

THE JOYBELL

of

The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Richard Robison, Interim Pastor

(508) 839-4911 Church Office

www.thebaptistchurchofgraffton.org

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November 2018

Welcome to Rev. Dr. Richard J. Robison

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Richard J. Robison to our church family. He will be serving as our new Interim Minister beginning Sunday November 11th while we continue to search for a settled pastor. He is an ordained minister from the American Baptist Churches and has served churches in Allston/Brighton, Bedford, Fitchburg, Gardner, Jamaica Plain, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Milton and Waltham.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Robison has a B.A. degree in Sociology from Northern Illinois University [1975]. He holds both a Masters of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Divinity degree from the Palmer Theological Seminary [formerly Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary] in Philadelphia, PA.

Since April 1997 Dr. Robison has served as the Executive Director of the Federation for Children with Special Needs which is headquartered in Boston. He has also served for six years on the Commissioner's Staff at the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services [1991-1997]. He served as the Protestant Chaplain at the Fernald Developmental Center in Waltham from 1991 to 1994.

Dr. Robison and his wife Dotty are the parents of three adult children, two of whom have Down Syndrome. His oldest daughter and husband are adoptive parents of three teens, the oldest of which also has Down Syndrome.

We look forward to meeting his family and getting to know Dr. Robison and his wife. For those of us who remember a former pastor, Dr. Rosco Robison, our new pastor is not related but has enjoyed hearing stories about him.

Diaconate

The Diaconate has had some changes. Donna Nichols is now the Chairperson of the Deacons. Barry Keith is the Secretary. The Deacons have been hard at work searching for a new interim pastor. They have also been continuing their work on the outreach program. The new church brochure has been printed and is available for distribution. Feel free to take one from the Deacon's Table in the Narthex or the table in Russell Hall and give to people to introduce our church.

Christian Education

Christian Education is working with the three young people who regularly attend on Sunday mornings. They are a joy to teach. We only wish there were more of them with whom to share our Whole People of God's message and lessons. If you know a child who does not attend a church, please invite them to be part of ours!

Donna Nichols has begun an Adult Bible Video Series that meets each Sunday at 9 am in Russell Fellowship Hall. There is plenty of room so come sit and watch. Each video is a trip to one of the major biblical sites in the Holy Land and gives the viewer a visual context in which to understand the message. The series includes time for discussion of the videos that the group watches.

Meredith Christian continues to lead a Bible Study class on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 pm. The group is always looking for new members. Join them for some in-depth discussion of the Bible.

Property Committee

Property Committee is moving forward with plans to rent the Parsonage during the time period we are without a settled pastor. At present they will be asking the Congregation for money to be used to strip the old wallpaper off all the walls, patch and paint the walls and repair and repaint the ceilings. Steve Reichle will be making a presentation about this request on Sunday, November 4 at the Special Church Business meeting.

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Michael Christian. They also reviewed the steps for getting the Church ready for winter in addition to contacting a snow plowing service for the Parsonage.

Mission Committee

We are continuing to collect for **One Great Hour of Sharing** to help with the recovery of people who were so badly affected by the recent hurricanes. To date this national minis-

try has released over \$20,000 to American Baptist Churches of the South which is a region of the American Baptist Churches USA. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts. If you would like to help, please include a check made out to the Baptist Church of Grafton but with OGHs in the memo line. Our treasurer will send a check at the end of each month to help with the on-going recovery effort.

Seafarers Friend Mission Project: The collection box for Seafarers is in place to receive donations on the Mission table in RFH. Thank you to everyone who donates to this worthy cause.

One More Eating Opportunity!

October's magnificent **Turkey Dinner raised \$1,353** as over 100 hungry, happy guests crowded into every nook and cranny of RFH! Congratulations to Head Chef Marcia Kamilewicz and her crew!! There was a wonderful spirit of fellowship in the hall that night with people lingering at the tables for conversation over their coffee and dessert. Thank you to all who supported the dinner through donations of vegetables, desserts and money to buy turkeys.



The last 2018 dinner will be held on **November 17**. The menu is **the Pasta and Meatballs Dinner**. This includes all the fixings of a hearty meal plus the delicious dessert buffet. Reservations are not required but are very much appreciated. See the sign-up sheet in Russell Hall or call the Church Office to make your reservation.

Just a reminder that there is a **lighted parking lot behind 2 South Street** that can be used on the evenings of dinners as well as the parking lot at the Library and the Public Parking lot just beyond that on Rt. 140. The new sidewalks make it an easy walk to the Church.

Quilt Show

Most months a dedicated group of ladies from all over Grafton and the surrounding towns gather in Russell Fellowship Hall for a day of quilting and fellowship. This year on October 13 they borrowed our Sanctuary for a show of their work, their collection of quilts and some amazing antique quilts. There were king-size quilts, small wall hangings and table runners – and everything in between. Quilts hung from the balcony railing and from the hooks high on the walls. Quilts were displayed in the choir lofts, on quilt racks and draped over the pews. There were almost 200 handmade items on display – all sorts of colors and designs. It was really a breathtaking display.

The quilting group has donated half of the proceeds from the show to support the ongoing work of our church and will be sending the other half to Abby's House in Worcester to support their programs. In addition, the quilting ladies have made over 120 pillowcases to be given to the clients at Abby's House at Christmas time. These will be in addition to the personal supplies such as toothbrushes, tooth paste, shampoo, notebooks, pens and more that the group had donated yearly to Abby's House for its clients' use.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service



Thank You, LORD!

The Unitarian Universalist Church is inviting all the Churches in town to participate in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, November 21 starting at 7 pm. This will be a service of readings and hymns. The service will be followed by a pot-luck dessert opportunity and a time to visit with friends.

New Church Directory is Here

Our new Church Directory is now available. It has a hot pink cover and is as up-to-date as we can make it. Please take one home to keep by your phone. If you have any additions, please see Donna Nichols so she can add them to the Office Copy of the directory for future updates. **Please take only one copy per family.** Remember that this is a list of our **local** members and friends and is only for the convenience of our church family. It is not a membership list nor a complete list of everyone affiliated with our church. If you need the address or phone number for someone not in the book but who is a member of the church, please call the church office.

Important Dates in November

1	Thursday	~	10:00am Prayer Time in the Parlor
3	Saturday	~	9:00am - 2:00pm Church Fair
4	Sunday	~	9:00am Adult Bible Video Series in Russell Hall

		~	10:00am Children's Day Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Special Church business meeting following worship. Coffee Fellowship to follow.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
6	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
8	Thursday	~	10:00am Prayer Time in the Parlor
		~	7:00pm Property Committee with Steve Reichle
10	Saturday	~	9:00am-2:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
11	Sunday	~	9:00am Adult Bible Video Series in Russell Hall
		~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
12	Monday	~	10:00am Mission Committee with Garfield Atchue
13	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
15	Thursday	~	10:00am Prayer Time in the Parlor
17	Saturday	~	5:30 pm Pasta and Meatball Dinner – reservations requested
18	Sunday	~	9:00am Adult Bible Video Series in Russell Hall
		~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
19	Monday	~	7:00pm Board of Directors with Diane Libbey
20	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
21	Wednesday	~	3:00pm Crescent Manor Worship Service
		~	7:00 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Universalist Unitarian Church followed by the pot luck dessert time.
22	Thursday	~	10:00am Happy Thanksgiving – Church Office is closed
25	Sunday	~	9:00am Adult Bible Video Series in Russell Hall
		~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship
		~	11:30 am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
26	Monday	~	7:00pm Deacons Meeting with Donna Nichols
27	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
29	Thursday	~	10:00am Prayer Time in the Parlor
		~	7:00pm Christian Education with Donna Nichols

- **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 November:** Chris Hoffman, Janice King, Donna Nichols, and Pat Knowlton
- **Tellers for the Month for November:** Steve Reichle and TBA
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor’s hours.

Advent Events

Advent Sundays, the first four Sundays in December, are a time of preparation and are wonderful islands of peace in our hectic commercial world. Please plan to join us for celebrations in preparation for welcoming Christ – the Reason for the Season!

December 2 will be our annual Creche Sunday display. This is a wonderful afternoon to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas. Last year we displayed over 150 manger scenes for everyone to enjoy. This year we expect even more. Lots of help is needed for the set up [directly after Church] and the repacking of lots of little pieces when the display is over. Many hands make quick work! Please plan to help with this event!

December 24 Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM



Annual All Church Fair

The **Annual All Church Fair** will be held on Saturday, **November 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** We will be looking for **help from everyone** to make this another successful effort.

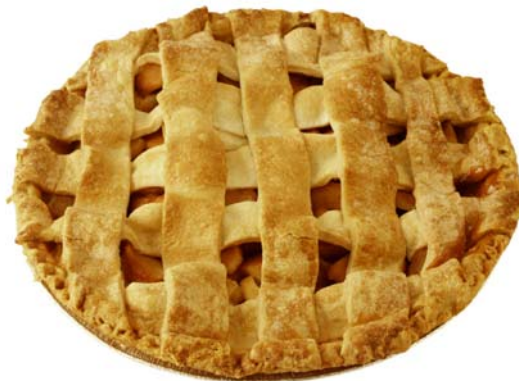


We hope each family can donate one or more baked good items to the bake sale table. Please be sure to:

- Make these items from scratch;
- Wrap items in **plastic wrap** so people can see what they are buying
- Mark the name of the item on it as many breads/cookie/pies look the same;
- Please register your goodie on our list – last year there was a question as to who baked a particular item and we were unable to answer it.
- Bring them to the church on Friday, November 2 if possible or as early as you can on November 3.



There is a limited supply of our Hot Pepper Jelly this year. Come early for both a taste [if you dare] and the opportunity to take a jar home. Other jams and pickles will be available too. We will have strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, strawberry jam, mixed pickles, fudge, scones, breads and so much more!



Pat Knowlton and her crew have made over 65 pies this year – apple, apple blueberry, blueberry and strawberry rhubarb. Pat has also made some sugar-free pies for those who need to restrict their sweets consumption. **The pies, especially the specialty ones, go quickly so come early for the best selection.**

Chefs Marcia Kamilewicz and Everett Beaman will be serving up mouth watering food from the **snack bar**. They are looking for **monetary donations** to help defray the cost of this very successful part of our fair. They will buy the food, cook it **and** clean up – what a great deal!!

The ladies of the church have been crafting up a storm this year. We have hand-made ornaments for your tree. We have hats and scarves, we have bibs for babies and burp cloths to keep their parents clean, we have afghans, we have nifty jeans pockets for the young at heart – hand crafted for your pleasure and fun to stuff for gifts.

The **Attic Treasures!** We expanded our **Attic** last year and it was a tremendous success.

We will be selling **books, CDs, videos and DVDs** so look thru your collections to see if there is anything that might be added to this table.

Our **Drawffle** is in its tenth year. You can buy a ticket for the opportunity to win one of several very special items. These include, a lovely hand quilted wall hanging, theme baskets and much more. **Please be sure to clearly label any and all donations for the Drawffle.**

Please **invite your friends and neighbors** to come to the fair. They can enjoy a wonderful hot meal at the snack shack, buy some jams, jellies, pies and delicious Baptist baked goods, a book to read on a snowy day, a treasure from the attic, or a Christmas craft. Encourage everyone to buy Drawffle tickets! Don't forget that there will be a table for youngsters where they can decorate cookies while giving their parents an opportunity to shop.

Sign up to help at a table, for clean-up or to assist during lunch rush at the snack shack. See Janice King or Diane Libbey if you can help out – we need you!!

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!
November 3, 2017
9 AM to 2 PM