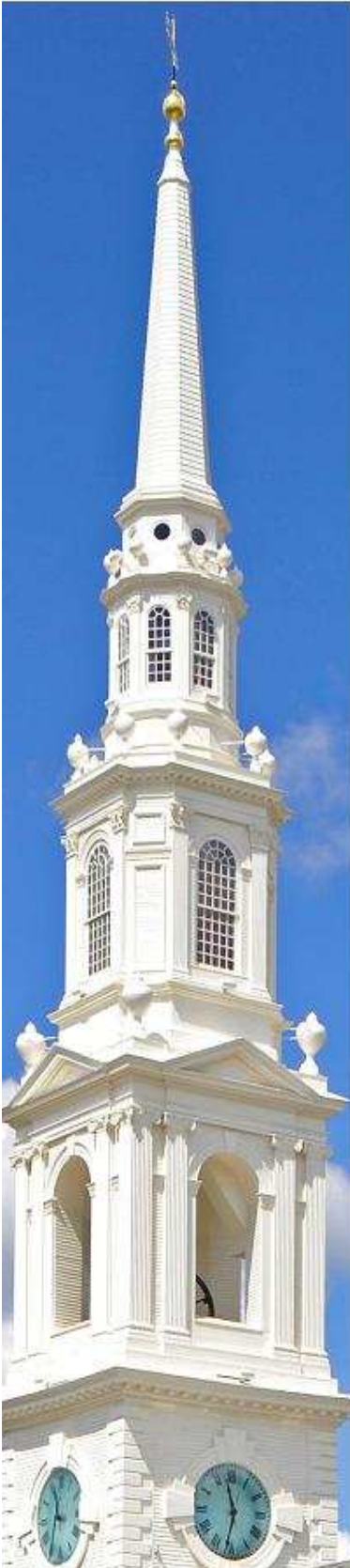


The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

March 2017, Volume 20, Issue 3



From the Pastor

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

What does it mean for those of us, who would be called children of God, to be peacemakers? How do we live into the call to create God's shalom here on earth? In Hebrew, the word shalom means not only peace, but also an active presence of justice. How might each of us, in our individual and corporate lives create and foment peace?

Marquette University's Center for Peacemaking suggests the following practices as a way towards living as peacemakers and embracing our inheritance as children of God:

Act with persistent nonviolence to resist injustice and violence by myself or by others

Act to remove the causes and heal the effects of violence

Strive for peace within myself and seek to be a peacemaker in my daily life

Accept suffering in the pursuit of justice rather than inflicting it

Refuse to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence, return forgiveness for harm, while continuing to insist on the truth as far as it is known to me

Live conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live

Work constantly and nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth

Beloved, this way is not easy, but it is blessed; it is not without struggle, but it is graced with the presence and possibility of God. Here is your challenge, should you choose to accept it: aim daily to be a peacemaker in your relationships, actions, and choices, share your challenges and joys with one another in the process, and embrace your place in the family of God!

Peace,
Pastor Jamie

Missions and Outreach for March

Blanket the World with Love



Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to the Church World Service Blanket the World with Love campaign. We surpassed our goal of \$500 and raised **\$715!!** That's 43 hearts beyond our goal of 100 hearts.

PICA



When Pat Billings delivered the February donations to PICA, Diana Burdett, Executive Director of PICA, requested that we again collect toilet paper for PICA. Food stamps do not cover the cost of toilet paper and food pantries generally do not stock it. As our past drive indicated, when the PICA distribution centers have toilet paper, it is in high demand. So, our goal for March goal is to donate toilet paper to PICA. Please contribute generously.

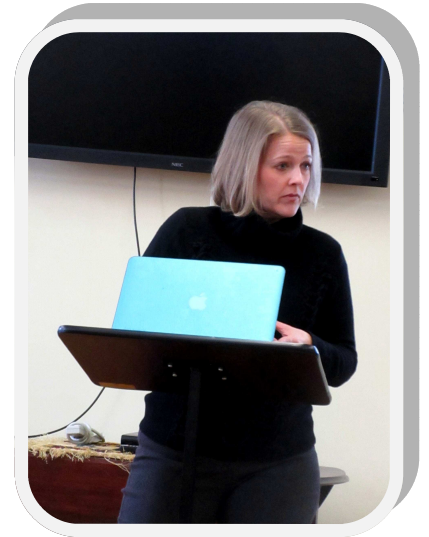
America for Christ Offering



The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2017, "Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities," inspires and encourages us to partner with American Baptist Churches USA in answering God's call to live out the Christian faith in transforming individuals, congregations and communities; to develop networks and programs committed to nurturing Christ-centered leaders; and to promote witness and evangelism as well as discipleship and social justice. Starting the 2nd Sunday of March, there will be envelopes in the pews for donations. Also, please take a coin box for your loose change. You will find these on the table at the rear of the Meeting House.

FBCIA NEWS

Amy Nun, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Public Health Institute, told the adult forum about the "Food on the Move" program of the Institute. The van takes fresh fruits and vegetables to "food deserts" around the states. These are areas where no supermarkets are within a mile, making it difficult for the elderly, disabled, and poor to have access to good, nutritious food.

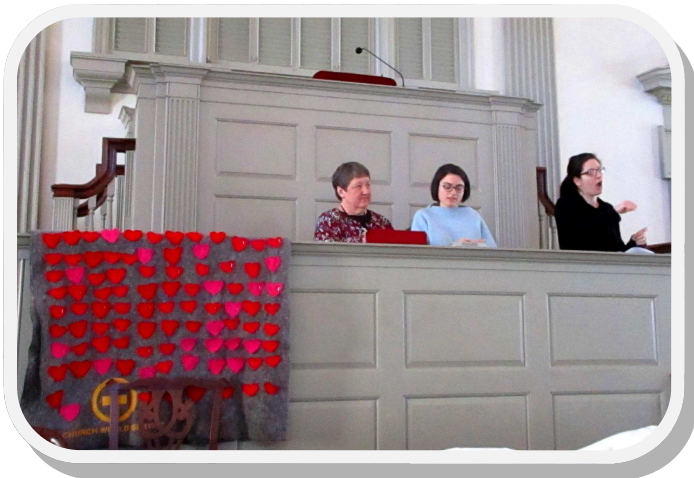


At eight weeks old, Ava Roy came to church for the first time. Monica and Evan Roy are the proud parents.

Last Friday evening the Friday Seekers gathered at the Meeting House for a potluck dinner and a program about the La Romana mission trip presented by some who went on the trip in January. Susan Lepore led the discussion and had photos on her laptop. Ann Marie Bausserman told of working with a medical team in the village. Henry Campopiano, "king of the gravel pile," described the labor that the team did in helping to make a parking for the hospital. Also present and contributing to the program were Linda Wiles, Emily Martin and Richard Lepore. Unable to be present were Emma Lepore, who was away at college, and Frank Nicholson, who was at work.



The Adult Forum on March 5 heard a presentation on efforts being made to reduce the incarceration of minor drug offences. The United States which has 5 percent of the world's population has 25 percent of the world's prisoners, and a great number of them have been jailed for minor, non-violent violations of the drug laws. Rev. Alexander Sharpe (right), president of Clergy for a New Drug Policy and Jared Moffat (left), president of Regulate Rhode Island, spoke of their efforts to change the laws and procedures to reduce incarceration.



The "blanket the world with love" campaign raised \$715 to purchase 71 blankets to be distributed to victims of disasters and other needs. Pictured are Kathryn Palen (worship leader and member of the Missions Committee), Emily Martin (chair of the Missions Committee) and Hayley Baccaire (A.S.L. interpreter).

As part of the children's sermon on baptism on March 5, Pastor Jamie took the children to see the baptismal tank. The children included Reshme, Jideobi, Andrew, William, Aaron and some out of the picture.



Join the book group.

We are reading **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson. Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, **Just Mercy** is the story of his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his pursuit of the ideal of compassion in American justice.

We will meet at noon on Saturday, March 25 to discuss the book. Bring food to share. There will be a pot of squash soup. **Just Mercy** is the Read Across RI book for 2017 and Bryan Stevenson will be speaking on April 8 at 2:00. If you would like to attend this event purchase tickets at <https://rari2017.eventbrite.com/>

Spring Celebration

April 1, 1:00 – 4:00

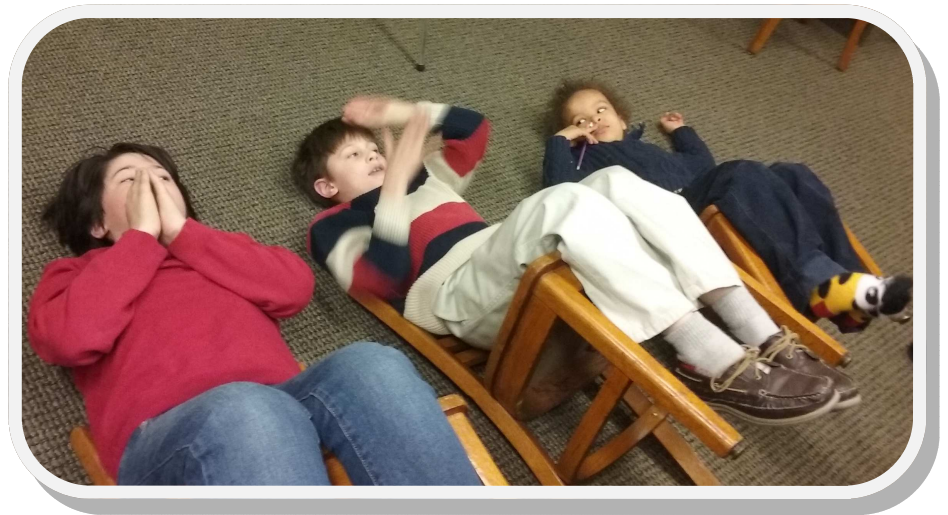
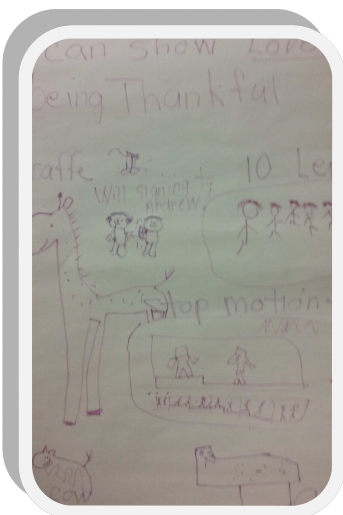
In order to create a fun day for our refugee and church families, we need the participation of everyone. You are invited to the Lepore home in North Scituate for games, snacks, an Easter egg hunt, and egg decorating. If you don't have kids, no worries, we will have plenty of children to share.

Here's how you can help:

- Come be part of the fun
- Help drive our refugee and church families
- Provide white eggs
- Provide plastic eggs
- Provide candy for eggs
- Provide snacks (fruit, cookies, granola bars, bakery pizza, juice)
- Provide onion skins (red and yellow)
- Provide old nylons
- Help with egg decorating
- Play soccer, kickball, etc.
- Have a conversation with someone you don't know
- Renew a friendship

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

As the Bible story of Jesus meeting the ten men with leprosy was told we learned about what it means to show love to someone or something. Each of the boys drew something they loved and cared for. We had to name what they had drawn. After the lesson they chose to end with their extemporaneous prayer time on-the-floor.



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Tony Zambarano, Sexton
Ivy Bermudez, Child Care Worker

2017 Sunday Calendar

- Sun. March 12**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum: Sustainable Foods
Sunday School: Jesus shows Love
to Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10
- 11:00 AM Worship: Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Diego Arene-Morley
Greeters: Darrell-Jarbadan Family
Ushers: Donna and Henry Campopiano
Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider
- Sun. March 19**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum: Sustainable Foods
Sunday School: Jesus shows Love at the
Last Supper
Matthew 26:17-30
- 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Larry Wilson
Greeters: TBA
Ushers: TBA
Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder
- Sun. March 26**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Forum: TBA
Sunday School: Jesus shows
Love in the Garden
Matthew 26:31-58
- 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Grace, Aaron and Ben Guiney
Greeters: TBA
Ushers: TBA
Tour Guide: Richard Aubin