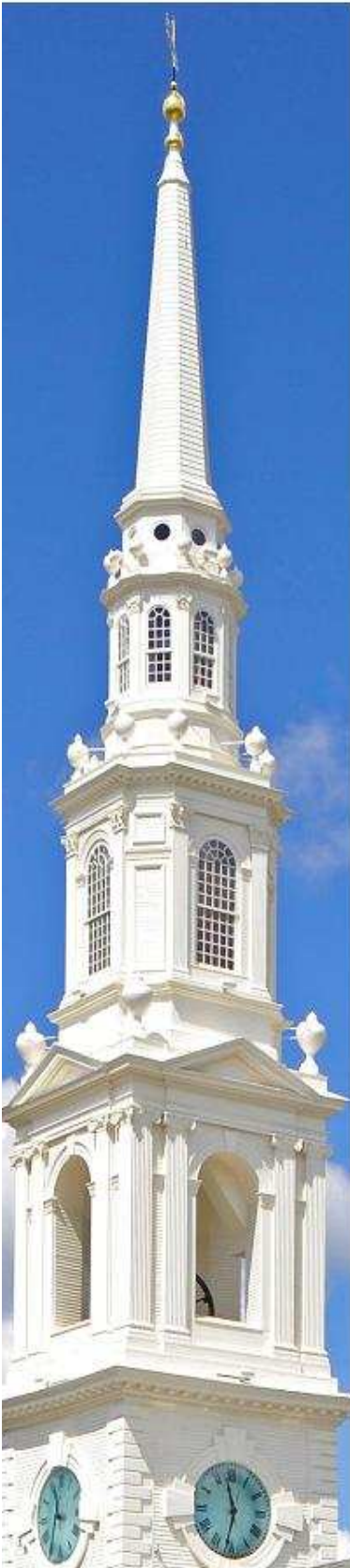


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

October 15, 2014, Volume 17, Issue 16



From The Pastor

How do you spell commitment? How do you spell love for this church? How do you spell gratitude to God for the ministry of this church? Answer: P-L-E-D-G-E. One of the things I really like about church ministry is that at least once a year we dispense with all the esoteric talk of being spiritual in some way, and we get down-to-earth and ask for pledges. That is one of our agendas for the month of November.

The elected lay leadership in the church is taking this very seriously! They realize that a continued high draw from the endowment will be counterproductive. They monitor the stock market like faithful caretakers should. They know that successive deficit budgets cannot be sustained.

The elected leaders of the church are attempting to create a budget for 2015 that reflects the challenge of our giving and the benefit we receive from faithful members who have left resources in our endowment to continue their commitment to the church long after they have died. The 2015 budget must come from a combination of wise decisions on the budget and increased commitment from our members. That increase must come through pledges.

Call it what you will: *dough, bread, moolah, cabbage, bucks, commitment*—the church needs more of it, and wise budgeting cannot come just from cuts in the present budget. It must come from increased giving as reflected in the pledges for the 2015 budget. It must come from tangible commitments to the future ministries of this church. It must come, in other words, from US. No one else can do it for us!

Pledge Sunday is November 16! Generous pledging is one of the highest forms of spirituality.

Thomas R. McKibbens

Linda's Lines

I have some tidbits for you this month. The first is a great 'meeting house' story. Rob Jarbadan's parents, who are originally from the Philippines and now live in Virginia, were here visiting this weekend. Also visiting Sunday was a family originally from the Philippines and now living in California. It turns out that they were relatives and hadn't seen each other in 40 years! Truly a meeting house experience!

On another note, our Wednesday afternoon women's group is starting a new book, *Convictions: How I learned What Matters Most* by Marcus Borg. He was inspired to write it by his 70th birthday. "If we don't talk about what is important to us at age 70, when will we?" he asks. In it he reflects on what matters most to him as a Christian and as an American: bringing to earth the kingdom of God Jesus talked about and transforming our relationships with one another.

I also, wanted to remind everyone that it's not too late to support or join those walking on Saturday in the Out of the Darkness walk at Slater Park to raise money for suicide prevention. So far 8 people are signed up to walk. They are walking in memory of Dan and Libby's grandson, Curtis, and Lee McDaniel's nephew, Will. Their goal is to raise \$200. Donations can be made on line at the following link:

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?>

Sunday Morning Forum

October 19, At the Sunday Forum on October 19th, Rachel Briden, a student at Lincoln School will present a short film she made in her Grade 10 history class on the impact of the Syrian civil war on the Christian minority in Syria. Rachel's mother, who teaches French and Arabic at Lincoln is Syrian and she has many family members still there, although some, who are interviewed in the film, came to the US this year. Rachel is also working to raise funds for Doctors Without Borders for their work in Syria and will talk about how she became involved in this after volunteering at Pawtucket Memorial Hospital.

October 26, J. Smith and his brother Matthew will be discussing the film Restoring Smith Hill, which showcases the extraordinary success of the work by the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation (CDC). The Smith Hill CDC has taken foreclosed houses in the area and turned the blight into safe, affordable housing.

<http://rhodeislandpbs.blogspot.com/2014/04/restoring-smith-hill-tale-of-dreams-and.html>

Church News



In the month of October, our church prepares several hundred sandwiches each Sunday to be distributed by Crossroads Rhode Island to the homeless of Providence. The Sandwich Brigade on October 5 included: Donna and Henry Campopiano, Ken Clauser, Ruth Marris Macaulay, Eva Adodoadji, Richard Aubin, Esperanza Tannehill and one helper hidden behind Lee McDaniel.



On October 12th the Sandwich Brigade consisted of: (from bottom right clockwise: Susan Lepore, Eva Adodoadji, Cortney Smith, Lena Gates, Linda Bausserman, Richard Aubin, Donna Puckett, Arlene Quinlan, Emma Lepore.)

Rev. Womack a seminary classmate of Tom McKibbens, spoke to the Adult Forum about the writing of his book, "Kim," an account of his dealing with the loss of his six-year old daughter to cancer.



The Adult Forum topic for October 12th was "Meet Tom McKibbens," and he told of his life and career in pictures and stories from Creation to the present.



From The Board of Missions



The Missions Committee is sponsoring a bake sale at Thanksgiving as a fund-raiser for the 6 individuals who will be taking the missions trip to La Romana this January. If you are **willing to bake** (for example, pies or breads – pumpkin, cranberry, banana, etc.) please **email Linda by November 1st** at linda.fbc@verizon.net with what you might be able to contribute. We will take orders from the available items so that you won't have to bake unnecessarily.

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
cordially invites you to help us celebrate
25 years of service at its

Silver Anniversary Gala and Silent Auction

to benefit

Louie's Place

Thursday, October 23, 2014
at the Cranston Country Club
69 Burlingame Road
Cranston, RI 02921
6 p.m. Cocktail Hour
7 p.m. Dinner

\$50 per person
includes dinner
cash bar available

Come join us and Make a Joyful Noise!

On November 1 the Rhode Island Heritage Center is sponsoring its biennial conference, and this year's program is about Baptist music and worship. The featured speaker will be Eric Mathis from Sanford University in Birmingham, Alabama. A number of church choirs and singing groups will be taking part in addition to discussion groups.

The choir of the First Baptist Church in America will be singing in the afternoon session, and Stephen Martorella and Stanley Lemons will be facilitating one of the luncheon discussions.

Sign up using the attached information. The registration fee covers some of the conference expenses and provides you with a lunch there.

For information, contact

Rev. Clay Berry or
Wakefield Baptist Wakefield, RI
pastor@wbchurch.necoxmail.com
Telephone:401.783.2472

Rev. Paul Hanson
United Baptist, Newport
revhan@cox.net
Telephone 401.847.3210

Registration Form

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Number attending: _____ x \$15 = _____

- Registration closes on Oct. 27!
- Participating musicians should register through their group leader.
- Make checks payable to: RI Baptist Heritage Center
and return to

Baptist Heritage Weekend

C/O Don Waterman, 330 West Rd., Harrisville, RI 02830



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

URGENT ACTION

Some 500 students attend the Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teacher Training College in the town of Ayotzinapa, México. They receive training to become primary school teachers in rural communities. Some of the local inhabitants are of Indigenous origin. In general, these communities – and the students themselves – are poor and suffer from high levels of discrimination, marginalization and lack of access to basic services.

The students at the rural training college are also politically active and they have staged many demonstrations in relation to rural teachers and education policy. The training colleges have frequently been starved of resources in recent years as rural education has not been a priority. Acts of violence have been reported in some of these demonstrations, and public authorities have frequently blamed the student teachers.

43 students from this college have disappeared in the city of Iguala, in southern Mexico. Around 25 of them had been arrested by municipal police, while those remaining were abducted by unidentified armed men operating with the acquiescence of local authorities, a few hours later. All missing students are victims of enforced disappearances. On 5 October Guerrero state officials found six unmarked mass graves near Iguala, apparently as a result of information provided by some of the 22 municipal police presently under arrest.

We will be **writing letters on Sunday, October 19th**, with the following goals:

- Urging the Federal Attorney General to assume full responsibility for the investigation into the enforced disappearance of 43 students in order to establish their whereabouts promptly, ensure their physical and mental safety and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging the PGR to carry out a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the killing of six people on 26 September

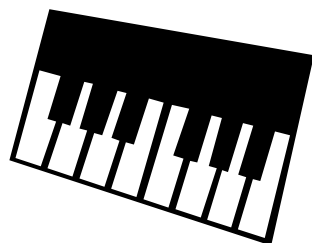
Please come to the Fellowship Hall following Sunday's service where there will be letters to sign

“SCRIBBLES” from FRIDAY SEEKERS



Linda Wiles has been performing at the piano since the age of five. In addition to two degrees (Bachelor of Music and Master of Music), she has performed in many venues. Most recently, she has performed many sacred concerts in her role as a Church Music Keyboard Specialist as well as in Piano Duo concerts in Arizona, Nebraska, and Oklahoma and as a featured soloist with the Sandhills Symphony in Nebraska. Her performances have continued since she moved here to Rhode Island and we are fortunate to have her for our next FRIDAY SEEKERS on

***FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2014 – HERE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
“RAGTIME REVISITED”***



6:00 P.M. Meet at the church

6:30 P.M. Pot Luck Supper

7:00 P.M. Program

Sign up on our FRIDAY SEEKERS' BULLETIN BOARD (LARGE PINK SHEET) in Fellowship Hall.

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!

DIANNE THYRET, FRIDAY SEEKERS' COORDINATOR

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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

Sun. Oct. 19	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship: Associate Pastor Linda Bausserman Sermon: "Take your mat " Scripture: John 5: 2-18 Greeters: Susan and Richard Lepore Ushers: Donna and Henry Campopiano
	11:15 AM	Guided Tour Elsa Grieder
Sun. Oct 26	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens Sermon: "Faithful to the Dream!" Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-2 Greeters: TBA Ushers: TBA
	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.

Business Meeting Schedules for 2014

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

Founders's Day

▶ The Roger Williams Family Association would like to invite FBCIA members to a luncheon on Founder's Day, Sunday, October 26th at 12:30 PM. Stan Lemons will be the guest speaker and will talk about his book with Linford D. Fisher, and Lucas Mason-Brown, [Decoding Roger Williams The Lost Essay of Rhode Island's Founding Father](#). If you would like to attend please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall.

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.