

# The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

January 01, 2017, Volume 20, Issue 1

## *From the Pastor*

### The Future is Now

As 2016 draws to a close, and we come into 2017, the rising clamor insists that this is the time to resolve to begin anew, to resolve to make a fresh start, to shed those holiday cookies and that ill-fitting caterpillar garb and become the butterfly you know yourself to be. However, many may have experienced the familiar waning of resolve somewhere around the 28th in years past. Perhaps your sole resolution mirrors that of a friend of mine, who every year sets the same goal, "to make no resolutions, but this year, with more gusto!" To be sure, that one is hard to mess up.

However, this time, instead of grand, transformative schemes, I encourage you to simply examine each day more thoughtfully. Did you live it well? In each small afternoon and moment and encounter did you offer your full and sincere self? Don't wait for some misty future when everything is perfect, because you will sentence yourself to a lifetime on hold. Make this the day that you use the good china or silver, because it is precious. This is the present. As Charlotte Perkins Gilman reminds us, "eternity is not something that begins after you are dead. It is going on all the time. We are in it now." Resolve to shine in the everyday, in the small and abundant moments that otherwise might pass you by. Happily ever after dawns with each new day. Don't miss it. This is a resolution that you can keep. Have a blessed new year and a blessed right now and always.

Jamie Washam



## Missions and Outreach



### La Romana 2017 Missions Trip

On Saturday, January 7, Emily Martin, Frank Nicholson, Linda Wiles, Henry Campopiano, Ann-Marie Bausserman and Richard, Susan and Emma Lepore will travel to La Romana, Dominican Republic for a week to continue work on the Good Samaritan Hospital that serves the Haitian sugar cane cutters and their families in the Dominican Republic. Please keep them and the people they will be working with in your prayers. You can follow them on the church web site at [www.fbcia.org](http://www.fbcia.org)



## Missions and Outreach



### Refugee Christmas

Thank you for your support of our Christmas Giving Tree. Over 100 gifts were delivered to 14 refugee families - 59 individuals. For some of these individuals it meant having warm boots and coats for the winter, for some it meant a gift to open on Christmas morning and to all it was a sign that some one thinks they are important. Stay tuned in the new year for more ways to help these families.



RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING



*Thank You For...*

Thanks to all who contributed to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering. In December, we raised \$637. When we add the \$500 that we budget for this offering, we will send \$1,137 to ABCUSA.

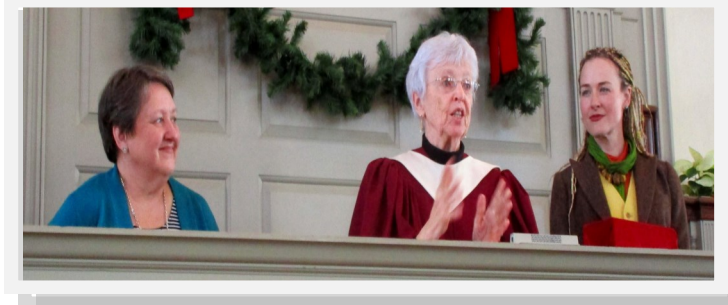
Remember to bring in non-perishable food items for the PICA food pantries. As the weather gets colder, the need for food increases. Please be generous.



## Christian Education

We will begin the **2017 Sunday Forums** with a discussion of Eating.

- \* How do we practice our faith at the table?
- \* What does the foods we eat, who we eat with, and how we provide food to the hungry say about our faith?<sup>1</sup>



Kathryn Palen was welcomed on her Great Day, Sunday December 11. Elsa Grieder, her sponsoring deacon, introduced Kathryn to the congregation as Pastor Jamie Washam approvingly watched.



Sarah Dunn led some of the children in singing and signing during the Christmas luncheon on Sunday December 18.

On **January 8**, with **Emily Jones, Interfaith Coordinator for the RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty**. Part of their mission is "to organize the Rhode Island faith community, its leaders and members, into a force that can be mobilized and is to be reckoned with, at the federal, state and city/town levels on matters impacting the poor, the vulnerable, and the disenfranchised. She will speak specifically about the 2016 Status Report on Hunger produced by the RI Food Bank.

<sup>1</sup> You will benefit most from this series if you participate in study and activities at home leading up to the Sunday forum. Please read, Luke 24:13-35; Mark 14:12-25; Acts 2:43-47; 1 Corinthians 11:17-33; and Isaiah 25:6-10 before the forum on January 15.

## FBCIA NEWS

### • **IMPORTANT REMINDER** \*

*Our Annual Meeting is scheduled on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017. There will be a deli luncheon following the service & prior to the meeting. All are welcome to join.*

### **LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP**

Church dinner groups will commence in the new year. Don't miss the chance to sign up and participate! Many of you expressed interest, but have yet to add your name to the list in the fellowship hall. Please do so, if you intend to join in, by the end of the year.



Pastor Jamie Washam preaching in the Fellowship Hall on Christmas Day 2016

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER**

For several decades, when New Year's Day has fallen on Sunday, we have enjoyed a traditional Amish New Year's Day dinner at the Meeting House after the morning worship service. The meal will be prepared for you, and the menu is roast pork loin, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, apple sauce, black-eyed peas (for good luck), and cake for dessert. If you wish to join us, you will need to make a reservation so we can know how many places to set. [The price is yet to be determined since we haven't determined the cost of the food.] You may call the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

### **SNOW CLOSING**

If there is a parking ban in the City of Providence due to inclement weather, worship services and activities held at the church will be cancelled until the parking ban is lifted. Please tune in to your local television and radio stations.

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Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

### Sunday Calendar

**Sun. January 1, 2017**

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00 AM Worship: Pastor Jamie Washam  
Worship Leader: Kelsey Lepore  
Greeters: Eva & Ahuma Adodoaji  
Ushers: Richard & Susan Lepore  
12:15 PM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons

**Sun. January 8**

10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum: Emily Jones, Interfaith  
Coordinator for the RI Interfaith Coalition to  
Reduce Poverty.  
11:00 AM Worship Pastor Jamie Washam  
Worship Leader: Ruth Marris Macaulay  
Greeters: Stan Lemons & Linda Bausserman  
Ushers: Jeanne Kolb & Barry Bainton

## Christian Education

### Children's Sunday School Lessons - January 2017

**Anchor Point:** Jesus is God's Son.

**Bible Verse:** *God so loved the world that he gave his only son.* (John 3:16)

**Sun.** January 1, 2017

**Bible Story:** *Matthew 2:1-12*

**Sun.** January 8, 2017

**Bible Verse:** *Luke 2:39-52*

**Sun.** January 15, 2017

**Bible Verse:** *Matthew 3:13-17*

**\*\*There is NO Adult forum on January 1, 2017 \*\***