

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



One of the greatest gifts we can give to our community, nation, and world is to behave like owners rather than visitors. If we live like visitors, we dwell here, but don't accept most of the responsibility, or bear the cost. Visitors are temporary, behave like guests, and eventually plan to move on leaving behind responsibility for the future and upkeep of a community or home. Owners, on the other hand, bear the responsibility and future wellbeing of a place. Owners invest.

The season of Advent is an invitation to experience our faith, our church community, and world as owners. We are endowed with both the gift and responsibility of taking care of the business and needs of our community, and realize that our participation is an opportunity to meet and bless the needs of a growing and diverse world. What we cannot do is believe that our life does not count, or actions do not matter, and that we have nothing to contribute. To live the season of Advent is to anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. To live in Advent, and to celebrate Christmas, is to align our lives in such a way that we take seriously our responsibility to invest and change the world for the Kingdom of God.

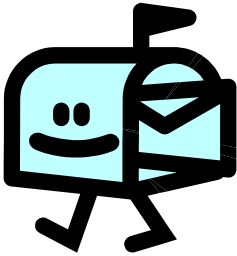
The teachings of Jesus compel of us to see the Earth as the Lord's Creation, our lives as a gift to one another, and future hope as what we embrace as we receive and respond to the birth, life and love of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of God is at hand, even as we benefit and share together a world that we did not create, but have become beneficiaries to and responsible for on a daily basis.

As members and friends of The First Baptist Church in Framingham, we have been given a miraculous gift. We have received invitation to participate as a Body of Jesus Christ in our larger community. Every person matters. Each of us have a contribution to offer. Nobody is left out or inconsequential.

Blessing bears responsibility. In the coming weeks, I ask that you prayerfully engage worship and celebration of this Advent season. Also, I invite you to prayerfully consider how your spirit will be awakened and your talent for service and concern will engage your church and larger neighborhood. To change the world for Jesus Christ means we receive and give from the understanding that we bear responsibility as owners, not visitors, to our church and broader community. We invest our heart, our courage, and our future as people who have come to understand how much we have to offer.

Jason

Christmas Post Office



Our annual Christmas Post Office with postmaster Arlene Mills will begin on Sunday, November 29. You may start bringing your cards and place them in the tray in the Narthex. Please try to have them in alphabetical order, as it helps the postmaster and is greatly appreciated.

Your Christmas cards will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 20 (please note: none will be accepted on that day to be sorted) .

Save the Date

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 24, 2015
(snow date: Sunday, January 31)

Why the Advent Wreath?

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way for Christian families to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. In the center of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

December 2015

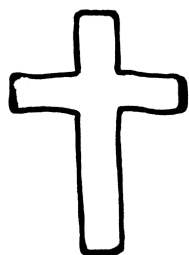
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Pot Luck Lunch	7	8	9 Bible Study	10 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	11 Salvation Army Din- ner	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Pizza Lunch	14	15 7:00 p.m. A&F Meet- ing	16 7:00 p.m. Executive Council	17 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship	21	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26
27 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Noon Deacons Meeting	28	29	30	31 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Celebration		

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*

December Birthdays

2 Ray Zeman	22 Sam Ibikunle
6 Eric Reilly	23 Dorothy Tucker
8 Virginia Stearns	25 Angel Erguiza
11 James Donovan	26 Jay Reilly
14 Dawn Hanson	26 Marilyn Wakeman
15 Jeanne Emmons	31 Winston Lewis
21 David Mayrand	





Church Notes

We extend our sympathies to the family of **Rev. Richard Hardy** who died on Nov. 9, 2015. Mr. Hardy was the pastor of Park Street Baptist from 1949 to 1955.

Giving Tree: We are providing toys, books and clothing for about 8 to 12 children, plus a small gift card to the parents, who are in a local motel for homeless families under The Dept. of Transitional Assistance. These Christmas gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, Dec. 6th.

Thank You! from MetroWest Family Promise: We received a Thank You for our pillow donation. They were able to put our gift to work immediately as they had just welcomed a new family. Thank You !! to all who donated . Diane & Lecia

Volunteer Opportunities with Family Promise: We have now partnered with First Parish in Framingham. Diane Halbert met with their coordinator last week and discussed what FBC could do to support their ministry to Family Promise. They could use help transporting and setting up the beds for the families on Sunday afternoons at the start of their host week and "breaking down" on Sunday mornings after their host week. They could also use "dinner preparers" M-F. They need help with laundry at the end of the week. You do not need training for these opportunities. They also need volunteers to be dinner and overnight hosts. These require a short one night training. You will have direct contact with the guests. First Parish will be hosting families in February and April vacations and August in 2016. Please feel free to contact Diane Halbert with any questions.

Please visit the Family Promise website to learn more about ways you can donate and help this vital and important mission. (www.familypromisemetrowest.org)

This year's Christmas offering will go to City Mission Society. Our own Rev. June Cooper is Executive Director of this organization. City Mission catalyzes action to root out poverty in our neighborhoods by means of programs and activities that embody the following guiding principles:

Empowerment

City Mission inspires and equips participants to directly effect change in their personal lives and to take action for systemic change.

Engagement

City Mission creates and nurtures connections across disparate groups to broaden understanding and create meaningful, respectful, and mutually beneficial relationships.

Education

City Mission educates and provides participants with the necessary resources to make informed decisions, confront challenges, and understand the larger context of complex social issues.



Christmas Offering

Roots and Fruits



Remember those noble, brave, faithful, self-sacrificing men and women who formed this church almost 200 years ago. They are our roots.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - these are our fruits.

You are challenged and encouraged to be the roots - to be the fruits.

If you have not submitted your pledge card, please do so by December 13. The Board of Administration and Finance will meet on December 15 to formulate the church budget for 2016 and your pledge will help us formulate an accurate budget. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday, or contact our Financial Secretary, Lynn Monaco with your pledge amount.



*Let's Keep God's
Love in Christmas*

Sunday, December 13

Pageant performed during the
10:45 am worship service

*Pizza lunch and
Christmas Party to follow*

We will gather at the home of Al and Gail Harrington in Shrewsbury for our annual New Year's eve gathering. Starting at 7:00 pm there will be great food (and lots of it). We will while away the hours until midnight by playing games, doing puzzles and fellowshiping together. All are invited and welcome!!



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road

PO Box 2415

Framingham, MA 01703



*Thursday,
December 24
7:00 p.m.*

Rev. Jason Rutherford

Preaching

Special Music

Candlelight

Christmas
Eve
Worship

