

The Visitor

November 2009

*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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Celebrating 400 Years of Being Baptist- The Move of Baptists Westward

The migration of Baptists in America followed that of the nation as a whole. In 1755, at a time when few settlers yet lived in the Carolinas and further southward, the Sandy Creek Baptist Church was established at a conflux of trails in North Carolina. The church grew quickly, yet at the same time migratory pressures pulled Baptists farther westward. By the thousands in the decades following, they trekked into present-day Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mississippi (the latter Mississippi Territory, at that time). By the end of the century, a handful of Baptists had also pushed into Illinois and Louisiana Territory. Yet the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 turned the trickle of westward-bound Baptists into full-fledged migration. Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, Michigan Territory, and Wisconsin Territory welcomed the Baptist faith in the early decades of the nineteenth century. True pioneers, the individuals who comprised these Baptist westward movements sacrificed much to blaze trails that millions of others would follow.

While men were typically looked upon as the leaders of Baptist expansion, the isolation of the westward frontier provided opportunity for women to assume leadership roles. Sarah Gardiner Hale was one such woman. In 1831, the Hale family moved from Tennessee to the area near Hot Springs, Arkansas, purchased property, and soon donated land for the construction of a church.

For many years Sarah was a pivotal figure within the church, and her role included that of supply preacher, spiritual advisor, and business leader. "Even in her latter years," Pam and Keith Durso write in their Story of Baptists in the United States, "when Sarah could no longer attend church services, the deacons often went to see 'Grandma Hale' to consult with her about church matters" (79). The West, of course, did not stop at Arkansas, and for every Sarah Hale who put Baptist roots down in the present-day Southwest, hundreds of others pushed onward. Leaving Missouri and traveling on the Oregon Trail in 1843, David and Louisa Lenox settled near present-day Portland and in 1844 helped establish the West Union Baptist Church.

In 1849, American Baptist Home Missionary Society missionaries Osgood and Elizabeth Wheeler organized the First Baptist Church of San Francisco. And in 1864, ABHMS missionary L. P. Judson established the first Baptist church in Dakota Territory. Thus, in the course of a century, Baptists spread from Sandy Creek, North Carolina, to the coasts of California, transplanting their faith along the way.

David & Louisa Lenox

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



Dinner/Discussion Group meets monthly on first Fridays at 6:00 pm . This month we will meet on Friday, November 6th. This group contains members coming together for as many as 20 years and each year anticipates and welcomes new members. We enjoy a planned dish-to-share dinner and meet in the Library/Lounge, usually tucking in 12-16 around a common table. Discussion is not planned, but always enthusiastic and fun. We enjoy individual exchange as well as full table discussions. Your interest is encouraged. Our November dinner is being coordinated by Curt and Amanda Ufford. Please contact them at 273-8719 for more information.

Work Day A Success!!!

The Annual Spring Work Day took place on Saturday, October 17, to put up storm windows, scrub and polish, trim trees, and do other tasks readying the church for winter. Thanks to the following for their participation!!

Myra Fincher, Bill Fry, Curt and Amanda Ufford, Sue Eymann, Tony Lister, Steve Hilsdorf, Barbara Noyes, Rich Barron, Helen Freeman, Kris and Danny Scott, Bill, Mai, Sally, Abraham Phelan, Judy Kennison and Marlene Sack, and Andrea Mooney.



First Baptist Church and
Rev. Rose have new email addresses that you may begin
using immediately:
fbithaca@gmail.com
and
revrichrose@gmail.com

MUSIC NOTES

Sunday, November 8th - Joint Service at Presbyterian Church - 8:45 call

Psalm 150 - Stainer - Joint Choral selection

O Clap Your Hands - Vaughan Williams - Joint Choral Anthem

Thursday, November 12th - begin rehearsals for Christmas music - 7-9pm

Sunday, November 15th

Choral Anthem - TBD

Sunday, November 22nd

Ithaca Gay Men's Chorus

Thursday, November 26th

No rehearsal - Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29th

TBD - New Creation Singers plus choir? - O Come O Come?

Thinking ahead....

December 20th is the date for special Christmas/Advent choir music Sunday. We'll likely have some extra rehearsals on Saturday December 19th (and/or December 12th) and will have Thursday rehearsals go from 7-9pm beginning November 12th. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Happy Singing!!!! Jennifer 277-SONG

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS UNDERWAY!

The Board of Education invites all children to join the Sunday school program this year following the worship service. We will be following the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum, a fun, practical and biblically based curriculum that encourages children to understand their Christian experience through the stories and scripture of the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. This year we have three classrooms to accommodate our growing numbers of children. The two younger classes, "Galatians and Ephesians", will meet upstairs and the older class, "Philippians" will meet downstairs. Please contact Tony at 277-1075 if you have questions about classroom assignments for your child.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

We will continue our journey through the DVD series, "Living the Questions," which is proving to be a very stimulating time of study and discussion (www.livingthequestions.com). These sessions are independent of one another so you are encouraged to attend and fully participate even if you have not attended any previous Sundays.

November 1: A Passion for Christ, led by Jim Warren

November 8: No brunch, Walter Brueggemann visit.

November 15: Baruch Whitehead, or Rev. Rose leading a "Living the Question" session.

November 22: Baruch Whitehead, or Rev. Rose leading a "Living the Question" session.

November 29: Baruch Whitehead, or Rev. Rose leading a "Living the Question" session.

FBC Harvest Dinner!

Saturday, November 14th

Harvest Dinner 5:30 pm – Musical Entertainment 7:00 pm

Silent Auction all evening (winners announced at 8 pm)



This Fall harvest event is a time for communing with old friends and new. Come celebrate with an evening of good food, good music and good fellowship. Feel free to bring friends and family for this special evening. A silent auction will be held to benefit the "Parable of Talents".

Buy your ticket in advance or at the door. Watch for ticket sales after the worship service on Oct. 25th, Nov. 1st and 8th.

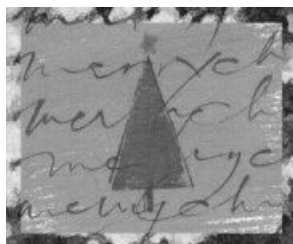
\$10 per adult -- \$5 per child (ages 6-12) --\$30 maximum per family

Childcare will be provided in the nursery for children birth to age 3. Additional activities will be available for older children. Please contact Janet Cotraccia (277-1075) to donate to the auction or to volunteer.

Welcome Our New Member!!

BARUCH WHITEHEAD became part of our family in August. He is from Bossier City, LA. His religious tradition is Christian. Baruch is a music professor at Ithaca College. His hobby is MUSIC! He did not tell us very much on his bio sheet. Find him and visit with him so you can get to know him. We welcome Baruch and are very happy to have him as part of our church family. Blessings in your faith journey.

GIVING TREE PROJECT



We will again be partnering with Enfield School around the holidays. The Giving Tree will be in the sanctuary the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Tags for clothing, toys and personal care items will be collected. We will also be doing mom/dad/grandparent bags. Extra mittens and hats are always needed at the school so keep an eye out for sales! More information will be coming during November. If you'd like to help with this project contact Sue Hemsath at 272-8619 or Tina Hilsdorf at 273-5440.

Welcome to the Romano Schmitt Family

Chris and Ande Romano Schmitt became members of FBC on September 13th. For the past 20 years, Chris has been working as an environmental scientist and Ande has been working in creative alternative education. They currently homeschool their daughter Zoe and son Zach and enjoy living and working together as a family. Their vision is to create a Sustainable Family. Simply put, this is a social paradigm that ensures that a self-defined "family" exists in the present and continues to exist in the future by creating and maintaining a healthy family environment in which the psychological, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of each member are consciously addressed within this family. The achievement of each family member's highest potential supports the healthy growth and success of the family as a whole without depleting or damaging the ability of any member to achieve that highest potential. In this way, the family sustains each individual member and each individual member sustains the family for the present and for future generations. Chris and Ande are preparing to enter the Graduate Certificate program at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School with a self-designed concentration in "Social Change and the Sustainable Family" and later plan to enter the Ph.D. program in Human Ecology at Cornell University. They intend to enact the Sustainable Family paradigm by creating a Sustainable Family Learning Center here in Ithaca in conjunction with their graduate work.

Group Spiritual Direction Learn more about becoming a member of a small group of 4-6 people who support each other in their spiritual lives. We invite you to attend a discussion on Wednesday November 18 at 7:00 PM in The Chapel at First Baptist Church.

The Women's Spirituality Group members: Debbie Allen, Gail Birnbaum, Julie Dean, Barbara Fry, and Camille Tishler have been meeting as a group since May. Louise Mudrak, also has participated. First, we spent several weeks discussing what we wanted (and didn't want) from this experience and how our time would be spent. We come together in the Chapel for several hours every two weeks and support each other through individual sharing followed by times of silence and reflection. We see this as a spiritual practice, opening our hearts to each other and seeking God in a sacred space. Our group is very honest, open and caring. We mainly listen to each other. It seems to be a good format, worth sharing with others. By the way, there is no gender bias. The first group just happened to be women as it grew out of a conversation at the annual Women's Retreat. The members of the Women's Spirituality Group are happy to talk with you now or at the November gathering which we hope is of interest to you.

~Barbara Fry for the Women's Spirituality Group

November 2009 Calendar

Sun	Nov 1	9:30am 10:00am 11:30am 11:30am 3:00pm	Choir Rehearsal WORSHIP-Communion Church School Coffee/Conversation Music Ensemble	Sun	Nov 15	9:30am 10:00am 11:30am 11:30am 2:00pm	Choir Rehearsal WORSHIP Church School Coffee/Conversation Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	Nov 2	6:00pm 7:00pm	PTSD Group Bible Study	Mon	Nov 16	6:00pm 7:00pm	PTSD Group Bible Study
Tues	Nov 3	5:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Sufi Meditation ACT Meeting lth. Gay Men's Chorus	Tues	Nov 17	5:30pm 6:00pm	Sufi Meditation Community Chorus Board Meeting
Wed	Nov 4	5:30pm 7:00pm	Banner Committee Women's Spirituality	Wed	Nov 18	7:00pm 5:30pm	lth. Gay Men's Chorus Banner Committee
Thurs	Nov 5	6:00pm	Community New Parent Group	Thurs	Nov 19	6:00pm	Women's Spirituality Community New Parent Group
Fri	Nov 6	7:00pm 8:15am	Choir Rehearsal Meditation	Fri	Nov 20	7:00pm 8:15am	Choir Rehearsal Meditation
Sat	Nov 7	6:00pm	Dinner Discussion	Sat	Nov 21	3:00pm 7:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm lth. Gay Men's Choir Concert
Sun	Nov 8	9:30am	JOINT WORSHIP	Sun	Nov 22	10:00am	WORSHIP
			SERVICE WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-			11:30am	Church School
			Sermon by Walter Brueggemann AT FIRST BAPTIST			11:30am	Coffee/Conversation
		11:10am	Walter Brueggemann- Adult Ed.	Mon	Nov 23	6:00pm	PTSD Group
		12:00pm	Board Meetings-Immediately	Tues	Nov 24	7:00pm	Bible Study
			Following Brueggemann Adult Ed.	Tues	Nov 24	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
Mon	Nov 9	5:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Cabinet Meeting PTSD Group Bible Study	Wed	Nov 25	7:00pm	lth. Gay Men's Chorus
Tues	Nov 10	5:30pm 7:00pm	Sufi Meditation lth. Gay Men's Chorus	Wed	Nov 25	5:30pm	Banner Committee
Wed	Nov 11	5:30pm 7:00pm	Banner Committee Women's Spirituality	Fri	Nov 27	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality
Thurs	Nov 12	6:00pm	Community New Parent Group	Fri	Nov 27	8:15am	Meditation
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sat	Nov 28	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Fri	Nov 13	8:15am	Meditation	Sun	Nov 29	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
Sat	Nov 14	3:00pm 5:30pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm Harvest Dinner/Auction			10:00am	WORSHIP
						11:30am	Church School
						11:30am	Coffee/Conversation
						2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
				Mon	Nov 30	6:00pm	PTSD Group
						7:00pm	Bible Study

Lectionary Readings

November 1, 2009

Ruth 1:1-18 or Deuteronomy 6:1-9 ~ Psalm 146 or Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14 ~ Mark 12:28-34

November 8, 2009

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or 1 Kings 17:8-16 ~ Psalm 127 or Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28 ~ Mark 12:38-44

November 15, 2009

1 Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3 ~ 1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 ~ Mark 13:1-8

November 22, 2009

2 Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 ~ Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) or Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8 ~ John 18:33-37

Thanksgiving Day

November 26, 2009

Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7 ~ Matthew 6:25-33

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First Baptist Church
Box 254
Ithaca, New York 14851

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Don't miss the Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction- November 14th!!!

If you have not notified us of your choice to receive the Visitor newsletter via email notification, please do so now.

If you would like to continue receiving the Visitor newsletter via US Mail, please notify us as soon as possible.

Thank you.

**fbithaca@gmail.com
607-273-5800**

**Po. Box 254
Ithaca, NY 14851**

The deadline for the December newsletter is

November 20th.

Please have prepared items to the office by this date to be sure they are included.

If you have items to share for the bulletin, please prepare them and get them to Beth in the office **no later than the Sunday prior** to the bulletin you wish for them to appear in. Thank you.