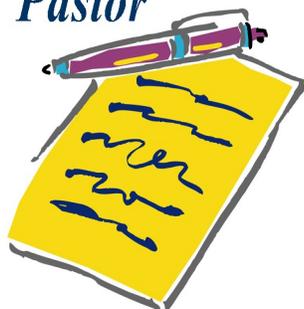


Baptist Notes

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



The spiritual season of Lent begins March 1, and as a congregation we recognize it as a time of holy reflection and renewing our spirits to the Lord. This season preceding Easter includes 40 days (not including Sundays) and was designated by the early church as a time of penance and preparation. The number 40 was chosen because it was the number of days Jesus was tempted in the desert. We begin the season with Ash Wednesday, March 1, and as part of the Christian tradition, display a cross of ashes on our forehead as a sign of humility and confession, symbolizing sorrow for our sin. The season continues to Easter.

As part of our season, I am preparing a devotion guide as a reflection on our spiritual life, and as an opportunity to renew our focus and thoughts around our faith. I am asking for you to give thought to contributing a devotion (200 to 400 words, or about ½ page to a full page) for the reflection guide. It's not complicated. In short, give some thought to a memory, a favorite Bible Story, or some experience you would like to share with the congregation. I have five people who have agreed so far, and my goal is 20 devotions.

I am asking you to consider doing this because as people of faith, it is important to share our faith. And, what better place than with our own church family. So, please consider giving this some thought, and know that your words are significant, and that your faith is real, and worth the time to bless others with your testimony.

Also, our annual Ash Wednesday service will be March 1 at 7 pm in the sanctuary.

God bless you for living faithfully, and for encouraging others with your faith.

Jason

Meet Your At-Large Council Members

Do you have a question or concern that you'd like Executive Council to know about? All you need to do is talk to Cheryl Perry or Naomi Stanley. At the annual meeting on January 22, we elected many new officers, board members, Council members, and committee chairs. Among them were these two at-large members of the Council.

You will almost always find Cheryl cheerfully ushering on the Pleasant Street side of the church, handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, or providing a microphone to speakers. Naomi could be teaching Sunday school before church or sweetly singing in the choir during the service. Both of them would love to hear from you with any suggestions you may have for making the church a better place for worship and fellowship.

The Executive Council is a sounding board for communication with the congregation, and these two members take it to an individual level. They are happy to talk with you any time and present your thoughts for discussion at the monthly meeting. Cheryl and Naomi are all ears for you.

HOPE Worldwide Food Pantry

Last year members and friends of FBC were very generous in supporting the pantry with donations of health and beauty products. Once again this year, they are asking for our support. Items still needed :

- Bars of soap
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and Conditioner

Their limited budget can rarely afford these items. Thank you for your donations! They are greatly appreciated.



Earth Day and Our Textile Drive

Let's keep those old textiles out of landfills and show the local community that First Baptist cares about our planet! Put April 29 on your calendar now to save the date.

Once again, our church will be the collection site for used textiles during Framingham's Earth Day. When we volunteered for the effort last spring, our wonderful crew collected 1,300 pounds of donations, and we think we can at least double that amount this year. We will be paid by the pound, and the profit goes directly into the general fund to further the needs and services of our church.

We will be set up on the church green on Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please start now to gather donations from your home and ask all your friends to do the same. Here's what we'd like to collect, all of which must be clean:

- Clothing
- Hats
- Belts and ties
- Purses and tote bags
- Footwear (tied in pairs)
- Blankets
- Sheets
- Towels
- Soft or stuffed toys

We cannot take pillows. Although the donations must be clean, the clothes do not have to be wearable. Bag2School, the group that buys them from us, may sell those that are reusable. Torn and stained items can be recycled into other products.

If you would like to join the fun in setting up on the church green, collecting donations, loading donations into a truck at the end, or cleaning up, please talk to Linda Devine.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	3	4
5 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Potluck Lunch</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	10	11
12 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Missions</i>	13 <i>7:15 pm A&F Meeting</i>	14	15 <i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i>	16 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	17	18
19 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship—Rev. June Cooper, Guest Preacher</i>	20	21	22	23 <i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	24	25
26 <i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:15 p.m. Deacons</i>	27	28				

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

3 Gail Harrington
5 Marques McEwan
5 Emmanuel Badoo
6 Don Chute
9 Oshin Samuel
13 Martin Hemel
14 Cheryl Perry
14 Velissa Velazco

16 Stella Chapin
20 Lynn Monaco
22 Lecia Schronce
23 Jane Williams
24 Akosua Badoo
24 Carlota Velazco
26 Nancy Devine
27 Patrick Watton

February Birthdays



First Baptist Church in Framingham

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You Can Be A Star !!



Our Annual Talent Show will be held after lunch on **Sunday, March 26, 2017**. This event is always a lot of fun but more importantly is a major fundraiser for the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Please think about sharing your talents (whatever they may be) or just being part of the audience. Desserts will be on sale at intermission and we will take a free-will offering for the Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Kathie Zeman if you are interested in participating in a group activity. We are currently formulating ideas for this group act. No special talents required, just your enthusiasm and willingness to do almost anything. You won't regret it!!