

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



### *All Saints' Day*

Most Baptists don't strictly follow the calendar of the church year. We know Christmas, Easter, and Holy Week, but our sisters and brothers in more liturgical streams of the Christian river are aware of special days and celebrations spread across the church year. And some Baptists are coming to appreciate those rhythms and seasons as well. In November, every Baptist I know celebrates Thanksgiving, but some also attend to All Saints Day. In Biblical tradition, a "saint" is every

person, living or dead, who seeks or sought to follow Jesus. All Saints Day, at the first of November, is a celebration of Church. We speak of the communion of the saints in acknowledgment of the powerful bond that exists between those alive on earth and those who have joined the great cloud of witnesses referenced in the book of Hebrews.

The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and professor reflects on saints with these words:

*What makes a saint?*

*Extravagance.*

*Excessive love, flagrant mercy, radical affection,  
exorbitant charity, immoderate faith, intemperate hope,  
inordinate love.*

*None of which is an achievement, a badge to be earned or a trophy to be sought;  
all are secondary by-products of the one thing that truly makes a saint,  
which is the love of God,*

*which is membership in the body of Christ,*

*which is what all of us, living and dead, remembered and forgotten, great souls and  
small,*

*have in common.*

*Some of us may do more with that love than others  
and may find ourselves able to reflect it in a way  
that causes others to call us saints,*

*continued...*

*but the title is one that has been given to us all by virtue of our baptisms.  
The moment we rose dripping from the holy water  
we joined the communion of saints,  
and we cannot go back  
any more than we can give back our names or the blood in our veins.  
So All Saints Day is a family reunion indeed,  
of a clan made kin by Christ's blood.  
There are heroes and scoundrels at the party, beloved aunts and estranged cousins,  
relatives we adore and those who plainly baffle us.  
They are all ours, and we are all included.  
On All Saints Day we worship amidst a great fluttering of wings,  
with the whole host of heaven crowding the air above our heads.  
Call their names and hear them answer "Present."  
On All Saints Day, they belong to us and we to them,  
and as their ranks swell so do the possibilities that open up in our own lives.  
Because of them  
and because of one another  
and because of the God who binds us all together  
we can do more than any of us had dreamed to do alone.*

From "A Great Cloud of Witnesses" by Barbara Brown Taylor

Our worship on November 2 will focus on appreciating the saints who accompany us on our faith journey and remembering those who have gone ahead of us. I hope you will be there.

Blessings,  
*Kathy*

**Daylight Saving Time ends**  
**"fall back"**  
**November 2**

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**Annual Meeting of the Capital Area Baptist Association**

***"Mission Going Forward"***

**November 15**


**Friendship Baptist Church**

(407 Union Street, Schenectady)

Registration 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Meeting 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

The agenda includes a short business meeting with presentations on Mission From the Gospels, mission trips to Nicaragua, and Duane and Marcia Binkley's work with Karen, Chin and Kachin refugees in the United States and Thailand. Lunch will be provided. Look for registration information in the bulletin announcements.



## *From Service to Others...*



### **30 Years of Caring for the Homeless**

Congratulations to Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless as they celebrate 30 years of ministry in our community! To mark the occasion, Interfaith is initiating a “30 meals for 30 days campaign”. The idea is to provide nourishing meals to Shelter guests each day for a month ~ the month of November. Since November is also National Homeless Awareness Month, this is a timely initiative.

To lend our support, Service to Others Commission is looking for 2 people to make soup for 10 people on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, we will provide a meal for the Emergency Overflow Shelter on November 21<sup>st</sup>. If you can help with either dinner, please speak with Karen Kendall. This begins Emmanuel’s annual assistance to the winter shelter programs. As the season continues, watch for additional opportunities to help those in need.



For more than 14 years, Duane and Marcia Binkley lived and worked in Thailand with refugees from Burma/Myanmar. Duane has a degree in soil and water conservation. One of his first projects in Thailand was to install water-lines in remote Karen villages so that women did not have to walk long distances to carry water. They became well acquainted with the challenges faced by the Karen, Chin and Kachin people within Burma and Thailand.

In 2007, their assignment changed locations. Today they primarily work in the United States with the tens of thousands of refugees coming to this country, but they also make two trips per year to visit the refugee camps in Thailand. Their tasks include educating American congregations about the needs of refugees, orienting refugees to Baptist life here and advocating for just solutions to problems in Burma. They partner with Central Baptist Theological Seminary to organize training classes, called Foundations: Judson Communities, for pastors and church leaders among these ethnic communities. The program has 14 classes of 8 hours each. To accommodate work schedules, classes are held every other Saturday so the full program takes about 7 months to complete. Judson Communities courses have been offered in Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Minnesota. The Binkleys are jointly appointed by American Baptist International Ministries and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Within the U.S., the Binkleys work with national and regional mission entities of the American Baptist Churches-USA (ABC) and the local churches in the ABC and CBF.

**The Binkleys will be here in Albany on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16.** Join us for a potluck dinner on Saturday from 5:30-7:00. It will be an informal time to get acquainted with Duane and Marcia, hear some of their stories, and ask questions. On Sunday morning, we will share in a combined worship service with the Karen Baptist Church at our usual 10:00 time. Duane will preach that day and will also lead an Adult Sunday School session at 11:30.



## Special Worship Service Planned

Join us for an intergenerational worship service on November 23 at 10:00. Children's Sunday School and Godly Play will not meet that day. Instead people of all ages will join together to focus on the practice of gratitude and thanksgiving. We will enjoy art work which is being prepared now by our children and youth. We will use drama and images on our big screen to recall some Bible stories about saying thank you.

In addition to our regular morning offering, we will receive gifts for the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. Items especially needed by the food pantry are: Soup, Tuna, Canned fruit, Cereal, Pasta, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Powdered Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Razors  
Please consider bringing a gift for the pantry when you come to worship that day.

## Remember The Future

Four members of Emmanuel attended the Finance Conference which preceded the Biennial this month in Utica. Believe it or not, there was quite a bit of excitement, talking about money and numbers. We brought back with us some of that energy. The workshop affirmed that Emmanuel is a healthy church, doing a lot of things right. We also learned many of the pitfalls awaiting us.

With all our renovations along with budget pressures it is clear that this is the time for some review of our financial status. How best to we manage our debt? How best to streamline accounts and provide transparency to the congregation? How is endowment meant to be used and how can that happen? How best to plan for a healthy, vibrant future. Anyone at Emmanuel is invited to attend three work sessions planned for November 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30. A light supper will be offered at 6:30.

The goal of these sessions is to formulate recommendations for the structure of Emmanuel's finances in the near and long term future. This report will be shared at the annual meeting in January.

Jerry Keucher offered guidelines at the Utica workshop and outlines them again in his book, "Remember the Future." This and other books will serve as resources for discussion.

Please contact Jean Burton for more information or to reserve your spot in this group.



**Remember the  
Food Pantry**

*November:  
toothpaste*



*Deadline for the December issue of the MOSAIC is November 18.*



## Can You Help?

Christian Growth & Development Commission is sponsoring a mini work day on Veterans Day, November 11, at 10:00 to noon, with lunch provided. There are two tasks we'd like YOUR help with:

1. Organizing the church library (Wouldn't it be nice to be able to locate books and resources more easily?)
2. Sanding wood figures for the Godly Play program (David Malone has cut out 100+ figures and they need to be prepped for finishing)

All ages welcome (We know you don't have school that day!) Thank you!!



## Autumn Recital Sunday, November 9

3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

*Will Hayes, cello*

*Michael Clement, piano*

*Performing works by Beethoven, Rachmaninoff  
and Massenet*

at Emmanuel Baptist Church

Admission Free/Donations Appreciated

Information: 518-377-0930

### Coming this Month...

November 4 ~ Coordinating Council @

Malone's: 5:30 pm

9 ~ Diaconate

15 ~ Potluck with Duane Binkley

16 ~ Joint EBC/KBC worship with

Duane Binkley, guest preacher

23 ~ Thanksgiving Worship

30 ~ Advent I



To the Congregation of  
Emmanuel Baptist Church:

Thank you so much for hosting us for Giulio Cesare.  
It was a wonderful experience. Thank you for the  
water, the splendid reception, and the generosity  
and patience you gave to all of us. It was a joy.

~ Betsy (Lehmann)

## Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the 76 Diner at 11:45 on Wednesday, Nov. 5. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. **Note to Veterans:** With valid ID, you will receive 10% discount. Hope to see you there!



**Church Office Closed:  
November 11**

Entertainment Books are available. The cost is \$25, and profits will help to "span the gap". Remember, the books make great gifts! See Marilyn Malone to purchase a copy.

## Happy Birthday...

### November



Elaine Bird	5 <sup>th</sup>
Judith Henningson	8 <sup>th</sup>
Jon Stroebel	13 <sup>th</sup>
Heather LaBarge	14 <sup>th</sup>

Deb Jameson	15 <sup>th</sup>
Bowden Wise	20 <sup>th</sup>
Roy Mallory	21 <sup>st</sup>
Pat Campbell	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Amy Palmer	26 <sup>th</sup>

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

**Church Office Closed:  
November 27 & 28**



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