



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT





**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT**  
4 HIGH STREET  
ROCKPORT MA 01966  
(978)-546-6121  
[FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG](http://FIRSTBAPTISTROCKPORT.ORG)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASTOR'S REPORT.....	4
CHURCH LIFE COORDINATOR'S REPORT.....	7
SEMINARY INTERN'S REPORT.....	9
DEACONS' REPORT .....	10
STEWARDS' REPORT .....	12
CLERK'S REPORT .....	14
ATTENDANCE REPORT.....	19
CPSON NOMINATING REPORT.....	20
MUSIC COMMITTEE'S REPORT.....	21
FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	22
BALANCE SHEET.....	24
10-YEAR TRENDS.....	25
INVESTMENT FUND TRENDS.....	26
AUDITOR'S REPORT.....	27
WORDSEARCH.....	28





## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

In the gospels Jesus frequently teaches with parables. Parables are illustrative stories intended to make a specific point. Sometimes Jesus explains the meaning of the parable, sometimes he does not. The former is naturally easier to grasp than the latter. As I have spent time reading and teaching the parables this year, it has struck me that church life is much like a collection of parables. Each day and year are full of many different stories. Some days these stories make more sense than others. Nevertheless, these stories form a tapestry that are a resounding testimony to the faithfulness, grace, and goodness of the Triune God.

In 2024, I believe we have seen clear fruit that is the evidence of God's provision and the faithful work of many men and women. In the last 15 years we have not had a year with as many cumulative congregational baptisms, baby dedications and new members! Many of these additions are new to the Christian faith. Our regular Sunday attendance has hit its third consecutive year of breaking records, an all time high for the 21<sup>st</sup> century! More importantly, I believe we are really growing in our unified sense of gospel mission, discipleship, and worship. It is not an overstatement to say that our congregation is becoming a regional leader in demonstrating how to effectively reach the present post-Christian culture with the gospel of Jesus! Praise the Lord for all that he has given us this year!

A few highlights for me from include that the Thanksgiving Eve Service was lead without me, by three people younger than me (Shaina Stowell, Sean Flanagan and German Disla). It is also a joy to see older students volunteering on Sundays in Children's Church, mentoring, and guiding the next generation. Furthermore, the rag-tag group of now Middle Schoolers that began meeting weekly during the darkest days of the Covid pandemic is taking a role in leading worship and the broader Rockport community is taking note of their countercultural joy at being voluntarily involved in Church!



*Engaging Cape Ann Culture with Megan, Alistair (9), Ainsley (6) and Addison (4).*



This year marked the establishment of the sermon review team. This group meets most weeks to review and refine a draft presentation of the coming Sunday's sermon. I believe this has led to better sermons and a great new precedent. It is my hope and prayer that this group will not only lead to developing more preachers and teachers in our congregation but also to create a group of people that will go into other parts of the nation and world as preachers and teachers of the gospel.

The new Women of Word group is providing top notch Bible teaching and fellowship regularly for over a dozen women with various backgrounds and experiences. We have also made significant technological advances in our sanctuary which will help us more effectively



communicate the gospel to our culture and undergird our commitment to excellence in worship. The Wednesday Bible Study and Children's Church programs continue to grow and face the good challenges of exceeding physical space and staff/volunteer capacity. It is my prayer that these and many other highlights will lead towards greater growth in the coming year.

*Church Staff: Mathew Wigton, Kaitlin Favaloro, Jenna Olson and Shaina Stowell*

The steeple's historical restoration project is a sort of parable unto itself! The initial work that led to the steeple restoration began in 2016 – nine years ago! Along the way we have faced many skeptics, hurtles and frustrations. Through the hard teamwork of many, provision from the town, public and church community the project is finally completed! The steeple will be structurally sound for decades to come and a real bell is inviting people to worship for the first time in over forty-five years. Like this project, fruitful and lasting ministry in our day requires grit, perseverance, determination, and a focus on the mission at hand. Every day is about seeing things from the big perspective. The perspective of God's large global and eternal plan of redemption.

On a personal note, this year's marks the conclusion of several things that have occupied my time and focus over the last decade and have aided both my and the church's connection to

the larger community. In June, I concluded my terms as the President of the Rockport Rotary Club and as Moderator of the Adoniram Judson Association of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. In November, I concluded my role with the Harold John Okenga Fellows Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. I have been involved with this grant funded program in some capacity since 2014 and was able to travel with it to China, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been a wonderful time to learn from a variety of experts and other pastors about many of the pressing issues of the day and their intersection with the local church. As these chapters end, I look forward to what lies ahead and how my own experiences can help aid and support the ministry of our congregation.

Thank you for being part of the story that has been the life of Rockport Baptist Church in 2024. It is a profound wonder that God invites us to be part of his story! May we never take that for granted. We have much for which to be thankful.

Onward,

*Matthew Charles Wigton*



Dedication of Babies and Children unto the Lord!



## CHURCH LIFE COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It has been another year I have had the great honor of serving as a member, leader, and employee of our precious church. This blended role offers a unique experience and view of life at Rockport Baptist, its members, and the greater community. God has not only sustained but continues to multiply our church body, adding six new members and the birth of two new babies. Our youth attendance stays strong, and their faith is admirable under Matt Wigton and Meaghan Sheltons's guidance. A great encouragement to me personally has been the heightened desire for biblical literacy all through our congregation. From elementary and middle school students to adults of all ages, backgrounds, and life experiences, The Spirit is working in and through us all, for His glory and our good, we must trust Him and continue to march onward and upward.

This year brought me out of my comfort level in a few ways, most notably as the newest co-leader of our women's group, Women of the Word. This women's bible study and small group has quickly become a huge role in deepening our understanding of how to read and understand the bible, but also in our relationships with each other. We have been fostering a safe, Christ-centered sisterhood where we can come as we really are and know there is support, fellowship, and guidance. Our first study of the Sermon on the Mount is about to be completed and we will begin to study the book of Revelation in February. But this year also brought the discomfort of braving the steeple, I get it the view is amazing and the opportunity is rare and perhaps unique even, however, I am much happier at sea level, Praise God for supportive friends!



Another highlight and area of growth for me has been the opportunity to be closer to the youth in our church. VBS 2024 was a wonderful, sweaty, inspiring time for everyone involved. I was yet again in charge of the music lessons, which incorporated learning songs, scripture, and sweet dance moves, obviously! The little ones really get into learning the choreography and the older kiddos, who are often teacher aids, really soared this summer. Our middle school youth group volunteer group inspired and encouraged each of us and we must continue to support and walk beside this next generation of witnesses. I also had the great pleasure of working with the youth band this winter, those boys bring friendship, playfulness, and authenticity to their worship, with a pinch of craziness. The fact that the boys allowed me to be their backup singer was an opportunity I wouldn't have traded for a thing, thank you, fella's for that.

Professionally at the church this year marked a new title change for me, I graduated from administrative assistant to the Church Life Coordinator! In conjunction with the board of deacons and Pastor Matt, we renamed my role to better reflect what I do each week! Most of my time is spent focused on planning, designing, and helping execute the weekly worship service and weekly events at the church. I help Matt respond to the daily needs of the church community while collaborating with the various other leaders and boards. We are both in regular communication with members of the church community by text and e-mail 7 days a week! I am also involved with dozens of smaller church events we host throughout the year and larger special events, just this year we hosted 1 wedding, 4 funerals, 4 community-wide events. Preparation for this includes graphic and media design, social media maintenance, and phone and email communications and working with members of the public. I also represent the church at events in our local Christian community of Cape Ann and beyond. This unique role has offered new opportunities to build connections for our church, which I hope will continue, but it also got me into my first jail cell when I toured the Rockport Police station with a group of local pastors! I look forward to what the new year holds.

Looking ahead to the new year I pray that God continues to challenge, grow, and convict each one of us as His kingdom's advocates. Let us remember brothers and sisters that we are exactly that, **BROTHERS** and **SISTERS** in Christ, and as a family we are to remain beside each other through the hills and valleys. This church and each person in it has my whole heart, serving it and you is my greatest joy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shaina Stowell





## SEMINARY INTERN'S REPORT

This past year as the seminary intern at Rockport Baptist Church has been an incredible experience, and I'd love to share some highlights:

One of the best parts has been getting to preach. I've learned a lot from those experiences, and I really appreciate the feedback I've gotten from Pastor Matt and others. It's been very helpful in improving my skills.

Pastor Matt has been an amazing mentor. Watching how he juggles so many responsibilities while keeping the focus on preaching the gospel and serving the Rockport community has taught me a lot about ministry and leadership.

This summer was packed, especially with Vacation Bible School. I got to act as "Rocky and Ranger" with Caleb, and the kids seemed to really enjoy it. It was a lot of work, but the turnout was fantastic, and it was great to see so many kids at church hearing the gospel. Another summer highlight was the trip to Canobie Lake Park with the youth group. It was a fun way to connect with the students and share some laughs outside of regular church activities.

One of my main responsibilities has been helping with the youth group on Tuesday afternoons. Each week, a bunch of students come out to play games and read



the Bible together. They are full of energy—whether it's dodgeball or "coats ball" (which always leaves me sweaty and sore). It's amazing to see these kids showing up on their own to hear the Bible and have fun. It's been a lot of fun!

Esther and I have felt very welcomed here. We've loved getting to know everyone and being part of this community. Thanks for letting me be part of what's happening at Rockport Baptist Church. It's been a fantastic year of learning and connecting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Flanagan

## 2024 FIRST BAPTIST DEACONS' REPORT

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

First, I would like to thank the Deacons currently serving: Nancy Pallazola, Meaghan Shelton, Jonathan Valvano, & Carl Oulton for all they contributed this past year; and welcome Shaina Stowell as the newest Deacon [to be voted in at the Annual meeting 1/26/25].

As a board, we are constantly looking to where we can “serve our Lord”. We want to glorify the Triune God; and 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, Sunday School, Youth Group, Bible Studies and our ethical and moral conduct as believers inside and outside the church.

How do others see us as a church? How do we see and engage with people? We have a passion for reaching those living in Rockport and being a witness to them. There are daily AA meetings at First Baptist, and we open our doors to other town-related meetings to show them the love of Christ.

Our mission, as members and attendees 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 are experiencing a period of growth with new families attending, new members and more children attending Sunday School. Along with this growth comes “growing pains” of the blessed kind, presenting 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: currently meets Tuesdays after school (Pastor Matt leading)
2. Children's Church: meets during church (Meaghan Shelton, Coordinator) and what a joy to see the children “run” enthusiastically when called to their classrooms.
3. Music Committee: meets once a month (Anthony Shelton, Chairman) to review the following: Praise Band, the organ functioning, the sound equipment, and any other issues relating to music worship.
4. Fellowship: (Julie Oulton, Coordinator) brings us together after church with food, coffee, and good conversation.
5. Missionaries: We currently support – World Team's Ryan and Erin Bennett with children Elias and Charlotte serving in Paris, France. Hope Ascending with Carl Oulton ministering in Northern India & Nepal & Open Door of Cape Ann.
6. Vacation Bible School: (Meaghan Shelton, Coordinator) has met the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July from 9 to Noon daily. This ministry takes a “village” to coordinate and carry out. We



have amazing volunteers who faithfully meet, greet and minister to over 50 children with some older children returning as volunteer helpers.

7. Bible Study: meets Wednesdays 9:30 – 11 am. Pastor Matt leads over 20 participants each week (several come from other churches). Currently, they are studying the book of Luke.
8. Sunday morning Bible study: meets at 8:30-9 am (Jonathan Valvano, Leading) Everyone is welcome – just come.
9. Usher/Greeters: We have 8-10 volunteers greeting churchgoers each Sunday. Their smiles are the first thing people see when entering First Baptist. They direct people to the nursery, bathrooms, seating, and stay at their stations; either in the Narthex or in the fellowship hall to assist latecomers, etc.

There are lots of additional activities ongoing in the life of First Baptist church; Potlucks lunches or cookouts happening on the last Sunday of each month, baptisms, membership classes, church cleanup days, church hymn sings, worship nights at different churches, the annual children's Christmas pageant, weddings, funerals, serving a meal the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at Open Door and leading worship at Oceanside nursing home every 5-6 weeks.

We want to thank Pastor Matt and Megan, raising 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 our prayers as they give so much to us and others – most of which happens “behind the scenes”.

We also want to thank all of you who helped in ANY way to bless this church and its ministries in 2024 – FOR YOU ARE MANY!!

Please feel free to contact any of the Deacons with questions, concerns, prayers, or suggestions. We are here to serve you!!

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

Submitted by:  
Kris Carlson, Deacons Chairman



## STEWARDS' REPORT

First and foremost, the Board of Stewards is extremely grateful for God's abundant provision for every aspect of our work in 2024. This not only includes being thankful for the financial means, but also the time, knowledge, and efforts of many skilled craftsmen, board members, church staff, church members, and volunteers. Maintaining any building is never an easy task, and maintaining a building that is getting more use than ever (praise the Lord) is even harder. We here at FBC are truly blessed to have the volunteers and financial means to be able to do just that!!

2024 can be called the *Year of the Steeple* because most of the Board's energy and effort went into overseeing the rebuilding of the church's Steeple. Most of the cost to rebuild was paid for by the Community Preservation grant money (\$334,000) that was awarded to the church by the town of Rockport in 2023. Although the rebuild did go over budget, the FBC church community generously donated to our Steeple campaign (\$20,210) to help cover part of the cost overages. The Stewards also held a special business meeting in June where church membership unanimously voted to make capital improvement money available (\$45,000) from the church's General Investment Fund. This money was made available to cover any additional cost overages beyond that which was covered by the CPC funds and the Steeple campaign donations.

The Steeple rebuild work included:

- Rebuilding the wooden structure
- Installing support cables
- Repairing the roof
- Adding a lightning rod
- Purchasing and adding a bell
- Refurbishing and reinstalling the weathervane
- Installing ropes to ring the bell
- Installing a striker arm and ball for the bell
- Adding a video camera for a live stream feed (note this was paid for by a separate donation)



The final cost of the rebuild will come in at about \$392,000. Kudos to Karen Parker and Alan Battistelli who have both worked tirelessly on getting this project completed in 2024.

Other church maintenance projects that the Stewards worked on this year included:

- Purchasing and installing industrial strength dehumidifiers in both basements to remove the humidity and dry up moisture.
- Removal of old debris in both basements and removal of old, unused heating ducts hanging in the basement under the kitchen.

- Updating of the audio/video equipment at the back of the Sanctuary for easier live streaming of the Sunday service.
- Addressing various maintenance issues around the church (patching a chimney hole, maintaining sump pumps, repairing glass panes in doors, fixing fire suppression system issues, and fixing toilet issues).
- Sponsoring and running a church workday in the Spring and Fall.



Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Small  
Chair of Board of Stewards





## CLERK'S REPORT FOR 2024

**Deceased Members:** Ken Bannon (January 11, 2024), Marcie O'Rourke (January 13, 2024) and Tom Novak (March 28, 2024)

**New Members:** James Cox and Mary Stillman (August 18, 2024) German Disla, Victoria Disla, Maureen Means and Shepherd Means (December 01, 2024)

Total Membership = 52

See next page for full list of membership

**Memorial Services:** Ken Bannon (June 01, 2024), Marcie O'Rourke (January 19, 2024), Karen Grip (March 26, 2024), and Tom Novak (April 09, 2024)

**Weddings:** Jeff Scatterday and Ainsley Bruni (January 01, 2024)

**Births:** Evelyn Scatterday (June 24, 2024) and Juliana Disla (August 26, 2024)

**Child Dedications:** Juliana Disla, Evelyn Scatterday, Jonathan Mederios and Madison Mederios (December 08, 2024)

**Baptisms:** Alletta Valvano (June 2, 2024), Brian Lynam, Tracy Spartz Campbell and Mary Stillman (August 25, 2024)

**Business Meetings** (for minutes see proceeding pages):

January 28, 2024 – Annual Meeting

May 22, 2024 – Special Meeting that approved additional funding for Steeple restoration

August 18, 2024 – Special Meeting that approved new church members

December 01, 2024 – Special Meeting that approved new church members

Respectfully Submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Church Clerk

## 2024 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST AND YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP.

1. Kay Bannon (1987)
2. Suzanne Blake (1978)
3. Andrea Brown (1965)
4. Millicent Bruce (2013)
5. Serena Burgdorf (2018)
6. Kristine Carlson (2011)
7. James Cox (2024)
8. German Disla (2024)
9. Victoria Disla (2024)
10. Martha Dougherty (2022)
11. Laura Ferazzi (2000)
12. Joan Keefe (2006)
13. John Lafond (2013)
14. Sandy Lafond (2013)
15. Diane Lynn (1992)
16. Mary Malcolmson (1999)
17. Anne Manion (1999)
18. Virginia McMinn (1979)
19. Robert McMinn (1981)
20. Maureen Means (2024)
21. Shepherd Means (2024)
22. Danielle Michel (2021)
23. Philip Michel (2021)
24. Jennifer Olson (2022)
25. Carl Oulton (2022)
26. Julie Oulton (2022)
27. Janet O'Donnell (1966)
28. Karen Parker (2018)
29. Nancy Pallazola (1983)
30. Victor Pallazola (1987)
31. Larry Peatfield (2022)
32. Cheryl Petras (2018)
33. David Pierson (2012)
34. Steven Scatterday (1989)
35. Meaghan Shelton (2004)
36. Anthony Shelton (2004)
37. Mark Small (2018)
38. Maureen Small (2018)
39. Mary Stillman (2024)
40. Shaina Stowell (2020)
41. Ben Tuck (2009)
42. Katrina Tuck (2016)
43. Laurie Tuck (1994)
44. Robert Tuck (1950)
45. Jane Tutein (2013)
46. Angela Valvano (2022)
47. Jonathan Vavano (2022)
48. Matthew Wigton (2009)
49. Megan Wigton (2009)
50. Margaret Williams (2011)
51. Gail Zeman (1975)
52. Phil Zeman (1975)

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2024

Moderator, Cheryl Petras opened the meeting at 12 noon noting that the quorum was met. Prayer was offered by Kris Carlson. Reports will be voted on at the end of the presentation. Millicent Bruce, Clerk briefly recapped the 2023 business meetings. Meeting minutes are on file.

Matt Wigton, Pastor noted that his report had not mentioned his three-week trip to Croatia. It was sponsored by the Okenga Fellows Program and was a learning experience.

David Pierson, Treasurer had no questions on his printed reports. He did note that the process of selling the parsonage showed various areas in the by-laws that are in need of updating.

Kris Carlson, Deacon No questions.

Maureen Small, Steward offered lots of thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work on the sale of the parsonage and the ongoing steeple repair with Karen Parker as liaison.

Anthony Sheldon, Music noted that the new projector, screen and software is adding to the ability to expand the music ministry. The choir is very grateful for Laurie Tuck.

Meaghan Sheldon who oversees the Christian Education programs acknowledged all the many volunteers who pray for and teach the children in classes. Plans for next year are being discussed such as merging grades one through five and perhaps having them stay in the service. VBS remains the highlight of the year with fifty-plus children participating.

Old Business none New Business - a question was raised about our ending Mission's support for the Johnsons in Ottawa. It was referred to the Deacons as they are in charge of Missions.

Kris Carlson, Nominating Committee noted that Carl Oulton is the only new addition to the Deacons. Matt Wigton moved, seconded by Gail Zeman, that all nominees be accepted as printed, So voted.

Kris Carlson made a motion, seconded by Angela Valvano, to accept the operating budget as printed. It was a vote with one opposed. Maureen Small made a motion seconded by Kris Carlson to allow approval for the Treasurer to spend from the Investment Funds as needed. So voted.

Julie Oulton made a motion, seconded by Shaina Stowell, to accept the annual reports as printed. It was so voted. Pastor Matt closed with prayer at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Church Clerk



# ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MAY 22, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6 PM with a quorum present including Maureen Small, Chairman of the Stewards Committee joining on zoom.

A motion was made to appoint David Pierson as interim moderator, seconded by Gail Zeman. So voted.

Maureen Small described the reason for the meeting, which is to seek approval from the church membership to approve additional funding to offset overage costs on the steeple renovation. Due to increases in material costs and unforeseen work, we have exceeded the amount of \$334,000 awarded to the church from the Community Preservation Grant by \$41,283.00 Actual amount is \$55,000 minus CPC Grant money, \$13,717.00 = \$41,283.00.

Steward's motion is to amend the 2024 budget to include up to \$45,000.00 for the capital project expenses related to the steeple renovation overage charges. Anthony Shelton seconded it and it was so voted.

It was agreed that a final payment should not be made until the project is completed and an inspector has signed off on it.

A motion was made to adjourn at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Church Clerk



## ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

SPECIAL MEETING AUGUST 18, 2024

Cheryl Petras, Church moderator, opened the meeting at 9:45 AM with the required quorum present. The meeting was called by the Deacons to vote on acceptance of new members.

Kris Carlson, Chairman of the Deacons, announced the three applicants and attested that James Cox, Patricia Arnold and Mary Stillman have attended classes, done the reading, filled out applications and given their testimony.

A vote was called to approve these three applicants for membership as recommended by the Deacons and to be welcomed into the Church family in September. It was so voted.

Pastor Matt closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectful submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Church Clerk

## ROCKPORT BAPTIST CHURCH

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2024

Cheryl Petras, moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM with a quorum present. The meeting was called by the Deacons to vote on the acceptance of new members.

Chris Carlson, chairman of the deacons, attested to the fact that the four new applicants had attended classes, done the reading, filled out applications and given their testimony. They are German Disla, Victoria Disla, Shepherd Means and Maureen Means.

A vote was called by the moderator to approve these four applicants for membership as recommended by the deacons. It was so voted and they will be welcomed into fellowship on Sunday, December 8th.

On another business matter, Patti Arnold has been removed from membership as she has moved away.

The meeting ended at 9:55 and Matt closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Church Clerk

## SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE REPORT

Average Attendance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	58	57	55	50	61	49	63	36	55	63	66
February	64	37	54	49	56	55	60	31	62	73	68
March	54	54	62	48	53	52	61	45	75	76	78
April	63	66	52	63	63	59	*	50	84	72	77
May	67	65	66	54	61	67	*	47	81	82	83
June	74	56	60	57	60	58	*	58	75	65	83
July	78	61	65	61	60	70	*	58	81	73	75
August	62	57	63	58	59	65	*	57	65	75	78
September	62	57	61	68	59	65	*	66	76	78	71
October	65	55	57	71	62	69	*	61	72	73	72
November	56	65	57	64	64	70	*	65	70	69	76
December	64	63	53	61	66	75	*	74	74	75	77
<b>Average</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>75</b>



# CHURCH PERSONNEL SAFETY AND NOMINATING REPORT

## Board of Deacons

<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
*Kris Carlson	2028
Carl Oulton	2027
*Nancy Pallaazola	2026
Meaghan Shelton	2026
*Shaina Stowell	2028
Jon Valvano	2026

(The pastor is an ex officio member)

## Board of Stewards

<u>Steward</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
*Karen Parker	2026
Phil Michel	2026
*Maureen Small	2026

(The pastor, Treasurer, and Collector are ex officio members)

## \*Officers

Auditor – Millicent Bruce  
Clerk – Millicent Bruce  
Collector – Julie Oulton  
Moderator – Cheryl Petras  
Treasurer – David Pierson  
Christian Education – Meaghan Shelton  
Head Usher – Martha Dougherty

## \*Standing Committee

Music – Cheryl Petras  
Child Safety/Nominating – Kris Carlson

\* One-year term to be elected Sunday, January 26, 2025

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Carlson  
Nominating Chairman

## MUSIC COMMITTEE'S REPORT

*Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Psalm 100:1-2*

It is the purpose of the music committee to encourage congregants and visitors to enter into worship in song, praising our triune God. The committee spends time in prayerful planning to bring Christ-centered music to weekly worship services as well as special events.

The committee has met regularly over the year, assessing musical equipment needs, as well as discussing the musical needs of the church.

In the first quarter, the choir provided worship through singing anthems under the direction of Laurie Tuck. There were Hymn Sing Sessions as well in the Spring and Summer. We are so appreciative of the time and dedication Laurie has provided the choir and instrumentation in leading worship in song over many years!

The praise band has continued with weekly worship services, as well as participation in Cape Ann Regional Worship nights. In the second half of the year, monthly Praise and Prayer nights have provided a time of prayer and reflection interspersed with contemporary worship music.

The Rockport Baptist Youth band returned in the Fall in preparation for leading worship on December 15th. Go Tell it on the Mountain & Hark the Herald Angels Sing were sung with gusto as the congregation joined in joyful song!

In the fourth quarter, an additional projector (also known as a stage monitor) was added, as well as a "like new" digital soundboard. With this addition, additional pew seating and space at the rear of the sanctuary were reclaimed!

We continue to prayerfully consider the musical needs of the church and to link talent with opportunities to share. We are thankful to God for his provision over the year and for what He plans for 2025!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Petras & Anthony Shelton

**First Baptist Church of Rockport**  
**Financial Statement with 2025 Proposed Budget**  
**December 31, 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Difference</b>	
<b>40000</b>	<b>General Fund Collections</b>				
51101	Named Giving & Loose Offering	184,183	168,501	10,682	
51102	Tithe.ly Credit Card Fees	(737)	(339)	(398)	
51103	Miscellaneous Offering	12,105	83	12,021	
51104	Interest	72	58	14	
	<b>Total General Fund Collections</b>	<b>195,623</b>	<b>168,304</b>	<b>22,320</b>	
<b>41000</b>	<b>Transfers</b>				
41100	Transfers to Gen Chkg from Invstmt Acct	25,000	146,615	(121,615)	
41200	Transfers to Gen Chkg from Housing	37,000	8,500	28,500	
	<b>TOTAL Transfers</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>155,115</b>	<b>(93,115)</b>	
	<b>TOTAL INCOME (including transfers from invest. funds)</b>	<b>257,623</b>	<b>323,419</b>	<b>(70,795)</b>	
<hr/>					
<b>EXPENSE</b>		<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>2025 Proposed Budget</b>
<b>51000</b>	<b>Board of Deacons</b>				
<b>51100</b>	<b>Pastoral Compensation</b>				
51101	Pastor Salary	77,043	77,043	0	79,508
51102	Pastor Housing Allowance	36,000	36,000	(0)	36,000
51103	Pastor FICA Allowance	7,986	7,986	0	8,160
51104	Health Insurance	6,500	6,500	0	6,500
51105	Pension	6,904	7,704	800	7,951
51106	Pastor Professional Expense	2,194	2,000	(194)	2,000
51108	Life & Disability Insurance	800	800	(0)	800
51109	Pastor Sabbatical*	0	0	0	5,000
	<b>TOTAL Pastoral Compensation</b>	<b>137,427</b>	<b>138,033</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>145,919</b>
<b>51200</b>	<b>Support Staff Compensation</b>				
51201	Church Life Coordinator	20,625	18,842	(1,783)	26,208
51202	Bookkeeper	8,910	8,952	42	9,238
51203	Staff FICA	2,516	2,907	391	2,712
	<b>TOTAL Support Staff Compensation</b>	<b>32,051</b>	<b>30,701</b>	<b>(1,350)</b>	<b>38,158</b>
<b>51300</b>	<b>Other Personnel Expenses</b>				
51301	Worker's Comp	1,444	1,000	(444)	1,500
51302	Nursery	0	0	0	0
51303	Pulpit Supply	1,800	2,500	700	2,500
51304	Staff Professional Expense	1,003	1,000	(3)	1,000
	<b>TOTAL Other Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>51400</b>	<b>Other Deacon Expenses</b>				
51401	Worship Materials	600	600	0	600
51402	Flowers	900	900	0	900
51403	Evangelism/Outreach	1,749	1,200	(549)	2,000
51404	Fellowship/Hospitality	5,587	4,500	(1,087)	5,000
51405	Lay Leadership Development	1,906	2,000	94	2,000
51406	Judson Dues	213	225	12	225
	<b>TOTAL Other Deacon Expenses</b>	<b>10,955</b>	<b>9,425</b>	<b>(1,530)</b>	<b>10,725</b>
<b>51500</b>	<b>Mission Support</b>				
51501	Bennett - Missionary Support	4,000	4,000	0	4,500
51502	Haiti Missionary Support	500	2,000	1,500	0
51504	Hope Ascending Missionary Support	2,000	2,000	0	2,500
51507	Open Door/CA Food Bank	500	500	0	500
51508	Deacon's Fund	1,005	2,000	995	2,000
51509	Community Impact	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
51512	TABCOM	500	500	0	500
51513	DiscipleMakers Ministry (Parkers)	500	500	0	500
51514	Amy St. Denis/CVM	0	0	0	2,000
	<b>TOTAL Mission Support</b>	<b>9,005</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>13,500</b>



**First Baptist Church of Rockport  
Financial Statement with 2025 Proposed Budget  
December 31, 2024**

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Difference	2025 Proposed Budget
<b>51600 Christian Education</b>				
51602 Youth Groups	1,321	1,500	179	1,500
<b>TOTAL Christian Education</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>51700 Children's Christian Education</b>				
51701 Children's Sunday School	2,532	2,600	68	2,600
51702 Vacation Bible School	3,000	3,000	0	3,000
<b>TOTAL Children's Christian Education</b>	<b>5,532</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>5,600</b>
<b>TOTAL Board of Deacons</b>	<b>200,538</b>	<b>202,259</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>220,402</b>
<b>52000 Board of Stewards</b>				
<b>52100 Church Utilities</b>				
52101 Electric	4,634	3,500	(1,134)	4,500
52102 Oil	5,946	7,000	1,054	7,000
52103 Water & Sewer	2,112	1,000	(1,112)	2,000
52104 Telephone & Internet	2,756	2,500	(256)	2,500
<b>TOTAL Church Utilities</b>	<b>15,447</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>(1,447)</b>	<b>16,000</b>
<b>52200 Church Building Expenses</b>				
52201 Property Insurance	7,942	8,300	358	9,000
52202 Building Supplies	3,496	3,000	(496)	3,000
52203 Furnishings	42	1,000	958	1,000
52204 Trash Expenses	1,126	1,000	(126)	1,000
52205 Repairs and Maintenance	9,642	20,000	10,358	15,000
52206 Grounds	493	2,000	1,507	2,000
<b>TOTAL Church Building Expenses</b>	<b>22,740</b>	<b>35,300</b>	<b>12,560</b>	<b>31,000</b>
<b>52400 Business Expenses</b>				
52401 Office Supplies	2,578	2,500	(78)	2,500
52402 IT Support/Software Expenses	988	1,000	12	1,000
52403 Services (Contracts/Fees/Payroll)	3,529	4,000	471	4,000
52405 Computer Hardware	1,855	3,000	1,145	1,500
<b>TOTAL Business Expenses</b>	<b>8,950</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>9,000</b>
<b>TOTAL Board of Stewards</b>	<b>47,138</b>	<b>59,800</b>	<b>12,662</b>	<b>56,000</b>
<b>53000 Music Committee</b>				
<b>53100 Music Wages/Stipends</b>				
53101 Music Director/Organist	3,335	3,335	0	0
53102 Music Stipends	9,050	7,865	(1,185)	12,500
<b>TOTAL Music Wages/Stipends</b>	<b>12,385</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>(1,185)</b>	<b>12,500</b>
<b>53200 Music Expenses</b>				
53201 Music Equipment	56	1,700	1,644	0
53202 Music Expenses (General)	861	1,000	139	2,200
53203 Music Professional Development	50	200	150	200
<b>TOTAL Music Expenses</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>1,933</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>TOTAL Music Committee</b>	<b>13,351</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>14,900</b>
<b>54500 Capital Expenses</b>				
54501 Capital Expenses (General)	0	0	0	100,000
54503 Steeple - Vote May 2024**	13,328	45,000	31,672	31,672
<b>TOTAL Capital Expenses</b>	<b>13,328</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>31,672</b>	<b>131,672</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>274,355</b>	<b>321,159</b>	<b>46,804</b>	<b>422,974</b>

\*51109 Pastor Sabbatical: If Lily Sabbatical Grant is received, this line will not be used. This line will disappear in 2026.

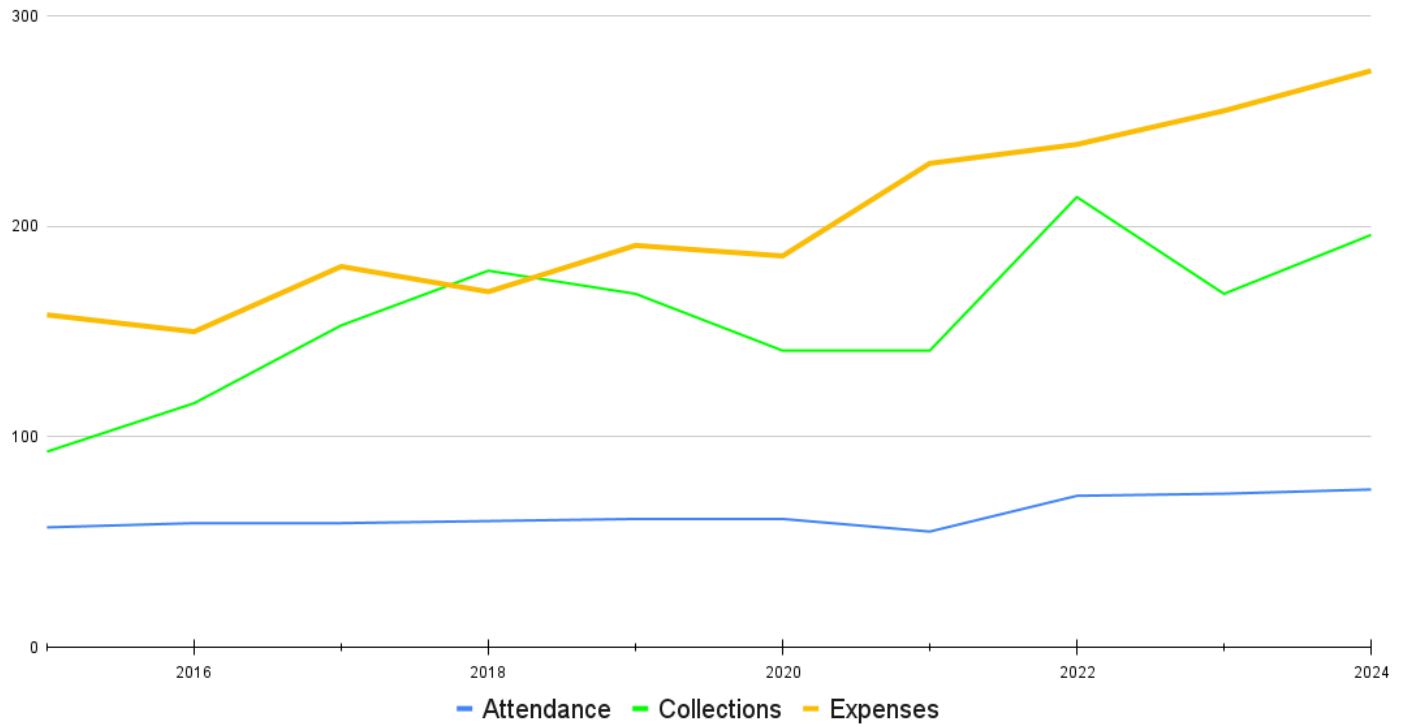
\*\*54503 Steeple - Vote May 2024: There are some outstanding expenses to complete the steeple. This money was approved to be spent at a congregational meeting in May 2024.

**First Baptist Church of Rockport  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2024**

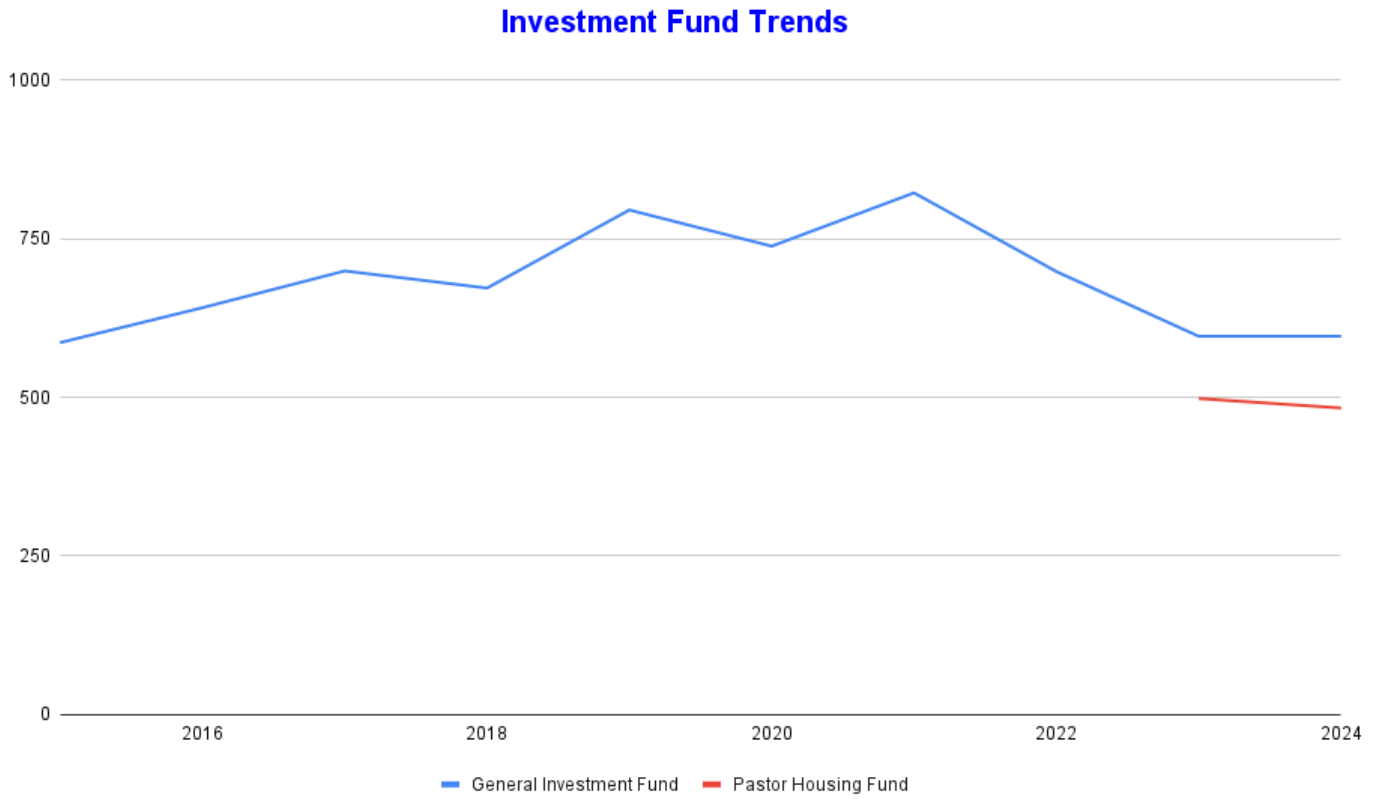
		2023	2024	Difference
<b>ASSETS</b>				
10000	General Checking Account (1194)	32,096	20,084	(12,012)
11000	Debit Card Account (6347)	1,094	809	(285)
12000	Payroll Checking Account (5421)	3,054	245	(2,808)
13000	Savings Account (1760)	4,992	6,425	1,433
13500	Stewart Music Fund (MABIT) (as of 9/30/24)	22,814	25,440	2,626
14000	General Investment Account (as of 11/30/24)	596,292	633,891	37,599
16000	Pastor Housing Investment Account (as of 11/30/24)	498,401	482,984	(15,416)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,158,743</b>	<b>1,169,879</b>	<b>11,136</b>
<b>LIABILITIES and FUNDS</b>				
30000	General Fund	20,855	4,123	(16,732)
34000	General Investment Account Fund	596,292	633,891	37,599
<b>35000 Grants</b>				
35201	BBSU(Boston Baptist Society Union) Grant	5,520	9,558	4,038
35203	Vacation Bible School Grant	3,218	2,954	(264)
35301	Senior Outreach/Lectures/Juds Bask Grant	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL Grants</b>		<b>8,738</b>	<b>12,512</b>	<b>3,774</b>
<b>36000 Restricted Funds</b>				
36101	Adult Church Groups Restricted Fund	4,316	2,265	(2,051)
36102	Deacons Restricted Fund	561	0	(561)
36104	Flowers Restricted Fund	0	0	0
36105	Missions Restricted Fund	1,528	1,189	(339)
36106	Music Restricted Fund	0	0	0
36107	Special Offerings Restricted Fund	45	45	0
36108	Youth Programs Restricted Fund	0	425	425
36202	Steeple Fund	0	0	0
36301	Stewart Music Restricted Fund	22,814	25,440	2,626
36302	Markham Scholarship Restricted Fund	4,743	4,209	(534)
36304	Memorial Fund	446	2,785	2,339
36401	Pastor Housing Restricted Fund	498,404	482,995	(15,409)
<b>TOTAL Restricted Funds</b>		<b>532,857</b>	<b>519,353</b>	<b>(13,505)</b>
<b>38000 Other Accounts</b>				
38100	Pass-Through	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL Other Accounts</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES and FUNDS</b>		<b>1,158,743</b>	<b>1,169,879</b>	<b>11,136</b>

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ROCKPORT – 10-YEAR TRENDS

## First Baptist Church of Rockport - 10 Year Trends



# INVESTMENT FUND TRENDS





## AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the financial records for the year of 2024. This audit was conducted for the purpose of overseeing the financial records of the Church, and I attest that there is reasonable assurance that these records are free of material misstatement.

The weekly plate collections were followed into their corresponding deposits on bank statements. Reconciliation details were followed for the general checking account as well as the payroll account for transfers into and payments out and for the debit card account activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Millicent Bruce  
Auditor

# Rockport Baptist 2024 Words Search

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

**1. Steeple    2. Luke    3. Parables    4. Womenoftheword    5. Bell    6. Body**

**7. Theology    8. Grill    9. Jim    10. Shepherd    11. Maureen    12. Mary    13. German**

**14. Victoria    15. Dump**