

Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham
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African-American History Month

Coming in February

The Board of Missions will be welcoming Horace Seldon to the pulpit on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Horace is founder of Community Change, Inc. Community Change is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote racial justice and equity by challenging systemic racism and acting as a catalyst for anti-racist learning and action. CCI makes visible and challenges the historical and ongoing role racism plays in the institutions that shape our lives. We focus particularly on involving white people in understanding and confronting systemic racism and white privilege. We understand racism as a system that impacts every area of life in the United States from education to law, from housing to transportation, from employment to media, from religion to artistic expression. Please plan to attend and stay after church for a potluck lunch and a worship plus event with Horace

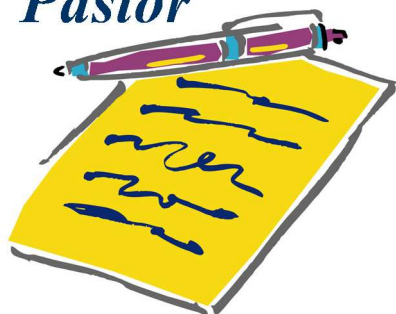
Save the Date - Saturday, May 19

Start cleaning out your attics, garages and the basement. We will be having a yard sale on Saturday, May 19. We need your donations to make this sale a success. We will be accepting all sort of household goods, but sorry, **no clothes**. We will have a rummage sale in the fall when we will take all your clothing. So sort through all your Christmas decorations before you put them away, look under the bed and behind the door - for your discards will be someone else's treasures.



Baptist Notes

From the Pastor



As we emerge from the glories of our Christmas and Advent seasons and cross into a new year, it is time to look toward Lent. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "Spring." Lent is the season preceding Easter and includes the 40 days prior to Easter, not including Sundays in the count. The number forty was chosen by the early Church for this time of penance and preparation because it is the number of days Christ was tempted in the desert. Eventually churches marked the beginning of the Lent season with a worship service of confession where the cross is marked on each believer's forehead, and the scripture repeated, "**remember that you are dust, and to dust you will return**" Genesis 3:19.

We will begin our Lenten observation this year with an Ash Wednesday service on February 22, at 7 pm. Each Wednesday during the Lent season I will be offering studies on the traditional spiritual disciplines including prayer, scriptural study, and confession and forgiveness. Essentially, these are some of the pivotal Christian attributes that make us who we are. I am making two requests of the congregation in preparation for the season.

One, I want to assemble a **Lenten Devotional Guide**. This is where you come in. I am asking for volunteers to write a devotion or reflection for each of the forty days of the season. The spiritual themes I will be expounding on and encourage you to think on for your reflection include **wilderness, journey, testing, and promise**. These entries could take a variety of forms – a poem, a testimony, a reflection on a meaningful scripture or hymn, a special memory, or another short essay. All entries should be between 200 and 400 words. No one is excluded. If you need help in any way, I can help you organize your thoughts, type, or take notes while you talk. After having collected them all by February 12 at the latest, I will assemble them into a booklet and have them for you on February 19. This will be your devotional guide for each day of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday and culminating with Easter. We can do this and it will bless us all beyond measure!

Two, I am asking you to pick a part of your life that you need to work on and give it special attention during this season. It can be private, and kept private. Or, it might be something you choose to share with one or a few spiritual friends within your life. Having boundaries of chronological and opportune time is sometimes helpful in getting us started to make needed changes in our life. Lent can be such a time. Also, I am available if you need encouragement. I have experience with this, and will be sharing more as we near the season.

Finally, we will celebrate Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, and have a Maundy Thursday and a Good (Dark) Friday Service with each beginning at 7pm. Also, the youth have a couple of additional activities during Holy week including a sleep over vigil on Saturday night into Sunday morning, and a sunrise service at 6:30 on Easter that is welcome to all! So, let the journey begin as we strive to celebrate this Holy Season of spiritual growth and maturity.

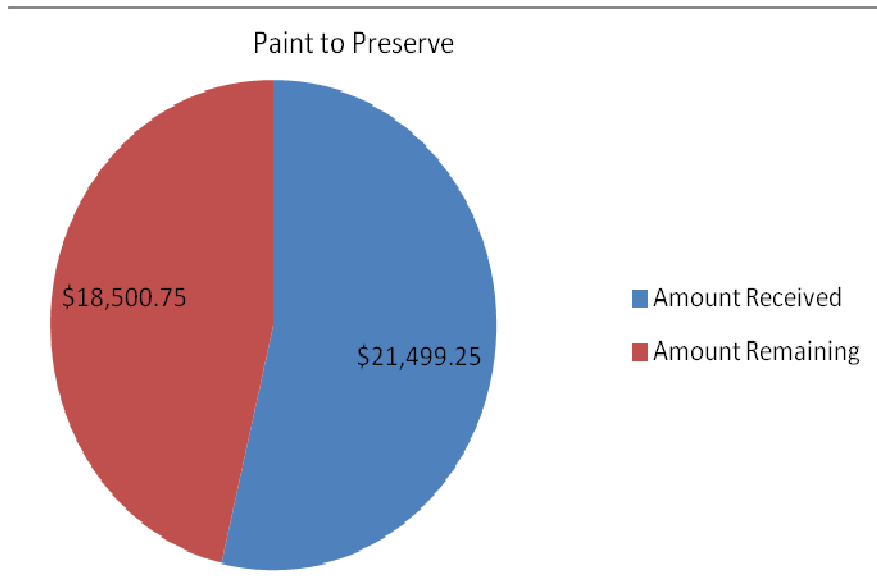
May God bless you beyond measure,

Jason

January 2012

Our Stewardship
Operating Receipts & Disbursements for November 2011

	November Budget	November Actual	2011 Budget	2011 YTD Actual	2011 YTD Balance	YTD as % of Budget
Receipts						
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$11,382.00	\$16,824.09	\$125,202.00	\$99,354.79	\$25,847.21	79.36%
Disbursements						
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$11,382.00	\$19,567.07	\$125,202.00	\$102,810.90	\$22,391.10	82.12%
NET (RECEIPTS - DISBURSEMENTS)		-\$2,742.98		-\$3,456.11		

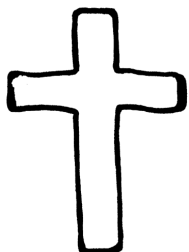


January Birthdays

1 Annette Stefanini	13 Linda Bayas	25 Naomi Stanley
6 Linda Devine	15 Walter Ross	Emmit Tucker
9 Jacob Gogan	16 Paul Moore	27 Andrew Brown
10 JG Omans	22 Phyllis Devine	29 Isabell Chute
11 Charlie Poole	24 Patrick Gogan	Mayda Velazco
12 Quentin Sewell	Betty Muto	

January 2012

Church Notes



Wonderful Wednesdays resumes on January 11. Please join us for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and/or Bible Study beginning at 7:15 p.m. We will be selecting our new year study on the 11th.

We will be taking the RMMO (Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering) for the entire month of January. The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) was established in 1977. Through this annual offering, American Baptist congregations say thank you in a tangible way to the denomination's retired ministers and missionaries or their widowed spouses. The offering provides them with Emergency and other financial assistance, based on financial need and "Thank You" checks, based on 15 or more years of ABC service.

Goodbye George
By
Catherine L. Lewis

When our Interim Pastor George
Speaks, he should get an award
For the congregation's heart soars
No preacher could do any more

For he is wise, a Biblical Scholar
George is an example to follow
In March of two thousand ten
When his help for us began

Everyone thought he was grand
George has had a long life span
He is twenty-three times an interim
And four times he's actually been

The settled pastor of some Churches
All of them have souls God searches
When they hear the holy words
Of his sermons they get the urge

To realize that God is there
In life, not everything is fair
But George teaches us to care
And to note the power of prayer

In fellowship, First Baptist shares
A willingness to go and dare
To do Missions everywhere
There is effort with lots to spare

Wonderful Wednesdays is Bible study
The way he led us is lovely
The Old Testament can be bloody
Some parts of it seem cruddy

But Jesus our Lord has changed
Just about everything
Love is more important He deems
Than the childish urge to get even

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	9	10	11 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study	12 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Mission Meeting	16	17 7 p.m. A&F Meeting	18 7 p.m. Executive Council	19 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship ANNUAL MEETING	23	24	25 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study	26 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Deacons Meeting Annual Meeting (snowdate)	30	31				

Notes: Cathedral Agape rents every Tuesday and Sunday night from 7 - 10 p.m.
 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



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



POSTING

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 22, 2012
Snowdate: Sunday, January 29



This is the posting for The First Baptist Church in Framingham Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 22nd, 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