



# HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKORT.ORG

JANUARY 2010

FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.  
ROCKPORT  
MA 01966

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## FBC Responds to Haiti

The devastating earthquake in Haiti on January 12 has reminded us of the extreme hardships faced by many in the world in which we live. As a church our hope in Christ should motivate us to reach out with love in such times.

For the last year FBC has been supporting Partners In Development. Partners In Development is a Christian based relief organization that has been working in Haiti since the early 1990's. The PID clinic made it through the earthquake and is working to meet the needs of many of the survivors.

In light of the recent events, PID has requested help in collecting medical supplies, specifically "gauze, bandages, antibiotic creams, and pain relief medications". Many from the church and greater Rockport community have brought supplies to the church, however we will continue to collect supplies for the next several weeks. A collection box is located outside the pastor's office. PID is also in need of financial assistance and is planning trips to help with recovery work. Financial contributions for PID may be included in the weekly offering or made on the PID website [PIDonline.org](http://PIDonline.org).



--Matt Wigton, Pastor

*Editor's Note: According to PID sources, there also is special need for tents of all sizes and weights, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol (bottled or prep pads), cotton balls, 'Q-tips', soap, vitamins, eye wash, Visene, cough medicine, hydrocortisone cream and ibuprofen (adult and child size).*

# Thresholds

One of the definitions of a threshold is: a point of beginning, the outset.

What has this got to do with the music program of First Baptist? It is a challenge to you to explore a new or dormant aspect of yourself.

What is required to be a part of the singing choir? A love of music and a desire to enhance the worship service of First Baptist. You don't need to be able to read music to sing in a choir. That's one of the reasons we rehearse – to learn the music. You do need to be able to “carry a tune”. The rest you can learn.

What is required to be a part of the bell choir? A love of music and a sense of rhythm. Don't worry about the sense of rhythm. 99.44% of us have that. Do you ever find yourself tapping your foot as you listen to music? You have rhythm. Reading music can help but you can easily learn what you need to know. A bell ringer has music that looks just like the music in the hymnal but without the words. Each ringer is responsible for only 2 notes, one in each hand. Louise Marshall was a ringer who knew nothing about the music notation when she started playing bells. We showed her some of the basics and she figured it out and got to the point where she could ring solo bell pieces.

A new year is here and that is always a time for challenges and crossing thresholds. The choir needs more voices and the bell choir needs one more ringer. If you would like to accept a musical challenge, speak to a choir members, a bell ringer or me.

--Ruth Bowers, Music Director



Choir sings on Christmas Eve.



## Music in the Air

A brass trio played Christmas music for church family and friends who enjoyed cookies and warm wishes after the Christmas Eve service. Brass instrumental music is just one of the special music offerings at FBC during the year. Our collection of instruments continues to grow with the addition of wind chimes, which Ruth recently provided.

## Upcoming Events – Winter / Spring 2010

Sunday, January 31, 12:00 PM – Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 6, 7:00 PM – Middle School Lock in

Saturday, February 13, 2:30 – VBS Reunion

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 PM – VBS Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 27, 7:00 PM – High School Lock in

February 2010 – America For Christ Offering

Sunday, March 14 – Heritage Sunday

Saturday, March 20 – Youth Outreach

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday – Service at 7:00 PM

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday - Church Open for Prayer 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 4 – Easter          6:30 Sunrise Service, 7:15 Breakfast

Sunday, April 18 – Bring a friend to church Sunday

May 15 & 16 - FBC participates in Rockport Motif Number One Days

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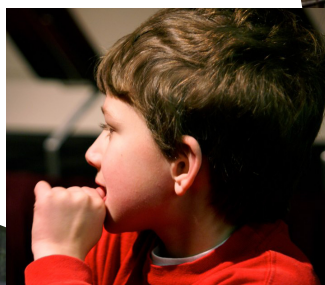


## Christmas 2009 at Rockport's First Baptist Church

*Silent  
Night, Holy  
Night...  
Sleep in  
heavenly  
peace.*



**Kimmie and her extended  
Church family filled the  
sanctuary with candlelight.**



Where in the world  
is Janie Remick?  
Maybe Mary knows.



## Mexico Outreach 2010

The mornings were beautiful; clear skies, warm weather, blooming citrus trees and forty eager children waiting at our door. “Buenos Dias!” We gathered together to start the day with breakfast and prayer. La Casa De Esperanza is an orphanage in Tijuana about 20 minutes from the border. Gordon College has sent a team to work with La Casa and other Mexican churches for the last 15 years. I had the privilege of joining this year’s team as an advisor.

The adventure began in early December, when 20 Gordon College Mexico Outreach students used the facilities of the First Baptist Church of Rockport as a retreat location. They joined our church service performing special music, sharing in the mission moment and doing the children’s message.

In the field, the team split into two. One team conducted a VBS at La Casa and served the orphanage during the day by cleaning up a playground, painting, and building a roof; as well as helping to cook, clean and play with the kids. Another team left the orphanage each morning to attend a church called Mount Sinai in the colony of Trec De Octubre where they also conducted a VBS and helped the church with interior and exterior painting.

In both locations the poverty of Tijuana was evident. Surrounding the sites were poorly constructed shacks, smoldering fires, piles of trash and people who called these places “home.” But the devastation of the poverty was overwhelmed by the presence of God. Children at La Casa were filled with joy and thankfulness. The life they were granted inside the orphanage was a stark contrast to their experience outside. And the little church in Trec De Octubre included many people filled with the good news of Jesus Christ. They walked the streets of their colony proclaiming the hope of our Lord. And there really was hope; I suppose that was the part that was most surprising and inspiring to me.

The Mexico Outreach team thanks the First Baptist Church of Rockport for their support and their prayers – you shared in our impact.

--Megan Wigton







## How the Ordination Process Works....

Throughout my time at FBC, I have been working on securing ordination with our denomination. I am following a track developed for individuals who have graduated from

seminary. The following is a summary of the requirements and my related status. I will likely complete all the requirements by February 2010. Following the completion of these requirements, I will schedule a meeting with the denomination committee on ministry. Following this meeting, an ordination council should take place at FBC. Pending the response of the denomination, the council could meet this Spring or early Summer.

- A) License to preach granted by FBC and informed denomination of intent to pursue ordination – occurred November 2008
- B) Meet with Association Committee on Ministry – occurred September 2009
- C) Graduate with M.Div. from accredited seminary (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) – completed May 2009
- D) Watchcare Mentorship Program (8 month mentorship with weekly meetings and mentoring) with Skip Pimentel – completed June 2009
- E) Complete evaluation from Center for Career Development and Ministry (intense psychological evaluation involving 30 hours of preparation and two days testing) -- completed November and December 2009
- F) Attend two day seminar on ministerial ethics – to be completed Jan. 30, 2010
- G) Take a polity course (a class that discusses church history and the structure of churches). Part of this course involves writing a summary of my personal theology and Christian experience. This paper is submitted to the denomination and is also the ordination council paper. Currently enrolled in the class at GCTS and should be completed by February 2010.

--Matt Wigton, Pastor

## February - March Scriptures and Sermons

Date	OT Reading	NT Reading	Sermon Title
2/7/2010	Isaiah 60:1-6	<b>Matthew 6:5-14</b>	Hallowed be thy name
2/14/2010	Psalms 99	<b>John 10:22 - 42</b>	Your Will be done
2/21/2010	<b>Exodus 16:1-12</b>	Matthew 6:5-1	Our Daily Bread
2/28/2010	Genesis 15:1-18	<b>Colossians 1:9-14</b>	Debt Forgiveness
3/7/2010	Psalms 63	<b>Matthew 6:5-14</b>	Deliver us from Evil
3/14/2010	TBD	<b>Heritage Sunday</b>	
3/21/2010	Isaiah 43:16-21	<b>Phillipians 3:1-14</b>	Law and Gospel
3/28/2010	Psalms 31: 9-16	<b>Luke 23:1-49</b>	Why the cross?
4/4/2010	Isaiah 65:17-25	<b>Luke 24:1-12</b>	He has risen!

### Pastor's Office Hours by appointment and

Monday 7:00 -11:30 am

Tuesday 7:00 -11:30 am and 6:30 -7:30 pm

Wednesday 1:00-3:00

Pastor's E-Mail: [MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org](mailto:MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org)

Parsonage Phone: 978-546-2036



*Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church of Rockport, Massachusetts*

January 2010

Dear 2009 VBS Participant and Parent,

It was over six months ago when we discovered the untamed nature of God at the Wildwood Forest. The First Baptist Church of Rockport is gearing up for the 2010 Vacation Bible School. As part of our preparation we would like to invite the 2009 Wildwood Forest Participants (and all other area elementary students) to a Hawaiian Luau on Saturday, February 13, 2010. The Luau will take place from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Ventres Chapel at the First Baptist Church of Rockport, 4 High Street. During the Luau we will reveal the 2010 VBS theme and celebrate with games, snacks, a Bible story and perhaps a few surprise visitors from the Wildwood Forest! Please feel free to invite your friends! We would value a R.S.V.P. by February 10. You can respond or get more information by calling 978-546-6121 or e-mailing [MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org](mailto:MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org).

On Behalf of the FBC VBS Team,

Matt Wigton, Pastor

**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 in Rockport on the right.

High Tidings Online is published by the First Baptist Church of Rockport, and is edited by Gail Zeman and friends.



**Calendar and Events**

For full church calendar, see CALENDAR tab on website.

Sundays: Sunday School (all classes) 9:15AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Fellowship 11:30 AM  
Mondays: Choirs rehearse 7:00 PM  
Alternate Tuesdays: Bible Study 7:30 PM  
Wednesdays: Morning Prayer 6:30 AM  
Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Thursdays: High School Group 7:00 PM  
Fridays: Middle School Group 6:30 PM  
Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

Sunday, Jan 31 Annual Meeting 11:30 AM  
Saturday, Feb. 6 Middle Sch. Lock-in 7:00 PM  
Saturday, Feb. 13 VBS Reunion 2:30 PM  
Wednesday, Feb. 24 VBS Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM  
Saturday, Feb. 27 High School Lock-in 7:00 PM  
February, 2010 America for Christ Offering  
Sunday, Mar. 14 Heritage Sunday  
Saturday, Mar. 20 Youth Outreach  
Sunday, Mar. 28 Palm Sunday Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday, April 4 EASTER Service 10:30 AM

We are an American Baptist Church.  
Visitors are expected and welcomed.

Return Address:  
First Baptist Church, Rockport  
c/o Zeman  
3 Penzance Road  
Rockport, MA 01966