

The Visitor

April 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,
P.O. Box 254, Ithaca, NY 14851
607-273-5800
fbdewitt@verizon.net
www.firstbaptistithaca.org



A note from Rev. Richard Rose...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we transition from the season of Lent into the season of Easter, our hearts are stirred with diverse emotions as we encounter and experience Holy week. The theme of forgiveness is one that is a constant and heavy thread in the fabric of the story of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Many of us recall the words of Jesus on the cross where he prayed, "forgive them, for they know not what they do".

Even toward his executioners, Jesus exercised a spirit of forgiveness. But for many of us, forgiveness is a very difficult concept to grasp and far more difficult to practice. If we are offended, we like to relish our status as victims and excuse or justify our subsequent selfish behavior. On the other hand we often lack the courage and resolve required in seeking the forgiveness of those we have wronged.

The miracles of the Easter story invite us to venture outside of our often offended and justifiably resentful selves to embark on a new pathway. Here we are not passive victims, forever put-upon, or persons lacking the strength to be fully human, but people of grace, seeking to move beyond excessive self-interest, toward perpetual graciousness, self care, self-affirmation and a forgiving spirit.

Certainly there is a great difference between a spirit of forgiveness, and continually allowing others to take advantage of our kindness. Again the model of Jesus is helpful as we recall that he never permitted himself to be stepped on, neither did he live resenting his accusers, or become bitter when he faced constant, unwarranted, peril.

Once the seeds of Easter's miracle of new life begin to sprout in our hearts and being to transform us, we can begin practicing an attitude of grace toward the wider world. We can begin this journey by hearing people out before passing judgment, attempting to see things from another's perspective – especially those we disagree with, and working toward embodying an overall spirit of forgiveness and love for all. We achieve this not in some naïve, Pollyannaish way, but from the realization that we have the power and the ability to choose how we are affected by others and how we respond to those who are less than civil toward us.

Easter celebrates new life and new birth and the ever-present "yes" of God to the "no" of hopelessness and despair. With this joy in our hearts, may we seek to be forgiving and gracious people.

Peace be with you,
Rich

Monday evening Bible Study– Our Bible study meets Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church library, and is 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.

"On the one hand I must attempt to change the souls of individuals so that their societies may be changed. On the other hand I must attempt to change the societies so the individual soul will have a change. Therefore, I must be concerned about unemployment, slums, and economic insecurity. I am a profound advocator of the social gospel." – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Written when he was a 19 year old seminary student.)

Your resource for keeping in touch with what's happening at First Baptist!
For a the online version of *The Visitor*, a complete calendar of events
and audio of weekly sermons, check out the First Baptist Church website!
www.firstbaptistithaca.org



Christian Education News

Adult Education

April 5 – Palm Sunday- No adult education
Board Meetings

April 12 – Easter- No adult education
Easter Breakfast

April 19 – Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood – Part 1

The first half of this documentary, which addresses the growing problem of advertising directed at children, teaching them a host of anti-social values and undermining parental authority, will be shown and discussed. This trend will be connected to the larger problem of consumerism in our society and its social and ecological effects.

April 26 - Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Childhood – Part 2

After viewing the second half of this documentary, strategies for resisting commercial messages will be discussed.

Joseph Rayle, discussion leader, is an associate professor in the Foundations & Social Advocacy Department at SUNY Cortland and has a doctorate in Social Foundations of Education from the University of North Carolina. He is interested in how education affects our culture and vice versa. Joseph is on the board of advisors for the Center for Ethics and Peace Studies at SUNY Cortland and the advisory board for the Cortland Interfaith Association. He, his wife Lynette, and their son Nathan, have been attending First Baptist Church for about 6 months and appreciate its atmosphere of openness and tolerance.

Church School News

Church School 3rd 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. Remaining dates for this event are:

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.

Church School Requests

Our nursery is still 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.**



Spirit of Peace Camp will be held again this Summer at First Baptist July 20th - July 24th 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 \$15.00 per child. To register call 273-5800 or email fbdewitt@verizon.net. If you are interested in helping with this outreach project please contact Kris at 273-5800 or email kzet@twcny.rr.com



Your friendly Finance Committee and the hard-working Board of Trustees are pleased to announce a new opportunity, the Pay-a-Bill program, began on Sunday, March 29th. It's a great way for a church member or friend of the church to give additional support to our church beyond his/her regular giving, and is a particularly good way to know exactly where your money is going! Here's how it works: There will be a special Pay-a-Bill bulletin board (near the main exit door to the sanctuary) on which our treasurer, Curt Ufford, will post copies of a number of our bills. If you decide you would like to pay one or more of these bills for your church, simply remove the selected bill from the board, write a check to First Baptist Church in the amount of the bill, fold or clip them together and place them in the offering plate or hand them to our Financial Secretary, Marlene Sack, who will be sure that you are credited with the donation for tax purposes. That's it. If you have any questions about this new, ongoing program beginning next Sunday, please ask Rich Barron.

Lectionary Readings

Liturgy of the Palms ~ Sixth Sunday in Lent

April 5, 2009

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16

Liturgy of the Passion ~ Sixth Sunday in Lent

April 5, 2009

Isaiah 50:4-9a ~ Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 ~ Mark 14:1-15:47 or

Mk 15:1-39, (40-47)

Monday of Holy Week ~ April 6, 2009

Isaiah 42:1-9 ~ Psalm 36:5-11

Hebrews 9:11-15 ~ John 12:1-11

Tuesday of Holy Week ~ April 7, 2009

Isaiah 49:1-7 ~ Psalm 71:1-14

I Corinthians 1:18-31 ~ John 12:20-36

Wednesday of Holy Week ~ April 8, 2009

Isaiah 50:4-9a ~ Psalm 70

Hebrews 12:1-3 ~ John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday ~ (Holy Thursday) ~ April 9, 2009

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 ~ Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19

I Cor. 11:23-26 ~ John 13:1-17,31b-35

Good Friday ~ April 10, 2009

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ~ Psalm 22

Heb. 10:16-25 ~ or ~ Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday ~ April 11, 2009

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16

I Peter 4:1-8 ~ Matt. 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Resurrection of the Lord ~ Easter Day

April 12, 2009

*Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24

I Cor. 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Easter Evening ~ April 12, 2009

Isaiah 25:6-9 ~ Psalm 114

I Corinthians 5:6b-8 ~ Luke 24:13-49

Second Sunday of Easter ~ April 19, 2009

*Acts 4:32-35 ~ Psalm 133

I John 1:1-2:2 ~ John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter ~ April 26, 2009

*Acts 3:12-19 ~ Psalm 4

I John 3:1-7 ~ Luke 24:36b-48

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ May 3, 2009

*Acts 4:5-12 ~ Psalm 23

I John 3:16-24 ~ John 10:11-18

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The First Baptist Church Music Committee for 2009 is as follows:

Rev. Rose ~ Tony Lister & Bill Fry (Trustees) ~ Shella Chace & Sue Eyman (Bd. Of Worship) ~ Michael Cook & Jan Butler (Board of Christian Ed.) ~ Rich Barron (Choir Rep.). If you have questions or concerns about the music at First Baptist Church, please speak to one of the people listed above.

Music Notes for April

March 29

New Creation Singers

April 5 - Palm Sunday

Antiphonal Hosanna – adult and children's choir

Adoramus Te Christe - DuBois

O Sacred Head - Bach

April 9 - Maundy Thursday

Special Music - Sally Ramirez

April 12th - Easter Sunday

Celtic Alleluia

Vulpus Easter Anthem

Cayuga Brass Quartet

April 19 -

Hine Ma Tov- Psalm 133

April 26 -

Janet Cotraccia and Linda Nicholson –

Hammer and a Nail - Indigo Girls

Easter Breakfast RSVP

The First Baptist Church Easter Breakfast will be held on Sunday, April 12th, at 8:30 a.m. All are invited to share their favorite traditional food at our Easter dish-to-share breakfast. If you know you are coming, sign-ups help with table set-up and food selections help with planning. If possible, please return the following RSVP to the church.

I/We will bring (circle one)

BREADS

FRUIT

BAGELS

QUICHE/HOT DISH

Name(s): _____

of people attending _____

EASTER FLOWERS

The church sanctuary is decorated for the Easter Season with your generous contributions of Easter Flowers. If you would like to contribute in this way, please fill out the form below and send to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 254, Ithaca, NY, 14851. Your donations provide a beautiful setting for all during our Holy Week services. Thank you for sharing in this way.

I/We would like to contribute \$_____ for Easter Flowers.

Please circle one:

“In Memory” or “In Honor” (please circle one)

Of _____
(please print name clearly)

Given By:

Women & Girls' State Gathering
American Baptist Women's Ministries of NYS
“Women...Destined For God's Purpose”
April 24—26, 2009
Owego Treadway Inn

A.B. G.I.R.L.S. grades 7-12 invited

Special Guests:

- Friday night Keynote speaker—Rev. Jackie Saxon and concert with The Dunnemans.
Ice cream Social—gift from Springbrook Special gathering for A.B.G.I.R.L.S.—PIZZA
- Saturday & Sunday—Bible Studies with Rev. Martha Cruz
- Saturday— David Sheldon from our mission, The Place, Norwich, NY (see wish list inside)
Chris Marziale from Valley Forge will do two workshops on her mission trips to inspire you!

Costs of ABWomen & Girls Registration: Full time—\$15.00 Part time—\$10.00

(send to ABWM Registrar — after 4/3/09 add a \$5.00 late fee)

Hotel Room & Meals:

Single — \$210.00 **Double**—\$140.00 per person

Triple — \$110.00 per person **Quad** — \$ 99.00 per person

A.B.G.I.R.L.S. are \$20.00 less on Room Rates

[Hotel Registration to be sent with your church Tax Exempt form and church check directly to Treadway Inn.

Ladies this is a tremendous bargain....bring friends!

All registrations due by **April 3, 2009** to both ABWM Convention Registrar & Treadway Inn.

Don't delay — be “purposeful”.

Applications may be found online at <http://www.abc-nys.org/abwg/abwg.php> or in the church office.

Updates to Board Status 2009:

Sue Eyman will chair the Board of Worship and Christian Concern and will represent the board to the Music Committee with Shella Chace.

Tony Lister and Bill Fry of the Trustees will be that board's representatives to the Music Committee.

The Choir representative to the Music Committee is Rich Barron.

Pastoral Relations Committee 2009

Mark Lawrence, Emily Young, Barbara Fry, David Caughey, Lou Carlucci

Chapel Committee

Debbie Allen, Barbara Fry, Tony Lister, Andrea Staffeld