

Biography

Pastor Russell D. LaFlamme was born in Fort Knox, Kentucky while his father was station in the Army during the Korean conflict. He graduated from Bangor High School in 1974 and married his high school sweet heart; Deborah Kerns and have now been married for 37 years. They had a girl, (Julie) and a boy, (Brian) who are both now grown, married and reside in their own homes right across the street from their parents. LaFlamme was a career Firefighter for Hampden and the Bangor Fire Departments joining the Air National Guard in 1980. In 1983 he joined the Air National Guard Fire Department full time, taking Fire Science courses and became a State Fire Instructor. This led him to work for the Bangor Fire Department as their only full time Training Coordinator for three years. When Desert Storm happened, LaFlamme was deployed for 5 months to Minot, North Dakota to back fill for Troops serving in Iraq. Upon returning from military duty LaFlamme resumed full time duty with the guard and retired as a Military Assistant Fire Chief in 1998.

It was at this time that Russ felt the call to ministry moving south to Lisbon to attend 2 years at New England Bible College. Further Education included a Diploma from the American Baptist Churches of Maine Institute for Ministry in 2007. LaFlamme, whose name ironically translates “the flame” in French, believes his call to ministry was to give up fighting earthly fires to answer the call to fight spiritual fires. LaFlamme says he is humbled to be called as pastor to such a great historic church and hopes with the help of the people of First Baptist and God’s blessing we will continue to make history. “We are only the instruments which God can use to help meet the needs of the Waterville community” states LaFlamme.

In many ways LaFlamme feels right at home in the Waterville community as his late father, Reginald LaFlamme, was a Waterville native and Russ visited many relatives here often throughout his childhood. He still has many cousins and their extended families living in the area.

Pastor LaFlamme comes to the Waterville area having served a previous pastorate of almost 8 years as pastor of the United Baptist Church in Canton. Previous to this LaFlamme served as an interim pastor for the Woolwich First Baptist Church for a year and a half.