



# The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Rochester

August 2015  
Vol. II, No. 8

175 Allens Creek Road . Rochester, NY 14618 . (585) 244-2468

www.fbcrochester.net



And we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

- Romans 8:28

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## PASTOR'S COMMENTARY

I remember a lecture by William Fisher. Dr. Fisher was speaking of Romans 8:28, where Paul writes, 'And we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose' (RSV). You've undoubtedly heard many sermons on the Good Samaritan in which you were encouraged to help those who had fallen along the way. But what about it when you are the one who has been hurt? What do you do when you are the one who has been beaten and bruised and left lying along the roadside? How can you handle your hurts?

First, you can resent your hurts. You can whine or scream or cry, 'Why did it have to happen to me?' If that's all you do as you lie wounded along the roadside, the acid of your resentment will begin to eat into your spirit and allow bitterness and resentment to take up in your heart. Thousands of hospital beds are filled with people who have added the weight of resentment to their hurt. And no mind, body, or spirit can carry indefinitely the enormous weight of sickness and resentment, of bereavement and bitterness, of hurt and hatred.

Second, you can give in to your hurts in a passive resignation that is a thinly disguised fatalism. 'Whatever will be, will be' is the only song lots of people know how to sing when they find themselves lying along the



roadside hurt by some unexpected sorrow or unexplained tragedy. How easy and tempting it is to lie there after you've been knocked down and say, 'What's the use?' I cannot count the number of people I know who have been robbed of energy and enthusiasm for life because they just shrugged their shoulders and gave in to their hurt and said, 'Well, that's the way the ball bounces.'

There is a third and better way to handle your hurts and that is to surrender them to the only 'One' who really understands and is always available. Help for your hurts may not always come in the way – or from the people – you expect. The 'priests' and the 'Levites' may be so involved with their own professional interests or religious duties or drained by their own hang-ups and hurts that there is no surplus of concern and help for you.



But God not only understands your hurt; God's help is always available – if you will surrender your hurt to God, while trusting God's love and the adequacy of God's grace. Even Jesus, who knew every kind of hurt, said in the desolation and agony of the Cross, 'Into thy hands I commend, I commit.' And that is the most successful way for anyone to handle the hurts of life. In Fisher's words, 'God knows exactly the balm that is needed. He knows how to bind up the wound, how to salvage good out of evil, and how to make the entire experience glorify him and enrich and deepen you.'

William James once said, 'The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.' It isn't the hurt in life that determines the quality of life. It is the attitude one takes toward it. And whether your hurts harden, or hinder, or help will depend upon your attitude toward them.

Blessings as we approach the sultry days of summer!

Cliff Houston  
Interim Pastor, FBCR

## OUR MISSION

### One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

During the *Summertime of Grace* sermon and study series, we are placing our giving emphasis on One Great Hour of Sharing. When someone is in need, whether through disaster, poverty, oppression, or neglect, OGHS is there to lend a hand, provide water and shelter, give assistance, and offer prayer.

If you are moved to give to this very worthy offering supported by FBCR, ABC-USA and others, we will accept this pass-through donation through August 23, 2015.



**One Great Hour**  
OF SHARING

Coming together as a family



### Sign up today for August 2

Join us for a light lunch in Hubbell Hall immediately following worship. Choose from a variety of meats and cheeses, or meat and vegetable sub sandwiches, fruit, veggies, and treat.

#### Why do we need to meet?

So that everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas, as a church family. We will work together to define our *Core Values*.

#### Why determine our Core Values?

By determining our Core Values, we learn more about *who we are* and *who we want to be in the future*. Our mission with Christ is shared through living out our Core Values with others. They will also help a new potential pastor and the Search Team know if our common values work well together. Ultimately, Core Values help us connect to our community in a meaningful and effective way.

This is important and we need you! Please plan to join us.

# OUR COMMUNITY

Reaching out to others



## Brighton Food Depot

### August Challenge:

During our last month of the summer and days before school begins again, we are gathering needed items for the children's September bags.

### What do we need?

One item that we always seem to need is Cereal. Why? Most likely it is because a box of Cereal costs a little more than some of the items we request. But our need is still real. In order to feed these needy kids, won't you consider about \$3 worth of goods this month by donating a box of Cereal and maybe a box of Spaghetti as well.

**WE NEED: Cereal and Boxed Spaghetti**

## Remington-Hubbell Circle News



Please remember that we are **COLLECTING SOCKS** for the children at *Cameron Community Ministries*. These items will be given to the children before school starts in September. It means so much for the children to have something **new** to start the school year.

Also construction paper, colored markers and pencils, and washable paints would be appreciated.

A basket for your donations is available by the Vitality Table in the Garden Room.

Thanks for your continued support of our outreach ministry.

## Implementing our Welcoming and Affirming Policy

On Monday, July 6, 2015, the church's Welcoming and Affirming Committee met. Those attending were Chuck Sparnecht, Don Hawkecker, Lynn McClellan, Marcia McCarthy, Marge Forth, Mark Harnischfeger, Rose Welch, and Sally Dodgson. The committee decided on two specific and doable goals: increase the visibility of the First Baptist Church in the Rochester Community and increase the visibility of this committee within the First Baptist Church.

We decided to be a visible, cheering presence while wearing our blue First Baptist Church T-shirts along the route of the Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, July 18. The committee members with Mary P. Simmons, Denise McClellan, and Diane Iacopelli cheered the marchers as they passed by. There were a number of Rochester churches who had a visible presence marching on the parade route. It was a happy occasion. On Sunday, July 19, there was a photo display on the Vitality Table that was done by Sally Dodgson.

You are invited to speak to any of the members of this committee, attend the next meeting of this group, and bring your ideas for implementing our Welcoming and Affirming decision. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the church. We hope to see you there.



A few members waiting for the parade to pass by.

# GOINGS ON

## OCCURRENCES OF INTEREST

### Sunday, August 2

#### Summartime of Grace

Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM  
**Unity Luncheon**—Discussion 11:00A–12:45P

### Wednesday, August 5

Mission Meeting 5:00 PM  
Pastoral Search 5:00 PM

### Sunday, August 9

#### Summartime of Grace

Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM  
Fellowship 11:00 AM

### Monday, August 10

Trustees 6:30 PM  
Welcome & Affirm Team 7:00 PM

### Sunday, August 16

#### Summartime of Grace

Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM  
Fellowship 11:00 AM

### Monday, August 17

[Library](#) Team 9:30 AM  
Council 6:00 PM

### Sunday, August 23

#### Summartime of Grace

Christian Survival Kit  
Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM  
Fellowship 11:00 AM

### Tuesday, August 25

FBC Book Club 11:30 AM  
*To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

### Sunday, August 30

Worship 10:00 AM  
Fellowship 11:00 AM



Peg and I are deeply grateful for all of the expressions of sympathy and support as we've dealt with Peg's father's final illness and death. The deep spirit of caring, which has been so characteristic of First Baptist, has lifted us up and has comforted our souls. May the blessing of Christ be with all of you, and abide.

Ken Williams

# PASTORAL SEARCH

Reach us at this e-mail

If you have any information, questions, concerns, or suggestions you wish to share with the Pastoral Search Team, the entire team may be reached by sending an email to:

[FBCRsearch@googlegroups.com](mailto:FBCRsearch@googlegroups.com)

Amy Dickason, Ken Hines, Sarah Oaks, JoAnn Trolley,  
Rose Welch, and Richard Wien

## LIVING <sup>IN</sup> THE WORD

A Reflection

### Welcome One Another

*May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*



*Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. - Romans 15:5-7*

I returned to First Baptist in the fall of 2012. My family and I had been active members some years ago but we had drifted away, not just from FBCR, but from any church affiliation. Now, I was returning alone, my family grown and making their way in other parts of the state and the world.

Throughout my time away, as strange as it may sound, I never lost the belief that FBCR was my home. Whenever I had lost my spiritual path over the years, God had always welcomed me home and as I sought to renew my faith journey again, I was hopeful FBCR would do the same. But I was nervous that first morning, very nervous! I had been away a number of years – who would I remember and would anyone remember me? Would I feel welcomed or would I stand nervous and alone in the Garden Room during Fellowship? As it turned out, I needn't have worried.

I made it a point that morning to sit rather close to the front of the church, not something I would ordinarily do but I had returned with a purpose and wanted to be involved. Several minutes into the Service, the Rev. Williams spotted me, made eye contact, nodded and smiled – he remembered me (!) and I immediately felt welcomed, that I belonged. After the Service, two members came over, introduced themselves and welcomed me. I've never truly thanked them and realize as I'm writing how remiss I've been. A small gesture neither may even remember, but it meant everything to me.

Almost three years later, I am actively involved in service to FBCR. The outpouring of love, comfort, and support I received with the recent illness and subsequent passing of my mom once again gave me pause to realize that I am indeed home and have a "church family" in my life. I am so very grateful to you all. God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve and with all the many gifts and tender mercies he/she has bestowed in Grace, it is but a small gift I can return. We all have that same opportunity – to serve, to reach out to others, to welcome, and in so doing, to personally affirm one another in the radiant glow of God's love. I can stop and say "thank you" to God, and I do so a number of times each day, but gratitude is an **action** word and how I live my life, how I love others unconditionally, is the way I can truly show my gratitude. Don't hesitate to reach out, to welcome and affirm another. Whether it be a Sunday morning or at any time throughout your week, the opportunities are always there. You never know when that other person might be feeling nervous and alone...and looking to belong.

Mark Harnischfeger