

The Visitor

June 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- Baptist Beginnings, 1639

America's democratic and pluralistic roots were first introduced in the New World in the 1630s. Peeling back the layers of history, one person emerges as central in the formulation of America's foundations: Roger Williams. Little recognized, the story of Baptists in America is the story of American beginnings, with Williams at the center of both.

A former lawyer-turned-clergyman, Williams fled the Old World for the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1631, where as a contrarian Separatist within the Church of England, he became increasingly critical of the merger of church and state. For five years, he modeled a radical faith focused on liberty of conscience, acceptance and respect of persons of other faith, and opposition to state-supported religion. Finally, in 1636, the nettlesome Williams was labeled as a heretic and banished from Massachusetts.

William's travails paved the way for his establishment of a new colony, Rhode Island. Modeled on the principles that, some 140 years later, would become the basis for a new nation, the new colony espoused democracy, pluralism, religious freedom, and separation of church and state.

For Williams, these principles embodied the fledgling Baptist faith of which he had known of in England, and in 1639, embracing believer's baptism, he established the first Baptist church in the New World. Existing yet today, the First Baptist Church of Providence, Rhode Island, is the beginning point for Baptists in America.

While Williams later left the church, colonial Baptists, despite long and intense persecution, carried forward these principles. These Baptists, as was true of Baptists in England, were ridiculed for rejecting infant baptism and heralding religious liberty, but because they were far from the center of Anglican power, they had more opportunities to assert their principles.

Generations of persecution passed and eventually that which Williams planted upon the shores of the New World matured into the foundations of the American nation. Today, his legacy also permeates Baptist life, embedded in our central practices of believer's baptism and liberty of conscience and in our core beliefs of religious liberty and church-state separation.

Monday evening Bible Study— Bible study is currently meeting Monday evenings at 7:00 in the First Baptist Church library. We are considering the book *Christianity and the Social Crisis* by Walter Rauschenbusch. If you are interested in this study or have any questions, please see Rev. Rose.

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



Adult Education

Adult Education Opportunity

Renee Rose will be leading a discussion group on Sundays during Adult Education time beginning May 24th. The group will consider the book The Parent's Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice for Modern Parents, by William Martin. Please contact Renee for more information.

June 7 - Introduction to Living the Questions 2 Series

LtQ2 is a video-based series of 21 sessions designed for small group exploration of progressive Christian issues. The 20-minute video segments include conversations with leading voices of faith, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines. On June 7th, Pastor Rich Rose will introduce this series during the adult education hour in preparation for its use in the 2009-2010 church year.

June 14 - No adult education-
Brunch and Board meetings

June 21 - No adult education-
First Baptist Church Picnic

June 28 - No Adult Education

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. Please join us for the last event of the school year on **June 17th!**

Hope to see you there!

Sunday, June 14th is Children & Youth Sunday and Teacher Recognition. Come celebrate our students and our teachers!



A big thank you to Heather Swift and Earlybird Farms in Ithaca for providing the flowers for the South Door pots and window box. They make our entrance lovely!

The Spring Church Cleanup brought out 18 very productive volunteers from the congregation. Please extend your appreciation to Rich Barron, Liz Wilkinson, Helen Freeman, Amanda & Curt Ufford, Meg Gillard, Deb Allen, Andrea Staffield, Marlene Sack, Steve and Tina Hilsdorf, Kris Scott, Bill Fry, Tony Lister, Frank and Louise Mudrak, Bill Abeles, and Julie Costie. Many extra projects were accomplished such as putting up the new church sign on the North side (Court St.) of the church. The trustees coordinate these clean ups twice a year and there is always plenty to do. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the fall.

Judeo-Christian Traditions and the Earth FBC Study Group Forming

In recent years, scholars have been looking at and writing about our Judeo-Christian traditions and the earth. These works are fascinating and exciting and Board of Education is sponsoring a lay led study group to read and discuss them. The format, content, meeting time and place are flexible and will be defined by people who want to participate. Louise Mudrak, who has been participating in a similar group with other local congregations for 15 months, will facilitate the formation of this group. Please call or email her if you would like to participate (607-273-3825) or lfmudrak@twcny.rr.com.

Items for the weekly bulletin should be given to the office staff **no later than the Sunday prior** to the week you wish for it to appear.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 20TH.
PLEASE HAVE ITEMS PREPARED AND TO THE OFFICE BY THIS DATE IN ORDER FOR THEM TO APPEAR IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE VISITOR. THIS DEADLINE SHOULD BE OBSERVED REGARDLESS OF THE DAYS OR HOURS THE OFFICE IS OPEN.

June 2009 Calendar

Mon	June 1	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	June 2	7:00pm	ACT Meeting
Thurs	June 4	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri	June 5	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	June 6	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	June 7	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Worship-Communion
		11:30am	Church School
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	June 8	5:30pm	Cabinet Meeting
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	June 9	5:30pm	PTSD Group
Thurs	June 11	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri	June 12	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	June 13	10:00am	Brunch Setup
		3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	June 14	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Brunch and Board Meetings
Mon	June 15	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wed	June 17	5:30pm	Dinner-Church School
		7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	June 19	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	June 20	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	June 21	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Church School
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	June 22	7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	June 23	5:30pm	PTSD Group
Wed	June 24	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	June 26	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	June 27	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	June 28	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:30am	Church School
Wed	July 1	7:00pm	Contemplative Prayer
Fri	July 3	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	July 4	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	July 5	9:30am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Worship-Communion
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers

Church Worship & Picnic June 21st at 10:30 a.m. Taughannock Falls State Park Central Pavilion

Plan to bring- a *large dish-to-share*, your own place settings, chairs or blanket, hat and sunscreen.

Directions from Ithaca-

Take Taughannock Blvd. (Rt.89) North along the lake. When you get to the park, enter at the main entrance on the right. After the ticket booth make a slight left to the Central Point parking area. The pavilion is next to the parking area.

Carpools- Since there is a fee to enter the park (\$7 per car), carpools are encouraged. Please arrange to meet at the church no later than 10:00am.

**THERE WILL NOT BE A SERVICE
AT THE CHURCH ON JUNE 21st**



Music at First Baptist

Thanks to all choir members for participating for another great year. We will end our choir season with the following pieces:

May 31 - PENTECOST

Choir - Veni Creator Spiritus chant
YFOFFI

June 3

Choir piece - Sanctus and/or An
Irish Blessing

June 14 - Children's Sunday

Sing to the Lord - Joint adult and
children's choir piece

We are in the process now of scheduling special music for the summer. Please let Jennifer or Christopher know if you're interested in sharing your talent (alone or with a group) on any Sunday during the summer. Thanks!

- Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum 277-SONG

Zambian Children's Fund (ZCF) News

Big and Joyous News! The Chishawasha School had its official opening on May 16. Kathe Padilla has written to us describing the event; copies will be available on the bench outside of the FBC Office. It is also described on the weekly blog of Sam Weeks (our Ithacan who is volunteering at the orphanage and school for the year) at

www.zcfinterest.blogspot.com

More Good News! Our ZCF Working Group- Ithaca is working hard to support and supply a library for the Chishawasha School. We are working to send a suitcase full of good African Stories and Folktales by the end of June. If you would like to learn more about the Library Suitcase Project, contact Barb Fry, Sue Eymann, Tony Lister or Louise Mudrak.

WORKSHOP FOR TRANSGENDER ADVOCACY- On June 2nd, Southern Tier AIDS Program, Planned Parenthood, and The Advocacy Center of Ithaca are sponsoring a 2-part workshop on Transgender health and wellness issues and advocacy. **A morning session will be held in Binghamton from 9:00 a.m. until Noon. *Demystifying the Transgender Experience: Building Competence among Human Service Providers*** for professionals, practitioners, and interested community members at the Binghamton University Downtown Center.

An evening session will be held in Ithaca at First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park (309 n. Cayuga St. Ithaca) from 6:00-8:00p.m. *Getting Our Needs Met: Self-advocacy with Health Care Providers* for transgender, gender variant, intersex, transsexual, questioning or questioned people, family, friends, allies and professionals.

Registration is appreciated but not required. For information and registration, call Brandon at the STAP Ithaca office (607) 277-3203.

Lectionary Readings

Trinity Sunday - June 7, 2009

Isaiah 6:1-8 ~ Psalm 29 ~ Romans 8:12-17~John 3:1-17

June 14, 2009

I Samuel 15:34-16:13 or Ezekiel 17:22-24 ~ Psalm 20 or Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 ~

II Cor 5:6-10; 14-17 or II Cor 5:6-17 ~ Mark 4:26-34

June 21, 2009

I Sam 17:(1a, 4-11,19-23),32-49 or Job 38:1-11 ~ Psalm 9:9-20 (opt. with I Sam 17:57-18:5, 10-16) or

Ps.107:1-3, 23-32 ~ II Corinthians 6:1-13 ~ Mark 4:35-41

June 28, 2009

II Samuel 1:1, 17-27 or Wis. of Sol. 1:13-15, 2:23-24 Psalm 130 or Psalm 30 ~ (opt. with Lamentations 3:23-33)

II Corinthians 8:7-15 ~ Mark 5:21-43

July 5, 2009

II Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 or Ezekiel 2:1-5 ~ Psalm 48 or Psalm 123 ~ II Corinthians 12:2-10 ~ Mark 6:1-13

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