

The Visitor

June 2008

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

Micah 6:8

First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park,

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www.firstbaptistithaca.org

A note from Rev. Richard Rose...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we follow the Church Year Calendar, we are now entering the Sundays after Pentecost known as Ordinary Time. There are actually two seasons of Ordinary Time in the Church Year. One begins after the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of Jesus (which is the Sunday following Epiphany in early January) until the beginning of Lent. The second begins following the second Sunday after Pentecost and continues until Advent begins.

The designation Ordinary Time does not signify these seasons' common nature; rather "Ordinary" is derived from the same root as the word "ordinal", and in this sense means "the counted weeks." In our tradition, these are the common weeks that do not belong to a specific season. In another sense they are not ordinary at all.

This current season of Ordinary Time, as we follow the Lectionary readings, we will be exploring many foundational texts from Genesis and will have the opportunity to follow the life and survey the teachings of Jesus as revealed in the Gospel of Matthew.

Although summer time means vacation time for many of us, it is not an opportunity to take a "vacation" from our Christianity, not that any of us would, but this is the season and our opportunity to follow Jesus as he preaches, teaches, heals, and loves all people on the road of commitment to the Shalom of God. During this "Ordinary Time" may we truly seek to live a life less ordinary!

Peace,
Rich

Monday evening Bible Study- We will continue to consider the Bible texts, Philemon on June 2nd, and James on June 9th. Please come to each study having read the corresponding book. Bible Study is now meeting in the church Library. After the June sessions, Bible Study will resume in July. Please see Pastor Rich if you have any questions or need further information.

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!



"Not only is another world possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

Activist, Author of "The God of Small Things." Arundhati Roy

**For a complete calendar of events and audio of weekly sermons,
check out the First Baptist Church website!
www.firstbaptistithaca.org**



New Board of Education Schedule

Adult education will commence again in September.

June 1-

Historical Room - Renee Rose will lead a discussion of Anne Lamott's essays "Adolescence" (about Jesus when he was 13) and "A Man Who Was Mean to His Dog" (about loving our children at their best, even when they are unlovable, as God does).

****Please note that June 1st is the last adult education class before the summer. A sub-committee has been formed to do long-range planning for adult education. If you are interested in brainstorming ideas, please let Debbie Allen know. Your help in providing inspirational and thought-provoking programs would be greatly appreciated.****

Church School News

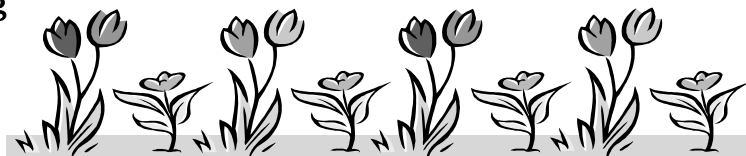
From the Board of Christian Education: Parents with children using the children's table during worship are encouraged to sit in the section closest to it to allow children to check in with them as needed. Thank you.



Spirit of Peace Camp will be held again this Summer at First Baptist July 14th - July 18th from 9:30a.m. to 12 noon. Through stories, music, games, activities and a service project, children ages 4-8 will learn about living to be Peacemakers. Registration for this interfaith camp is \$10.00 per child. To register call 273-5800 or email fbdwitt@verizon.net. If you are interested in helping with this outreach project please contact Kris at 273-5800 or email kzet@twcny.rr.com

Sunday, June 8th is Children & Youth Sunday and Teacher Recognition. Come celebrate our graduates, our Bible recipients and our teachers!

The youth and older children will be utilizing additional bells on loan from First Presbyterian Church to perform *Jubilate*. The children will also be singing *Father Abraham*.



30 Hour Famine Raises \$1200 for Hunger Relief!

The FBC Youth Group has completed it's third annual "30 Hour Famine" along with thousands of youth across the globe, as part of the World Vision hunger relief campaign. Ashlee Martinez, Sarah Zipfel and Cameron Younger participated this year. Events included a poetry reading with Emily Young, Bible Study, Film Viewing and Review, Hike up Cascadilla Creek, Sing along with Danny Scott, Follow up Bible study with Pastor Rich, Bowling fundraiser for the Youth Bureau and to top it off a wonderful "fast breaking" dinner and communion service lead by Tim Dean. Much thanks to the Youth and Danny and Tim who also fasted and spent the night to share fellowship and participate in activities. And as always to Pastor Rich for his support and leadership in reviewing challenging texts. Join us next year!



~Tony Cotraccia

Celebrating Change

Meghan Jenkins has graduated from the University of South Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She works as a veterinary technician at the Pebble Creek Animal and Bird Hospital.

Arthur Jenkins is graduating from Ithaca High School and plans to study graphic design next year.

Ursula Hilsdorf will be attending the New York State School of Art and Design at Alfred University in the fall of 2008.

Gil Rosenberg will be attending Harvard to complete his Masters of Divinity Degree.

Sally Phelan is moving on to the big step of entering Middle School, she'll be attending DeWitt Middle School in the Fall while Abraham Phelan is moving on to 4th Grade at Belle Sherman Elementary School.

Celebrating Change, continued...

Cameron F. Younger received two terrific accolades in the month of May. First, on behalf of United States Congressman Maurice D. Hinchey, Cameron was accepted into the U.S. House of Representatives Summer Page Program. This highly competitive program is sure to offer Cameron an enriching educational experience. He will be on the "House Floor" in Washington, DC July 7-August 1.

On May 21, Cameron will be recognized as one of Tompkins County's "40 young professionals who demonstrate a measurable impact in their communities, professions and/or schools." Sponsored by Elmira Savings Bank and organized by [Ithaca Forward], Cameron will be recognized as a "40u40" community leader honoree. Although he submitted a self-nomination, he was also nominated by the Ithaca Youth Bureau, of which he serves as an advisory board member. Additionally, Cameron received letters of recommendation from his teachers and the Chair of the Tompkins County Legislature. Congratulations, Cameron!

All are Welcome to a Dish-to-Share Dinner! – The Dinner Discussion group will meet Friday, June 6th 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

The Pastor Relations Committee is a standing committee, composed of 6 members of the church who meet with the pastor periodically. This committee serves two purposes: as an advisory group to the pastor, bringing questions, suggestions and concerns of the congregation to the pastor and as an advocacy group for the pastor's leadership of the congregation.

Why should we have a Pastoral Relations Committee? It is a support group to the pastor composed of persons who encourage the pastor's professional growth and well-being. The basic reason for continuing to improve and sustain pastor-people relationships through the work of this committee is to enhance the effectiveness of the church's mission. The pastor's nurture by the church not only brings about a wholesome and healthy church, but also creates a climate in which the spiritual life and mission of the church are strengthened. In addition, as conflict is a normal part of human relationships, the Pastoral Relations Committee can be instrumental in turning conflicts into a productive experience.

The committee is small in order to establish and maintain an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust and allow for constructive and caring communication. Routine agenda items in addition to relational issues from the pastor and from the congregation can include annual compensation, review of the pastor's or congregation's performance compared to expectations, and continuing education plans for the pastor.

The open, accepting, and supportive nature of our church allows for easy communication between pastor and individuals, boards, and committees. Please continue to bring your enthusiastic input to those areas of church life in which you are active. Don't hesitate to touch base as you usually do with the Pastor, other staff members, or boards and committees if you want to talk over concerns or desires.

If you have questions about the Pastoral Relations Committee and how it works, please do not hesitate to ask any of its members:

Mark Lawrence - Emily Young - Ashlee Martinez - David Caughey - Lou Carlucci - Barbara Fry



Music for June



- June 1** God is Our Refuge and Strength - Mozart
- June 8** Children's Sunday - including MANY musical selections
- June 15** Mark A.B. Lawrence, tenor
- June 22** TBD
- June 29** Church picnic - New Creation Singers and friends

Our last choir Sunday will be June 8th (Children's Sunday). We will reprise "On Children" and add one or two other selections.

If you're interested in providing special music during the Summer, please contact Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum or Christopher Loy.

The trustees request the help of the congregation in keeping up with pledges during the Summer. Even though the programs of the church slow down over the Summer, the expenses of the church continue on. It is necessary to keep a steady income throughout the Summer months, so even if people do not attend as regularly, it would be appreciated if program pledges would be kept up to date.
~Marlene Sack, Finance Secretary

Rev. Kenneth Clark will lead the worship service on June 15th. Rev. Kenneth I. Clarke, Sr. is Director of Cornell United Religious Work. Prior to coming to Cornell in July 2001, Rev. Clarke was Director of the Center for Ethics and Religious Affairs at the Pennsylvania State University (1997-2001). He was the Center's Assistant Director from 1990-96 and Acting Director in 1996-97. Ken also served as an instructor in African/African American Studies at Penn State. From 1987-90 Rev. Clarke worked for the Third Baptist Church of San Francisco, initially for the church's Ethiopian Refugee Resettlement Project and later as Assistant Pastor/Administrator. A native of Baltimore, MD, Ken earned a B.A. in English from Morgan State University, a Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. Ken and his wife, Yolanda, Director for Academic Enrichment Services at Ithaca College, co-pastored the Albright Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania from 1996-2001. They are the parents of Fatima Rose and Ken, Jr.

First Baptist is in need of three card tables in good shape. Do you have a card table you no longer need? Donations of tables would be greatly appreciated.

These are used often for coffee and conversation gatherings as well as other events held at the church.



Do you have an updated address for Imani Driskell?

The office staff has received returned mail and would like to have an accurate address for Visitor mailings. If you know Imani's address, please call the office at 273-5800 or email fbdewitt@verizon.net

Thank you for your help!

DIRECTORY

A new directory of local members and friends of First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park is available in electronic or hard copy forms. You may pick up a hard copy whenever the church office is open. If you would like an electronic copy sent to you via email, please call the church office at 273-5800 or email fbdewitt@verizon.net

PLEASE help us by looking over your directory for your own information and that of friends and family to check for errors and suggest additions to information such as a child's name or email addresses.

We are using this new directory to prepare for a more permanent directory being planned by the Board of Worship and Christian Concern. With your help, we will be able to put together a directory with the most complete and accurate information. We ask that you help us with this task. Thank you.

Congratulations to Sue Hemsath as a recipient of an Award for Excellence from the Tompkins Trust Company! Sue was one of 6 individuals and 2 organizations honored on May 19, 2008 at the Trust Company main office for contributions to the community. "Nominees can be local individuals performing philanthropic community service or groups of individuals representing a key unpaid volunteer element of a local non-profit organization and should generously volunteer time and effort, on an ongoing basis, to activities that help others in Tompkins County." Sue's response to the award and event was to say that Ithaca has a very large number of volunteers in every organization and all volunteers deserve recognition. Financial gifts made in Sue's name will be given to the Special Olympics and Kitchen Cupboard by the Legacy Foundation of the Trust Company.



The dust is gone, the windows sparkle and new signs are up! Thanks to the following who gave their Saturday morning to get the church spruced up for the Summer: Rich Barron, Lou Carlucci, Dave Caughey, Shella Chase, Tony, Greta, and Sophia Cotraccia, Julie Costi, Sue Eymann, Dick Fielding, Carol Fleming, Helen Freeman, Meg Gillard, Steve Hilsdorf, Judy Kennison, Sun Kim, Tony Lister, Andrea Mooney, Linda Nicholson, Bill Padden, Dave Putnam, Marlene Sack, Amanda and Curt Ufford, Liz Wilkinson and Josie Zanfordino.

June 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).

Sunday	June 1	10:00am	Worship-Communion
		11:15am	Coffee & Conversation
		11:30am	Church Classes
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Monday	June 2	7:00pm	Bible Study- NOW BEING HELD IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY
Tuesday	June 3	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday	June 4	8:15am	Morning Meditation
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thursday	June 5	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	June 6	7:30am	PIC Board & Breakfast
		5:00pm	Youth Film Fest
		6:00pm	Dinner Discussion
Sunday	June 8	10:00am	WORSHIP CHILDREN & YOUTH TEACHER APPRECIATION
		11:30am	Brunch & Boards
Monday	June 9	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday	June 10	5:30pm	12 Step Program
		7:00pm	ACT Meeting
Wednesday	June 11	8:15am	Morning Meditation
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Sunday	June 15	10:00am	WORSHIP
		2:00pm	Rev. Kenneth Clark Sacred Harp Singers
Tuesday	June 17	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday	June 18	8:15am	Morning Meditation
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Sunday	June 22	10:00am	WORSHIP
		2:00pm	Rev. Tim Dean Sacred Harp Singers
Tuesday	June 24	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wednesday	June 25	8:15am	Morning Meditation
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Sunday	June 29		WORSHIP & PICNIC AT TAUGHANNOCK
			No Service At Church
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers

Church Worship & Picnic June 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Taughannock Falls State Park
Pavilion by the creek

Plan to bring- a *large dish-to-share*, your own place settings, chairs or blanket, hat and sunscreen.

Directions from Ithaca-

Take Taughannock Blvd. (Rt.89) North along the lake. When you get to the park, go past the main entrance to the North Point entrance and enter. Just before the ticket booth you will see the pavilion on the right.

Carpools- Since there is a fee to enter the park (\$7 per car), carpools are encouraged. Please arrange to meet at the church no later than 10:00am.

THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE AT THE CHURCH ON JUNE 29th



Lectionary Readings for June

June 1

Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19 or Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28 ~ Psalm 46 or Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24
Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28, (29-31) ~ Matthew 7:21-29

June 8

Genesis 12:1-9 or Hosea 5:15-6:6 ~ Psalm 33:1-12 or Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25 ~ Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 15

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) or Exodus 19:2-8a ~ Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 or Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8 ~ Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 22

Genesis 21:8-21 or Jeremiah 20:7-13 ~ Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
Romans 6:1b-11 ~ Matthew 10:24-39

June 29

Genesis 22:1-14 or Jeremiah 28:5-9 ~ Psalm 13 or Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23 ~ Matthew 10:40-42

What one thing makes First Baptist the wonderful place it is?

YOU!

And one of the many things brings us together as a community is the First Baptist Garage Sale. This whole church event requires more than just donated items. It requires your help! Andrea Mooney has graciously agreed to head up this event but she can't do it alone. Below is a list of sale areas that need directors as well as other ways your help is needed to complete our biggest, most successful, fundraiser of the year!

Let's get ready for a great sale!

- Givers of items ready for a new home – donations must be clean & in good working order (no guns, war toys, old paint, or electronic equipment made before 2005).
- Bakers ready to fill tummies – baking to sell (cakes, cookies, pies, etc.)
- Gardeners ready to share plants – starting and potting good clean plants.
- Haulers ready to deliver & move -- picking up of large items, dropping off & picking up outsourced things for those unable to get to the church to work, taking unsold materials at Salvation Army at the end of the sale.
- Joggers ready to spread the flyers, put up signs and balloons, etc.
- Sorters ready to organize and price.
- Sellers ready to meet & greet the public.
- Cooks ready to offer food at the cafe.
- Cleaners ready to clean up after the sale.

First Baptist Garage Sale

Saturday, August 30th ~ 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

YES! I/We are ready to...

- be a "director"
- pick up and deliver items
- sort and/or price things
- bring things up from the basement Aug. 24th after church
- work the day of the sale
- help clean up
- provide plants or baked goods
- assist with publicity or the café
- clean up after the sale

Name(s) _____ phone number _____

Please --- do NOT deliver sale items to the church until after August 1

there is no storage room until then!

The Visitor

First Baptist Church
Box 254
Ithaca, New York 14851

{ Return Service Requested }

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage
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