



# THE FLAME

"...I REMIND YOU TO FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFT OF GOD FOR GOD DID NOT GIVE US A SPIRIT OF TIMIDITY, BUT A SPIRIT OF POWER, OF LOVE AND OF SELF DISCIPLINE."—2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7(NIV)

## *A LENTEN JOURNEY?*

Dear Church Family,

Thank goodness this year we have some breathing room until Lent begins. The season begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th and ends on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Lent is defined by remembering Jesus' wilderness temptation. It is a time to prepare to celebrate Easter. 40 days, excluding all Sundays, in the period. What is the reasoning for not including Sundays? As Christians every Sunday is a celebration of the risen Jesus, with Easter being extra special every year.

Lenten journeys are often marked by memorializing rituals, intentional sacrifice, renewing focus, special gift giving, personal studying, special renewed focus on worship, group learning, and fasting. Indeed, there are many ways to make the Lenten journey special.

Over the years I have introduced various opportunities with varied participation. One year I offered a 'drop-in' time, Wednesday evenings, in the sanctuary. It turned out to be dedicated prayer time for Gary alone, which was enriching for me.

Have you been considering how Lent this year will be distinct for you? Are you willing to share your ideas with me? How about special Lenten small group gatherings to share ideas? Candidly, I have a few ideas.

Book Discussions:

*The Measure*, by [Nikki Erlick](#)

Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice. It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out. But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live.

*Love Wins*, by Rob Bell

Bell does not take a universalist stance in which he claims that all people will eventually be saved. He repeatedly states that our actions have consequences, and we can choose whether we want heaven or hell, because love gives one the freedom to choose, and God is love.

An Open Conversation - Exploring conversations, reflecting participants' points of view, focused on essential behaviors as followers of Jesus?

Options can be personal, with a partner, or within the scope of a small group. Dates and times to be determined. I am willing to facilitate a small group responding to your input.

Prayerfully with love,

Pastor Gary

(781) 249-3721

## UPCOMING MINISTRY:

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST 2025 GRACE UPON *Grace*

## Empowering Innovative Ministries

Donations to the American for Christ Offering facilitate groundbreaking projects that connect faith with contemporary issues to reach communities in fresh, impactful ways. One such initiative is the short film “Are We There Yet,” backed in part by an ABHMS grant. A creation of Standing in the Gap Inc., a nonprofit that aims to foster unity and justice across faith communities through media production, the film confronts the wretched Doctrine of Discovery and its implications for Christian nationalism.

The filmmakers tackled these complex themes to inspire the vision of a church that reflects equity, compassion, and unity through a medium capable of reaching a broad audience via screenings at film festivals, theological institutions, and on YouTube.



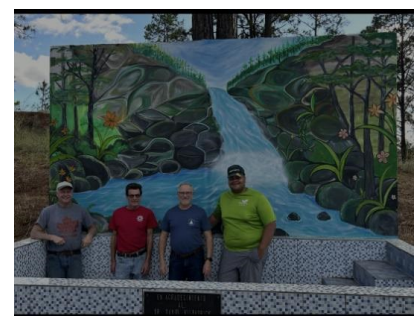
ABHMS’s commitment to projects like “Are We There Yet” helps creative leaders inspire faith communities to engage with social issues and promote unity. By helping to support innovative ministries that address critical issues, your

gift to AFC makes you part of the journey to foster lasting change and shape a better future.

**PLEASE GIVE TODAY!** | [www.abhms.org/afc](http://www.abhms.org/afc)

# MISSION HONDURAS:

Jan 16-24, 2025



Thursday night we arrived at Campamento El Arca. On Friday the group worked on the multipurpose building. Friday night and Saturday we held the yearly pastors conference with worship, music, and workshops led by Dr. Glenn Stone ( FBC of Pocasset MA), Dr. Cal Lord, and Pastor Enrique Newman (Central Baptist Church of Westerly RI.)

Sunday morning, we visited our big church, where Hector's office, school, and sport court is located. We took a little tour and watched our local church teams play soccer. We came back Sunday night to worship. On Tuesday afternoon we visited our church at Los Robles. The children entertained us. We then handed out lollipops and toys.



# UPCOMING EVENTS:



Next Meeting:  
February 19, 2025  
Continuing our study of  
'Women of the Bible'

## *Women's Fellowship*

Bring a brown bag lunch and  
join us on alternate  
Wednesdays at noon in  
Memorial Hall  
FBC Hingham



**Meets via Zoom at 7:00 pm on  
Alternate Tuesdays  
Next Meeting: February 25th  
First Chapter of Philippians**



Join us on Sunday February 23rd at 3pm for

**Pie** and **JAZZ**

Featuring: Liz Horwitz on Bass & Geoffrey Dana Hicks on Piano and Vocals  
JM Corrois on Drums

First Baptist Church, Hingham—85 Main St

Free Will Offerings Are Appreciated



**JAZZ**

# ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

February 9, 2025

The weather this past weekend put a damper on our Worship and 2024 Annual Meeting plans, but it did not squelch the spirit. Attendance was down for the worship service held in Memorial Hall; Pastor Geoff preached and a majority of our quorum were in attendance. As we approached 11:30 am, the posted time of the meeting, we had enough members to easily meet the quorum between in-person attendees and those who logged in via Zoom.

Using the table of contents of the printed report as an agenda, we were able to approve all six motions unanimously. Our leaders spoke and respectively shared the high points of each area of ministry. Noteworthy was Terry Griffin, as Treasurer, speaking to the most important dynamics of our financial statement.

Further, Terry reviewed last year's actual budget, a unanimous vote approved the 2025 numbers. The financial update is that we have a surplus from the actual 2024 budget and an expected balanced budget for 2025. As a church we are blessed with residual income, melded together with faithful giving to the Missions and General Budget. With thanksgiving for God's grace, and the faithfulness of all who contribute, empowering the ongoing ministry of our church.

If you did not get a copy of the 2024 Annual Report, copies are available in the Sanctuary, or at your request Amy will either email you an electronic copy or mail you a printed copy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Pastor Gary

(781) 249-3721