THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

Every Sunday we pray together. On many recent Sundays, you have shared concerns related to the election, which is almost upon us. This campaign season has been called "unprecedented" in many ways. We are troubled by hostility and crude language and outright lies. We are distressed by violence incited at campaign events and the possibility of more violence after the next president is elected, no matter who that person is determined to be. On a more personal level, some of us have experienced a rift in relationship with friends and family members when political conversations got too hot and less than civil words were exchanged. I hear many expressions of fear -- fear about who will be elected, fear of how people will respond during and after voting, fear for the future of our church, our nation, our children. And I remember again that the angels' messages always start with "Do not be afraid."

Ken Sehested is known among us as the founding director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. These days he is one of the pastors at Circle of Mercy in Asheville, NC. He recently said, "Not every fearful moment is holy, but holy moments are almost always scary." I guess it remains to be seen whether this election will be a holy moment, or just a scary one. Ken also blogs at prayerandpolitiks.org. In September, he curated a special edition with many good thoughts about fear and courage. I share a few of them below in the hopes that in these words we will hold fast to the love of Jesus, remembering that there there is no fear in love for perfect love casts out fear.

❤ **The world is God's and it will not fall apart.** The new age which the Lord has begun cannot be driven out or held back. The church need **not live out of fear** as though the gospel were not true. It is destined to live toward freedom, toward the pain of the world, toward the hurt of the world, toward the joy of the world—the hurt and pain the world does not understand and the joy the world does not anticipate.~*Walter Brueggemann*

❤ It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power **corrupts those who wield it**, and fear of the scourge of power corrupts those who are subject to it. ~*Aung San Suu Kyi*

❤ Fear is not the opposite of courage. **Fear is the catalyst** of courage. ~*Joan D. Chittister*

❤ We have places of fear inside of us, but we have other places as well~places with names like trust and hope and faith. We can **choose to lead from one of those places**. . . . As we stand in one of those places, fear may remain close at hand and our **spirits may still tremble**. But now we stand on ground that will support us. ~*Parker Palmer*

❤ There were no formerly heroic times, and there was no formerly pure generation. **There is no one here but us chickens**, and so it has always been. ~*Annie Dillard*

❤ Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that **something else is more important** than fear. ~*James Hollingsworth*

❤ One of the things we must cast out first of all is fear. **Fear narrows the little entrance of our heart.** It shrinks up our capacity to love. It freezes up our power to give ourselves. ~*Thomas Merton*

❤ **"Fear of God" is not cowering, frightened intimidation.** Those who fear God are not wimps and are not preoccupied with excessive need to please God. They are rather those who have arrived at a fundamental vision of reality about life with God, who have enormous power, freedom, and energy to live out that vision. "Fear of God" is **liberating and not restrictive**, because it gives confidence about the true shape of the world. ~*Walter Brueggemann*

❤ The phrase "do not be afraid" is written in the Bible **365 times**. That's a daily reminder from God to live every day being fearless. ~*author unknown*

Blessings,
Kathy

Lament, Healing and Hope:
A Service of Music, Readings, Silence and Prayers
for the Healing of the Nation
Wednesday, November 9, 12:10-12:40 p.m.
The First Church in Albany
110 North Pearl Street

At a time when many of us are suffering from "election distress syndrome" and the social and moral fabric of our society is under stress, you are invited to a join in a time of prayer for our nation. This is an initiative of First Church in which FOCUS churches and others were invited to participate. Our own Pastor Kathy was also involved in the planning. All are welcome.

Mission Accomplished!

The team we sent on mission to Nicaragua has returned with stories and pictures to share. This trip was to a new site, the city of Rama, and was undertaken during Nicaragua's rainy season. In spite of ever-present mud, the cacophony of rain on tin roofs and language barriers, more than 900 people received health care. You supported the team with your money and your prayers. Now come to hear about the people and the place that received all that love**.**

Join us at church on Friday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy dessert and reflections from team members.

From Service to Others…

History of White Cross

For generations, American Baptists' helping hands have been reaching out to people in need. During World War I, church women assisted the American Red Cross by providing surgical dressings, bandages and other medical supplies for U.S. service personnel. As they met these needs, the women became convinced that similar methods would be of great help in the work of Christian mission. In 1919, following the end of the war, two American Baptist women from Cleveland, Ohio, organized the White Cross Service League, channeling the war effort into support for Baptist mission.

Through the years, American Baptist women have provided leadership to this ministry. Men, youth and children as well as entire church congregations have embraced White Cross and are eager to participate in this ministry by filling specific requests from missionaries and international partners. Urgently-needed supplies that cannot be purchased with limited mission budgets are provided through those gifts received during the year.

The importance of White Cross remains, and the need for both funds and material goods is greater than ever. White Cross continues ot meet both physical and spiritual needs around the world. Through God's grace, White Cross continues to bless those who give, those who serve and those who receive.

Capital Area Baptist Association

2016 Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2016
First Baptist Church of Saratoga Springs
43 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs, New York

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
Registration with Light Continental Breakfast

9:30 AM -12:30 PM
Worship Service and Annual Meeting
Adoption of New Constitution
Remarks by Regional Staff
Lunch

Please RSVP by Tuesday, November 15, 2016, to Sandy Rogers at the CABA office by telephone (518-374-0288 or 518-269-1805), by e-mail at abcnyseast@yahoo.com, or by regular mail to CABA at 713 Clifton Park Center Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065. If you choose to register by telephone or e-mail, please pay the $15 registration fee at the door. If you choose to register by regular mail, please include your name, phone, e-mail address and church name with your $15 check made payable to CABA. (Please indicate "Annual Meeting" on the memo line.

Capital City String Quartet

Leo Milman, violin; Susan Kowalski, violin;

Natasha Milman, viola; Will Hayes, cello

Performing

Dvorak "American Quartet"

Schumann Piano Quintet

(with Michael Clement)

November 13

4:00 p.m.

Deadline for the December issue of the MOSAIC is November 18

Thanks to your participation, we raised about $1400 net!
That amount will provide 430 meals to our Food Pantry guests

A very special Thank-you to Delmar Reformed Church for hosting. Much appreciation also goes to the Bethlehem High School Key Club, Molly Larson, Jimmy Larson, Marcia Meyer, Patti Burch, Laura & Michael Cooper, Becky Syltebo, Paula Hennessy & Chloe, Maryjean Tedrow, Stephen Winters, Valerie Houk, John Osterhout, Nancy Pierson, Adriele Douglas, Karen Kendall, Andrea Carver, Belinda Quay, Sue Sneeringer, Rich Holley, Lois Caufield and Patti and Tim Everett from the Stonehouse Farm for their delicious New York State syrup! We couldn't have done it without all these wonderful, dedicated volunteers!

The Focus Food Pantry will be handing out Holiday Bags during the month of December. To top off the gift with a touch of sweetness, they are asking Emmanuel Baptist Church for donations of boxes of cake mix. The Pantry would appreciate receiving the cake mixes by November 15th. They may be placed in the marked box in fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Becky Syltebo.

For Gifts of Extravagant Generosity

Last Spring, a short note appeared in an issue of this newsletter indicating that the Worship Commission was hoping to purchase a digital keyboard. The one used in the choir room was showing its age. Within a very short time, your gifts for this purpose had exceeded the need. A new keyboard was purchased which now resides in the sanctuary. You might have noticed it in use in recent worship services. It is intended to be used in addition to our other instruments, but we are especially grateful to have it now while the organ is awaiting repair.

Look for more new additions to the sanctuary before Christmas. New padded chairs which match the blue ones currently in use have been ordered. They were purchased with gifts made in memory of Roy Mallory and Ken Graham with an additional gift from an anonymous donor. We currently own 41 of these chairs. The new order of 67 chairs will bring our complement to 108, which is enough seating for most Sundays. They might even arrive in time for Advent – Keep watch!

Advent begins on November 27. On that day, we will light the first candle on the Advent wreath during worship. Two intergenerational activities will follow on December 4. Join us in the sanctuary after worship to decorate the Chrismon tree. Chrismons are "Christ Monograms" made by EBC children. They are symbols representing the life, the ministry and the meaning of Jesus Christ. When the tree is set for the season, we will move to the fellowship hall to pack gift bags of cookies which will be shared with our friends at FOCUS breakfast. We need several dozen batches of cookies for this outreach project. EBC bakers, please start cooking and freezing now! If you are contributing cookies, please inform Jim Wilkerson. More information about Advent and Christmas events will appear in the December Mosaic

The tradition at Emmanuel has been to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias at Christmas and to deliver them to our homebound and ill members on Christmas Eve. If you wish to purchase a plant, please check the appropriate box(s) below and indicate if the plant is in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is $12 per plant. The poinsettias will be available on Christmas Eve. Please fill out this form and give it to Karen Green along with your payment.

I would like the poinsettia designated in memory/honor (circle one) of

_____

_____ I would like the plant donated to a church member.
_____ I would like the plant for myself.

NAME:_____

Sunday School teachers will meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2 at the home of Jim Wilkerson to discuss classroom management. Come with your questions and insights about working with attentive, noisy, quiet, rambunctious students. Please RSVP to Jim via the church office or his personal e-mail.

Coming this Month…

November 2 ~ Teachers' Meeting @ Donley-Wilkerson's: 7 pm
4-6 ~ Region Biennial in Syracuse
7 ~ Coordinating Council, 5:30 @church
12 ~ Work Day
13 ~ Diaconate
19 ~ CABA Meeting, Saratoga
27 ~ Advent 1

Work Day Scheduled
November 12

Mark your calendar and join us from 9 a.m. to Noon as we combine our energies to complete avariety of projects and tasks around the church building. There is a job for every skill level! Lunch will be served. Ifyou have questions, contact Tom Lahut.

Church Office Closed:
November 11

Remember the Food Pantry…

November:
Razors, shampoo

Church Office Closed:
November 24 & 25

Happy Birthday…

November

Judith Henningson	8th
Jon Stroebel	13th
Heather LaBarge	14th
Deb Jameson	15th
Tajier Ford	20th
Pat Campbell	22nd
Amy Palmer	26th

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

Set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday night, November 5

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