



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

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ROCKPORT
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978-546-6121

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HIGH TIDINGS Online

FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2011

Why Do We Participate in Church?

Bruce Spinney was an older student that I had the privilege of knowing during my seminary days. During a conversation one evening, Bruce posed a question that changed my perspective on church. The question was, "What is your motivation for going to church?" The question is simple and yet provocative.

Like many who came of age in the gilded 1990's, I realized that I had adopted a consumerist mindset towards my church participation. In other words, as I evaluated my church involvement I was guided by the question, "What's in it for me?" My objectives for locating a church were: great preaching, outstanding music, extraordinary outreach, people my age and an overall enjoyable atmosphere. In many ways, my approach to church participation was similar to enrolling in an insurance plan – get the deal with the best features and the lowest cost and when a better plan is available switch companies.

As I talked with Bruce, I realized that the way I was evaluating church was incongruent with a Biblical picture of church participation. Certainly, Christ-centered preaching, fidelity to historical Christianity and effective outreach are important ways to evaluate a church and we should always be striving as a church to maintain and improve these critical functions. But Bruce's point is that as we observe the call to die to our flesh and take on Christ; our first priority, as Christians participating in a church, should be to serve the Triune God in our local communities. As we evaluate how we are going to respond to the good news of the revelation of God in Christ within a church community, the first question we should ask is, "How can I serve God and those around me". Thus, our motivation for participating in church should be driven by a desire to serve God rather than to have our needs fulfilled and preferences satisfied.

Critical to the vitality of the First Baptist Church of Rockport (or any church for that matter) is the point behind Bruce's question. Are we a church that is seeking to respond to the grace of the living God and serve him and one another, or are we a church that is merely hawking another product that can be purchased, used and disposed of at the swap shop? By God's grace may we continue to grow as a community that is motivated by a desire to first serve the Triune God and secondly serve one another.

What is your motivation for being involved in church?

Matt Wigton, Pastor

Wet and Wild

What a great July 4th parade! Those involved (marchers and spectators) will never forget it!

Midway through the event, there were gathering storm clouds and then suddenly the skies opened up and the rest of the parade was held in torrents of pelting rain accompanied by scary lightening that illuminated our path through town.

When the deluge came, older ones took the little ones under their wings while others rushed to get the jungle animal float covered in a large sheet of plastic. However, even though "Raindrops Kept Falling on Our Heads", the group kept "Smiling in the Rain". Maybe some of us did "sing" in the rain as well. Okay, so we have taken a little liberty with the original song titles but both songs describe the event perfectly! If one is going to get wet, why not just get thoroughly drenched and keep on smiling. What a team!

Decked out in the blue t-shirts, now a darker shade due to being soaked, our group kept tossing out Tootsie Rolls to the appreciative, albeit wet crowd. Some folks held their lawn chairs over their heads as makeshift umbrellas while others showed a great variety of ingenuity as they were to be undaunted by the unfortunate turn of the weather.

And the lightening and thunder kept on . . as did we! It is a parade that we'll enjoy recounting for years to come!!

And later . . .

On Saturday the 16th, many hands turned the sanctuary and Ventres Chapel into a jungle - the perfect setting for the Vacation Bible School curriculum - "Big Jungle Adventure - A Faith Journey with Jesus".

Monday morning every one was ready for the students who eagerly signed in and then proceeded to enjoy a wonderful week of Bible lessons, drama, crafts, snacks, games, small group discussion and great music. The "jungle" reverberated with sound, sights and much enthusiasm - the church came alive each morning and stayed in high gear until noon.

The closing program wrapped up the week as the students shared their Bible verses and songs with family and friends. At the end of the evening, a traveler and Jesse, her miniature horse, bounded into the sanctuary much to the delight of those present. They had been traveling all week trying to find the location of the "Big Jungle Adventure" so that they could learn about taking a faith journey with Jesus.

Pastor Matt had to tell the disappointed pair that they were too late - they had come just at the end of the closing program! However, he invited them to stay for the ice cream social and to come back next year. The dates for the next VBS will be July 16 to 20, 2012.







A High School Youth Group Lock in, left and below, at the church featured food, games, study, and reflection, but not much sleep.

Three high school students were baptized during a rain storm, including Maddie Wnorowski, Harmony Enos and Dylan Azucena.



Dave and Stacie Koerth stand with family after their wedding

Website: FirstBaptistRockport.Org

Pastor: Matt Wigton

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

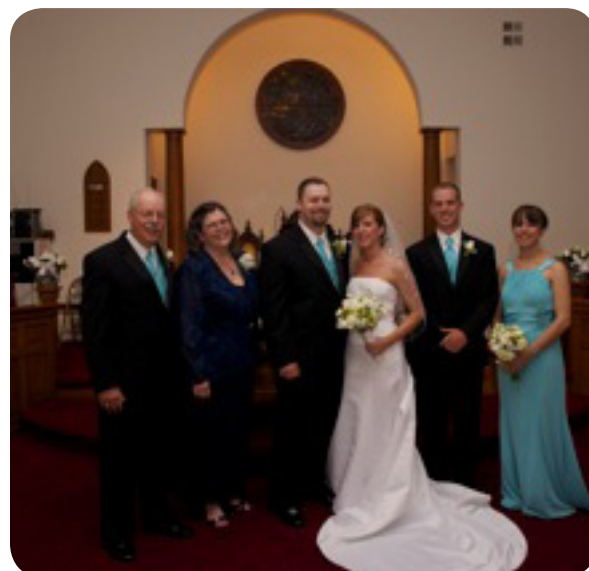
8:30-11:30 AM & 12:30 -3:30 PM

and by appointment

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Upcoming Special Events

Choirs to Resume Meeting

In September the Vocal and Bell Choirs will resume rehearsing on alternating Mondays at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in joining either group, please contact music director Ruth Bowers.

Rockport Baptist Youth Ministries Resume Meeting

In September the Baptist Church Youth ministries will resume meeting. This year both groups will meet at the parsonage on Wednesday Nights. The middle school group will meet at 6:00 pm and the High School Group will meet at 7:30 pm. There will be a number of new and exciting announcements from within the youth ministries during the 2011-2012 year. For more information on Rockport Baptist Student Ministries please contact Megan Wigton.

All Sunday Schools Resume on Rally Day - Sunday, September 11, 2011

On the Rally Sunday all the Sunday School Classes will resume meeting at 9:15 am. During the Autumn Sunday School Semester God's Family will engage in a look at the account of Jesus walking on the road to Emmaus; the Adult Sunday School will begin an exegetical study of the Old Testament book of Nehemiah and the Children's Sunday School will use the age appropriate Sunday School curriculum from David C. Cook Publishing. Please consider participating in one of these opportunities for Christian growth and fellowship.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study is currently in the midst of a study of the book of Hebrews. All are welcome to join in the Bible Study, which meets in Ventres Chapel on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 am.

Upcoming Trips to the Boston Rescue Mission

The church will be serving meals at the Boston Rescue Mission on Mondays, September 26 and October 24. Groups leave the church at 1:15 pm and return around 6:00 pm. Matt will also be preaching in the Rescue Mission Chapel Service on Friday, September 9 at 7:00 pm.

New Graduating Senior Scholarship Established

The Board of Stewards and Board of Deacons have established a new fund for students who have been actively involved in the church, graduated from High School and plan on participating in a future form of higher education or technical school. The scholarship combines the previously collected Penny Scholarship and graduation gifts. The 2011 scholarships were given to Melanie Koerth and Shelby-Faith Macleod. Koerth and Macleod are both 2011 graduates of Rockport High School and have been actively involved in the First Baptist Church of Rockport. This month Shelby will begin college at St. Joseph's College in Maine and Melanie will begin at UMass Amherst.

New Members Recognized

During the Sunday, August 28 service the church officially welcomed with the right hand of Christian fellowship all individuals who have become new members since 2009. The following have become members during this period: Kris Carlson, Chris Dyksinski, Marjorie Dyksinski, Frank Levesque, Sally Levesque, Jose Oliveira, Jim Sherburne, Ben Tuck, Arvilla Wass, Megan Wigton and Margaret Williams.

Outdoor Sunday

Weather permitting, the Sunday, September 18, 2011 worship service will take place outside! For the Outdoor Service chairs will be placed in the alcove immediately to the front of the Ventres Chapel.

Women's Fellowship and Mission Society

The newly formed, and yet to be officially named, Women's Fellowship and Mission Society had a terrific beginning at its first meeting in August 2011. The group is planning another meeting at the church on the evening of Sunday, September 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm. For more information contact the society coordinator Marjorie Dyksinski.

Hymn Sing

The community is again invited to an Old Fashioned Hymn Sing set to take place in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 25. Following the Hymn Sing will be a time of refreshment and fellowship.

Thirdly Meeting

The final thirdly meeting of 2011 will occur at noon on Sunday, September 25, 2011. The church holds three business meetings throughout the year that convene on the last Sundays of January, May and September.

Exploring Christianity Class Offered in the Autumn

The Exploring Christianity Class will again be offered in Autumn 2011 on Sundays, October 2, 9 and 16 from 7:00-8:30 in Ventres Chapel. The class is a very basic look at the foundations of Christian doctrine and Church history. The class is open to anyone, but is required for new members. Persons participating are encouraged, but not required, to also read one of the following books: Basic Christianity by John Stott; Simply Christian by N.T. Wright or Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. Copies of these books are available to borrow from the church library.

Autumn Party at the Zeman Residence

The church community is invited to an Autumn Party at the home of Phil and Gail Zeman (3 Penzance). The party will take place in the late afternoon of Saturday, October 8. You are invited to attend and bring some food to share with others. (Meat and veggies can be thrown on the grill). Look for more information to come.

Den Mar Rehabilitation Center Worship Service

The Church has the privilege of leading the worship service at Den Mar on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 3:00 pm. If you would like more information on this important ministry contact Jim Koerth.

Reformation Sunday Celebration

October 31, 2011 is the 494th anniversary of the Great Protestant Reformation. On the last Sunday of October Protestant churches throughout the world pause to remember the Reformation. Following the service will be a "Reformation Celebration" during the Fellowship Hour. On this Reformation Sunday, Matt will explore the first of the five solas, sola scriptura (the scripture alone). The Solas were the five unifying principles that guided the reformation.

Opportunity for Learning

On the evening of Thursday, November 3 the church community is invited to a free lecture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Mirsolav Volf will give the lecture. Volf a native of Croatia is a professor of Theology at Yale University and was formerly at Fuller Theological Seminary. More details will be forthcoming.

New Church Personnel Safety Oversight and Nominating Committee

During the last thirdly meeting the church voted unanimously to amend the bylaws to create a new committee known as the Church Personnel Safety Oversight committee. The committee which can also be referred to as the CPSON Committee will assume the role previously held by the Nominating Committee. Additionally the CPSON will oversee the administration of background checks (CORI) on all persons nominated for positions of church leadership or in a position related to children. The committee will also establish protocol for activities involving children, including all groups that utilize church property. The committee has been commissioned to meet with legal counsel every few years to make sure the church is making sound decisions particularly pertaining to liability and child safety. The Board will be composed of three members one of whom is the Pastor.

The establishment of the new committee and required background checks is not in response to any isolated incident within the church, but as a step to exert accountability in our leadership and work with minors that is similar to processes used by areas schools and other civic organizations. The new committee 2011 but will not go into effect until mentation of the Committee's establishment to form a preliminary committee and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts culmination of six months of work cons. Jim Koerth Chairman of the "very proud of all the hard work put ing the new committee". Pastor Matt are "prudent and critical for forward



was officially established in May January 2012. The delayed implementation is to give the Boards time to initiate the CORI process with setts. The original proposal was the and revision by the Board of Deacons said that he was in by the Board of Deacons in form-Wigton commented that the actions looking church administration".

September & October 2011 Preaching Schedule

	Scripture	Sermon Title	Special Note
September 4	I Peter 3:1-7	True Beauty	Communion Sunday
September 11	I Peter 3:8-12	The Axis of Blessing	Rally Sunday
September 18	I Peter 3:13-17	Defense Strategy	Outdoor Service
September 25	I Peter 3:18-22	New Testament Noah?	Thirdly Meeting
October 2	I Peter 4:1-11	Practicing Excellence	Communion Sunday
October 9	I Peter 5:1-5	Church Leadership	
October 16	I Peter 5:6-14	The Evil Empire	Harvest Festival
October 23	Proverbs 8	The Pursuit of Wisdom	Guest Preacher Jim Koerth
October 30	I Timothy 3:16-17	Sola Scriptura	Reformation Sunday

Weekly Events

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

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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