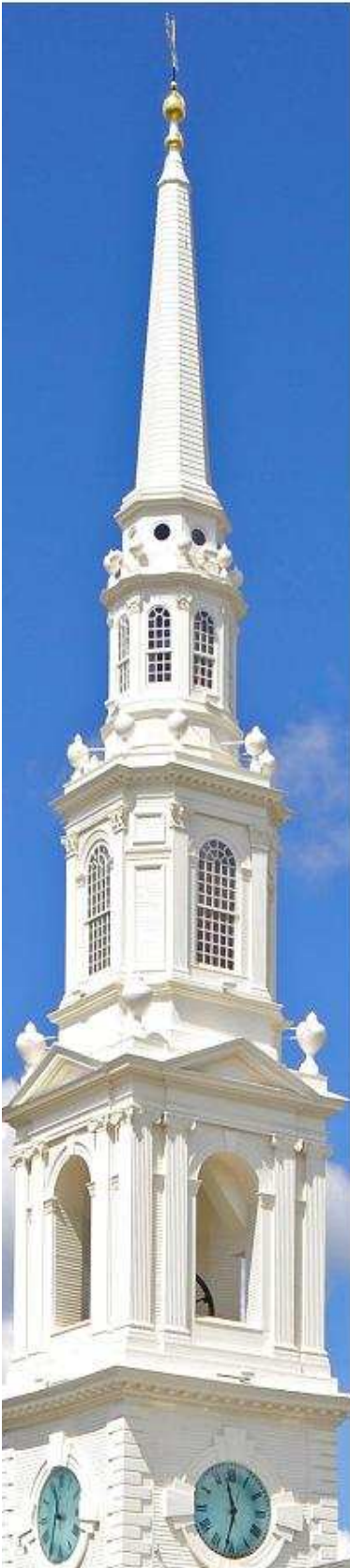


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

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From The Pastor... on Tools of the Trade

Pastors are unique among professionals in that they have very few visible tools of the trade. Health care workers enter a room with their stethoscopes, their blood pressure cuffs, and all the high-tech paraphernalia of medical science. Teachers relate to their students with the support of textbooks, computers, and web pages. Business people relate to clients with sales data, profit projections, and statistics.

Ministers, on the other hand, enter into relationships with very little technological gadgetry, and what high-tech tools we have (i.e. cell phones) tend to get in the way of meaningful conversations. What ministers do have are ears to listen, stories to share, and questions to ask. Above all, ministers offer a presence in times of need. Often words fail, but a presence never fails. A presence often says more than words can convey.

These tools of the trade are tools we all have. That is one reason we speak of the “ministry of the laity.” All of us are ministers, and we can all listen, tell stories, and ask questions. We can listen actively. This is one of the most important ministries of the church, especially during times of transition.

I have found over the years that a congregation that nurtures the art of listening also prays well, sings well, and acts decisively. Perhaps that is due to the fact that in listening to each other, we discover that we are also listening to the Spirit who inspires, encourages, and empowers us.

Thomas R. McKibbens

Linda's Lines

Fall is fast approaching and we are gearing up for the fall program. We are kicking off with Rally Day September 7 (more about that from Christian Ed.). The choir returns September 7 and the regular Sunday forums begin the following week. The small groups will also resume the week after Rally day. Newcomers are encouraged to join any of these activities. The Sunday Forum meets at 10 before the worship service. The choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30. And, we have two small groups which meet weekly to discuss topics related to spirituality.

The Wednesday group is for women only and meets from 1:30-3:00 starting Wednesday, Sept 10. We are reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *The Luminous Web* Essays on Science and Religion. Barbara Brown Taylor is an Episcopal priest who has read extensively about science. As a biochemist, I usually grind my teeth when I read theologians' writings about science but she 'gets it.'

The Thursday group is comprised of both men and women and meets from 6-7 on Thursdays beginning Sept 11. The Thursday group will be reading and discussing *Desire of the Everlasting Hills* by Thomas Cahill. This book is a part of a series which Cahill calls The Hinges of History, in which he explores "crucial turning points in the formation of Western culture." In this book Cahill shows Jesus from his birth to his execution through the eyes of those who knew him and in the context of his time.

Both books are available on Amazon.com.

Labor Day is the last day to send in recipes for the cookbook

Committee News

♥ Rally Day will be September 7, we will kick off the school year with a pizza lunch after service.

♪ The month of September" will feature music of Felix Mendelssohn. Mendelssohn's grandfather was a rabbi and one of the founders of the Reform movement in Germany. Felix was baptized Lutheran, and spent a great part of his life trying to reconcile his Jewish roots with his Christian faith. His seminal work is the Oratorio *Elijah*, which focuses on Resurrection themes within an Old Testament framework. Our selections this month will include music from *Elijah*, as well as from the Psalms, organ sonatas and Songs Without Words.

♥ International Ministries Offering in September

The International Offering in September will go to support our missionaries, Drs. David and Laura Parajon. They work in Nicaragua with AMOS Health and Hope which is a Christian organization that exists to improve the health of impoverished communities by working alongside them in health, education and development.

AMOS is an acronym that stands for A Ministry Of Sharing, and is also named for the prophet Amos because of his special sensitivity for the poor. As Co-Directors of AMOS Health and Hope, they are dedicated to working towards health for all, because no child, rich or poor, should die of a preventable disease.

Their work covers a community of about 14,065 people. The impact they are making in this community is remarkable, for example, in the year 2012-2013, they achieved a 0 percent maternal mortality, a feat not achieved by many local communities or countries, saving many lives.

Find out more about their work in their report on the Mission Bulletin Board.

♥ LaRomana 2015 January 3 - January 10, 2015 - Join us for a week of Service, Community, Growth, Love, in the Dominican Republic. Interested? Contact Susan Lepore susanlepore@gmail.com

“SCRIBBLES” from FRIDAY SEEKERS

We're back!!!! Yes, in just a short few weeks, on September 26, 2014, FRIDAY SEEKERS' will be starting up again and we hope that you are ready for this new year's programs.

Remember when you were a kid and enjoyed such fun things as Campfires, marshmallow roasting, and sitting around a campfire and singing with your friends?



Well, we will be given a chance to do this again on our first Friday Seekers' of the 2014-2015 season. Lee McDaniel has planned an interesting evening for us.



Here is a run-down of the program:

PLACE: Home of Todd Giroux, 30 Harrison Street, Bristol, RI 02809

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Camp Set up (arrive and mingle)
6:30 p.m. Meats & veggies on the grill and sides
7:15 p.m. Indoor campfire (ONLINE Jesus)
8:15 p.m. Campfire (songs, praises and s'more!)
9:00 p.m. End,,,or stay a little later if you want

Lee will lead the program "Campfire, Old & New" which will be a traditional outdoor campfire with campfire songs and marshmallows and a new campfire, which will be an indoor "campfire" using social media for modern Christian living.

You can come and go as you want once the campfire starts.

The sign-up sheet will be on our FRIDAY SEEKERS' BULLETIN BOARD. Be sure to support our host by signing up early. Thank you. Dianne Thyret, Friday Seekers Coordinator

Church News



The church bid Jessica Libertini a fond farewell as she was leaving to begin her new position in the mathematics department at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA where she will become Major Jessica Libertini.



Rob Jarbadan provided the special music for the church service on August 24. Here he is singing "Great is the Lord."

Before the planting of the perennials in June 2013.



After a year in Summer of 2014



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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 31 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Ordinary People...Ordinary Things"*
Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:2 1-26
Greeters: Barbara Staples and Lee McDaniel
Ushers: Donna and Henry Campopiano
11:15 AM Guided Tour
- Sun. Sept. 7 11:00 AM Sunday Worship - Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *"Restive in the Empire"*
Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14; Romans 12:1-13
Greeters: Elsa Grieder and Donna Puckett
Ushers: Donna and Henry Campopiano
12:15AM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons
- Sun. Sept. 14 11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
Sermon: *The Power to Part the Waters*
Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31; Revelation 21:1-3
Greeters: Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
Ushers: Joanne Schneider and Arthur Bone
12:15 AM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider

Mission Calendar

- ▶ Monthly Prayer Meeting in Fellowship Hall 2nd Saturday of the Month 9:30 AM.
- ▶ 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.

Executive Meeting

- ▶ The next Executive Meeting will be held on September 3rd.