

# CBC Courier

Central Baptist Church ●

A Community Church

- PASTOR
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- & TREASURER
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## ◆ FROM THE PASTOR



I have just finished judging more than eighty entries in a national writing competition. These entries all fell into a category the competition describes as "theological reflection: devotional/inspirational."

One of my roles as a judge was to suggest ways each entry might be improved. I was surprised by how often I proposed that authors include a "so what." This was my way of encouraging authors to verbalize what difference their theological reflection might make in the lives of their readers. Put another way, what might that reflection actually inspire their readers to do or be?

As we look toward Easter, those same questions seem relevant. What difference does Easter make in our lives? What does the Easter message inspire us to do or be?

Those questions point to the importance of developing a clear sense of identity and purpose—both as individual people of faith and as a congregation. Recent studies of growing and dynamic congregations reveal that those communities of faith have a clear and shared sense of who they are and what they are about.

*cont. inside*

## Easter at CBC

6:15 a.m.

Sunrise Service  
(Beavertail Parking Lot 3)

7:00 a.m.

Pancake Breakfast

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m.

Reception

We will begin our celebration of the good news of Easter with a sunrise service at Beavertail. We then will share a pancake breakfast at the church. Our service of Easter celebration will feature joyous music and a sermon that explores what the message of Easter might mean for us. Our service will be followed by a special reception.



## ▼ Pastor *cont.*

This spring and summer we will offer a number of opportunities to explore our sense of identity and purpose.

One of those opportunities will be available during our upcoming worship services. We will use stories of the early church in the Book of Acts to explore what it means to be a faith community today.

The series *Called to Be Church: Stories for a New Day* will include:

- April 11 ..... *A Called Community* ..... Acts 1:1-14
- April 18 ..... *A Practicing Community* ..... Acts 2:14-18, 42-27
- April 25 ..... *A Witnessing Community* ..... Acts 4:1-3, 16-20
- May 2 ..... *A Transforming Community* ..... Acts 9:1-20
- May 9 ..... *An Open Community* ..... Acts 11:1-18
- May 16 ..... *An Evolving Community* ..... Acts 15:1-12

For those who are interested in studying the stories from Acts more deeply, our Wednesday-morning Bible study will offer that opportunity. On April 7, we will begin a study of *The Book of Acts for a New Day*. Each session will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will focus on the scripture text that will be used during the following Sunday's worship service.

The Executive Committee will be working on an approach for our congregation to build on the conversations that began during our recent home-based gatherings. More

information about this exciting opportunity to study and discuss the importance of developing a clear and positive congregational identity will be available in the near future. We hope that many within our congregation will participate in this process.

Another opportunity to explore who we are and what we do will

come as we consider our new church year. We will have important work to do as we consider our budget for the upcoming year. Our Board of Trustees will provide leadership as we work to make thoughtful and faithful decisions about CBC's future.

My prayer is that this sacred time will inspire us to engage the questions, study, conversations, and reflection we most need—and that, as a result, we will identify a meaningful and energizing “so what” in our life together as a community of faith.

Kathryn

## CBC at Trinity

Join friends from CBC for a performance of *The Syringa Tree* at Trinity Repertory Company at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 20.

This powerful play unfolds through the eyes of a young white woman who grew under Apartheid in South Africa. As she recalls twenty-eight characters capturing four generations, Lizzie paints an evocative portrait of the abiding love between two families—one black, one white. The result is a haunting, joyous memory play of sacrifice, liberation, and bonds that cannot be broken.

Tickets are \$40 each. If, however, we have a large enough group, we will be able to get a discounted rate. Please reserve your place with our CBC group by contacting Kathryn by Sunday, April 18.



Moving  
Forward  
Together

Stewardship Campaign Update  
2010-2011 Pledge Goal: \$109,000

Pledges received as of March 28:  
48 pledges totaling \$65,308

► The Stewardship Committee still welcomes pledges for our 2010-2011 church year.



**June Festival**  
*Saturday, June 26*

Mark the date, and begin setting aside items for our June Festival.

Items may include:

- books, movies, music CDs
- small wooden furniture, wicker furniture, rugs in good condition, and working small appliances and electronics.
- vintage items

Please also request donations for the silent auction or raffle from merchants you frequent.

We will need everyone's help to ensure another successful fair!

**Central Baptist Church**

*presents the second in a series of*

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

***The State of the Economy***  
**with U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI)**

**7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7**

**99 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835 (401) 423-1651**

**WE'RE 28 DENOMINATIONS STRONG!**



**Central Baptist Church**

**P.O. Box 295**

**Jamestown, RI 02835**

**A COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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