

ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

2014

ANNUAL REPORT



**Follow Jesus and Proclaim
Him to the World!**



First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

4 High Street
Rockport, MA 01966

978-546-6121

FirstBaptistRockport.Org

Established In 1808





First Baptist Church
Rockport, MA

2014 Annual Report

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First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

2014 Annual Report of the Pastor

January 2015

We have recently begun a sermon series on the New Testament book of Philippians. In this book the Apostle Paul was writing a letter from jail around A.D. 61 to the church in Philippi. Years earlier he had played a part in the founding of this church. As he suffered in a Roman prison, Paul found joy and hope in the way that the news and kingdom of Jesus was transforming the region. One example of this transformation was within the church at Philippi to whom he writes:

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Since it's founding our church has sought to place its focus on this same news and kingdom being confident that God will carry out his redemptive work in and through us. I often think about those 18 men and women who founded our church and wonder what they would think about our current ministry. I hope and believe that our founders like Paul would be encouraged by our continual desire to be faithful to the call and mission of historical and global Christianity. My prayer for 2015 is that we would grow in this mission and in our love for the Triune God and one another.

It was a joy to mark five years of full-time vocational ministry at Rockport Baptist Church on July 01, 2014. Much of my weekly schedule has remained the same as previous years: preparing sermons, preparing Bible Studies and Sunday Schools, meeting with various people in the church, both in the office and at homes or hospitals, planning and attending to committee meetings, planning special services, participating in the Youth Group, directing Vacation Bible School, participating in community events (in particular through my involvement in Rockport's Rotary Club and Housing Authority), continuing my role as Clerk of the Adoniram Judson Association (Essex and parts of Suffolk and Middlesex Counties) of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, mentoring three seminary students (Tom Paisley, Kendra Short and Joshua Cahan), and participating in Overseed church renewal group, Cape Ann Evangelical Pastors group and the Rockport Clergy association and coordinating our partnership with Family Promise Northshore.

As I reflect back upon 2014, the following are some of the highlights:

Establishment of the Position of Office Manager

While things listed above occupy much of my time at the church, I would estimate that for the better part of the last five years 40% of my time has been involved in tasks that are in the process of being delegated to the Office Manager. These tasks include extensive management of the building/property and persons attending to building/property, interaction daily with members of the public accessing the church/property, purchasing and managing supplies, expense reports, website management, weekly communications, church promotional/publicity material, record keeping, daily upkeep of the building, delivery of information and communication between various members of the boards and clerical assistance to church members.

Church work frequently occupies several nights of the week and the concept of the weekend does not exist for clergy (fans of Downton Abbey may remember Violet Crowley the Dowager Countess famously asking “what is a weekend”?). As Megan and I welcome Alistair into the world and I become more aged, I want to be careful to preserve time for my family. The delegation of some of the church responsibilities will allow me to more easily attain this goal.

To that end in 2014 the Boards along with the help of Mary Malcomson created the part-time position of Office Manager with the goal of relieving me of some of the tasks mentioned above. The shift away from these tasks will allow me to focus more on the ministry and growth of the church.

After the establishment of the position the church proceeded to conduct a search that drew over fifty candidates from across the Commonwealth. This search eventually led to the September hiring of Alicia D’Annolfo. Since that time, Alicia has grown in her role taking on more responsibilities, frequently interacting with various church committees and community members. Several people outside of the church have noted the quality of her work. Additionally her service has allowed me to focus more on pastoral ministry. I strongly believe that the creation of this position and the addition of Alicia is a significant step in growing the quality, effectiveness and reach of our church.



Youth Fellowship Changes

It's fun to remember that this group, which averages over 15-20 local middle and high school students in weekly attendance, first began in 2009 under the leadership of Megan in the parsonage living room with Ben Tuck and Melanie Koerth. While Megan has experienced increased job responsibilities and was great with child, she took a leave of absence from the group and Tom and Fiona Paisley and Kendra Short took on significant leadership within the teaching and administration of the weekly meeting. It is significant to note that the majority of the youth who are involved in this group had their first exposure to our church within Vacation Bible School. It is also important to note that the majority of youth in this group do not have other church homes. With the departure of Kendra and expected eventual departure of the Paisleys, I expect to in the future be taking a greater role in the leadership of this group. It's been fun to see older youth such as Katrina Tuck, Danielle Sturgeon and Christian Sturgeon take

leadership roles within the group serving as helpful and positive role models to the younger students.

Development of Contemporary Worship Music

It is good that the church remains committed to classical styles of worship music and it is also a highlight of the last year that the church has been open to experimenting with new forms and styles. The Sturgeon Family, David Avilla, Katrina Tuck and Laurie Tuck have helped us with this goal in 2014 as we have added praise and worship on the Third Sunday of the month.

Contemporary forms of worship music are the predominant mode of regular Sunday Christian worship today throughout the United States. As a result of our expansion into this style of music and our recent technological upgrades the largest event at the church this year was the Cape Ann Worship. Several hundred from Cape Ann's largest church's joined us for a night of contemporary Christian music. As we move forward it is important that we keep exploring new methods that communicate the unchanging gospel with the changing world.

Harold John Okenga Fellowship

In 2014 I was selected as one of 15 Fellows to serve as part of a two-year Fellowship Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and completely funded by the Lily Foundation. The goal of the program is to explore the present state of the church in New England and its relationship to various entities such as business, education, science and government. The Fellowship consists of five three-day meetings and will culminate with a trip to China at the end of August 2015. The trip to China is significant because of the fact that China is home to the fastest growing region of Christianity and it is rapidly waning within New England. The hope therein is to learn lessons from the church in China that may be of salutary benefit on the home front. The trip to China is also personal as my Great-Grandparents Charles and Elizabeth Wigton were missionaries to China with the United Methodist Church in the early part of the twentieth century.

Stewardship Investment

An incredible team of volunteers and financial supporters propel the work of the church. Much of the Annual Report gives you a detailed picture of the various components of the financial workings of this organism. Over the last years we have worked and are succeeding at being more transparent and clear regarding the church finances. One example of such transparency is that the Annual Reports from the last several years are available for the public viewing on the church website. Each year I have the privilege of working with the boards and officers towards the goal of being faithful stewards with our resources. Over the last ten years the church has experienced a 83% increase in giving. In 2004 the total collection (regular and plate) was \$54,007 and in 2014 the total collection was \$99,200. This increase goes against national trends and took place during the Great Recession it is worth celebrating. Thank you to all who have invested in the church in a myriad of ways. As we move forward it is critical that we continue to seek to be wise stewards with our resources by investing in things that promote and accomplish the mission of the church.

Mission Send-Off

The church was greatly impacted by the time Kendra Short spent investing in the lives of many during her last two years of Graduate School. It is exciting that she is being sent from our church to engage in missions with the many refugees piling into Greece as a result of widespread terror

wrecking havoc on the Middle East. Our continued communication with her will serve as mutual growth in mission understanding and work.

Looking Forward

As we move into a new year one of my personal goals in the church is to do a better job with visitations and following-up on persons who have been connected with the church but have become disconnected. I value the participation of others in the church that would be up for assisting with this important ministry. It's worth here recognizing Janet O'Donnell who has for many years done a fantastic job keeping the church connected with many homebound members. Furthermore, I hope to work with the boards in evaluating our present ministry and worship always seeking to excel with greater excellence in all that we do. Lastly, while it is critical to minister to those presently within the church, we need to also continually be cognizant of reaching out to our community with particular focus on generations that are underrepresented within the congregation.

Thank you very much for your investment and participation in the life of Rockport Baptist Church. I look forward to working together in 2015.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Matt Wigton

Report from the Collector

Received by the Collector	2014	2013	2012
From Consistent Givers	92,417.60	85,139.60	81,082.15
From Loose Offering	4,992.14	5,702.93	6,226.04
Designated Receipts (gifts and grants)			
Special Offerings	1,790.00		
Specific Purposes	6,613.00	5,869.75	7,662.77
Pass-through	158.50	1,560.00	
Scholarship	-00	650.00	1,069.13
Building Fund	-00	-00	21.43
Music Fund	-00	-00	515.00
Memorial Fund	<u>95.00</u>	-00	790.00
	8,656.50		
Other Benevolences			2,779.23
Deacon's Fund	<u>250.00</u>	<u>2,951.13</u>	<u>1,544.83</u>
Total Received by Collector, 2014	106,316.24	101,873.41	101,690.58
=====			
Disbursed to the Treasurer			
For general church operation and missions	99,199.74	87,463.69	90,108.85
For Deacon's Fund	250.00	2,951.13	1,544.83
For Designated Purposes	6,613.00	5,869.75	8,177.77
For Payment of Specific Expenses (pass-thru)	158.50	1,560.00	
For Scholarship	-00	650.00	1,069.13
For Deposit in Memorial Fund	<u>95.00</u>	<u>-00</u>	<u>790.00</u>
	106,316.24	98,494.57	101,690.58

Note: Additional 2013 receipts of \$3378.74 from sale of securities, deposited in 2014.
Respectfully submitted by the Collector, Gail M. Zeman

Report from the Collector-A Discussion

The First Baptist financial team (Counters, Collector and Treasurer) continued to refine procedures and reporting of the church's monetary resources during the year. The accompanying detail of receipts by the Collector shows total receipts during the year of \$106,316.24. Of that, \$99,200 supported general church operations and missions, the remainder being dedicated for specific purchases or activities such as VBS and sanctuary flowers.

While congregational giving continues to trend upward, the church expends significantly more than it collects using endowment resources of \$21,225 from interest and \$51,147 from principal in 2014, or 42% of the operating budget of the church. Several major projects were undertaken to maintain capital assets such as the parsonage (replacement of roof and heating system) and church building (exterior repair and painting). The strength of the investment market during the year made it possible to do such extra-ordinary maintenance and replacement without adversely affecting church operations. In addition the long-needed rebuilding of the sanctuary pipe organ began in 2014. Funding for this project will come from savings and the Stewart Music Fund held in an Investment Trust (MABIT).

A special offering was accepted in May to help support church activities. Such an offering had been taken in the previous year to meet financial needs of individuals within the congregation. Recently, congregants have been asked to support missionaries sent or supported by our church on an individual basis, through their sending organizations.

The activity level of the church continued to grow, supported partly by the pastor's grant-writing success. During the past year \$5000 from the Adoniram Judson Association underwrote the more than half of Vacation Bible School expenses plus the purchase of video equipment. In 2015 \$6000 will be split evenly between VBS and the Youth Group. During 2014 the pastor and Stewards collaboratively wrote a grant proposal, approved by the Community Preservation Committee in the amount of \$113,000, to fund the installation of a full smoke detection and fire suppressant system throughout the church building.

Respectfully submitted by the Collector, Gail M. Zeman, January 7, 2015



Annual Report of the Church Clerk – 2014

Members Reported December 31, 2013

Active Resident Members.....	87
Non-Resident Members.....	8
Total Membership.....	95

Membership Changes in 2014

Additions: None in 2014

Transfers:

Members to Heaven - Gladys Smith
Margery Pedroni

Members as of December 31, 2013

Active Resident Members.....	85
Non-Resident Members.....	8
Total Membership.....	93

Baptisms: None in 2014

Weddings: None in 2014

Births: Jackson Avery Koerth (10/16/2014),
Alistair Charles Wigton (11/30/2014)

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Koerth, Clerk

CPSON Nominating Report – 2015

Church Personnel Safety Oversight and Nominating Committee

Board of Stewards: The Pastor, Treasurer and Collector are ex-officio members.

<u>Steward</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
*Diane Lynn.....	2018
Frank Levesque.....	2017
Margaret Williams.....	2016

Board Deacons: The Pastor is an ex-officio members.

<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
*Kristine Carlson.....	2018
*Sally Levesque.....	2018
Jose Diniz.....	2016
David Pierson.....	2016

Officers (One-Year Terms)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
*Auditor.....	Ruth Bowers
*Clerk.....	Karen Koerth
*Collector.....	Gail Zeman
*Head Usher.....	Kristine Carlson
*Historian.....	Phil Zeman
*Moderator.....	Mary Malcolmson
*Treasurer.....	Andrea Brown
*Christian Education.....	Megan Wigton

Chairpersons of Standing Committee (One-Year Term)

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
*Hospitality.....	Sally Levesque
*Music.....	Gail Zeman
*CPSON.....	Nancy Pallazola
Church Personnel Safety Oversight and Nominating	

*Asterisk indicates those who are to be elected January 25, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Pallazola

Report from the Music Committee

The search for our Music Director/Organist continued throughout 2014. The music search committee met several times to review resumes and to interview a few candidates, including a young couple from Ukraine! To date, the local candidates have not been a good fit and our near adventure with new friends from Ukraine ended when continued political unrest in that country caused all hope of visas to be denied.

Thankfully, Laurie Tuck continued as our interim music director for the entire year. Thanks to her leadership, the continuing dedication of our vocal choir, the flourishing of the youth Praise Band, various soloists and instrumentalists we were able to plan and provide special music at each service throughout the year.



Although the Hand Bell Choir continues to be on hiatus, we did hear occasional ringing during the year. Laurie again arranged a few Congregational “Hymn Rings”, distributing bells throughout the sanctuary along with simple instructions so that many in the congregation were able to ring while all sang. I believe it is accurate to say that ringers ranged in age from 3 to 95!

Sadly the organ has remained quiet throughout 2014. After many years with minimal maintenance and repairs we decided in late 2013 to move ahead with some major work on this beautiful instrument. This has turned out to be a much longer project than originally predicted. Most portions of the project have been completed, but the final phase includes the delicate work of replacing the mechanisms that sound all 577 pipes. Each is re-created by hand and then replaced within the crowded confines of the organ. It will be glorious to hear the organ once again sometime in 2015.

As already mentioned, the search for our Music Director/Organist continues. It was a great disappointment when we were unable to proceed with the gifted couple that contacted us from Ukraine. In the fall the committee made the decision to be open to the possibility of having two candidates instead of one. The immediate need is for a Music Director that can lead the choir, play the piano and partner with Matt to plan and lead worship. Once the organ repairs are complete we can then look for a musician to play and assist the Music Director by playing during worship.

Special thanks to the many musicians who have filled in during the past year, especially Ken Sturgeon and his family. The Sturgeon children make up the backbone of the Youth Praise Band. The band includes Christian on guitar, Kimi and Danielle leading the singing and the newest member, Harry, on the drums. The group joins worship regularly on the 3rd Sunday of each month and occasionally at other times, too. It is quite a blessing, even for those that are more comfortable with traditional Sunday music. ☺



The year drew near to a close with much special music at both the Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve services. There were hand bells playing carols, low brass providing special music and accompanying hymns, solos and choir anthems.

Our entire music ministry at the First Baptist Church is dedicated to the glory of Our Triune God. We have been greatly blessed and all those that serve in the music ministry covet your continued prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Koerth, Music Committee Chairman

Decade Financial Overview: 2004-2014

Year	Collection for expenses and missions	Value of Endowment	Total Church Expenses	Budget Deficit (Primarily made-up from the endowment)
2004	54,007	193,371	85,329	28,502
2005	57,644	251,858	87,088	24,711
2006	67,384	245,850	92,649	23,163
2007	60,091	771,310	77,389	15,461
2008	56,605	778,043	75,383	17,191
2009	61,723	663,159	85,108	19,689
2010	64,097	695,363	102,490	34,878
2011	83,003	706,039	110,645	25,495
2012	81,082	709,230	122,795	41,652
2013	90,843	721,495	163,816	76,352
2014	99,200	688,579	172,066	72,371

Note: Over the last decade there have been minor changes in the way collections have been counted. The information above presents an accurate big picture of the church financial outlook over the last decade. Detailed questions regarding specific years can be found in the annual reports from these years. All data in this graph is based upon the annual reports.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses

	Jan - Dec '13	Jan - Dec '14	Budget	% of Budget	2015 Budget
1 General Mission Giving					
Deacon's Fund	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	2,400.00
Missionary Support Bennets	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	1,600.00
Missionary Support Kendra Short		1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	4,000.00
Open Door/ CA Food Bank	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	1,600.00
Partners in Development	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	0.00
TABCOM	1,500.00				
World Mission	1,500.00	1,600.00	1,600.00	100.0%	0.00
Total 1 General Mission Giving	9,000.00	9,600.00	9,600.00	100.0%	9,600.00
Board of Deacons					
Car Allowance	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	0.0%	500.00
Continuing Education	62.61	75.00	500.00	15.0%	200.00
Convention/Travel	50.29	0.00	500.00	0.0%	250.00
Evangelism/Outreach	1,185.77	843.17	1,200.00	70.26%	600.00
Fellowship/Hospitality	1,514.04	825.60	2,500.00	33.02%	1,500.00
FICA Allowance	9,852.00	10,404.00	10,404.00	100.0%	10,734.00
Health Insurance	15,695.60	9,652.98	17,068.44	56.56%	4,488.00
Judson Dues	142.00	142.00	700.00	20.29%	250.00
Nursery	0.00	1,266.67	1,200.00	105.56%	1,200.00
Pastor's Salary	32,952.00	36,000.00	36,000.00	100.0%	37,830.00
Pastoral Apprentice	5,464.99	6,452.75	7,000.00	92.18%	3,500.00
Pension	10,304.64	10,880.64	10,880.64	100.0%	11,226.24
Professional Expense	70.01	1,180.00	1,200.00	98.33%	1,200.00
Pulpit Supply	875.00	1,050.00	700.00	150.0%	700.00
Worship Materials	2,119.23	511.93	900.00	56.88%	500.00
Total Board of Deacons	80,288.18	79,284.74	92,003.08	86.18%	74,678.24
Board of Deacons Christian Educ					
Adult Christian Education	596.26	507.16	500.00	101.43%	500.00
Children's Sunday School	1,124.22	0.00	300.00	0.0%	400.00
God's Family	1,091.81	983.10	1,800.00	54.62%	1,800.00
Vacation Bible School	2,261.77	2,341.09	2,000.00	117.06%	2,000.00
Women's Ministries	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.0%	0.00
Youth Groups	1,883.59	1,375.24	1,300.00	105.79%	1,300.00
Total Board of Deacons Christian Educ	6,957.65	5,206.59	6,150.00	84.66%	6,000.00
Board of Stewards					
Electric, Church	1,969.68	2,303.60	2,000.00	115.18%	2,500.00
Electric, Parsonage	822.47	954.06	1,000.00	95.41%	1,500.00
FICA	1,051.23	767.44	1,100.00	69.77%	1,100.00
Fuel Oil, Church	6,048.50	6,348.03	9,000.00	70.53%	7,000.00
Fuel Oil, Parsonage	2,948.36	2,434.81	5,000.00	48.7%	3,000.00
IT Support	475.20	555.07	500.00	111.01%	500.00
Miscellaneous	3,926.12	1,520.95	1,500.00	101.4%	1,500.00
Office Manager	993.87	4,406.93			16,000.00
Office Supplies	4,450.34	9,130.23	3,000.00	304.34%	3,000.00
Property Insurance	2,963.00	2,862.00	2,500.00	114.48%	2,500.00
Repairs/Maintance	27,422.47	31,511.28	15,000.00	210.08%	15,000.00
Telephone	1,651.08	1,835.21	1,500.00	122.35%	1,000.00
Water&Sewer, Church	1,112.08	1,099.87	1,100.00	99.99%	1,100.00
Water&Sewer, parsonage	1,300.78	974.53	1,300.00	74.96%	1,300.00
Worker's Comp	768.00	455.00	750.00	60.67%	750.00
Total Board of Stewards	57,903.18	67,159.01	45,250.00	148.42%	57,750.00

Treasurer's Report: Expenses (continued)

Music Committee					
Music Director, Organist	9,191.73	10,340.60	14,000.00	73.86%	14,000.00
Sheet Music	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.0%	400.00
Substitutes	475.00	475.00	500.00	95.0%	500.00
Total Music Committee	9,666.73	10,815.60	14,900.00	72.59%	14,900.00
Total Expense	163,815.74	172,065.94	167,903.08	102.48%	162,928.24

Used from endowment for expenses	87,463.79	72,371.40	42%
From Interest	22,247.90	21,224.60	
From Principal	65,215.89	51,146.80	

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SUMMARY -- 2014 Spending	% of 2014 Total			
Salaries and wages	49,951	59,728	35%	74,470
Personnel Benefits (FICA, Insur., Retirement, Prof. Expenses, etc.)	<u>37,854</u>	<u>33,415</u>	<u>19%</u>	<u>30,448</u>
EMPLOYEE Costs	87,805	93,143	54%	104,918
 Mission GIVING	 9,000	 9,600	 6%	 9,600
Church Program EXPENSES	20,772	18,999	11%	13,510
 Church Utilities	 8,018	 8,652	 5%	 9,500
Parsonage Utilities	3,771	3,389	2%	4,500
Comb. Facility Maintenance/Svcs.	<u>34,449</u>	<u>38,283</u>	<u>22%</u>	<u>20,900</u>
Facility EXPENSES	46,238	50,323	29%	34,900
 TOTAL	 163,816	 172,066	 100%	 162,928

Treasurer's Report: Restricted Funds

	Balance 1/1/2014	Receipts & Interest	Disbursements & Losses	Balance 12/31/2014
MEMORIAL FUND	1,004.27	98.99	0.00	1,103.26
YOUTH GROUP INCLUDING 2015 \$3000 GRANT	0.00	3,120.00	2,022.21	1,097.79
BIRTHDAY GIFT	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND	442.75 transferred to general fund			0.00
GOD'S FAMILY CLASS	205.70			205.70
FLOWER COMMITTEE	80.03	363.00	300.63	142.40
MUSIC	1,220.19	0.00	0.00	1,220.19
SECOND SUNDY SUNDAES	506.15	0.00	179.05	327.10
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INCLUDING 2015 \$3000 GRANT	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
LECTURE SERIES	735.54	0.00	0.00	735.54
RESTRICTED GIFTS principle may not be spent, interest goes to Endowment interest	1,600.00			1,600.00
HOBBS 100.00				
GILES 200.00				
COLBY 100.00				
HARRIDEN 371.35				
OTHERS 828.65				
STEWART MUSIC FUND principle balance \$21,000 interest to be used for the music program	31,412.78	1,403.58	6,200.00	26,616.36
ENDOWMENT FUND	721,494.89	37,455.23	72,371.46	686,578.66

Treasurer's Report: Additional Information

	2014	2013
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES	102,578.48	87,463.79
TOTAL BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS	174,949.94	163,815.74
BUDGET DEFICIT	72,371.46	76,351.95

NON-BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS from the ENDOWMENT FUND

INVESTMENT SERVICES	2,884.00
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TOTAL	2,884.00
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CHURCH ACCOUNTS

MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN BAPTIST INVESTMENT TRUST (MABIT)
 Stewart Music Fund Account # AI 0222

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
 Endowment Fund Account # Z83-280119

ROCKPORT NATIONAL BANK
 Savings Account # 9211760
 Checking Account # 101194

Treasurer's Report: Deacon's Fund

1/1/2014	Receipts & Interest	Disbursements	12/31/2014
1,986.13	1,850.00	3,618.22	217.91

Funds used for:

Gifts
 Discretionary

Respectfully submitted by the Treasurer, Andrea G. Brown, January 7, 2014

Report from the Board of Stewards

The Board of Stewards dealt with three main issues in 2014 concerning the maintenance of the church and parsonage.

1. Townsend Oil and Propane was hired to replace the furnace for Parsonage. They installed a Buderus oil burner which is a modern, environmentally friendly and ultra-efficient system.
2. Jack & Gary painted parts of the church. They addressed the front, steeple and side facing Broadway.
3. The front yard of the Parsonage was renovated.

Other miscellaneous tasks that we addressed in 2014 include:

Pest Control at the church. The church experienced more mouse problems and an infestation of grain beetles in the kitchen and bath area. General Environmental Services was hired and performed a two part treatment for the beetles and mice. Volunteers emptied the kitchen cupboards and did a thorough cleaning as well.

New Plowing contract- Dan Tuck resigned from snow plowing. After reviewing many bids American Landscaping was hired.

Unis Bros. were hired to fix a leak in the baseboard heat at the parsonage.

The Board of Stewards reviewed the bids collected for the Sprinkler and Smoke Detector systems and chose to move forward with Tri State for both portions of the work. Work will be done in 2015.

Flowers were purchased throughout the year for the church and grounds. Regular maintenance was performed by volunteers.



Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Stewards

Report from the Board of Deacons

Are we conforming to Christ and scripture in all that we teach and undertake here at Rockport Baptist Church? To answer that the Board began a yearlong review covering several aspects of our fellowship. How we conduct our worship each Sunday, our approach to mission support, the day to day work of our Pastor and Christian education were some of the major areas of focus.

In our review of missions we spent time examining the organizations we currently support. Several sessions were devoted towards the development of criteria for evaluating future requests for support. Our desire is to partner with missionaries directly rather than well-funded organizations. Our small amounts can have more impact to those individuals raising their own support. We also benefit by coming alongside people we can come to know, and participate with, in their efforts to make Christ known in the world. Our mission's budget recommendations for 2015 reflects this approach. The Deacon's fund will continue to be used for helping church members in need.

Time and prayer went towards review of our worship practices and conduct. Our desire is to do all that we can to set a biblical tone in our worship and to see all of us become more like Christ giving glory to God. Part of this effort has been to help Matt with ideas on what topics or areas of scripture to teach on. Specific effort was put into a study of our communion practices to ensure we are conforming to scripture for this important Christian ordinance. One result of this is a statement of practice printed in our bulletin each communion Sunday to serve as a guide and help for visitors and members alike. This effort will continue in 2015.

A new Pastoral Review form was developed that we will use to evaluate our Pastor each year. It is the Boards strongest desire to come alongside Matt and Megan to support and guard their marriage and their work here. We have had ongoing discussions with Matt on where his time goes in the day to day management of the church. We have reviewed those ministries of the church that need to be strengthened and ways to effectively minister, teach and preach the Word

of God faithfully. One fruit of this work was our support for hiring an Office Manager. Having this position has given Matt more time to devote to the pastoral activities of prayer, study and preparation for preaching and teaching. The position of Pastoral Apprentice is another key support position that the Deacons wish to continue in 2015. As we grow, our pastor must reduce time devoted to janitorial, interior and exterior maintenance and basic office management duties. His time is better spent in preaching and teaching God's Word, building the spiritual maturity of those who attend, visiting home bound members and ministering to those in need.

The Board realizes this approach contributes to our overall spending that exceeds our weekly giving thus requiring monies from our investments. This spending is not arbitrary but a strategic vision to grow our ministry and our numbers. It is our desire before the Lord to see more families join our church, to see God continue the blessing and growth of our Youth Group and Wednesday morning bible study. To see sinners repent and come to Christ and be baptized and for all of us to experience the joy that comes from serving Christ in this place. This is our prayer for you in 2015 and beyond.



Respectfully,
David Pierson,
Chairman Board of Deacons

Report from the Hospitality Committee

With the heart of our mission to mirror God's love at home, in church and in the community. We continue to find ways to accomplish this goal.

We have stayed within our budget for this years spending.

This year, 2014, found a continuation of the services provided surrounding:

Ushers/Greeters, Flowers, Childcare, Fellowship hour snacks, Carpooling, Church clean teams, Meal provisions, and VBS; as well as other events and concerns that arise in every church community.

The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in Pastor Matts office, usually reviewing past events and preparing for the future goals and concerns. We begin and end with prayer and are well aware of trying to climb hills and not mountains, with regards to our demographics and capabilities. Yet, as everyone knows, expectations can inspire as well as overwhelm. We trust that Gods presence and power lies within and among our mission to support the needs of the FBC Family.

Accomplished:

Billy Graham Pot Luck and Movie

VBS Gathering and planning

Millbrook Carpooling

Seder Feast (over 30 people in attendance!)

Church picnic and outdoor Fellowship hour

Meal support for various concerns

Flowers at Easter and Christmas

Cookie drive for special Sundays in December including the NSCMC event in concordance with the Christmas Pageant.

As well as the amazing Welcome Bags

Children's Activity Packs



It is always a challenge to call upon a relatively small group of folks to continuously provide the services needed to promote an environment that demonstrates a magnitude of Love and plenty. We consider this every week when we ask God to bless the collection plates, which He has in His miraculous ways. It is a pleasure to work together and Hug the Helpers with smiles as well as arms that find unity in sharing our many blessings and talents.

Think about what impresses you when you meet someone, or go somewhere for the first time.

We have known and anonymous Blessers, whom we are grateful for on a daily basis.

Please consider how you can support the FBC Mission, and don't hesitate to offer ideas and suggestions. We are a team of ALL. There are many needs, great and small, that can be a source of feeling connected to the church goals.



We need and want your help and input. Know that there is no "I" in TEAM, turn it around and you get MEAT which stands for the "MEAT and POTATOES" of a growing church. Who ever joined an inhospitable group? We reflect the love that's been so generously given, with the privilege to serve and support each other through life's moments and beyond. In an instant, you can become an answered prayer, see you at the meeting? Call with a suggestion? Contribute from your talents (both kinds).

Hugs and Smiles, grateful hearts, you are ALL members of the Hospitality Committee

Once again, in His Love and mine, your sister in Gods Family,

Sally May Levesque

Report from the Pastoral Apprentice

This has been my second full year at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. As with the previous year and a half, it has been a blessing to worship and serve with this congregation. In addition to practicing leadership in the Sunday morning service, I have been involved with many different aspects of the church's ministry this year, including youth ministry, adult education, and deacons' meetings.

I preached several times throughout the year, most recently on the day when Alistair Wigton was born. I also preached at Pigeon Cove Chapel three times, since they are currently without a pastor. It is always a privilege for me to open up the Word of God with his church, and I have enjoyed getting to know the congregation there.

I have been involved in various aspects of the youth ministry of the church. In the first half of the year, I continued my involvement with the youth group. In the summer, I worked with the middle school group at Vacation Bible School. They were a fun group, and we played games, studied the Bible, and helped with some of the younger students. Several of these middle school students have become part of the youth group in the fall. In the last months of the year, I have been in charge of the youth group. We have seen several new middle-school students this year, with around twenty students each Wednesday evening. Furthermore, we have led the youth in some special activities, such as an overnight lock-in, a service day with the Open Door food pantry, and a Christmas party.



I was a regular teacher in Sunday school in the winter and spring, as we went through the second half of *The Story* curriculum. Starting in the fall, I have been involved in the Wednesday morning Bible study, where we studied the Psalms for a couple months and now are going through a study on early Church heresies.

Throughout the year, I have had responsibilities with various occasional church activities. I have been involved with the monthly deacons' meetings, as well as many special events throughout the year. In all of this, it has been a blessing to know this congregation and to serve God with them.

Report from the God's Family Class Assistant

This past year with God's Family class we have been focusing on the theme, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Each week we have looked at a different biblical character and have thought about God's role as shepherd in his or her life. This theme has pushed us to teach the Bible with a greater interest in personal application of the text for ourselves and for the members of God's Family. God's Word does apply to each and every one of our lives and this theme has helped our group to wrestle with this truth. I am grateful for the leadership of Nancy, Kay, and Janet and for the opportunity to teach more in the class. My role as God's family helper during the Sunday Morning service has continued to be utilized as there are usually two or three members who join the congregation in worship every week.

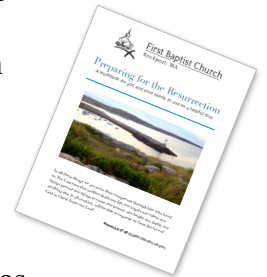


Report from the Office Manager

In 2014 I had the pleasure of being hired to fill the first administrative position for Rockport Baptist Church. My official title is Office Manager. I'm grateful for the opportunity and would like to share some of my experience so that you will know what keeps me busy in my office, also known as "The Conference Room".

My first project was to create the Resurrection package. I hope that some of you will find it helpful. I also designed the weekly bulletins for Sunday Worship and helped

with other creative tasks, such as the Thankfulness Project. The Christmas Season kept me busy with putting together the Christmas card, flyers for our Christmas Events and a brochure that was shared with church members and also included in the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mailing. Another fun assignment was putting together the Year in Review Video and seeing many of the great moments of the church during 2014.

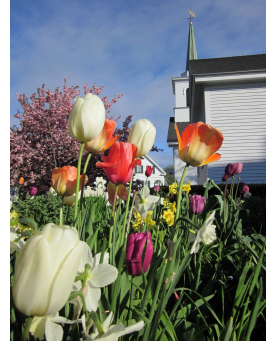


The First Baptist Church was approved for a grant from the CPC to implement a Sprinkler and Smoke Detector System throughout the building. I have helped to clarify and compare bids from multiple companies. The Stewards chose a company to work with and I have begun the process with Tri State and with the Town of Rockport. This will be a large project that will take place during the early part of this year.

There are some daily tasks that keep me busy through the week. I help Matt with correspondence and updating the website. I greet people entering the church and keep an eye on our supplies. I answer the phone and try to help people with their inquiries as best I can. Overall, I'm here to help support the Church in a number of ways and look forward to doing more in 2015.

Report from the Ushers/Greeters

The responsibility of an usher/greeter is to be the church's "ambassador" as worshipers come through our front doors. We want all who come to feel welcome and at ease. Each usher/greeter wears an "USHER" button and a smile (and in their Sunday best, of course). They remain near the back of the church to aid any latecomers and to identify if there is a need for nursery directions or someone is in need of help. The usher/greeters also light the candles in the front of the church, take weekly attendance and take the offering.



1. Rockport Baptist Church has 8 Regular usher/greeters:

Millicent Bruce & Nancy Pallazola – 1st week

Margaret Williams & Kris Carlson - 2nd week

David Pierson & Bill Tebo 3rd week

As of December Terry Schwenk has taken over in Bill's absence and has agreed to be a permanent usher/greeter.

Janet O'Donnell & Tom Paisley 4th week

When the "snow birds" are worshipping here for the summer they are included in the usher/greeters rotation thus giving permanent ushers an occasional "vacation".

They are: Nancy/Arnie Hage and Diane/Doug Lynn

2. The usher/greeters are encouraged to engage visitors at the front door and if they are visiting for the first time to hand them a "Visitors Bag" which may include any of the following (depending on what materials are available as they change periodically):
 - a. Church information sheet
 - b. Rockport Baptist mug
 - c. A copy of *More Than A Carpenter*, by Josh McDowell
 - d. A bookmark or a ribbon cross
 - e. Pastor Matt's business card

Also available in the Narthex are children's packets they can use while attending the service. The packet contains a pen, pencil, a drawing pad, crayons, coloring book, & weekly Bible sheets.

The usher/greeters also served during special occasions such as funerals, N.S. Christian Men's Choir and New Year's Eve Rockport, etc.

We are always looking for additional usher/greeters if you feel the Lord's leading to serve Him in this way.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Carlson, Head Usher

Report on Attendance

Each Sunday the ushers take attendance of those attending Sunday Morning Worship. Attendance taking began in 2011. The monthly average does not include Christmas Eve or other special services.

Month	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	54	47	55	58
February	53	52	45	64
March	58	49	61	54
April	70	63	56	63
May	58	59	61	67
June	73	71	67	73
July	66	63	65	78
August	66	64	64	62
September	57	67	72	62
October	59	62	63	62
November	62	65	67	56
December	58	65	61	64
Cumulative Average	61	61	62	62

Report from the Investment Portfolio

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

	Total Invested	Market Amount	Value %	Annual Income	Current Yield %	Yield % At Cost
Money Markets	31,530	31,530	5	3	0.0	0.0
Fixed Income	75,207	71,364	10	2,495	3.5	3.3
Mutual Funds	4,435	4,004	1	13	0.3	0.3
Common Stocks	293,658	581,576	84	17,889	3.1	6.1
TOTAL PORTFOLIO	404,830	688,474	100 %	20,400	3.0	5.0

COMMON STOCK DIVERSIFICATION

	Total Invested	Market Amount	Value %	Annual Income	Current Yield %	Yield % At Cost
Business Services	22,185	44,735	8	1,160	2.6	5.2
Consumer Products	59,553	100,104	17	3,334	3.3	5.6
Distribution Services	27,169	47,159	8	1,123	2.4	4.1
Diversified	30,861	86,890	15	2,140	2.5	6.9
Health	27,173	68,123	12	2,058	3.0	7.6
Materials	14,552	25,240	4	539	2.1	3.7
Natural Resources	28,426	50,985	9	2,036	4.0	7.2
Retail	26,308	36,634	6	1,372	3.7	5.2
Technology	12,264	38,253	7	958	2.5	7.8
Telecom Services	11,166	23,421	4	1,154	4.9	10.3
Utilities	34,002	60,033	10	2,015	3.4	5.9
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS	293,658	581,576	100 %	17,889	3.1	6.1

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Income			Total Annual Income
MONEY MARKETS									
28,965	Fidelity Cash Reserves	--	28,965	1	28,965	0.00	0.0	0.0	3
2,565	Fidelity US Treasury Money Market	--	2,565	1	2,565	0.00	0.0	0.0	0
			31,530		31,530				3
FIXED INCOME									
25,000	Australian Commonwealth Treasury Bond 6.25% 04/15/15	04/01/10	23,994	83	20,681	0.05	6.6	5.7	1,364
25,000	Colgate Palmolive Corp. Bond 3.15% 08/05/2015	01/28/10	25,725	102	25,404	0.03	3.1	3.1	788
25,000	3M Co SR Note 1 3/8% 09/29/16	03/05/12	25,488	101	25,280	0.01	1.4	1.3	344
			75,207		71,364				2,495
MUTUAL FUNDS									
113	Oppenheimer Developing Markets Fund Class A	12/09/13 -- 12/08/14	4,435	36	4,004	0.12	0.3	0.3	13
			4,435		4,004				13
BUSINESS SERVICES									
217	Automatic Data Processing	07/30/91	1,397	83	18,091	1.96	2.4	30.4	425
515	Bidvest Group Ltd	09/13/11 -- 04/14/14	11,426	26	13,528	0.74	2.8	3.3	381
54	Broadridge Financial Solutions	07/30/91	181	46	2,494	0.84	1.8	25.0	45
1,100	Computershare Ltd.	04/03/08 -- 03/01/12	9,181	10	10,622	0.28	2.9	3.4	308
			22,185		44,735				1,160

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Income			Total Annual Income
CONSUMER PRODUCTS									
375	Coca-Cola	01/13/93 -- 04/05/10	5,632	42	15,833	1.22	2.9	8.1	458
1,250	Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd	06/16/10 -- 03/01/12	14,318	8	9,534	0.45	5.9	3.9	563
150	Indivior PLC	11/18/13 -- 05/02/14	335	2	349	0.00	0.0	0.0	0
200	Nestle SA (ADR)	04/04/08 -- 11/26/10	10,669	73	14,683	2.19	3.0	4.1	438
100	PepsiCo	07/30/91	1,436	95	9,456	2.62	2.8	18.2	262
225	Procter & Gamble	11/27/84	1,348	91	20,495	2.57	2.8	43.0	579
150	Reckitt Benckiser PLC	11/18/13 -- 05/02/14	11,618	81	12,186	2.22	2.7	2.9	333
450	Unilever N.V.	09/13/11 -- 03/01/12	14,196	39	17,568	1.56	4.0	4.9	702
			59,553		100,104				3,334
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES									
200	Genuine Parts	09/13/11	10,615	107	21,314	2.30	2.2	4.3	460
100	Norfolk Southern	03/09/11	6,553	110	10,961	2.28	2.1	3.5	228
375	Sysco Corp.	05/07/09 -- 11/18/13	10,000	40	14,884	1.16	2.9	4.4	435
			27,169		47,159				1,123
DIVERSIFIED									
167	3M Company	07/10/81	2,913	164	27,441	4.10	2.5	23.5	685
260	Emerson Electric	04/04/08 -- 09/13/11	11,191	62	16,050	1.88	3.0	4.4	489
338	General Electric	03/10/95 -- 01/19/06	6,570	25	8,541	0.92	3.6	4.7	311
175	Illinois Tool Works	12/07/93	1,646	95	16,573	1.40	1.5	14.9	245
300	Jardine Matheson Holdings (ADR)	04/03/08 -- 05/07/09	8,541	61	18,285	1.37	2.2	4.8	411
			30,861		86,890				2,140

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Income			Total Annual Income
						Rate	Yield	Cost	
<u>HEALTH</u>									
250	Abbott Labs	06/07/94 -- 03/09/11	3,087	45	11,255	0.96	2.1	7.8	240
250	AbbVie	06/07/94 -- 03/09/11	3,347	65	16,360	1.96	3.0	14.6	490
100	Cochlear Ltd.	08/02/12	6,840	64	6,359	2.61	4.1	3.8	261
234	Merck	07/10/81	2,486	57	13,289	1.80	3.2	16.9	421
170	Novartis AG	05/07/09 -- 11/26/14	8,516	93	15,752	2.72	2.9	5.4	462
164	Pfizer	10/16/09	2,896	31	5,109	1.12	3.6	6.3	184
			27,173		68,123				2,058
<u>MATERIALS</u>									
175	Air Products	01/19/06 -- 03/01/12	14,552	144	25,240	3.08	2.1	3.7	539
			14,552		25,240				539
<u>NATURAL RESOURCES</u>									
200	Cenovus Energy	08/04/08 -- 04/05/10	6,137	21	4,124	0.93	4.5	3.0	186
150	Chevron Corp.	07/10/81	1,973	112	16,827	4.28	3.8	32.5	642
200	ConocoPhillips	06/16/10 -- 12/11/14	11,303	69	13,812	2.92	4.2	5.2	584
125	Exxon Mobil	09/15/64	1,189	92	11,556	2.76	3.0	29.0	345
150	Woodside Petroleum Ltd.	04/03/08	7,823	31	4,666	1.86	6.0	3.6	279
			28,426		50,985				2,036

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Income Rate	Yield	Income Mkt	Total Annual Income
<u>RETAIL</u>									
200	Dairy Farm International Hldgs Ltd (ADR)	05/07/09	5,338	45	9,000	1.15	2.6	4.3	230
200	McDonald's	04/04/08 -- 04/05/10	11,666	94	18,740	3.40	3.6	5.8	680
70	Shopping Centres Australasia Property Group	11/26/12	113	2	106	0.00	0.0	0.0	0
350	Woolworths Ltd.	11/24/09 -- 04/05/10	9,191	25	8,787	1.32	5.3	5.0	462
			26,308		36,634				1,372
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>									
60	IBM	07/11/97 -- 05/07/09	4,317	160	9,626	4.40	2.7	6.1	264
584	Intel	12/07/93	2,539	36	21,193	0.90	2.5	20.7	526
100	Qualcomm	11/24/09 -- 05/02/14	5,408	74	7,433	1.68	2.3	3.1	168
			12,264		38,253				958
<u>TELECOM SERVICES</u>									
175	AT & T Inc.	03/13/86	1,511	34	5,878	1.88	5.6	21.8	329
375	Verizon	11/21/86 -- 11/26/10	9,656	47	17,543	2.20	4.7	8.5	825
			11,166		23,421				1,154
<u>UTILITIES</u>									
350	Alamos Energy	02/02/10	9,609	56	19,509	1.56	2.8	5.7	546
375	Enbridge Inc.	04/04/08 -- 05/07/09	6,704	51	19,279	1.63	3.2	9.1	611
450	Spectra Energy	03/09/11 -- 08/02/12	12,700	36	16,335	1.48	4.1	5.2	666
100	TransCanada	11/26/14	4,990	49	4,910	1.92	3.9	3.8	192
			34,002		60,033				2,015

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Income Yield	Income Yield	Total Annual Income
Total Common Stocks:			293,658		581,576			17,889
Total Portfolio:			404,830		688,474			20,400

We urge you to compare your appraisal with the account statements you receive from your custodian(s).