



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

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ROCKPORT
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978-546-6121

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HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKORT.ORG

MARCH 2011

Easter in the Old Testament

The Old Testament book of Exodus begins with the harrowing account of the people of Israel's escape and rescue from the bondage of slavery. The central event within this story was the Passover, where God intervened to bring about freedom and the subsequent Exodus. The Passover affirmed the faithfulness and certainty of the Triune God of scriptures. Following the first Passover the people of God were called to remember this event on an annual basis. *"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast"* (Exodus 12:17, ESV).

In the New Testament it is not a coincidence that the death of Jesus on the cross took place in conjunction with the Passover celebration and that the establishment of the Lord's Supper was also part of this remembrance. The correlation for the early church was clear as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:7-8 *"Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth"*. Peter also wrote in I Peter 1:17-18 *"you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot"*.

Presently as we celebrate Communion and Easter we continue to in part celebrate the Passover, the statute that God commissioned for his people to celebrate forever. In Christ we also celebrate and acknowledge the way in which the Old Testament Passover was a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus in the New Testament. The Old Testament Passover accomplished momentary freedom from slavery for a particular people group. The New Testament Passover accomplished in Christ, is an event that is available to all people. The New Testament Passover in Christ makes obtainable forgiveness and freedom from the bondage and slavery that humanity experiences to sin and death. Christ's perfect work as the Passover Lamb provides the capacity to find real and lasting relationship with God. The good news of Christ's Passover should serve as the impetus to live each day not hoping that our self-righteousness can earn us God's favor, but that in his faithfulness and goodness he has made a way available for us. This good news then should compel us to be people who live each day seeking to radiate the grace, forgiveness, life and truth of Christ who is our Passover Lamb!

by Matt Wigton

The Markham Clan is Growing

In December Brenda (Markham) and Greg Clements welcomed daughter Delaney Jane who is pictured at right with big brother Nolan. Not long after, Todd and Lauren Markham announced that Delaney is going to have a little cousin; they're expecting a daughter in late summer. Grandparents Bob and Roberta, who now live near Brenda and family, are overjoyed and very busy! At last report they had spent time in Connecticut with Todd and Lauren, in between providing day care for Nolan and Delaney.



Jack in the Brook

Pictured left is Jack Munroe diving into a brook that runs under the First Baptist Church of Rockport. In addition to the brook there are other sources of water that run at various levels under the church. At the request of the Town of Rockport, the church recently re-routed a source (now refereed to as "Q") from entering the town sewer system to instead entering the brook. The re-routing effort significantly lessens the amount of water entering the sewer from the church property. Water entering the brook is emptied into the ocean whereas water entering the sewer system runs through the water treatment plant. Jack Munroe and his diving skills were critical for the exploration and execution of this endeavor.

Boston Rescue Mission Visit

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by Kris Carlson

On Monday, Feb. 28th five members of First Baptist drove into Boston to serve a meal at the Boston Rescue Mission on Kingston St. Located in the downtown section of Boston, the BRM has been helping the desperate and homeless since 1899. We are signed up to serve the 3 P.M. meal with them on the fourth Monday of each month.

John Samaan and his wife, Lynn, (who, by the way, live in Rockport), have run the Mission for many years. The Mission is biblically-based, has 30-40 residents, accommodates many men nightly with a mat to sleep on, and serves hundreds of men and women daily. The mission serves seven meals a day.

Our Pastor Matt Wigton, Arvilla Wass, Jim Sherburne, Marjorie Dyksinski and I arrived about 1:45 and were immediately put to work cutting approximately sixty pounds of potatoes into “home fries” pieces to be used the next day at breakfast.

None of us knew what to expect our first time there, and I couldn’t help but wonder what condition those we’d be serving would be in: active alcoholics or drug users, would they be fouled-mouthed, angry, ungrateful? Matt offered up a prayer before the doors opened for the meal and what a surprise awaited us.....

Kitchen coordinator, Junior, lined us up about 2:50 to give us our instructions. All meals are served cafeteria style. Besides us volunteering there were four others in the kitchen, all residents at the Mission who live on the premises. Resident have to work doing chores at the Mission, attend Bible studies, go to church services at the Mission and attend AA meetings, if applicable, while living there.



Arvilla was the first in the assembly line dishing up potatoes, then she handed the cafeteria tray to me to ladle out chili, then Marjorie added vegetables, Jim salad and Matt fruit cocktail.

At 3 pm the people began to file in to be served. The number of people eating is monitored so there isn't overcrowding. Each person has ten minutes to eat in order to let the next wave come through.

The men (and women) were polite, kind, moderately dressed and when I asked one gentleman, "How ya doing?", he replied, "I'm blessed." Wow, did that put a smile on my face!!! They said "thank you for serving us", truly grateful for the meal.

As each person came forward to receive their meal, I couldn't help say to myself, "each of these people have a story to tell, each one is facing life full-force". I just wanted to talk with each one, pray with each one...but, of course, couldn't. But we had a short break and we were able to talk with a couple of the residents helping in the kitchen. The dishwasher, Carlos, and I had a chance to chat and pray; Arvilla sat with a young lady and also connected prayerfully. What a blessing!!!!

The menu changed a little and we then had the privilege to serve the "residents" at 4:30... THEN it was our turn to be "served". The kitchen staff got in the cafeteria line and gave us our supper. Then it was 5 pm and time for us to leave, but did we want to????

We wanted to stay and help clean up the tables and put away the chair, but the resident volunteers said, "that's our job and you're free to go". It was difficult for me to say "good-bye" to those helping in the kitchen having connected and knowing just a tiny bit about their story....

.As I mentioned First Baptist Rockport is signed up the last Monday of every month to serve the 3 pm meal, so don't miss the opportunity to "serve" the Lord by serving the homeless in this way.... I encourage each of you to sign up at least once and go be a blessing!!!! See Pastor Matt for more details. The web site for the Boston Rescue mission is www.brm.org

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●
● **Pastor: Matt Wigton** ●

Pastor's Office Hours ●

Monday – Thursday ●

8:30-11:30 AM & 12:30 -3:30 PM ●

And by appointment ●

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Dates	O.T. Reading	N.T. Reading	Sermon Title
April 10	Exodus 12:43-50	John 13:1-20	The First Passover
April 17	Psalms 31:9-16	John 19	The Last Passover
April 24	Jeremiah 31:1-6	John 20:1-18	The Great Passover
May 1	Psalms 16	Matthew 7:7-11	Approaching the Father
May 8	Judges 2:1-15	Matthew 7:15-23	False Prophets
May 15	TBA	TBA	Heritage Sunday
May 22	Psalms 31	Matthew 7:24-8:4	Jesus heals a Leper
May 29	Psalms 66:8-20	Matthew 8:5-13	Jesus heals an Officer
June 5	Psalms 68:1-10	Matthew 8:28-34	Jesus heals the demon-possessed

*Sermon text in bold.

Special Events in April-May 2011

Easter Services

As part of the celebration of Easter the church will be holding the following special events:

- Easter Week Morning Prayer on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 am
- Seder/Passover Feast on Thursday, April 21 at 5:30 pm
- Church open for Prayer on Good Friday (April 22) from 6:30 am until 4:30 pm
- Good Friday/ Tenebrae Service on Friday, April 22 at 7:00 pm
- Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am at the Rockport Headlands on Easter Sunday, April 24
- Easter Breakfast at 7:30 am in Ventres Chapel
- Easter Service at 10:30 am

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

In May, the Wednesday Bible Study will be concluding a study of the book of Ephesians and beginning a study of the book of Philippians. The study meets Wednesdays from 9:30 am until 11:00 am in Ventres Chapel. On nice days the study meets in Harvey Park.

Serving at the Boston Rescue Mission

As described in another article appearing in the *High Tidings*, several from the church travel down to the Boston Rescue Mission on the fourth Monday of the month to serve meals and interact with Mission participants. The church community is invited to join others in this venture. The group leaves the church at 1:00 pm and returns by approximately 6:00 pm. Upcoming trips will take place on April 25 and May 23. The church will also be participating in a one-time outreach event to take place on the morning of Saturday May 7 on the Boston Common. For more information or to participate in this opportunities contact Matt Wigton.

Spring Work Day

The Board of Stewards invites the church community to the annual Spring Work Day. The Work Day is a fun time of cleaning up the church in preparation for the Spring and Summer. The Work Day will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 9:00 am until 11:30 am.

Heritage Sunday

The First Baptist Church of Rockport is one of the oldest churches on Cape Ann and on Sunday, May 15 we will celebrate this Heritage during the worship service. Matt will re-preach a sermon given at an earlier point in the history of the church. Others aspects of the history of the church will be highlighted within the service. As part of a celebration the Sunday School will take a walking tour of historical sights pertaining to the church. The tour will include visiting the original meeting place of the church, the place of the first baptism and the graves of founders Captain Nathanael Hale and Ebenezer Poole. The walking tour will begin at 9:15 in Ventre Chapel.

Hymn Sing

The first of four hymn sings planned for 2011 will take place on Sunday, May 22 at 7:00 pm. The hymn sing will be followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship.

Thirdly Meeting

The church has three meetings a year to review the church business. The church by-laws stipulate that these meetings are to take place on the last week of January, May and September. The meeting that takes place in January is usually referred to as the "Annual Meeting" and the meetings that take place in May and September are referred to as "Thirdly Meetings". The next Thirdly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 29 at 12:00 pm.

Below, the middle school girls' 'lock-in' featured adventures in make-up, along with lessons from host Megan and adult friends in appearances, both inside and out.



Birthday Girl

Megan Wigton celebrated the big “3 – 0” with lots of friends and a gluten-free cake, baked by husband Matt. Behind her, Nancy and Victor Pallazola with high school friend xxxxxx, prepare to help blow out the candles. Megan’s birthday party, held at the parsonage, included plenty of food, games, laughs and good wishes. Matt prepared a competitive game of matching events to the thirty years of Megan’s life, including some that were from Megan’s own ‘history’. (No surprise, her team won.)

Below, kids rule when it comes to board games.



**Weekly Events
at
First Baptist Church, Rockport**

Sunday – Sunday School 9:15 AM
Sunday – Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday – Fellowship 11:30 AM
Monday – Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM
Tuesday – Discipleship Group 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Morning Prayer 6:30 AM
Wednesday – Bible Study 9:30 AM
Wednesday – Middle School Group 7:00 PM
Thursday – High School Group 7:00 PM

Boston Area Directions

Take Rte. 93 North from Boston to Rte. 95 North. Follow Rte. 95 toward Gloucester. Route number changes to Rte. 128. Continue to end of Rte. 128 and turn left at traffic light at Eastern Ave. in Gloucester. Proceed on same street to Rockport. The Church

High Tidings Online is published by the First Baptist Church of Rockport, and is edited by Gail Zeman and friends.
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**FBC Mission Statement:
Follow Jesus and proclaim
Him to the world**

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