

# The Visitor

## November 2008

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

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*A note from Rev. Richard Rose...*

*Dear Sisters and brothers,*

"We are on the brink of catastrophe"... some economic pundits have recently suggested. "We are in the midst of a freefall" others have claimed. Yes, the doomsday declarers and the fortuitous fear-mongers are out in full force!

So what are we to do? Join in the despair, cynically ignore or dismiss it, foment it or, as Christians, do we have other choices? One little known definition of peace is simply this:

*Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work; it means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.*

Perhaps the current economic situation won't really effect us one way or the other, yet, if we are honest, each of us carries some old, unhealed wounds, some hurt healed, yet still very much a part of our story or a recently inflicted pain which is still raw and bleeding. The current cultural anxiety can act like salt to our wounds causing us to make poor decisions, act rashly and even to hurt the ones we love.

Today, perhaps more than ever, we must recognize that we are safe and saved (even from ourselves) within the heart of God. This grand heart is not merely something to discover or expose but to recognize, to realize that God's peace is forever available to us. God is perpetually with us, within us and in the space between us.

No stranger to hurts and pain, I have found God's omnipotent peace to sustain and save me even so. Although I know not what lies ahead (especially with our second son soon to arrive) I do know that God's sustaining peace, which I experience in my heart as great hope, and a deep sense of limitless love, is quite literally my salvation in the living of these days.

Peace,  
Rich

**Monday evening Bible Study-** Please join us for our Monday evening Bible study as we consider the book of Revelation. Currently, we are meeting in the church Library. Please see Pastor Rich if you have any questions or need further information.



**Olan Mills photographers will be coming on Monday Nov 24 to have directory pictures made.**

**Your resource for keeping in touch with what's happening at First Baptist!**  
**For a complete calendar of events and audio of weekly sermons,**  
**check out the First Baptist Church website!**  
**[www.firstbaptistithaca.org](http://www.firstbaptistithaca.org)**



## Christian Education News

### Adult Education

#### **November 16**

"Serving As Hands and Feet of Christ" - Video  
Rene Girard: Violence and the Sacred  
Families and Children

#### **November 23**

Barbara and Bill Fry: Life in South Africa  
Rene Girard: Violence and the Sacred  
Families and Children

#### **November 30**

Spiritual Practice: Ways to Stay Grounded in the Spirit  
Rene Girard: Violence and the Sacred  
Families and Children

#### **December 7**

First Baptist Outreach: Topic to be announced  
Rene Girard: Violence and the Sacred  
Families and Children

#### **December 21**

Rene Girard: Violence and the Sacred  
Families and Children

#### **December 28**

Agape Service - No adult education

### **Church School News**

#### ***Church School 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Family Dinners***

All are invited to come and share a meal, hearty conversation and play between 5:30 and 7p.m. in our Community Room. Dates for this year will be:

**Nov. 19    Dec. 17    Jan.21    Feb. 18    March 18    April 15    May 20    June 17**

#### **Hope to see you there!**

Please remember to check upcoming Bulletins and Visitors for other Church School news and events!

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#### **Church School Requests**

***Our Nursery will be in need of additional caregivers to assist Carol Fleming this year.*** Please sign-up with Carol at the Nursery Area for any number of Sundays and get to know our youngest congregants. **For all who would like to volunteer to bring in a healthy snack for Church School, please contact Kris.**

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**The deadline for the next newsletter is **NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**.  
Please have items prepared and to the office by this date  
in order for them to appear in the next edition of **The Visitor**.**

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#### **Coming soon to a mailbox near you...**

The Cabinet is preparing our annual pledge drive. In these most difficult economic times, we will be asking you to recall Rev. Rose's words about God's economy. Stay tuned to your mailbox for further information....

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#### **Men's Pancake Breakfast- December 14<sup>th</sup> after worship!**

On behalf of the Men's Pancake Breakfast. I would like to invite men and boys of the church and community to participate in our annual Men's pancake breakfast. Please sign up for cooking, setup, serving or cleanup or all the above. The breakfast is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. right after worship. For more information, please contact Victor Younger at 277-7758.



# Lectionary Readings for Late Fall

## November 9

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 **or** *Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16*  
 & Amos 5:18-24 ~ Psalm 78:1-7 **or**  
*Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 & Psalm 70*  
 I Thessalonians 4:13-18 ~ Matthew 25:1-13

## November 16

Judges 4:1-7 **or** *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18* Psalm 123 **or**  
*Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12*  
 I Thessalonians 5:1-11 ~ Matthew 25:14-30

## November 23- Reign of Christ

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 ~ Psalm 100 **or** *Psalm 95:1-7a*  
 Ephesians 1:15-23 ~ Matthew 25:31-46

## November 27- Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 ~ Psalm 65  
 II Corinthians 9:6-15 ~ Luke 17:11-19

## November 30- First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 ~ Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19  
 I Corinthians 1:3-9 ~ Mark 13:24-37

## December 7- Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 ~ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
 II Peter 3:8-15a ~ Mark 1:1-8

## Late Fall 2008 Calendar

<b>Sun</b>	<b>November 9</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b>	<b>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Brunch and Board Meetings</b>
Thurs	November 13	5:30pm 7:00pm	Chapel Committee Meeting Choir Rehearsal
Fri	November 14	7:30am 8:15am	PIC Board Breakfast Meeting Meditation
Sat	November 15	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
<b>Sun</b>	<b>November 16</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b> 2:00pm 3:00pm	<b>All Boards Meeting- 11:30am</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Church School</b> Sacred Harp Singers Ufford Birthday Party
Wed	November 19	5:30pm	Dinner-Church School
Thurs	November 20	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri	November 21	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	November 22	5:30pm	Harvest Dinner
<b>Sun</b>	<b>November 23</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Church School</b>
Wed	November 26	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thurs	November 27		THANKSGIVING DAY
Fri	November 28	8:15am	Office Closed Meditation
Sat	November 29	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
<b>Sun</b>	<b>November 30</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b> 2:00pm	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>WORSHIP</b> <b>Church School</b> Sacred Harp Singers
Tues	December 2	7:00pm	ACT Meeting
Wed	December 3	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Thurs	December 4	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri	December 5	8:15am 6:00pm	Meditation Dinner Discussion
Sat	December 6	3:00pm 5:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm Ithaca Community
<b>Sun</b>	<b>December 7</b>	<b>9:30am</b> <b>10:00am</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>12-8pm</b>	<b>Orchestra Rehearsal</b> <b>Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>Worship- Communion</b> <b>Church School</b> <b>Ithaca Community Orchestra</b>

A big thank you to all who came out to help at our Annual Fall Clean Up on Saturday, October 25th. Much work was completed and very much appreciated by all who work and attend at First Baptist.

If you notice things at First Baptist that need attention, please notify the office or a Trustee so our church continues to be a clean and safe place to gather.

***Harvest Dinner!***  
**Saturday, November 22nd**  
**Harvest Dinner 5:30 pm**  
**Lively Entertainment 7:00 pm**  
**Silent Auction all evening**

The Saturday evening before Thanksgiving is a good time to celebrate our gratitude for our bountiful blessings. Come and surround yourself with our First Baptist family for an evening of good food, good music and giving thanks. Feel free to bring friends and family for this wonderful evening. Please contact Janet Cotraccia (277-1075) for more information or to volunteer.

**Buy your ticket in advance or at the door.**  
**Watch for ticket sales after the worship service on Sundays.**  
**\$10 per adult - \$5 per child ages 6-12 -\$30 maximum per family**  
 (A Parable of Talents Fundraising Event)

## Music at First Baptist

<b>Nov 9</b>	Choir and New Creation Singers - Bring a Friend Sunday
<b>Nov 16</b>	Choir - Never Weather Beaten Sail
<b>Nov 23</b>	Sally Ramirez - Amazing Grace
<b>Nov 30</b>	New Creation Singers and Choir
<b>Dec 7</b>	Mark Lawrence - "Comfort Ye" from Handel's Messiah
<b>Dec 14</b>	CSMA Recorder Ensemble
<b>Dec 21</b>	Choir Sunday - with Advent and Christmas selections

### Interested in singing for the Christmas season?

The FBC choir welcomes new members at all times, including those that would like to join us for rehearsals from mid-November through mid-December. We'll have one or two Saturday intensives as well in preparation for singing on December 21st and 24th.

*"To our most bitter opponents we say" 'We shall match your capacity to inflict suffering by our capacity to endure suffering. We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you. We cannot in all good conscience obey your unjust laws, because non-cooperation with evil is as much a moral obligation as co-operation with good. Throw us in jail, and we shall still love you. Bomb our homes and threaten our children, and we shall still love you. Send your hooded perpetrators of violence into our community at the midnight hour and beat us half dead, and we shall still love you. But be ye assured that we will wear you down by our capacity to suffer. One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process and our victory will be a double victory. Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force so beautifully exemplified in the life of our Christ, is the most potent instrument in mankind's quest for peace and security."*

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from his sermon: *Loving Your Enemies*.

### **All are Welcome to a Dish-to-Share Dinner**

The Dinner Discussion group will meet Dec.5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a meal in the Community room. Whether you have been to this gathering before or not, please let us know if you are interested in attending. Contact Barbara Fry (273-6099)