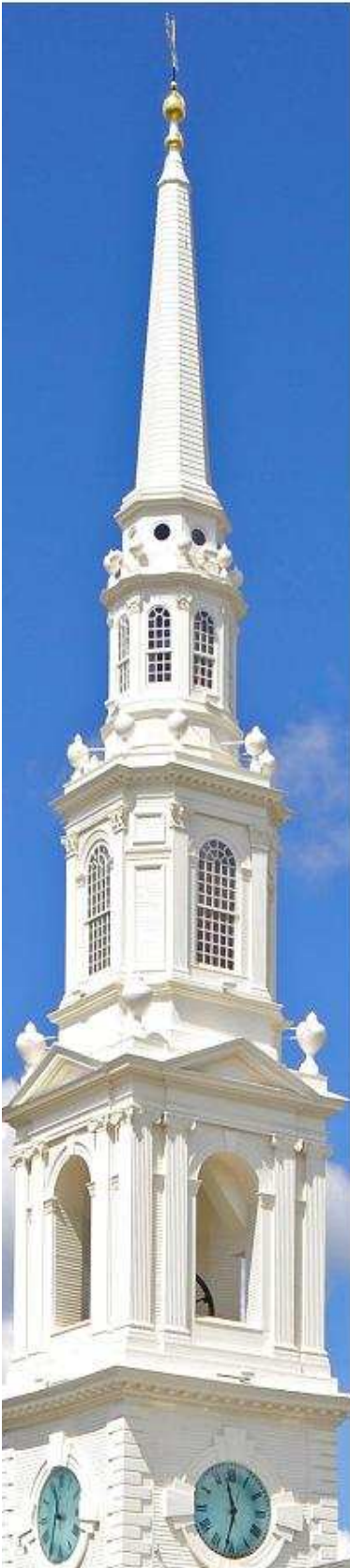


# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

February 15, 2015, Volume 18, Issue 04



## *From The Pastor...*

In the midst of all this snow we still prepare for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 18. How appropriate that Lent begins with the plaintive cry of Psalm 51: *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin*; and it comes to a conclusion as we prepare to celebrate the springtime of the ages: *He is risen! He is risen indeed!* The story never grows old, for it is as new as today's news and as needed as hope.

During this season we will think together about the story of Jesus, looking closely at his conflicts with the powers-that-be, reminding ourselves of the great stories of faith like the conversation with Nicodemus (John 3), the majestic language of John 12, and of course the familiar story of the triumphal entry (this year from Mark 11), as we move inevitably toward the jubilation of Easter.

The movement from the snows of February to the springtime of Easter never grows old because it is always about the life we live and the faith we profess. It may seem like a long way from ashes to resurrection, but that is the journey of Lent. If you miss this journey, you are missing the heart of the faith we hold.

Thomas R. McKibbens

## Linda's Lines

Tom Wiles described our retreat as the beginning of an ongoing conversation. It's a conversation that can't be completed until our new pastor has come and had a chance to participate in it. And, indeed, it probably should always be open and continuing if we want to continue to grow. For those who weren't able to attend, there are some ways you can learn about it. In the morning we made note cards of our assets (property, individual, economic, associations and institutions). Then we tried to put some of these together in creative ways to generate program ideas. You will see them posted around the Fellowship Hall and can get from them some idea of what those present at the retreat considered our assets. In the afternoon we broke out into four interest groups (discipleship, missions, worship and stewardship) and discussed (among other things) where we would like to be in five years. Summary reports from those groups have been typed up and photocopies can be found on the table in the fellowship hall. I hope they will generate further ideas. Since the retreat the discussion has continued – in the Sunday Forum and in committee meetings. For example, the deacons have decided to have a welcome table in the Fellowship Hall with information about the church for visitors. It will also be a place to start the conversation about joining the church. A room will still be set aside for private conversation. Also, Christian Ed has resurrected the 10:00 Sunday school for children. If you have ideas for the future, please share them with the appropriate committee or at the next church meeting. Nothing is set in stone yet and we should all remain open to new possibilities.

## Church News



FBCIA's premier crack team of Eva Adodoadji, Linda Bausserman, and David Coon competed at Calvary Baptist Church in South Providence Neighborhood Ministries' 8th annual spelling bee on Saturday, February 7. and finished second this year. They spelled their way through six rounds before losing in the championship round on the word "madeleine." Do you know what it means?



Our dedicated Moderator is also dedicated at feeding the wildlife. Joanne trudges through three or more feet of snow from the driveway to the window at the far end of the house, where one of two bird feeders is located. Of course her cats are loving the entertainment from the window too!

## PICA Silent Auction



PICA's annual Silent Auction, planned for Wednesday, January 28th, was cancelled due to the snow storm. It has been rescheduled for Wednesday, February 25th. All details remain the same.

Place: Regency Plaza  
Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Cost: \$40.00

Wine and cheese will be served. The auction items are excellent and a good time is guaranteed.

Parking is free just push the button at the entrance and say you are there for PICA.

## Christian Education

Children's Lessons:

February 15th - *God wants us to be kind and loving.*  
"A Little Love and Kindness"  
Ruth 1 - 4; Proverbs 14:21-31

February 22nd - *God deserves first place in our lives.*  
"God in First Place"  
Mark 10:17-27; 28:20

March 1st - *Jesus is with us in tough times.*  
"Storm Warning"  
Matthew 8:23-27; 28:20

March 8th - *Jesus wants us to tell others about him*  
"Sowing and Growing"  
Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

March 15th - *God will always take care of us*  
"The Trust Test"  
Matthew 14:22-33; John 14:1

## Scribbles from Friday Seekers

Roger Williams – Not a Seeker -- will be the topic for Stan Lemons presentation on Friday, February 27, 2015. We will be meeting at his home for this evening's get-together. Don't forget to sign up so that Stan and Linda will be able to have a "head count" on how many will attend. The sign up sheet is on the pink FRIDAY SEEKERS' BULLETIN BOARD.



FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 2015

MEET AT THEIR HOUSE AT 6 P.M.

SUPPER 6:30 P.M.

PROGRAM 7 P.M.

*The next three programs of FRIDAY SEEKERS will be held at the Church –  
March 27 – Celtic Lands and Irish Rovers – Joanne Schneider and Dianne and Edgar Thyret  
April 17 – Pam Manninen and Susan LePore – Roger Williams Zoo  
May 15 – COFFEE HOUSE with several participants  
Details of these programs will be forthcoming.*



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **Retired Missionaries and Ministries Offering** in December. We sent \$895 to support individuals who have served such an important role in our lives and in our American Baptist Churches.

This month, we again participate in the **Blanket the World with Love** campaign. A \$10 contribution buys a blanket for a family left homeless by an earthquake or other natural disaster. In our sanctuary is a blanket. Each heart on this blanket will represent a \$5 donation. Our goal is to see **100 hearts** on the blanket or to **raise \$500** for this project. You can give as little or as much as you are able. Here is how to contribute: (1) write a check to FBCIA with the word “Blankets” on the memo line or (2) put cash in one of the envelopes in our pews and write the word “Blankets” on the outside of the envelope.

Elsa recently received an email from our **ABC missionaries Wayne & Katherine Niles** who serve in the **Congo**. In this letter entitled “Our Daily Bread” they explain their work seeking solutions to hunger, contaminated water, diseases and broken relationships. We should remember that American Baptist missionaries must raise financial contributions to support their ministries. They also depend on our prayer support. If you would like to support the Niles or find out more about their work, visit the ABCUSA website at: <http://www.internationalministries.org/missionaries/84>. If you like to know more about the work of American Baptist missionaries around the world, visit: <http://www.internationalministries.org/missionaries>

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Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

### Sunday Calendar

|              |          |  |
|--------------|----------|--|
| Sun. Feb. 15 | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens<br>Sermon: "The Politics of Compassion"<br>Scripture: Mark 1:40-45<br>Greeters: Stan Lemons and Rob Jarbadan<br>Ushers: Mark Hall and Barry Bainton |
|              | 12:15 AM | Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider   |
| Sun. Feb. 22 | 11:00 AM | Sunday Worship: Pastor Tom McKibbens<br>Sermon: "Treasure the Interruption"<br>Scripture: Mark 2:1-12<br>Greeters: Joanne Schneider and Art Bone<br>Ushers: Donna Puckett                |
|              | 12:15 AM | Tour Guide: Richard Aubin  |



### 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!

### 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.