



# HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKORT.ORG

MAY-JUNE 2011

FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.  
ROCKPORT  
MA 01966

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## The Intersection of History

For many years Florence Clinton served faithfully as the historian of the First Baptist Church of Rockport. In this role she collected and chronicled documents and pictures relating to the history of the little white church in the park. Frequently she would contribute historical insights to the High Tidings or Annual Reports. In recent years she has retired from this role, but her work has been very helpful in my continued quest to understand the DNA of our church. Furthermore, many have enjoyed looking at these historical scrapbooks and remembering the past.



During our recent celebration of Heritage Sunday some of these albums were on display. Included in one such album is the picture that appears above. The picture, which was taken in the early 1980's, features Jim Koerth, Roberta Markham and Gladys Smith (l. to r.) commemorating the one-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of Adoniram and Ann Judson's departure from the port of Salem. 2012 will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of this event.

Adoniram and Ann Judson were the first missionaries ever to be commissioned from the United States. After a perilous journey across the Atlantic Ocean they eventually settled in Burma, which is known today as Myanmar. Once in Burma, Judson established several churches and translated the first Burmese edition of the Bible. The 2011 Burmese Bible credits Judson for his initial translation work. The impact of these missionaries continues to echo in the present as

Continued on Page 2

roughly four percent of Burma's fifty-five million residents today claim Christianity.

In addition to exposing many within Burma to the love of Christ, the work of Judson was monumental in the United States. Many more Americans in Judson's day and in the years to come would follow in his footsteps by taking the gospel to places all throughout the world. As a Baptist he was also instrumental in the birth of our denomination. The initial purpose of the founding of our denomination originally known as the "Triennial Convention" was to support Judson and similar global and home missions efforts. The regional association that we are part of is aptly named the "Adoniram Judson Association". Judson spent significant time in modern day Essex County growing up in Wenham and enjoying seasons in Beverly and Salem. It is highly probable that some of the original members of First Baptist Rockport were at the Port of Salem in 1812 when the Judsons left on their missionary journey. In 2012 the Judson Association will organize a commemoration of this historic event. During the summer of 2011 the Adult Sunday School will be spending several weeks taking an in-depth look at the history of the Judsons and the way that their missionary work should challenge us to be on mission in 2011 and the years to come. (See, below, pictures from the Heritage Sunday tour of our church's historic sites.)

The claims of Christianity place a high regard for history and we should certainly care about the events of the past whether they be two-thousand, two-hundred or twenty-five years ago. Yet as we look back it should always propel us to move forward, rejoicing in the mission and faithfulness of the God of history.

By Matt Wigton, Pastor



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## Sermon Schedule Summer 2011

Date	O.T. Reading	N.T. Reading	Sermon Title	Note
June 5	Psalm 68:1-10	Matthew 8:24-34	Jesus Heals the Demon Possessed	
June 12	1 Samuel 1	Matthew 8:18-22	The Birth of Samuel	
June 19	1 Samuel 2	Matthew 9:1-7	Hannah's Prayer	
June 26	1 Samuel 3	Matthew 9:9-13	The Call of Samuel	
July 3	Zechariah 9:9-13	Matthew 9:14-17	Fasting	
July 10	Genesis 25:19-34	I Peter 1:3-12	New Birth	
July 17	Psalm 139:1-12	I Peter 1:13-25	Holy Call	Jim Koerth Preaching
July 24	Psalm 18:2	Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 24:34; I Peter 5:7; Revelation 2:10	A Faith Journey with Jesus	VBS Sunday
July 31	Psalm 128	I Peter 2:1-12	Holy Community	Jim Koerth Preaching
August 7	TBA	TBA	Congregational Topic Selection	
August 14	TBA	TBA	Congregational Topic Selection	
August 21	Psalm 77	I Peter 2:13-24	The City of Man	
August 28	Psalm 67	I Peter 3:1-7	True Beauty	

- Bold Font Denotes Sermon Text

VBS is coming!!!  
 'Actors' recently seen in a video at the church, take their show to Bearskin Neck on Motif #1 day.



## Upcoming Special Events and Announcements

### Memorial Day

Matt Wigton, FBC Pastor, will again lead the opening and closing prayers at the Town of Rockport Memorial Day service in Beach Grove Cemetery.

### Judson Committee Appointment

Wigton was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Adoniram Judson Association. In this role Matt will help the regional association of the denomination. The Judson Association roughly encompasses Essex County.

### Thirdly Meeting

The Thirdly Business Meeting will take place on Sunday, June 5 at 12:00 pm.

### Party in the Park

The Church Community is invited to a party outside the church on Saturday, June 11 at 6:00 pm. In the event of rain the party will meet in Ventres Chapel. The party will occur in a potluck style.

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

During the summer months, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be studying the book of Philippians. The Study meets every Wednesday at 9:30 am in Ventres Chapel. During warm days, the study will meet outside. The Study will not meet during the month of July.

### Adult Sunday School

During the summer months the Adult Sunday School will be studying the life and work of Adoniram Judson. Judson was the first missionary to be commissioned from the United States leaving the port of Salem in 1812. Adult, God's Family, and Children's Sunday School will not meet during the month of July.

### Summer Youth Group

The Middle School and High School Youth Groups will take a summer break starting in mid to late June. The groups will have a few special events throughout the summer, but will not meet on a weekly basis. In the autumn of 2011 the "Youth Groups" will reveal a new name and other exciting details.

### Koerth – Frazier Wedding

Many of you have watched David Koerth grow up in our church. Some of you have known him since he was a newborn and in church every Sunday and some of us got to know him as he matured and then left his home and church family to serve in the Army,



## Events and Announcements, Continued

later being deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. After David's time in the military was up, he settled in Charlotte, North Carolina. What is special about North Carolina is that is where Stacie Frazier lives!!

David and Stacie became engaged a year ago Easter while here on a visit and they will be married here on June 18th. Stacie and some of her family will be arriving in Rockport the weekend before the wedding and we thought it would be nice to have a time of fellowship together with them after the morning service on June 12.

During the fellowship hour, which will be in their honor, we would like to present David and Stacie with a monetary gift to celebrate their upcoming marriage. If you would like to participate in the gift, please send or give your contribution to Elizabeth Malcolmson by June 5.

Elizabeth's address is 145 Main Street, Rockport, MA 01966 or you may give it to her at church.

Also, David and Stacie would like to invite all from the church family to attend the wedding ceremony the following Saturday, June 18 at 4:00 PM.

### Memorial Service for Ron Aines

The Church community is invited to a Memorial service in celebration of the life of Ron Aines on Saturday, July 16 at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. Ron went home to be with the Lord in January 2011.

### Vacation Bible School 2011

Area elementary students are invited to the "Big Jungle Adventure", the 2011 Vacation Bible School at the First Baptist Church. VBS will occur July 18-22 from 9:00 am until noon. There will be a special closing ceremony of Friday, July 22 at 7:00 pm. There are also numerous opportunities to participate as a volunteer. Registration and additional information can be found on the church website.

### Women's Group to Start

Marjorie Dyksinski is in the initial stages of beginning a women's group. The yet to be named group will meet periodically for the purpose of fellowship and promoting Christian outreach. If you are interested in participating in this group please contact Marjorie. Her e-mail address is: [m.dyksinski@gmail.com](mailto:m.dyksinski@gmail.com).





## Upcoming Opportunities to Serve

Boston Rescue Mission – May 23, June 27, July 22

Den Mar – May 22, July 10

### Congregational Choice Sermons

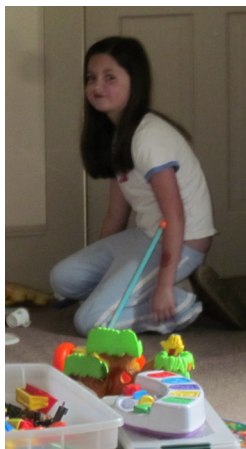
During the first two weeks in August, Matt will be preaching the Congregational Choice Sermons. In late June and early July the Congregation will be invited to suggest and then vote on topics about which they would like to hear a sermon. The 2010 topics selected were “why do bad things happen to good people” and “how should a Christian respond to the environment”.

### Website Updates

Over the next few months the church website will be adding new features including videos highlighting various aspects of the church life and ministry. Be sure to check out the church website and facebook page for the latest information about the church.

### Baptisms

Baptisms will take place at Old Garden Beach on the afternoon of Sunday, August 7, 2011. If you would like to demonstrate your faith in Christ by entering the waters of Baptism, please contact a member of the Board of Deacons.



Spring cleaners at work at the church.

## SPRING CLEANING

Recently I was moved to so some spring cleaning. A few nudges from my mother, the church's reminder of an upcoming work day, an overstuffed pantry, and the long-awaited spring weather all contributed to this uncharacteristic event. Of course it'll never be all done, but a little work in and around the house led to some mental spring cleaning that was most fruitful.

### The Pantry

The pantry had become the repository for everything from two fondue sets (one never used) to multiple recycling bins. It took a running vault each day to get to the dog food. Mom was key in identifying things that could be discarded. Useful stuff went to the swap shop and the rest to trash. (Clearly I was much too attached to that old set of placemats, now gone!) And in the trip to the transfer station and swap shop I came home with a perfectly good kitchen radio that actually picks up most of the stations. Good trade – a car full of junk in exchange for a free item that I'd been looking to buy.

GOD'S TAP ON THE SHOULDER #1 --- Do the same thing with unworthy thoughts as with unneeded things. Discard them for the gem that He will provide when the junk is cleared.

### The Car vs. The Mower

Yes, I'd been putting off getting my car's 100,000 mile 'check-up', too. And simultaneously the grass seemed to grow about a foot. Where was the neighbor boy who has been mowing it for the past several years? We called and got no response. Thinking maybe this is the year we'd have to break down and get a big mower, I went shopping. I had no idea mowers were so expensive, so quickly decided I'd better think some more about alternatives. However, as long as I was up the line I dropped in at the auto center and left my car for its overnight stay. That evening the neighbor boy mowed the 'grasslands' out back. The next morning the mechanic called to say the car needed significant repairs (I was afraid of that) which would cost.....can you believe it.....almost exactly the price of the now-unnecessary mower..

TAP ON THE SHOULDER #2 --- God's timing is amazing.

### The Ditch and the Tree

My husband is always on the lookout for firewood. On occasion he raids a back lot that contains a lot of deadfall, and was doing so when he slipped and fell in a ditch. Having some mobility difficulties, he couldn't get out without the assistance of a kind acquaintance. My response to this event was to ban the scavenging adventures. So that left the question of where to get wood without actually buying it. (Buying wood seems to defeat the purpose of supplementing heat with a woodstove.)

A couple of days later I discovered that a neighbor was also doing some spring cleaning and was taking down a dead tree. Better yet, he didn't want the wood. Whoo Hoo! The problem was solved.

GOD'S TAP #3: Ask and you shall be given.

### Wondering

Generally speaking, I dismiss the idea that with all He has to do, God's eye could possibly be on me and my little events. But the fact that all three of these things happened in one week.... which was the same week as the work day at the church....makes me think twice.

**Weekly Events**  
**at**  
**First Baptist Church, Rockport**

Sunday – Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Sunday – Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Sunday – Fellowship 11:30 AM  
Monday – Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM  
Tuesday – Discipleship Group 7:00 PM  
Wednesday – Morning Prayer 6:30 AM  
Wednesday – Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Wednesday – Middle School Group 7:00 PM  
Thursday – High School Group 7:00 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

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

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