

# THE MOSAIC

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**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



Standing on the threshold of another year, I look back at the last one, which was rich with purpose and activity and good intentions and a few failures and some lasting memories. Standing on the threshold of another year, I wonder what it will hold. Will the world see more peace and less violence, more hope and less despair? Will I personally experience more joy and satisfaction? And what of my faith community, Emmanuel? Will we become more Christ-like, more passionate about the love of God in which we live and move and have our being? Standing at the threshold of another year, I try to peer into the future, but the road seems to curve out of sight and my questions remain unanswered in this moment. I remember that at every threshold, in every moment, God is present, and so I trust God with this one more year of my life, and the world's life and the life of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Here is a prayer for the new year by Jan Richardson.

And so we take the ragged fragments,  
the patches of darkness  
that give shape to the light;  
the scraps of desires  
unslaked or realized;  
the memories of spaces  
of blessing, of pain.

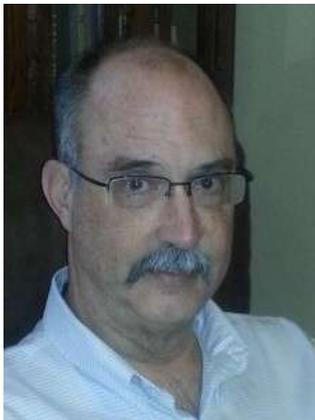
And so we gather the scattered pieces  
the hopes we carry  
fractured or whole;  
the struggles of birthing  
exhausted, elated;  
the places of welcome  
that bring healing and life.

And so we lay them at the threshold, God;  
bid you hold them, bless them, use them;  
ask you tend them, mend them,  
transform them  
to keep us warm,  
make us whole, and send us forth.

from *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*  
@Jan L. Richardson

Whatever may happen in 2016, I am grateful to God for the congregation of Emmanuel Baptist Church and for all the ways that we celebrate and struggle and serve and share the good news together.

*Blessings,  
Kathy*



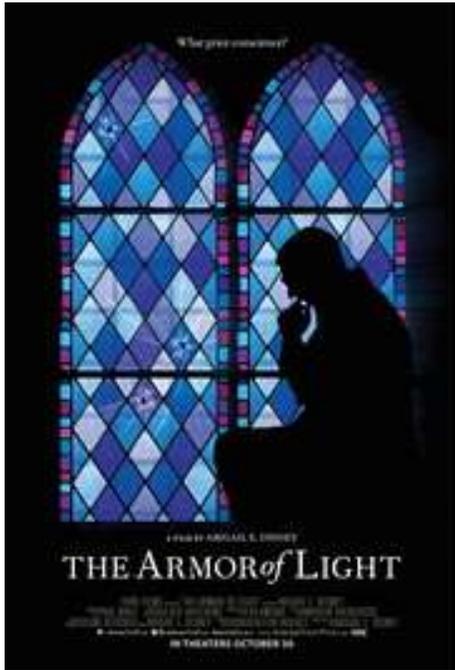
### **From the FOCUS Board of Directors**

We are pleased to announce that the Rev. James Ketcham will serve as the next Executive Director of FOCUS Churches, beginning January 4, 2016. Originally from Michigan, Jim is an American Baptist pastor who has served churches in Minnesota and New York, most recently at the First Baptist Church of Painted Post. He brings a passion for ecumenical relationships, advocacy and organization from his experiences with Common Cause, Church World Service and the Minnesota Campaign to Ban Landmines. He says that he lives in “the space between charity and justice” and believes that the work of FOCUS will allow him to inhabit that space even more fully.

Our thanks to the Search Committee for their good work – Anthony Malone, Chair (Emmanuel Baptist), Donna Baker Holley (Delmar Reformed), Judy Hartley (Westminster Presbyterian), Peter Pagerey (First Church), Sue Haney (First Presbyterian) and Stephanie Threatte (Trinity United Methodist).

Mark your calendar and be here to welcome Jim when he preaches at Emmanuel on January 24<sup>th</sup>. **AND... Save the date of February 7** for Annual FOCUS Worship service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which will also be the occasion of the installation of Rev. Jim Ketcham.





During the Adult Education hour on January 3 and 10, we will screen the documentary *The Armor of Light*, in two parts. The film tracks Rev. Rob Schenck, anti-abortion activist and fixture on the political far right, who breaks with orthodoxy by questioning whether being pro-gun is consistent with being pro-life. Along the way, Rev. Schenck meets Lucy McBath, the mother of Jordan Davis, an unarmed teenager who was murdered in Florida and whose story has cast a spotlight on "Stand Your Ground" laws. McBath, also a Christian, decides to work with Schenck even though she is pro-choice. *Armor of Light* follows these unlikely allies through their trials of conscience, heartbreak and rejection, as they attempt to make others consider America's gun culture through a moral lens. The film is also a courageous look at our fractured political culture, and an assertion that it is, indeed, possible for people to come together across deep party lines to find common ground. It is directed and produced by Abigail Disney, a member of Judson Memorial Church in New York City, who also produced *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* about the end of civil war in Liberia. The film will also be shown on January 21 at the Linda WAMC Performing Arts Studio.

### **Share your Thoughts on Our Worship Services**

Worship Commission is always interested to know what you think and feel about our services, from your overall experience down to nitty-gritty details. Your ideas and opinions matter; share them with any member of the commission or with the moderator: Tony Malone, Barb Lahut, Liselle LaFrance or Judy Henningson

### **Will You Play with Me?**

Whether you hear that plea regularly, or if you haven't heard it in years, here it is now, an invitation to YOU!

We need adult volunteers to play with our children so that parents can attend Sunday School and Diaconate meetings. (Remember how we are always wishing that more young families would be involved as church leaders? This is the kind of support they need to offer their ministry.)

The children of EBC are beautiful and wonder-filled! You can see this when you watch them during worship. Getting to know them by name is a blessing! Here are the job specs:

Hours: Sunday 11:30-12:30.

Responsibilities: supervise 3-5 children (usually) in the nursery or toddler room. One of our youth will assist you.

There are 20 weeks remaining in this school year. That means a total of 20 hours. Can you commit to one or two weeks for this important ministry? Don't minimize the impact of this small donation of your time. The message to parents is that the church supports them in their job of child rearing, and the message to children is that there are many adults who love them. You can be the light of Christ to these families!

There will be a sign up sheet at church, or you can speak to Marilyn, Audrey, Jim or Ericka.

Please, will you play with me?



# From Service to Others...



## Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering to be Received

Theme: *The Grace of Living*

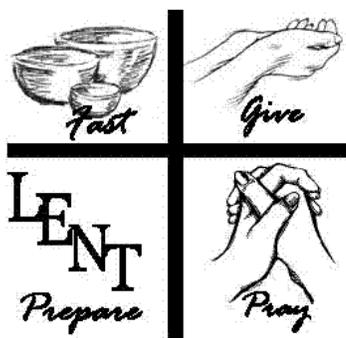
There can be no talk of *Grace* without first speaking about God. Even when it appears to come through human “hands”, grace is always God’s purview; it flows from God and God alone is able to manifest it in human experience. The totality of God’s grace is found in the gift of Jesus Christ and his sacrificial act of love on the Cross – this is God’s Grace in action giving to us what we could never give to ourselves.

Grace turns our souls to Christ and stirs within us the fervent desire to be gracious to others. As we remember the powerful witness and care of devoted ministers and missionaries who have helped us to grow in our faith, stood by us in the face of adversity, and rejoiced with us in moments of triumph, we give thanks that they served as instruments of God’s grace in their ministry to the people of God.

In the simple yet profound act of giving, congregations have the opportunity to be blessed and to be a blessing. Through the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO), American Baptist churches can share in an act of grace that reminds the ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses who served so faithfully that they are remembered with love and gratitude.

On Sundays, January 21 and January 31 you will have the opportunity to donate to this appeal which not only supplies emergency assistance but also makes it possible to send “Thank You” checks to eligible ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses. Watch for more information in Sunday bulletins. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

The October World Mission Offering totaled \$979. Thank you to all who contributed.



The season of Lent is early again this year. For many years, Emmanuel has had a Lent Committee and an Advent Committee which meet to plan and coordinate the theme and special events of each season. The church leadership has recently been considering other ways to engage people in our communal life. So, this year the invitation to plan Lenten activities is being extended to anyone in the congregation. This means you -- especially if you want to plan special worship events like Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday or

something new, especially if you have are thrilled by the thought of an Easter Egg Hunt, especially if you have an idea for a small group that might take on a particular discipline or issue for the season. If any of that applies to you, or if you have other ideas about Lent and Easter, please talk with Pastor Kathy. And consider being part of the first meeting of the Lent Committee at church on January 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Interfaith Memorial Service**  
*“A Voice for Non-Violence in a Violent World”*

**January 15**

**7:00 pm**

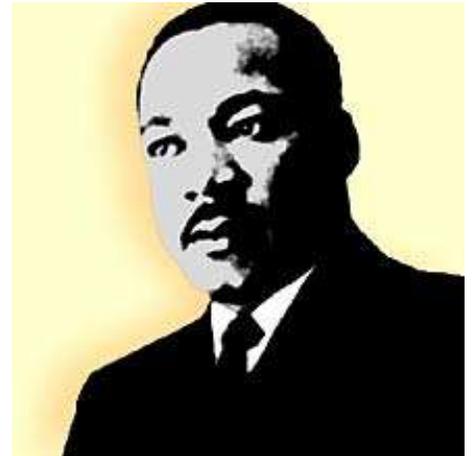
Metropolitan NT Baptist Church

(105 Second St., Albany)

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Charles J. Daniel, Sr. Pastor,

Mount Calvary Baptist Church

*(sponsored by Capital Area Council of Churches)*



**Save the Date!**

**Annual Meeting and Lunch 1/31/16**

Please plan to join your church family at the Annual Meeting, following church on Sunday, January 31, 2016. With the budget discussion behind us, we can again look forward to a lighter format of celebrating the year just past, and anticipating the year ahead. Committee members are working on a new game to challenge you. A lunch will be provided for a modest fee, catered food brought to church to be served buffet style so all can enjoy the meeting and not miss the fun by working in the kitchen. Volunteers to help after the meeting with clean up will be greatly appreciated.



The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO) is sponsoring an ecumenical worship service on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25. The half-hour service will

begin at noon at the Pastoral Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese, 40 North Main Avenue in Albany. All are welcome to attend.

The theme for the week and the service is “Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord,” based on 1 Peter 2: 9. The Rev. Phil Grigsby, Moderator of Emmanuel-Friedens Church in Schenectady, will lead the service. Edith Leet of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany, will give the message.

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

## Attention, Men!

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at Normanside Country Club in Delmar on Wednesday, **January 6** (11:45 a.m.) We generally get together the first Wednesday of every other month for fellowship and a noon-time meal. If you have questions, you may contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory. We hope you'll join us!

If you have not yet submitted your Annual Report, please do so as soon as possible. We wish to distribute the Book of Reports on Sunday, January 24.



### Please Note...

**Church Office Closed:**

**January 1 and January 18**

**January 31: Annual Meeting**

Remember the  
Food Pantry...

January  
shampoo

Happy Birthday...

January

### Nursing Home Visits Continue

The Choir will present a musical program at the Eddy in Troy on Saturday, January 16; rehearsal at 9:30, program at 10:00. This special ministry brings joy to residents and staff alike. If you have questions, you may contact Michael Clement or Pat Hunziker.

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



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



Please contact Dorothy in the church office with any changes in your address or other contact information **by January 6<sup>th</sup>**.

(465-5161 or [emmanuelalbany@juno.com](mailto:emmanuelalbany@juno.com)) A new directory is being compiled, and a draft copy will be ready for your review on Sundays in mid-January. The goal is to have the final copy prepared for distribution on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation. (DW)



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