



February 2016

# Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham  
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## From the Pastor



Soon before Christmas of 1995 I asked some friends of mine who were musicians to sing a short concert for children at the Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville Kentucky. I was a volunteer who coordinated groups at the time. They did a great job with the kids and seemed to experience genuine affirmation in being there. Following the concert that was held in a community room off the lobby of the hospital, the band went upstairs and played a couple of songs for patients who could not leave their room. At this time I heard one of the guys in the band say (almost under his breath) "**this is real.**" I will never forget that moment. I am not aware that anyone else heard him, and I never discussed it with him, but I believe he had an experience while interacting and singing with the kids that touched him very deeply.

When I remember that moment – which is crystal clear in my memory – I think to myself, "what is real?" Philosophers have debated the question for centuries, the church attempts to address the question through good deeds, mission work, and worship, and we individuals strive to find it through our passions, influence, and contributions to family and community. **But still, thoughts of what is real, deep, and lasting do surface in our thoughts and ambitions when we allow for time to think deeply.** What, then, is real? Concrete is real. The air we breathe is real. But, is there more? Is there something beyond that factors into our existence that is a reality I cannot quite explain, but rather experience when my heart and soul are in a receptive place? As people of faith, we believe that Holy Spirit is real. God spirit is transformative in us.

Preparing for what is real means that the condition of our heart is open and willing to God before any other allegiances, and our prayerful response to the spirit of God is "yes, Lord." A simple prayer, free of any qualifying measures or conditions can bring us into close communion with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Also, honesty with ourselves, others, and God about our own spirit, personal struggles, and celebrations bring us closer and deeper to our God. **I was recently challenged in a worship service to think of my life as a spirit on a human journey, rather than a human on a spirit journey.** Some things will pass away, but what a powerful moment when we come to terms with what will not. Attentiveness to the spiritual deepens our ways and motivations as well as our thoughts and speech. It is a deception to believe that we can hide our spiritual struggles and doubts and therefore they will go undetected. Eventually, we all find that a time of confessing and renewal can heal and deepen our soul.

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This Lenten season, I extend the invitation to open our mind and heart to what is real – Godly real. It may, however, mean a pass through darkness; we all have some of that in our lives. Resurrection is coming, but it may be we have spiritual preparation left to do so we can embrace all of the reality of God's blessing.

The friend of mine that had a "real" moment in that hospital twenty years ago likely experienced something divine, even eternal as he blessed a small patient, and consequently touched the heart of God. This can be our moment as well, and a change that will move us into the heavenly realm of God, even while we minister on earth.



## Church Notes

The daughters of **Doris Devine** would like to thank the First Baptist family for your kind expressions of sympathy at the loss of our mother. We also truly appreciated the beautiful memorial service led by Pastor Jason, the poignant eulogy given by Quent Sewell, the amazing music played and sung by Sarah Russo, and the professional-looking programs produced by Jimmy Wakeman.

Linda Devine, Donna Hutchinson, Nancy Devine, Karen Akins, and Patti Devine

**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.

**Rev. Gordon and Barbara Bourne**, pastor and wife at FBC in the late sixties, wrote a note accompanying their contribution to the Paint To Preserve Phase 2 campaign.

*We have some good memories of our three years there, not the least of which was the heated floors in the parsonage on Cherry Road! We pray God's blessing on your good work.*

**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 March newsletter for the date for this exciting and fun event. Start planning your act now!!!

**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.

## February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	4 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	5	6
7 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	8	9	10 <i>7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service</i>	11 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	12	13
14 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	15	16 <i>7:00 pm A&amp;F Meeting</i>	17 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i>	18 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	19	20
21 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	22	23	24 <i>Wonderful Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:15 p.m. Bible Study</i>	25 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	26	27
28 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	29					

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*

3 Gail Harrington  
5 Marques McEwan  
6 Don Chute  
9 Oshin Samuel  
14 Cheryl Perry  
14 Velissa Velazco  
16 Stella Chapin

20 Lynn Monaco  
22 Lecia Schronce  
23 Jane Williams  
24 Carlota Velazco  
26 Nancy Devine  
27 Patrick Watton

### February Birthdays



## Dean Drummond Gives Invocation at Statehouse

Andover Newton Theological School is proud to have played a part in Gov. Charlie Baker's first State of the Commonwealth Address. Dr. Sarah B. Drummond, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs & Associate Professor of Ministerial Leadership, delivered the invocation on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, at the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston.

The prepared text of Dean Drummond's invocation is below:

*Holy One, we call you by many names and seek you walking different paths. We honor each other's pursuit of truth. As we acknowledge the Spirit that we can't see, measure, or even describe, we are bold to ask that we might be blessed with that Spirit tonight. We bid the presence of whatever each of us calls holy on this night of reflecting back and looking forward toward the future of our Commonwealth.*

*We pray for those who heard the call to a life of service and answered it through giving of themselves to our beloved Massachusetts. Leadership is ... difficult ... particularly at a time when stakes are high, scrutiny is constant, and neither trust nor forgiveness is easy to come by. We give thanks that your children gathered here have taken up the yoke despite the sacrifices service requires. May those who lead -- even when they're criticized, or when they try and fail -- sense that the rewards for what they do for others will come back to them in the form of a flourishing world.*

*Tonight we especially lift up your servant, Charles Duane Baker IV. We thank you that he cares for those in our Commonwealth who are most vulnerable: people afflicted with addiction; women, men, and children without homes; those who are detained or in prison; cities and small towns that seek to build community in the midst of scarce resources. We ask that Governor Baker's words might come from his heart, and that his heart might be strengthened by the presence of all who have gathered to hear his vision.*

*We look ahead to this evening together as a time when we might grow in unity. May the God of our understandings bless this gathering and bring new life to our Commonwealth through all that is said and done in this venerable, historic space, tonight and always.  
Amen.*

### Painting Update

- Worship continues in Reilly Hall
- There will be no pot luck lunch in February
- The Middle/High School Sunday School class has moved into part of the Children's Room
- Sunday School opening continues at 9:45 am
- Adult Sunday School continues to meet in Jefferson Hall beginning at 9:30 am
- Coffee and goodies are still available
- Library 4 continues as usual

## **NOMINATIONS FOR 2016**

(“<” = vote needed for new term; “>” = continuing term; YEAR = last full year of term)

### **CHURCH OFFICERS:** *Elected Annually*

CLERK: <2016 Marilyn Wakeman  
TREASURER: <2016 Karen Vaz  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: <2016 Lynn Monaco  
MODERATOR: <2016 Alan Harrington  
CHAIR A&F: <2016 Chris Monaco

### **CHURCH DELEGATES:** *Elected Annually*

TABCOM: <2016 Paul Moore <2016 Naomi Stanley  
STILLMAN ASSOCIATION: <2016 Quentin Sewell <2016 Kathie Zeman

## **CHURCH BOARDS**

(Elected for 3-year terms, for maximum of two consecutive terms)

### **DEACONS/MINISTRY BOARD:** *(Suggested Organization to be Chair, Care and Concern, Christian Education & Discipleship, Hospitality & Fellowship, Worship, etc.)*

2<sup>nd</sup> >2017 Diane Halbert 2<sup>nd</sup> >2017 Ray Zeman  
2<sup>nd</sup> >2017 Carolyn Reilly 1<sup>st</sup> >2016 Naomi Stanley  
2<sup>nd</sup> >2017 Jay Reilly 1<sup>st</sup> >2016 Tom Stefanini  
Ex-Officio as Visitation Manager: Marilyn Wakeman

### **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE BOARD:** *(Suggested Organization to be Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Building, Church Grounds, Parsonage, Pleasant Street, etc.)*

Church Officer A&F Chair: Chris Monaco  
Church Treasurer (ex-officio A&F) Karen Vaz  
Church Fin. Sec. (ex-officio A&F) Lynn Monaco  
2<sup>nd</sup> >2017 Jimmy Wakeman, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> >2016 Kathie Zeman  
1<sup>st</sup> >2017 Martin Acevedo 1<sup>st</sup> <2018 Wilson Kibam Ndzi  
1<sup>st</sup> >2016 Neil Halbert 1<sup>st</sup> <2018 Jennifer Swain

### **MISSIONS BOARD:** *(Suggested Organization to be Chair, Local Missions Coordinator, Local Events, Nat'l & Int'l Coordinator, Outreach, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.)*

2<sup>nd</sup> <2017 Dorothy Tucker\* 2<sup>nd</sup> <2018 John Moore\*  
2<sup>nd</sup> <2017 Judy Richardson\* 2<sup>nd</sup> <2018 Paul Moore\*  
1<sup>st</sup> >2017 Cheryl Perry 1<sup>st</sup> <2018 Akosua Badoo  
1<sup>st</sup> >2016 Lorna Mailhoit Mission Advocate: Mary Moore

(\*) 4 members served 4 years on their first term. Recommend voting 2 2-year 2<sup>nd</sup> terms and 2 3 year 2<sup>nd</sup> terms in keeping with the principle of approximately one-third turnover each year.)

### **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

Church Moderator, Church Clerk, A&F Chair, Deacons/Ministry Chair, Missions Chair, Communications At Large Annually: >2016 Cheryl Perry; >2016 Carolyn Reilly  
Recommended non-voting Christian Ed Chair,  
Recommended non-voting Stewardship Chair Oct. thru Dec.  
Nominating Chair (Quentin Sewell 10/15-01/16). **OPEN for Exec. Co. appointment Oct. 2016.**

### **CHURCH AUDITORS:**

Annually: >2016 Nancy Devine; >2016 James Wakeman, Sr.

**COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR:** Annually: >2016 Linda Devine.

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First Baptist Church in Framingham

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# ASH Wednesday

We will celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season with a Worship Service on February 10 at 7 pm. The service will be our traditional hymn and scripture service, with an invitation for each person to come forward to receive a cross of ashes placed on your forehead. Ashes are a traditional Christian symbol for mortality and repentance. Mortality, because even though our spirit lives eternally, our bodies eventually die and return to the dust of the ground, and repentance because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did or did not do, they would put ashes on their head and wear scratchy clothing as a reminder of the discomfort sin brings to our life. The ashes come from burnt palm leaves from past Palm Sundays. The ashes are then mixed with a small amount of oil and saved for future Ash services.