

# 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](mailto:fbcframingham@verizon.net)  
[www.firstbaptistframingham.com](http://www.firstbaptistframingham.com)

## From the Pastor



A pilot once told me that one sign of potential trouble on an airplane is if it is too quiet. I responded that it is the same for a household with a one year old. If it is too quiet, I begin to investigate the source of the silence. What is she into now? Silence has a way of getting our attention; sometimes more abruptly than the sound of phones ringing, voices chattering, music playing, or motors running. But, when all is quiet, will our minds continue to race and our thoughts fill the void of the silence? There is great reward in taking time to be silent, and forsaking all other interruptions, allowing the voice of God room in our thoughts.

This spring we are in the midst of a holy season – a season marked by celebration and ritual surrounding the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

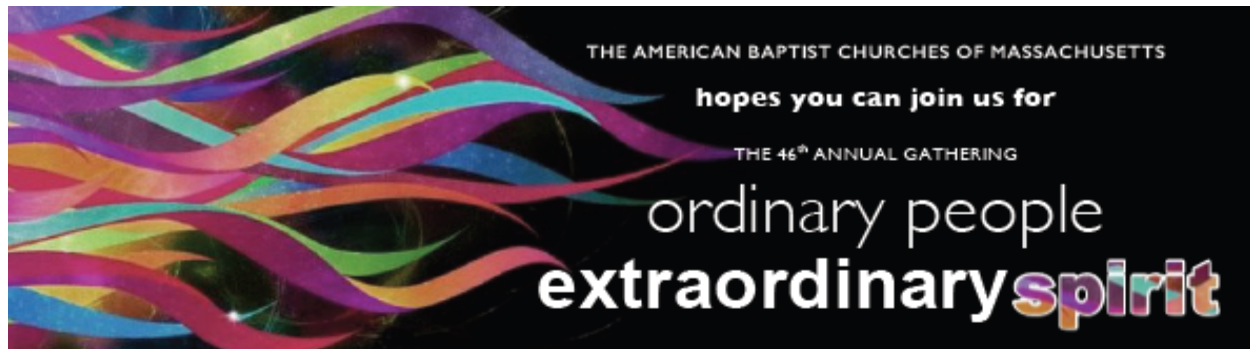
Trumpets blowing, voices singing, preachers wailing, and congregations chanting the good news that Christ the Lord Has Risen! These are good words, and our loud praise is a healthy response to the hope our Lord brings into our heart. **In our celebration, however, is our holy commotion and proclamation all that we do to acknowledge – even worship – the work of God in our life? Is the voice of humanity -- the words of our mouth -- the only voice in the God and human relationship? Certainly Not!**

The opening words of the Gospel of John inform us that the revelation of God comes through the incarnate word – the word made flesh. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-4, 14). **Jesus came into the world to be a voice**, a fully human and divine representation of what God is like, and therefore a guide for our lives. Jesus came into the world to bring life. But now we celebrate the resurrection of this voice, the resurrection of God’s voice through Jesus. Jesus in human form is gone and we in human form are still here, feet firmly planted on the ground, still in need of this divine Word that brings both voice and life. Feet firmly planted, we become mouth pieces of the Divine Word of God. In order for us to speak, we first must listen.

It is in this unique place that we find our work as a church. Anyone can make human noise and raise a ruckus for others to hear. But what of God’s Word – God’s Voice. **Where do we find God speaking and humans listening?** Where do we go for the deep of God’s spirit calling to the deep in our own? **What does the voice of God sound like in the twenty-first century?** This becomes our most important focus.

The answer to this deep and mysterious question comes through our faithful response to God's Word in scripture, the Holy Spirit, as well as the reflection of God's image in us. As we worship and praise the Lord, we also make time to listen and absorb the holiness around us every day. We set time apart for the silence . . . a silence that comes through forsaking all of the noise and clutter around us, and wanting to hear the voice of our creator. To be holy is to be set apart. As we approach Easter celebration, I ask you to take time to be holy – set apart – for hearing and doing the word of the Lord. Pray. Listen. Respond.

*Jason*



## Schedule

### FRIDAY: MAY 9, 2014

- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Area Ministry Coordinators Meeting
- Noon-1:30 p.m. Women in Ministry Luncheon
- 2:00 p.m. Registration/Exhibits Open
- 2:00-3:30 p.m. Partner Organization Meetings
  - Conference of Baptist Ministers in MA
  - MA AB Charitable Society
  - Northern Baptist Education Society
  - Mass. Baptist Multicultural Ministries
- 2:00-4:00 p.m. Workshop for Laity
- 4:15-5:15 Building Ministry... Endowments Survey
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. Celebrations Dinner
  - Church Anniversaries
  - Ordination Anniversaries
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. Worship & Music
  - Message brought by Dr. Denton Lott
- After Hours Journaling Through Scrapbooking

### SATURDAY: May 10, 2014

- 6:30 a.m. Registration
- 7:00-8:20 a.m. Breakfast Buffets
  - Women: Mrs. Kanya Sao
  - Men: Grotonwood's Fred Mathieu
 (Breakfast program starts at 7:30 a.m.)
- 9:00-9:50 a.m. Business Meeting
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. Worship Service of Inspiration
- 10:40-11:30 a.m. Workshop Offerings I
- 11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Workshop Offerings 2
- 12:45-3:00 p.m. Worshipful Banquet
  - Regional Choir Sings!
- 3:00 p.m. Benediction & Departure

## Saturday Youth Program

Youth will be with us for our morning worship and Banquet. During the first workshop, you'll learn the story of Barbara Johns, a 16-year-old Civil Rights pioneer. In the second hour, you'll practice developing your own voice for dialogue using Covenant Conversations. Youth Registration includes Saturday morning pastries and the banquet.



The 2014 Annual Gathering is an extraordinary moment as we gather in celebration of God's anointing in our lives and ministry. My prayer on our behalf is that we will live lives of *divine interruption*. As we plan and fill up our schedules, we shall, before all else, invite the Holy Spirit of God to guide our life and ministry.

When we gather, we are reminded and renewed, celebrating that our very life, and the source of it, bears a miraculous and momentous imprint.

We are reflections of God's light. Shine bright! Shine faithful!

—Jason Rutherford, president

**"THE SPIRIT  
HIMSELF  
TESTIFIES  
WITH OUR  
SPIRIT THAT  
WE ARE  
GOD'S  
CHILDREN."  
ROMANS 8:16**

### FRIDAY LUNCHEON FOR

### Women in Ministry

"A Woman of the Cloth" with Rev. Renee Keels. Good Theology is good "story-telling." Story-telling can be formed not just with words but also through the medium of textile or fiber art, which is an expression of spiritual practice. As with scripture, quilts tell stories. Telling our stories through quilts heals us and the process of quilt-making is a form of soul-work allowing time for meditation and reflection. Come explore your 'inner artist' by connecting with the "still, small voice" within that is God.

### FRIDAY AFTER HOURS

### Journaling Through Scrapbooking

Scrapbooking can be a wonderful spiritual exercise. Melanie Towle shows us how to tell our unique stories with photos and journaling.

### Geoff Hicks Leads our Regional Choir Workshops ~ Exhibits ~ Worship

### Saturday Breakfasts

#### HOSTED BY AB WOMEN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. Kanya Sao, member of the Christian Cam-bodian Voice of Peace Church in Lowell, will speak on the power of the Holy Spirit in her life. Twila Wyanamaker and Bonnie Sestito will share their experiences during their visit to Burma.

#### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Meet Fred Mathieu, Grotonwood's new, year-round camp director.

Download the Regional Choir Songs at [www.tabcom.org](http://www.tabcom.org)

# May 9-10, 2014

DoubleTree by Hilton in Leominster, MA



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Away Homelessness Walkathon April 12 on Natick Common

Registration :	7:30am
Warm Up Exercises :	8:20am
Walk Begins :	8:30am
Children's Concert:	9:30am-10:30am
Awards and announcements :	10:30am.

Come join the fun this year! Haven't registered yet? Register as an individual, family or team! To Register go to our website: [www.familypromisemetrowest.org](http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org) For every \$100 you raise for the Family Promise Metrowest you will receive 1 free raffle ticket for either :

***Two JetBlue round trip tickets for anywhere in the U.S.***

***MS Surface RT 32 Tablet Bundle w/ Touch Cover and Pen***

We have children's entertainer Stacey Peasley and her band doing a concert that morning on the Common, there will be snacks, face painting, crafts and much more!

Come buy a raffle ticket for either a Round of Golf for (3) and lunch at the Country Club in Chestnut Hill, (this is an awesome opportunity to play on this PGA course), an Xbox Game system or the new American Girl Doll Isabella. Come Celebrate our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and help us raise awareness for family homelessness and the funds needed for our program. The course is a 3.1 walk or a mini walk around the Common. Come on out and join us under the tent on the Natick Common (intersection of RT 27 and RT 135) and have some fun!!

Your participation is key to success of our program for the families we serve. For information email: [carole@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:carole@familypromisemetrowest.org) or call 508-318-4820.



**GOOD FRIDAY**

*The Framingham Clergy will host a Good Friday Service on April 18 at 12 pm. The service will be at the Edwards Church, 39 Edwards Street in Framingham. The theme of the service will be "The Seven Last Words of Christ."*

5 Warren Leach  
5 Alex Poole  
6 Inez Villaro  
8 Marge Oxford  
9 Beulah Novinger  
12 Catherine Azurin  
13 William Perry  
13 Alex Vaz  
14 Mary Moore

18 Chester Azurin  
19 Martin Acevedo  
20 Howard Lewis  
23 Robyn Poole  
25 Deborah Pond  
27 Shirley Ross  
27 Alan Harrington  
29 Caroline Harrington  
29 Jeffrey Harrington

**April Birthdays**



## 17 Signs Your Church May Be Dying

By Paul Wilkinson

You may have already read these, but according to Barna, 3500-4000 churches close their doors every year... AND recently the Christian Chronicle just published a report saying that in the past nine years that church attendance has dropped by more than 100,000.

Just a few days ago I visited with a man that was very concerned about the church where he was attending. His exact words were, *"We're dying and the sad thing is ... some don't care, and the others don't know what to do about it!"* He and I got to talking about some of the signs they were seeing that pointed to their church dying out. We made quite a list, and of course a few were tongue-in-cheek. I thought I might share a few with you today. Of course I'm no church growth expert, but I'd bet that most are generally true. So, here are *"17 Signs your Church may be dying."*

1. If your church does nothing to reach the community where it is located.
2. If your church believes doing church is something that takes place inside the walls of the building on Sundays and Wednesdays ... instead of outside the walls in the community during the week.
3. If your church's sermons are issue oriented or not relevant, instead of being relationship centered and Jesus focused.
4. If your church is afraid of change, making changes and taking risks.
5. If the only thing your community knows about your church is where it's located.
6. If the only thing that seems alive in your worship service is the greenery at the front of the auditorium.
7. If the song you sing most on Sundays is, "Tis so sweet to *Rust* in Jesus," or something close to it.
8. If your worship is quiet because there are no children.
9. If the only new members that are ever added to your church are people who have moved into the area ... instead of people from your community.
10. If your church is content with just keeping its heads above the water.
11. If your church is out of touch with the current generation.
12. If your church's leadership's motto is, *"But we've never done it that way before."*
13. If your church has money in the bank that could be used to reach the lost and serve the poor, but it's being saved for a rainy day or an emergency.
14. If your church's biggest fear is criticism.
15. If your church's leadership doesn't set the tone, and is more concerned with supporting the system than shepherding the people.
16. If your church promotes outreach as an option and not a necessity.
17. If your church lives in the past not in the present.



### Save the Date - Saturday, May 17

Start thinking about cleaning out your attics, garages and the basement. We will be having a yard sale on Saturday, May 17. We need your donations to make this sale a success. We will be accepting all sort of household goods, but sorry, no clothes. Look under the bed and behind the door - for your discards could be someone else's treasure.

## April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Din- ner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	3 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	4	5
6 <i>9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship  Pot luck lunch</i>	7	8	9 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Din- ner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	10 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	11	12
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <i>9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Missions Meeting</i>	14	15 <i>7:00 pm A&amp;F Meeting</i>	16 <i>7:00 pm Execu- tive Council</i>	17 <i>7:00 pm Maun- dy Thursday Service</i>	18	19
20 <b>Easter</b> <i>6:45 a.m Sunrise Service 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	21	22	23 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Din- ner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	24 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	25	26
27 <i>9:30 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship  Noon Deacons Meeting</i>	28	29	30			



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*

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road  
PO Box 2415  
Framingham, MA 01703



## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday**

*10:45 a.m. Worship*

**Thursday, April 17**

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

**Friday, April 18**

*Noon Town-wide Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Edwards Church*

**Sunday, April 20 - Easter**

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

*9:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt*

*10:45 a.m. Easter Worship Service*