

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Every New Year, I struggle to name my sense of call and priority for the next piece of life. I have often tried to do this by setting goals or making resolutions. Some years that works; others it doesn't. This year, I am drawn to a more poetic expression of meaning and purpose. The litany below was composed by the Rev. Ken Sehested. Ken was the founding director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Now, he serves as co-pastor at the Circle of Mercy congregation in Ashville, NC. This prayer comes from his book, *In the Land of the Living: Prayers Personal and Public*.

For What Do We Hope?

For what do we hope?

We hope for the Beloved's Promise to
overtake the world's broken-hearted threat.

For what do we long?

We long for the moist goodness of God
to outlast the parched climate of despair.

For what do we lack?

We lack for nothing --
save the need for hearts enlarged by the
assurance that every hostage will be freed.

For what do we strive?

We strive for lives marked by goodness,
purified of deceits and malice, and
hands made gentle by the tender caress
of Wisdom's approach.

Continued...

For what do we struggle?

We struggle for the fate of every child
whose sighs and cries are muffled
by the market's disdain.

In what do we rejoice?

We rejoice in rebellious acts of abundance
in the face of every stingy arrangement.

For what prize do our eyes arise?

Our eyes arise for the Beloved Community's
embrace of earth's abode and Heaven's favor.

As-salaam alaykum

Peace be with you!

Wa alaykum as-salaam.

And with you, peace!



Are You an Evangelist?

This fall Pastor Kathy and Kathy Moore attended a CRTTC course on church marketing. One session focused on the use of social media to get your message out. If you use Facebook, here are three simple ways you can help the church to spread our message of inclusive love, social justice and community.

1. "Like" the church's Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/EmmanuelBaptistChurchAlbany . This will cause the church's postings to appear in your news feed. It's a great way to keep up with the latest happenings at Emmanuel.
2. When a posting from the church appears in your news feed, "Like" it and "Share" it, so that your Facebook friends will see what's happening. That's spreading the Good News!
3. If you have any interest in learning about and using social media (Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.) to help the church, speak to Pastor Kathy about how you can help. By having multiple people using different types of social media, the impact increases substantially.

**Deadline for the February issue of *the MOSAIC* is
January 18.**

Notes from the Moderator ❄️

Narrative Annual Reports were due January 1! Thank you to all who have submitted them. When all the financial reports are submitted the Book of Reports will be compiled and available for review prior to the annual meeting on January 26.



Preview to Annual Meeting:

1. The following item will be considered for vote:

Because of the large debt incurred by the building renovations and the new plan for managing previous benevolence bequests which have accumulated, the Coordinating Council recommends a change to our current practice of automatically designating 10% of all bequests to benevolence. We propose to amend the policy to allow Coordinating Council to determine the use of each bequest on an individual basis.

2. Details on plan for management of bequest monies are presented for your information:

The outline of the plan is as follows:

1. 10% of the balance as of 12/31 of each previous year will be assigned to a discretionary line of STO's budget. This discretionary line will be spent to support the following general kinds of projects as the need arises, named here *as examples only*:
 - a. Mission Trips
 - b. Karen Baptist Church support (to be paid to Emmanuel Current Expense for the cost of hosting the KBC).
 - c. Disaster relief (community relief)
 - d. Other Community Needs (EBC or wider community that arise during the year)
2. Food Pantry: \$300 from the bequest monies will be paid in January annually. This amount is in addition to the budgeted amount that is paid from pledge income.
3. The remainder of the monies will be put in a CD or savings account at First Niagara or other banking institution. The term of the CD can be as short as a year.
4. New bequest monies will be deposited with the other funds, and contribute to the overall balance on which the 10% annual discretionary amount is computed at the end of the year.



Budget Preview

The proposed budget figures for 2014 will be available for review on January 12. There will be time during the Diaconate plenary session on that date (11:30-12:00) to share questions and comments so that everyone can have a better understanding of our finances when we gather to vote at the annual meeting.



From Service to Others...

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering to be Received



The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering is a personal offering, one rooted in thanks for the countless ways ministers and missionaries guide each member of the church along their spiritual journey. It provides a tangible way for American Baptist congregations to say “Thank you for...” the commitment, service and spiritual guidance of retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses. The offering supports those who have devoted their lives to God’s service by providing emergency assistance in their times of need and , for those eligible, a “Thank You” check at the end of each year. In 2012, RMMO provided Thank You checks to more than 3,300 recipients. For 2013, the national RMMO goal is \$1.2 million.

We will receive the offering on two Sundays in January, the 12th and 19th. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

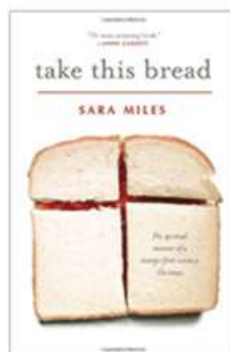
Pulpit Guest Scheduled for FOCUS Worship Service

FOCUS and CRTC are co-sponsors in bringing Sara Miles to Albany. Sara, an author/journalist and activist, will be the preacher at the FOCUS annual worship service at Trinity UMC on February 2. She will also be leading a CRTC event on Saturday, February 1 at Delmar Reformed Church. Come and share Sara's continuing journey of inner city ministry as she reveals her vision of the City of God - as it exists now, and as it is being transformed.

The FOCUS worship service is free, of course. You must register with CRTC for the Saturday event; Call 518 - 462 – 2470 Registration is \$75 if paid by January 3, \$90 thereafter.

Special Opportunity...

January FOCUS Book Study



Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion

By Sara Miles

3 Wednesdays: January 8, 15, 22

Noon @ Westminster Presbyterian Church

7PM @ Delmar Reformed Church

Books available, call FOCUS office 443-0460 or
order at Amazon.com .

Eaton Vance Fellowship Fund

The Caring and Fellowship Commission, in agreement with Coordinating Council members, has decided to better utilize the resources of the Eaton Vance Fellowship Fund. For many years, the monies in this fund have been in an account that has generated no income. Wishing to be better stewards, and not bury our talents in the ground, it has been decided to invest a portion of the fund in the Community Loan Fund.

They are an organization that works with individuals or small groups around our community in offering training and small business loans. Starting in January 2014, we will be initiating two separate loans of \$2500, one for 3 years, the other for 5 years. We anticipate rolling these loans over when they become mature, but have the option of bringing the monies back into the churches control upon maturation if otherwise needed.

To better understand how the Community Loan Fund works, I have included some excerpts from their website and brochure:

We have a 100% repayment record to all investors.

We are always looking to expand our investor and donor family especially now since we have undertaken aggressive lending and training goals as we approach our 30th year. We are planning on having an even greater impact on community development in our 11-county service area.

Longer terms help us to better match up our investors' loans to us with the loans we make to micro-enterprises, small businesses, community nonprofits and, only in the past year, home purchase and home repair loans to qualified low-income borrowers. 100% of your invested principal goes into our revolving lending capital pool for making loans to strengthen our communities.

Donations/contributions/grants from individuals, faith-based groups, foundations, non-profits, corporations, etc. are usually used to support our time and labor intensive training programs because most micro-entrepreneurs and owners of small businesses need to learn business skills in order to be successful no matter how much they know about their particular product or service. This year we need to focus on raising money for the training and technical assistance for micro-entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations which includes classroom training (8-week business planning courses and business skill workshops on a variety of topics) and one-on-one consultations, and outreach at community events and in rural outlying areas of the eleven counties we serve. Donations are tax-exempt to the full limit of the law.

If you have any questions on this program, speak to members of the Caring and Fellowship commission.

~ Barbara Lahut

Notice of Meetings...
January 7 ~ Coordinating Council
5:30 at Lahut's

12 ~ Diaconate
26 ~ Annual Congregational
and Corporate Meetings

Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the 76 Diner at 11:45 on Wednesday, Jan. 8. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. Hope to see you there!

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Interfaith Memorial Service

January 15, 7:00 pm

St. Vincent de Paul Church
 (900 Madison Ave., Albany)

Guest speaker: Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools for the Albany City School District

New Executive Director to be Installed

January 19, 3:00 pm

Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary
 The College of Saint Rose

All are welcome to attend the installation of Deborah C. Riitano as Executive Director of Capital Area Council of Churches. A reception will follow.



Ken Graham
 100 White Pine Dr. Apt. 233
 Albany, NY 12203
 640-9583

Jennie DeFlaviis
 17 Fireside Ln.
 Latham, NY 12110
 785-0022

Remember the
Food Pantry

January: shampoo

An Invitation from Jeff Matthews,
Pastor at Trinity UMC:

Have you ever thought you'd like to follow the journeys of Paul and visit some of the places you've always heard and read about: places like Corinth, Athens, Philippi, Ephesus and more? I'd like to invite you to consider joining me on a trip to Greece (with extension to Mykonos and Ephesus) in October 2014. This will be my second trip to Greece. Visiting these places is a deeply moving experience.

Discounts for early registration are available to everyone. Scholarship aid for clergy who are first time travelers is also available. It's an educational opportunity and provides 2 continuing education units.

If you are interested or just have questions, you may contact Jeff at 463-1293 or email him at jmdiv83@hotmail.com

Happy Birthday...



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|--------------------|------------------|
| Ellen Corcoran | 3 rd |
| Kathy Donley | 4 th |
| Michael Clement | 11 th |
| Avan Neer | 11 th |
| Rosemary Koonce | 14 th |
| Monica Scheerer | 15 th |
| Lucas Silverman | 15 th |
| Mattie Blassengale | 18 th |
| Jean Burton | 21 st |
| Samuel Koonce | 24 th |
| Chelah Collins | 25 th |
| Erica Edwards | 25 th |
| Hunter Spann | 25 th |
| Gretchen Scheu | 26 th |
| Veronica Collins | 28 th |

If your birthday is not published in our monthly listing, please notify Dorothy at 465-5161.

Church Office Closed:
January 1 & 20

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

