



First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

2018 Mid-Year Report

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First Baptist Church
Rockport, MA
Celebrating 210 Years
of Ministry
1808-2018

2018 Mid-Year Report of the Pastor
Matthew Wigton

Personal Reflection:

In September 2008, I was sleeping on the floor of a friend's apartment preparing to conclude Seminary and get married the next month. At that time, Megan and I had no idea what we were going to do or where we were going to live. The Great Recession would reach its lowest point that month. By God's grace, we soon got a phone call from Jim Koerth offering me the pastoral position at Rockport Baptist Church.

Ten years later, Megan and I find ourselves with very busy lives. We are active members of the community of Rockport, live in the parsonage, have a lawn to mow, been blessed with two precious children and have seen tangible results of our labors for the Lord. Of course, there is more to do and we are convinced that Jesus Christ, as manifested through the local church, is the hope of the world. With His continued grace, we look forward to the course set before us.

Sunday Worship:

The "pursuit of wisdom" has been a theme that has connected many of the events of this year to date. Hopefully this pursuit is a reality as we aspire to grow in Christian maturity.

During the first three months of the year, the sermons were centered on the Ten Commandments, God's Moral Law for humanity. Jesus reaffirmed the Ten Commandments, in the Sermon on the Mount, as the ethical guide for the people of God. He expands our understanding as to the full breath of all that the commandments encompass (ex. failure to love is akin to murder). The New Testament points us to our need for Jesus and reminds us of humankind's inability to perfectly follow God's law.

In May we started a series on the book of James, which exhorts us to live lives of persistent obedience, which then bears the fruit of the Spirit as we respond to the good news of Jesus.

Our weekly worship also included celebrating Easter and the church's 210th Anniversary. The church family rejoiced with a wedding, baptism and baby dedication! Monthly fellowship cookouts and potlucks were enjoyed by many.

Christian Education

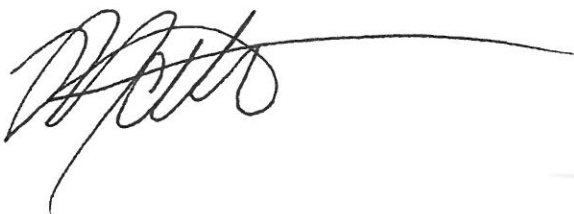
The Christian Education department added a class for pre-school aged children and they joined the Elementary Age group, Youth group and Wednesday Morning Bible Study in using the Gospel project curriculum. We concluded a reading group focused on Pilgrim's Progress and Christian Faux facilitated a summer study of C.S. Lewis. John and Janet French led a group looking at the practices of Spiritual Formation. All of these smaller groups, special events and regular worship services have been vehicles to help us grow in our Christian maturity, discipleship and mission.

Financial Status:

As the financial reports demonstrate, by God's grace and faithful giving, we are running in the black for the first time in the Twenty-First Century. As we move forward into the next year, it is critical for the future growth of church, that we continue to invest our resources strategically in ways that will advance the Kingdom of God and build disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Church, the Body of Christ, is made up of diverse individuals. We come with varied spiritual and physical backgrounds, have different gifts and abilities and yet, working together, much can be accomplished to further the work of fulfilling the Great Commission as found in Matthew 28: 16-20. We hear the call . . . so

Onward together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. French', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

2018 Mid-Year Report of the Pastoral Apprentice

Christian Faux

At First Baptist Church of Rockport I've been blessed with the opportunity to experience daily and weekly operations of a small church. The blunt, intellectual education earned in seminary is wholly valuable and necessary for a healthy pastoral life, but a life spend in the library stacks, away from the people and the churches you intend to serve is unbalanced and lost in a world of high intellectualism.

Specifically, at First Baptist I have been able to spend my time teaching everyone from preschoolers to retirees. On an occasional, scheduled basis I've taught the preschool and elementary/middle Sunday schools concurrent with the service. This exposure to the youngest minds of the church not only allows me to give back to a church which has been blessing me, but also enables me to learn how to reach kids of that age group by teaching kids of that age group. The same can be said of my role in teaching the youth group semi-weekly, trading off with Pastor Wigton. Pastor Wigton and I also alternate teaching the adult Bible study Wednesday mornings during the in-season, and in the off-season I lead a book study, this summer that book has been The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. These adult classes focus on a pseudo-Socratic method, centered on discussion, rather than lecture based classes.

I have also been assigned to work in the office, keeping the website up to date, and generally working to maintain the technical integrity of the church. Often it seems that pastoral training focuses on the entirely necessary talents relating to building relationships with one's congregation and in equipping the pastors in question with the knowledge necessary to lead their congregation properly. However, the reality of the situation is that pastors are also office

workers, and exposure to that life is beneficial both for the practice, and for the disillusionment of the idea that our work is entirely stood upon the pulpit.

In addition to this, I am on a once-per-month preaching schedule. To this point I have had the privilege to preach to our congregation three times. Each opportunity to preach has been an amazing experience. In part this has been because the actual practice of studying the scriptures in this particular way has been deeply enlightening, in particular the scripture I was assigned to preach on in May was one with which I was always uncomfortable and did not understand. The practice of preparing to preach on that scripture clarified that passage and proved enlightening personally. In addition however, after all three preaching efforts, after the benediction has been spoken and I step down from the pulpit I have been overwhelmed with a feeling of security in knowing that this was what I was meant to do, and that God has put me on this earth for the purpose of preaching in particular, and teaching and pastoring in general, distally.

The most important aspect of pastoral internships and apprenticeships come from this. As the Pastorate is a vocation, one which impact the spirituality of significant groups of people it is necessary and desirable for all parties involved for prospective pastors to get their feet wet in the field before they are thrown into their own congregation with naught but a diploma and 3-5 years of high intellectual discourse under their belt. Working in the field during education helps keep prospective pastors grounded, gives them practice with the real problems of real people, and disillusion certain abused notions about the vocation.

2018 Mid-Year Report of the Administrative Intern
Kaitlin Favaloro

These past two summers have been full of new experiences and learning opportunities. Rockport Baptist Church has not been a part of my whole life, but I am very grateful for the time that I have spent working there. Total, I have worked and volunteered for 5 years. I have done everything starting with the nursery liaison, Children's Church teacher, VBS volunteer, and now Administrative intern. Every day is a new adventure. Trying to expect the unexpected, as people would imagine, is very difficult.

On a daily basis, the one job that I repeat is taking care of the garden. I water, weed, and plant new flowers to keep the garden looking fresh and healthy. With all the different seasons, there is a variety of plants which seem to eventually take over the garden, so I do my best to cut them down so there's room for other plants to flourish. The only other job that I repeat is taking care of the sanctuary after Sunday Service. I restock the pews with pamphlets, cards, and envelopes. It seems that even if nobody is sitting in that pew, it somehow gets messy. I also vacuum on some occasions.

Opposite of the last paragraph, there are some odd jobs that need to be done at the church. For instance, I had to clean out salt and pepper shakers that had been there for longer than the FDA would approve of. Other tasks would include spotting Matt on ladders to change light bulbs or hang signs, go grocery shopping, hang a flag, mail members of the church, and many other tasks. This might be surprising to some people, but most of the jobs that I do at the church are first experiences for me. I had never been grocery shopping on my own, I had never cut a water melon, mailed a letter, maintained a garden, and filming as well as editing videos. It was the small things that I needed to learn before I went off to college and now I feel that I'm an expert at.

During the month of July, I could have worked every single day for the entire month and still have stuff left over that needed to be done. July is our busiest month with Vacation Bible School and I was happy to assist Matt with everything that needed to be done. Just to name a few jobs that I did would include: making phone calls to past VBS campers as well as emails to be persistent, designing backdrops and painting them, making multiple trips to various stores for supplies, CORI checking all the volunteers (over 50), decorating the church, and moving furniture. The list goes on and on with VBS work but to see the kids' faces light up when they

entered the church made it worth every second. If I was not there to help out, Matt would have done it all which is nearly impossible.

One of my favorite events at the church was planning a wedding for one of the members of the church. This was one of my biggest learning opportunities because I had in fact never been to a wedding before. I had even prepared by watching the Royal Wedding as one of my assigned tasks. It ended up being a chaotic afternoon but great a night due to the bride being in the hospital and delaying the wedding. Everything worked out great and the night went smoothly. I'm also prepared for the wedding I will be in.

Sitting in the church office for a couple hours at a time, there are quite a few events that have happened. I've had to call ambulances for neighbors, seen a few accidents, have many people come in asking for the bathroom, given people directions. Some people just like to come in and chat and learn about the church which I am more than happy to do. One guy came in and didn't say a word and then I never saw him leave, I'm convinced he is still there. I never really know what is going to happen next; anything is possible.

There's always one task that everyone hates doing. For me, I do not exactly like cutting the church hedges but have become very good at over the past two years. It is an all-day event and with the summer heat, it seems to last forever. The more times we cut them, the easier it gets. It also benefits the church and makes it look way better so it's hard to complain.

Currently, Me and the Children's Church director are working on promoting the program by making flyers, a promotional video, and even refurbishing the room. We put a fresh coat of paint on the walls and are soon going to make it more useable and fun for the kids. As being one of the main teachers of the Children's Church, I feel like I know the kids and what would be fun and keep them focused on the main message about Jesus that we are spreading.

When I tell people that I work at a church, most people's first question is, "What kind of work do you do?" and to be honest, there is really no way to describe the job. There are many different tasks so being handy and flexible are definitely traits that anyone that had this job would need. The job title would need to be "A strong landscaping grocery shopping office manager with a background with kids, handy work, furniture moving, advanced computer skills, athletics, event planning and requires artistic ability and enthusiasm." I feel very grateful that I am able to say I can do all of these things and I really feel like I am making a difference with the church community as a whole.

2018 Mid-Year Report of the Music Director

Laurie Tuck

This continues to be a challenging time for me, personally, with many additional demands being put on my time. I am doing the best I can with the time I have and truly appreciate the prayers, patience and assistance from the choir and all of you.

The members of the Senior Choir have continued to work very hard this year and have presented some beautiful music. We welcome Cheryl... who has recently moved to the area and joined our choir.

The goal of including more modern music in the service continues to make progress this year. Our goal of singing every two weeks, is able to happen most of the time. Notebooks continue to be available in the front for anyone who would like to follow the music in addition to the words on the wall. A few visitors have thanked us for having them. The praise band has also grown in size. Thank you, Christian, Harry & Kimi Sturgeon, and Anthony Shelton for continuing to share your talents with us. Thank you also Hannah Fleth, and we look forward to her return this Fall.

In closing, I would like to say Thank you for all of your support. As always, I welcome suggestions for a favorite hymn, praise song, carol or any other type of music you would like included in the service. Music is a key part of worship and we will continue to do our best.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Tuck

2018 Mid-Year Report of the Board of Deacons

Chair - David Pierson

The Board of Deacons were pleased to welcome Nancy Pallazola to the board starting in January. We have had an active first half of 2018. The following list represents some of the major areas we have been working on.

- Ongoing discussions to ensure we are meeting the needs of parishioners who are physically struggling and cannot attend church. This includes;
 1. Identify those in need.
 2. Ensure they are contacted by the Pastor.
 3. Follow up by a deacon or other church member.
 4. Try to identify and address any physical needs and address.
 5. Pray.
- Supported Matt in planning special services and events. (Good Friday, Easter, funerals, celebration for Peter Johnson etc)
- Discussion and support for Pastor's sabbatical and in his application for the Lilly grant. Help find creative ways the church can honor its contractual obligation to grant a sabbatical in light if the Lilly grant denial.
- Ongoing discussion of staff use and performance. Plan for staffing next year.
- VBS support.
- Plan for new member class.
- Keep discussing ways to reclaim Matts time from janitorial tasks, yard work tasks, trash hauling and the like so he can focus more time on ministry needs, study and prayer.
- Ongoing discussion and prayer on how to improve our mission effort and support.
 1. Work on new ideas.
 2. Evaluate current giving for 2019 recommendation.
 3. Involve others to generate excitement to support missions and missionaries.
 4. Plan a mission month in 2019 that would involve the whole fellowship.

Report from the Board of Stewards – January – June 2018

The Stewards meet monthly on the fourth Thursday at 4 pm to report on the status of current tasks, discuss new requests to add to our project list, review income and expenses reports provided by the Treasurer and Collector in our on-going effort to balance building and grounds needs and priorities while staying within the 2018 budget. Below is a list of projects/tasks completed in first half of 2018 and priorities for second half of the year.

Church Building and Grounds

- New pew cushions installed in January. We also have a repair kit and repair process in place if needed.
- Wheelchair lift and handicap access research is in progress. Wheelchair lift replacement quotes are 20 -25K for permits, removal of current lift, and installation of new model. We have an inspection scheduled on Sept 12 to determine if current lift can be repaired or if we need replacement unit to comply with MA state/ADA regulations.
- Many participated in the May Church Clean-Up Day and lots of small maintenance tasks, such as light bulb replacement, were accomplished.
- Church side door lock, light fixture outside of pre-school classroom, and north front door level fixed.
- Priorities for the fall include replacing sanctuary back door; repair/replace gutters and roofing on west side and southwest corner of kitchen; replace Narthex door hinges; and paint the section of Ventres Chapel that was fixed in 2017. Peter Willcox, Willcox Construction Service, will do the repair work on a T&M basis.

Parsonage

- Downstairs electrical work completed in May by Bayside Electric.
- Patching and touch-up painting, where electrical work was done, was been added to the project list and prioritized to be completed while Wigtons are away in August.
- Shrub/tree limb removal behind garage and emptying garage loft was completed in anticipation of garage repair project to start in September.
- Fall priorities include repairing garage rear and side walls; replacing basement bulkhead door, etc. Work will be done by Willcox Construction Service. Once these repairs have been done and we know the costs, we will reassess other parsonage projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane P. Tutein, Chair, Board of Stewards

2018 Mid – Year Report of the Collector

Gail Zeman

Two matters of significance in the Collector's office took place in the first half of 2018.

With enormous thanks to Elizabeth Malcolmson, the software app used to log weekly collections and tally monthly and periodic totals was rebuilt. We can now exclude certain categories from totals, such as reimbursements, without a manual entry. This will improve our reporting capability and efficiency.

Congregational and visitors' giving, supplemented by grant receipts, for the first half of 2018 has kept pace with expenditures for the first time in many years. We thank our Lord for supporting First Baptist Rockport's work, in this way.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Zeman

Collector

FBC Collection												Total
	Jan-Mar YTD	April	YTD	May	YTD	June	YTD	July	YTD	August	YTD	YTD
2018	\$ 39,240.80	\$ 15,355.48	\$ 54,596.28	\$ 19,223.00	\$ 73,819.28	\$ 9,549.00	\$ 83,368.28	\$ 14,346.46	\$ 97,714.74	\$ 8,917.35	\$ 106,632.09	\$ 106,632.09
2017	\$ 33,197.60	\$ 11,694.25	\$ 44,891.71	\$ 10,198.25	\$ 55,089.96	\$ 6,869.00	\$ 61,958.96	\$ 14,471.25	\$ 76,430.21	\$ 9,215.00	\$ 85,645.21	\$ 85,645.35
2016	\$ 20,347.80	\$ 8,119.95	\$ 28,467.75	\$ 16,952.72	\$ 45,420.47	\$ 10,670.41	\$ 56,090.88	\$ 11,673.00	\$ 68,763.88	\$ 7,941.80	\$ 76,705.68	\$ 75,705.68
2015	\$ 18,564.54	\$ 11,387.00	\$ 29,951.54	\$ 9,374.56	\$ 39,326.11	\$ 8,176.00	\$ 47,502.11	\$ 8,490.00	\$ 55,992.11	\$ 6,859.44	\$ 62,851.55	\$ 62,851.54
2014	\$ 17,478.15	\$ 5,772.08	\$ 23,250.23	\$ 10,447.75	\$ 33,697.98	\$ 12,367.85	\$ 46,065.83	\$ 6,924.87	\$ 52,990.70	\$ 7,301.61	\$ 60,292.31	\$ 60,292.31

First Baptist Church
Budget vs. Actual
January 1 through August 23, 2018

Expense	Jan 1 - Aug 23, 18	Budget	% of Budget
1 General Mission Giving			
Bennett - Misionary Support	800.00	1,600.00	50.0%
Deacon's Fund	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Family Promise	0.00	800.00	0.0%
Open Door/ CA Food Bank	0.00	800.00	0.0%
Total 1 General Mission Giving	800.00	4,400.00	18.18%
Board of Deacons			
Evangelism/Outreach	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Fellowship/Hospitality	1,519.78	1,800.00	84.43%
FICA Allowance	7,677.15	12,283.44	62.5%
Health Insurance	3,187.50	5,100.00	62.5%
Judson Dues	142.00	150.00	94.67%
Lay Leadership Developpment	467.18	1,000.00	46.72%
Nursery	600.00	600.00	100.0%
Pastor's Salary	27,500.10	44,000.16	62.5%
Pastoral Apprentice	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Pension	8,563.52	12,845.28	66.67%
Professional Expense	2,847.20	2,000.00	142.36%
Pulpit Supply	538.98	1,225.00	44.0%
Worship Materials	313.09	300.00	104.36%
Total Board of Deacons	53,356.50	84,303.88	63.29%
Board of Deacons Christian Educ			
Adult Christian Education	177.00	700.00	25.29%
Children's Sunday School	553.43	550.00	100.62%
God's Family	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Vacation Bible School	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Youth Groups	678.49	1,500.00	45.23%
Total Board of Deacons Christian Educ	1,408.92	5,050.00	27.9%
Board of Stewards			
Electric, Church	1,622.08	3,000.00	54.07%
Electric, Parsonage	857.38	1,200.00	71.45%
FICA	367.20	1,912.50	19.2%
Fuel Oil, Church	2,979.72	3,500.00	85.14%
Fuel Oil, Parsonage	1,209.41	2,000.00	60.47%
Grounds	2,039.31	2,000.00	101.97%
IT Support	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous	833.36	1,500.00	55.56%
Office Manager	755.25	13,000.00	5.81%
Office Supplies	2,510.77	3,500.00	71.74%
Property Insurance	3,461.25	4,500.00	76.92%
Repairs/Maintance	15,790.35	30,000.00	52.64%
Supplies	1,129.13	1,000.00	112.91%
Telephone	1,582.06	1,700.00	93.06%

First Baptist Church
Budget vs. Actual
January 1 through August 23, 2018

	<u>Jan 1 - Aug 23, 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Water&Sewer, Church	400.14	1,500.00	26.68%
Water&Sewer, parsonage	727.51	1,300.00	55.96%
Worker's Comp	951.08	898.00	105.91%
Total Board of Stewards	37,216.00	73,010.50	50.97%
Music Committee			
Music Director, Organist	6,277.60	9,600.00	65.39%
Sheet Music	17.96	500.00	3.59%
Sound Equipment	89.50	500.00	17.9%
Substitutes	150.00	700.00	21.43%
Total Music Committee	6,535.06	11,300.00	57.83%
Total Expense	99,316.48	178,064.38	55.78%