



High Tidings Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

JANUARY, 2009

FIRST
BAPTIST-
CHURCH OF
ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.

ROCKPORT
MA 01966

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From Fall and Winter Comes Spring

Pastor's Message

Here we are in midwinter - cold, dark, ice and snow. But I am glad to live where seasons change, with changes that one can't miss seeing and feeling. In addition to the wonder of the seasons themselves, they say things to us metaphorically. One of the things they tell us is that we, as persons, in our lifetimes kind of live through the seasons.

The pastoral leadership here at First Baptist, considering Bob and myself, has been somewhere between the fall and winter of life. Something new is happening. There is a couple living in the parsonage who are somewhere in the spring of life. If I were a lay member of First Baptist, participating in an on going way in the life of the church, I would be excited about the spring freshness that Matt and Megan bring to First Baptist. Not that Bob and I are ready to hang it up totally, but it would not be as easy to find in us freshness, newness and energy, as you will find in Matt and his wife Megan.



We are in midwinter, listening more closely to the weather forecasts, hoping for some clear sunny days, easier to get out and around. One thing we know for sure from where we are on the calendar, is that spring will be here in a few short weeks, and with spring will come wonder, warmth, freshness and beauty. Our hope and trust is that it will also be springtime in the life of First Baptist.

Barbara and Skip Pimentel continue to serve as First Baptist's interim leadership couple.

Skip



True Gifts

Jason Koerth showed up at the Christmas Eve Service with the perfect Christmas gift for his parents, sister and Church Family: DAVID!! Deployed with the US Army in Afghanistan for the past 13 months, Dave arranged the surprise with his brother who met him at the airport. The word was that David was back in N. Carolina but unable to get leave to come home for Christmas. Phil and Kris Zeman (in Virginia) had 'planned' to host Dave for Christmas but did a great job of keeping everyone in the dark. Fortunately Logan weather cooperated and Jason kept his usual cool so that Dave could walk into the church unannounced before the service and surprise everyone. The smiles of Dave (left), mom Karen, and Jason tell the tale of the BEST Christmas gift.



Do you

know when,

where and

by whom

First

Baptist,

Rockport

was

founded?

See Pg. 8

High Tidings for Kids Word Scramble

Throughout the last year we have celebrated the 200 year anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Rockport. In the following word scramble, try to unscramble words that relate to the celebration.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. pookcrrt | 2. ussje |
| 3. imocmnonu | 4. goelsp |
| 5. hcruc | 6. beenintcailn |
| 7. polo rznebeee | 8. leibb |
| 9. yirntit | 10. iwfsheopl |

Answer Key: 1. Rockport 2. Jesus 3. Communion 4. Gospel 5. Church 6. Bicentennial 7. Ebenezer Pool 8. Bible 9. Trinity 10. Fellowship



Mysteries of the Hymnal

At the end of each hymn, there is a name in smaller print (usually all capital letters) and some numbers or sometimes letters, such as LM, or SM. Each hymn tune has a name and that is the name in smaller type at the end of each hymn. For instance, the hymn on page 689 of the new hymnal is *The Church's One Foundation*. Its hymn tune name is AURELIA. Under this name are some numbers: 7 6 7 6 D. Those numbers refer to the number of syllables in each phrase. The D means doubled. The number of syllables for the entire hymn is : 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6.

What's the point in all of this? If you wanted to sing this hymn but to another tune, you could look in the Metrical Index of Tunes (on page 742 in the new hymnal). Find the grouping that indicates 7 6 7 6 D. There you can find a list of other hymn tunes that have the same number of syllables as *The Church's One Foundation*. Among the listed hymns is HANKEY, (page 498 in the new hymnal) known to us as *I Love To Tell The Story*. Try singing the words of AURELIA (*The Church's One Foundation*) to the tune HANKEY. It takes a little effort but it will work especially if someone is playing HANKEY on a keyboard. This knowledge is useful if you have a hymn you want to sing and the tune that is with it is difficult to sing or very uninteresting.

This is the first of a series by our Choir Director and Organist Ruth Bowers, featuring information about the music in our new hymnal, and about Christian music in general.



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Ps 100:1



There are no strangers at First Baptist!!
Happy New Year to our cherished family
and friends.



A New Year, A New Era for First Baptist

The start of a new year serves as an important time to reflect on where we have been and where we are going. The worthwhile practice of making "New Year's resolutions," in many ways is based on a review of the events of our last year. The goals that we purpose to achieve demonstrate what we value. In these times of tumultuous economic uncertainties and personal struggles, we are faced with determining what we value most.

The Apostle Paul was no stranger to trials and uncertainty. In his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul was conscious of the pressures that were threatening to derail the church from its mission. There are several realities (or resolutions) towards which Paul points the Philippians (and the Church, as a whole, today). Paul reminds the church that his life is temporary and that he will serve God "by life or by death" (1:20). The citizenship of the church lay with Christ in heaven (3:20). We are thus, called to live out our salvation with obedience towards God in the day and year that God has given us (2:12-13). We are called to joyfully point others to the person and work of Jesus. For the church in Philippi and the church in Rockport the mission must be the same.

The good news for both churches is that in spite of the difficult times around us we can rejoice because the church has been established by God himself. The mission of the church is one that has been commissioned by God. God has promised that he will provide for his church and that we can seek his face in times of trials. For this reason Paul writes:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Phil 4:4-7

Paul could suffer the loss of all things because he knew the message of Jesus was eternal and lasting. He knew that God had provided for him and would provide for his church. Paul reminded this church to see its mission and life in light of its eternal mission.

As we move forth into the New Year may we remember both as individuals and as a community that we have an eternal mission which is to be lived out in our finite days. God has promised that we are not alone in this mission. He will provide and answer the prayers of those who seek his face. In the coming year may we endeavor to live our lives in a manner "worthy of the Gospel of Christ" (1:27).
Matthew Wigton

**....with
thanksgiving let
your requests be
made known to
God. And the
peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your
hearts and your
minds in Christ
Jesus.**

Phil 4: 6-7



HOMework!!

Members of the Bible Study group have suggested that it would be helpful to know in advance what scriptural texts the pastors will use in upcoming sermons. Skip and Matt have indicated that they will preach from the Lectionary this winter, choosing from selected verses in the following books:

- Deuteronomy, chapter 18
- 2 Kings chapters 2 and 5
- Psalms 32, 50, 62, 111, and 147
- Jonah, chapter 3
- Mark, chapters 1 and 9
- 1 Corinthians, chapters 7, 8, and 9

For more specific information online go to www.satucket.com/lectionary/epiphany.

The Wednesday morning Bible Study continues its examination of the Gospel according to John

RUACH:

The Hebrew word used in original Biblical texts and meaning spirit, wind, breath or air.

In 14th C England the festival of “Epiphany” was celebrated on January 6, twelve days after Christmas, to commemorate the coming of the Magi. It also celebrated the first appearance of Christ to the gentiles.

Question: How Many Baptists Does it Take to Decorate a Church for Christmas?



Answer: It takes a chapel-full. And that's just what First Baptist had at the Advent Event on December 7. Craft and swap tables were set up in the Ventres Chapel, plenty of food was available for light lunch and snacks, and church family and friends of every generation and skill set were on hand to make ornaments for our trees, hang garland, sing and make merry.

A little before-hand work (to set up the artificial trees) and after-work (to arrange the poinsettias just before the Christmas service) completed the transformation of the sanctuary for one of our most celebrated holidays. Thanks, everyone, for bringing your gifts of time and talent.

First Baptist Church of Rockport History Quiz

Information comes from the church website: firstbaptistrockport.org

1. FBC was founded in a. 1517 b. 1776 c. 1808 d. 1935
2. FBC first met in the home of a. Ebenezer Pool b. Gail and Phil Zeman c. Thomas Brady d. Roger Williams
3. The first original group that started the church consisted of _____ men and women: a. 42 b. 97 c. 18 d. 26
4. The President of the United States during the first year of the FBC's:
a. James Madison b. Thomas Jefferson c. James Garfield d. Milliard Fillmore

Answer Key 1. c 2. a 3. c. 4 b

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE – 2008

Board of Stewards

<u>Trustees</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term</u>
Jim Rees	2010	First
Anita Scatterday	2011	First
*Terry Schwenk	2012	First

The Pastor, Treasurer, and Collector are ex-officio members.

Board of Deacons

Jim Koerth	2011	First
Janet O'Donnell	2011	Second
Laura Ferazzi	2010	First
Kay Bannon	2010	First
Mary Rees	2010	First
*John Malcolmson	2012	First
*Diane Lynn	2012	First

The Pastor, Benevolence Treasurer and Church School Superintendent are ex-officio members.

Officers (One-Year Terms)

*Auditor	
*Benevolence Treasurer	William Brown
*Clerk	Karen Koerth
*Collector	Elizabeth Malcolmson
*Flower Coordinator	
*Head Usher	Susan Blake
*Historian	
*Moderator	Gail Zeman
*Treasurer	Andrea G. Brown

Chairpersons of Standing Committee (One-Year Terms)

*Music.	Louise Marshall
*Nominating	Barbara Sawyers

*Asterisk indicates those who are to be elected January 25, 2009. Other names are given for information only

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Sawyers, Chairperson
Ben Reed, John Malcolmson,
Merle Pimentel, Matt Wigton

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Rockport, and is edited by Gail Zeman
and friends**

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 is at the end of Broadway Ave. in
Rockport on your right.**

Calendar and Events

For full church calendar, see CALENDAR tab on web-site.

Sundays: Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Fellowship 11:30 AM

Mondays: Choirs Rehearse, 7 PM

Wednesdays: Bible Study 9:30 AM

Sunday, Jan. 18 Matt Wigton preaches

Sunday, Jan. 25 Church Annual Business Meeting immediately following worship

Sunday, Feb. 1 Communion Served

Sunday, Feb. 15 TABCOM Minister Tony Pappas preaches

Sunday, Feb. 22 Matt Wigton preaches

2008 Leadership of the First Baptist Church, Rockport, Massachusetts

Merle (Skip) Pimentel, Interim Pastor
Matthew Wigton, Candidate Pastor
Ruth Bowers, Music Director

Board of Deacons

Kay Bannon
Suzanne Blake
Jim Koerth
Laura Ferazzi
Janet O'Donnell
Benjamin Reed
Mary Rees

Board of Stewards

John Malcolmson
Jim Rees
Anita Scatterday

Officers

Andrea Brown, Treasurer
Bill Brown, Benevolence Treasurer
Elizabeth Malcolmson Collector
Karen Koerth, Clerk
Gail Zeman, Moderator
Louise Marshall Music Committee Chair,
Barbara Sawyers, Nominating Committee
Chair Sheryl Reed, Church School Chair

Ministers and Fellowship

The Congregation

