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www.firstbaptistithaca.org

*What does the Lord require of you?
To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.*
Micah 6:8

A note from Rev. Richard Rose...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We were honored by the presence of our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Eugene Bay, President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS), on Sunday, April 6. CRCDS has a storied relationship with First Baptist Church Ithaca. Since 1870, every pastor of FBC Ithaca except one has been a graduate of CRCDS. This includes our most recent pastors, David Evans, Wendy Fambro, interim pastor John Laney and myself. Additionally, Gil Rosenberg is a current student at CRCDS and Bob Rodgers, Janel Miller-Evans, Rachel McGuire and Martha Garrison are also graduates.

A very influential man in my life, Dr. J. Richard Middleton, attended FBC Ithaca in the early 1980s. While worshiping with us, a member of our church gave him a copy of Walter Brueggemann's book *The Prophetic Imagination*. It was the reading of this work that, according to Middleton, was instrumental to his eventual enrollment at CRCDS. To assist him in his pursuit, our congregation pledged \$1000.00 toward his tuition. Several years after leaving the School as a student, Middleton returned to CRCDS as a faculty member where he taught Hebrew and Old Testament studies. During my tenure as a student at CRCDS, Middleton served as my advisor and was profoundly influential in my decision to enter pastoral ministry. A little over 10 years after enrolling in CRCDS and meeting Dr. Middleton, you called me to be your pastor and the seeds sown 20 plus years ago in his life have borne fruit, or at least a Rose, for our church.

With these things in mind, I hope that you will continue to pray for and support CRCDS. It is my hope that this great institution will continue to provide excellent theological and pastoral training for future pastors and community leaders committed to peace, the affirmation of all God's children and social justice.

Peace,
Rich

Monday evening Bible Study- We will continue our study the book *Everything Must Change: Jesus, Global Crises, and a Revolution of Hope* by Brian McLaren. We will integrate our reading with biblical text to both discover how McLaren a self-proclaimed Evangelical Christian and leader in the current Emergent church movement understands Jesus and the contemporary relevancy of his message, and how we practice and deepen our own journeys of faith. We meet at Longview at 7pm and everyone is welcome!

"God made all of us. He loves all of us equally, and He expects us to love and respect each other without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, biblical interpretation, denominations or other religions."

Author and life-long Baptist John Grisham speaking at the
Celebration of the New Baptist Covenant. January 31, 2008 in Atlanta.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST



America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that are transforming lives across the United States and Puerto Rico- from building new homes on the Gulf Coast and resettling refugees violently driven from their homelands to providing training in evangelism, developing resources that help Children in Poverty and supporting events such as our National Gathering of American Baptist Youth. Please consider supporting this offering. An envelope has been provided with this newsletter for your convenience. Thank you.

FROM THE BOARD OF WORSHIP AND CHRISTIAN CONCERN

From Time to time, we are asked to participate in American Baptist activities such as the enclosed America for Christ drive (see the attached envelope), which seeks to raise funds to address poverty in the United States. The Board of Worship and Christian Concern is undertaking this year to better comprehend the various national and international projects of the American Baptists. Our goal is to be more purposeful in our contributions and memberships, and to educate ourselves and the entire community about donation opportunities. To that end, we welcome any input you might have about activities such as America for Christ, Blanket Sunday, M&M (the program that raises money for retired ministers and missionaries) and other fund-raising efforts which are external to First Baptist, Ithaca. Please contact any member of the Board of Worship and Christian Concern with your ideas.

**Please take a moment to check out the
First Baptist Church website!
www.firstbaptistithaca.org**



New additions include recordings of the weekly scripture and sermons as well as a new Google Calendar feature that lists all of the events going on each month. Stay tuned for further additions in coming months that will make the website an even more useful tool for your needs.

New Board of Education Schedule

Adult education meets most Sundays following services in the library from 11:30-12:30

Adult Education

April 6 Colgate Rochester Luncheon and Discussion

April 13- Brunch and Board Meetings- NO ADULT ED

April 20 – Rev. Richard Rose welcomes discussion and questions regarding his sermon of the day with a scripture focus on John 14.

April 27 - Rev. Richard Rose welcomes further discussion and questions regarding his sermon of the day with a scripture focus on John 14.

Church School News

New Series in the New Year: Family Dinner/Discussion/Play:

This monthly get together is meant to be a casual, relaxed opportunity for our children and families to share a meal, provide input on church school, and enjoy each other's company. Dinner will be provided.

These events will take place on the Wednesday after the 3rd Sunday of each month from 5:30-6:45. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend:

April 23rd

May 21st



Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard

The Kitchen Cupboard participates in the annual Feinstein Million Dollar Challenge. During March and April, any food or monetary donations to Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard will increase the Cupboard's share of this million-dollar grant. Your donations stretch even farther!

All are Welcome to a Dish-to-Share Dinner! – The Dinner Discussion group will meet April 18th at 6:00 p.m. for a meal. Whether you have been to this gathering before or not, please let me know if you are interested in attending! Linda Caughey (273-7864)

The Pastor's Fund, a resource to provide financial assistance to people in our congregation and community, is in need of replenishment. If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, please write your check to the church and indicate "Pastor's Fund" in the memo line. Thank you!

AN INVITATION FROM ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women of St. Paul's UMC of Ithaca invites you to join us for a very special evening on May 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the church dining hall for a dish-to-pass dinner and a great program. It is an opportunity to be in fellowship with women from a number of local congregations and to learn of a new mission program that is easy to participate in, making simple clothing that benefits people both in the USA and far away countries. Our guest speaker, Debbie Underwood, from Cortland UMC, is one of the founders of the "Dress Our People" project. Please bring a dish-to-share and your table service. Beverages and bread will be provided. Childcare is provided if requested in advance. Please RSVP to Elinor John at 273-0915 or email bjohn@twcny.rr.com by May 8th. If you cannot come to the meal but would like to attend the program, it should begin at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Church Boards 2008

(* = Chair ** = Co-Chair)

Board of Education

Board of Worship & Christian Concern

Trustees

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Helen Freeman
Bill Phelan
Steve Hilsdorf
Tony Lister
Marlene Sack
Rich Barron
Bill Fry

Welcome to new members Margaret and Michael Cook

WELCOME

Margaret grew up as a Roman Catholic in Schenectady, New York. She attended college on a golf scholarship, where she met Michael. Margaret home schools their two daughters, Meagan and Lily in addition to running her own graphic design business.

Michael, raised as a Southern Baptist, learned about First Baptist, Ithaca, after seeing a photograph of Rev. Rose at a rally in support of LGBT people. Wanting to know more about a church that is truly welcoming and affirming, he began attending regularly with his family, and says that he is joining the church because we "talk the talk and walk the walk." Michael works at Mann Library at Cornell University, and likes to play the electric guitar and work on cars in his spare time.



Music for April



April 13 - "On Children" by Ysaye Barnwell from Sweet Honey in the Rock

April 20 - Selections from the New Creation Singers

April 27 - Classical choral anthem

In addition, members of the New Creation Singers, joined by much of the choir, will participate in the Living Waters Association Spring Sing at First Baptist Church in Corning on the afternoon and evening of Sunday, April 20th.

Many thanks to those folks who donated "gently-used" children's books to the annual Faith In Books drive on behalf of the Family Reading Partnership and Area Congregations Together. We accumulated 15 books.

Peace,
Danny Scott

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Weekly Contemplative Prayer In the Christian Tradition

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM (Beginning April 9th)
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DEWITT PARK, ITHACA, NY
All are welcome. Please join us in the Church Library.
Our methods are simple and no prior experience required.

The human spiritual pilgrimage is a combination of contemplation and action, a balance between personal intimacy with God and compassionate engagement with the world. In a society that emphasizes action and where "results rule", it is essential to restore a contemplative experience of God. In our silence we have an opportunity to listen to God, to ourselves, and to the world. This enables our outward words and actions to be born in the stillness of our experience of God. Intimacy with God is the womb of compassion.

Although this form of contemplative prayer is rooted in the Christian tradition, we welcome persons from all religious traditions and persons who are not part of an organized religious community. Our methods are simple and easily learned. It is not necessary to have prior experience with contemplative prayer. We welcome persons who are experienced in contemplative prayer and hope our weekly sessions will complement your practice.

Each week includes an hour of silence that combines sitting and walking meditation, beginning and ending with chanting. Chairs are provided and we encourage you to bring your meditation cushions, if you have them. Each week there will be a very short teaching on some aspect of contemplative experience.

There is no charge to participate. Although it is good to have a regular practice of weekly or daily meditation, regular weekly attendance is not required. Come as you are, when you are able.

The Leaders:

David Keller is an Episcopal priest with over twenty years experience leading contemplative prayer and the author of *Oasis of Wisdom: The Worlds of the Desert Mothers and Fathers*.

Emily Wilmer is Director of the Julian Group, a Resource for Soulful Living, a trained spiritual director, and experienced retreat leader, using contemplative prayer.

April 2008 Calendar

For information about these events please use contact information provided: For New Creation Singers rehearsals (David 273-7864)~ Morning Meditation (Tony 277-1158)~Bible Study ~Choir Rehearsals, (Jennifer 277-7664).

Tuesday, April 1	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday, April 2	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Thursday, April 3	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 4	7:30am	PIC Board and Breakfast
Saturday, April 5	1:00pm	YFOFFI Practice
Sunday, April 6	10:00am	Welcome Colgate Rochester Divinity School
	10:00am	Worship-Communion- Led by Dr. Eugene Bay
	11:30am	Luncheon with Dr. Eugene Bay of Colgate Rochester
	11:30am	Church School
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Monday, April 7	10:00am	Breakfast with Dr. Bay
	7:00pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	New Creation Singers Rehearsal
Tuesday, April 8	7:00am	ACT Meeting
	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday, April 9	8:15am	Morning Meditation
	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thursday, April 10	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, April 13	10:00am	WORSHIP
	11:30am	Brunch & Boards
	11:30am	Church Classes
Monday, April 14	7:00pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	New Creation Singers Rehearsal
Tuesday, April 15	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday, April 16	8:15am	Morning Meditation
	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thursday, April 17	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 18	6:00pm	Dinner Discussion
Sunday, April 20	10:00am	WORSHIP
	11:15am	Coffee and Conversation
	11:30am	Church Classes
Monday, April 21	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, April 22	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday, April 23	8:15am	Morning Meditation
	5:30pm	Church School Dinner
	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thursday, April 24	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, April 25	3:00pm	Youth 30 Hour Famine-after school
Saturday, April 26		Youth 30 Hour Famine- All Day
	1:00pm	YFOFFI Practice
Sunday, April 27	10:00am	WORSHIP
	11:15AM	Coffee and Conversation
	11:30am	Church Classes
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Monday, April 28	7:00pm	Bible Study
	7:00pm	New Creation Singers Rehearsal
Tuesday, April 29	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday, April 30	8:15am	Morning Meditation
	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer

**Deadline for the
May Visitor is
April 15.
Please have your items
in on time to guarantee
they will appear.**



**A big Thank You to Grace
Evans, Mary Rollins, and
Liz Wilkinson for all of
their work in coordinating
and preparing for our visit
with Rev. Dr. Eugene Bay,
President of Colgate
Rochester Divinity School.**

Lectionary Readings for April

April 6

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; I Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 13

*Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; I Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

April 20

*Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; I Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

April 27

*Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; I Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

First Baptist Goes Digital!

In late January we converted from analog (tape cassette) to digital (24 bit/44.1 KHz) recording of the Sunday morning services at First Baptist. These recordings are being made available in two ways. First, CD recordings of the entire service are available for pick up (and return after listening!) on the table near the South door in the sanctuary. These CDs are formatted so that they should play on any compact disk player. Second, compressed MP3 versions of the sermons (and Scripture readings) are available for listening on the church web site; just go to <http://www.firstbaptistithaca.org> and click on the "Listen to First Baptist Sunday Sermons" item in the "What's Going On" set of selections on the right side of the home page. The file size for each of the sermons ranges from about 3 to 6 MB, depending on length. We are making only the sermon/Scripture portion of the services available on the web, both to minimize file size and, more importantly, to protect the privacy of members and friends offering Joys and Concerns during the services. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

~Dave Caughey

Richard "Dick" L. Carr

December 8, 1916 ~ January 22, 2008