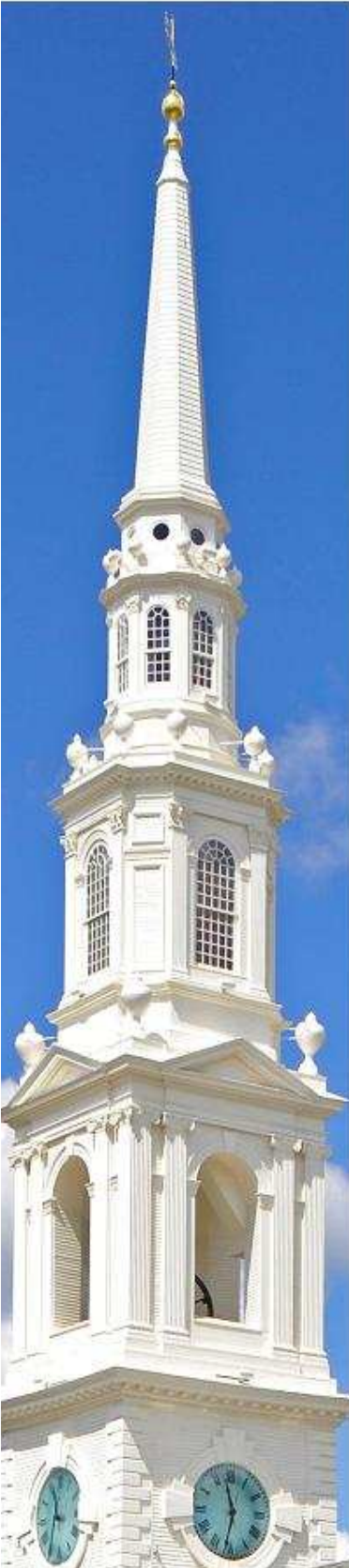


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 01, 2017, Volume 20, Issue 4



From the Pastor

As the days press on towards Easter, thoughts turn to what Jesus might have been thinking and feeling in those waning days before his arrest and crucifixion. What was the texture of his prayer life? What added resonance did he experience in his everyday conversations and encounters?

When we pause, and allow ourselves to consider the shape of our own lives and souls, similar questions arise. Are we living into our full potential? How do we experience our own growing edges? How do we live peaceably within our own finitude?

Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, wrote frankly about his own humanity, and his words make room for us to do the same with ourselves. Here is a prayer he penned; it is one that anyone can pray. It was originally published in his book, *Thoughts in Solitude*. May it bless you in these final days of lent.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Peace,

Jamie

FBCIA NEWS



March 12 was a Great Day for the church as Janet Davies was given the Right Hand of Fellowship and officially welcomed. She shared a light moment with her sponsoring deacon, Elsa Grieder who introduced Janet to the congregation.

Arleene Sweet, 82, died of colon cancer on March 16 in Minneapolis. Born in Missouri in 1934, she met her husband David while they were students at Drury College in Springfield, Missouri. They were married on June 4, 1954.

David was the founding president of Metropolitan State College in Minneapolis before becoming the president of Rhode Island College in 1977. Having been a Baptist in Missouri, Arleene joined FBCIA as an active member from

1978 until she moved away after the death of her husband in 1984. A Christian Scientist, David died from a diabetic seizure and cardiac arrest after refusing medical treatment. Since the president's house at Rhode Island

College went with the job, Arleene had to find a new home and occupation; therefore, she moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, where she worked for the Missouri Department of Education for several years. Next, she lived for a time in Winchester, Virginia before returning to Minnesota where she could be near her daughter and grandchildren.

She was an artist of considerable talent.



Everyone is Invited!!
to
Easter Breakfast



Sunday, April 16, 2017
Starts at 9:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt for children



No Charge but please bring
an egg casserole, rolls or
fruit to share

A sign up sheet is posted in
fellowship hall.

Good Friday Worship

First Baptist Church
91 Cottage Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

"Seven Last Words of Christ"

It will be a combined service with pastors/
preachers and members of their congregations
that might like to attend.

Please visit our web site at
www.fbc pawtucket.org.

"The Seven Last Words of Christ"
Good Friday Service Preachers

April 14, 2017 7:00-8:30 pm
At First Baptist Church of Pawtucket

The First Word

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Luke 23:34
Rev. Wendy Kiefer-O'Brien Pastor, Greenville Baptist Church

The Second Word

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43
Rev. Werner Veliz Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel

The Third Word

*"Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple,
"Here is your mother."* John 19:26-27
Rev. Jamie Washam Pastor, First Baptist Church in America

The Fourth Word

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Mark 15:33-34
Rev. Linda Watkins Pastor, First Baptist Church, Pawtucket

The Fifth Word

"I thirst." John 19:28
Rev. Ebony Grison Resident Pastor
First Baptist Church, East Greenwich/Warwick Central Baptist Church

The Sixth Word

"It is finished!" John 19:30
Rev. Jacob McGuire Pastor, First Baptist Church, Bristol

The Seventh Word

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" Luke 23:46
Rev. Dr. Johnny Wilson Pastor, Olney Street Baptist Church



PICA
HOPE & SUPPORT
FOR THOSE IN NEED



COMEDY FUNDRAISER

*Featuring New England's Best Comedians
to benefit*

**THE MISSION AND
OUTREACH OF PICA**

Friday, April 21, 2017

**The Shriner's Imperial Room at Rhodes Place
1 Rhodes Place | Cranston, RI 02905**

Doors open at 6:00pm | Show starts at 6:30pm

**HORS D'OEUVRES & FOOD STATIONS SERVED
CASH BAR AVAILABLE
RAFFLES WITH GREAT PRIZES!**

Tickets \$50.00 each

**For tickets, please contact
Diana Burdett
401-454-7422**

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

2017 Sunday Calendar

- Sun. April 2**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Forum: Ruth Marris Macaulay -
"A Baptist Vision of Lent"
Sunday School:
Cock-a-doodle-doo! - Matthew 26:17-30
- 11:00 AM Communion Worship: Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Diego Arene-Morley
Greeters: Pat Billings and Alice Miles
Ushers: Richard Lepore and Tom Shackelford
Tour Guide: Stan Lemons
- Sun. April 9**
Palm Sunday
- 10:00 AM Sunday Forum: NJ Unaka -
Architectural project in Morocco
Sunday School:
Hosanna! - Mathew 21:1-11
- 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Larry Wilson
Greeters: Sharon Gendron Petroff and
Holly Edwards
Ushers: Richard Lepore and
Michael Edwards
Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider
- Sun. April 16**
Easter Sunday
- 9:30 AM Easter Breakfast
11:00 AM Worship Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Kathryn Palen
Greeters: TBA
Ushers: TBA
Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder