

The Message

February 2012



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From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

We all seem to know at least some of the verses of Psalm 118, i.e., "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In this poem the writer speaks of being victorious with the Lord's help. The poet is thankful, the poet is filled with joy over this defeat of his enemies and he gives God credit. We often think of these words when something good happens to us and we have cause to rejoice and give God thanks.

While the attendance at the Christmas Eve service this year was a little less than last year's the giving to the Christ Child offering was up. We received \$1171.65. Good news. With these gifts we are able to help our neighbors in need here in our community. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

While the Smith family was remembering the passing of Jennie, wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and godmother that Sunday morning two days after Epiphany, they came together in the house of God in thanksgiving to support one another on the year anniversary of her passing. There was much love present. There was a feeling of peace present. There was the spirit of God present. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

While we experienced a loss of over \$12,000 in our pledges for 2012 compared to that pledged for 2011, there were a couple of positive responses to the email I sent out for the Trustees. In that letter I shared our financial situation and asked those who had not pledged to do so and asked those who had already pledged to consider raising it. I've gotten a couple of replies. I am hoping for more. But even now I feel like saying, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Life is full of joys and sorrows, victories and defeats, gains and losses... can we always find that moment when we dare to declare "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"? I hope so.

Lent begins on February 22. We hope to join with First Parish for an Ash Wednesday service here at First Baptist and for a Shrove Tuesday (February 21) pancake supper for young and old at First Parish. Stay tuned for further details.

See you in worship, Sunday School, and in the mission fields.

Peace.

Pastor Keller

PS Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for the thoughtful and generous Christmas gift. This church has many wonderful traditions and giving gifts to the staff is one of them. Not all churches do that. You are special. And you make us feel special. Thank you.



Sermons For February

February 5	<u>Matthew</u> 22:1-10	What's Important
February 12	<u>Romans</u> 7:15-20	Paul's Confession
February 19	<u>Psalm</u> 1	Do's and Don'ts of Happiness
February 26*	<u>Mark</u> 1:36-42	Pity Can Be A Good Word

(*First Sunday in Lent)

