

The Spire

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

April 15, 2017, Volume 20, Issue 5



We Have Seen Jesus

(John 20:1-18)

Ann Weems 1934-2016

O Lamb of God! O Lamb of God! O Lamb
of God!

With the slaying of the paschal lambs,
you died upon a tree.
Your sheep scattered
and hid in darkness
weeping.
It was over.

Three days those who loved him
huddled,
their hearts trembling,
their faces swollen from tears.
They would no longer see Jesus.
He himself had said from the cross,
It is finished.
They felt finished, too.

While the early morning
had not yet found its sun,
on that first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene walked
through the darkness
to the tomb
and found the stone rolled away.
She ran and found Peter
and that other disciple
whom Jesus loved.
They have taken Jesus out of the tomb,
she said, and we don't know where to find
him. Peter came into the tomb
and saw the linens lying there,
the head linen rolled up by itself.
Then the other disciple came into the tomb
and he saw and he believed.
He saw and he believed.
We who have sought these Lenten days
to see Jesus ...
do we see and do we believe?
Who do we say that he is?
He is the one who gathers the children
to himself.
He is the one who speaks with women,
even foreign women, even Gentile women,
even women of the streets.

He is the one who sits down to eat
with tax collectors.
He is the one who eats with sinners.
He is the one who touches lepers.
He is the One.
The disciples went home.
But not Mary ...
no, not Mary ...
she stayed,
she wept.
She bent to look into the tomb,
and there she saw two angels,
one at the foot where Jesus had lain
and one at the head.
"Woman," they asked,
"why are you weeping?"
"They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where
they have laid him."

I do not know where he is!
*Did you not know I would be
about my Father's business?
Who do you say that I am?*
Mary said, Rabboni.
Having turned, she saw
whom she believed to be
the gardener,
Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom do you seek?

"Sir, tell me where you have laid him,
and
I will take him away."
All Jesus had to say was "Mary!"
Mary, Mary, Mary,
Oh, Mary,
Do you not know me?
"Rabboni!"
Yes, she knew him.
She knew Jesus.
She ran to tell the others:
"I have seen Jesus."
And there it is ...
our Lenten search,
that which we have waited for,
that which we have sought,
that which we have worked for.

(continued on page 2)

He is not some goody-goody god;
he is Justice
he is Mercy
he is Humility
he is Love.

And Mary saw him;
Mary knew him;
Mary followed;
Mary believed;
Mary ran to tell the others.
Later that night,
when the doors were shut,
Jesus came to them
and stood among them
and said, "*Peace be with you*"
as he always did,
and he said it again,
after he had shown them
his hands and his side.

"*Peace be with you.*"
From the beginning
it had been Peace.
It was the song of the angels
in Bethlehem.
It was the song of Jesus,
and Peter preached it to the people:
"You know the message
God sent to the people of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ.
He is Lord of all."
If we see Jesus,
we know that
he preached peace,
but the thing that's
so hard for us is this:
we do see Jesus,
and we know Mary
and Peter and all the others
believed that we are to
love our neighbors as ourselves,
but that was then and this is now
and it is a different world.
We are a different people.
Can't we disciple in a more
modern way?
Not everyone can preach peace.

Can't we be on the kitchen committee?
Can't we make more rules?
Can't we write a check?
And yet, and yet and yet,
he said, *as God sent me*
I send you.
Receive the Holy Spirit.
He sent them out
just as he sends us out
to all the nations
to tell God's story
of peace and goodwill.

Easter comes.
The shroud that covered
the world is destroyed;
for our God has swallowed death.
We shall no longer look
for him among the dead.
He calls to us to follow,
to believe in our hearts
that the people of this world
will someday love one another.
Really
Love one another.
If we believe, we know that
that is not a naive hope,
but God's promise.
We shall not die,
but we will live in him
who died for us.

On Easter morning
and on every morning,
let us in chorus sing:
"This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"
And then with Mary,
let us run to tell the others:
We have seen Jesus!"

*Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light: Poetry for
Worship, Study, and Devotion*

FBCIA NEWS

Thank You!

Dear Pastor and Congregation of the First Baptist Church in America,

I am Elsa Grieder's daughter and I just got my liver transplant. My Mom said the whole congregation was praying for me. I am so overwhelmed. I could feel the strength, My Mom really appreciates it too!. Our family was a wreck. She said she's never had so many hugs as she did when she returned to Rhode Island. I thank you all!

All my love,
Lidian Long

ASL Interpreter Haley Jamroz Baccaire

I've been interpreting since 2008 after graduating from Columbia College Chicago with a bachelor's in American Sign Language-English Interpretation. I have the awesome job of working with Deaf people to interpret their medical appointments, meetings and anywhere a person could have a conversation. I interpreted at St Jean Baptist Catholic Church for 6 years until my son Lorenzo was born. I am currently president of the RI Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. My husband, John, is a firefighter in North Kingstown and we live in North Providence. I don't have any signing family, but my mom told me about her experiences working with Deaf patients without an interpreter and she recommended I study ASL. I truly believe I have the best job in the world and get to experience incredible things next to amazing people!



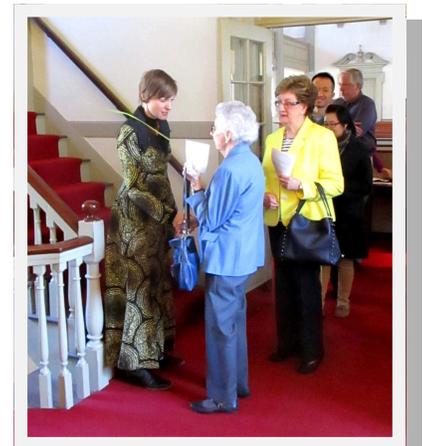
In Memoriam

Carl Knerem, aged 74, succumbed to a heart attack and renal failure at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. He had suffered from cardiac disease and diabetes for thirty years, and recently he experienced his fifteenth heart attack. Carl was born on June 28, 1942 in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Walter and Pearl Knerem. After graduating with a business degree from Ohio State University in 1965 and pursued a varied business career until he retired in 2003. He began in 1966 as a fashion merchandiser for JCPenney. He was co-owner of a nightclub and Maître d' of a fine restaurant in Cleveland and was a champion ballroom dancer in the 1970s.. In 1973 he entered the jewelry industry and became the sales manager for Eli Metal Products, serving them for twenty years.

Carl and his life partner, Tom Matt, joined our church in July 1987. Carl was caring for his mother who also joined FBCIA. The three of them moved to Medford, Oregon when business took them there, and they transferred their membership in 1990. When business brought them back to Providence in 1992, they reunited with FBCIA, and Carl became the residential director at the Avalon at Center Place in Providence. Various circumstances saw them go from and return to FBCIA three more times between 1997 and 2010. Beginning in the 1980s Carl had been an advocate in the HIV AIDS community. As Carl's health deteriorated, they moved to Wilton Manors, Florida in 2014. He was cremated and his ashes spread in Florida.



N.J. Unaka described the architectural work that he has been doing for the Tizyane Community Design Project in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.



On Palm Sunday Pastor Jamie greeted Dot White, Lena Gates, Vena and Jiehas Su, and Mark Hall after the worship service.



Pastor Jamie led a worship service on Maundy Thursday following a simple meal of soups and breads.



Having spoken about Jesus washing the Disciples' feet at the Last Supper, Pastor Jamie offered to polish the shoes of anyone who wished it. Karin Patton was first and Stephen Martorella was nearly the last one. He had played hymns while everyone else got their shoes shined.



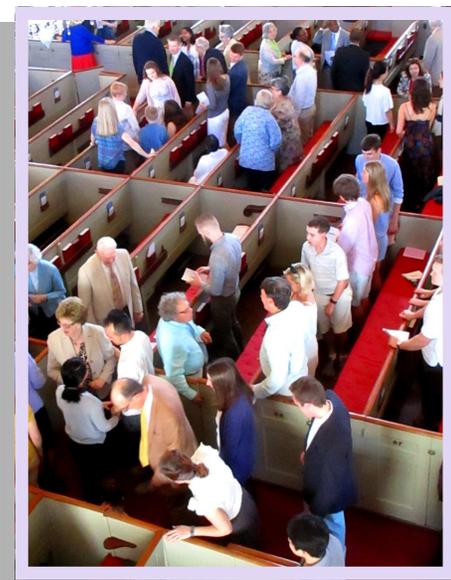


The celebration of Easter began with a traditional breakfast which was attended by more than fifty people

The United States Coast Guard Brass Quintet provided a played the preludes in the church worship service and accompanied the choir and congregation in several other pieces.



A goodly number of people turned out for the Easter worship service.



Joanne Schneider and Ruth Marris Macaulay sported Easter hats.





Youngwha Lee regularly attended FBCIA during the years that she taught at Bryant University. She returned to South Korea and to her home church, the Somang Presbyterian Church where she teaches a Sunday school class. She sends Easter greetings to her friends at First Baptist.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of Rhode Island

invite all of our sisters in faith to join us for our up-coming **Tri-State Spring Conference at Canonicus on June 2 - 3**. Attached is the flyer and registration form (please post at your church). Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to share time with the women of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Hope to see you!

[ABWMRI Conference flyer](#)
[ABWMRI Conference registration](#)

Spring Celebration

April 29, 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 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

Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

VACATION

I will be out of the office on vacation beginning Friday, April 21st through Friday, April 28th. Ann-Marie Bausserman will be in the office during my absence. Please send all correspondence to annmarie.fbc@gmail.com.

Thank you. Holly



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**

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
Haley Jamroz Baccaire, ASL Interpreter

2017 Sunday Calendar

- Sun. April 23**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Forum: Kilah Walters-Clinton will address the forum on her work as a parole officer
Sunday School: Come to Breakfast
John 21:1-14
- 11:00 AM Worship: Pastor Jamie Washam
Worship Leader: Richard Lepore
Greeters: Dianne and Edgar Thyret
Ushers: Larry Whelpley and David Paul
Tour Guide: Richard Aubin
- Sun. April 30**
- 10:00 AM Sunday Forum: Kathryn Palen: Living Fully and faithfully in the Third Third of Life
Sunday School: Feed My Sheep! John 21:15-19
- 11:00 AM Worship: Lawrence Wilson
Worship Leader: Diego Arene Morley
Greeters: Lena Gates and Arthur Marois
Ushers: Richard Lepore
Tour Guide: Alice Miles

Drivers Needed!

Walanga and Bunyenu-Elelwa and their 8 children are Baptist refugees from the Congo who wish to attend our church on a regular basis. We have been able to get most of them to church the last two Sundays.

We need two or three vehicles each Sunday through May 21 to transport them. They live on Broad Street near the Providence/Cranston line and have car seats for the three youngest children. Our hope is to transition them to coming by bus in the future.

If you could commit to even one Sunday, it would be helpful. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or you can email Susan Lepore susanlepore@gmail.com and let her know what Sundays you can help, if you can provide transportation to and/or from church on that Sunday and how many people you can fit in your car.

Thank you for your continued support of the refugee families in Providence.