



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)

Reflection – Year to Year

As 2025 draws to a close, I find myself looking in life's rear-view mirror, reflecting on the blessings and lessons of this past year. These moments of gratitude and growth remind me how deeply God's grace weaves through our lives.

Family

I am profoundly grateful for the tapestry of family life and the traditions that shape our yearly rhythm. Mid-year always brings a cherished time at our family cottage on Kawagama Lake, Ontario—a vision first sparked by Dad and faithfully supported by Mom. This summer marked a 66-year family legacy, a milestone that fills me with deep personal blessing and joy.

Church Family

Our church family has experienced both blessings and challenges in 2025. We have felt the loss of beloved members and the shifting paths of others, leaving spaces that remind us of the fragility and beauty of community. For me personally, this year sharpened my awareness of a guiding principle I have carried throughout my ministry: **lifelong learning**. Yes, even an "old dog" can learn! I celebrate the steady spiritual growth I have witnessed and give thanks to God for this grace-filled journey.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we step into a new year, I invite us to embrace a unifying theme: **committing to spiritual lifelong learning together**. How might this take shape? One model is outlined in this publication—my plan to **Revitalize Our Worship**. I believe this can be a catalyst for renewal and deeper engagement.

An Invitation

I welcome your thoughts and responses to this reflection. More importantly, I encourage you to consider how you might commit—or recommit—to lifelong learning in your own spiritual journey. Let us walk this path together, growing in faith and wisdom. - *"Come, let us reason together."*

Prayerfully with love,

(781) 249-3721

COMMUNITY EVENT:

Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
The Impact of Music during the Civil Rights Movement!

*Historical &
Social Reflections*
An Open Invitation
Free Will Donations Appreciated!!

Guest Soloists:



Katy Berlenbach *Karen Green* *Janice Octavia Allen*

**Monday, January 19,
2026 3pm**
**First Baptist Church
Hingham MA 02043**
*Featuring a
Community
Gospel Choir!!!*

Our Pick-Up Choir will be singing a total of four songs as a choir, but the last two for our program also need to be learned.

At the end of my message, I will teach the congregation to sing the spiritual *Free at Last* and then the program will conclude with *We Shall Overcome*.

The four choir selections for the program are :

- (1) I'll Fly Away
- (2) Soon and Very Soon
- (3) Every Time I Feel the Spirit
- (4) "This Little Light of Mine

contact Amy for the music.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICES

2025 – Annual Reports released
Sunday, January 25th

2025 – Annual Meeting - Sunday,
February 9th 11:30 am following
worship

Volunteer Choir Rehearsal Dates

- (1) Sunday January 4, 2026 at 12:30 pm
- (2) Sunday January 11, 2026 at 12:30 pm
- (3) Saturday January 17, 2026 at 11:00 am
- (4) Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 2:00 pm
(DRESS REHEARSAL)

Performance is Monday January 19, 2026

The program begins at 3:00 pm

please arrive at 1:30 pm for practice, where to sit, etc.

Lifelong Learning: Revitalizing Worship

How Do We Begin?

Start with a simple step: engage with the resources our church already provides.

Every Monday, an email is sent with the subject line *Worship*, including either Pastor Geoff or Gary's name and the upcoming Sunday's date. Amy also posts the same information on our website.

First Level of Involvement:

Make a commitment to read and reflect on the weekly Lesson before attending worship. Over the course of a year, this practice means reading at least 52 passages—a significant portion of Scripture.

Deepening Your Commitment

Go beyond reading. Explore the passage further:

- Use <https://www.biblegateway.com> to read the text in different translations.
- If you have a study Bible, review the notes for deeper insight.
- Consult a commentary to understand the author's perspective.

Search online for additional reflections or scholarly input.

These steps help you see the richness of God's Word from multiple angles.

Exploring Together

Learning is amplified when shared. Discuss the passage with a family member or a study partner. Join the Tuesday group at 11:00 a.m.—in person or via Zoom—where each session offers a stand-alone learning experience.

Reasoning together, whether individually or in community, strengthens our understanding and unites us as we gather for worship.

A Call to Action

As we step into the new year, let's renew our commitment to lifelong learning and do our part to revitalize our church family. Together, we can make this year a journey of growth.

Prayerfully with love,



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