

**ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH**

# 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**Follow Jesus and Proclaim Him to the World!**



First Baptist Church  
Rockport, MA



First Baptist Church  
Rockport, MA



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## Pastor's Report

2020 was a year of unrelenting challenges. Nevertheless, God was exceedingly gracious to our congregation as we learned to trust him more.

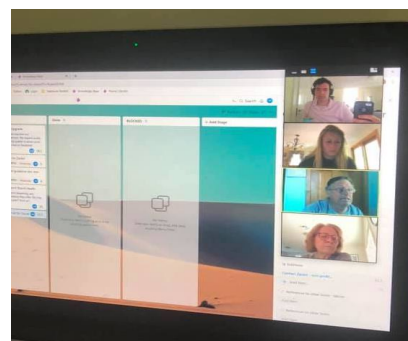


Welcoming Shaina as a new member in February

We entered the year with great enthusiasm about a number of promising developments. The first quarter was full and fun, with a joyful Annual Meeting, a breakfast for lunch potluck, an engaging leadership dinner, multiple growing small groups for Children, Youth and Adults, and a standing room only worship night with other Cape Ann churches. I was preaching through Colossians and leading a weekly study on the Book of Acts. The VBS team had its first planning meeting. The Deacons were engaged in evaluating our church missions and the Stewards were moving forward with bathroom renovation plans. It was a really exciting start to the year that all came to a crashing halt the week of March 15th.

As a news junkie, I had been following the developing stories coming out of China since early January. I bought my first box of facemasks on January 29th. In February, I contributed to the global supply chain problems when I bought 1,000 toilet paper rolls for the church's strategic stockpile. Little did I realize that toilet paper would really be the least of our problems this year. That week in March we canceled a "Theology & Art" trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. On Tuesday I visited a parishioner recovering at SeaCoast Rehabilitation Center. Later that day SeaCoast would prohibit all visitors. During that same week, our Wednesday Bible Study and Youth Group would meet for the last time under the old normal. It was also on this day that emails started floating around that area churches were voluntarily canceling their upcoming Sunday services. I had vowed to never cancel. A few days later it was not an option, the Governor had ordered a Statewide shut-down. Two weeks later we regathered on Palm Sunday via Zoom, and it was a genuine joy to reconnect with the congregation and learn about the mute button. We would continue in this mode for about three months.

In May, following guidance from the Governor we began the process of re-opening. David Pierson, Maureen Small, Katie Favaloro, and I worked on our reopening plan for a number of weeks. Re-opening required building a protective bubble on the platform, marking off social distance throughout the building, updating the church internet capacity, and adding a number of wires and new features for livestreaming the service. The re-opening also mandated submitting a detailed plan to the Town of Rockport on how the church was up to date on the local, state, and national standards for re-opening. These protocols have changed several times throughout the year.



Planning reopening in May





On a beautiful June Sunday, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” was our first hymn back in the Sanctuary. Despite being back in the Sanctuary and the resurrection as the foundation of our hope, it was and is still evident that things are not the way they should be. We grieve the pain and loss being felt throughout the world. We grieve many that we haven’t seen or have only seen from a distance. We miss bad coffee and good fellowship after church. We long to see children running through the Sanctuary again and seniors going to lunch after the service. In this time, we have found solace in the Psalms, the hymn book of the people of God who for centuries experienced exile and sufferings, all the while longing for their homeland and to be together in worship of Yahweh. The Psalms rightly show us that it is right to lament and acknowledge that sometimes God does allow us to experience more than we can handle. It is in the shadows of death that we find restoration in the arms of the Good Shepherd.

As the Summer and Fall progressed, we were able to restore some of our regular programming with hybrid versions of Bible Study and the Spiritual Formation Group. For the time being, Children’s Church and Youth Group moved outside to allow for proper spacing protocols. Church Boards have resumed meeting on Zoom and in-person. Throughout the original shutdown I produced daily videos in an attempt to keep the church connected. I then switched to weekly updates after the re-opening. On Wednesdays, we have regularly had Zoom Check-ins which have provided a fun way of connecting and reconnecting with regular and former Rockport Baptists. Scores of individuals have contributed in numerous ways to pull-off this crazy year of ministry. Among the many who have contributed to our work is the regular presence of Laurie Tuck and the Praise band, Meaghan Shelton, Janet and John French, Paul Kelly, and the several Christian education teachers and helpers who found creative ways to do ministry during a pandemic.



Preaching in December

While there is much to lament about in 2020, there is also much to be thankful for. Being in a small town and church, where 90% of the congregation is within walking distance of the church, has made staying connected during this time easier. Just the other day as I was running through town, I interacted with four members of the congregation in a span of five miles! We can be thankful that our church facility and yard has been able to accommodate the needs of social distance. We can be thankful for the way our church yard provided opportunity for countless social interactions throughout the year. We can be grateful for the resources and technology to have digital services and meetings. We rejoice in the ability to be alive last year and to welcome to our church new lives and new visitors.



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I want to thank you all for being part of our journey together in 2020. And thank you to Maureen Small for her dedicated service as Administrative Assistant over the last two years. She will be missed when she retires this coming year.

During the last half of this year, I've preached through the book of Philippians. This beloved epistle is so rich but particularly applicable in our present season. Paul who himself spent years of isolation and hardship knew full well that true joy comes not from our external circumstances but through a deep and abiding union with Jesus Christ. As we progress into the new year, may we do so by knowing that through Christ we can rejoice in all things.

*Respectfully Submitted by*

*Matt Wigton*

*Pastor*

*First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Deacons' Report

Christ's church has been through pandemics and significant crises in its history and came through just fine, if not healthier. What will history show for this latest one? Frankly, I'm not sure. I see extremes, churches not meeting in any way in-person on one end, and other churches packing in hundreds of people without masks or any concern for health and safety on the other. It's all so confusing, to say the least. I do know that Rockport Baptist is a persevering church pushing forward to worship, teach, and grow in Christ safely!



I think we should all be extremely pleased with the myriad of ways Matt has guided our church this past year. His shower curtain innovation for musicians gives us live music, safely. He set us up with the technology to live stream the Worship Service, enabling people to attend from home. As well as his efforts to get children back in Sunday school, to name just a few. All of this combined with the stresses Megan and he deal with at work and from home with kids schooling, and trying to raise a vibrant, growing family. The Deacons acknowledge the challenging year it has been and praises God for Matt and

Megan and all they do for Christ and His church here in Rockport.

As a board, we did our best to connect with members, meet needs, and continue to support our missionaries. We have stayed close to the Johnsons as they waited for the opening to Canada that finally came in December. They're a living example of trusting God day by day!

We look forward to expanding our mission focus and giving as God leads us to a more significant outreach commitment in the coming year.

*Respectfully Submitted by David Pierson  
Chair, Board of Deacons  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Stewards' Report

The Board of Stewards is pleased to report that despite the extraordinary circumstances that we have operated under since March 2019, we were able to complete church capital projects and repair and maintenance jobs as well as identify a new financial software solution that will be implemented in 2021. We are grateful for God's abundant provision for every aspect of this work which encompassed the financial means and the time, knowledge, and efforts of many skilled craftsmen, board members, church staff, and volunteers.

Below is a comprehensive list of capital projects and repairs/maintenance tasks completed in 2020:

### Church Capital Projects

- Replacement gutters installed above the 4 High St door and other locations.
- New landscaping installed at the church front entrance by Corliss Design & Landscaping services and funded by the Memorial Fund. Thanks to Cheryl Petras for coordinating the design and installation with Corliss.
- Completed church bathroom remodel project. The project included:
  - Gutting the two small bathrooms off the kitchen and lady's parlor closet and building two larger bathrooms, a janitor closet and upper storage in the space. New electricity, plumbing, walls, flooring and fixtures were installed and fire system sprinkler heads relocated. Bathroom vents and the basement outflow pipe were replaced to meet building code.
  - Upgraded Handicap accessible bathroom by replacing toilet, sink faucet, flooring, door handle and light/fan fixture.
  - Upgraded Nursery bathroom by replacing toilet, sink, flooring, and added shelves to sink cabinet.
  - Painted three first floor bathrooms, janitor closet, basement entry, lady's parlor and side entrance foyer.





Many people contributed to the successful completion of this project however I want to recognize and thank two folks in particular: Peter Willcox, our General Contractor, for managing the entire project including hiring and overseeing subcontractors and skilled carpentry and finish work; and Maureen Small for her sage advice, remodeling expertise, being the onsite point person; and her willingness to handle and all tasks that came up during the project!

#### **Church Repairs/Maintenance Tasks**

- Patched and painted Fellowship Hall stairway wall. Thanks to Gail Zeman for organizing this work.
- Replaced fluorescent light panels with LED panels in three Sunday school rooms.
- Replaced broken glass panes in Fellowship Hall doors and the kitchen. Thanks to Gail and Margaret Williams for locating glass and David Pierson installed it.
- Replaced damaged air valve in the fire system
- Moved and organized all music materials/supplies to the back room and hall closets. Thanks to Maureen for coordinating and Cheryl Petras for assisting.
- Built temporary partitions in sanctuary for musicians and Matt.
- Rebound edges of pulpit carpet. Thanks to Margaret and Diane Lynn for coordinating the repair work.
- Arranged for phone line/fire alarm phone to be fixed.
- Installed outdoor faucet, hose and holder near front of church for watering gardens and planters. Thanks to John French for coordinating this work.
- Replaced sump pump in narthex basement.
- Organized fall outdoor clean up days and some interior cleanup. Thanks to John for organizing the clean-up days and thanks to volunteers who participated.
- Installed vertical locks on the left church front door
- Removed the folding dividers in Fellowship Hall.
- Replaced broken glass in door and screens in bathroom windows. Thanks to John for taking care of these tasks.
- Scheduled annual fire system inspections and wheelchair lift inspection.
- Removed the old sink and installed cubby shelving in the Music storage room.

#### **Parsonage Capital Projects and Repairs/Maintenance Tasks**

- Paid for bathroom remodel design.
- Repaired dishwasher and replaced washing machine.

#### **Financial Systems Project**

- Added a PayPal donation option to our website. Thanks to David Pierson for implementing this option.
- Purchased ACCOUNTS Software license which will replace current system. Thanks to David Pierson for managing the software search project and Gail, Andy and Maureen for participating in requirements/evaluation/decision phases.

*Respectfully Submitted by Jane P. Tutein  
Chair, Board of Stewards  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## **Administrative Staff Report**

### **Administrative Assistant**

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 marks my second anniversary of working as the Administrative Assistant at Rockport Baptist Church! Because of the pandemic, 2020 has been challenging to say the least! Although we couldn't have the usual smiling faces coming in and out of the church building each week, we were able to accomplish much while the building was mostly empty!

### **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 (Thanks to Cheryl Petras), 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 old Pastor's office. (Again, Thanks to Cheryl Petras for helping with this!)
- 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 this time. As the pandemic marched on, the weekly email has become a valuable tool for staying in touch, even after the church reopened. It's not only the place for advertising church-related events and announcements, it also provides:

- The links and instruction for using Zoom and Livestreaming the church service
- The link to the weekly Zoom check-in
- A printable copy of the weekly bulletin for Sunday service
- Printable hymns for Sunday service
- Instructions and a link to online tithing using PayPal
- Videos of the previous week's sermon and weekly updates from Matt





### **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.

### **Moving Church Directory Listing Information Online**

During this time, I was also tasked with creating and updating a church directory listing that contains names, email addresses, street addresses, phone numbers, etc. so that this information is all stored in one document that is easily accessible and updated. A new church directory listing excel spreadsheet has been uploaded to the church's Google Docs area and is accessible by all who may need to use it. And thanks to David Pierson, a free WordPress Church Admin applet was installed on the FBC website. I've also entered all of our church directory information into this applet. In the future, we hope to use it to assign people to groups, create a church directory with pictures, and allow members of the church to log into the app and update their own information.

### **Overseeing Bathroom Renovations, etc.**

Part of my responsibilities over the summer/fall, involved helping to oversee (with Jane Tutein) the bathroom renovation project. For my part, this included picking bathroom fixtures, flooring, paint, and buying and hanging mirrors, door hooks, and bathroom signage. As part of this project, we also had the back entrance, Lady's Parlor, and upstairs Nursery painted. Part of the updating of these rooms included buying and hanging new blinds in the Pastor's office, Lady's Parlor, and Nursery windows. I also hung a bulletin board, office signage board, and new clock in the back hall entrance. And I moved and organized all the cleaning supplies and cleaning tools into the new Janitor's closet.





### **Moving Files to Google Docs**

Another project involved organizing and moving copies of files to Google Docs. By putting documents up on Google Docs, the files can be easily accessed by those given privileges to do so (members of the church Boards, Committees, etc.) New separate areas were created for the Board of Stewards, the Board of Deacons, and Admin Group. Electronic copies of files were moved into folders labeled 2020. Going forward we can use these areas for document storage by year.

### **Setting up Church Attendance Sign Up**

Since the State has put restrictions on church attendance limits to minimize the spread of the coronavirus, Matt thought it would be a good time to research and set up a church attendance app that we can access should we need to start requiring people to sign up for church on Sunday and for other events. I set us up on the free app called SignUpGenius. Although, we aren't using it at this time because our attendance numbers have remained within State guidelines, in the future this software can be used by the congregation to remotely sign up for Sunday service and any other event we hold. This will help us ensure that we don't go over the required attendance limits mandated by the State.

In 2021, my hope and prayers are for the church to continue to move forward with a goal of organizing and improving the day-to-day operations, as well as implement accounting/office software to automate the church's finances and daily operations.

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

### **Administrative Intern**

It is weird to think back to the beginning of the year because I was going into my last semester of college. In January, I was on winter break and worked hard at the church per usual making flyers, teaching Children's Church and other usual office things. I was able to help rally together another praise night, this time at Lanesville Congregational Church, which had an amazing turnout. I then returned back to college for two months before I was sent home because of COVID. I was done with college before I knew it and spending most of my time in the church office through the rest of 2020.

A few of the bigger roles I had this year was the positions of producer and editor. I operated the camera on Sunday mornings and filmed/ edited numerous videos to play during church service. One example was the "Better Know a Baptist" series which involved a few church members that would not have been able to attend church otherwise. Towards Christmas, we wanted to get more people involved so we filmed the Advent Lightings and Christmas Eve readings. This was a special and fun way to include the people that were not able to attend the church throughout the year. Later in the year, I picked up the position of sound technician. It started at the beginning of quarantine with zoom church with the Sturgeon Family band and then moved in person with the entire Praise Band. It was a huge learning opportunity to be able to do this and I have been able to use my knowledge to help others.





This fall was different because it was the first time in 16 years that I was not going back to school. I decided to get myself more involved since I had all the time in the world and I found my way back to my roots with the youth at the church. Since I had been away from kids for almost 6 months, it was an adjustment to get back to where I was pre-COVID. It didn't take long until I was attending Youth Group every week, teaching Children's Church and helping Matt with the Exploding comets groups on Tuesdays. It definitely was great to be back.

One of the biggest projects I have taken on at the church were the winter baskets. We were fortunate enough to receive a Judson grant for \$3,000 to which I was able to find many items that were suitable for all ages. While choosing items, many people suggested local shops to buy from. In the baskets, there were candles from Rockport Candle Company and the famous chocolates from Tucks Candy. During the process, many people and groups from the church were graciousness enough to donate time and items to the baskets which I am very thankful for. For example, much of the time was spent making "no-sew" blankets that many people were willing to put together. Also, The Spiritual Formation Group donated homemade baked goods that got great reviews. Serena also used her talents to write personal hand written notes to all recipients that were very kind and appreciated by all. I am very thankful for all the people that were willing to help me!

Total this year, I put in roughly 275 hours at the church. It doesn't seem like it was a lot, but I was able to accomplish more this year than I have in the past. Without VBS this summer, the numbers were drastically different! I am looking forward to another year of working hard and doing all that is needed at the church. I want to thank everyone for their love and support throughout my last few months of college and continuing to support me while I continue to look for a job in my field. I am so grateful for this church family; I don't know what I would do without all of you!

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

## Music Director's Report

Thank you all for your support and encouragement throughout this past year. I thank the Lord daily for the gifts and opportunities He has given me to help further His kingdom through music. Working with such talented musicians to lead such wonderful people is a blessing.

2020 provided a unique challenge for music in the church. Thank you to all who created and then modified a safe environment allowing us to lead music during the continuing pandemic. I am very proud of our church leaders and musicians for continuing to share God's love, consistently, during these unprecedented times.

The Praise Band has continued to work hard each week preparing music to lead in worship. Our process has been modified but I thank every member for working hard to be prepared on Sunday mornings. The choices are made via emails back and forth and then the music is sent out for people to practice at home. The result of that work is what you see on Sunday mornings. Thank you, Beth, Christian, Kimi, Harry, Anthony, Shaina & Phil for your faithfulness and willingness to share your talents.



You may not realize that CCLI, Christian Copyright Licensing, Inc. is key to our Praise music each week. Through them we have permission to print, copy and project the music we use every Sunday. Their wisdom helped us this Fall by noting that we may want to adjust our license to include permission to live stream. I truly believe it was the Holy Spirit stepping in to protect the many churches who just responded to the needs of their congregations by providing worship for them in the safety of their own homes.



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As we look to 2021, please pray for our Music Ministry. Give thanks for the music we are able to share and pray that choir and other music gatherings such as caroling, hymn sings, and praise nights can resume when it is safe again.

Thank you for all of your support throughout the year. As always, I welcome suggestions for a favorite hymn, praise song, carol or any other type of music you would like included in the service.

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



## Spiritual Formation Group & Missional Community

Spiritual formation is allowing God to form us to become more like Jesus. *“For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”* **Romans 8:29 NLT**

It occurs through the power of God’s Spirit. *“18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate[a] the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”* **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)**

Despite the challenges of a pandemic, our group met and repeated a journey through the books, *The Good and Beautiful God and Life* by James Bryan Smith. Study is only part of what we do. We learn from Smith and others, God desires not only we learn together, but grow together through spiritual disciplines (Holy Habits or Soul Training) and supporting each other. The holy habits involve growing in Jesus inwardly and outwardly. God wants to transform our minds, hearts and actions. In the Fall we studied the Lord’s Prayer and did soul training exercises to expand our prayer life.





Spiritual formation is an ongoing life-long process for followers of Jesus. We decided to evolve from primarily a study group into **a community group** called a Missional Community. We believe the scripture teaches Jesus's followers (disciples) must work, play and pray in community to engage in Jesus's mission in the world. That mission is to make other disciples and love our neighbors as ourselves. This Missional Community has three regular dynamics. We seek God, life with his people, and seek to further his kingdom while enjoying life together. Simply put, when we meet, we concentrate on one of these movements: Up, In and/or Out. We believe this leads to a balanced Christian life. This has been challenging during the pandemic since we often have not been able to meet in person. During the lock down we met weekly over Zoom. Mission is more difficult virtually, but we managed to support a couple of families, help with Thanksgiving baskets and recently sang Christmas Carols at the Den Mar Nursing facility.

Currently our MC or Missional Community of 8-14 people meets every other week in person. All are invited to join us as often as we can. For those who want to go deeper in transformation and leadership development, a small group called, "Huddle" will begin the end of January meeting the weeks when the MC does not meet. Growing in Christ Together

*Respectfully Submitted by John and Janet French  
Spiritual Formation Group & Missional Community  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Children's Church

Children's Church started in January of 2020 with an exciting level of hope, participation and promise. We began the year with our highest level of involvement in several years. We had no fewer than 16 volunteers, 2 paid students and an average of 15 children each week. We were entering our 3<sup>rd</sup> year utilizing LifeWay's Gospel Project curriculum in the elementary group and engaging in conversation about how our programming would change to accommodate more children of varying ages. As all things normal in 2020, Children's Church was quickly turned upside down in the middle of March. All children's ministries were suspended from March through mid-September.

In mid-September we were able to reopen children's programming with safety precautions in place and the ability to meet outdoors. We began with 9 children from 4 families. We were able to use the 5 lessons from our unopened VBS curriculum over 5 weeks in September and October and study the life of Jesus and the Gospel as a foundation for life! The children were ecstatic to be together and eager to hear and take to heart the lessons each week! With the success of the first 5 weeks, we decided to continue plugging away and offer lessons and games as long as the weather would permit.



Honestly, we live in New England and November weather is pretty gross, followed by 3 months of perfectly frigid temperatures. I anticipated our season would be cut short! With all things in God's hands, we were blessed with perfect weather and the addition of 3 families for 6 more



children! We quickly outgrew COVID-safe numbers and had to split into two separate groups! We have an average of 16 children each week! We have been able to run a group for our youngest members along the High St. side of the church and our bigger kids are meeting next to the parking lot. In November we studied the parables and in December we did an in-depth study of the Nativity story. While we missed hosting our Christmas Pageant we are looking forward to the future!

In addition to more students, we were also blessed with new volunteers. The success of our Sunday morning programming brought with it the realization that there was an opportunity to offer more during the week! Janet and John French and Katharine Boucher were able to run a group for children ages 4 to 7 on Thursday afternoons (The Shining Stars), and Matt Wigton and Katie Favaloro have been running a group for children ages 8 to 10 on Tuesday afternoons (The Exploding Comets!) These groups have been a blessing to the children and their families! The children have the opportunity to meet with their friends in person, enjoy games and camaraderie, and hear the Good News. It has been a positive community outreach offering and several children who join us are not associated with our church.

We're very excited about what the Lord has planned for us and are looking forward to expanding our children's ministry in the future! While there are too many to list this would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and I am so grateful to each of you and your commitment to serve the Lord by working with our youth!

*Respectfully submitted by Meaghan Shelton  
Director of Christian Ed  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Preschool and Kindergarten



Follow in God's loving ways  
Come and join to give God praise.  
Learn to make peace end all fights.  
Watch God make the wrong things  
right.

Come walk in God's ways!  
Come walk in God's ways!  
Come walk in God's ways!  
We're glad God makes things right.  
(Tune: Jesus Loves Me)

We began the pre-K year focusing on Jesus' life and miracles. Each week we learned a Bible verse, a song that reflects God's love, a story acted out, and a response to the story through art, games and block or boat building. Our class came to an unexpected halt because of the COVID-19 virus, and eventually an outside class developed with a similar format, except distancing/masks are the norm. Meaghan Shelton coordinates the lessons for this group. Bravo!

The Shining Stars was another group option on Thursdays in November/December for kid's pre-K through first grade. We developed a "dinner theatre" approach to acting out Bible stories. In learning about the ascension, everyone wanted to be Jesus and disappear behind a curtain....an enthusiastic group. We made cards for people who couldn't get out easily, worked on a Thank You sign for Sandcastles, the store across the street, did a science experiment with vinegar and baking soda hearts observing how the bubbles overflowed just like God's love is hard to contain. Mr. John worked the stars hard with classic games like "Mother May I" animal relays and tag using a long piece of styrofoam as the tagging device. Advent wreaths were constructed; we traveled to Bethlehem via hidden stars in the bushes and came upon a manger. Katherine provided a much appreciated helping hand wherever needed.







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Special thanks to Jane, Clara, Trinity, Katherine, Marjorie, Danielle, Meaghan, David, Serena and Katie as teachers or assistants.

*Respectfully submitted by Janet French  
Pre-school Coordinator  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## CPSON Nominating Report

(Church Personnel Safety Oversight and Nominating Committee)

### Board of Stewards

Steward	Term Expires
* Karen Parker	2024
* David Pierson	2024
* Meaghan Shelton	2024
* Margaret Williams	2024

Pastor, Treasurer & Collector are ex-officio members.

### Board of Deacons

Deacon	Term Expires
Kris Carlson	2022
* John French	2024
Nancy Pallazola	2022

The Pastor is an ex-officio member.



*But the greatest among you shall be your servant.  
Matthew 23:11*

### Officers (One Year Term)

- \* Auditor - Millicent Bruce
- \* Clerk - Millicent Bruce
- \* Collector - Gail Zeman
- \* Head Usher - Kristine Carlson
- \* Moderator - Anthony Shelton
- \* Treasurer - Andrea Brown
- \* Christian Education - Meaghan Shelton

### Standing Committee (One Year Term)

Committee	Members
* Music	Cheryl Petras, Anthony Shelton, Beth Sturgeon
* CPSON	Janet French

\* Asterisk indicates those who are to be elected Sunday, January 31, 2021.

*Respectfully submitted by Janet French  
Nominating Committee  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*

## Clerk's Report

### Members reported December 31st, 2019

Total Membership.....84

### Membership Changes in 2020

New Members (2): Ken & Beth Sturgeon  
Members to Heaven (3): Betty & David Scatterday, and Pat Terry

### Members as of December 31st, 2020

Total Membership.....83

### Births:

Shiloh Benjamin Bingle - August 3rd, 2020

*Respectfully submitted by Millicent Bruce  
Clerk  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*



## Collector's Report

During the 2020 year very little was normal. We worshipped as usual through March 10 after which the patterns of church (and life) virtually shut down to try to prevent the spread of a highly contagious, deadly coronavirus dubbed "COVID-19". The church reopened on a COVID-safe basis in June, allowing small numbers of regular worshipers and a few visitors to gather. We were extremely limited in celebrating our holidays, had no VBS, and lost a number of our 'regulars' (summer and full year). Our average number of givers per week dropped considerably. We added an online giving avenue (PayPal) and it was used, but not to a large extent. The typical "passing of the plate" in worship was replaced by a self-drop collection box at the back of the sanctuary. Many people chose to give monthly or mail in gifts periodically. Others used weekly or monthly automatic bank services to support the church.

Besides those able to attend in-person worship, in the fall it was a joy to see young families outside for Sunday School and after-school activities. Sadly, we did not see many of our older, long-faithful members in person or online. The worship team did an amazing job of bringing The Word to people via Zoom and Facebook. But the loss of normal corporate worship, fellowship, events and traditional music was significant and showed in the drop in collections.

Year	Regular Giving	*Designated	Total	% Increase (Decrease)
2020	\$141,419	\$19,594	\$161,013	(13.0%)
2019	\$167,573	\$17,583	\$185,156	(14.1%)
2018	\$178,897	\$37,552	\$215,673	30.2%
2017	\$152,342	\$13,212	\$165,554	13.8%
2016	\$115,586	\$29,874	\$145,460	28.7%
2015	\$92,927	\$20,060	\$112,987	6.2%

As a difficult year ends and new challenges begin, Rockport Baptist Church remains faithful to God's plan.

**\*Designated** refers to monies given for a specific purpose such as Grants, Hospitality/Flowers, Youth Programs, Scholarship, Special Offerings, etc.

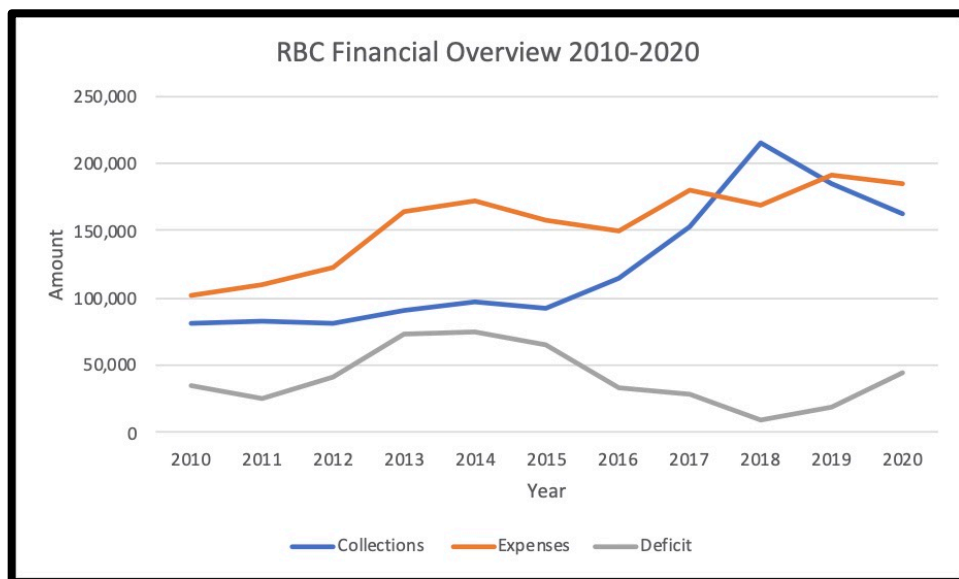
**Note:** As in the past, the above figures do not include so-call "pass-through" funds that do not directly support the church and its missions.



**Decade Financial Overview -- First Baptist Church of Rockport  
2010-2020**

Year	Collections	Expenses	Deficit	Investments
2010	81,012	102,490	34,878	695,363
2011	83,003	110,645	25,495	706,039
2012	81,082	122,795	41,653	709,230
2013	90,843	163,816	72,973	721,495
2014	97,410	172,066	74,656	688,579
2015	92,927	157,705	64,778	586,274
2016	115,586	149,571	34,025	640,619
2017	152,712	180,695	28,352	698,730
2018	215,673	169,189	9,657	671,963
2019	185,156	191,313	18,731	794,454
2020	161,933	185,588	44,163	737,805

Collection for All Expenses, Programs & Missions	Church Expenses from Budget	Budget Deficit Paid from Invested Funds	Value of Endowment at Year End
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*Respectfully submitted by Gail Zeman  
Collector  
First Baptist Church of Rockport*

## Treasurer's Report

### Budget vs. Actual January through December 2020

	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2021
	Jan - Dec	Budget	% of Budget	Jan - Dec	Budget	% of Budget	Budget
<b>1 General Mission Giving</b>							
Bennett - Missionary Support	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.0%	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.0%	2,000.00
Christian Vet Mission/St. Denis	1,000.00	1,800.00	55.56%	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%	2,500.00
Deacon's Fund	1,200.00	1,200.00	100.0%	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%	1,800.00
Family Promise	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,200.00
Johnson Canada Mission Support	0.00	0.00	0.0%	1,750.00	2,000.00	87.5%	1,000.00
Open Door/ CA Food Bank	500.00	500.00	100.0%	500.00	500.00	100.0%	500.00
<b>Total 1 General Mission Giving</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>88.57%</b>	<b>5,750.00</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>63.89%</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>
<b>Board of Deacons</b>							
Administrative Assistant	10,357.00	13,000.00	79.67%	11,279.00	13,000.00	86.76%	13,000.00
Evangelism/Outreach	262.07	1,000.00	26.21%	614.23	1,000.00	61.42%	500.00
Fellowship/Hospitality	3,744.12	2,200.00	170.19%	265.39	3,000.00	8.85%	500.00
FICA Allowance	13,728.00	13,728.00	100.0%	15,816.06	15,816.06	100.0%	16,045.64
Health Insurance	5,354.30	5,354.28	100.0%	5,470.02	6,000.02	91.17%	6,500.00
Judson Dues	213.00	150.00	142.0%	213.00	200.00	106.5%	200.00
Lay Leadership Development	747.80	1,000.00	74.78%	797.71	1,000.00	79.77%	500.00
Nursery	0.00	750.00	0.0%	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	500.00
Pastor's Salary	52,000.08	52,000.08	100.0%	63,558.04	63,558.04	100.0%	64,829.18
Pastoral Apprentice	4,075.02	6,000.00	67.92%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
Pension	14,340.00	14,340.00	100.0%	14,009.28	14,009.28	100.0%	14,212.80
Professional Expense	2,005.36	2,500.00	80.21%	559.41	2,500.00	22.38%	1,000.00
Pulpit Supply	1,575.00	700.00	225.0%	875.00	700.00	125.0%	1,500.00
Worship Materials	682.44	300.00	227.48%	200.07	300.00	66.69%	300.00
<b>Total Board of Deacons</b>	<b>109,084.19</b>	<b>113,022.36</b>	<b>96.52%</b>	<b>113,657.21</b>	<b>122,083.40</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>119,587.62</b>
<b>Board of Deacons Christian Ed</b>							
Adult Christian Education	403.52	700.00	57.65%	182.49	500.00	36.5%	500.00
Children's Sunday School	975.11	1,000.00	97.51%	224.45	1,000.00	22.45%	1,000.00
Vacation Bible School	4,000.75	2,000.00	200.04%	0.00	1,500.00	0.0%	0.00
Youth Groups	1,174.89	1,500.00	78.33%	873.38	500.00	174.68%	500.00
<b>Total Board of Deacons Christian Ed</b>	<b>6,554.27</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>126.04%</b>	<b>1,280.32</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>36.58%</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>



	2019	2019	2019	2020	2020	2020	2021
	Jan - Dec	Budget	% of Budget	Jan - Dec	Budget	% of Budget	Budget
<b>Board of Stewards</b>							
COVID19	0.00	0.00	0.0%	6,389.32	0.00	100.0%	1,000.00
Custodian	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%	2,000.00
Electric, Church	3,924.21	3,000.00	130.81%	2,383.36	3,600.00	66.2%	3,000.00
Electric, Parsonage	1,653.54	1,600.00	103.35%	2,343.86	1,600.00	146.49%	2,500.00
Fuel Oil, Church	4,799.25	4,000.00	119.98%	3,477.43	4,500.00	77.28%	3,500.00
Fuel Oil, Parsonage	1,670.89	2,000.00	83.55%	1,197.92	2,000.00	59.9%	2,000.00
Grounds	2,129.21	3,500.00	60.84%	960.80	3,000.00	32.03%	2,000.00
IT Support	0.00	500.00	0.0%	180.00	500.00	36.0%	500.00
Miscellaneous	671.38	1,000.00	67.14%	838.74	1,000.00	83.87%	1,000.00
Office Supplies	3,756.64	3,500.00	107.33%	2,445.06	3,500.00	69.86%	3,000.00
Payroll Service	775.18	0.00	0.0%	1,297.52	850.00	152.65%	1,200.00
Professional Services	775.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	1,000.00
Property Insurance	5,405.00	4,700.00	115.0%	5,282.00	5,400.00	97.82%	5,400.00
Repair/Maintenance, church	12,918.79	13,000.00	99.38%	10,387.07	15,000.00	69.25%	15,000.00
Repair/Maintenance, parsonage	3,399.09	5,000.00	67.98%	1,357.23	5,000.00	27.15%	3,000.00
Software expenses	124.99	0.00	0.0%	130.00	1,000.00	13.0%	500.00
Staff FICA	2,645.91	841.50	314.43%	2,030.14	2,550.00	79.61%	2,000.00
Supplies	2,257.58	1,750.00	129.01%	1,190.88	2,000.00	59.54%	1,500.00
Telephone and Internet	2,632.86	2,400.00	109.7%	2,754.50	2,400.00	114.77%	0.00
Telephone/Internet, Church	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	2,500.00
Telephone/Internet, Parsonage		0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.0%	900.00
Water & Sewer, Church	1,125.12	1,500.00	75.01%	1,238.42	1,500.00	82.56%	1,500.00
Water & Sewer, parsonage	1,792.34	2,100.00	85.35%	2,363.81	2,100.00	112.56%	2,500.00
Worker's Comp	900.00	1,000.00	90.0%	1,888.00	1,000.00	188.8%	2,000.00
<b>Total Board of Stewards</b>	<b>53,356.98</b>	<b>51,391.50</b>	<b>103.83%</b>	<b>50,136.06</b>	<b>65,500.00</b>	<b>76.54%</b>	<b>59,500.00</b>
<b>Music Committee</b>							
Music Director, Organist	9,600.08	11,000.00	87.27%	10,164.24	10,200.06	99.65%	10,200.06
Music Equipment	573.68	500.00	114.74%	373.98	1,500.00	24.93%	1,500.00
Music Expenses, choir, sheet music	480.75	500.00	96.15%	812.61	1,000.00	81.26%	1,000.00
Professional Development	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%	200.00
Substitutes	455.00	700.00	65.0%	0.00	700.00	0.0%	700.00
Worship Facilitator stipend	0.00	0.00	0.0%	3,413.59	5,200.00	65.65%	5,200.00
<b>Total Music Committee</b>	<b>11,109.51</b>	<b>14,700.00</b>	<b>75.58%</b>	<b>14,764.42</b>	<b>19,600.06</b>	<b>75.33%</b>	<b>18,800.06</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>186,304.95</b>	<b>191,313.86</b>	<b>97.38%</b>	<b>185,588.01</b>	<b>219,683.46</b>	<b>84.48%</b>	<b>208,887.68</b>
 <b>Capital Improvements, church</b>	 30,824.11	 35,000.00	 88.07%	 60,317.00	 40,000.00	 150.79%	 0.00
<b>Capital Improvements, parsonage</b>	15,532.81	15,000.00	103.55%	2,972.50	30,000.00	9.91%	5,000.00



## GRANT EXPENDITURES 2020

BBSU (Boston Baptist Society Union)	1,090.00	Nursery and Church School Helpers
BBSU (Boston Baptist Society Union)	4,752.50	Administrative Intern
Youth and Family Pastor	2,267.33	Youth Items
Vacation Bible School	484.95	
Senior Outreach Grant	306.00	
Judson Gift Baskets	1,921.49	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,822.27</b>	

## Restricted Funds

	<b>Balance 1/1/20</b>	<b>Receipts &amp; Interest</b>	<b>Disbursements &amp; Losses</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/20</b>
Memorial Fund	1,788.36	1,610.09	2,879.98	518.47
Markham Scholarship Fund	5,938.76	515.70	300.00	6,154.46
Senior Outreach 2016/2017 Grant	2,588.23		306.00	2,282.23
BBSU Grant 2020	4,362.40	10,000.00	5,842.50	8,519.90
Youth & Family Pastor	3,609.68	0.00	2,265.33	1,344.35
Flowers	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Music	38.41			38.41
Second Sunday Sundaes	755.87			755.87
Vacation Bible School	2,701.08		484.95	2,216.13
Lecture Series	497.28			497.28
Youth Programs	1,000.00	500.00		1,500.00
Judson Gift Basket Grant	0.00	3,000.00	1,921.49	1,078.51
Restricted Gifts (Moved to General Memorial Fund)	1,600.00		1,600.00	0.00
Stewart Music Fund (Principle balance \$21,000 interest to be used for the music program)	28,310.79	2,623.19	0.00	30933.98
*Investment Fund	794,454.55	58,297.28	114,946.33	737,805.50

\*Reflects appreciation or depreciation of holding due to price changes, transactions from Other Activity In or Out and Multi-currency transactions, plus any distribution and income earned during the year.



## Additional Information

	2020	2019
Total Receipts for Current Expenses	141,425.08	167,573.06
Total Budget Disbursements	185,588.01	186,304.95
<b>BUDGET DEFICIT</b>	<b>-44,162.93</b>	<b>-18,731.89</b>

<b>MONIES DISBURSED INCLUDING CAPITAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>107,452.43</b>
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### NON-BUDGET DISBURSEMENTS from the INVESTMENT FUND

Investment Services	3,054.00
Other Fees and Taxes	810.04
Capital Improvements	63,259.50
Paypal Fees	111.58
<b>TOTAL NON-BUDGET DISBURMENTS</b>	<b>67,235.12</b>

<b>DISBURSEMENTS FROM DESIGNATED MONEY EXCLUDING STEWART MUSIC AND INVESTMENT FUNDS</b>	<b>14,200.25</b>
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### CHURCH ACCOUNTS

#### Massachusetts American Baptist Investment Trust (MABIT)

Stewart Music Fund	Account # AI 0222	19,000.01
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#### Fidelity Investments

Investment Fund	Account # Z83-280119	737,805.50
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#### Institution For Savings

Savings	Account # 9211760	18,406.91
Checking	Account # 101194	30,240.16
Debit-card	Account# 0880466347	1,710.55
Payroll	Account# 0880545421	2,285.95



First Baptist Church  
Rockport, MA

### DEACON FUND

1/1/2020	Receipts & Interest	Disbursed	12/31/2020
1,956.42	1,050.00	2,653.00	353.42

#### Funds used for:

Gifts

Discretionary

### MISSION FUND

1/1/2020	Receipts & Interest	Disbursed	12/31/2020
2,005.01	150.59	1,782.75	372.85

#### Funds used for:

Gifts

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



## Investment Portfolio Report

NICHOLAS H. SAFFORD & CO., INC.  
*Investment Counsel*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

### PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

	Total Invested	Market Amount	Value %	Annual Income	Current Yield %	Yield % At Cost
Money Markets	26,125	26,125	4	3	0.0	0.0
Common Stocks	259,328	711,681	96	17,483	2.5	6.7
<b>TOTAL PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>285,453</b>	<b>737,805</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>17,485</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>

### COMMON STOCK DIVERSIFICATION

	Total Invested	Market Amount	Value %	Annual Income	Current Yield %	Yield % At Cost
Business Services	35,794	87,727	12	1,387	1.6	3.9
Consumer Products	39,258	115,193	16	2,909	2.5	7.4
Distribution Services	29,065	76,741	11	1,594	2.1	5.5
Diversified	14,111	63,860	9	1,683	2.6	11.9
Health	39,586	113,729	16	2,769	2.4	7.0
Materials	6,369	24,590	3	482	2.0	7.6
Natural Resources	1,973	12,668	2	774	6.1	39.2
Retail	7,413	28,968	4	697	2.4	9.4
Technology	57,847	124,882	18	2,212	1.8	3.8
Telecom Services	9,656	22,031	3	923	4.2	9.6
Utilities	18,255	41,292	6	2,053	5.0	11.2
<b>TOTAL COMMON STOCKS</b>	<b>259,328</b>	<b>711,681</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>17,483</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Rate	Income Yield Mkt	Cost	Total Annual Income
<u>MONEY MARKETS</u>									
23,455	Fidelity Government Cash Reserves	--	23,455	1	23,455	0.00	0.0	0.0	2
2,670	Fidelity US Treasury Money Market	--	2,670	1	2,670	0.00	0.0	0.0	0
			26,125		26,125				3
<u>BUSINESS SERVICES</u>									
70	Accenture PLC	05/16/17 -- 02/15/19	9,330	261	18,285	3.52	1.3	2.6	246
130	Automatic Data Processing	07/30/91	837	176	22,906	3.72	2.1	57.8	484
40	FactSet Research	09/21/18 -- 02/15/19	9,197	333	13,300	3.08	0.9	1.3	123
40	MSCI Inc.	02/15/19	7,001	447	17,861	3.12	0.7	1.8	125
165	Paychex	02/24/16 -- 02/15/19	9,430	93	15,375	2.48	2.7	4.3	409
			35,794		87,727				1,387
<u>CONSUMER PRODUCTS</u>									
268	Coca-Cola	01/13/93 -- 05/07/93	2,688	55	14,697	1.60	2.9	16.0	429
50	Hershey Foods	07/16/20	6,733	152	7,617	2.62	1.7	1.9	131
225	Nestle SA (ADR)	04/04/08 -- 01/02/15	13,157	118	26,538	2.32	2.0	4.0	522
100	PepsiCo	07/30/91	1,436	148	14,830	4.09	2.8	28.5	409
175	Procter & Gamble	11/27/84	1,049	139	24,350	3.16	2.3	52.8	554
450	Unilever PLC Amer	09/13/11 -- 03/01/12	14,196	60	27,162	1.92	3.2	6.1	864
			39,258		115,193				2,909



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Rate	Income Yield Mkt	Yield Cost	Total Annual Income
<b><u>DISTRIBUTION SERVICES</u></b>									
125	Genuine Parts	09/13/11	6,635	100	12,554	3.16	3.1	6.0	395
120	Norfolk Southern	03/09/11 – 02/24/16	8,021	238	28,513	3.76	1.6	5.6	451
200	Sysco Corp	05/07/09	4,738	74	14,852	1.80	2.4	7.6	360
100	Union Pacific Corp	07/28/15	9,672	208	20,822	3.88	1.9	4.0	388
			29,065		76,741				1,594
<b><u>DIVERSIFIED</u></b>									
100	3M Company	07/10/81	1,744	175	17,479	5.88	3.4	33.7	588
260	Emerson Electric	04/04/08 – 09/13/11	11,191	80	20,896	2.02	2.5	4.7	525
125	Illinois Tool Works	12/07/93	1,176	204	25,485	4.56	2.2	48.5	570
			14,111		63,860				1,683
<b><u>HEALTH</u></b>									
313	Abbott Labs	06/07/94 – 02/24/16	5,510	109	34,270	1.80	1.6	10.2	563
50	AbbVie	06/07/94	370	107	5,358	5.20	4.9	70.2	260
45	Amgen	05/16/17	7,191	230	10,346	6.40	2.8	4.0	288
25	Becton Dickinson	02/21/18	5,555	250	6,256	3.32	1.3	1.5	83
100	Cochlear Ltd	08/02/12	6,840	146	14,584	2.08	1.4	3.0	208
250	Merck	07/10/81 – 07/16/20	3,749	82	20,450	2.60	3.2	17.3	650
170	Novartis AG	05/07/09 – 11/26/14	7,476	94	16,053	2.75	2.9	6.3	468
164	Pfizer	10/16/09	2,742	37	6,037	1.52	4.1	9.1	249
20.0	Viatris	10/16/09	152	19	375	0.00	0.0	0.0	0
			39,586		113,729				2,769



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Rate	Income Yield Mkt	Yield Cost	Total Annual Income
<u>MATERIALS</u>									
90	Air Products	01/19/06 -- 03/01/12	6,369	273	24,590	5.36	2.0	7.6	482
			6,369		24,590				482
<u>NATURAL RESOURCES</u>									
150	Chevron Corp	07/10/81	1,973	84	12,668	5.16	6.1	39.2	774
			1,973		12,668				774
<u>RETAIL</u>									
135	McDonald's	04/04/08 -- 05/07/09	7,413	215	28,968	5.16	2.4	9.4	697
			7,413		28,968				697
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>									
160	Analog Devices	05/16/17 -- 02/15/19	14,636	148	23,637	2.48	1.7	2.7	397
450	Cisco Systems	09/09/16 -- 02/15/19	17,191	45	20,138	1.44	3.2	3.8	648
200	Intel	12/07/93	869	50	9,964	1.32	2.6	30.4	264
200	Microsoft	07/28/15 -- 09/21/18	13,142	222	44,484	2.24	1.0	3.4	448
175	Qualcomm	11/24/09 -- 07/16/20	12,009	152	26,659	2.60	1.7	3.8	455
			57,847		124,882				2,212
<u>TELECOM SERVICES</u>									
375	Verizon	11/21/86 -- 11/26/10	9,656	59	22,031	2.46	4.2	9.6	923
			9,656		22,031				923





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2020

Par Value of Bonds or No. Shares	Description	Date Purchased	Amount Invested	Mkt Price	Current Market Value	Indicated Rate	Income Yield Mkt	Yield Cost	Total Annual Income
<u>UTILITIES</u>									
250	Atmos Energy	02/02/10	6,863	95	23,858	2.50	2.6	9.1	625
545	Enbridge	04/04/08 -- 03/09/11	11,392	32	17,435	2.62	8.2	12.5	1,428
			18,255		41,292				2,053
Total Common Stocks:			259,328		711,681				17,483
Total Portfolio:			285,453		737,805				17,485