

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

June 2013

Volume XXXIV No. 6

Pastoral Ponderings



Last month I spent a week in Nashville at the Festival of Homiletics. Homiletics is a fancy word for preaching. If you think this was a group of nerds whose idea of a good time is either preaching or talking about preaching or listening to someone else preach, then you would be right. There were about 1700 of us, representing a variety of denominations, from all over the USA and Canada with a few Australians and a couple of Brits as well. I am grateful for the opportunity that Emmanuel provides for me to take this sort of time away.

In the course of the week, I participated in 8 worship services with sermons, 9 1/2 lectures on some aspect of preaching, heard an interview with Walter Bruggemann who will be 80 this year, and attended 1 workshop on preaching with projected images. I have attended this event several times over the years and always come back with some new ideas or insights. Most of my learning this time came in the form of a reminder of what it is like to be the receiver, instead of the deliverer of sermons.

I learned that:

- It can be hard work to listen well for 20 minutes;
- I get impatient when the preacher takes too long to get to the point;
- It is difficult to have my cell phone with me and not text or check messages during the sermon;
- Participating in a healing service that I didn't plan feels a bit riskier than one where I know what to expect;
- Some preaching is uplifting, stirring and Spirit-driven;
- Some preaching is rambling, irrelevant and feels like a waste of time;
- Whether I experience the preaching as uplifting and Spirit-driven or a waste of time, probably has as much to do with how well I attend and put down my cell phone as with the preacher's skill and preparation.

Cont'd. next page...

One of the newer voices at the Festival is that of Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran pastor from Denver. Her congregation is fairly young, mostly post-modern people who have had hurtful experiences in other churches or who have no church background. Much of her lecture was about authenticity in worship and preaching. She asked her congregation what they thought she should say in her lecture. One person e-mailed her back and said, "Thank you for preaching to yourself and allowing us to overhear."

I think that's an apt description of what I do. Every week I wrestle with the text until it speaks to me, then I preach to myself while the congregation at Emmanuel listens in. Preaching is one of the most challenging and rewarding things I do every week. My time in Nashville reminded me that it may be one of the most challenging things you listeners do as well. Thank you for being present and attentive in worship to overhear what God is saying to all of us.

Blessings,
Kathy



A Note from Patrick Sunkes

Making the decision to leave Emmanuel was a very difficult one to make. I enjoyed my short time here and took the job of cleaning the building as a challenge. My efforts were met with appreciation and support from a group of wonderful people. It expressed to me the pride you take in your church.

For me, it was a refreshing experience to see how closely knit your members are and how each one does their part to do the work of the Church, within and beyond the walls of Emmanuel.

Thanks to Jim for sharing with me his knowledge and "secrets" of the building and for being the perfect gentleman that he is. Thanks to everyone I met on this journey, and as the Wizard *might* have said, "I'll miss Dorothy the most!"

Respectfully yours,
Pat Sunkes

Say Hello to Jae...

Since Pat's departure in May, Jae Fredericks has been working as our new sexton. Jae is learning about our building and getting acquainted with staff and tenants. Jae lives in downtown Albany and will be working four days a week, Monday-Thursday. If you happen to be at the church during the week, be sure to greet him. Welcome, Jae!



Discernment” Conversation Continues

Several of us have been having conversations about our mission, our identity and the new future into which God is pulling us. It has been hard to narrow our focus and define a vision. On June 2, we will have the last conversation in this series.

Over a potluck lunch, Pastor Kathy will share some highlights of what she has heard from Emmanuelites over the past few months, including our passions and our highest hopes. There will be structured opportunities to respond to what is exciting, what is challenging, and what the congregation is willing to own in the emerging vision. If you have not been present for the earlier sessions, your voice is needed now more than ever. If you have been present for earlier sessions, please bring that same good energy to this last meeting. Child-care will be provided.

NOTE: Lunch will follow the Ice Cream Sundae reception (life is short - eat dessert first!) There will be a large chicken casserole, so not many more main dishes are needed. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share.



Worship & Picnic in the Park

Sunday, June 10

10:30 a.m.

Peebles Island State Park

You are asked to bring a dish to share; meat for the grill and beverages will be provided. Please be sure to sign up and indicate if you will bring salad, dessert, a snack item or vegetable. Cost before the picnic is \$4/person, \$10/family. If not paid in advance, cost the day of the picnic will be \$5/person, \$12/family. If you need transportation, please notify Barbara Lahut.

Summer Sunday School Begins: “Children of the Bible”

Our summer Sunday School program for children age 2 through 4th grade will meet from June 16th through August 28th during worship. We have openings for the following positions:

1. Leader

Prepare to tell the story and lead the drama. (Costumes & props will be in the room)

2. Music

Lead the song at the gathering time. You may use rhythm instruments or pre-recorded music, or Play piano accompaniment.

3. Snack

Bring in all snack supplies. Prepare the table and serve snack.

4. Activity

Coloring papers will be supplied. Assemble paint, crayons, markers or whatever other items are needed. Supervise the activity.

To apply, please contact Marilyn Malone. Salary and benefits include a good time, the chance to nurture the faith of some of our youngest, and dessert which you can eat at a **training session 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 11 at church.**



Begins...June 21!

From Service to Others...

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be Received



Dear Friends:

Sharing bring joy! The phrase rolls easily off the tongue, but it is no trite cliché! Rather, it expresses profound spiritual truths – truths about a loving and caring God – truths about a joyous generosity that circles ‘round and dances into and through the human experience as we relate to others and to the Holy One! This year concludes our One Great Hour of Sharing three-part emphasis on this dynamic theme.

Sharing brings joy to us. Generous giving, practiced as a regular spiritual discipline, teaches us about joy. We learn to see ourselves as vital parts of a cooperative sharing effort which expresses God’s love for the world. We see the delight of recipients and experience our own gladness. Grateful for God’s extravagant gifts, the great happiness of others, and our experience of such delight, we discover we want to be more generous and so we are drawn into the circular rhythm of sharing that brings joy upon joy.

Sharing brings joy to other. For 64 years, recipients of One Great Hour of Sharing assistance, relief, and support have known comfort and joy through your sharing:

- Families displaced by natural disaster or political unrest rejoice to receive food, shelter, and the comfort of a safe place to begin rebuilding their lives;
- A woman who has had to walk miles for potable water for her family smiles as she draws water from a clean well near her home;
- Children arrive excitedly for the first day of class at the village’s new school.

Sharing brings joy to God. We know that God is always in the midst of our joy, but we also know that “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7) Can you imagine God’s joy when we share? Can your mind’s eye see those things that cause rejoicing in the heart of the Divine? Scriptures tell us what brings God joy: steadfast love, justice, and righteousness, says Jeremiah (9:24), and the well-being of God’s people (Psalm 35:27b). Certainly any manifestation of agape love, such as a generous hand outstretched to help others (Matthew 22:37-40), brings gladness to God.

Joy-filled sharing makes possible the well-being of God’s people. Joy-filled sharing shows that our hearts and hands are open – open to giving that fosters restoration of shalom – open to generosity that speaks of God’s love. This is surely a delight to the Holy One! When we see ourselves as part of all God’s children everywhere, we learn to be less fearful of a sense of scarcity that can inhibit our generosity. We come to understand that others who happen to be in need are not simply recipients of our charity, but sisters and brothers with whom we are called to live justly and share abundantly. Knowing we willingly share reminds them of who they are; beloved children of the Creator, family of us all, each one a person of sacred worth, also imbued with possibilities for sharing joy.

As you make your offering to One Great Hour of Sharing this year, remember the many ways your gifts bring joy – to you as God’s precious child, to all of God’s other cherished children, and especially to the Holy One.

May your worship be joyful. May your sharing be delightfully abundant. May God be made glad by your cheerful generosity! The offering will be collected on Sundays, June 16 and 23.

Service to Others Commission,

Karen Kendall Nancy Horan Sally Cole
Karen Green Beca Leet

More from STO...

Meal Planned for Shelter

Emmanuel will provide a light, summer time meal to the guests of Interfaith Shelter on June 16. If you can provide a salad or other favorite cold dish, please speak with Karen Kendall. Thank you.



CROP Walk Report

Thank you to CROP Walk walkers, Nancy Horan, Michele Calvin, Edith Leet, Jean Nadler, Lori Anderson and Chelah Collins and all who contributed to the fundraiser. Emmanuel raised approximately \$1300. (KG)

“Coming Together for New Jersey”

Join in a week of service to rebuild, renew and restore those in New Jersey who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Four work weeks are planned: May 4-11; June 1-8; July 13-20; August 10-17. Sponsored by American Baptist Home Mission Societies/The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Highlights include:

- Hands-on efforts to rebuild homes, communities and lives’
- Worshiping with local American Baptist congregations; and
- Enjoying the New Jersey shore

Individuals or groups are welcome to participate. \$325 includes housing and food; volunteers are responsible for transportation. Scholarships are available. Speak with Karen Kendall for more information.

**Remember the
Food Pantry**

**Special request during June:
creamy peanut butter in plastic containers**

Coming in July...

Bicyclist, Garrett Zambrows has embarked on a cross-country biking trip, “Riding Against the Traffic”, designed to spotlight the global problem of trafficking in human beings. Along his route, Garrett is speaking at various churches. Emmanuel will host **Dessert & Discussion with Garrett Zambrows** on Saturday, **July 20 at 7 p.m.**

In the meantime, STO is looking for over night accommodations for Garrett for one night. If you can help, please speak with Karen Kendall.

Funds raised from Garrett’s trip will go to the anti-trafficking mission work of Debbie Kelsey and Melinda Baits, both missionaries with International Ministries, and to CASA for Kids, which helps abused and neglected children in Indiana. Join us on July 20 and learn more about these issues.

Following the successful benefit cabaret concert held April 20 at EBC, the following letter was sent to the Albany Boys and Girls Club. Thanks to everyone who helped in this effort. ~ Bien

May 9, 2013

Lisa Hunter, Executive Director
Albany Boys & Girls Club,
21 Delaware Avenue Albany, NY 12210

Dear Ms. Hunter

On behalf of the Emmanuel Baptist Church, its Pastor, Kathy Donley, and its choir, I am happy to present this check to you for \$520 for the benefit of the Albany Boys & Girls Club. Our intent with the benefit concert "Scenes from Childhood" held at EBC on April 20th was to recognize the good work of the Club and to attempt, in some small way, to help with funding difficulties that so many social programs are struggling with today. It seemed only appropriate to the EBC choir and its Music Minister, Michael Clement, our Director, that a program dedicated to remembering the joys and magic, but also the realities of childhood, be the vehicle for tangible good in our community. Several choir members mentioned the good work of the Club and so we focused our efforts there. The success of the event was due not only to the efforts of the choir, but to those of the many members of the congregation (and the public) who contributed, and generously helped with decorations and the lovely dessert selections. We are glad that your summer program will be enriched by the extra supplies this contribution will be able to provide.

We welcome you and your staff and Board and the participants of the Club to join us for the many events we hold at EBC, and to participate in our joint efforts with the Focus churches of Albany, including the food pantry and breakfast programs, and of course all are welcome to join us for church services. We are at emmanuelalbany.net.

Sincerely,

Bien Baez
Member, Emmanuel Baptist Choir





Alliance of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists Celebrates 20 years

You are invited to AWAB's historic gathering of progressive Baptists as we celebrate 20 years of congregations who have gone on record as welcoming and affirming all people into the full life and ministry of their communities, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Hurry and register soon to ensure your spot!

NOTE: *Several people from Emmanuel are already planning to attend. And – Some scholarship help is available. Speak with Marilyn Malone or Pastor Kathy for more information.*

Open to ALL!

Coming of Age: A Living Jubilee

October 11-14, 2013

First Unitarian Church of Providence

1 Benevolent Street

Providence, RI 02906

Cost: \$95 before August 11

\$130 after August 11

Childcare will be available during workshop and worship session of this gathering. Four amazing days filled with inspirational speakers, exhibits, workshops, worship, music, and celebrations!

Open to ALL!

20th Anniversary Banquet

October 13, 2013

Join us as we honor our founders, give out our Mixon and McNair awards, and dance the night away!

Cost: \$50 until August 11

\$60 after August 11

Post-Gathering Fun!

We are arranging a number of post-gathering excursions that will give those who want to see a little more New England in October a chance. Fall foliage, historic Providence, Boston, Newport, and Provincetown are just some of the ideas we are working on right now! **[CLICK HERE TO SEE AFTER EVENTS](#)**

"Take me out to the ballgame"



Have you signed up to join Emmanuel friends at the Tri-City Valley Cats game on Sunday, August 25? Time is running out to make reservations. Barbara Lahut needs a head count and payment by Sunday, June 9. Look for the sign up sheet in fellowship hall or contact Barbara at 766-9333 or email her at blahut@nycap.rr.com

Mark Your Calendar...

- June 4 ~ Coordinating Council
5:30; Lahut
- 9 ~ Worship & Picnic: Peebles Island
- 15 ~ Work Day
- 21 ~ ABC/USA Biennial
- 30 ~ Diaconate

Happy Birthday



- Audrey Ford
- Claudette Mink
- Natalie Johnson
- Elaine Spoor
- Donna Brown
- Danielle Johnson
- Barbara Lahut
- Bob Green
- Sarah Oziomiek (Malone)
- Edie Simpson
- Robin Bray
- Adele LaBarge
- Erin Wilkerson
- Ken Cole
- Edith Leet
- Kathy Landers-Wise

- 3rd
- 5th
- 7th
- 8th
- 8th
- 9th
- 9th
- 10th
- 13th
- 17th
- 18th
- 19th
- 19th
- 19th
- 29th
- 29th



Deadline for the Summer issue of the MOSAIC is June 18.

Work Day Scheduled

Saturday, June 15
9 a.m. to Noon

Lunch will be provided.



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



FOCUS Summer Worship Schedule:

All services at 9:30 a.m.

- July 7 - Emmanuel Baptist (275 State St)
- August 4 - Trinity United Methodist (235 Lark St.)
- September 1 - First Presbyterian (362 State St.)

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

