



# PARAGRAPHS FOR PARTNERS

2022 – Issue #4



From the Executive Minister  
Rev. Dr. James Kelsey

## BE KNOWN FOR SOMETHING...SOMETHING GOOD

I was a bit famous, locally for a while that is.

Upon graduating from college I moved from Ohio to Monticello, Arkansas to serve for a year as a campus ministry intern at the University of Arkansas-Monticello. One Saturday morning several of my students and I went into town and ended up in the hardware store on the town square. The local radio station was broadcasting from the store that day and was having a hog calling contest.



In Arkansas, “callin’ the hogs” is a cheer used at University of Arkansas Razorback football games. The cheer begins with an 8 second “Wooooo,” growing increasingly loud, followed by “Pig Sooie.” One does this 3 times and then finishes with “Razorbacks.” There are accompanying hand gestures as well.

I told my students that I had a good friend in college from Arkansas who had taught me to call the hogs. They talked me into callin’ the hogs on the radio. I did and won an orange plastic hog hat with a curled tail on the back and a hog’s head on the front. These hats were frequently worn to Razorback games.

After I had been announced as the winner, one of my students said into the microphone that I had just moved in from Ohio. For months when I would meet people, they would say: “You’re that guy from Ohio who won the hog hat on the radio. How’d you learn to do that?”

I was known for callin’ the hogs, and in Arkansas that was a good thing.

Churches can be known for something, hopefully something good. People might think, oh that is the church that has the live nativity scene each year. People might know a church for its Tuesday morning clothing ministry where their niece went when her house burned. A church might be known for its beautiful flower garden in the front lawn or its hosting of community choir concerts. People might associate a homeless ministry or a weekly seniors’ luncheon with a church. A church might be known by parents for its tutoring program in a local grade school.

My first church was known by catastrophe. In August 1970 the large Romanesque sanctuary facing onto Germantown Avenue in Northwest Philadelphia burned. Apparently it was quite an inferno. More than 20 years later people would say: “Oh yeah, that is the church that had that huge fire.” The church continued to be known for its community involvement but never could quite shake the label as the church that burned.

Stop and reflect for a moment. What is your church known for in your community? Is it something good? Is it something current? What would you like to be known for? What steps can you take to establish that identity?

The saddest thing is to be unknown in your community.

I went to visit a church years ago. I had been there before and remembered it as an old white-frame building. I drove up and down the one street through the small community several times and did not see the church. I stopped at a gas station at the crossroads that marked off the beginning of the town and asked about the church. The young woman there said she knew of no such church. She had lived there for 10 years and assured me here was no church on that street.

I went out to my car and drove back down the road. Within 200 yards from the gas station was the church; it was a modern brick structure, even had a sign out front; I had misremembered the building. The church sat within site of the gas station, and the young woman did not know it existed.

In 197 AD the theologian Tertullian wrote a letter to the Roman authorities entitled *Apologeticus*, wherein he describes the persecution of Christians. In chapter 39 he writes of these second century believers: "But it is mainly the deeds of a love so noble that lead many to put a brand upon us. See, they say, *how they love one another.*" This is what were known for: loving one another.

What if people branded us in that way?

How do you want your church "branded?" Be known for something, something good, in your community.

Jim Kelsey

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## AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH 2022 CONVENTION STARTS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

There are two ways you can support the youth and volunteers who attend this event.

First, you can donate to the mission project [HERE](#) Just enter ABY Mission Project in the drop down menu.

Second, you can pray. Here is a list of specific requests to pray with us in the coming days and weekend.

### Prayers for ABY 2022

- That ABY Convention 2022 would give Glory to God
- That hearts would be open to Christ
- That participants would strengthen their faith
- Together we would grow in fellowship
- That all students and chaperones would be safe
- For Speaker: Rev. John Buskey
- For Mission Project: Literacy of Love
- For Mission Speaker: Cari Matejka
- For the House Band
- That all would let the Lord lead the way

**CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS:** Rev. Claude Marvin (Retired ABCNYS Pastor) died 8/11/22 \* Rev. Frank Adams (Retired ABCNYS Pastor) died 10/2/22 \* Ralph Elliott (Retired/Former Region Pastor) died 10/23/22



**ABCNYS reminds member churches to pray for one another**, especially in times of pastoral transition. If your congregation wishes to invite ABCNYS to provide support to your church's search committee needs, please contact Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Associate Executive Minister, at 518/380-4510 or [jhuguenot@abc-nys.org](mailto:jhuguenot@abc-nys.org).



### **LEADERSHIP CHANGES**

Mark Thall from FBC Brookfield 8/1/22  
Ethan Cook to Interim, FBC Brookfield 8/8/22  
Jason Hladik from FBC Olean 8/22  
Randy LeBaron to Interim Pastor, FBC Albion 10/3/22  
John Rembert to Pastor, Mt. Zion BC Stormville 10/16/22  
Robert Wiesner from Kenmore BC 9/28/22  
David Wood from Westport Fed Ch 10/9/22  
James Pearson from FBC Wolcott 7/22  
Robert Searle to Interim, FBC Wolcott



### **ABCNYS LAY STUDY PROGRAM WINTER COURSES 2023**

More information at: <https://www.abc-nys.org/ls-courses.html>

#### **CHRISTIAN ETHICS – STARTING JANUARY 9, 2023**

**When:** Monday evenings 7:00-9:00 p.m. – Online via Zoom.

**Instructor:** Rev. George Stefani, [stefani.george@gmail.com](mailto:stefani.george@gmail.com)

**Textbook:** An Introduction to Christian Ethics: Goals, Duties, and Virtues by Robin W. Lovin. (Abingdon Press, 2010)

#### **MINISTRY TO INDIVIDUALS – STARTING DATE TBD**

**When:** – Online via Zoom.

**Instructor:** Rev. Dennis Christiansen, [dennischristiansen@htva.net](mailto:dennischristiansen@htva.net)

**To Register:** Complete registration form and postal mail with payment (payable to ABCNYS) to ABCNYS, 3218 James St., Syracuse NY 13206. You can also pay online at <https://www.abc-nys.org/lay-study-program.html>.

**Fees:** The tuition is \$110. For family members living in the same house, the course fee is \$110 for the first person and \$60 for each subsequent person. Students may audit a course, without credit, for \$60. The cost of the textbooks for each course is in addition to the tuition.

**Questions:** Rev. Leon Oaks-Lee (315.637.0023, [leon.oakslee@gmail.com](mailto:leon.oakslee@gmail.com))

**ABCNYS LAY STUDY PROGRAM**  
**STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM**

Course Name \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_

Credit \_\_\_\_\_ Audit (no credit) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Present Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_

*If you haven't already done so, please complete the following information. This needs to be completed only once, but you may update when appropriate.*

Place and Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Education: High School \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ Degree & Year \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Position or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Activities in your local church, your denomination and other religious activities *(use the back of the page if necessary)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Activities and/or honors in other organizations \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My goal in completing these courses is to seek to be a Certified Lay Pastor.

I would like more information about being a Certified Lay Pastor.



**LIGHT TO THE NATIONS MISSION PARTNERSHIP IN RWANDA  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023**

**American Baptist Churches of New York State in partnership with  
Rabagirana Ministries, Shalom Community Organization,  
Seira Community Church**

The Revs. Suzi & Jim Harriff have been involved in healing and reconciliation ministries in Rwanda since 2055. In 2018 and 2019, teams from ABCNYS traveled with them and became active partners in the work being done in several Rwandan-based organizations. We are planning a return trip in late January/early February of 2023 and invite you to join us!

We are looking for mission partners with a variety of skills, background and experiences. We will plan a trip for 14 days, including travel. You will be amazed and transformed by your visit to “the beautiful place where God returns to rest each night”, as the African legend goes. We estimate the cost, including airfare, room and board, ministry contribution, vaccinations and incidentals to be approximately \$2,800 to \$3,000.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Rev. Suzi Harriff, 315.415.9644, or Rev. Jim Harriff, 315.382.0074, or email [therevs@rwandaministries.org](mailto:therevs@rwandaministries.org).

**TIME IS SHORT! DO IT TODAY!**



**American Baptist Women's Ministries  
and ABGirls of New York State**  
[abwm-nys.org](http://abwm-nys.org)  
**Convention Gathering  
April 28-30, 2023  
Hilton Garden Inn, Troy NY**



*“Building Up Christ's Community”*

**FREE – OUTDOOR MANGER!**



The United Church of Fayetteville (Syracuse area) is offering this well-built manger at no cost. If interested, contact Linda Even ([lindaeven@theucf.org](mailto:lindaeven@theucf.org))

## Changes to New York Baptist Annual 2022

- Page 9      **Adirondack Association:** New Moderator: Steve Davie, 1131 Burgoyne Ave., Ft. Edward NY 12828, 518.409.8059, shdavie@roadrunner.com
- Page 13     **Preston Hollow Baptist Church:** New phone: 518.239.4160
- Page 18     **Port Byron Federated Church:** Ms. Kathy Wilt – Associate Pastor to Co-Pastor
- Page 23     **First Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie:** New email: fbcpok@gmail.com
- Page 29     **First Baptist Church, Malone:** Remove email  
**First Baptist Church, Ogdensburg:** Remove email  
**First Baptist Church, Watertown:** Remove email
- Page 29     **Lincoln Baptist Church:** New mailing address: 6417 Mud Mills Rd., Newark NY 14513

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 13, 2022      -- Iroquois Association Fall Meeting @ FBC Central Square
- November 19, 2022      -- Capital Area Baptist Association Fall Meeting @ Latham Community BC
- November 21-25, 2022    -- ABCNYS Office Closed – If you have an immediate need, contact .  
Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, 518.380.4510, [jhuguenot@abc-nys.org](mailto:jhuguenot@abc-nys.org)
- December 23 & 26, 2022    -- ABCNYS Office Closed
- January 21, 2023        -- “Treasuring the Youth Among Us” youth leaders event
- April 28-30, 2023        -- ABW Ministries & AB Girls NYS Convention

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

You will find in this “Paragraphs for Partners” two giving reports. The first report lists the giving of our churches to *all* American Baptist Ministries. The second report list all the giving of our churches *to the Regional ministries of ABCNYS*. The categories in this second report are:

- 65% of United Mission giving that returns to the Region
- 29% of America for Christ Offering that returns to the Region
- 100% of Region Offering that remains with the Region
- 100% of Specifics directed toward the Region
- 100% of direct gifts sent to the Region
- 100% Honorariums given when Region staff visits a church

These are the various ways our churches support Regional ministry.

We are running a deficit as of the end of September. We have accumulated sufficient reserves over the last few years to cover our expenses. This cannot, of course, continue indefinitely.

If your church is not listed here, it is because you have not yet made a contribution to Regional ministries in 2022. Please consider doing so before the end of the year.

If you have any questions, feel there is an error, or would like to discuss Region ministry and how it is funded, please contact a Region staff member.

Blessings,  
Jim Kelsey

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| <p><b>AMERICAN BAPTIST<br/>MISSION SUPPORT</b></p> |
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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
OF NEW YORK STATE  
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022 & 2021

|                   | United Mission | Annual Offerings | Institutions, Specifics & Targeted | Total ABMS |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| Received 2022     | 152,620        | 185,307          | 127,516                            | 465,443    |
| Received 2021     | 178,018        | 151,191          | 126,950                            | 456,159    |
| \$ Ahead (Behind) | (25,398)       | 34,116           | 566                                | 9,284      |
| % Ahead (Behind)  | (14.27)        | 22.56            | 0.45                               | 2.04       |

For listing of church-by-church giving, go to: <http://www.abc-nys.org/abms-summary-reports.html>

# TREASURING THE YOUTH AMONG US



*Our vision is to provide a model for youth ministry  
for small membership churches.*

Brought to you by American Baptist Churches of New York State

## Who should participate?

- Pastors
- Adult Youth Leaders
- Anyone who cares about the young people in our churches and communities

## What is it?

- A one day conference *in-person* at First Baptist Church/Syracuse (5833 E. Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville NY 13078) or *online via ZOOM*
- The sessions will be professionally recorded for further distribution. If you come in person, you will be part of our studio audience!

## When is it?

Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

## What will we talk about?

- The "big picture" of what youth ministry should look like today
- How to connect with young people in schools and go where young people are
- Belonging and relationships in the lives of young people
- Responding to the pain and trauma and hard parts of young people's lives and journey with them
- A short closing session on next steps



Who will lead us?

- Jake Mulder: Senior Director of Strategy at the Fuller Youth Institute (Fuller Seminary) and Fuller’s Executive Director of Leadership Formation Division and TEN X 10 collaboration
- Frank Reynoso: Regional Inner City Coordinator for Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Kelly Hyatt: Central New York Area Developer for Young Life in the Greater Northeastern Region

Is there a cost?

In-person participants will pay \$10 to cover lunch at the event. Online participation is free.

*This experience is made possible by funding from a Palmer Grant from the American Baptist Foundation, American Baptist Churches of New York State, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and the Fuller Youth Institute TEN x 10 Collaboration.*



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TREASURING THE YOUTH AMONG US

Registration Form

Deadline to register is January 9, 2023

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ in person \_\_\_\_\_ online

To register go to <https://www.abc-nys.org/youth-leaders-event.html> or mail this form to:  
American Baptist Churches of New York State, 3218 James Street, Syracuse NY 13206. Postal  
mailed in-person registration should include \$10 check payable to ABCNYS.



## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES NEW YORK STATE MINISTERS COUNCIL

**A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE**

**TUESDAY MAY 16 THRU THURSDAY 18, 2023**

**STELLA NIAGARA • CENTER OF RENEWAL  
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER**

4421 Lower River Road  
Stella Niagara, NY 14144  
ph. 716•754•7376

### **A TIME AWAY: REFRESH, REVIVE, AND RESTORE**

Are you burned out, tapped out, spent? By May of 2022, we will have all been through two full years of pandemic worry, technology overload, screen blindness, and community anxiety. Some of you I know have hardly taken a breath since March 2020 when this virus began to break and doors began to close.

If this description fits you, then why not consider giving yourself "*A Time Away*" to Refresh your spiritual connection with God, Revive your awareness of the Spirit's life within you, and Restore your sense of community with Christ Jesus and fellow pilgrims seeking the peace of Christ? Perhaps in the process you can reawaken that sense of call and purpose that drew you to ministry in the first place!

As guests of the Center of Renewal we will explore the beautiful grounds of the Stella Niagara Retreat Center, which is situated right on the Niagara River. Two members of our Ministers Council Executive Committee will be leading the retreat:

Rev. Howie Maxson serves as Pastor of Fowler Baptist in Gouverneur. He brings with him years of discipline in Celtic Spirituality, as well as his experience as a Certified Spiritual Director through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse.

Rev. Wendy Depew Partelow served as Pastor of First Baptist Bainbridge for six years, is a two-time participant in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola as administered through the Spiritual Renewal Center in Syracuse, and brings over 20 years of practice in various spiritual disciplines.

Together they hope to bring a retreat of spiritual renewal to those who attend.

We hope you will give yourself something to look forward to and join the Ministers Council for "A Time Away: Refresh, Revive and Restore," on May 16-18, 2023. After two Christmases and three Easters of worship-service juggling you need a break. "A Time Away" may be just what you need to renew yourself in Christ.

**MINISTER'S COUNCIL RETREAT • MAY 16-18, 2023 • REGISTRATION**

*This retreat is partially funded with your membership dues  
by a grant obtained through the National Ministers Council, ABC/USA.  
Registrants of this retreat may be required to show proof of vaccination.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E:mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Any Special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CEU's? \_\_\_\_\_

Fees include all meals from Dinner on Tuesday through Lunch on Thursday.

|  | MEMBERS:    | NON-MEMBERS: |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| PRIVATE ROOM<br><i>All rooms are private</i> | _____ \$100 | _____ \$125  |
| COMMUTER                                     | _____ \$50  | _____ \$75   |

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: (April 15th) DEDUCT \$25?

To Register please enclose \$60 deposit by April 15 for discount, made payable to:  
Ministers Council of NYS. Please Note: *May Retreat 2023* in memo.

**REGISTRATION BONUS:**

IF YOU ATTEND THIS RETREAT AND THE ONE IN SEPTEMBER WE WILL CREDIT \$50  
OFF YOUR 2024 DUES!

**Grants to attend this retreat are available:**

1. *Lynnette Martin*, contact ABC/NYS, Pat Ludwig (see below)
2. *Grant Application for D.Min. or Mission Trip*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies,  
ABHMS, 1-800-ABC-3USA - Ext. 2067 or email: [carolyn.Majeed@abhms.org](mailto:carolyn.Majeed@abhms.org)
3. *Cultivating New Life*: Office of Financial Aid for Studies, (see above)

Questions? Contact: The Rev. Patricia Ludwig, President ABC-NYS Ministers Council  
e-mail: [butterflypreacher@juno.com](mailto:butterflypreacher@juno.com) Phone: 716-433-0976

Mail reservation information to:

Cedric A Broughton  
706 N. George St.  
Rome, NY 13440

Registration Deadline: April 30, 2023

TOTAL CHURCH GIVING TO ABCNYS THROUGH 9/2022

**CHURCHES**

|  | UNITED MISSION<br>TO REGION | AMERICA FOR<br>CHRIST | REGION<br>OFFERING | SPECIFICS<br>TO REGION | DIRECT GIFT<br>TO REGION | HONORARIUM<br>TO REGION | TOTAL GIVING<br>TO REGION |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adams, Adams Village Baptist Church        | 878                         | 280                   | 0                  |                        |                          | 100                     | 1,257                     |
| Adams, Honeyville Baptist                  | 975                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 975                       |
| Addison, First Baptist Church              | 142                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 142                       |
| Akron, First Baptist Church                | 0                           | 74                    | 254                |                        |                          |                         | 328                       |
| Albany, Chinese Christian Ch-Grtr Albany   | 780                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 400                      | 200                     | 1,380                     |
| Albany, Emmanuel Baptist Church            | 3,615                       | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 350                      |                         | 3,965                     |
| Albany, Gethsemane Karen Baptist           | 0                           | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          | 300                     | 300                       |
| Albion, First Baptist Church               | 1,572                       | 30                    | 0                  |                        |                          | 150                     | 1,752                     |
| Albion, Gaines Carlton Cmnty Ch            | 2,194                       | 32                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 2,226                     |
| Andover, First Baptist Church              | 565                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 565                       |
| Athens, Athens Federated Church            | 0                           | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 1078                     |                         | 1,078                     |
| Bainbridge, First Baptist Church           | 130                         | 29                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 159                       |
| Ballston Spa, First Baptist Church         | 4,144                       | 453                   | 2,852              |                        |                          |                         | 7,449                     |
| Ballston Spa, Old Stone Church             | 65                          | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 65                        |
| Batavia, Emmanuel Baptist Church           | 0                           | 145                   | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 145                       |
| Batavia, First Baptist Church              | 20                          | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 20                        |
| Big Flats, American Baptist Community Ch   | 222                         | 73                    | 0                  |                        | 750                      |                         | 1,045                     |
| Binghamton, Comm Bap Ch                    | 114                         | 145                   | 210                |                        |                          |                         | 469                       |
| Binghamton, Conklin Ave First Bap Ch       | 325                         | 19                    | 215                |                        |                          |                         | 559                       |
| Boonville, First Baptist Church            | 0                           | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 450                      | 100                     | 550                       |
| Brookfield, First Baptist Church           | 0                           | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 1000                     | 150                     | 1,150                     |
| Broome Tioga Association                   |                             |                       |                    |                        | 250                      |                         | 250                       |
| Buffalo, Hosanna Mission Church            | 0                           | 0                     | 0                  |                        | 450                      |                         | 450                       |
| Burlington Flats, First Bap Ch -Burlington | 0                           | 46                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 46                        |
| Burnt Hills, Burnt Hills Baptist Ch        | 325                         | 48                    | 0                  |                        | 250                      | 150                     | 773                       |
| Canandaigua, United Church                 | 20,800                      | 13                    | 0                  | 3,700                  |                          |                         | 24,513                    |
| Canastota, First Baptist Church            | 286                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 286                       |
| Canisteo, First Baptist Church             | 388                         | 12                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 400                       |
| Carthage, First Baptist Church             | 325                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 325                       |
| Central Square, First Baptist Church       | 0                           | 106                   | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 106                       |
| Chaffee, Chaffee Community Bap Ch          | 520                         | 0                     | 200                |                        |                          |                         | 720                       |
| Cheektowaga, Cheektowaga Cmnty Bap Ch      | 0                           | 0                     | 604                |                        |                          |                         | 604                       |
| Chittenango, First Baptist Church          | 163                         | 29                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 192                       |
| Clarence, First Baptist Church             | 210                         | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 210                       |
| Clifton Park, Clifton Park Ctr Bap Ch      | 1,779                       | 145                   | 0                  | 195                    |                          | 175                     | 2,294                     |
| Clifton Springs, First Baptist Church      | 149                         | 58                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 207                       |
| Cooperstown, First Baptist Church          | 0                           | 53                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 53                        |
| Corning, First Baptist Church              | 325                         | 71                    | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 396                       |
| Cuba, First Baptist Church                 | 1,398                       | 167                   | 0                  | 975                    |                          |                         | 2,540                     |
| Delhi, First Baptist Church                | 13                          | 0                     | 0                  |                        |                          |                         | 13                        |

TOTAL CHURCH GIVING TO ABCNYS THROUGH 9/2022

|   |       |     |       |      |       |
|---|-------|-----|-------|------|-------|
| Dover Plains, Second Baptist Church         | 0     | 0   | 0     | 150  | 150   |
| Duanesburg, Duanesburg-Florida Bap Ch       | 0     | 58  | 0     | 300  | 358   |
| Dundee, Dundee Baptist Church               | 303   | 35  | 0     |      | 338   |
| Durhamville, Durhamville Baptist Ch         | 2,036 | 0   | 500   | 450  | 2,986 |
| East Aurora, First Baptist Church           | 0     | 73  | 0     |      | 73    |
| East Pembroke, Cornerstone Church           | 591   | 0   | 0     |      | 591   |
| Edmeston, Second Baptist Church             | 0     | 0   | 0     | 1750 | 100   |
| Elmira, Elmwood Ave Baptist Ch              | 585   | 11  | 0     |      | 596   |
| Elmira, United Baptist Church               | 325   | 0   | 250   |      | 575   |
| Endicott, Cornerstone Community Ch          | 85    | 15  | 0     |      | 99    |
| Endicott, First Baptist Church              | 0     | 145 | 800   |      | 945   |
| Fort Ann, Fort Ann United Protestant Church | 0     | 0   | 0     | 1805 | 200   |
| Fort Edward, Village Baptist Church         | 276   | 133 | 0     | 495  | 904   |
| Franklin, Aldrich Baptist Church            | 24    | 0   | 0     |      | 24    |
| Fulton, First United Church                 | 413   | 37  | 0     |      | 130   |
| Geneva, First Baptist Church                | 2,194 | 149 | 592   |      | 2,935 |
| Genoa, United Church                        | 650   | 0   | 0     | 100  | 750   |
| Gilbertsville, Gilbertsville Baptist Ch     | 10    | 100 | 0     |      | 110   |
| Glens Falls, First Baptist Church           | 0     | 65  | 0     |      | 65    |
| Gouverneur, Fowler Baptist Church           | 0     | 319 | 1,000 |      | 1,319 |
| Greene, Central Baptist Church              | 52    | 39  | 0     |      | 91    |
| Greenwich, Bottskill Baptist Church         | 159   | 32  | 0     |      | 450   |
| Hamilton, First Baptist Church              | 2,600 | 0   | 0     | 2000 | 100   |
| Harrisena, Harrisena Community Ch           | 0     | 0   | 0     |      | 400   |
| Hartford, First Baptist Church              | 138   | 0   | 0     |      | 125   |
| Hoosick Falls, First Baptist Church         | 1,170 | 0   | 324   |      | 1,494 |
| Hornell, First Baptist Church               | 715   | 93  | 0     |      | 808   |
| Hornell, Howard Union Church                | 341   | 0   | 0     |      | 341   |
| Hudson Falls, First Baptist Church          | 1,625 | 147 | 0     |      | 150   |
| Jordanville, Jordanville Federated Ch       | 0     | 42  | 0     |      | 42    |
| Kenmore, Kenmore Baptist Church             | 130   | 405 | 0     | 700  | 1,235 |
| Kingsbury, Kingsbury Baptist Church         | 0     | 39  | 0     |      | 400   |
| Lakeville, Lakeville Baptist Church         | 0     | 77  | 0     |      | 300   |
| Latham, Latham Community Bap Ch             | 0     | 54  | 0     | 250  | 304   |
| Le Roy, First Baptist Church                | 975   | 46  | 0     |      | 1,021 |
| Little Falls, Inghams Mills Baptist Church  | 520   | 103 | 0     |      | 623   |
| Lowville, Lowville Baptist Church           | 270   | 224 | 0     |      | 494   |
| Manchester, First Baptist Church            | 0     | 0   | 0     |      | 150   |
| Manlius, First Baptist Church               | 3,901 | 410 | 1,914 |      | 6,224 |
| Marion, Marion United Church                | 0     | 0   | 0     | 500  | 500   |
| Masonville, The Federated Church            | 1,300 | 49  | 0     | 100  | 1,449 |
| McGraw, McGrawville Baptist Church          | 2,080 | 0   | 0     |      | 2,080 |
| Meridian, Meridian Baptist Church           | 3     | 0   | 425   |      | 428   |
| Minerva, Minerva Baptist Ch                 | 455   | 0   | 0     |      | 455   |
| Mission Hope Community                      | 325   | 116 | 500   |      | 941   |
| Montour Falls, First Baptist Church         | 224   | 23  | 0     | 742  | 990   |

TOTAL CHURCH GIVING TO ABCNYS THROUGH 9/2022

|  |       |       |       |       |     |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| New Hartford, First Baptist Church     | 0     | 177   | 0     |       | 100 | 277   |
| Newburgh, First Baptist Church         | 130   | 0     | 0     | 200   |     | 330   |
| Newburgh, Moulton Memorial Bap Church  | 36    | 0     | 0     |       |     | 36    |
| Newfane, First Baptist Church          | 81    | 0     | 0     |       |     | 81    |
| Newport, First Baptist Church          | 295   | 0     | 0     |       |     | 295   |
| Niagara Falls, First Baptist Church    | 0     | 47    | 0     |       |     | 47    |
| North Creek, First Baptist Ch          | 147   | 0     | 0     |       |     | 147   |
| Norwich, First Baptist Church          | 13    | 156   | 0     |       |     | 169   |
| Nyack, First Immanuel Missonary Bc     | 3,232 | 0     | 0     |       |     | 3,232 |
| Odessa, Odessa Baptist Church          | 1,056 | 0     | 0     |       | 234 | 1,290 |
| Ogdensburg, First Baptist Church       | 176   | 58    | 0     |       |     | 234   |
| Olean, First Baptist Church            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1676  |     | 1,676 |
| Oneida, Oneida Baptist Church          | 812   | 87    | 0     |       |     | 899   |
| Ossining, First Baptist Church Of      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 400   | 300 | 700   |
| Owego, First Baptist Church            | 13    | 170   | 2,000 |       |     | 2,183 |
| Oxford, Oxford United Church           | 87    | 0     | 0     |       |     | 87    |
| Penn Yan, First Baptist Church         | 4,234 | 247   | 100   | 90    |     | 4,671 |
| Penn Yan, Second Milo Baptist Ch       | 196   | 26    | 0     |       |     | 222   |
| Pike, Pike Community Church            | 325   | 0     | 0     |       |     | 325   |
| Pine City, Pine City Baptist Church    | 650   | 337   | 0     | 400   |     | 1,387 |
| Port Byron, Port Byron Federated Ch    | 23    | 0     | 0     | 100   |     | 123   |
| Poughkeepsie, First Baptist Church     | 975   | 78    | 0     | 200   |     | 1,253 |
| Poughkeepsie, Second Baptist           | 0     | 0     | 0     | 200   |     | 200   |
| Pulaski, Pulaski Baptist Church        | 304   | 0     | 234   |       |     | 538   |
| Ransomville, Ransomville Baptist Ch    | 413   | 91    | 0     |       |     | 504   |
| Saratoga Springs, First Baptist Church | 293   | 58    | 300   |       |     | 651   |
| Schenectady, Emmanuel BC-Friedens UCC  | 4,669 | 37    | 0     |       |     | 4,706 |
| Sennett, Sennett Federated Church      | 332   | 0     | 0     |       |     | 332   |
| South New Berlin, First Baptist Church | 0     | 315   | 0     |       |     | 315   |
| Spencer, Spencer Federated Church      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 250   |     | 250   |
| Syracuse, Chin Christian Church        | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1000  |     | 1,000 |
| Syracuse, Eastwood Baptist Church      | 2,132 | 240   | 345   | 65    | 150 | 2,931 |
| Syracuse, True Vine Baptist Church     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 50    |     | 50    |
| Trout Creek, Community Baptist Church  | 0     | 0     | 0     | 50    |     | 50    |
| Trumansburg, First Baptist Church      | 0     | 309   | 0     |       |     | 309   |
| Tully, Tully United Community Ch       | 1,567 | 0     | 0     |       |     | 1,567 |
| Utica, First Baptist Church            | 87    | 0     | 0     |       | 200 | 287   |
| Utica, Karen Baptist Church            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 300   | 600 | 900   |
| Utica, St Pauls Baptist Church         | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1000  | 125 | 1,125 |
| Utica, Tabernacle Baptist Church       | 5,933 | 1,278 | 20    | 2,503 | 200 | 9,935 |
| Vestal, Memorial Park Baptist Ch       | 0     | 0     | 230   |       |     | 230   |
| Walton, First Baptist Church           | 0     | 0     | 0     | 800   | 100 | 900   |
| Walworth, Second Baptist Church        | 565   | 62    | 0     |       |     | 628   |
| Waverly, First Baptist Church          | 0     | 70    | 0     |       |     | 70    |
| West Winfield, Federated Church        | 1,189 | 110   | 226   |       | 150 | 1,675 |
| Westport, Westport Federated Church    | 381   | 0     | 0     |       |     | 381   |

TOTAL CHURCH GIVING TO ABCNYS THROUGH 9/2022

|                                  |     |     |   |     |     |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Whitehall, First Baptist Church  | 0   | 0   | 0 | 84  | 100 | 184 |
| Williamson, First Baptist Church | 0   | 58  | 0 |     |     | 58  |
| Wolcott, First Baptist Church    | 0   | 106 | 0 | 600 |     | 706 |
| Woodhull, Community Church       | 520 | 0   | 0 |     |     | 520 |

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# GROWTH POINTS

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With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

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## Managing Time

Leaders in all professions find they run out of time. No doubt, you've felt that way. I know I have.

Of course, everyone has the same amount of time, 168 hours a week. If we get eight hours of sleep a night, that leaves us with 112 hours, or 16 hours a day to complete our work. Sixteen hours a day is a lot of time. So, why do we experience the feeling of running out of time?

After leading over 100 training seminars on time management, Ted Engstrom (former executive director of World Vision) and Ed Dayton (former vice president of World Vision) suggested two main reasons leaders run out of time.

First, leaders don't plan for tomorrow. Dayton explained, "The leader is so busy doing things he or she doesn't take any time to think about the future. Seldom does he realize that many of his problems can be solved by taking just 5 percent of this time to start working on the future."

Engstrom added, "We terribly overestimate what we can do in one year and underestimate what we can do in five. By planning now, you can begin to get

some control over your time somewhere down the road."

Second, they don't delegate. Engstrom wrote, "Delegation is the word the time experts use. In the church, delegation means discipling: training others."

Dayton noted, "Given a choice of doing work ourselves or doing work through others, most of use will opt to do it ourselves."

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## Leading Ourselves

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When we talk about time management, we are really talking about leading and managing ourselves.

We can't manufacture more time or manage it. But, we can lead and manage ourselves better.

When we say "I didn't have enough time," or "I don't have enough time," what we're really saying is "I didn't lead myself well," or "I didn't manage myself well."

A mature leader recognizes that God has given us enough time for things that matter. And, they take responsibility to lead and manage their life well.



## Setting Priorities

Fruitful leaders recognize three realities.

First, God has given us enough time to do the things that really matter.

Second, demands on our time will never end.

Third, we must set priorities.

Setting priorities begins by taking, as Dayton suggested, five percent (5%) of our time each week to think about the future. The average pastor works 63 hours per week. Thus, start setting priorities by setting aside three hours of your time each week to plan for the future.

The way I've been able to carve out three hours of time to think about the future is to go to a coffee shop, or a book store (with a coffee shop, of course), or a library, or a secluded park. In other words, we need to find a way to get away. Find a place to think, and go there each week for three hours.

Take along your notebook or a pad of paper and write down your dreams, plans, and goals for yourself and your church or organization. Set out a schedule for your week or month.

Once you've found your way to get away and think, do the following.

Ask one or two people to help you stay focused. Share your dreams, plans, and goals. Ask them to hold you accountable to compete them.

Then find at least one additional person to be your Barnabas, that is, a prayer partner. This may be an older or more mature person who will pray with you.

Next, determine your particular gifts, talents, and abilities. What do you do well? What don't you do well? Be honest!

Last, take stock of the people in your church. Who's there? What do they do well? How do they match up against what you don't do so well?

Ask those who do things well, that you don't do so well, to help you. If you are unwilling to give away work (delegate), you'll find it hard to disciple others. An I-do-it-all-myself attitude says, "I don't believe in community. I don't believe in other people's gifts." You have to let others help you. If you do, you'll find more time in your schedule.

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# GROWTH POINTS

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## Three Groups

Most people tend to find themselves involved in three different types of groups.

First is the “Primary” group.

The word “primary” indicates this group is first, principal, or of chief importance. The most tightly knit primary group, of course, is the family. Within a family people know, love, care, support, and protect each other.

A primary group is also found among people who spend a great deal of time together. For example, some smaller churches function like a primary group. Such a group exists when a person’s life is integrated with others. For example, if a person’s family, work, school, and social network is pretty much the same group of people, it is a primary group.

When people express fond memories of their experience in a smaller church where people knew everyone by name and cared personally for each other, they’re talking about a strong primary group.

Next is the “Secondary” group.

A secondary group is a little larger gathering of people around common goals or interests. They are less emotional than a primary group, and of a limited duration. For example, scouting groups, sports

teams, and book clubs are types of secondary groups. They are goal-oriented or task-oriented, and, when they are finished, people always return to the primary group. There are some expectations, such as reading a book in a book club, but a low level of commitment.

Last is the “Tertiary” group.

“Tertiary” refers to something that is of a third rank in importance or value. Such groups can be larger in size, such as a university, but can be small, such as those who gather at a coffee shop.

The concept of a “third place” is similar to a tertiary group in that it is a place where people spend time between their primary group and secondary group. Coffee shops are often referred to as third places.

Primary groups are private and intimate gatherings of close-knit people.

Secondary groups offer a more structured social experience, with rules and regulations on how to act or perform.

Tertiary groups, or third places, offer a relaxed environment where people can meet and interact in casual ways, with little commitment.

All three groups are needed for a balanced social life.

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## Three C's

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The existence of three social groups are also found in healthy churches, but they go by the names Celebration, Congregation, and Cell. While they don't correspond directly to the three social groups noted above, they do reflect the necessity of involving people on three levels of social engagement.

“Celebration” refers to the largest gathering of the entire church, which is the worship service or services.

This large gathering provides a sense of excitement, vision, and joy. It is the place where the entire local body of Christ gathers for hearing the Word of God, the core values they all support, and the vision they are working to accomplish. In a sense, it is the “pep rally” of the church.

“Congregation” is the medium-sized gathering of people. It involves between 20 to 100 people, depending on the size of the total church, and is much like a secondary group in that it is built around goals or tasks. It is the Sunday school in many churches, or the seminars or classes that today's churches offer on various topics, like financial management, family living, or Bible studies.

“Cell” refers to the small groups found in most churches today. It is similar to the primary group due to the closeness that develops as people spend time caring, loving, and supporting one another. Cells provide the intimacy that people are desiring in their lives.

Together these three C's produce a balanced social life within a local church. People who are involved in all three levels—worship, task, and care—tend to remain faithful to the church.

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## Challenges

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With churches now offering hybrid types of church (online and face-to-face) connecting people in all three levels is challenging. Healthy churches, however, find ways to get people connected to celebration, congregation, and cell whether it's in person or online.

Do you have all three C's available?

How are you helping people get involved at all levels?

How are you connecting online worshipers to the three C's?

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# GROWTH POINTS

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## Communication Challenges

At first glance, it appears that communication in a church is fairly easy. A look at the communication system, however, reveals that communication is complex.

The average person in the United States receives between 4,000 and 10,000 messages per day. But, here's the crazy news. Of those messages, only about 100, or less than two percent, are remembered. Is it any wonder that people in our church don't recall announcements from the pulpit or on the church website?

Consider the following insights.

First, a church has multiple communication channels. Some people will receive information via the grapevine. Others are outside the grapevine loop, and never get the information as it's passed from person to person. They get their information from looking at posted announcements on the church's website. If the website is not updated on a regular basis, say weekly, they never receive the messages in a timely manner. Some listen

for announcements during the church's worship service. Others gain information from communication channels as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, email, texts, newsletters, pastoral visits, lay visits, phone calls, special mailings, etc. At minimum every church has thirty or more channels on which it communicates with the congregation.

Second, the grapevine is fast, but not always accurate. Someone hears something, then passes it along to another person, who in turn passes it along to still another person until numerous people have heard. In general, the larger the congregation and the more scattered the people are, the less accurate the communication that travels over it.

Third, some people will not get the message. With so many communication channels available, it's best to assume that some people in the church will not receive messages. One way communication that doesn't include the possibility of feedback, is particularly vulnerable. An announcement is sent out, but there is no way to know how many people receive the message.

Fourth, some people will receive the message but not understand it. Some messages get garbled in transmission, while others are not as clear as the originator intended them to be. This is particularly apparent when communication is

delivered by social media. Messages sent electronically are particularly prone to misinterpretation and misunderstanding.

Fifth, some people will receive the message, understand it, but not remember it. How quickly we forget. Even with the best intension, received communication is laid aside, misplaced, or forgotten in today's busy world.

Sixth, some people receive a message that was never sent. People tend to hear what they want to hear. Thus, even the clearest words are often misinterpreted by the listeners.

Seventh, silence does not mean acceptance. Even though members of the congregation may hear and understand communication correctly, it doesn't mean they agree with it. Too often the fact that people don't express disagreement is taken to mean they agree, which isn't true. Don't assume silence is agreement.

Eighth, two-way communication is better than one-way. A person-to-person phone call is better communication than a one-way text. Any communication that allows for immediate feedback is best. Thus, person-to-person communication (a luncheon meeting, for example) is better than object-to-person communication (an email, for example).

Ninth, the importance of a message is determined by the recipient. Communication

that begins with the recipient's interests, concerns, or problems in mind, is more likely to be read and understood than one that begins with the sender's concerns.

Tenth, messages communicated multiple times and in multiple ways are more likely to be effective. A good rule is to communicate all-important messages five different ways. This doesn't mean sending out a message five times by email, for example, but rather sending it on five different channels of communication.

Eleventh, different people require different channels of communication. Channels that reach people in your congregation don't normally work to reach people outside of your church (churched vs unchurched). Those that reach active members don't always reach inactive ones (churched vs dropouts). Some channels are appropriate for some messages but not for others (members vs nonmembers).

Questions:

How many channels of communication can you identify in your own church?

How many of these channels do you actually use when communicating messages to the entire congregation?

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