, was prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. And although for him the worst happened, it was followed by new life.

It is easier for us than it was for the disciples because we know the end of the story. I think that whenever we have periods of darkness in our lives and come through them into the light again, it makes us easier the next time. We remember these little mini-resurrections and know that it can happen again. It enables us to hope. So this time of Lent and dark cloudy skies and uncertainty re our pastoral leadership is a time to reflect, as the disciples did, on meaning. What makes our lives meaningful? How do we help others find the meaning in their lives? How do we prepare for the new life ahead of us after Easter? *Linda*

*Second Mile Smiles ☺ to: Angela Muhuri for her excellent presentation at Friday Seekers!*

### *Moderator's Minute*

This past Sunday after service, I had a meeting at the animal shelter where I volunteer. All feline caregivers were supposed to be there at 1:30. At the meeting, we met others who spend weekday mornings (I share Friday mornings with another volunteer), weekend mornings, or evenings throughout the week cleaning/disinfecting cages, feeding cats, and helping to socialize them. We strive to keep them healthy or get them that way, so they can be adopted by their "forever" families. The director of "Cat Care" had us introduce ourselves and say how many pets we had and then reviewed the shelter's new and old policies. The experience got me to thinking about those volunteers but also people at FBCIA who volunteer their time and skills to serve the church itself as well as its various outreach missions, whether the visible activities of the Missions Committee or the not so visible visits to residents in the senior centers and hospitals in the area. One of the ways to show our Christian spirit is by serving others. Although all of us are busy, this sense of caring and sharing makes our volunteer efforts something we do from our hearts and from which we receive great joy. I want to thank all of you who give of your time and talents in volunteering for various things associated with our wonderful church and challenge everyone to think about what else he/she might be able to do.

Joanne

### *Good Friday Walk for Hunger*

On Friday, April 18 you can walk in support of the organizations in Rhode Island that work to feed our hungry neighbors. Walkers will be stepping out from locations all over Providence and walking to the State House for a rally.

There are two ways you can support this walk. You can join me at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries at 9 AM on April 18 and we can walk through the neighborhoods of South Providence and Elmwood and on to the State House for the 11 AM rally or you can give monetary support to those who walk.

The funds raised by the walk will be given to church sponsored organizations and community projects in Rhode Island. Providence Intown Church Association and South Providence Neighborhood Ministries are both beneficiaries of this walk.

Sponsor sheets are available on the Missions board.

### *Russian Easter Egg Decorating*

On Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 everyone is invited to decorate Easter eggs. Many years ago, Katya Singleton taught our children to decorate eggs as she was taught as a child in Russia. This year we will teach a new generation of children how to make these beautiful eggs. You don't have to be young to join us. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall so we will know how many eggs to buy.

**To dye the eggs we need onion skins. If you cook with onions, please save the skins and bring them to the Sunday School classroom by April 12.**



### Church News



Ricardo Nagaoka, a RISD junior from Paraguay, who is majoring in photography and film, used the auditorium on March 14th for an art project using video and sound. The projection on the ceiling had depicted clouds.



On Sunday, March 16th, Sam Beachen preached on the topic "Religion or Relationship." He argued that Jesus in his ministry was more concerned with loving relationships than with religious rules and regulations. For example, Jesus healed a blind man on the Sabbath, contrary to the Levitical rules governing what one was allowed to do.

The Adult Forum devoted another session to learning about Deaf Culture and American Sign Language. Jason, Andrew, and Betsy demonstrated and explained many words in ASL.



### Church News



Deb Yan, who has been a member of the college Sunday school class for the past four years, displayed some of her work in the senior exhibition of graphic illustration work at RISD. One aspect is the creation of stop-action puppets and models as well as illustrations and designs.



Angela Muhuri did a marvelous job displaying her many saris and giving a most informative power point on costume/apparel for many different occasions in Bangladesh at Friday Seekers on March 25th. She was quite animated during her talk which entertained several of us. The formal room shown is an example of decoration in preparation for a wedding!

Chenell Birch, a representative of NAPS (National Association for the Prevention of Starvation), spoke to the Adult Forum on Sunday, March 30, explaining the worldwide work of NAPS. Chenell is a pre-med student who, having just graduated from college, is giving a year to the work of NAPS before continuing her medical training. She will be departing for Zimbabwe in a few weeks.



## *Scribbles from Friday Seekers*



*Our recent FRIDAY'S SEEKERS was a foray into the culture, color, and customs of Angela Muhuri's beautiful homeland of Bangladesh. Angela, garbed in one of her elegant evening saris, captivated the audience with her enthusiasm, slide show, and exquisite samples of her own collection of saris. It added to the evening to have some live models, Marion, Auntie, and me. Despite Angela's one-time reluctance to do this program, she really outdid herself with this magnificent evening. I am sure that the audience was as enthralled as I was with her presentation.*

Angela explains the use of the sari, especially as it related to her native country, Bangladesh. She displayed a host of sari cloth and discussed the fashions with those who attended.



Angela is pictured here (L-R) with "Aunty" Molly Jose, a family friend from India, and her mother Marian Muhuri.



Angela explained that Christians constitute less than one percent of the population of Bangladesh, but cultural customs of the Hindus and Moslems can be found in the Christian population, including wedding fashions.

*On behalf of our FRIDAY SEEKERS, I would like to thank Angela, Steve, and Marion for their joint effort in making this a truly wonderful and memorable program. Also, thanks to all of the people who contributed the variety of foods – some were adventurous enough to try the ethnic recipes.*

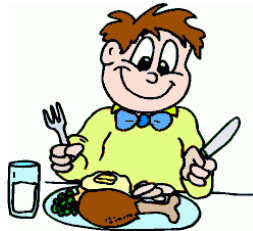


Next month, we will be going to Alice Miles home on Benefit Street (we did this a year ago in April also), for a talk and demonstration on Art Restoration. If you were there last year, you will, remember that Alice loves to talk about Art. This time, we will be actually seeing how damaged art can be brought back to its former state. Since this will be at her home, we would like to have an accurate number of those who are attending. **SO SAVE THIS DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 25, at 265 BENEFIT STREET AT 6 P.M. POTLUCK SUPPER.**

In May, we will return to the CHURCH for our MAY 16 COFFEE HOUSE EVENING. And then our summer break.

*Dianne Thyret, Friday Seekers Coordinator*

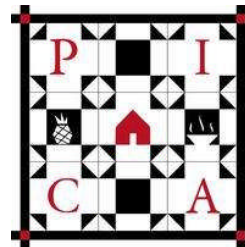
*From the Board of Missions*



Do you like to eat?  
Do you like to cook?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, have we got a project for you! The Missions Committee with the help of Linda Bausserman is planning to publish a new FBCIA Cook Book. The funds generated by sales will support future mission trips, like the trip to La Romana in the Dominican Republic.

If you have recipes that you would like to share with our church family, please submit them to Eva Adoadji, Ken Clauser, Anne Marie Bausserman or Linda Bausserman. We would like to prepare this cookbook during the summer months so that we can begin selling it in the fall. Please submit your recipes during March April, May or June. Thanks



**Providence  
In-Town Churches  
Association**

**Planting Seeds of Hope Annual Gathering & Silent Auction**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Regency Plaza -Building 1  
1 Regency Plaza, Providence, RI 02903**

Please join us to celebrate the work of the Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA), Rhode Island's largest food pantry and a key provider of social services to the homeless. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a cash bar, and an exciting silent auction - with some fabulous items from the finest local establishments - will make this night a fun way to support an important cause.

Show your support by purchasing tickets at the Gold or Platinum levels, and know that you're going the extra mile to help those in need.

**We hope to see you there! And bring a friend!**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planting-seeds-of-hope-annual-gathering-silent-auction-tickets-11080739791>

**For those that don't use the internet you may call PICA at 454-7422.**

Ticket prices:

Platinum: \$100 per person  
Gold: \$75 per person  
Silver: \$50 per person

Please make your check payable to PICA and mail to: PICA, PO Box 5639, Providence, RI 02903—Tickets will be held at the door.

Ticket sales end on April 23, 2014.



*RI's leading resource for volunteerism & community service*

**Join us for the Sixth Annual Roger Williams Park Earth Day Cleanup!**

**On Saturday, April 26, in observance of Earth Day, Serve Rhode Island will be organizing the Sixth Annual Roger Williams Park Earth Day Cleanup. Volunteers will collect and clear the litter and debris that continually builds up in the Roger Williams Park pond system. OSEEC AmeriCorps members will lead groups of 15-20 individuals from multiple registration locations in the park.**

**Please note that registration is required for each individual by Wednesday, April 23 by 4:00 PM. Every registered individual will receive a confirmation email with registration location information.**

**Register at [www.ServeRhodeIsland.org](http://www.ServeRhodeIsland.org)**

**The Roger Williams Park Cleanup is part of the Second Annual Providence Earth Day Spring Cleaning sponsored by the Partnership for Providence Parks.**



The First Baptist Church in America  
 75 North Main Street  
 Providence, RI 02903  
 Phone: 401-454-3418  
 Fax: 401-421-4095  
 E-Mail: fbc.inamerica@verizon.net  
 Web: www.fbcia.org

Linda Bausserman, Associate Pastor  
 Stephen T. Martorella, Minister of Music  
 Holly B. Edwards, Administrative Assistant  
 Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper  
 David Michel, Sexton  
 Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

## Sunday Calendar

**Sun. Apr 06** 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School/College Bible Study  
 11:00 AM Sunday Worship - Rev. Tom Wiles  
 Sermon: "The Aroma Filled the Room"  
 Scripture: John 12:1-8; Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21  
 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons

**Sun. Apr 13** 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School/College Bible Study  
 11:00 AM Sunday Worship - Rev. Tom Wiles  
 Sermon: "Do You See the Parade?"  
 Scripture: Luke 19:28-40  
 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider

**Thurs. Apr 17** 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper  
 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Worship Service

## Mission Calendar

- ▶ Monthly Prayer Meeting in Fellowship Hall 2nd Saturday of the Month 9:30 AM
- ▶ Amnesty International Letter Writing is the 3rd Sunday of the Month
- ▶ PICA Sunday is the 4th Sunday of the Month, Please bring non-perishable food for the food pantry.

## Christian Education—Sunday Morning Forum

- ▶ In the month of April, Sunday morning forums will focus on

## Business Meeting Schedules for 2014

- ▶ April 27, 2014 - 12:15 PM: Quarterly Meeting and Deli Luncheon
- ▶ July 20, 2014 - 11:15 AM: Quarterly Meeting No Luncheon
- ▶ October 19, 2014 - 12:15 PM: Quarterly Meeting and Deli Luncheon