



# HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

NOVEMBER 2011

FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.  
ROCKPORT  
MA 01966

978-546-6121

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## Gospel Transformed Leadership

Throughout the autumn of 2011, the Sunday sermons were based on the letter of I Peter. This letter authored by the Apostle Peter was written to early Christians, but has great relevance to the twenty-first century church. The document begins with an exploration of the vastness of the gospel of God revealed in Jesus Christ. As the epistle moves to its second half it shifts to a form of exhortation. This exhortation commends the body of Christ to consider the ways that the Gospel changes its approach to life and life's responsibilities.

One matter this exhortation broaches is the subject of leadership in general and within the church in particular. Leadership in any organization is fundamental and in the body of Christ it is critically important. At the end of the gospel of John, Jesus charged Peter with the responsibility of leading his sheep and feeding them with the truth of his word. Correspondingly, Peter admonishes Christians to take serious the call of New Testament leadership. Typically, a minister is viewed as a leader of the church, but no church thrives based solely on the leadership of any individual. On the contrary we see that God has called many to serve in varying degrees of leadership within his community.

While the pastor and elders function in essential roles of ecclesiastical service within a church, there are many others who lead whether it is in an official role or more significantly by their lifestyles and influence.

Peter reminds the church that as it approaches, develops and establishes leaders this should be done from a Christ-centered perspective. In the present culture positions of leadership are often used to bolster one's curriculum vitae or to push forward a personal agenda. The leadership that Peter encourages in such places as I Peter 5:1-5 is leadership that is first centered in the Triune God's agenda and secondly concerned with the welfare and service of others.

Tragically, many within the contemporary church have failed to heed this call for Christ-centered leadership and the consequences have been



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staggering. Peter's exhortation is one of the many New Testament texts that addresses church leadership (cf. I Timothy 3, 2 Timothy 4, Titus 2, 2 Peter 2, Jude and I Corinthians 12:1-11).

The First Baptist Church of Rockport is fortunate to have a first-class leadership team. Yet, as its ministries, fellowship and outreach expand it is important to continually seek to support those in leadership, encourage those who should be in leadership and strive to grasp the teaching behind the scriptures' exhortation to Christ-centered leadership.

~~Matt Wigton, Pastor



FBC Leadership Team

**Website: [FirstBaptistRockport.Org](http://FirstBaptistRockport.Org)**

**Pastor: Matt Wigton**

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

8:30-11:30 AM & 12:30 -3:30 PM

and by appointment

[MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org](mailto:MattWigton@FirstBaptistRockport.Org)

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Pictured above are members of the First Baptist Church of Rockport's 2011 Boards of Deacons and Stewards: (front row from left) John Malcolmson, Marjorie Dyksinski, Matt Wigton, Kay Bannon, and Nancy Palazolla; (second row from left) Elizabeth Malcolmson, Frank Levesque, Andrea Brown, Diane Lynn, and Jim Sherburne. Absent are Chris Dyksinski and Jim Koerth.

## November, December and January Scriptures and Sermons

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title
November 20	Jonah 2-3	Jonah's Thanksgiving Prayer in Iraq
November 27	Jonah 4	Faith Failure
December 4	Matthew 1	Why the Genealogy Matters...
December 11	Luke 2:22-38	Christmas and The Cross
December 18	Hebrews 1	Who are Herald's Angels?
December 25	Matthew 2:1-12	Miracle in Bethlehem
January 1	Matthew 2:12-23	Nazareth Townies
January 8	Exodus 19	Approaching the Mountain of God

## Holiday Season Activities and Special Events

### Service of Thanksgiving

On Sunday, November 20, 2011 the community is invited to a service of Thanksgiving at 7:00 pm. The service will include an opportunity to share your thankfulness, as well as times of singing and reading of scripture. The service will take place in the sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Rockport.

### New Committee on Hospitality

A new Hospitality committee is being formed with the purpose of developing the church's ministry of hospitality. Often times hospitality is viewed as simply serving food. While serving food is an important aspect of Hospitality the community will aspire to coordinate and develop multiple levels of hospitality throughout the church. Anyone is welcome to attend the inaugural meeting of the committee set for Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:00 pm in Ventres Chapel. For more information on this committee contact Sally Levesque.

### Youth Ministry News

The youth fellowship has gotten off to a great start in the fall of 2011. Every Wednesday night a range of 7-14 students gather to have fun and learn from the scriptures. In the fall of 2011 the group has been learning from the book of Genesis. Megan Wigton leads the group, while Matt Wigton occasionally visits as a guest teacher. Please note that effective in 2012 the group will begin meeting at 7:00 pm. There will be several exciting new developments with the Youth Ministry in 2012. All area youth are invited to participate in this new movement.

### Exploring Christianity

Back by popular demand, the Exploring Christianity class will be offered again in January 2012. Exploring Christianity is open to anyone interested in the Christian faith, and required for anyone seeking membership at the First Baptist Church of Rockport. The dates for this class will be announced in December. If you are interested in participating in the class, please contact Matt Wigton or John Malcolmson.



### **Women's Missionary and Fellowship Society (aka Honey B's)**

The Baptist Church Women's Group will hold its next meeting at the church on Sunday, December 11, 2011 following Carol Singing, to warm up with a hot beverage, share cookies and collect gifts for young teenagers in needy families on Cape Ann. All ladies of the church and carollers are welcome. For more information on this ministry contact coordinator Marjorie Dyksinski.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will continue studying the book of Hebrews throughout the months of November and December. The Bible Study will not meet on November 23, December 21 or December 28. It will resume meeting on January 4, 2012 at which time it will begin a new study on the book of Exodus. All are invited to the Bible Study, which meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 am in Ventres Chapel.

### **Sunday School Schedule**

The Sunday Schools will not meet on Sundays, December 25 or January 1, 2012. The Adult Sunday School will be wrapping up its study of Nehemiah throughout November and early December.

### **Boston Rescue Mission – Special Saturday Trip**

On Saturday, January 14, 2012 Rockport Baptist is responsible for serving meals with the Boston Rescue Mission on the Boston Common. We will leave Rockport at 6:00 am and return around noon. The church is also responsible for serving meals during our regular time slot on the fourth Monday of the month including November 28 and December 26. On both of these dates we will meet at the church at 1:00 pm and return around 6:00 pm.

### **Den Mar Service**

The church will be leading worship at Den Mar rehabilitation center on Sunday, December 5 at 3:00 pm. For more information on this ministry contact Jim Koerth.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event of severe winter weather, church attendees are encouraged to exercise discretion in deciding whether or not they can travel to church. Sunday church services will be held for those who can safely travel to church.





First Baptist participated in the Rockport Harvest Festival in October.



## Church Economic Update

The Board of Stewards will be sending out the annual Stewardship Letter in a few weeks and holding a pledge Sunday on December 4, 2011. The purpose of the letter and Pledge Sunday are to encourage church participants to think about giving goals for the end of 2011 and for 2012. Gifts can be given to the general church general budget or for the missions budget.

Thanks for your support of the church and its various efforts throughout 2011. Recently church collector Elizabeth Malcolmson provided the following encouraging information during a church Mission Moment:

*As of last Sunday (10/8/11), we have collected \$73,635.06 so far this year. Last year, at the same time, we had collected \$53,905.05! That's an increase of 37%! In addition, the portfolio has also generated \$16,415.68 in income, to date, for a total of \$90,050.*

*On average, during the last quarter of the year, as people respond to the annual stewardship letter, we bring in 33% of the year's collection. If this were to hold true for this year, we would end with a total of \$110,000.*

As we come close to the very real possibility of breaking even in 2011, please prayerfully consider how you can financially support the church throughout the end of 2011 and in 2012. For more information on ways that you can financially support the church please contact Church Collector Elizabeth Malcolmson ([Elizabeth@malcolmson.org](mailto:Elizabeth@malcolmson.org)) or Church Treasurer Andrea Brown ([andy@affcc.com](mailto:andy@affcc.com)).



## LITTLE DOVE

T'was the week before Christmas, and at our place it was hurry, scurry... race, race, race!

Mom in the kitchen and Dad working hard, and as for me...I'm in the yard.

Yes, a big storm's brewing and the feeder's bare,  
So out I go, taking great care.

But the whipping  
wind grabbed my feet  
Down I went, and implor-  
ing eyes I meet!

A little bird with  
wing adrift,  
Stood watching me...did he  
want a lift?

"What's wrong, little guy," I say,  
"Is it your wing? Seems to hang the wrong  
way!"

With careful balance, my feet I gain  
And sheltered the tiny bird from sleet and  
rain.

"Tomorrow, it's Rehab for you.  
The Wildlife People, they'll know what to do.

Let's get to the shed and make a nest,  
Out of the storm where you can rest."

Tucked into a box, all lined with hay,  
Little Dove's eyes begged me, 'please stay'.

But, hearing Mom's call, I bid him 'good-night'  
with a soft "coo, coo", that meant 'sleep tight'.

Now it's six days before Christmas and to the  
Rehab we went,  
Where the word was spoken: "On the ground  
this little dove's life will be spent."

So we took Little Dove home  
and gave him the shed.  
"Welcome to your new home; you'll always  
have water, food and bed."

Each day began with Little Dove and my "  
Good morning coo",

Special treats, clean hay and another 'coo' or  
two!

Not just a morning visit, but afternoon and  
evening as well,  
Little Dove would listen for my voice; I could  
tell!

Five days before Christmas,  
four, three, two and then one,  
Little Dove grew stronger.  
He was no work; it was fun.

Then Christmas Day  
came, and what should  
my wondering ears hear,  
But Little Dove, greeting me  
with *his* 'coo', loud and clear!

He spoke to me! He saw me  
coming and greeted first!  
Filled with wonder, my heart nearly burst.

My best Christmas...the best present ever.  
Little Dove's voice would never fade...no,  
never!

So, dear friend, here's my wish for you:  
A Christmas greeting...something like Little  
Dove's coo,

A sweet message of love, peace and grace-  
Bringing hope that echoes over time and  
space.

~~Anonymous FBC Author



*Christmas 2011 at the First Baptist Church of Rockport*  
*Join us in December as we celebrate the birth of Christ*  
*God with us!*

*Church Christmas Party - Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm*

*The church community is invited to a Christmas Party at the First Baptist Church of Rockport parsonage. You are encouraged to bring a dessert or snack to share. Consider inviting others from outside the church community to this time of fellowship and celebration.*

*Christmas Caroling Around Rockport - Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm*

*Join your voice with the angels as we proclaim the good news of Christmas around Rockport. We will meet at the church and sing at various outdoor locations throughout downtown Rockport. The Honey B's will host refreshments following.*

*North Shore Christian Men's Choir Concert - Saturday, December 17 2:30 pm*

*The church will once again welcome the North Shore Christian Men's Choir for a special free concert at the Baptist Church. Last year this concert was a standing room only event. This event will occur before Rockport's town Christmas Pageant.*

*Sunday School Christmas Celebration - Sunday, December 18 at 9:15 am*

*All are invited to this special joint meeting of the Sunday Schools. During this time we will together look at the Christmas account with engaging group activities.*

*Christmas Eve Service - Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm*

*This service of lessons and carols will feature music and scripture detailing the wonder and glory of Christ's incarnation.*

*Christmas Day Service - Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am*

*The regular Sunday morning worship will include a number of special elements as part of our celebration of Christmas.*

*Day Trip to Boston - Thursday, December 29 at 9:00 am*

*All ages in the church are invited to a day trip to Boston. The purpose of the trip is fellowship and to missionally explore the different cultures displayed in downtown Boston. Lunch will take place at Faneuil Hall Market Place.*

*Rockport New Year's Eve - Saturday, December 31*

*The church will again serve as a host venue during Rockport New Year's Eve. The church community is invited to help the church serve the community and hundreds who will enter the church during this celebration.*

## Weekly Events

Sunday – Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
Fellowship 11:30 AM

Monday -- Bell/Vocal 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 Sch. Youth Ministry 6:00 PM

Wednesday – High Sch. 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:

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

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