

Baptist Notes

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



One common expression describing prayer states, “Prayer Changes Things.” This is an encouraging word for us who believe our prayers are heard and make a difference. When we pray, we are hoping for one of two responses: for someone or something to be successful, and for someone or something to change. Our scriptures point to a variety of times when people prayed and something happened in their life. One of the greatest hopes we can have in prayer is to capture the attention and heart of God. Prayer can reveal our true motivation and the heart behind our hopes. I am hoping to encourage us all to be reflective in the coming weeks as we take time to pray.

My first encouragement is that prayer can and will become the deepest and most sincere work of our human spirit. When we enter into a time of prayer, alone and uninhibited by any distractions, an honesty will emerge that exposes us and prepares us to be enlightened by God’s voice and vision in us. There is no greater starting place in our life for success and needed change than honesty in the presence of our creator. In the tenth chapter of Acts, Peter, one of Jesus’ earliest disciples, was praying one afternoon when he saw a vision of birds and reptiles and four-footed creatures being lowered from the sky. This was accompanied by a voice telling him to take, kill, and eat. His initial response was, “By no means, Lord.” But the voice continued, “What God has made clean, you must never call profane.” His prayer time continued and eventually led him to visit and befriend a Roman military officer named Cornelius, and consequently to a friendship that embraced a new hospitality he never knew was possible or appropriate. He made friends with someone he previously believed to be “off limits” and “unclean.” Prayer leads us to new understanding and times of needed change in our life.

Another encouragement in prayer is that it can also be experienced with others. When we pray in community, a worship service, or some other meeting, we are actually praying God’s spirit into our presence, and consequently our presence into God’s spirit. This can be a bonding moment for a group of people, and a time of revealing our purpose in the lives of one another, as well as our purpose to the larger world. When we pray alone or in a group, it can lead to a clarity that will become a guide and motivation for our lives. I asked a friend once what he thinks of prayer, and he responded, “reaching out to someone who is more than I am.”

Finally, I want to acknowledge that our world is filled with very complex circumstances, both good and bad, but nevertheless overwhelming. And, what is needed to sustain a quality of life and opportunity seems far away at times. In short, is there a hope for a peace-filled and harmonious future for our planet and coming generations? The response to this is first prayer. Second, listening through our honesty before God, and finally a courage to follow the convictions of our heart. Every person has a vital role in the well-being of another, and finding and fulfilling this vital role begins in our time spent in prayer together with our Lord.

Jason

Church Notes

Levin/Chute Scholarship Applications are due in by June 30th. Please return your completed form to Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley or Ray Zeman.

Included with this newsletter is a reviewed and signed copy of the **2018 Church Balance Sheet**. This document was unavailable at the time of the annual meeting. Annual meeting voted that Executive Council would review and accept this document when it was ready. The document would then be sent out in a church newsletter for all to see. Executive Council did review and accept this report at it's April 2019 meeting.

A&F Update: A&F has signed contracts for replacing the back door and replacing the front column. Both theses projects have long lead times as both the door and column are special order items. The back door will be slightly narrower and will be a black panel door similar to the front doors of the church. We will use the same lock on the new door, so if you have a church key it will still work. A&F had to go to the Historical Commission to get permission to make this change. The front column (26 feet tall, largest readily available is 24 feet) will be made out of state and shipped here to Framingham. The column work is not expected to be finished until September at the earliest. A&F is also in the process of receiving quotes for refinishing the floor in Reilly Hall. We hope to make a decision at our June meeting and have the floors done in either July or August when there is much less activity in the building.

Congratulations to **Annabelle Rutherford** who graduated from Ashland High School and is off to Stonehill College.

We offer condolences to **Walter and Shirley Ross** on the death of their son and to **Ed Russo** on the death of his brother.

Put Feet to Your Faith



On **Sunday afternoon, June 23**, we will celebrate a day of service and learning in our community with two service projects available to choose from. Please sign up on the sheet in Reilly Hall. In addition to volunteers we are also looking for folk who can provide some of the fixings to make the sandwiches: bread, chips, drink mix, etc.

Group 1 will make 75 sandwiches and take them into Boston to participate in Common Cathedral (you can chose just to help make sandwiches and not travel to Boston)



Group 2 will visit a local shelter in Framingham to do light painting. Mike Eser will be leading this group.

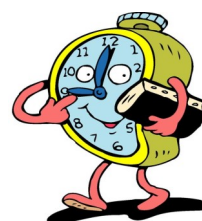
June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship Potluck Lunch	3	4	5	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 Children's Sunday 9:45 a.m. Christian Education 10:45 a.m. Worship	10	11	12	13 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 5:00 p.m. Serving at Pearl St. Café	15
16 *Worship Time Changes* 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Missions	17	18 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	19 7:00 pm Executive Council	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 Put Feet to Your Faith 10:00 a.m. Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Deacons						

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

June Birthdays

12 Janice Cooper
 15 Marty Tucker
 15 Ed Russo
 23 Arlene Mills
 27 Pat Travis
 29 Gerry Mailhoit
 29 Katie Donovan-Mailhoit
 30 Nicole Halbert



**Worship
time
Changes**

**to 10:00 a.m.
on Sunday, June 16**

First Baptist Church in Framingham

1013 Worcester Road
PO Box 2415
Framingham, MA 01703



Sunday, June 9

"I Love to Tell
the Story"

Children and Youth will lead us in worship

Join us in Reilly Hall following worship for
Make-Your-Own Sundaes
