

The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

January 15, 2015, Volume 18, Issue 02



From The Pastor...

There are two basic ways a congregation can spend the interim time between settled pastors. The first is what I would term “reclining.” It is the easy chair model of relaxing, asking the Search Committee to go out and find a pastor, and then waiting until the new pastor comes to set a course of action and implement it.

The other way a congregation can spend the time between settled pastors is what I would call a “Pathfinder” model. A pathfinder moves ahead, cautiously of course, but still moves ahead. A pathfinder looks at the terrain and determines which path the group should follow into the future.

In Baptist polity, the whole congregation is the pathfinder! The all-church retreat on January 31 is decisive in setting the direction of FBCIA in the future. Just as the church will have questions for any potential settled pastor, any prospective pastor will also want to ask questions of the church. Chief among those questions is, “What do you see as the strengths of the church, and what direction in ministry do you want to go?” To be able to give a clear answer to such questions is critically important.

Be a part of charting the future. Give the last Saturday of this month to this important work! We meet at Lincoln School, 301 Butler Ave., Providence, on Saturday, January 31, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, January 25.

Thomas R. McKibbens

In Memory Of



Evelyn Kinnaird Fox, aged 89, died in hospice care on January 9, 2015. Evelyn was a member of the church fifty-four years. She and her husband Russell Fox joined FBCIA by letter on November 16, 1960. They moved from Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, (just outside of Pittsburgh) to Providence when Russell came to work for the Gorham Manufacturing Company. Both became pillars in the church, serving in one capacity after another, year after year. Evelyn variously was a member of the Board of Deacons, P&S, Missions, Christian Education, Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee, and a number of minor committees. She was one of those people who could always be counted on to do whatever was needed.

Evelyn was born at home on August 5, 1925 in Metcalf County, Kentucky, the daughter of Stewart Mitchell & Ernestine (Wallace) Kinnaird. She and her older sister lived on the family farm the first few years, attending a one-room schoolhouse when Evelyn first began school. After graduating from Glasgow (KY) High School, Evelyn went to the University of Louisville, graduating with a B.S. degree in elementary education. She taught several years in the Louisville area. There she met Russell, and they were married on June 30, 1951, beginning a forty-two year marriage that ended when Russell died from a stroke on January 22, 1994. Their first daughter, Mary Kay was born in 1956 while the Foxes were still in Louisville, and Anne was born in Pittsburgh in 1959. The girls grew up at FBCIA before going out into the world to their respective careers. Anne became a lawyer in Manhattan, NY, and Mary Kay trained to be an actor using Kinnaird as her professional name, but she later became involved in the real estate business. After her children were born, Evelyn did not hold a teaching position while her girls were growing up. Finally, she taught ten years in the Barrington Early Childhood Center, retiring in 1985. She said that while teaching at the Center did not pay much, she "loved it." In October 2013, she moved to New York City to be near her daughter.

She is survived by her sister Vivian and a brother Samuel Kinnaird and his wife Pat, two daughters, Mary Kinnaird and Anne (Fox) Cutler and son-in-law Stuart Cutler, and five grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held at First Baptist Church in America on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at 12:00 Noon. Donations may be made to: The First Baptist Church in America, 75 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 or TAPIN, P.O. Box 252, Barrington, RI 02806

Christian Education

Sunday Morning Forum will resume again on January 18th.

Children's Sunday school lessons will continue so our visitors will have a place for their children to go during the service if they so desire.

Children's Lessons:

January 18th - *God is always ready to forgive us*
"A Little Man's Big Change"
Luke 19:1-10; 6:37

January 24th - *Jesus cares about our families*
"A Father's Faith"
Mark 5:21-24, 35-43;

February 1st - *Jesus helps us when we're discouraged.*
"What a Catch!"
John 21:1-14; Ephesians 4:29

February 8th - *We forgive as God forgives us.*
"God's Gift of Forgiveness"
Luke 15:11-32; Matthew 6:14-15

Church News



PICA IS HOSTING ITS ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION on Wednesday, January 28th, at 5:30 PM at the Regency Plaza; where, as you know, the ambiance is delightful and the parking is plentiful. Wine and assorted hor d'ourves will be served. We guarantee that you will have a very good time. Tickets are \$40.00 and may be purchased at the door.

WE NEED ITEMS FOR THE AUCTION. If you have anything you'd like to donate (must be in good condition) please contact Holly in the Church office or Pat Billings. Items need to be submitted by Sunday, January 18th. Thank you!

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY SEEKERS Spring 2015



- NONE IN DECEMBER 2014 OR JANUARY 2015**
- Friday, February 27, 2015 Stan Lemons – his home
 - Friday, March 27, 2015 Joanne Schneider, Dianne and Edgar Thyret
 - Friday, April 24, 2015 Pam Manninen, Susan Lepore - FBCIA
 - Friday, May 15 COFFEE HOUSE

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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. Jan. 18
 - 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
 - 11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
 - Sermon: "What To Do When the Wine Runs Out!"
 - Scripture John 2:1-11
 - Greeters: Barbara McCurdy and Dot White
 - Ushers: Richard and Emma Lepore
 - 12:15 AM Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder
- Sun. Jan. 25
 - 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum/SundaySchool
 - 11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
 - Sermon: "Basic Christianity 101"
 - Scripture Mark 1:14-20
 - Greeters: Esperanza Tannehill and Rob Jarbadan
 - Ushers: Adeline Bee and Peter Schoonmaker
 - 12:15AM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider
- Sun. Feb. 01
 - 11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
 - Sermon: "Don't Give Up on the Institution!"
 - Scripture Mark 1:21-28
 - 12:15 AM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons
- Sun. Feb. 08
 - 11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens
 - Sermon: "Mind the Gap!"
 - Scripture Mark 1:29-39
 - 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.

PARKING BAN IN PROVIDENCE

If there is a parking ban in the city of Providence due to inclement weather, the worship service and all activities at First Baptist Church in America will be cancelled. Please be sure to listen and watch your local radio station and television stations for announcements. Thank you!