

The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

August 15, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 12

From the Pastor

Philippians 2:1-11 (J.B. Phillips New Testament)

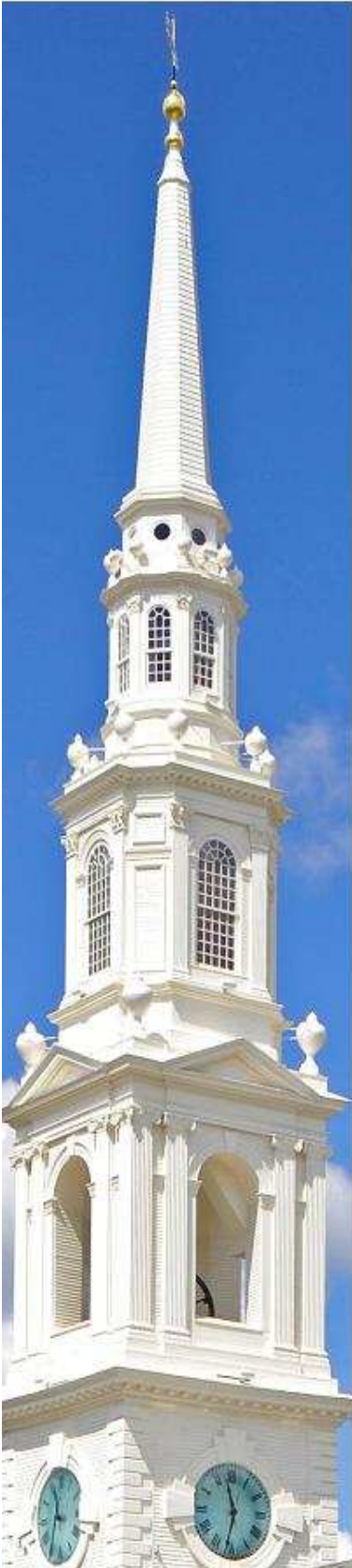
Now if your experience of Christ's encouragement and love means anything to you, if you have known something of the fellowship of his Spirit, and all that it means in kindness and deep sympathy, do make my best hope for you come true! Live together in harmony, live together in love, as though you had only one mind and one spirit between you. Never act from motives of rivalry or personal vanity, but in humility think more of each other than you do of yourselves. None of you should think only of their own affairs, but should learn to see things from other people's point of view.

Let Christ himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. For he, who had always been God by nature, did not cling to his prerogatives as God's equal, but stripped himself of all privilege by consenting to be a servant by nature and being born as mortal human. And, having become human, he humbled himself by living a life of utter obedience, even to the extent of dying, and the death he died was the death of a common criminal. That is why God has now lifted him so high, and has given him the name beyond all names, so that at the name of Jesus "every knee shall bow", whether in Heaven or earth or under the earth. And that is why, in the end, "every tongue shall confess" that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God.

Over the course of the autumn, we will explore the ways that our faith is lived out in our bodies, both personal and public. If we take incarnation seriously, then our bodies matter. We are not bifurcated beings with spirit above and flesh below. Jesus lived and died a human life. Further, we are called to be the living, corporate body of Christ, here on earth. How do we live our faith in our bodies, individual and collective? During adult forum and our Sunday services, we will examine how Jesus calls us to embody justice in terms of race, who and how we love, food, access, and sustainability.

We begin the last week of August, with a pulpit swap. The Rev. Dr. Cody Sanders, pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church, will preach here at First Baptist Church. On Saturday, September 24, at 5:15 pm, the American Baptist Clergywomen of Rhode Island will lead a prayer vigil for healing and peace with justice on the lawn of First Baptist Church. All are welcome to attend, participate, and then head downtown for that evening's WaterFire. Adult forums this fall will begin with reflections from refugees, followed by readings on race, privilege, and imprisonment. We will continue the conversations we began in the spring around marriage, commitment, and fidelity, and unpack the implications for us here in our congregation. What does an ethic of love look like for us as Christians, in this day and time? In November, we will dig into food and sustainability. What are the links between the food we eat and our faith? Where does our food come from? Are our eating practices sustainable? Who has access to food and who does not, and why?

Gird your loins, beloved! Prepare to be blessed and challenged, stretched and strengthened in your particular body and in the expansive body of Christ.



FBCIA News

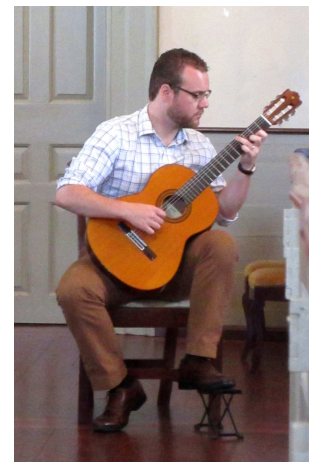
♥ We send our love and condolences to Joanne Schneider on the passing of her mother Anna Schneider.

♥ Thank you to all who sent me cards, well wishes and encouragement during my absence. They were greatly appreciated. I am up, about and back to work for a few hours each day. Holly

♥ On Sunday, August 28, Pastor Jamie will swap pulpits with the Rev. Cody Sanders, the pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Massachusetts. Rev. Washam was ordained at OCBC in October 2001. Cody has been pastor there since last year. His preaching is not to be missed! You will be blessed by the word he will bring to our Meeting House.

The Rev. Cody J. Sanders, Ph.D., is pastor of Old Cambridge Baptist Church in Harvard Square and serves on the adjunct faculty in pastoral care at Andover Newton Theological School. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North American - *Bautistas por la Paz* and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, as well as co-conviener of the Racial Justice and Multiculturalism Community in the Alliance of Baptists. Cody is the coauthor of *Microaggressions in Ministry: Confronting the Hidden Violence of Everyday Church* (Westminster John Knox, 2015), author of *Queer Lessons for Churches on the Straight and Narrow: What All Christians Can Learn from LGBTQ Lives* (FaithLab, 2013), and editor of the second edition of *Rightly Diving the Word of Truth: A Resource for Congregations on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* (Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, 2013). His current book project, forthcoming from Westminster John Knox, addresses ministry with LGBTQIA youth.

♥ Having returned from their honeymoon, Sam Brunner and his wife Jackie provided the special music for the morning worship on Sunday, July 31. Jackie sang the spiritual "Deep River" and Sam played "Julia Florida" on his guitar.



PRAYER VIGIL FOR HEALING WITH PEACE AND JUSTICE Saturday, September 24 at 5:15 pm Front lawn of First Baptist Church in America

American Baptist Clergywomen of Rhode Island invite you to join in a prayer vigil for healing with peace and justice. In the face of ongoing violence in our community and world, coming together with others to peacefully and hopefully imagine and advocate for another way of being is an act of subversive resistance. All are welcome to join with others to pray, sing, claim, and create healing in our wounded communities. Come and see that you are not alone. After the vigil, many will continue on to that evening's WaterFire downtown. Since WaterFire blocks roads to the church in advance, please plan your travel accordingly.

Missions and Outreach



Roger William's Attic, our church yard sale, will take place on **Saturday, September 10th** from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. All money benefits the La Romana Missions trip in January of 2017. Donate kitchen items, furniture, linens and other household items but please **NO** clothes or electronics. Items may be brought to the church starting Thursday, Sept. 1st. We also need baked goods to sell at the yard sale.



The week before the sale, we will need help organizing and pricing. On the day of the event, we will need help selling! Sign-up sheets are on the Missions and Outreach board in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to everyone who supported the **Flip Flop campaign** to send our refugee children to **Camp Canonicus**. So far, we have raised \$5,100 of our \$6,000 goal. There is still time to give. We are sending 23 of our refugee children to summer camp this week. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



Remember to bring in your **non-perishable food** items for the PICA Food Pantry. PICA is the largest food security in the state through its two food pantries and provides services to over 18,000 people each month. It is also the only agency downtown offering intensive, holistic case management on a walk-in basis to the homeless population.

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Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
David Michel, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

Sunday Calendar

Sun. August 21	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Jamie Washam
		Worship Leader:	David Coon
		Greeters:	Betsy and Jason Shealy
		Ushers:	Donna and Henry Campopiano
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Elsa Grider
Sun. August 28	10:00 AM	Worship	Rev. Cody Sanders
		Worship Leader:	Jeanne Kolb
		Greeters:	Deanna and Sam Beachen
		Ushers:	Ruth Marris Macaulay and Ken Clauser
	11:15 PM	Tour Guide:	Richard Aubin

Children's Sunday School Lessons

The Holy Spirit helps me act in good ways.

Bible Verse: Galatians 5:22-23

Sun. August 21 - Gentleness

Bible Story: Psalm 23:1-6

Sun. August 28 - Self-Control

Bible Story: Daniel 1:1-21

Sunday Morning Forum

September 11th Rally Day

September 18th Refugee children will talk about their experience at Camp Canonicus

September 25th: Ruth Marris Macaulay will give our reading for the justice series and provide some ideas for preliminary discussion.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander