

The First Baptist Church

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



The Rev. Matthew R. Rasure, Minister

November 6, 2017

Dear Friends and Members of the First Baptist Church of Medford,

The Annual Stewardship Campaign titled **The Joy of Giving** began on October 29. Each week we have heard testimonies and read individual's reflections from our church family about what FBC means in their lives. Our church is *very* important to its members!!!

Our theme this year is based on the Bible story of a Land Owner who gave three of his workers some talents (biblical money) to see how they would put it to use (Matthew 25:14-30). Two of them increased the value of what they were given and one of them buried it for safe keeping because he feared the boss's wrath if he lost it. The Land Owner praised the first two and invited them to enter the **joy of his own house**.

As Christians we need to find a balance and direction for our praying, acting, receiving and giving. We receive so much from God in blessings in our lives and we also receive support and encouragement in our times of need.

The Stewardship Committee has set a goal for the congregation to increase pledges by 3% this year. We are not necessarily asking for you to tithe (10% of your income), that is a personal decision that each must discern for themselves; but we **are** asking that our collective giving remain founded in joy and forward-leaning expectation for what God is doing in our Church. If your 2017 pledge was \$50 per week, a 3% increase would be about \$52 per week. If your 2017 pledge was \$400 per month, then a new pledge would be about \$412. If everyone would do this there would be more than enough money available to meet the ever-growing needs of our programs and facilities. Through your generosity and commitment to God, the First Baptist Church of Medford continues as a light in our Community and in our World.

We ask that you consider all that you receive from your church involvement as you discern prayerfully how you can contribute to our wonderful, caring, and **joyful** congregation in 2018.

Most sincerely,
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