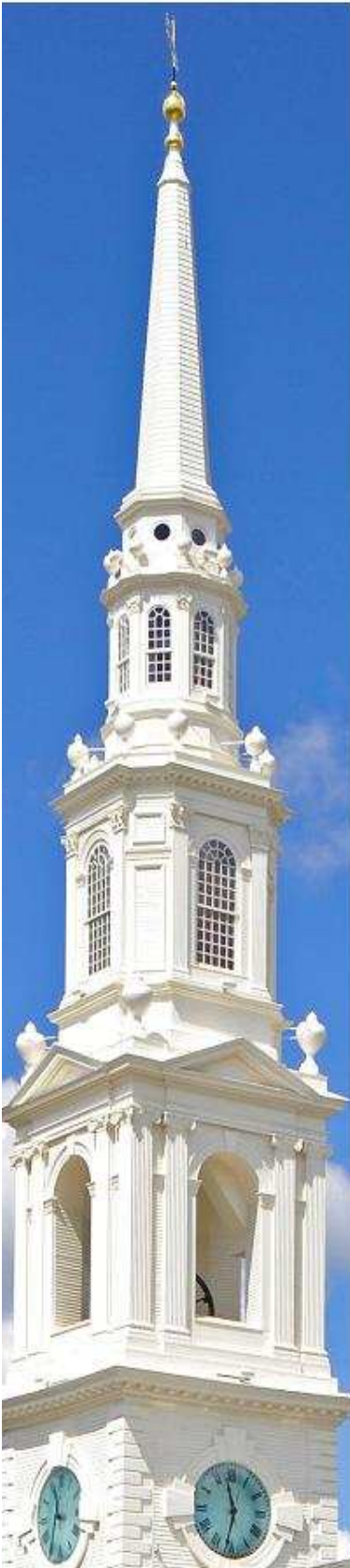


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

August 01, 2014, Volume 17, Issue 12



From The Pastor...

I love the story about the great composer Hector Berlioz, who as a student at the Paris Conservatory, submitted a composition to Luigi Cherubini, well known as a crotchety teacher. Cherubini read the score and said to the young Berlioz, “What is this? You have put here a two-measure rest. Why?” “Why?” repeated Berlioz, “Because by this silence I produce the effect I desire.” To which his grumpy teacher replied: “You desire a little silence? Why stop there? Go ahead! Suppress the entirety and you produce the big effect!”

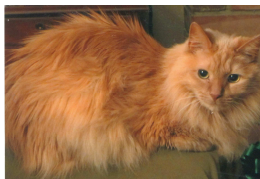
Some people think of the time between settled pastors as one long rest, a silence that may or may not produce anyone’s desired effect. The truth, however, is just the opposite. The interim is not a time of silence; it is a time of much speaking and much listening. It is anything but a long rest. Communication is crucial during this time. More than ever, the congregation needs to be informed and up-to-date about what is happening in the church. Every member needs to be thoughtful and deliberate, not only in speaking your own dreams, but also listening to the dreams of others. Ultimately, we are all listening for the Spirit of God who leads in this ministry.

Serving in the pastoral role, I am committed to keeping that pastoral ear open to the needs of the congregation. That sensitive listening is as important in informal times such as visits over lunch, phone calls, emails, and casual conversations as it is in more formal meetings of committees. The ministry melody of this church is not on one long extended rest; the melody plays on and even soars!

Thomas R. McKibbens

Moderator's Minute

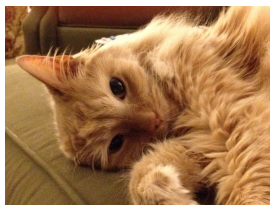
A national pet store chain has recently started a new ad campaign that has as its slogan "Pets make us better people." I have been pondering that line, especially since we lost our cat Murphy to cancer in early July. He was a lovely red-crème long haired cat, who a friend's grandson had dubbed "the lion cat." Since he was only eight, it was especially tough to lose him. In honor of Murphy, I would like to share how he has made me a better person.



Murphy would enter our living room and always look at the television screen. If he assessed a sporting event was on, he tended not to stay in the room. The problem is that I am a rabid fan who voices her opinion when I disagree with a referee's or umpire's call. Often my protestations got loud and heated. Murphy did not like loud noises. Lesson learned: I have to behave myself better when watching ball games.

When I made lunch at home, Murphy would always be in the kitchen. It became apparent that he was crazy about tuna, and when I would open a can, he would become quite vocal. (He was usually a shy quiet animal, so this demonstration really seemed uncharacteristic.) He would not quit his meowing until I offered him a couple spoonfuls of tuna. Lesson learned: if you really love something (or someone) make a big deal of it.

As many of you know, Art is the early morning person in our house, whereas I am the night owl. Art always sits in the same chair in the living room watching television or reading the newspaper, which I inhabit late night. Murphy always sat on the left hand side of the chair next to our legs. When he wanted our attention, he would begin to head butt whatever was in our hands or lick our wrists or hands (a cat's sign of affection). He would keep that up and begin to crawl onto our laps and demand we stop what we were doing and pay attention to him—he especially loved chin scratches. Lesson learned: oftentimes it is good to put down whatever you are busy with and just relax and a warm cat in lap often helps.



Murphy's lessons teach the message of personally being more relaxed, caring, and demonstrative to those near to us, which I feel can be extended to our lives as Christians as we reach out to those known and unknown to us to serve them as Jesus taught us.

Joanne

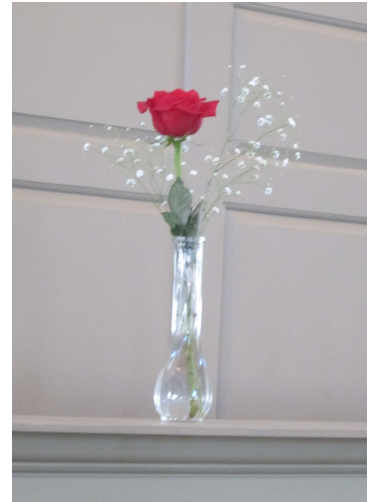
Linda's Lines

Peace. It seems a more and more elusive concept these days. We read of violence everywhere – the Middle East, Africa, the Ukraine, Central America, our inner cities. We are fortunate that our politicians are not shooting each other, but their rhetoric is filled with rancor and images of violence. We are horrified by the suffering we see and hear on the news. We pray "let there be peace on earth," but how do we live out the next line "let it begin with me." Trying to "be peace" seems a tiny drop in a big bucket. But I guess the only place we can begin is where we are, and I also suppose each little bit is better than nothing. In an attempt to become more active at peacemaking, I have become a member of Baptist Peacemakers of RI. It is a group that prays for peace and works for peace by writing letters and by providing information on a variety of issues related to nonviolence. (For example, supporting Moms Demand Action of RI in an effort to reduce violence in the Chad Brown neighborhood in Providence.) They also provide training in conflict resolution. I have attended one of their workshops, and it was excellent. They are offering another workshop in September at Canonicus on Conflict Transformation Training – Jesus and Conflict Styles. It runs from Friday evening through Saturday at 4:00. One can stay overnight at one of the retreat centers or commute. Meals are provided. The workshop is lead by Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski. I would love for us to do a training here sometime – it seems to me that the best time for training is not in the middle of a crisis but when things are calm. One doesn't need to wait for a crisis to benefit from the training. I found the workshop helpful in many ways. If any one is interested in participating, I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have and there is a flyer as well as registration forms on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Linda

Church News

The rose on the reading bench on Sunday, July 6, was in honor of Olivia Marie Jarbardan, born July 2. Congratulations to Jesse and Rob!



The flowers for the auditorium on Sunday, July 20 were given by Lena Gates and her daughters in memory of the late Noel A. Gates.

On Tuesday, July 22nd, we were treated to an impromptu concert by a group of young adults from the Taiwan Aborigine Choir. They had just stopped by to tour the church with our docent Dora Truong. The choir is also known as the Christian Mountain Children's Home Choir. Most of the members hail from aborigine tribes in the highlands and all the children are orphans. Click on the attached link to watch and listen to a clip of them singing at First Baptist Church in America.



IMG_0550.MOV



The Taiwan Aborigine Choir sang a selection in Latin.



The choir and their chaperones listen to Stephen Martorella as he plays the organ.

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

Thomas R. McKibbens, Interim Pastor
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. August 3 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Poetry in a Prosaic World"*
Scripture: Psalm 95
Greeters: Priscilla Steadman and Lousie Tillinghast
Ushers: Eva and Ahuma Adodoadji
11:15 AM Guided Tour
- Sun. August 10 10:00 AM Sunday Worship - Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Articulating the Absence of God"*
Scripture: Psalm 22
Greeters: Shealy Family
Ushers: Janice and Richard Aubin
11:15AM Guided Tour
- Sun. August 17 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Soul Blessing"*
Scripture: Psalm 103
Greeters: Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
Ushers: Donna Campopiano and Stan Lemons
11:15 AM Guided Tour
- Sun. August 24 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Duet With the Milky Way"*
Scripture: Psalm 148
Greeters: Mickey and Sam Hall
Ushers: Ruth Marris Macaulay and Ken Clauser
11:15 AM Guided Tour

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.

Business Meeting Schedules for 2014

- ▶ October 19, 2014 - 12:15 PM: Quarterly Meeting, and Deli Luncheon.

JUST A REMINDER!

**Food or drinks of any kind,
are not allowed in
the auditorium.**

We do not want to stain the
new carpets and the cleaned
pew cushions. Thank you!