

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

November 15, 2015, Volume 18, Issue 20



## *From The Pastor....*

### **Greetings, Gentlepeople ~**

You and yours are invited to join us this Thursday, Nov 19 for a Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck at our home. Please bring something you like to eat or drink to share (and then at least one thing you like will be on the table.) Eating commences at 6. Feel free to come and go.

( Early birds can park in our drive way, but you may get blocked in. Others can park on the side of the private road east of the house (just make sure our neighbors can still pass, please.) There is no street parking on Breakneck Hill, so you may need to park across the street at the YMCA, just be cautious crossing the street; people move fast.

peace,

Jamie, NJ, and Jideobi Vance

## The Steeple

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure to talk about the Meeting House in conjunction with a panel discussing teaching history using historic places in Providence. This occurred at the Fall Meeting of the New England Historical Association hosted by Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. As I did the research about the Meeting House for that presentation, I learned new information that I wanted to share with you. The steeple's design had been taken from James Gibbs's *Book of Architecture* (1728) [See figure below, left-hand side], one of the rejected models which had been proposed for St. Martin's in the Fields, London.



The steeple was unique for its time, in that other 18<sup>th</sup> century New England Meeting Houses did not have steeples—ours was the first! It was erected in a little more than three days as reported by the *Providence Gazette* newspaper: quite a feat for 1775! The sections of the steeple were placed on the building's frame and then the smaller sections were lifted like a reverse telescope from inside. It stands 185 feet high and is the only wooden steeple in Rhode Island (knock on wood) never knocked over in a hurricane!

The steeple makes a statement atop the Meeting House, which today is the largest wooden frame building standing in this country. Illuminating it has been part of the congregation's responsibility since the beginning of this century. As many of you know, the fixtures installed in 2000 had started to age, break, and need constant attention. Thanks to a congregational vote this past August, it was agreed that the monies would be spent to install modern LED fixtures to illuminate the steeple. Robert O'Donnell and Sons did the work in October. I had the great pleasure to see it the first time as I drove to the Meeting House the evening of November 4<sup>th</sup>. The new lighting is spectacular and I cannot urge you enough to come into Providence at night so you can see it. Not only do the new lights show off our exquisite Meeting House in all its glory, but they reflect the grand and glorious tradition of the First Baptist Church in America and its legacy of religious freedom to the United States.

Joanne

## PICA

### PICA Benefit

Please consider attending the PICA benefit at The Waterman Grill (4 Richmond St.) on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased online or at the door. There will be hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, socializing and a chance to support an organization that serves so many people in need every day in our city.

Visit: <http://www.ripica.org/DONATE.HTML>



Please remember to bring in non-perishable food items for the Providence Intown Church Association's Food Pantry. When you do your Thanksgiving shopping, we suggest that you buy extra cans to donate. Please bring them to church by Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## SPNM



In November, we are asking our members and friends to consider contributing \$10 Stop and Shop gift cards that can then be distributed by SPNM (South Providence Neighborhood Ministries) to families in need at Thanksgiving. We have surpassed our goal of 20 cards and now would like to send at least 25 gift cards to SPNM.



In addition, we are donating winter hats & gloves (any sizes) and scarves that can also be distributed by SPNM to children who need to stay warm during the winter months. We are currently over halfway to our goal of sending 50 items. There is a donation box in the Fellowship Hall.



Thank you again for all that you do to support the outreach programs of FBCIA



In 1986 Equal Exchange began selling fair trade coffee from Nicaragua. Their goal was and is to build long-term partnerships with small farmers that were economically just and environmentally sound. They hoped through their success to prove that consumers would support goods that were produced in a fair and sustainable way. They now have a variety of organic and fair trade foods. As they have grown, they have partnered with many religious organizations that promote social justice including the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

Your order will help a small farmer, the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and the mission trip fund at FBCIA. If you would like to order, please return the order form and a check (made out to FBCIA with EE in the memo line) to Susan Lepore or to the church office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

	size	Price/item	quantity	Total cost
<b>Coffee</b>				
Proud Mama <i>Full city roast, ground</i>	14 oz	\$9.00		
Hazelnut Creme Coffee	12 oz	\$10.00		
Organic Breakfast Blend Decaf <i>Blend of Vienna and medium, ground</i>	14 oz	\$11.00		
Organic French Roast <i>12 Single Serve</i>	10 oz	\$9.00		
<b>TEA</b>				
Organic Chamomile Tea ( <i>Caffeine free</i> )	20 bags	\$4.00		
Organic Green Tea	20 bags	\$4.00		
Organic Black Tea	20 bags	\$4.00		
<b>CHOCOLATE</b>				
Organic Dark Minis <i>55% cacao</i>	20 minis	\$6.00		
Organic Panama Extra Dark Chocolate <i>80% cacao</i>	3.5 oz bar	\$3.50		
Organic Bittersweet Chocolate Chips <i>70% cacao</i>	10 oz bag	\$4.50		
Organic Dark Hot Cocoa	12 oz can	\$7.00		
<b>NUTS AND FRUIT</b>				
Organic natural almonds	8 oz	\$7.50		
Chilean Flame Raisins – <i>not spicy</i>	8 oz	\$3.25		
<b>OTHER</b>				
Guatemalan Honey	12 oz	\$5.95		
Organic Extra Virgin Olive Oil <i>From the West Bank</i>	500 ml	\$15.00		
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>				

Orders with payment due November 29.

Delivery December 13.

## Sunday Morning Forum

On Sunday, November 8, we had a privilege walk during Adult Forum and then had a discussion about white privilege. As we were running out time, Mickey asked, "what can we do as a church?" We would like to continue the discussion this Sunday.

Martin Luther King in his letter from the Birmingham Jail writes "injustice any where is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

He is writing to the clergy who believe that it would be better to let the locals use the system to create change. King believes tension is needed to force the system to act. He could be writing to us today. I invite you to read King's letter in preparation for our discussion of what we should do as individuals and as a church to promote equality..

<http://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/document/letter-birmingham-city-jail-0>

Susan Lepore

The impeded stream is the one that sings - Wendell Berry

## Children's Sunday School

*"The Lord bless you and keep you."*

*(Numbers 6:24)*

### **Blessings and Birthrights**

November 15:

The Blessing— Genesis 27: 1-46

November 22:

Jacob's Ladder—Genesis 28: 10-22

November 29:

Elizabeth and Zechariah— Luke 1: 5-25

### **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

At the last annual meeting it was agreed that members of the Charitable Baptist Society would be reminded before the end of the year that they needed to be a "contributor of record" of at least \$50 in order to maintain their membership in the CBS. The by-laws provide that if one is not a contributor of record each year, one is automatically dropped from the CBS. It is the Clerk's responsibility to announce at the annual meeting the names of any and all persons being dropped. If you have a question about whether you are a member of the Charitable Baptist Society (the corporate entity for our church), please contact the Clerk, Stanley Lemons.

The monthly reports by the Finance Committee reveal that pledge income is falling short of what was promised in the last pledge campaign. It hoped that all will be able to catchup their pledge before December 31 in order to minimize the deficit.

**THERE IS ONLY ONE WEEK BEFORE  
OUR FINAL 2015 FRIDAY SEEKERS  
AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE !**



**BROADWAY**

IS COMING

TO FIRST BAPTIST IN THE FORM OF  
***THE RHODE ISLAND OPERA THEATER***

**SIGN UP THIS SUNDAY (our sign up sheet is on THE PINK PANEL ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN FELLOWSHIP ROOM) SO YOU WON'T MISS THIS NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENT.**

***FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015***

***Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m.***

***Potluck supper           6:30 p.m.***

***Curtain Goes up:       7:00 p.m.***

***(why not bring some friends for this night)***

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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

*Sunday Calendar*

Sun. November 15, 11:00 AM      Worship: Ruth Marris Macaulay  
Sermon: "The Excellent Shepherd"  
Scripture: Luke 15:1-7  
Greeters: Deb Jenson-Brown and Al Brown, Jr.  
Ushers: Eva and Ahuma Adodoadji  
12:15 PM      Tour Guide: Richard Aubin

Sun. November 22, 11:00 AM      Worship: Dr. Molly T. Marshall  
**PLEDGE SUNDAY**      Sermon: "Who Needs a King?"  
Scripture: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14;  
Rev. 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37  
Greeters: Henry Campopiano and Robert Fisher  
Ushers: Emily and Zach Martin  
12:15 PM      Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder

Sun. November 29, 11:00 AM      Worship: Rev. Jamie Washam  
Greeters: Lee McDaniel and Mark Hall  
Ushers: Donna and Henry Campopiano

**REMEMBER!**

**PLEDGE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 22ND. PLEASE BRING YOUR  
PLEDGE CARDS TO CHURCH.**

*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. Protiens are always needed (ie.Tuna, chicken, peanut butter & beans).