

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

July 15, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 11

## From the Pastor

It is hard to read the news, when each day seems to bring a new victim, more blame, more terror, and more suffering. As people of faith, how are we to respond? As humans created for empathy and action, how are we to live? How do we preserve hope beyond despair? We turn to God and one another, for comfort, to comfort, in the midst of pain and bewilderment and injustice. I firmly believe that prayer is act of the heart, mouth, mind, and body. We do not only pray with our mouths; we pray with our actions, lives, and daily choices.

Theologian Walter Brueggemann addresses this sense of faithful outrage and hurt in his book, *Prayers for a Privileged People*. He writes:

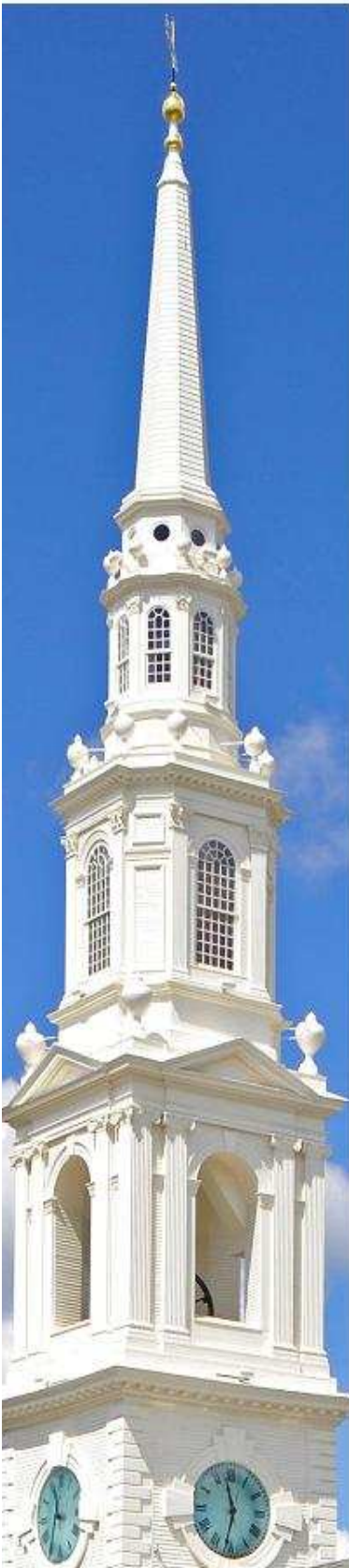
This day we pray for freedom to move  
beyond fear to caring,  
beyond self to neighbor,  
beyond protection to growth.  
That we may be a sign of steadfastness,  
that anxiety may not win the day.  
You are the one who said, "Do not be anxious."  
And now we submit to you.

...

We are reduced to weeping silence,  
even as we breed a violent culture,  
even as we kill the sons and daughters of our "enemies,"  
even as we fail to live and cherish and respect  
the forgotten of our common life.

There is no joy among us as we empty our schoolhouses;  
there is no health among us as we move in fear and bottomless anxiety;  
there is little hope among us as we fall helpless before  
the gunshot and the shriek and the blood and the panic: we pray to you only be-  
cause we do not know what else to do.  
So we pray, move powerfully in our body politic,  
move us toward peaceableness  
that does not want to hurt or to kill,  
move us toward justice  
that the troubled and the forgotten may know mercy,  
move us toward forgiveness that we  
may escape the trap of revenge.

(continued on page two)



*From the Pastor* ( continued from Page one)

Empower us to turn our weapons to acts of mercy,  
to turn our missiles to gestures of friendship,  
to turn our bombs to policies of reconciliation;  
and while we are turning,  
hear our sadness,  
our loss,  
our bitterness.

We dare to pray our needfulness to you because you  
have been there on that gray Friday,  
and watched your own Son be murdered  
for "reasons of state."

Good God, do Easter!  
Here and among these families,  
here and in all our places of brutality.

Move our Easter grief now . . .  
without too much innocence -  
to your Sunday joy.  
We pray in the one crucified and risen  
who is our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Greetings from the Manninens,

It's been nearly 2 months since our fare-  
well picnic at Jeanne and Barry's home...we  
thank you all for attending and for your kind  
cards and wishes. We are now living in Maine  
and hoping our RI home sells soon.

Our attendance at First Baptist the past  
several years has unfortunately been choppy  
with weekend trips to our house here in Maine.  
Knowing this would be our next residence  
prompted us to do local "church shopping".  
No surprise but we've yet to find anything as  
wonderful as FBCIA and certainly nothing that  
compares to the choir! It is hard to leave our  
church home of almost 28 years...

With Jamie's pastoring and Stephen's  
music and the "whole sainthood", you have  
been a blessing in our lives and we are missing  
you. If you are looking to get away (!!), you can  
find us at 97 Parsons Road in Norway ME  
04268, phone 207-393-3899.

God Bless You All,

Pam and Bob

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **May Financial Statement**

**Revenues \$29,877**

Pledge Income of \$5,382 is down by (45%)  
for the month or (\$4,451).

Overall Revenue is down by (12%) or  
(\$4,260).

**Expenses \$36,427**

Overall expenses were under budg-  
et (favorable) by 11% or \$4,503

**Net Deficit (\$6,550)**

### **End of Summer Picnic**

Saturday, August 13 at 5:00

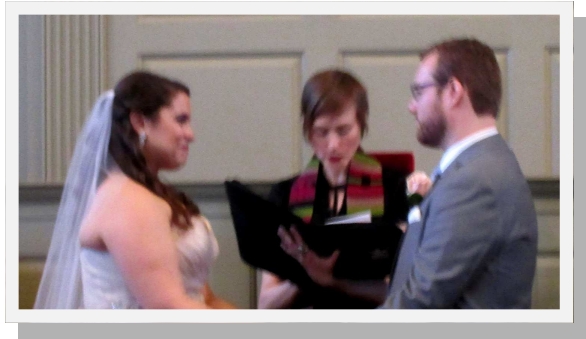
At the Lepore's in North Scituate

Bring a lawn chair and food to share.

Talk to Susan or Richard or call the  
church office for the address and/or  
directions.

## FBCIA News

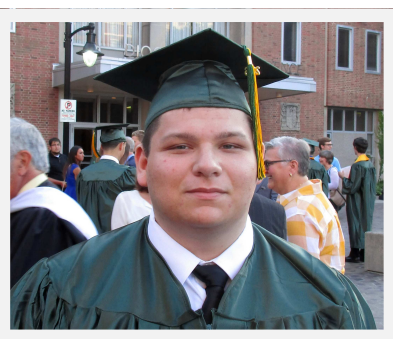
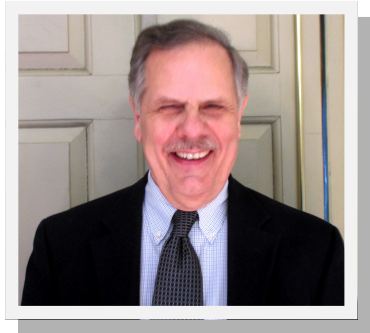
On Sunday afternoon, **June 5**, Pastor Jamie officiated at the marriage of Samuel Brunner, our tenor soloist and section leader, to Jacqueline Pina who has also sung in the church choir.



FBCIA participated in the annual Festival of Houses of the Providence Preservation Society so that the Meeting House was open to the tourists on **June 11**.



Rev. Bruce Greer was given the official Right Hand of Fellowship on his Great Day, **June 19**. Having retired after 37 years in the ministry, Bruce is currently serving the First Baptist Church of Fall River in a short-term interim capacity. In his career, he has been the settled or interim pastor in eight churches from Massachusetts (and Rhode Island) to Colorado.



Tristin Domingues graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School and will be attending Franklin Pierce University in the fall.



Kyleigh Domingues graduated from St. Paul's School in Cranston and will be attending Village Green Charter School on Weybosset Street this fall.

### Stukley Westcott Family Association



Aside from the Roger Williams Family Association, the only family association of the original founders of FBCIA is the Stukley Westcott Family Association, and they came to Providence this year for their annual reunion. They had a guided tour of the Meeting House on Friday morning, June 23 as part of their activities.

Stukely Westcott was born in 1592 in Somerset, England. He married Juliana Marchant in 1619, and they came to Salem in 1635. He was banished by the Massachusetts General Court March 12, 1638 and came to Providence in April 1638. Westcott was one of the "Original Proprietors" of Providence in October 1638 and a signer of the Providence Compact of July 1640. He became a follower of Samuel Gorton and removed to Shawomet (Warwick) in 1643. He was taken prisoner by Massachusetts soldiers when they attacked the Gorton settlement in October 1643 and taken to Boston for trial and imprisonment. Released after nearly a year, he returned to Shawomet. Some sources claim that John Greene, Stukely Westcott, William Arnold, and Ezekiel Holliman (all original members of FBCIA) established a branch of the Providence church in Warwick in the 1640s, which became the Old Warwick Six-Principle Baptist Church in 1725.

At age 84 Westcott was driven from his home on March 16, 1676 during King Philip's War and took refuge on Aquidneck Island. He died at about 85 years old in Portsmouth on January 12, 1677. His son Robert, a lieutenant in the militia, was killed in the war. His daughter Demaris married Benedict Arnold, the first governor of RI under the Charter of 1663.

If your wondering how the gardens in the back of the Meeting house became so beautiful, you can thank Susan Lepore, Linda Bausserman, Jeanne Kolb, Mark Hall and Rev. Jamie Washam. They spent many hot days weeding, planting and mulching.



## Ugandan Kids' Choir

The church rejoiced with the Ugandan Kids' Choir on Sunday, June 26. The members of the choir arrived on Thursday afternoon and were treated to a tacos supper at the Meeting House prepared by Jeanne Kolb, Joanne Schneider, and Matt Casey. Then the children and their chaperones were divided up among Susan and Richard Lepore, Stan Lemons and Linda Bausserman, Jaimie Washam and N.J. Unaka, Jeanne Kolb and Barry Bainton, and Mark Hall, to stay with them until Sunday. The children were back at the Meeting House Friday morning at 8:30 to begin their day of school work with their teacher. At noon they ate a hot lunch prepared by Jessie and Rob Jarbadan. Then school and rehearsals lasted until 4:30 when they were picked up by the host families again. That evening the whole church was invited to a potluck at the Washam-Unaka home. Saturday was a "day off" for the touring group -- sleeping in late, doing whatever they wanted (which included some personal rehearsal), and just having fun. In the afternoon many of them gathered at Pulaski State Park to swim in the lake and play on the beach. Then Sunday they presented their music, drumming and dancing at the morning worship service. After church services the choir, their adult supervisors, and the host families were treated to a luncheon prepared by Colleen and Larry Whelpley, Evan and Monica Roy, and Moira Finnegan and Jeff Caruso. After church they Kid's Choice loaded on their bus and headed for their concert site. The experience was enriching for the host families and thrilling for the church at large.



A tour group from Hopewell, North Carolina, were treated to singing of the Kids' Choir on Friday afternoon before the choir began their regular rehearsal.

On Friday evening the Washam-Unaka's hosted a potluck for everyone.

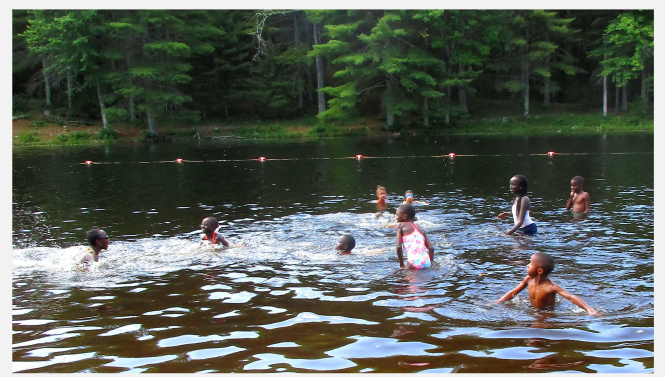


Most of the choir met at Pulaski State Park in Western Gloucester near the Connecticut line and playing in the sand.



The children had a hilarious time covering each other with sand ...

...and then racing into the lake to wash it all off.



The "sermon" for the morning worship was the presentation by the Kids' Choir of their praise singing, dancing, and drumming.

# Missions and Outreach



## Flip Flop Campaign

Thanks to everyone who has supported this important project to raise money to **send children to summer camp at our own ABCORI Camp Canonicus**. Currently, there are 16 young people registered for day camp and 9 for resident camp; there are others who want to go but who have not submitted forms. They are scheduled to attend the last week of camp, August 14 to 19. This camp experience has been especially rewarding for our refugee children. **We have raised a little over half of what we need**. Please consider donating any amount for this important project.



Remember that on **Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold the **Roger Williams Attic**, the biennial church yard sale. The proceeds will support the January 2017 trip to La Romana in the Dominican Republic. During the summer months, please think about putting aside items for sale. Please NO clothes or electronics (tv sets, computers, etc.) but kitchen items, furniture, linens and other household items are welcome. Please do not bring any items to the church until September. Also, check the Missions and Outreach news board for ways that you can help to make this event a success.

Please  
Donate  
Now



This month, for our **refugee storage area**, we are collecting **laundry detergent**. Please donate in the bins that are in the Fellowship Hall.



On **Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**, go to **Flatbread Pizza** on 161 Cushing Street (next to the CVS on Thayer Street on Providence's East Side) between 5 pm and 10 pm and **PICA** will receive \$3.50 for every large Flatbread pizza sold and \$1.75 for every small pizza. So you can have a great meal and support a very good cause. Last month alone, PICA fed over 20,000 people in Providence.

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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. July 17	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jeffrey Haggray
		Greeters:	Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
		Ushers:	Joanne Schneider and Art Bone
		Worship Leader:	Betsy Shealy
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Elsa Grieder
Sun. July 24,	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Esperanza Tannehill
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Richard Aubin
Sun. July 31,	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Ruth Marris Macaulay
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	TBA
Sun. August 07	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Elsa Grieder
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Stan Lemons
Sun. August 14	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	Matthew Casey
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Joanne Schneider