

February 2002 Newsletter

The First Baptist Church of Boston

110 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 phone/fax 617-267-3148
www.firstbaptistchurchofboston.org

TRUST IN GOD FOR THE FUTURE

Annual Meeting Provides Surprises and a Great Future!

After a very upbeat opening by Acting Moderator Dorothy Williams, Deacon Melvin Jemmison followed with prayer and the annual reading from the Book of Remembrance, including the names of Albert Sheung Ang, Florence H. Archibald, John J. Bowles, Olive L. N. Dennison, Maxwell C. Elliott, Alvira A. Ellis, Nellie Fike, William Gillis, Constance C. Hanson, Mildred E. Jameson, Ruth S. Kirk, Eleanor Montgomery, Edna C. Morse, Earl A. Norman, Sr., Ruth Parks, Charles Elliott Porter, Louise Clementina & Robert Pryce, Henry H. Ryder, Martha L. H. Shupe, Matthew Alfred Simon, Charlotte Stone Thacker, Marion B. White, Ben Williams, Wilbur Tunstall Wyatt, and Louise Wyman.

The congregation, led by Minister of Music Dr. Bruce Herrick, sang the hymn *Wonderful Words of Life*. After many years as Treasurer, Dr. Henry P. Henderson gave an inspiring financial report stating that the church is fluid and support has been built for future ministries and projects and that the church is in the process of a professional financial audit. Income for 2002 was \$156,950.00. Financial Secretary Dorothy Williams reported that overall giving for the year was slightly less than expected and a proposed balanced budget for the year 2003 was voted. The Nominating Committee slate was accepted and the following individuals were appointed: the Stillman Association (Melvin and Gwendolyn Jemmison), TABCOM (Deborah Porter and Earl A. Norman, Jr.) and the American Baptist Biennial Convention (Donald Thacker and Dorothy Williams).

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Prayer Meeting News

The next prayer meeting will be held on Friday, February 21, at 7:00 PM in Wayland Hall. All are welcome to attend the meeting. We continue to pray for the church as it searches for a pastor to lead us. We know that God will answer this prayer in His way and time. We also pray for our church members, families, and friends that are ill, in the hospital or homebound. We praise the Living God for His healing power in our congregation as we continue to experience His saving Spirit. We pray that the community at large will also come to know the power of Holy Spirit. We also pray for our country in this uncertain time of economic and world challenges it faces. We ask for your continued prayers for the church. The prayer group will not meet during Lent (March - April) and the program will be evaluated after Easter. We deeply appreciate all the support, encouragement from the congregation for the FBC Prayer Group.

Sarah Zettek, Prayer Group Leader

Attention!
Special Guest Minister
On February 16th
Rev. Dr. Mark McKim
Of Canada

The Flowers in the Chancel This Month

Are given for the glory of God

And in remembrance of

- 2/2 Chester V. Ford by Mildred Brandsema
- 2/9 Mabel Biggs Henderson by Henry Henderson & Sandra Henderson-Agius
- 2/16 Wilbur T. Wyatt by his wife and children
- 2/23 Mallie Hollandsworth Norden by Walter Norden

At The Dawn

Our first glimpse of reality this day-every day-is your fidelity.

We are dazzled by the way you remain constant among us, in season, out of season, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health.

You are there in watchfulness as we fall asleep; You are there in alertness when we awaken...and we are glad.

Before the day ends, we will have occasion to flag your absence in indifference, but not now, not at the dawn.

Before the day ends, we will think more than once that we need a better deal from you.... but not now, not at the dawn.

Before the day ends, we will look away from you and relish our own fidelity and our virtue in mercy but not now, not at the dawn.

Now, at the dawn, our eyes are fixed on you in gladness.

We ask only that your faithfulness permeate every troubled place we are able to name, that your mercy move against the hurts to make new,

that your steadfastness hold firmly what is too fragile on its own.

And we begin the day in joy, in hope, and in deep gladness. Amen.

Dr. Walter Brueggemann

Other persons either re-elected or newly elected to the boards and committees were as follows: Moderator, Dorothy Williams; Clerk, Donald Thacker; Treasurer, Henry P. Henderson; Financial Secretary, Dorothy Williams; Trustees, Percy Mathis and Marianne Norman; Deacons, Sarah Zettek; Board of Mission, Deborah Porter, Percy Mathis and Gwendolyn Jemmison; Christian Education, Earl A. Norman, Jr., Percy Mathis, Dorothy Williams, Fadie Coleman,, Rayford Glasgow; Historical Committee, Louise Takvorian (Archivist) Earl A. Norman, Jr. (Historian); Music Committee, Laura Herrick, Deborah Porter, Sarah Zettek. Finally, the theme for 2003 was announced: *Trust in God for the Future*. Well, as for the surprises, they're too wonderful to publish! A lovely luncheon was provided during the meeting.

Prayer List

Please remember the following people in prayer: Beatrice Wyatt, Dorothy William's family, Percy Mathis' family, Deborah Porter's family, Glenn Pfenning, John Kelly, Pat Carone, Samuel Ewing, Rev. Thomas Ewing, the church's pastoral leadership, FBC Prayer Group, Board Of Deacons, for peace in the Middle East, the US world role, our national economy, an end to the civil wars in Africa & Asia, the President and Congress and our church family.

The Book of Remembrance

is open to the pages honoring

Maxwell C. Elliott beginning 2/2

Wilbur Tunstall Wyatt beginning 2/16