

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 and most profound possessions we can own is our responsibility. As Christians, we do have a responsibility for what we have and even more so what we become. Much of scripture is dedicated to how we prioritize our lives. We are told that we possess deeply rooted spiritual gifts from God, and that when we realize what we have, and develop what we have, we will bless the world. Our responsibility is to identify and develop what we have been given by God. Teaching, encouraging, preaching, ministering, giving, leading, and compassion are a few listed in the book of Romans. I also believe that the same can be said for the material resources and opportunities in our life. Simply put, when we have resources at our disposal, how we spend them and share them matter to our Lord.

In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, a story is recorded where Jesus spoke of a man going on an extended trip. He called his workers together and gave them sums of money to manage while he went away. He gave one five talents, another two talents, and to a third, one talent, each in proportion to his ability. A talent was equal to about fifteen years of wages for a common worker in that day. After a long absence he returned and the servants settled accounts with him. The first had multiplied his talents exponentially. The second doubled what he had. The third, however, buried his talent and there was no growth on what he had been given. He followed up this burial with one excuse after another. Next, each of the workers was assessed and the first two praised for their work. The third, however, was thrown out into the darkness and despised.

This parable should cause each of us to pause and think deeply about our life and the meaning of it in Christian faith. First, I have given thought to what a talent represents. I do think the parable is literally talking about money. The currency of the day could be traded for goods and services in similar fashion to how we use it today. And, how we apply what we have to the needs of the world matters to God. Also, I believe it is talking about talent defined as the bounty of life. Consider how miraculously we are created. This is the good news. The even better news is that we have been given a wealth of liberty and potential in our lives. The great expectations that exist on our behalf occur because our creator knows what we are and what we can become. On that thought, I encourage you to think about the spirit of God and the forming of God's kingdom on earth as an attainable goal, but also as one that will stretch our faith and life beyond human measure. What I have learned from people is that ***we risk the most when we care the deepest and believe whole-heartedly.*** I am amazed at the risk I have seen in people's lives when their heart is engaged. Our lives will reflect the depth of our hope. On the other hand, if we are not engaged or impassioned by a cause or investment in our life, we will pull back, live an aloof faith life, and never see the true reward that our God hopes for each of us to see.

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As we move together in a new year with certainty and uncertainty abounding, I ask that we think deeply about how we will embrace new opportunities for living faithfully and sharing the generosity our Lord has entrusted to us. We all have so much to give, and now is an opportune time to put into practice a renewed celebration of life, sharing, and abundance from our God.

Jason

Church Notes

A big “Thank You” to the **Russo family** who provided such beautiful music on Christmas Sunday. Thanks also to **Kelly and Annabelle Rutherford, Daniel Rutherford (on the trumpet), Ed Zeman and Naomi Stanley** for their beautiful musical offerings during the Christmas Eve service.

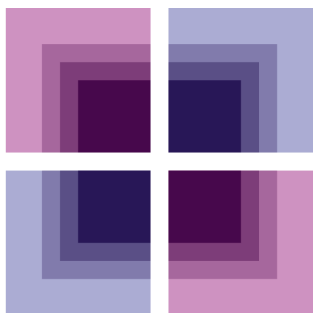
Annual Reports are due to Kathie Zeman (kczeman@gmail.com) by Sunday, January 15.

Thanks go to **Arlene Mills** for being our Christmas postmistress!

We are hosting a towel drive through January 15, for the families of **Family Promise Metrowest**. Donate wash clothes, hand towels, and bath towels. Place your donations in the basket in the narthex. Thank You!

It's never too early to start thinking about what you will do for the **2017 Talent Show!** This event is always a lot of fun but more importantly is one of the major fundraisers for the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Please think about sharing your talents (whatever they may be) or just being part of the audience. More information in the February newsletter.

RMMO Offering



The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930s, when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God's service.

This year our theme is Faith through Gratitude. Through our faith in God, and our gratitude for the salvific actions of Jesus Christ we are called to be faithful servants of the gospel and to live out the ministry of Jesus in word and deed. The gratitude that we have for Jesus' gift to us is the seed from which springs the gratitude that manifests toward the people of God.

The offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God's service by providing emergency assistance in times of need and a thank you check at the end of each year. We hope you will join us in honoring God's committed servants.

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>NO POTLUCK</i>	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	9	10	11	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	16	17 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	18 7:00 pm Executive Council	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting	23	24	25	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship <i>Annual Meeting (snow date)</i>	30	31				

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

Word of Life Church meets: Sunday evening from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary and hall
Tuesday evening from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the hall

All calendar entries are subject to change

1 Annette Stefanini
6 Linda Devine
9 Jacob Gogan
10 JG Omans
11 Charlie Poole
11 Jubilee Rutherford
12 Quentin Sewell
15 Walter Ross
15 Jason Rutherford
16 D. Paul Moore

22 Phyllis Devine
24 Patrick Gogan
25 Naomi Stanley
25 Emmitt Tucker
27 Andrew Brown
29 Don Chute
29 Nelson Samuel
29 Mayda Velazco
31 Lew Oxford

January Birthdays



First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



POSTING

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 22, 2017
Snowdate: Sunday, January 29

This is the posting for The First Baptist Church in Framingham Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 22, 2017 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