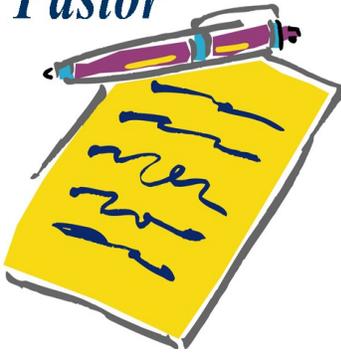


# Baptist Notes

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



The “way to God” is a subject spanning many cultures, beliefs, and practices throughout documented human history. There are too many to count on one page, however, in this day, and in Christian tradition and practice, our congregation has become a voice in the Framingham community of what we say it means to know and experience God through our Christian faith. Through the guidance of scripture, Holy Spirit, church tradition, and encouraging one another, we strive to find our way to the salvation of God for our lives. One of the most striking sentiments that Jesus taught and demonstrated was welcoming one another is literally welcoming God. The wealthy, the poor, the sick, the healthy, the powerful, the powerless, then popular, the outcasts, the young child, the old graybeards, and on and on, Jesus demonstrated that when we welcome one another, we welcome God.

Jesus promised a Holy Spirit, a helper to guide our hearts after His resurrection. The Holy Spirit works mysteriously, nurturing our heart to take the opportunities God makes available to us as we minister and mature in faith. Also, our Church tradition is a helpful guide and teacher, demonstrating for us ways to apply the teaching and guidance of God to minister in the world we are entrusted to serve and protect. One day Jesus heard the disciples talking about which among them was the greatest. He picked up the teachable moment, placed a child among them, and said, “whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. The word last, *esxatos* in the Greek, means last, lowest, final, and uttermost. In short, to follow Jesus is to embrace all people.

As we encourage one another, we open our heart to encourage any and all people, and this may be our tallest order as a Christian. There are those in our life who will be our greatest challenge, and it is these very ones that will bring us to our knees, and consequently bring us to God. As we embrace the people in our life, so we embrace God. As we welcome the people in our way, so we welcome God.

Jason



## Church Notes

A big “Thank You” to the **Russo family** who provided such beautiful music on Christmas Sunday. Thanks also to **Kelly Rutherford, Daniel Rutherford (on the trumpet) and Janie Harris (on the flute), 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 Saturday, January 20.

It’s never too early to start thinking about what you will do for the **2018 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.

## What Do You Know About Epiphany?

Epiphany is commonly known as Three Kings’ Day or the Feast of the Epiphany. It means “manifestation” or “showing forth”. It is also called Theophany (“manifestation of God”), especially by Eastern Christians. Epiphany refers not only to the day itself but to the church season that follows it – a season that has a varied length because it ends when Lent begins, and this depends on the date of Easter.

It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus’ divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three kings (also known as wise men or Magi) visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan. The Roman Catholic and Protestant churches emphasize the visit of the Magi when they celebrate the Epiphany. The Eastern Orthodox churches focus on Jesus’ baptism.

Epiphany is one of the oldest Christian feasts. It was celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. Like other Christian seasons, the church appropriated Epiphany from an old pagan festival. As early as 1996 BCE, the Egyptians celebrated the winter solstice (which then occurred on January 6) with a tribute to Aeon, the Virgin. It is important to note that the holiday was established prior to the Gregorian calendar’s introduction.

## Generous Congregations



## 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.

We hope congregations will be inspired by the theme this year, *Generous Congregations*. The verse is taken from Isaiah 32:8, ‘But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.’” Generosity is central to our faith. As Christians, we are called to serve and care for others, and RMMO aligns with the collective spirit of love that inspires us all to honor the devotion of ministers and their families for their service to the church. We hope you will join us in honoring God’s committed servants.

## January 2018

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                                  | Wed                                    | Thu                                  | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|   | 1   | 2                                    | 3                                      | 4<br><i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>  | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br><i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education<br/>10:45 a.m. Worship<br/>Noon Communications Meeting<br/><br/>Potluck Lunch</i> | 8   | 9                                    | 10                                     | 11<br><i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br><i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education<br/>10:45 a.m. Worship<br/>Noon Missions Meeting</i>                             | 15  | 16<br><i>7:00 pm A&amp;F Meeting</i> | 17<br><i>7:00 pm Executive Council</i> | 18<br><i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br><i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education<br/>10:45 a.m. Worship</i>   | 22  | 23                                   | 24                                     | 25<br><i>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</i> | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br><i>9:45 a.m. Christian Education<br/>10:45 a.m. Worship<br/>Noon Light Lunch<br/><br/><b>Annual Meeting</b></i>   | 29  | 30                                   | 31                                     |                                      |     |     |

Notes: AA meets : Monday evenings at 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. in the Children's Room  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at Noon in Reilly Hall

*All calendar entries are subject to change*

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Annette Stefanini   | 22 Phyllis Devine |
| 6 Linda Devine        | 24 Patrick Gogan  |
| 9 Jacob Gogan         | 25 Naomi Stanley  |
| 10 JG Omans           | 25 Emmitt Tucker  |
| 11 Charlie Poole      | 27 Andrew Brown   |
| 11 Jubilee Rutherford | 29 Don Chute      |
| 15 Walter Ross        | 29 Nelson Samuel  |
| 15 Jason Rutherford   | 29 Mayda Velazco  |
| 16 D. Paul Moore      | 31 Lew Oxford     |

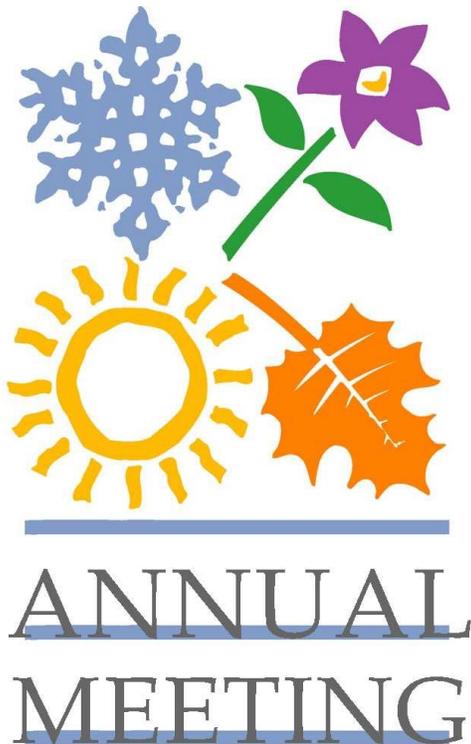
### January Birthdays



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First Baptist Church in Framingham

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PO Box 2415  
Framingham, MA 01703



# POSTING

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, 2018  
Snowdate: Sunday, February 4

This is the posting for The First Baptist Church in Framingham Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 28, 2018 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*