

# THE JOYBELL

## The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church  
(508) 839-4911 Church Office

**Dr. Frank Armstrong, Interim Pastor**

[www.thebaptistchurchofgrafton.org](http://www.thebaptistchurchofgrafton.org)



David and David Libbey, Editors (508) 839-2561

July - August 2017

### Message from Pastor Frank

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”*** Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

I plan on addressing something that is of critical importance for our church as we enter into a new phase of the search process. And it is my prayer that as time allows during this summer season, we will make every effort to be present as I seek to help us define what may very well shape a new vision and a new mission for our church!

My focus will be on “Imagine Church” and on contemplating what it means to release whole-life Discipleship.

It is also my hope that within the midst of vacation obligations and a host of other summer activities that will take many of us away from regular attendance, those of us who will be in attendance as time allows, will share some of my reflections with others who may have missed a Sunday or two.

There is no doubt in my mind that it will take a great deal of energy and commitment to execute a vision into a working reality that goes beyond a simple statement to be read and forgotten. But with your help it is possible to become a church that will help others in our community, our region, and our nation to embrace the Gospel and rejoice in a life lived in Christ.

All of this takes a great deal of patience, reflection, discussion and persistence because I cannot simply identify 10 easy steps to success; that simply does not exist. Nevertheless, there are certain dynamics we can embrace that are effective when released to make Grafton Baptist a church whose vision and mission will make a change for the cause of Christ. Let's walk this journey together!

Blessings,

Pastor Frank

## **Pastoral Search Committee Report**

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to make steady progress following the process recommended by the Central Association of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts for finding a full-time settled pastor. To date we have substantially completed Reflection Segments 1 through 7, which document the historical and current state of the Church across a number of dimensions. We are now preparing to address an important new phase dealing with our future vision for the Church, desired priorities for growth of the ministry, and intended responsibilities for both the new settled Pastor and Congregation. As with our recent survey, we look forward to seeking the input of the Congregation to clarify the future direction of the Church - and will make an announcement when your help is needed. After the new sections are defined and agreed, we should be able to assemble all the elements of our Church profile and begin performing outreach to identify individual candidates that meet our requirements.

Thank you for your prayers and support that have helped us stay on track so far!

Regards,

Chris Hoffman, Chair

## **Pastor Parish Relations Committee**

### **Charge to the Committee from By-laws:**

*The purpose of this committee is to provide a close and private communications vehicle between the Pastor and the congregation. Should there be a problem, performance issue, or delicate situation that needs to be negotiated between the Pastor and the church it would be the province of the PPRC to be the pipeline that carries necessary information back and forth between the Pastor and the appropriate committee[s]. It is not intended that this committee usurp any responsibility of the Diaconate, the Finance Committee or other committee of the church, but rather serve as a forum for the Pastor and the church to communicate privately. The PPRC and the Pastor shall meet quarterly, at a minimum, to review the Pastor's performance of his/her duties, his/her plans for the*

*upcoming six month, and any issues that the Pastor thinks may have an effect on the relationship. In conjunction with the Deacons, they shall propose to the Finance Committee the compensation package for the Pastor.*

The PPRC met on June 12. We reviewed the charge to the Committee from the By-laws with Pastor Frank. We discussed the need to remind the congregation that the Committee is another vehicle of communication with the Pastor with an emphasis on confidentiality. Pastor Frank shared with the Committee his plans and hopes for the next six months. The Committee outlined for him the positive comments on his ministry that have been shared. Diane Libbey was elected chair for the remaining months of 2017.

Members: Pastor Frank, Tom Hodgdon, Steve Reichle, Cyndy Engvall and Diane Libbey

## Christian Education Update

June 17 brought to a close the official 2016-2017 Sunday School year. At the Children's Message time of the Church service, the Sunday School teachers were presented Certificates of Appreciation and Sunday School Superintendent Susanne Fleming presented Certificates of Accomplishment to the young people. She then presented Camperships to the young people attending our Baptist Camp at Grotonwood and Scout Camp.

**Summer Sunday School** - Casual Summer Sunday School schedule is underway and will continue throughout the summer. We will have a short opening program and learning time and then a time for games or summer crafts. We are looking for helpers who will lend a hand so that our regular Sunday School teachers can have a much deserved summer break. Please note that **there will not be a Children's Message during the Morning Worship Service. Children will go downstairs at the end of the first hymn for their own program.**

**We wish all of our Church Family a wonderful summer and look forward with joy and anticipation to September and the 2017—2018 Sunday School Year!**

## Summer Campers

We are delighted that three of our young people will be attending Camp at Grotonwood and at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation this summer! Each camper received a Camp Scholarship from our church. **Ethan and Ryan Searles** will be attending Scout Camp. **Alyssa Greenberg** will be attending Breakaway Camp at Grotonwood from July 30 to August 4 and also received a Central Association Scholarship to help with camp costs. Please pray for each of these young people. Campers are always thrilled to receive mail so here is the address for **Grotonwood Camp** 167 Prescott Street, Groton, MA 0145 and for **Treasure Valley Scout Reservation** 394 Pleasantdale Rd, Rutland, MA 01543.

## Finance Committee Update

Summer is the time of the year where the church's income dips due to people being away on vacation. However, the cost of operating the church continues (about \$2,000 per week)! If you are going to be away for an extended period, please feel free to mail your offering envelopes to the church at:

The Baptist Church of Grafton, PO Box 304, Grafton, MA 01519

Cynthia Engvall, Finance Committee Chair

## Mission Committee Report

We continue to collect items for our various missions over the summer. Meredith Christian and Susanne Fleming are working on boxes for **The Grafton Food Bank, Seafarers Friend** and **Worcester Fellowship Program**. There will be printed lists of requested items to take home so people can easily know what is needed. Donations to Seafarers are mailed so the size and weight of items should be taken into consideration. Also remember that the Food Bank needs additional supplies in the summer as children are home from school and need lunches which are often provided by the school during the regular school year.

The Committee voted to donate \$50 each to Grafton Food Bank, Grafton Community Harvest Project, Inc. and Worcester County Food Bank as June's missions to support.

We are looking forward to having **Ed Guerard**, Friends of Regional Ministries Director, as our Guest Speaker at our Sept. 11 Meeting.

## Kitchen Committee Report

Our Kitchen Committee works hard all year long providing delicious meals prepared in a safe and sanitary environment. In order to legally offer meals to the public, our kitchen committee must be certified in the safe handling and preparation of food. They have taken the extra step of becoming CPR certified so that emergencies can also be addressed. The Safe Serve classes are multi day ones, and lots of time goes into studying and test preparation. Our kitchen is regularly inspected to make sure it is up to code. Our kitchen team is very proud of their high scores from the Town Health Department and of their clean and well organized kitchen. Please help them maintain their high standards by abiding by their requests – both for food and for personal safety in the kitchen, Susanne Fleming, Chair, is preparing a document about the rules and regulations which will be available to anyone who is interested. Copies can be found on the Clock Table in Russell Fellowship Hall.

## Property Committee Report

Property Committee met on June 8. The major topic of discussion was the replacement of the water heater at the Parsonage. After a long discussion it was voted to replace the leaking tank with an indirect water heater similar to the one currently installed.

The second discussion topic dealt with the updating of the Parsonage in preparation for the arrival of a new minister. It was decided that it would be best to wait to discuss with the new minister the future of the present parsonage. A joint meeting will be held with the Finance Committee to determine what the parsonage might need for updating and the projected costs. Areas of concern are the bathrooms, the kitchen and the lack of insulation in the walls.

John Renaud and Barry Keith will repair the handicap access ramp over the summer. Fire escape still needs to be inspected and a report filed with the Town. Several pledges have been received to cover the cost of replacing the lights in RFH and the office with LED fixtures. Barry will discuss this at the next BOD meeting. Property Committee will meet again on September 14.

## Important Dates

### JULY

2	Sunday		<b>10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Communion Sunday, Informal Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Worcester Fellowship Lunches. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
4	Tuesday	~	Happy Independence Day to All 5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
6	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
9	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
11	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
13	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
15	Saturday	~	9:00am-2:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
16	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. Equal Exchange</b>
18	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
19	Wednesday	~	300 Worship at Crescent Manor
20	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
23	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday</b>

			<b>School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. **Undie Sunday</b>
25	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
26	Wednesday	~	6:30pm <b>Beatles for Sale</b> Concert on the Common
27	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the Sanctuary

### AUGUST

1	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30 Bible Study with Meredith Christian
3	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
<b>6</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Worcester Fellowship Lunches. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
8	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
9	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
<b>13</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
15	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30 Bible Study with Meredith Christian
16	Wednesday	~	3:00 Worship at Crescent Manor
17	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
19	Saturday	~	9:00-3:00 Quilt Class with Paula Moore
<b>20</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. Equal Exchange</b>
22	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:00 Christian Education Committee
24	Thursday		9:30 am Prayer Time in the parlor
<b>27</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. **Undie Sunday</b>
29	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30 Bible Study with Meredith Christian
31	Thursday	~	9:30 Prayer Time in the parlor

- **Worship Service to God's Glory, 10:00am**, with Childcare and Sunday School Classes for children in Nursery through High School. Church Family Fellowship Time with refreshments following the Worship Service.:
- **Deacons of the Month for July** – June Whitney and Chris Hoffman
- **Deacons of the Month for August**; Pat Knowlton and Donna Nichols
- **Tellers for the July** –Libbey and Deans families
- **Tellers for August**: Hodgdon and TBA

- Church Office Hours are Monday – Friday with the Church Secretary 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor's hours.

**We wish you a safe and wonderful summer and hope to see you in Church. Your pew is reserved and waiting!**