

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Summer 2017

Volume XXXVI No. 7



Pastoral Ponderings

Summer is such a gift. I've always enjoyed the summer, but living in this time zone where darkness comes so early in the winter has made me truly appreciate the increased sunshine of the summer months. And while a few recent days have been humid, upstate New York certainly offers much more comfortable temperatures and humidity than July and August in the Midwest.

I am looking forward to good things this summer, including two Baptist gatherings. Along with Judy Henningson, Kathy Moore, Tony and Marilyn Malone, and Jim Wilkerson, I will be attending the American Baptist Mission Summit/Biennial in Portland, Oregon. This is the every-other-year convening of our denomination for a little bit of business, and a lot of conversation, workshops, and celebrating what other Baptists are up to in our nation and around the world. Prior to the official Biennial, Jim will participate in a one-day seminar on trauma and resilience provided by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America while I attend the Theologians Conference.

Worship on Sunday at the Biennial will include preaching by the Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, who began his service as our new General Secretary on June 1. Until then, he was the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches in New Jersey. He has served congregations in New Jersey, Nebraska and Rhode Island. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for his first pastoral letter.

Later in July, Jim and I will attend the annual gathering of the Baptist Peace Fellowship- ~ Bautistas por la Paz, aka Peace Camp. For the first time ever, it is being held in Mexico. Peace and justice-seeking Baptists in four nations (Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the USA) participate together in the work of the peace fellowship. The location of this year's summer conference was planned years in advance, but, providentially, it occurs at a time of political tension between the governments of Mexico and the USA. Merely attending peace camp this year seems like an act of resistance. Daily events will be conducted primarily in Spanish, with

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translation into English and some indigenous Mexican languages. I trust that we will learn much from being on the receiving end of translation and the gracious hospitality of our Mexican hosts. International travel is always a stretching experience for me. Please pray for us and for all who will be there. (And if you're sad to miss it, remember that next year's peace camp will be in Keuka, New York!)

EBC will provide a neutral pulpit on July 9th, as the search committee from a sister congregation worships with us in order to hear the preaching of a possible new pastor. We will host the combined FOCUS service on August 6th with communion and a sermon on the feeding of the 5,000 -- which seems appropriate for a ministry that feeds hungry people on a daily basis. When I'm not at Baptist gatherings or on one week of vacation in August, my summer preaching will be from Matthew's gospel, highlighting Jesus' teachings on what it means to be a disciple.

Summer always goes so quickly. I hope you are looking forward to events in your own life this summer. Enjoy the rhythm of the season, but don't forget your community of faith. Participate in summer picnics and worship opportunities. Send letters to kids at camp. Stock up on school supplies for FOCUS. And give thanks to God for all the good gifts of this season.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



Our newest tenant is a house church. The congregation is composed of 6-8 families of Kachin people. They do not have a pastor and are not formally organized as a church, but they have been meeting together weekly in homes for more than a year. Needing just a bit more breathing-room than was available in any one house or apartment, and knowing of EBC's hospitality to the Gethsemane Karen church, they approached us. Beginning on July 2, they will use the fellowship hall and parlor on Sunday evenings from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The first three months are a gift. After that, they will contribute \$100 per month for building use.

The Kachin people have a story with some similarities and some differences from the Karen people. Both are refugee peoples from Myanmar/Burma. The Kachins come from the north, while the Karens originated in the Kayin State on the border with Thailand. There are many more Karen people than Kachin people in the USA. Of the four Kachin church leaders who met with Kathy Donley and Tom Lahut, one has only been here for just 2 years, while another has lived in the USA for 9 years with the other two falling somewhere in between. The man with 9 years of residency happens to be Karen. He is married to a Kachin woman, and while he socializes with members of the Gethsemane Karen church, he worships in Kachin with his wife. This congregation includes 6 children, ranging in age from 3 to 10 years old. Some of the parents expressed interest in bringing their children to EBC's Sunday School when it resumes in the fall.

There are not yet many Kachin Baptist churches in the United States, with perhaps as few as 19 self-contained congregations nationwide. It is significant that EBC has the opportunity to be connected to one of them at this time. As of June 2016, the Kachin Baptist Churches USA is an Associated Ministry Organization with the ABC/USA. Some members of Kachin churches and denominational leadership will be present at the Portland Mission Summit for the first time with that status. People from all over the world keep coming to us, continuing to present Emmanuel with exciting opportunities to welcome God's many-hued children into the tapestry of faith.





Eh Poh and Noe Noe



The Honorable Mae D'Agostino presents certificate



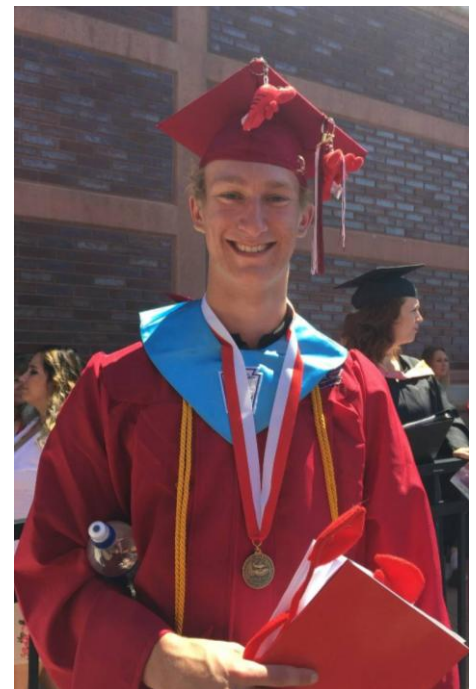
Four Gethsemene Karen Baptist Church members (Eh Tha Ku Blat, Eh Poh, Noe Noe, and May Rah) were sworn in as U.S. citizens on June 16. They are pictured here with their family members. Three EBC members, (Kathy Donley, Nancy Horan and Jim Wilkerson) were present to bear witness and celebrate with them.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Aidan Chaffin*, on his graduation from the Scotia-Glenville High School. Aidan was one of 16 graduates to receive the scholastic honor award medal and one of two students to speak to and for his graduating class. His address, *The "Perfect" Graduation Speech*, was thoroughly appreciated by the audience, judging by several bursts of spontaneous laughter and hearty applause. The speech started with fun facts about lobsters and ultimately referenced Kent Keith's Paradoxical Commandments. As Aidan explained, Keith developed the commandments in his sophomore year at Harvard, to encourage some of his disillusioned peers. In his speech, Aidan quoted these three commandments:

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.



From Service to Others...

Two Upcoming Mission Trips:

Rwanda: Horror into Hope

Last year many of us viewed the film “Hotel Rwanda” which was a documentary about the genocide in Rwanda. It was disturbing to watch and left us questioning why, and what could be done to help even now. Two pastors from NY, Jim & Suzi Harriff, have made several mission trips to Rwanda to encourage the people, to help them rebuild, and to walk along side them on their journey. ABC/NYS has chosen to focus on their ministry for the next 3 years, sponsoring mission trips and encouraging other New Yorkers to join them. The first of these trips will be January 15-28, 2018. There are no special skills necessary, as their leadership will match your skills and interests to areas where help is needed. Travel arrangements will need to be made in the fall and the group size is limited to 10. If you would like more information, there will be a flier at church, or you can contact Marilyn Malone, malonehome@aol.com, 785-0022, for details.

Community Mission Center of Niagara Frontier, a validated ministry of ABC/NYS

This is a short term mission trip to assist and learn about the regional ministry program in Niagara Falls. Under the direction of Mark Breese, they work with issues of hunger, housing, jobs, and prison ministries. The dates are July 12-15, 2018, but there is flexibility to arrive later or leave earlier. This is an excellent opportunity for youth and adults to work together. Marilyn Malone is one of the trip organizers and will be happy to talk with you about details.



**EBC's
CROP Walk
Team**

**From a Pastoral Letter by ABCUSA General Secretary,
Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer
June 16, 2017**



Dear ABCUSA Family:

The recent terrorist attacks in England, the apparently politically motivated shooting that took place in Virginia, ongoing debates over how to treat immigrants and visitors to our country, and the struggles of another Baptist denomination to take a clear stand on issues related to white supremacy remind us all that we are living in a violent and divided world that desperately needs to overcome every form of social and political discrimination and search for more just ways to live in harmony. In 2017, American Baptists gladly and forthrightly reassert our fundamental Baptist convictions regarding individual liberty, dignity and respect for all people, regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage, political or religious beliefs, or any other factor. In 1976, the General Board affirmed a policy statement on human rights, which said:

“Baptist history is rooted in concern for conscience and for freedom of individual beliefs, for choice, and for unregimented living whether by religious dogma and institution or by social and political structures. John Bunyan in prison and Roger Williams driven from Massachusetts, reflect commitment to these ideas, as did Martin Luther King, in his witness to human dignity and the rights of minority groups. Resolutions by the American Baptist Churches over the years have particularly sought to reflect the denomination’s basic principles of freedom of thought and belief, the right of dissent, the responsibility to speak prophetically to church and society and support for human dignity and social justice.”

... In the past, American Baptists have expressed these convictions in resolutions and statements, which make clear we have consistently opposed every form of racism and discrimination...

We also have clearly stated in the past that American Baptists reject violence as a means of achieving one’s social, religious or political goals...

...how should we as American Baptists respond to the challenges we face in today’s troubled and fractured society? I suggest we not only re-affirm the statements of the past, but resolve to live them out in practical and consistent ways in our individual and congregational spiritual journeys. ..

To bring our thoughts and actions in line with our expressed convictions, we must re-engage Scripture and let its message take control of our beliefs, attitudes, emotions and actions. Please consider these as a starting point in such a transformational journey: James 1:19-20, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 13:3-7

As I reflect on these Scriptures, I glean the following challenges to help us all hold fast to our Baptist convictions while also contributing to a more harmonious American civic life:

1. Commit to listen more graciously and with an open mind, especially when we are in conversation with people who hold different views than we do.
2. Reject anger, rudeness, hatred, arrogance, and egotism in our dealings with others. Being prophetic is not compatible with being obsessive, abusive or insensitive.
3. Do not forget that people we disagree with are still human beings, and desire respect, grace and acceptance. The Golden Rule still applies to human relationships.
4. Be patient before responding to situations and people; oftentimes, first reports of an event do not convey the whole truth. Knee-jerk reactions are seldom helpful.
5. Do not assume that one’s own position on an issue is the only Christian response to which all others must subscribe. We know only “in part,” as Paul says.

As American Baptists, may we, through our words and actions, “let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds” (Matthew 5:16) and be drawn to Jesus Christ, our Lord!”

Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA

lee.spitzer@abc-usa.org

From Christian Growth & Development...

Marilyn Malone (malonehome@aol.com), Ericka Silverman (ericka13@nycap.rr.com), Jim Wilkerson (jimwilkerson65@gmail.com), Beth Malone (bethamalone@gmail.com), Gretchen Scheu (gretchen.scheu@outlook.com), and Audrey Ford

Children's Day Many, many heartfelt thanks to ALL who helped make our children's program meaningful and exciting this past year! The children are wonderful, and the leaders bring out the best in them. Parents, be sure to thank your child's Sunday School teacher!

Looking toward our next season, CGD has restructured our classes to help ease the time commitment on our teachers, some of whom have been teaching for 50 years, or more! We still need a few more volunteers and are especially looking for new folks. The time commitment is 8 or 9 Sundays, during worship, September through May. Some classes like to schedule a month at a time, and others prefer one Sunday a month. There is curriculum provided, training meetings, and assistants to provide support. If you have never taught SS before, or if it's been a while, we invite you to talk to a commission member, ask questions, pray about it. If you love working with children, don't be shy! Come grow with our teaching team!

Note: Teacher's meeting, August 22, 7:00 at Ericka Silverman's house. This is for teachers, helpers, substitutes, parents and anyone who wants to know more about Christian Education at Emmanuel.

Child Care Needed

We have had a good response to our request for summer child care, but there are still three weeks with vacancies. Audrey Ford will have the sign-up sheet at the picnic, but if you miss that, please call a commission member to sign up. **Special Note: EBC is hosting the FOCUS worship on 8/6, and we will need extra help with the nursery and preschool groups.**

Classrooms Being Refreshed: Can You Help?

CGD has been working with Corporate Management to change some of our Sunday School rooms. Some are moving and some are being redecorated. We could use more help! So far work days have been scheduled for Tuesday, 7/11, 10:00 to noon, and Saturday, 7/22, 9:00 to noon. There will probably be one or two more dates in August to get everything ready for September 10. If you can paint, clean, move furniture, sort through supplies, decorate walls, etc., please come join us!

Mark your Calendar...

Noontime Summer Church Picnics Planned

July 23 at Malone's

August 13 at Leet's



Join us as we come together for summer fun and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share and lawn chairs; meat for the grill and beverages will be provided.

Watch for sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall!



FOCUS News...

FOCUS School Supply Collection Begins

The Focus School Supply Drive will take place during June, July and August. The supplies we collect will be given to needy students from the Interfaith Food Pantry, the Karen and refugee communities. A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you would prefer to make a monetary gift, please make your check out to FOCUS and put "School Supplies" in the memo line. All donations will be gratefully received! If you have questions, speak with Beca Leet. Thank you.



Are you a gardener? Won't you share your harvest of fresh produce with the Food Pantry? Contact the FOCUS office to make arrangements. (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

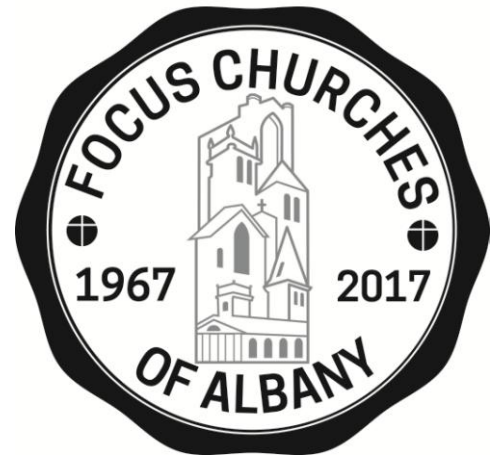
Saturday, October 28

FOCUS Churches

50th Anniversary Celebration

St. Sophia's Church

watch for more information in coming months



Remember the Food Pantry...

Deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and toilet paper



Work Day

July 22

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!

Coordinating Council:
July 25, 5:30 at church



The ladies luncheon will be held on August 3 at Smith's of Cohoes, 171 Remsen St. All

Emmanuel women are invited. Please let Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory know if you plan to attend so that adequate seating can be arranged.

**Invitation from BPFNA ~
 Bautistas por la Paz
 House Party**

for members and new friends of BPFNA
 Peter JB Carman & Kathy Donley invite you to celebrate the vision & work of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz (an international organization of Baptist peacemakers)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

6:30-8:30 P.M.

at the home of Peter JB Carman &
 Lynn Carman Bodden

29 Front St, Schenectady, Ny 12305

(Please call 585-406-5166 if you have trouble finding the house.)

Dress is informal. Please be yourself! Bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share. We will eat together, get acquainted, and have an opportunity to have conversation with Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski, Executive Director of BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz. Please let us know if you're coming by RSVP'ing to bpfna@bpfna.org by September 11.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Happy Birthday...

MaKayla Smith
 Amanda Gibson
 Kevin Cole
 Bessie Gibson
 Nancy Horan
 Tracy Collins
 Andrea Carver
 Kendra Lahut
 Silas Klope
 Rebecca Lamar (Malone)
 Jim Wilkerson
 Paw E Kler
 Dah Blut Soe
 Esther Moore
 Curtis Klope
 Elaine Clark
 Amber Collins
 Randolph Franklin



1st
 4th
 6th
 10th
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 31st
 31st

AUGUST



Elisabeth Scheu
 Bill Silverman
 Kimberly Norwood
 Sam Hill
 Michael Green
 Beverly Norwood
 Becky Klope
 Parmilla Allen
 Shamaal Ford
 Liselle LaFrance
 Karen Kendall

1st
 2nd
 5th
 8th
 11th
 22nd
 22nd
 23rd
 26th
 28th
 30th

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

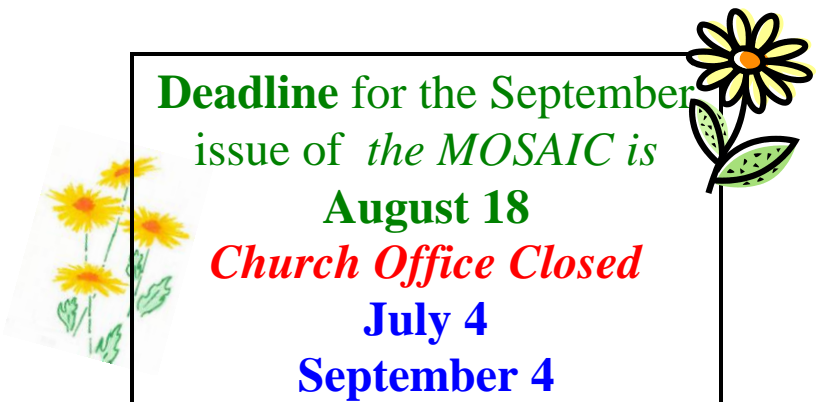
**Deadline for the September
 issue of the MOSAIC is**

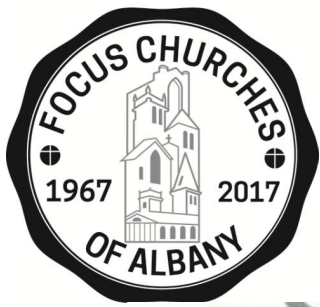
August 18

Church Office Closed

July 4

September 4





FOCUS on Schools Supply List



#2 Pencils (Sharpened) Pencil Pouches
Pencil Boxes—(Plastic, 5”X8”)
Ball Point Pens (Blue Or Black Ink)
Marble Composition Books
Pencil Sharpeners Glue Bottles/Glue Sticks
School Scissors Crayons – 24 Count
Colored Pencils Colored Markers
2 Pocket Folders 2” Pink Erasers
Yellow Hi-Lighters 3” Sticky-Back Note Pads
Flash Drives 12” Rulers
Dry-Erase Markers
3-Ring Binders (Hard Cover, 1” Or 1 1/2”)
Notebook (Looseleaf) Paper (College And Wide Ruled)
Spiral Notebooks (One Subject, College And Wide Ruled)



Monetary contributions are also appreciated.

Together we can help equip children adequately for the start of the new school year.
Contributions should be marked “FOCUS School Supplies” and may be sent to

FOCUS: 275 State Street, Albany 12210.

If you have questions, you may contact Becca Leet.



FOCUS On Schools Needs Volunteers Too

Preparation days will be Monday, August 28, Tuesday, August 29 and Thursday, August 31 from 10 to noon each day. Distribution day: Wednesday, August 30 from 9:30 to 12:30 and 4:30 to 7:30. If you wish to help, please contact Becca Leet at (518) 443-0460.

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