



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

4 HIGH ST.  
ROCKPORT  
MA 01966

978-546-6121

### Table of Contents

Mystery of Candles .....	1
Pastors and Wives.....	2
Bible-in-Life Lessons ....	2
Scripture & Sermons ....	3
Upcoming Events.....	3
High Tidings Renewal ..	4
Birthday Party .....	5
Christmas Calendar.....	6
Weekly Schedule .....	7
Ordination Celebration..	7
Christmas Eve.....	8
Directions .....	8



# HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKORT.ORG

NOVEMBER 2010

## The Mystery of the Candles...

Every Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Rockport, there are a number of reliable occurrences that can be expected: familiar faces, preaching from the scriptures, engaging worship and scrumptious nibbles during the fellowship hour. There is another occasion that develops with routine precision every Sunday. At the beginning of each service, either John Malcolmson or Terry Schwenk carefully carries in a flame, lighting the two candles at the front of the sanctuary. At the end of the service, these faithful Acolytes also extinguish the candles, leaving the service with the flame.

For those unfamiliar with the rationale and meaning of the candle procession a justifiable question may arise. What is the point of the candle procession? The meaning behind the candles is intricately tied to the celebration of Advent that will begin on November 28, 2010.

Advent recalls that preceded Jesus and looks promised return Advent. On the prior to Christ-lit signifying the celebration of the



and peace that come in Christ. During the Christmas Eve service, the Advent season culminates with the lighting of the Christ Candle (the large candle in the middle of the advent wreath). The lighting of the Christ Candle is a vivid reminder of the incarnation of God in Jesus, who is God with us. Following the lighting of the Christ Candle, the light from the candle is passed around the sanctuary as the congregation concludes in a candle lit singing of "Joy to the World! The Lord is come".

the expectation the birth of forward to his in the Second four Sundays mas, candles are expectation and love, joy, hope

The coming of Christ in flesh is specifically remembered on Christmas and the resurrection remembered at Easter. These annual holy days are important, but the Incarnation of Christ and the Easter account deserve far more than annual patronage. Every Sunday the "Lord's Day" is to be a mini Easter and Christmas celebration. This weekly celebration should remind the Christian of his or her rightful response which should be to radiate the light of Christ in the world. It is this presupposition that lies at the base of the mystery behind the candles.

continued on page 2

Each year the Christ Candle is moved to the Narthex and lit every Sunday. It is then from the Christ Candle that Terry or John brings in light each Sunday. This act signifies that the core message of the church is the news that the Messiah has come and it is He whom we joyously proclaim each Sunday. Likewise as the candle is carried from the sanctuary every Sunday, it is a reminder that each Christian is called to convey the light of Christ out into the world, like the Shepherds proclaiming and living out the reality that the "Lord is come, let earth receive her King". The mystery has been revealed!

by Matt Wigton, Pastor



**Pastors and their wives** Matt and Megan Wigton, Skip and Barbara Pimentel and Bob and Roberta Markham led the Ordination Celebration in song at the ceremony. Pastor Bob shepherded us for the longest term of any pastor in our history – over thirty years. Pastor Skip guided us through the choppy waters of transition after such a long ministry with one leader. And Pastor Matt represents the future of our mission and celebration at First Baptist Rockport. We are blessed!

## Bible-in-Life Sunday School

As many of the congregation are aware of, the past two summers we have offered a vacation bible school week to the local youngsters (in body or mind). Beginning with the "Wildwood Forest" in 2009 and exploring the "Cosmic City" this past summer, many members of our community have enjoyed the themes we used. David C. Cook Publishing developed both of these exciting programs that we have used. Their programs are well-planned and fun for all, but most of all point to our awesome GOD.

As a parent in this church, I was excited when in September 2009 we started using David C. Cook Publishing's Bible-in-Life curriculum in our children's Sunday School. The lessons are planned according to the church calendar and focus on a particular scripture verse each quarter. Some have included:

Love one another. John 13:34

A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

Christ is the head of the Church. Ephesians 5:23

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

[Jesus said,] "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9

While this adventure of teaching Sunday School has been new to some involved, the Bible-in-Life curriculum we are using is a great tool to encourage and guide both the teacher and the student. There are different age variations of the lessons available. We started off using the program aimed at preschool ages, and soon decided to switch to the early elementary aimed program. This Bible-in-Life curriculum has the ability to grow with our church as our next generation grows in Christ Jesus. Our classes are small now, but are ready to grow. With seven different age based variations, from toddler through high school, only God can limit the number of souls we can reach. But, from our VBS experiences I would dare say that God IS LIMITLESS!! So, let's not limit God! Let's do all that we can to support, pray for, and contribute to everybody learning of Jesus' love. Then we will have no limits.

By Marjorie Dyksinski

## December and January Scripture Selections and Sermon Titles

	Old Testament Reading	New Testament Reading	Sermon Title
12/5	Isaiah 2:1-5	<b>Matthew 24:36-44</b>	The Future Advent
12/12	Isaiah 35:1-10	<b>James 5:7-10</b>	The Past Advent
12/19	Psalms 80:1-18	<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b>	The Present Advent
12/26	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	<b>Luke 2:1-7</b>	Christmas
1/2	Jeremiah 31:7-14	<b>Luke 2: 41-52</b>	The Feast of Epiphany
1/9	Isaiah 42:1-9	<b>Matthew 3:13-17</b>	A Trinitarian Celebration
1/16	<b>Isaiah 49:1-7</b>	I Corinthians 1:1-9	In the Shadow of His Hand
1/23	<b>Isaiah 9:1-4</b>	Matthew 4:12-23	Healing for the sick
1/30	Psalms 15	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b>	The Beatitudes

\*Sermon scripture selection in bold text

### Quick Notes

#### *Winter Weather*

In the event of a serious snowstorm on a Sunday morning, individuals who drive to church are urged to use judicious caution and careful discretion in deciding whether or not to attend church. Sunday services will occur for those who can safely make it to the church facility.

#### *Annual Meeting*

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Rockport will occur at noon on Sunday, January 30, 2011. The Annual Meeting will review the 2010 Annual Report and authorize the budget and slate of officers for 2011. The church community is encouraged to attend this important meeting. The 2010 Annual Report will be available for review in the beginning of January 2011.

#### *Tuesday Discipleship Group*

The group formerly known as the Tuesday Night Bible Study will now be known as the "Discipleship Group." Discipleship Group meets on the First and Third Tuesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 pm. Beginning on Tuesday, December 7 the Discipleship Group will begin studying Richard Foster's well regarded book *The Celebration of the Disciplines* with the assistance of the accompanying study guide. The purpose of the book and subsequent study guide is to learn from various spiritual disciplines (for example prayer, fasting, simplicity, service, confession and worship). The disciplines are meant to encourage the inward, outward and corporate vibrancy of disciples of Jesus Christ. You are invited to participate in this engaging community. For more information please contact Matt Wigton.

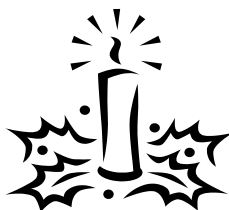
## High Tidings Renewal Notice

The *High Tidings* the bi-monthly newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Rockport has been an important means of church communication for the last several decades. Today the newsletter reaches over two hundred people, homes or organizations in the states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, California and Alaska! The mailing list is a great reminder of the extended family and friends of the little white church in Harvey Park.

In 2008 the *High Tidings* made the move to becoming a primarily web based newsletter. Every newsletter since November 2008 is readily accessible on the church website (First-BaptistRockport.org). A high percentage of readers now receive the web based version which is sent via e-mail or which can be downloaded from the church website.

Effective in 2011 people and organizations that receive e-mail versions of the newsletter will no longer receive a paper copy. **If you now receive a paper copy, and wish to continue receiving it, please respond by sending or bringing in the form below indicating your preference.** Persons receiving e-mail editions can disregard this request. The church will gladly continue to send paper versions of the newsletter to those who prefer this method. Thanks for helping us to be good stewards of our resources.

The High Tidings Staff



---

### High Tidings Renewal Form

*Please detach and send to: First Baptist Church, 4 High Street, Rockport, MA 01966*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/We wish to continue receiving the paper edition of the *High Tidings*.

☐ I/We no longer wish to receive the *High Tidings*.

☐ I/We would like to receive the High Tidings via e-mail at the e-mail address listed above.





### **The Chapel Filled with Birthday Joy and Color**

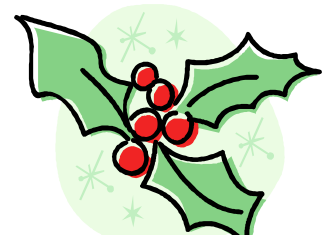
Lia and Clara are EIGHT!! The Diniz' extended family, friends and members of the church family celebrated at a traditional Brazilian dinner-birthday party on Saturday, November 13, complete with balloon arches and table sculptures, hand-made sweets and a catered dinner.

The girls' dad, Jose, who grew up in northern Brazil which is an agricultural area, said the dinner menu was typical of his home cuisine. It included bean soup, chicken, beef and Brazilian sausage dishes with rice, and a magnificent cake made by Mom Silvana. While the adults ate and enjoyed each others' company, the children had their faces painted in rainbow hues and wild animal masks.



*Christmas 2010*  
*First Baptist Church*  
*Rockport, Massachusetts*

- ~ Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent and Christmas decorating party after church
- ~ Sunday, December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent
- ~ Saturday, December 11 – Christmas Caroling around Rockport, meet at the First Baptist Church at 2:00 PM
- ~ Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent
- ~ Friday, December 17 – Church Christmas Party at the Parsonage 7:00 PM (11 Summer Street)
- ~ Saturday, December 18 – North Shore Christian Men's Choir Christmas Concert at the First Baptist Church of Rockport 3:00 PM
- ~ Sunday, December 19 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- ~ Sunday, December 19 – Combined Sunday school Christmas Pageant 9:15 AM
- ~ Wednesday, December 22 - Bible Study Christmas Party 9:30 AM
- ~ Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM
- ~ Thursday, December 30 – Games and Fellowship for the Community 1:00 PM
- ~ Friday, December 31 – First Baptist Participates in Rockport New Year's Eve
- ~ Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany Sunday



## Weekly Schedule

### Sunday

9:15 am God's Family, Children and Adult Sunday Schools

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship

### Monday

7:00 pm Bell Choir or Adult Choir Rehearsal

### Tuesday

7:00 pm Committee Meetings or Discipleship Group

### Wednesday

6:30 am Morning Prayer

9:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm Middle School Group

### Thursday

7:00 pm High School Youth Group

- The Wednesday Morning Prayer and Bible Study will not meet November 24
- Youth Groups will not meet November 24 and 25
- The Sunday Schools will not meet on December 26 and January 2



Pastor Matthew C Wigton received his formal **Certificate of Ordination** at a special ceremony in the sanctuary on October 31, 2010. The church was filled with members of the congregation, friends and officials from other Baptist churches in the association and in Maine, where he previously served. The ceremony was followed by a fellowship time with greetings of long-time friends and a rich table of food. May God richly bless Matt, his wife and helpmeet Megan, and the work that they do here and wherever their ministries take them.

### 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)

(office) 978-546-6121

(parsonage) 978-546-2036

### **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](mailto:newsletter@firstbaptistrockport.org)

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

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.....  
from Angels We Have Heard on High.....*

*that Away in a Manger.....*

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child,*

*Christ the Lord, our Newborn King.*

*Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!*

**Celebrate with us at the Christmas Eve**

**Service of Lessons and Carols**

**December 24, 7:00 PM, the Sanctuary**



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