



First Baptist Church
Rockport, MA



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

**ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH
ESTABLISHED 1808**





First Baptist Church
Rockport, MA



**FOLLOW JESUS AND PROCLAIM
HIM TO THE WORLD!**

2022

**ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH
4 HIGH STREET
ROCKPORT, MA 01966**

**(978) - 546 - 6121
FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG**



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The 2022 Annual Report of the Pastor

“Are we there yet”? It is the perennial anthem of children buckled in for a road trip. It is also the plea of humankind as we feel and absorb the seemingly never-ending cycle of bad news. The Hebrew Narrative enters into this dialogue with a plot twist. The voice of God has replied to our angst and longings. There is a God. One God. Unlike the distant gods of the Ancient Near East and modern-day Rockport, Yahweh is sovereign over time and space and revealed his plan so that we each have the opportunity to personally know and experience his goodness.

Key to understanding the revelation of the Triune God is seeing the way that God is always faithful to his promises. From our point of view these actions do not always come when or how we want them. The Hebrew people had to wait 400 years between God’s covenant with the Patriarch’s and God’s miraculous deliverance from the bondage of Egyptian slavery.

I don’t like to wait. We don’t like to wait. We are a culture that has elevated expediency and the pursuits of comfort, safety and personal pleasure to godlike supremacy. These virtues are



antithetical to the biblical call to embrace a life of suffering. Being a Christian, serving in a church, and being in a family are all daily exercises in suffering. It is only the Gospel, and daily remembering this good news of the victory of the suffering servant that gives us the power to persevere each day. It is the Gospel that puts the daily struggles in perspective of the grand redemptive narrative. True life and glory come through the path of suffering and perseverance.

What does the church have that cannot be found anywhere else? There are plenty of other places to find nice (probably nicer) people, good food and fellowship, engaging music, emotional stimulation, social welfare programs and attempts at finite justice. The one thing the church has is the message of the gospel. There is a God. The one Triune God. He is now known through and in Jesus. There is reason not to run from the sufferings of this world, but to persevere through them rejoicing all the way.

These are the lessons that I have grown to see more fully through teaching and preaching through Genesis and Exodus over the last year. They are also lessons I have experienced through the last 15 years of serving at Rockport Baptist. There have been seasons of challenge, but through persevering and trusting in God and his word we have been able to see much evidence of God's provision and faithfulness.

2022 was truly a remarkable year at Rockport Baptist Church. The following Annual Report will lay out a fuller picture of the noteworthy aspects of the year. Make no mistake this year is a product of God's grace and mercy but in his grace and mercy he has allowed many people to work hard, to serve diligently in some cases for years or decades to get us to the place that we are today.

As we move forward, we must continue to seek this balance of trusting God while also faithfully seeking to obey him with our daily lives. We must pray but we must also use the minds and skills God has given us to carry out the mission of the church in the context of our day. We should seek to hear God through the study of scripture while learning from the mistakes and successes of other churches today and in the past. We need to train and challenge believers while also engaging and evangelizing our post-Christian culture. These are big tasks, but it really is a deep joy as we get to do them together.

The longer we are on the road the more we get to see God's provision and the beauty of his big picture plan. The Journey is getting started. Buckle-up!



Respectfully Submitted
Mathew C. Wigton

Picture 1: Wigton Family - Matthew, Megan, Alistair (8), Ainsley (5) and Addison (3)

Picture 2: Church Office Staff - Jenna Olson (Bookkeeper) Matthew Wigton (Pastor) Katie Favaloro (Ministry Assistant) and Shaina Stowell (Administrative Assistant)

Ministry Assistant's Report

It seems as though these last few years have been blending together into one and recalling just this last year is more difficult than ever. At the beginning of the year, the church office was still a bit of a community room for anyone to come in and use the space. This has changed dramatically throughout the year into a more workable, professional space for all the office positions to work simultaneously together with better ease. We now all have our own space with our own supplies. The opening of the new, beautiful family room has been helpful in the transition of the smaller groups to meet there and allow space for all our own desks in the office.

One of the bigger changes this year that I was involved in, was the new chairs in the fellowship hall. As the church community was growing every Sunday, attendance at events getting larger, and other uses of the space, we needed a more comfortable and professional look. This was a simple solution of replacing the old metal chairs and the chair rack with the new white chairs and updated chair rack. This transformed the fellowship hall into a brighter, more welcoming area as well as more comfortable seating. Since the updates, we have seen more people attending all events on a regular basis as well as staying longer to enjoy fellowship.



There have been a number of events this year which I have had fun using my creative skills to make the flyers for. Every event that the church has held, there has been a flyer made that promotes the event. They live on both bulletin boards in the church, in the weekly email, on our social media, the website and occasionally sent out in the mail to the church community. For the bigger events, the website we use to create all the flyers, can also be used to make logos, banners, yard signs, the weekly bulletins, and any other signs that are seen around the church and greater community which I also have the pleasure of creating. This is a fun and exciting way to promote our numerous events throughout the year.

Along with creating the flyers for the events, I had more time to run and act in a support role at events this year. This was also helpful for myself as I was able to spend more time developing my relationship with God and getting to know the Bible better. I regularly attended Bible Study throughout the year as well as the Ladies' Teas and a member of the phenomenal Praise Band. Towards the end of the year, my schedule was turned upside down when I decided to go to the Fire Academy which has occupied most of my time for the last few months. I maintained my regular Tuesday office hours which involved our regular Youth Group meetings.

As always, I can't imagine a better work environment or coworkers. I look forward to working in the office every day because of the amazing atmosphere that has been adapted this past year with Shaina, Jenna & Matt. I look forward to another great year in the office and hope to be involved and do more in the coming year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Favaloro, Ministry Assistant

Administrative Assistant's Report

The past year at Rockport Baptist has been very encouraging. We are a church in the middle of a growth spurt and it's very exciting to see every Sunday. The pews are becoming more and more full and our children's church is bursting at the seams! It is a privilege to be part of such a thriving church in our community.

We've had a very busy year here in the office as well, planning events, supporting our church groups, organizing schedules and hosting the Rockport community among countless other jobs. Matt, Katie, and Jenna offer incredible support, direction, and teamwork. Each week I design our bulletins and weekly emails, along with keeping up our website. This year I had the pleasure of working with the Chamber of Commerce on planning the Christmas in Rockport celebration. It was a big undertaking but everything went well and the day was enjoyed by all.



This year I had the opportunity to attend the Gospel Coalition Women's conference along with Jenna Olson. That was incredibly powerful and helped fuel my spiritual hunger. I hope to make this an annual event and to encourage more of our parishioners to join.

I look very much forward to 2023 here at Rockport Baptist. I pray that the Lord will continue to grow and stretch all of us. He has a plan and a promise so let's continue to be His hands and feet, together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shaina Stowell
Administrative Assistant

Keeping the church clean and organized is also one of my jobs. It's a labor of love and I so look forward to our big cleaning days because we can accomplish so much! This year in particular Larry Peatfield has been an enormous help keeping up the landscaping and numerous projects indoors. There are also countless volunteers that are always keeping the church in ship shape and I am grateful for each one of them.



Bookkeeper's Report

It's been a year and half since I started as the bookkeeper for Rockport Baptist. The first few months of 2022 were spent still getting to know the software and streamlining the paying of expenses. David Pierson, Treasurer, and I work closely to make sure employees are paid, bills are paid and the boards and members have access to detailed reports.

The last few months of 2022 were spent working on the budget for 2023. This was the first year using the new ACCOUNTS software exclusively and it definitely did its job. The detailed reports of both operating account line items and grants/restricted accounts proved to be invaluable in budget discussions with the Board of Deacons, Board of Stewards and Music Committee. Because this was the first year actually using all of the resources available in the software, there was a lot of time spent by the Boards looking at the structure of the Chart of Accounts. Between David, myself and the Boards, we have rearranged some line items and hopefully have created a budget that is easier to read and understand.



I work approximately five hours per week and perform the following tasks:

- Input all transactions (deposits and withdrawals) into ACCOUNTS
- Double check all deposits, withdrawals against each church fund and restricted account
- Itemize debit card purchases
- Review payroll reports and input in ACCOUNTS
- Cut checks for both the church and parsonage bills
- Prepare monthly reports for the Board meetings - including separate reports for each grant and restricted fund
- Assist in the preparation of the annual budget
- Attend budget meetings and answer questions as needed
- Review all accounts monthly for accuracy

I am blessed to be able to work with Shaina, Katie and Matt and the countless volunteers who support and encourage one another and make it a joy to come into work each week.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenna Olson

Bookkeeper

Music Director's Report

“Be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Eph. 5:18-20

This is the charge we are given and as always, I am very thankful to have many talented musicians willing to share their time and talents to help lead us in worship every Sunday. Leading worship music has always been important to me and I am thankful for the gifts and opportunities He has provided.

The music ministry in our church continues to be very strong. The choir meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5:45. The Praise Band, which is continually evolving and adding new members, rehearses on Wed at 7pm. Both groups continue to do their best, praying as they rehearse and work on upcoming music to ensure the Lord is in control.

For those who may not fully understand, a choir is a musical ensemble of singers, singing Choral music. Choral music is the music written specifically to be sung by a group with many vocal parts and often comes in various arrangements to suit the needs of many kinds of ensembles. The music we sing is either for Sopranos, Altos, Tenors & Basses or for Sopranos, Altos and Baritones. That means that there are different notes written for each of the sections. Once each section has learned their notes the focus becomes combining the notes, vowels, volume, etc. to create a beautiful piece of music. Our Choir was able to resume this Fall and we are all happy to be singing together again. Unfortunately, sicknesses are and always will be going around. We missed singing our second Christmas selection this season but will have it ready for next year.

As an aside, some of you may remember our Bell Choir directed by Ruth Bowers that played 5 Octave music in church and in competitions. While I am hoping to have a Bell Choir in the future it will be on a much smaller scale. I am happy to report we were able to rehome many of the bells, tables and music with the Koerth's in South Carolina. The Bell Choir at their church was very, very happy to receive them.

Thank you, to all our current singers and we are always happy to have new members. Please, let me know if you are interested in joining us.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. As always, I welcome suggestions for a favorite hymn, carol or any other type of music you would like included in the service. Music is a key part of worship and we will continue to do our best.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Tuck

Church Curmudgeon's Report

The isolation imposed by authorities to impede the spread of the Covid Pandemic affected all of us in different ways. Rules changed as more information was gathered and evaluated. It is easy to be critical as “hind sight is always 20/20”. In the distant past, life was very hard at times but many folks persevered by the grace given by God. They tried to live by the words of Philippians 4:11 “. . .for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”

Society now has many outlets that allow people to publicly vent their frustration, dismay or anger. Almost daily someone posts a complaint on Facebook that feeds the criticism frenzy. “The train whistle is too loud”, “the trains are idling (and making noise) too long at the station”, “someone’s wind chimes are annoying”, “the church bells should be turned off”, “roosters crow too early in the morning,” negativity is thriving these days.

Rather than complain or grumble, we are blessed and thankful to God for the continued growth of our fellowship, as noted in this Annual Report. Acts 1:8 implores Christ Followers to serve the Lord locally in our own homes and town (Jerusalem), in our surrounding communities (Judea) and globally through active participation in bringing the good news of the gospel too far off places. Our church has touched all of these bases with prayer, footwork and financial support. Many volunteers have been willing vessels through whom God manifests His presence.

I want to highlight one program that is truly a mission locally and has the potential of being far reaching to the” uttermost parts of the world.” The live streaming of Sunday morning worship services, as well as other FBC events, allows those who cannot physically get to the building at #4 High Street in Rockport, to be blessed and to feel as if they were sitting in a pew amongst you all. It allows them to feel connected and that they are still a vital part of the church - the Body of Christ.

May this new year see the continued growth and effectiveness of the ministries of FBC. May we, as individuals and as a fellowship, have inner peace and serenity no matter what happens with the trains, bells and chimes! A positive attitude can be more infectious than Covid.

In John 14: 27 (NIV) Jesus encourages his followers with this promise. “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn’t fragile like the peace the world gives. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” May you continue to experience God’s blessings as you strive to be a blessing to others.

C.C.

PS: If you attend services in person and feel comfortable doing so, how about waving to the camera. Those watching would enjoy seeing your cheery countenance.

Clerk's Report

Members reported on December 31, 2021

Total Membership: 82

Membership Changes 2022

New Members: Martha Dougherty, Carl Oulton, Julie Oulton, Jenna Olson, Larry Peatfield, Angela Valvano and Jonathon Valvano

Members to Heaven: Christopher Dyksinski and Donald Manion

Members as of December 31, 2022

Total Membership: 87

Respectfully Submitted:
Millicent Bruce
Clerk of the Church



Attendance report

2022 Sunday Worship Attendance

Each Sunday the ushers take attendance of those attending Sunday Morning Worship.

Attendance taking began in 2011. The monthly average does not include Christmas Eve or other special services.

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Jan	54	47	55	58	57	55	50	61	49	63	36	55
Feb	53	52	45	64	37	54	49	56	55	60	38	62
Mar	58	49	61	54	54	62	48	53	52	61	45	75
April	70	63	56	63	66	52	63	63	59	*	50	84
May	58	59	61	67	65	66	54	61	67	*	47	81
June	73	71	67	73	56	60	57	60	58	*	58	75
July	66	63	65	78	61	65	61	60	70	*	58	81
Aug	66	64	64	62	57	63	58	59	65	*	57	65
Sept	57	67	72	62	57	61	68	58	65	*	66	76
Oct	59	62	63	62	55	57	71	62	69	*	61	72
Nov	62	65	67	56	65	57	64	61	70	*	65	70
Dec	58	65	61	64	63	53	61	66	75	*	74	66
Avg	61	61	62	62	57	59	59	60	61	61	55	72

*During the Covid-19 Shutdowns of 2020 churches were prohibited from meeting in-person for the longest time in U.S. History from the middle of March until late May. Rockport Baptist met online for 6 weeks and resumed meeting-in person in June 2020. Attendance taking was suspended for the remainder of the year. Initially the church faced intense scrutiny from Politicians, Town Officials and other churches for meeting in-person but over time become an example of how to safely meet in-person.

Auditor's Report

I was able to follow the weekly plate collections into their corresponding deposits on bank statements. I followed the reconciliation details for the general checking account for deposits and payments as well as the payroll account for transfers into and payments out and for the debit card account activities. I can attest that all aspects of the Church accounts are confirmed as accurate and that these records are free of misstatements.

Respectfully submitted

Millicent Bruce
Auditor



CPSON Nominating Report

(Church Personnel Safety Oversight and Nominating Committee)

Board of Stewards

Steward	Term Expires
Karen Parker	2025
*Phil Michel	2026
David Pierson	2024
Maureen Small	2025

Pastor, Treasurer and Collector are ex-officio members.

Board of Deacons

Deacon	Term Expires
Kris Carlson	2025
Danielle Michel	2025
Nancy Pallazola	2025
*Meaghan Shelton	2026
*Jonathan Valvano	2026

The pastor is an ex-officio member.

Officers (One Year Term)

- *Auditor - Millicent Bruce
- *Clerk - Millicent Bruce
- *Collector - Gail Zeman
- *Head Usher - Kris Carlson
- *Moderator - Cheryl Petras
- *Treasurer - David Pierson
- *Christian Education - Meaghan Shelton

Standing Committee (One Year Term)

- *Music - Cheryl Petras, Anthony Shelton
- *Child Safety/Nominating - Kris Carlson

*Asterisk indicates those who are to be elected Sunday, January 29, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Janet French, Nominating



Deacons' Report

Our Goal: Follow Jesus and Proclaim Him to the World!!

Current Deacons serving:

Kris Carlson, Chairman, John French, Nancy Pallazola & Danielle Michel (as of 2/2022)

Some of you may wonder “what is a Deacon? “What does a Deacon do?”

The definition of Deacon is: Servant; one who serves.

The Greek translation of Deacon is: A. a slave who completely belongs to his master/owner and has no freedom to leave his master. B. a servant who willingly serves his master.

As a board, we are constantly looking to where we can “serve”. As overseers at First Baptist, we want to glorify the Triune God; worship Him in spirit and in truth. We want our worship to be “pleasing” to Him. So, we are always looking for ways we can achieve this in these areas: Music, Sermons, Greeting people, Discipleship, Fellowship, and our ethical and moral conduct as believers in and outside the church.

How do others see us as a church? How do we see and engage with people? Matt has a passion for reaching those living in Rockport and being a witness to them. We host daily AA meetings and weekly Rotary Club meetings and open our doors to other town related meetings and show them the love of Christ. Our passion, as members inside the church, needs to be reaching out those sitting next to us, in front of us, behind us in the pews. I challenge ALL of us to get to know those around us.

We have experienced a period of growth with new families attending and more children attending Sunday School. Along with this growth comes “growing pains” of a blessed kind, but presents challenges for the Deacons to be effectually aware of any issues needing attention. Some of the areas we “oversee” are:

1. Middle School Youth group meet Tuesdays from 3-4 with Matt and Katie Favaloro leading.
2. Children's Church meets during church (Meaghan Shelton, coordinator) and the children “run” when called to their classrooms.
3. Music Committee meets once a month (Anthony Shelton, Chairman) to review how well the Praise Band is doing, how is the organ functioning, the Choir (Laurie Tuck. Director), how is the sound equipment functioning?
4. Fellowship time after church (Julie Oulton, Coordinator) brings many together over food, coffee and good conversation.
5. Missionaries we currently support are: Ryan and Erin Bennett with children Elias and Charlotte serving in Paris, France; Peter and Deborah Johnson serving in Toronto Canada; Haiti Christian school project; Jon and Amanda Good with 4 teenage children serving in Hungary, Amirah, Inc. – helping survivors of sexual exploitation find hope, Hope Ascending with Carl Oulton ministering in No. India & Nepal & Open

Door of Cape Ann. As a side note – there are approximately 7 from First Baptist going to France this March traveling to sights in and around Paris, as well as meeting with the Bennett’s and attending functions they sponsor in their neighborhood.

6. Vacation Bible School (Meaghan Shelton, Coordinator) annually meets the 3rd week in July. This ministry takes a “village” to coordinate and carry out... We have amazing volunteers that faithfully meet, greet and minister to over 70 or more children with many children returning to be helpers.
7. Bible Study meets Wednesdays 9:30 – 11 am. Pastor Matt leads over 20 participants each week. Currently they are studying the book of Exodus.
8. Men’s group meets on the 1st Saturday of the month at 8:30 (David Pierson, Leading). I don’t know what they discuss because I’m a woman and they won’t let me attend!!! ha ha
9. Ladies’ ministry has been hosting “Ladies Teas” periodically on Wednesdays this year with 20-24 in attendance. (Jenn MacLeod, Danielle Michel & Maureen Small coordinators). Teaching, tea, lunch and good fellowship are devoured by all.
10. Sunday morning Bible study meets at 8:30-9 am (Jonathan Valvano, Leading) Everyone is welcome – just come.
11. Prayer team meets Tuesday evenings from 6:45 – 7:30 (Kris Carlson, Leading) Everyone is welcome to join us – just come
12. Missional Community meets every OTHER Thursday evening at 7 pm either in homes or at the church. (John & Janet French, Leading)

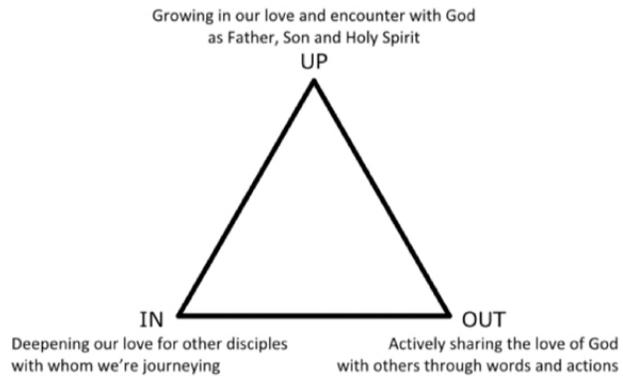
There are lots of additional activities ongoing in the life of Rockport Baptist church. Serving at Washington Baptist church in Lynn periodically, potlucks or cookouts the last Sunday of each month, Baptisms, church cleanup days, church hymn sings, worship nights at different churches, leading worship at Oceanside, membership classes. As you can see, we are alive, active and always praising Our Lord in some way. We want to thank Matt and Megan, as they raise 3 very active children, for ALL the ways they are a light here at First Baptist. We all need to continue to **keep them in prayer** as they give so much to us and others – a lot of which is behind the scenes.

We also want to thank all of you who helped in any way to bless this church and its ministries in 2022 – FOR YOU ARE MANY!!

Above all, we need to pray continually that our walk with Jesus would be a positive witness to those at First Baptist, our family, friends, Rockport and beyond.

Humbly submitted,
Kris Carlson
Chairman

Missional Community



A Missional Community (MC) is a medium size group which seeks to mature believers in the faith by engaging in Jesus' mission to make other disciples, care and support each other and love our neighbors as ourselves. Our signature verse is Jesus' teaching on the commandments. "Love God with heart, mind, soul and strength and your neighbor as yourself." Our Missional Community has three regular dynamics. "UP" We seek to grow in our relationship with God. "IN" Care for and support one another in ministry and mission and "OUT" further Jesus' kingdom work. About 8-12 people meet every other week on Thursdays. for Bible Study, worship, prayer, fellowship events and mission opportunities. New participants are welcome to our meetings.



This year we focused on local mission. Since AA uses our building regularly and helps those affected by alcoholism, we offered lunch on three occasions to let them know we appreciate their work. We are reading a book called The Art of Neighboring. This book encourages us to get to know neighbors around our homes. We identify neighbors and are challenged to get to know someone we do not know well. Relationship building gives us opportunities to share the gospel. We also provided help to a needy Rockport family and again, sang Christmas Carols at Oceanside nursing facility.

We regularly read the scriptures and actively find ways to put them into practice. In the winter and spring, we offered a course by New York pastor Peter Scazzero, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.

Growing in Christ Together,

Steward's Report

First and foremost, the Board of Stewards is most grateful for God's abundant provision for every aspect of our work in 2022. This not only includes being so very thankful for the financial means, but also the time, knowledge, and efforts of many skilled craftsmen, board members, church staff, and volunteers.

2022 was definitely a very, very busy year for the Stewards. At the beginning of the year, the Board, with help from American Steeple, Structures North, and contractor Alan Batistelli, put together a proposal to rebuild the Church steeple and replace windows in the office wing of the Church. In February, the final proposal of \$364,000 was submitted to the Rockport Community Preservation Committee (CPC) for CPA funding. In June, the CPC voted to approve \$334,000 for rebuilding the steeple only. The \$334,000 was accepted by vote at Town Meeting on September 4th. Steeple work will most likely start in Spring of 2023.



In September, the Board held a Special Business Meeting where it was voted to move forward with researching and exploring (tax ramifications, legal ramifications, impact on Pastor salary, etc.) the idea of selling the Parsonage building. Once the Board finishes its research, a future special meeting will be planned to present the findings and to vote on whether to sell or not.



Since window replacement funds were not included in the funds granted by the CPC, the Board voted to use capital funds to replace nine windows in the office wing of the Church. We contracted with Alan Batistelli to order the windows and do the work. The new windows came in October and were installed in November.

During the year, the Stewards also worked on a number of repair and maintenance projects within both the Church and the Parsonage.

2022 Church Projects

- Redesigning, redecorating, and renaming the new Family Room.
- Replacement of the Wayside Pulpit with a newly designed Church Sign.
- Adding the electrical for a spotlight to light up the new Church Sign.
- Replacement of the church furnace pump.
- Organization of a church work day where we cleaned the church and removed trash and debris from storage areas and basements.



2022 Parsonage Projects

- Replacement of two Storm Doors.
- Repair of a water main leak in the basement.
- Replacement of all the garage door mechanics for the automatic garage door opener.

In the latter part of the year, the Board spent time tweaking our new financial system and chart of accounts that was implemented in 2021. These changes will help make the budgeting process a lot easier going forward.

Finally, the Board wishes to acknowledge and thank Meaghan Shelton (who is moving to the Board of Deacons in 2023) for her willingness to volunteer and serve on the Board Stewards since 2021.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Maureen Small
Board of Stewards Chair*



Music Committee Report

Psalms 150:1-5 states: *“Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.”*

The music committee endeavors to encourage congregants and visitors of the church to participate in the praise and worship of our triune God through music. This includes the planning and implementation of music for Sunday morning worship services and special music events. The committee is comprised of a member each from the Boards of Deacons and Stewards, a Choir member, the Pastor, and the Committee Chairperson. The Music Director is appointed by the committee and is in attendance at committee meetings.

This year, the music committee gladly welcomed Cheryl Petras as a member. A regular monthly meeting schedule was established, and a review of current bylaws occurred in late Spring. Review of equipment/maintenance and budgetary needs were assessed at each meeting, as well as updates from the Choir and Praise Band, and planning for special music events.

The Choir was reinvigorated this year with the startup of weekly rehearsals in September and led in worship with the anthem *“Come Follow Me”* in October with monthly performances planned. New member Patti Arnold was welcomed to the choir in September, joining in harmony with members Betsy Eck, Joan Keepe, John Lafond, Cheryl Petras, Mark Small, and Gail Zeman.

The Praise Band led in Sunday worship weekly and was integrated with Vacation Bible School for the first time this year, providing live music to start and end each day for the children. In coordination with the Prayer Team, a Praise Night in August was hosted. Both guest vocalist (Caleb Wnorowski) and new members were welcomed this year, including Victoria (vocalist) and German Disla (keys), and Vincent Briguglio (bass guitar), alongside members Phil Michel, Julie and Carl Oulton, Shaina Stowell and Laurie Tuck.

Equipment needs were assessed and therefore the sanctuary piano was tuned, the pipe organ was tuned and a maintenance assessment was performed. In addition, an electronic keyboard was purchased, as well as planning and projection software for the sanctuary.

As the committee continues to encourage worship through music, we prayerfully thank God for providing musical talent to our church and being allowed the chance to lead the church's music planning and implementation.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony C. Shelton, Music Committee Chair

Collector's Report

The financial operations of our church have become more efficient this year, now that we have the expert services of bookkeeper Jenna Olson and are maintaining records on software designed specifically for churches and other non-profits. Numerical information in this Annual Report was developed through the software. Even the form of giving has changed recently -- many people in the Rockport Baptist community are choosing to give tithes, pledges, Sunday collections and special offerings electronically. That's good for the church and easier for the givers. A small number of people use PayPal, though it charges the church a fee for each transaction. Others arrange with their banks to automatically mail checks every week, month or year. All gifts and receipts that come to the church, whether to support the work of the church, reimburse the cost of outside activities, or give funds for flowers, go through the collector's system and are deposited into our bank. We have had the 'fullest' giving year in 2022, I believe, in the life of the church. This is the first year in my recollection that gifts have almost met the operating needs of the church, without having to take money from the investment account. Our God has provided!!!

The church leaders stepped out in faith during the COVID pandemic and reopened both Sunday services and Youth Sunday School and other programs earlier than anyone else in the local area, sometimes outside in the snow! The growth in the number of young families was significant and those families led the parade into the church pews as society began to reopen in general. Many older people also came to our doors and stayed. The average number in worship on Sundays



has increased notably and that's only part of the total of people who attend other programs, studies and prayer groups that meet at other times.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail M Zeman, Treasurer

First Baptist Church of Rockport

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Income Statement

For the period 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022

Printed: January 11, 2023

Filtered on (Number Between 40000 And 46999)

REVENUE

40000	General Fund Collections	
40100	Named Giving & Loose Offering	213,862.47
40101	Paypal Giving Fees	(463.08)
40300	Miscellaneous Offering	29.04
40400	Interest	71.56
	TOTAL General Fund Collections	<u>213,499.99</u>
45000	Grants Received	
45201	BBSU Grant Received	10,000.00
	TOTAL Grants Received	<u>10,000.00</u>
46000	Restricted Funds Collections	
46101	Memorial Fund Collections	201.00
46102	Special Offerings Restricted Collections	2,297.50
46103	Deacons Restricted Collections	550.00
46104	Flowers Restricted Collections	1,064.08
46105	Missions Restricted Collections	264.32
46107	Adult Groups Restricted Collections	5,000.00
46201	Stewart Music Fund Income	29.42
46203	Markham Scholarship Rest. Collections	761.25
46303	Youth Programs Restricted Collections	100.00
46304	Music Restricted Collections	500.00
	TOTAL Restricted Funds Collections	<u>10,767.57</u>
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>234,267.56</u>
NET INCOME		<u>234,267.56</u>

Treasurer's Report

First Baptist Church of Rockport
2022 Expenses Budget vs Actual with 2023 Proposed Budget

51000	Board of Deacons	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Diff	2023 Budget
51100	Pastoral Compensation				
51101	Pastor Salary	68,080	68,080	0	74,080
51102	Pastor FICA Allowance	16,633	16,633	0	13,858
51103	Health Insurance	6,500	6,500	0	6,500
51104	Pension	14,733	14,733	0	15,693
51105	Pastor Professional Expense	—	--	--	2,000
	TOTAL Pastoral Compensation	105,946	105,946	0	112,131
51200	Support Staff Compensation				
51201	Administrative Assistant	16,956	17,000	44	17,944
51202	Bookkeeper	7,533	6,670	(863)	8,525
51203	Staff FICA	3,209	2,700	(509)	2,805
	TOTAL Support Staff Compensation	27,697	26,370	(1,327)	29,274
51300	Other Personnel Expenses				
51301	Worker's Comp	964	2,000	1,036	1,000
51302	Nursery	0	0	0	0
51303	Pulpit Supply	1,575	1,500	(75)	2,000
51304	Staff Professional Expense	2,439	2,500	61	500
	TOTAL Other Personnel Expenses	4,978	6,000	1,022	3,500
51400	Other Deacon Expenses				
51401	Worship Materials	554	600	46	600
51402	Flowers	—	--	--	900
51403	Evangelism/Outreach	1,408	1,000	(408)	1,200
51404	Fellowship/Hospitality	5,046	3,000	(2,046)	4,500
51405	Lay Leadership Development	930	1,000	70	1,500
51406	Judson Dues	213	225	12	225
	TOTAL Other Deacon Expenses	8,152	5,825	(2,327)	8,925
51500	Mission Support				
51501	Bennett - Missionary Support	3,500	3,500	0	3,500
51502	Haiti Missionary Support	3,435	3,500	65	3,500
51503	Johnsons Canada Mission Support	1,993	2,000	7	2,000
51504	Hope Ascending Missionary Support	—	--	--	1,000
51505	Hungary Missionary Support/Good Family	—	--	--	1,200
51506	Amirah, Inc. Missionary Support	—	--	--	800
51507	Open Door/CA Food Bank	500	500	0	500
51508	Deacon's Fund	1,987	2,000	13	2,000
51509	Community Impact	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
51510	Family Promise	500	500	0	—
51511	Other Mission	1,965	2,000	35	—
	TOTAL Mission Support	14,879	15,000	121	15,500
51600	Christian Education				
51601	Adult Christian Education	589	500	(89)	0
51602	Youth Groups	1,390	1,500	110	1,000
	TOTAL Christian Education	1,979	2,000	21	1,000
51700	Children's Christian Education				
51701	Children's Sunday School	1,357	1,000	(357)	2,200
51702	Vacation Bible School	2,135	2,000	(135)	2,500
	TOTAL Children's Christian Education	3,492	3,000	(492)	4,700
	TOTAL Board of Deacons	167,123	164,141	(2,982)	175,030

First Baptist Church of Rockport
2022 Expenses Budget vs Actual with 2023 Proposed Budget

52000	Board of Stewards	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Diff	2023 Budget
52100	Church Utilities				
52101	Electric	3,977	3,500	(477)	3,500
52102	Oil	5,649	4,000	(1,649)	7,000
52103	Water & Sewer	762	1,500	738	1,000
52104	Telephone & Internet	2,388	2,500	112	2,500
	TOTAL Church Utilities	12,775	11,500	(1,275)	14,000
52200	Church Building Expenses				

Balance Sheet and Fund Report

ASSETS	2021	2022
General Checking Account (1194)	\$ 12,022.48	\$ 10,285.
Debit Card Account (6347)	\$ 1,493.53	\$ 1,264.37
Payroll Checking Account (5421)	\$ 2,244.86	\$ 4,604.54
Savings Account	\$ 17,953.36	\$ 16,362.03
Stewart Music Fund (MABIT)	\$ 22,261.79	\$ 18,981.59
Investment Account (see detail below)	\$ 821,973.33	\$ 698,093.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 877,949.35	\$ 753,536.21
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	2021	2022
Beginning Account Value	\$ 737,805.50	\$ 821,973.33
Transfers to General Checking Account	\$ (75,000.00)	\$ (24,166.50)
Transfers to General Checking Account (Capital Fund)	\$ (5,000.00)	\$ (37,833.50)
Fees	\$ (3,077.46)	\$ (3,458.17)
Taxes	\$ (789.70)	\$ (716.31)
Change in Investment Value	\$ 168,034.99	\$ (57,705.05)
Ending Account Value	\$ 821,973.33	\$ 698,093.80

Grants & Restricted Funds Report

Grant/Fund	Balance 1/1/2022	Income	Expenses	Balance 12/31/2022
BBSU Grant	\$6,270	10,000	(10,932)	\$5,339
VBS Grant	\$2,069	0	(2,069)	\$0
Senior/Judson Grant	\$2,588	0	(648)	\$1,939
Family Nights Grant	\$1,974	0	(1,974)	\$0
Deacons Restricted	\$20	550	(300)	\$270
Flowers Restricted	\$44	1,064	(1,108)	\$0
Missions Restricted	\$1,243	264	(1,000)	\$507
Adult Church Restricted	\$0	5,000	(563)	\$4,437
Special Offering Restricted	\$45	2,298	(2,298)	\$45
Youth Programs Restricted	\$0	100	(100)	\$0
Music Restricted	\$38	500	0	\$538
Furnishings Restricted	\$375	0	(375)	\$0
Second Sunday Restricted	\$530	0	(530)	\$0
Markham Scholarship Fund	\$5,470	761	(1,500)	\$4,731
Memorial Fund	\$1,245	201	(1,000)	\$446
Stewart Music Fund*	\$34,961	29	(4,624)	\$30,367
Total	\$56,872	20,767.57	(29,019.53)	\$48,620

*Stewart Music Fund Expense includes \$4,015.58 change in value of the investment account.

Restricted Funds are gifts with restrictions by donors for a specific purpose. Grants are applied for and received from various organizations. The BBSU Grant is the source of funding for the Ministry Assistant and childcare.

Pass-Through Account currently has a balance of \$4,842.97 which is deposits given by members going on the France Missional trip.

Fifteen Year Financial Overview

The First Baptist Church of Rockport 15 Year Financial Overview 2007-2022

Year	Collections	Expenses	Deficit	Value of Investment Fund
2007	\$60,091	\$77,389	\$17,298	\$771,310
2008	\$56,605	\$75,383	\$18,778	\$778,043
2009	\$67,612	\$85,108	\$17,496	\$663,159
2010	\$81,012	\$102,490	\$21,478	\$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	\$178,897	\$169,189	\$9,657	\$671,963
2019	\$167,573	\$191,313	\$18,731	\$794,454
2020	\$141,419	\$185,588	\$44,163	\$737,805
2021	\$141,206	\$230,260	\$89,354	\$821,973
2022	\$213,862	\$239,471	\$25,609	\$698,298

Note: Over the last decade there have been minor changes in the way collections have been counted. The information above presents an accurate big picture of the church financial outlook over the last decade. Detailed questions regarding specific years can be found in the annual reports from these years. All data in this graph is based upon the annual reports.

N O T L U O L R A C S Y G E C
 E J V H A X C N F H T S M T H
 C P K W A D C R E I I S D O I
 U A S B V G A L L J U D V X L
 R A D I Y N T A F R A N C E D
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 M P A R S G M W E O W D F S H

BAPTIST

CARLOULTON

CHARLIE

CHILDRENSCHURCH

CHOIR

FRANCE

FRANCE

GARDEN

HAITI

HOSPITALITY

INDIA

JESUS

MILLCENTBRUCE

MOSES

PRAYER

SHELTON

STEEPLE

VBS

