



January 2016

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



Holy Scripture is a profound resource for growing deeper in our understanding of what it means to live in the character of God. For example, in the twelfth chapter of Luke Jesus tells a story. The story is in response to someone from the crowd asking Jesus to settle a sibling rivalry over an inheritance. “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance” (Luke 12:13). Jesus’ response to the person is the story of a rich man who owns a farm. The farmer produces a terrific crop and decides his barn isn’t big enough. He decides to tear down the existing barn and build bigger barns in its place. Then, being impressed with his self, says he can retire and take it easy. Then God speaks up and says that tonight the farmer will die and asks the farmer who will get his beautiful barns? This, Jesus tells the man in the crowd, is what happens when you fill your barns with self rather than God.

This passage of scripture causes us to pause and consider who or what we live for. In other passages of scripture Jesus challenges us to love God, serve others, and not store up treasure on earth where moths and rust destroy. Pastoral ministry has placed me in the lives of people at pivotal times. Death and illness in families are certainly such times and we all become more introspective and self-aware at such critical times. When any of us face our mortality we are faced with an assessment; an assessment of where our heart and soul have been and what comes of the investments reflected in our lives. In this story Jesus reaffirms that some things pass away. We have certainly found this to be true. However, some things do not, and our spiritual stewardship provides us with an opportunity to testify to this. It is a significant work our congregation is challenged with – the work of filling our barns with God rather than self. The work of sharing life, eternal and abundant life with our community, begins when we accept the call to discipleship Jesus points us toward so passionately. When we see our life joined with others as a spiritual body of Christ, empowered to change the world, then we will embrace a vision that moves beyond our personal “self” space and join with others as a spiritual body. I believe the First Baptist Church in Framingham is such a place, and embraces this kind of character. Our congregation is ready and willing for the renewed call of God and ready to receive it in abundance – not abundance that will fill a barn, but abundance that will fill the heart of God and bless the world.

The First Baptist Church in Framingham is made up of some of the most impressive people I have met in my short, eighteen years of pastoral ministry – people filled with the capacity to minister and change the world for the better. The work of our church is now to channel our talent and giftedness in a way that causes us to fill the world with the richness of God, and therefore point to the ultimate, heavenly reward. As we prepare our minds and hearts for an upcoming year of worship, ministry and service, I challenge us to make the following scripture from Psalm 19:14 be an ongoing prayer for our life, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and me redeemer.”

Jason

Church Notes

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Doris Devine** upon her recent death. All are invited to attend a Memorial service for Doris on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at 1:00 PM at Heritage at Framingham Senior Living, 747 Water Street, Framingham. Additional parking is available next door at the Hemenway School.

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

Annual Reports are due to Kathie Zeman (kczeman@gmail.com) by Friday, January 15.

We extend our sympathy to **Chester Azurin** upon the death of his father on November 13. Chester and CK were able to travel to the Philippines.

We mourn the loss of **David Temple** on December 1. Dave and Betty have remained as members of the church even after moving to Florida.

Thanks go to **Arlene Mills** for being our Christmas postmistress!

We have received Christmas greetings from **David Mayrand** and **Bob and Pat Travis** to wish "Merry Christmas to all at First Baptist"

We have received this from **Craig and Fran Carr** - "With Warmest Wishes for a Festive Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year! Sending our love along with the balmy weather". Kindly note their new address is :

Mr. and Mrs. Craig Carr
PO Box 380080
Murdock, FL 33938

Happy 103rd birthday to **Priscilla Wright** - the former clerk of First Baptist - now living in Maine.

A note received from **Jeanne Emmons**: "We miss so much going to church - how happy we were there - it was such a blessing to us. Bob is not doing too good - his mind is so confused. It is so sad to see him like this. I cry a lot to let it out. I do my very best to take good care of him. I love him so much - he is such a good, decent, kind man. Please pray for Bob" — Thinking of you cards would be appreciated. Send to

Jeanne and Bob Emmons
70 Ronald Drive
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Painting Update

- Work in the sanctuary will begin on Monday, January 4
- The Board of A&F announces that the yellow color scheme has been chosen by a 2 to 1 margin
- Worship will move to Reilly Hall starting on January 10
- There will be no pot luck lunches for February and March
- The Middle/High School Sunday School class will move into part of the Children's Room
- Sunday School opening will continue at 9:45 am
- Adult Sunday School will continue to meet in Jefferson Hall beginning at 9:30 am
- Coffee and goodies will still be available
- Library 4 will continue as usual

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Pot luck lunch</i>	4	5	6	7 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	8	9
10 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	11	12	13 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays</i> 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible	14 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	15	16
17 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	18	19 7:00 pm A&F <i>Meeting</i>	20 7:00 pm Executive <i>Council</i>	21 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	22	23
24 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Annual Meeting</i>	25	26	27 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays</i> 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible <i>Study</i>	28 7:00 pm Choir <i>Rehearsal</i>	29	30
31 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Annual Meeting (snow date)</i>						

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

1 Annette Stefanini
6 Linda Devine
9 Jacob Gogan
10 JG Omans
11 Charlie Poole
11 Jubilee Rutherford
12 Quentin Sewell
15 Walter Ross
15 Jason Rutherford
16 D. Paul Moore

22 Phyllis Devine
24 Patrick Gogan
25 Naomi Stanley
25 Emmitt Tucker
27 Andrew Brown
29 Don Chute
29 Nelson Samuel
29 Mayda Velazco
31 Lew Oxford

January Birthdays



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



POSTING

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 24, 2016
Snowdate: Sunday, January 31

This is the posting for The First Baptist Church in Framingham Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 24, 2016 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