

# THE JOYBELL

The Baptist Church of Grafton

An American Baptist Church

**Rev. Dr. Frank Armstrong, Interim Pastor**

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September 2017

*“School bells ring and children sing it’s back to Robert Hall’s again.”* I know I have just aged myself in sharing that little jingle that used to play persistently on TV and over the radio right around this time of the year. Do any of you remember it?

In some ways it was the seasonal clarion call to remind us that Summer was over and it was time to get down to the business of preparing for a new school year, deal with the horrors of school work, homework, busses (we walked to school), and getting up early all week long.

However, within the midst of it all was the anticipation of what the year would bring in terms of new friends, learning new things, and hopefully, having a different teacher we might just like! All of these things would involve change on many levels of life. And I guess you could say that September raises a similar clarion call for the church that will not begin with the Robert Hall jingle, but with Rally Day.

This year promises to kick off the season with great music, children and youth participating in worship, balloons, and a picnic following worship. And it is my hope that everyone will bring or invite a friend to join with us and experience what a great joy and time of fellowship church can be. I trust someone has already provided more specific information on Rally Day in this copy of the Joy Bell.

Of course, as we gather together in worship and fellowship, begin our Sunday School year, and get back to our regular monthly business meetings, I would encourage every one to keep our Pastoral Search Committee in prayer as they seek God’s guidance in securing a settled Pastor.

Until that happens, I want to say that I have and will continue to embrace the joy of being your Interim Pastor; and know that without a doubt, God has placed me in this ministry for a specific reason and purpose and feel very blessed to be here. I have come to know so many wonderful, committed individuals who truly love the Lord in word and in

deed. Your next settled Pastor would be equally blessed and excited to serve our congregation.

So, it is almost time for the activity level to increase. And as we continue to serve this community as witnesses of the Good News well beyond the walls of our church, through good works and missional efforts that will be pleasing to God, we cannot fail to grow in size, spirit, and Grace. READY, SET, GO!

In Christ,  
Pastor Frank

## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has continued to meet thru the summer months and make steady progress following the process prescribed by American Baptist Churches USA. The surveys that were taken in August have been collected and the information compiled and summarized. Your responses will help clarify the future Vision and Priorities of the Church. They will also be included in the comprehensive Church Profile that will guide our search for a settled pastor. We sincerely appreciate your continuing participation in this important process.

## Home Coming Rally Day September 10

The Baptist Church of Grafton Church Family will join together on Sunday September 10 to **celebrate the start of the 2017 – 2018 Sunday School year**. Everyone is invited to come and be part of this special Sunday.

During the Worship Service we will have a **Service of Dedication for our Sunday School teachers and young people**. During Sunday School time our young people and teachers will worship together and start their new Sunday School lessons.

After our Worship Service we will all gather in Russell Fellowship Hall for a picnic to celebrate **Rally Day**. The Church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, paper plates, plastic silverware, napkins, cups and drinks. **Please bring a cold dish to share with friends – salad or dessert**. There will be plenty of chairs but feel free to bring your own comfortable lawn chair. There will be hot coffee, tea and Baptist Punch plus time to catch up with everyone. This year we have some canopies to put up in the backyard so there will be plenty of shade for everyone who would like to sit outside. We look forward to seeing you there!

## The Christian Education Committee

Each Sunday School Family has received the *At Home Leaflet* for Unit 1 which has additional family studies for each week of the 2017-18 church year. The Theme for September 3 - October 8 is “**Together on the Journey**” Our hope is that each family will make use of these lessons and be blessed by them. If anyone would like a copy but doesn't receive one there are extra copies on the table in RFH. Our Church School year will start on September 10 with classes for children and teens.

**Bible Study Group** continues under the direction of Meredith Christian. They will be meeting on the first, third and fifth Tuesdays of each month. This is an open Study Group and all are welcome. They will be continue their study of the Book of Revelations.. It is a great opportunity to discuss your reading and to compare various translations of the Bible.

**Children's Story Tellers** are always needed. These are the kind people who share a story, an experience, a memory or a lesson with our children before they go downstairs for classes. These messages are short, have a single idea and are geared to kids 4 and up. We have books with ideas, websites for more ideas and hopefully inspirations that come from life. If you would like to be included on the list, please see **Susan Searles** or she will be seeking you out at Coffee Time. The more people who share the wider our experiences will be.

Our Youth continue to participate in the Worcester Fellowship Program that provides Sunday lunches to the homeless. They are also collecting white socks and underwear to give away. Warm hats, scarves and gloves are always appreciated.

## Mission Committee Report

Mission Committee will start the fall with a special guest at their September meeting. Ed Guerard will be speaking about a topic near and dear to his heart – Mission Giving. This is especially important now with the need to provide funds for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. This meeting is open to everyone who is interested in the mission work of the American Baptist Churches. A report of his message on relief giving will be in the Sunday bulletin.

**Hurricane Harvey Relief Funds** will be collected with the morning offering each Sunday in September. There are special envelopes in the pews for your donations. Checks **should be made out to the Church** and one check will be sent to *One Great Hour of Sharing* for their work in disaster relief.

Please note that Equal Exchange **will no longer** be selling coffee at their monthly table.

## Property Committee Report

The Property Committee will have its first meeting on September 7. Plans for the upcoming year include an indoor clean-up day, review of the needs of the parsonage and review of projects that were completed over the summer or still need to be done. A refurbishing of the Men's Room is on the list of fall projects.

Remember that if you see something that needs to be fixed at Church, please fill out a yellow slip found in your pew to bring it to the attention of the Committee.

## Long Range Planning Committee

We will be meeting on September 11 to begin our work for the remainder of the year. We will be reviewing the Church By-Laws which is a bi-annual task. We will be starting to look for people to fill positions on various committees and to fill upcoming chair vacancies. If you are interested in serving on any of our committees or willing to chair a committee please speak with Meredith Christian. Long Range Planning is also looking for new members!!

## Important Dates in September

3	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Communion Sunday, Informal Sunday School classes for our children &amp; youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.</b>
4	Monday	~	Labor Day. Office closed
5	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15 AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
7	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
9	Saturday	~	9:00am-3:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
<b>10</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>**Homecoming Sunday** 10:00 am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for children and youth. Rally Day Picnic after Worship Service.</b>
11	Monday	~	10:00 Mission Committee with Garfield Atchue
		~	7:00pm Long Range Planning with Meredith Christian
12	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
13	Wednesday	~	300 Worship at Crescent Manor
14	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
		~	7:00pm Property Committee with Barry Keith
16	Saturday	~	Ham & Beans Dinner 5:30pm
<b>17</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	~	<b>10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship. ***Equal Exchange</b>

		~	11:30 Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
18	Monday	~	7:00 Board of Directors with Bert Engvall
19	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
21	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
24	<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>
		~	11:30 Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
25	Monday	~	7:00 Deacons with Tom Hodgdon
26	Tuesday	~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
		~	7:00 Christian Education Committee with Susan Searles
28	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 September – Ruth Ballantyne and Thomas Hodgdon**
- **Tellers for the Month of September - Chris Hoffman and the Libbey Family**
- 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.

## Fund Raising Events Schedule

It is time to make your reservations for the first dinner of the 2017-2018 year! Our chefs will be preparing their famous **Ham and Bean Dinner** on **Saturday, September 16th**. The menu will include a variety of homemade beans, ham, cole slaw, brown bread, corn bread and rolls. Also included are trips through our famous dessert buffet

Sign-up sheets for reservations as well as for donations are now available on the clock table in Russell Fellowship Hall. There will be ham with all the fixings, a variety of beans made from secret family recipes, and, of course, our renowned dessert buffet.

Mark your calendars now for these upcoming events. Be sure to invite your neighbors and friends to join you. The more the merrier and the better the fellowship! **Make your reservations early! Check the sign-up sheets in Russell Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office.**

This year's schedule is:

October 21 – Judy's Turkey Dinner  
 November 18 – Pasta & Meatballs  
 January 20 – Shepherd's Pie  
 February 17 – Corned Beef & Cabbage

March 3 – Mission's Soup Night  
 March 24 – Oven fried Chicken  
 May 19 – Richard's Swedish Meatballs

## Kitchen and Hospitality Committee Report

Do you enjoy having something sweet with your coffee or tea after church? This time of fellowship is an important extension of our service. It is a time to meet visitors, catch up with friends and hear the news of members and friends. **Each Sunday is an opportunity for you, you and a friend, or a group of you to provide goodies for the table.** They do not have to be homemade so everyone can still participate. There is a sign-up sheet on the clock table where you can choose the Sunday that makes the most sense for you. Marcia Kamilewicz and Everett Beaman will organize the coffee, tea and juice, but they do need help in filling the table with things that tempt people to remain and chat. Please consider how you best can continue our tradition of finger foods after church!

## Interested in Singing?

Choir rehearsals have resumed on Sundays starting at 11:30 AM in the choir room. Rehearsals last approximately one hour. Pat welcomes back those who have sung in the choir. She also would be thrilled to have anyone who loves the Lord and to sing to come join the choir in making "A joyful noise unto the Lord".

Thank you also to those people who sang solos or duets or shared music with the congregation during the summer months.

## 2017 – 2018 Church Directory

We are in the process of preparing the 2017-2018 Church Directory. This year you may wish to include your email address and/or cell phone number. Our directory is **ONLY** given to members and friends of our church. If you would like this additional information included, please call the church office or add it to the preview sheets on the clock table in Russell Hall. **Deadline for changes is September 24.**

## Church Fair Is Coming!

The All Church Fair will be held on **Saturday, November 4**. Many people are working to make this another successful event in the life of our church.

- Remember to save all your wonderful treasures to add to our Attic Treasures table, all sorts of baubles and trinkets to tempt the buying public at the jewelry stop,
- *Save your paperbacks, weed your bookshelves and let friends know you have a great place to recycle books.*
- Our delicious Snack Bar will be looking for **donations of money** to offset their costs. The team will do the buying and lugging. All they will need is a bit of help from their friends in the form of cash!

- Our successful Drawffle is looking for interesting items– hand crafted items, gently used and practically new items do very well on this table.
- *We will again be having a series of pie making events. We will be looking for pie plates [buy them early as they disappear from the supermarket in September], donations of money to buy the supplies, pie dough from our special recipe, and people to peel and roll.*
- Bake table will also be looking for a variety of pies so planning to freeze some fruit now for your specialty pie is another great idea.
- Please save any **paper bags that have handles** on them such as the ones from Trader Joe's. These are great for use in the Attic Treasures' department.

Your committee is always looking for new ideas, clever crafts and people willing to create the many different items we sell. Please let them know if you are willing to teach others your craft or have an idea to share. With us all working together it will be both a fun time and a success. Save the date and get working on all your creative ideas!

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Homecoming Sunday and Rally Day  
 September 10  
 First Day of Sunday School for our youth  
 Potluck Luncheon to follow Worship  
 Hope to see you there!