

# THE JOYBELL

The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church

**Dr. Frank Armstrong, Interim Pastor**

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June 2018

## Message from Pastor Frank

With the summer months closing in on us quickly, our minds begin to wander into contemplating all the plans we are going to make or have made; they are now residing in the forefront of our thought processes! Winter clothes have been stored away and replaced with cool, light clothing. Shovels and snow blowers have found a resting place until next winter (I hope).

And it has been my experience that come June many church activities plummet to a screeching halt. No doubt about it, we all need a rest after many months of activities in worship, special services, suppers, etc. Yes, for me also, a slowdown of pace would be as welcome as a cool breeze on a hot summer day.

Nevertheless, our search committee will continue its work and will also need our continued prayer. Along with that is a commitment the Board of Deacons began to embrace at our last meeting – **OUTREACH!** Moving out into the community in an effort to extend our services as the Body of Christ beyond the walls of the church and along the Jericho Roads where so many unchurched travel; where there is a need to come to know the Living Christ working through us and all our outreach efforts.

The times are right for His message of hope and love to be shared through acts of service, innovation, prayer, and a careful study of the needs of our community. Now, having said that, please know that **OUTREACH** is not some fancy plug-and-play program. It is also not confined to a committee of the church. It involves all of us to make it happen. **WE NEED TO BE ALIVE WITH OUTREACHING LOVE!** (That could well be our mission statement!)

THE CHURCH AT PENTECOST WAS A CHURCH THAT REACHED OUT. This was a church that was unashamedly evangelistic in its focus. It is no surprise that thousands

were added to this tiny church in a short period of time. They saw that as their primary reason for existence.

I know. Not everyone in the church gets excited about outreach. A report in a Rochester, Pennsylvania Church bulletin read like this: ***"The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church."*** I trust that this was a typo.

It's interesting that in today's world only the church is embarrassed to reach out to people. Political parties reach out. Civic Clubs reach out. Certainly businesses reach out. Whenever you are watching your favorite TV program, there will be many commercial efforts to reach out to you. But, that's enough for now! We will continue to keep all members on board in that our first **OUTREACH** effort will be to YOU!

Blessings, Pastor Frank

## Diaconate Report

The Diaconate met at a special meeting after church service on May 6 to hear Annette Smith's Profession of Faith. We voted to recommend her for membership in our church. We will ask for a vote of the congregation at a special meeting June 3 for her to become a member of our church. The Right Hand of Fellowship will be extended to her as part of a regular Worship Service in the following weeks.

The Diaconate will be working with Pastor Frank on an Outreach Program. This Outreach Program will look to find ways to interact with the community and to make our community aware of who we are and what we do.

## Pastoral Search Committee Update

The PSC is continuing its work on two fronts: talking with candidates and refining our requirements for a new settled pastor. These two are connected: our candidate discussions are helping us with refining requirements.

It is important that everyone understands that the candidate pool today is very different from the one we encountered fifteen years ago when we last searched for a new pastor. For example, there are currently very few young married male pastors available. Many candidates are coming to pastoring as a second career and thus are older. Women are a significant portion of the candidate pool. In short, the "typical pastor" of 15-20 years ago is hard to find within the pool of candidates seeking positions today.

Why is this important? The short answer is that it stretches out the process as your Search Committee sorts through which slices of the candidate pool would work in our church AND seeks to find appropriate candidates within those slices. In other words, the

pool that would "fit" our church is considerably smaller today than years ago. It is also challenging the Committee to consider options that are new to us.

We know that some are concerned that the search process is taking as long as it has thus far. We hope that this explanation will help in understanding the nature of the task we have undertaken. As always, we appreciate your prayers and support.

## Missions Committee Report

Garfield collected Love Gifts from members who brought them to the meeting. This will be counted in June and sent as part of the Church's support of Love Gift. He encouraged all of us to reread the Love Gift Story posted on the Mission Committee Board and remember and support this offering.

**Mission Committee Information for Special Offerings:** These offerings are collected in the Offering plates and have designated months for their collection.

- The special offering for May was the **Church World Service Offering** and thanks to all of our members the total collected was \$174.
- The special offering for June is "**One Great Hour of Sharing**":

One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, development aid and more.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

**Mission opportunity:** Mary Blake writes to us from Texas: " *This year I am going to the African country of Tanzania with Medical Missions!! We will be serving the medical, dental, and vision needs of their struggling communities*". Mary needs financial support for this trip much like we provided for Monique and Yves for their trip to Haiti. If you would like to help her please see Tom Hodgdon for details.

## Property Committee Report

Property Committee met and discussed the following:

- Peter Williams, our custodian, has offered to mow the parsonage lawn this summer. Details will be finalized shortly.
- Fee schedules for the use of the Sanctuary, Russell Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, tables and chairs will be up-dated to reflect current expenses.
- John Renaud has provided a stencil so that the tables can be easily identified as well as stickers for the metal folding chairs.
- Big trash bin by the shed has been destroyed by the critters and it not a safe or attractive addition to the back yard. Steve will contact Harveys to discuss using roller barrels for the storage of trash and for ease in moving trash to the street.
- Ramp board replacement is under the direction of John Renaud. He will be installing composite wood that does not need the maintenance of the pressure treated wood now there. This will be a multi-year project as it is expensive.
- The lights in the church will be replaced by National Grid during the week of June 4. Lights will be changed in Russell Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, the office and in the balcony and sanctuary.

## Children's Sunday and Reception

**Sunday June 10** will be celebrated as **Children's Day**. The youth of our church will be recognized and one campership will be given out. Alyssa Greenburg will be attending Aquarama Camp at Grotonwood August 5-10. Sunday School students will receive Certificates of Participation and teachers will receive Certificates of Recognition, and they will receive plants symbolizing Growing in God's Love.

After Morning Worship on **June 10** we will continue the celebration with a special coffee hour honoring our students and teachers. We will have a cake and, of course, our famous Baptist Green Punch. Plan to stay a bit longer and visit with the teachers, our campership recipient and enjoy the fellowship.

## Additional Christian Education News

The Committee had hoped to sponsor a Vacation Bible School this summer during August. Unfortunately we have had no response from the local churches and so have shelved the plans. We hope that next summer we will have a better response and maybe even a group of children from our own church that would enjoy a special summer bible experience.

## Summer Worship Services

Our summer services will start on June 17. During the summer, there will be no Children's Message. Informal Sunday School classes will be held beginning after the first hymn. If you would like to volunteer to help out with the Sunday School, let Susanne Fleming know so that some of the teachers may attend worship services.

## Moderator's Corner

David and I have just returned from a trip that included the lovely city of Vienna. Here we experienced a new-to-us religious holiday - Whitsunday.

The name is derived from a practice in the early Church that made the celebration of Pentecost similar to the Easter Vigil. There was a service called "Whitsun Eve" where the new believers who had not been baptized at Easter received the sacrament on the eve of Pentecost. After the celebration of Baptism, the newly baptized would be vested in a white alb, symbolizing their new birth in the life of grace. The name white Sunday probably comes from the custom of wearing white robes by those newly baptized at this season. So even though priests wear red on this day, the ancient baptismal celebrations on Pentecost explain why it is traditionally called "Whitsunday." This is followed by Whit Monday when many of the stores are closed. Much different from our Pentecost Sunday where we wear red.

## Finance Committee Update

As of the end of April, the church's year-to-date Operating income was \$1,840 (almost 6%) below budgeted expectations. The largest contributing factor was non-pledging envelopes, \$1,300 below budgeted expectations. The good news is that Operating expenses were lower than the income received.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the financial health of our church during the first 4 months of the year. A special thank-you goes to all those who have organized, worked on, and supported the fund-raising events. Thanks also to the church's committees, which are managing their spending carefully.

For those people who use envelopes, please consider "catching up" with your giving if you miss a Sunday during the summer. Regular, consistent giving by all is the most important component of our church's financial stability.

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

## Fund Raising Update

The last supper of the 2017-2018 season was held on May 19 with our guests feasting on Richard's Swedish Meatball Dinner. The dinner provided another opportunity for good food, delicious desserts and of course warm fellowship. Sunday morning after Worship the remaining meatballs were purchased, bringing the total for the dinner to well over \$600 with lots of compliments on the meal. A big thank you to the entire kitchen crew, those who baked for our dessert buffet, those who set up and re-set the hall and those who served our meals. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

## Graduates

We are delighted to share our list of graduates with you. We wish all of them great success in their next endeavors. Please let us know if we missed anyone! We will print their names in the July-August issue.

- **Sarah Stevens** is graduating from her home school program. Sarah will be attending Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia in the fall where she will be studying mechanical engineering.
- **Daniel Christian** is graduating from Grafton High School. Danny's plans are in flux at the present.
- **Rebeka Leah Knowlton** is graduating from Grafton High School with Highest Honors. She will be attending the University of Japan in the fall where she will continue her study of art. Rebeka is the daughter of Paul and Tracy Knowlton and the granddaughter of Pat Knowlton.
- **Rachel Wentworth** graduated Magna Cum Laude from Salem State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She will be working this summer while deciding what plans to follow in the fall. Rachel is the daughter of Dawn Wentworth and the granddaughter of Hazel DeLong.
- **Christian Stochaj** graduated from University of Massachusetts, Lowell with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Plastics Engineering. He is currently working at Molex in South Grafton as a Process Engineer. He is the son of Leta DeLong-Stochaj and Michael Stochaj and the grandson of Hazel DeLong.

- **Samuel Engvall** graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Sam will be working at the Fay School this summer while he finalizes his plans for the future. Sam is the son of Bert and Cyndy Engvall and the grandson of Jinny Engvall.
- **Emily Elizabeth Knowlton** graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston with a degree in accounting. She will be working in Boston with the firm that she interned with this last semester. Emily is the daughter of Paul and Tracy Knowlton and the granddaughter of Pat Knowlton
- Kristine Armstrong's daughter **Katie** graduated from UMass Boston with a Masters Degree in School Counseling.

Congratulations to all of you!

## Food Bank Needs for June

Remember to bring a can, a box, or a bag of non-perishable food to the Narthex. Put your donation in the big basket. They will be delivered to the food bank and used to restock the depleted shelves. Remember that the summer means kids are at home, not getting a lunch at school. The need for food is always great in the summer! There is always a need for paper products such as toilet paper and personal products like soap and shampoo.

## Kitchen Committee News

A special **thank you** to those who helped to pack up the green dishes from the kitchen in preparation for the Yard Sale. They all were sold and now there is room for our good dishes in the cupboards.

**Coffee Time:** We are recruiting more kitchen helpers by teaming up with and helping others provide refreshments for Coffee Time. If you would like to help with Coffee Time but are not sure what to do, please speak with a member of the Kitchen Committee.

**Planning:** We will meet in July with all who are involved to prepare a calendar for 2018-2019 fund raising dinners.

## Important Dates in June

3	Sunday	~	<b>10:00 am Communion Sunday Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
		~	11:30 am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
4	Monday		7:00 pm Board of Directors with Diane Libbey
5	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15 pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30 pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
7	Thursday	~	9:30 am Prayer Time in the parlor
9	Saturday		9:00 am-2:00 pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
10	Sunday	~	<b>10:00 am Children's Day Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth.</b>
			11:30 am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
11	Monday	~	10:00 am Mission Committee with Garfield Atchue
12	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15 pm AA Reflections Group
14	Thursday	~	9:30 am Prayer Time in the parlor
			7:00 pm Property Committee with Steve Reichle
15	Friday	~	7:00 pm Private Event
16	Saturday	~	1:00 pm Private Event
17	Sunday	~	<b>10:00 am Father's Day Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
			11:30 am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
19	Tuesday		5:15-6:15 pm AA Reflections Group
			7:00 pm Deacons Meeting with Ruth Ballantyne
20	Wednesday		3:00 pm Crescent Manor
21	Thursday		9:30 am Prayer Time in the parlor
			4:00-9:00 pm Venture Crew function
24	Sunday		<b>10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following meeting.</b>
			11:30 am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
25	Monday		7:00 pm Deacons Meeting with Ruth Ballantyne
26	Tuesday		5:15-6:15 pm AA Reflections Group
28	Thursday		9:30 am 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 June:** June Whitney and Barry Keith
- **Tellers for the Month for June:** King and Barthelmes Families
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor's hours.



## **It may only be June but look what's just around the corner!**

Take out your date books and mark your calendar ... this year's **Annual All Church Fair** is coming **on November 3**. It will be here before you know it! This is the time to start a craft or two, use some of your garden space to grow hot peppers, and be on the lookout for items we can sell on the **Drawffle** table.

Please save your **attic treasures**, go through your **jewelry** [or better yet watch for treasures at yard sales] for the jewelry table and bring out those wonderful secret family recipes for **bake table goodies**. Our financial goal this year is even higher than last year so we will need everyone to make this the best fair yet!

If you have room in your garden we are always looking for hot peppers for our jelly. If you frequent yard sales, please keep an eye out for 8 ounce glass jars for jelly. It might be interesting to branch out this year and create some new jams and jellies to sell on the baked goods table – anyone out there willing to devote an evening to jam making? Please share your ideas with Janice King or Diane Libbey so we can all plan a wonderfully successful fair. Your support, ideas and work makes each year better for all of us.