

BAPTIST BY-LINES



First Baptist Church of Painted Post, NY

Gary McCaslin, *Pastor*

September 2008

From the Pastor ~

CELEBRATING THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

Our summer days are coming to a close and the beautiful and active days of fall are right on our doorstep.

This season of spectacular colors in nature are only part of the evolutionary journey we share as human beings and as members of First Baptist Church in Painted Post. There continues to be change almost everywhere we look.

This is not the same church that welcomed me to this community back in January 1997. Yes, many of the faces are the same, but there are also many new faces. Why have these changes come to be?

The most profound reason is that our world has grown in awareness. September 11 and the War in Iraq, the growing understanding of environmental problems and the increasing economic challenges have all served to mold our congregation into a new, living entity.

The world has changed, our church has changed and, in many ways, we have changed as individuals constantly moving

toward a new understanding of what it means to be a Christian in a continually evolving world.

In the midst of all this change, there are some things that have remained the same. We still preach, teach and try to live the Gospel of Love God as revealed in the Life of Jesus Christ. We still care about our church family and we still need to pay our bills.

On behalf of the Stewardship Council, Dan Borden has written an excellent letter laying out a plan for our church for the coming years. Dan, our Church Moderator, and this newly reorganized and re-energized group of members is tackling the challenges before our church with great deliberation and enthusiasm.

You will be hearing more about *The Heritage Capital Campaign* in the months to come. I invite your enthusiasm and involvement as we face the challenges of change ~ together ~ in the months and years to come.