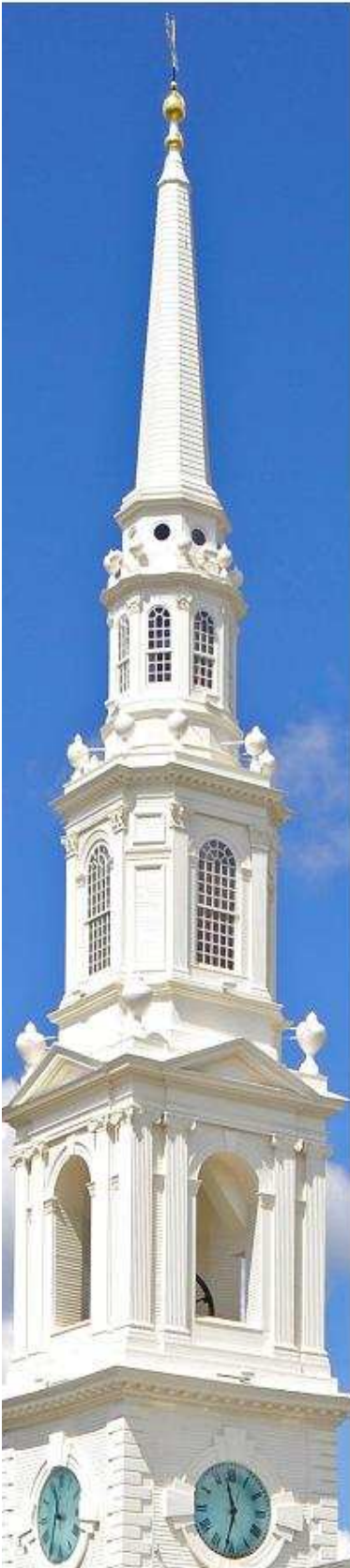


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

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From The Pastor...

What do people of faith do in the face of cruelty and terror and tragedy? Clearly, we are not immune to feelings of rage and revenge. Neither are we immune to pain, suffering, and doubt. People of faith are as vulnerable as anyone. Faith is not a shield from the world of terrorism or the world of natural disaster.

We do not speak easy pietisms or offer simplistic answers to the age-old “Why?” questions. There is a place for stunned silence and there is room for our own unanswered questions. We pray. Even those who do not cognitively believe in prayer, pray. Every time they exclaim, “O my God!” they are praying. We pray, whether we “believe” in prayer or not!

Then we bear witness to a vision of community in which every life is sacred and every gathering is safe. We break down the barriers that society has erected, and we reach out in compassion and kindness to those who are angry, disillusioned, and feeling helpless. This is a ministry of love and compassion that was modeled by Jesus and lived out in thousands of ways by the church all through the centuries. We are far from perfect, and we are not even close to completing the task, but we can offer a slice of mercy and compassion in a world bent on violence.

Thomas R. McKibbens

Linda's Lines

As I have become more involved with the Baptist Peacemakers of RI (you will be hearing more about this in the Sunday Forum on May 17), I have become aware of events around the state that may be of interest to some of you. One is an upcoming program presented by the ABCORI Social Witness Team and cosponsored by Baptist Peacemakers of RI. The program is "A Morning of Dialogue on Racial Diversity" and will be held at Community Church (372 Wayland Ave. Providence, RI), on Saturday morning, May 9 from 8:30 to noon. A continental breakfast will be provided. The facilitator will be Linda Newton. She has recently retired as Assistant Vice President of Provider Relations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island. She is Co-chair of the Black Philanthropy Initiative, Board Member of Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, Advisor to the United Way, and Charter Member and Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Professionals and immediate past chair of the RI Commission on Women. Her contributions have been recognized by various organizations that have presented her with awards: The American Cancer Society Community Partner Award, the Urban League Community and Health Service Award, the NAACP Rosa Parks Award, and Big Sister's Extraordinary Woman Award are just a few. The cost of the event is \$15 and you can register on line at Eventbrite.com, by calling Community Church (751-9328), or by mailing a check to ABCORI. I hope you will consider attending so that FBCIA will be well represented.

Christian Education

Children's Lessons:

May 3rd - Fruit of the Spirit: Love
God's Love is for everyone
 The Woman at the Well; John 4:1-41

May 10th - Fruit of the Spirit: Joy
God give us joy in good times and bad
Paul and Silas Praise God in Jail;
Acts 16:16-40; Galatians 5:22

PICA

PICA is celebrating its 40th Anniversary, at a birthday party on Thursday evening, May 7th—It will take place at the Shriners' Imperial Ballroom, 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905, starting at 6:00 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.

Board and Committee News

Dear Friend of FBCIA

The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to invite you to an opportunity to meet the candidate whom we are recommending to be the next settled pastor of The First Baptist Church in America. On Saturday, May 16, members and friends of the church will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. to meet the candidate in an informal setting, followed by a potluck supper at 6:30. Our candidate is a vegetarian. It would be a nice surprise if most (all?) of our dishes were vegetarian-friendly.

On Sunday, May 17, our candidate will be preaching and also offering the pastoral prayer during the 11 o'clock service. Linda Bausserman will handle the other Ministerial duties that morning. After church, we will have a deli lunch followed by a meeting of church members to vote on the candidacy.

On May 8th we will mail to all church members a brief description of the committee's process and how and why we came to our recommendation. Members will also receive a brief letter from the candidate.

In constructing the new pastor's salary and benefits package, the committee has worked closely with Art Bone. We will be presenting the details of the compensation at the church meeting.

We are united in our enthusiasm for the candidate. Please be present, if you can, on both Saturday and Sunday to see why.

Sincerely,

The Pastoral Search Committee.

From the Board of Missions and Outreach



Selfie of our Green Team: Henry Campopiano, Mary Alice Kleiber, Ken Clauser, Bruce Leonard, and Donna Campopiano

On a beautiful Saturday, April 25th, 5 volunteers met at 8 a.m. to help clean up Providence. Due to a lack of communication among the various organizations planning the event, we were not scheduled for waders to clean up the river (perhaps a blessing). So, we grabbed trash bags and appointed ourselves ambassadors to clean up the river walk and areas within walking distance from the church. We also spent an hour cleaning up the church grounds. Thanks to all who participated!



May's special American Baptist USA offering, The One Great Hour of Sharing, raises money to support relief efforts world wide. In 2014, money raised helped victims of disasters abroad. Among those efforts were:

Ebola relief and prevention in Liberia
Flood relief in Argentina, Croatia and Bosnia
Hurricane Odile relief in Mexico
Refugee relief in Nicaragua

The fund also helped disaster victims here in the US. Among the relief efforts were:

Flood relief in Colorado and earthquake relief in California
Mudslide relief in Washington

We hope that you will consider donating to this important work of American Baptists USA.

Give and Change the World!

Nepal Earthquake -How you can help



In the wake of the devastating 7.9-magnitude earthquake that shook Nepal's Kathmandu Valley last Saturday, rescue and relief workers are struggling to keep up with the overwhelming need for food, clean water, shelter and medical care. Over 5,000 were killed in the disaster.

Domestic and international aid organizations are struggling to fill the gaps in relief efforts left by the overstretched Nepali government. An American Baptist International Ministries' initial gift of \$25,000 in emergency funds through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will help these and other partners begin to address immediate needs. However, much more is needed to sustain this effort and begin to establish livable conditions for the hundreds of thousands of Nepali people who have lost their homes.

Any donation to our church's One Great Hour of Sharing offering in May will go toward relief efforts. If you want your money to go directly to the Nepal relief work, just mark your check "OGHS-Nepal Earthquake Relief."

Church News



On Sunday, April 19, Jessie and Rob Jarbadan presented their daughter Olivia for dedication by the church. In earlier centuries the Baptists called this ceremony "dry christening," when the parents and church pledged to raise the child in the Christian faith.

On Sunday April 26, FBCIA hosted the Baptist Peacemakers of Rhode Island for a delightful concert by the gospel and folk-singing team of Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz. Lee & Gretz have sung at the past two biennials of ABCUSA in Puerto Rico and Kansas City.



We welcome our newest member, Mrs. April Powers. April is a special education teacher at Cranston West High School, and she and her husband Ryan have a son named Jamison.

“SCRIBBLES” from FRIDAY SEEKERS

Last Friday night, we were treated to a wonderful evening of nature, preservation efforts, animal life (even some real ones!) and the unbounded enthusiasm of the two presenters – Pam Manninen and Sue Lepore while they talked about their work at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Pam, as a docent, shared her knowledge of the many animals at the zoo, along with her own photos of same. Surprisingly enough, the idea that all these animals had “names” made them seem more important in the whole picture of the zoo. Sue (Play Partner) told us about the new CONCEPT at the Zoo – THE BIG BACKYARD – and how children are actually being “introduced” to things like the great outdoors, climbing, playing with water, and other things that most of us grew up with as children. It was a fun evening for everyone concerned.

On behalf of those who attended, I would like to thank Pam and Sue for sharing their love of the Roger Williams Park Zoo with us. Also I would like to thank Holly for her fine decorating once again. And thanks to all who brought items for Pot luck.



Pam Manninen shares details about her role as a zoo docent.



Susan Lepore points out features of the zoo's Big Backyard where she is a play partner.



A pair of elephant shorts !



... and it's a fit!!

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

May Calendar

Sun. May 03 10:00AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship: Rev. Janet Cooper-Nelson
Sermon: "Hope in the Unseen"
Scripture: Acts 8:26-39; I John 4: 16-21
Greeters: Deb Jensen-Brown and Al Brown, Jr.
Usher s: Richard Aubin and Ahuma Adodoadji
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons

Sun. May 10 10:00 AM College Bible Study/Sunday Morning Forum/Sunday School
11:00 AM Sunday Worship: Rev. Dwight Lundgren
Sermon: "The Mother's Question"
Scripture: I Kings 17: 17-24
Greeters: Jeanne Kolb and Barry Bainton
Ushers: Dianne and Edgar Thyret
12:15 AM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider

FRIDAY SEEKERS

NEXT MONTH --- FRIDAY, MAY 15 – only 3 weeks away, is our ANNUAL COFFEE HOUSE – and we have some surprises in store. Please sign up soon – and bring a friend or two – the more the merrier.

FRIDAY, MAY 15 – AT THE CHURCH – 6:00 P.M. Pot luck – 6:30 p.m. PROGRAM – 7:00 p.m.

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.