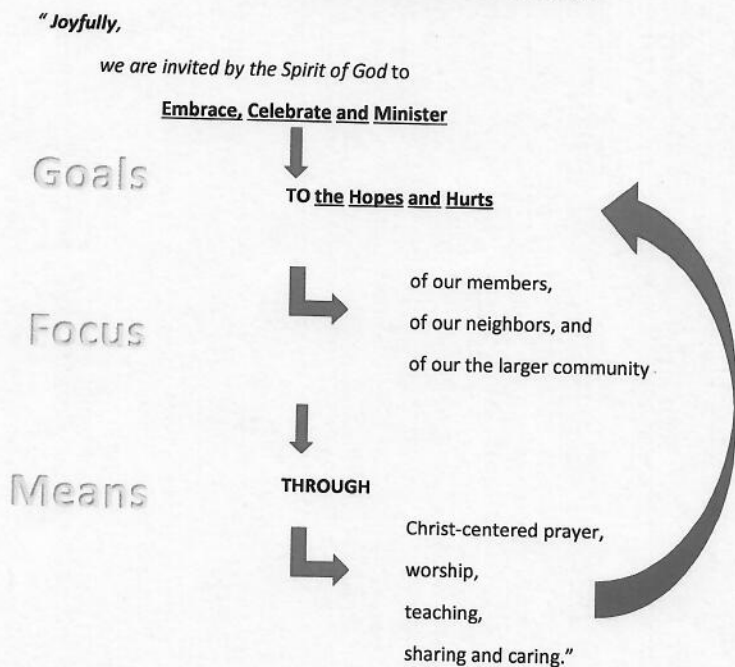


# *The First Baptist Church of Block Island*

*Gathered October 23, 1765*

## **Our Mission Statement**



Our Mission Statement describes our goals, our focus, and our means.

As we examine our mission together, our church's sense of purpose becomes more clear.

## *Annual Report for Calendar Year 2019*

### *Annual Meeting*

### *January 19, 2020*

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**  
of  
**The First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island, Inc.,**  
in the Town of New Shoreham, Block Island

January 19, 2020

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**Table of Contents and Meeting Agenda**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
Call to Order	
Opening Prayer	
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting held January 20, 2019	2
Minutes of Special Business Meeting held July 21, 2019	8
<b>Unison Reading of the Church Covenant</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Board and Committee Reports for the Calendar Year ended December 31, 2019</b>	
Leadership Team	11
Pastor's Report	13
Board of Trustees	14
Church Clerk	15
Stewardship Committee	17
<b>Motion to Adopt Reports as Presented</b>	
<b>Motion to Suspend the Rules</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Slate of Officers and Board Members, and Election</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Financial Reports for January – December 2019 follow page</b>	<b>20</b>
Special Fund accounts	21
General Fund (operating budget) account	26
International Student Center	30
HBC Affordable Apartments, Inc.	32
<b>Consider and Act on Proposed 2020 Operating Budget</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Motion to Appoint Team to Negotiate with American Baptist Foundation</b>	
<b>Other Business</b>	
Silent Memorial for Deceased Members	
Adjournment	
Benediction	

**First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island**  
**Minutes of Annual Business Meeting**  
**January 20, 2019**

The Annual Business Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Block Island was held on January 20, 2019, to review and act on reports for the calendar year 2018; to adopt a budget for the calendar year 2019; and for other purposes.

Except as noted, all reports and other documents referred to in these minutes are printed in the *Annual Report for 2018* book dated January 20, 2019.

Moderator Donna Corey **called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 11:28 a.m.** The Pastor, Rev. Peter P. Preiser Jr., offered an opening prayer.

**Adoption of minutes: MOTION** by Martha Ball to approve the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting held on January 21, 2018, **SECONDED** by Andy Transue. **VOTE:** All were in favor.

**MOTION** by Cindy Pappas to approve the minutes of the Special Business Meeting held on May 27, 2018, **SECONDED** by Hillary Transue. **VOTE:** All were in favor.

The minutes of both congregational business meetings held in 2018 were approved as presented.

The Moderator led the **unison reading of the Church Covenant.**

**Board and Committee Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2018:** Each body's written report was referenced and highlighted in turn by a representative.

**Leadership Team (Martha Ball):** "Think where we were a year ago and how much has happened" since the January 2018 Annual Meeting, Martha began. She summarized her written report recounting major events of the year.

Martha recognized the Harbor Church's former pastor, Rev. Tony Pappas, for stepping out of retirement to fill the pulpit in early 2018 during Pastor Steve Hollaway's recovery from a severe injury, and again in August and September between Pastor Steve's retirement at the end of July and Pastor Peter's arrival.

Martha corrected the last part of her written report, regarding the suspension of the rules to restructure the church's governance. She said that the leadership would not be asking the congregation to suspend the rules at this meeting. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to suspend the rules for two years (2018 and 2019), so it is not necessary to vote on that issue at this meeting.

She stated her hope that sometime in the spring of 2019 a bylaw revision committee will begin work, with the end goal of presenting a revised governance structure at the next Annual Meeting in January 2020.

**Pastor's Report (Rev. Peter Preiser):** After referring to his report, Peter thanked everyone who had helped him and his wife (Carrie Johnson Preiser) get established in their new housing and who welcomed them with open arms. He encouraged each person present to think about, "what you can do this year to enrich your mind, to grow spiritually.... And look for ways to do something new this year, to renew" each member's ministry and the ministry of the church.



**Pastoral Search Committee (Barby Michel):** “This is a joyous report,” Barby said. The regional leadership at the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) was extremely helpful to the committee in gathering input, preparing the church profile, and forwarding thirty resumes and profiles from candidates.

“From the moment we spoke to Peter Preiser,” Barby said. “we felt God's presence.... And the icing on the cake was Carrie.” The committee's reaction to Peter “was a unanimous 'wow.' And we had other wonderful candidates.” Peter preached at Sunday worship on Memorial Day weekend, “and it's history after that.” The congregation voted to call Pastor Peter at a special meeting on May 27, 2018.

Barby thanked the congregation for their prayers and guidance during the search, and thanked the committee members.

**Board of Trustees (Barby Michel):** The report recounts what Barby said was, “A very busy, busy year for the Trustees.” Major projects included renovation of the third floor into the four HBC Affordable Apartments (and the State Fire Marshal's list of about 25 things that need to be done to bring the entire building up to code); exterior work uncovering and repairing “unexpected rot” that the Trustees hope will prevent recurrence of leaks; the front lawn and pergola eliciting “many positive comments” from the community; and the renovation of the parsonage apartment (with much volunteer labor) before the Preisers moved in.

Barby gave special thanks to several “core volunteer workers who made (the parsonage) project happen.” She also thanked the Preisers for their patience during the renovation, and for their generosity in purchasing light fixtures and other finishing touches for the parsonage apartment.

Updates since the Trustees' report was submitted: The Town's Old Harbor Task Force will be renovating Nicholas Ball Park at the bottom of the church's front lawn, on Water Street. Barby and Pastor Peter met the week before the meeting with Task Force chair Margie Comings.

Barby said that everything on the list of things that must be completed before the Fire Marshal will allow the apartments to be occupied will be done.

**Third Floor Renovation (Tony Pappas):** The written report summarized the history and funding for the conversion of the unused space to four affordable apartments, the Fire Marshal's inspection, and the establishment of an independent non-profit corporation (HBC Affordable Apartments, HBC AA) to manage the four units. Once the tenants move in, the first six months of rent will be escrowed for repairs; after that, HBC AA will make payments to the church, with the proceeds restricted to support of the operation, upkeep and improvements to the church building and grounds.

Updates: Tony told the congregation that while construction of the apartments is complete, work is continuing on egresses and other items. The Fire Marshal's office agreed to inspect the apartments independent of the rest of the building. The other code updates will be addressed and inspected separately.

Tony Pappas and Donna Corey explained that while the church continues to own the entire building, the HBC AA corporation has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Trustees. The corporation is accountable to the Trustees and ultimately to the congregation.

**Church Clerk (Pat Tengwall):** According to the membership statistics, on January 1, 2018 the Harbor Church Membership Roll stood at 91 Members and 28 Associate Members, for

a total voting membership of 119. Three new full Members were added during 2018.

No new Associate Members were added during 2018. No church members were lost through death during 2018. As of December 31, 2018, the Membership Roll includes 94 Members and 28 Associate Members, for a total voting membership of 122, a net increase of three voting members. Six Friends of Harbor Church are also on the roll.

**Stewardship Committee (Bill Penn):** Excerpting Chair Will Young's report, Bill noted that pledges for 2019 are up from the 2018 totals ("Will is encouraged that we've increased our pledges," Peter added) and income from the Roll Call dinner was "good."

Income from the quilt raffle was "disappointing," Bill said: "Showing it at the farmer's market isn't enough." Others suggested publicity ideas. Tony Pappas reinforced the report's conclusion that the Fair and Auction need to be "reworked." Tony also commented that the plate offerings in 2018 were 30 percent more than the budget, and the final amount of pledges was 10 percent more than budgeted. And while the 2018 quilt income is down from previous years' totals, it was only \$91 short of the budget's \$6,000 goal.

**Campaign for the Future (Tony Pappas):** As of December 31, 2018, the total of pledges and contributions was \$1,119,175, \$80,925 short of the \$1,200,000 goal. Tony hopes that 2019 will bring better investment returns on the endowment created from the Damm bequest (\$450,000). Other donations ranged between \$50 to \$150,000. Six donors have spread their pledges over three years.

**International Student Center (Susan Matheke):** The International Student Advisory Board was set up to take over the ministry as Pastor Steve Hollaway was retiring. Susan emphasized that the students were helpful when asked, and were "very, very appreciative" of the Center, both for the dinners served and for a place to gather. The board had a lot to learn about how the ISC was operated and financed, she said; "What we got back was warm responses from students."

The weekly dinners served between 50 and 80 students, including some American workers. Bill Penn reiterated the US State Department's emphasis on the J-1 Work and Travel visa program as a cultural exchange program. Carrie Johnson volunteered to join the Advisory Board.

**Adoption of reports: MOTION** by Martha Ball to accept all the board and committee reports received up to this point in the meeting as presented. **SECONDED** by Andy Transue. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The reports were accepted.

**Slate of Officers and Board Members:** During discussion of the slate, it was suggested that the members of the International Student Center Advisory Board and the Children's Adventure Hour volunteer team be listed in the Annual Report.

**MOTION** by Tony Pappas that the members of the International Student Advisory Board be listed in the Annual Report with thanks. **SECONDED** by Martha Ball.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The members of the International Student Advisory Board will be added to the Annual Report:

Pastor Peter Preiser, Cindy Pappas, Bill Penn, Tricia Foley, Susan Matheke, Shannon Morgan, Erin Petersen, Carrie Johnson, Raul Mickle (ex-officio). Ellen Jacke, emerita.

**MOTION** by Susan Matheke that the members of the Children's Adventure Hour volunteer team



be listed in the Annual Report with thanks. **SECONDED** by Tony Pappas. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The members of the Children's Adventure Hour volunteer team will be added to the Annual Report:

Colby Millikin, Jamie Rose, Morgan Rose Walsh

**MOTION** by Martha Ball to direct the Church Clerk to cast one ballot to elect all the officers. **SECONDED** by Judy Mitchell. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The Clerk cast one ballot as directed.

**Financial Reports for January – December 2018 (Treasurer Cheryl Blane):** Cheryl guided the members through the reports for each special fund account and for the General Fund operating budget.

**Notes on Special Fund Accounts:** Cheryl cautioned that the end of year statements for the American Baptist Foundation investment accounts were not available for this report; the balances shown were not precise. The Sunday School Builders investment fund was tapped for exterior repairs (part of the renovations in the Campaign for the Future project).

In 2018, the Mission account paid out donations received in December 2017 at a fundraising event for Moravian churches in the Caribbean. There were few donations and no expenditures from the Memorial account in 2018.

CD investment accounts at Washington Trust Co. include one account Cheryl may use to pay bills. The "Norma Mott Nordberg memorial" CD is a restricted fund, Cheryl said, with interest income to be applied to purchasing flowers for the church. At the January 2018 Annual Meeting, it was noted that Cheryl's name was not on the account and she had no access to it. That situation had not changed during 2018, Cheryl said.

At this point in the discussion, Tony Pappas made a **MOTION** that Pastor Preiser be authorized to appoint a committee to review the entire financial structure of the church. Judy Mitchell **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The motion to establish a financial review committee was approved.

Cheryl continued her summary. The Campaign for the Future (CFF) checking account was opened in June 2018 to pay renovation expenses from donations received, including exterior repairs and the parsonage renovation. Similarly, the Third Floor Project checking account received donations and transfers from investments and paid out construction expenses. More such expenses are expected. The Sunday School Builders checking account had little activity in 2018.

Grant funds received from the Champlin Foundation in late 2016 are kept in a separate account, as the foundation requires. About one third of the award was spent in 2017 on new shingles and windows; almost all the rest was spent in 2018, again on shingling and exterior repairs. Only \$596 remains of the original \$30,000 grant.

**Notes on General Fund (operating budget) Account:** On income, Cheryl noted that pledge and plate offerings exceeded budget expectations for the year. Tony Pappas pointed out a refund from the church's insurance carrier.

On expenses, Cheryl explained that the Building Maintenance line was overspent, because bills for the renovations arrived before the Campaign for the Future account was funded. The CFF account later reimbursed the operating budget for \$17,000 in renovations charged to maintenance.

The International Student Center had raised enough money for operations that the church's budgeted contribution (\$1,000) was not needed.

Office supplies were higher than anticipated. The copier lease and service contract have recently been terminated, which should save about \$1,000 when finalized.

Fundraising expenses were reduced in 2018 because some food for the Roll Call dinner was donated rather than purchased.

**MOTION** by Tony Pappas to accept the Treasurer's report with gratitude, **SECONDED** by Andy Transue. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

**Financial reports of Other Organizations:** No one was present to speak to the report of Boy Scout Troop 30. Pastor Peter noted that the Leadership Board had voted to renew the troop's charter for another year. No action was taken. No financial report was presented for the International Student Center.

**Consider and Act on Proposed 2019 Operating Budget:**

**MOTION** by Pat Tengwall to accept the Budget as presented; **SECONDED** by Judy Mitchell. Discussion of budget items:

International Student Center: In 2017 and 2018, the operating budget included \$1,000 for the ISC. The proposed amount of \$100 in the 2019 budget recognizes that the ministry has been self-funding through its own fundraising. No dollar estimate was available of the in-kind support the church gives the ISC (such as use of the building and utilities). Noted, the ISC Advisory Board will be developing a budget for the 2019 ministry; the Advisory Board can ask the church for funding later in the year if necessary.

Contribution to Pastor's retirement: Cheryl explained that former pastor Steve Hollaway chose a less-costly program from the ABCUSA's retirement system (Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board) than Pastor Peter Preiser has chosen. Therefore, the church's contribution to Peter's retirement will be \$2,500 greater in 2019.

Generally, on income and expenses: The group developing the budget was trying to be realistic. The transfer of the church's insurance business to a new carrier should result in savings. Water and sewer bills will be different for several reasons: 2018 included watering the new front lawn; 2019 will use a different allocation rate, but new usage by third-floor tenants cannot be separated from the rest of the building. Income from fundraising events and an appeal letter may be optimistic; the members must put energy into these efforts for the income to materialize.

There was a difference of opinion on how to represent the projected deficit of \$3,515 in the 2019 budget. The budget would be closer to balance if the \$3,072 end-of-2018 surplus were carried forward into the new year; alternatively, it needs to be clear that there is a small deficit.

Access to the building (especially the bathrooms at night) became a side issue in the budget discussion, which Pastor Peter said should be a policy matter for the Leadership Board.

**VOTE** on the **MOTION** to approve the budget: All were in favor. The 2019 operating budget was approved as presented without changes.

**Other Business:** Tony Pappas read the following **MOTION** concerning the Barn building:

On December 31, 2020, the lease between the church and the Spring Street Gallery/Block

Island Economic Development Corp. (BIED) expires. The church may choose to extend, modify, renegotiate or just let the current lease lapse. Whichever course of action is chosen, it would be gracious to give the Gallery some months, maybe even a year's notice. This timing would allow them to plan for their future especially if a change is indicated. At this time the church has no specific ministry or program for the future usage of the "Barn" building.

Therefore, I **move** that the pastor be directed to convene a process and/or a committee to determine what use said building may be put to in order to further the mission of the church subsequent to December 31, 2020.

The above **MOTION** was made by Tony Pappas, **SECONDED** by Andy Transue.

Speaking for the Spring Street Gallery, Kate Bird said, "Thank you for over 30 years of support for the Gallery. This is very fair and hopeful." There was no further discussion.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The **MOTION** to direct the Pastor to convene a group to determine the future use of the Barn building was approved.

**Adjournment:** **MOTION** to adjourn by Pat Tengwall, **SECONDED** by Andy Transue.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The annual meeting was **adjourned** at 1:07 p.m., with a benediction by Pastor Peter Preiser.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tengwall, Church Clerk

January 12, 2020

**ATTENDANCE:** Patrick Tengwall, Tony Pappas, Cindy Pappas, Martha Ball, Barbara Michel, Donna Corey, David Roosa, Andrew Transue, Hillary Transue, John Hopf, Judy Mitchell, Susan Matheke, Carrie Todd, Bill Penn, Keith A. Lewis, Judith Rose, Marlee Lacoste, C. Wendell Corey, Beth Gaffett Tengwall, Lynn Fletcher, Peter Preiser, Carrie Johnson, Lynn Fletcher.

Guests: Eileen Miller, Kate Bird.

MINUTES Annual Meeting 01-20-2019 C.docx



First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island  
Minutes of Special Business Meeting  
July 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Donna Corey following Sunday Worship on July 21, 2019. Following an opening prayer it was noted there was no Clerk present and it was moved by Bill Penn to appoint Martha Ball Acting Clerk for the duration of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Transue and so voted.

The Moderator declared a quorum was present and the notice of the meeting had been printed in the bulletin and mailed to members as required by the by-laws as follows:

**There will be a Special Business Meeting** for the Members of Harbor Church on July 21st, immediately following our morning worship service, at approximately 11:30 am. The Purpose of this meeting will be threefold:

- (1) to conduct a vote on a proposed loan for the Trustees to use for Capital Improvements;
- (2) to review our reserve holdings and report on our financial position. And (3) amend By-Laws to include Electronic notifications of Congregational meeting

It was agreed to act upon item 3 first and it was **moved** by Tony Pappas to adopt the inclusion of "electronic" in Article VI, Section 5, Notice of Meetings, to read ". . . shall be in writing or by electronic transmission. . ." and further to strike the qualifier of "resident" before member in that same section as both impractical and unclear. The **motion** was **seconded** by Martha Ball and **so voted**.

Will Young and Tony Pappas offered the following statement on item 2:

"While reviewing all pledges, gifts and expenses for the Campaign for the Future and the Church Funds, Tony Pappas and William Young discovered that the church has been the victim of cyber fraud. A portion of our endowment funds held as investments by the American Baptist Foundation in Valley Forge PA was raided. The American Baptist Foundation has been investigating and local and federal law enforcement have been notified and are actively working to recover the funds. To date close to one third of the funds have been recovered and returned to the Church.

"We can honestly say that none of the funds donated for the Campaign for the Future by members of the church and the community at large were raided. We do believe that there was negligence on the part of the American Baptist Foundation in their disbursement procedures. The Leadership Board of the church has hired legal counsel to explore our options. We will keep the congregation apprised of further developments.

"The net result is that the Damm Fund has been reduced by about 50%. This is a big loss, but we were a faithful, active church before we received the Damm endowment, and we continue to be so by God's grace despite this loss."

Some discussion followed; in response to questions it was confirmed that the FBI as well as ABF officials had been notified.

No action was requested; none was taken. Tony and Will were thanked for their on-going labors.

It was **moved** by Barby Michel to activate the previously approved Roosa Fund loan in the sum of \$100,000, drawing up to the full amount at a rate of 2% per annum. The **motion** was **seconded** by Will Young and discussion followed, with an explanation that in addition to the ongoing exterior repairs a significant amount of unanticipated fire code compliance upgrade work of the entire building has been outlined by the State Fire Marshal's Office, triggered by the expanded residential use of the third floor. It was noted that while the enhancement of the facade would have to be postponed, the third floor rentals had already established a working "bank" and there was all expectation the successful occupation would continue. The motion was passed.

The meeting stood adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha Ball, Acting Clerk

Present:

Donna Corey, Moderator  
Martha Ball, Acting Clerk  
Cheryl Blane  
Madeline Rachels Burns  
Wendell Corey  
Bill Gill  
Sue Gill  
Carrie Johnson  
Stephanie Knapp  
Marlee Lacoste  
David Lewis  
Kay Lewis  
Keith Lewis  
Paul Marte  
Susan Matheke  
Doug Michel  
Barby Michel  
Pastor Peter Preiser  
Tony Pappas  
Lynn Sanchez Paquin  
Bill Penn  
Lynn Poston  
Beth Gaffett Tengwall  
Andy Transue  
Will Young  
Penny Young

Also present:

Peter Burger  
Susan Burger  
Glenn Chadwick

## *The Harbor Church Covenant*

Having been led by the Spirit of God to profess our faith in Jesus Christ, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully affirm our covenant with God and with each other.

We pledge to serve Christ in the fellowship of this congregation. We shall endeavor to love one another, to remember one another in prayer, to share in each other's joys, and to sustain each other in times of distress. We aspire to be a fellowship of the concerned, where the lost may find Jesus Christ, sinners may find pardon, seekers may find meaning for their lives, and where all who come may find welcome. We shall strive to be responsible church members, through faithful attendance, study, giving and service.

We shall seek to be obedient to Christ in our daily living. Within our homes, in our labor, and while at leisure we shall strive for attitudes and actions which will reflect God's spirit working through us. Believing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we shall endeavor to avoid experiences and habits, which defile the body and hinder our witness.

Bound together in a fellowship of faith with all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we shall pray and labor for a spirit of unity among all Christians.

Believing that our call to be a church is a call to witness in the world, we dedicate ourselves anew as servants of the Lord of all life. Whenever people are in bondage to ignorance, poverty, fear or prejudice, we shall strive for justice, freedom, dignity and peace. Whenever people are separated by barriers of hostility and distrust, we shall be ministers of God's reconciling love. As we pledge our support to the work of our missionaries throughout the world, we commit ourselves to the mission to which God calls us all.

Acknowledging our human frailties (and ever seeking forgiveness), we profess our need of the Holy Spirit, and commit our lives to Jesus Christ, and through Him to the care, the judgment, the deliverance, and the mercy of Almighty God. Amen.



## Leadership Team 2019 Report

Last year this report opened with a characterization of 2018 as a year of “change, renewal, joy, grace, and gratitude!”

In retrospect, we were emerging from a long period of transition, of governance adapting to changing times; of leadership in the person(s) of Pastor Peter and his most capable wife and partner, Carrie Johnson; of major changes to our building, fulfilling decades-old impossible dreams. We had a LOT going on and when we stop and think how we got through it the answer is simple: by the grace of God, or like the refrain from one of our old hymns:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Those words ring especially true to us island people who know all about solid rocks and sinking – or shifting - sands. We watch the boulders on the shore disappear and regrow from season to season and storm to storm but we know, in fact, they are there all along, we just have to have faith they will resurface.

It is who we have been since the European settlement in 1661, since our formal gathering in 1765, as this congregation has moved, geographically, as its fortunes have risen and fallen, as it has experienced the impacts of internal strife and outside economics, and demographic shifts that have closed the doors of churches, especially in this region of the country. I've said many times, and others, today, will expand upon this: when I was a little girl in Sunday School the basement was an empty space with a dirt floor, only the west end of the second floor was in use, a parsonage crafted out of hotel rooms, all else was vast and empty, fun if we could sneak up an unused staircase but daunting to a congregation struggling, in a town that was struggling to survive.

Much of the what-we-did-last-year that is usually in this report will be addressed by Pastor Peter and others. Suffice it to say, the momentum we felt building last year has not waned. Our numbers on paper have not increased, yet, but we rejoice witnessing increased attendance, both newcomers and returned members in the pews, in having children's activities during worship.

We long ago ceased being a strong, local congregation with an influx of nameless summer tourists. Today we have a much more mobile year-round component than was imagined fifty years ago, and many seasonal members and friends are active in differing ways year-round. We rejoice in the energy this mix brings to our organization, to our summer programs extending well into the fall. We value the presence of every individual, their faith, their strength, and the perspective they bring to this body.

A year ago we hoped to be bringing a major by-law revision to this meeting, likely formalizing the provisional structure under which we have been functioning and are asking be continued another year. We hit some bumps but, overall, we had a very good year of re-building, ending on a series of high notes. The interior of the church was again decorated traditionally and from the street our building and grounds shone in December's dark: the pergola fully lighted this year, a community Christmas tree rising from our reflection garden, a wreath gifted us by Fred and Muriel Nelson shining from the front of the building, and even a tenant's tree in the window of the third floor tower apartment.

We hosted a joyous Christmas Eve service, featuring an increased number of youngsters filling roles of shepherds, angels and even a wayward lamb, a cast grown in only two years from two intrepid shepherds. And a bunch of grown-ups helped.

And then, the very last Sunday of the year, traditionally one of near-empty churches, we were blessed to witness a dedication of a baby girl, surrounded by parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. A lovely counterpoint, the first Sunday of the new year, the prelude was offered by one of our over-ninety in years members.

A year ago we came to this meeting filled with optimism and hope. A year later that has only strengthened, and we are confident we are moving from transition to growth. We have a great congregation and we are blessed to have Pastor Peter in the pulpit and Carrie leading music within — and beyond — the walls of our church, we are fortunate to have found a couple who rejoice both in this island and its wide and multi-faceted community.

Thank you to everyone who has helped bring us to where we are today, moving through our 255<sup>th</sup> year.

The rock upon which our church stands is, indeed, solid.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Martha Ball, Chair  
Cheryl Blane, Treasurer  
Marlee Lacoste, Asst Treasurer  
Carrie Johnson, Asst Clerk  
Susan Matheke  
Barby Michel  
Anthony Pappas  
Cindy Pappas  
Pastor Peter Preiser  
Beth Gaffett Tengwall  
Patrick Tengwall, Clerk  
Will Young, and  
Ellen Jacke, Member Emerita

## Pastor's Annual Report for 2019

---

It was a **WONDERFUL YEAR** at Harbor Church! *"God is Good!"*

*Here are a few Highlights...*

- ♦ **Spring Festival.** We had our annual tag sale in July, but the rest of the fun was experienced in June this year to accommodate the island community before the busy season. Food, face-painting, crafting activities, and live music all combined to provide a enjoyable outing for our town.
- ♦ **Adventure Hour for Children on Sundays!** What a difference it has made to have little people running around on Sunday mornings again. We have a long way to go in building this initiative, but are off to a great start.
- ♦ **Adventure Week VBS.** We had a 'roaring' good time taking children on a week-long virtual safari of fun and spiritual learning. Our junior leaders were great and were blessed by the experience as much as the younger ones who attended.
- ♦ **International Student Center..** We had an exceptional summer for our work/travel cultural exchange program. A new coordinator brought fresh energy and enthusiasm, we hosted special events like a beach bonfire and an end-of-the-season party. We served young people from 22 different countries and cultures. Who know what lasting positive effects will be experienced around the world through this ministry?
- ♦ **First Responders Celebration.** A coordinated work by the Block Island Ecumenical Ministries Group, we were able to honor our Police, Fire, and Rescue personnel by organizing a special event to thank them for their service to our community.
- ♦ **Art Auction.** A generous donation of original artwork generated additional, unexpected funding for our church and has helped sustain us through another good fiscal year.
- ♦ **Capital Campaign Completion.** We achieved our goal through the generous support of many! All of our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor residents moved in this Spring, and major fire code updates and other improvements are in process or have been accomplished.
- ♦ **Attendance is Up!** We have forged new relationships and renewed old friendships. As a result more and more people are participating in the life of our faith community.
- ♦ **Holiday Activities.** Thanksgiving and Christmas events included Ecumenical Choir Concerts and a heart-warming Christmas Pageant. We also hosted a video discussion forum called "God Sighting on Block Island" – over 50 people viewed this online resource!

So many good times and worthwhile ministries, and we have many more exciting new things planned for the coming new year.

Blessings!





## Board of Trustees Annual Report for 2019

The Trustees have had a busy and productive year repairing, renovating, and keeping up with the routine care of the Harbor Church building.

2019 was an exciting year having the tenants move into the apartments on the third floor in February and March! A washer/dryer unit was recently installed on the second floor for the tenants and Sexton. The final project of building storage units in the basement for the tenants is progressing.

There have been numerous projects related to a State Fire Marshal report that have been completed. Some of these include: improving the front egress, building new stairs to the parsonage deck, enclosing the stairs with lattice, moving the coat room door into Fellowship Hall, installing a fire-proofed ceiling in the ISC/Rec. space, moving a wall in this area, and adding motion detector lights in hallways. Future projects include installing new sanctuary doors, Fellowship Hall doors, parlor doors, and the kitchen door,

The west peak has been shingled and painted. We are in the process of getting prices to insulate, shingle and replace windows on the north and west sides of the building. We are working our way around the building and hope to have this next phase done in the spring.

A donation of about \$30,000 was made to the church to install solar panels as part of a Solar Initiative! This important project will happen in the spring.

The exterior doors on the first floor have had hardware and locks replaced and a new wireless security system has been installed.

Work has been done on the parking area. Additional spaces have been created and one additional handicapped space has been designated. A needed storage shed is being built in the corner of the parking area.

There have been other minor repairs such as the chimney liner, a hole in the foundation, and a leak in the foyer ceiling. Various painting projects will be done in the future.

The Trustees would like to thank the many people who have volunteered their time and resources to help with the many needs of our building and grounds. The support of our congregation and community members is invaluable for keeping our church building operational!

Respectfully submitted,  
Barby Michel, Secretary/Chair

**CHURCH CLERK ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Calendar Year 2019**

No new full or Associate Members were added during 2019.

Four church members were lost through death during calendar year 2019: S. Willis Dodge, Lewis H. Gaffett, Richard Mullen, and Robert E. Rose.

As of December 31, 2019, the Membership Roll includes 93 Members and 28 Associate Members, for a total voting membership of 121. Also on the roll are six Friends of Harbor Church.

As required, annual reports were filed with the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and with the Office of the Secretary of State, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

The Church Clerk and/or the Assistant Clerk also serves as Secretary to the Executive Board and records the minutes of their meetings. All minutes and reports are on file.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Tengwall, Church Clerk  
January 13, 2020

## ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

January 13, 2020

The First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island, Inc.,  
in the Town of New Shoreham, Block Island, Rhode Island

Martha Ball  
Renee Batchelder  
Sally Beatty\*  
Robert Benjamin\*  
Forrest Bezanson  
Cheryl Blane  
Edith Blane  
Laura Michel Breunig  
Carol Brown  
Pamela Buol  
Thomas Buol  
Madeline Burns  
Victoria Carson  
Rebecca Chatowsky  
Rebecca Pappas Clark  
Donna Corey\*  
Wendell Corey  
Paul Cotter  
Jeannette Davis  
Lila DelPadre  
Nathaniel DelPadre  
Penelope DelPadre  
Wendy Dixon\*  
Charlie Dodge  
Jake Douglas  
Adam Dydak  
Ann Fagan  
Evelyn Fairclough\*  
David Foley  
Tricia Foley  
Dale Fox\*  
Dorothy Fox \*  
Susan Gill\*  
William Gill\*  
Pamela Glen  
Millard Harmon  
Maegan Merrick Hobe  
Rev. Steve Hollaway  
Becca Hollaway  
John Hopf  
Sandra Hopf  
Ellen Jacke\*  
David Johnstone\*  
Carol Kern\*  
C.C. "Sonny" Kern\*  
Kenneth Knapp\*  
Stephanie Knapp\*

Mark Koch\*  
Charles LaCoste  
Marlee LaCoste  
David Lewis  
Katherine Lewis  
Keith Lewis  
Betty Lincoln  
Donald Littlefield  
Lydia Littlefield  
Carol Louttit  
Phil Lower  
Robin Lower  
Debbie Lucchesi  
Paul Marte\*  
Kathleen Martin  
Susan Matheke  
Casey Mathews\*  
Rheba McKernan  
Jeremy Merrick  
Marcia Merrick  
Barbara Michel  
Doug Michel  
Scott Michel  
Adrian Mitchell  
Judith Mitchell  
Anna Mullen  
Renato Nascimento  
Fred Nelson  
Muriel Nelson  
Eric O'Brien\*  
Kristen O'Brien\*  
Rev. Anthony Pappas  
Cynthia Pappas  
Helen S. Paquin  
Richard Parent  
Anna Pearce  
William Penn  
Blake Phelan  
Lily Pike  
Lynn Poston  
Rev. Peter P. Preiser, Jr.  
Carolyn Johnson Preiser  
Renee Rondinone  
David Roosa  
Jamie Rose  
Judy Rose  
Robert Rose

William Rose  
John Sargent  
Karla Sargent  
Robert Sawyer\*  
Jane Scranton  
Carol Silverman  
Lloyd Smith\*  
Martin Tay  
Barbara Temple  
Beth Gaffett Tengwall  
Patrick Tengwall  
Carrie Todd\*  
Andrew Transue  
Hillary Transue  
James Tremble  
Todd Tremble  
Diane Tripler  
Jean Valentine  
Shirley Wagenseil  
Eric Wagner  
Alison Warfel  
Morgan Rose Walsh  
Melanie Blane Wilk  
Tina Wileikis\*  
Kenneth Wiley\*  
Mayumi Wiley\*  
Penny Barnum Young\*  
William Young\*

*\*Denotes Associate Members*

### **Friends:**

Carolyn Benjamin  
Barbara Hall  
Shirley Kessler  
Barbara MacDougall  
Micheline Weisbroat  
Richard Weisbroat

### **Members Deceased in 2019:**

S. Willis Dodge  
Lewis H. Gaffett  
Richard Mullen  
Robert E. Rose



**Harbor Church  
2019 Annual Report Stewardship Committee**

2019 Has been a very good year for Stewardship. Last year at the time of the Annual Meeting pledges were at \$80,100. To date we are at \$76,564. However, we have a few regular pledgers that have not made a pledge so far and one who has made a verbal pledge which I have not included in the number. I anticipate that we will exceed last year's figure, perhaps by as much as \$5,000.

Plate collections is a highlight they we budgeted for \$18,000 and to date they stand at \$27,344! I think we can easily say that this is due to Peter & Carrie's enthusiastic hard work to get more individuals and families in the pews and keep them coming back with their gifts! Thank you Peter & Carrie!!

Roll Call was also very strong this year bringing in \$10,482. This is an increase over last year's number of almost \$1,500. Thanks goes out to Diane and Emma Tripler for their remarkable leadership. We also had a younger crew in the kitchen this year and this bodes very well for the future of this event. In addition, we are blessed by all the hard work of Barby Michael in front of the house and her tireless work organizing and supervising the students.

The newly imagined Spring Fair & Auction raised \$12,911! This was a hard one to budget for and we ended up going with an ambitious \$13,000 – for a first year event to come this close is truly remarkable! Much of this was due to the cottage rentals put together and worked by Cindy Pappas and Lynn Poston. But again Peter & Carrie's vision and hard work really paid off. It looks like the new format is a winner.

For the Quilt we raised \$6,348 just ahead of our budgeted figure and last year's number of just below \$6,000. Again, we have to thank Sally Stephens & Bill Penn for their dedication to this fundraiser. I believe this fundraiser still has a lot of potential, however my guess is that Bill & Sally will not be inclined to put nearly as many hours into it next year. We will have to find new volunteers and perhaps new venues in order to raise \$6,000 or more.

Finally this year we have a special thank you to Fran Migliaccio for her donation of art work. Tony Pappas and myself put together an art auction with this work which raised \$7,333.

Numbers:

**2019 Pledge to date \$76,564**

**Fair & Auction \$12,911**

**Quilt \$6,348**

**Roll Call \$10,482**

**Plate \$27,344**

**Art Auction \$7,333**

Respectfully

William Young  
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

### ***Motion to Suspend Rules***

The Leadership Board proposes to continue the Motion to Suspend enacted at the January 29, 2017 Annual Business Meeting and continued for two years (2018 and 2019) at the January 21, 2018 Annual Business Meeting.

The text of the previous motion, as adopted in 2017:

Motion: That this body suspend Article IV, Sections 3 (Deacons), 5 (Christian Education), 6 (Executive), 7 (Mission), 11 (Nominating), and 12 (Social) of our current by-laws, and replace these boards and committees with a new board, which we can call "the Leadership Board." The Leadership Board will initially be composed of all current Deacons and Executive Board members who are willing to serve plus some additional members at this Board's discretion. The Leadership Board shall function for one year and report to the next Annual Meeting of the congregation with a recommendation for the church's future structure.

## SLATE OF OFFICERS for Calendar Year 2020

Moderator: Donna Corey  
Church Clerk: Patrick Tengwall  
Church Treasurer: Cheryl Blane

Assistant Moderator: Doug Michel  
Assistant Clerk: Carrie Johnson Preiser  
Assistant Treasurer: Marlee Lacoste

### *Leadership Team*

Martha Ball, Susan Matheke, Barby Michel,  
Anthony Pappas, Cindy Pappas, Beth Gaffett Tengwall, Will Young  
Clerk Patrick Tengwall, Assistant Clerk Carrie Johnson Preiser, Treasurer Cheryl Blane,  
Assistant Treasurer Marlee Lacoste  
Pastor Peter Preiser (*ex officio*);  
Ellen Jacke, *Member Emeritus*

### *Board of Trustees*

3-year terms: Wendell Corey, Andy Transue, Todd Tremble  
2-year terms: David Roosa, Tony Pappas, and Barby Michel  
1-year term: John Sargent and Sonny Kern  
Rev. Peter Preiser, Pastor (*ex officio*)

### *Suspended:*

Board of Deacons  
Board of Christian Ed  
Board of Missions  
Nominating Committee  
Social Committee  
Executive Board

### *Stewardship Committee*

Will Young, Bill Penn, Cindy Pappas, Lynn Poston  
Marlee Lacoste (*ex officio*)

### *Flower Committee*

Hillary Transue, Jamie Rose

### *Auditing Committee*

Donna Corey, Bill Penn

### *Music Committee*

Carrie Todd, Pastor Peter Preiser

### *Church Librarian*

Beth Gaffett Tengwall

### *Church Historian*

Martha Ball