



# First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

## **2020 Mid-Year Report**



**Submitted July 20, 2020**



## Table of Contents

<b>Pastor .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Administrative Staff .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Administrative Assistant.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Administrative Intern .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<b>Board of Deacons .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Board of Stewards.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Worship Music .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Collector .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Treasurer .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Appendix – Bathroom Renovation Design .....</b>	<b>13</b>



## Pastor

January 2020 seems like it was several years ago. At Rockport Baptist it was an exciting time as we celebrated a full and fruitful 2019 and looked forward to all that was to come in the new-year. The first two months of the year included our Annual Meeting, the church leadership dinner at the Azorean, the breakfast for lunch potluck, Cape Ann Worship night at Lanesville Congregational Church and welcoming Shaina Bingle as a new member. The Children's Church, Youth Group, Bible Study and Discipleship Group were robust and meeting on weekly or bi-weekly basis.

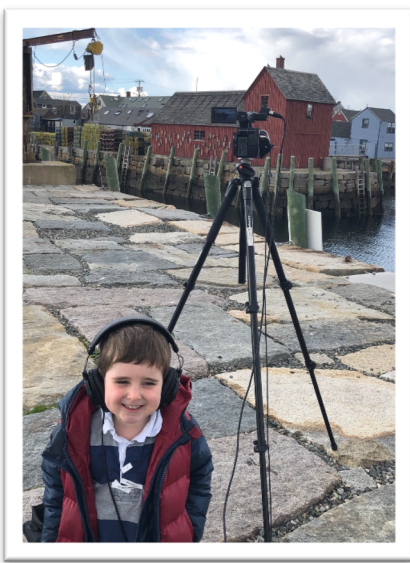


Leadership Dinner – January 2020



Worship Night – February 2020

All of this came to a crashing halt on March 15. We joined the world in the COVID-19 shut down. We find ourselves amidst pandemic which continues to rage across the globe and has enflamed a cascading effect of multiple points of anguish and misery. The history is still being written on what has become the most transformative global event since World War II.



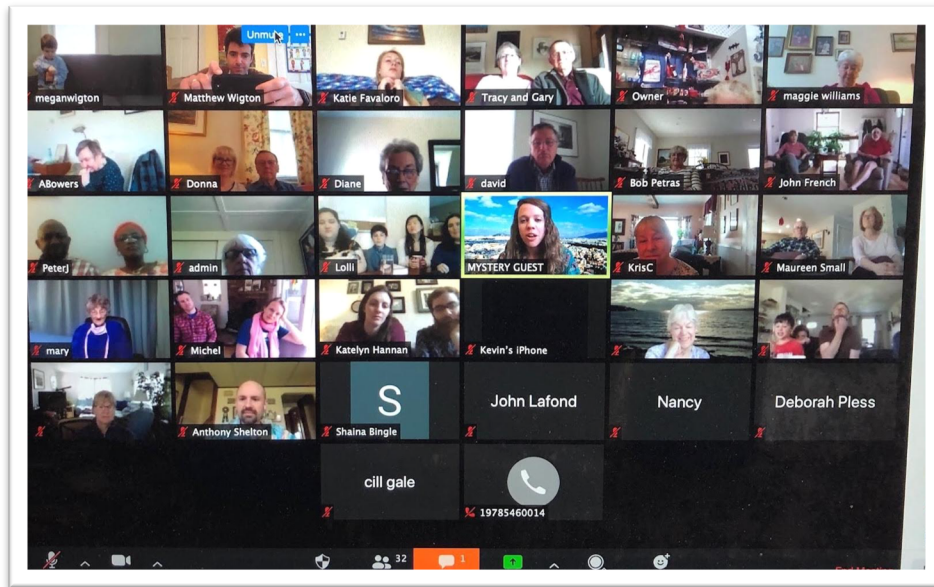
Filming a Fireside Chat – March 2020

Each person in our congregation has been affected by this time of tumult. Some have had first-hand experience with the virus and some are treating its victims, some have faced the loneliness of isolation, others have lost their jobs or worked remotely. Megan and I have faced the challenge of both working from home while managing three children under the age of five. In spite of these real trials the congregation has risen to the occasion and fought tirelessly to help one another and carry on the mission of the church.

On Palm Sunday, April 05 we began meeting for worship on Zoom. Like many others this was my first Zoom experience. Now, we're all quite used to this software and are hopefully muting ourselves when appropriate. Most of my time during this period was devoted to trying to connect with individual members of the congregation and produce our virtual church service.



## First Baptist Church Rockport, MA



Zoom Church – April 2020

In May our re-opening team (myself, David Pierson, Maureen Small and Katie Favaloro) began meeting. The team sought to apply the protocols for safely re-opening put out by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Sunday, June 14 we resumed meeting in person for worship albeit in a very different fashion. The service is now streamed live on Facebook, which has allowed us to extend our reach and capacity. We're continuing to work on adjusting and improving these experiences.

On March 15, I encouraged the congregation to begin reading a Psalm every day. The Psalter has been the worship book for the people of God for millennia in seasons of joy and trouble. In the deepest place of despair upon the cross Jesus recited Psalm 22. The Psalms affirm the need to cry out to God in lament, to acknowledge the angst and sorrow within the human experience. The Psalms also regularly affirm the trustworthiness and hope centered in the Triune God. The Psalms remind us of the need to look to this Triune God each day and that he will provide light for our path.

There are many unknowns about what will take place in the second half of 2020. The Psalms remind us that whatever happens, God remains on his throne and is carrying out his good and just plan of global redemption.

Let us press forward in joyful hope.

*Respectfully Submitted by*

*Matt Wigton*

*Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*





## **Administrative Staff**

### **Administrative Assistant**

It's good to have my first year as Administrative Assistant under my belt, and I can truly say my plate is full. Listed below are the accomplishments for the first half of 2020 and my focus for the second half.

#### **Storage Organization & Designation**

In January and February, one of my main tasks involved working on cleaning out, organizing and designating the storage areas in the church.

- We first tackled the back hallway behind the Sanctuary. It was necessary to clean up and clear up this area for fire hazard reasons.
- We also cleaned out the long closet in the back hallway and designated one side for Sanctuary decorations and the other side for audio/visual “stuff”. More hooks were added to the outside wall where we hung microphone stands and the church ladder and extension cords.
- We cleaned out the choir gown/baptismal gown closet, washed and stored the gowns in bins, and then stored them in the open shelving above the long back hall closet.
- We moved all things music-related (music, folders, file cabinets, files, bells, bell tables, etc.) that was stored in the closet in the Lady's Parlor and the upstairs attic (beside the Children's Church room) into the empty choir gown closet and Pastor's office.
- We cleaned out and organized the upstairs attic (beside the Children's Church room). We added shelving and designated this room for all things VBS & Children's Church related.

#### **Enhancing and Growing the Weekly Email**

As March rolled in and we entered the COVID-19 pandemic, the church was closed to congregants and visitors, and I began working from home. It quickly became obvious to me that the church's weekly email was going to be the main vehicle for connecting with the congregation during the pandemic. It has now replaced the weekly printed bulletin that we pass out at service, and is not only the place for advertising church-related events and announcements, but also provides:

- The links and instruction for using Zoom and livestreaming the church service
- The link to the weekly Zoom check-in
- A printable order of worship for Sunday service
- Printable words & music for both hymns and praise songs for Sunday service
- Instructions and a link to online tithing using PayPal

#### **Upgrading the Church's Telephone & Internet Service**

In May, I was assigned to the church re-opening team and was given the task of looking into upgrading the church's technology. We needed a faster service so that we could make use of Zooming & Livestreaming our service. After researching both Verizon & Comcast, we decided to switch over to Comcast Xfinity, as they offered faster broadband internet service which would suit our needs now and going forward. Comcast came in and did a sight survey and then installed their equipment. This turned out to be a great decision, as both our internet and phone service is more powerful, and much more stable.



### **Creating an Updated Online Church Directory Listing**

During this time, I was also tasked with creating an updated church directory listing that contains names, email addresses, street addresses, phone numbers, etc. so that this information is stored in one place and easily accessible. The new church directory listing excel spreadsheet is now easily updated and sorted, and has been uploaded to the church's Google Docs area so that it's accessible by all who may need to use it.

### **Goals and Tasks for the Last Half of 2020**

For the last half of 2020, my goal is to return to working at the church in the afternoons at least 2 days a week. In addition to my weekly responsibilities, some of the major projects that I'll be working on include:

- Helping out with choosing fixtures for the Steward's bathroom renovation project and overseeing the project as it is completed
- Setting up, organizing, and moving the office 2020 paperwork to the church's Google drive so it is accessible to the appropriate members of the congregation
- Helping with choosing, setting up, and implementing a church office management/financial system

*Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Small  
Administrative Assistant  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*

### **Administrative Intern**

The beginning of this year started off phenomenal with a great New Year's Eve celebration at the Rockport Baptist Church that I helped coordinate with fellow church members. Then we had another wonderful Praise Night at the Lanesville Congregational Church that had almost twice the number of attendees than the one last July. A few days later, I returned to school after my winter break as usual, but I had no idea what was coming and that my last semester would end the way it would.

In March, I was forced out of my apartment in Portland and moved home where I was welcomed back to the church with open arms. Even though I was still wrapping up my last few classes, I was able to work part time at the church on a weekly basis, doing whatever was needed of me. I came to the church to sanitize all surfaces, helped with zoom church, delivered masks to people in the church community, as well as checked up with people in person and over the phone. Even though I wasn't able to do as much as usual, I feel like the small things really made a bigger impact than people realize. Having that contact with others in a time like this is really important.

Thank you for all your love and support the last couple months. I am excited to see where the rest of this year goes with the church and for me as a recent college graduate.

*Respectfully Submitted by Katie Favaloro  
Administrative Intern  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Board of Deacons

Even though the church has been closed to in-person worship for 4 of the last 6 months, the Board of Deacons has been meeting, talking about pertinent issues, and implementing its decisions.

First of all, at the beginning of 2020, we discussed and approved a new budget. Part of that work is to consider and approve new opportunities for missions giving. The board met with Peter & Deborah Johnson to discuss the offering of our support in their new ministry opportunity in Canada. Although they have been unable as yet to begin their ministry in Canada, the deacons decided to offer financial support to their upcoming mission. The Johnsons are currently waiting here in Rockport for the proper time to begin their ministry in Canada.

Since the beginning of the pandemic and the closing of our church to in-person worship, the deacons have been involved in the process of keeping in touch with all of our congregants. The deacons have connected with all members and friends, particularly those who are alone or more isolated. Words of encouragement and love have been given, as well as prayers for wellbeing and offers of shopping help to those who are alone.

Finally, the deacons have been overseeing the production of the digital service and working with Matt to best produce the Sunday service online. Matt has been producing the Fireside Chat series on a daily basis to give everyone a forum for new information and discussions about the book of Psalms which we have all been encouraged to read. Matt has done a fine job of producing these fireside chats and keeping everyone informed and aware of the love of Jesus during this time of stress.

In the past month, the deacons have worked on the reopening of the church to worship. Many decisions were made as to the protocols of worshiping together again. New routines for gathering the offering and the giving of communion, for example, were discussed and approved. A new computer was purchased from available funds for the purpose of continuing to live stream the service to those unable to attend in person.

The deacons are very thankful for all the efforts made on behalf of the members of our congregation. We ask God's grace and wisdom in all our decisions going forward.

*Respectfully Submitted by Nancy Pallazola  
(For David Pierson), Chair, Board of Deacons  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Board of Stewards

The Board of Stewards is pleased to report that despite the extraordinary circumstances that we have operated under since March, we continue to hold our monthly meetings and have made progress on several church capital projects and repair & maintenance tasks in addition to completing technology and safety upgrades.

### Church Completed Projects for January - June

- Patched and painted Fellowship Hall stairway wall
- Replaced fluorescent light panels with LED panels in three Sunday school rooms
- Replaced damaged air valve in the fire system
- Installed replacement gutters above the 4 High St door and other locations
- Moved and organized all music materials/supplies to the back room and hall closets (Thanks to Maureen Small for coordinating and Cheryl Petras for assisting)
- Safety upgrades include building temporary partitions for musicians and Matt
- Technology upgrades include switching to Comcast Business class internet/phone and purchasing a Mac laptop and peripherals for live streaming setup.

### Church Priorities for July - December

- Installing new bushes/plants at the church front entrance. The work will be done by Corliss Landscape and is funded from the Memorial Fund. (Thanks to Cheryl Petras for coordinating this project.)
- The church bathroom renovation/construction project is scheduled to begin August 3rd and will take 4-6 weeks. The project scope involves expanding and replacing the two small bathrooms, adding a janitor closet and storage, as well as extending the bathroom venting to the outside roof and replacing the sewer outflow pipe. (*See Appendix for bathroom design plan.*) Upgrading the current handicap accessible bathroom and nursery bathroom are also part of the project.
- Repairs to sanctuary platform carpet, installing front door bolt locks, and repairs to roof over parking lot side entrance to address water leaking under siding.
- Under the leadership of David Pierson, we're researching new financial management software with the goal of implementing in 2021. As part of this project, the Treasurer and Collector have documented current financial processes to inform the selection and implementation of the new software.

### Parsonage Completed Projects and Plans 2020

Early in the year, we made the decision to postpone the parsonage bathroom renovation project until 2021 when the Wigtons could relocate for 1-2 months. Our fall plans include revisiting the bathroom remodel plans/schedule and potentially replacing the washing machine or oil tank.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jane P. Tutein*

*Chair, Board of Stewards*

*First Baptist Church of Rockport*





First Baptist Church  
Rockport, MA

## Worship Music

2020 started off well with a strong Choir and a strong Praise Band. I am thankful that we have so many talented musicians in our church and so many that are willing to share those talents along with their time to help lead us in worship each week.

Choir started out strong with 9 members and began the year singing some new selections. We have rehearsed more new songs that we hope to bring to you when it is safe to sing again. We will have one less member. Deb, we wish you well in your return to Washington State. We will miss your fellowship and your beautiful voice in our choir.

The Praise Band began the year working together to plan the music and select the new songs to be introduced. We have built up a strong repertoire but also want to keep current with newer praise songs that come out. Our plan is to introduce one new song per month as circumstances allow. We were thrilled to be able to participate in the Praise night in Annisquam in February. We are thankful to all of the people who came to join us in that wonderful night of praise.

A special note of appreciation goes to the Sturgeon family for their continued leadership of praise music while we attended church via Zoom. Thank you for sharing your talents and time in a new and different way to help us all worship together while we had to be apart.

As we go forward, from behind our shower curtains, we will continue to try and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as we continue to lead music during worship. Thank you, all for your prayers and support as we all learn how best to continue to praise our Lord, safely through music.

*Respectfully Submitted by Laurie Tuck  
Music Director  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Collector

In so many ways, our daily lives and the pattern of our church life were disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic that surfaced in the first half of 2020. It's literally true, beginning in February we didn't know what hit us. Corporate worship and all in-person church activities stopped by mid-March to be replaced by "ZOOM Church" and other essential meetings conducted by phone or online. The church doors were closed to all but a few staff and officers.

The amounts and patterns of giving to sustain the work of the church were also disrupted, though not to the extent one might have expected. Most of our principal supporting contributors remained faithful.

In the spring PayPal, an online payment option, was opened and offered through the RBC website and weekly newsletter. It remains to be seen how well used that and other remote giving options become. Special thanks to David Pierson who evaluated internet payment systems, selected PayPal as the best for our purposes, and set it up.

### Six-year Look-back of Collections by Month

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	YTD
<b>2020</b>	9,445.85	8,538.00	9,236.00	9,880.00	9,108.00	9,685.00	55,892.85
<b>2019</b>	24,319.00	9,506.00	12,346.00	20,059.00	10,747.10	10,328.75	87,305.85
<b>2018</b>	11,244.00	16,641.75	11,355.05	15,355.48	19,223.00	9,549.00	83,368.28
<b>2017</b>	12,656.96	11,567.50	8,973.00	11,694.25	10,198.25	6,869.00	61,958.96
<b>2016</b>	7,945.00	6,081.00	6,321.80	8,119.95	16,952.72	10,670.41	56,090.88
<b>2015</b>	5,841.75	4,604.00	8,118.79	11,387.00	9,374.56	8,176.00	47,502.10

Coronavirus pandemic 2020 -- church closed 3/15-mid June

The one constant through all of the recent disruption is the faithfulness of our Lord. That has been demonstrated daily in the lives of our church family members as they reach out to each other to lift and support those in need. The Collector hopes and prays that the opportunities for quiet reflection on the central nature of God will shine through and be remembered as we move to new ways of worshiping, giving and living with grace.

*Respectfully Submitted by Gail M. Zeman*  
*Collector*  
*First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Treasurer

	Jan - Jun 20	Budget	% of Budget
<b>1 General Mission Giving</b>			
2020 Mission - TBD	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Bennett - Missionary Support	1,000.00	2,500.00	40.0%
Christian Vet Mission/St. Denis	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%
Deacon's Fund	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Family Promise	250.00	1,000.00	25.0%
Open Door/ CA Food Bank	500.00	500.00	100.0%
<b>Total 1 General Mission Giving</b>	<b>1,750.00</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>19.44%</b>
<b>Board of Deacons</b>			
Administrative Assistant	4,554.00	13,000.00	35.03%
Evangelism/Outreach	50.36	1,000.00	5.04%
Fellowship/Hospitality	265.39	3,000.00	8.85%
FICA Allowance	7,299.72	15,816.06	46.15%
Health Insurance	2,610.24	6,000.02	43.5%
Judson Dues	213.00	200.00	106.5%
Lay Leadership Development	797.71	1,000.00	79.77%
Nursery	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Pastor's Salary	29,334.48	63,558.04	46.15%
Pension	7,004.64	14,009.28	50.0%
Professional Expense	170.00	2,500.00	6.8%
Pulpit Supply	525.00	700.00	75.0%
Worship Materials	98.14	300.00	32.71%
<b>Total Board of Deacons</b>	<b>52,922.68</b>	<b>122,083.40</b>	<b>43.35%</b>
<b>Board of Deacons Christian Educ</b>			
Adult Christian Education	130.05	500.00	26.01%
Children's Sunday School	189.50	1,000.00	18.95%
Vacation Bible School	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%
Youth Groups	162.14	500.00	32.43%
<b>Total Board of Deacons Christian Educ</b>	<b>481.69</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>13.76%</b>
<b>Board of Stewards</b>			
COVID19	4,142.17	0.00	100.0%
Custodian	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
Electric, Church	1,347.06	3,600.00	37.42%
Electric, Parsonage	1,041.39	1,600.00	65.09%
Fuel Oil, Church	2,706.15	4,500.00	60.14%
Fuel Oil, Parsonage	994.79	2,000.00	49.74%



# First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

Grounds	874.03	3,000.00	29.13%
IT Support	180.00	500.00	36.0%
Miscellaneous	455.16	1,000.00	45.52%
Office Supplies	1,627.63	3,500.00	46.5%
Payroll Service	650.43	850.00	76.52%
Professional Services	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Property Insurance	2,641.00	5,400.00	48.91%
Repair/Maintenance, church	4,292.42	15,000.00	28.62%
Repair/Maintenance, parsonage	450.00	5,000.00	9.0%
Software expenses	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Staff FICA	834.05	2,550.00	32.71%
Supplies	741.43	2,000.00	37.07%
Telephone	1,154.99	2,400.00	48.13%
Water & Sewer, Church	633.35	1,500.00	42.22%
Water & Sewer, parsonage	869.62	2,100.00	41.41%
Worker's Comp	1,888.00	1,000.00	188.8%
<b>Total Board of Stewards</b>	<b>27,523.67</b>	<b>65,500.00</b>	<b>42.02%</b>
<b>Music Committee</b>			
Music Director, Organist	4,707.72	10,200.06	46.15%
Music Equipment	107.37	1,500.00	7.16%
Music Expenses, choir, sheet mu	365.11	1,000.00	36.51%
Professional Development	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Substitutes	0.00	700.00	0.0%
Worship Facilitator stipend	1,900.00	5,200.00	36.54%
<b>Total Music Committee</b>	<b>7,080.20</b>	<b>19,600.06</b>	<b>36.12%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>89,758.24</b>	<b>219,683.46</b>	<b>40.86%</b>
<b>Capital Improvements, church</b>	2,073.93	40,000.00	5.19%
<b>Capital Improvements, parsonage</b>	2,972.50	30,000.00	9.91%
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>			
BBSU(Boston Baptist Society Union)	275.00	Nursery	
BBSU(Boston Baptist Society Union)	1334.50	Attendants	
Youth and Family Pastor	360.00	Administrative Intern	
VBS	484.95	Youth Items	
Senior Outreach	170.00	Administrative Intern	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2624.45</b>		

*Respectfully Submitted by Andy Brown*  
*Treasurer*  
*First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Appendix – Bathroom Renovation Design

