

# THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by  
**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**275 STATE STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12210**

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January 2018

Volume XXXVI No. 1

## *Pastoral Ponderings*

This is a prayer I often pray at New Year's, or at other times of beginning again.

### **I Hold My Life up to You Now**

by Ted Loder, in *Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle*

Patient God,  
the clock struck midnight  
and I partied with a strange sadness in my heart,  
confusion in my mind.

Now, I ask you  
to gather me,  
for I realize  
the storms of time have scattered me,  
the furies of the year past have driven me,  
many sorrows have scarred me,  
many accomplishments have disappointed me,  
much activity has wearied me,  
and fear has spooked me  
into a hundred hiding places,  
one of which is pretended gaiety.  
I am sick of a string of "have-a-nice-days."  
What I want is passionate days,  
wondrous days,  
dangerous days,  
blessed days,  
surprising days,  
What I want is you!

Patient God  
this day teeters on the edge of waiting  
and things seem to slip away from me,  
as though everything were only memory  
and memory is capricious.  
Help me not to let my life slip away from me.  
O God, I hold up my life to you now,  
as much as I can,  
as high as I can,  
in this mysterious reach called prayer.

Come close, lest I wobble and fall short.  
It is not days or years I seek from you,  
not infinity and enormity,  
but small things and moments and awareness,  
awareness that you are in what I am  
and in what I have been indifferent to.

It is not new time,  
but new eyes,  
new heart I seek,  
and you.

Blessings,  
Kathy



## Advent 2017



This year's Advent committee members were Andrea Carver, Ellen Corcoran, Jan Curtis, Becca Leet, Edith Leet, and Ericka Silverman. Individually and collectively, they accomplished such things as decorating the sanctuary for the season, sending care packages to nine students, assembling bags of cookies for breakfast guests and providing refreshments at the choir concert and the Christmas Reception and the New Year's Brunch. Special thanks go to Ellen Corcoran for the weekly angels and candles displays on the communion table using angels shared by Ellen and Edie Simpson, to Edith Leet for creating an Advent calendar, and to Jean Burton who painted the angel's wings which several of us enjoyed trying on. If you particularly appreciated an event or an idea, please share your gratitude with committee members.

Our theme "Angels Among Us: #Do Not Be Afraid" was supported with materials we purchased from the Worship Design Studio, which is owned and operated by the Rev. Marcia McFee. We have not purchased her materials before. We would appreciate your feedback in deciding whether to purchase them in the future. Please take a moment to share with Pastor Kathy your thoughts about the ways the theme was implemented. What was effective and not so effective, in your opinion?



### Participatory Worship at Emmanuel

Worship in December was enlivened by several EBC folks who portrayed various Biblical characters. Our thanks to Becca Leet (recurring role as Gabriel), Bob Hunziker (Zechariah), Pat Huziker (recurring role as Elizabeth), Neeqa Noor (Mary), David Malone (Joseph), and Ken Cole, Johnson Din, and Tony Malone (shepherds). In addition, our weekly worship leaders, Ruth Pushee, Jean Burton, Tom Lahut, and Liselle LaFrance served as narrators.

One of our worship values is participatory worship. Our goal is that everyone engages as fully as possible. We recognize that participation takes many different forms like singing with the congregation or the choir, reading along with the Scripture passage, sharing prayer concerns out loud, praying silently, listening intently.

One form of participation is the role of the worship leader. Every Sunday we seek a worship leader who, along with the pastor, provides most of the spoken up-front leadership for worship. This person's tasks might vary when the order of worship varies, but most often the worship leader offers the welcome and invites announcements, leads the opening call to worship, reads the Scripture of the day and walks around with the microphone during the sharing of prayer concerns. People who can read aloud, regardless of age, are invited to sign up to be the worship leader. Hint: This is one way to reduce your pastor's to-do list. If the worship leader roster is full, it means she does not have to make multiple calls to find someone willing and available to do it on a given Sunday.

***Deadline for the February MOSAIC: January 18***



## Pastor Kathy to Attend Conference

Pastor Kathy and her husband Jim will participate in the second conference of the 3-year Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program January 8-11 in Pensacola, Florida. Kathy Moore will join for one day of this event. The Ministers and Missionary's Benefit Board describes the program this way: "The Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEP) is designed to strengthen the personal and organizational skills of pastors who have been identified as key leaders of healthy congregations. The activities of this one-week program are designed to lay the groundwork for pastors and their spouses to create a solid financial foundation and build the necessary skills for healthy conversations around money with congregations."



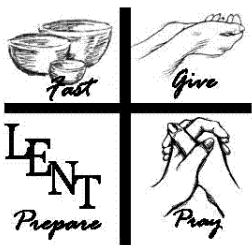
Pastor Kathy and Jim will remain in Florida after the event for a few days of R&R in the sun. The Rev. Jerrod Huguenot will be our guest preacher on January 14. Jerrod is the Associate Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State.

## Annual Meeting 2018 ✓

We are all in this together! That slogan, made popular on Edith Leet's buttons, captures the best of Emmanuel. It is a reminder that we are most effective when we commit to work together in response to God's call. It is a reminder that we value the priesthood of every believer and don't elevate some folks over others.

In that light, please plan to be all in for the Annual Meeting following worship on January 28. This is not your grandmother's annual meeting. Over the past few years, we have intentionally shifted the design of the January event to be a celebration of the previous year's ministry and an anticipation of the next year together. Brief business items include receiving the Book of Reports and affirming the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, along with any nominations from the floor. This year's lunch is a potluck – bring your favorite dish to share. Your presence and participation are very important.

## Lent Planning to Begin

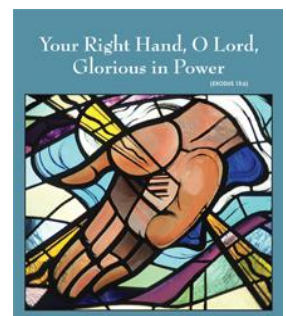


The season of Lent in 2018 begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14 and ends with Easter Sunday on April 1. So this year it runs from Valentine's Day to April Fool's Day. If you would like to contribute to our communal life by serving on the 2018 Lent Committee, your presence and participation would be gratefully received. We will meet on Monday, January 22 at 6:00 p.m. at church. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Kathy.

## Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power

The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization will hold a worship service on **Wednesday, January 24**, to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It will begin at 12 noon at the Diocesan Center of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, 40 North Main Avenue. All are welcome to attend.

CREO's service will follow the order of worship prepared by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, which created the first observance in 1908. The Rev. Donna Elia of the Presbyterian Church of America will preach on the theme, "Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power," which comes from Exodus 15:6. The Rev. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America will preside. For more information on the CREO service, please contact Edith Leet, Coordinator, at [creoboard@gmail.com](mailto:creoboard@gmail.com) or by calling 518-482-6612.



## *From Service to Others...*



### **Annual Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering to be Received**

*“But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity.”*  
(Isaiah 32:8 NLT)

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering will be taken on Sundays, January 21 & 28. This offering provides “thank you” to people who have spent their lives serving God as ministers, missionaries, and their widowed spouses. “In retirement years it is such a blessing to know that we are remembered in such a nice way,” said one recipient. The money received is also used to help in emergency circumstances. Please prayerfully consider how you will support this offering. Envelopes will be provided for your convenience.



### **Dinner Planned for Shelter**

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.

The Service to Others Commission is coordinating a meal for the Overflow Shelter in January (date yet to be determined). If you can make a pot of soup or donate bread, please speak with Karen Kendall. Thank you.

**Remember the  
Food Pantry...**

*January:  
razors and deodorant*

*Capital Area Council of Churches Announces*  
**Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Interfaith Memorial Service**  
**January 15**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church**  
**(105 Second St., Albany)**





# FOCUS Looks Ahead...



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

**Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Avenue**  
**AND**

**“Empty Bowls”**

12:30 to 2:30 in the Fellowship Hall

**Empty Bowls**, a fundraiser for both FOCUS Churches and our ally, the Hunger Action Network of New York State. The idea behind Empty Bowls is that for a minimum donation of \$25, you can choose from a wide selection of pottery soup bowls to take home. You will also get to sample wonderful soups and bread donated by Albany area restaurants and chefs. Free parking will be available. This is a joint fundraiser between FOCUS Churches and the Hunger Action Network of NYS (HANNYS). Please note new location and time. Visit the FOCUS website to purchase your tickets now: [www.focuchurches.net](http://www.focuchurches.net)



**FOCUS is looking for a volunteer Comptroller.**

If you want to learn more, please call the FOCUS Office at [518-443-0460](tel:518-443-0460).

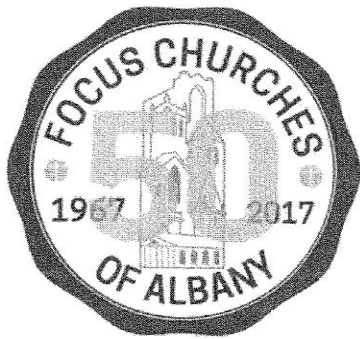
**THANK  
YOU**

year.

Dear Emmanuel Family,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, calls, cards, and good wishes during my recent surgery and recovery. They mean so much to me. I am also enjoying a beautiful poinsettia from the church services. May each of you have a peaceful, joyful, and healthful new

With love,  
Edith Leet



Celebrating **50** Years of  
Charity and Justice

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**Covenant Congregations**

Delmar Reformed

Emmanuel Baptist

First Church (Reformed)

First Presbyterian

Trinity United Methodist

Westminster Presbyterian

**Interfaith**

**Food Pantry Affiliates**

*Congregation Beth Emeth*

*First Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Albany*

*Islamic Center of the  
Capital District*

*New Covenant Presbyterian*

*St. Andrews Episcopal*

**Executive Director**

Rev. Jim Ketcham

December 4, 2017

To: FOCUS Member Congregations and Partners  
From: FOCUS Board of Directors  
Re: Resignation of Rev. James Ketcham

Dear FOCUS Neighbor:

We are writing to let you know that the FOCUS Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of Rev. James Ketcham as our Executive Director. We have appreciated Jim's service and the many gifts he's brought to our shared work and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

As the Board formulates a specific plan for the transitional period, we expect all programs, ministries and volunteer opportunities to continue as usual. In the meantime, we thank you for your continued support of FOCUS and the good work we do together. Please hold Rev. Ketcham and his family, the FOCUS Staff, volunteers, Board and community in prayer as we navigate this period of transition.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jeffrey A. Matthews  
FOCUS Board President



Please contact Dorothy in the church office with any changes in your address or other contact information by

**January 7** (465-5161 or [emmanuelalbany@juno.com](mailto:emmanuelalbany@juno.com)) A new directory is being compiled, and a draft copy will be ready for your review on Sundays in mid-January. The goal is to have the final version ready for distribution on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation. (DW)

If you have not yet submitted your Annual Report, please do so as soon as possible. We wish to distribute the Book of Reports on Sunday, January 21. ✓



**Church Office Closed:**  
**January 1**  
 &  
**January 15**

**Coordinating Council:**  
**January 3, 5:30**  
**at Pastor Kathy's home**

## Happy Birthday...

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Ellen Corcoran  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| Kathy Donley    | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Marjorie Fuller | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Michael Clement | 11 <sup>th</sup> |
| Rosemary Koonce | 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| Monica Scheerer | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Lucas Silverman | 15 <sup>th</sup> |
| Jean Burton     | 21 <sup>st</sup> |
| Samuel Koonce   | 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| Chelah Collins  | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Erica Edwards   | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Hunter Spann    | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Gretchen Scheu  | 26 <sup>th</sup> |
| Veronica Torian | 28 <sup>th</sup> |



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



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