

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

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## *From The Pastor....*

*Those who sing, pray twice.*

~ St. Augustine, 5<sup>th</sup> c.

So much of our Christmas experience comes through music. The melodies and lyrics of carols not only provide a soundtrack to the season, they inform much of our theology and visualizations of the time. To Mary, “meek and mild, came an angel holy,” before she set out with Joseph toward the “little town of Bethlehem” where angels were “bending near the earth” in order that their glorious strains might echo alongside shepherds’ jubilee in order that they might “go, and tell it on the mountain,” on “a cold winter’s night that was so deep.” “What child is this” with “no crib for a bed” other than “Mary’s little boy child?” The “infant holy, infant lowly” is “asleep on the hay,” surrounded by ox and ass, and illuminated by “a star shining in the east.” “O, night divine, when Christ was born!”

Commercial Christmas began long before Halloween with tinny muzak and snowmen manifesting in stores. Come, and reclaim the sounds and spirit of Christmas. Share the songs of the season with members of our community as we carol together to celebrate the coming birth of Christ.

Mark your calendars, and plan to join your voice to the throng of carolers going forth from the First Baptist Church in America on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Stay after church that Sunday for a simple meal of soup and bread. Following lunch, we will carpool together to our caroling destinations. Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend, so we prepare the proper amount of food. All ages and musical abilities are welcome.

Jamie Washam

## Church News

### Children's Sunday School

*"This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger ." (Luke 2:12)*

#### **Blessings and Birthrights**

December 6:

Gabriel's Message - Luke 1:26-38

December 13:

Mary Visits Elizabeth - Luke 1: 39-66

December 20:

Jesus is Born - Luke 2:1-7

### AUTOMATIC PLEDGE PAYMENT

Several people have asked me recently about having their monthly pledges paid automatically from their checking account. It's really easy...

Go to your bank's on-line banking site and look for the "Bill Pay" link. There will be the option to make recurring payments. The bank will mail a monthly check to the church in the amount and on the dates you specify. You just have to enter the church name and address. Then you won't have to think about it anymore....

I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have, or call your bank branch and have them walk you through the setup.

Art Bone

### 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 catch-up their pledge before December 31 in order to minimize the deficit.

## ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS

It is Advent Season, which means that the Nominating Committee is beginning its annual consideration of people to lead the church. We welcome suggestions and volunteers for the many positions that the church needs to fill for the coming year. If you have any ideas, please feel free to offer them to any member of the Nominating Committee: Elsa Grieder, Rob Jarbadan, Stanley Lemons, and Joanne Schneider. In addition we hope that you will prayerfully consider any requests from the committee to serve. Our church operates in a large measure through its various committees, so it is vitally important that everyone is willing to do their part.

Term limits require that we must fill the following offices:

- Clerk of the Church
- At-Large member of the Executive Committee
- Three deacons
- Two members of P&S
- At least one for the Missions Committee
- At least one for the Christian Education Committee
- At least one for the Social Committee
- Delegate to PICA
- Four for the Nominating Committee

## PICA

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On Wednesday, December 9th, come to Viva Mexico Cantina at 129 Washington Street in Providence, and support PICA (formerly Providence Intown Churches Association).

PICA will receive 20% of all proceeds Viva Mexico takes in that day. They are open from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. So, come for lunch or come for dinner or come for both!

This Fundraiser will benefit PICA's two food pantries and it's Friday night meal site. They feed over 15,000 people a month.

## In and Around FBCIA

On Thursday evening, November 19, our pastor and family hosted an open house and pot luck for the church, friends, and neighbors.



The Friday Seekers program for November featured Jason Shealy and his Rhode Island Opera Theater [RIOT] in a thoroughly delightful evening of music by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein. RIOT is a company of local musicians who are bringing music to the public in a variety of venues.



Jason sang "Some Enchanted Evening" and the "Soliloquy" from *Carousel*."



Amanda Santo sang "Getting to Know You."



Arielle Rogers concluded the program with "Climb Every Mountain."



The program opened with the ensemble singing "It's a Grand Night for Singing," from the show "State Fair." (left to right: Jason Shealy, Amanda Santo, Arielle Rogers, and Rodney Ayers at the piano.)

## **"SCRIBBLES" from Friday Seekers**

### **END OF SEASON**

**"The Hills" came alive last evening when Jason Shealy and some of the members of the Rhode Island Opera Theater performed for us at FRIDAY SEEKERS'. We were entertained with songs like "It's A Good Night for Singing", "Some Enchanted Evening", "My Favorite Things", "Getting to Know You" and many other wonderful Rodgers and Hammerstein offerings. It was interesting to hear some background AND some of the reasons for choosing certain songs, personal anecdotes, etc. It made for a wonderful evening to end our 2015 Fall Season of programs.**

**On behalf of all who attended (and there were about 40 people there), I would like to thank Jason Shealy, Amanda Santo, Arielle Rogers, and their piano player, Rodney Ayers for this evening of delightful songs which so many of us remembered so well and even had a chance to sing along with that wonderful song, "Edelweiss".**

**Also, many thanks to all of those who contributed to the potluck supper. We even had a new "Barista" on the coffee brigade. Sorry, Linda!**

**As I said last night, this is the last meeting for 2015 – we don't have anything in December or January. However, here is a brief line up for the Spring of 2016.**

**February 26 –  at the Church – theme – LOVE IS IN THE AIR with several participants.**

**March 18 – at church – Musical trio – Steve,  Peter, and Steve**

**April 22 – at Regency Plaza (Thyret's) – ALOHA**

**May 20 – at the church – COFFEE HOUSE**

**So – Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**SEE YOU ALL IN FEBRUARY, 2016**

**Dianne Thyret --FRIDAY SEEKERS' COORDINATOR**

Karin Patton's Sunday school class on November 22 included Jideobi (back to camera), Will, London, Grace, Aaron, Ben and Reshme. They were learning the story of Jacob and some were making a "Jacob's ladder."



Sunday, November 22 was a busy and joyous day at FBCIA. Dr. Molly Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary was the guest preacher for both the morning worship service and the afternoon celebration of Tom Wiles' earning the D. Min degree from CBTS this year. Tom is a member of our church and serves as the Executive Minister of ABCORI.



Dr. Molly Marshall, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Linda Wiles accompanied their daughter April Beth Wiles who sang "Take My Life and Let It Be," in an arrangement written by their son John Len Wiles.





Molly Marshall placed the academic hood representing the D. Min. degree on Tom Wiles.

Dr. Marshall also presented Tom Wiles with the anniversary medal that ordinarily is given to alumnae who return on the 50th anniversary of their graduation. She allowed that it was unlikely that Tom would be able to be there in 50 years.



Dr. Tom Wiles, complete with new academic hood and anniversary medal

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Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

*Sunday Calendar*

Sun. Dec. 6	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Sermon:	Prophet to the Most High
		Scripture:	Luke 1:67-80
		Greeters:	Moira Finnegan & Jeff Caruso
		Ushers:	Mary Alice Klieber & Bruce Leonard
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	J Stanley Lemons
Sun. Dec. 13	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Sermon:	Expecting the Messiah
		Scripture:	Luke 3:7-18
		Greeters:	Sam & Mickey Hall
		Ushers:	Richard Aubin & Richard Lepore
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Joanne Schneider

*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).