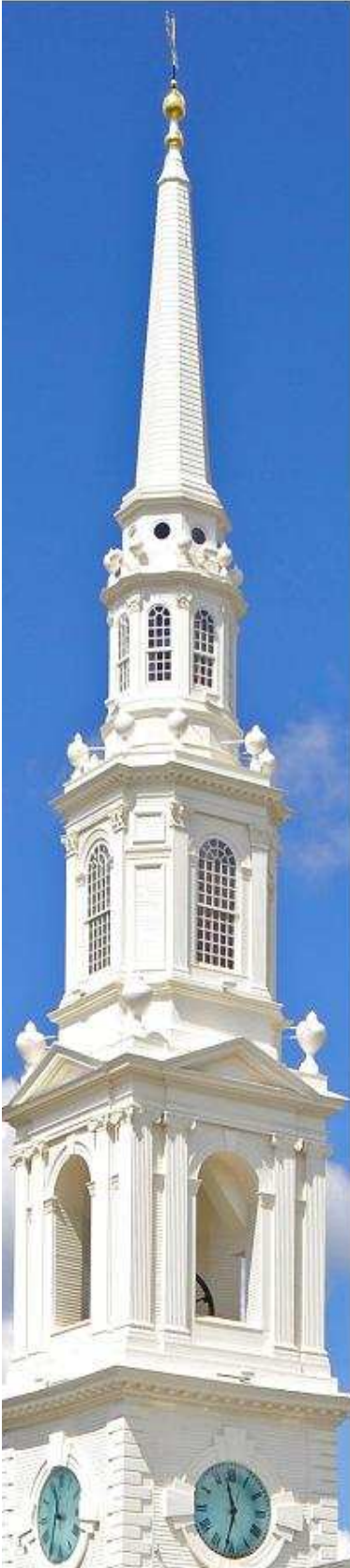


# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

November 01, 2014, Volume 17, Issue 17



## *From The Pastor*

It is clear from the gospel documents that Jesus did not promote a low-sacrifice message. His own life modeled it, and those who follow him have known deep down that whatever else we believe, a life of service and sacrifice is essential to the Way of Jesus Christ. In a multitude of ways, local church members have lived out that kind of life. To paraphrase former House Speaker Tip O'Neill, all service is local.

We all recognize the stresses of our time, much of it financial. But the suffering of this world is larger than finances alone. While we often feel helpless to solve the BIG world-wide problems, we are not helpless to take on local suffering. This church is well situated to model such service on the ground level, for we are part of a ministry that has served in this place for longer than any other Baptist church in America.

*From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required,* said Jesus (Luke 12: 48). That statement takes on new life in the present. This is not just a stewardship concern, it is a theological concern. Our culture is hungry for the kind of leadership the church is well equipped to provide. Now is the time for the church to shine! Now is the time for the church to model humble service, faithful living, and generous giving.

Thomas R. McKibbens

## Linda's Lines

At the first meeting of Tom Wiles' small group, Improv Your Faith, we filled out a questionnaire in which he asked us to rate various aspects of church life. Interestingly, he then asked how we think the congregation would rate these same aspects! I wish the whole congregation could fill out the form – it would be interesting to see how people feel about these things. As you know, at our last quarterly business meeting, it was decided to have a retreat to do some long range planning. I think these are some of the things we might consider. One of the categories that stood out for me is discipleship – one of *'those words.'* Is discipleship important to us? Just what is it anyway? Webster's defines a disciple as one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrine of another. It's not a word that we use often but I think in fact we do indirectly try to train disciples. To me that means training people to accept God's love and pass it on to others. One way we do that, of course, is through the sermons. I think our small groups are also important. We have a lot of small groups: the two spirituality groups that meet weekly, the Sunday Forum, the choir and last but not least our committees. We have a diverse congregation in terms of ethnicity, education and economic status. Diverse people working toward common goals learn a lot from each other about not only accepting differences but seeing that they can compliment each other. Sharing and learning together in small groups and working together on committees helps us to learn to love our neighbor.

And have you noticed in the last 10 years how much our missions activities have grown? We not only contribute to missions but participate in missions. Some of us go to La Romana to help build the hospital there, some of us work with the refugees we are helping to support, some of us make sandwiches for Crossroads and most of us bring in food stuffs for the food pantry. There is always a lot more that we could be doing. Do we need to be more intentional about discipleship? I don't know –something to think about.

### Reminder

Daylight Savings Time ends so don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday night before you go to sleep!

## Church News



Rachel Briden, a student at Lincoln School, whose mother was born in Syria, made a presentation to the Adult Forum on October 19 about the situation of the

Stephen Martorella was joined by two members of the Early Music Conference to play "Sonata Quarta in D" from Johann Schmelzer's *Sonatae Unarum Fidium* for the prelude to the morning worship service. Jeffrey Noonan of Southeast Missouri State University played the baroque lute and Samuel Breene of Rhode Island College played the violin.



Our own, Linda Wiles, shared with us her love Rag Time music along with a narrative giving us all some background into this lively form of entertainment. Linda's enthusiasm and exuberance along with her fantastic talent as a pianist made for a wonderful evening.





## *From The Board of Missions*



Matthew and Jay Smith, students from Providence College, presented a film entitled "Restoring Smith Hill" to the Adult Forum on October 26. It focused on the work of the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation in rehabbing housing on Smith Hill and told how Providence College is working with the CDC to improve the neighborhood near their College.

Sarah Dunn, the soprano section leader of the choir sang the spiritual "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel."



Bruce Leonard and Christine Vanstone were united in marriage by Pastor Tom McKibbens in a private ceremony in the Meeting House after the worship service on October 26. They were joined by their respective children as attendants.

**“SCRIBBLES” from FRIDAY SEEKERS  
For November 21, 2014**

***Our final FRIDAY SEEKERS FOR 2014 will be on Friday, November 21 and will be at First Baptist Church. Steve Martorella will again lead us into a wonderful study of a different area of his music knowledge. His theme is: Music Inspired by the Song of Songs.***



***The Song of Solomon has inspired a great deal of poetry and music throughout the ages. It is unique among the books of the Bible and not without controversy, both in its own time as well as today. Come find out why, as we explore this unique poem in its many flowerings, and from a variety of perspectives, both theological and artistic.***

***PLACE: First Baptist Church  
DATE: Friday, November 21, 2014  
TIME: 6:00 p.m. meet at church  
6:30 p.m. Pot Luck supper  
7:00 p.m. Program***

**2015 – Programs**

<b><i>Friday, February 27</i></b>	<b><i>Stan Lemons</i></b>
<b><i>Friday, March 27</i></b>	<b><i>Joanne Schneider, Dianne &amp; Edgar Thyret</i></b>
<b><i>Friday, April 24</i></b>	<b><i>Pam Manninen, Susan LePore</i></b>
<b><i>Friday, May 15</i></b>	<b><i>COFFEE HOUSE</i></b>

***DIANNE THYRET --FRIDAY SEEKERS' COORDINATOR***

Please join us for  
**Thanksgiving with PICA**

A fundraiser to benefit Rhode Island's largest food pantry

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**  
**5:30PM TO 7:30PM**

Hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, socializing and cash bar



**The Waterman Grille**

4 Richmond Square  
Providence, RI

**Admission \$25**

Tickets may be purchased online or at the door

Visit: [picathanksgiving.eventbrite.com](http://picathanksgiving.eventbrite.com)

VISA & MasterCard accepted

**PICA serves people in need every day. We would love your help!**  
If you are unable to join us but would still like to support PICA contact:

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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***

<b>Sun. Nov. 02</b>	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
		Sermon: "Naming the Saints Before Us"
		Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17
		Greeters: Karin Patton and David Coon
		Ushers: Joanne Schneider and Art Bone
	11:15 AM	Guided Tour Stan Lemons
<b>Sun. Nov. 09</b>	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
		Sermon: "Choices That Matter"
		Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
	12:15AM	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.

### **Estate Planning Meeting**

- ▶ November 9, 2014 - 12:30 PM; The Finance Committee is sponsoring an Estate Planning - Faith, Finance and Future with a Deli lunch.

### **Executive Meeting**

- ▶ The next Executive Meeting will be held December 3.