



# Baptist Notes

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



In sincerity, I can count the number of times on one finger that I have been “overjoyed” by a personal crisis or test in my life. Many might agree that personal struggles, temptations, and trials in life are not our fondest memories. Nevertheless, unpredictable and unwanted circumstances creep up and we are faced with the challenge to deal with them responsibly. The New Testament book of James offers us a perspective on how to confront challenges and testing in our life.

First, James says you are to “consider it all joy . . . when you encounter various trials and temptations” (James 1:2-4). It has taken time and the willingness to mature in my faith to adopt this way of thinking about faith. It feels contrary to my human nature to enjoy hardships and painful experiences. However, I do believe James’ words in light of a

mature, spiritual response to whatever we meet up with in our life. As James explains it, the testing we experience is actually an opportunity to prove our faithfulness to God. When we prove faithful, we grow stronger, and when we fall and give into temptation, we become weaker. How will we respond to the challenges in our life? Will our spiritual character be proven, or disproven? The answer to this question for each of us can be found by examining what we place our ultimate hope in for security and salvation.

Second, James says to endure the trial so that you may be perfect. Can any of us actually “be perfect?” In this spirit and use of the word “perfect,” James very likely means that we are called to be complete, not lacking anything. After many seasons of working out this idea in my faith, I have reconciled that perfection is attainable if we desire and strive toward the potential God has intended for our lives. This process is ongoing, even a life-long process. Furthermore, it is likely that perfection is measured differently in people’s life. God’s potential for one person may differ in form and content to another person’s life. Apostle Paul stated in Galatians that we are not to compare our work to the work of one another, but rather carry our own load (Galatians 6:3-5). Healthy competition can sharpen us, but when we let ourselves think we have to mirror another person rather than be guided by God’s spirit, we lose the wonderful uniqueness with which God has anointed us. Will we carry your own load without worrying about comparing it to another? My prayer is we will receive with joy the truth that each and every person is full and beautiful, created in the very image of God.

Last, be encouraged. You will not face any challenge that is unknown or unfamiliar to your maker. Unexpected and challenging circumstances happen in our life, but we read in all four gospels that Jesus, too, was overwhelmed by what he saw and experienced. What a great example Jesus set for us to follow as we seek to respond faithfully and in God’s spirit to anything that may happen in our lives. As we give thanks in our worship, I challenge us to not forget to give thanks for trials and temptations. This will be the ground that draws us closer to God, and this is good for our maturing and spiritual growing.

*Jason*

## Library 4 Update

On Easter Sunday the children were read "Simon and an Easter Miracle", as well as "The First Easter". On the second Sunday, Mrs. Reilly planned a "rainbow" discussion. The next week they were read "The Donkey Who Carried a King" and continued fabric coloring their "B-I-B-L-E" banner. The end of April they were read "Clopper and the Lost Boy" - the story of Jesus and his first visit to the temple. The children also colored a May Pole picture for our senior/shut-ins.

Mrs. Wakeman/ Mrs. Ross/ Mrs. Reilly

## Put Feet to Your Faith

On Sunday afternoon, June 7, we will celebrate a day of service and learning in our community with three service projects available to choose from . . .



- **Group 1** will go to stop and shop and purchase requested food items for “A Place to Turn” in Natick, followed by a tour of the food pantry ministry by the director, Joann Barry
- **Group 2** will visit Pathways shelter in Framingham and do light painting and yard clean-up for the afternoon
- **Group 3** will visit homebound members of First Baptist

All three groups will depart following our first Sunday community meal, and finish by six in the evening.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

See Jason or members of the mission committee for more immediate information.

1 Christine Brown  
1 Judith Richardson  
3 Catherine Lewis  
4 Anne Cerutti  
4 John Moore  
4 Evan Harris  
6 Joan Reilly  
6 Chris Monaco  
8 Francesca Cerutti-Harris  
10 Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit  
11 Brian Halbert

12 Sandra Nelson  
13 Xavier Allen  
13 Gabriel Erguiza  
14 Jim Wakeman, Jr.  
15 Vinton Allen  
18 Frances Pond  
20 Kim Philipp  
25 David Temple  
25 Adele Williams  
28 Janie Harris  
31 Bob Travis



## May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Potluck Lunch	4	5	6	7 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Missions Meeting	11	12	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	18	19 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	20 7:00 pm Executive Council	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Deacons Meeting						

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*



Please join us in worship on Sundays May 10 and 17 for a Campership Moment. We have 5 kids going to camp (Grotonwood or Oceanwood) this year. This will be an offering only (there will be no lunch or representative from the camps) with envelopes in the morning bulletin on May 17, but all donations welcome at any time.



# FRAMINGHAM COMING TOGETHER

## PHASE 2 FOLLOWUP CONVERSATION

### A COMMUNITY FORUM

All Town Residents  
Are Invited

**Thursday, June 18th**

7:00 pm

**Woodrow Wilson School**

169 Leland Street • Framingham, MA

Refreshments will be served.

Dishes to share are welcome.

The Framingham Interfaith Clergy Association along with our local community partners would like to invite the residents of the town of Framingham to ***Framingham Coming Together - a community forum***. This free exchange of ideas will build upon the issues raised during our first forum around community interactions. Join us for an opportunity for sharing stories in the community around the violence and loss of life in the tragedies around the country.

Our coming together is to affirm that black lives and all lives matter. All of Framingham is invited to come together and share stories to empower the community of Framingham to begin the process of moving forward in meeting the challenges of a community that cares.



**Welcoming Framingham**

*God is still speaking.*  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



THE  
**Episcopal**  
CHURCH



Community of  
Saint Luke



**Framingham**  
Church of God in Christ



Wesley United Methodist Church  
Framingham, MA 01701  
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*



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## First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road  
PO Box 2415  
Framingham, MA 01703



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### Paint to Preserve - Phase 2

Our Heritage, God's House, Our Ministry



Painting the exterior of the church was the 1st phase of preserving our beautiful church building. The congregation pulled together and got that job done, many thanks to everyone! We are now ready to move on to Phase 2 - painting the interior. Next time you're in the sanctuary, look up and you will see how desperately this work needs to be done. We need your support again. A brief business meeting will be held in the sanctuary after services on Sun, May 31st. The purpose of this meeting is to vote to authorize the painting of the sanctuary. Funds to pay for the painting will come from our endowments. These funds will be paid back through a three (3) year Capital Campaign. It is important to pay back our endowments. They were left to us by past generations for just this purpose & we owe it to future generations so they can do the same. Details of the P2P-P2 Capital Campaign will be announced in the coming weeks. Thank you and God Bless."

#### Church Business Meeting

A brief business meeting will be held in the sanctuary after services on Sunday, May 31st. The purpose of this meeting is to vote to authorize the painting of the sanctuary.