



HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

MAY

FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.
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New Pastor to Be Called

After almost two years of transition time, under the interim leadership of Pastor Skip Pimentel, First Baptist Church of Rockport is preparing to call a new permanent pastor. **Last October, Matthew C. Wigton was selected as Candidate Pastor of the church.** On May 9 Matt and his wife Megan both graduated with Masters' Degrees from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Matt with a Master's Degree in Divinity and Megan with a Master's in Theology. Our Board of Deacons has begun the process with Matt toward his ordination, under the church's sponsorship.

Matt's work has been evaluated twice by the Deacons, with input from the congregation, and he was found to be a young man of sound Biblical base, prayerful spir- it, thoughtful interac- tion with members and community, and tremendous energy in working for the glory of God. **It is the intention of the Board to recommend that Matt Wigton be called to First Baptist as its full time pastor, at scheduled im- mediately follow- ing worship on June 7, 2009.**



Unlike many de- can Baptist church- corporations that operate independently at the local level, including calling and contracting with a pastor. A pastor is actually considered by the IRS, as an independent contractor who reaches an agreement for services with a church or churches. Thus we do not have a strong search mechanism in our association with other ABC churches. To make matters more com- plicated for the local church, TABCOM is undergoing a significant reduc- tion in services as the denomination becomes smaller. For example, by summer there will no longer be area ministers. This also affects the speed by which a newly called pastor may be ordained.

For this and other reasons, the Deacons decided to take a different path toward finding our new pastor, than is tradtional and referred to in our



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Pastor's Message

This is likely my last word in the High Tidings so for me it calls for a little reflection on the twenty-one months I have been interim pastor here at FB.

In the first days and weeks some time and energy was used up on what I call squabble issues. Where the American flag should be, fired some feelings and ended in a very civil and caring resolution. Then, as in many churches, some poor communication resulted in hurt feelings and resentments.

There is a core group of persons at FB that are gifted, not afraid of hard work, and deeply hopeful of a vibrant future for this church's life and mission here in Rockport. There is a sure sense to me that this church has begun to turn in the direction of becoming a clearer sign of the kingdom of God in this place.

One of the promising signs is the willingness of the church to risk for its future. As we focused together on the work and process of calling a full time pastor, the decision was made to move outside the traditional process. You will vote to call Matt Wigton who is gifted, committed, young and untried. My sense is that this decision has opened the future to very bright possibilities for FB. I believe that God honors risk and trust, and that perhaps even God is excited about the days and years ahead.

For Barbara and me the brief time here has been rich and full. We have come to know and love you, and we will continue to pray for you and to enjoy you whenever we meet you and visit with you in the days and years ahead. Thank you for your love and for who you are.

Skip

Our sister and friend Louise Marshall went to be with the Lord on May 19. The photo at right was taken in 2006 during her baptism. Our prayers are with her family and friends. We were blessed to have her in our fold.



Vacation Bible School -- Preview the Wildwood Forest!!

It has been an exciting time throughout the last few months as Sheryl Reed and I have begun to plan for VBS 2009. As the last edition of the High Tidings announced, Wildwood Forest will occur July 13-17, 2009 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. The event is free and we welcome all elementary aged children. Older children, youth and adults are welcome to attend as part of the Wildwood Forest Ranger Team.

Each day the adventurers will travel to several different stations within the Wildwood Forest (all contained within the First Baptist Church) including: engaging in Bible dramas at the Great Oak Theater, participating in craft making at the Treetop Art Studio, playing games at the Vineland Adventure Course, delighting in snacks at the Harvest Grove, and singing and reciting Bible verses at the Heights. Throughout the week we will be seeking to teach the kids about God's greatness and his love for us in Jesus! One of the week's verses is Psalm 46:10 "How awesome is the Lord Most High, the great King over all the earth!" All the Bible stories, games, crafts and songs are geared around the theme of God's greatness.

We are thankful for the many who have already volunteered to help or sought to tell their friends and family about Wildwood Forest VBS! There are many ways that we need help before and during Wildwood Forest. If you are interested in helping please contact Sheryl or myself. Your prayers and assistance in publicizing the event are greatly valued. For more information or to register adventurers please e-mail vbs@firstbaptistrockport.org or call the church at 978-546-6121.

Matt Wigton



Don, Gladys, Laura and Phil at the 200th.

A very important Special Meeting will be held before the regular Thirdly Business Meeting on Sunday, June 7, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. At that time the Boards of Deacons and Stewards will bring forth the recommendation to call Matthew C. Wigton as Pastor of First Baptist, Rockport, and to offer him a contract of employment.

Mysteries of the Hymnal Hymn Tune Names

Each hymn in a hymnal has two names. The most familiar name is the name given to the words of the hymn. For instance, one of the hymns sung in church on May 17, the one on page 710, was listed as “We Are Called to be God’s People”. That is the name given to the words of the hymn. The tune itself also has a name. Its name is “Austrian Hymn”. It is called the Austrian Hymn because it was originally composed as the national anthem of Austria. Hymn tune names are probably of interest only to musicians. If so, why do we need them?

The original use of hymn tune names can be found in the bible, in the Psalms. Psalm 57, 58, and 59 have the notation: To The Chief Musician: Al-tashcheth....

“Al-tashcheth is considered the name of a popular tune closely connected with the old joyous life of the Hebrew nation. The words of these three Psalms, in Hebrew, have a distinct and similar rhythm”. It told the musician which tune to use when singing that Psalm.

In the very early Protestant churches, the “hymnals” often contained only words. The person who lined the songs (for the congregation to repeat after him) would use the tune name given (if there was one) or he would count the number of syllables in the lines and use a tune that contained that number of notes for the melody.

Where do these hymn tune names come from? They are sometimes named for: the town in which they originated, the composer, the theme of the hymn, a prominent word in the hymn, or some name the composer or publisher chooses for the tune.

When the church ordered the new hymnals, they also ordered books for brass instruments. These books are different from the hymnals the congregation uses: there are no words in them, and they use only the hymn tune names as titles for the music. The tune “Austrian Hymn” is used for the words in the congregations’ hymnal on pages 17, 694, and 710.

Ruth Bowers

***Make a joyful noise
Unto the Lord!***

Psalm 100

The Tuck Family musicians



Following are The Lectionary scripture passages for Sundays from May 24 through July 26

May 24:

Psalm 1; Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 31, Pentecost:

Psalm 104:25-35,37; Acts 2:1-11 or Exekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:22-27
or Acts 2:1-11; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

June 7, Trinity Sunday:

Psalm 29 or Canticle 2 or 13; Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

June 14:

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 & Psalm 20 or Ezekiel 17:22-24 & Psalm 92:1-4,11-14; 2
Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

June 21:

1 Samuel 17:(1a,4-11,19-23)32-49 & Psalm 9:9-20 or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5,10-
16 & Psalm 133 or Job 38:1-11 & Psalm 107:1-3,23-32 or 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

June 24:

Psalm 85 or 85:7-13; Isaiah 40:1-11; Acts 13:14b-26; Luke 1:57-80

June 28:

2 Samuel 1:1,7-27 & Psalm 130 or Wisdom 1:13-15,2:23-24 & Lamentations
3:21-33 or Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

July 5:

2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10 & Psalm 48 or Ezekiel 2:1-5 & Psalm 123;
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

July 12:

2 Samuel 6:1-5,12b-19 & Psalm 24 or Amos 7:7-15 & Psalm 85:8-13;
Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

July 19:

2 Samuel 7:1-14a & Psalm 89:20-37 or Jeremiah 23:1-6 & Psalm 23;
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34,53-56

July 26:

2 Samuel 11:1-15 & Psalm 14 or 2 Kings 4:42-44 & Psalm 145:10-19;
Ephesians 3:14-21 , John 6:1-21

Look Up!

The next time you're in the sanctuary, LOOK UP! No, not only raise
your eyes in prayer and thanksgiving. Really look up and see if you can
figure out what's different.

If you don't see it, the answer will be in the next High Tidings.

Hint: The Trinity



New Pastor to Be Called

(continued from page one)

by-laws. Rather than search for a working minister, we looked for an interested student candidate, who would be prepared to work and grow with us as his/her first church. That is how we found Matt Wigton, and he, us.

The Boards of Deacons and Stewards met jointly on May 6 to discuss the terms of a contract between Matt and the church. This contract will also be brought forth to the members at the Meeting. It spells out in detail the terms of our working agreement with the new **pastor including:**

- salary,
- vacation and sick days,
- use of the parsonage including utility costs,
- payment of full retirement and FICA benefits,
- reimbursement for car mileage, professional subscriptions and fees and other appropriate expenses.
- Specific contract language will be available to members attending the meeting.

In order to determine appropriate terms for the contract, Deacons surveyed compensation and benefit agreements of other ABC church pastors. The agreement will place our pastor at a mid-range salary and benefit level, as compared to others.

The congregation should be aware that we have departed slightly from the church by-laws, in the mechanics of finding our new pastor. However we will follow the by-laws in his appointment. Notice has been given from the pulpit, and through this newsletter, of the upcoming Special Meeting and Thirdly Meeting. Once

the candidate's name has been recommended, it will take a three-fourths majority of those present at the meeting to extend the call.

Matt and Megan have already integrated into the life of First Baptist Rockport and the Interim Pastor, Boards and Officers of the church are unanimous in their enthusiastic endorsement of Matt's nomination. Our future looks very bright!

Matt Wigton has been invited by the Rockport Memorial Day Committee to give the opening blessing and the closing benediction at the Beech Grove Cemetery Ceremonies on May 25, beginning at about 10:30 AM. This will be his first public appearance as part of the Cape Ann clergy and a great way to introduce him to our town.

Janet, Nancy and God's Family folks at the 200th Celebration dinner.



What Really Goes on in Sunday School?

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The bulletin and the High Tidings list the events of the First Baptist Church, but for one who does not attend the various study and prayer groups it may not be clear what actually occurs in these regularly scheduled meetings. The following is a brief description of the weekly and bi-weekly meetings.

Adult Sunday School- The adult Sunday school meets every Sunday morning from 9:15 – 10:15. Skip Pimentel has led this group over the last year. The Sunday school has been reviewing major events presented in the Bible. Recently they concluded a multi-week review of the Resurrection. This is a great venue to explore and discuss central issues within Christianity. In addition to reviewing the lesson, there is ample time to discuss the passage and seek to apply the teachings to daily life.

Wednesday Bible Study- The Wednesday Bible Study is a lively and diverse group that meets every Wednesday morning from 9:30-11:00 in the conference room. Throughout the last year the group has been traveling through the gospel of John. In addition to the study of John, the group begins with prayer for each other and the community at large.

Tuesday Prayer/Care/Share – The Tuesday group is in many ways like the Wednesday Bible Study but serves as a resource for those unavailable to meet in the morning. This group also begins with a time of prayer and fellowship. Throughout the last year this group has been studying the gospel of Mark. This group meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the conference room from 7:30-9:00 pm. Matt Wigton is the leader of the Tuesday Prayer/Care/Share group.

Exploring Discipleship Group – This is an exciting new group, born from an idea at the deacons' winter retreat. The deacons identified 'strengthened and increased discipleship', as a goal for the church body. The ultimate purpose of the group is to explore in greater depth what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Recently the group has been studying the book Becoming the Answers to Our Prayers by Shane Clairborne. The book is a tool for fostering greater dialogue on what it means to follow Jesus. The group meets every other Sunday from approximately 12:00-1:00 pm in the conference room. Skip Pimentel facilitates the discussion within this group.

More to come – The High Tidings, website and bulletin will keep you informed of any changes or additions to the schedule of weekly groups. All are welcome and encouraged to check out any of the groups. For more information please feel free to contact Skip Pimentel or Matt Wigton.

Matt Wigton



Barbara and Skip



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.
Email: newsletter@firstbaptistrockport.org

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

Calendar and Events

For full church calendar, see CALENDAR tab on website.

Sundays: Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Fellowship 11:30 AM
Alternate Sundays: Discipleship 12:00 PM
Mondays: Choirs Rehearse 7:00 PM
Alternate Tuesdays: Bible Study 7:30 PM
Wednesdays: Bible Study 9:30 AM
Choirs, Children's and God's Family
Sunday Schools do not meet in July and August

Sunday, May 24	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, May 31	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, June 7	Worship	10:30 AM
Special and Thirdly Meetings to follow		
Sunday, June 14	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, June 21	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, June 28	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, July 5	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, July 10	Worship	10:30 AM
July 13-17	Vacation Bible School	9:00 AM
Sunday, July 17	Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday, July 24	Worship	10:30 AM

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