

The Visitor

September 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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www.firstbaptistithaca.org



A note from our pastor...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

September 6th begins a new year of Christian Education for the congregation. With the arrival of many new families with young children we have now added a third Sunday school class for our youngest children. The class for our older boys and girls will meet in the Youth Room downstairs with the other two classes meeting upstairs. If you have never taken the opportunity to visit these classroom spaces, please take a few minutes to do so and afford yourself the opportunity to learn first hand about our exciting, expanding Sunday school classes.

As we have in recent years, we will continue to offer two options for adult Christian education. Renee Rose will continue her class for parents, grandparents and anyone else interested in exploring parenting issues. This year Renee will be utilizing 2 books to augment the thoughtful discussion: *Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting* by Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn and *The Parent's Tao Te Ching: Ancient Advice for Modern Parents* by William Martin.

Other adults are invited to begin a wondrous 21 session video series entitled *Living the Questions 2.0*. LtQ2 is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Comprised of 21 sessions, LtQ2 is divided into seven units each: **Invitation to Journey, Reclaiming the World and Call to Covenant.**

LtQ2 features insightful contributions, observations, anecdotes and stories from Nancy Ammerman, John Bell, Marcus Borg, Minerva Carcaño, John B. Cobb, Jr., John Dominic Crossan, Lloyd Geering, Culver "Bill" Nelson, Siyoung Park, Stephen Patterson, Tex Sample, John Shelby Spong and Emilie Townes, Rita Nakashima Brock, Walter Brueggemann, Ron Buford, Yvette Flunder, James Forbes, Matthew Fox, Hans Küng, Amy-Jill Levine, Meagan McKenna, Rebecca Ann Parker, Helen Prejean, Barbara Rossing, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Bernard Brandon Scott, Rick Ufford-Chase, Winnie Varghese and Mel White.

I hope that you will plan on joining us for an insightful, exciting and beneficial year of Christian education!

Peace,
Rich

Bible Study News

Beginning on Monday September 14th, Rev Rich Rose will begin a study of the Psalms. In anticipation of Walter Brueggemann's visit to our church on November 7th, we will be using his book *The Spirituality of the Psalms* as we seek a deeper understanding and familiarity with these ancient, sacred prayers. All are welcome! Please see Rich if you have any questions or would like a copy of the book.

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive."

~His Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama

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



Celebrating 400 Years of Being Baptist- Separate Baptists

The First Great Awakening, a revival movement that began in the 1720s, was a turning point for Baptists in America. Prior to 1720, Baptists had established only 32 churches with 1,699 members. Initially ignoring or opposing the awakening, most Baptists eventually warmed to and then later completely embraced the revival spirit. As a result, by 1790, Baptists had 978 churches with 67,320 members.

Among those who embraced revivalism were the Separate Baptists. Unlike the Particular Baptists (strong Calvinists), Separate Baptists (more moderate Calvinists) emphasized evangelistic preaching, boisterous worship services, and emotional conversion experiences. They were also known for a greater openness to women's leadership, and some Separate Baptist women served as deaconesses and elders. Others preached and prayed in public worship.

The best-known Separate Baptist woman is Martha Stearns Marshall. Along with her husband, Daniel, Martha converted to Christianity during the First Great Awakening. The couple eventually migrated from New England to Virginia, where they were introduced to Baptist beliefs. Concluding that scripture taught believer's baptism, they were soon baptized and joined a Baptist church, and Daniel was licensed to preach.

But both Marshalls were preachers, and Martha's zeal apparently equaled that of her husband. In 1755, the Marshalls, along with Martha's brother, Shubal Stearns, and his small congregation in Virginia, moved to North Carolina.

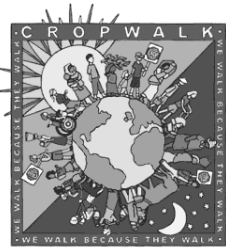
The group settled at Sandy Creek and established a Baptist church, which became the most influential Separate Baptist church in the South, and Martha often stood alongside Shubal to preach at church meetings. A few years later, the Marshalls moved to nearby Abbott's Creek and founded a new church, and in 1771, they moved to Columbia County, Georgia, where they established in Kiokee the first Baptist church in Georgia. In all these churches, Martha provided excellent leadership, and in 1810, Virginia Baptist historian Robert Semple wrote: "Mr. Marshall had a rare felicity of finding in this lady a Priscilla, a helper in the gospel. In fact, it should not be concealed that his extraordinary success in the ministry is ascribable in no small degree to Mrs. Marshall's unwearied, and zealous co-operation. Without the shadow of a usurped authority over the other sex, Mrs. Marshall, being a lady of good sense, singular piety, and surprising elocution, has, in countless instances melted a whole concourse into tears by her prayers and exhortations!"

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee is looking for new members. Please contact Mark Lawrence if you're interested
mal64@cornell.edu

PAY-A-BILL

Your friendly Finance Committee and the hard-working Board of Trustees are pleased to announce a new opportunity, the Pay-a-Bill program. 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, please ask Rich Barron.



2009 CROP Walk for Hunger Set for October 4, 2009

Help Raise Money for Global and Local Hunger Relief by Joining the 2009 CROP Walk for Hunger! Area Congregations Together (ACT) is again sponsoring the annual CROP Walk for Hunger.

Date: Sunday October 4,
Time: 1:30 p.m. registration,
2:00 p.m. for the walk,
Place: Ithaca Commons.

The next meeting of ACT will be a Cropwalk motivational gathering is September 1st, 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Amy Bobette from Church World Service in Syracuse will visit to remind us what CROP monies do and tell how other walks are doing it! All are invited. This past year the 2008 walk contributed over \$3,000 to our local Kitchen Cupboard. Please see Danny Scott or Susan Eymann for CROP materials.

First Baptist has a new custodian. David Hopkins began work at the end of July, cleaning and caring for our old building. David has recently moved to NY from the Duluth, Minnesota, area. He is a skilled carpenter, as well as a musician, beekeeper, and all around pleasant guy. The search committee of Helen Freeman, Kris Scott, Marlene Sack and Rich Rose felt he would bring many attributes to this position and was the best candidate for the position. He has a genuine appreciation for the historical structure and beauty of First Baptist. If you see a tall man with a ponytail scrubbing away on the baseboards or vacuuming the sanctuary, please welcome David to our staff.



CHOIR IS BEGINNING SOON!!!

The First Baptist Choir is about to start for the year. Our first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 3rd from 7-8:30 in the Community Room. We'll begin singing for services on Sunday, September 6th.

New members always welcome!

For more information, contact Jennifer at JLBirnbaum@yahoo.com or 277-SONG.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!

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

Adult Education Begins Sept. 6 with "Living the Questions" Series

Explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

The fall adult education curriculum kicks off September 6th with an invitation to journey through the "Living the Questions" series, designed as a small group exploration for progressive Christians. Twenty-minute video segments feature premier religion voices of our day including Marcus Borg, John Shelby Spong, Walter Brueggemann, James Forbes, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, and Rick Ufford-Chase.

The series strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. It includes conversations with leading voices of faith, sermon and lecture clips, digital stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines and will be followed each week by discussion.

We will watch and discuss the first four segments of the series:

- 1) An Invitation to Journey
- 2) Taking the Bible Seriously
- 3) Thinking Theologically
- 4) Stories of Creation through October 4th.

Then adult education will take a break from the series for several Sundays to explore other themes (yet to be finalized) before continuing with the series at the end of the year. If you have questions or comments about adult education, please speak to Debbie Allen, Louise Mudrak, Jud Kilgore or Susan Eymann.

I read it in the newspaper...

Maybe you have noticed that newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and/or pictures that feature First Baptist people go on the church bulletin board. More importantly they go into a file for the archives. The bulletin board is a way of showing others what our congregation are doing now, and saving these items will illuminate the life and soul of our congregation in the years to come. I don't always get to read the paper or see various local newsletters, so when you see a F.B. friend mentioned in various print media, please cut it out, date and note the publication, and get it to the office. These articles and pictures reflect who we are and will be much appreciated...

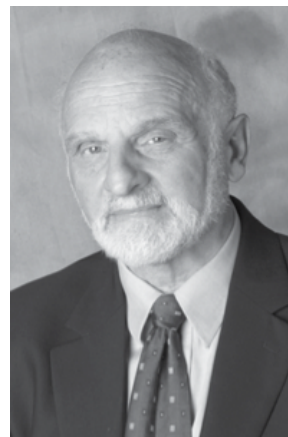
~Linda Caughey

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN IS COMING TO TOWN!

NOVEMBER 6th-8th

Psalms- A Faithful Script for the Practice of Pain and Hope

Walter Brueggemann has written over forty books and commentaries on the Old Testament. A professor emeritus of the Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, he was the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at the seminary, from 1992 until 2003. Prior to his tenure at Columbia, Brueggemann taught at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri, and in 1987 was a guest lecturer at Cambridge. He received degrees from Elmhurst College, Eden and Union Theological Seminaries and a Ph.D. in education from St. Louis University, as well as numerous honorary degrees. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and a contributing editor to *Christian Century* and *Sojourners*. He currently resides in Cincinnati, OH. The following books will be available for purchase during the weekend:



- *The Prophetic Imagination* - 2002 Revised Edition
- *Praying the Psalms: Engaging Scripture and the Life of the Spirit* - 2007 Second Edition
- *Spirituality of the Psalms* -2002 Abridged Version of The Message of the Psalms

Schedule of Events

Friday, Nov. 6 –

Cornell University - Evening Event for Students with the Cornell Protestant Cooperative Ministry

Saturday, Nov. 7 –

First Presbyterian Church 9:30am - Registration and light refreshments

10:00am - 11:30am Session 1 w/ Q & A

First Baptist Church

11:45am - Lunch (add'l cost \$10 or on your own in downtown Ithaca)

1:00pm - 2:15pm Session 2

First Presbyterian Church

7:00pm- Jazz Concert

Bill Carter and the PresbyBop Quartet will be performing selections off of their album "Psalms Without Words." To find out more about this group visit:

www.presbybop.com

Sunday, Nov. 8

First Presbyterian Church 9:30am- Worship Service with First Baptist

Sermon by Walter Brueggemann

11:10am- Adult Education led by Walter Brueggemann

For registration information contact: office@firstpresithaca.org or 607-272-2800

Welcome new members!

Anne and Steve Farrell joined our family on June 7, 2009. They come to us from the McGrawville Baptist Church, McGraw, NY, where they were members for over 30 years. The Farrells have a daughter, Frances, who lives in Boston, MA. She is a teacher.

Anne's hobbies are interior decorating (own home), reading, walking, and cooking. Steve's hobbies are talking with people, and visiting. Together, Anne and Steve are baseball fans, especially the Yankees! Anne has joined our choir. Steve and Anne have become part of the Bible Study group, dinner discussion gathering, and several other parts of our church program.

Welcome to both of you!! We are happy to have you join us.

Faith In Action

This month, we continue to highlight one product or company found in *The Better World Shopping Guide** in an effort to help us practice our faith in every avenue of life.

This month, dish soap. We all use it. We don't necessarily get excited about it, but its one of those necessities that is a regular part of our lives. As harmless a product as it seems, some of the major corporations that produce it continue to engage in the needless and cruel testing of their products on animals, and in the production process continue to emit harmful chemicals such as sulfuric acid, epichlorohydrin, and bromine into the environment.

Rather than contribute your hard earned money toward these ends, there is something easy and relatively painless that each of us can do. Next time you're running low on dish soap, rather than looking for the cheapest brand, or the national favorite look for dish soap from the following companies:

- o **Seventh Generation** – (named the best company on the planet based on overall social and environmental records)
- o **Method**
- o **Biokleen**
- o **Planet**
- o **Ecover**
- o **Earth Friendly**

(many of these are available at Tops, Wegmans, Target and Greenstar and all have received a grade of A+ or A from *The Better World Shopping Guide* - copies are available from the church for \$12.00)

Together we can not only get our dishes squeaky clean, but the planet cleaner, safer, and greener as well!

That's all for this month – Happy "Green" dishwashing!

Peace,

Rich

*(The only comprehensive guide for socially and environmentally responsible consumers available, this book ranks every product on the shelf from A to F. Representing over 15 years of distilled research, data is organized into the most common product categories including coffee, energy bars, computers, gasoline, clothing, banks, cars, water and more. Copies are available at the church)

Lectionary Readings

SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

PROVERBS 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 OR ISAIAH 35:4-7A

PSALM 125 OR PSALM 146

JAMES 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 ~ MARK 7:24-37

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

PROVERBS 1:20-33 OR ISAIAH 50:4-9A

PSALM 19 OR PSALM 116:1-9 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 7:26 - 8:1

JAMES 3:1-12 ~ MARK 8:27-38

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

PROVERBS 31:10-31 OR WISDOM OF SOLOMON 1:16-2:1, 12-22 OR JEREMIAH 11:18-20

PSALM 1 OR PSALM 54

JAMES 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8A ~ MARK 9:30-37

SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

ESTHER 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 OR NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

PSALM 124 OR PSALM 19:7-14

JAMES 5:13-20 ~ MARK 9:38-50

September 2009 Calendar

Tues	September 1	7:00pm	ACT Meeting
		7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Choir
Wed	September 2	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality Group
Fri	September 4	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	September 5	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	September 6	10:00am	WORSHIP-Communion
		11:30am	Doorstep Reception
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	September 7	6:00pm	PTSD Group
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	September 8	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Choir
Wed	September 9	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality Group
Fri	September 11	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	September 12	10:00am	Brunch Setup
		3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	September 13	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:15am	Brunch and Board Meetings
Mon	September 14	5:30pm	Cabinet Meeting
		6:00pm	PTSD Group
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	September 15	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Choir
Wed	September 16	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality Group
Thurs	September 17	5:30pm	New Parents Support Group
Fri	September 18	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	September 19	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	September 20	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:15am	Christian Education
		2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers
Mon	September 21	6:00pm	PTSD Group
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	September 22	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Choir
Wed	September 23	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality Group
Thurs	September 24	5:30pm	New Parents Support Group
Fri	September 25	8:15am	Meditation
Sat	September 26	3:00pm	Parent CoOp 3-7pm
Sun	September 27	10:00am	WORSHIP
		11:15am	Christian Education
Mon	September 28	6:00pm	PTSD Group
		7:00pm	Bible Study
Tues	September 29	7:00pm	Ithaca Gay Men's Choir
Wed	September 30	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality Group

The deadline for the
October newsletter is
September 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.

Please note that
First Baptist has a
new email address.

fbithaca@gmail.com

You may begin using
it immediately.

Barbara Galaska, 85, member of First Baptist Church, passed away on Friday, July 10th, 2009.

The Visitor

First Baptist Church
Box 254
Ithaca, New York 14851

{ Return Service Requested }

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Have you made your choice known yet? Please take this opportunity to do so now.

Recognizing the opportunity to cut down on energy use and expenses, we would like to change the way we deliver our newsletter to the majority of recipients on our mailing list. **Now, you can choose to receive email notification of when our newsletter is available on the website. You can view it hot off the presses as soon as it is finished. No more waiting for the post office to deliver to find out what's going on at First Baptist church!**

Are you an "Out of Towner?" Do you use the Internet regularly? Do you have an email address?

Then you may be a perfect candidate for this option!

The primary goal of the Visitor is to keep in touch with First Baptist members and friends and to keep you connected with all that's going on. For this reason, we will continue to offer a mailed paper copy to those who request it. In order for us to make this change at all, we have to cut our current postal mailing list by two-thirds (about 140!)

Please take a moment to email us at **fbithaca@gmail.com** (please note new email address) or **call 607-273-5800** and choose from the following:

1. I would like to stop getting a paper copy of the Visitor newsletter and receive email notification of its availability online.
My email address is: _____ My name is: _____
2. I would like to stop getting a mailed paper copy and pick a copy up at the church instead.
3. I would like to continue receiving my Visitor newsletter in the regular mail. My name and address are:
My mailing address is: _____ My name is: _____

Thank you. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

September 2009