

October 2014

Baptist Notes

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



This past week I had the privilege of travelling on a civil rights historical pilgrimage through several southern states. Together with nine American Baptist clergy and lay leaders, we visited museums, churches, and people who were instrumental in the movement. As I shared in the morning worship service this week, I was not prepared for the emotion attached to being in these places, or the powerful testimonies of people we met along the way. Because we visited seven cities and towns across four states, it is not possible to go into great detail on every leg of the trip. However, while in Birmingham, Alabama, we met someone through connections of one of our group members, and I will share some of her story that left such an impact on our group.

Her name is Sarah Collins, and her younger sister Addie Mae Collins was of the four girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham on September 15, 1963. I am certain you remember the tragedy, a typical Sunday morning just prior to the morning worship service, five little girls between eleven and thirteen years of age were in the girl's parlor. Sarah was tying the sash on her sister's dress when the bomb went off on the other side of the exterior wall of the building. Four of the five girls were killed instantly, and Sarah lost her right eye as well as most of the vision in her left eye. As we visited the site with Mrs. Collins and her Husband George, she recounted the morning as if it were yesterday. I remember her saying that she stood there in shock, not knowing what was happening, and not realizing her sister and friends were laying just feet away as she called out for her sister.

She was taken to the hospital, and while in recovery for weeks, was told that she needed to get over it and move on with her life. Her church community raised six thousand dollars for her family to help with burial expenses. There were no more services or therapy to aid her in processing the experience. I only learned of her for the first time a few months ago. What is so discouraging about hate, prejudice, and the devaluing of human life that is a catalyst for such violence, is how treasured lives are lost and people are discarded and left to fall through the cracks. Mrs. Collins shared about the emotional toll this took on her life, and the ongoing psychological and spiritual struggles she encounters every day. Because she is now sixty-four, and has no retirement benefits to sustain her in the coming years after she stops working for the cleaning service where she is currently employed, she has been asking for help from the city of Birmingham and the state of Alabama. The Mayor of Birmingham and other city and state officials have told her that no program exists to help her.

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Following a documentary of National Public Radio, her cry for help has been heard. Churches in Massachusetts, as well as civic and religious organizations in other cities and states have responded. One of Mrs. Collins goals has been to move her sister's remains to a mausoleum. She began the process this past July, only to learn that the remains in her sister's grave were not her sister. They are the remains of an adult with dentures. While telling us the story, she recounted, "my sister did not have dentures." As of now, she has no idea where her sister Addie Mae's remains are.

As sad as it is to hear the pain, sadness, and shaking in Mrs. Collins voice, I believe she represents so many people who are lost, left to fall through the cracks of tragedy in this world. Her story brings new life to Jesus' teaching about the ninety-nine and the one. Jesus instructed his disciples, "which one of you having one hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one until he finds it. When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices" (Luke 15). Often this metaphor for the love of God is associated with people who do wrong. However, consistent with the life and ministry of Jesus, we see that it applies to those who are wronged. In truth, rejoicing will be for justice on behalf of Sarah Collins, as well as the one who planted that bomb. God is judge, and we pray earnestly that the grace and mercy of God will be upon the souls of the wronged and the wrong alike.

My encouragement to us all is to pray daily that we might be led to minister and care for the wrong, and the wronged, as well as any who are left out with no support or advocacy in their life. Jesus gave His life that we might live abundantly in service to one another.

Jason



This picture of Mrs. Collins was taken across the street from the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.



This picture of our whole group was taken on the church steps at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 4:00 p.m. Rummage Sale Set Up	4 9:00 a.m. rum- mage sale
5 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Pot Luck Lunch	6	7	8	9 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Missions Meeting	13	14 7:00 p.m. A&F Meet- ing	15 7:00 p.m. Executive Council	16 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	20	21	22	23 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24	25 9:00 a.m. AB Women
26 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Deacons Meeting	27	28	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*

October Birthdays



3	Emylee Poole	20	Gregory Zeman
3	Julia Woodhouse	21	Connor Reilly
4	Dotty Phillips	22	Tawanna Lewis
10	Lois Adams	25	Cassidy Lowell
15	Karen Reilly	27	Arianna Lewis
18	Kelly Rutherford	31	Daniel Stearns



In September we learned about the Season of Creation. During those four weeks, children explored stories about creation on the themes of Forests, Land, Wilderness, and Rivers. Care for creation was emphasized as children learned more about God's amazing world. On Land Sunday, the children created their own composters. We layered dirt, torn newspaper and leaves in plastic containers which we sealed but created some holes so our composters could breathe. Over the next weeks, we have "fed" the composts with grass clippings, coffee grounds, and some apple cores. The composters are sitting in the children's room and we are hoping that they will produce a nice compost we can use in the spring to plant some seeds.

In October, we will hear stories of Moses from the book of Exodus.

Please consider joining us for Sunday school opening at 9:45 a.m. We have been learning the songs "The B-I-B-L-E" and "This is the Day." Everyone is welcome. On the last Sunday of each month we celebrate birthdays for the next month. On September 7th we counted as Florence Pederson dropped 99 pennies into our birthday cupcake bank.



There will be no
Grotonwood Day
this year.

A special event is being planned
for later this year, more details
available soon.

You will see Grotonwood in a
whole new way.



Rise to the Challenge!

Support International Ministries through
the 2014 World Mission Offering

Thank you for your faithful support of this year's
World Mission Offering.

As we Rise to the Challenge together, our prayer is
that you will be blessed to be a blessing through this
year's World Mission Offering

We will take this offering for the whole month of
October.





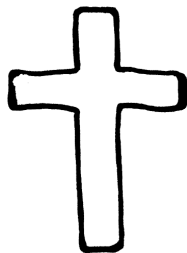
News From Family Promise Metrowest

The **Sweet Sounds IX** Concert to benefit Family Promise Metrowest will be held Saturday, October 4, at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union St., Natick.

Family Promise is a program providing temporary shelter and meals, assistance with education and job training, child care, clothing, transportation, access to health care, job search, parenting and budgeting classes, and more. The concert will benefit the new Transitional Housing Initiative.

The concert will feature a variety of musical genres and performers, including baritone Ron Williams, gospel singer Nadine Dillon, jazz by Ross Petot and Jimmy Mazzy, violinist Ilana Korsunsky, musical comedy, a cappella, and more. The evening also includes coffee, cider and desserts. Suggested donation is \$25 at the door. For more information, email lmarthinsen@verizon.net.

Save the Date: November 1, 2014: Enjoy an evening of fine food and beverages from some of your favorite local restaurants to benefit **Family Promise Metrowest**. While enjoying selections from Blue on Highland, Bertucci's and Nordstrom Café Bistro (to name a few) bid on a fantastic selection of silent auction goodies, including unique themed gift baskets. Wines from around the world will be available. Tickets will go on sale on September 1. Hosted at Energy Fitness in Natick, the evening will definitely be one you do not want to miss full of fine food, great company and exciting prizes to benefit a great cause!



Church Notes

Congratulations to **Rev. Lois K. Adams** who was installed as pastor at the First Baptist Church of Sharon on Sunday, September 28. Jason participated in the service and the choir sang two pieces. Many members of FBC Framingham attended. Lois was ordained here at FBC Framingham a year ago.

On Saturday, September 27 FBC Framingham hosted the **American Baptist Women** of Massachusetts for their Fall Conference. Over 65 women from around the state gathered for a day of worship, prayer and praise. At this meeting they prepared for their Day of Mission and Service which we will also host on Saturday, October 25.

Our stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, November 2. This year's theme will be **"We are Vessels of God's Love."** You will receive a letter with more details later this month. Please be in prayer about how you will financially support FBC Framingham in 2015.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
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Saturday, October 4
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(bag sale starting at 1:00 p.m.)

There will be a designated area in Jefferson Hall where you can drop off your items. Remember only clothes and shoes. We need help on Friday, October 3 as we sort, organize and price items. Come to Reilly Hall anytime after 4:00 PM. A light supper will be provided.

Help is also needed on the day of the Rummage Sale: a cashier or two, floor persons and last but not least we need a clean up crew.

This year, all profits will go to the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Please see Kathie Zeman to volunteer to help or call 508-875-2357 or email kezman@comcast.net.