



First Baptist Church

Rockport, MA

2021 Mid-Year Report

July 15, 2021

Over the last few years, I have come to really enjoy our monthly meals usually held after church on the last Sunday of the month. These times provide delicious food and extended fellowship for the congregation. Our time of fellowship on May 30 was especially sweet as it marked our first meal together since February of 2020. Preceding the fellowship, we sang the Praise Song “We will feast in the House of Zion”. This song based on Psalms 42 and 62 reflects back on the plight of the Hebrew people and their centuries of longing to return to worship and fellowship on Mount Zion. Our year and a half of covid restrictions were a small taste of the centuries of hardship, anxiety and longing experienced by the Hebrew people. Additionally, we realize that the ultimate Zion is the future City of God pictured the book of Revelation. In this grand day we will feast and worship forever in the perfect presence of Jesus. It is with that imagery and hope that we continue to press on marching to the beautiful city of God.

Much of the first half of 2021 has been about moving out of the covid pandemic restrictions and resuming some sort of normalcy. As we move into this new era post-pandemic era, we do so confident in the “old, old story” but prayerfully seeking new ways of engaging our local and global community with the gospel while growing our church as disciples of Jesus. Specifically, in the next few months we will be working to create some new opportunities for the church to engage in ministry in some nearby urban contexts.

I want to specifically thank Paul Kelly for his work leading the Youth Group over the last two years. His family will soon be moving to Ohio. Additionally, I want to thank Sturgeon Family for their role in the church over the last 20 years. They will soon be transitioning to a church closer to their new home. Over the last half year, we have also brought on Shaina Stowell-Bingle as our new Administrative Assistant and Jenna Olson as the bookkeeper. These are significant changes and additions in the life of our church. Thank you to all who have been involved and part of our church life over the last year.

Onward to Zion,

Matt Wigton

Ministry Assistant Mid-Year Report

From January to July there have been many changes with the church that I have been happy to be involved in. In December, I had suggested that the church get a subscription to Canva for our PR around the church and on social media. This has been such a great investment in the church and seeing the impact on attendees at our events has been amazing. Being the only church open during the pandemic, we were definitely able to promote ourselves successfully to attract more attendees as well as keep the church bulletins full of life by using Canva.

Aside from making the flyers for events, I have been happy to plan and run events with Shaina, such as the first church luncheon since the pandemic had ended as well as our summer movie nights to name a few. Another big project I coordinated was a Valentine's Day basket for the continued church shut-ins. I put together a smaller basket that included winter essentials complete with a custom church puzzle. We had really great feedback from all the recipients including members near and far.

It had been a joy to have worked with Robyn for the first few months of the year but I am so happy to be in the office with Shaina. Shaina has pushed me to do better every day and has kept me motivated and busy in the office, all while having fun with spontaneous bursts of energy to get something done. Together we have accomplished so much in the past few months.

I was very pleased to have a title change to Ministry Assistant from the Administrative Intern. While I will still be doing the same things, it is a more fitting title for what I was doing and will still be doing. I look forward to celebrating being at Rockport Baptist for 7 years in August and the rest of the events during the summer as well as being back throughout the fall!

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Favaloro
Ministry Assistant

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MIDYEAR REPORT

It has been an absolute pleaser to have stepped into the role of Administrative Assistant over the spring. I have such a love for this church and the community within it that the “work” feels like anything but that. Easing into this job has been fun, exciting, and joy filled. I was guided, supported, and befriended by wonderful women who so graciously and patiently walked with me through my training process. Maureen made fantastic instructions that Robyn used to explain some processes with, while Robyn herself became a fast friend and brilliant mentor. I could not ask for a more fantastic co-worker then Katie and was so excited for her new role as Ministry assistant. She is adorable, silly, wise, and encouraging. Together we have planned multiple movie nights for the church and our community, as well as a few church meals. I look forward to planning more events and opportunities for First Baptist with her.

It has also been a treat to work alongside Matt. He does so much for our church that goes unseen and being able to help relieve him of some of those tasks is great. I have learned so much about the history of the church, the how’s and why of our way of doing things as well as the needs and visions he has for ways our church can grow. In late July Matt, Katie, and I got to tour the Washington Street Baptist Church in the heart of downtown Lynn. Matt connected with its lead pastor Pete Balentine in hopes of creating a wider outreach for The Kingdom. Pete was kind enough to give us an extensive tour of their beautiful and historical church, he also gave us some ideas of wase we could partner with them. Katie and I will be attending one of their Sunday services in a few weeks and would love to bring any interested people.

Most recently Katie and I had the very exciting, and rather large, task of helping our church to host “Praise and Pie” worship night. A five-band worship concert followed by many, many delicious dessert pies! It took us about three days all together for set up, hosting, and then breaking down and resetting our sanctuary. The concert went on as smoothly as we could have hoped for, and the crowd was close to 100 attendees. The night was beautiful and powerful. Thank you to everyone that was involved in any way, it took many hands and much patience.

Aside from my administrative duties I am also the church cleaning lady, a labor of love that I find extremely fulfilling. I love to freshen up and pour into this building that we have the pleasure of using to worship, commune, learn, and play in. I spend five to six hours a week in this role.

Although my job here has been short so far, I look forward to being a support to First Baptist and our church family.

*Respectfully Submitted by Shaina Stowell-Bingle
Administrative Assistant
First Baptist Church of Rockport*

ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

2020 – 2021 Mid-year report by Kris Carlson, Chair
Deacons: John French, Nancy Pallazola, Kris Carlson

The following list represents some of the major areas we have been working on:

1. Transition of Administrative Assistant in May of 2021 from Robyn Pregent to Shaina Stowell-Bingle.
2. Transitioning the Treasurer's role from Andy Brown's retiring after approximately 40 years.
 - Jenna Olson will be taking on the bookkeeping aspect
 - Andy will participate as Treasurer for a year as our search for a permanent treasurer continues
3. Worship service post COVID:
 - removing all plastic partitions , removing all tape separating pews, continuing to receive monies collected in sealed boxes in 2 locations .
 - Resuming after church fellowship as well as catered/pot luck lunches
 - Mask requirements removed (except for children as we follow Rockport schools mandate)
4. Ongoing action regarding :
 - Missions – Haiti Road/Dorm projects
 - Supporting our overseas missionaries – the Bennetts who were just here visiting on July 18th & the Johnsons ministering in Toronto
 - Special giving for Amirah who minister to human trafficked women
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of:
 - Youth group – the Kellys are moving to Ohio this Summer & we need a replacement for Paul's ministry to the youth
 - Shining Stars/Exploding Comets
 - Sunday School & Nursery needs
6. Continued discussion regarding:
 - Communion
 - Vacation Bible School (not having it in 2021)
 - Baptisms
 - Membership
 - Missions giving
7. Ongoing outreach to our church family - by phone, email, cards and prayer
8. Evaluating our worship, music, & praise team
9. Engaging the congregation in whatever moves us forward to elevate our worship
Above all we continue to pray that our walk with Jesus here at First Baptist would be a witness to those in Rockport and beyond.

Board of Stewards Report

David Pierson

Two things stand out to me at this point in the year. First, we didn't expect to be back to "normal" at this point in the summer, and second since we didn't expect this the budget doesn't reflect some spending trends that would be normal in other years but will appear over budget this year. Spending in the area of kitchen and hospitality supplies, the purchase of a new gas grill, and some other expenses we didn't think would be needed until the church was fully reopened in late 2021.

These are not major costs compared to the ongoing upkeep of our facilities. Plumbing has dominated the building needs so far this year. Repairs and upkeep have been needed and we have some aging sewer pipes that will need attention soon and this was unanticipated work.

The Board has overseen and completed many items on the prioritized checklist of property needs, some you can see like the parking lot paving and many unseen parts of our infrastructure in the church and parsonage.

The board is grateful for all of the volunteers that are helping oversee and execute our many ongoing projects. We are also thankful for the many people who turn out for the cleaning days and tend to the grounds, this help is so valuable in keeping our facility in shape.

We have an ongoing project to transition our bookkeeping to new software and a hired bookkeeper. Gail and Andy are actively managing this and the Board will review the financial oversight procedures as this project comes to a conclusion later in the year.

In addition to the plumbing issue mentioned we have some age-related problems in the steeple and Ventures Chapel that will require significant work in the next year or so. At this time we are gathering information and consulting with contractors to fully understand the nature and scope of the work needed.

ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

GREETERS MID-YEAR REPORT – by Kris Carlson, Head Greeter

With the restrictions of COVID in 2020, ushering/greeting was suspended. Collection boxes were installed both in the Narthex and in the fellowship hall. Now that we have resumed “greeting” attendees – ushers are no longer needed. We have two greeters weekly – one in the Narthex and one in the fellowship hall to assist the needs of worshippers. We have the following volunteer “Greeters”:

1st Sunday of the month: Millicent Bruce & Diane Lynn

2nd Sunday of the month: Margaret Williams & Kris Carlson

3rd Sunday of the month: Karen Parker & Cheryl Petras

4th Sunday of the month: Maureen & Mark Small

5 Sunday of the month: Shaina Stowell-Bingle

Mid Year Church Report 2021

We continue to be blessed with talent, strength, endurance and more as we navigate through these post-pandemic times. I am thankful every day for the opportunity to help lead music in worship along with the many other talented people. I am also thankful for all of you singing out strong and praising the Lord along with us.

The Praise Band has continues 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 and Danielle for your faithfulness and willingness to share your talents. Thank you also to those responsible for the decision to keep the kids in the service until after the praise music. I think it is good for them and also for keeping our group complete.

Saying Thank you to the Sturgeon Family seems insufficient to show our appreciation for all that all of you have shared with all of us for so many years. We will miss your smiling faces as well as your musical talents. We appreciate the many hours you spent driving the 45 minutes up to Rockport, sometimes in traffic, and truly wish you well in finding a church closer to home That church will be blessed to have all of you.

Although, the choir has yet to resume we are hoping to sing our first anthem in October. Our first rehearsal date has yet to be set but please let me know if you are interested. Since we are beginning anew, we have the opportunity to decide when practices will work best for those of us involved. Sarah, we will miss you beautiful voice in Choir and singing in the congregation but wish you and your family well on your new adventure.

At the end of December I asked for prayers for our musical gatherings to be safely be resumed. I am thrilled and looking forward to our Praise and Pie night on July 30th. We are one of 5 churches participating that evening. It will be a great evening and hopefully the first of many as we step past the pandemic.

As we continue through 2021, please pray for our Music Ministry. Give thanks for the music and musicians we have had. Also, please pray for the Sturgeons and the Kellys as they move away from us and begin sharing their gifts in new churches.

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,
Laurie Tuck

Report for Collection from: Friday, January 1, 2021
To: Wednesday, June 30, 2021

General

Named Giving	\$66,024.10
Loose	\$895.00
	\$66,919.10

Designated

Deacons	\$1,000.00
Flowers/Hospitality	\$305.00
Grants	\$11,000.00
Missions	\$121.35
Scholarship	\$500.00
Special Offering	\$1,850.00
	\$14,776.35

Collection Subtotal **\$81,695.45**

Pass-Through, if Any: \$730.40

Total transferred to Treasurer: **\$82,425.85**

Cash	\$2,500.00
CC	\$4,590.00
Check	\$75,335.85
Total:	\$82,425.85

	<u>Jan - jul 19, 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Expense			
1 General Mission Giving			
Bennett - Misionary Support	2,500.00	2,500.00	100.0%
Christian Vet Mission/St. Denis	0.00	1,800.00	0.0%
Deacon's Fund	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Family Promise	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%
Johnsons Canada Mission Support	2,277.08	2,000.00	113.85%
Open Door/ CA Food Bank	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total 1 General Mission Giving	6,277.08	9,000.00	69.75%
Board of Deacons			
Administrative Assistant	5,834.51	13,000.00	44.88%
Evangelism/Outreach	1,751.45	500.00	350.29%
Fellowship/Hospitality	442.97	500.00	88.59%
FICA Allowance	7,405.68	16,045.64	46.15%
Health Insurance	3,000.00	6,500.00	46.15%
Judson Dues	213.00	200.00	106.5%
Lay Leadership Development	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Nursery	0.00	500.00	0.0%
Pastor's Salary	29,921.16	64,829.18	46.15%
Pension	8,290.80	14,212.80	58.33%
Professional Expense	1,219.28	1,000.00	121.93%
Pulpit Supply	1,050.00	1,500.00	70.0%
Worship Materials	<u>246.39</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>82.13%</u>
Total Board of Deacons	59,375.24	119,587.62	49.65%
Board of Deacons Christian Educ			
Adult Christian Education	211.18	500.00	42.24%
Children's Sunday School	352.21	1,000.00	35.22%
Vacation Bible School	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Youth Groups	<u>557.37</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>111.47%</u>
Total Board of Deacons Christian Educ	1,120.76	2,000.00	56.04%
Board of Stewards			
COVID19	809.10	1,000.00	80.91%

Custodian	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Electric, Church	1,329.40	3,000.00	44.31%
Electric, Parsonage	735.82	2,500.00	29.43%
Fuel Oil, Church	2,699.52	3,500.00	77.13%
Fuel Oil, Parsonage	1,067.85	2,000.00	53.39%
Grounds	1,675.13	2,000.00	83.76%
IT Support	192.00	500.00	38.4%
Miscellaneous	633.45	1,000.00	63.35%
Office Supplies	1,981.54	3,000.00	66.05%
Payroll Service	847.06	1,200.00	70.59%
Professional Services	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Property Insurance	2,923.00	5,400.00	54.13%
Repair/Maintance, church	15,553.64	15,000.00	103.69%
Repair/Maintance, parsonage	7,745.81	3,000.00	258.19%
Software expenses	69.00	500.00	13.8%
Staff FICA	1,105.74	2,000.00	55.29%
Supplies	1,048.50	1,500.00	69.9%
Telephone Internet	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Telephone, Internet - church	1,489.90	2,500.00	59.6%
Telephone, Internet - parsonage	507.76	900.00	56.42%
Water&Sewer, Church	143.24	1,500.00	9.55%
Water&Sewer, parsonage	915.63	2,500.00	36.63%
Worker's Comp	<u>1,315.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>65.75%</u>
Total Board of Stewards	44,788.09	59,500.00	75.27%
Music Committee			
Music Director,Organist	4,707.72	10,200.06	46.15%
Music Equipment	414.77	1,500.00	27.65%
Music Expenses, choir, sheet mu	45.93	1,000.00	4.59%
Professional Development	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Substitutes	0.00	700.00	0.0%
Worship Facilitator stipend	<u>2,614.85</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>	<u>50.29%</u>
Total Music Committee	<u>7,783.27</u>	<u>18,800.06</u>	<u>41.4%</u>
Total Expense	119,344.44	208,887.68	57.13%
Capital Improvements, church	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Capital Improvments, parsonage	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%