



# First Baptist Church of Pawtucket Herald

February/March 2019

Inside this issue:

- Celebrations 2
- Ministry Matters 2
- Spotlight: Linda Castle 3
- Happenings 4
- Inspirations 4
- Joyful 'toon 4

## *Embracing the New God Has for You*

God told His people through the Prophet Isaiah: *“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland ...to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise”* (Isaiah 43:19-21).

How do you respond to the new things God is doing in your life, our church and the world? How do you react to change? Do you embrace it, believing that the Lord will successfully guide you, or do you simply tolerate it, reluctantly trying to adjust over time? Some people resist new experiences altogether, from pursuing a new job to moving to a different area. They may fear that having to think in new ways or do new things will disrupt their sense of security.

But our loving God of the past, present and future is constantly moving and revealing Himself in new ways. In fact, the Lord wants to change our



hearts and lives, and even our church for the better. So how do we, individually and as Christ’s church, embrace the “new” that God has for us?

One way is to be willing to let go of the past, if it hinders us from being able to move forward. That may mean releasing certain expectations, desires, thoughts, behaviors, and even some people that negatively influence our lives.

Embracing the new also requires opening our hearts to what God’s doing and seeing its potential. To some people, change is an unwanted visitor or

intruder. But when it is part of God’s plan, it can become our best friend!

The prophet Isaiah’s words above were spoken to a people in bondage. Many Jews were living in exile after Babylon conquered their nation. Some lost hope and faith. They did not understand that God was preparing to do a new thing: free them. As we approach the season of Lent, let’s remember the “new” things God did through Jesus’ death and resurrection. May they encourage us to embrace the “new” God has for us and to proclaim His praise! Faith & hope, Pastor Linda

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Services  
10:45-11:45 am

Sunday School for Children  
& Youth 11:00-11:45 am  
(except 1st Sundays)

Wednesday Prayer Gathering  
6:30 pm

### First Baptist Church of Pawtucket

91 Cottage Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Phone: 401-725-7225

Email: [fbc pawtri@verizon.net](mailto:fbc pawtri@verizon.net)  
Web: [www.fbc pawtucket.org](http://www.fbc pawtucket.org)

Pastor: Rev. Linda Watkins

## MISSION & VISION

We are a welcoming and loving Christian community that provides worship, outreach and fellowship to all. We envision a world in which all people experience the love of God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Celebrations and Acknowledgments



Kevin Andrews



Joshua Giglietti

## Happy Birthday!

### February

- 6 Evan Smith
- 7 Kevin Andrews
- 11 Sophie Artery
- 15 Stephanie Gregorio
- 16 Barry Bobola
- 16 Pam Walker

### March

- 1 Susannah Michaud
- 11 Joshua Giglietti
- 15 Arlene Dube
- 17 Richard Bobola
- 17 Pat Rolfsema
- 17 Rob Dube
- 22 Steve Bobola
- 27 Jay Dufault
- 29 Eric Haselton

**Lent begins March 6, Ash Wednesday. Let's prepare our hearts for this sacred season.** ♥

## Thank you FBC ~

To our friends at FBC, We are thankful for your business not only at this time of the year, but the whole year through. Best wishes for a blessed Holiday season.

*Kayla, The Flower Shoppe*

to the planning, the gourmet specialties, and to the enjoyment of the day. I am very proud of how everyone participated to make the party such a success and tribute.

*Love to you all most sincerely,  
Carolyn Volmer*

## Congratulations

Former FBC member **Linda Moore** was installed recently as the pastor of Cross Mills Baptist Church in Charlestown, RI. Congratulations, Linda!

FBC Food Pantry volunteer **Robert "Bobby" Brown** was ordained as a Deacon at his home church, Woodlawn Baptist Church in Pawtucket. Praise God!

Dear Friends at FBC and Pastor Linda, The basket of flowers sent to me on my birthday were and are beautiful. The colors are perfect in my living room. I so appreciate your thoughtfulness. It was wonderful to see so many of you at the buffet to honor the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rev. Watkins as our Pastor. It was a perfect day and so many contributed

## Ministry Matters



## Ministry Matters



Here are some highlights from FBC's 2018 Annual Report. Complete copies are in the church office.

### DEACONS

The Deacons thank the many folks that have volunteered their time and talents during worship services as Ushers, Greeters, Worship Leaders and with flower distribution. Thank you to the "foodies" among us that have so generously given their time and effort to make the Hospitality Hour so welcoming. The Deacons

would love to incorporate your strengths and vitality from time to time in such roles in the year ahead. Your efforts can certainly help this church grow.

### CHRISTIAN ED

All teachers are using the David C. Cook curriculum by Judson Press to the fullest. Attendance this past year (though) has been extremely low. We have completed the renovations to Mrs. Doe's room - a lock on the closet door; a new white-board, and freshly painted walls. The

Artery family donated their living room set to our youth room.

### MISSIONS

Quarterly collections were taken in 2018 for the four special ABC-USA Mission offerings with an increase in giving over 2017 levels. Thanks for your generous support. With the help of volunteers, we continue to serve over 130 households in Pawtucket and Central Falls, September to June. Monetary donations to the Pantry by FBC members in 2018 totaled \$933.12.

# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Linda Castle

In this issue of the *Herald* we are very pleased to feature First Baptist member Linda Castle (L), a life-long resident of Pawtucket, RI.

### How long have you been a member of FBC?

L: I've been a member of the church since April 1984 and was introduced to FBC by my husband, Bob, who had been a member.

### What ministries have you been involved in at FBC?

L: At one time, I was a helper at FBC's afterschool program, Chair of the Deacons, and part of the Women's Ministry at the church.

### What do you like most about our church?

L: The people. The people always had an interest in me.

### Would you please tell us about yourself?

L: I have been married to Bob Castle for 51 years, we have 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren. I attended Community College of RI and studied Respiratory Therapy. I gave breathing tests to patients at Miriam Hospital for 7 1/2 years and worked at a doctor's office in Warwick for another 7 1/2 years.

### What might someone be surprised to know about you?

L: I do quilting and

sewing, and each year I vacation in Aruba.

### Do you have a favorite worship song?

L: "In the Garden" is my favorite song. It is a calming song.

### Are there any words of wisdom you'd like to share with younger generations at our church?

L: Do your best. Don't give up easily. If you try harder, it will be easier as you keep doing it.

For 29 years Linda has lived with Parkinson's Disease and still continues to do her best. Many are blessed by her wisdom and strength.



## Ministry Matters



## Ministry Matters

### TRUSTEES

We now have a cleaning company coming to clean the church. The different FBC boards are rotating opening the church on Sundays. The Financial Secretary responsibilities are temporarily being taken on by Pat Bobola and Jennifer Dyson. IBE has hung a 65 inch TV in the Sanctuary for us to also use. The Board of Trustees and the Christian Ed board participated in a church safety class with the Pawtucket Police department.



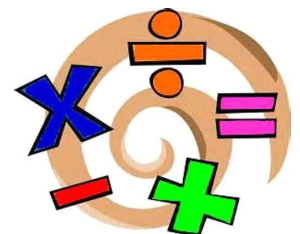
### GIRL TALK!!

In the very near future FBC plans to launch a new ministry - "Girl Talk!!" "Its purpose is to help girls in Pawtucket, ages 14-18, empower one another to do great in life," said FBC Deacon Regina Brown, who proposed this ministry at our church's fall retreat.

Initially, the group will meet once a week at our church and operate under Christian Education. Stay tuned for more information.

### MATH TUTORING

Are you a young person who needs to sharpen your math skills? FBC is offering free math tutoring for youth in our surrounding community. The tutoring for students in grades 6-12 is provided on Wednesdays, 3:00-4:30 pm. Interested parents or youth should call FBC at 401-725-7225 to schedule an appointment.



### Free Fisher Piano Needs A Loving Home

If interested contact Sharon Petroff at 401-447-6352 or [sharedge@verizon.net](mailto:sharedge@verizon.net).



# Happenings



## FBC Movie Night & Discussion "Unbroken: Path to Redemption" Wed., February 13, 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us for this powerful true story of forgiveness, redemption, and amazing grace based on Laura Hillenbrand's bestselling book. This film about the post-war life of Olympian and WWII hero Louis Zamperini was released in September.



## FBC Movie Night & Discussion "The Grace Card" Wed., February 27, 6:30-8:30 pm

This compelling and very relevant movie shows how each day we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships, discover new levels of forgiveness, and heal deep wounds through God's grace.



## Open Call For Entries: Annual Pawtucket Foundation Art Prize Exhibition

Pawtucket Arts Collaborative and Pawtucket Foundation are the hosts. Entries accepted through midnight of March 9. The opening is March 28. Open to all artists in all media, 2-D and 3-D. Juror Dominic Molon is a Curator of Contemporary Art at the RISD Museum of Art. \$1000 Pawtucket Foundation Prize and \$250 PAC Prize. Visit <https://pawtucketartscollaborative.wildapricot.org/2019-Foundation-Show> for submission guidelines.

## FBC Midweek Lenten Bible Study "The Case for Easter: Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus"

Wed. March 20-April 10, 7:00-8:00 pm

This fascinating DVD Study by Lee Strobel investigates the story surrounding Jesus' resurrection and how we can know it's true based on faith *and* facts. All are welcome!

## AB Women's Mission and Service Team Event "Celebrating 100 Years of White Cross" Saturday, March 23, Registration 8:30 a.m.

Our faith sisters will gather to hear from the American Baptist Missionary in Nicaragua, Dr. Laura Parajon. Program starts at 9:00 a.m. at Phenix Baptist Church, 2 Fairview Avenue, West Warwick, RI. Come and be inspired!

# Inspirations

## Wise Words from African American Christians in Celebration of Black History Month

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

– Barak Obama, former U.S. President

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

- Harriet Tubman, abolitionist, political activist and a leader of the Underground Railroad

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pastor, preacher, author and Civil Rights leader

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

– Maya Angelou, poet, singer, novelist, dancer and civil rights activist

"You never know how or when you'll have an impact, or how important your example can be to someone else."

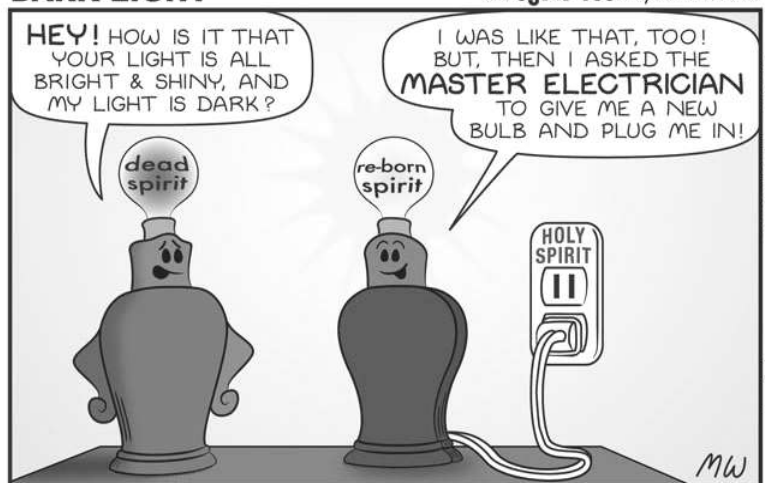
- Denzel Washington, Academy Award winning actor

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

- Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut

### DARK LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

– MATTHEW 6:23 NIV