

# THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by  
**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**275 STATE STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12210**

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June 2017

Volume XXXVI No. 6



## *Pastoral Ponderings*

Some of you may have made a trip to the cemetery before or during Memorial Day weekend. I have never visited any of my loved ones' final resting places, except as part of a funeral. We never lived close to where family members were buried, so I did not grow up with the tradition of visiting graves on Memorial Day or any other day.

However, this year, I did make a trip to the cemetery just a little in advance of Memorial Day. I went to Albany Rural Cemetery to find the grave of the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Welch. Dr. Welch was the founding pastor of Pearl Street Baptist Church which became known as Emmanuel Baptist in 1871, when it moved up to its current location. He served first as the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Albany for seven years, and then left that church, along with 123 of its members, to plant Pearl Street in 1834. I shared some of that history in my sermon on May 14. Reading the speeches from our fiftieth and seventy-fifth anniversary celebrations, I learned that Dr. Welch was buried in the cemetery he had advocated to build. Curious, I went to find his grave.

The Rev. Henry King was Emmanuel's seventh pastor, from 1882-1891. (As an aside, Rev. King officiated at 248 funerals during those 9 years!) Speaking at the church's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Rev. King said, "It is not too much to say that

Dr. Welch was a preacher without a peer in his own denomination and probably without a superior in any denomination. His pulpit was probably the most attractive pulpit in the city . . ." [ All quotations are from *Emmanuel Baptist Church Albany Centennial 1834-1934*]

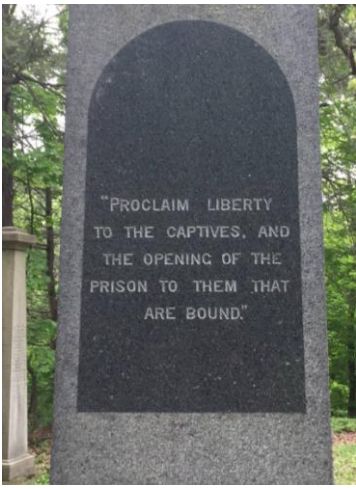
On the other hand, in 1839, a few church members were displeased with his preaching. These reasons were recorded for their dissatisfaction:

- "That the line of distinction between the church and the world was not sufficiently preserved."
- "That the children's bread was cast to the dogs."
- "That the pastor inculcated too much confidence, in the work of salvation, in human agency."

Good luck to the Pastoral Relations Committee tasked with interpreting those concerns!

Dr. Welch was involved in establishing the Rochester Theological Seminary, which we know now as Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. One of the early presidents of that school described him with these words, "Bartholomew T. Welch was a man made for the pulpit, of emotional temperament and extraordinary flow of language. Reason and imagination were unusually combined in his utterance. In Brooklyn and in Albany he drew great crowds to hear him. . . At the capital of the State, members of the Legislature and professional men came a half hour before his service in order to secure seats in the house of worship."

*continued...*



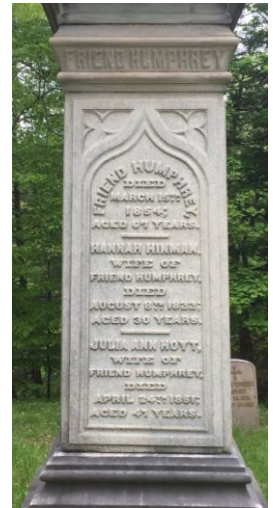
He was remembered for his eloquent passion at a denominational gathering before Baptists had divided into Northern and Southern tribes. The issue of human slavery was being debated intensely, with Dr. Welch arguing strenuously against it. He was interrupted with the question, “If you lived in the South in the midst of slavery and were the owner of slaves by inheritance, what would you do?” “Do, do?” he exclaimed, “I would proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison doors to them that are bound, and would preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” The response to his statement was overwhelming, with the result that the convention was adjourned.

Dr. Welch served First Baptist for 7 years and Pearl Street for 14 years. Then he moved to Brooklyn and served the Pierpont Street Church for 8 years. At the end of that time, he returned to Albany to serve The Baptist Church in Newton

Corners which was founded in 1849, but went out of existence sometime before 1884. He retired in failing health and died as a member of Pearl Street Church in 1870.

He was buried in an unmarked grave, but funds for marker were gathered as part of the church’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I went to the cemetery, not knowing whether I would find Dr. Welch’s grave and in what condition it would be. I was happy to locate it near the edge of an old section, in a spot where I could hear running water down below the hill. I stood there for a few moments, simply appreciating the history of Emmanuel and Albany which has shaped our present and our future.

Then, as I took the first steps back to my car, the name on the next gravestone, Friend Humphrey, caught my eye. Friend Humphrey was a member of First Baptist when it incorporated in 1811. He became a founding deacon and trustee at Pearl Street. He served as NY Senator in 1839 and Mayor of Albany in 1843, 1844, and 1849. His name is interspersed through much of Pearl Street’s early history. I was touched to see the two graves so near each other, as if the pastor and the lay leader’s friendship endured to death and beyond.



*Blessings,  
Kathy*



Spiritual growth can be hard to measure. You can’t use a tape measure or a scale or blood pressure cuff to determine where you are on a spiritual maturity scale. And yet, there are some indicators.

One of those indicators is our relationship to money, our ability to spend wisely, to save well and to give generously. In the past several years, as a congregation, we have grown in this area. We have taken some time to understand that giving has fallen off in churches over many decades and that some of that decline is because of a lack of stewardship education. So, we have begun to educate ourselves. We have reminded ourselves that Jesus says more about money than any other topic, except the Kingdom of God, so it must be important. We have challenged ourselves to develop habits of generosity and to take on the discipline of giving a percentage of our income to God. We have separated the building of a budget from the making of pledges, because we understand that we give to God as an act of discipleship and faith, not simply to pay the church’s bills.

Each fall an intentional focus on this aspect of spiritual growth is led by the Stewardship Committee. Their work begins in the summer. We need about 6 people willing to lead this effort in the fall of 2017. These leaders need to be willing to learn about stewardship and willing to engage others in the learning process. They don’t need to be tithing already. They don’t even need to know what the word “tithing” means. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to this task at this time. If you will respond affirmatively to that call, please speak with Pastor Kathy by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

# *From Service to Others...*



## **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

Dear Friends:

It is a common, perhaps daily, experience for many of us, as we live in our technology driven age: a pin drops on a GPS map, marking a current location or indicating a destination, orienting us in space. These map pins represent where we are and where we hope to go.

The scriptures for the special offering this year provide a similar point of reference, an orientation for our lives – God is near; love one another in truth and action; feed those who are hungry, clothe those who are naked, welcome those who are strangers. These texts help us position ourselves in relation to God and to one another by reminding us of our call to be here for one another, loving on another as God has loved us. Our destination, where our map pin sits, is near to the heart of God, is alongside our neighbors who are suffering.

This year our offering theme is ***“You are here.”***

*You are here* – in Nicaragua, where women are given the training and tools to cultivate home gardens to provide nutritious food for their families.

*You are here* – in West Virginia, where communities rebuild after flooding claims lives and livelihoods.

*You are here* – in Lebanon, Hungary, Mexico, the United States, and elsewhere around the world, where refugees are receiving food, water, and medicine with dignity, as our partners offer aid and accompaniment.

In times of loss or struggle, after a fire or flood, and when communities struggle to overcome the chronic absence of water, food, or economic opportunity, the church is present through the work of One Great Hour of Sharing. Through your gifts, you are here. The offering will be collected on June 4 and 11, and envelopes will be provided for your convenience.

Thank you.

The Service to Others Commission



**Celebrate Pride... Sunday, June 11**

**Parade Line-up at 10 a.m.**

*EBC representatives will be there to hold a place;  
Come and join us after church!*

**Parade Steps off at Noon**

**Festival continues (music, food, vendors, people-watching) until 5 pm**

*Volunteers are needed to staff our booth and hand out our giveaways. Can you help?*

*Speak with Ruth Pushee for more information.*

***Open House at Pathfinder Lodge***

***June 3, 10:00 to 3:00***

***Rain or Shine***

***Free lunch, tours, crafts, campfire, fun and fellowship***

Questions? Speak with Marilyn Malone or another member of CGD.



**Children's**

**Day Sunday, June 11**

**Don't miss this special worship service!**



**An Opportunity for Creativity**

How do we keep children engaged and interested in church during the months of July & August? We are proposing a simple program of making ornaments for our new Christmas tree.

**Structure & Organization:** Each week a leader and helper will present an ornament idea for the children to make. If necessary, a project can be completed in future weeks, e.g. paint needs to dry.

Leaders may come up with their own projects or choose one from craft books provided. Most supplies are available in our resource closets.

**When:** July 9-August 27, during worship (30-45 minutes)

**Where:** Preschool Room

**Who:** Children up to 8 years old (age range is flexible)

**The First Step:** We are looking for people willing to provide leadership for one Sunday during the summer. Provide a sample of your ornament idea, and we will generate enthusiasm among the children!

**The Next Step:** We will need to find an adult or youth assistant for each week.

**Two notes:**

1. August 6 is FOCUS worship at EBC, so we will need a little extra coverage.
2. If there is a week when no leader volunteers, then there will be no children's program that week.

**Will you get involved? Time commitment is only 1-2 hours total; Impact is immeasurable!**

Contact a member of Christian Growth Commission (Gretchen Scheu, Beth Malone, Ericka Silverman, Jim Wilkerson, Marilyn Malone, Audrey Ford) or email to

[malonehome@aol.com](mailto:malonehome@aol.com).



**Begins June 21!**



## FOCUS News...

We're ready to hit the road to bring **Gardening in a Bucket** to Albany family shelters, schools and summer day camps again this season. Children learn about growing and caring for vegetable plants while they decorate pots and assemble a portable garden to take home with them.



We need volunteers to assist the staff. If you can commit an hour or two, please call Becca at 443-0460 for dates, times & locations.

***Are you a gardener?** Won't you plant a little extra and share your harvest of fresh produce with the Food Pantry?*

*Contact the FOCUS office if you have questions. (433-0460)*



### *Focus Summer Worship Schedule:*

**All services will be held at 9:30 a.m.**

July 2 - at Trinity United Methodist

Aug. 6 - at Emmanuel Baptist

Sept. 3 - at First Presbyterian

*All are Welcome!*

# Save the Date

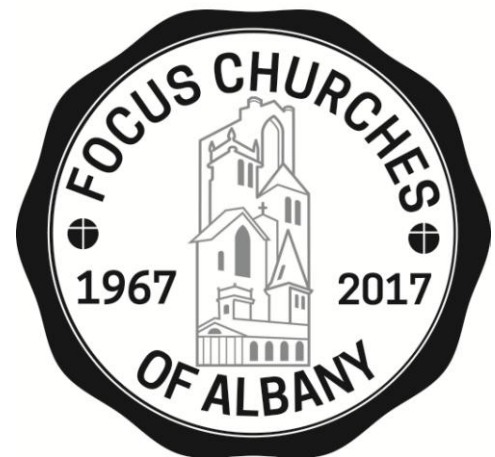
Saturday, October 28

**FOCUS Churches**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

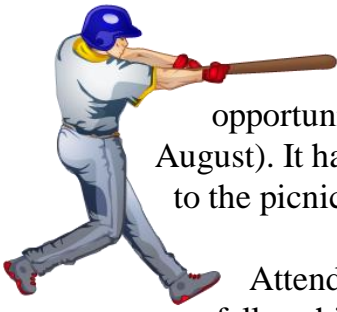
St. Sophia's Church

*watch for more information in coming months*



Our own Lucy Wong was honored by her neighbors on First Street and by Mayor Kathy Sheehan for her tireless advocacy for the Ten Broeck Triangle Neighborhood where she has lived for 72 years.

## From Caring & Fellowship Commission: Tri-City Valley Cats Baseball



For the past several years, Caring and Fellowship has provided an opportunity to see a game of the Tri-City Valley Cats as a group (usually sometime in August). It has been planned on the same day as one of our monthly Summer picnics – go to the picnic after church, stay until time to go to the ball game.

Attendance has varied each year up to 35 individuals attending. It is a great time of fellowship and fun. There is also a Sunday fun pack of tickets that we have used for pricing for the past several years making it affordable for the whole family to attend.

This year, the Caring and Fellowship commission has decided to NOT be the organizer of this outing. If someone would like to take over the organization of this outing, please contact Amy Palmer at 518-320-4472 (call or text) or email [amlypa@nycap.rr.com](mailto:amlypa@nycap.rr.com) for details about who to contact at the ball park.

Thank you,  
Caring and Fellowship Commission



### Summer is Coming!

#### ***Please join us for the Annual Outdoor Worship & Picnic!***

**When:** Sunday, June 25, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Town of Colonie Mohawk River Park  
71 Schermerhorn Rd., Cohoes

**Cost:** \$6 per vehicle to get into the park  
(less, if you are a Colonie resident)  
\$2 per person/\$5 per family of 3 or more

#### **What to bring:**

- A side dish or dessert
- A folding/camp chair for each member of your family coming
- Outdoor games, if you want to play with others there (there is equipment available to use at the park also)
- Insect repellent (optional)
- Sunscreen (optional)
- Hat/visor/sunglasses (optional)
- You!
- And ... your family and friends, if you would like to invite others

#### **Other Info:**

- Meat for the grill will be provided
- Beverages will be provided

***Please Sign up so we can assure  
plenty of food!***

***Come enjoy fun  
in the sun  
(hopefully)!***





Members of an Interfaith Peace Study Tour to Israel and Palestine in February, including Edith and Ian Leet, will give a presentation on their trip on Wednesday, June 21, at 7 p.m at First Church in Albany, 110 South Pearl Street, near the Palace Theater. The public is invited to attend, and free parking next to the church is available.

Each tour member present will describe a different aspect of the trip, which included visits to historic, religious, and cultural sites in Israel and the West Bank; sharing of perspectives among Christians, Jews, and Muslims; and dialog with leaders of organizations working for peace. Time will be available for questions.

For more information, please contact First Church (518-463-4449, Info@firstchurchinalbany.org) or Edith or Ian Leet (518-482-6612, edith.leet@outlook.com, ian.leet@outlook.com).



Emmanuel Women are invited to meet for lunch at the Pointe restaurant on Thursday, June 1 at 11:45 a.m.

If you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

*A Note of Thanks*

Dear Emmanuel Family,  
Thank you so much for everything you did to make our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party a success. It was wonderful to have so many of you come to the party, and special thanks to those of you who brought food and helped in the kitchen so that we could visit with our guests. You are very special people, and we are blessed to know you and be part of the Emmanuel family.

With love,  
Ian and Edith Leet



*From Baptist  
Peace Fellowship*



“Thank you for your recent gift and for your faithful support over many years. We are grateful! You are making possible creative and courageous peacemaking all over the world: conflict transformation throughout Africa; anti-racism training in the US & Canada; a gathering of peacemakers this summer in Mexico (we hope some of you can come); a wealth of resources to help churches and individuals work for justice and so much more. We’re grateful to share the work of peace with you.” ~ LeDayne



**Please Note...**  
**Diaconate:**  
**June 4 following worship**  
**Coordinating Council:**  
**June 13, 5:30 at church**



A hearty THANK YOU to each of you who sent cards and/or were present for Erin's Graduation Party. It can be challenging to celebrate in a place where you don't have many friends your own age, but you surrounded us and made it all festive. You are our

community in this place and we appreciate you!  
 ~~Jim, Kathy, Molly and Erin

## Hats Off to Our Graduates!



*Aidan Chaffin*  
*Gillian Horan*  
*Erin Wilkerson*  
*Maria Townes*

*Aidan* graduated from Scotia-Glenville High School and will attend Boston University.

*Gillian* received her ADN degree (Registered Nurse) in May from North Country Community College. She will be taking the nursing boards this summer.

*Erin* received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bard College at Simons Rock. She will move to Indiana where she hopes to learn more about equine therapy by working as a barn volunteer. She plans to pursue graduate studies in Occupational Therapy.

*Maria* graduated from Albany Medical College and will be doing her internship at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield, MA.

*Congratulations to All!*



### Work Day

June 17  
 9 to Noon

There will be projects for all skill levels and a light lunch will be served.

"Many hands make light work"! Join us!

## Happy Birthday...

Audrey Ford  
 Claudette Mink  
 Natalie Johnson  
 Elaine Spoor  
 Donna Brown  
 Danielle Johnson  
 Barbara Lahut  
 Bob Green  
 Sarah Malone  
 Edie Simpson  
 Robin Bray  
 Adele LaBarge  
 Erin Wilkerson  
 Ken Cole  
 Eh Kui Do  
 Edith Leet



3<sup>rd</sup>  
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 29<sup>th</sup>

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

**Deadline for the summer issue of *the MOSAIC* is June 18**

**NOTE:** that issue will include July and August events

**Church Office Closed May 29**



**Remember the Food Pantry...**

*June: bar soap*



**Special Note: Time Change**

*During July and August, worship services at Emmanuel will be at 9:30 a.m.*



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