2018
Best of the Church Press Awards
Recognition of outgoing ACP Board members:

- Cynthia Martens
- Carlos Medley
William B. Lipphard Award

The Rev. Dr. Bob Terry
Editor Emeritus of the Alabama Baptist
2018 Award Contest
• 95 Categories
• 905 Entries

Best of the Church Press
Reporting and Writing
FOR: FEATURE ARTICLE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
The Alabama Baptist
Rolling Billboard
By Carrie Brown McWhorter

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Hunger News & Hope

How 2017 Natural Hazards Affected Food Security

By Rachel Boyle
FOR: 

FEATURE ARTICLE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:

The Christian Chronicle

18 wheels and a heart to serve
By Bobby Ross Jr.

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
18 wheels and a heart to serve

AFTER HURRICANE MICHAEL, a retired Christian steers a big rig full of food and supplies to hard-hit Florida.

BY BOBBY ROSS JR. | THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

PANAMA CITY, Fla.

In the dark, John Kincaid could see hints of the devastation in this seaside city. The downed tree limbs in every direction. The roofs ripped off homes and businesses. The flattened pavilion beside the Jenks Avenue Church of Christ’s family activity center.

But in the pitch-black wee hours — with the power still out in this Florida Panhandle community — the headlights on Kincaid’s tractor-trailer rig flashed only brief, sketchy glimpses of Hurricane Michael’s vast impact.

After a 466-mile trip from Nashville, Tenn., to deliver emergency food boxes and supplies from Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort Inc., the volunteer driver approached the Jenks Avenue church just before 2:45 a.m.

The engine grunted as Kincaid, 76, tapped the brakes and slowed almost to a complete stop. The retired police officer squinted as he scanned the disaster zone for the church’s driveway.

Finally spotting it, he shifted into reverse and backed up a bit. He twisted the steering wheel, pulled into the parking lot and nudged into a space beside the worship center, where days earlier the Category 4 storm — with sustained winds of 155 mph — had poked a hole in the roof above the baptistery.

Kincaid recorded the semi-truck’s odometer reading at his destination — 201,035 — before cutting the lights. After a quick pit stop under the stars, he left the rig’s air-conditioner running and climbed into the back of the cab.

There, on a twin mattress, he’d catch

See TRUCK DRIVER, Page 24
Remembering King’s last sermon with renewed hope
By Adelle M. Banks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

FEATURE ARTICLE 
News Service, Website or Blog 

PRESENTED TO: 

NAD NewsPoints 

Samantha's Story 
By Kimberly Luste Maran 

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
'This Is Not a Crisis. This Is a Long-Term Disaster': Family Separation Is the Latest Eruption in an Ongoing Story

By Sandi Villarreal
This Is Not a Crisis. This Is a Long Term Disaster'

Family Separation Is the Latest Eruption in an Ongoing Story
FOR: 

FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Short Format

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterians Today

Raising Generous Children
By Pam Greer-Ullrich

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Short Format

PRESENTED TO: Presbyterians Today

Beyond A Bag of Groceries
By Sherry Blackman

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Is Facebook Making Us Mean?
By Sari Fordham
IS FACEBOOK MAKING US MEAN?
#MeToo in the United Church

By Trisha Elliott
FOR:

FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:

The Living Church

Lazarus and the Resurrection of a Boy with Down Syndrome
By The Rev. Zac Koons

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:

The Banner

Uncomfortable Conversation
By Chuck DeGroat

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brieke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:

The Presbyterian Outlook

Serving the world at the truck stop
By Sherry Blackman, The Presbyterian Outlook staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 
FEATURE ARTICLE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer Magazine

Angels on Call
By Roberta Staley

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Angels on call

Two Vancouver nurses have foregone retirement, becoming front-line caregivers in the city’s deadly opioid crisis

BY ROBERTA STALEY
PHOTOS BY TALLULAH
At the border, a prayer for 'forgotten people'
By Erik Tryggestad
FOR:

NEWS STORY
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Chronicle

Seeking justice for Botham Jean
By Bobby Ross Jr.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Tears and fears: Church teen killed by Arkansas police
By Bobby Ross Jr.
Tears and fears:
Church teen killed by Arkansas police

LOVED ONES STRUGGLE to understand 17-year-old’s decision to open fire.

BY BOBBY BASS JR., THE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

A thin sheet of snow and ice covered the ground outside the Levy Church of Christ as hundreds of mourners filed into the auditorium.

Charles Smith Jr. — “C.J.” to friends and relatives — lay in an open casket adorned with red and white flowers and flanked by a giant memorial banner featuring the 17-year-old high school senior in his blue cap and gown.

Some sported dark suits and fancy dresses. Others wore jeans and T-shirts emblazoned with Smith’s smiling face. Loved ones choked back tears as they approached the coffin and kissed the teen on the way to their pew.

“The death of any young person is tragic, but it from cancer or a car wreck.

The circumstances of Smith’s final moments, though, are particularly perplexing to those trying to make sense of the baptized believer’s untimely passage from, as one funeral speaker described it, “earth to glory.”

“Like many of us from time to time, he made bad judgments,” Duncan Martin, minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Little Rock, said in Smith’s eulogy. “But bad judgment does not deserve a death sentence. If that were true, this auditorium would be empty today.”

Crowds who came to light candles and pray respect to the fallen teen at the nearby street corner.

“Certainly, our desire and our goal is to serve everyone, to be sensitive to all, and to pray for everyone who is involved,” minister Danny Dodd said of his 600-member congregation, which is about 80 percent white and 20 percent black.

In his sermon a week after the shooting, Dodd preached from Romans and reflected on the tension between Jews and Gentiles then — and blacks and whites now.

“We don’t need to stumble,” he told the congregation. “The answer to all of these things is found in Christ. It’s not going to be found in political agendas. It’s not going to be found in passing laws. All of us — red and yellow, black and white — need to let the Word speak to our hearts where we are and deal with our attitudes.”

The Levy flock includes police officers, but none was involved in the fatal confrontation with Smith.

Smith had played basketball in the Levy church’s gymnasium, and deacon Ted Bowman — who coordinates the congregation’s community-building ministry — recognized the teen’s mother and grandmother from past outreach events. The Levy church, in the shadow of government-subsidized housing projects, hosts annual giveaways of school supplies and winter coats.

“I know the names and the faces,” Bowman said of Smith’s relatives. “We had a connection.”

A BROTHER IN CHRIST

Smith often brought friends to worship at the Southside church, which has Sunday attendance of nearly 200, Martin said after preaching at the funeral.

“Nobody made him come to church,” the minister told The Christian Chronicle. “He’d been coming to church for the last three years on his own. He started off by himself, got a feel for the church, and then he just started bringing all his friends.

“Every Sunday, we never knew how many he was going to have — sometimes four, sometimes 10, sometimes 20,” the preacher added. “And they would say, ‘Tim with C.J. He brought me to church today.’

In a poem read at the memorial service, a cousin said, “The C.J. that I know was a God-fearing young man ... with a heart of gold.”

“C.J. loved his mother, sisters and grandmother so much,” his funeral program declared. “He considered himself ‘the man of the house.’ He loved being with his family, going on road trips, out to eat and being with his church family.

“C.J. was very loving, funny, kind, and had a million dollar smile!”

Such descriptions stand in contrast to the suspect shown in the video straggling with police and crying out. “I can’t go to jail.”

“I don’t like sense of it,” Martin said.

But the black minister said he doesn’t question the authenticity of the video. “I felt the training lacked when he was on the ground,” Martin said. “I felt they could have constrained him before he was able to get the weapon.”

However, the officers seemed to act professionally, the minister added: “But C.J. had just gotten out of some trouble, and I don’t think he was saying ‘I can’t go to jail’ because of himself; I think he was saying it for his momma. Because he had just put her through some stuff, and they got out of debt, and he was afraid.”

The Southside preacher praised the Levy church for its role after Smith’s death. “They’ve bent over backwards,” Martin said. “At a vigil after the shooting, they had children on the parking lot doing drugs, and some guy was in a car doing doughnuts, and they easily could have said, ‘No, we don’t want no part of that.’

“But they’ve opened the doors, and everything the family requested, they’ve given it,” he added. “You couldn’t ask for anymore.”

Besides hosting the funeral, the Levy church — with help from the Southside church and the 15th Street Church of Christ in North Little Rock — catered a family meal afterward.

For deacon Bowman, the shooting’s aftermath reinforced the congregation’s decision to remain in the neighborhood.

“We need to be a light to this area,” he said. “And the best way to be a light is to be in the area. ... This, to me, is why we stayed.”
From Grassroots to Government: 
A Climate Assessment Presents a Moral Opportunity
By Christina Colón
NEWS STORY
Website, News Service or Blog

NAD NewsPoints

Community Pulls Together After Deadliest Fire in California's History Burns Through Towns
By Kimberly Luste Maran

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
After synagogue shooting, Presbyterians share shock, grief; stand in solidarity with neighbors
By Paul Seebeck and Mike Ferguson
Global Sisters Report (NCR)

Sisters applaud adoption of UN migration compact
By Chris Herlinger
Sisters, leaders applaud adoption of UN migration compact, despite US refusal to sign

A Venezuelan migrant brushes his teeth outside his tent at a makeshift camp Nov. 26 in Bogota, Colombia. (CNS / Luisa Gonzalez / Reuters)

by Chris Herlinger
FOR:

NEWS STORY
Magazine

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterians Today

Rural Realities: Hunger in the Heartland
By Donna Frischknecht Jackson

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brouka, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

NEWS STORY Magazine

PRESENTED TO:

Word&Way

HLGU Invite to Hawley Breaks 'Johnson Amendment'

By Brian Kaylor

Jay Blossom, President

Gregg Breuka, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: NEWS STORY Magazine

PRESENTED TO: Presbyterians Today

Finding Homes for the Homeless
By Heidi Worthen Gamble

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

NEWS STORY Magazine

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer

Jehovah's Witnesses Cover-Up
By Kristy Woudstra

Jay Blossom, President

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES COVER-UP

Canadian survivors of childhood sexual abuse are coming forward to reveal how their church failed them — and protected their predators

BY KRISTY WOODSTRA
CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
Newspaper or Newsletter

The Alabama Baptist

Alabama Baptist State Convention Report
By The Alabama Baptist staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Fear and hope in Europe
By Erik Tryggestad

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: PC(USA) Communications
General Assembly 223 News
By PC(USA) Communications

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
'Love Wins' at same-sex conference
By Bobby Ross Jr.
CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
News Service, Website or Blog

Global Sisters Report
Leadership Conference of Women Religious - 2018
By Soli Salgado, Brittany Wilmes, Dan Stockman
Renewing the Vision: Issues of Social Justice before the 223rd General Assembly (St. Louis)
By Henry Koenig Stone
The Christian Index

The Nigeria National Young Adult Convention: Highlights
By Ore L. Spragin, Jr.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
New Vatican document describes spiritual apprenticeship for Catholic seminarians – By Christa R. Klein, writer
FOR:  CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
Magazine – Short Format

PRESENTED TO:  The Catholic Review

Archbishop Lori Reflects on Completed Bishops’ Meeting
By Christopher Gunty

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO: Word&Way

Baptist World Alliance Coverage
By Brian Kaylor, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:
The United Church Observer

Meet the Nominees
By Mike Milne

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

CONVENTION OR MEETING COVERAGE
Magazine – Long Format

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer

General Council Special Report
By Trisha Elliott, Mike Milne, Christopher White

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
United Church minister Miriam Spies leads the opening worship at the 43rd General Council in Oshawa, Ont.

GENERAL COUNCIL SPECIAL REPORT

Brimming with emotion, the 43rd national gathering of the United Church ushered in a seismic shift — and reminders that more change is needed
FOR: IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: Hunger News & Hope

Special Report: Water Issues at Home and Abroad
By Linda Freeto

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Broeka, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Chronicle
Seeking justice for Botham Jean
By Bobby Ross Jr., Erik Tryggestad and Chellie Ison

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:

The Alabama Baptist

A look at mass incarceration in Alabama
By Martha Simmons

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Culture of mass incarceration

From family members of the imprisoned to taxpayers, no one is unaffected

By Martha Simmons
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

For a freedom-loving country, the United States locks up more people than any other nation in the world.

More than 2 million people are confined in American prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers and other types of correctional facilities. Nearly half a million of them haven’t even been convicted, yet they are sitting in local jails awaiting trial, many of them too poor to raise bail.

The federal Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reported in April that the adult incarceration rate fell in 2016 to its lowest level in 20 years. According to BJS, the American adult incarceration rate has steadily declined since 2009 and is now at its lowest rate since 1996.

That decline, while encouraging, does not change the fact that the United States incarcerates a higher percentage of its own population than any other country in the world.

When you include the number of people behind bars with the number on parole, probation and community supervision, the current adult correctional population in America reaches nearly 6.5 million.

According to the nonprofit, nonpartisan Prison Policy Initiative, the United States has about 2.3 million people in prisons, jails and juvenile detention centers. That translates into a U.S. incarceration rate of 655 people per 100,000 population.

The nations with the next highest rates of imprisonment, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, are:

- El Salvador, with 614 per 100,000
- Turkmenistan, 583 per 100,000
- Cuba, 510 per 100,000
- Rwanda, 434 per 100,000
- Russia, 413 per 100,000

BJS and the World Prison Brief note that a lack of available data may mean that some countries, such as China, are not fairly represented among the national incarceration rankings. Nevertheless, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine reports that close to a quarter of all the world’s prisoners are held in American prisons.

“The U.S. rate of incarceration,” the National Academies reported, “with nearly 1 of every 100 adults in prison or jail, is 5 to 10 times higher than rates in Western Europe and other democracies.”

Some states’ incarceration rates are even more stunning, according to the Prison Policy Initiative.

Oklahoma currently tops the list by locking up 1,079 out of every 100,000 of its citizens, followed by Louisiana, 1,052; Mississippi, 1,039; Georgia, 970; and Alabama — perennially among the highest-incarceration states — 946.

Looked at another way, Alabama’s incarceration rate of 946 per 100,000 population means that about one out of every 100 men, women and youth we encounter every day — at church, in school, at the mall — will be locked up at one time or another.

Extrapolate that to the number of family members with an incarcerated loved one, and the impact of mass incarceration comes into clearer view.

Children of imprisoned parents are especially at risk in the U.S., according to the National Institute of Justice, a federal research agency. They are six times more likely to eventually be incarcerated themselves, perpetuating the cycle. They are more likely to become depressed, aggressive and antisocial, and they are often trapped in severe poverty.
IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
News Service, Website or Blog

Religion News Service

Remembering King’s last sermon with renewed hope
By Adelle M. Banks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Can We Afford Economic Justice in the United States?
By Daniel José Camacho

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Cubans, US exiles connect to help rebuild Cuba's Catholic Church
By Gail DeGeorge and Soli Salgado
FOR: IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
News Service, Website or Blog

PRESENTED TO:

Baptist Standard

Paige Patterson controversy
By Ken Camp

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Patterson controversy prompts called meeting of trustees

MAY 7, 2018

Paige Patterson, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is pictured delivering a 2015 seminary chapel sermon. (Southwestern Seminary Photo via AP)
FOR:

IN-DEPTH COVERAGE
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterians Today

Rural Realities: Hunger in the Heartland
By Donna Frischknecht Jackson

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

IN-DEPTH COVERAGE 
Magazine or Journal 

PRESENTED TO: 

The United Church Observer 

Jehovah's Witnesses Cover-Up 
By Kristy Woudstra 

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: IN-DEPTH COVERAGE Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: The Covenant Companion

Finding Refuge
By Companion Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Finding Refuge

The trauma, tenacity, and hope of refugee stories
Do we really want an impartial media?
By Eric Black
Why Paige Patterson’s comments on abuse are dangerous
By Meredith Stone
Voices: Why Paige Patterson’s comments on abuse are dangerous

MAY 2, 2018

Portrait of Seminary President Paige Patterson alongside a portrait of B.H. Carroll, the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s first president, posing in the rotunda of the B.H. Carroll Memorial Complex. (AP Photo/Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Paul Moseley)
Are you drinking yet?
By Jeffrey O. Brown
FOR:  
EDITORIAL OR OPINION  
Newspaper, Newsletter, Magazine or Journal  

PRESENTED TO:  
US Catholic  
Money talks  
By Meghan Murphy-Gill  

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

EDITORIAL OR OPINION
Newspaper, Newsletter, Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Sojourners

A Combination of Cruelty and Ineptitude
By Jim Wallis

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
A Combination of Cruelty and Ineptitude

THIS SUMMER, people were filled with righteous anger about the separation of children from their families at the southern U.S. border. The crisis sparked a critical mass of outrage about the Trump administration’s inhumane policy, especially when audio surfaced of separated children crying desperately for their parents. The press, a few members of Congress, and other elected leaders did heroic work in exposing the horrific human toll of these policies.

In the weeks the family separation policy was in place, more than 2,300 children were separated from their parents. Reuniting these children with their families will take months. Some of these children may never be reunited with parents—meaning they effectively have been made orphans by this administration’s combination of cruelty and ineptitude.

Make no mistake: This was not merely an accidental byproduct of a convoluted and broken immigration zero-compassion policy, and it has to be stopped.

There are practical and proven methods for ensuring that migrants seeking asylum have their cases fairly adjudicated and show up for their day in court, including electronic monitoring and assigning case workers to families. While far from ideal, this is a much more humane option. Children do not belong in prison—full stop. The fact that their parents committed the misdemeanor offense of unauthorized entry doesn’t change that. Such misdemeanors in no way justify the lasting harm of separating children from their parents.

Congress urgently needs to step in. Trump and his administration have demonstrated over and over that they simply do not possess the empathy or decency to treat immigrant families humanely, and they cannot be trusted to do so under current law. Congress should act to prevent this or any future president from using an inhumane zero-tolerance policy toward migrants crossing the border. Congress must also compel the administration to

Children do not belong in prison—full stop.
FOR:

EDITORIAL OR OPINION
James Solheim Award for Editorial Courage

PRESENTED TO:

Word&Way

We Clearly Have a Problem
By Brian Kaylor, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

EDITORIAL OR OPINION

James Solheim Award for Editorial Courage

PRESENTED TO:

The Covenant Companion

Who Do You Say That I Am?
By Companion Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

EDITORIAL OR OPINION
James Solheim Award for Editorial Courage

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterian Outlook

Renouncing white Jesus
By Jill Duffield

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Renouncing white Jesus

No sooner had James Cone (the Rev. Dr. James Cone) folded himself into my compact car and clicked the seatbelt, I blurted, “I am sorry for my white Jesus, Dr. Cone.” He glanced at the plastic, sun-bleached, plastic Jesus on my dashboard and said in his signature, high-pitched voice, “Oh, it’s all right, it’s all right.” Driving Cone back to his hotel after his arresting, compelling, profound lecture on “The Cross and the Lynching Tree” counts as one of the highest privileges of my ministry.

The lecture took place April 17, 2017. He said of his book, “I put my whole being into it. ... I did my best, to do less would be a theological sin.” Those of us in that sanctuary received a gift, as Cone put his

Every follower of the crucified Prince of Peace must stand up for and stand with the crucified, the marginalized, the vulnerable, the hated and hunted. We must stand with Jesus.
FOR: THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Chronicle

50 Years: Racial Reconciliation and the Church
By Bobby Ross Jr., Hamil R. Harris and Lynn McMillon

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THE ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards
Honorable Mention

FOR: THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: Hunger News & Hope

From Water Crisis to Water Justice
By Katie Cook, editor

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES  Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:  The Alabama Baptist

The Alabama Baptist: Celebrating 175 Years  By The Alabama Baptist staff

Jay Blossom, President  Gregg Brooke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Chronicle

Big Questions for Churches of Christ
By Erik Tryggestad, Bobby Ross Jr., Chellie Ison

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
What is a Church of Christ?

As numbers decline in the U.S., Christians ponder a fellowship’s identity.
FOR:

THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
News Service or Website

PRESENTED TO:

Global Sisters Report

Healing Divisions: Working to heal Cities Divided After Incidents of Anti-black Racism – By Dawn Araujo-Hawkins

Jay Blossom, President

Gregg Brookes, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
News Service or Website

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterian Outlook

On the border: Faith stories from the front lines of migration
By Leslie Scanlon

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
News Service or Website

PRESENTED TO:

Religion News Service

America’s Preacher: The Life and Legacy of Billy Graham
By Religion News Service

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEMES ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
News Service or Website
PRESENTED TO: Baptist Standard

Child sexual abuse and the church
By Scott Floyd

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Child sexual abuse and the church: How widespread is the problem?
FOR: THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: Reflections Journal / Yale Divinity School

Fall 2018 issue: Sex, Gender, Power: A Reckoning
By Greg Sterling, dean/publisher; Ray Waddle, editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEM ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Living City Magazine

Living City November: Abuse Crisis
By Susanne Janssen and Chiara Catipon

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEMIE ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Reformed Worship

Reformed Worship 128: Theme Issue on Mental Illnesses and Worship
By The Rev. Joyce Borger, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: Theme Issue, Section, or Series
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: Ministry, International Journal for Pastors

July 2018 Issue: Chaplaincy
By Various Writer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES  
Magazine or Journal  
PRESENTED TO:  
Presbyterian Outlook  
Who is my neighbor?  
By Presbyterian Outlook staff  

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
THE ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards
Award of Excellence

FOR:
THEME ISSUE, SECTION, OR SERIES
Blog or Social Media

PRESENTED TO:
Presbyterian Outlook

The sisterhood of the traveling robe
By Jana Blazek, The Presbyterian Outlook staff and bloggers

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Sister of the robe (Sisterhood of the Traveling Robe)

November 30, 2018 by The Presbyterian Outlook — Leave a Comment

“When you belong to this church family, the family you belong to is bigger than just this church.” That’s how I start out every new members class I teach at First Presbyterian Church of Dunn in North Carolina. I then point to the wall of portraits of the pastors who have served this congregation before me. “Sid Batts, he’s now at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro,” I say. “David Sherrod is at Barbecue Presbyterian Church over in Sanford. David Bailey has been at a church in South Carolina.
FOR:

INTERVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

NAD NewsPoints

Samantha's Story
By Kimberly Luste Maran

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

INTERVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

Global Sisters Report (NCR)

Interview with Sr. Rose Pacatte
By Chris Herlinger

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
INTERVIEW
All Media

The Christian Century

How to talk to climate skeptics
By Amy Frykholm

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THE ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards

Award of Excellence

FOR: INTERVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Covenant Companion

Torn from Home
By Companion Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
According to the most recent statistics, more than 65 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes and communities worldwide—the highest number of displaced people in recorded history. We asked two Covenanters who work and volunteer with refugee resettlement to help us understand the growing crisis and how churches and individuals can respond.

Chitra Hanstad is the executive director at World Relief Seattle, where she has served since January 2017. Prior to this role, she consulted for Justice Ventures International, an anti-trafficking organization, in India on strategic planning and fund development and as a philanthropic adviser for the Seattle Foundation. She attends Emerald City Bible Fellowship, a Covenant congregation in Seattle’s Rainier Valley.

Cindy M. Wu is a freelance writer based in Houston, Texas, where she volunteers with refugee resettlement. She recently published A Better Country: Embracing the Refugees in Our Midst. She attends Access Evangelical Covenant Church and serves on the ECC Executive Board.

Why is the refugee crisis so pronounced today?

CHITRA HANSTAD: The number of displaced people globally is a reflection of the conflict in our world. When people are forced out of their homes by war and persecution, the number of refugees fleeing into neighboring countries inevitably rises. The ongoing crisis in Syria is the most visible and is the greatest source of displaced people today, with 60 percent of the population (12.5 million Syrians) forced to flee their homes.

But that is just one of the many heartbreaking conflicts forcing flight. Since late August more than 600,000 people from the Rohingya minority group in Burma
BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE
All Media

The Christian Chronicle

Profile of Olan Hicks, founder of The Christian Chronicle
By Erik Tryggestad

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer

A Good Death
By Pieta Woolley

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Broke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
#Women Crush Wednesday: Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Activist and Namesake to a Movement – By Layton E. Williams
#ChurchToo supporter Karen Swallow Prior builds bridges between the extremes – By Adelle M. Banks
#ChurchToo supporter Karen Swallow Prior builds bridges between the extremes

August 20, 2018  8 Min Read

Author and educator Karen Swallow Prior. Photo by AnnaClaire Schmeidel
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format)
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: Breaking Barriers /
RCA-CRC Disability Concerns Ministry
A Group Without All the Answers
By Kyle Crist

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format)
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Recorder

A Season of Reconciliation and Remembrance
By Rev. Sidney Williams, Jr.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format)
Newspaper or Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
The Alabama Baptist

Don't give up on God
By Bob Terry

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Don’t give up on God

EDITOR’S NOTE — This year marks the 20th anniversary of the death of my wife, Eleanor, who died from injuries suffered in an automobile accident in South Africa. For all of those 20 years I have tried to support people walking the grief journey as I was supported in that crisis time.

It is only in the last few months that I have been able to write something I can share with others about the many crises of that experience and what I learned about God in the midst of grief. This article is part of that series. I pray it will be helpful to others walking the grief journey.

By Bob Terry
Editor, The Alabama Baptist

How can you give someone you love permission to die?

That was the struggle I faced as I entered the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital for the first time Tuesday afternoon. That morning a doctor visited me on the ward and told me Eleanor had taken a turn for the worse during the night. He told me she was in critical condition but he could not tell me what was wrong with her.

Later I realized he was trying to tell me Eleanor was dying but I refused to hear it, and because his own grief was still fresh from losing his mother, he could not say the words plainly.

FOR:

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format)
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Adventist Review Ministries

Lean In a Little Closer
By Barbara Couden Hernandez

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format) Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Gather Magazine

Changed Hearts – By Judith Roberts, author; Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format)
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer

Power in the Blood
By Anne Bokma

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Power in the blood

Anne Bokma reflects on her last period — and the spirituality of menstruation

ILLUSTRATION BY JEANNIE PHAN
How should the church celebrate the passage into adulthood?
By Gretchen E. Ziegenhals
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Short Format) News Service, Website or Blog

PRESENTED TO: Sojourners

Between Me and My Motherland By Dhanya Addanki

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
How I embraced my authority as an African-American woman in ministry
By Natasha Jamison Gadson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Overcoming stereotypes and assumptions has been difficult for a female minister in a historic African-American church. But, she writes, she was not serving the people by trying to be what others wanted her to be.

I love serving at a historic church with a storied past. I thought about this on Resurrection Sunday morning, when I stood alongside my clergy colleagues and looked around.
FOR: 

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Long Format) 
Newspaper, Newsletter, News Service, Website or Blog 

PRESENTED TO: 

Forum Letter 

Marked with the cross of Christ forever 
By Eileen Smith 

Jay Blossom, Gregg Brocke, Executive Director 
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
He desired a better country: A remembrance of David McReynolds
By Ken Sehested

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Long Format)
Newspaper, Newsletter, News Service, Website or Blog

PRESENTED TO: Presbyterian Outlook

My mom and me: Theological comfort and the suicide crisis
By Chip Hardwick and The Presbyterian Outlook staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
My mom and me: Theological comfort and the suicide crisis

July 6, 2018 by The Presbyterian Outlook — Leave a Comment

Guest commentary by Chip Hardwick

The news earlier this summer came almost too quickly to digest. Upscale handbag designer Kate Spade, fresh off the 2017 list of Fast Company’s “Most Creative People in Business,” reportedly took her life on Tuesday, June 5. Only three days later on June 8, celebrity chef and former bon vivant Anthony Bourdain was found dead in his hotel room in France after apparently choosing to end his life.

As the news ricocheted around, similar reactions emerged. Spade’s handbags have a “lighthearted, all-American style,” which made it hard to imagine her taking her life. Tributes to Bourdain included statements such as, “If I could choose anyone’s life, I would be him.” No one seemed capable of wrapping their mind around why these seemingly well-put-together public figures would die by suicide.
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Long Format) Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: The Covenant Companion

Addiction and the Church
By Dana Bowman

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Long Format) Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Century

Stitched-together community
By Amy Frykholm

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (Long Format) Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer

In the Beginning
By Alanna Mitchell

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
An ancient faith, a scientific revolution and what they reveal about our place in the universe

BY ALANNA MITCHELL

The heat has already started to build by the time Ryan Sage rattles up to the lodge in the little white bus that is to take us into the heart of the Dreamtime, the ancient faith system of Aboriginal Australians.

It is not yet 8 in the morning, but Sage has already turned on the bus's air conditioning, insurance against the scorching journey to come. Soon enough, he tells the passengers in his soft drawl, we'll be glad for any cool air we can find.

I believe him. We are in Kakadu National Park, smack in the middle of the top lip of Australia. The equator is above us, the Tropic of Capricorn is below, and we are driving under a pitch-black sky just a few dozen kilometres from the Indian Ocean.

Off in the distance, sunlight shimmers in the still waters of a billabong (a dead-end tributary of a river), and beside the road, paperbark trees shed their skin. Blood-red termite mounds taller than me spout like cathedral spires. Radioactive uraninite oozes under the red soil. Lethal saltwater crocodiles — "salbies" — lurk wherever there's water. Kangaroos and their smaller cousins, wallabies and wallaroos, bound through the bush.

And hiding in the shaded underhanging of the ancient sandstone escarpment that juts across the landscape is one of the most extensive outdoor art galleries in the world: Kakadu's rock paintings, both sacred and mundane. Kakadu alone features more than 5,000 documented sites of rock art, each containing multiple images, sometimes hundreds to a rock face, layered one on top of the other. Twice as many sites are thought to be tucked away in Kakadu's hills, many locations known only to Indigenous Australians.

The rock paintings are much more than art. To Indigenous Australians, who arrived on this continent 65,000 years ago, some of the paintings depict ancestral beings that created the reality we see around us, manifestations of an Aboriginal faith system known in English as the Dreamtime or the Dreaming. The oldest painting still in existence, a charcoal design found just a few kilometres from where our bus is travelling, was drawn 28,000 years ago. Stonehenge, by comparison, began taking shape about 3,000 years ago. This means the Dreamtime is one of the oldest known religions.

But the rock art is not just the dusty archive of a primeval religion. It is part of an enigmatic, sophisticated animist faith that lives on. To many Indigenous Australians, the stories the art tells are as relevant today as they were thousands of years ago. And that makes Australia's rock paintings the text of the longest continuously practised religion on Earth.

When Indigenous Australians (a term that includes Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in the northeast) first came to this continent, at least three other humanoid cousins were still walking the Earth. Neanderthals,
COLUMN
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter, Website or Blog

The Christian Chronicle

Three columns by Erik Tryggestad
By Erik Tryggestad

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter, Website or Blog
COLUM
Mennonite World Review
Gathering the stones
By Hillary Watson

PRESENTED TO:
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Who is ‘entitled’?

It has become politically trendy to separate the deserving poor from the supposedly undeserving. This is evident in calls for work requirements for Medicare; in Ben Carson’s comment last year that public housing not be “too comfortable,” lest the poor begin to believe the government will care for them indefinitely; in the way families are penalized if they do not file to end food stamps the minute their income rises above 130 percent of the federal poverty level. If their income drops below the poverty line and they reapply for food stamps, the food stamps will be garnished to make up for the money they previously “stole.”

In a true democracy, these voices insist, people are rewarded by merit. And why should the poor be exempt from merit-based standards the middle class and wealthy face?

GATHERING THE STONES

Hillary Watson

The Bible does not ask if the poor are worthy of help. It asks if the rich are worthy of salvation.

This shift in language is distant from the Bible’s approach to poverty. From the moment God leads the Israelites out of Egypt, God explains how those with plenty are obligated to let the alien, widow and orphan glean at the edges of their fields. Jesus had no minimum requirement of those he healed. In his encounter with the Syrophoenician woman, when he suggests there may be a requirement, she argues for mercy, and he agrees: There is no limit on God’s goodness.

Over and over, the Bible does not ask if the poor are worthy of help. It asks if the rich are worthy of salvation.

In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, Jesus speaks of heaven and hell: “Remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted
FOR: 
COLUMN 
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: 
Adventist Review Ministries

Searching the Obvious 
By Dixil Rodriguez

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
A Native American’s Thanksgiving Perspective
By Danelle Crawford McKinney

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
DEPARTMENT
Print Publications

PRESENTED TO:

Canadian Adventist Messenger

Mamawi Atosketan Native School
By Andrew McCChesney and Lynn McDowell

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: Print Publications

PRESENTED TO: Breaking Barriers / RCA-CRC Disability Concerns Ministries

Editor's note
By Terry A. DeYoung and Mark Stephenson, co-editors

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: Print Publications

DEPARTMENT

Presented to:

The Covenant Companion

Arts & Culture
By Companion Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: Print Publications

PRESENTED TO: Sojourners

CultureWatch
By Julie Polter

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Let's Start at the Very Beginning

Sometimes the best antidote for the daily news is an ancient story.

It has been a time of shadows and warnings, bursts of violence and the creeping stench of betrayal. Falsehoods, at first a dripping bucket over a tin bucket—the hint of falling seals and valves, the promise of future cures—have become a drain on the soul. Dissipation marks the rule.

Where to find a true story, one that endures?

Scripture might seem the logical turn for a Christian. But I know my weaknesses. Left to my own devices, I likely pick favorite verses, I receive away from difficult passages. I rarely read anything in the Old Testament except the prophets—and those, while too often presenting a message on their side, and God’s. Nothing for me to be found, except the echoes of the wise and correction I’d like to delve out to others. A situational loss of hearing that is a sure path to potholes.

But then I was introduced to an unusual portal to the holy word, one that easily chaired in its way past my conscious and unconscious scriptural biases: a 56-page coffee-table book whose bronze cover is adorned with fine drawings of people who are at turns serious and serious. With title and highlights in fluorescent orange, the design is reminiscent of some Day-Glo knapsack whimsy from the 1960s. In the Beginning—Illustrated Stories from the Old Testament (Chronic Books) relies, through images and space grace, to be both fresh and respectful of the scriptural sources, core stories of the Judeo-Christian tradition, from creation and the Garden of Eden to Daniel in the Lion’s Den. Created by French writer and biblical interpreter Frédéric Boyer and French illustrator Serge Bloch, and translated into English by American poet Coli Swenson, it is a profound work beamed from gentle playfulness.

In the Beginning (published in France in 2016 as Bibles—its six-fingered letters) began not as a book but as 35 short animations...
FOR: Baptist Standard

DEPARTMENT
Online Publications

PRESENTED TO:

Baptists Preaching
By Rev. Mary Whitehurst, Rev. Dr. Elmo Johnson, Matt Snowden, Eric Black

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: DEPARTMENT
Online Publications

PRESENTED TO: Sotomayor Media Creations LLC

Breaking Bread
By John Sotomayor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
DEPARTMENT
Online Publications

PRESENTED TO:

Baptist Standard

Texas Baptist Voices
By Meredith Stone, Zac Harrel and Jake Raabe

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: CRITICAL REVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO:
The United Church Observer

Beyond Cliches
By Chelsea Temple Jones

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: CRITICAL REVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Cresset

Two Old Friends Hanging Together Again:
The Rediscovery of Takuichi Fujii's Art – By John Ruff

Jay Blossom, Gregg Brekke, President, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THE ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards
Award of Excellence

FOR: CRITICAL REVIEW
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Cresset

Our Sentimental Poet? Mary Oliver in an Age of Excess
By Debra Dean Murphy

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brevik, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois

Oliver's recent collections include A Thousand Mornings (2012), Dog Songs (2013), and Felicity (2015).
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
All Media

Mennonite World Review

Letters & Comments
By Paul Schrag, editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

United Church Observer

Letters
Edited by Patricia Clarke

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE DARKEST VALLEY

In response to “Lockdown,” by Jamie Slatkey (May/June), I originally wrote, “Great story—it is such a shame that we live in a time when just a word or two can strike fear in so many. Thank you for sharing your story.” The incident Jamie was talking about happened at Northwestern University, not far from where I grew up on Chicago’s north side. Still, it was far away from our home in Fishers, Indiana.

A couple of days later, at about 8:30 in the morning, we heard the words “active shooter” at the Noblesville Middle School not far from our house. Our daughter, son-in-law, and their three children live in Noblesville. Two people had been shot at the school. As we followed the story over the next minutes and hours, we learned that all the uninjured students were being taken to the high school where their parents could pick them up. Our granddaughter Graley goes to that high school. We got a text from our daughter that there was a threat at the high school, and it was being put on lockdown. A few minutes later we got a text from Graley saying, “We are on lockdown, I am hiding, I love you guys.”

Those words brought fear into our lives—a helplessness that is hard to explain. Fear that suddenly something that was relatively remote is now close to home. Fear that lives can be changed in a moment. Fear that was softened by prayer and the knowledge that Graley was in God’s hands, but fear that didn’t clear up until an hour or so later when we heard that the lockdown was over and our granddaughter was out of danger.

I love David’s words in the 23rd Psalm: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and

your staff, they comfort me.” I wish it was as easy as saying that because God is with me I will never be afraid. I think that is humanly impossible.

As Jamie writes, our society today is divided. The national controversy over gun control is not much of a conversation. Both sides fear the other’s point of view; it seems that neither side is willing to talk about compromise. I think we need a continuing dialogue. We can’t be afraid to talk to each other. Jamie writes, “Can we be courageous enough to set aside our fears, and for a moment step into someone else’s?” I agree.

John Paulson
Fishers, Indiana

GRAPPLING WITH “EVANGELICAL”

I have always claimed to be an evangelical, but these days I’m not so sure. “Can ‘Evangelical’ Be Saved?” by Bob Smietana (July/August), really hit me where I live. He writes, “At its heart, the Covenant is a family. And families talk about difficult issues. They work through conflicts.” This has been my feeling all my life, and I’ve always been proud to be in a denomination where we could agree to disagree. Following Jesus was always the destination. Oh, how we need that kind of evangelical movement now more than ever—one that includes, not excludes.

Marylyne Peterson
Harwich, Massachusetts

Excellent article. I couldn’t agree more with keeping “evangelical” in our church lexicon in spite of its being hijacked and abused in the public arena.

Gordy Halverson
Kington, Washington
FOR: POETRY All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Century

Determinism on a summer morning in the Midwest
By Jeff Gundy

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: POETRY
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

The Cresset

Let Go and Let God
By Tania Runyan

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: POETRY
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

Sojourners

An Outline for a Service Acknowledging War Crimes
By Rose Marie Berger

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
An Outline for a Service Acknowledging War Crimes

“Has the United States ever apologized?  
Or are we too big to apologize?”

—Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson

The Chaplains Handbook has no confiteor or rite,  
neither Book of Common Prayer nor missalette,  
for scrutinies that beg forgiveness from the torn

and desecrated dead. We come contrite  
for reports of helicopter gunships,  
bodies observed in a ditch, the undress

of a girl who covered only her eyes:  
Noncombatant gang rape, with bayonet.

“Kill anything that moves,” bloodlust, U.S.  
Our Agnus Dei mocked your mutilation.  
Five hundred and four in My Lai, Son My.

Old age we robbed, our own years condemn.  
We confess to you, brothers and sisters:  
We beg. We pledge. Remember them.

Rose Marie Berger is poetry editor for Sojourners.  
This spring marks the 50th anniversary of the My Lai massacre (March 16, 1968) by U.S. troops in Vietnam.  
U.S. Army photo by Ronald L. Haebeler
FOR: SERVICE JOURNALISM
All Media

PRESENTED TO: Adventist Review Ministries

Anxiety Hacks
By Jennifer Jill Schwirzer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: SERVICE JOURNALISM
All Media

PRESENTED TO: US Catholic

Go on a journey
By Christine Valters Paintner

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

SERVICE JOURNALISM
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

The Journal of Adventist Education

The Tragedy of Child and Adolescent Suicide
By Brad Hinman

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
SERVICE JOURNALISM
All Media

Alliance Life

Why Am I So Angry?
By Wanda Walborn

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Why Am I So Angry?

Dealing appropriately with what triggers anger
FOR:

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

Forum Letter

Suffer the little children
By Johanna K. Rehbaum

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer

Pregnant in the Pulpit
By Trisha Elliott

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE  
All Media

PRESENTED TO:  
The Cresset

The Unknowable More: Contemplation, Creativity, and Education  
By Stephanie Paulsell

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The Unknowable More
Contemplation, Creativity, and Education

Stephanie Paulsell
FOR: HUMOR, WRITTEN
All Media

PRESENTED TO: Sojourners

I Could Stick My Head in the Sand
By Ed Spivey Jr.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: HUMOR, WRITTEN
All Media

PRESENTED TO:
The Covenant Companion

The Alpaca in the Manger
By Dana Bowman

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  HUMOR, WRITTEN
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

Gather magazine

Pray for the spiders – By Susan Sparks, author;
Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Pray for the spiders

Loving our enemies... even those that creepeth.

BY SUSAN SPARKS
Can Two Walk Together Unless They Be Agreed?: Traditions, Vocations, and Christian Universities in the Twenty-First Century – By Caroline J. Simon
FOR:
THEOLOGICAL OR SCHOLARLY ARTICLE
All Media

PRESENTED TO:
The Cresset

The Unknowable More: Contemplation, Creativity, and Education
By Stephanie Paulsell

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The Unknowable More

Contemplation, Creativity, and Education

Stephanie Paulsell
FOR: BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Century
Blessed Jael
By Sarah Jobe

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooks, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION  
All Media 

PRESENTED TO: 

The Cresset  

Deuteronomy 22: A Tale of Two Cities  
By Ashleigh Elser  

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION
All Media

PRESENTED TO: Baptist Peacemaker
Naboth's Vineyard & Flint, Michigan
By Deborah DeMars Conrad

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Flint, MI, had a standard of living, a shared prosperity. But Ahab had other ideas: Broken promises, lost jobs, housing that suddenly was worthless.

This is a sermon about presumptuousness, exploitation, hubris, and what it might mean to live peaceably with each other and the earth.

So, Naboth had a vineyard and he ended up dead when he said no to the powers.
FOR:

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Short format
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

The Christian Recorder

On the Revolutionary Hope of Alice Thurman
By Joi Orr

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Short format
All Media

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Century

Guns and baptism
By Kyle Childress

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Short format
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

The Christian Century

Holy Gaze
By Isaac Villegas

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Becoming Christ’s body, face to face

Holy gaze

by Isaac S. Villegas

I ARRIVE EARLY to set up for worship. I work in the dark, the sanctuary like a womb ready to birth us into the world, to form us into a body—into Christ’s life. The Presbyterian church from which we rent worship space assembles its chairs in rows facing the stage, directing the gaze of the congregants toward the altar and pulpit. Each week we move the chairs to form a semicircle. We prefer to look at each other during worship. Each person is a holy altar; every mouth proclaims God’s word. Our eyes flicker with the Spirit’s life.

“What is this place where we are meeting?” begins the hymn by Huub Oosterhuis, the first entry in our hymnal. “Only a house, the earth its floor.” I hum this song as I push chairs into new rows.

that means “pleasure” or “delight.” We delight in God’s sustaining grace in the pleasures of our fellowship, in our communion of souls. As the medieval historian Ann W. Astell explains, “Catherine stresses the reciprocal relationship, the Communion between those who eat and those who are eaten, their mutual neediness, and the permeability of the ‘I’ who lives for and by others.”

To turn our chairs is to beckon our bodies to reveal the neediness hidden in our souls, the permeability at our core—that “we live for and by others.” We are beggars, gathered to receive grace. We are priests, consecrated to administer the sacraments with our hands as we pass Christ’s peace, with our songs as we breathe the Holy Spirit, with our eyes as words Jacob says to Esau: “To see you is like seeing the face of God.”

Not all gazes are the same. Not all eyes look with love, and not all desires honor another’s dignity and beauty. Some stares flatten others into commodities, into objects whose value is determined by usefulness, bodies without agency or depth of consciousness. That type of look turns people into property, refusing to recognize others as having their own boundaries. Those eyes prefer coercion to consent.

With our bodies turned toward one another, we are reminded that we live for and by others.
FOR: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Long Format
All Media

PRESENTED TO: Sojourners

Stepping Off the Merry-Go-Round
By J. Dana Trent

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Long Format
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Living Church
Silence, Sound, and the Power of God
By The Rev. Ephraim Radner

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION: Long Format All Media

PRESENTED TO:  Reflections / Yale Divinity School

#MeToo Confronts the Patriarchy
By Marie Fortune

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
In 1976, William Muehl, a YDS faculty member and the editor of this magazine, wrote an article titled “Rape Is a Sexual Act.” He and I had had an ongoing disagreement about this assertion, largely because of my political position at the time that “rape is violence, not extreme sex.”
FOR: \hspace{1cm} DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Short Format
\hspace{1cm} All Media

PRESENTED TO: \hspace{1cm} Cafe (Boldcafe.org)

Sacred Spaces that require no words
By Ralen M. Robinson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Short Format
All Media

Hunger News & Hope

The Real Sermon
By Robert Darden

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
GETTING SOAKED: A MEDITATION ON THE RECOVERY OF BAPTISMAL INTEGRITY
BY KEN SEHESTED
FOR: DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Short Format All Media

PRESENTED TO: Adventist Review Ministries

When Failure Is (Not) an Option
By Martin Klingbeil

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
When Failure Is (Not) an Option

It dawned on me that I had been looking at the poster for the whole semester. Yet somewhere in the back of my mind was always a nagging question about the validity of its message. Campus had been plastered all over with the poster (even in the bathrooms!), and it was hard to miss.

Across its top one could read in bold letters: “When Failure Is NOT an Option.” There were, of course, lots of other posters surrounding it that vied for my attention. Consequently, I had never really read it completely, but somehow the message had subliminally struck home. Eventually I decided to read the whole thing, which turned out to be an encouraging iteration of the university’s Disability Support Services, directed at struggling students to overcome their limitations and succeed. Excellent! So far, so good!

Nevertheless, I’m still confounded by the initial message. Not, of course, in connection with struggling students, but with an achievement-obsessed society we live in,
FOR: DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Long Format All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Banner

Prayers of the Infertile: Longing, Hope, and Solidarity
By Cory Wilson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Borika, Executive Director
FOR: DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Long Format All Media

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer

Last Words
By Various authors

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

DEVOTIONAL / INSPIRATIONAL: Long Format
All Media

PRESENTED TO:

Canadian Adventist Messenger

My Starbucks Squad: A Love Story
By Josue Sanchez

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
MY STARBUCKS SQUAD
A Love Story
Turn, turn, turn: A time for faithful repentance – By Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, author; Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor
FOR:

PRESENTEDE TO:

BIBLE RESOURCE
All Media

The Banner

Why Read the Bible?
By Benjamin Lappenga

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BIBLE RESOURCE
All Media

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Century

The Bible's #MeToo stories
By Ruth Everhart

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
ABUSE AND ABUSERS IN SCRIPTURE

The Bible’s #MeToo stories

by Ruth Everhart

THE #METOO MOVEMENT took off because it harnessed the power of personal story. Individual stories can point to a societal problem that goes far beyond any individual. The witness of the “silence breakers” who collectively were named “Person of the Year” by Time magazine and the brave statements of people like Rachael Denhollander, who testified against gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar, are examples of how the telling of stories can reshape culture.
Alleluia! Hallelujah! – By Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, author; Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor
FOR:  
SEASONAL ARTICLE  
All Media

PRESENTED TO:  
The Mennonite

Advent Manifesto  
By John Paul Lederach

Jay Blossom, President  
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
SEASONAL ARTICLE  
All Media

PRESENTED TO:  
The United Church Observer

The Complex History of the Huron Carol  
By Will Pearson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The complex history of the Huron Carol

A product of 17th-century Jesuit missionaries, the popular hymn was written to introduce the Wendat people to Christianity. The Observer explores its troubled origins and continued use today.

BY WILL PEARSON
WITH REPORTING BY MUGOLI SAMBA
FOR:

BOOKS
Nonfiction

PRESENTED TO:

The Cathedral Foundation

Go, and Do the Same
By Rodrigue Mortel, M.D.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
BOOKS  
Nonfiction  

PRESENTED TO:  
American Lutheran Publicity Bureau  

Changing World, Changeless Christ: The American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 1914-2014 – By Richard Johnson  

Jay Blossom, President  
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director  
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BOOKS
Devotional

PRESENTED TO:

Gather Magazine

Advent words: A devotional coloring book
By Elizabeth Hunter, Sarah Carson, Hannah Hawkinson, authors and editors

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST DISAPPROVING LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PRESENTED TO: Word&Way

“Please cancel my subscription and I will recommend to my fellow God fearing brothers in Christ to cancel theirs!”

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
BEST DISAPPROVING LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PRESENTED TO:

Canadian Adventist Messenger

“It's a sad state of affairs...”

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brook, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST DISAPPROVING LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PRESENTED TO: The Covenant Companion

“Your new version and new design are in my opinion very unattractive.”

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Visual & Audio Communications
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine Cover

PRESENTED TO: Gather Magazine

Gather cover: June issue – By Ceres Lau, artist; 2Communique, designers; Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine Cover

PRESENTED TO: US Catholic

May 2018 and September 2018
By US Catholic editors

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS

Magazine Cover

PRESENTED TO: Ministry, International Journal for Pastors

December 2018 cover
By 316 Creative

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Broksa, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
CREATION, THE FALL, AND RESTORATION
FOR:  

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS  
Newspaper Front Page  

PRESENTED TO:  

Mennonite World Review  

April 23 Front Page  
By Paul Schrag, editor  

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
ANNUAL COLLEGE ISSUE

Two publishers explore a merger

**Mennonite World Review** and **The Mennonite** propose new, independent media organization

By combining our resources, readers and reach, we will be able to grow in ways that simply are not possible in our current arrangement.

— Sheldon G. Good

**WHAT'S COLLEGE WORTH?**

In Anabaptist higher education, there's no price tag on what matters most

Special section on pages 71-10 features Mennonite and Brethren in Christ colleges in U.S. and Canada

Balancing obedience, freedom

Brenton-area followers of the May part of the Kingdom Christian movement, which attracts people from plain Anabaptist traditions

ENOUGH FOOD TO EAT TWICE A DAY

Jean-Felix Cara brought the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Congo talks displaced Congolese people how food distribution will work. Funds and supplies provided by Mennonite Central Committee and other Anabaptist organizations were distributed March 23-24. Again Mauk, one of the recipients, said she and her family would be able to eat twice a day now.

This issue was mailed April 15.
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Spread or Story

PRESENTED TO: Sotomayor Media Creations LLC

Spiritual Journey of a Different Kind
By Joe Deleon and John Sotomayor

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokko, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Spread or Story

PRESENTED TO: The Covenant Companion
Who Do You Say That I Am?
By Companion Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Spread or Story

PRESENTED TO:

VISION Vocation Guide

Divine design: The holiness of place – By Alice Camille, Anne Marie O'Kelley, Carol Schuck Scheiber, and Jennifer Tomshack

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Divine design: The holiness of place

Where do you pray? Hopefully anywhere and everywhere! But it helps to have special places set aside from the distractions of everyday life to get into a prayerful state.
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Entire Issue

PRESENTED TO: Reformed Worship
Reformed Worship 128
By Dean Heetderks, Art Director; Frank Gutbrod, Graphic designer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Entire Issue

PRESENTED TO:

Word&Way
March 2018: Faith And Sports
By Brian Kaylor, Editor; Holly Hyde, Designer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Magazine or Journal Design: Entire Issue

PRESENTED TO:

Sotomayor Media Creations LLC

Elevate Magazine: January 2018
By Joe Deleon and John Sotomayor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
HABITAT 4 HUMANITY RAISING WALLS AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS—ONE HOME AT A TIME

ELEVATE
HIGHER THINKING FOR BETTER LIVING

PREMIER ISSUE

HOW HIS CHRISTIAN FAITH ELEVATED HIM TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND WORLD TITLES

PRO-BOXER AND OLYMPIAN

Antonio Vargas

OCOOS INNOVATIVE WEBSITE DESIGNS FOR CHURCHES AND NON-PROFITS
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Newspaper or Newsletter Design: Spread or Story

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Chronicle
The Christian Chronicle's 75th anniversary
By Erik Tryggestad

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Newspaper or Newsletter Design: Spread or Story

PRESENTED TO:

The Journal of Adventist Education

The Tragedy of Child and Adolescent Suicide
By Harry F. Knox

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The Tragedy of Child and Adolescent Suicide

Emily was 13 years old. She was a child and too young to be a teenager. She was bullied with her friends. She hated her hair, her complexion, and her height. At age 13, she weighed 110 pounds and was 5’5” tall, which is roughly six inches taller than average for her age. Her height made her an easy target for bullying. Her course, curly hair, and acne elicited frequent teasing and attacks by bullies.

Emily was also an avid social media user. This gave the bullies virtually unlimited access to her through various accounts and allowed them to send her multiple messages and comments that were waiting for her whenever she woke up in the morning or got out of school in the afternoon— as well as all the other times that she checked her account each day. Emily completed suicide 17 days before she turned 13. The day before she took her life, she posted a picture of herself social media, which received 43 comments. Emily considered negative, most of them made by female classmates. Two of these comments suggested that she would be better off dead. Apparently Emily agreed. Her parents knew she was upset about the comments, but they had told her to ignore “those people” and cut back on her social media. Emily was observed, though, with what people thought of her, who was interested in her, and any comments or “likes” she received.

This story is a composite— an amalgamation of several true stories—and is used to illustrate the need for more attention to be paid to child and teen suicide, which is becoming a common narrative among young people today.

Statistics

In 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 20 to 30 percent of U.S. student in grades 6 to 12 have experienced bullying, 30 percent admitted to bullying others, and 70 percent witnessed bullying in some form. According to the report, children and young adults are affected by bullying and cyberbullying throughout the world and affects a significant proportion of children and adolescents. It is estimated that 260 million children and adolescents experience school violence and bullying to some form every year. This problem is real, and it will not go away without intervention.

The National Crime Prevention Council defines cyberbullying as “the process of using the Internet, cell phones, or other devices to send or post false or hateful messages intended to hurt or embarrass another person.” The advent of portable Internet-capable devices, many of which can be held in the palm of the hand, has increased the incidence of children being bullied, making them even more targets for bullying behavior. Given the portability of these devices, people no longer have to walk until they are in front of a computer to send their transmissions, or until their target is physically within range. Cyberbullying can be implemented instantly. 24/7. Social media use no longer has to be face to face with bullies to suffer the effects of their taunting and threat, but can they not avoid places where bullies hang out on their way home from school, although studies have shown that cyberbullying and harassment bullying often occur simultaneously.

Each year in the United States, ap
Most popular verse of 2018 offers words of consolation for troubling times

By Carrie Brown McWhorter

The most shared, bookmarked and highlighted Bible verse of 2018 is a verse of assurance and comfort, which doesn’t surprise those who provide help in troubling times.

According to the YouVersion Bible app, the most popular Bible verse of 2018 is Isaiah 41:10: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (NIV)

Lisa Rease, director of clinical counseling for Pathways Professional Counseling, said the verse’s popularity doesn’t surprise her. Research by the National Institute for Health suggests that nearly 1 in 5 Americans suffer from an anxiety disorder, and people have an innate desire to be comforted, she said.

“God created us to want and need to feel safe. It’s one of the basic needs that Maslow discovered early on in psychology,” she said. “We need to feel safe before we can attend to other needs and tasks, and when we don’t feel safe or when we feel afraid, we search for safety and comfort.”

Comforting words

Isaiah 41:10 offers that, she said, so it makes sense that if people are searching online for comforting words, those from Scripture would be a good choice. Words like “do not be afraid,” “I am with you” and “I will hold you up” offer peace in the tragedy of the moment-news cycle, she said.

“Just this morning I was reading stories of great loss due to wild fires, of political angst around the world and of tragic losses of life in a senseless shooting. With headlines like these it can often feel like we are swimming in a sea of negative stories that inundate us with feelings of not being safe or that something terrible is going to happen to us any minute,” she said.

In October, John Thomas, associational mission strategist for Southeastern Alabama Baptist Association (SABA), saw tragedy come to his corner of Alabama when Hurricane Michael’s fierce winds blew through the Wiregrass region. He has no doubt the words “do not be afraid” are needed by many believers and even unbelievers during the storms of life, whatever those might look like.

>“Scripture speaks to that, that (See ‘Rice,’ page 5)”
FOR:

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Illustration with Article or Cutline

PRESENTED TO:

The United Church Observer

Bloody Expensive
By Jeannie Phan

Jay Blossom, President

Gregg Brooks, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Illustration with Article or Cutline

PRESENTED TO:

Gather Magazine

Most merciful God
By 2Communique, designers; Elizabeth Hunter and Sarah Carson, editors

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Illustration with Article or Cutline

PRESENTED TO:
Sojourners
Seeing the World As It Should Be
By Jon Krause

JAY BLOSSOM
Jay Blossom, President

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Seeing the World As It Should Be

What does it take to move beyond civil rights to a "more advanced democracy"?

by ERICA HUNT • illustration by JON KRAUSE
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Print Publication Redesign

PRESENTED TO: The Banner
The Banner redesign
By Dean R. Heetderks, Art Director

Jay Blossom, President
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Print Publication Redesign

PRESENTED TO:
Adventist Review Ministries
Adventist World redesign
By Types & Symbols

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ONLINE MEDIA
Publication Website

PRESENTED TO:
The Alabama Baptist
The Alabama Baptist Online
By The Alabama Baptist staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

PRESENTED TO:

ONLINE MEDIA
Publication Website

Concordia Journal

Concordia Theology – By Charles Arand, executive editor; Travis Scholl and Erik Herrmann, editors; Melanie Appelbaum, assistant editor; Ken Kogler, technology; Dale Ward, video production

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

ONLINE MEDIA
Publication Website

PRESENTED TO:

United Church Observer

UCObserver.org
By The United Church Observer staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ONLINE MEDIA
Website Redesign

PRESENTED TO: PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly

223rd General Assembly of the PC(USA)
By Angie Stevens

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ONLINE MEDIA
Website Redesign

PRESENTED TO:
The Banner

The Banner Online
By Dean R. Heetderks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ART / DESIGN / GRAPHICS
Free-Standing Humor Illustration

PRESENTED TO: The Mennonite
Loaves and Fishsticks
By Steve Edwards

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
CHILL RENT TORY?

YES, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CHILDREN'S STORY.

SIT FRUOTMENT?

THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST WE SIT THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT READING.

HO FING?

YES, WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE WHOLE THING.

KIP AD BUTN.

IT'S NOT YOUTUBE. THERE'S NO 'SKIP AD' BUTTON.
FOR:

PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

PRESENTED TO:

PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly

Closing Cuban Churches
By Randy Hobson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

PRESENTED TO:

NAD NewsPoints

Samantha's Story
By Dan Weber

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: ACT Alliance

PRESENTED TO: ACT Alliance

PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

Joseph P. S. plays the violin in the ruins of his home
By Gregg Brekke

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Adventist Review Ministries

Telling the Truth
By Bryan Gray, Types & Symbols

Jay Blossom, President

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:
Adventist Review Ministries

Confessions of a (Still) Single Pastor
By Bryan Gray, Types & Symbols

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

PHOTOGRAPHY
SINGLE PHOTO WITH ARTICLE OR CUTLINE
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:

The Catholic Review

Barbra Swann
By Kevin J. Parks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Buddhist monks chant outside former North Korean Labor Party headquarters near the DMZ in South Korea – By Gregg Brekke
FOR:

PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

PRESENTED TO:

Religion News Service

2019 National Day of Prayer, Capitol Ceremony
By Adelle M. Banks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

PRESENTED TO:

Religion News Service

A.C.T. to End Racism Rally
By Adelle M. Banks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Newspaper, News Service, Newsletter or Website

PRESENTED TO: The Christian Chronicle

Everyday Saints
By Chris Reynolds, Jennifer Gerhardt

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooker, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The sacred gift of motherhood
FOR:
PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO:
Gather Magazine

Finding the rhythm of love – By 2Communique, designers;
Elizabeth Hunter, editor; Sarah Carson, associate editor

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer

Angels on Call
By Tallulah

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooks, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: PHOTOGRAPHY – PHOTO SPREAD
Magazine or Journal

PRESENTED TO: Sotomayor Media Creations LLC

In His Corner
By Conan Segrest

Jay Blossom, President
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
For me, the landmark United Church vote on sexual orientation came at a high personal cost – By Bayne Stanley, photographer
FOR:

VIDEO
News Story or Current Event

PRESENTED TO:

PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly

Angry Tias and Abuelas
By Randy Hobson

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

VIDEO

News Story or Current Event

PRESENTED TO:

The Catholic Review

Calvert Hall High School Marching Band
By Kevin J. Parks

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

VIDEO
News Story or Current Event

PRESENTED TO:

Presbyterian News Service

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on continuing Baton Rouge cleanup
By Gregg Brekke

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

VIDEO

News Story or Current Event

PRESENTED TO:

Sojourners

We Asked One Question At The March For Our Lives. Here’s How Kids Answered – By JP Keenan

Jay Blossom, President

Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
"What Do You Want To Be In Life?"
Posted by Sojourners
12,411 Views

At school I don’t want to feel like I have to hide or

We Asked One Question At The March For Our Lives. Here’s How Kids Answered
FOR: VIDEO Documentary Short

PRESENTED TO:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Beyond the Steeple: Common Ground in Reading, Pa.
By Will Nunnally

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokko, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: VIDEO
Documentary Short

PRESENTED TO:

Sojourners

The Inn Without Borders / La Posada Sin Fronteras
By JP Keenan, Anna Sutterer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Hundreds gather at the U.S.-Mexico border every Christmas season for a unique service.

The Inn Without Borders / La Posada Sin Fronteras
FOR: VIDEO
Documentary Feature

PRESENTED TO: UCOBSERVER.ORG
Playing by Heart
By Observer staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

VIDEO
Editorial

PRESENTED TO:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

All Christians are Missionaries
By Will Nunnally

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: VIDEO Editorial

PRESENTED TO: In Trust

The gift of black theological education
By Matt Urban, Director/Editor, and Jay Blossom, Publisher

Jay Blossom

Gregg Broksa, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Faith Leaders Have a Message for Survivors
By JP Keenan, Jenna Barnett
FOR:  VIDEO
Video Series (Vlog, Video Podcast, Etc.)

PRESENTED TO:  Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
For This Church and For Our Future
By Will Nunnally

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

PRESENTED TO: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

VIDEO
Video Series (Vlog, Video Podcast, Etc.)

Word & Work: An Intersection podcast
By Dale A. Meyer, Director/President; Vicki Biggs, Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement; Melanie Ave, Communications Manager; Dale Ward, Senior Media Producer; Jayna Rollings, Art Director; John Clifton, Motion Designer; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: VIDEO
Video Series (Vlog, Video Podcast, Etc.)

PRESENTED TO:
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Leadership
By Stephen Richards

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

AUDIO
News Story, Current Event

PRESENTED TO:

Word&Way

Johnson Amendment
By Brian Kaylor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: AUDIO
Podcast or Audio Series

PRESENTED TO:
Adventist Review Ministries
Digging Deeper
By Adventist Review Ministries Staff

Jay Blossom, President
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 

AUDIO
Podcast or Audio Series

PRESENTED TO:

Faith & Leadership

Can These Bones: A Faith & Leadership Podcast
By Co-hosts: Rev. Laura Everett and Rev. William H. “Bill” Lamar IV;
Faith & Leadership team: Dave Odom, Kelly Ryan, Sally Hicks,
Jessamyn Rubio and Bob Wells; Susan Davis, freelance producer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

AUDIO
Podcast or Audio Series

PRESENTED TO:

Square Core Media

Homebrewed CultureCast
By Christian Piatt

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTED TO:  The Catholic Review

Accountability
By The Catholic Review Staff

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTED TO:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Here am I! Send me.” 2018-19 academic year theme
By Jayna Rollings, Creative Services Manager; Melanie Ave, Communications Manager;
Michelle Poneleit, Graphic Designer; John Clifton, Motion Designer;
Courtney Koll, Photographer; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

PRESENTED TO: Religion News Service

MLK50
By Religion News Service

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., right, and other civil rights leaders, are pushed off the road as they resume a voters' march begun by James Meredith. Later they continued their walk, marching single file along the highway's shoulder. Meredith was shot from ambush by a white man as he was marching from Memphis, Tenn., to Jackson, capital of Mississippi, in an effort to encourage black residents to vote in the state's primary election. Religious leaders were quick to condemn the shooting and called for greater efforts in behalf of voting rights. Religion News Service file photo
Marketing and Public Relations
FOR: MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Annual Report – Print or Electronic

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Reformed Church in NA

2018 Annual Ministry Report
By Pete Euwema, Graphic Designer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Electronic Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:
Word&Way
Between the Lines
By Ken Satterfield

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS Electronic Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: Cafe (Boldcafe.org)

June 2018: Self-care; September 2018: The first day; October 2018: Regret
By Elizabeth McBride

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokaw, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Electronic Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:

The Banner

The Banner Update
By Shiao Chong, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
A Theological Consideration of Cannabis

Does legalized cannabis help me to better love and serve God and my neighbor?
FOR: MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer
190 Years and Going Strong
By Sharon Doran

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Direct Mail Fundraising Campaign

PRESENTED TO: The Banner
April 2018 Fundraising Appeal
By Shiao Chong, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
We’re Counting on You!

The Banner is a journalistic ministry that impacts lives. But we can’t do this without your financial support. This year, our campaign goal is $450,000.

We only ask once a year. And that time is now.

Please donate using the envelope in this issue, or one you received at home.

Or donate online now at:

TheBanner.org/Donate
FOR: MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Renewal or Subscription Acquisition Campaign

PRESENTED TO: The United Church Observer

Observer Rep Contest
By Ross Woolford

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Social Media
Dear Readers
By Jocelyn Bell
FOR:

SOCIAL MEDIA
Single Posting

PRESENTED TO:

The Alabama Baptist

Burns family update
By The Alabama Baptist staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
A female seminary professor’s response to John Piper
By Julie Sorrels, Meredith Stone

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Meredith Stone, a professor of ministry and scripture at a Texas Baptist university and seminary, responds to John Piper's position that women shouldn't teach in seminaries.

Voices: A female seminary professor's response to John Piper: 'Is There a Place for Female Professors at Seminary?'
FOR:

SOCIAL MEDIA
Awareness or Advocacy Campaign

PRESENTED TO:

PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly

Spirit of GA
By Randy Hobson, Angie Stevens

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brock, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: SOCIAL MEDIA
Event Promotion, Marketing Campaign or Brand Awareness

PRESENTED TO: PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly
Mid Council Leaders Gathering
By Angie Stevens

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
SOCIAL MEDIA
Event Promotion, Marketing Campaign or Brand Awareness

PRESENTED TO:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Theological Symposium 2018
By Melanie Ave, Communications Manager; Jayna Rollings, Creative Services Manager; Courtney Koll, Graphic Designer; John Clifton, Video Producer; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: SOCIAL MEDIA
Event Promotion, Marketing Campaign or Brand Awareness

PRESENTED TO:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Library Grand Opening 2018
By Vicki Biggs, Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement; Melanie Ave, Communications Manager; Jayna Rollings, Creative Services Manager; Courtney Koll, Graphic Designer and Photographer; Michelle Poneleit, Graphic Designer; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
SAVE THE DATE
Friday, Aug. 24, 2018

GRAND OPENING
Kristine Kay Hasse Memorial Library
Best in Class
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
Social Media Presence

PRESENTED TO: The Catholic Review

The Catholic Review social media
By George Matysek Jr.

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
BEST IN CLASS
Social Media Presence

PRESENTED TO:

Baptist Standard

Baptist Standard social media
By Julie Sorrels

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
Social Media Presence

PRESENTED TO:

The Christian Chronicle

The Christian Cronicle social media
By Chellie Ison

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Christian Chronicle
@CofCnews  FOLLOWS @ACHURCHPRESS
An international newspaper for Churches of Christ, reaching 260,000 print readers and many more online each month.
Oklahoma City · christianchronicle.org
Joined Nov 2013
FOR: 
BEST IN CLASS 
Video Production 

PRESENTED TO: 
PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly 
PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly Communications videos 
By Randy Hobson 

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
BEST IN CLASS  
Public Relations or Marketing Campaign  

PRESENTED TO:  
Concordia Seminary  
Library Grand Opening 2018  
By Vicki Biggs, Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement; Melanie Ave, Communications Manager; Jayna Rollings, Creative Services Manager; Courtney Koll, Graphic Designer and Photographer; Michelle Poneleit, Graphic Designer; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer  

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
SAVE THE DATE
Friday, Aug. 24, 2018
GRAND OPENING
Kristine Kay Hasse Memorial Library
FOR:

PRESENTED TO:

BEST IN CLASS
Digital Edition or Mobile Publication

Elevate Magazine

By John Sotomayor, Joe Deleon, Conan Segrest, Alex Sotomayor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  BEST IN CLASS  
Digital Edition or Mobile Publication

PRESENTED TO:  Elevar Magazine

By John Sotomayor, Joe Deleon, Conan Segrest, Alex Sotomayor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
HABITAT 4 HUMANIDAD LEVANTANDO MUROS Y NORMAS DE LA COMUNIDAD: UN HOGAR A LA VEZ

ELEVAR
PENSAMIENTO SUPERIOR PARA UNA VIDA MEJOR
elevatormagazine.us
EDICIÓN ANUAL, ENERO 2018

Primera Edición

COMO SU FE CRISTIANA LO ELEVÓ A CAMPEONATOS NACIONALES Y TÍTULOS MUNDIALES
PRO-BOXER Y OLÍMPICO

Antonio Vargas

OCOOS
DISEÑOS INNOVADORES DE SITIOS WEB PARA IGLESITAS Y ORGANIZACIONES SIN FINES DE LUCRO
FOR: THE ASSOCIATED CHURCH PRESS
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards
Honorable Mention

BEST IN CLASS
Blog

PRESENTED TO:
The Presbyterian Outlook

By Jana Blazek, The Presbyterian Outlook staff and bloggers

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
BEST IN CLASS
Blog

CRC-RCA Disability Concerns

The Network: Disability Concerns
By Mark Stephenson, Jenna Hoff, Miriam Spies

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS Blog

PRESENTED TO: The Banner

By Shiao Chong, Editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
As I Was Saying

The ‘Scandal’ of the Cross

APRIL 5, 2019 | COLUMNS, AS I WAS SAYING | REV. AARON VRIESMAN

Was Jesus’ death on the cross a form of divine child abuse?

READ MORE

What Should Christians Do about Gentrification?

MARCH 15, 2019 | COLUMNS, AS I WAS SAYING | MELISSA KUIPERS

Should we celebrate that parks are cleaner, that creativity is blossoming, that local business is thriving? Or should we mourn that the most vulnerable members of our city are quietly being forced out of their homes as rents shoot up and homes become less and less affordable?

When Lenten Fasting Is Indistinguishable from a Cleanse

MARCH 7, 2019 | COLUMNS, AS I WAS SAYING | TARA ISABELLA BURON

Are we using a season designed for contemplation of the holy to alleviate our own insecurities about our bodies, our work ethic, our personal health? And if so, is it time, as we’ve done with Christmas, to take stock of what the “true meaning” of Lent really is?
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Independent Website

PRESENTED TO:

Cafe (Boldcafe.org) / Women of the ELCA

By Rozella Haydee White

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Independent Website

PRESENTED TO:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

By Jayna Rollings, Creative Director; Vicki Biggs, Editor; Melanie Ave, Editor; Lewis Mendez, Web Developer; Chris Miller, Web Developer

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
Independent Website

PRESENTED TO:

Faith & Leadership

By Kelly Ryan, senior communications director and executive editor; Sally Hicks, editor; Bob Wells, associate editor; Jessamyn Rubio, interactive media manager

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Broka, Executive Director
Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Dave Odom: Sometimes, congregations must back up and start again

If your ministry is no longer achieving its intended impact, it may be time to ask why. Probing a ministry’s purpose and progress may reveal that it’s time to reverse course and start again.
FOR:
BEST IN CLASS
News Service

PRESENTED TO:
NAD NewsPoints
By Kimberly Luste Maran, Georgia Standish

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
News Service

PRESENTED TO:

Religion News Service

By Religion News Service staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
Headed for a larger stage, Nadia Bolz-Weber leaves her ‘house’ in order

August 5, 2018  7 Min Read

Congregants pray over the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber during her farewell service at House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver on July 8, 2018. (Photo by the Rev. Theresa S. Thames)

(RNS) — With silvering hair, dark makeup and liturgically inspired tattoos, Nadia Bolz-Weber
BEST IN CLASS
Newsletter

American Lutheran Publicity Bureau

Forum Letter
By Richard O. Johnson, editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS Newsletter

PRESENTED TO: Seeds of Hope Publishers

Hunger News & Hope
By Katie Cook, editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Newsletter

PRESENTED TO:

RCA-CRC Disability Concerns Ministry

Breaking Barriers
By Terry A. DeYoung and Mark Stephenson, co-editors

Jay Blossom
Gregg Brooks, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
BREAKING BARRIERS
everybody belongs • everybody serves

THEME: AGING AND DISABILITY
The average age of people in churches and throughout North America keeps increasing, and the percentage of people with disabilities increases with age. This issue of Breaking Barriers tells stories of ministry with, for, and by church members 65 and older.

Christ’s Body Has Big, Long Arms
by Roze Meyer Bruins
Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids Mi

...takes many forms—from naan bread to wafers to croissants—whatever is easiest for the particular parishioner to swallow. “Take, eat...Take, drink... Remember and believe that the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was given and shed for a complete forgiveness of all your sins.” We are the church, the body of Christ, remembered, not forgotten.

Scene 2: “My church did this for me?” an elderly and bedridden saint asked as she clasped the soft prayer shawl next to her face. Assured that her church remembers, loves, and prays for her, she smiled. A year later, this soft and brightly colored prayer shawl would cover this beloved child of God as she breathed her last. At her loved one’s request, the shawl, a sign of God’s abiding love, was included in the cremains.

Scene 3: “Tell us about our prayer partners,” excitedly asked the elementary church school classes. “Does mine have a cat or dog?” Each student receives the name and profile of a homebound parishioner, with whom they would correspond, visit, and pray. And, the big and long
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Valparaiso University

The Cresset
By Heather Grennan Gary, Marci Rae Johnson, Gregg Hertzlieb, Ian Roseen, Gabbi Wilcox, Claire Van Wagoner, Grace Biermann

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:  
BEST IN CLASS
Journal

PRESENTED TO:
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Concordia Journal
By Dale Meyer, publisher; Charles Arand, executive editor; Travis Scholl, editor; Melanie Appelbaum, assistant editor; Jayna Rollings and XiaoPei Chen, graphic designers

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS Journal

PRESENTED TO:

Yale Divinity School

Reflections Journal
By Reflections Journal staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Seminary Publication

PRESENTED TO:

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Concordia Seminary Magazine
By Vicki Biggs, Executive Editor; Melanie Ave, Managing Editor;
Jayna Rollings, Art Director; Michelle Poneleit, Graphic Designer;
Courtney Koll, Graphic Designer

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brokke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
National or International Newspaper

PRESENTED TO:
The Christian Recorder

By AME Church Publishing House

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
National or International Newspaper

PRESENTED TO:

The Christian Chronicle:

By Lynn McMillon, Erik Tryggestad, Bobby Ross Jr., Chellie Ison, Tonya Patton, Lynda Sheehan, Joy McMillon, Melinda Wilson, Elise Miller

Signed:

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brooke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
National or International Newspaper

PRESENTED TO:
Mennonite World Review

By Paul Schrag, editor; Tim Huber, associate editor

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
MCC MARKS 75 YEARS IN INDIA

Mennonite Central Committee is celebrating 75 years of relief, development and peace work in India, making it one of the oldest international aid organizations in the country.

MCC began work in India in 1945 in response to hunger in Bengal. Since then, MCC has provided assistance to some 100 million people due to disasters, wars and other challenges. Over the years, MCC has served in partnership with local leaders, church organizations and communities to establish more than 100,000 projects.

They may love us now... but it wasn't always so, plain Anabaptists are called to be prepared

Withdrawal ends merger proposal of publishers

Mennonite News

NEW YORK'S NEW GENERATION

Double-duty leaders carry Anabaptist torch their elders passed

By Lucie DuMouchelle

October 10, 2018

NEW YORK — For 90-year-old Ed and Nancy Kappel, life is a hard-earned but joyful celebration of their faith. They have lived through two generations of Anabaptist churches, and now Ed is handing off the torch to his daughter, Kate, who is an elder at Church of the Brethren in the Bronx.

Legends in the making: 90-year-old Ed and Nancy Kappel, left, are handing off the torch to their daughter, Kate, who is an elder at Church of the Brethren in the Bronx.

They basically are working with almost nothing (finance side), but we continue to put our faith in Jesus.

— Oscar Garnier

MWC census shows Anabaptist world membership up slightly

MEMBERSHIP BY CONTINENT

Membership in Anabaptist churches worldwide grew 1.5 percent since 2013, according to Mennonite World Conference’s 2016 census. By MWC’s count, the Anabaptist-Mennonite faith community includes 1,436,764 recognized members in 67 countries. Of this total, 49 percent are members of MCC.

LEADING COUNTRIES

Membership in Anabaptist churches worldwide grew 1.5 percent since 2013, according to Mennonite World Conference’s 2016 census.

HISTORIC DISCOVERIES

New research documents French Mennonite resistance to Nazi occupation
FOR: The Associated Church Press
2018 Best of the Church Press Awards

Award of Excellence

BEST IN CLASS
Regional Newspaper

PRESENTED TO:

The Alabama Baptist

By The Alabama Baptist Staff

Jay Blossom, President
Gregg Brekke, Executive Director

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
WHAT YOU SAY V.S. WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Nearly one-third of ‘evangelicals’ don’t follow generally held beliefs

A

half of adults in Alabama who identify as

Christians call themselves evangelical. Na-

tionally, about 4 in 10 Americans say they are evangelical Christians. But a recent LifeWay

Research study suggests that their beliefs may not match up with these generally held beliefs.

“They’re a gap between how they say they are and what they believe,” said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Re-

search. In Nashville, Tennessee, where LifeWay Research is based, 36 percent of adults in Alabama say religion is “very important,” 32 percent say they are “somewhat important,” 27 percent say their religion is “not very important,” 7 percent say their religion is “not important” at all. Among the 16 percent of adults who have engaged in religious activity within the past year, 60 percent say they attend church at least once a month.

Core beliefs

The survey found that 60 percent of those who identify as evangelicals believe in God, 59 percent believe in the Bible, and 56 percent believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, 40 percent of evangelicals believe in the devil, 37 percent believe in the Holy Spirit, and 36 percent believe in Heaven.

Other findings

The survey also found that evangelicals believe in the afterlife, 69 percent believe in the resurrection of the dead, and 65 percent believe in the possibility of personal spiritual growth.

Inside Baptist

What you say vs. what you believe

The survey found that 60 percent of those who identify as evangelicals believe in God, 59 percent believe in the Bible, and 56 percent believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, 40 percent of evangelicals believe in the devil, 37 percent believe in the Holy Spirit, and 36 percent believe in Heaven.

The survey also found that evangelicals believe in the afterlife, 69 percent believe in the resurrection of the dead, and 65 percent believe in the possibility of personal spiritual growth.

Inside Baptist

What you say vs. what you believe

The survey found that 60 percent of those who identify as evangelicals believe in God, 59 percent believe in the Bible, and 56 percent believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, 40 percent of evangelicals believe in the devil, 37 percent believe in the Holy Spirit, and 36 percent believe in Heaven.

The survey also found that evangelicals believe in the afterlife, 69 percent believe in the resurrection of the dead, and 65 percent believe in the possibility of personal spiritual growth.

Inside Baptist

What you say vs. what you believe

The survey found that 60 percent of those who identify as evangelicals believe in God, 59 percent believe in the Bible, and 56 percent believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. However, 40 percent of evangelicals believe in the devil, 37 percent believe in the Holy Spirit, and 36 percent believe in Heaven.

The survey also found that evangelicals believe in the afterlife, 69 percent believe in the resurrection of the dead, and 65 percent believe in the possibility of personal spiritual growth.
FOR:  
BEST IN CLASS  
Denominational or Other Special Interest Magazine

PRESENTED TO:  
The United Church Observer Magazine  
By Jocelyn Bell, Editor and Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
Denominational or Other Special Interest Magazine

PRESENTED TO:

The Presbyterian Outlook

By Jill Duffield, Jana Blazek, Leslie Scanlon

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR:
BEST IN CLASS
Denominational or Other Special Interest Magazine

PRESENTED TO:
Adventist Review

By Adventist Review Editorial Staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
But Pay Attention To The Details.

Hold fast to this.
FOR:

BEST IN CLASS
National or International Magazine

PRESENTED TO:

Living City
By Living City staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: BEST IN CLASS
National or International Magazine

PRESENTED TO: Sojourners

By Jim Rice, Ed Spivey Jr., Rose Marie Berger, Julie Polter, Betsy Shirley, Da'Shawn Mosley, Christina Colón, Faith-Marie Zamblé

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
FOR: 
BEST IN CLASS 
National or International Magazine

PRESENTED TO: 
The Christian Century 

By Christian Century staff

Presented April 11, 2019, in Chicago, Illinois
The Christian Century

August 1, 2018

Sexual assault in the Bible

Opening up God’s house

April 23, 2018
See You Next Year at RC Congress 2020