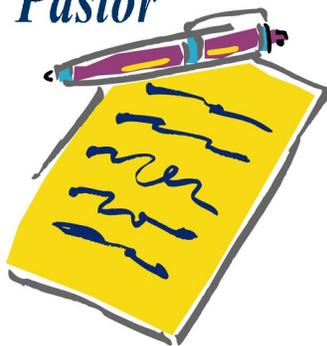


Baptist Notes

December 2018/
January 2019

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



The Advent and Christmas seasons are a meaningful time to remember the beauty of birth, hope, and desire of God in each of us. It is a time to remember the gift from God that becomes our life, and the responsibility that comes with responding faithfully to the blessing and hope of God's spirit in us. When we want to live faithfully, there emerges a stewardship to becoming people of faith. Jesus told a parable that is familiar and can be understood from the view of God's desire for each of us. In the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew, a story is told where Jesus spoke of a man going on an extended trip. He called his workers together and gave them large 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. One talent represented about fifteen years of wages. After a long absence he returned and the servants settled accounts with him. The first had multiplied his talents. 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. I have given thought to what a talent represents. A talent was a financial currency at the time, however I understand this parable to be speaking more broadly and referring to the bounty of life. Consider how miraculously we are created, and what we have been given as the currency of our life. The great expectations that exist for us mean that 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 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, believing whole-heartedly for what we hope.** I am amazed at the risk I have seen in people's lives when their heart is engaged, and lives follow. Our life will reflect the depth of our conviction. On the other hand, if we are not engaged and motivated by a cause or investment in our life, we will pull back, bury what has been entrusted to us, and never see the true reward that our God hopes for each of us to see.

The advent and Christmas seasons is a time to remember that we are caught up in the miraculous blessing of God on earth. And, when our prayers and service before God are open and inviting of all that our Savior desires, we cannot escape blessing.

Jason

City Mission Boston and Grace Speaks-Old South Church in Boston
Annual Martin Luther King Day of Learning

**What You Do Matters: Ways to Engage Social Justice
Race, Immigration, Housing Justice**

Saturday January 19th from 8:30 am -1:00 pm
185 Columbia Road, Dorchester MA 02120

On March 8, 1965, Rev. Dr. King spoke from the pulpit on courage. He said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Dr. King's words and actions continue to inspire many good people to act to fight for justice and freedom.

This year's program will highlight community activist and artists who are confronting racism, wrestling with unfair immigration policies and practices, and resisting gentrification and displacement. The program will feature veteran civil rights leaders, legal advocates, and local artists. There will be opportunity for dialogue and networking with other community leaders and activist.

Social justice education programming will be provided for children ages 7-11.

Speakers will include:

- Mimi Jones, Civil Rights Icon
- Amelia Ratlift, local activist who will share about her Pilgrimage to the national memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama
- The Rev. Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Attorney at Law and Episcopal Priest
- Speakers representing the following organizations: Boston Legal Services, Dorchester Not4 Sale, City Life
- Artists including Tory Bullock, inventor of the Gentrification Game

REGISTRATION: Through City Mission website by January 14th

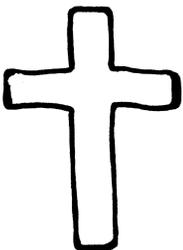
COST: Adults \$10.00 and Children 7-11 free

Church Notes

Congratulations to **Ellen and Greg Zeman** on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Brook on November 23.

We extend our condolences to the **family of Bob Travis** who passed away on November 12.

Annual Reports are due to Kathie Zeman (kczeman@gmail.com) by Sunday, January 13



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1 Happy Birth- day Baby Bas- ket Making</i>
2 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship Pot Luck Lunch</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	7	8
9 <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	14	15
16 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	17	18 <i>7:00 p.m. A&F Meeting</i>	19 <i>7:00 p.m. Executive Council</i>	20 <i>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</i>	21	22 <i>10:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal</i>
23 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> <i>9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Worship with Pag- eant Christmas Lunch</i>	24 <i>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29
30 <i>10:45 a.m. Worship</i>	31 <i>7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Celebration</i>					

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 Fridays 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Sundays 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All calendar entries are subject to change

December Birthdays

2 Ray Zeman	21 David Mayrand
6 Eric Reilly	22 Sam Ibikunle
8 Virginia Stearns	23 Dorothy Tucker
14 James Donovan	25 Angel Erguiza
14 Dawn McCormack	26 Jim Stone
14 Josie Thompson	26 Jay Reilly
15 Jeanne Emmons	26 Marilyn Wakeman
18 Theresa Abiola-Gamba	31 Winston Lewis
20 Henry Mbowa	



Rummage/Yard Sale A Success

Recently bags and boxes full of all sorts of items made it to Reilly Hall. A loyal group of sorters arrived to turn the mountain of stuff into organized mountains of stuff !! As always the last hour was devoted to a bag sale, buy a bag for \$2 and fit anything you can inside of it. It is really amazing to see how much can be crammed into a bag, but that leaves less for us to pack up. We added over \$650 to the painting fund. Many thanks to all those who made this possible!!

Save the Date

Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 27, 2019
(snow date: Sunday, February, 3)



We will gather at the home of Al and Gail Harrington in Shrewsbury for our annual New Year's eve gathering. Starting at 7:00 pm there will be great food (and lots of it). We will while away the hours until midnight by playing games, doing puzzles and fellowshiping together.

All are invited and welcome!!



Sunday School Pageant

Sunday December 23
Rehearsal, Saturday, Dec 22 at 10:00 am

Sunday School Pageant performed during the 10:45 am worship service

Pizza Lunch to follow

Take a Step Forward in Faith

It was 10 years ago when we gathered at Grotonwood for a church retreat. As we sang and talked and played and prayed, a “New Vision” for FBC came into view. This “New Vision” consisted simply of these words:



FAITH FAMILY JOY CREATIVITY GROWTH

The Stewardship Committee invites each of you to consider how these words reflect your “Vision” for FBC in the coming year. The Message interprets Habakkuk 2:2 as *Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run.* We ask each of you to take these words and step (run if you like) forward with the vision. This vision requires us to think about how we use the gifts of time, talents, and treasure that God has given to each of us. We have many exciting things planned for the coming year, but fulfilling this vision depends on the support of our whole Church family.

If you have not submitted your pledge card, please do so as soon as you can. The Board of Administration and Finance will meet on December 18 to formulate the church budget for 2019 and your pledge will help us formulate an accurate budget. You can place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday, or contact our Financial Secretary, Neil Halbert with your pledge amount.



Executive Council has designated the Christmas Offering be split between the City Mission and Family Promise Metrowest.



Christmas Offering

Family Promise Metrowest is a cooperative, interfaith partnership offering hope to homeless families with children through safe transitional shelter, meals, and supportive case management as they seek permanent housing. Our Pastor, Jason Rutherford and church members Lecia Schronce and Emmanuel Badoo serve on the Board of Directors.

We will be supporting **A Lift Up at City Mission**. This is an intensive, voluntary two-year homelessness prevention program for low-income single mothers and their families who are at risk of losing their housing.

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road

PO Box 2415

Framingham, MA 01703



*Monday,
December 24
7:00 p.m.*

Rev. Jason Rutherford

Preaching

Special Music

Candlelight

Christmas
Eve
Worship

