



HIGH TIDINGS Online

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FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH
OF ROCKPORT

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Post Ordination Analysis

Throughout the recent ordination process, I had the opportunity to spend time reflecting about the role of Christian theology within ministry and life. During the last month I was able to engage in dialogue about these reflections with the church community during the mock ordination and Ordination Council. All through the period of dialogue and reflection, I was continually reminded of the value and practical nature of theology. Theology is the study of God. Our thoughts or lack of thoughts about God have a tremendous impact upon who we are and how we live.

Within this time of consideration, I was reminded again of the crucial importance of the role of the Trinity within Christian theology. The notion that God is, was and will be within three forms Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a message evidenced throughout the scriptures. of the Triune God, he is A complete the Triune God by the finite ity, which can us that he is set-apart. How- declaration of



that he has revealed himself to humanity and can be known. The infinite God has revealed himself in Christ who reflects back to the Father. Today the Holy Spirit works to bring people to Christ, who continues to glorify God. Furthermore, the Triune God works by inviting people to know him, to pray to him, to live for him, to follow his life-bringing ways, to receive his forgiveness and to be equipped by him. The Triune God's revelation of himself to humanity is a compelling example of his love and grace for the world.

During the Ordination Council, a delegate asked why I used the term "Triune God" so often in the ordination paper. The reason is that it is a term that helpfully describes the most important claim

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made by the scriptures and Jesus. God is more than a distant force or amorphous spirit. God is more than a summary of our collective wishes. God is three in one. Theology and Christian practice can become deficient when there is an overemphasis or neglecting of any part of the Trinity. The concept of the Trinity reminds us that God has a purpose and he is today working out his purpose in the cosmos. It is likewise through the Trinity that we have a purpose, responsibility and call. The Trinity both displays the mystery and yet very real reality of God. The wonder of the Triune God should compel us to worship, devotion, discipleship, and service and to a more profound understanding of our collective call to be theologians.

by Matthew Wigton

Skip Pimentel, right, speaks for Pastor Matt at Ordination Council. Below, high school youth group is pictured with advisors Megan Wigton, and Shannon O'Leary, left, and Travis Keeler, right.



A River Runs Through It...

The basement, that is. The First Baptist sanctuary sits right on top of a stream that enters and exits through culverts, and flows under town streets into the harbor. Over the years the stream deposited yards of black mud that accumulated along with discarded junk from the church. One of our members has taken on the task of cleaning up the Stygian mess.

He (who prefers to be unnamed) has uncovered both trash and treasures – though none of terrific value. Gone are all the inflammable substances, for which he initially began the project. Gone, too, are many plastic bucket-loads of greasy, black smelly muck, and loads of debris. What's left is an old coal furnace, large heating pipes, old beams and masses of black cobwebs. And every time it rains, the stream brings in more muck, with water sometimes rising as high as four feet deep following a series of heavy downpours.

Among the treasures are 80-plus feet of copper pipe which will be 'sold to the highest bidder', the existing heating system with burners situated well above the high-water mark, and the 'engravings' of church leaders and members of the past. One set of beams bears the carved initials "RWS" and "JPS-KAT". The first is for Robert William Sherburne and the second links John Pitts Sherburne with Katherine Anne Tuck, who married. John Sherburne died before age thirty, leaving Katherine a widow for life. Katherine was a great-aunt to the current generation of Tucks in the congregation and the two Sherburnes were the father and uncle of Jim Sherburne.

It's unlikely that we'll be using our own river for baptisms in the foreseeable future, but we can thank our unnamed friend for doing something important, if unseen, to make our church safer and cleaner downstream.



One of the many great things about First Baptist, is that people of all ages, interests and dispositions enjoy gathering for worship, projects and fun. Above is part of the group sharing potluck at the Parsonage. In the picture at left, Melanie and Duncan host others at the gathering.

Changing Lives

By Shannon O'Leary

"Hey you! Hey you!" children would yell at us as we drove through the streets of Blanchard, a village right outside Port Au Prince in Haiti.

On June 3rd, a group of 19 people, 16 college students and 3 adults, headed to



Haiti for 10 days. I had the opportunity to go with this team. The trip was organized through Gordon College and we worked alongside Partners in Development, an organization First Baptist Church of Rockport supports.

Partners in Development is run by Gale Hull. Gale and her husband founded PID 20 years ago in Haiti.

The program began by sponsoring ten children in Haiti so they could attend school and started to grow. PID now provides small business loans, housing, and child sponsorship in both Haiti and Guatemala. We were able to see the work being done in Haiti.



A couple of months before our team arrived, Gale and another worker found a building outside of Port Au Prince to be used as the clinic. This is where we stayed the 10 days. We started out sleeping in tents but halfway through the week moved into the guesthouse, once it was completed. Our workday began around 8am. We were woken up every morning by the rooster. We covered ourselves in sunscreen and bug spray. The bugs were only bad in the morning and the evening. It was too hot for them to be out during the day. It

was almost too hot for us to be out during the day. In the daytime the heat index might be 107 or higher, and at night it would be in the high 80's or low 90's.

We were split up each morning into four different groups. Group #1 helped finish the guesthouse by laying cement for the floor and building support walls. Group #2 made cement blocks to be used for the walls of the houses being built. Group #3 worked on building a house for a family of six. They tore up an old foundation and started digging the trenches for a new foundation. A month after we left, the house was completed and presented to the family. The final group worked on building walls in a house. We ended the workday around 4. There was always a long line for the showers, which weren't actually showers but rather buckets with water that we poured on ourselves. This helped cool us down but only for a minute. Once we walked outside we would start sweating again. The evenings were filled with playing soccer with Haitians, journaling, devotions, and card games. Our team's favorite card game was Uno.

I am so thankful I had this opportunity to be part of helping so many people. I would love to go back if given the chance but I will make sure it is during the winter when it's not so hot. Thank you for your prayers and support. If you would like to hear more, just ask, I have a lot more to share.

Shannon is 20 years old and originally from New Hampshire. She is a junior at Gordon College, double majoring in Early Childhood Education and Psychology. She started attending First Baptist in the fall of 2009.

Special Fall Events

Exploring Christianity Class: Sundays, October 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 6:30 PM

The exploring Christianity class will be a brief overview of the basics of Christianity, the history of Christianity and the First Baptist Church of Rockport. The class is specifically encouraged for persons considering church membership although anybody may attend the class.

Harvest Festival : Saturday, October 16, 9:00 am – 5:00 PM

The Church will again be participating in Rockport's Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 16. The participation includes supporting a number of events that will take place outside the church and inside the church in the event of rain. The Rockport Board of Health is hoping to use Ventres Chapel to offer a free flu clinic to the community.

Visit from George Whitefield: Saturday, October 16 at Noon

At noon on the day of Harvest Festival Rev. George Whitefield will make a guest appearance at the First Baptist Church and give a special historical re-enactment. Whitefield was the best-known preacher in England and the Colonies during the 18th Century and was very influential in the First Great Awakening and the founding of Methodism. Frequent FBC visitor and Kingman, Arizona Presbyterian Minister Griffin Vautier will portray Whitefield. The real Whitefield was born in Gloucester, England and is buried in Newburyport, Massachusetts.



Above, Ron and Louise celebrate their anniversary with children Marsha and Marshall.

Hymn Sing : Friday, October 22, 7:00 PM

Join others in worship and song for the final Hymn Sing of 2010! Fellowship will follow this fun event.

Ordination Service : Sunday, October 31, 3:30 PM

The church will celebrate the ordination of Matt Wigton with this special service of ordination. The service will include music, a special ordination prayer and an address from Dr. Ken Swetland. Swetland is the former dean of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is currently the Senior Professor of Ministry. Following the service will be a time of celebration and fellowship in Ventres Chapel at 4:30 pm.

Operation Christmas Child : Sunday, November 6, 2:00PM

As introduced during VBS, the church will again be participating in Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child is a ministry that transports shoeboxes full of toys, gifts and a children's book about Jesus to kids in need all around the world. Since VBS, the church has been collecting items to be placed in the shoeboxes; additional items may be left in the conference room. On Saturday, November 6 at 2:00 pm there will be a shoebox packing party, where items collected will be placed and wrapped in shoeboxes. There is also a need for financial support as the cost to send each box is seven dollars. Please consider participating in this great outreach opportunity by bringing in items to include in a box or by assisting with the shipping costs. For more information please contact Jenn Macleod at 978-546-2303.

Den Mar Worship Service : Sunday, November 7, 3:00 PM

You are invited to join Jim Koerth and others in leading the worship service and serving the residents of the Den Mar Rehabilitation Center.

Thanksgiving Service : Sunday, November 20, 7:00 PM

The Thanksgiving Service will be a casual service centered on giving God thanks. Plan on attending and giving thanks!

First Sunday of Advent : Sunday, November 28

The last Sunday of November marks the official beginning of Advent and the celebration and anticipation of the Advent of Jesus! Look in future editions of the High Tidings for special events marking the Christmas season!

Youth Service Day : November TBA

The FBC Youth Groups will be participating in a service day on a weekend in November. If you have a need the youth can assist with, please contact the church office. This is not a fundraiser but rather a time to simply give back and serve the community. Past service projects have included yard work, moving heavy objects, cleaning rooms and light repair projects. Please contact the church if you have an idea or task for the Youth Service Day.



...But this high school trio's experiment with a banana, scissors and matchsticks, above, is a mystery.

We know Marsha and Louise are making joyful music, below.....



The Garland Goes

Say goodbye to singed eyebrows, boxes of matches and an icon of the days of large ham and bean suppers prepared in the church kitchen. The Garland gas stove has gathered significant interest from its posting by Pastor Matt on Craig's List, the web-based 'for sale' site. Several months ago the Stewards agreed that it was past time to part with the temperamental black beast that has graced (or burdened – depending on your experiences) the First Baptist kitchen for well over a century. Though Garland stoves are well known among culinary highbrows, such as Julia Childs – who refused to cook on anything else, few current church members will risk turning on the gas and lighting it.

At last count, over forty people had inquired about the stove and it's sure to find someone willing to take it away, a large task since it must be dismantled to get through the doors.

October and November Scripture Selections and Sermon Titles

| Date | OT Reading | NT Reading | Sermon |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| October 3 | Psalms 51:1-18 | Luke 14:15-24 | Feast Parable II |
| October 10 | Psalms 113 | Luke 14:25-33 | Costly Discipleship |
| October 17 | Psalms 121 | Luke 15:1-7 | The Lost Sheep |
| October 24 | Jeremiah 14:17-22 | Luke 15:11-32 | The Prodigal Son |
| October 31 | Psalms 118:19-29 | Romans 1:16-17 | The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation |
| November 7 | Daniel 7:1-11 | Romans 1:18-25 | Creature Worship |
| November 14 | Psalms 98 | 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 | Idle Worship |
| November 21 | Jeremiah 23:1-6 | Colossians 1:11-20 | Jeremiah and the Shepherds |
| November 28 | Isaiah 2 | Romans 13:11-14 | The Word of Isaiah |

The text that will serve as the basis for the sermon is in bold.



Ari, left and Kay B with Gillis and Duncan, below, were among the crafters at VBS.



Seen in the Pews

One of our members, Mary M, keeps informal count of our attendance at Sunday morning worship. At the Thirdly Business Meeting held on Sunday, October 3, she reported that recently about 70 people have been filling our pews. Just a few years ago the average attendance was about 40 people. God is Good!

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

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

And by appointment

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.

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

Email: **newsletter@firstbaptis-**

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

October - November 2010 Schedule

Weekly Events

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Sunday | 9:15 Sunday Schools 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship |
| Monday- | Adult or Bell Choir 7:00 PM |
| Tuesday | Bible Study 7:00 PM (First and Third Tuesday) |
| Wednesday | Morning Prayer 6:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Middle School Group 7:00PM |
| Thursday | High School Group 7:00 PM |

The Wednesday Bible Study will spend the fall quarter studying the life and work of the Apostle Paul. A syllabus for the study will be available on the web-site.

Bible Studies, Youth Groups and Morning Prayer will not meet the week of November 22, 2010.

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