April Showers bring May Flowers!

I am now settled that spring is my favorite time of year! The beauty of all the blooms, the colors, the shapes, the sizes, the symmetry – from trees to flowers, to even tiny weeds; all exquisite and beautiful. I look up and see the sky so blue and the fluffy clouds. I look around and listen to the wind and to the birds. So Amazing!

And for all of the beauty of new birth to appear, there needed to be a time of dormancy. In the cold days of winter when all looked bleak and dreary and lifeless, there was the hope of new life and the array of spectacular color was moments from bursting onto the scene.

We need the water and the showers that April brings to take us into the full bloom of May. Life is like that too! Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything and while we may not like the dark, dreary, sad, and seeming lifeless times, we have the promise of new life. We have hope that the seasons change and that God’s timing is ever perfect. We need the winter to take us into spring and in the spring we need the showers, summer comes and then fall.

There’s a saying that says, “Life’s not about waiting for the storm to pass. It’s about learning to dance in the rain.” And as we learn to dance in the rain, we await the promise of beauty and blessing of spring.

So, this spring take time out of your busy schedule to thank God for faith, family and friends. Thank God for the seasons of life that come and go. If you are a workaholic, stop once in a while and spend quality time with family. Tell them you love them! If you are not in church, get back to church to receive but also to give of yourself. It will make a difference in your life. If you are a child of God, practice living a life of gratefulness. It will change your attitude! Following are some prayers that I invite to say during this spring:

Dear God, thank you for nature and its entire splendor. Help me always to stop and to smell a rose, to treasure a daisy and to bask in the white fluffy clouds. Amen.

Merciful God, in you we trust in storm and calm, in winter and in spring, in the good and in the bad. Thank you for your steadfast love through it all. Amen.

Loving God, thank you for showers in life because they will sprout beauty and blessing, if we keep hope alive. Amen.

Creator God, for all good gifts of family and friends I give you praise and for all the tenderness stored in the gentle breeze and in the serenity of a peaceful garden. Amen.

--- Pastor Mayra
Congratulations to our May Graduates

Jesse Kline  
BS - English Literature and Government, Smith College, May 18th

Michelene Lambros  
BS - Nutrition, Montclair State University, May 17th

Greg Scott  
BS - Computer Art, Syracuse University, May 10th

May God’s blessings follow you wherever you go and whatever you do!

Rhode Island Trip  
May 28 - 31  
We will be participating in educational activities, service projects, and working on our spiritual disciplines. Going to Providence, First Baptist Church in America founded by Roger Williams; seeing Roger Williams National Memorial; Brown University; then to Block Island, where we will be staying at Harbor Baptist Church, serving with the migrant workers center of Block Island (a ministry that provides meals, respite, and relevant information to the migrant worker population that staffs the resorts), attending a concert and worshipping on the beach. You can still join us! Contact Pastor Kadin.

Youth Schedule

Sunday, May 3—YG @5:00

Sunday, May 10—NO YG (Mother’s Day!)

Sunday, May 17, 12pm—Fishing trip (weather permitting)

Sunday, May 24—YG @5pm

Sunday, May 31—YG @5pm

FBC Kids looking forward to a summer of Faith, Friends and Fun!

Music, arts and drama is waiting for all the children as they learn to make good friends at the church through the friendship with Jesus (during worship time).

See Carleen Morris for details.

Camp Lebanon Scholarship—Donations Needed

We would love to hear that many of our FBC children will have a meaningful week at Camp Lebanon and other Christian camps this summer. However, sometimes families need some financial support to do so. **We need your help!** If you would like to make a donation of any amount, please leave a check in the church office with the memo “Camp Lebanon Scholarships”. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
Projects Completed
- Roof repairs near playground area and in lounge
- Dungeon, circular stairwell cleanup—thank you to Bill Hopkins, Warren Hanscom and Paul Clark
- Installation of 3 cameras
- Painting/Carpeting of back stairwell; kitchen lighting

Projects to be Completed
- New glass in breezeway to be installed soon
- General clean up around the perimeters of church (see below)
- Mobile Meals lighting improvement

MAY CLEANUP!
Can you spare a little time the morning of May 9 (or rain date May 16), between 9 and 12 to help beautify our church grounds? Come for as little or as long as you can. We need to catch up on things like raking, weeding, trimming, spreading mulch, picking up loose garbage and maybe even some planting.

2015 Ministry In Action Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual As of 3/31</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions - Pledge</td>
<td>39,825</td>
<td>177,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions - Plate/Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>23,366</td>
<td>92,799</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>301,907</td>
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| **Expenses**         |                   |              |
| Programs             | 5,437             | 33,793       |
| Management & Admin   | 42,469            | 204,268      |
| Building & Grounds   | 36,572            | 127,535      |
| Office               | 1,120             | 10,500       |
| **Total**            | 85,598            | 376,096      |

| Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) | (16,886) | (74,189) |

| Non Restricted Funds Available | 168,534 |

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.
Congratulations to Suleima and Dario Diaz on the birth of Natalia Lorena, born April 5.

Welcome to our new custodian, Monica Cano. Monica began this month as Adriana’s replacement, keeping our church sparkling clean!

WOMENS BOOK CLUB discusses “Flight Behavior”
SAT, MAY 16, 10AM CHURCH LOUNGE
All are welcome.
E-mail Bette for more information, elzsg@netscape.net

Thank You...

...Cheryl Rosario for coordinating our Church Gathered/Church Scattered Sunday and to all those who participated.
...Patrick Martin for being our efficient Candle Lighter!
...Cherie Parker, Elaine Pratt, Trish Scott and Mary Dobos for making sure that our Easter Sunrise pre-breakfast and breakfast was delicious
...Terry & Ken Wooster, who coordinated our Easter Flower ordering and distribution, and to those who helped on Easter Sunday: Dwight, Wendy, Katie and Molly Engel, Allison Johnson, and Chris Varsanyi.
...Dot Waugh, and Linda Johnson for helping to mail out the April Messenger.
...NJSACC for purchasing 5 round tables for the church.

Supermarket Gift Card Program

Thank you to all those who have participated in the Shop Rite Gift Card Program. I am pleased to announce starting in May, Stop & Shop will be added to the program. With a total order of $500 or more, Stop & Shop will donate to the church an amount equal to 5% of the total order.

We will follow the same process as the Shop Rite program. Complete an order form noting which store the cards should be purchased from, the denominations wanted, and the total of the order. We will place orders once a month. All orders need to be received by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Orders received after this date will not be processed until the next month.

Order forms can be found in the manila envelope posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Checks, payable to First Baptist, and completed order forms can be dropped off in the church office. Friends and family may also purchase cards. You may speak with Cherie Parker if you have any questions concerning this program.

-- Finance Committee

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Our ESL Program will begin on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have 4 tutors ready and we will be training others that have expressed interest in becoming an ESL Tutor.

This is how you can help:
* Pray for Rintu Mathew, program coordinator, for the tutors and for the students
* Get the word out about the program to help in recruiting students and more tutors—Flyers available!
* Consider getting involved in one way or another.
Financial Times

I don’t know about you, but the last thing I have time for on Sunday morning is to write a check for the offering at church. I know, I should do it Saturday night and have it ready for Sunday morning, but I’ve never been that organized. Besides, on Saturday night, I’m probably taking the dog out and trying to get to bed at a decent hour.

And then, there’s the summer time, when lots of extra expenses seem to creep into the budget, and you end up a bit short when you go to pay the bills. So maybe you just put off writing the check for offering at church until next month, but when next month comes, you’re in the same situation. Then fall comes and you’re writing checks for twice as much as usual just to meet your pledge by the end of the year.

So here is a suggestion that I’ve found at least keeps your pledge up to date and doesn’t cause you to be writing a check for offering during the call to worship or the opening prayer. If you have access to online banking, and most of us do in this age of the Internet, one of the features that you probably have is a bill paying function. What I’ve done is create the church as one of my vendors and once a month (or whatever period you might choose to use), the bank automatically writes a check from my account and mails it for me to the church. I can time it so that the debit gets made on a date when I know I’ve got money in the account because I’ve just gotten paid, or I’ve just had a pension payment deposited, or I’ve just gotten a social security check.

So I never have to worry about taking the time to write the check for the offering, or whether I’m not going to be in church because I’m on vacation. My gift gets sent like clockwork and I take care of my church giving as the priority that it deserves. Give it a try.

Steve Lind, Church Treasurer

MAY 2015 (ongoing calendar on back page)

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<td>Deacons meet, 7pm</td>
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<td>Finance Committee, 7:30pm</td>
<td>Facilities meets, 7:30pm</td>
<td>Musical Club concert, 7:30pm</td>
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<td>ESL classes begin</td>
<td>Agape Potluck Supper, 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office closed</td>
<td>June Newsletter deadline</td>
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<td>RI Trip (thru 5/31)</td>
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Here are topics discussed at Singles Morning Singles in April.

April 5th  What is your energy level?; April 12th  What type person are you attracted to?; April 19th  Who are you?; April 26th  What is the best thing money can buy?

We invite you to come downstairs, have a second cup of coffee, and join in the discussion. Sunday Morning Singles Discussion Group meets every Sunday in Harvey Hall from 9:00 am to 10:15 am. All are welcome.

—Maryann Friscia
Coming together in joyful worship,
we’re here...

· To share the reality of God’s love,
· To connect our lifestyles to Christian truth,
· And to put our faith into action through responding to needs in our community, nation, and world.