

First Baptist Church • White Plains NY

# The Tall Spire

FALL 2016

**Worship Services every  
Sunday at 10:30am  
followed by fellowship**

## SEPTEMBER

**September 11**

Rally Sunday  
Church Cookout  
after worship

## OCTOBER

**October 2, 10am**

Blessing of the Animals

**October 28**

Trunk or Treat

## NOVEMBER

**November 20, 11:30am**

Thanksgiving Potluck

**November 27 (evening)**

Christmas Tree Lighting  
(time will be announced)

## DECEMBER

**December 18**

Joint Worship Service  
with Misión Bautista,  
Children's Program,  
Luncheon, Live Nativity

**December 24**

Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

**December 25**

Christmas Worship  
Service and Brunch

## What Matters

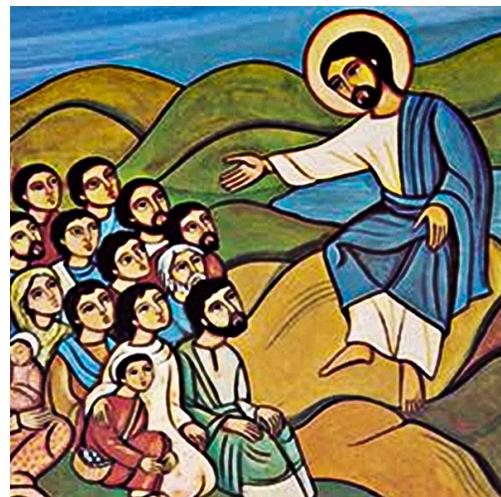
**I'VE BEEN REFLECTING** on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount this summer, which is found in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7. Our "Summer on the Mount" journey together has shown us many things about God's fidelity to us and God's desire for us to live lives of abundance and joy.

This is not easy, but worth the struggle for God's reign to be present in our lives and world. Many questions have been raised on this journey and Jesus' answers are astounding. One of the most basic questions that Jesus' sermon addresses is: What matters? What matters to you? Why should it matter?

Jesus' answer for us is beautiful, and beauty always has a way of arriving in unexpected, unknowable, unforeseen ways... in the Way of Christ!

Jesus beautifully lifts up and identifies with the poor, the mourning, the meek, those longing for justice, the merciful, the pure in

heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for him. Jesus reminds us that when we identify with the "least of these," we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the fulfillment of the law and the prophetic calls to love even our enemies. We see that the seeds of terrible acts (*continued on page 3*)



## Seven Students Awarded Scholarships

**THIS YEAR WE ARE SO EXCITED** to sponsor seven students from First Baptist and Misión Bautista as the 2016-2017 recipients of awards from the David Manierre Scholarship Fund: Jonathan Alania, Daniela Castillo, Giselle Cornejo, Jeffrey Hamby, Natalie Lopez, Evans Meireles, and Matthew Perez.

Please join Pastor Tim in congratulating these worthy young people and if you can, covenant to pray for them for this coming

academic year. This is a seed planting, branch growing ministry, investing in our young people and trusting that God's Kingdom will grow where God wills!

Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? To what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took, and sowed in the garden; it grew, and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." (Luke 13:18-19) (*continued on page 4*)

## Fall Brings New Life Chapters—and Trunk or Treat

*And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*

**IT HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR** getting to know our children and talking to them each week. We have a small group but they're a special one.

Summer is almost over and our students will be heading back to school to start a new chapter in life. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers as they prepare for the school year and all the changes it will bring.

Fall is around the corner so that means it's almost time for Trunk or Treat! We had a great time last year and I hope that everyone considers participating in this fun Halloween event! ■

*Joshelyn "Josh" Estrada  
Minister of Youth and Families*



PHOTO © ALICE LONGWORTH

## Looking Ahead—Musically—to the Holidays!

**NOW THAT THE SUMMER SEASON** is wrapping up, First Baptist Church can look forward to traversing the exciting path to Christmas!

During this time, it is my aim as Minister of Worship to introduce a variety of new songs, perform your most be-loved hymns, bring back the choir, and highlight new musical talents which will help us to worship our God more fully. But what else is there to anticipate this fall? Aside from our usual Thanksgiving festivities, we will be holding our annual Blessing of the Animals, Children's Christmas Pageant,

and Christmas Eve services. What a blessing it is to be able to take part in these ministry opportunities!

And as you know, it is my pleasure to be in a position in which I can edify the congregation, so please feel free to approach me with any musical suggestions. We must be inspired to work together for the glorification of Jesus, so let us move forward with a renewed fervor for worshipping our Lord and reaching out to the community! ■

*Matthew Perez  
Worship Minister*



## Sprucing Up the Campus

**HAVE YOU NOTICED** the newly refinished front door of Wilson House? The sanctuary portico and the front and back entrances to Wilson House also have been repainted.

As the summer winds down, general maintenance is being done on the grounds with shrubbery trimming and mowing.

A new gas range will be installed in

the Wilson House kitchen this fall with a built-in grill for the church breakfasts, movie nights and other functions.

New residents in Wilson House include our Worship Minister Matt Perez, who will be moving in at the end of August. ■

*Jeff Clark  
Property Team*



## Groundhogs Compete for "The Green" but Gardeners Win

### VEGETABLE PRODUCTION WAS GOOD

again this summer in Margaret's Garden. We had a good early picking of green beans, a number of acorn squash, an overwhelming supply of zucchini, ample slicing cucumbers, and a good harvest of a super sweet variety of sweet corn. Our tomato crop looks promising with an abundance of well-formed "Early Girl" and beefsteak tomatoes.

The transplants of asparagus that our children nurtured as seedlings are doing well and should be yielding lots of tasty shoots in a couple of years. Overall this has been a good year for Margaret's Garden despite the depredations of the groundhogs who found a way in and devastated the second picking of green beans.

Their entry point has been located and sealed off and we hope to have more

beans coming in soon. Still to come are red bell peppers, beets, and head lettuce that should be ready to harvest later in the summer.

Special thanks to Jeffrey Hamby who has cared for seedlings in the greenhouse, weeded the garden, and helped me outwit the groundhogs (yes, I needed help outwitting them).

As always thanks to everyone who purchased produce. It was wonderful to show James and Nancy Lipscomb while they were visiting in July that First Baptist Church is actively engaged in supporting Center of Hope (Haiti) through Margaret's Garden. ■

*Carl Hamby*  
*Gardener-in-Chief*

**Groundhogs invaded Margaret's Garden and feasted on the entire second picking of green beans.**



### What Matters (continued from page 1)

are nurtured in the heart, and that is the very sacred space that Christ wants to claim in your life: your heart—where it all begins and where we can't hide. Where we long to be heard and fully known for all our flaws and mistakes and yet still loved.

When Jesus says, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?", we are challenged to first look at ourselves before judging others. Judgement isn't always negative; we make discerning decisions every hour of our waking lives.

Judgement is a wide a spectrum. On one end, we have the self-righteous judgement that only sees the flaws of others thereby usurping God's authority. On the opposite side, we have the exercising of appropriate discernment calling for accountability with those with whom you are in a relationship.

Ultimately, "sin" is the breaking of all relationships (between God, others, and ourselves—remember the greatest commandments are to love God and our neighbors as ourselves). Jesus' ministry is about bearing and cultivating relationships beyond our tribal constructs to include even those whom the world would call our enemy.

We sin when we fail to honor, with our own lives and thoughts, what matters to God: love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and hope. This puts us first, instead of God. We miss the mark, break relationships... sin.

Richard Rohr, in his book *Eight Core Principles*, makes the case that in this passage of self-righteous judgement, Jesus is regarding sin as the act of accusing—when we try to expel and accuse the "other" while somehow leaving ourselves out of the discussion.

He reminds us that Satan, in scripture, is the Accuser, and that there is no record of Jesus getting upset with sinners, except for those who think they are not sinners! This matters a lot in a world that is hurting and lost. It matters in a world where systems perpetuate racism, inequality and division.

When many young people see Christians as hypocritical and inauthentic, Jesus is saying look at yourself, know that I love you, be confident in that love and acceptance, walk with humility the narrow path, free to treat others as you would want to be treated with the heart knowledge that God will take care of all your needs. That is living a beautiful life, blooming in the love of the Holy Spirit. That's what matters and it's the only thing that ever has. ■

*Pastor Tim*

## Ruth Sinnott



**WE ARE GREATLY SADDENED** by the sudden passing of our friend Ruth Sinnott at the end of July. She had just had a wonderful celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June with family and friends at Wilson House. She was an avid reader and chronicler of her family's life through many journals.

She loved singing hymns and being involved in the life of the church. She was a woman who attributed her longevity to forgiveness, both giving and receiving it. She will be greatly missed, but we know she is in good company. "...in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) ■

## Thank You!

**I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU** who encouraged me, prayed for me, and gave generously to sponsor me as I ran the Far Rockaway Half-Marathon to raise money for the new building fund for the Center of Hope (Haiti), Inc. We raised \$3,667! For every dollar we raised, a generous national donor added another dollar, so the grand total was actually \$7,334! It is so amazing how God works. Thank you all so much for joining me on this journey of physical challenge, spiritual reflection, and financial generosity. There were ups and downs for me in my training. The early weeks were cold and wet. I ran through a sinus infection. I even tried to run a few hours after

donating blood (I don't recommend that!) I've felt aches and pains, but through it all, I am encouraged by so many who have joined me on this journey. Whatever I had to go through was nothing compared to what these kids have already faced. The time training was well spent as I have felt God's "nudging" to new places for our ministry in White Plains and beyond. I believe that if you have the "Heart," God will show you the "How!" I was ready to run because of so many who joined me to "fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). Thank you. ■

*Pastor Tim*

## Scholarships Awarded *(continued from page 1)*

Those who are eligible are those who are members of either congregation and/or children of members.

The scholarship Committee is made up of Christian Education Committee members from both congregations. Scholarships are awarded to students attending undergraduate accredited college degree programs, accredited training programs for a specific trade, or a graduate degree in Christian ministry.

Each recipient is awarded \$1,000 for the academic year. If you would like to help support the fund, please make out a check to the church and write "Scholarship Fund" in the memo field.

We will be organizing a fundraising event for the spring of 2017 to make sure that the fund remains strong for the years ahead. If you would like to be a part of planning either the meal, program or donated items for the event, please let Pastor Tim or the Christian Education Committee know. Thank you! ■



### First Baptist Church of White Plains

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Founded in 1871 and rooted in such historic Baptist principles as the freedom of conscience, separation of church and state, and religious tolerance, First Baptist Church seeks to serve faithfully, and think critically, following the courageous and compassionate example of Jesus Christ.



Sunday Worship at 10:30am

Misión Bautista Hispana  
de Westchester  
Worship at 12:30pm

Adult Education at 9:30am

Church Office Hours  
Monday through Thursday  
9am to 2:30pm  
Friday 9am-1pm



Rev. Tim Dalton  
Senior Minister

Matthew Perez  
Worship Minister

Joshalyn Estrada  
Minister of Youth and Families

Alice Longworth  
Communications Coordinator

George McCullough  
Maintenance Supervisor



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American Baptist Churches  
of Metropolitan NY

The American Baptist  
Churches USA  
www.abc-usa.org



**LOOK FOR THE TALL SPIRE**  
at Bryant Avenue and  
North Street adjacent to  
White Plains High School