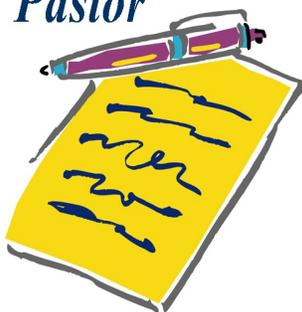


Baptist Notes

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



Isaiah, chapter 11 begins, “*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*” I want to take a few moments and allow these words of Isaiah to sink in. Full of symbolism and quite apropos for this time of year, a shoot, or a young branch of new growth, became the hope of the world. After generations of promises, broken promises, wars, infidelity, redemption, and idolatry, a young branch, a thread of hope, is born and became one of us. I am speaking, of course, of Jesus.

Imagine for a moment reading scripture and thinking of your life from a new perspective. Imagine seeing, not through your own understanding, but through the understanding of one who sees the whole world. Imagine seeing the diversity of people, species, color, health, wealth, opportunity, pain, and confusion, and wanting to bring relief and salvation to all creation. Imagine our Lord, our Creator who can see and provide a Savior, doing this on our very behalf. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit looking into the world and willing to do something – anything – to help the dire situation. Do you hope to be a part of this reconciliation? Are you ready to receive the Lord, and as a result, be a part of serving a starving world?

Our church has historically had ups and downs, joys and sorrows. This is not inconsistent with the world at large. The joys remind us that life is good, and our sorrows will serve to ground us in empathy for one another. We are the Body of Jesus Christ, and as part of this Body, also a part of the hope for the world. As we approach our congregational life, we can and should do so with joy. We can and should do so in gratitude, remembering the mercy of God in our own life. We can and should do so willingly, remembering the Spirit of God is ready and willing to bring relief and salvation to the whole world. And finally, we can and should do so without grumbling and keeping score, remembering we are all in dire need of the salvation Jesus brings to the world. I encourage you then to imagine your life as a recipient of the fullness of God’s grace, and respond with enthusiasm to the grace of the Lord.

Currently there are opportunities for service to the church and community. Also, there are opportunities for Bible Study and fellowship with one another. Finally, there is our weekly worship of our one, true God. I want to encourage you to embrace these opportunities. Further-

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more, I want you to consider what other ways we can provide spiritual service to one another and the community at large. New ministries are welcome and ideas are emerging as we speak. Consider what your spiritual offering will be to your God and your church family, and prepare to step forward today as a minister of Christ Jesus. And remember, the heart of God is to meet people where they are, care, and respond to the needs of the people.

Jason

Library 4 Update

On Easter Sunday we had 11 children present in "Library 4". They were read about the resurrection that "Jesus Lives" as well as the fiction "Simon and the Easter Miracle", and did a word search. We also celebrated two April birthdays. On Palm Sunday they were read "Humphrey's First Palm Sunday".

In March they colored shamrocks for our shut-ins. "Painter and Ugly", An Iditarod story, was also read and they played the Alaska "Stars and Strikes" game. "Wonderfully Made" by Joyce Meyer was read on our Talent Show day. Another time they made Easter cards for our shut-ins. .

Our biggest project this spring was reading and learning about "Joseph" and his coat of many colors. We plan to tell that story on Children's Day.

At the end of April we will read the story of Ruth and later the story of Esther.

For May we will provide a few shut-ins with a May Day Word Search.

Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Wakeman



Sunday, May 7

We have several folk attending camp (Grotonwood or Oceanwood) this year. This will be an offering only (there is no lunch or representative from the camps) envelopes will be in the morning bulletin, but donations are welcome at any time.

The Executive Council is calling for a church business meeting on Sunday, May 7 immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the nomination of Neil Halbert to fill the position of Financial Secretary.



May 2017

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

All calendar entries are subject to change

May Birthdays



1 Christine Brown	11 Brian Halbert
1 Judith Richardson	13 Xavier Allen
3 Catherine Lewis	13 Gabriel Erguiza
4 Anne Cerutti	14 Jim Wakeman, Jr.
4 John Moore	14 Michael Eser
4 Evan Harris	15 Vinton Allen
6 Joan Reilly	20 Kim Philipp
6 Chris Monaco	25 Adele Williams
8 Francesca Cerutti-Harris	28 Janie Harris
10 Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit	31 Bob Travis

First Baptist Church in Framingham

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Join us on

Saturday, May 13

Areas where work will be done include:

Kitchen

Children's Room

Bathrooms

We will get started around 9:00 am

Coffee and donuts provided!

