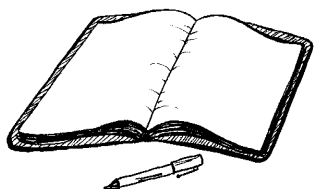


Baptist Notes



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 thought for those of 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, or for someone or something to change. Our scriptures point to a variety of times when people prayed and something happened in their lives. 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 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 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 for us. There is no greater starting place in our lives, when we’re hoping 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, 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 became a friend of someone he previously believed to be “off limits” and “unclean.” Prayer leads us to new understanding and profound times of needed change in life.

Another encouragement in prayer is that it also can be experienced with others. When we pray in community, a worship service, or some other meeting, we are 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. Praying alone or in a group 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 that there is; first, through prayer. Second, there is hope in listening through our honesty before God and finally in having the courage to follow the convictions of our hearts. Every person has a vital role to play in the wellbeing of another, and finding and fulfilling this vital role begins in our time spent in prayer together with our Lord.

Jason

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>7 pm Deacons</i>	3	4 <i>6 pm Worship Committee 7 pm Choir</i>	5	6
7 <i>10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Potluck Lunch</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>7 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	12	13
14 Mothers Day <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	15	16 <i>7 pm A&F</i>	17 <i>7 pm Executive Council</i>	18 <i>7 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	19	20 <i>10 am MCI Event</i>
21 <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>7 pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	26	27
28 <i>10:30 am Worship</i>	29 Memorial Day	30 <i>7 pm Deacons</i>	31			

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

All calendar entries are subject to change.

**From July 2 to September 3, worship will begin at 10 a.m.
On Rally Day, September 10, start time will go back to 10:30 a.m.**

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Christine Brown | 11 Brian Halbert |
| 1 Judith Richardson | 13 Xavier Allen |
| 4 Anne Cerutti | 13 Gabriel Erguiza |
| 4 John Moore | 14 Jim Wakeman, Jr. |
| 4 Evan Harris | 15 Vinton Allen |
| 6 Joan Reilly | 18 Frances Carr |
| 6 Chris Monaco | 20 Kim Philipp |
| 8 Francesca Cerutti-Harris | 25 Adele Williams |
| 10 Lorna Donovan-Mailhoit | 28 Janie Harris |

May Birthdays



Executive Council News

Executive Council met via Zoom on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Here are highlights of the meeting:

- Ray Zeman will meet with the plumber on Monday, April 24, for a heating system quote.
- FBC received \$69,400.02 from the Bob and Dotty Phillips estate. Bob's wish was for half to go to the General Fund and half to go to the Building Fund (Endowment). No movement on Butler bequest (expecting about \$9,000).
- From the Deacons Fund, we will donate \$500 to the Pearl St. Café (former Salvation Army Dinner program). We also will buy grocery gift cards that Jason can distribute as needed.
- Judy and Scott Llewellyn and Temi Ogah joined the church on Easter.
- Deacons will serve Communion wearing gloves.
- RMMO offering was \$723.
- People should *not* be moving or entering the sanctuary during time of prayer. Worship leaders should move down from the platform during a hymn. Ushers should hold folk at the door if they arrive at a time of prayer and then let them be seated when prayer is concluded.
- We would like to produce a pictorial directory by 2026 (our 200-year anniversary).
- Summer worship time will be 10 a.m. from July 2 to September 3. We will revert to a 10:30 a.m. start on Rally Day, September 10.

Members of Executive Council are Linda Devine, Kathie Zeman, Jay Reilly, Al Harrington, Lecia Shronce, Francesca Cerutti-Harris, Naomi Stanley, Lorna Mailhoit, Diane Halbert, and Pastor Jason.

Talent Show and Scholarship Fund Update

Thanks to all who helped with the terrific Levin/Chute Scholarship Fund Talent Show. There were dueling cats, a rousing group dance, and many talented singers and dancers — not to mention bad jokes and a very delicious (at least looking) fruit salad. Special thanks to the Badoo and Ndzi families for sharing their many talents. We also are grateful to all who provided goodies for the bake sale. We added \$855.50 to the scholarship fund!! Anyone who is applying to college, continuing for another year, or taking any educational course may obtain a scholarship application from Diane Halbert, Naomi Stanley, or Ray Zeman of the Scholarship Committee.



First Baptist Church in Framingham

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Dancing Knees from the Talent Show