

THE JOYBELL

The Baptist Church of Grafton

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

Dr. Frank Armstrong, Interim Pastor

www.thebaptistchurchofgrafton.org

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

July - August 2018

Message from Pastor Frank

July! Wow! What can I say that I have not already conveyed throughout the year and especially in our June Joybell? Well, after having given it some thought, I felt the need to continue a theme that has been woven throughout my time as your Intentional Interim; and that theme is **ENCOURAGEMENT**.

However, that is definitely not a theme unique to me. The Apostle Paul carried it throughout his ministry to both the growing and failing churches under his charge. It was unrelenting and uplifting in all seasons (perhaps even July!!). Paul makes this clear when he wrote in I Corinthians 15: 58 ***"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."***

It is clear to me that our work for the Lord in these times of transition has not been in vain! Therefore, we need to stand firm in all we seek to do for the future of our church and our continuing ministry and mission in Grafton and beyond.

So, I would encourage you as the summer months call us away for vacations, rest, and renewal, to be intentional in prayer, convicted in purpose, and fully present in any way you can to support and encourage one another. William Barclay wrote:

"We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time words of praise, thanks or appreciation or cheer have kept people on their feet. Blessed is the one who speaks such a word."

As I see it, the only way we can do that is through continuous contact with one another, cheerful support, and intentional prayer for our church, our search committee, in worship, and loving presence.

I believe this is possible even during those months where churches traditionally wind down activities and lay back for a brief period of time. So I encourage you to keep the life and future of our church on the front burner of your thinking. I will be doing the same.

And as a final word, when there is no one around you to give the encouragement and support you need, go to God's Word. There you will find all the support necessary to carry on.

Blessings,
Pastor Frank

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate will be focusing this summer on an Outreach Program with the Community. We are looking for ways to interact with the community and to let our community know who we are, where we are located and provide information on our Baptist Church. We encourage and invite all in the Congregation to share their ideas and suggestions to enhance visibility in the community, so we can try to bring new people into church. Please contact Pastor Frank or Ruth Ballantyne with your ideas and suggestions – we need your participation.

As a first step in our Outreach Program, the Diaconate has developed a new Brochure describing our Baptist Church which can be used to provide information to visitors and people in the community. We think this conveys a welcoming message and explains our mission, our beliefs and our ministry programs. This will be useful in providing information for our Outreach Program. Please be sure to take a look at this new Brochure which is in the Narthex and in Russell Hall on the table in the back of Russell Hall.

Pastoral Search Committee Report

As we head into the summer months, the Search Committee is continuing its work. We plan to make progress over the next two months even though this is often a slower time of the year. Please speak to any of us on the Committee if you have questions or comments: Monique Charles, Bert Engvall, Janice King, Morgan King, Diane Libbey or myself.

David Libbey
Chair

Christian Education

June 10 brought to a close the official 2017-2018 Sunday School year. At the Children's Message time of the Church service, Susanne Fleming presented certificates of appreciation to the Sunday School teachers. She also presented a Campership to Alyssa Greenberg who will be attending Grotonwood this summer.

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 2018—2019 Sunday School Year!

More Graduates

Congratulations to **Steven French**, a recent graduate of Whitinsville Christian School. He is the grandson of **June Whitney** and the son of Rose and Steven French. He will be attending Gordon College in Beverly MA in the fall.

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, please feel free to mail your offering envelopes to the church at:

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

Bert Engvall, Finance Committee Chair

Mission Committee Report

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.

Committee Members met at Coffee Time Sunday June 17 and designated the following donations:

- **Regional Baptist and Ecumenical Ministries: \$50 Each:** The Massachusetts Baptist Charitable Society, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Pastoral Counseling Center of Massachusetts and Home Goods Acton, MA

- **American Baptist Wider Mission:** ABCUSA— \$50 each: Morrow Indian Children's Home and Honduras-Rev. Hector Newman
- **Unique Offering:** \$50, Mary Blake--Doctors Without Borders Medical Mission Trip to Tanzania

Our next meeting will be September 10, at 10am. New members welcome!

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 a lot of time goes into studying and test preparation. The 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 its 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.

We will be deciding on our menus for the upcoming Dinner Season in July. We are looking for more helpers for each dinner both to cook and to clean up. There is also a sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour refreshments on the Clock Table in Russell Hall. This is an important part of our Worship Experience where ministry to our church family truly begins.

Property Committee Report

- The new plastic tables have all been labeled along with 20 folding chairs so that if they are borrowed they are easily identifiable as ours. The Girl Scouts recently borrowed the tables and chairs, returned them in good condition, and have offered to make a donation to the church as a thank you.
- The new LED fixtures have been installed in Russell Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, the office, the downstairs hall and in the balcony. New light bulbs were delivered and need to be installed in the spot lights in the sanctuary. The old fixtures will be recycled.
 - Several pledges have been received to cover the cost of replacing the lights in RFH and the office with LED fixtures. If you would like to be included in this, please make your check payable to the Baptist Church of Grafton and indicate *light project* on the memo line.
- Peter Williams will be mowing the grass at the Parsonage. He has also offered to do a walk around and thru the house to be sure it is safe and secure.
- New outside storage of trash was discussed and will be addressed this summer.

- A new circuit will be installed to separate the kitchen electrical power from the hall lights as the breaker keeps tripping.
- There are still outside projects that need to be completed including removal of trash behind the shed. This will be a task to be completed during the summer.
- Committee is working on new forms for the lending of church-owned equipment and the use of the church building by both members and outside groups. These forms have not been updated since 1988. Steve will present the forms to the Board of Directors for discussion and finalization in September.
- The front doors and the handicap ramp doors have recently been found to be unlocked during the week. **Reminder: when you exit the church, please be sure that the door latches securely – especially if you are the last one out.**

A note of thanks

The family of **Jeralyn Harrison** would like to thank the church family for all the cards, prayers and support she received during her long illness. Jerry was an active member of our church, sang in the choir and added much to the life of our church family. She will be missed.

Important Dates

July

1	Sunday	~	10:00am Communion Sunday Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
3	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group 7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
5	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
8	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth.
10	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
12	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
14	Saturday		9:00am-2:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
15	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
17	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group 7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
18	Wednesday		3:00pm Crescent Manor
19	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor

22	Sunday		10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following meeting. Undie Sunday
23	Monday		7:00pm Deacons Meeting with Ruth Ballantyne
24	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
26	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
29	Sunday		10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
31	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian

- **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:** Pat Knowlton and Barry Keith
- **Tellers for the Month for July:** Reichle and TBD Families
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor's hours.

August

5	Sunday	~	10:00am Communion Sunday Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
7	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
9	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
11	Saturday		9:00am-2:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
12	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth.
14	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
16	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
19	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
21	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
22	Wednesday		3:00pm Crescent Manor
23	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
			7:00pm Christian Education Committee with Donna Nichols
26	Sunday		10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following meeting. Undie Sunday
27	Monday		7:00pm Deacons Meeting with Ruth Ballantyne

28	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
30	Thursday		9:30am 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 August:** Pat Knowlton and June Whitney
- **Tellers for the Month for August:** Libbey and Hoffman Families
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 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!

**Baptist Church of Grafton
P.O. Box 304
Grafton, MA 01519**