

# Baptist Notes

A Publication of the First Baptist Church in Framingham  
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## *From Your Temporary Shepherd*



Aaah, February!

February is an interesting and unique month. It is the shortest by at least two days and contains one federal holiday, two cultural ones, and sometimes a religious one, Ash Wednesday (in March this year).

My friends who struggle with depression find February to be extra challenging. The festivities and family gatherings of the Christmas season are over, the days are still pretty dark, and spring buds haven't even thought of peeking up through the frozen ground. (As I look out at my perennial garden, it's hard to believe that there are lovely blossoms resting under the snow, though only 3-4 inches at this writing.)

We are well aware that February is Heart Month and Black History Month. But did you know it was also Great American Pie Month, National Bird Feeding Month, National Cherry Month, and National Grapefruit Month?

In addition to Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day, other "cultural" holidays in February are Bubble Gum Day, Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (I could get behind that), Stuffed Mushroom Day, Thank a Mailman Day, Send a Card to a Friend Day, Boy and Girl Scout Days, Kite Flying Day, Clean Out Your Computer Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, National Chocolate Mint Day (yum), Love Your Pet Day, and about 50 other special and frivolous days. I guess someone thought February needed more occasions to celebrate since it is dark and short.

I don't mind winter, but I don't like the early dark. I don't get depressed, but I do get restless. This year has been different as I struggle with how to live without my sister. She and I were alike in many ways, and we both looked forward to garden season every year. So many things remind me of her, and almost every day I think to call her about something. I know that all of this is normal grieving stuff, and I think I'm making progress, whatever that means. Once again I thank you for your patience as I navigate this road and look for ways to honor her in my life.

The weeks before Lent — and Lent itself — provide the opportunity to discover new ways to make it through the bleakness of winter. Measured by the church year, the days go by fast, and the baby Jesus is growing up. He is teaching and preaching and healing the sick. Soon he will find himself in big trouble with the authorities — and we know the rest of the story.

Telling this story in whatever ways we can, to whomever we can, is one of the commissions of the church. Discovering new ways to do this, exploring the meaning of life together as a congregation, and focusing on how to move forward from here all come out of this commission. In this short, unique, challenging, cold, crazy month of February, I look forward to joining you in this.

Stay warm and well, be careful out there, and be blessed!

*Pastor Jerrie*

Rev. Jerrie Shepard Matney  
[revjasm@gmail.com](mailto:revjasm@gmail.com) | 518-331-0390

## February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 Groundhog Day</b> 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck lunch HBB Sale	3	4	5 7:00 pm Bible Study	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 10:30 am Worship	10	11 7:00 pm Exec Council	12 7:00 pm Bible Study	13 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14 Valentines</b>	15
16 10:30 am Worship	<b>17 Presidents</b>	18 7:00 pm A&F	19 7:00 pm Bible Study	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship	24	25 7:00 pm Deacons/ Ministry	26 7:00 pm Bible Study	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29

Notes: AA meets Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon in Reilly Hall.  
 Hope Bible Baptist Church rents space Sundays, 3–7 p.m.

### February Birthdays

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 5 Marques McEwan   | 23 Jane Williams   |
| 5 Emmanuel Badoo   | 24 Akosua Badoo    |
| 9 Oshin Samuel     | 24 Carlota Velazco |
| 13 Henry Carlson   | 26 Nancy Devine    |
| 13 Martin Hennelly | 26 Scott Llewellyn |
| 14 Cheryl Perry    | 26 Kate Thompson   |
| 14 Velissa Velazco | 27 Patrick Watton  |
| 20 Lynn Monaco     | 28 Roberta Hannon  |
| 22 Lecia Shronce   |                    |



**If you cannot attend worship in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, you can always join online by going to the church website (<http://www.firstbaptistframingham.org>) and clicking the ONLINE WORSHIP button. Enter the password shown under that button, and you can be part of the service every week.**

**Also, if the weather is severe (blizzards, hurricanes, etc.), the Pastor and the Deacons may cancel a service. Check the church website or Channel 5 TV for an announcement.**

## Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on January 14. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- At least one young person is interested in baptism. A baptism class may be held if there is enough interest.
- Kathie has cleaned the area where Happy Birthday Baby items were stored and will put out usable items for people to take. Takers may make a donation to the scholarship fund.
- Thanks to all who provided inspiring testimonials in early January 2025.
- The “Pledge Sheet” of time and talents will be available at the annual meeting.
- A Lenten Bible Study will start on Ash Wednesday, March 5.
- Pastor Jerrie will be away on April 6 to attend her sister’s memorial service. Rev. Linda McKenzie will preach.
- Our Automated External Defibrillator (AED) has arrived. The Board of A&F will determine placement in the building. Naomi Stanley will be a trained user and will train others.
- The Pastoral Search Committee will start having regular meetings and review the survey results in preparation for creating the church profile.
- Talent Show is scheduled for March 30, 2025.

The next Executive Council meeting is Tuesday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Lecia Shronce, Naomi Stanley, Judy Llewellyn, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Jerrie. Other church members are invited to attend Council and Board meetings as observers. Just let one of us know when you would like to join.



## You Can Support the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund

The storage closet off Reilly Hall is no longer used by the Happy Birthday Baby Program. To reclaim some storage, we have cleaned out this space and discovered several interesting items. Executive Council has authorized making these available to the congregation for a donation to the Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund. Come view the items during the potluck lunch on Sunday, **February 2**. As seen in the picture, you could choose from some adorable sheep stuffies, many Valentine’s Day decorations, lots of yarn, gel pens, and a box of bows for presents. Not shown are two large boxes of fabric and several other unique items. Please join us during potluck and help support the scholarship fund.

## **Bible Study**

The Bible study group is discussing Nahum on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 via Zoom. Please feel free to join the group. Just let Pastor Jerrie or Ray know so that you can get the link. (Thanks, Ray.) Attendees will read Chapter 2 next week.

## **Annual Meeting Follow-Up**

It was wonderful to have a full quorum and more at the church's annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. We appreciate all of you who attended in the sanctuary and online. It also was an honor to welcome the Rev. Dr. Mary Day Hamel, executive minister of TABCOM, to the pulpit and to the meeting. We started with a remembrance led by Kathie Zeman of members and friends we lost in 2024. Members were Gerry Mailhoit, Lewis Oxford, Tom Swan, and Pat Travis. Friends were Maren Garrett, Betty Muto, Joann Sewell, and JP Russo.

We then voted on the new slate of nominations (included in this newsletter) as well on budgets for the general fund and missions. Many thanks to our Board of Missions chair, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, our treasurer, Ray Zeman, and the entire Board of Administration & Finance for the work that went into creating the budgets. Also, Diane Halbert, chair of the Nominating Committee, did a stellar job of recruiting for open positions.

If you do not have an annual report and would like one, please see Linda Devine or Kathie Zeman. You also may contact the church office for a PDF version. You will want to read all the information from our clerk, board chairs, and pastors. The report also contains financial reports on several funds and activity in the general funds and missions accounts. We are grateful to the church staff, officers, board chairs, fund treasurers, internal auditors, and board and committee members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

At the end of the meeting, we reviewed a list of "hopes and dreams" that came as feedback from the Pastoral Search Committee survey. Here is the list so far:

- More structured youth programs (such as outings, field trips, cookouts)
- Church community activities (such as "feet to faith" activities we did in the past)
- Couples activities
- Praise music
- Mission trip
- Church outing
- Fundraisers (such as rummage sale, craft fair)
- Outreach to Framingham State University

Those who are interested and would like to help organize any of the initiatives are welcome to do so even before we have a settled pastor. Please talk to a member of the appropriate board or council about getting started.



## FBC IN FRAMINGHAM NOMINATIONS FOR 2025

Nominating Chair: Diane Halbert

Key: \* = vote needed for new term; > = continuing term; YEAR = last full year of term

### CHURCH OFFICERS: *Elected Annually*

CLERK:	*2025	Kathie Zeman
TREASURER:	*2025	Ray Zeman
FINANCIAL SECRETARY:	*2025	Neil Halbert
MODERATOR:	*2025	Linda Devine
CHAIR of A&F:	*2025	Al Harrington

### CHURCH DELEGATES: *Elected Annually*

TABCOM:	*2025	Naomi Stanley	*2025	OPEN
STILLMAN ASSOCIATION:	*2025	Naomi Stanley	*2025	Kathie Zeman

### CHURCH BOARDS

(Elected for three-year terms)

### DEACONS/MINISTRY BOARD: *(Suggested organization is Chair, Care and Concern, Christian Education & Discipleship, Hospitality & Fellowship, Worship, etc.)*

>2025	Diane Halbert	>2025	Jay Reilly
>2025	Ethel Luton-Campbell	>2026	Annette Stefanini
>2025	Emmanuel Badoo	>2026	Tom Stefanini

*Visitation Manager: Position to be filled internally by the Board of Deacons/Ministry.*

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE BOARD: *(Suggested organization is Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Church Building, Church Grounds, Parsonage, Pleasant St., etc.)*

Church Officer A&F Chair:	Al Harrington		
Church Treasurer (ex officio A&F)	Ray Zeman		
Church Fin. Sec. (ex officio A&F)	Neil Halbert		
>2025	Wilson Ndzi	>2026	Scott Llewellyn
>2025	Akosua Badoo	*2027	Robert Rowe
>2025	Naomi Stanley		

### MISSIONS BOARD: *(Suggested organization is Chair, Local Missions Coordinator, Local Events, National & International Coordinator, Outreach, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.)*

>2025	Francesca Cerutti-Harris	*2026	OPEN
>2025	Rev. June Cooper	*2027	Kelly Rutherford
>2025	Cheryl Perry	*2027	Bridget Blake-Mboowa

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Church Moderator, Church Clerk, Board of A&F Chair, Board of Deacons/Ministry Chair, Board of Missions Chair, Communications Committee Chair, Nominating Committee Chair (attendance expected only Oct. thru Jan.), At-Large Members  
Recommended, nonvoting: Christian Ed Coordinator and Stewardship Chair (Oct. thru Dec.)

**Communications Committee Chair:** Annually \*2025 Francesca Cerutti-Harris  
**Nominating Committee Chair:** Annually \*2025 Diane Halbert  
**At-Large Members:** Annually \*2025 Naomi Stanley, \*2025 Judy Llewellyn

**CHURCH INTERNAL AUDITORS:**

Annually \*2025 Nancy Devine \*2025 James Wakeman Sr.

**CHURCH COMMITTEES**

*Boards and the Executive Council appoint committee positions as indicated. Each year, the boards and Council must confirm the appointments.*

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** (Exec. Council – 3-year term on rotating basis)  
Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, James Wakeman Sr., Cheryl Perry

**HISTORIAN(S):** (Executive Council)  
Tom Stefanini

**MUSIC COMMITTEE:** (Deacons/Ministry)  
Music Director Sarah Russo

**FLOWER COMMITTEE:** (Deacons/Ministry)  
Judy Llewellyn, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Diane Halbert, Ceil Robinson, Naomi Stanley

**USHERING COMMITTEE:** (Deacons/Ministry)  
Diane Halbert

**WORSHIP PLANNING COMMITTEE:** (Deacons/Ministry)  
Naomi Stanley, Kathie Zeman, Music Director Sarah Russo

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** (Administration & Finance)  
*OPEN*

**SPECIAL FUNDS**

**Campership** (Deacons/Ministry): Kathie Zeman, Treasurer

**Deacons** (Deacons/Ministry): Tom Stefanini, Treasurer

**Levin/Chute** (Deacons/Ministry): Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley, Kathie Zeman (Treasurer)

**Memorial** (Administration & Finance): Kathie Zeman, Treasurer

**NOTES**

- The pastor is an ex officio member (without a vote) of all boards and committees.
- Board members may serve on only one board but also may serve on committees.



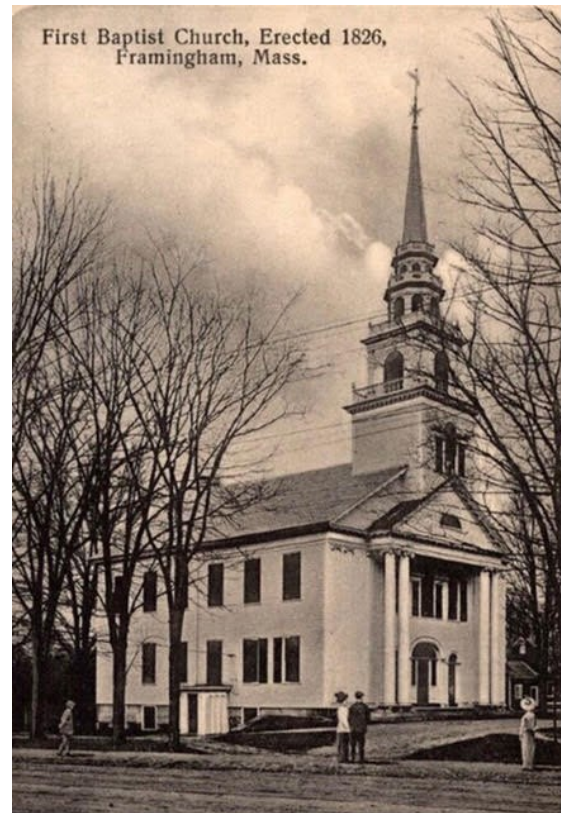
## 200 Years of The First Baptist Church in Framingham

Did you know that people began worshiping in our building at 1013 Worcester Road almost 200 years ago? The Executive Council is talking about commemorating the occasion with special celebrations. If you have ideas on ways to do that or would like to be part of the fun, please talk to any council member.

Here are some excerpts from our history timeline:

**November 17, 1825:** The cornerstone for the church building was laid with Masonic rites. Only a rough cellar was finished under the 54' x 64' building; the back was open so that horses could be driven in and hitched. Box pews were sold to cover the cost of building. Two heating stoves were installed — an unusual luxury in those days. Total cost of the building, furnishings, and land was about \$9,000.

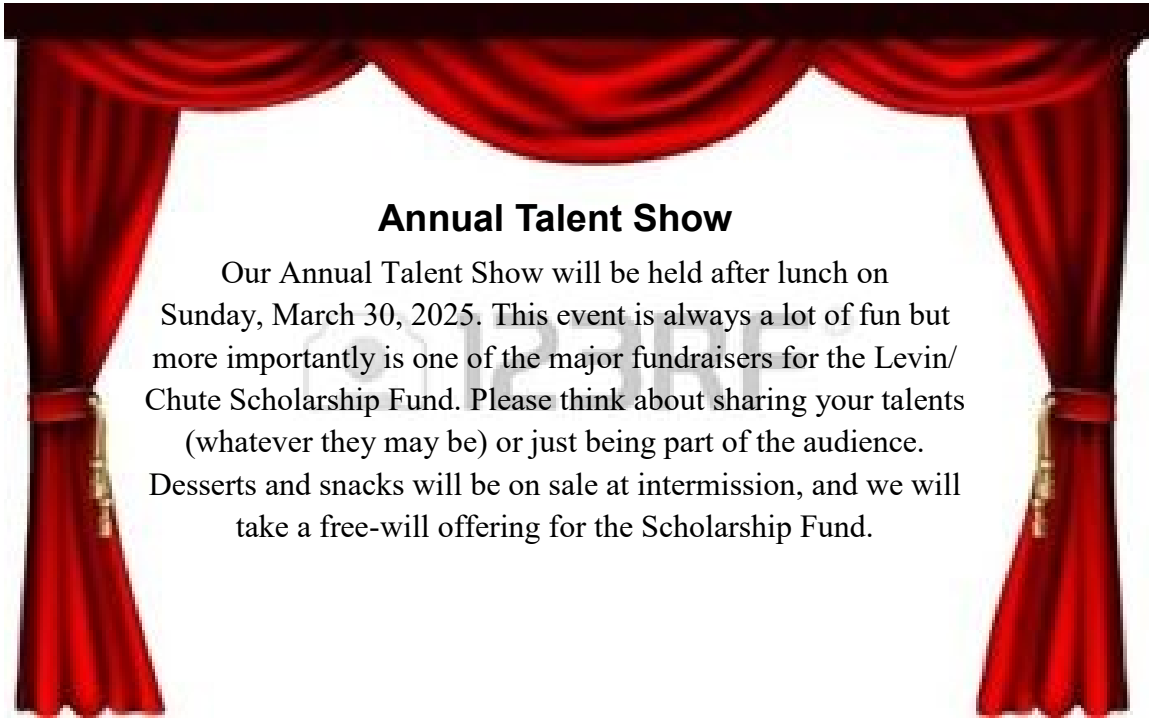
**May 3, 1826:** The Framingham church became a distinct body with 119 members when a council convened and voted “to constitute the brethren and sisters of Framingham as a distinct body and church of our Lord Jesus Christ in Framingham.” The Reverend Charles Train became the pastor.



### A Special Valentine

I'd like to hang a Valentine upon the world's front door,  
With hearts of love and peace entwined, to last forever more.  
With love to guide our daily path, there'd be no one in need.  
God's blessings would be shared by all of every race and creed.  
Peace would come to all the world as nations great and small  
Would put aside their selfish aims to work for the good of all.  
If I could have one wish today, I'd wish for nothing more  
Than to hang a great big Valentine upon the world's front door.

— William Franklin Jr.



## Annual Talent Show

Our Annual Talent Show will be held after lunch on Sunday, March 30, 2025. 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. Desserts and snacks will be on sale at intermission, and we will take a free-will offering for the Scholarship Fund.

## Aspire Women's Event

**Aspire**  
*1 night – 3 hours just for Women*  
 An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music

Author & Bible Teacher  
**BARB ROOSE**

**FRIDAY  
 MARCH 28, 2025**

**VALLEY  
 CHAPEL**  
 14 HUNTER RD.  
 UXBRIDGE, MA 01569

**7:00PM SHOW**  
 6:30PM PANEL TIME  
 6:00PM DOORS OPEN

Comedy by  
**KAY DODD**

Music by  
**LAURA WILLIAMS**

Come early and join us for a 15 minute panel time with all 3 ladies based on Colossians 2:6-7 called **"Deeply Rooted"**

**ADVANCE TICKETS**  
 General Admission – \$25  
 VIP/Reserved – \$35  
 For groups of 10 or more, please call the Aspire office at 480-812-1100 to register as a group leader and receive group leader incentives.  
 VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats and a snack bag

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100** or online at:  
**ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com**

We hope you can join us as we celebrate 10 years with ASPIRE

Compassion EFP Extreme Faith Productions

On Friday, March 28, all women are invited to gather in Uxbridge for an evening of music, comedy, and teaching that speaks to the hearts of women. It promises to inspire, encourage, and remind them of God's love and purpose for their lives. The event is presented by Aspire, which was born out of the desire and need for women to enjoy a night out, with fellowship and spiritual growth. The organization serves God's people by providing quality events to the Christian community.

Please talk to Pastor Linda McKenzie (lindamckenzie102@gmail.com) if you'd like to participate. An incentive is available to groups of 10 women or more.



## Resources for Seniors and Their Families at The Club

Mary Ann Morse at Heritage in Framingham is offering The Club, an adult social day program. It is a safe, engaging environment for seniors and provides resources to help their caregivers. Included in the program are engaging activities, meals, memory care support, and flexible scheduling from Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Kaitlyn Thibeault at 508-665-5330 or [kthibeault@maryannmorse.org](mailto:kthibeault@maryannmorse.org).

## Valentine Match

I doubt that these couples sent Valentines to each other, but see if you can match them up.

Delilah	Jacob
Gomer	Isaac
Mary	Abraham
Rebecca	David
Sapphira	Joseph
Eve	Sampson
Rachel	Ananias
Bathsheba	Adam
Sarah	Hosea

See next month's newsletter for the answers — or check your Bible!



Framingham's next Repair Cafe will be Sunday, **February 9**, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Scott Hall, 24 Vernon Street in Framingham. Volunteers at the Repair Café help fix many items for *free*. They specialize in clean, mendable clothing; lamps; small appliances;

computers and other electronics; bikes; batteries; toys; jewelry; and sewing machines. They also will have a station for sharpening knives, scissors, and garden tools. If you know what parts are needed for your job, you can save time by getting them in advance. Donations are accepted.

For more information, visit [TransitionFramingham.org/repair-café](http://TransitionFramingham.org/repair-café). To volunteer, go to [tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer](http://tinyurl.com/FramFixVolunteer) or call/text Alex at 508-379-3971. This event is an all-volunteer project of the Framingham Rotary Club with support from Transition Framingham.

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