

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of  
The First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island, Inc.,  
in the Town of New Shoreham, Block Island, Rhode Island  
January 20, 2019 at 11:30 a.m.**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018  
Table of Contents  
and MEETING AGENDA**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
Call to Order	
Opening Prayer	
Minutes of Annual Business Meeting, January 21, 2018	2
Minutes of Special Business Meeting, May 27, 2018	8
Unison Reading of the Church Covenant	9
<b>Board and Committee Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2018</b>	
Leadership Team	10
Pastor's Report	12
Pastoral Search Committee	13
Board of Trustees	14
Third Floor Renovation	15
Church Clerk	16
Stewardship Committee	17
Campaign for the Future	18
<b>Slate of Officers and Board Members</b>	19
<b>Election of Officers</b>	
<b>Financial Reports for January – December 2018</b> follow page	20
Special Fund Accounts	
General Fund (operating budget) Account	
Other Organizations:	
Boy Scout Troop 30	
International Student Center	
<b>Consider and Act on Proposed 2019 Operating Budget</b>	
<b>Other Business</b>	
Motion concerning the Barn building (T. Pappas)	
Adjournment	
Benediction	

**First Baptist Church of Block Island, Rhode Island**  
**Minutes of Annual Business Meeting**  
**January 21, 2018**

The Annual Business Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Block Island was held on January 21, 2018, to review and act on reports for the calendar year 2017; to adopt a budget for the calendar year 2018; and for other purposes.

Except as noted, all reports and other documents referred to in these minutes are printed in the *Annual Report* book dated January 21, 2018.

The capital fund drive PowerPoint presentation was played as the members gathered for the meeting.

Moderator Donna Corey called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 11:27 a.m., offered an opening prayer and made opening remarks.

**Adoption of minutes: MOTION** by Barby Michel, **SECONDED** by Cheryl Blane, to approve the minutes of all three congregational business meetings held in 2017:

Annual Business Meeting, January 29, 2017; Special Business Meeting, March 19, 2017;  
and Special Business Meeting, September 10, 2017.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The minutes of the 2017 meetings were adopted.

The Moderator led the unison reading of the Church Covenant and the Mission Statement.

**Board and Committee Reports for the calendar year ended December 31, 2017:**

**Leadership Board:** Chair Martha Ball summarized her written report for 2017. She highlighted the creation of the Leadership Board at the last Annual Business Meeting on January 29, 2017 as a “trial run” of a new governance structure; appointment of a Pastoral Search Committee; and community support of the International Student Center ministry – noting that the church must organize a governance structure for the Center for 2018 and beyond. There were no questions.

**Board of Trustees:** Barby Michel elaborated on the written report. She referenced repairs to the kitchen and to the exterior walls (new corner boards “enable us to re-shingle in sections” rather than all at once), and other repairs and maintenance. The new Reflection Garden – the Eagle Scout project of Andre Miller – “is a lovely space and its intent is wonderful,” she said, and recognized Andre's mother, Eileen Miller, in the audience. The members applauded.

The renovation of the third floor into affordable apartments is moving forward. Barby said that people within the church and in the community have been “extremely supportive,” particularly citing the Town boards and the Roosa Fund of BI Ecumenical Ministries. A new non-profit corporation with its own board of directors is being set up to manage the rentals and to ensure the project complies with all regulations.

**Pastoral Search Committee:** Committee Chair Barby Michel summarized her written report and said “we have a wonderful group” working on the search, with the help of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (ABCORI) Executive Minister Rev. Tom Wiles and Rev.

Kathryn Palen, ABCORI's Associate Executive Minister for Elder Care Ministries.

The committee began work in May 2017. At the time of this meeting, the committee had begun to receive resumes and review candidates' profiles. Barby cited a “great need for privacy and confidentiality” in the process.

**Church Clerk statistical report:** Clerk Pat Tengwall summarized his report. The church began 2017 with a total voting membership of 118. Three new full Members joined during the year and two members died. As of December 31, 2017, the Membership Roll stands at 119 Members and Associate Members, an increase of one. Pat added that Lynn Poston had joined the church since January 1. There were no questions.

**Stewardship Committee:** Will Young’s report was noted. Other members of the committee include Bill Penn and Bill Gill, with Cindy Pappas continuing to assist.

**Slate of Officers and Committee members for 2018:** The report is self-evident, Moderator Corey said. **MOTION** by Cindy Pappas to accept the slate of nominees as presented; **SECONDED** by Kay Lewis. Discussion: Mark Koch's name was removed from the Flower Committee at his request. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The slate was accepted.

**Adoption of reports:** **MOTION** by Kay Lewis to accept all the board and committee reports as presented up to this point in the meeting. **SECONDED** by Bill Penn. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The reports were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report for the Calendar Year ended December 31, 2017:** Treasurer Cheryl Blane was applauded for all the work she does in the Treasurer's role.

General Fund Operating Budget (Profit & Loss, January through December 2017):

On income, Cheryl said, “We did very well with our pledges.” The Spring Street Gallery paid rent quarterly to help the church's cash flow, and paid about \$1,000 for reimbursement on insurance and dumpster use. Overall, expenses were under budget.

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's report on the 2017 operating budget made by Barby Michel, **SECONDED** by Susan Matheke. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The report on the 2017 operating budget was approved.

Reports on the separate funds and investments were noted. The Third Floor Fund reimbursed the General Fund for some expenses incurred before the account was opened. The Champlin grant fund (\$19,870) is in a separate account, as the Champlin Foundation requires; securing a contractor has been difficult.

The Missions Account normally includes offerings for American Baptist Churches USA (ABC USA) projects. This year’s report also shows donations received in December from a fundraiser to benefit Moravian churches in the Caribbean.

The Memorial Account is mostly unrestricted money. Bill Penn said the Stewardship Committee is looking for suggestions for projects.

One Washington Trust Co. CD account is titled “Norma Mott Nordberg memorial.” Cheryl said that because Don Littlefield is the only living person with access to that account, she has no information about it. It was agreed that Cheryl's name should be on that account.

The church now has four accounts with the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) that make quarterly interest payments into the General Fund (about \$16,000 in 2017).

The fourth ABF account is new, a “Gift from the Estate of Charlotte Damm.” Tony Pappas explained that Charlotte’s husband, Carl Damm, had said he wanted to remember the church in the will. His assets went to Charlotte at his death. After Charlotte’s passing, her estate sold property on Corn Neck Road in August 2017 and gave 20% of the net profit from the sale to the Harbor Church. The account value at Dec. 31, 2017 was \$448,977.

The terms of the bequest specifically designate Anthony G. Pappas as the person to determine how the money will be invested and spent. Tony said that if he became unable to fulfill that responsibility, it would pass to the Board of Deacons. For 2018, interest on the Damm account will fund the pastoral search process, as a one-time expense.

The Sunday School Builders account had little activity in 2017. The money belongs to the SSB women’s group to be used for projects they designate.

**MOTION** by Wendell Corey to approve all the Treasurer’s reports, **SECONDED** by Andy Transue. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The Treasurer’s reports were approved.

**Boy Scout Troop 30:** The financial report was prepared by Scoutmaster Eileen Miller, who came forward to present it. Eileen plans to retire in 2018; Kate Butcher will be the new Scoutmaster.

**MOTION** by Pat Tengwall to accept the Boy Scout Troop 30 financial report, **SECONDED** by Tony Pappas. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The report was accepted.

**International Student Center:** The financial report was not available for the meeting. Pastor Steve Hollaway summarized his narrative report. He emphasized that the small paid staff (including Director Raul Mickle and pastoral intern Kyle Wilkinson from Yale Divinity School) had many helpers from the congregation and the community. The students were “more appreciative and helpful” in 2017 than in prior years, Steve said, and their response to the ministry was “overwhelmingly positive.”

Questions: The foreign student workers using the Center are mostly university students participating in the U.S. State Department’s J-1 “Summer Work and Travel” visa program. The theme of the program is cultural exchange and not work, as Bill Penn and Raul Mickle learned at a State Department-sponsored conference in Wisconsin Dells WI. As a result, they want the church’s ministry – and the island at large -- to focus more on giving students cultural exposure to the community.

**MOTION** to accept the ISC report by Bill Penn, **SECONDED** by Wendell Corey. Discussion: Noted, there need to be more adults from the town at the student dinners. **VOTE:** All were in favor. The International Student Center report was accepted.

**Consideration of Calendar Year 2018 Budget Proposal,** presented by Leadership Board Chair Martha Ball: Martha noted that the budget before the congregation used Year to Date totals as of December 17, while the Treasurer’s report includes income and expenses for the full year ending December 31.

Notes on Expenses: The Electricity line was reduced; “we saw the difference in the billing” from the solar panels’ generation sold back to the power company in 2017. The Pastor’s salary for 2018 was estimated for the full year, using numbers from Tony Pappas and the Pastoral Search Committee. The Seminary Intern line was reduced. The Visiting Pastor line would cover the time between Steve Hollaway’s retirement and the new pastor starting. “Expenses Outside Budget”

were separated at the end of the report, for both 2017 and 2018.

Notes on Income: Martha said, “We were optimistic last year.” The Spring Appeal was successful in its first year (2016), “not so much” in 2017, the second year. Money carried over from the 2016 appeal to 2017 will not be replaced; there will be no Spring appeal in 2018. “Income Outside Budget” was also noted.

Martha acknowledged the roughly \$6,000 deficit in the 2018 budget proposal, and stressed that using the corpus of the church’s reserves for expenses is not sustainable.

Income from the quilt raffle was down, Bill Penn commented, because there were not enough volunteers to sell tickets. He urged more marketing effort in the future. A fair number of tickets was sold at the Roll Call Dinner (the last opportunity to buy them). Eileen Miller, representing the Spring Street Gallery, said the gallery is willing to sell quilt raffle tickets, and asked for a “blown-up” poster of the quilt.

**MOTION** by Pat Tengwall to adopt the 2018 Harbor Church budget as proposed; **SECONDED** by Barby Michel.

Discussion: How unusual is the \$6,000 deficit in the proposed budget for a church our size? Will we be able to bounce back?

Donna Corey and Tony Pappas answered, “not necessarily,” but added that we are not yet at a critical point. Donna noted that we do not have a lot of endowment (reserve) funds. For context, Steve Hollaway said the church “[has] had many more years with deficits than without,” and that “we are budgeting the interest from the endowment.” Tony noted that the average deficit for the past 10 years was \$10,000.

The **VOTE** was taken. All were in favor. The proposed Harbor Church 2018 Budget was adopted as presented.

**Motion to Suspend Rules:** Leadership Board Chair Martha Ball read the motion. The Board is asking the congregation to continue the suspension of most of the church's boards for one year, on the same terms as in 2017.

**MOTION** by Barby Michel to approve the Motion to Suspend the Rules for one additional year, **SECONDED** by Paul Marte.

Questions and discussion: The Board did not have time during 2017 to develop a new governance structure, nor to evaluate the interim arrangement. Martha said. It is an improvement over past years, when boards were understaffed.

Bob Benjamin suggested the Motion to Suspend could be continued for two years; one year is optimistic, Martha replied.

The **MOTION** on the floor was **WITHDRAWN** by Barby Michel and Paul Marte. A new motion was made:

**MOTION** by Bill Penn: The Motion to Suspend will continue in effect from January 29, 2017 for to up to two years from January 21, 2018. **SECONDED** by Kay Lewis. No further discussion.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The Motion to Suspend the Rules was extended for up to two years from the date of this meeting, January 21, 2018.

**Election of Officers:** Has been voted on and approved earlier in this meeting.

**Consideration of Proposal for a Capital Fund Drive:** Tony Pappas presented a proposal to raise \$1,150,000 for capital projects at the church. He reminded the congregation that we had voted at a Special Business Meeting in September 2017 to proceed with the renovation of the third floor and its fundraising. Will Young named the overall capital fund drive the “Campaign for the Future.” (See the chart following.)

<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost/Funds Needed</b>	<b>Funds Received (Jan. 2018)</b>
Third floor renovation (affordable apartments)	\$450,000	\$385,000
Endowment (Damm bequest)	\$450,000	\$450,000
Exterior Repairs	\$120,000	- 0 -
Parsonage renovation (est.)	\$30,000	- 0 -
Grounds (front lawn, basement façade)	\$100,000	\$25,000
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>	<b>\$860,000</b>

Income received to date for the Third Floor includes large individual donations and grants from the Roosa Fund, the BI Lions Club (for appliances), and the Block Island Fund (a donor-advised fund at the Rhode Island Foundation). The Roosa Fund also offered a \$100,000 loan for the third floor (“But we don't want to take the loan if we don't have to,” Tony said). Gross rental income from the apartments is estimated at \$40,000 per year and net income \$10,000. The \$450,000 bequest from the Damm estate is designated as an endowment (however, \$15,000 of that is budgeted for pastoral search in 2019).

Total income from all sources is about \$860,000, leaving \$290,000 to be raised from donations from individuals inside and outside the congregation, either as one-time gifts or as pledges over three years. A committee has been formed; Hillary Transue will do administrative work for the campaign committee.

**MOTION** by Doug Michel, **SECONDED** by Bill Penn: The congregation endorses the Campaign for the Future capital fund drive as presented. The campaign committee will include, initially, Tony Pappas, Bill Penn, Will Young, Edie Blane, Stephanie Knapp and Ken Knapp, with Hillary Transue as Administrator; other members of the committee may be added later. The term of the campaign committee shall run for up to two years from the date of this meeting, January 21, 2018.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The **MOTION** to endorse the Campaign for the Future capital fund drive, appoint the committee and set its term was adopted.

**Other Business:** Concerns about the grounds will be referred to the Trustees.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** Included for reference; no action required.

**“Roll Call” listing of Members, Associate Members and Friends:** Included for reference.

The clerk led a **Silent Memorial to Deceased Members** Lew Fagan and Jane Lohr.

**Adjournment: MOTION** by Doug Michel, **SECONDED** by Hillary Transue.

**VOTE:** All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tengwall, Church Clerk

January 18, 2019

**Attendance:** Patrick Tengwall, Barby Michel, Beth Gaffett Tengwall, Donna Corey, Wendell Corey, Diane Tripler, Andy Transue, Hillary Transue, Kay Lewis, Cheryl Sprague, Bill Penn, Steve Hollaway, Bob Benjamin, Susan Matheke, Becca Hollaway, Lynn Fletcher, Mark Koch, Paul Marte, Adam Dydak, Marlee Lacoste, Tony Pappas, Keith Lewis, Cindy Pappas, Carrie Todd, Frank Leslie

**Guests:** Eileen Miller, Grace Luddy

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 01-21-2018 C

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BLOCK ISLAND  
Harbor Baptist Church  
**Special Business Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
Sunday, May 27, 2018

A Special Business Meeting of the First Baptist Church was called on May 27, 2018 to vote on the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call the Rev. Peter Paul Preiser Jr. as the next Pastor of the Church. Clerk Patrick Tengwall and Bob Benjamin distributed a paper ballot and a fact sheet to each voting member.

Moderator Donna Corey called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m.

The Moderator introduced Tony Pappas representing the Pastoral Search Committee. Pappas summarized the search selection process and read the highlights of the Covenant Agreement with Rev. Preiser from the fact sheet distributed to the members.

Moderator Corey called on Search Committee member Bill Penn to make the following **MOTION**, which was printed on the fact sheet:

"I move that we approve the recommendations of the Pastoral Search Committee to call Rev. Peter P. Preiser, Jr. as the new Pastor of the First Baptist Church subject to the Terms and Conditions of Covenant Agreement; and that we thank the Pastoral Search Committee for their due diligence."

Becca Hollaway **SECONDED** the **MOTION**.

Discussion: Pappas explained Rev. Preiser's current pastoral experience. The Covenant Agreement Contract is open-ended. Pappas also explained the Covenant's addendum containing terms.

Rev. Steve Hollaway commented on the role of the Pastoral Relations Committee to recommend the pastor's compensation to the Leadership Board as part of the budget process; the entire budget is adopted by the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Church.

With no more comments or questions, Moderator Corey asked for two tellers to assist the Clerk in collecting and counting the ballots.

Clerk Tengwall and tellers Bob Benjamin and James Tremble counted the ballots as the members dialogued.

The Clerk returned and the Moderator announced the result of the vote on the **MOTION** to call Rev. Preiser as Pastor:       YEA: 41 NAY: 2 Abstain: 1. The **MOTION** passed.

Martha Ball made a **MOTION** to welcome Rev. Preiser by acclamation; **SECONDED** by Bill Penn. All were in favor; the **MOTION** was approved.

Judy Mitchell brought Rev. Peter Preiser and his wife Carrie Johnson Preiser into the sanctuary to a standing ovation. The Moderator presented them to the congregation. Rev. Preiser expressed thanks to all.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tengwall, Church Clerk May 27, 2018

### ***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 2018 Report

What a year it has been!

Q. Where to begin?

A. With the characterization of a member of the Leadership Team: This has been a year of change, renewal, joy, grace, and gratitude!

We entered 2018 with our pastor, Steve Hollaway, in the early stages of recovery from a severe head injury. While we anticipated Steve's mid-summer retirement and the Search Committee had begun work, the time line suddenly became uncertain. In retrospect, those months were a part of our renewal, a reminder that we are, be it by choice or by chance, Baptists; this is our church and its future is our responsibility. We were blessed to have Tony Pappas step out of retirement and into the role of Acting Pastor, to help us keep our hand steady on the tiller and our ship off the shoals. We were not in totally uncharted waters.

We felt the strength of our congregation and the power of prayers beyond our building and our shores, leading Steve back to health, upholding Becca, guiding our Search Committee, and infusing our little church.

Steve returned to the pulpit for Easter Sunday and we set our attention on the rush into summer and the big changes coming. Memorial Day weekend the Search Committee presented a pastoral candidate with well-attended community and congregational dinners, introducing both Peter Preiser and his wife, Carrie Johnson. Events culminated in a Sunday sermon by our candidate, a Business Meeting and affirmative vote to call the Committee's recommendation - Peter Preiser – to be our pastor.

We rolled into the Fair and Auction the end of July, the inaugural event of our newly graded lawn and shiny white pergola. The next day friends of Steve's and Becca's, amassed over years of coffeehouse visits, put on a Farewell Concert dovetailing with our well attended community reception. Thank you everyone!

A new board was formed to govern and carry forward one of Steve's most successful initiatives, the International Students' Center; Vacation Bible School sailed ahead under the direction of Kristen O'Brien and her great crew, with the aptly titled "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus." A true gift: Leadership had a hastily called meeting on the west porch – the only spare space we could find – on an early August evening when we were all exhausted. We concluded our business as night fell, and when we heard the chorus of young VBS voices pouring from the sanctuary our own closing prayer was a simple "Amen!"

Again, Tony filled the pulpit between Steve's departure and Pastor Peter's arrival; one of our more moving Worship services during that period was the one in which Tony was absent and left a few of us to offer our own thoughts in place of a sermon.

In September, the Preisers arrived and hit the ground running. We formally voted Peter and Carrie into our congregation on Roll Sunday; the Tuesday Roll Call Dinner, again ably run by Diane Tripler, afforded Pastor Peter another opportunity to greet many of our community members. When the inevitable panic of we're out of fill-in-the-blank set in he shifted the whole tone with the upbeat announcement "but there is still plenty of PIE!" Thanksgiving weekend the Third Floor apartments were open for view and new tenants announced.

Then it was Advent and we knew, by the Grace of God, we'd make it through the whole year! Steve had recovered, he and Becca retired on schedule, and were happily settled in Baltimore; we kept afloat until Peter and Carrie arrived, and after some weeks in temporary quarters moved into the parsonage - as soon as the paint was dry. We felt momentum grow as we moved through December following Pastor Peter's at-first-glance very ambitious Advent schedule which proved exhausting but gratifying.

We rejoiced in seeing new and returned faces in the pews, in having children's activities during worship; we felt more of that sense of renewal. Our full house Christmas Eve Service was, indeed joyful. We had more participating youngsters than we have had in years, with Susan Matheke again bringing her creativity to the program, and Carrie Johnson and Cameron Greenlee sharing their gifts of music, carrying us along.

We realized early on the sheer folly of trying to formally re-structure the governance of the church before our new pastor had had an opportunity to participate, observe and offer his own insights. The Leadership Team was initially recommended as a provisional measure in 2017, thinking we would be prepared to make a recommendation for a By-Law revision in 2018. We weren't and we aren't in 2019.

Instead, we are requesting this structure be continued yet another year, with an expectation of presenting and charging a by-law revision committee sometime in 2019 with an end goal of next year's Annual Meeting. We will always be in some state of transition but that's fine, as long as we also have renewal, joy, grace, and gratitude aplenty!

Thank you to everyone who has helped bring us to where we are today, moving through our 254<sup>th</sup> year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Ball, Chair

Cheryl Blane, Treasurer

Susan Matheke

Barby Michel

Cindy Pappas

Pastor Peter Preiser

Beth Gaffett Tengwall

Patrick Tengwall, Clerk

Will Young, and

Ellen Jacke, Member Emeritus

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## Pastor's Report for Annual Meeting at Harbor Church, January 20, 2019

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We have enjoyed a wonderful first season here at Harbor Church. Having received a warm welcome by both Church and Community we really feel like we have come home. Here are a few highlights:

### *Looking Back*

- **A Great Summer Season** full of productive ministry to islanders, tourists, and the International Students.
- **A Fond Farewell** to Pastor Steve and Becca as they concluded years of fruitful ministry and retired.
- **A Smooth Transition** facilitated by Tony Pappas, who served the church well as interim Pastor, and implemented by the whole Pastoral Search committee who paved the way for our arrival and thoroughly introduced us to the congregation.
- **A Robust Roll Call.** The Annual Rolls were read once more during the worship service and notes were read from those off-island. A delicious Turkey Dinner was served the following Tuesday and over five hundred people joined in our traditional feast.
- **A New Home.** The fully-renovated Parsonage was completed, and Carrie and I moved in at the beginning of November. Thank you all for providing us with a wonderful place to live.
- **Abundant Thanksgiving.** We spent time in our worship services at the beginning of the holiday season counting our blessings and expressing our gratitude to the Lord.
- **A Completed Project.** Our 3rd Floor Housing should be ready for occupancy around February 1<sup>st</sup>. We hosted an Open House in which people could see the new apartments; the names of the new residents were announced, and thanks were given to the many people who worked to make this vision a reality.
- **A Marvelous Advent and Christmas.** Activities and events included Holiday decorating, a Community Tree Lighting with Santa, an Adult Advent Study Group on Caring for our World, Craft Projects on Sundays for children, a "Longest Night" Blue Christmas Service on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and a Children's Christmas Pageant & Candlelight Christmas Eve service.
- **A Strong Financial Finish.** We anticipate making a strong fiscal finish this year with a balanced budget and no deficit spending. Thank you for your faithful giving through your tithes, time and talents. Many people gave in different ways including the annual Quilt, Craft Fair and Auction.
- **Vibrant Music.** Carrie and Cameron collaborated to bring new energy to music in our worship services. Carrie also began her toddler music & movement program for preschoolers at the Free Library.
- **Common Ground Events** are a weekly opportunity every Friday night for people to drop in, share a meal, and enjoy a movie, live music, and game nights.
- **Children's Adventure Hour** has begun on Sunday mornings during the worship hour. An exciting new curriculum is being used which enables us to partner with parents in the spiritual nurture and development of their children.

### *Looking Ahead*

- **Special Off-Season events are being planned** for island families and their children during school recesses
- **Prayer Walks and Adult Studies will continue** to provide occasions for us to move forward together in our spiritual journey in the coming year.
- **In the Days to Come** we are planning MANY opportunities to be a BLESSING to others, to further engage our community, and to send forth the Good News of God's love to all. All Glory to God!

Thank you for Everything,  
Many Blessings!  
Pastor Peter

## **Pastoral Search Committee Report for 2018**

For more than a year the Pastoral Search Committee had been praying for guidance and direction as we moved through our search for a new pastor for the Harbor Church. We were able to receive wonderful input from our congregation and community through work sessions after church, surveys, and personal conversations. We carefully prepared a Church Profile that accurately portrayed the Harbor Church and the Block Island Community. We wanted to make sure our candidates realized that being the Pastor of the Harbor Church is a community position. With the support of ABCORI we received thirty resumes and profiles from candidates from across the United States. After careful study and discussion, including six follow up questions, we narrowed our choices to four candidates and held personal interviews in April. We listened to and watched sermons and thoroughly checked references. From the moment we spoke with Peter we felt God's presence and guidance. We were moved by his strong faith, sincerity, maturity and experience, pastoral leadership style, emphasis on pastoral care, and genuine love of people. We felt equally as positive meeting Peter's wife, Carrie Johnson, and learning of her special gifts of ministry and support. Peter and Carrie had spent time on Block Island for many summers and had also visited the island during the winter so we knew they had a familiarity with island life. We unanimously knew he was the right pastor for the Harbor Church.

With excitement, joy, and hope, Peter Preiser and Carrie Johnson were introduced to the congregation and community on Friday, May 25 at a Coffee House gathering. On Saturday, May 26 Peter met other leaders of our island faith communities at a Men's Prayer Breakfast and then in the evening a Welcoming Supper was held at the church. On Sunday, May 27 Peter preached and, following the service, the congregation met and voted to confirm Peter as our new pastor!

Thank you all for your prayers and guidance during this search. We feel that God's plan for the Harbor Church has been followed and that we are all blessed to have Peter as our pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Barby Michel, PSC Chair

PSC Members: Tony Pappas – Vice Chair, Martha Ball, Donna Corey, Barby Michel, Bill Penn, Diane Tripler, Will Young

## **Board of Trustees Annual Report for 2018**

This has been an extremely busy and productive year for the Trustees. The completion of the third floor apartments, numerous projects, repairs, and routine care of the building and grounds have kept our agenda full!

The HBC Affordable Apartments will hopefully be occupied in February. We are waiting for State Fire Marshall approval. We are continuing to work on a list from the State Fire Marshall of approximately 25 things that need to be done to the rest of the building. A significant amount of the work is being done in the ISC area of the basement. See the full report to learn more about this work and progress.

The east side of the building has been insulated, windows replaced, and walls re-shingled. There was a great deal of unexpected rot that made the job more complicated and expensive. At the same time gutters, downspouts, and rot on the north and south sides were replaced to prevent further leaks into the sunroom, the second floor hallway, and the sexton's apartment. The decorative shell on the east eaves was also repaired.

New storm windows were made for the stained glass awning windows in the sanctuary. The Jesus window at the front of the sanctuary was stabilized and re-caulked.

The contouring and seeding of the front lawn was completed in late spring. Thanks to volunteers, the lawn was watered and cared for each day until it was established. A beautiful and welcoming pergola was placed in the flat middle section of the lawn. In the future, electrical lines will be installed so that lights and a sound system can be used for concerts and gatherings.

The renovation and repair of the parsonage was completed in November. The kitchen was completely renovated including new cabinets, countertops, tile floor, appliances and lighting. The laundry area was tiled and a new dryer was installed. The wood floors were refinished and stained and the carpeting was replaced. The bathroom also had a renovation with new fixtures, vanity, lighting, and tile floor. This was a major project but because of the hard work and numerous hours of labor and planning given by several volunteers, the project was finished and is a lovely home for our new pastor and his family.

Other repairs, maintenance, and projects included replacing the church kitchen ceiling again because of a leak from the parsonage, repairing water leaks and electrical problems in the basement and throughout the building, installing new gas and water lines for a washer/dryer unit on the second floor to be used by the sexton and tenants, purchasing a new copier, and installing a new PA system for the pulpit including a wireless handheld and lapel system.

The Trustees still have a long and comprehensive list of future projects and, of course, we always anticipate unexpected issues. We will first concentrate on the State Fire Marshall's list of major projects. We are replacing interior and exterior doors on the main floor, insulating and plastering the basement ceiling in the ISC area, removing walls between rooms in the basement, and creating more storage.

We are hoping that The Campaign for the Future will reach the final goal and then we can move on to the much needed insulating, re-shingling, and replacing windows in the remaining portion of the building. We also plan on repaving and re-organizing the parking area.

Thank you to the generous donors to The Campaign for the Future and the numerous volunteers who have helped with our many projects to keep our building functioning! The Harbor Church building would not be operational without this physical and financial assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Barby Michel, Secretary/Chair

Board of Trustees: Wendell Corey, Sonny Kern, Barby Michel, Fred Nelson, Tony Pappas, Rev. Peter Preiser-*ex officio*, John Sargent, and Andy Transue

### **Report: Third Floor Conversion**

In September 2017, at a duly called business meeting, our congregation voted to remodel the third floor into four affordable rental apartments. Demolition of the old hotel rooms started immediately, and the proper permits under the town's affordable zoning ordinance were obtained in March. In April construction started in full swing under the able oversight and elbow grease of Herman Mast. Volunteers too numerous to name and six subcontractors have been hard at work since. By the time you read this report, the project should have received the state fire marshal's OK and a CO from the town's building official. Occupancy is slated for February 1st.

Funding was raised as a part of a comprehensive capital fund drive which we dubbed *Campaign for the Future*. The Roosa Fund provided an early, large and catalytic grant! (The full accounting is given in another report.) The initial budget projection listed a total cost of \$450,000 and it appears that we will end up within

that target. However, in the process of proceeding, the fire marshal noted a number of additional upgrades necessary in the rest of the building. We are also proceeding with these as funding allows. Fortunately, we have some more months to finish this work. Additionally, other problems surfaced (e.g., the need for a chimney liner and repairs to roof and sidewalls to eliminate rain leakage). These have been addressed but at added expense.

A nonprofit corporation, HBC Affordable Apartments, has been formed to manage the four units. This group has, after a rigorous application process, selected the four initial tenants. And it has contracted a lease with the church trustees. An Open House was held on Saturday, November 24th, at which tours were given, delicious food served, the four soon-to-be-tenants revealed, and Herm Mast honored. It was a touching and uplifting moment!

The current program calls for the first six months of rentals to be escrowed against repairs, etc. Subsequent payments to the church will be restricted in use to the operation, upkeep and improvement of the church building and grounds.

—submitted by Tony Pappas

## **CHURCH CLERK ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018**

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: Lynn Poston, Peter P. Preiser and Carolyn Johnson Preiser.

No new Associate Members were added during 2018.

No church members were lost through death during calendar year 2018.

As of December 31, 2018, the Membership Roll includes 94 Members and 28 Associate Members, for a total voting membership of 121, a net increase of three voting member. 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 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 18, 2019

## 2018 Annual Report Stewardship Committee

2018 was a very good year for Stewardship. We started our pledge drive later than usual because we were in the public phase of the Campaign for the Future. However even being late and being on the heels of the Campaign mailing, pledges are up by close to \$7,000! Last year our Stewardship Pledge drive raised \$73,000, this year we hit \$80,100! Plate collections were budgeted for \$14,000 and our total came in at \$22,360 thanks to a few special gifts. I will also note that Peter's Christmas letter raised over \$1,200! We also finished very strong with the final push for last year's drive finishing ahead of the pledged number!

This pledge increase over last year, can be linked to many factors including the amazing work done on the third floor, the addition of Pastor Peter and Carrie, new and returning members and all the hard work everyone has done throughout the year to make the church a welcoming and exciting place for all.

Roll call was very strong this year bringing in \$9,158. This is one fundraiser we don't need to change.

We did struggle with two fundraisers. The Fair & Auction which raised \$9,705 versus the budgeted number of \$13,000 and the Quilt raised \$5,909 down from its peak of over \$10K a few years back. For the Quilt we regained access to the Wednesday Farmers Market, thanks to Sally Stephens, Bill Penn's wife, and next year could be a much better year.

The Fair & Auction are more complicated. There are many factors at play including the reduced rental times; cottage rentals years ago were often 2-4 weeks now the vast majority are 1 week in duration. This means these families spend most of their time at the beach and their time in the community is limited. The number of agencies holding fundraisers in late July and early August is also a major issue. I believe that the Fair & Auction is a fundraiser that needs to be reworked. This is not an unusual problem for non-profits. Fundraisers, even the ones that are effective for decades, eventually have to be reimagined or scrapped altogether.

We will be looking for committee members for both Stewardship and a committee to reimagine the Fair & Auction. If you would like to serve or have ideas please let me know.

Numbers:

**2019 Pledge total \$80,100**

**Fair & Auction \$9,705**

**Quilt \$5,909**

**Roll Call \$9,158**

**Plate \$22,360**

**Final 2018 Pledge Figure \$82,515**

Respectfully

William Young Chair of the Stewardship Committee

## **CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE**

*A Comprehensive Campaign for the Community;  
Housing, Preservation and Stability*



### **Campaign for the Future—Annual Report 2018**

At the Annual Meeting of the Harbor Church in January 2018, it was voted to commence a capital fund drive. A committee was formed consisting of Will Young and Tony Pappas, co-chairs, Edie Blane, Bill Penn, Sonny Kern, Stephanie and Ken Knapp. Hilary Transue took on the administrative duties and Laura Chadwick is doing the data entry.

A goal of \$1,200,000 was set to accomplish the following: an endowment (\$450,000), third floor renovation into four affordable rental apartments (\$450,000), parsonage renovation (\$30,000), front yard improvements (\$100,000), fire coding and restoration (\$170,000). A case statement was prepared and designed and a video was created.

The Campaign for the Future has had three phases:

**Endowment:** The Damm estate provided \$450,000, discretion of myself (Tony).

**Silent:** where individuals and organizations were asked for pledges. This resulted in approximately \$560,000.

**Public:** A kick-off event was held in June at the Beachhead to celebrate our progress and build momentum. Subsequently a mailing went out to people in the church's database. This brought our total up to \$109,875 at the end of the public phase.

As of December 31, 2018 a total of \$1,119,175 had been pledged or contributed. This leaves \$80,825 to go! AND this does not include an estimated \$150,000 of in-kind gifts of volunteer goods and services!

Some facts:

Of the total dollars, \$90,300 are in pledges to be received, or 8%.

Total number of donors is 95

Of these, 7 are private corporations (i.e., not persons, families, or foundations), totaling \$640,650!

We are looking for a last set of donors to bridge the \$80,000 remaining. Any ideas?

## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2019

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

Asst Moderator: Doug Michel  
Asst Clerk:  
Asst Treasurer: Marlee Lacoste

### *Leadership Team*

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

### *Board of Trustees*

3-year term David Roosa, Tony Pappas, Barby Michel  
2-year term Wendell Cory, Andy Transue, Sonny Kern  
1-year term Fred Nelson, John Sargent  
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

## ***Church Treasurer: Annual Financial Reports for Jan. – Dec. 2018***

### **Special Fund Accounts:**

American Baptist Foundation -- four Investment Accounts

Mission, Memorial and Washington Trust Co. Accounts

Campaign for the Future Account

Third Floor Project Account

Sunday School Builders Account

Champlin Fund Account

### **General Fund (operating budget) Account:**

2018 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Expenses

### **Other Organizations:**

Boy Scout Troop 30