

# THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by  
**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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## *Pastoral Ponderings*

Sometimes you hear words in a new way. They're the same words I've heard all my life. I've probably even said them. But they came to me as a startling insight, provoking internal questions I haven't answered yet.

I was listening to Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins. For almost 25 years, he was the Executive Director of what is now called The American Baptist Home Mission Society. He is well known for his strong leadership on social justice issues. He was speaking at the Ella Baker Justice Dinner on Tuesday night of the New Baptist Covenant Summit in Atlanta.



**Dr. Aidsand Wright-Riggins III**

Ella Baker was an African-American civil rights and human rights activist. Born in Virginia in 1903, she lived in New York City for most of her adult life. She exercised leadership in the NAACP and the Southern Leadership Conference and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. She has been called "one of the most important African American leaders of the twentieth century and perhaps the most influential woman in the Civil Rights Movement." Early at this dinner, we heard stories of the ways she organized grassroots people for racial and economic equality. Ella Baker was known by the nickname of *Fundi*, which is a Swahili word that means a person who teaches a craft or skill to the next generation. When Dr. Wright-Riggins spoke, it was to tell us that on the following evening, the first Ella Baker Justice Award was going to be presented to Congressman John Lewis, honoring his lifetime of work.



Dr. Wright-Riggins described a circle of justice which spiraled from one generation to the next. Ella Baker represented the generation before Martin Luther King Jr. The generation before her included such folks as W. E. B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington. Dr. Wright-Riggins continued to name luminaries who overlapped with Ella Baker and succeeded her, including Rosa Parks and James Baldwin.

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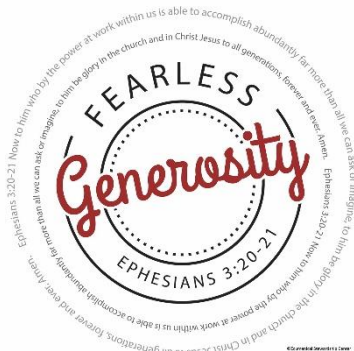
Repeating the image of the circle of justice-makers, he brought it to the present, naming John Lewis and then “the people in this room”. His clear implication was that the people in the room just then had a responsibility to seek and maintain justice for the next generation.

Those were the words that came as a shock to my system. I looked around the room. Perhaps 150 people were present. It was a group large enough that any one person could remain somewhat anonymous, or so my introverted self wanted to believe. On the other hand, if these were the individuals on whom the next generation of Baptist justice-seekers across the United States were to depend, it did not seem nearly large enough. What did it mean that I was present in the room? It would be ridiculous to believe that I could have any effect on the unbroken circle of justice. . . . Ridiculous, right?

I quit listening for a minute and reflected internally, “I am a local church pastor. I’m not famous or particularly special. I don’t have any kind of national or even a regional following. I don’t even have that many Facebook friends. Of all the people in this room right now, I must be the least significant. How could the continuation of this circle possibly depend on me?”

*“We are always only one generation away from the extinction of the Christian faith.”* Those are words I have heard before, words I have said before. But . . . sometimes you hear words in a new way.

Blessings,  
Kathy



***“Do not be afraid”*** is one of the most common sentences in the Bible. We have heard it on several recent Sundays, on the lips of Jesus speaking to his disciples, on the lips of Moses speaking to the children of Israel. Perhaps it occurs so often because fear is a universal human issue. Perhaps it occurs so often because fear and the overcoming of it is bound up with faith. Probably both are true.

This month, our stewardship theme of Fearless Generosity will help us recall the role of faith over fear in relationship to our finances. Beginning October 15, we will hear testimonies from Emmanuel members about how they have learned to be more courageous in their theology, their service, and their giving. Those themes will also be reflected in sermons by the end of the month. On November 6, we will join together in presenting our commitments of giving in support of the ministry and mission to which we are called as the Emmanuel Baptist congregation.

The theme scripture of Ephesians 3:20-21 affirms that through the Holy Spirit, the power at work within us, God is able to accomplish far more abundantly than we can ask or imagine. May our prayer in this time be that we would be willing vessels of courageous stewardship.

***Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.  
Ephesians 3:20-21***

# Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

## October, 2017



Sunday, 10/1	11:30-12:30, Church parlor	Moses: class 3 led by Jean Burton
Wednesday, 10/4	1:00-2:00, Church parlor	Lectionary Bible Study (Exodus 32:1-14) facilitated by Marilyn Malone
Sunday, 10/8	11:30-12:30, Church parlor	Moses: class 4
Wednesday, 10/11	1:00-2:00, Church parlor	Lectionary Bible Study (Exodus 33:12-23) facilitated by Marilyn Malone
Wednesday, 10/18	1:00-2:00, Church parlor	Lectionary Bible Study (Deuteronomy 34:1-12) facilitated by Marilyn Malone
Sunday, 10/22	11:30-12:30, Church parlor	Social Movements, led by Joe Paparone
Wednesday, 10/25	1:00-2:00, Church parlor	Lectionary Bible Study (Matthew 23:1-12) facilitated by Marilyn Malone
Sunday, 10/29	11:30-12:30, Church parlor	Family Matters led by Tony & Marilyn Malone

### *October 22 – Social Movements and the Role of People of Faith*

Guest speaker Joe Paparone will facilitate an examination of Jesus' call to discipleship as a social movement. Joe works with FOCUS Churches and the Labor Religion Coalition as an advocate for justice. On this Sunday, he will be coming fresh from the Poor People's Campaign and Meeting of Faith for a Fair New York. He may bring some updates on the social movements to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction, and other justice issues.

### *October 29 – Family Matters*

Led by Tony and Marilyn Malone, this monthly conversation usually focuses on some aspect of interpersonal relationships, with the intention of improving the ways we understand ourselves and others.



# Staying Connected with Emmanuel!

*How many ways are YOU Connected to Emmanuel?*

*We are connected to you in lots of different ways.*

*Come join us.*

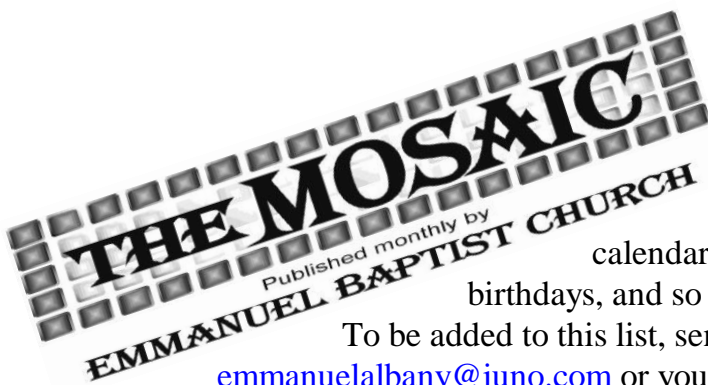


**Facebook** – see posts, videos, music, and more that caught the pastor’s eye; learn about upcoming events; share our Hope with your Facebook friends! Either search for Emmanuel Baptist Church on Facebook or navigate to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Emmanuel-Baptist-Church-Of-Albany/196891577057539>.

**EBC-Announce** – a Yahoo Group that where we share prayer requests, special events, information about concerts, Sunday worship, etc. Easy to join!

Send a BLANK email to: [ebc-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ebc-announce-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You will, within a few minutes, receive an email from Yahoo Groups with instructions. The message will direct you to click on a link to a groups.yahoo.com address. (If you don’t get this email, try checking your Spam folder.)



**MOSAIC Newsletter** – a monthly publication with a note from the pastor, items to add to your calendar, information on missions we are involved in, monthly birthdays, and so much more.

To be added to this list, send an email requesting an electronic copy to [emmanuelalbany@juno.com](mailto:emmanuelalbany@juno.com) or you can request a paper copy by contacting the church office and leaving a message with Dorothy at 518-465-5161.

**On the Web!** Our internet site, [www.emmanuelalbany.net](http://www.emmanuelalbany.net) includes an up-to-date calendar, recent sermons, copies of recent Mosaic Newsletters, as well as some information about what we believe and our Statement of Welcome and Affirmation! If you haven’t visited recently, please do!



**Need a Name Button?**



Whether you are new to the congregation, have lost your button, or just want to change the color, we can make you a new name button. Please PRINT your name on the sheet by the button board and put down the color you want: blue, red, yellow, green, purple, or rainbow. You can also specify whether you want a pin on the back or a clip.



## *From Service to Others...*



### **World Mission Offering**

The theme of this year's American Baptist Churches, International Ministries World Mission Offering is "Come, follow me." We have designated Emmanuel's offering to support the work of Dan Buttry.

Dan is the Global Consultant for Peace and Justice with International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches. He works around the world, usually on short term peace projects. His area of specialty is conflict transformation. Simply put, conflict transformation means turning conflict from negative, destructive experiences into positive, constructive experiences in which problems are solved, unjust relationships are structured in more just ways, violence is replaced by nonviolent means of dealing with disagreements, torn relationships are reconciled, decisions become more participatory and traumatized people are supported for healing.

Emmanuel recently received a letter from Dan, thanking us for our past support and listing the projects he and Sharon Buttry were involved in last year. Here are a couple of examples:

- Trained Syrian and Lebanese church folks involved in ministries to refugees and displaced people from the civil war in Syria on trauma and self-care.
- Advised, coordinated with, and developed financial support for a network of young African peacemakers who led trainings and did mediation in Uganda, Kenya, Central African Republic, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, D.R. Congo, Tanzania and Senegal.

If you want more information on their work, you can go to the website [www.danbuttry.com](http://www.danbuttry.com). The offering will be received on October 1 and October 8. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important work.



### **Emmanuel Friedens Concert Series**

#### **Leslie Lee & Steve Gretz**

**songs to lift spirits and soothe souls**

**Sunday October 8, 7:30 PM**

**Emmanuel Friedens Church**

**218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady New York 12307**

**Leslie Lee and Steve Gretz** have been performing together for over a decade in coffeehouses, festivals, and churches throughout the Northeast, Southeast and Midwest. Their music draws on folk, bluegrass, country and gospel roots, featuring beautiful harmonies and lyrics that encourage and uplift. Leslie was born in Orange, California and grew up in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Trained as a graphic artist, she started singing in 2003 when Leslie and Steve recorded their first album, *Recovered*. Steve was born and raised in the Finger Lakes region. Involved with music most of his life, he is also an American Baptist pastor. Leslie and Steve have recorded five albums together and currently host a monthly Old Time Music Night in Rochester, NY, as well as Lake Effect Shows, a house concert series presented in their home.

**There is no charge for this event! All are welcome.**

**For information call (518) 374-4114 or email [ebcfried@nycap.rr.com](mailto:ebcfried@nycap.rr.com)**

FOCUS News...



*A Recital of Opera Prayer Arias*

*to benefit FOCUS Food Programs*

**Saturday, October 14, 5 pm**

**Bien Baiz, soprano**

**Michael Clement, pianist**

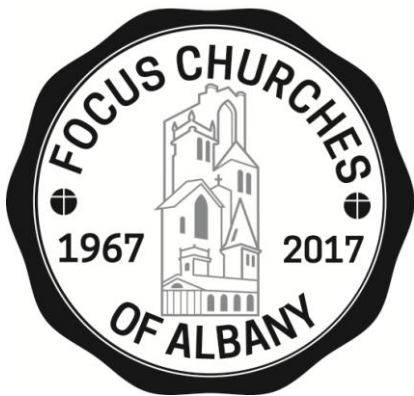
*featuring works by*

*Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Bellini and others*

Admission free; all donations benefit FOCUS Food Programs

information: [mclement14@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mclement14@nycap.rr.com)

**Reception to follow**



**Come and Celebrate!**

**Saturday, October 28**

**FOCUS Churches**

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

**St. Sophia's Church**

*If you did not receive an invitation to the FOCUS Gala this past week, please go to [www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net) and look for the 50<sup>th</sup> Gala Registration button. Or you may call the FOCUS office at 518-443-0460. **Tickets are \$50 each.** Don't miss it!*

**Remember the  
Food Pantry...**

**Deodorant and shampoo**



***“We need a Poor People’s Campaign for Moral Revival to help us become the nation we’ve not yet been.” Rev. William Barber, II***

**POOR PEOPLE’S  
CAMPAIGN  
MASS MEETING &  
FAITH FOR A FAIR NY  
CONFERENCE**

**OCTOBER 17-18 BINGHAMTON**

**Tuesday, October 17, 7 - 9 pm:  
Poor People's Campaign Mass Meeting,  
United Presbyterian Church,  
42 Chenango St.**

***Free and open to the public*** Join co-chairs Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis for a Mass Meeting for the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral

Revival to learn about the inspiration, vision and strategy of the PPC, as well as the findings of the Truth Commission on Poverty in New York State. The Poor People's Campaign will build a broad and deep national moral fusion movement — rooted in the leadership of the poor and dispossessed as moral agents and reflecting the great moral teachings — to unite our country from the bottom up.

The call for a Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has emerged from more than a decade of work by grassroots community and religious leaders, organizations and movements fighting to end systemic racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction & related injustices and to build a just, sustainable and participatory society. We draw on the history, vision and unfinished work of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.

**Wednesday, October 18, 9 am - 6 pm:  
Faith for a Fair New York Conference, United Presbyterian Church,  
42 Chenango St.**

On Wednesday, join faith, labor and community leaders from across the state to delve more deeply into the Truth Commission's findings, learn about economic and racial justice issues facing New York, and discuss plans for participating in the Poor People's Campaign and strengthening a moral movement in New York State.

**Register at [bit.ly/FFNY2017](http://bit.ly/FFNY2017)**



***Deadline for the November MOSAIC is October 18***





Register on line at: [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)

Registration: \$48

Rolling Ridge is located at **660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA 01845**

### Congratulations!

We are pleased to share that Mu Mu Blat, of the Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church, passed the citizenship test on September 13. She will be sworn in as a U.S. citizen on October 20. All EBC members and friends are invited to celebrate with her by attending the ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the James T. Foley Courthouse, 445 Broadway. Mu Mu Blat is married to Wai Wah Blat, who is the GKBC treasurer.

### Happy Birthday...

Chris Moaton  
 MarilynMalone  
 Jim Woodard  
 Warren Burton  
 Bien Baez  
 Julie Shaw  
 Taylor Stroebel  
 Bernie Kennedy  
 Madeline Green  
 Heather Green



1<sup>st</sup>  
 6<sup>th</sup>  
 6<sup>th</sup>  
 6<sup>th</sup>  
 11<sup>th</sup>  
 13<sup>th</sup>  
 16<sup>th</sup>  
 20<sup>th</sup>  
 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 28<sup>th</sup>

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



#### Ladies, You're Invited!

Emmanuel women will gather for lunch at *The Restaurant* on Thursday, October 5 at 11:45 a.m. If

you plan to attend, please let Betty Mallory or Pat Hunziker know so adequate seating can be arranged.



#### New Address:

**Sam and Gail Hill**  
 Hawthorne Ridge Apt. 203  
 30 Community Way  
 East Greenbush, NY 12061

**Coordinating Council:**  
 October 10, 5:30 at church  
**Diaconate:**  
 October 17 after worship



**Church Office Closed**  
**October 9**



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275 State St.  
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