

THE JOYBELL

of the

The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church

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Message from the Pastor

A year plus has now passed in my call as your Interim Pastor, and it has become clear to me that even though we have been blessed with a vibrant ministry and fellowship, we are at a critical point in the life of our church. We have lost church members and friends through death, illness, and other factors that I know to be unavoidable.

We are also faced with the necessity to embrace a deeper sense of urgency in so many areas of ministry and outreach. Consequently, we need to do all we can to keep our enthusiasm for the future alive and vigorous; renewing our reason for being here, understanding who we are in Christ, and how we can use that for effective inreach and outreach.

So, in the weeks ahead, I plan on working with our church boards and leaders to support ways in which we can capture the vision of why God has placed us here, and where we need to go from here. **But we cannot be successful in doing that without the full support and participation of our entire church community, and without continuous encouragement.**

So, let's keep in mind the words of 1Thessalonians 5:11 that says: *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

If we are to lead with humility and love, befriend those folk who are making their way into this community, with the seeker; with the marginalized, with the non-believer - we must first be strengthened in our own faith beliefs (inreach) and readiness to step out (outreach) to embrace those who may be different than we are with confidence and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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

I would add one more reflection along with all I have shared thus far. I know we are working hard during these "In between times" just to keep our church vital and alive; continue to hold fast in all your efforts and responsibilities. And finally, stay in prayer for our search committee. I have been in ministry for over 35 years and know they are doing an excellent and thorough job in finding the right leader that God has already chosen for us.

Pastor Frank

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate July and August schedule ends with its September 25th scheduled meeting. Visitations continued throughout the summer. Prayers, care and concerns were met for those not able to attend services.

Unity prayer for September: "You who seek God, let your hearts revive." — Psalm 69:32

Lord, We pray that our Pastoral Search Team will find a pastor that will seek God for personal renewal and revival in your church and community. Let all of us be humble and prepare. Make ourselves right with God; ask for God's forgiveness; seek God's word and guidance in our daily life. May we, the church, be prepared for our new shepherd. Amen

Tom Hodgdon, Diaconate Chair

Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) continues to make steady, thoughtful progress assembling the American Baptist Churches USA (ABC) and TABCOM recommended Church Profile and related documentation necessary to successfully search, identify

and interview settled pastoral candidates. Completing this Profile is a complex, lengthy effort including many interrelated steps. Most recently we have completed reviews of our Congregational Vision for the Ministry, Ministry Tasks Performed by the Congregation, Ministry Tasks Intended for the New Pastor, and critical Ministry Priorities. In the coming weeks the PSC will be reviewing options for Pastoral Compensation, and creating a consolidated Church Profile for distribution to potential pastoral interview candidates. The PSC appreciates the Congregation's continued support and patience throughout this very important process.

Mission Committee

We welcomed Ed Guerard, Friends of Regional Ministries Director, as our Guest Speaker at our Sept. 11 meeting. He updated us on all things missions! The mission program "**Friends of Regional Ministries**" helps support Grotonwood, Oceanwood and TABCOM. Since 2003 when FORM was introduced, the "**Friends**" have donated \$3,247,115. That's a lot of money and lots of ministry! In 2016, 516 Friends donated \$444,092, the largest one year donation amount in the 14 year history of FORM. The Baptist Church of Grafton is one of those Friends and so are some of our members as individuals. His report included pictures and updates on Prescott Lodge. This is the replacement for Memorial Lodge, which was destroyed in a fire. Ed also issued an invitation to our Mission Committee to host a meeting at Prescott Lodge; this would include lunch at Grotonwood.

Ed also invited us (and any one from our church who would enjoy it) to attend 2017 Mission Works, October 13-14 in Leominster. Five members of the Mission committee are planning to attend. If you are interested in learning more about this event speak to Susanne Fleming.

Our next Meeting will be Monday, October 16, with a road trip to the home of Carol Valentine in Connecticut

Kitchen/Hospitality Committee

Ham & Bean Supper: A Special Thank You to all who helped to make the September 16 Ham & Bean Supper a success! We were short handed and really appreciate those who stepped in to help! (And the Committee members who did double duty!) The dinner netted a total of \$586.75.

Coffee Time: We are recruiting more helpers by teaming up with and helping people who are willing to provide refreshments and set up for Coffee Time and clean-up. A sign-up sheet is available on the Clock Table. Please sign up to make this special fellowship to continue. Asking a friend or two to provide food with you makes things more fun and an easier task.

Next Meeting: We will have a meeting after Church October 8 to go over scheduling and supplies needed for Judy's Turkey Dinner Scheduled for October 21 at 5:30PM

Turkey Dinner October 21

Our **next public dinner** will be served Saturday evening, October 21 at 5:30 p.m. Our kitchen crew will be preparing a turkey dinner with stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, beverage and our famous dessert buffet.

We are looking for donations to help with the purchase of turkeys and other food for this event and people to help with set-up before and after the dinner. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

Reservations are requested for this dinner as it is such a popular meal. If you plan to enjoy the turkey dinner, please call the church office and make your reservation with church secretary [508-839-4911]. The cost is \$12 and the tables are filling fast!

As always, we thank the kitchen crew and those who make the many desserts. Together we have an evening of wonderful food and great fellowship.

Pastor/Parish Relations Committee

Pastor/Parish Relations Committee met on September 11. Discussion centered on communication and the need to improve our communication in several areas. Pastor Frank will be speaking more about the on-going search for a settled pastor. Chris Hoffman will be asked to give frequent updates on the Search Committee's progress as many people have never gone thru this process.

Communications between various committees, the Board of Directors and the congregation were also discussed. There is a need for clear direction, understanding of the governing rules of the Church and review of decisions before actions are taken.

There was also a discussion of hours and the on-going responsibilities of Pastor Frank. As the committee has heard no concerns, it was a very positive discussion.

Christian Education Report

- **Bible Sunday** will be November 12. We are hoping to have a guest speaker to share the message that day. At present there are four young people who will be receiving Bibles. Meredith Christian also will have a display of Bibles for people who do not own a Bible or who would be interested in a different translation to take one home,

- **World Communion Sunday** is October 1. Christian Education is hoping to work with the Deacons to provide a variety of breads as part of the Communion Service.
- **Tribal Conference** is still in the planning stages. This event will replace the Fall Awakening that our youth have attended in the past. Meredith will speak with the organizers to get a firm date and program.
- **Sunday, October 15** will be our first youth choir meeting. Youth will meet during worship time to learn some new music that they can share with the congregation at a later time. Donna Nichols and Leta DeLong-Stochaj are organizing this.
- **Children's message sign-up sheet** is available for those willing to share a story with our children and youth. The sheet will be circulated during coffee hour.
- **The new felt board** has arrived and characters will be purchased so that it can be used with our younger students. There was a discussion about the need to have a lesson planned for the youngest ones so they can be excited about coming back to church each week to learn more about the Bible and all the wonderful stories in it.
- **Bible Study Class** is meeting under the direction of Meredith Christian. There is always room for more around the table for this discussion group. There will NOT be a meeting on Tuesday, October 31.

Finance Committee

The main message about the Church's financial situation as of the end of September is that while we are doing well, this is due primarily to having a part-time pastor. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the financial health of our church. A thank you goes to all those who are organizing, working on, and supporting the fund-raising events this fall and throughout the year. There are a lot of events coming up with dinners and the Annual All Church Fair. Thanks also to the church's committees, which are managing their spending carefully.

For those people who use envelopes, but have not pledged, please consider "catching up" with your giving if you missed a Sunday during the summer. Regular, consistent giving by all who use offering envelopes is the most important component of our church's financial stability. The cost of operating the church continues (about \$2,000 per week)! If you have any questions about pledging, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Finance Committee: David Libbey, Bert Engvall, Chris Hoffman, or Cyndy Engvall.

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning committee met on Monday, September 11 at 7pm. In attendance was our Moderator, Bert Engvall, who joined us to discuss approaches to our review of the By-laws, which should be done about every 5 years, per the By-laws. This was a productive meeting. We are looking forward to reviewing collected input that will serve as a guide to help prioritize our review.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith H. Christian, Chair

Property Committee

The Property Committee is in the process of obtaining an energy audit of both the parsonage and the church itself. With the electric company's guidance there may be additional ways to save money, increase the insulation at the parsonage and change the lighting in Russell Fellowship Hall to make it more efficient.

The committee thanks Bert Engvall for his continued lawn mowing services at the Church. He keeps us looking neat and tidy.

Important Dates in October

1	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Communion Sunday, Informal Sunday School classes for our children & youth. Lunches made for Worcester Fellowship. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
2	Monday	~	7:00pm Long Range Planning with Meredith Christian
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	~	10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
		~	11:30 am Kitchen Committee planning session
10	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:00pm Property Committee with Barry Keith
12	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
14	Saturday	~	9:00am-3:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
15	Sunday	~	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
16	Monday	~	10 am Mission Committee meeting road trip to CT
16	Monday	~	7:00pm Board of Directors with Bert Engvall
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
21	Saturday	~	5:30pm Turkey Dinner

22	Sunday	~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. *Equal Exchange Sales
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
23	Monday	~	7:00pm Deacons with Tom Hodgdon
24	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:00pm Christian Education Committee with Susan Searles
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. No Coffee Fellowship today. ***Undie Sunday
		~	Set up for the Fall Fair – directly after Worship
			11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
31	Tuesday		5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group

- **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 October** : Yves Fleury/Donna Nichols and Chris Hoffman
- **Tellers for the Month of October** The Searles and Reichle families
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 am–11:30 am.
- Call the Church office for the Pastor's hours.

Birthdays and Anniversaries Join The Pie Making Team!

Pat Knowlton is leading our **Church Fair pie making team** again this year. Our pies are a huge reason why our food table is so popular with those who come to the Fair!

Pat is looking for your help with this effort. This year she would like **monetary donations** so that we can purchase the ingredients for pie making. This will help her better control the consistency which is important as our apple pies are one of our Fair "signature products"!

She is also looking for volunteers to peel apples and make pie dough. We are planning to make and freeze 60 pies. We will be gathering **four mornings from 9 to noon. The sessions will be on Tuesdays - October 3, 10, 17 and 24.** This is an opportunity for fun and fellowship! Sign-up sheets are on the Clock Table in Russell Fellowship Hall.

If anyone would like to purchase a FROZEN PIE to put in their freezer for the holidays, please speak with Pat prior to Tuesday October 31. If you have any questions, speak with Pat following the church services. **Please sign up to lend a hand!**

All Church Fair Is Almost Here

The **Annual All Church Fair** will be held on Saturday, **November 4** from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will be looking for **help from everyone** to make this another successful effort. Our plan is to **set-up for the fair** directly after the Fellowship time on **Sunday, October 29**. Again we will be looking for young people and those who are strong to help with moving tables, chairs and other furniture and with retrieving things from the balcony.

We hope each family can donate two 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
- Clearly mark the name of the item on it as many breads/cookie/pies look the same. Also please indicate if nuts are included.
- If these are unusual items please suggest a price. Tags will be available on the table.
- Bring them to the church on Friday, November 3.

We will again be selling our **hot pepper jelly, homemade jams and other goodies.**

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!!

Garfield The Plant Man is looking for live plants to add to his table.

Our **Jewelry Table** sold most of its wares last year so we need all sorts of things to restock the table.

The **Craft Table** is looking for home-made crafts or gift items such as knitting projects, sewing, woodworking or whatever you do! Clean empty glass salad dressing bottles [or those of similar size] for our lavender water are also needed. We are also looking for Christmas ornaments and other small items to catch customers' attention

The **Attic Treasures** team is looking for your used household goods, tools and gadgets to offer to the bargain hunters. This is a wonderful opportunity to donate the unused treasures lurking in your attic or basement! We expanded our **Attic** last year and it was a tremendous success. Only you and your donations can make this another success! Please **bring your donations early in the week of October 30** so they can be priced for the sale. Please make sure items are clean and in good repair. **Toys and clothing should be saved for the Spring Indoor Yard Sale.**

We will be selling **books, CDs, videos and DVDs** so look through your collections to see if there is anything that might be added to this table. Please keep musty books and unmarked cds, dvds, magazines, textbooks and videos at home.

Our **Drawffle** is in its ninth 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 and a

handmade lap throw. Please label items you think will be good for the Drawffle and leave them in Russell Hall. The final decision of what is on the Drawffle table will be made by the fair committee.

We need **set up and clean up help!** We will set up tables after church on October 29 and will be looking for help on November 4 to reset the Hall and pack away items that were not sold.

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, bring home a plant or a book to read, a treasure from the attic, or a Christmas craft. Encourage everyone to buy Drawffle tickets and get a treat in return! Don't forget that there will be a table for youngsters where they can decorate cookies while giving their parents an opportunity to shop.

Here are the key dates to mark in your calendar now!!!!

October 29	<u>Set-up for the fair, right after church!</u>
October 3, 10, 17, 24	Pie Making at the church, 9a.m.- Noon
October 30, to Nov. 3	Fair table set up time!
November 1,2,3	Fair table set up!! [
November 3	Pie Baking Day at church
November 4	Fair Day!!!

Sign up to help at a table, for clean-up or to assist during lunch rush at the snack shack.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!!
November 4, 9 AM to 2:30 PM