

The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

May 01, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 8

From the Pastor

On Sunday, May 1st, we celebrated my installation as your 37th settled minister. This day was the culmination of much effort, by many people. I thank the members of the search committee, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the church, taking seriously the call to find the right match for this time in our church life. My thanks to my predecessors in this office; it is humbling to occupy this pulpit. I appreciate everyone who helped lead the service through song, word, presence, and prayer. My co-workers at church went above and beyond to make this weekend special: without my even needing to ask, Stephen read the desires of my southern heart, and arranged for an accordion player to accompany us musically; Holly burned the midnight fuel in the midst of an already full week to produce a program and bulletin for Sunday; and David polished our floors until you could see your reflection in them. Thanks to Lena for insisting that we use the 'real' dishes and cutlery; the meals that she and the social committee concoct are always delicious. Much appreciation to all who took part in this day; each of you are crucial to the living manifestation of the course we covenanted together to set upon.

A pastoral installation is a worship service celebrating the union between a new pastor and a congregation. Like a wedding, the installation becomes a historical marker of the consummation of the covenant between pastor and people. Although the origin of this practice cannot be assigned a specific date, the affirmation and recognition of spiritual leadership (priestly, pastoral, or diakonos) to service the needs of the faith community has biblical precedence in our tradition (Numbers 8:5-22; Acts 6:1-7, 13:11-13, Galatians 2:9-10). "Paul and Barnabas were set apart by the Holy Spirit and the elders in the church at Antioch laid hands on them and sent them off" (13:11-13).

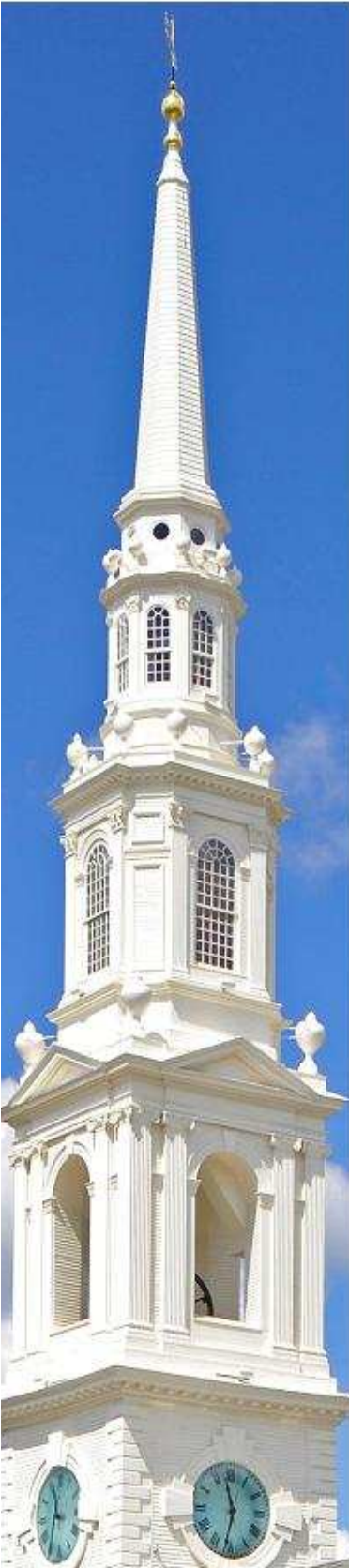
This is not simply a union of sentiment at the beginning of the relation. It goes deeper, and signifies that there should be the same union of sentiment during its continuance. The pew and the pulpit must work together. There are certain duties that belong to each, and each must perform its part if this church shall be and do all that becomes a church.

The First Baptist Church in America has had centuries of practice being church. May God continue to deeply bless us all, as one, as we seek to live into the particular call God placed on this people in this time and in this place.

Thank you for the privilege and joy of being your pastor.

Peace, Pastor Jamie

Early Wednesday morning in Boston, Holly and Michael's grandson, Thomas Charles Gartner, arrived, healthy and two weeks ahead of schedule. Congratulations all around!



Christian Education

Upcoming Sunday Morning Forums

May 1 - Rev. Kate Jacobs will speak on how the denomination/church's view of intimacy and marriage have evolved.

Children's Sunday School

Happy are those who don't see
and yet believe. (John 20:29)

May 1 Acts 6:1-7

Bible Story: Choosing the Seven

May 8 :Acts 8:26-40

Bible Story: Philip and the Ethiopian

ABCORI



Beaver Day

MAY 21st

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Canonicus

With all this winter weather,
Canonicus is in need of helping hands
to help clear debris and prepare the
shelters for the campers and staff.

If interested in helping, please call Kevin
at 294-6318 x 107 or email him at

kevinfelser77@gmail.com

Missions and Outreach

PICA



Remember to bring in your non-perishable items for PICA's food pantry. This is one step we can take to combat hunger in our neighborhood. Another way to support PICA is to attend its annual fund-raising [GALA that will be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet](#) on the evening of Saturday, May 7th. This event helps fund all the important work that PICA does in our city. If you would like to attend, you can purchase tickets online or you can speak to Pat Billings, our PICA representative.

REFUGEES



We are beginning to stock emergency items needed for our refugee families. In May, we ask for donations of TOILETRIES: soap, deodorant, Vaseline, skin lotion. Please, bring them to the Fellowship Hall.

AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the American Baptist response to worldwide disaster relief and development. One Great Hour of Sharing in cooperation with other denominations, is a channel for national and international aid in times of crisis. It supports relief efforts, development projects and refugee ministries of the American Baptist Churches and its partners.

During the month of May, we will be donating to this important relief effort. You can donate cash in the envelopes that you will find in the pews, by writing a check to FBCIA with OGHS on the memo line or by taking a coin box that you will find in the Fellowship Hall or on the table as you enter the Meeting House. Thank you in advance for your support.

Rhode Island Baptist Heritage Center

Baptist History Tour: Providence, RI

May 25, 2016

10:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Overview: A narrated visit to 4 important sites in our Baptist history.

Tour is limited to 20 people. Please register early.

10:30 ~ First stop: US Memorial to Roger Williams

There is parking available at the Memorial.

A presentation by John McNiff and a tour of the site

11:15 ~ Second stop: RI State House

View Charter display and talk about 1663 Charter and John Clarke with Drs. Lemons and Hartman

12:00 ~ Third stop: Brown Univ. // John Hay

Display of Roger Williams' artifacts and other Baptist related items by Dr. Holly Snyder.

12:45 ~ Fourth stop: FBC in Providence

Tour of building and...a light lunch

Reflections on Roger Williams and James Manning: Drs. Lemons and Hartman

1:30 ~ Conclusion (with transportation back to the Memorial)

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Church home: _____

Interest in other heritage events? ___ yes ___ no

Contact Telephone: _____ or Email: _____

Dietary restrictions? _____

\$20 Fee enclosed for **each** person? ___ yes ___ no

Make checks payable to **RI Baptist Heritage Center** and return form by **May 20, 2016** to:

Charles Hartman
481 County St.
Seekonk, MA 02771

“SCRIBBLES” from FRIDAY SEEKERS



ALOHA – to all of the FRIDAY and a big MAHALO to those who attended last evening at the Regency. Our attendance last night was a record for the books – we actually overflowed our accommodations. Thank you to everyone who came out and who brought the delicious food for our pot luck. I think that it was the best mix of foods – desserts and even theme dishes that we have ever had.

I found out that some people were actually “SPAM lovers”. Thank you also to those who helped set up and clean up. Our party room looked as “good as new” at the end of night.



ONE FINAL SEEKERS’ left for the season – and that is on May 20, 2016 at the Church and that will be ANNUAL COFFEE HOUSE – can you believe that this is our 5th such event! We had the first one in 2012.) So far we have ten participants – and two of those are the Guiney children – Grace and Aaron! I am very happy about this. There will be a mixture of music and readings and poetry, etc. from our performers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – FRIDAY, MAY 20

(Memorial Day is the next weekend)

6:00 p.m. at the Church

6:30 p.m. for Pot Luck supper **

7:00 p.m. for the Program

**** It is always good to think of the “evening’s performances” and consider bringing “easy to eat” desserts so that we can enjoy coffee and dessert during the program. Everyone seems to like that.**

Dianne Thyret

Friday Seekers’ Coordinator

The First Baptist Church in America
75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-454-3418
Fax: 401-421-4095
E-Mail: fbc.inamerica@verizon.net
Web: www.fbcia.org

Jamie Washam, Pastor
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. May 01,	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Forum	
	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Sermon:	Rock, Paper, Scissors
		Scripture:	Acts 1:12-26
		Worship Leader:	Angela Muhuri and Steve Unruh
		Greeters:	Barbara Staples and Lee McDaniel
		Ushers:	Tom Shackelford and Barry Bainton
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Stan Lemons
Sun. May 08,	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Forum	
	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Deb Jenson-Brown
		Greeters:	Donna Puckett and Lena Gates
		Ushers:	Tom Shackelford and Richard Lepore
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Joanne Schneider

WORSHIP

There will be no worship service on Sunday, May 29th. Brown University will be using our building for Commencement.

**The 10:00 AM Summer Worship Service will begin on
Sunday, June 5th**