

THE JOYBELL

The Baptist Church of Grafton
An American Baptist Church

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September 2018

Message from Pastor Frank

One of St Francis's most oft quoted words seems appropriate for this brief message. He wrote: ***"Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words,***

Clearly, the only feet and hands our Lord has to do His work - are yours and mine! That implies an intentional emphasis on Outreach; labor beyond the walls of the church! Having said that, I am thrilled that the Board of Deacons has not only taken that clarion call as an integral part of its responsibility, but are in the process of working on one or two Initiatives to undertake for the church, community, and world!

They have also met regularly throughout the summer to explore, dialogue and find ways to get our entire faith community of board. Consequently, one Board alone cannot do this work! All our hands and feet combined will make task lighter.

My observation in working with the Board tells me that very soon we will have something firm to propose- along with a call to commitment. I personally know that whatever we do for the sake of God's Kingdom come and Kingdom present will bring many rich blessings. Please pray for the Deacons as they seek to oversee the spiritual welfare of the church.

Along with that, of course, is the prospect that the Search Committee has found and will present a candidate they feel will bring new life and light to our church. They will continue to need your prayers as they have been working hard to seek and present a candidate they feel is best suited for BCG and its future.

For now,
Respectively submitted
Pastor Frank

Home Coming Rally Day September 16

The Baptist Church of Grafton Church Family will join together on Sunday September 16 to **celebrate the start of the 2018 – 2019 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 a special coffee time to celebrate our students, teachers and those who help to make our Sunday School special.

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 2018-19 church year. The Theme for September 2 - October 7 is **"The Wondering Church"** Our hope is that each family will make use of these lessons and be blessed by them. If anyone would like a copy, there are extra copies on the table in RFH. Our Church School year will start on September 16 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 continuing their study of the Book of Isaiah. This 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 **Donna Nichols** or she will be seeking you out at Coffee Time. The more people who share the wider our experiences will be.

Our Church continues to participate in the Worcester Fellowship Program but no longer is making sandwich lunches. The Youth Group at the Congregational Church has taken over this mission project. We hope to be able to do this again when we have a teen class at Church. We will continue to collecting white socks and underwear to give away. Warm hats, scarves and gloves are always appreciated. These will be delivered to Holy Spirit Church to be distributed as needed.

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate has been continuing to meet and discussing ideas for our Outreach Program Projects over the summer. We are making progress and a number of good ideas have been proposed. We hope to finalize our first project in the near future.

Reminder to anyone who would like assistance with stairs to get to Russell Hall or to enter or exit the church: please let one of the Deacons stationed in the Narthex know and they will get someone to help you.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



On Sunday, August 19 ten prayer shawls/lap robes were dedicated during our morning Worship Service. These knitted and crocheted items were handcrafted by several of the women in our church or have been given to the church to be part of this ministry. These will be given to people, both members and friends, who could use warm hugs and the prayers that accompany the items. They are made to share the love that is woven into each item. If you are interested in helping to continue this ministry, please see Pat Knowlton for patterns and directions.

Finance Committee Report

Thank you to the people who have kept up-to-date with their giving throughout the summer. The church's bills do not take summer vacation, so consistent financial support throughout the summer is greatly appreciated. For those folks who have not been able to keep up with giving throughout the summer, any "catching up" that can be done during September through December will be greatly appreciated!

As of the middle of the summer, our church had approximately \$65,000 of cash on hand. Having these available funds is extremely helpful as a portion of them will be used for updates to the parsonage and for some of the costs associated with calling a settled, full-time pastor.

A sincere thank you to all who support our church.

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee has been busy this summer with a variety of projects both at the Church and at the Parsonage. Plumbing issues at the Parsonage have been corrected and the electrical work that was approved by the Congregation is in process of being completed by Joe Gandolfo. Vent fans have been installed in both bathrooms. At the church, the old dehumidifier in the office has been replaced with an air conditioning unit that keeps the room cool and dry. A big thank you to Bert Engvall for his continued lawn mowing at the Church.

Long Range Planning Committee

We will be meeting in September 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!!

Mission Committee

Many of you remember Mary Blake who was a friend of the church for her time here in Grafton. Mary spent time this summer on a Mission Trip to Uganda. The Mission Committee and many of you helped support her both financially and with prayers during her trip. Here is a note from Mary:

Upon my return everyone asked "How was your trip"? Honestly, I have difficulty answering this question. My trip was an opportunity and a lesson. Yes I went for the opportunity to set up clinics, distribute supplies, and deliver the word of God. But what I received was lessons in gratitude, genuiness, and respect.

In the village of Hoima, Uganda the town didn't have power or running water but I have never seen people go out their way to make others feel comfortable and welcomed. These people live slower and just let life happen to them instead of the other way around. They regard their elders and visitors as precious and literally got on their knees to bow to us. I was so taken aback by this type of hospitality that I teared up. I am going to try and implement this level of love for others into my own life and was so grateful that God led me to Uganda to learn it.

Important Dates in September

2	Sunday	~	10:00am Communion Sunday Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
		~	11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
4	Tuesday	~	9:30am-12:00pm Pie Making
		~	5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
6	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
8	Saturday	~	9:30-11 am Board of Directors, Search Committee and Deacons with Rev. Jana Yeaton – chaired by Diane Libbey
		~	5:00-7:30pm Pot Luck Supper and discussion time with Rev. Jana Yeaton
9	Sunday	~	8:45 -9:30 am Informal Coffee time with Rev. Yeaton
		~	10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory to be led by Rev. Jana Yeaton, Sunday School classes for our children and youth.
		~	11:00 am Church Business meeting regarding calling Rev. Yeaton to be the Settled Pastor for our Church
			11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
10	Monday	~	10:00am Mission Committee with Garfield Atchue
11	Tuesday	~	9:30am-12:00pm Pie Making
			5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
13	Thursday	~	9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
			7:00pm Property Committee with Steve Reichle
16	Sunday	~	10:00am Rally Day and Homecoming Sunday Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our children. Coffee Fellowship following Worship.
			11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
17	Monday		7:00pm Board of Directors with Diane Libbey
18	Tuesday		9:30am-12:00pm Pie Making
			5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
			7:30pm Bible Study with Meredith Christian
19	Wednesday		3:00pm Crescent Manor
20	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
			7:00pm Christian Education with Donna Nichols
22	Saturday		5:30pm Ham and Bean Supper
23	Sunday		10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following meeting. Undie Sunday
			11:30am Choir Rehearsal with Pat Knowlton
24	Monday		7:00pm Deacons Meeting with Ruth Ballantyne
25	Tuesday		9:30am-12:00pm Pie Making
			5:15-6:15pm AA Reflections Group
27	Thursday		9:30am Prayer Time in the parlor
29	Saturday		9:00am-2:00pm Quilt Class with Paula Moore
30	Sunday		10:00am Worship Service to God's Glory, Sunday School

classes for our youth. Coffee Fellowship following meeting.

- **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:** Janice King, Yves Fleury (2nd, 30th), Meredith Christian (9th), Ruth Ballantyne (16th), and Barry Keith (30th)
- **Tellers for the Month for September:** TBD
- Church Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 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 2018-2019 year! Our chefs will be preparing their famous **Ham and Bean Dinner** on **Saturday, September 22nd**.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 remaining schedule is:

- October 20 –Turkey Dinner
- November 17– Pasta & Meatballs
- January 19 – Richard’s Swedish Meatballs
- February 16 – Corned Beef & Cabbage
- March 23 – Oven fried Chicken

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!

Quilt Show to be held at our Church

On Saturday, October 13th, the Crazy Quilters will hold their second Quilt Show from 9:00-3:00. The quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary, featuring projects done by the group in our classes and works done by individual quilters on their own. There will also be some quilts from personal collections including many antique quilts. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this unique display.

Downstairs, there will be a "Yard Sale" table of patterns, fabric and notions donated by members, gift baskets and light refreshments for sale. Admission to the show is \$5 per person. Funds will be used to benefit the church general fund and Abby's House. Our group has, for the past few years, has made Abby's House the recipient of a Christmas project which were ditty bags filled with personal care projects. This year the group has decided to make 90 pillowcases to be filled again with personal care items, gift certificates and other useful items donated by the members of the class and a few very generous merchants.

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.

Pie Baking for the Fair starts September 4

Pie Making will begin on Tuesday, September 4 from 9:30am -12pm and continue every Tuesday through September 25. There is a sign-up sheet in Russell Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to help. We welcome Apple Peelers, Spice Mixers, and Pie Crust Makers. We have a Special Baptist Church Pie Crust Recipe (see Pat Knowlton for the recipe). We have more than enough 10 inch aluminum pie pans. Come and join us for great fellowship, coffee, tea, and pastry. Also please look to see if there is room in your freezer for pie storage! Please let Pat know how many pies you can store until it time to bake them in November.

2018 – 2019 Church Directory

We are in the process of preparing the 2018-2019 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 additional contact 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 23.**

As stated in the front of the directory - this is neither our mailing list nor a membership list. Our Membership List continues to be in the care of the Diaconate and the Church Clerk. Names included in the directory are those who we expect our church family might call during the year. If you need an address or phone number for someone not listed, please contact the church office.

Church Fair Is Coming!

The All Church Fair will be held on **Saturday, November 3.** 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.
- 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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