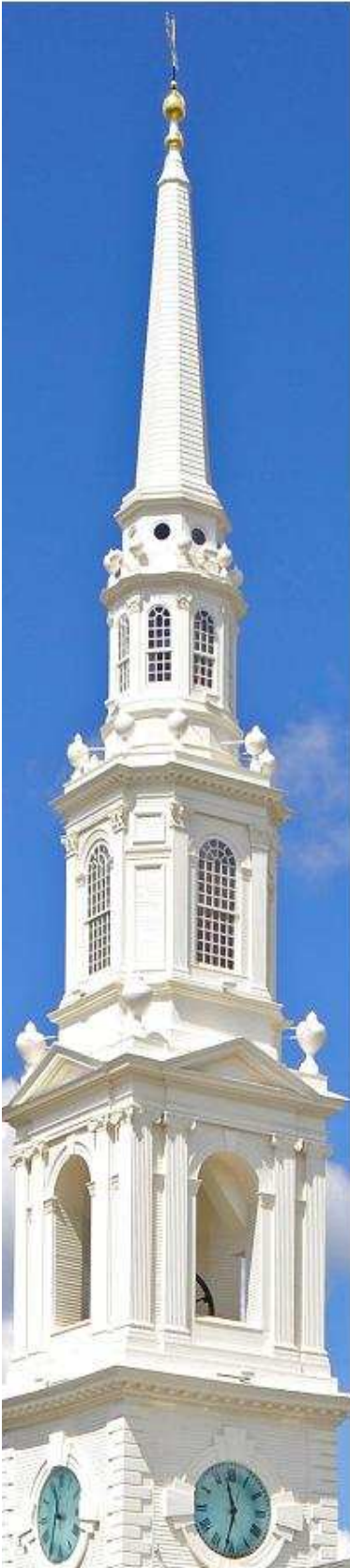


# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

May 15, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 9



## *From the Pastor*

As we approach Pentecost Sunday, I offered this reflection on the Spirit by Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann. The Spirit does not get as much press as the other aspects of God's being. Is that because, like the wind, like fire, the Spirit is unpredictable? That great disturbing comfort, that comforting disturber, refuses domestication by the church or any of its members. As we celebrate the presence of God's Spirit within the church and her members, take time to listen to where the Spirit may be stirring, blowing, or setting you on fire. Are you willing to be blown off course, or will you remain settled, certain, and wistful?

### *Blown By the Spirit... We Know Not Where*

We hear the story of the wind at Pentecost,  
Holy wind that dismantles what was,  
Holy wind that evokes what is to be,  
Holy wind that overrides barriers and causes communication,  
Holy wind that signals your rule even among us.

We are dazzled, but then – reverting to type –  
we wonder how to harness the wind,  
how to manage the wind by our technology,  
how to turn the wind to our usefulness,  
how to make ourselves managers of the wind.

Partly we do not believe such an odd tale  
because we are not religious freaks;  
Partly we resist such a story,  
because it surges beyond our categories;  
Partly we had imagined you to be more ordered  
and reliable than that.

So we listen, depart, and return to our ordered existence:  
we depart with only a little curiosity  
but not yielding;  
we return to how it was before,  
unconvinced but wistful, slightly praying for wind,  
craving for newness,  
wishing to have it all available to us.

We pray toward the wind and wait, unconvinced but wistful.

Peace, Pastor Jamie

## Christian Education

### Upcoming Sunday Morning Forums

This Sunday, May 15th, Dawn Euer and Ken Fish will speak on the history of marriage equality in Rhode Island. Next week, May 22nd, Janet Kago will be updating us on her work with the refugee families, since her original forum was canceled due to a snow storm. That will wrap up Sunday Morning Forums until September.

## Children's Sunday School

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

**May 15** Pentecost

Bible Story: Acts 2:1-41

**May 22** : First Called Christians

Bible Story: Acts 11:19-30

## 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.

[kevinfelser77@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfelser77@gmail.com)



If interested in helping, please call Kevin at 294-6318 x 107 or email him at [kevinfelser77@gmail.com](mailto:kevinfelser77@gmail.com)

### Notable Moments

Marian Muhuri with Reshmi when Marian went to cast her first vote in the presidential primary as a new American citizen



## Missions and Outreach

### PICA



PICA raised \$8,900 at its benefit on May 7th. This money will assist in supporting the intensive case management program, will help in stocking the two food pantries and also support the Friday night meal site. Remember that PICA feeds over 17,000 individuals in the two food pantries each month.

Remember to bring in your non-perishable food items for the PICA Food Pantry and take a step to combat hunger in our state.



### REFUGEES



This month, we ask that you donate toilet-ry supplies (soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, Vaseline, deodorant, etc.) so that we will be able to distribute these items to our refugee families when they need them. You will find the donation box in the Fellowship Hall.

### AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS



In May, we are collecting for the American Baptist Offering One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering responds to worldwide disaster relief and development. One Great Hour of Sharing, in cooperation with other denominations, provides a way for us to respond to crises here in the United States and abroad. The inserts in this month's bulletins give examples of specific programs where our money has been put to use. Please consider donating generously to this offering. You can contribute cash in the envelopes provided in the pews or write a check to FBCIA with OGHS on the memo line. Also, remember your coin boxes!

# FBCIA News

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*Sunday, May 1 was a festive day at FBCIA as it was the occasion of the official installation of Jamie Washam as our 37th settled minister. .*

The day began with Kate Jacobs, our 33rd settled pastor, speaking to the Adult Forum. When originally contacted by the pastor search committee, Kate had recommended Jamie as a strong candidate for our pastor.



After the morning worship service, the congregation and guests enjoyed a luncheon in the fellowship hall.



At 1:30 everyone gathered in the auditorium for the installation service. Tom Wiles, the executive minister of ABCORI and member of FBCIA, presented the charge to the congregation.





Kate Jacobs presented the charge to our new pastor.

Pat Hernandez, executive director of the Women in Ministry Advisory Council for our denomination presented Jamie with a stole.



Pat also presided over the laying on of hands, and offered a prayer of installation.



First Baptist Church In America's 37<sup>th</sup> Minister **Rev. Jamie Washam** stands proudly with her parents, Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Farrell Jean Washam.



Stanley Lemons dressed in an original 100 year old deacon's outfit with former Intern Minister Tom McKibben's after Jamie's installation

At 10:00 Forum Dawn Euer, a civil rights attorney, and Ken Fish, an activist for Marriage Equality, discussed the campaign for marriage equality and the on-going issues of today.



On Pentacost Sunday, May 15 Rev. Jamie Washam, wears red.

The church celebrated Art Bone's 80th birthday with a "chocolate cake" at the coffee hour after morning worship. Joanne Schneider, the church moderator and his "better half" enjoyed the occasion as well.



## 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

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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*

COFFEE HOUSE

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**OUR FINAL SEEKERS' for the season – will be on May 20, 2016 at the Church  
Our 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COFFEE HOUSE–**

*The following people will be participating this year (in alphabetical order):*

*Linda Bausserman, Sam Beachen, Adeline Bee, Sam Brunner, David Coon, Grace and Aaron Guiney (FIRST TIME), Robert Jarbadan (tentative), Jeanne Kolb, Lee McDaniel, Steve Martorella (accompanying other participants), Peter Schoonmaker, Dianne Thyret*

*We are excited to have these people taking part in this program. I know that having the Guiney children is a special treat for all of us. Let's be sure to sign up early – the sheet is on the FRIDAY SEEKERS (pink) bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We would also like some extra desserts so that we can enjoy them during the actual program – along with a beverage. For those who are taking part, please be sure to put your names on the sign up sheet too – so we know how many tables to prepare. Also, this is an especially good program to invite outsiders (friends and family) to join you.*

**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**

**Dianne Thyret**

**Friday Seekers' Coordinator**



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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 22,	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Forum	
	11:00 AM	Worship:	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Richard Lepore
		Greeters:	Al and Debra Jensen Brown
		Ushers:	Bruce Leonard and Tom Shackelford
	12:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Elsa Grieder

### 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**

### NEWSLETTER

The Spire publications will now be published once a month for the summer on the 15th of June, July and August. If you have any information you need to be submitted please send to Holly in the church office.