



HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

MAY 2010

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF ROCKPORT

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ROCKPORT
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Looking Above....

Nestled high above Rockport's inner harbor stands a humble figure, which has welcomed mornings, endured harsh storms, comforted the grieving and celebrated Good News throughout much of the last two centuries. The steeple of the First Baptist Church shares grandeur with many of the other fine steeples that punctuate the New England landscape. There are few steeples however or locations for that matter which offer such a breathtaking view of Rockport as that which is found above the First Baptist Church.

For many years the steeple was home to a giant bell that was rung on special occasions and prior to services. One long time member recalled ringing the bell as a child. Another person mentioned how during the bicentennial celebration of the United States, a mallet was used to sound the bell in celebration of the nation's birthday. In the early 1980's, the bell assembly was removed, as the old structure was no longer able to withstand the weight of the bell.

In the 1990's a bell carillon was installed in honor of the Markhams' ministry at the church. The carillon is still melodious each day at noon and 6:00 pm as it plays a series of hymns that can be heard throughout the town.



At the highest point on the steeple, one will notice a weathervane. This is similar to weathervanes found atop churches throughout the West. Many of these weathervanes include a rooster. The rooster weathervane reflects a tradition, which dates back to a ninth century papal decree. This decree mandated that each weathervane atop a church within Europe include a rooster as a reminder of Peter's denial of Christ and the subsequent crowing of the rooster. Thus, the intent of these early weathervanes atop



The Cosmic City is coming to Rockport!

In two short months the First Baptist Church of Rockport will be transformed into the Cosmic City! The Cosmic City is the name for the 2010 Vacation Bible School (a product of David C. Cook Publishing). Vacation Bible School is a fun outreach for children and adults alike. This year's VBS will take place during the week of July 19-23 from 9:00-11:30 AM. The free program is geared for elementary aged students. Pre-registration while not required, is encouraged and helpful. Registration forms and additional information can be found on the church website or at the church. There will be a special closing program on Friday, July 23 at 6:30 PM. The entire church and community are invited to hear, see and celebrate what happened at the Cosmic City! The closing program will be followed by ice cream sundaes in Ventres Chapel!

The Cosmic City's theme is "Explore the Awesome Wonder of God." Throughout the week the kids will participate in Bible dramas, games, snacks, music, memory verses, science experiments and much more! Each story will highlight an aspect of and Christ's work. Throughout the week the kids will to share during the closing program on Friday. The invited to participate in the ship service on July 25, 2010.



Part of the success of team of adult and youth to bring about the week. tunities to participate are needs for help throughout the week with snacks, games, dramas, science experiments and more. Help is valued and appreciated whether it is for a few hours or all week. On Monday, July 12 at 5:00 PM there will be a pizza and VBS set-up party at the church. Please help spread the word and invite local elementary aged students to participate in VBS. Prayers are also needed and greatly valued as VBS approaches. The Volunteer team is crucial to the success and vitality of Vacation Bible School, if you are interested in participating or have more questions please contact Matt Wigton or another VBS volunteer.

VBS is a result of the dynamic volunteers that work together. There are still many opportunities with the volunteer team. There

The Cosmic City will be here shortly! Spread the word, volunteer and join the fun....3-2-1 blast off!!!



Janet O'Donnell and brother Beau prepare Easter Breakfast. Many enjoyed it!



Steeple, cont'd

steeple was to remind individuals to avoid sin and pursue a life of piety.

As part of a mission to take pictures for the High Tidings, I took on the challenging adventure of climbing to the top of the steeple. In order to get to the top of the steeple, I had to first get into the attic above the sanctuary, and then proceeded into a second attic above the nursery, following this I opened a wooden hatch, which lead to the bottom level of the steeple. Once inside the steeple, I climbed up about twenty feet of rafters and wooden planks in order to reach the highest point of the steeple. Upon reaching this pinnacle, there was a very small door, which lead to the precipitous ledge atop the steeple. It was from this ledge that I was able to take the pictures that are included in this newsletter. It was remarkable to view Rockport from atop the steeple and to further contemplate the many people that have gazed upward at this humble steeple above the church in Harvey Park.

Matt Wigton, Pastor

IN GOD'S GOOD TIME WE MET

Long ago the Lord looked down
Through the years to this small town,
This street, this house, and planned that I
While I was living here, should try

To do His work and will. And so
He started long and long ago
To make this person which is I.
He watched and guided from the sky,

Had this one marry that. And He
Would make one cross the sea
To meet the one he was to wed.
Strangely, strangely they were led.

And strangely, mixed, some Irish, Dutch,
Some Scotch, a little French, not much,
And English blood to some degree,
Till many races met in me.

Just as with me, to make this man
To finish that which he began.
So at last we two should stand
The workmanship of His great hand.

Then, In God's Good Time We Met
My love and I! We thank Him yet
With grateful hearts. We love him so.
Because He worked thus, long ago.

by Martha Nicholson
and sent to us by A Friend



2010 Summer Events

God's Family Sunday School Class will hold its last Sunday School of the season on June 6. It will resume meeting on September 12. Children's Sunday School will hold its last class of the season on June 20 and will resume meeting on September 12. The Adult Sunday School will take off the month of July and resume meeting on August 1, 2010.

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will not meet on July 21, but will meet every other Wednesday of the summer. On nice days, the Bible Study may meet in Harvey Park.

The youth groups will meet throughout the summer although a modified schedule will be announced for July and August 2010.

The Choir and Bell Choir will take a break from rehearsals mid-June and resume meeting to rehearse after Labor Day.

In addition to the normal weekly schedule, the following are a list of special events occurring at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. Additional information will be provided during weekly services, on the website and in the church bulletin.

Saturday, May 22 ~ FBC will participate in Rockport's Motif Number One Day
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Sunday, May 23 ~ Jazz Festival in Harvey Park – Afternoon

Monday, May 31 ~ Pastor Matt will be giving the invocation and benediction during the town of Rockport's observation of Memorial Day.

Saturday, June 12 ~ Picnic in the Park – 5:00 PM

Sunday, June 13 ~ Thirdly Meeting – 12:00 PM; Den-Mar Worship Service – 3:00 PM

Saturday, June 19 ~ Adult Sunday School Trip to Museum of Russian Icons (Clinton, MA) – 8:00 AM

Saturday, June 26 ~ In cooperation with the Rockport Navy Committee, the First Baptist Church will be hosting a breakfast for visiting cadets and officers from the United States Naval Academy. If you are interested in helping out or for more information please contact Janet O'Donnell.

Sunday, June 27 ~ Hymn Sing – 6:30 PM

Monday, July 12 ~ VBS set-up/ Pizza Party 5:00 PM

July 19-23 ~ Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30 AM

Friday, July 23 ~ VBS Closing Ceremony and Ice Cream Social – 6:30 PM

Sunday, August 1 ~ Den-Mar Worship Service – 3:00 PM

Saturday, August 7 ~ Second Annual Potluck Party at the Parsonage – 5:00 PM

Friday, August 21 ~ Hymn Sing – 7:00 PM

Sunday, August TBD ~ Baptisms at Old Garden Beach

Sunday, September 5 ~ Hymn Sing - 6:30 PM

Sunday, September 12 ~ Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 19 ~ Den-Mar Worship Service – 3:00 PM

Baptism

Are you interested in demonstrating your faith in the waters of baptism? Baptism is an act publically demonstrating one's faith in Christ. We practice baptism today as a result of Christ's command to be baptized. There will be an opportunity to be baptized at Old Garden Beach at a date to be announced on a Sunday afternoon in August. If you are interested in baptism please contact Matt. A guide for baptism prepared by the Board of Deacons can be found on the Church Website under the heading "documents." The guide is also available in hard copy form at the church.

Hymn Sings

Do you ever wish we could spend more time singing during the church service? The Hymn Sings are for you! This summer there will be three Hymn Sings during the evening (two Sundays and one Friday). The Hymns sings will begin with a look at a Psalm (the early church hymn book) followed by an extended time of singing. Many of the hymns will be based upon suggestions from those in attendance. Following the Hymn Sing will be a time of refreshments. Visitors welcome!

Picnic in the Park and Potluck Party

The Picnic in the Park and the Potluck Party are events designed to encourage fellowship within the church body and serve as venues for community outreach. Please consider inviting your friends and neighbors to these casual and fun events. Each family is encouraged to bring an item of food to share at the picnic and potluck. Sign-up sheets will be available in Ventres Chapel in the weeks prior to each event. In the occurrence of inclement weather, the events will take place indoors.

Trip To Russian Icon Museum

The Adult Sunday School has been studying Church History with the guidance of Justo Gonzalez's book *The Story of Christianity*. Art plays an essential role in the history of the Church and one of these ways is through Icons. In light of study of the role Icons play in Church History, the Adult Sunday School is sponsoring a trip to the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Massachusetts. The museum boasts the "largest collection of Russian Icons in North America." While the trip is related to the Sunday School the rest of the church is welcome to attend! For more information on the museum visit: <http://www.museumofrussianicons.org/index.html>

Motif Number One Day

For more information on Motif Number One day visit the following website: <http://www.rockportartfestivals.blogspot.com/>

PID Connection

Shannon O'Leary a student at Gordon College and active participant at First Baptist Church is going on summer mission trip to Haiti with Partners In Development. Partners In Development is a Christian relief organization working in Haiti. Upon returning from Haiti, Shannon will share about her experience during the Mission Moment on July, 25. Partners In Development is one of the four missions that FBC supports. The other three are the Open Door Food Pantry, Vision New England and ABC World Missions. For more information visit the Missions tab on the church website.

Bible Study Curriculum Change

Upon completing their studies of the gospel of John and Mark, the Wednesday morning and Tuesday Evening Bible Studies will begin new studies. On June 2 the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will begin studying the Old Testament book of Daniel and then on June 1, the Tuesday Evening Study will begin studying the New Testament Epistle of I John.

Sermon Schedule

Date	OT Reading	NT Reading	Sermon Focus Highlighted
June 6	TBA Guest Preacher		
June 13	Genesis 13	Galatians 2:15-21	Abraham and Lot
June 20	Genesis 15	Galatians 3:23-29	God's Covenant with Abraham
June 27	Psalm 77:11-20	Galatians 5:1-15	Freedom
July 4	Psalm 30	Galatians 6:1-5	Burden Bearing
July 11	Psalm 82	Galatians 6:6-10	Sowing and Reaping
July 18	Psalm 52	Romans 6:1-4	Why baptism?
July 25	Psalm 90:2; Psalm 77:4; Isaiah 58:11; Mark 10:27; Philippians 3:10 The Awesome Wonder of God		

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 8:30-11:30 AM & 12:00 – 3:00 PM

Thursday – 12:00-3:00 PM & 6:30-8:00 PM

Office: 978-546-6121

Parsonage: 978-546-2036

E-Mail: MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org



From A Little Bit of God's Wisdom & Wit

**The religion of Jesus begins with the verb
“follow” and ends with the word “go.”**

*And he saith unto them, Follow me,
and I will make you fishers of Men.
(Matt 4: 19)*

New Beginnings

On Easter Sunday there was a beautiful sunrise at the Headlands followed by a glorious service celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Easter is often a time for new beginnings and this is especially true for David Koerth and Stacie Frazier this year. Following the Sunrise Service Dave and Stacie lingered and it was then that Dave proposed to Stacie and she accepted. They shared this joyous news with family and friends at the church where all joined together for the traditional Easter breakfast. Dave recently completed four years of service in the US Army and plans to attend college in Charlotte, NC where Stacie teaches second grade.



Moving North

Our dear friend and sister Gertie Baggs has recently moved to New Hampshire to live with her daughter Trudy and her husband Bob. The move was made necessary by failing eyesight and strength, but her spirit remains as strong as ever. She tells us that she's praying for our church and church family and would welcome mail and email contact and visitors. If you would like her new regular mail or email address contact the pastor or the *High Tidings* editor. We will certainly be holding Gertie in our prayers for a smooth transition and a sense of the presence of her friends through our Lord.

Traveling Farther North

At last report Janie Remick was enroute to British Columbia in her new motor home. Having wintered in Arizona, she is visiting friends on Vancouver Island and hopes to make a trip east to Rockport during the summer.

Prayers Answered

The Zeman and Manion families thank you for your prayers during our son Phil's deployment to Afghanistan. He has returned safely home and, with his wife Kristin and children Jake and Grace, are in the process of moving from Virginia to their newest home near Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Base in southern California. They expect to be there for two years. Phil and his brother Mat grew up in the fellowship of First Baptist and Phil and Kris were married in the church.



Phil briefs Prince Charles and Afghan officers.

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.

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Email: newsletter@firstbaptistrockport.org

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

Summer Schedule

Sundays	9:15 AM Sunday Schools 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Fellowship
Tuesdays	7:30 PM Bible Study First and Third Tuesdays
Wednesdays	6:30 AM Morning Prayer 9:30 AM Bible Study
Thursdays	7:00PM High School Group
Friday ~	6:30PM Middle School Group

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. For additional church calendar information, see CALENDAR tab on website and pages 4 and 5 in the *High Tidings*.



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