

January 2021



First Baptist Church of Medford
34 Oakland Street
Medford, MA 02155
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 NEW YEARS DAY	2
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Second Sunday after Christmas 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom/Facebook and YouTube	7:30pm Property via Zoom 7:30pm CE via Zoom	EPHYPHANY OF THE LORD 8:00pm Prayer Meeting via Zoom and Facebook Zemba Quintet, 6-10, 34	8:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Greg via Zoom			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
First Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom/Facebook and YouTube	7:30pm Finance via Zoom	8:00pm Prayer Meeting via Zoom and Facebook Zemba Quintet, 6-10, 34				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Second Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom/Facebook and YouTube	6:30pm BBSU Christian Work Committee Dinner and Meeting in Mem Hall Martin Luther King Jr Day	7:30pm Diaconate via Zoom	8:00pm Prayer Meeting via Zoom and Facebook Zemba Quintet, 6-10, 34	8:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Greg via Zoom		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Third Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom/Facebook and YouTube, followed by Corp. Mtg.		8:00pm Prayer Meeting via Zoom and Facebook Zemba Quintet, 6-10, 34				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31						
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom/Facebook and YouTube						

The Carillon



THE PARSON'S TALE

Looking back over January Parson's Tales for the last several years, it seems that one of my favorite soapboxes for this time of year is Ecclesiastes 3. This so-called "Time Poem" is familiar to use from the readings usually offered at funerals, and world-famous because of Pete Seeger and The Byrds. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted ...* On and on it goes with various opposites, which cover the breadth and depth of live.

This year, I must say that appeals to the order and predictability of life feel woefully thin—even if such appeals are found in the Bible. How much of your life is neatly ordered right now? How much feels predictable, with everything in its proper time and season?

As we continue to wriggle and thrash in the clutches of a global pandemic in which the rules change and change and change, I find myself looking not to the past and present for hope, but to the future. We do not need what has come before or even what we "know" right now. We need something beyond ourselves; something beyond our own time and order.

The great American Baptist theologian—and Dean of the Chapel at Boston University—Howard Thurman penned a prayer in 1951 that speaks powerfully to me as 2021 begins.

MATTHEW ROBERT RASURE
(812) 455-8913
Church Office: 34 Oakland Street
(781) 396-3811 || (781) 396-5699
www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org

O God, I Need You!

I need Your sense of time. Always I have an underlying anxiety about things. Sometimes I am in a hurry to achieve my ends, and am completely without patience. It is hard for me to realize that some growth is slow, that all processes are not swift. I cannot always discriminate between what takes time to develop and what can be rushed, because my sense of time is dulled. I measure things in terms of happenings. O to understand the meaning of perspective, that I may do all things with a profound sense of leisure — of time.

I need Your sense of order. The confusion of the details of living is sometimes overwhelming. The little things keep getting in my way providing ready-made excuses for failure to do and be what I know I ought to do and be. Much time is spent on things that are not important while significant things are put into an insignificant place in my scheme of order. I must unscramble my affairs so that my life will become order. O God, I need Your sense of order.

I need Your sense of the future. Teach me to know that life is ever on the side of the future. Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope, the onward surge. Let me not be frozen either by the past or the present. Grant me, O patient Father, Your sense of the future without which all life would sicken and die. Amen.

May all of us have a healthy dose of God's future in 2021!

Rev. Matt

SUNDAY SCHEDULE (SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)

9:30 a.m. Church School for all Ages. Child care is provided until 12:15

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

~11:15 a.m. Make and Learn for Children in Grades 1-5, 2nd and 4th Sundays
(Children leave during the second hymn)

Youth Group for Grades 6 and older, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Following worship, there is Fellowship in Memorial Hall, provided by volunteers.

**Services will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m.—Attendance Limited—
Reservations required via <https://forms.gle/4BhAKaqCrT68Sj8Y6>, by Thursday each week**

All Worship Services during January will also be available via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 —EPIPHANY OF
THE LORD (Observed)—HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure
Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021—
BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure
Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalms 29;
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021—

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure
Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20);
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18; John 1:43-51

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021—

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure
Scriptures: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalms 62:5-12;
Mark 1:14-20

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021—

Sermon by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rasure
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalms 111;
Mark 1:21-28

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Should the Governor declare a State of Emergency related to inclement weather, in-person services will be moved online. Anyone with reservations for or roles in affected services will receive a phone call or email as early as possible. Turn to www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org, www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMedford, or check your FBC Updates emails for up-to-date information.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MEDFORD
January Moments

1957 Our Annual Meeting was held on January 30, 1957.

1964 Letters were sent out by the Board of Deacons to about 130 members who had been inactive for some time. Of these, 30 asked for the names to remain on our rolls, and some of them made pledges.

1970 “The First Edition” was born, replacing the “Carillon.” This was accomplished by the Communications Committee, with Marjorie Skillin as chair. Ruth Chaplin helped tremendously with her typing. The bulk of responsibility was carried out by co-editors, Beverly and Barbara Tarr (now Mattatall and Drauschke).

1973 Our church took a special mission offering for the Baptist Hospital in Managua, Nicaragua to help rebuild, after it was destroyed by an earthquake.

1974 First Baptist Church had two teams in the Church Basketball League.

1979 Sherrie Perry became our Student Minister and turned to full-time Christian ministry from a nursing career. She had been already accepted at Andover-Newton. She and her children joined us as the result of Pastor Beckwith calling Andover-Newton to explore the possibility of finding a seminarian to work with our church.

1983 The church members voted to borrow a ten-year loan of \$30,000. This was used to improve the three houses adjacent to the church on Oakland Street, numbers 27, 23 and 21.

1991 On January 6th the Mission Board sponsored the first event for our 150th Anniversary. Rev. Peter Beckwith was the speaker at the worship service and Mrs. Debra Beckwith was the chief chef to prepare an authentic Japanese meal for over 100 people. A question and answer period followed the meal. The \$200 profit from this meal was donated to the New England Baptist Youth Conference.

These historical moments are excerpts from the monthly articles for the Carillon by our last church historian, June Sturgeon.

HOW TO CONNECT ELECTRONICALLY
FOR WORSHIP AND MEETINGS AT FBC
MEDFORD

We are now gathering for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (for people who have made a reservation by Thursday for the following Sunday). In addition, for worship, live streaming is now available on ZOOM, YouTube and FaceBook in real time.

The ZOOM and FaceBook links below will work for ALL of the Prayer Meetings and Worship services. There is a password required for all Zoom log ins: 7813963811.

The Prayer Meetings are on Wednesday (and may resume on Friday evenings) from 8:00-8:20 p.m.

The Worship service begins at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

- By telephone, dial 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 781-396-3811#, and then # again
- By computer/phone/device through ZOOM: at <https://zoom.us/j/7813963811>
- On FaceBook Live: www.facebook.com/FirstChurchMedford

If you need help connecting electronically, please leave a message at the Church Office at 781-396-3811 or email Rev Matt at minister@firstbaptistchurchmedford.org.

If you are willing and able to help someone else set up ZOOM, to access FaceBook or YouTube, also contact Rev. Matt. See videos of previous online meetings and all of the latest updates at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstChurchMedford/posts>

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HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS TO . . .

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Alexa Barnes | 20 Gavin Churchill |
| 2 Chris Merrigan | Shane Taddia |
| Steven Merrigan | 21 Mark Drauschke |
| 7 Teagan DiFava | 23 Shannon McCarthy |
| 9 Germene Milord | 24 Patricia Chalek |
| 11 Marjorie Cox | Jodi Cloney |
| Jakob Cloney | 28 Nelsya Guerrier |
| 12 Nyssa DiFava | 29 Kristina Day |
| 14 Ralph Getchell | Hunter Overberg |
| 16 Jane Leach | 31 Kandace Day |
| 17 Lewis Alessandrini | Chelsea Hanson |
| | Caitlin Pereira |

Note from the Editor: The monthly birthday lists were taken from the Parish List, and last fully revised in December 2014. Especially for members who have joined our congregation since then, if you or your family members' birthdays are not listed, please contact Barbara Drauschke.



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In case of an emergency requiring immediate assistance from the church or minister, please call or text 781-350-4067. This phone number is on the church's answering machine, as well. This local Medford number will go direct to Rev. Matt's cellphone or to the phone of whomever is on call should he be away.

PASTORAL CARE

If you are in need of pastoral care, or know of someone who is, or are interested in baptism or church membership, please contact Rev. Rasure, Ruth Kline or Ken Tarr, Co-Chairs of the Diaconate.

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GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE ON JANUARY 3

On Sunday, January 3rd, we will gather around the table for Holy Communion. Communion will be distributed in sterile, pre-packaged, single serve cups.

For those worshipping virtually, there are two ways to participate in Holy Communion AFTER the service.

- + The pastors will be available in front of the church on Oakland Street from Noon to 12:30 to distribute the elements from the Table.
- + The Deacons or Communion Ministers will bring the elements from the Table to your house.
- + If you have registered to attend the in-person service, you do not need to reserve Communion.

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FBC UPDATES EMAIL LIST

If you would like to receive the FBC Updates by Email, which are currently sent out on Wednesdays and Fridays or Saturdays, please visit www.firstbaptistchurchmedford.org

In the fourth section down (Want to Join the FBC Updates Mailing List?) you can subscribe to the email list. Then you will receive all future communications from the church by email.



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BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR GREG

Join us on the second and fourth Fridays in January (January 8th and 22nd) at 8:00 p.m. as we continue our exploration of Holy Scripture through a discussion of the readings for the coming Sundays. Our study sessions are designed to stand on their own each week, so feel free to join us for one or both.

Connect with us through Zoom with the church meeting ID and password, both 7813963811.

You are invited to contact Pastor Greg by email (gregory.sakal@gmail.com) or phone (617-823-1798) with any questions.

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RESERVATIONS FOR WORSHIP

We have opened the doors of the Sanctuary for a carefully curated, social distanced worship service. This experience is a FAR CRY from the worship services we have shared together in the past. An over-abundance of safety, caution, and diligence underpin everything we attempt to do. The services are open to around 30 people and attendance is **BY ADVANCED RESERVATION ONLY.**

Individuals and groups wishing to attend the service should **make their reservations at the link below by Thursday.** On Friday we will confirm your reservation, and on Saturday we will send you your assigned pew number.

<https://forms.gle/4BhAKaqCrT68Sj8Y6>
The safest way to participate in the worship of the First Baptist Church is virtually.

DONATING TO FBC USING YOUR BANK'S AUTOMATIC BILL

It's simple and it's free! Even though your pledge donations to **First Baptist Church** aren't technically "bills," you can still set it up to have your bank send one-time or recurring gifts to **FBC.** Here are some guidelines to help you get this set up with your bank.

1. Follow the directions on your bank's website to set up a new bill or payee
2. If given a choice, choose to pay a company rather than a person.
3. In the space for "Company Name" enter: **First Baptist Church**
4. In the space for "Company Address" enter:
Attn: Financial Secretary
34 Oakland Street
Medford, MA 02155
5. In the space for "Company Phone Number" enter: 781.396.3811
6. In the space for "Account Number" enter your first initial and your last name, for example: MRASURE
7. After you have set up First Baptist Church as a biller, it is added to your list of bills or payees and you can select it at any time and enter a payment amount and a payment date
8. You will also have the option of setting up automatic or recurring payments (this adds greater convenience but is not recommended if there is a risk of overdrawing from your account)

Bill Pay is usually a free service of your checking account, but some banks charge a monthly fee for their bill pay service which can be waived depending on account balance, etc.

The church is not charged any fees for receiving a donation through your bank's bill pay service, so what you donate is what will appear on your annual giving statements.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS

The global pandemic has placed enormous pressures on all of us—socially, psychologically, and financially. In the midst of this difficult time, the generosity of God’s people has continued to abound. As of the first week in December, our pledged giving receipts were at 97% for the year. We have every hope that we will meet or exceed our goals for 2020. Thank you.

Because of this incredibly difficult time the Finance Committee decided in November to forego a coordinated pledge campaign for 2021. It is our hope that giving levels might be able to continue at levels intended for 2020.

With our new high definition live-streaming audio-visual system and the wonders of Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook the doors of the church are open wider now than they have ever been. Numbered offering envelopes for 2021 are available at the Church Office—simply call 781-396-3811 or email office@firstbaptistchurchmedford.org to arrange a time for safe pick-up. If you are attending worship in person and request it, we will try to have your envelopes ready for pick up there. We can arrange delivery to your residence.

Even in a time of great distress, God’s people have found new and creative ways to live out our call to generosity and to worship the one from whom all blessings flow.

Our next Finance Committee meeting will be Monday, January 11, at 7:30 pm. via Zoom. We will finalize the 2021 budget, and make it available before the January 24 virtual corporation meeting.

Fred Drauschke, Co-Chair

UNITED BAPTIST WOMEN OF MEDFORD ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the uncertain times, and social distancing requirements, and the vaccine not yet widely distributed, we have decided to postpone United Baptist Women meetings and dinners until further notice. When we are able, the Board will meet to decide how to proceed and will include information in a future issue of the Carillon. Stay safe!

Beverly Mattatall, President

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....FROM THE DIACONATE

After a truly unique Advent and Christmas season, the Diaconate will turn our attention in January to planning for the upcoming Lenten season. Look for details in next month's Carillon.

Over the past nine months, the Diaconate and the church community have found new ways to meet, gather, communicate, and maintain the life of FBC Medford. Among the roles of the Diaconate are to "...in every way assist the Pastor in the Pastor's work and give general oversight to the spiritual life of the Church.” What should we be doing?

If you have ideas, thoughts or observations about how the Diaconate can better serve the Pastor, the members and friends of the church and the community, as we continue to execute this role, PLEASE reach out to Ruth Kline or Ken Tarr as co-chairs of the board.

- Ruth @ rjr_kline@hotmail.com, or 617-763-2789
- Ken @ kent17@aol.com

Alternatively, contact other members of the Diaconate, including: Pat Latham, Jim Griffin, Fred Drauschke, Carmel Dumond, Jodi Cloney, Cliff Quick, Doug Tibbetts, Bev Mattatall or Darlyne Rogers.

The next Diaconate meeting will be Tuesday, January 20 at 7:30 pm via ZOOM.

Ruth Kline. Co-Chair

MOSC UPDATE ON MEDFORD FAMILY EDUCATION CENTER

Our church has had a long-standing relationship with the Medford Family Life Education Center, located at the corner of Central Ave and Park Street. This center works to help families and single mothers to get the education and training they need to find jobs, and low-income housing to be able to move out and become independent.

Our church has been fortunate to receive a grant from the Judson Association each year to supplement what our church can do, to help provide a Thanksgiving meal, and a Christmas Party with a dinner and a visit from Santa (Alan Rogers) with gifts. We have also provided cookouts in June at the center. Last year for Christmas, instead of individual gifts, we purchased a counter-top oven and a sectional sofa, which were needed for all the residents to use in their common (shared) area. We could not have the cookout or the Thanksgiving dinner this year because of COVID.



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Thanks to Tricia Voner, with advice from Christian Ed, which is presently doing the work of Missions/Outreach/Social Concern, we were able to provide gift cards from Stop and Shop and Target for the six families presently living there. Those families total seventeen people, including infants. The gift cards were delivered before Christmas. Tricia ordered a meal to be delivered on December 29 to the Center for a holiday celebration. We will see what we can do further, depending on available funds and what the social distancing restrictions are in 2021.

Barbara Drauschke for MOSC



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SAVE PULL TABS

The Board of Missions, Outreach and Social Concern (MOSC) continues to collect the pull tabs from soda cans and other products to donate to the Shriners Children's Transportation Fund. Removing the tabs and bringing them to church is a small way we can all help.

When you are able to again bring your redeemable soda cans and plastic (only—no glass, please) bottles to church, please remove the pull tabs and place them in the separate collection bucket, and place the returnables in the labeled boxes in the closet adjacent to Memorial Hall. Please bring redeemable items only. Thanks to Bev Mattatall and Anthony Voner for their work on this project.

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CHURCH CORPORATION MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AT NOON

There will be a meeting of the Church Corporation on Sunday, January 24 following worship at approximately Noon. If you attend worship in person, you are encouraged to stay for the meeting. If you worship on zoom, please log in with the information that will be sent once details are worked out. It is not yet clear if you can participate in the meeting via Facebook.

The 2021 budget will be presented for a vote, and the 2019 annual report will be reviewed with any votes required. We were not able to have an Annual Meeting in April 2020 because of COVID restrictions.



**TINY LIBRARY AND MICRO-PANTRY
AT 34 OAKLAND STREET**

If you'd like to donate new or gently used children's books (for pre-school through middle school kids) for the **Tiny Library**, please leave them in the blue bin on the front porch at 34.

Food Donations Needed: Please drop off any non-perishable food donations for the **Micro-Pantry**, by directly putting items in the micro-pantry, or in the blue box on the front porch at 34. Items that are high in protein are most popular: Tuna, chicken, peanut butter, beans. Other items include shelf-stable milk, boxes of cereal and instant oatmeal, and granola or breakfast bars.

We have received donations of money for the micro-pantry ministry recently for which we are very grateful. One person donated in memory of Jean Sencabaugh, with the comment that Jean loved to feed people. Two other donations were sent to the church office. We have a group of volunteers who check the contents of the Micro-Pantry daily and restock. Our goal is for it to be fully stocked as much as possible. It is clear that the need is great in our community. We would love to get more church members who are able to help involved. Please help if you can.

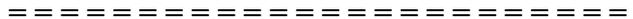
If you are willing to be on an Emergency Restock call/email list, in cases when the cupboard is empty, and we are out of donations, please contact Barbara Drauschke.

This might mean making an emergency run to a grocery store to purchase items to restock the micro-pantry.



**Feeding the
Community**

Provided by CC BY-NC



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH YouTube
CHANNEL**

Please "subscribe" to the FBC YouTube Channel TODAY! We need 30 more subscribers! The easiest way to find it is to Google "First Baptist Medford YouTube," because our URL is long and unwieldy:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa2EY8k-QgooCzMq2hpSxyQ>

IF we can get 100 subscribers, we will be able to customize our URL to something much easier to remember! So, please subscribe today and ask your friends to do it, too!



CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Loretta DiFava-Shepherd and Family
186 South Road
Swanzey, NH 03346

Ken and Cathy Tarr
281 Rowley Bridge Rd.
Unit 21
Topsfield, MA 01983

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Thanks to Val Donadio, Diane Tobey, Tricia Voner and Barbara Drauschke who offered Children's stories in December. The Children's Chat has been incorporated into in person worship via the AV projection system. On Sunday afternoon, the video of the Children's Chat has been sent out to the FBC Email list, along with a few thought-provoking questions about the story, and a page to color and/or an activity to do. Please let us know how you like this—we like feedback!

The Board will meet next on Tuesday, January 5 via Zoom to discuss plans and possibilities for our Christian Education program going forward. We hesitate to offer church school via Zoom as many kids are involved with remote learning for school. Please let us know what you think. We encourage teachers to reach out to their students.

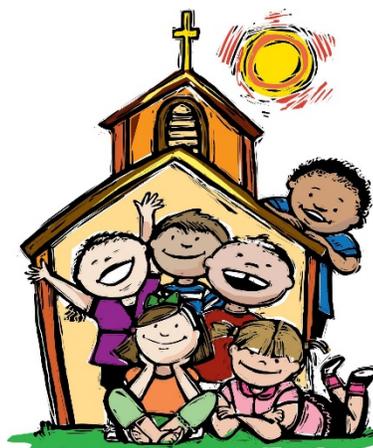
THE TWELVE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

Our virtual Christmas Pageant was a wonderful event. It was broadcast into the Sanctuary during the in person worship on Sunday, December 20, as well as being seen on Zoom and Facebook. Thanks to Wendy Cox for collecting the videos from our church school families, and to Kimberly Frasier-Booth, ML and Mike for crafting the videos into their "Oakland Street Production." They also produced a "trailer" which was broadcast on December 13 to whet our anticipation for the pageant. Thanks to all the families who participated.



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The lighting of the Advent Candles was also done virtually. Thanks to Diane, Christa and Dante, Tricia and Aundraya Chery, the Stanley Family, the Terrien Family, and Alan Jr., Val and Jacquie Rogers for the videos they submitted each week, showing them lighting the Advent candles at their homes with the wreaths they had made. Rev Matt lit the candles in person in the Sanctuary to coincide with the projected images.



Tentative plans are being confirmed for a Judson Youth Worship Service on Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m. Barbara will send out information to youth and their families when details are known.

Please watch the FBC Updates and your email for activities for church school children and families, in case we plan something for January at our next meeting! Happy New Year,

Diane Tobey and Tricia Voner, Co-Chairs

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The deadline for February issue of the Carillon is January 20. Copies are available by e-mail, or first class mail. We have expanded the email distribution list because of COVID remote requirements. Some copies are hand delivered to homes close to the church. Thanks to Margo McCole for her help in running off the paper copies and making the labels.