



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



Our weekly worship services are essential and were created out of necessity in people's lives. Worship is not a new art or fad for expressing ourselves, but rather a deeply held practice that unites us with our God and with one another in ways not found in any other part of our life. Holy Scripture is a source of both guidance and inspiration in our worship. The Psalms, or songs, are prayers and readings that may illuminate our souls to dance, enable our eyes to see, and encourage us in our spiritual journey to the house of God. Psalm 84 is a psalm of worship. It is believed to be a liturgical account of an annual pilgrimage to the temple at Jerusalem. Early worshippers would unite each year for a festival and worship. The journey to the house of God would have been a holy experience, uniting people together as they prepare to worship their

Lord. "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of thirst, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools" (Psalm 84:1-2, 5-6).

Centuries later, we still journey to the house of the Lord uniting to worship the one, true God. Today, as before, we journey together, hope filled, anticipating something truly miraculous. In the ancient world, pilgrims may have feared drought, robbery, illness, or any number of obstacles on their journey to the House of God, but nevertheless they persevered because their life, and the fullness of it, depended on their arriving together to worship. As we approach the House of God today, we too might be deterred along the journey. Certainly, we suffer from natural disasters, illness, war, and times of personal ambivalence. And, we sometimes become tethered to some other quest for personal fulfillment that only leaves us unfulfilled. These do not have to be permanent obstacles. **When we believe, wholeheartedly, that our life depends totally on uniting together with the Lord, we will become encouraged and skilled at overcoming any obstacle that might otherwise deter us from worship.** And, our times together will be joy-filled, reflecting the true fulfillment only found in the Lord. Although it is profoundly painful to see the havoc in people's lives that storms, political upheaval, and spiritual desolation will bring, we are also faced with an opportunity to help one another. **We are faced with opportunities to lend our hand, our heart, and our willingness that no person be left in the valley of thirst and desolation, but rather be lifted up and strengthened so the he or she might also have opportunity to give thanks and adoration in the House of the Lord.** My encouragement today is that you consider what might prevent you from taking a drink of living water, and then be willing to ask

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for help in overcoming your obstacle. My encouragement to you today is that you consider lending your hand, your heart, and your life to help people who are left out so that all may participate and be renewed in the Holiness of God. The First Baptist Church in Framingham is a House of Worship, a place for service, and a congregation of people bonded together who believe in the power of God. Be encouraged that there is no obstacle worthy of causing us to miss out on our united worship of the Lord.

Jason

Church Notes

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound: These favorite gospel singers of Mrs. Wakeman's are coming to Massachusetts in May! Mrs. Wakeman is going to Seekonk on Saturday, May 14th to their 7 pm performance. They will also be playing in Swansea on Sunday, May 15th. If you want to find out more about their tours - go to www.erniehaase.com and when you find a date you want, on the far right hand side you will see a "Blue Circle" with an "i" in the middle. Click on that for information on tickets.

First Parish/ First Baptist Framingham will be hosting **Family Promise** April 17-24. Contact Diane Halbert for more information.

Daylight Savings Time: Remember to "Spring Forward" on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 a.m.

From HOPE Worldwide Food Pantry: Thank you for your donations! We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. In 2016 in lieu of food we particularly need :

- Bars of soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and Conditioner

Our limited budget can rarely afford these items.

When is the Talent Show? The Talent Show is tentatively scheduled for a Sunday in May, after the sanctuary painting is complete and Reilly Hall is available again. Check the April newsletter for the date for this exciting and fun event. Start planning your act now!!!



7th Annual Walk Away Homelessness Walkathon April 9 on Natick Common

Registration : 7:30am
Walk Begins : 8:45am

Your participation is key to the success of our programs for the families we serve. All proceeds benefit Metrowest Family Promise. For details visit: www.familypromisemetrowest.org or call 508-318-4820

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	3 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	4	5
6 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	7	8	9 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	10 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	11	12
13 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	14	15 <i>7:00 pm A&F Meeting</i>	16 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i>	17 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	18	19
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	21	22	23 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	24 <i>7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service</i>	25	26
27 <i>Easter Day</i> <i>7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service Followed by breakfast 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Easter Egg Hunt</i>	28	29	30 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	31 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</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

2 Bob Phillips
3 Joseph Paiva
4 Carolyn Reilly
7 Ethel Luton-Campbell
8 Neil Halbert
12 Naja Arianna Allen
16 Joann Sewell

16 Alicia Gonzales
19 Betty Temple
25 Marilyn Medler
27 Bob Emmons
28 Laura Reilly
31 Diamond Campbell

March Birthdays



Sanctuary Dedication

On Sunday, May 1, we will dedicate the sanctuary following the renovation this winter. The Reverend Mary Day Miller, Executive Minister of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, will lead the service. The theme of the day will be *In The Beauty of Holiness*, and the scriptures will be the same as the original dedication in 1826. Also, we will be dedicating new Bibles and Hymnals. A special “thank you” will be extended to all who have worked to see the renovations through to completion.



New Hymnals

As the painting of the sanctuary nears completion, the anticipated date to return to Sunday worship upstairs is March 20, Palm Sunday. As part of our excitement, new Bibles have been purchased through the Memorial Fund, and the plan to purchase new hymnals is in the works. The worship committee has chosen a new hymnal, *Worship and Rejoice*, by Hope publishing. The hymnals have not been purchased, but the worship committee has samples to show on Sunday mornings, and is asking members of the congregation to donate a hymn book or books in memory or honor of someone. The cost is \$15 for each, and for those who purchase them, an “In Memorial” or “In honor of” sticker will be placed inside the front cover. The worship committee has set a goal of 40 hymn books, and hope to place the order by April 4. Please take time to prayerfully consider donating a hymnbook, and take time to look at the samples in the front of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

Yes, I would like to purchase a hymnal.

Given in Memory Honor (please circle one) of _____

Given By : _____

Your Name: _____

Your Contact Information: _____

Please fill out a separate slip for each purchase and enclose payment of \$15.00 per hymnal

Thank You, The Worship Committee



Grotonwood Live!

— Memorial Hall Building Fundraiser —

SKATING -&- LASER TAG

FRI, MARCH 11TH // 5:30-8PM

***\$6 includes:**
*per person

- admission
- skate OR blade rental
- 1 game of laser tag
- Grotonwood Live! activities

FUN AMERICA
At Roll On America

*\$1 of every admission goes to the Grotonwood Memorial Hall Building fundraiser

Fun America // 90 Duval Rd, Lancaster, MA 01523 // *be sure to mention you're with Grotonwood upon entrance*

As you may know, in October of 2015 we lost Memorial Hall due to a fire. In the very near future, we will be in the process of rebuilding. Please come join us for a fun night of roller skating, laser tag, and other activities hosted by Grotonwood. \$1 of the admission price will go toward helping rebuild a new lodge. We hope to see you and your friends at this event. Some of your favorite staff members will be there too!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



World Day of Prayer: Friday, March 4, 11:00 am hosted by Edwards UCC and the Community of St. Luke. Service will be held at Edwards Church, 39 Edwards Street. Meal will follow. World Day of Prayer promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration. This year's service has been written by the women of Cuba.

Library 4 Update

To start Lent we used "art" to tell the story of the Boy Jesus. Mrs. Ross and I read "When Jesus Was Young" and then they listened to the hymn "In the Temple". During lent they will continue with the parables.

Before that, they were read "The Day the Crayons Came Home" (which the children like to read to themselves and review after they have finished their word searches.)

The children made "bookmarks" for Valentine's Day for some who are home bound. A picture of First Baptist was on top with the scripture "Draw near to God here." 1 Samuel 14:36b. That book-mark contained a 2016 calendar.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road

PO Box 2415

Framingham, MA 01703



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 20 - Palm Sunday

10:45 a.m. Worship - Worship returns to the sanctuary

Thursday, March 24

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service in Reilly Hall

Sunday, March 27 - Easter

7:00 a.m. Son Rise Service on Church Greene

Breakfast follows

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Service

Following worship Easter Egg Hunt