



# First Baptist Church of Narragansett

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Narragansett, Rhode Island



# Welcome!

First Baptist Church of Narragansett (FBCN) is an independent Baptist congregation with 85 members on the rolls and a weekly attendance of 70 to 90 people. The church is located about a mile from the Atlantic coastline in Narragansett, RI. The majority of our congregation live in Narragansett or the neighboring town of South Kingstown. Our four season climate provides us with many opportunities to enjoy the beaches, biking, and other outdoor activities. Many cultural events, including music and theater, are offered throughout the year.

In the following pages you'll find a profile of our church's history, facilities, and ministries, along with other information you may find helpful in getting to know who we are and what we believe.

We are people on a journey of faith. Our prayer is that God would lead His man to join us, and we're excited for the future of First Baptist Church of Narragansett!





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## ***Our Vision Statement, Mission and Core Values***

### Our Vision Statement

To see South County come alive for Christ and to fulfill the Great Commission globally.

### Our Mission

The First Baptist Church of Narragansett exists to glorify God. We desire to be led by the Holy Spirit, to live according to God's word and to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to our community and the world.

As stated in our Constitution, we desire to

- Pursue intimacy with God (Psalm 19, Romans 1:19-20, Hebrews 1:1-4)
- Build dynamic relationships demonstrating the love of God (II Corinthians 1:3-4, Hebrews 10:22-25, Ephesians 4:1-2)
- Touch others with the hope of Christ. (I Corinthians 15:1-4, II Corinthians 5:17-21)

### Our Core Values

The body of believers at FBCN holds these core values.

- The study of Scripture and its application to a believer's daily life
- Living out the "one another" statements found in Scripture
- Engaging people of all ages in worship
- Creating a welcoming atmosphere
- Sharing the Gospel with our family, friends, neighbors and communities
- Providing help to those in need (materially, physically, financially)
- Supporting missionaries locally and globally



### *Doctrinal Statement*

We believe that the Bible is God's Word, that it was written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, that it is absolutely trustworthy and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12)

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existent in three persons-Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-20; II Corinthians 13:14) We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 139; Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 1:12-14; Luke 12:6, 7; Matthew 7:11)

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son; He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; He lived a sinless life, and made atonement for the sin of the world by His death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into heaven, His high priestly intercession for His people and His personal return to the world according to His promise. (John 1:18; Luke 1:35; I Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5; Luke 24:39; Luke 24:51; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 7:25; John 14:3; Acts 1:11)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; He indwells, regenerates, sanctifies and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 14:16; John 16:8-11; I Corinthians 6:19; John 3:5)

(statement continues on next slide)

*Doctrinal Statement, cont'd*

We believe that all men, by nature and by choice, are sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". We believe, therefore, that those who receive Christ as their Lord and Savior will rejoice forever in God's presence, and those who refuse to receive Christ as Lord and Savior will be forever separated from God. (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; John 3:16; John 3:36; John 8:21, 24; II Thes. 1:9; John 14:6)

We believe in the Church—a living, spiritual Body, of which Christ is Head and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible Church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, buried with Him in baptism, raised with Him to life, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has committed to these visible Churches the observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that God has laid upon these Churches the task of persuading a lost world to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master. (Colossians 1:18; I Corinthians 1:2; Matthew 28:19, 20; I Corinthians 11:23-25)

We believe that every regenerated person has the right of direct access to God in prayer through the Lord Jesus Christ and that each believer is constituted a priest. (John 16:23, 24; I Timothy 2:5; I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:5, 6).

**FBCN revised its Constitution in 2014. The doctrinal statement is included in the Constitution which was adopted on July 20, 2014.**

## *A Brief History of FBCN*

In the winter of 1882 there was spiritual revival at the Wakefield Baptist Church. This was a religious awakening and the interest was manifested in Narragansett. This resulted in the establishing of a Baptist Branch Church. In April 1883, the Branch Church voted to petition the Wakefield Baptist Church to form a Baptist Church at the Pier.

The first church building was located on nearby Caswell Street and the dedication of the First Baptist Church of Narragansett was held on Thursday, June 12, 1890. We began in this new building with a membership of 47 under the leadership of Rev. Theodore S. Snow.

In January of 1964, it was voted to have a Building Committee undertake the construction of a new church building. On a Sunday in the early spring of 1971 there was a groundbreaking ceremony on Kingstown Road.

Although moderate in number, First Baptist Church of Narragansett has always been a “sending church”. Many pastors and missionaries got their start here and still consider FBCN as their home church.

Below is a list of the men who have served as Senior Pastor since the dedication of FBCN in 1889.

Theodore S. Snow .....	1889-1891
William A. Brady.....	1891-1898
Fredrick H. Bates .....	1899-1900
Paul Brown .....	1901-1902
J. Wallace Chesbro .....	1903-1904
A. E. Holder .....	1905-1907
J. A. Peake.....	1907-1909
R.Newberry Toms .....	1910-1911
Walter N. Reynolds .....	1912-1917
W. Thomas Bone .....	1917-1927
Ernest L. Allen .....	1927-1949
Harold Dame.....	1950-1954
Gerald Heaney .....	1955-1960
Robert Wesley .....	1961-1966
Donald Smith .....	1967-1990
James L. Bray* .....	1990-1991
John Goasdone .....	1991-Present

\*Interim Senior Pastor

## ***Our Sunday Services***

Every person who walks through our doors on Sunday morning is welcomed by one of our friendly greeters. We recognize that visiting a new church can sometimes be overwhelming and our goal is to help people feel welcomed and at ease.

We meet at 9:30am Sunday morning for our Corporate Worship Service. There is a weekly prayer service on Wednesdays at 7pm. We also have a prayer email list to keep people informed of prayer needs throughout the week.

We do not have a dress code, but we thought you may like to know what to expect when you arrive. Members and guests who attend our Sunday Morning Worship times or our Wednesday Evening Prayer time are very relaxed and casually dressed. Those who attend Sunday Morning Worship wear anything from jeans to casual to a suit and tie or dress.

We offer nursery for children ages 0 – 4 downstairs in our nursery. We encourage older children to join us in worship before being dismissed to Children's Church.

Our worship style is a combination of contemporary and traditional. On a given Sunday morning we sing traditional hymns and modern choruses, participate in corporate prayer, and hear preaching from scripture. We value the Bible and its entire witness, and we believe it to be God's inspired word. As a result, we believe it is important to preach from the Bible every Sunday. The first Sunday of every month we celebrate the Lord's Supper. We do not want anyone to feel obligated to participate in this time, but if they have trusted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior, we invite them to partake with us. Immediately following the morning service we encourage everyone to stay for some light refreshments and a time of fellowship.

Our Sunday School program starts after our time of coffee and fellowship and usually lasts about an hour. We are blessed to have a variety of classes for all ages and styles of learning, as well as teachers who are committed to God's holy, inspired, and inerrant word.





## ***Our Ministries***

The First Baptist Church of Narragansett has a number of ministries to allow all ages of individuals, both members and non-members, to get involved in service and enjoy the benefits of fellowship.

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

This ministry has grown over the past few years led by the women's ministry team. The various functions are managed on a yearly basis. Attendance has consistently grown during this time. Bible studies are held on Sunday and throughout the week opened to the community and membership. Most meet at the church but some at individuals' homes. Special events are held during the year consisting of casual coffee gatherings at members' homes, an annual soup night, and conferences focusing on outreach and important topics. Creating for Christ, or C4C, is a program that provides clothing and school bags for the children of Gogo village in Malawi, Africa, as well as Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

### **MEN'S MINISTRIES**

These events are informal consisting of men's Meat Night and breakfasts during the year. In support of various church programs, the men are called upon to perform some of the heavier lifting needed, such as clearing the sanctuary of chairs for events. Small groups of men build sets for special events such as VBS and Christmas programs, as well as work on upkeep of the facilities.

## OUTREACH

We are fully committed to missionary outreach. FBCN financially supports 14 missionary groups consisting of a crisis pregnancy center and teams and individuals serving in Germany, France, South America, Indonesia, Africa and North America and on American college campuses. Many of these missionaries were members of FBCN and were called by our Lord to serve.

- FBCN supports the **Providence Rescue Mission (PRM)** in Providence, Rhode Island. A team travels into Providence monthly to provide chapel services followed by serving the evening meal. Through congregational donations, FBCN supports the PRM Christmas toy store, clothing drive, non-perishable food collection, and PRM women ministries.
- The **VBS Day Camp** held during the summer has evolved in the last two years with a team of college-age Brazilians and FBCN membership working together to minister to community youth and their families. Attendance has grown to over 90 children attending the week-long event.



*Our Ministries, cont'd*

**Outreach, cont'd**

- FBCN holds a yearly shoebox packing party to support the **Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child** program. Through the generous donations of the church family, shoe boxes are filled with gifts for needy children around the world.



- **Fall Fling**, held in October, takes place on the church grounds and reaches out to the community in a great family event! The afternoon includes games, a bounce house, zip line, Bible and devotional distribution, and “trunk or treat” at cars decorated by the church family.



## Outreach, cont'd

- An **Easter sunrise service** is held at a beautiful location overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The Towers is a historic building in Narragansett and it's loaned to FBCN from the Town of Narragansett for the sunrise service. Many people from the local communities attend the service and enjoy a breakfast following it.



- **Welcome House** is a local halfway house in Peace Dale. Joining with other community groups, our church family provides dinner once a month for the residents.

## ***Our Community***

The towns of Narragansett and neighboring South Kingstown are located along the southern coast of Rhode Island. With many beautiful beaches to enjoy, the towns gain much of their income from tourism.

This is a four-season climate, with temperatures often in the high 70's and 80's in summer and down to the 30's and 40's in winter. Fall foliage is beautiful and treasured. There are many things to do recreationally in the area. In addition to the many beaches there are freshwater ponds, parks, and an extensive bike path that stretches to the nearby Amtrak train station. Many cultural events, including music and theater, are offered throughout the year.



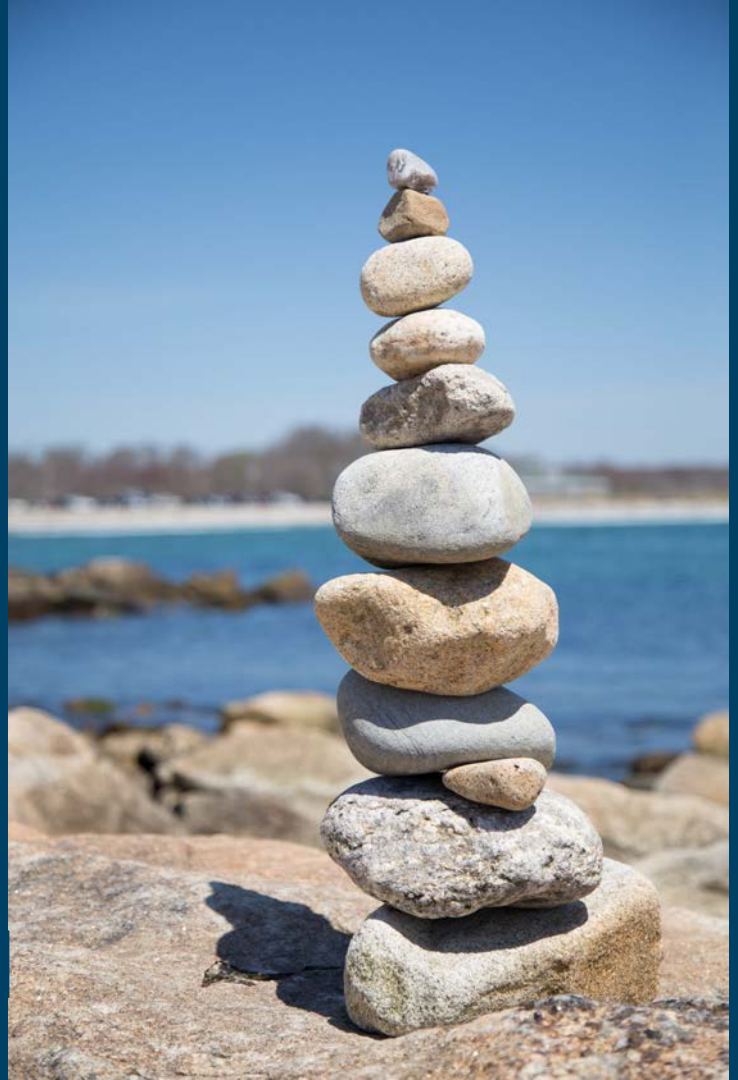
## *Our Community, cont'd*

The year-round population of Narragansett is 15,605 (2016) but nearly doubles during the busy summer tourism months and the year-round population of South Kingstown is 30,791 (2016). The median household income of Narragansett residents was \$ 73,798 in 2016 and the median house/condo value was \$339,031. In South Kingstown the median household income is \$76,481 and the median house/condo value is \$334,900. There are many rental/seasonal properties in Narragansett due to both the proximity to the University of Rhode Island and the tourism industry.

Each town has its own complete school system, with both high schools being accredited and ranking in the top ten consistently for the state. The University of Rhode Island is located in South Kingstown. Many members of First Baptist Church have been involved with the International Student Ministry there.

We are served medically by South County Hospital. In addition to the general and specialty medical practices we have locally, there are many specialists in the nearby capitol city of Providence, a 45-minute drive away.

There are many Catholic and Protestant churches in the area. There is an association of protestant evangelical pastors in our area who meet regularly.



## *Our Facilities*

FBCN is located at 305 Kingstown Road in Narragansett, RI, approximately one mile from the Atlantic Ocean. The property is set on 15 acres of beautiful land, about 3 acres of which are open. The remaining acreage is wooded with hiking trails throughout. A fire pit, with benches, overlooks a large pond. The church is a handicap accessible, two story brick building. The top level of the church holds the sanctuary which seats up to 150 people. Flexible seating allows for multiple uses of the room for events such as dinners or youth activities and games. Two offices and a handicap accessible bathroom complete the upper level. The lower level consists of a kitchen, nursery, and an open area with movable walls that can be used as a dining area or classrooms. There are also 3 permanent classrooms, two bathrooms, a storage room and a full kitchen. A free standing two car garage was built in 2015 and is used for storage.



## *Our Church Survey*

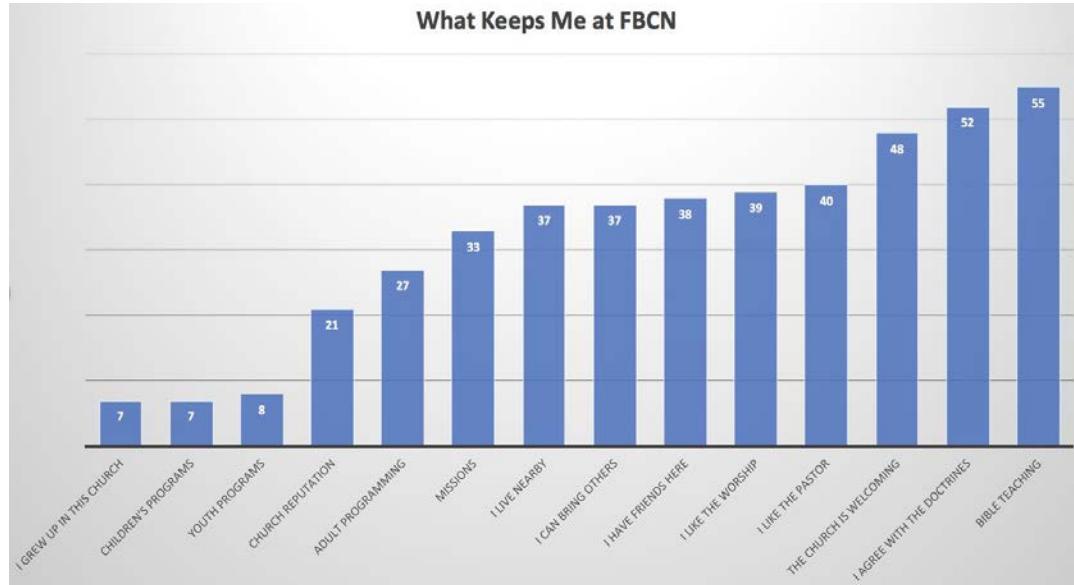
The FBCN Search Committee created and distributed a survey for church attenders in August of 2018. 64 people responded to the survey. Here are a few highlights of the demographic information gleaned from the survey:

- Respondents to the survey were approximately 80% members and 20% non-members
- Approximately 75% of the survey respondents were age 60 and above
- Approximately 40% of respondents hold professional (ie medical, teaching) or managerial jobs
- 45% of survey respondents are retired, and that number is in agreement with our membership list



## Our Church Survey, cont'd

The following chart shows what people reported in the church survey as the reasons they stayed at FBCN. Respondents were encouraged to check as many options as applied.



## ***Our Church Operational Details***

Budget for 2014: \$228,850.00    Actual, \$233,867

Budget for 2015: \$246,989.00    Actual, \$246,469

Budget for 2016: \$237,920.00    Actual, \$247,170

Budget for 2017: \$239,588.00    Actual, \$231,102

Budget for 2018: \$235,720.00

Percent of budget dedicated to missions: 20%

Our staff currently consists of a part-time office manager, a part-time custodian, a part-time assistant pastor and a full-time senior pastor.

Our assistant pastor, Caleb Morgan, began with us in July of 2018. He's been hired to assist with the transition from our retiring pastor to our new pastor, with some time working with each of them. We expect Pastor Morgan to be here for at least one full year.

Our weekly attendance is approximately 70-90 persons. This is consistent over the past two years, although there are seasonal swells in summer and dips in winter due to tourists visiting the area in the warmer months.