

Baptist Notes

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



A few years ago in the month of May I participated in a silent, spiritual retreat on the side of a mountain in Nelson County, Virginia. It was during this week that I was introduced to a meditative practice called *Otium Sanctum*, which is Latin for *Holy Leisure*. *Otium Sanctum* is a spiritual discipline highlighted by early Church Fathers where a worshipper of God turns attention away from external influences and distractions of his or her day and places complete focus upon God. Prayer, meditation upon scripture, and the appreciation of natural surroundings are a few of the ways people practice Holy Leisure. On the week-long retreat I attended, we observed silence 20 hours a day, fasted from telephones,

computers, televisions, and the like, and tried to temporarily break with the routine of our hectic lives. We learned that people committed to spiritual disciplines often refer to *Holy Leisure* as the opposite of measuring success by what is produced and quantified. Instead, attention is given to seeking balance in our life, the ability to be at peace with our self and others throughout the day, while taking time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation in our midst. Our focus shifted from being driven by a calendar or clock, which is reflective of *chronological time management*, and rested instead on the *opportune time* of our worship. A goal of our week in the woods was to rest sufficiently enough to then experience the spirit of God in a more full and contemplative way. As a result, we opened our self to the spirit of God without the restrictions often imposed by calendars and clocks, loud, insistent voices, and the need to rush from deadline to deadline. We breathed deeply and we waited patiently. Yes, God is in control, and we can trust to allow our lives a few moments of rest from our responsibilities and ambitions.

I want to encourage us to explore *Otium Sanctum* more often in our lives. Jesus did, often retreating for prayer and renewal, as documented throughout the Gospels. The point is to worship more freely; not bound by the need to rush toward another agenda item, but rather posture ourselves to let God's agenda be realized more fully within our lives. Currently, we might be tempted to meet for worship with one eye upon the Lord and another upon the clock. What if we decide to make time – opportune time – for unhurried, holy leisure? For example, what if we adopt the principles of *Holy Leisure* as a worship theme and emphasize times of worship without fixed agendas and order? Awkward? Yes. To invest ourselves fully while simultaneously loosening the reigns attached to the outcome is in itself a discipline. However, a new, more desired result can emerge; the result of growing deeper in our spirits while allowing the spirit of God to guide us in our time management. So . . . I share some food for thought as we continue to seek

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the discernment of God and administer within the Body of Jesus Christ. First, set aside time (chronological), for time (opportune) allowing God to re-create within us. Second, allow understanding of our self and our world to develop and mature. Third, recognize that we will be changed, growing closer and more full of God's holiness within us.

Jason

Update from "Library 4"

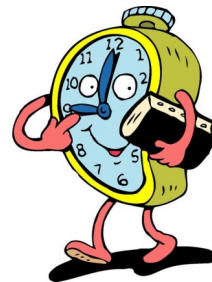
In April "The Very First Easter" was read, also the "Two Houses". At the end of April, for our homebound members, we made paper woven May baskets, with colored flowers.

In May we read some of the stories Jesus told - The Lost Coin, The Lost Sheep, the Lost Son and the Good Samaritan. On Mother's Day Mrs. Reilly had the children use sidewalk chalk to draw hearts on the front steps and the handicap entrance walkway. The children were each given their 3 x 5 picture in a plastic frame to give to their mothers. With several birthdays, each child near their birthday read part of Dr. Seuss' "Happy Birthday To You". On another Sunday they were read Joyce Meyers "Every Which Way to Pray".

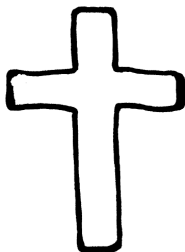
On Children's Day, June 8th those finishing second grade will receive NRSV Bibles: Janie Harris, Daniel Rutherford, Blake Thompson and Ramon Gonzales. Those completing 5th grade (leaving "Library 4") will each be given "One Wintry Night" by Ruth Bell Graham: Gabriel Erguiza, Winston Lewis and Xavier Allen.

Mrs. Marilyn Wakeman, Mrs. Shirley Ross and Mrs. Carolyn Reilly

Worship time changes
to 10:00 a.m.
on Sunday, June 15



Church Notes



We mourn the loss of **The Rev. Veronica "Ronny" Lanier** who died peacefully May, 28 surrounded by her family. She was 95. Jason will announce when her service will be held.

The church roof is scheduled to be replaced starting on Monday, June 9 (weather permitting). After the church is done, the roof on our Pleasant Street property will also be replaced.

*"Train up a child in the way they should go
and when they are old they will not depart from it."*

Proverbs 22:6

Happy Children's Day



Worship with us

June 8, 2014

10:45 a.m.

As we come together in celebration of the completion of another successful Sunday school year. We will also be acknowledging the academic achievement of our young people whom we have seen grow and mature over the years.

Parents as always we take the opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in getting the children/youth to Sunday school. We reach out to you one more time asking for your support as we work with the children in preparation for Sunday, June 8th.

Blessings and Thank you for all the support throughout the Sunday School Term.



Travel to Wilmington, DE August 18 –22

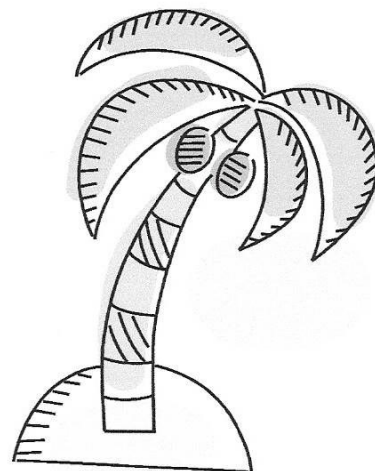
Opportunities exist to:

- Rebuild homes, communities and lives
- Encourage and support those in need
- Worship with local American Baptist congregations

Volunteers pay \$225 to cover food and housing (transportation is extra). Scholarships are available. Please see Lorna Mailhoit for more details.

**Sponsors: The Lutheran Church of Framingham,
The Plymouth Church, First Baptist Church in Framingham
and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**

Gospel Light's
**SONTreasure
ISLAND VBS**



Calling all kids age 3 – rising 6th grade to a cool island adventure this August at **Framingham's new Ecumenical Vacation Bible School!** You'll hear stories of Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy tunes, play wild and crazy games, eat yummy island food, do fun science, music and nature activities, participate in an exciting mission project, and make lots of new friends!

Each day offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities.

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 3 Maple St., Framingham

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Mon., August 18 – Friday, August 22

An evening family program will be held Friday, Aug. 22.

Costs: \$35 per child for VBS (Maximum of \$100.00 per family)

Scholarships are readily available.

(Please enquire from any pastor at the sponsoring churches.)

Extended care available upon request: \$10/hour per child.



Volunteers needed! No base fees for full-time volunteers.
Interested teens and adults please email
Lori at lmills-curran@standrewsframma.org.

Registration forms available online at

www.standrewsframma.org.

Make checks payable to The Plymouth Church

(memo line: VBS) and mail to:

**The Plymouth Church, Attn: VBS, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham,
MA 01702**

Registrations will be accepted on a "first-come, first served" basis. Class sizes may be limited.

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Pot luck lunch	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Children's Day 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Missions Meeting	9	10	11	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 Salvation Army Dinner	14
15 WORSHIP TIME CHANGES THIS WEEK 10:00 a.m. Worship	16	17 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	18 6:00 pm Fall Planning Meeting 7:00 pm Execu- tive Council	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:00 a.m. Worship Noon Deacons Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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

June Birthdays

3 Robert Woodhouse	23 Arlene Mills
9 Peter Wadsworth	27 Pat Travis
12 Janice Cooper	29 Gerry Mailhoit
15 Marty Tucker	29 Katie Donovan-Mailhoit
15 Ed Russo	30 Nicole Halbert



First Baptist Church in Framingham

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PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



Yard Sale A Success !!

By Kathie Zeman

Our recent Yard Sale netted a profit of over \$600 for the roof replacement. Even though the weather was not great—it was too wet to set up outside— it did not keep the customers away. By 9:00 am we had a line that stretched all the way up the ramp at the handicapped door entrance.

Many thanks to all who donated items and to those who came and shopped. Special thanks to those who helped lug boxes from storage places, sorted and organized, priced items and especially those who came to help clean up: Linda Devine (who did a great job on the publicity), Marilyn Wakeman (our cashier), Shirley Ross, Dorothy Tucker, the Harris family, Diane and Nicole Halbert, Jimmy Wakeman, Ginny Stearns, Jane Williams, Martin Acevedo, Ethel Lutton-Campbell, Jason Rutherford, and Ray Zeman.

All leftover items were taken to Savers, which in Framingham is a donation to the Epilepsy Foundation.