



HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

MARCH 2012

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.
ROCKPORT
MA 01966

978-546-6121

Table of Contents

A Lenten Devotional.....1
Devotional and Psalm2
Business Meeting Notes.3
Worship, Calendar..... ..4
Calendar, Events.....5
Photo Gallery.....6
Where in the World?.....7
Weekly Cal., Directions..8



A Lenten Devotional How Vast a Love by Megan Wigton

When I was in elementary school my small Alaskan town built a new hospital. The building was a nice facility with large, glass, automatic doors. Shortly after the construction, a bear cub discovered the automatic doors and walked right in. The local newspaper explained the excitement and challenge of redirecting the cub away from the patients and new equipment. Stories like these are not uncommon in Alaska, where space is shared with wildlife in a way that seems unusual to most Americans. It was in this shared space – co-existing with creation – where I first learned about the depths of God and His love. For this reason, when I read Psalm 36, I cannot help but think of home.

The Psalmist speaks of God's *faithfulness* reaching "to the skies," and I remember the deep blue of a clear day or the nighttime radiance of the Aurora Borealis (36:5). His faithfulness is expansive, stretching as far as the eye can see and beyond. *Righteousness* "like the highest mountains" is captured in the hundreds of scarping peaks all around my little town, nestled between the ocean and the Juneau Icefield (36:6a). His righteousness is strong, protective and powerful. *Justice* like the "great deeps" reminds me of fishing trips entertained by the bubble feeding of humpback whales or the playfulness of an otter or sea lion; more life exists at those depths than could ever be imagined on the surface (36:6b). His perfect justice is at work in ways that are known and unknown. Alaska is truly a land of *abundance* with natural resources and raging *rivers* still filled with sediments of gold (36:8). Out of God's abundance is his love and care for creation, for me. All of this beauty is acutely captured in the brightness of the summer sun, shining strong at midnight relieving His people from the previous months of darkness. Similarly, the light of Christ fills our hearts with refreshing vision and hope through his life, death and resurrection.

Continued on Page 2

A Lenten Devotional, continued

Like many before me, I meet God in the wilderness. God's creation causes me to lift my head, exhale the distractions of this world, and breathe in His truth, his love. In imagining the seven-foot wingspan of the bald eagle, I nestle myself in His strong *wings* where His love is more powerful than my worry or fear. Here, I take *refuge* (36:7).

May your head be lifted today as you take refuge in the vastness of God's unfailing love.



Psalm 36:5-11

*Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.
Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.
How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.*

*Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.
May the foot of the proud not come against me,
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.*

The First Baptist Church of Rockport
Annual Business Meeting

Following worship on January 29 church members convened the Annual Business Meeting. Following the various reports from the Deacons, Stewards, Treasurer, Collector and various committees, several changes to the By-laws were voted by those attending.

- Business meetings will be held twice annually following worship on the Sundays at the end of January and end of July, rather than the previous schedule of three meetings each year
- A new hospitality committee was formed, incorporating the flower committee
- A new policy and procedures was adopted to assure the safety and security of all those attending our church, particularly the children

Giving Trends
First Decade of the Twenty-First Century
2001-2011

Year	Current Expenses	Missions	Designated Funds	Total Disbursed
2001	48,294.47	4,688.00	0.0	71,087.77
2002	52,514.11	5,407.86	0.0	74,335.42
2003	51,320.82	5,592.00	0.0	71,620.74
2004	48,521.48	5,485.34	348.24 (22,786.75 roof)	88,000.41
2005	54,065.67	3,578.33	2,631.99 (roof 8,643.21)	82,600.14
2006	62,876.85	4,507.00	3,005.41	81,408.90
2007	55,780.17	4,311.00	2,558.40	71,880.42
2008	51,975.81	4,629.00	4,319.01	69,957.94
2009	57,330.43	4,392.31	7,247.07	80,053.68
2010	58,437.44	5,659.27	5,569.69	81,012.87
2011	77,038.05	5,965.08	15,595.32	109,583.86

The First Baptist Church of Rockport
 4 High Street
 Rockport, MA 01966

Website: FirstBaptistRockport.Org
 Pastor: Matt Wigton
 E-Mail: MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.org
 Office: 978-546-6121
 Parsonage: 978-546-2036

Office Hours
 Tuesday – Friday 8:30-11:30 AM & 12:30-3:30 PM

The First Baptist Church of Rockport

Spring 2012 Worship Schedule

April 1	The Tenth Commandment or Your Neighbor's Donkey	Exodus 20
April 8	Christianity is a complete sham...unless...	I Corinthians 15:12-34
April 15	The questions that the humanities and sciences cannot answer.	I Corinthians 15:35-49
April 22	Dealing with Death	I Corinthians 15:50-58
April 29	Three Healings	Matthew 9:18-34
May 6	The Mission Field In Rockport	Matthew 9:35-38
May 13	TBD	Guest Preacher: Skip Pimentel
May 20	The First Mission Trip	Matthew 10:1-15
May 27	Persecution is good	Matthew 10:16-25
June 3	Fear Not	Matthew 10:26-33
June 10	The sword of Jesus	Matthew 10:34-42
June 17	The greatest hazard in life	Matthew 10:20-45
June 24	The light and easy yoke of Christ	Matthew 11:25-30

First Baptist Church of Rockport Special Event Calendar Tentative Spring and Summer 2012

Note this Calendar does not include regularly scheduled events such as The Choirs, Bible Studies or Sunday Schools and there are events yet to be scheduled from the Women's Society, Youth Group and Lecture Series.

April 5	Maunday Thursday Service 7:00 PM
April 6	Good Friday Vigil 9:00 AM
April 8	Sunrise and Easter Service
April 15	Exploring Christianity Part I 6:30 PM
April 22	Judson Association Meeting in Rockport 3:30 PM
April 23	Boston Rescue Mission 1:00 PM
April 29	Den Mar at 3:00 PM
April 29	Exploring Christianity Part II 6:30 PM
May 6	Hymn Sing at 7:00 PM

Spring and Summer Calendar, continued

May 19	Motif Number One Day 10:00 AM
May 20	Wiffle Ball Tournament and Stone Soup Potluck 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm
June 3	Den Mar at 3:00 PM
June 10	Hymn Sing at 7:00 PM
July 1	Picnic after Church
July 4	Fourth of July Parade 6:00 PM
July 9	VBS set-up, prayer and Pizza Party 5:00 PM
July 16-20	VBS 2012
July 18	VBS Volunteer Appreciation Lunch noon
July 20	VBS Closing Ceremony 7:00 PM
July 29	Summer Business Meeting Noon
August 3 – 4	Youth attend Soul Fest
August 5	Den Mar 3:00 PM
August 11	Fourth Annual Potluck Party at the Parsonage
August 19	Baptisms at Old Garden Beach
August 24	Hymn Sing at 7:00 PM

Easter Breakfast On Sabbatical in 2012

In 2012 the Easter Breakfast will be on sabbatical. This is to give those who usually serve at the breakfast a break and an opportunity to enjoy the Easter Sunrise Service.

Exploring Christianity

Dates will be set for May meeting of this introductory (or refresher) program to accommodate the schedules of those planning to attend.



Adult Sunday School

During April and May the Adult Sunday School will be studying the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 6, each week looking at a specific fruit.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

During April and May the Wednesday Morning Bible Study which meets every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 in Ventres Chapel will concluding its study of the book of Exodus.

The Rockport Baptist Polo Shirts

In 2012, the church will be ordering red polo shirts emblazoned with the church name. Each shirt will cost \$25.00 a piece. The price covers the production, shipping and design costs. If you would like to order your very own Rockport Baptist Polo, please respond to the church office indicating the number and size of shirts you would like to order. The Rockport Baptist Polo is an ideal summer gift for friends and family!

The Rockport Baptist Coffee Mug

You can also order your very own Rockport Baptist Church Coffee Mug. This limited edition collectible features a painting of the church along with the name of the church. This is available for \$5.00/piece from the church office.



At left, Matt and Megan visit U. Mass. Amherst and hang out with members of our college and high school crowd. Below Matt Wigton visits the Rees's, Bannons and Lynns during a conference trip to Florida. KEN, WHERE ARE YOU?



Above, Ari Morris and Katrina Tuck receive the Make A Difference Award for Massachusetts for exceptional service. Below, the Middle and High School Youth Group gathered in Harvey Park before taking off for the Snow Tubing slopes. At right, Baptists line up to get potluck supper.



Where in the World.....?

In case anyone missed it, the planned January issue of *High Tidings* never made it out. Instead, the church was busy preparing the Annual Report, and Pastor Matt kept everyone up to date with his Weekly Updates and occasional special emails. We have more communication now than ever before thanks to his technological skills, use of videos, and distribution through the Internet. That said, there is still a solid core of lively personal interaction between members and friends on Sundays, at church events (see pictures on facing page) and wherever “two or three are gathered”.

The First Baptist family really spreads its wings in the wintertime. Between snowbirds, get-away vacations and generally busy lives, here and on the preceding page are a few notes, pictures, quotes and highlights of Winter, 2012.

From Gloria Stanton, January 23, 2012: We just returned from a month in San Francisco visiting our 3 sons and 4 grandchildren. This was the first time in about 8 years that the Stanton family was together over Christmas-----wonderful times! Plus Ron and I have our own events, movies and activities we like to do. I was able to have lunch with 3 of my former college buddies-----we always enjoy getting together! Ron is about ready to leave for the BVIs where he will meet our son Matt and do several weeks of sailing. During this time I will be attending a 12 day silent retreat at the Desert House of Prayer in Tucson, about a 5 hr. drive from Yuma. I always find these retreats so restorative; spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. And am very thankful for the choice I have to do this. Then we stay put in Yuma for the rest of the time----just enjoying the desert warmth, family and long time friends----and times of quiet and solitude. We may take a few short side trips to visit Ron's brother but other than that we'll just enjoy the Arizona sun.

The Zemans and Rees's were amazed to discover in March that they were situated in next-door cabins aboard a cruise ship bound for the southeastern Caribbean islands. They shared some good dinners, a game of Mexican Dominos and caught up on news.

On Thursday March 16, 2012 Rockport Middle School's own Katrina Tuck and Arianna Morris were honored to receive the Make a Difference award at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. They represented Rockport along with one hundred other middle school students from around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“The Kennedy Presidential Library's Make a Difference award is given to students who are nominated by a teacher or principal for an outstanding contribution they have made to their school, neighborhood, town, or the global community” (JFK Library Press Release).

Arianna received her award for her volunteer work with Vacation Bible School and the Rockport Baptist youth group's work serving people in need at the Boston Rescue Mission. Katrina received her award for volunteer service building houses with the Rockport Congregational Church youth group, her time as a dance instructor and her participation in the Rockport Baptist youth group's service at the Boston Rescue Mission. The awards were presented by Library director Tom Putnam and Treasurer of the Commonwealth Steven Grossman.

Youth members and adults, alike, participated in several trips into Boston to assist at the Boston Rescue Mission and to serve to all comers on Boston Common. Among our youth are new member Madelyn Wnorowski and her mother Jennifer MacLeod, who were formally welcomed during worship on March 18.

Weekly Events

Sunday – Adult, Children's & Adult's with
Special Needs Sunday School 9:15 AM
Sunday – Worship Service 10:30 AM
Sunday – Fellowship 11:45 AM
Monday - Bell/Vocal Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM
Tuesday – Committee Meetings 7:00 PM
Wednesday – Morning Prayer 6:30 AM
Wednesday – Bible Study 9:30 AM
Weds. – Middle School Youth Ministry 6:30 PM
Weds. – High School Youth Ministry 7:30 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 is at the end of Broadway in Rockport on the right, in the park facing the harbor.



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

Email:

newsletter@firstbaptistrockport.org

**FBC Mission Statement:
Follow Jesus and proclaim
Him to the world**

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