

First Baptist Church • White Plains NY

The Tall Spire

WINTER 2015–2016

NOVEMBER

November 22

Thanksgiving Potluck
after worship

November 22, 29

10:30am, Worship
Services

DECEMBER

December 4, 6pm

Tree lighting, carolling,
refreshments

December 20, 11am

Combined Worship
Service with Misión
Bautista, Christmas
Pageant

December 6, 13, 27

10:30am, Worship
Services

JANUARY

January 3, 10, 17, 24,

31, 10:30am, Worship
Services

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Belong. Believe. Become.

The Dawning of Hope

THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING is now upon us and Advent is just around the corner! Can you believe it? It's taken me by surprise! I was recently walking through a mall and I saw a sign in a window that said, "Give thanks with style." This is meant to conjure up images of glorious Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, fond words lovingly shared with family and friends, as we gather with our stylish gifts, accessories, and now mobile devices. Perhaps it's more likely that the reality is a mad chaos as we rush to get it all done, forgetting something, frustration spilling over as we wait in long lines, doing our best to keep it together as we dread

having to talk politics with those "once a year" relatives. Perhaps this is a lonely time as you long for loved ones. Maybe you're a little on edge this year or know someone who is. This can be a confusing time as our reality of the holidays conflicts with the commercial ideal.

As we draw near to this Thanksgiving and the new Advent season of waiting in holy anticipation, can we join with the angels, shepherds, and wise men, bearing the sights and sounds of hope?

One righteous and devout elder of Jerusalem, Simeon, took baby Jesus in his arms, when he was only a week old and
(continued on back page)

December 20, 11am
Worship Service with Misión Bautista and
Christmas Pageant



ILLUSTRATION © CHRISTOS GEORGHIOU

Making Connections

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR LOVE and support these last few months! I feel truly blessed to be working with a church that has welcomed me with open arms.

and better each year.

Thank you all who came and participated, we couldn't have done it without you (or your car)!

Our next big children's event will be the Christmas Pageant on December 20th

On October 30th we had our first ever "Trunk or Treat" and I thought it was a success! We had a good number of children from the community come, and we have a list of families that are asking for more information about our church. We're thinking of making this an annual event that will become bigger

Our next big children's event will be our Christmas Pageant on December 20th. It will be a combined service with Misión Bautista. We are planning to have the children dress up and be a part of telling our savior's birth.

This is another event open to the community. The only requirement is

for parents to bring their child to one of the two rehearsals we will have (there will be more information on those rehearsals as we get closer to the date). I'm also planning to meet with youth of both First Baptist Church and Misión Bautista later this month, so we can kick off a great program for our young people. Thank you all once again for accepting me into your family and I'm excited to see what the future holds for all of us!■

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



Top left: superhero "Bat Family" Joshalyn Estrada, Alicia Estrada, and Julie and Danny Jalca and their children Lucas and Jordan. Bottom left: Alicia Estrada's trunk decorated for the occasion. Right: Not just for kids! Cathy Burdick goes for a slide on the Moon Bounce.



PHOTOS © ALICE LONGWORTH

Visions of Strawberries Danced in His Head

IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER PRODUCTIVE

year for Margaret's Garden. Our produce selections included Ramapo and Moreton heirloom tomatoes started from seeds in the greenhouse, hybrid beefsteak tomatoes, a super sweet variety of sweet corn, green beans, zucchini, three varieties of mint, and slicing cucumbers.



New from the Garden were eggplants, hot habanero peppers, acorn squash, and a variety of surprisingly large cherry tomatoes.

Thanks to your generous contributions we raised over \$400 from the sale

of the produce. These funds will be divided equally between the Center of Hope (Haiti) and Habitat for Humanity of Westchester.

Looking forward to next year's garden I anticipate a harvest from our blueberry plants which were transplanted last year to a new bed treated with special soil amendments to improve berry yields, and I am planning an expansion of our asparagus bed so that we can enjoy more Jersey Knight asparagus spears in the Spring.

Finally, the strawberry bed has been redone and planted with half the bed containing our traditional variety

that bears fruit early in June and the other half containing a "day neutral" variety that will bear fruit throughout the growing season. With visions of next year's fruits and vegetables dancing in my head I tilled the garden this fall and sowed a "green manure" cover crop of rye grass and various legumes to organically suppress weed growth and

add nitrogen and other nutrients back to the soil. Thanks to all the helpers who weeded and harvested produce. ■



*Carl Hamby
Gardener-in-Chief*

Lights—and More Lights

LIGHTING, IN ADDITION to the new LED bulbs in all our buildings, continues to be updated throughout our campus. If you're here at night, you will notice significant change. Our parking lots are brightly lit with all the lights repaired.

Our steeple, now illuminated by LED lights on all four sides, once again shines brightly, and a new light has been installed at the base of our flagpole.

Our fundraising "Let Your Light Shine" campaign is off to a strong start (\$3,220 raised as of November 15). If you have not already contributed, please give what you can to help shorten the payback time of the cost of the LED lighting installation. Our goal is \$8,000.

Carl Hamby and our Christian Education Team have designed a new Christmas tree to be lit in the circle in front of Wilson House and the



PHOTO © HTTP://WWW.TORANGE.US

sanctuary. The pine tree we have used in the past has grown too large to efficiently light for Christmas. Please be sure to mark your calendar to attend the tree lighting ceremony on Friday, December 4 at 6pm (and also enjoy some light refreshments, carol singing, and fellowship!).

A new campus directory sign will be installed facing the parking lot by Wilson House. This new directory, designed by our communications coordinator Alice Longworth, will make it easier for our visitors to find their way.

Last but certainly not least, in the coming weeks you will notice new mulch beds installed along the sanctuary building. These are designed to carry water and moisture away from the undercroft classroom walls. ■

*Jeff Clark
Property Team*

Happy Thanksgiving, Everyone!



PHOTO: ALICE LONGWORTH

Matt Perez (left) and members of the choir (left to right): Victor Knight DiNitto, Colin Whiteman, Pat Ehresmann, Emma Nicholson, Candace Lynn Matthews and Alexa Rosenberg.

Making a Joyful Noise

WORKING AS THE NEW Minister of Worship at First Baptist Church has been an absolute pleasure for me this fall, and I'm looking forward to an exciting Christmas season and New Year!

Recently, Pastor Tim and I have made plans to incorporate our lovely choir into the children's pageant as well as the traditional Christmas Eve service. These times together are sure to be special, so I encourage you to join in by inviting friends and family.

During the spring, I will introduce

the congregation to an array of new contemporary Christian songs while continuing the tradition of having our choir sing beautiful anthems both accompanied and a cappella.

As we move forward and grow together in this time of change, let us diligently pray that God will be with us in our endeavors to become a missional church. I look forward to worshipping together. ■

Matthew Perez
Worship Minister

THE DAWNING OF HOPE (continued from page 1)

proclaimed boldly, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32)

This is a minority, yet grand idea held within the voices of the greatest prophets proclaiming that it wasn't enough that God only loved the Hebrew people, but through Yahweh's Covenant, was creating the dawn of a light for all nations. The birth

of Jesus is both the culmination of this light and the dawn of new hope for the world. God's reality conflicted with the popular Messianic style and ideal of the times. God is constantly confusing and subverting our worldly expectations! My deepest prayer, this time of year, is that we would be a people (church) that will allow God to interrupt our confusing consumer ideals and let the hope of Christ's birth dawn anew in our lives and relationships. ■

Pastor Tim

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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



Affiliated with
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

Belong. Believe. Become.