

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
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From the Pastor



ADVENT is a time of spiritual preparation. Quite literally, the word in Latin, *Adventus*, means “to arrive.” The time is now. This season embraces the first coming of Jesus to Bethlehem of Judah two thousand years ago, as well as the anticipated return and second coming of Christ in the future. For now, we journey together as people focused on our spiritual heritage, our present reality, and our future hope. As we seek holiness in our lives, I remember the phrase “God with us,” and how it encourages us to not speak or act as though we are all alone. I hear myself praying this throughout the day, and allow it to guide me through the highest and lowest of moments. “God with us” reminds us that

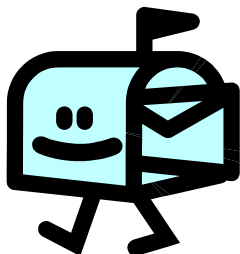
we are incomplete apart from our God, and it is in our desire to be guided in every moment that we find the peace and courage of Christ in our lives.

Because we are in a holy season, I ask that each of us set apart time in our daily schedule to clarify values, priorities, and what contribution we believe to be called to in this world. Our lives will intersect with opportunities to celebrate, testify, and share our spiritual life. Although spiritual preparation means facing parts of our lives that may be difficult, that may need changing, and that may lead to struggle – Advent ultimately leads to life eternal. And, be encouraged that “God with us,” will guide us every step and moment of our way. This Advent season began this past Sunday, November 30, and continues through Christmas Eve. We will gather together for a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Throughout these twenty-four days, we will worship through song, scripture, and most of all in fellowship with one another. God bless you, every one, and may this season be a time of rest, renewal, and remembering how much you are loved, and how much you have to offer.

Jason



Christmas Post Office

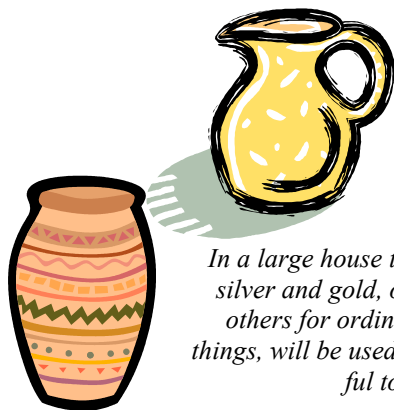


Our annual Christmas Post Office with postmaster Arlene Mills will begin on Sunday, December 7. You may start bringing your cards and place them in the tray in the Narthex. Please try to have them in alphabetical order, as it helps the postmaster and is greatly appreciated.

Your Christmas cards will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 21.

Save the Date

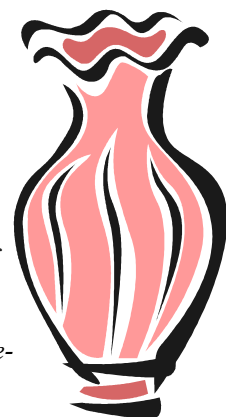
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 25, 2015



Vessels of God's Gifts

2 Timothy 2: 20-21

In a large house there are dishes and bowls of all kinds: some are made of silver and gold, others of wood and clay; some are for special occasions, others for ordinary use. Those who make themselves clean from all evil things, will be used for special purposes, because they are dedicated and useful to God, ready to be used for every good deed.



“To be replenished, we need to keep emptying ourselves to receive more. In that way, we become vessels, holding up one hand to receive the blessings and then opening up the other hand so that we become channels – letting those blessings flow into the lives of others.”

If you have not submitted your pledge card, please do so by December 10. The Board of Administration and Finance will meet on December 16 to formulate the church budget for 2015 and your pledge will help us formulate an accurate budget. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday, or contact our Financial Secretary, Lynn Monaco with your pledge amount.

December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Wonderful Wednesday 6:30 pm Dinner 7:15 pm</i>	4 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	5	6 <i>10:00 a.m. HBB Basket Party</i>
7 Second Sunday of Advent <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Pot Luck Lunch</i>	8	9	10 <i>Wonderful Wednesday 6:30 pm Dinner 7:15 pm</i>	11 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	12 <i>Salvation Army Din- ner</i>	13
14 Third Sunday of Advent <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	15	16 <i>7:00 p.m. A&F Meet- ing</i>	17 <i>7:00 p.m. Executive Council</i>	18 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	22	23	24 <i>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28 <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Deacons Meeting</i>	29	30	31			

Notes: AA meets : Monday evenings at 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. in the Children's Room
 Wednesday and Friday at Noon in Reilly Hall *All calendar entries are subject to change*

December Birthdays

2 Ray Zeman	21 David Mayrand
6 Eric Reilly	23 Dorothy Tucker
8 Virginia Stearns	24 Dylan Brown
11 James Donovan	26 Jay Reilly
14 Dawn Hanson	26 Marilyn Wakeman
15 Jeanne Emmons	31 Winston Lewis





During November, children heard the stories Jesus' parables and how to live in God's way. Among these stories were the parable of the rich land owner .We made coin bags to remind us to use the gifts God has given us and not bury them in the ground where they do no good. When we heard the parable of the 10 bridesmaids we made oil lamps to remind us to shine God's light into the world.

On November 30 we made Advent wreaths and each child went home with a weekly advent reading to share with their family.

In December, we will learn about Advent. We will talk about hope, peace, joy and love.

Happy Birthday Baby Basket Party

Saturday, December 6th

10 AM to whenever!

(come for an hour or come for the day)

Come join in the fun, making up baskets for newborn babies, mingle, gab, enjoy coffee, laughter, and munchkins! (while doing God's work!)



This year's Christmas offering will go to Family Services Coalition, a local ministry dedicated to families living in motels in the Framingham area. Your monetary donation helps provide essential products and programs such as:

- Purchase and distribute bus passes to individuals going to local medical appointments, WIC and DTA.
- Pay camp fees for children to attend the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club vacation camps once we exceed the number of allotted free slots.
- Respond to individual family requests for assistance as needed. For example, FSC paid the EMT test fee for a mom who had a scholarship for the EMT training course but not for the test. FSC also purchased baby formula and provided a gift certificate to Stop and Shop when a mom's WIC checks, cash and food stamps were stolen.



Christmas Offering

What Do You Know About The Jesse Tree?

Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story.

The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great King David. One prophecy in the bible, in the book of Isaiah, says:

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:1-3(NIV)

A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a decedent of King David and as Christians we believe that Jesus is this new branch.

The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows put in Churches that helped illiterate people to learn about the bible from creation to the Christmas Story. But now Jesse Trees are used as a kind of Advent Calendar. Each day through Advent (or sometimes just on the four Sundays of Advent) a special decoration or ornament that tells a story from the Bible, is hung on the tree. There are many different stories and symbols you can use. Here are just a few of the possible symbols and related stories: a rainbow for the story of Noah and the flood; a burning bush for the story of Moses; a sheaf of wheat for the story of Ruth; a ram for the story of Abraham and Isaac; an apple and snake for the story of Adam and Eve; a manger for the story of Jesus birth; a whale for the story of Jonah; and the list goes on.



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road

PO Box 2415

Framingham, MA 01703



*Wednesday,
December 24
7:00 p.m.*

*Rev. Jason Rutherford
Preaching*

*"What if God was
One of Us"*

Special Music

Candlelight

Christmas
Eve
Worship

