

# 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## North Baptist Church

899 N. Main St.

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(508) 580-1400

<http://www.jesussavesinbrockton.com>

## **Dedication**

To those faithful members of past years, and to those members of long standing now living, whose loyal service has made possible our Church, and from whose lips many of us heard of the “manifold grace of God” for the first time, this memorial booklet is affectionately dedicated.

## **Roll of Pastors**

M. C. Thwing	1886-1887
E. H. Sweet	1888-1890
C. T. Douglas	1891-1894
W. H. Wyman	Supply
D. T. Wyman	1895-1901
C. B. Bolles	1902-1904
A. T. Ringold	1904-1913
G. E. Lombard	1914-1918
H. B. Mitchell	1919-1920
F. W. French	1920-1925
Neil MacLean	1925-1926
W. S. Stowell	1927-1930
F. J. Coleman	1931-1935
S. J. Riggs	1936-1937
A. M. Clark	1937-1942
A. C. Guild	1942-1948
G. W. Swetnam	1949-1952
W. T. Woodward	1953-1956
W. L. Baglow	1957-1963
H. M. Lancaster	1963-1967
John Goodhart	1967-1968
Gerald Kroll	1968-1979
Warren Stuber	1979-1987
Charles Prosper	1988-2002
Peter Laitres	2003-2008
Richard Reid	2008-

## Our Heritage

In the spring of 1883 Rev. O. D. Thomas, then pastor of the First Baptist Church of Brockton, held evangelistic services under the apples trees near our present property. The results were so gratifying that in the autumn of the same year a Bible school was organized by Pastor Thomas and his helpers from First Baptist. Once the winter came, the Bible school classes were held in the house of Mr. J. W. Slack, then in a store owned by Mr. T. W. Frost and still later in the show factory of Mr. Bradford Snell.

During the year 1884 part of our present site was purchased. A chapel was built with a capacity of 134 for under \$5000. The Bible school transferred the meetings to the chapel in 1885.

January 1, 1886, the Mission was placed in charge of Rev. M. C. Thwing, who was to divide his time with the Mission at Campello, which became the Warren Avenue Baptist Church. On June 3, 1886, the Montello Mission was organized into a church called North Baptist Church and Rev. Thwing became the first pastor. The building was raised and enlarged in 1897.

On March 8, 1911, the mortgage on the Church was burned. In 1915 the church purchased the lot on the corner of North Main and Snell Streets. The new mortgage was burned in April of 1925.

Some of the highlights through the years include:

- 1925 - The original pipe organ purchased
- 1936 - The exterior of the church building repaired
- 1945 – Purchase a parsonage at 61 Martland Ave.
- 1950 – Parsonage sold and purchased another at 43 Clarence St.
- 1960 – The pipe organ renovated and roof replaced on the church building
- 1961 – A new oak floor and new pews installed
- 1965 – Parsonage sold and purchased our current one at 15 Burkeside Ave.
- 1972 – Construction began on our current building
- 1975 – South Shore Christian School was started.
- 1976 – The church voted to withdraw from the American Baptist Convention and became independent.
- 1977 – North Baptist was honored as the fastest growing Sunday School in Massachusetts
- 1979 – First graduates from SSCS.

1981 – Howard St property was sold and new heating system in the old church building.

1996 – Roof replaced on the church building

2003 – North Baptist Church launches a website.

2004 – Interior renovations to the men’s Sunday School room.

2005 – The last graduates of SSCS as the school will be K4- Grade 6 only in the future.

2007 – Decision was made to close the school ministry in June 2008. Services moved from the old building to Rice Hall for safety reasons.

2008 – Pastor Laitres resigns as pastor of North Baptist. In the months following, the attendance drops off, but it would later stabilize. The first major project the church faced was the demolition of the old building which was no longer safe to use. The project was funded by resources that remained after the closing of the school. Then we began an aggressive remodeling of our current building. The old bell was salvaged and is now on display.

2009 – Parsonage renovated with a complete remodeling of the interior. After supplying the pulpit for a year, Richard Reid is voted in as the Interim Pastor.

2010 - A French drain and pumping stations were installed at the church to prevent flooding. The online outreach of North Baptist expands with broadcasting the services worldwide using Internet podcasts.

2011 – The next phase of the remodeling has just been completed with the installation of new windows on the lower level. Additional projects of the side porch and handicap access ramp and parking area are targeted to be completed this year, as well as additional renovations at the parsonage. The church is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout the year.

Special meetings are held each year including evangelistic meetings, Bible conferences and the Missions Conference. Since its birth in 1886, North Baptist Church has supported domestic and worldwide missions with prayer and financial assistance.

We are grateful to the Lord for His faithfulness through the past 125 years and we pray that in the years to come while He tarries, He will “add to the church daily such as should be saved”.

## Our Missionaries

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