

The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

May 15, 2015, Volume 18, Issue 10



From The Pastor...

I know that many New Englanders take a break from church over the summer. Time away is well deserved and vacations are important for our physical and mental health. Some of our committees shut down over the summer months, and attendance at worship falls a bit. If you are among those who plan to be away over the summer, I wish you a glorious, refreshing, renewing time.

The good news is that church is alive and well over the summer. Some of the best worship experiences of the year are held in the more informal services in the heat of the summer. Member attendance is down, but visitor attendance is up. It's a great time to meet newcomers and enjoy long-time friends.

After the severity of the winter we have all experienced, summer is an especially welcome season. If you are here, remember your church! If you are not here, still remember your church!

Blessings on you all.

Thomas R. Mckibbens

From the Board of Missions and Outreach

Nepal Earthquake -How you can help

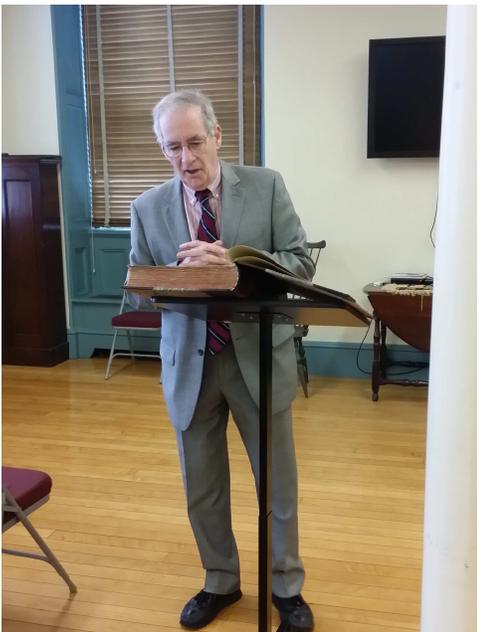


The second earthquake to hit devastated Nepal has resulted in an even more urgent need for food, clean water, shelter and medical care. An American Baptist International Ministries' initial gift of \$25,000 in emergency funds through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will help begin to address immediate needs. However, much more is needed to sustain this effort to establish livable conditions for the hundreds of thousands of Nepali people who have lost their homes.

This year, a Credit Union has offered International Ministries a \$15,000 matching grant for OGHS money designated for Nepal disaster relief. We have decided that any money raised by our members during the month of May will go into this fund. **Therefore, any donation to our church's One Great Hour of Sharing offering in May will go toward Nepal relief efforts and will be doubled.** The Missions and Outreach Committee will also send a check for \$500 to the regular One Great Hour of Sharing fund to ensure that relief efforts at other places around the world will be continued. **Please write your check to The First Baptist Church in America (FBCIA) with One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) on the memo line.**

Church News

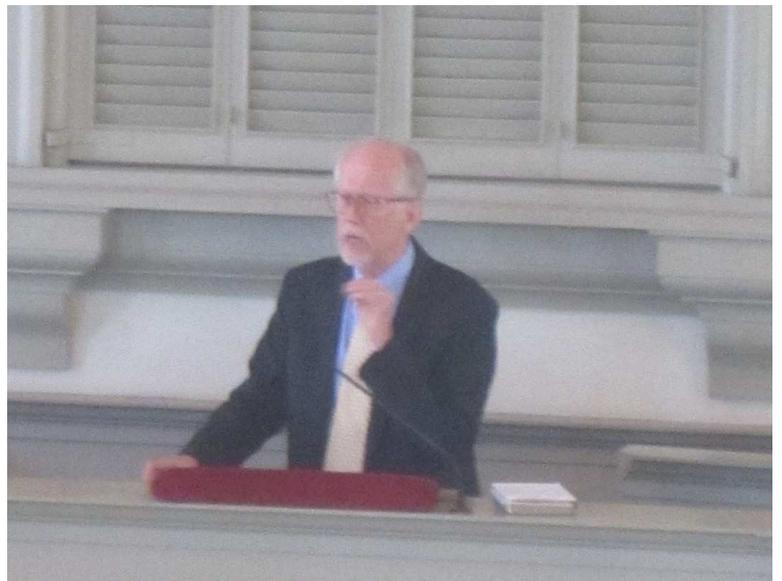
On Sunday, May 3, the church joined in celebrating the 250th anniversary of Brown's charter of 1764. In the Adult Forum, Stanley Lemons talked about the 245-year relationship between First Baptist and the university, noting that the first two presidents of Brown were pastors of this church and that every Brown President from James Manning (in 1770) down to Clarence Barbour (who died in 1937) was an active member of First Baptist. In the morning worship service, Lee McDaniel presented a certificate from the church to Janet Cooper Nelson, the senior chaplain at the University. She then delivered the morning sermon. After the service, Joanne Schneider took the Brown representatives on a special tour of the Meeting House.



On Sunday May 3rd, the church celebrated the Great Day for David Sinya Lee as Pastor Tom McKibbens welcomed him with the Right Hand of Fellowship.



Stan Lemons, church historian, did a tour for 4th graders and some of their parents from Chariho on Saturday morning, May 9.



Dwight Lundgren, FBCIA's pastor #32, was honored by PICA at a gala dinner on Thursday, May 6, and then spoke at the Meeting House on Sunday, the 10th. He was asked to address the Adult Forum about his work for PICA when he was the president of the board. He is credited with getting PICA incorporated so it would be able to get grants and for professionalizing the organization by getting a paid director. Then after the Adult Forum he preached the sermon in the worship service.



On Wednesday, May 13th, Stan Lemons guided a tour for a group of Pastors' from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Area

They held a worship service of about a half an hour - all in Korean, except for a praise song that they sang at the beginning (after an opening prayer and remarks), "God is Good."



the preacher of the sermon (in Korean) was Rev. Wonhee Lee.

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Holly B. Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
David Michel, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

May Calendar

Sun. May 17 10:00AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship: Candidate for Minister
Sermon: "Free For Who?"
Scripture: Matthew 16: 13-16
Greeters: Donna and Henry Campopiano
Usher s: Karin Patton and Mary Alice Kleiber
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder

Sun. May 24 - NO CHURCH SERVICE—BROWN GRADUATION

Sun. May 31 10:00 AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Thomas McKibbens
Sermon: "Open-Hearted; Open-Minded; Open-Handed"
Scripture: Romans 8:1-11
Greeters: Eva and Ahuma Adodoadji
Ushers: Christine and Bruce Leonard
12:15 AM Tour Guide: Richard Aubin

Summer Worship will begin on June 7th at 10:00 AM and continue through September 6th.

In order to give everyone the opportunity to listen to the prospective minister's sermon Sunday, we will not have Sunday school during church service. We will still have our 10:00 Sunday school, and child care will be available in the nursery during forum & service.

Children's Lessons

May 17th - Fruit of the Spirit: Peace
God wants us to be at peace
Jesus Visits Mary and Martha;
Luke 10:38-42; Galatians 5:22-23

May 31st - Fruit of the Spirit: Patience, Faithfulness
We can trust God to help us.
Nehemiah Repairs the Wall of Jerusalem;
Nehemiah 1:1-6;16, Galatians 5:22-23

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.