



January 2015

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
PO Box 2415 ~ Framingham, MA 01703-2415

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From the Pastor



We celebrate our freedom and our faith with enthusiasm. When it comes to action, even risk and fear of cost and loss, however, it is tempting to be more tentative. Jesus told a parable that is familiar and can be discussed with diverse perspectives. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, a story is recorded where Jesus spoke of a man going on an extended trip. He called his workers together and gave them sums of money to manage while he went away. He gave one five talents, another two talents, and to a third, one talent, each in proportion to his ability and potential. After a long absence he returned and the servants settled accounts with him. The first had multiplied his talents exponentially. The second doubled what he had. The third, however, buried his talent and

there was no growth on what he had been given. He followed up this burial with one excuse after another. Next, each of the workers was assessed and the first two praised for their work. The third, however, was thrown out into the darkness and despised.

This parable should cause each of us to pause and think deeply about our life and the meaning of it in light of our Christian Faith. We begin by asking ourselves, what does a talent represent? I do not think the parable is literally talking about money, investment banking, and stock dividends. I believe it is talking about talent defined as the bounty of life. Consider how miraculously we are created. This is the good news. The even better news is that we have been given a wealth of liberty and potential in our lives. The great expectations that exist on our behalf occur because our creator knows what we are and what we can become. On that thought, I encourage us to think about the spirit of God and the forming of God's kingdom on earth as an attainable goal, as well as one that will stretch our faith and life beyond human measure. What I have learned from people of faith is that we risk the most when we care the deepest and believe, whole-heartedly, in that which we invest our life. I am amazed at the risk I have seen in people's lives when their heart is engaged. Our lives will reflect the depth of our conviction. On the other hand, if we are not engaged or inspired by a cause or investment in our life, we will pull back, live an aloof life, and never see the true reward that our God hopes for each of us to see.

As we approach our future days, may we care more deeply, invest more whole-heartedly, and embrace the potential God has placed within each of our lives.

Jason

Update from "Library 4"

After reading "Humphrey's (a camel) First Christmas", the children made Nativity sticker sheets to place on the door knobs of some of our home bound and shut-in members and friends. In December we read "Clopper, the Christmas Donkey" as well as "Memories of the Manger". Instead of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" (re: Santa Claus) they were read "'Twas the Very First Christmas" (re: Jesus) After Christmas we listened to the CD of Mark Lowrey singing "Mary Did you Know?" while Mrs. Wakeman showed us pictures in the book of the same name by Mark Lowrey. That book was donated to our library by Pastor June Cooper. Then they sent out 2015 calendars to some of those house bound

Mrs. Wakeman, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Reilly

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 one of the major fundraisers 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.

1	Annette Stefanini	22	Phyllis Devine
6	Linda Devine	24	Patrick Gogan
9	Jacob Gogan	25	Naomi Stanley
10	JG Omans	25	Emmit Tucker
11	Charlie Poole	27	Andrew Brown
11	Jubilee Rutherford	29	Don Chute
12	Quentin Sewell	29	Nelson Samuel
15	Walter Ross	29	Mayda Velazco
15	Jason Rutherford	31	Lew Oxford
16	D. Paul Moore		

January Birthdays



January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3
4 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Pot luck lunch</i>	5	6	7	8 6:00 pm Wor- ship Committee 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 2 pm Samuel Stillman Assoc.
11 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Missions Meeting</i>	12	13	14	15 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 11 am - 6 pm Reilly Hall Rental
18 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	19	20 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	21 7:00 pm Executive Council	22 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Lunch followed by the Annual Meeting</i>	26	27	28 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	29 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	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

Church Notes

A big "Thank You" to the **Russo family** who provided such beautiful music on Christmas Sunday. Thanks also to **Joyce Bimi** and **Naomi Stanley** for their beautiful solos during the Christmas Eve service.

From a Thank You note from **Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America**: Thank you so very much for your recent gift which makes possible a wide array of peacemaking efforts! In 2014, we've done such work as training youth in Malawi to transform conflict, leading staff and residents of a domestic violence shelter to understand recovery from trauma, publishing "What Your Church Can Do About Human Trafficking" to inspire and equip congregations. You make it all possible. Thank You!

The **Samuel Stillman Association** will gather here at First Baptist Church on Saturday, January 10, at 2 pm, to discuss the current search for a new Executive Minister for The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

Annual Reports are due to Kathie Zeman (kczeman@comcast.net) by Thursday, January 15.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

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POSTING

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25, 2015

Snowdate: Sunday, February 1

This is the posting for The First Baptist Church in Framingham Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25, 2015 preceded by a light luncheon in Reilly Fellowship Hall, following the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting shall be to receive the annual report, elect officers and members of the Executive Council and boards to replace those whose terms have expired, to take action on the budget, and to transact such other business that may come before it.

Marilyn W. Wakeman, Clerk