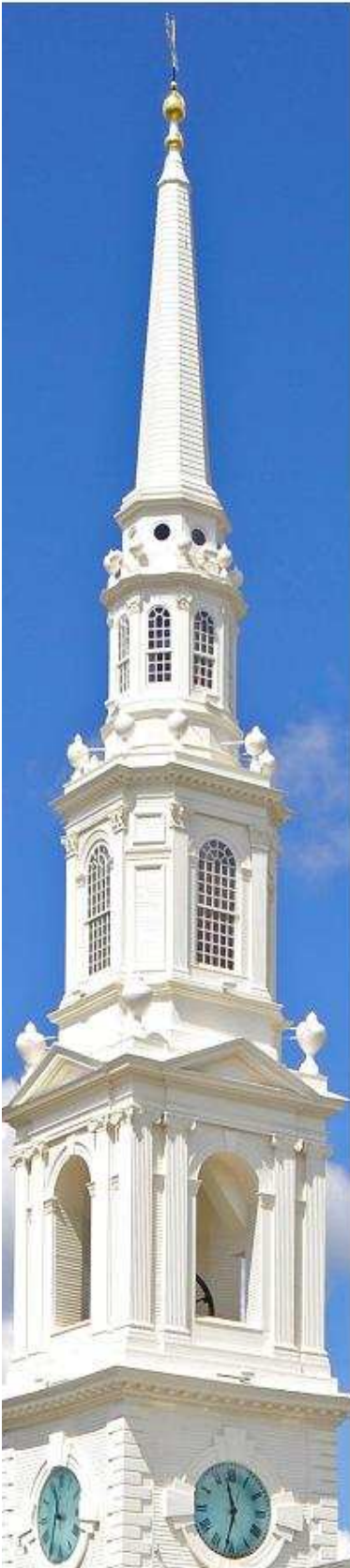


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

February 01, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 2



From The Pastor....

A Challenge and Prayer for Lent

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ indwelling in them.

Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from worry; feast on trust.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting,

gift us with your presence, so we can be a gift to others in carrying out your work.

Amen.

Moderator's Minute

Ken Clauser's sermon on Sunday January 31 "The Greatest Commandment" drew the congregation's attention to the concept of service "to the least of these my brethren." He encouraged us to follow this in volunteering our time and talents to help others: a prime example of which are the efforts of Eva Adodoadji and Susan Lepore (and many others as well) on behalf of the Eritrean and Congolese refugees, now resident in South Providence. As many of you know, one of my volunteer efforts outside of FBCIA involves the Attleboro Animal Shelter, with which I have been associated for a little more than three years. The account I will share with you reflects the spirit of Ken's message, although it only has to do with a cat: Huggable Howard.

About two years' ago, I arrived at the shelter and proceeded to the Quarantine Room, which housed those cats under enforced quarantine by Attleboro Animal Control because they had bitten or scratched someone or those cats which had just been accepted into the shelter, but had not yet gone to the vet to be checked for various maladies and undergo a rabies vaccination. I discovered an emaciated long-haired white cat with a large gray spot on his head that looked like a yarmulke. His coat was matted and excrement was plastered to his legs and rear end. After I cleaned his cage and those of the other "residents" I took him back out and brushed him and tried to clean him up a bit.

Of course, we volunteers want to know the stories behind our charges. It turned out that Howard's owner, a man in his 90s had died, but then about a week later his son, in his 60s or so also passed away. Naturally the grandson/son of those two gentlemen underwent a shock because of such a loss. About a month later, the grandfather's neighbor called Attleboro Animal Control. She knew that that man had owned a cat and that no one had been in or out of the house in weeks. The Animal Control Office investigated and could see a cat through the window. She has police powers to enter a structure if an animal in distress is visible, so she broke a window and rescued the cat. She brought Howard to the shelter. We later learned that the grandson had "forgotten" about his grandfather's cat.

We could not tell how old Howard was . . . we figured about eleven. He was taken to the vet, pronounced healthy, but skinny. Over the next weeks, we fattened him up and I continued the personal grooming routine. He was now in the front of the shelter with those cats ready for adoption. The last Friday morning I saw him, he was in his newly-cleaned cage and I was working next to him. A recalcitrant neighbor of his had to be lured back into his cage with a bribe, so I said the word **treat**. I not only captured the second cat, but Howard started prancing back and forth, showing off, and ostensibly expecting he too would get a treat. Of course, I had to reward him! From the shy, emaciated, dirty cat that I had encountered eight weeks earlier, it was as if a miracle had occurred. He had become outgoing, alert, and responsive to people. His silky white fur was growing out and it turned out his tail was actually bushy. The next Friday, when I arrived at the shelter I learned that he had found his "forever" home. I received that news with mixed feelings, as I had grown quite fond of him. But I am comfortable that the procedures the Friends of the Attleboro Animal Shelter follow to ensure safe and caring homes for all the adopted animals meant that he was in loving hands.

Howard's rescue story is just one of many I could share with you. But more importantly in light of Ken's sermon, I join him in asking all of you to consider what kind of service you can render "to these the least of my brethren"—including the furry ones!

Joanne

Outreach Projects for February

PICA



When Diana Burdett, Executive Director of PICA, spoke to us in January, she explained that food stamps do not cover the cost of toilet paper and that food pantries generally do not stock it.

However, if the PICA distribution centers had toilet paper and toiletries, they would be in high demand. So, our goal for February is to donate toilet paper and toiletries to PICA. Please contribute generously.



Feed the hungry while you feed yourself!

On Friday, February 26th, Julianna's Restaurant at 553 Hartford Avenue in Providence, will give 20% of all proceeds to PICA. Julianna's is open from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM and serves delicious Bolivian and Peruvian food. PICA (formerly known as Providence Intown Churches Association) feeds 15,000 individuals in Providence every month through its two food banks and Friday night meal site. This is a huge undertaking, plus running an intensive case management program for our homeless population. We need your help!

SPNM



Spelling Bee!

At 1:30 on Saturday, February 6th, please come to Calvary Baptist Church located at 747 Broad Street in Providence to support our First Baptist spellers – Ruth Macaulay, Emily Martin and Bruce Leonard – as they participate in the annual SPNM spelling bee fund-raiser.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS+

For over 66 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with communities in distress to identify needs and to access the resources they require to build the foundation for a more viable future. These resources include blankets, tents and food. CWS aid has been invaluable to individuals suffering during disasters.



Our church is one of 8,000 congregations across the United States that will sponsor a Blanket Month, providing funds to help people in need around the world. \$50 can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster. \$110 can provide an emergency food package for a family of five for one month. Please join us by contributing generously to support this important outreach.

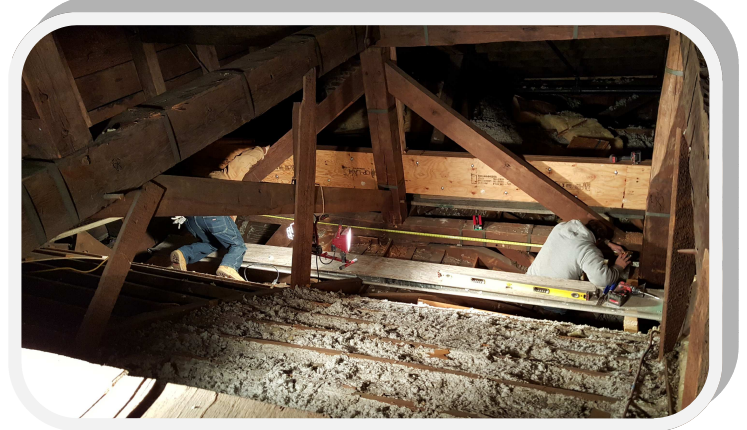
[Thank you for all that you do to support The mission and outreach programs at FBCIA](#)

In and Around FBCIA

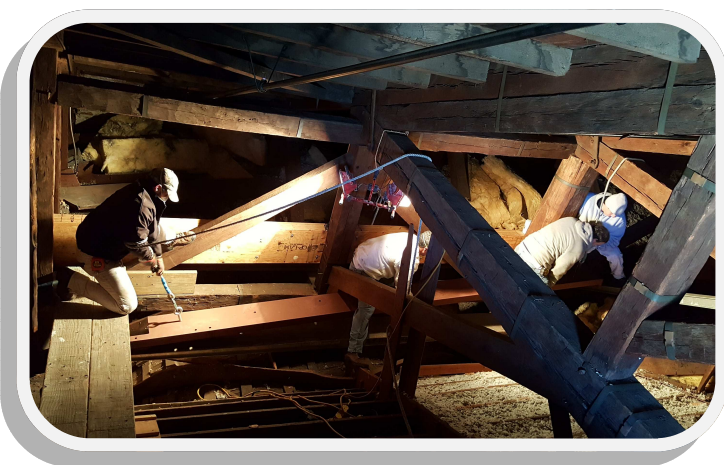
The reason for the ominous crack in the ceiling in the of the auditorium of the Meeting House has been fixed. The crack was the result of a broken beam in a truss which supported the roof of the building. (Possibly caused by the heavy snow on the roof last winter.) The break caused the weight of the roof to be shifted toward Benefit Street. The P&S Committee engaged Cornelius de Boer, our historic preservation architect, and E.F.O'Donnell & Sons to diagnose and fix the problem. A preliminary fix using laminated wood was made until a steel beam could be prepared. Yoder & Tidwell Engineering Ltd. was subcontracted to acquire and make the installation of the metal beam, which it did on Friday, January 22.



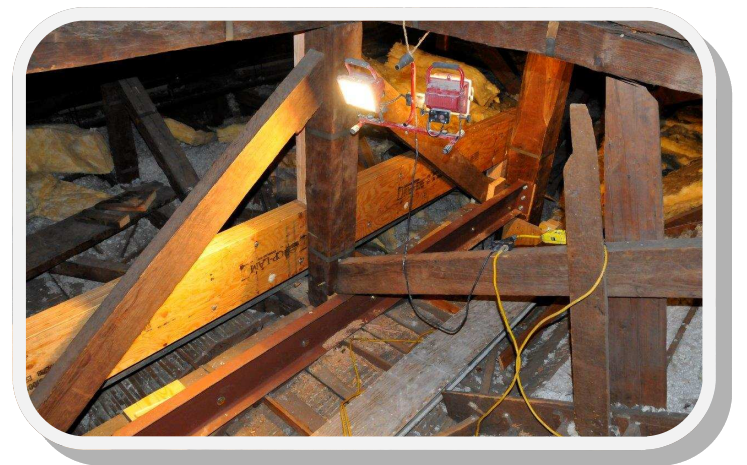
At about 7 a.m. on Friday, January 22, a crane arrived and hoisted the beam up where it could be brought into the attic area of the



Workmen from Yoder & Tiswell prepared the area where the metal beam would be bolted in place. (The laminated wooden beam can be seen in the back.)



The workmen struggled to bring the metal beam in place.



The new beam installed.

Church News



Kenneth Clauser preached on "The Greatest Commandment" on the last Sunday of January, filling in for Pastor Jamie who was in the Netherlands attending her seminary seminars.

Elsa Grieder gave Ken a big hug after the morning worship service. Barbara Staples was next in line. Linda Bausserman, who had assisted Ken in the service, looked on approvingly.



Children's Sunday School

Jesus Calls Helpers

February 7: Jesus Calls the Fishermen

February 14: Jesus Calls Levi

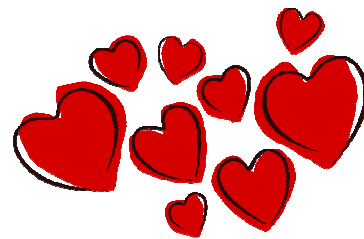
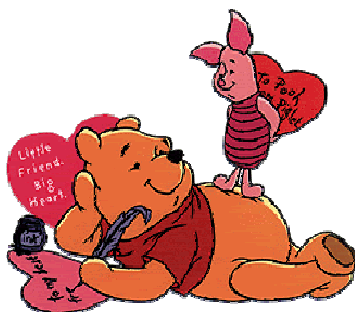
February 21: Go Two by Two

February 28: Women Follow Jesus

“SCRIBBLES” from Friday Seekers

February 26, 2016

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‘LOVE IS IN THE AIR’ is the theme for our season opening of FRIDAY SEEKERS on Friday, February 26, 2016. This evening promises to be one of sheer entertainment while enjoying the fellowship of those attending, and much more. The idea for this program came to me in the middle of the night and I thought “why not?” The response to my request to “take part in this program and tell us your own ‘love story’” was received well.



As I ask some leading questions of the participating couples, we will hear the stories from:

Elsa and Jerry Greider

Susan and Richard Lepore

Emily and Zach Martin

Joanne Schneider and Art Bone

Betsy and Jason Shealy

Linda and Tom Wiles

Be sure to come and support all of these “willing” people and cheer them on. We may even have prizes for the “best story” (funniest, most moving, etc.)

It would be fun to have Valentine’s Day food theme, if possible, even though we will not be meeting on Valentine’s Day.

PLACE: First Baptist Church

DATE: Friday, February 26, 2016

TIME: Meet at church for set up 6:00 p.m.

Pot Luck supper at 6:30 p.m.

Program: 7:00 p.m.

SIGN UP SHEET ON FRIDAY SEEKERS’ BULLETIN BOARD

Dianne Thyret, Coordinator

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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. Feb. 07	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Louise Tillinghast
		Scripture:	Luke 5: 33-39
		Sermon:	Feast & Fast
		Greeters:	Colleen and Lawrence Whelpley
		Ushers:	Donna and Henry Campopiano
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Stan Lemons
Sun. Feb. 14	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Greeters:	Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
		Ushers:	Mary Alice Klieber and Mark Hall
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Joanne Schneider
Sun. Feb. 21	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Greeters:	Deanna and Sam Beachen
		Ushers:	Richard Aubin and Lee McDaniel
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Elsa Grieder
Sun. Feb. 28	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Greeters:	Eva Adodoadji and Richard Lepore
		Ushers:	Dianne and Edgar Thyret
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Richard Aubin