

The Visitor

August 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,

As we continue in this liturgical season of Ordinary Time (the season between Pentecost and Advent), we will begin the first Sunday of September by embarking on a journey through the Epistles of Paul; *in addition* to our continued excursion through the Gospel of Matthew. This will be a first for me as in years past I have usually avoided Paul's letters because they are so often misused and misunderstood. In recent weeks I have begun to develop quite an affinity for these classic and foundational works of Christian literature.

Initially, we will begin in the latter portion of Paul's Epistle to the Romans, then on to Philipppians, and First Thessalonians. In preparation, you may wish to review these texts in order to develop or clarify your own working knowledge of them before hearing what I have to say. Here is a sample to whet your appetite:

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." Philipppians 2:3-5

I plan to spend a good deal of time in prayer and preparation for my sermons this fall. I hope that likewise you'll be in prayer, *with me and for me*, as I seek to further understand and clarify Paul's messages for the early church and what meaning(s) they have for us today.

Peace,

Rich

Monday evening Bible Study- Please join us for our Monday evening Bible study as we consider the book of Revelation. Please note a change in or meeting place: We will meet at Emily Young's home. Please see Pastor Rich if you have any questions or need further information.

"Fear is the anticipation of a supposedly certain defeat. And therefore to be afraid is to be anxious.

It is to decide the future..."

20th century theologian Karl Barth

Check out the changes on our Website. Beth and I have been putting a lot of work into the website to update and expand it. Please take a few moments to check out the links on the right side of the homepage. We have begun (and will continue) to assemble a wide variety of resources on LGBT issues, issues of justice, economic and environmental, human rights and pertinent Baptist concerns. Perhaps you'll consider bookmarking or making it your Home Page. And don't forget to keep up-to-date on church happenings by regularly visiting the Calendar section and Currents Events page.

Thanks, Rich

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



CHOCOLATE CAMPAIGN SUCCESS!

20% increase in fair-trade chocolate worldwide!

Last month, one member of the Chocolate Industry took a landmark decision that will result in a 20% increase in fair-trade - Traffik Free - chocolate worldwide. Royal Verkade, a Dutch household name and subsidiary of United Biscuits, announced that they will be using 100% Fair Trade cocoa and sugar in their products from the autumn onwards. This is the first A-list chocolate producer worldwide to make the transition to Fair Trade production on a large scale and STOP THE TRAFFIK congratulates Royal Verkade for taking this decision. Though many players were involved, a major turning point occurred during STOP THE TRAFFIK Netherlands and local NGO Fairfood's 'naming and shaming' campaign, linking Verkade with the worst forms of child labour in Ivory Coast. "Within a day we had a phone call from Fair Trade", states Antonie Fountain of STOP THE TRAFFIK Holland, "saying that Verkade had just called them to talk about the possibility of Fair Trade sourcing for their cocoa". (Source: stophetraffik.org)

Church School News

Adult Education for September/October 2008

September 21 - Domestic Violence and Faith Communities

Patty Tvaroha, who is responsible for Community Education at the Advocacy Center, will discuss some basic definitions of domestic violence, how to respond to people who disclose abuse, and what faith communities can do to create an environment where domestic violence is not tolerated.

September 28, October 5, 19 - The Environment and Faith

These three Sundays will be devoted to the exploration of issues affecting our environment and ways in which faith communities can respond.

October 26 - Kathe Padilla and the Chishewasha Children's Home

For a number of years, First Baptist has supported Kathe Padilla's efforts to bring better education and a loving environment to orphaned children in Zambia. Kathe will be with us to talk about new developments and present needs at the Chishewasha Children's Home.

New films in the Church Library

For the Bible Tells Me So. - Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families -- including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson -- we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Reverend Jimmy Creech, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity.

What Would Jesus Buy? - STOP the SHOPOCALYPSE!

From producer Morgan Spurlock (SUPER SIZE ME) comes a serious docu-comedy about the commercialization of Christmas. *What Would Jesus Buy?* follows Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir as they go on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse:

Sho•po•ca•lypse [shah PAW kuh lips] n. The end of humanity from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt!



Summer Music



- Aug 17** David Caughey
- Aug 24** New Creation Singers
- Aug 31** Tony Lister - flute
- Sept 7** "Before the Bread" *If you sang this round last spring or would like to learn it, please come at 9:30 on Sunday morning 9/7*
- Sept 14** Special music TBD
- Sept 21** Gathering Sunday, 1st choir Sunday "O Freedom"
- Sept 28** "Grant Us Thy Peace" - Mendelssohn
- Oct 5** Ithaca College Hands of Praise

**CHOIR PRACTICES WILL BEGIN ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7:00PM.
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.**

Lectionary Readings for Late Summer

August 10

Genesis 22:1-14 or Jeremiah 28:5-9 ~ Psalm 13 or Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 or I Kings 19:9-18 ~ Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b or Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15 ~ Matthew 14:22-33

August 17

Genesis 45:1-15 or Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 ~ Psalm 133 or Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 ~ Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 24

Exodus 1:8-2:10 or Isaiah 51:1-6 ~ Psalm 124 or Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8 ~ Matthew 16:13-20

August 31

Exodus 3:1-15 or Jeremiah 15:15-21 ~ Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c or Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21 ~ Matthew 16:21-28

September 7

Exodus 12:1-14 or Ezekiel 33:7-11 ~ Psalm 149 or Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14 ~ Matthew 18:15-20

September 14

Exodus 14:19-31 or Genesis 50:15-21 ~ Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 or Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12 ~ Matthew 18:21-35

LIVING WATERS ASSOC. PICNIC AUGUST 16. 2008

At Coopers Plains Community Church, 10 Race Street, Coopers Plains NY
Gather at 2 pm for fellowship ~ eat at 4 pm

Menu: 1/2 bbq chicken, baked beans, salt potatoes, roll, dessert,
unlimited bottled water & soda Cost: \$7.00 for adult \$6.00 children
under 12

**note one dinner will easily serve two children under 12

What to bring: lawn chairs, outdoor games if you have some and a
great big appetite!



Powerful Tools For Caregivers

Are you caring for a spouse, a parent or loved one and feeling stressed emotionally, financially or physically due to the challenges of this care? Many caregivers share a similar experience as they juggle the demands of work, family and caring for their loved one. Too often, in trying to meet the demands of all these interests, they neglect to care for themselves!

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six week educational program designed to provide caregivers the tools needed for taking care of themselves and will be offered this Fall -at no cost to caregivers- Beginning September 23rd, during six, 2-1/2 hour sessions held weekly, caregivers learn to reduce stress, improve self-confidence, better communicate feelings, and access local resources. Attendees also learn how to balance the demands in their lives and to increase their ability to make tough decisions. Three separate six-week sessions will be available this Fall; one on Tuesday mornings from 9:00am-11:00am at Kendall at Ithaca and one on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm-8:30pm at Lifelong. Pre-registration is required- call 274-5482 to register. You may contact Marilyn Roberts Chase at mroberts@tomkins-co.org or 274-5488 for more information about the program.

Please save "Labels and Box Tops for Education"

These are found on soup cans, cereals, baking items, paper products, etc. Please check the South door bulletin board for a list and photos of products with the accepted labels. We send these to Springbrook, our home in Oneonta, where they are redeemed for education materials for the residents. Please put them in the church office or give directly to Naomi Hollister. Thank you.

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

A WEEKEND WITH MATTHEW FOX ~ A Spirituality for the 21st Century

Friday, Oct. 10, 2008 at 7PM - 9:30PM Cost: \$35 Children under 17: \$10

(NO credit cards accepted. Only cash or personal checks, please.)

First Presbyterian Church ~ 315 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Sponsored by Nature's Song Retreat (607-659-3909)

The modern age developed knowledge, but at the expense of wisdom. The result has been ecological disaster and destitution for the indigenous peoples everywhere and a loss of meaning and shared values in our lives. We need a spirituality which brings wisdom back to our daily lives, to our work, to our educational systems, to all our relations. Matthew Fox will explore how creation spirituality can help us move to hope by awakening us to our divine origins, to the new creation story from science, to eco-justice and gender justice, to the wisdom shared in faith traditions of East and West and of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Holy Imagination: Wisdom Springing from Global Faiths

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008 ~ 9:30AM – 1:30PM Cost: \$110. **At Nature's Song Retreat Center**

Special interfaith music and chanting open this special workshop!

We will explore the wisdom found in the spiritual traditions of the world and our own experience using Fox's One River, Many Wells as a guide. We will be tapping into our own holy imaginations since creativity is the birthright and the responsibility of all peoples, a special gift of the human species. We will consider, experience and celebrate the wisdom that comes from world traditions and science and our own experience. As wonder-filled mystics we will learn, question, reflect, dance, draw and otherwise claim and celebrate the wisdom found in the world's religions and our inheritance as Divine co-creators.

For more information please call Nature's Song Retreat at 607-659-3909 or email nsmaty@aol.com

First Baptist Garage Sale

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

Very Important ~ If you have furniture, specialty items, etc. that should be advertised in the newspaper, please contact the office. Otherwise, your donation won't be priced correctly! Please no guns, war toys, old paint, or electronic equipment before 2005. Air conditioners & refrigerators may be sold from the owner's home, a note posted before and at the sale.

Please let us know what you can do!!!

Large items for pick up – Rich Barron (657-2880)

Bake sale items – Sue Eymann (277-1158)

Plants for the Plant Sale – Jan McCarrick (272-8611)

Café food items or help – Liz Wilkinson (272-1354)

Flyers & signs distribution – Debbie Allen (273-1365)

House to house purchases -- call Andrea, Linda, or the office

We need YOUR help!!

Saturday, August 23 – table & sign set up

Sunday, August 24, after worship – bring items up from basement

Tuesday thru Thursday, August 26-28, 3 to 5 pm & 7 to 9 pm and ALL day Friday, August 29 -- sort and price.

Saturday, August 30, sale day -- sell, clean up, and dispose of unsold items.

Call Andrea Mooney (272-2951) or Linda Caughey if you can help (273-7864)

Summer 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) ~Choir Rehearsals, (Jennifer 277-7664).

Sun	August 17	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Doorstep Reception
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	August 18	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	August 19	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Wed	August 20	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	August 22	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Sun	August 24	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Doorstep Reception
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Mon	August 25	5:30pm	12 Step Program
Tues	August 26	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Wed	August 27	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Fri	August 29	8:30am	GARAGE SALE
Sat	August 30		
Sun	August 31	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Doorstep Reception
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	September 1	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	September 3	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	September 5	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Sun	September 7	10:00am	Worship-Communion
		11:30am	Doorstep Reception
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	September 8	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	September 9	7:00pm	ACT Meeting
Wed	September 10	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	September 12	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Sun	September 14	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Brunch and Boards
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Mon	September 15	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Wed	September 17	8:15am	Morning Meditation
Fri	September 19		
Sun	September 21	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Coffee and Conversation
		11:30am	First Day of Church School!
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers

The new Christian Education year begins Sunday, September 21st. Please see the Church School News section of this newsletter for Adult Education class topics.

Children's Church School will begin the same day.

All are welcome!

Garage Sale sorting, setup, pricing, and clean up will be taking place the week of August 25th - 30th

If you can help in any way, please call Linda Caughey or Andrea Mooney. For more information, see page 4 of this newsletter.