

# THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by  
**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**275 STATE STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12210**

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## *Pastoral Ponderings*



Is hurricane season over yet? It has been a bad one. The images of destruction from wind and rain are compelling. In between storms, the news included flooding, fire, famine and earthquakes all over the world. It was hard to keep track of all the emerging needs as one natural disaster after another occurred. It felt overwhelming at times and we might have been

tempted simply to turn away, to shut off the TV news, to close down the internet newsfeed, rather than see more human suffering. But most of us allowed compassion, rather than self-protection, to be our guide.

Most churches believe they are friendly. I hope Emmanuel is friendly. I think we are, but once we are within the church system for a while, it is hard to evaluate whether newcomers and outsiders perceive us as friendly or not. I **think** we are friendly; I **know** we are compassionate.

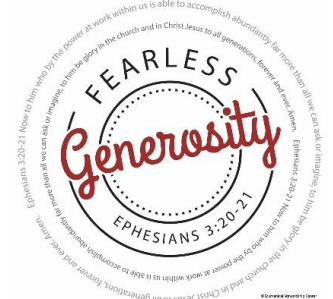
I know because on a weekly basis you share your concerns for friends and family members and strangers. You ask for prayer for those close to you and for those whom you have never met, but whose stories you've heard. You seek God's care and protection and well being for places you will never visit and might not even easily find on a map. You count your blessings and recognize the privileged place we inhabit in relationship to most of the globe. In short, you care.

I also know because you put your money where your mouth is. Some people, overwhelmed by the state of current affairs, shrug and say, "What can one person do?" Your response seems to be instead, "I will do what I can." In June, we received the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, as we do every year. The monies received go to our mission partners in the United States and around the world to provide immediate and long-term support in times of natural disaster, to empower people in developing nations and to care for refugees. In

*continued...*

June, you gave \$1078, which was a \$400 increase over 2016. But then hurricanes devastated Houston and Florida and Puerto Rico, and two earthquakes struck Mexico. Instead of thinking that one church had already done all it could, you demonstrated your compassion with your checkbooks, and gave another \$250 for earthquake relief in Mexico and \$1237 to One Great Hour of Sharing for hurricane relief.

In addition to that flexible response to emerging needs, you support the mission and ministry of this congregation with your faithful weekly giving. Over the years, I have learned not to be surprised by your compassion and generosity, but I am still grateful for it. Thank you for embodying Fearless Generosity.



Blessings,  
Kathy



**Guest Preacher: Johnson Din**

The newest member of Emmanuel, Johnson Din, will deliver the sermon on November 26. Johnson and his family have been worshipping with us since February. We welcomed Johnson into official membership in October.

Johnson has degrees in ministry and theology from The Gujranwala Theological Seminary in Gujranwala, Punjab, Pakistan. He has served as church planter and evangelist in Pakistan and neighboring countries. He will preach on Thanksgiving Sunday, which is not the first Sunday of Advent this year. Pastor Kathy is taking the rare opportunity to share the holiday with family out of state.



**Lolla-pa-ZOO-la!**

*a cabaret performance of*  
**Songs about Creatures Large and Small**  
**Saturday, November 18, 7 pm**  
**Emmanuel Choir and Friends**  
**Michael Clement, director and pianist**  
Admission free; donations appreciated  
Bakes goods on sale to benefit church music program  
For information: [mclement14@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mclement14@nycap.rr.com)



## Dinner Deliveries to Resume

During the winter months, Emmanuel supports both the Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran Church and the Shelter at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless by occasionally providing home cooked dinners for their guests.

On **November 3**, we will deliver a meal of chili, corn bread/rolls to the Emergency Overflow Shelter. Can you prepare a pot of chili to serve ten people? Or contribute bread or rolls? Karen Kendall is organizing the supper so please let her know. Guests are always sincerely grateful for these special meals. NOTE: On December 10 we will deliver food to the Interfaith Shelter. Watch for menu details in Dec.

## Volunteers Needed for Family Promise Program

The Delmar Reformed Church will host families from the Family Promise program from December 17-23 and they invite you to help. Can you prepare a dinner to feed 10 people? Are you able to chaperone an overnight from 8 pm to 7 am? Karen Kendall has more information about this ministry. Let her know how you can help.



**ABHMS continues to support restoration of Puerto Rico with funds, supplies, visits**

**ABHMS staff members delivered solar chargers, among other needed items, to Puerto Rico.**

**VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 10/20/17)**—As three American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) staff members return to Puerto Rico this week, the organization affirms its commitment to its [“Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico”](#) multi-year initiative and continues its response to the damage wrought on the island by hurricanes Irma and Maria...

Also, Church World Service (CWS) funded the following items and shipped them at ABHMS’ request: 2,550 school kits; 1,800 tubes of toothpaste; and 22,500 hygiene kits.

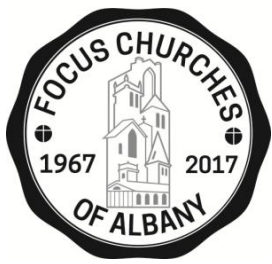
This week ABHMS is shipping 500 tarps in sizes of 18-by-24 feet, 20-by-20 feet, and 20-by-30 feet, as well as tarp accessories. Slated to arrive in Puerto Rico by the end of the month is ABHMS’ shipment of 200 portable triple burners for cooking and 50 propane tanks.

In addition to the \$25,000 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Emergency Disaster-relief Grant and the \$25,000 ABHMS has pledged to match the grant, ABHMS has received \$72,845 in donations as of Sept. 30. To date, ABHMS spent \$80,000 in OGHS funds in support of Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico. Part of those funds—\$10,000—was transferred last week to Puerto Rico, where it was used to purchase food.

American Baptist women’s groups are helping by providing hygiene kits to Puerto Rico through CWS. Meanwhile, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB), is working closely with Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico Executive Minister Dr. Roberto Dieppa-Báez to serve hurricane survivors by providing continuity of benefits to members through Premium Assistance for the Comprehensive Plan and providing emergency financial assistance for recovery and living expenses. .. Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico includes 114 churches with approximately 25,000 congregants; nine missions...

...Stan Slade, IM global consultant: “IM is seeking to provide special assistance to missionaries from Puerto Rico and their supporters, and is grateful for the way ABHMS is leading all American Baptists to work together to meet the needs of our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico, and to help them serve as the hands and feet of Christ to all of their neighbors.”





# A Grand Gala



One joy of the FOCUS 50<sup>th</sup> Gala was the opportunity for conversation between Emmanuel's current and former pastors. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Elliott, one of the FOCUS founding pastors, was honored as part of the celebration. He was pastor at Emmanuel from June 1964- June 1972.

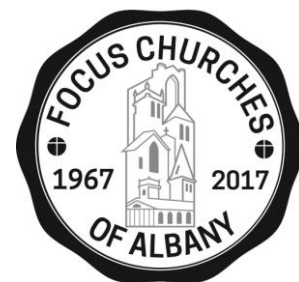


*Thank you Gala Committee!*



Thank you to all who attended or supported the FOCUS Churches 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 28. Over 280 were in attendance as we recognized a FOCUS founding pastor, *the Rev. Dr. Robert Lamar* (formerly of First Presbyterian Church) and Roman Catholic Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard as co-chairs of the Honorary Committee.

We also honored *the Rev. Dr. Ralph Elliot*, another of the founding pastors of FOCUS Churches when he served Emmanuel Baptist Church. *The Rev. Jim Miller*, who was Associate Pastor at First Pres. and edited the first newsletter, called "FOCUS," was also acknowledged.



### Winter Breakfast Club Resumes

The FOCUS Winter Breakfast Club is starting up again! Our first morning to serve hot breakfast will be **Tuesday, November 7**. Breakfast will run from 7 to 9 Tuesday through Thursday each week until mid-April. We could still use a few more volunteers on **Thursdays** – please call Belinda at 518-443-0460 if you can help. Schedules have gone out to those already signed up – check your email.

**ALSO...** Lorraine Houk, Pantry Manager, could use a few more volunteers Wednesday mornings at the Pantry at **First Church in Albany**. Please call her at 518-443-0460 for more information.

# FOCUS Looks Ahead...

**February 4, 2018**  
Joint Worship Service  
at 10 am

**Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave.**



*AND*

**"Empty Bowls"**

12 to 2 in the Fellowship Hall

This is a joint fundraiser between FOCUS Churches and the Hunger Action Network of NYS (HANNYS). Please note new location and time – and watch for more info!





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*** to ***Wah Nay Paw*** and ***Mu Mu Blat***, above left, who became U.S. citizens on October 20, 2017. They are both members of the Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church. Mu Mu is also shown with her husband, Wai Wah Blat, who serves as the treasurer for the GKBC. Not pictured are Becky Klope, Sidney Klope, Silas Klope and Pastor Kathy who attended the naturalization ceremony in celebration and support.

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



## Remembering our College Students

Receiving mail and packages from home is always welcomed, especially when one is away at school, perhaps for the first time. You are asked to contribute..... for “care packages” that will be sent to our students the first week of Advent.

In addition, you are invited to help the Advent Committee pack boxes on Sunday, November 19. If you have any questions about this special ministry, you may contact Andrea Carver.



*Special Note... Pat Campbell* will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 22. You are encouraged to send birthday cards to her home. Please join us for birthday cake and merriment in fellowship hall following worship on Sunday, November 19.



*”Fall Back”...  
November 5*

### New Address:

American Baptist Churches NYS  
James Kelsey, Executive Director  
3218 James St.  
Syracuse, NY 12306  
(315) 863-7336

Mary Schwartz, Administrative Assistant  
Christy iau, Bookkeeper  
(315) 863-7148



### Coming this Month...

- November 5** ~ Stewardship Celebration Luncheon
- 16** ~ Coordinating Council, 5:30 at church
- 19** ~ Diaconate
- 18** ~ Concert at EBC  
~ CABA Meeting, Emmanuel/ Freidens, Schenectady



## Happy Birthday... November

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

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

**Remember the  
Food Pantry...*toothpaste***

**Church Office Closed:  
November 23 & 24**



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