

February 2015

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
PO Box 2415 ~ Framingham, MA 01703-2415
The Rev. Jason R. Rutherford, Pastor
508-872-1176
fbcframingham@verizon.net
www.firstbaptistframingham.com

From the Pastor



The Season of Lent, a period of forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter, begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday, and concluding on April 5 with Easter Sunday Celebration. Lent is a spiritual season of the Christian year when we take additional time to think and pray through our Christian Faith, and consider what additions and subtractions need to be made in our life. The purpose is to more closely align ourselves with the Holiness of God, and prepare to embrace opportunities to come. In short, the Lenten season is a time for starting fresh, and preparing to take new steps to deepen our spiritual formation.

Traditionally, Lent is associated with fasting. Sometimes fasting is associated with removing certain food choices from our diet. Also, fasting is associated with removing distractions and clutter in our mind and lives, and creating new time for healthy spiritual practices like meditation, additional church services, and time away from electronics and media.

Practically speaking, I offer these suggestions in preparation for the Lenten season:

- Set aside time for scripture. For example, read one chapter of Proverbs every day during Lent. Or, pick a Gospel and commit to read the whole Gospel between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.
- Set limits on the amount of internet browsing and television during Lent.
- Choose a small portion of scripture that is meaningful to you and recite it out loud every day.
- Choose a person or circumstance you are struggling with or worried about and pray about it every day.
- Give to a new ministry in your community or church activity with time and money.
- Forgive someone.
- Ask someone to join you in prayer. Prayer partners and groups are effective ways to refocus our lives as well as confront challenges and struggles.
- Most of all, remember that each and every one of us is deeply loved by God, including our best and worst of days, and every day we are accepted into the mercy and good grace of our Lord.

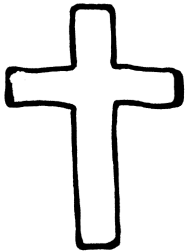
Jason

You Can Be A Star !!



Our Annual Talent Show will be held after lunch on Sunday, March 22, 2015. This event is always a lot of fun but more importantly is a major fundraiser for the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Please think about sharing your talents (whatever they may be) or just being part of the audience. Desserts will be on sale at intermission and we will take a free-will offering for the Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Kathie Zeman if you are interested in participating in a group activity. We are currently formulating ideas for this group act. No special talents required, just your enthusiasm and willingness to do almost anything. You won't regret it!!



News from **Youth Group**: Eight youth and adults traveled into Boston on January 17 to participate in the City Mission Society Day of Service. The FBC group worked in a Dorchester elementary school doing cleaning tasks that the ONE custodian for the building never has time to get to. Youth Group will meet on Sunday, February 8 at 5:00 pm for pizza and Bible study. Then on February 22 they will head out for an afternoon of tubing. Adult volunteers are also welcome.

News from **Sunday School**: During January we heard stories of Jesus' Baptism, Samuel and Eli and Jesus calling Simon, James and John to be fishers of men. Be sure to check out the bulletin board in Reilly Hall to see some of the crafts made for each story or ask a young person to explain what you see there.

3 Gail Harrington
5 Marques McEwan
6 Isabel Chute
9 Oshin Samuel
13 Bev Woodhouse
14 Cheryl Perry
14 Velissa Velazco
16 Stella Chapin

20 Lynn Monaco
22 Lecia Schronce
23 Jane Williams
24 Christine Jones
24 Carlota Velazco
26 Nancy Devine
27 Patrick Watton

February



February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Pot luck lunch</i>	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Missions Meeting</i>	9	10 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	11 7:00 pm Executive Council	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	16	17	18 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	23	24	25 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays</i> 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study	26 6:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28

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



We will celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season with a Worship Service on February 18 at 7 pm. The service will be our traditional hymn and scripture service, with an invitation for each person to come forward to receive a cross of ashes placed on your forehead. Ashes are a traditional Christian symbol for mortality and repentance. Mortality, because even though our spirit lives eternally, our bodies eventually die and return to the dust of the ground, and repentance because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did or did not do, they would put ashes on their head and wear scratchy clothing as a reminder of the discomfort sin brings to our life. The ashes come from burnt palm leaves from past Palm Sundays. The ashes are then mixed with a small amount of oil and saved for future Ash services.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



Framingham Comes Together

Thursday, February 12
7 pm

The inter faith Clergy Association of Framingham along with Community partners invites the residents of Framingham to a community forum on Thursday, February 12, at 7 pm. This will take place at

Town Hall, 150 Concord Street, Framingham. This free exchange of ideas and opportunity for sharing stories around the violence and loss of life in the tragedies of Ferguson, MO, New York city and the country. Our coming together is to affirm that all lives matter. All of Framingham is invited to come together and share our stories to empower the community of Framingham to begin the process of moving forward in meeting the challenges of a community that cares.