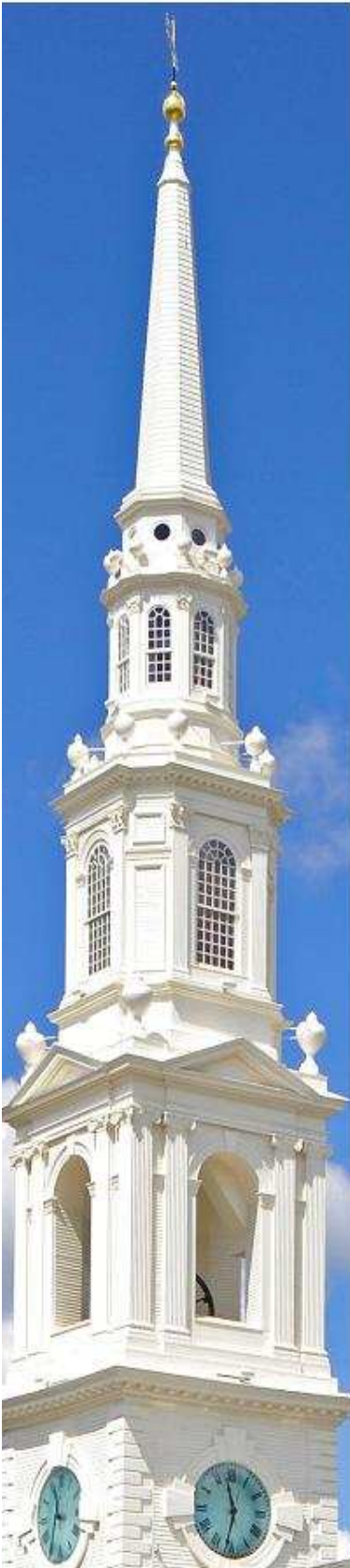


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 15, 2015, Volume 18, Issue 08



From The Pastor...

The streets are alive with people! It is like we are all coming up out of hibernation after a long, cold, snowy winter. It is good to see the sunshine, and good to feel the exhilarating fresh air of spring. Spring is God's way of saying, "Let's party!"

It is the time of year for road races, and they are everywhere, most of them for very good causes. I wonder how old is the comparison of life to a race? Surely it was old when the author of the book of Hebrews wrote about running *with perseverance the race that is set before us*. (Hebrews 12:1).

When we run that life race, it is a marathon, not a sprint. We can't waste our energy and time trying to compare our speed with that of others. Sometimes we are ahead, and sometimes we are behind. None of us is sure where our finish line may be, but we all need to remember that our own race is a gift, and we want to slow down from time to time to enjoy the view and visit with friends and family.

I enjoyed visiting with my brother and his family in L.A. (South Alabama!) on the weekend after Easter. Family love and warm friendships are surely one of God's greatest gifts in our race of life. Let's slow down and savour them more!

Thomas R. McKibbens

**The Bay Wind Chamber Players presents:
An Afternoon with Dvorak**

**Sunday, April 19, 3:00pm
First Baptist Church of America
Providence, RI**

**Pieces to include: Dvorak's Piano Trio in f minor
Dvorak's Serenade for Winds
Five Easy Dances for Wind Quintet by Denes Agay
Impressions for Wind Quartet by Jim Kassall**

This concert is free and open to the public.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE NEWS

PICA

PICA is celebrating it's 40th Anniversary, at a birthday party on Thursday evening, May 8th—It will take place at the Shriners' Imperial Ballroom, 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905, starting at 6:30 PM. The Mayor of Providence will be there, Barbara Morse-Silva, from Channel 10, will be there, as Mistress of Ceremonies, as I hope you will too! Ticket are \$75 each or \$150 per couple. They may be purchased from Elsa Grieder or Pat Billings.

Dwight Lundgren, a former minister at this church from 1983 to 1996, was very active with PICA in its early days. He will speak at the birthday party and preach the following Sunday, May 10th, here at First Baptist . There will be a reception for Dwight, following the Church Service.

Christian Education

Children's Lessons:

April 19th - Transformer

Jesus wants us to be like him

"Peter: Betrayer to Miracle Worker"

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; Acts 3:1-10; 4:1-20

April 26th - Prayer Power

God hears and answers our prayers

"Peter's Escape" Acts 12:1-18; Luke 11:1-4, 9-12

May 3rd - Fruit of the Spirit: Love

God's Love is for everyone

The Woman at the Well; John 4:1-41

From the Board of Missions and Outreach

Meet our missionary Kristy Engel



Kristy Engel is a pediatric nurse practitioner with a special interest in nutrition issues facing children. For 12 years, she worked in La Romana, Dominican Republic with medical mission teams, including volunteers from our church who spent time there. Kristy then became the Healthcare Relief Resource missionary for Iberoamérica and the Caribbean. In that capacity, she worked with David and Laura Parajón, profiled in last month's Spire. This year, she has been appointed International Ministries' first global consultant for health care. Her role is to help bring medical relief to poor areas by building relationships and providing care in clinics, during natural disasters and with program development.

Kristy continues to live by her saying, "Do what you can, with what you've got, in the moment you are given" by using her gifts to bring hope to those in the most critical health care situations around the world.

To find out more about Kristy's medical work, go to her profile on the [ABCUSA International Ministries](#) website where you can connect with her and send her an email. Also, look for Kristy on Facebook.

Special Giving Opportunity starting April 15th

This Spring, International Ministries (IM) will offer donors a way to double their gifts to Kristy Engel and other IM missionaries like the Parajón family in Nicaragua. All donations that are clearly noted as "Matching Gift for Kristy Engel's Support" or "Matching gift for David and Laura Parajón's Support" will be matched 100% until the available funds are used or until the deadline of June 15th is reached. The donations that are given during this time are used to reach fundraising goals that help pay salaries, allow missionaries to go to all the places where they serve and help provide the supplies that are needed. We ask that you consider making a donation between April 15th and June 15th. You can also sign-up to be an ongoing supporter, even for \$10, \$25 or \$50 a month. By having regular, ongoing monthly support, our missionary ambassadors can focus time on serving overseas and sharing the health care ministry that they are called to provide.



Please remember: the matching grant begins April 15th and donations must be labeled "Matching Grant for Kristy Engles's Support" or "Matching grant for David and Laura Parajón's Support" to qualify for this doubling. A link will be available for online giving starting April 15th on the International Ministries website of ABCUSA.

As Christians, we should make every day Earth Day and care for our environment. However, this week is designated Earth Day Week. On Saturday, April 25th, you have the opportunity to join us in a neighborhood clean up. We will be volunteering with others to clear the debris from Waterplace Park near the church. We will meet at the church at 8 a.m. and will walk to the park. The clean up lasts until noon; however, give whatever time you can. Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, the 19th. We must register beforehand so we will need to know how many volunteers will participate. We hope that you'll consider joining us.



HOLY WEEK



After a soup and bread supper, the church experienced the Maundy Thursday celebration of the Lord's Supper and a Tenebrae service led by Tom McKibbens and Linda Bausserman



Easter hats: Ruth Marris Macaulay and Joanne Schneider wore their Easter bonnets.





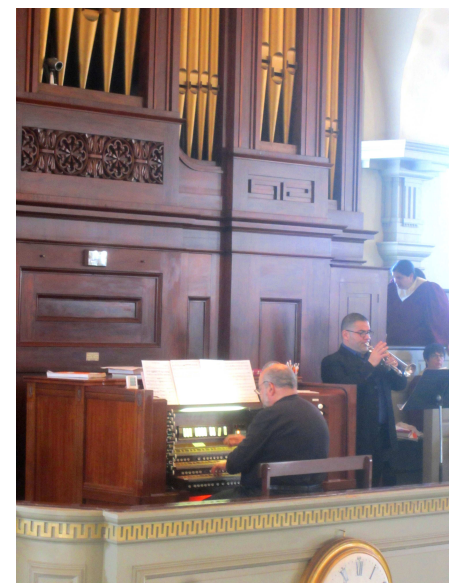
Lena Gates, Social Committee, Pam Manninen and Betsy Shealy, Board of Christian Education help serve Easter Breakfast.



Zach and Emily Martin and Miriam Park with Louise Tillinghast were at the Easter breakfast.



Will Shealy helped Reshmi Muhuri Unruh fill her Easter basket.



Gino Villarreal on trumpet played the service preludes with Stephen Martorella.



Tom McKibbens delivers his Easter sermon "Bet Your Life on Eternal Life"

Church News



FRIDAY SEEKERS

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

If you have never been to the ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO recently, or even if you have, I bet that you have not had a real tour or discussion of what goes on there – behind the scenes (behind the animal cages in this case).

Well, your chance is coming up soon – on Friday, April 24, two of our own – Pamela Manninen and Susan Lepore will be giving us an interesting talk on the Zoo.

I understand that they have some fun things “up their sleeve” (let’s hope that these things “don’t move”. Anyway, more information will be forthcoming, so don’t miss it – sign up now on the sheet that is on the FRIDAY SEEKERS’ BULLETIN BOARD.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 – AT THE CHURCH – BE THERE AT 6 P.M. FOR THE POT LUCK SUPPER AT 6:30 P.M. AND THE PROGRAM AT 7 P.M.

**Dianne Thyret,
Friday Seekers’ Coordinator**



The Great Thaw of 2015

And, the winner of the gift card to Mill’s Tavern is.... Sarah Dunn.

The last trace of the Greenville wall of snow disappeared on April 9, and Sarah had put her bet that it would be gone by April 11.

The program raised \$165 for the next La Romana mission trip. We are grateful to Mill’s Tavern for donating the prize.

Sarah is the soprano section leader and soloist in the church choir.

Tom Wiles, our member and executive minister of ABCORI, has successfully completed his Doctorate of .Ministry. program, so on Sunday the 2th the church surprised him with a reception, complete with one of Betsy Shealy's cakes. His wife Linda and daughter April were in on the planning and were present for the occasion.



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Stephen T. Martorella, Minister of Music
Holly B. Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
David Michel, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

April Calendar

Sun. Apr. 19 10:00AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Thomas R. McKibbens
Sermon: "The Truth Inside the Story"
Scripture: Luke 24:36-48
Greeters: Mickey and Mark Hall
Ushers: Richard Lepore and John Mangenda
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder
12:30 PM Quarterly Business Meeting and Deli Lunch

Sun. Apr. 26 10:00AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Rev. Dr. Thomas R. McKibbens
Sermon: "Jesus Without Borders"
Scripture: John 10:11-18
Greeters: Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
Ushers: Dianne and Edgar Thyret

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.

Lost and Found

If you are missing an umbrella, sunglasses, reading glasses, scarf, etc. please check the Lost and Found on the hall shelf closest to the Kitchen. Also, if you are missing casserole dishes, plates, and utensils that you may have brought for a potluck, they are in the kitchen next to the refrigerator.