

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 15, 2014, Volume 17, Issue 08



## One Anothering

We were all delighted to hear Ken's announcement that an interim minister has been found. Ken has an article in this Spire telling a bit about Rev. Tom McKibbens but I just want to add that I think that he will prove to be an excellent choice. We are very fortunate to have him. He is a compassionate and caring pastor and an excellent preacher. He appreciates our history as well as our desire to move forward into the future. Rev. Tom McKibbens will be here starting June 23 in preparation for his first Sunday on June 29.

I know some of you are concerned about the time between now and the end of June. However, I think we will be fine. We have strong leadership and our committees have not only continued to function and maintain the status quo but are moving forward – even though some members also serve on the search committee. The Christian Ed committee continues to provide leadership for the Sunday Forum. They are managing to stay ahead of our rapidly growing Sunday School for our children, even planning extra events such as a Saturday morning dyeing eggs. The Missions Committee, too, has been busy. They are looking into several new outreach programs in addition to keeping up with our ongoing projects. Properties and Sextons Committee always have new things to do to keep the building in top shape – have you noticed the new lights in the halls? (Bring your sunglasses!). The Budget and Finance committee not only keeps their eyes on the budget but has extra work as we look at changes in the finances as our staffing changes. Dianne Thyret has Friday Seekers planned out through next spring (!). It's great to have these opportunities to get together for food and conversation as well as an interesting program. We had a wonderful presentation last month by Angela Muhuri. And, the Social Committee is keeping us fed before meetings and providing food for celebrations. I have full confidence in our ability to keep things running for another two months.

In terms of worship services, Tom Wiles will be with us to preach through Easter. We are so blessed to have him in our pulpit during this time. Stephen is a wonder and enormously helpful in terms of planning. During May and June, I will be preaching some, and we have a pulpit supply list that we can use to identify pastors who will come in to preach. I will continue to include church members in various roles in the service.

I am working closely with the Deacons for pastoral care. I have been making one or two visits per week with those in the hospital, members at home or prospective new members. I count on everyone to let me know of people in need. I hope you will feel free to talk to me or your deacon if you have concerns.

*Linda*

2<sup>nd</sup> mile smile ☺ to the members of the committee that selected the interim minister: Ken Clauser, Ruth Marris Macaulay, Donna Campopiano, and Rob Jarbadan.

## *Interim Minister is Announced*



We are pleased to announce that our Interim Minister will be Rev. Tom McKibbens who is currently serving as the Senior Minister at The First Baptist Church of Worcester. He has been in Worcester since 2003 and prior to that was the Senior Minister at The First Baptist Church in Newton, MA. While in Newton, he also taught at Harvard Divinity School, Boston University School of Theology and Andover Newton Theological School where he was also a Trustee.

Rev. McKibbens has a Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville and has done postgraduate work at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England and at St. Andrews University in Scotland. He has written two books on Baptist history and numerous articles in theological and historical journals. His focus in theological education has been Church History (particularly Baptist History) and Preaching.

While the academic experiences have been important, his pastoral experiences have largely shaped his ministry. He has been committed to ecumenical work wherever he has served, often participating on public school committees or in community forums, contributing local newspaper articles and participating in community television programs. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Baptists, as well as the inter-religious Center on Public Life and currently serves on the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

His first priority, however, is the local church, expressed in his pastoral ministry. Rev. McKibbens will conclude his ministry in Worcester at the end of May and will join us on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. We are thrilled that he has agreed to serve as our Interim Minister, and we hope that you will plan to attend church on June 29<sup>th</sup> to welcome him.

The Interim Search Committee

Linda Bausserman, Donna Campopiano, Ken Clauser, David Coon, Rob Jarbadan, Ruth Marris Macaulay

## Church News



Jessica Libertini led a lively discussion about science and religion in the Adult Forum on April 6. A member of our church and choir, she is a mathematician who teaches at the University of Rhode Island.

Rev. Tom Wiles, assisted by Deacon David Coon, distributed communion to half of the congregation as everyone came forward this time.



Arthur Marois' 94th birthday was April 6, so he was feted with a reception, a cake, and the singing of "Happy Birthday."

Joining Arthur in celebration were Dot White, whose birthday was April Fool's Day, and Barbara Staples whose birthday was April 4. Betsy Shealy baked a special cake for the occasion.



## Church News



Pictured here are some of the 18 children (not to mention their parents) who learned to dye Easter eggs in the Russian style on Saturday morning a week ago.



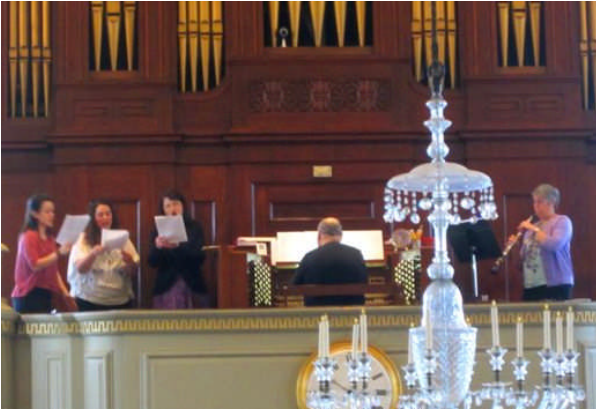
The eggs are wrapped in fabric and onion skins and then foil to hold them together and boiled in water and vinegar for about 20 minutes.



The eggs pictured here were decorated by Kyleigh Domingues

In addition to decorating eggs the children planted seeds. Pictured here are Susan Lepore and Aaron Guiney.





One of special pieces of music on Palm Sunday was "Suscepit Israel" from *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach. Stephen Martorella accompanied the trio of Sarah Dunn, Jaqueline Pina, and Esperanza Tannehill with Jane Murray playing the oboe.

### *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.

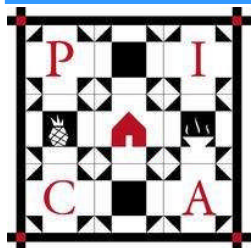
Sponsor sheets are available on the Missions board.



For many years, FBCIA members have participated in the work of Amnesty International by writing letters in support of prisoners of conscience. Recently, the AI organization has decided to forgo writing and mailing letters in favor of submitting on-line letters. This has been done for two reasons. (1) The price of postage and the inability of many churches and organizations to afford the cost of mailing so many letters. (2) With on-line submission of letters, the organization can now track how many people are supporting specific causes and can better review the effectiveness of their campaigns.

In the future, we will not be writing letters as a community. If this is an important cause for you as an individual, we suggest that you set aside time each month, visit the Amnesty International web site (<http://www.amnestyusa.org>), choose a case that resonates with you (click on "View all Actions"), and submit an on-line letter. Each month, the Missions Committee will highlight important cases that may be on the site when you visit it. Please join us in continuing to support such an important organization.





**Providence  
In-Town Churches  
Association**

**PICA Annual Fundraiser  
and Silent Auction**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2014**

**The Regency  
One Regency Plaza  
Providence, RI**

Ticket prices:

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

Silent Auction 6—7:30 PM  
Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar 6-9 PM

This fundraiser is being held to benefit our  
five main program areas:

**The Downtown Food Pantry  
The Olneyville Food Center  
The Friday Community Meal Site for  
the Homeless  
Homeless Outreach  
SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach and  
Recovery)**

*Announcements*

☺ Evelyn Fox has taken a fall and is now at the Calvary Hospital in the Bronx. This is a hospice hospital and she most likely will not be returning to her nursing home as they won't be able to care for her. She has fractured her hip and there is no surgery that they can do. She's comfortable with the help of morphine and the staff is very loving and attentive. Her daughters tell us that she mostly sleeps now.

Calvary Hospital  
1740 Eastchester Rd  
Bronx, NY 10461  
Room 343 3 South

☺ Bruce Leonard is now home recovering from heart surgery and Lee McDaniel is now at Bannister House recovering from surgery.

☺ There will be no worship service here at First Baptist on Sunday, May 25th. Brown University will hold its Bacalaureate and Commencement Ceremonies here Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 24th and Sunday, May 25th.

☺ The Pastoral Search Committee is calling a meeting of the congregation on May 18. After a deli luncheon, there will be a general session where the search committee will listen to the concerns and reflections of the congregation. The committee will be sending a few questions for consideration in order to focus the discussion.

☺ I will be out of the office on vacation starting May 1st returning to the office on May 22nd. There will be one Spire going out for the month of May on April 30th. If you have any information to be put in that Spire please make sure I get it no later than Monday, April 28th. Dora Truong will be in the office during my absence. *Holly*

*From the Board of Missions*



Remember to bring in your recipes for the new FBCIA Cookbook. You can give them to Eva, Ken, Linda, Ann Marie or send them to Holly in the church office.



*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. We will meet at the church at 8:30 and go to the park as a group. Please sign up on the form in the Fellowship Hall and register at: [www.ServeRhodeIsland.org](http://www.ServeRhodeIsland.org)**

**Please note that registration is required for each individual on the ServeRhodIsland web site by Wednesday, April 23 by 4:00 p.m. Every registered individual will receive a confirmation email with registration location information.**

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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

- Thurs. Apr 17** 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Soup and Bread Supper  
 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Worship Service
- Sun. Apr 20** 9:00 Easter Breakfast  
 11:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship - Rev. Tom Wiles  
 Sermon: 'New Creation"  
 Scripture: John 20:1-18  
 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons
- Sun. Apr 27** 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School/College Bible Study  
 11:00 AM Sunday Worship - Linda Bausserman  
 Sermon: "Behind Closed Doors"  
 Scripture: John 20:19-29  
 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider

## 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

- ▶ There will be no Sunday Morning Forum on Easter Sunday we will be having an Easter Breakfast instead. Please call the office if you haven't already signed up.

## 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