

Baptist Notes

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



Holy Scripture is a source for both guidance and amazement in our life and worship. The Psalms, or songs, are prayers and readings that may illuminate our souls to dance, enable our eyes to see, and encourage us in our spiritual journey to the house of God. Psalm 84 is one example of a psalm that has significance for our worship times together and is meaningful when understood in the life and worship of our congregation. Psalm 84 is believed to be a worship account of the annual pilgrimage to the temple at Jerusalem during the time of Jesus' life. Early worshippers of God would unite each autumn for a fall harvest festival and worship. The journey to the house of God would have been a holy experience, uniting people together as they travel together and prepare to worship their God. "How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion (people of God). As they go through the valley of thirst, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools" (Psalm 84:1-2, 5-6).

Centuries later, we still journey to the house of the Lord, uniting together to worship our God in a spirit of truth and perseverance. Today, as before, we journey together, hope filled, anticipating something truly miraculous. In the ancient world, pilgrims may have feared drought, robbery, illness, or any number of obstacles on their journey to the House of God, but nevertheless they persevered because their life, and the fullness of it, depended on their arriving together to worship. As we approach the House of God today, we too might be deterred along the journey. Certainly, we suffer from natural disasters, illness, pandemic, war, and at times, personal ambivalence. These do not have to be permanent obstacles. **When we believe, whole-heartedly, that our life depends totally on uniting together in Holy Spirit, we will become encouraged and skilled at overcoming any obstacle that might otherwise deter us from worship.** Furthermore, we do not journey alone. Although it is painful to see the havoc in people's lives that storms, political upheaval, a world-wide pandemic, and spiritual desolation can bring, we are also faced with an opportunity to help one another. **We are faced with opportunities to lend our hand, our heart, and our willingness that no person be left in the valley of thirst and desolation, but rather be lifted up and strengthened so the he or she might also have opportunity to give thanks and adoration in the House of the Lord.** My encouragement today is that each of us consider what might prevent us from taking a drink of living water, and then be willing to ask for help in overcoming any obstacle that may prevent that drink. My encouragement to each of us today is that we consider lending a hand and heart to help people who are struggling to reach the House of the Lord, so that all may participate and be renewed in the Holiness of God. The Congregation of First Baptist shares a House of Worship, a place for service. First Baptist is a congregation of people bonded together who believe in the power of God. Be encouraged that there is no obstacle worthy of our missing the worship of God. And, no obstacle that should deter us from ministering to one another in the Holiness of God.

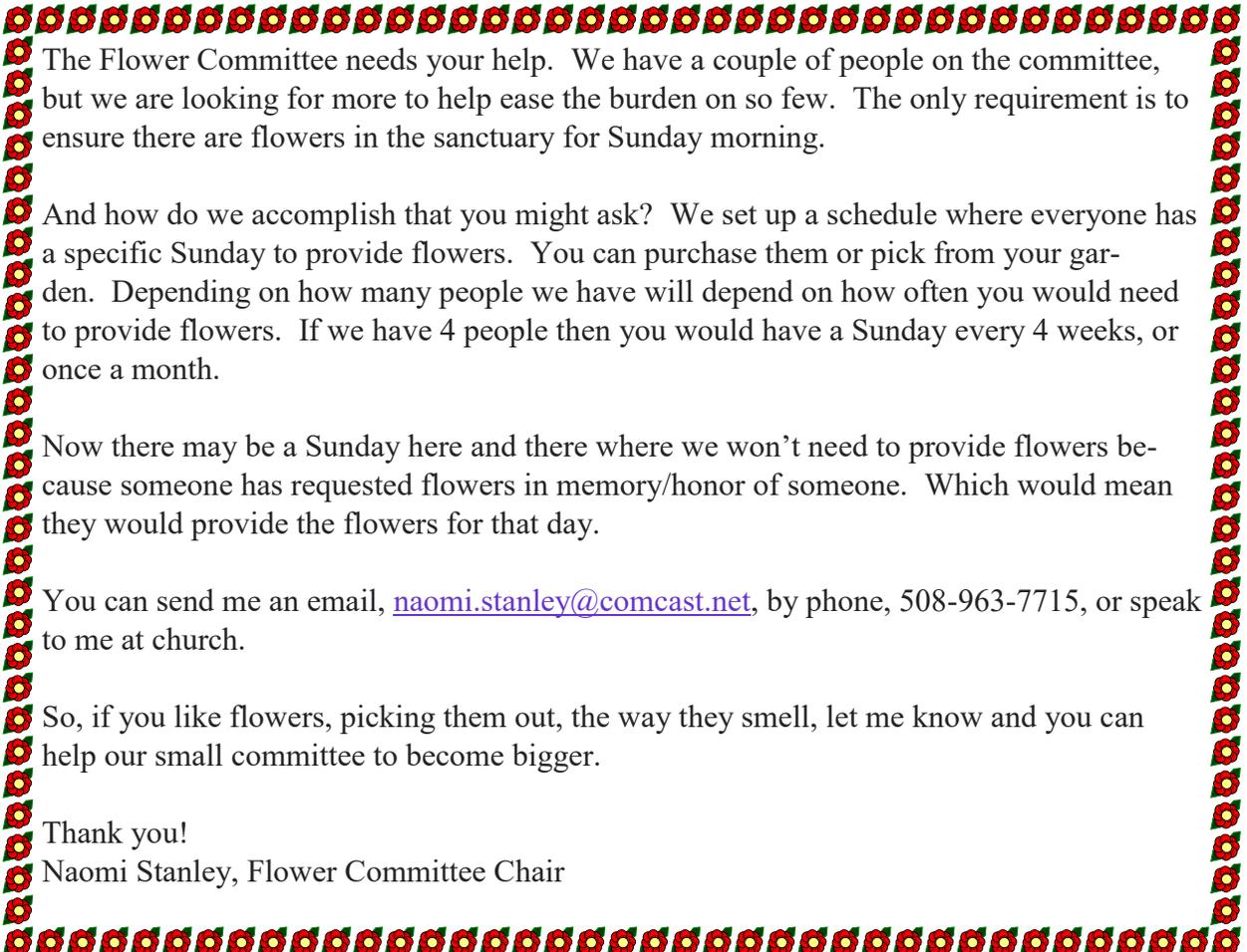
Jason

Church Notes

Please keep **Sarah Russo** in your prayers as she continues to recover. Cards are appreciated please send to:

Sarah Russo
Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital
189 May St
Worcester, MA 01602

Please welcome **Christopher Grills** as our Interim Music Director. Christopher will be with us on an interim basis until the end of December. Christopher has studied keyboards at Boston University earning a Doctor of Musical Arts in Historical Performance in 2019. Christopher is a piano instructor at the Chinese Cultural Connection in Malden and also offers private piano lessons. He has served churches in Sudbury and Belmont.



The Flower Committee needs your help. We have a couple of people on the committee, but we are looking for more to help ease the burden on so few. The only requirement is to ensure there are flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday morning.

And how do we accomplish that you might ask? We set up a schedule where everyone has a specific Sunday to provide flowers. You can purchase them or pick from your garden. Depending on how many people we have will depend on how often you would need to provide flowers. If we have 4 people then you would have a Sunday every 4 weeks, or once a month.

Now there may be a Sunday here and there where we won't need to provide flowers because someone has requested flowers in memory/honor of someone. Which would mean they would provide the flowers for that day.

You can send me an email, naomi.stanley@comcast.net, by phone, 508-963-7715, or speak to me at church.

So, if you like flowers, picking them out, the way they smell, let me know and you can help our small committee to become bigger.

Thank you!
Naomi Stanley, Flower Committee Chair

How Can You Use Your Talents to Benefit Your Church?

You know you can make a difference to First Baptist Church and our community by serving on one of the three boards and sharing your gifts in ministry, administration, compassion, and more. As we plan for 2022, please consider joining the board that fits your interests or skills. You can even drop in to an open meeting to see what is happening. (The church calendar in the newsletter and on the website lists meeting times.) Then talk to Pastor Jason or Kelly Rutherford, the nominating committee chair, to volunteer.

Here is an overview of the boards to help you choose the one that is best for you.

Board	Member Activities
<p>Deacons/Ministry</p> <p><i>Board Responsibility:</i> Direct the pastoral, spiritual, and educational needs of the congregation and community</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Jay Reilly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review pastoral duties and congregational concerns • Assist the pastor in evangelistic work; visit those who can't attend church; minister to the other spiritual interests of the church and community • Prepare and administer the ordinances of communion and baptism • Foster Christian education to nurture and guide children and adults in the Christian way of life
<p>Administration and Finance</p> <p><i>Board Responsibility:</i> Oversee the physical and financial aspects of the church</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Al Harrington</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be in general charge of the administration and finances of the church • Manage the care, security, and beautification of property belonging to the church • Review requests for expenditures not included in the approved annual budget • Promote stewardship all year
<p>Missions</p> <p><i>Board Responsibility:</i> Foster and stimulate mission activities</p> <p><i>Chair:</i> Lecia Schronce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine ways the congregation can participate personally and financially in outreach • Encourage understanding and support of local, regional, and global missions • Plan special fund efforts

For more information, see the church bylaws or talk to any current board member or church officer. We look forward to serving our church side by side with you! The rewards are great even though the commitment is small.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Communications Meeting	4	5 7:00 pm Adult Christian Education	6	7 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 10:30 a.m. Worship	11	12 7:00 pm Adult Christian Education	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 10:30 a.m. Worship	18 7:00 pm A&F Meeting	19 7:00 pm Adult Christian Education	20	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Missions Meeting	25	26 7:00 pm Adult Christian Education	27 7:00 pm Executive Council	28 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 10:30 a.m. Worship						

Notes: AA meets : 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

October Birthdays

- 11 Cayden Kyle Azurin
- 15 Karen Reilly
- 18 Kelly Rutherford
- 20 Gregory Zeman
- 21 Connor Reilly
- 22 Tawanna Lewis
- 27 Arianna Lewis



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**“Wireless communication is nothing new.
 I’ve been praying for 75 years!”**

First Baptist Church in Framingham

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Framingham, MA 01703



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 \$850 to the Scholarship Fund.
Many thanks to all those who made this possible!!**