

THE SPIRE

Newsletter of the First Baptist Church in America

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From the Pastor

As the New Year begins, we are reminded of our interdependence, and our reliance on one another. In the stories surrounding Jesus' birth, great care is taken to involve people of all social strata: census bureaucrats, shepherds, the elderly, foreign astronomers, and a hostile king, to name a few. Mary and Joseph's lives were affected by and intertwined with these and countless others. This serves to remind us, now, of our call to live intentionally and well with one another.

Carmen Perez, the executive director of the Gathering for Justice, which addresses mass incarceration and child incarceration, recently declared, "I'm a proud Mexican-American and Chicana who deeply believes that black lives matter and that once black people are free, then my people will be free." Her sentiments echo those of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King who called for a day when children of all races would be free to live with dignity and equality. Over and again, Jesus taught that when we do anything for "the least of these" we do it for Christ himself. Who are the ones Jesus speaks about in our world today?

This year, I challenge you to go beyond your usual circles. Take the time to pay attention to those with whom you are connected, by economics, by geography, by the clothes you wear, and the food you eat. Pay attention to those you are certain you have nothing in common with: your political opposite, someone of another faith, or zip code. Determine this to be the time to live in a way that honors and recognizes Jesus in our midst, in the face of our neighbor, a child, a store clerk, or a fellow citizen. Remember that Jesus and his family were visited and affected by all manner of people. May we live with a similar awareness in the world.

Jamie Washam

In Memoriam



Gloria E. Lindia, age 90 of Greenwich Farms in Warwick, died Wednesday, December 20, 2017 at Kent Hospital. Born March 2, 1927 in Hartford, CT, she was the daughter of the late Bertram and Ethel (Benson) Lindberg. The wife of the late Louis Lindia, they were married just shy of thirty-five years.

After high school, Gloria attended a business school and worked for General Electric until the time that she married Louis on August 28, 1949. Her husband worked in Quality Control for Leeson Corp. in Warwick. When John Brown Company bought out Leeson Corp. they were relocated to Burlington, N.C.

After the death of her husband, she moved to New Hampshire and was employed on the M/S Mount Washington on Lake Winnepesaukee. In more recent years Gloria volunteered at the New Hampshire Science Center in Holderness for a decade. In 2011 she moved from New Hampshire to Rhode Island to be near her daughter Holly Edwards and son Perry Lindia, and FBCIA received her by letter from Bethany Lutheran Church on July 20, 2014.

Some of her interests included cross country skiing, snow shoeing, swimming, knitting and word search puzzles. Gloria loved all animals and would house-sit for many of her friends' pets. Most of all, she found peace listening to hymns and FBCIA's choir.

Gloria was the mother of four children: Holly B. Edwards of Cranston (husband Walter M.), Perry L. Lindia (wife Margaret Murphy) of Cranston, the late Carrie F. Lindia of Ellsworth, NH, and the late Barry N. Lindia (wife Kate) of Mattapoisett. She is survived by seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; a brother: Wesley Lindberg (wife Norma) of Colorado, a sister-in-law: Lenora Quinn of Warwick She is also predeceased by a sister: Vera Lindberg Lindia.

FBCIA NEWS

Christmas Eve fell on Sunday, so the church had a double-header for services. The morning worship occurred in the Fellowship Hall with lots of singing. The evening worship was in the auditorium and was complete with organ and choir, lighting the Advent candles, message by Pastor Jamie, scripture and carols, and ringing of the bells.



The Missions Committee had a food-and-fun party in the week after Christmas principally for the children and youth of the Congolese families.

Jideobi Washam-Unaka and Olivia Jarbadan model two fedoras that once belonged to Arthur Marois.



Board of Mission News

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you to everyone who helped make the goals of Missions & Outreach possible in 2017. Your support is a vital part in making a difference both locally and globally.

Thank you so much!!

PICA



Remember to bring in your non-perishable items for PICA's food pantry. In January we will focus on bringing in another item in high demand: cans of tuna fish. This is one step we can take to combat hunger in our neighborhood.

Save the Date!

Thinking about summer plans in the new year? The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America will hold their annual **Peace Camp** this summer **July 2-7** at Keuka College in NY and is open to children and adults of all ages. Their topic is Decentering Power & Privilege: Becoming the Stranger. There are 4 vouchers available to those wanting to attend. Please see Janet Davies if you'd like to know more to plan ahead.

Announcements

Prayer for the 10th Annual Interfaith Vigil to End Poverty in Rhode Island

God of us all, giver of life and breath and being, we greet you with gratitude and joy!
We pray with our whole selves: marching, singing, sharing, speaking up, being still, holding our peace, working to make justice for all, voting, receiving, offering, being joyful and aware.
We pray with our mouths, with our minds, our bodies.
We call you by many names, and we pray in many ways.
Now, we pray with our eyes open.
We bear witness to the disparities in our midst, the distorted gaps between those who have and those who have not. Today, we sing, we pray, we march, but God, this is not all. Embolden us to act, to create the world where each one is dignified and has enough.
Make our leaders see, make them uncomfortable with the way things are, bless them with a holy and righteous discontent with business as usual. Give them the courage to do what is just, not only what is expedient or easy. Give our leaders vision and compassion and boldness on behalf of those who live with their backs against the wall. For those of us in the struggle, give us heart; in spite of all evidence to the contrary, keep us from cynicism and numbness and despair.
When the world breaks our hearts, may they break open and not shatter.
Now, we pray with open hearts, we pray with open eyes, we pray with open hands. We pray, and act, and live together, with our whole selves. Amen.

Rev. Jamie P. Washam

Shabbat (Sabbath Prayer Service)

Friday, January 12 at 7:00 PM
Temple Beth-El,
70 Orchard Street,
Providence

You are invited to join in a special Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat service at Temple Beth El in Providence on Friday, January 12 at 7 pm. The service will emphasize reconciliation, within and amongst our faith traditions.

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2017 Sunday Calendar

- Sun. January 7 10:00 AM Sunday School/ Sunday Morning Forum -
 Ruth will finish the Advent candles series with a
 presentation on joy.
- 11:00 AM Worship: Jamie Washam
 Worship Leader:
 Greeters: Michael Carver and Nic John Ramos
 Ushers: Barry Bainton and Tom Shackelford
- 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Stan Lemons
- Sun. January 14 10:00 AM Sunday School/Sunday Morning Forum
 Susan Lepore will talk about her trip to meet
 Muslims in Georgia (the country not the state)
- 11:00 AM Worship: Jamie Washam
 Worship Leader: Elsa Grieder
 Greeters: Susan and Richard Lepore
 Ushers: Barry Bainton and Tom Shackelford
- 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Joanne Schneider
- Sun. January 21 10:00 AM Sunday School/Sunday Morning Forum
 Ruth Marris Macaulay will do three forums
 on Biblical archaeology and the historical Jesus
- 11:00 AM Worship: Kathryn Palen
 Worship Leader: Richard Lepore
 Greeters: Mary Alice Kleiber and Lena Gates
 Ushers: Tom Shackelford and Dick Aubin
- 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Elsa Grieder
- Sun. January 28 10:00 AM Sunday School/Sunday Morning Forum—Ruth
 11:00 AM Worship: Linda Bausserman
 Worship Leader: Michael Carver
 Greeters: Donna and Henry Campopiano
 Ushers: Tom Shackelford and Dick Aubin
- 12:15 PM Tour Guide: Richard Aubin
 Annual Meeting and Deli Luncheon