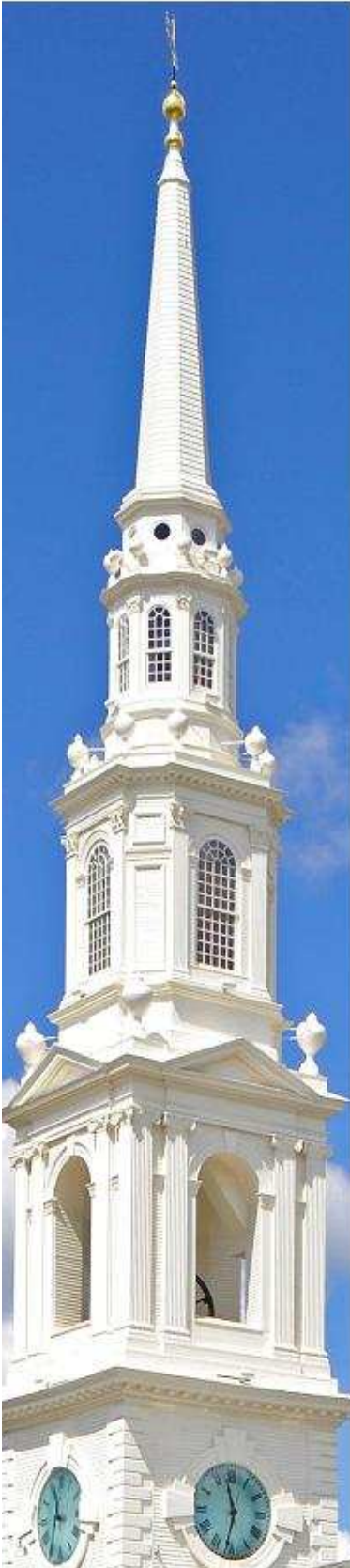


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

October 15, 2016, Volume 19, Issue 15



From the Pastor

It is common for people to have a bit of information, and to think that they have the full story. This is true in our relationships with people; it is even tempting to presume in our relationship with God. Our hearts may know, but our urgency and certainty causes us to forget that God does not function on our schedules or with our full knowledge. Our perspectives are partial, through dim mirrors, as Paul teaches. Only God has the complete story. In this time of soundbites and screaming headlines, I urge you to slow down, and wait. Don't mistake the fraction for the whole. To that end, I offer the following "nested meditations" by Kevin Anderson for your consideration.

We are all one.

*We are all one
step from the edge.*

*We are all one
step from the edge
of the annihilation.*

*We are all one
step from the edge
of the annihilation
of all hatred.*

I am becoming.

*I am becoming
a diamond in the rough.*

*I am becoming
a diamond in the rough-
est part of my life.*

*I am becoming
a diamond in the rough-
est part of my life
the pressures are just intense!*

*I am becoming
a diamond in the rough-
est part of my life,
the pressures are just intense
enough to form a jewel.*

Mission and Outreach

HURRICANE RELIEF COME TOGETHER NOW

We have all been watching the incredible damage left in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. **International Ministries**, American

Baptists-USA, is providing \$25,000 to our partners in Cuba, Haiti and the Caribbean to help with the recovery. The needs, especially in Haiti, are overwhelming. Many areas are still waiting for relief to arrive as roads are under water or impassable. There are two ways to donate. You can visit our web site and follow the link to donate on-line or you can write a check to FBCIA with "Hurricane" on the memo line or place cash in a church envelope and write "Hurricane" on the envelope.

Sandwich Brigade



Continue to support **Crossroads Rhode Island** by joining our sandwich brigade at 9 a.m. on Sunday October 16th and 23rd. We will make sandwiches that will be distributed by Crossroads to those who otherwise might go hungry. The mission of Crossroads is to help the homeless and at-risk individuals in our state develop more secure lives. If you would like to help, show up on Sunday morning.



This month, we are collecting all variety of canned beans for the **PICA Food Pantry**. Remember to bring in these non-perishable food items and place them in the bins at

the top on the stairs as you enter the Meeting House.



PICA presents
Drink and Dabble
with Charlie Hall!

Friday, November 4, 2016 at 6:30

Tickets are \$50 per person. Your ticket for this **PICA fundraiser** includes all the materials needed for painting, a light food buffet and entertainment. The



event will be located in the Wine Cellar of B. Pinelli's, 736 North Broadway in East Providence. There is plenty of parking and valet parking is available. Tickets will not be available at the door so get them in advance before they run out! If you cannot attend, consider making a donation.

Out of the DARKNESS

COMMUNITY WALKS
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

The annual **Out Of Darkness walk for suicide prevention** will take place Saturday, October 22nd at Slater Park in Pawtucket at 2 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please visit their web site for more information at

afsp.donordrive.com

Christian Education

Children's Sunday School Lessons - October

Anchor Point: *We remember God's powerful acts.*

Bible Verse: I'll set you free with great power. (Exodus 6:6)

Sun. October 16 - Moses and Pharaoh

Bible Story: Exodus 5:1-13:9

Sun. October 23 - Crossing the Sea

Bible Story: Exodus 13:17-14:1

Sun. October 30 - Songs of Joy

Bible Story: Exodus 15:1-21

Sunday Morning Forum

October 16th Baptist missionary Marilyn Raatz.

October 23rd, 30th Christina Villarreal, Director of History/Social Studies, Education Department, Brown University on Justice and equity in urban education. Barret Fabris, Director of The Center for Peace, Justice and Global Citizenship, Lincoln School will talk on conflict resolution and racial justice.

SMALL GROUPS

Our small groups are both starting new books, the Wednesday afternoon (1:30-3:00) women's group will be reading *Jesus and Nonviolence* by Walter Wink and the Thursday evening (6:00-7:00) is doing a Bible study on the book of Amos using *Amos Doing What Is Right* by Robert Baker. We begin next week. Please consider joining us. We welcome new members!

FBCIA NEWS

Baby Shower

Please join us for a baby shower for

Monica and Evan Roy

on **Sunday, November 20th 2:00 PM**

at the home of Linda Bausserman and Stan Lemons

A Sign-up Sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall.

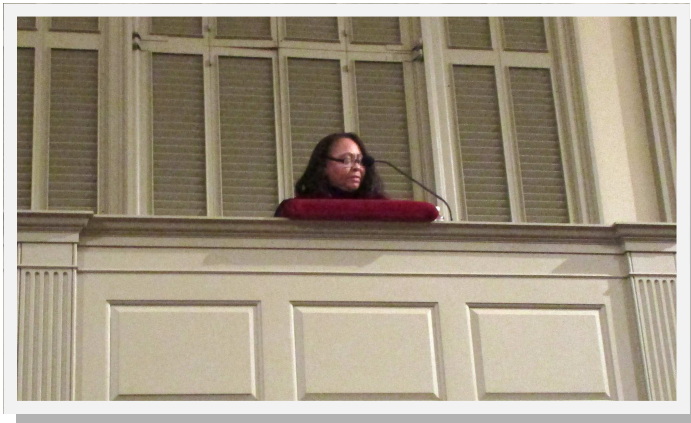
"Do Lord, Remember Me," an exhibit about the African American church in Rhode Island opened at the Meeting House on October 11 and ran through October 14. This program funded by the RI Council for the Humanities and RI State Council on the Arts seeks to educate the public about the important role and influence of the Black church in Rhode Island. The program was originated and curated by Ray Rickman and Robb Dimmick. People gathered in the Fellowship Hall to view the traveling panels of the exhibition and then went upstairs to the auditorium for a worship service which featured the rousing preaching of Rev. Doris Hooks, Assistant Pastor of the Olney Street Baptist Church. She spoke of her appearance in the high pulpit of the First Baptist Church in America as a mark of how far African Americans have come - from being segregated in the church to having a black *woman* in the pulpit. The "congregation" that evening was nearly 200 people, and the offering taken is to be divided between helping FBCIA to send refugee children to camp next summer and a program to provide swimming lessons for African American children.



Susan Lepore studied the panels in the Fellowship Hall.



A "congregation" of nearly 200 attended the keynote sermon and program.



Rev. Doris Hooks, Assistant Pastor of Olney Street Baptist Church, preached about the significance of the Black church and its music.

Friday Seekers and Potluck



HEY THERE, YOU HISTORY BUFFS

Really now -- aren't we all interested in History – especially since we are members and attendees of the Historic First Baptist Church in America!

There will be a retelling of the famous GASPEE INCIDENT at our next Friday Seekers on Friday, October 28 right at our own church and enacted by our own Ruth Marris Macaulay and her colleague, David Ely. You don't want to miss it.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON OUR SHEET ON THE SPECIAL "FRIDAY SEEKERS" BULLETIN BOARD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

DATE: FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 2016

TIME: BE AT CHURCH AT 6 P.M.

POTLUCK SUPPER AT 6:30 P.M.

PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

The sandwich makers for Sunday, October 9 were Youngwha Lee Linda Bausserman, Kenneth Clauser, Elsa Grieder, and Ruth Marris Macaulay. More helpers are wanted for the remaining Sundays in October.

Volunteers Needed

Sunday, October 30; 1:00 - 3:00

In the gardens of FBCIA

Join us Sunday, October 30 after church to help weed, deadhead and prepare the flower beds for next spring.

Bring a bag lunch and after eating we'll go out and get to work. Bring gloves, shovels, spades if you have them. If you don't, just bring your self.

No experience necessary.



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN AMERICA CHOIR
AND SOLOISTS SING
THE HYMNS OF FANNY CROSBY
AT



CHEPACHET BAPTIST CHURCH
HISTORIC MEETING HOUSE
1213 PUTNAM PIKE - ROUTE 44, CHEPACHET, RI
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 2:30 PM

FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC MANSION
PRESENT

STEPHEN MARTORELLA
IN RECITAL ON THE 1928 ESTEY PIPE ORGAN

with special guest

Sarah Dunn, soprano

Bach, Bax, Beach, Mozart, Schubert, Buck, Chadwick, Foote, Paine

Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 2:00 P. M.

The Music Mansion

88 Meeting Street, Providence, RI

Admission: \$10 at the Door

The First Baptist Church in America
75 North Main Street
Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-454-3418
E-Mail: fbcia1638@gmail.com
Web: www.fbcia.org

Jamie Washam, Pastor
Stephen Martorella, Minister of Music
Holly Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Anne Gagan, Bookkeeper
Tony Zambarano, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

Sunday Calendar

Sun. Oct. 16

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum
11:00 AM Worship Marilyn Raatz
Worship Leader: Jamie Washam
Greeters: Jessica, Carl, Grace, Aaron, Ben Guiney
Ushers: Richard Aubin and Bruce Leonard
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Richard Aubin

Sun. Oct. 23

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum
11:00 AM Worship Rev. Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Donna Campopiano
Greeters: Deanna and Sam Beachen
Ushers: Eva Adodoadji and Richard Lepore
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder

Sun. Oct. 30

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum
11:00 AM Worship Rev. Rev. Jamie Washam
Worship Leaders: Jan and Richard Aubin
Greeters: Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
Ushers: Dianne and Edgar Thyret
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Alice Miles