

Baptist Notes

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



In planning for the upcoming holiday season, one of the ways I prepare is to work with our worship leaders to select music for our worship services. One particular hymn caught my attention in a special way, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" by Henry Alford. At first glance it is a perfect choice for a season of gratitude and thanksgiving, and it really does capture the season. However, what has set this hymn apart in my mind is learning more about its creation. The author, Henry Alford, composed the words in the middle 1800s in celebration of the English Harvest Festival, the British version of American Thanksgiving.

Alford was born in London and showed aptitude for learning and ministry, even composing a biography of the apostle Paul at the age of six (I have a six-year-old and this is highly uncommon for this age). But what sticks with me is what the Dean of Cambridge University said of him, "He was morally the bravest man I ever knew. His perfect purity of mind and singleness of purpose seemed to give him a confidence and unobtrusive self-respect which never fails him." (Robert Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul*)

This reference inspires me to imagine how we, too, are creating a legacy in our lives that bless and inspire others. To be defined, even by one person, as possessing a single-minded purpose is an accomplishment. Furthermore, to be known as a person of faith, taking with gratitude the gift of God in our life and producing something of value in the lives of others, is beyond commendable. As we enter into the holiday season, a season of gratitude, and celebration of hope through Jesus' birth and life, I pray we reflect on how we make meaning in the lives of others, as well as live true to the single-minded purpose our Creator has endowed within us.

Jason

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26 7pm
 First Parish in Framingham, 24 Vernon Street

Rabbi Allison Poirier will deliver the service message. There will be sacred words from many traditions, a vocal choir and combined bell choir. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Pearl Street Cafe "Feed a Family" initiative.



Honoring the Past Celebrating the Present Planning for the Future

As we think about what gifts we can bring to this church, it's important to reflect on what a gift this church has been to all of us and to consider what we want the future of our church to be. The faith of our church's historical mothers and fathers is exemplary, as is the dedication of our current membership.

We are the ones who will, with faith and through God's guidance, enable The First Baptist Church in Framingham to continue to be the beacon of light and hope that it is to our members, to our community and to our extended family around the world. First Baptist exists through us and because of the Spirit that moves us. And because of us, and the love we bring to this church, we will (as we have always done) move toward a brighter future.

It's time for all of us to carefully consider our finances and commit to a pattern of giving that will keep our church family healthy and our church home thriving. Do not be anxious; do not be afraid to share. God will make sure your needs are met and will reward you for your faith and generosity. Think of this as an invitation to change your heart through extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and The First Baptist Church in Framingham.

Please stay after worship on November 3 for a short financial presentation, following our potluck lunch. We will receive your estimates of giving during worship on November 10, the Board of Administration and Finance will provide special treats at coffee hour.



Giving Tree Project



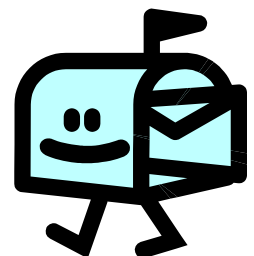
The Executive Council is working with the DCF again this year to provide Christmas gifts for 10 DCF foster children! Each child will receive 3 gifts: a clothing gift and 2 non-clothing gifts. There are clothing sizes and non-clothing suggestions for each child for each gift! Three labels for each child will be on a small Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. You may select 1 or more labels and may take all 3 for the same child if you so desire.

Please return your UNWRAPPED gift(s) **with the gift tag(s) attached to the gift(s)**. Please return gifts **on or before Sunday December 8th**. Thank you for your help bringing joy to foster children this year!

Christmas Post Office

Do your Christmas cards early this year! Our annual Christmas Post Office will begin on Sunday, December 1st. At that time you may start bringing your cards for those who attend Sunday morning worship services, and place them in the tray in the Narthex. Please try to have them in alphabetical order, as it helps the postmaster (Mrs. Wakeman) and is greatly appreciated.

Cards may also be brought in on Sunday, December 8th. All Christmas cards will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 15th. (please note that NONE will be accepted on that day to be sorted!)



November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Potluck Lunch Stewardship Presentation Missions Meeting	4	5 6:30 p.m. Terrific Tuesdays	6	7 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Work Day
10 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	11	12	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	18	19 7:15 pm A&F Meeting	20 7:00 pm Executive Council	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting	25	26 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving	29	30

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
 Hope Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All calendar entries are subject to change

November Birthdays

10	Marcus Vaz
11	Ernesto Velazco
14	Catherine Tucker
18	Ivette Badoo
23	Olivia Zeman



Executive Council has voted that the Thanksgiving Offering go to A Place to Turn - from their mission statement: A Place To Turn is committed to providing emergency food and clothing to our neighbors in the Metrowest community. We will serve those in need in an atmosphere of caring and mutual respect.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road

PO Box 2415

Framingham, MA 01703



Work Day

Saturday, November 9

Starts at 9:00 a.m.



Jobs big and small
for everyone

Coffee and donuts
provided