

# The Visitor

## January 2009

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,

Happy New Year! With the New Year comes hope. This can be a new beginning. A new calendar presents the opportunity for a fresh start, self-examination, taking new roads, and new risks, dreaming new dreams and having new visions. Renee and I are, as of this writing, anticipating the birth of our second son any day now. Needless to say, we can't wait to meet him. Who will he be? Will he be spirited like his brother or laid back? Will he be gay or straight? What will he be when he grows up? Will we ever get a full night's sleep again?

We are in the midst of endless possibility.

With this New Year still in its infancy, I hope that you will seek God's help in realizing your potential as a hopeful, caring and open individual, both living into and extending to others God's wondrous grace. New possibilities await: who will you become, what will you do, how will you grow and what will you learn this year? Open yourself to the possibilities!

Renee and I are extremely grateful to the congregation for your very generous baby shower gifts. Your ongoing support, love, kindness and care for us are a wonderful blessing! Thank you all so very much.

Peace,  
Rich

**Monday evening Bible Study**— will resume when Rev. Rose returns from paternity leave in early March 2009. We will begin considering the book *Christianity and the Social Crisis* by Walter Rauschenbusch. If you are interested in this study or have any questions, please see Rich.

*"Demonization, guilt by association, and the politics of fear did not triumph, not this time. Let's hope they never will again. And let's hope we might now assert that in our wildly diverse society, talking and listening to the widest range of people is not a sin, but a virtue."*

- William Ayers, professor of education at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the author of "Fugitive Days". This quote is taken from his Op-Ed piece for the December 5, 2008 edition of the New York Times.

**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)**



## Adult Education

**January 18- Alliance of Baptists**

This class will provide an opportunity to discuss what the Alliance of Baptists stands for and the advantages of First Baptist becoming a part of it. All are encouraged to attend in preparation for voting on membership in this organization at the Annual Meeting.

**January 25- No Adult Education**

Congregational Annual Meeting

**February 1 - Ithaca Free Clinic**

Presentation about the services provided by the clinic.

**February 8 - Brunch and Board Meetings**

**February 15 - DVD - "Sick Around the World"**

PBS special examining how other advanced capitalist democracies deliver healthcare and what the United States might learn from their successes and their failures.

**February 22 - Holistic Healthcare: Healing Body and Soul**

A panel of local healthcare providers will discuss the close relationship between care of body and soul.

## 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:

**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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Dear Ithaca First Baptist Friends,

When our postman belatedly delivered the delivered the December issue of **The Visitor** yesterday, I was reminded that I have been embarrassingly remiss in not expressing my gratitude for for support of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering.

After spending more than a half century in pastoral ministry, I have had no pastoral position since I left Ithaca two years ago and have had the privilege of preaching only two sermons. Receiving the RMMO "Thank You" check meant far more to me than the financial assistance it gave, although this was greatly appreciated. More importantly, it said that my service has not been forgotten and may have had some value.

Many thanks to you for remembering me and all the other retired ministers and missionaries.

Sincerely,  
John Laney

## Lectionary Readings

### **Baptism of the Lord**

#### **(First Sunday after Epiphany)**

January 11, 2009 ~ Genesis 1:1-5 ~ Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7 ~ Mark 1:4-11

#### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 18, 2009

I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) ~ Ps. 139:1-6, 13-18  
I Corinthians 6:12-20 ~ John 1:43-51

#### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 25, 2009

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 ~ Psalm 62:5-12  
I Corinthians 7:29-31 ~ Mark 1:14-20

#### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 1, 2009

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 ~ Psalm 111  
I Corinthians 8:1-13 ~ Mark 1:21-28

#### **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 8, 2009

Isaiah 40:21-31 ~ Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
I Corinthians 9:16-23 ~ Mark 1:29-39

### **Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 15, 2009

II Kings 5:1-14 ~ Psalm 30  
I Corinthians 9:24-27 ~ Mark 1:40-45

#### **Transfiguration Sunday**

#### **(Last Sunday before Lent)**

February 22, 2009

II Kings 2:1-12 ~ Psalm 50:1-6  
II Corinthians 4:3-6 ~ Mark 9:2-9

#### **Ash Wednesday**

February 25, 2009

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 ~ Psalm 51:1-17  
II Cor. 5:20b-6:10 ~ Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

March 1, 2009

Genesis 9:8-17 ~ Psalm 25:1-10  
I Peter 3:18-22 ~ Mark 1:9-15

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

March 8, 2009

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 ~ Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25 ~ Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9



Please remember to save your *used religious Christmas cards*, as we send them to the Weirton Christian Center. Cards are used by the children there to support the purchase of educational items for the center. Please bring your used cards to Naomi Hollister or leave them in the church office. Thank you.

## *Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction Thank You*



A great big thank you to all for making the Harvest Dinner/Silent Auction such a wonderful evening. The "Parable of Talents" raised approximately \$2,000 with this event. But, more importantly, we all had a wonderful evening of fellowship and of giving thanks together. Our church family contributed over 50 items/services for auction. It was a true celebration of all the wonderful talents and gifts of the individuals in our church family. Special thanks go to Liz Wilkinson and Mary Rollins for their preparation and coordination of the harvest dinner, to Victor Younger for his engaging emceeing, to Janet Cotraccia for coordination of the auction, to Emily Young for her entertaining thoughts and stories, to Sally Ramirez and Molly MacMillan for their musical entertainment and to all those who helped with set-up, clean-up, sound, ticket sales, childcare and kitchen duty.

*(note: A tax deduction can be taken for the amount the item was auctioned for, by those who donated the items, not by the persons bidding on them.)*