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Redactor șef: **dr. Sándor Kovács**
Redactor: **dr. Júlia Eszter Andorkó**
Îngrijirea textelor/corectură: **Gabriella Dénes, Rodger Mattlage**
Tehnoredactor: **Péter Virág**
Colectivul de redacție: **dr. Mihály Balázs, dr. Juliane Brandt, dr. Szabolcs Czire**, **dr. Ildikó Horn, dr. Botond Koppándi, dr. Lehel Molnár**, **dr. Elek Rezi**

Adresa redacției: B-dul 21 Decembrie 1989, nr. 9, 400105 Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Tel: +40 264 593236, +40 364 405557; fax: +40 264 595927; e-mail: keresztenymagveto@unitarius.org
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ABSTRACTS

Botond Péter Koppándi: ***What is Wrong with Preaching? What is Good about Preaching?***

This article opens with the discouraging sign of the decline in church attendance following the pandemic. In addition to sociologists and psychologists, ministers and those who are studying Homiletics, should take a deeper look at this absenteeism. The latter should examine their preaching styles and their sermons, and after a correct evaluation of the problems, should look at some encouraging words that can strengthen their faith in the meaning of preaching of the Christian Gospel.

Almost 100 years ago the famous preacher of the Riverside Church in New York, the controversial Harry Emerson Fosdick, wrote a harsh but also awakening article in Harper's Magazine ("*What is the Matter with Preaching?*"), which raised Homiletical questions which are still valid today. The problematic parts of preaching are also discussed in the book "*What's the Matter with Preaching Today?*" edited by Professor Mike Graves in 2004, which discusses the ongoing self-examining questions of preaching.

This article's main purpose is to both pose essential questions about the problems of current preaching, and more importantly, to give hope and inspiration to preachers and professionals, by pointing out the strengths and outstandingly inspirational parts of preaching. The 2021 book "*What's Right with Preaching Today? The Enduring Influence of Fred B. Craddock*" edited by Mike Graves and André Resner is highly recommended for its caring and wise observations from esteemed practitioners and academics in the Homiletics community.

Although the expressed opinions are of those who are preaching and teaching in a Western protestant context, their sharp critical observations and gentle professional suggestions are also at home in our own preaching context.

Keywords: preaching; critique of preaching; suggestions for better preaching; homiletical eras; Homiletics; New Homiletics; Old Homiletics; Fosdick, Harry Emerson (1878–1969); Graves, Mike; Resner, André

László Somogyi: ***Crime in the Early Congregation***

The article analyzes the story of Ananias and Sapphira, described in the Acts of the Apostles chapter 5. According to the traditional explanations, the reason for the death of Ananias and his wife Sapphira was that, contrary to what they claimed, they did not give all of their wealth to the congregation in Jerusalem, but secretly kept a part of it for themselves. Based on the analysis of the text, the article distinguishes three possible interpretations based on different traditions. The first was created in the eschatological congregation in Jerusalem and uses the Achan typology, the second originated in the Judeo-Christian community led by James and can be considered the midrash of Genesis 3, and finally, the text revised by Luke is a teaching that serves to establish the apostolic authority. The final text can be read in two ways. One can be called a simple reading and see only a human story in the text, the other can be called a mystery text, according to which the couple's death was caused by divine punishment. Believers must decide, based on their own experience, which reading shows the true face of God.

Keywords: Acts (book of), Ananias and Sapphira, apostolic authority, early christian congregation, judgment, process of tradition, wealth

Anita Alexandra Erdődi: ***New Consideration for the Origin Story of János Körmöczi's*** **"Fürstbürger Phosphorus…"** ***Translation***

This article focuses on one of the essential circumstances of János Körmöczi's (1763–1836) and Pál Augusztinovics's (1763–1837) correspondence: the former asks his friend to acquire such texts (*Horus…*, *Fürstbürger Phosphorus…*, *Ruins…*) that were banned at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries, for having ties to freemasonry. Nevertheless, Körmöczi received these works. From the authors and texts that were mentioned in the letters, this article analyzes the works of two authors: Christian Ernst Wünsch, (1744–1828), and Constantin François Volney, (1757–1820) because they focus on similar topics, such as the arguments that the roots of Chriatianity can be found in Egyptian religion, and that the laws of nature are the true and universal laws.

Keywords: Christianity, Egypt, freemason, law of nature, Universal law; Augusztinovics, Pál (1763–1837); Körmöczi, János (1763–1836); Volney, Constantin François (1757–1820); Wünsch, Christian Ernst (1744–1828)

Márton Domokos: ***17th Century Marosszék (Maros County) Unitarian Ministers and Schoolmasters***

We do not know all the names of the unitarian ministers and schoolmasters. Although Zsigmond Geréb made a list (Unitárius lelkészek 1568-tól. Székelykeresztúr, 1943), it has gaps, especially in the earlier ages, like the 17th century. To fill these holes, and update the list, we should search for information in ecclesiastic records. This article includes a chart with names of the unitarian ecclesiastic servants of Marosszék, Transylvania, form the record named *A marosi egyházkör parciális és vizitációs jegyzőkönyve (The Maros parish's partial and visitation minutes) 1656–1715*.

Keywords: ecclesiastic records, Marosszék (Maros county), ministers, schoolmasters, unitarian ministers, unitarian schoolmasters; Geréb, Zsigmond