

THE VISITOR

What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8

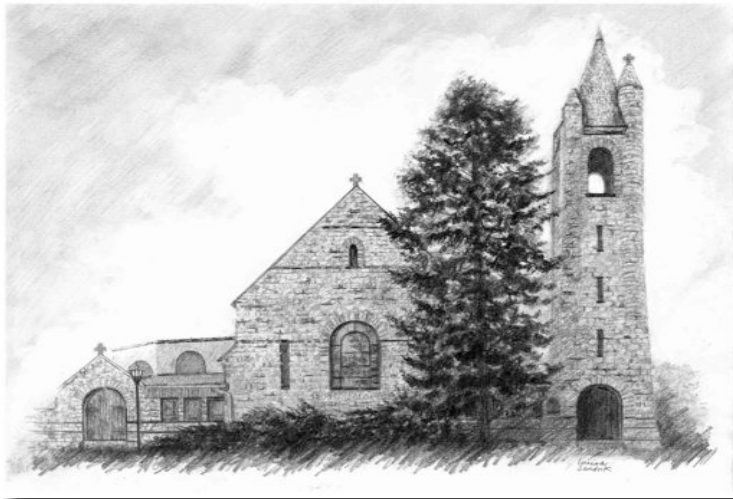
First Baptist Church, DeWitt Park,

309 North Cayuga Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

607-273-5800

fbithaca@gmail.com

www.firstbaptistithaca.org



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

A quick glance around the church reveals the fact that things are rapidly changing and developing. Certainly, over time, almost everything changes including the physical structure in which we worship, pray and learn. Over the course of the last year or so and continuing into the near future, we will spend a sizable sum on improving, maintaining and refurbishing our church. In addition to our many outreach avenues of Christian care and concern,

our ongoing opportunities for Christian education and fellowship, and our dynamic worship services, I believe that creating a more functional, beautiful, ecological and accessible building is the work of the gospel and living into the kingdom of God as well. In the past year we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of our church by several non-church affiliated community groups who; come weekly to mediate and pray in our chapel, hold meetings of hope and healing in various rooms throughout the building, have met with Congressman Hinchey regarding the continued U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, and rehearse and perform a variety of music celebrating the vast diversity of Ithaca, just to name a few. Undoubtedly the future will afford us

JULY 2010

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further opportunities to host and welcome members of the community as well as our congregation in new and exciting ways which we are yet to imagine!

I trust that you see the value and share the excitement and hope that these ongoing improvements and enhancements generate as we continue to grow as a welcoming, hospitable, loving and gracious church.

Peace be with you,

Rich



FBC's Office Hours

Just a reminder that Heather is in the office Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m to 1 p.m.

Please note that if you send an email to fbithaca@gmail.com, or leave a phone message at the church office on Friday after 1 p.m., please don't expect Heather to respond to it until after the weekend, the following Tuesday. If you would like to send me an email directly please send it to revrichrose@gmail.com.

Please continue to be mindful and considerate of Heather's hours in the office and attempt to contact her only during these hours.

Thanks very much.

Rich

FBC Pastor's Fund

The Pastor's Fund is currently depleted.

If you would like to make a donation to this fund, (which has recently been used to provide emergency assistance to needy individuals both within the congregation and within the Ithaca community), please write a check to:

First Baptist Church and mark "Pastor's Fund" in the memo line. Donations of any size are appreciated.

Thank you to Sarah Murray & Dick Fielding for dedicating your time and energy to sorting through the FBC library!

We are looking forward to making the library a more useful and 'living' resource for members and friends.

Many thanks!

Spotlight on Betty Brown



Several months ago it occurred to me how little I knew about the history of First Baptist and more importantly the history of the church's most faithful. I realized a rich part of FBC's history resides with its current members. I decided to do a series of interviews of those in our congregation who can tell the story first hand. Betty Brown was willing to be the first interviewee.

Betty moved to Ithaca with her family when she was fifteen years old. Her family had been involved with a much more conservative Baptist Church in Unadilla Forks so she isn't quite sure why they started going to First Baptist Church in DeWitt Park. Like many of us, her family attended other churches in the area before settling in at First Baptist. Dr. **Boutwell** was the pastor at the time and she remembers he was a very gifted

speaker and his demeanor tended to be rather stern. As a Cornell student, Betty sang in the choir, was part of a very active student (college) group and made many lifelong friends. Dr. Fetter was the university pastor who would have 20-30 students at his home on Sunday nights for fellowship, discussions and enthusiastic singing. Overnight retreats were also part of the college church experience. The church filled a need for young people by providing social activities during the war years of the 1940's.

Betty completed both her bachelors and masters degrees in Home Economics Education at Cornell University. Her master's work was done on weekends and during summer vacations while she was a teacher of home economics at King Ferry Central School (now Southern Cayuga School District). She taught there for six years and in 1953 moved to Pittsford, NY, outside of Rochester for another 13 years as a high school teacher. She continued to attend First Baptist in Ithaca when she was able to get home. Winters in central New York often presented a problem for getting back and forth to Ithaca.

In 1965 she was hired as an Associate Supervisor for the State Home Economics Education program that had oversight of the state curriculums for high schools and colleges. She also reviewed facilities and helped with teaching techniques. She became Bureau Chief in the late 70's where she finished out her career in 1985. Her work was centered in Albany, NY, so it was more difficult to attend FBC as often, but she stayed connected. Her job required her to travel around New York and across the country which also kept her away from Ithaca. In later years, state budget cuts reduced the amount of time she spent on the road.

Betty retired in 1985 and returned to live in Ithaca with her sister, Janet. She again became very active with FBC serving as the chair of the Worship and Christian Concern Board and chair of the Education Board. When David Evans retired and the church was in transition, Betty was appointed as volunteer coordinator and served for 18 months in 1994 and 1995, coordinating volunteers and events. She and Janet also hosted the annual garage sale at their home in 1996.

During Betty's tenure as an FBC member, six pastors and two interim pastors have served the congregation: Dr. **Boutwell**, Bill Hicks, Christian Jensen, David Evans, Margie Latham, Wendy Fambro, John Laney and Rich Rose. She recalls how Dave Evans shook up the congregation with services that didn't follow any strict order and advocated working on social justice issues.

Betty Brown interview, continued

Two major issues Betty recalls, arose in the 1970's. The Sanctuary Movement which provided support for illegal immigrants from Nicaragua absorbed much of the church's energy. The legal issues involved were of great concern to some in the congregation. The renovation of the church sanctuary in the 70's was also a major challenge for the congregation. The floor was leveled, the wooden pews removed and chair pews, made the sanctuary more versatile and the church more useful. While these renovations were made, the church held services at St. John's Episcopal Church on Buffalo Street.

When asked why she continues to enjoy being a Baptist, she points out two of the more important aspects of being an American Baptist are the freedom of expression and having input into how the church operates.

~submitted by Marlene Sack



FBC Piano Cover Needs Your TLC!

Thanks to the generosity of Myra Fincher, our piano is sporting a beautifully refurbished cover.

When using the piano, please be gentle with the cover as you remove, fold, and replace it.
Many thanks to Myra!

Join us for Casual Sundays in the Park after Church!

Last Sunday kicked off our "Casual Sundays in the Park"...where folks hang around in Dewitt after church and either brings lunch or picks up something at Oasis. The kids play, the adults talk, babies are passed and chased after. Sometimes there are many families, sometimes two or three, always it is good, solid community time for whoever is there.

We hit Taughannock last weekend to swim! It might be fun to switch it up and visit other parks together. So if you're in the mood, join us one, or all Sundays. The Roses tend to be there most Sundays. It is also a nice way to introduce friends who are curious about the church to the group in a very casual, easy way.

~submitted by Renee Rose



Ruth VanMarter Hathaway Ostrander
February 25, 1909- April 30,2010

Ruth VanMarter Hathaway Ostrander, 101, passed away April 30, 2010. Ruth was born in Ithaca to Clara and Roscoe Van Marter, February 25, 1909. She graduated Ithaca High in 1927 and Cortland State in 1930. She taught 9 years at Chadwicks, and 25 years at Cayuga Heights. George W. Hathaway was her husband from 1947 until his death in 1954. After her 1973 retirement, Vinton Ostrander, her high school sweetheart came back to town. They married and shared 20 wonderful years together. She was an active member of First Baptist Church, Ithaca, and Belleview Heights Baptist Church, Sun City, AZ.

Ruth enjoyed butterflies, outings with her 'picnic group', traveling, bridge, crossword and jigsaw puzzles.

She was predeceased by her brother C. Murray Van Marter.

Survivors include her nieces, Susan (Kent) V. Oakes, Denver, Judy (Jim) V. Simmons, Trumansburg, and Debbie (Rich) Kippola, Trumansburg, nephew, Courtney Oakes, Denver, cousin, Gertrude Squier, Rochester, NY, and step-son, V. Pierce (Joyce) Ostrander II, Seal Beach CA .

A memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church in DeWitt Park, Ithaca, Saturday, July 10th at 11am.

Memorial gift may be made to First Baptist Church, 309 N Cayuga St. Ithaca, NY 14850.

Summer Christian Education Program

Please note that the discussion of Augustine's *Confessions* will take place during the summer on Sunday mornings at 8:45 in the church library. This change in the hour for adult education is in effect for the summer only. Adult education will return to the 11:30 Sunday morning time in September when Sunday School begins. We hope that this change will make it easier for parents with children to attend and allow for time to interact with others at the doorstep reception after worship.

Comprised of 13 Books (chapters) written between AD 397 and AD 398, Augustine created a new form of self-expression, especially about intensely personal feelings and experiences, that remains the most influential way to explore the mysteries of religious belief.

You may join the book discussion at any time. Please call Alexei Waters (262-0229) for information about purchasing the book and which chapter is being discussed.

Upcoming Events

Rich's B-Day/Thousands of One Concert at Taughannock, July 10th

Rich's birthday is the 8th of July and on Saturday, the 10th, the "Thousands of One" (an Ithaca band) are playing at Taughannock for the summer concert series. Lots of fun: people hang out on the lawn, dance, listen and eat and drink as they choose. We hope that you will celebrate with us!

Check them out at thousandsofone.com. Ad for them describes them this way: "*Highly addictive, Afro-HipHop-Funk-Soul Groove*". \$5 per car parking. Music begins at 7pm a little late for the kiddies but they can run about and dance in delirium disturbing no one with only the price to pay (for you) later...at church. We'd like to invite you to party at our house around 5 (dish to pass) to cover dinner (we'll do cake), and then everyone is welcome to park at our house and maybe our neighbors' (we have one) if necessary and we could cram into cars to save a few bucks.

We live right on Rte. 89, 5 miles up from the park in Covert, at 8924 on the left (raised ranch, stone bottom, wood top, right after Halls Corners Rd). If you get to the Cayuga Creamery, *don't* get ice cream; turn around and come back, you've gone too far!

No gifts, PLEASE. Just you, the family, and you could bring the adult or kiddie beverage of your choosing. Rich would love to have any and all of you celebrate with him. He will be 45! Let's head off the midlife crisis together...

~submitted by Renee Rose



Whether you call it a yard sale, a rummage sale, a tag sale, or a garage sale... get ready, it's coming!
First Baptist Church Annual Garage Sale
Saturday, August 28th

Garage Sale Donations accepted beginning JULY 25!

Please use the following drop off days & times to deliver your items (clean and in good repair) for the sale, July 25:
Sundays after church
Tuesdays 9 to 11 a.m.
Thursdays 5 to 7 p.m.
Questions? call Sue @ 272-8619
or email Andrea ajm21@cornell.edu.





FBC Trip to Sea Breeze at the end of August

Last summer we made a trip up to Sea Breeze Amusement (and water) Park in Rochester and had a lot of fun. The buzz seems to be that we should make a tradition of this. The kids around church have already started asking when we will go. The dates will be announced soon!

The cost will be approximately \$18 or \$19 per person with the group rate (we just need 15 of us to qualify). Usually there is a coupon that can be used as well.

It seems best to bring or buy food there rather than cater. Also there are a few restaurants nearby for takeout as we will likely go into the dinner hour by the time we head out. It's a nice size park for the smaller set to teenagers and includes a kiddie park, kiddie water slides and carousel and train ride for the littler kids. Details and dates to come! In the mean time, check out the website: <http://www.seabreeze.com/>

~Submitted by Renee Rose

Have Something to Contribute to the Visitor?? Share it!

Your submissions help to keep the newsletter current and to keep members and friends abreast of what's happening in the FBC community. Please share your articles, stories, photos, book reviews, events, requests for prayer, poetry, messages of thanks, etcetera. Send your submissions to fbithaca@gmail.com.

Upcoming monthly deadlines for future issues of the Visitor are as follows:

August Edition:	Friday, July 23rd
September:	Friday, August 20th
October:	Friday, September 24th
November:	Friday, October 22nd
December:	Friday, November 26th
January:	Monday, December 20th



A note from Naomi Hollister:

Please save your box tops from qualifying soup cans, cereals, baking items, and paper products! They will be sent to Springbrook, our home in Oneonta, where they are redeemed for education materials used by their residents.

Springbrook is a not-for-profit, state-licensed organization serving more than 550 people with developmental disabilities from across New York State and beyond. Their programs are designed to teach the skills needed to maximize potential, but also to put those experiences in a context. They work at school, in communities and in the home to create a comprehensive learning experience that makes every day a chance to discover, build and grow.

www.springbrookny.org/

Box Tops can be placed in the offertory, or dropped off at the office at your convenience.

Upcoming Events

Pay-A-Bill Program Continues

"Please note, the Pay-a-Bill bulletin board is near the sanctuary door. If you would like to pay one of the church's bills, simply take the bill of your choice off the bulletin board and put it in the offering plate along with a check or cash equaling the amount of the bill, or mail the bill to the church along with a check of the same amount.

You'll be credited with the gift to the church, and we'll all be grateful for your contribution.

Any questions? Ask Rich Barron.

Updating the FBC Library

Sarah Murray and Heather Swift would like to make our church library more useful to you! If there are books that you would like to see added to the library, please send an email to the church office. We strongly encourage those who wish to donate to shop locally first (Autumn Leaves, or Buffalo Street Books) where a living wage is guaranteed.

Book donations will be accepted at the church office. If you wish to make a monetary contribution and dedicate a book in honor, or memory of a loved one, please contact us. sarai82070@aol.com
fbithaca@gmail.com.

Spirit of Peace Camp

will be held again this summer at First Baptist July 19th - July 23rd 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 fbithaca@gmail.com

If you are interested in helping with this outreach project please contact Kris at 273-5800 or email



The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.
Amen.

--- Reinhold Niebuhr
(1892-1971)

First Baptist Calendar

July 7	7:00pm	Women's Spirituality	July 20	6:00pm	PTSD Group
July 9	8:15am	Meditation		11:45am	Staff Meeting
	7:00pm	Father's Night in Library		3:30pm	Spirit Circle
July 10	11:00am	Ruth Ostrander		5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
		Memorial Service	July 21	9:30am	Peace Camp
July 11	8:45am	Adult Ed/ Augustine's		7:00pm	Women's Spirituality
		Confessions	July 22	9:30am	Peace Camp
	10:00am	WORSHIP	July 23	8:15am	Meditation
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers		9:30am	Peace Camp
July 12	Rev. Rose @ Peace Camp for the Week		July 24	9:30am	Peace Camp
	6:00pm	PTSD Group	July 25	8:45am	Adult Ed/ Augustine's
July 13	12:00pm	Staff Meeting			Confessions
	5:30pm	Sufi Meditation		10:00am	WORSHIP
July 18	8:45am	Adult Ed/ Augustine's	July 26	6:00pm	PTSD Group
		Confessions	July 27	10:00am	Staff Meeting
	10:00am	WORSHIP June 20		5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
		Robin Lunn Preaching	July 30	8:15am	Meditation
	2:00pm	Sacred Harp Singers	June 29	3:30pm	Spirit Circle
July 19	9:30am	Peace Camp		5:30pm	Sufi Meditation
	6:00pm	PTSD Group	August 1	8:45am	Adult Ed/ Augustine's
					Confessions
				10:00am	WORSHIP

Lectionary Readings

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 11, 2010

Amos 7:7-17, Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 18, 2010

Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52 or Psalm 82

Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost ~ July 25, 2010

Hosea 1:2-10, Psalm 85

Colossians 2:6-19, Luke 11:1-13

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 1, 2010

Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43

Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 8, 2010

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 15, 2010

Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 22, 2010

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ August 29, 2010

Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Finger Lakes Re-Use

Finger Lakes ReUse operates a community-oriented warehouse, shopping, and educational center where the maximum reuse of materials is a priority; where safety, cleanliness, customer service, good business, education, and creativity are stressed; where living wage jobs are created and supported; where mentoring opportunities are available; and where education in the skills of repair and reuse is offered. Their aim is for everyone in the community to enjoy and partake in the services offered by Finger Lakes ReUse and, in time, to also assist other communities in the region to develop reuse services. Something to think about post-FBC rummage sale! They also offer a pick up and delivery service!

Computers*, laptops*, printers*, cell phones*, monitors**, video games and consoles, color cable-ready TVs (in working condition), stereo equipment, VCRs, CD players, cameras, telephones, projectors, and more.

*Computer equipment does not need to be functioning.

**There will be a \$5 handling fee charged for CRT Monitors, and monitors must not be cracked or physically damaged.

Please call (607) 257-9699 for more information.



Photo Credits: Heather Swift

THE VISITOR

First Baptist Church, Dewitt Park

309 North Cayuga Street,

P.O. Box 254, Ithaca, New York 14851

Return Service Requested

Recipient