

THE MOSAIC

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One of the many things I appreciate about Emmanuel is our commitment to discipleship. Disciples are learners. At Emmanuel, we learn through study and we learn by doing. Both kinds of learning can transform the way we understand and live into our faith.

As the pastor of a church that values on-going learning, I am grateful for the many educational opportunities you afford to me.

In the last months of 2013, I attended several workshops through the Capital Region Theological Center. Specifically, I attended a 3-session breakfast series on church marketing, a one-day event on boundary awareness led by David Olsen, director of Samaritan Counseling, and a 2-day event on Faith Formation in the Twenty-First Century. Kathy Moore also attended the church marketing breakfasts. Marilyn Malone and Jim Wilkerson each participated in one day of the Faith Formation events. Those sorts of events can be instructive for those who participate, but the best outcome happens when they produce some result within the wider congregation.

With that in mind, I intend to share some gleanings from those events **following worship on February 9**. This will coincide with the first meeting of our newly elected Diaconate. My hope is to consider some of what was presented in those workshops alongside the vision we developed in 2013 and continue **Moving Forward** together. This event is a church-wide event. It is especially for you if you are invested in the immediate future of EBC, and/or you want to be inspired about what's happening in 2014 and/or you serve as a church officer or on a commission.

This is my second year in the three-year Nehemiah Leadership Network. The NLN program incorporates an annual conference and regular meetings with a colleague group, working on learning goals to improve our effectiveness as pastors. I will be gone to the NLN annual conference in Pennsylvania from February 3-6. This year's conference includes presentations on sustaining long-term ministry and vitality for the small church. It's likely that some of what I learn there will also be shared on February 9.

continued...

I attend these sorts of seminars in a feeble attempt to keep up with the voracious readers and learners at Emmanuel. Opportunities abound for everyone! Check out the rest of this newsletter for information on books, upcoming workshops and summer conference possibilities. We value discipleship enough that we put money in our budget for it. If you want to attend an event and need financial help, please let us know. Speak to me or anyone on the Christian Growth Commission.

Blessings,
Kathy

FOCUS Worship & Annual Meeting

February 2, 10:00 a.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

(235 Lark St.)

Pulpit Guest: Sara Miles, author/journalist and activist

Music by joint choirs of the FOCUS Churches

No morning worship at Emmanuel on this day

“Souper” Bowl Sunday.... A collection to support the FOCUS Food Pantry will be received at our joint worship service on February 2. In addition to cash donations, canned soup will also be welcomed.



Finding Sacred Common Ground:

Three Abrahamic Traditions

March 13th-14, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Congregation Gates of Heaven

852 Ashmore Avenue

Schenctady, NY 12309

Christianity, Judaism and Islam all spring from the life and faith of a revered Father Abraham. Yet over the years, generations have come to different understandings about how to express the faith we have received from this great ancestor. We live in a time in which we desire to understand and connect with others of different traditions.

But why engage in Interfaith relations? Could Christians become productive partners in building spiritual affinities? What are the challenges? What are the benefits? Dr. Yehezkel Landau will help us consider both the challenges and the opportunities involved when we seek to come together with those of other faith traditions. Explore the tensions and possibilities for cooperation that exist in Jewish-Muslim relations. Consider ways that we can begin to promote Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations, and build lasting Abrahamic partnerships.

Early Registration: 02/14/2014 Registration Deadline: 02/26/2014

Cost: \$150 by Feb. 14; \$165 thereafter. Call the CRTS office at 462-2470 to register.

Living into the Beatitudes

In January, we began a series of worship services focused on the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5. That series will continue through the first Sunday in March as follows:

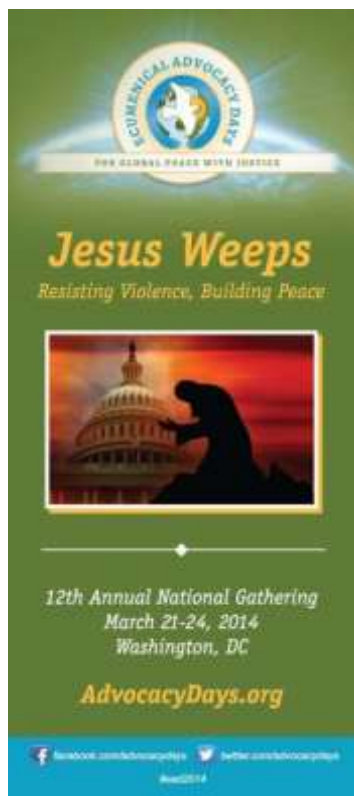
Feb 9 *Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted;
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

Feb 16 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

Feb 23 *Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.*

Mar 2 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

In addition to my usual commentaries, I have found two wonderful resources which I'm reading as preparation each week. One book is Megan McKenna's *Blessings and Woes*. McKenna is a retreat leader who has written several other books. In this one, she focuses on the beatitudes as presented by both Matthew and Luke with a challenging emphasis on their implications for social justice. I am also reading *Living the Sermon on the Mount* by Glen Stassen. Dr. Stassen was my ethic professor in seminary. I am deeply indebted to him for what I learned about peace-making from both his lectures and his example. Some of you may recognize the name of Harold Stassen, an American Baptist who was governor of Minnesota and a member of Eisenhower's cabinet. Glen is Harold's son. His book articulates his position that the Sermon on the Mount is not a series of unattainable ideals, but offers practical, real-life healing and wholeness for our human relationships. When the sermon series is over, I am willing to lend either of these books to anyone who is interested. They could make for inspiring reading during Lent. (KD)



Jesus Weeps – Resisting Violence, Building Peace Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2014

March 21-24
Washington, D.C.

This annual event brings together Christians from many denominations for worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness. Guided by the image of Jesus weeping over a capital city that turned from the true way of peace (Luke 19:41-42), this year's theme will expose the violence that pervades our culture and world. The workshops on offer range from domestic to global in scope, and include topics like gun violence, violence against women, effective advocacy training, ecological justice, and topics specific to every populated continent. [Much more information](http://advocacydays.org/) may be found at <http://advocacydays.org/>

This might just be YOUR 2014 learning opportunity. Join some FOCUS staff and other FOCUS church members who are already committed to attend. Scholarship help is available through FOCUS, through Emmanuel's Conferences line, and through other agencies. If you are interested in going, please speak with Pastor Kathy or Rev. Deb soon.

Invitation from First Church in Albany

The Belhar Confession has its roots in the struggle against apartheid in Southern Africa. This "outcry of faith" and "call for faithfulness and repentance" was first drafted in 1982 by the Dutch Reformed Mission Church (DRMC) which took the lead in declaring that apartheid constituted a *status confessionis* in which the truth of the gospel was at stake.

The Belhar Confession is now one of the "standards of unity" of the new Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa (URCSA) but its relevance is not confined to Southern Africa. It addresses three key issues of concern to all churches: unity of the church and unity among all people, reconciliation within church and society, and God's justice.

The First Church in Albany (110 N Pearl St.) is sponsoring a series of luncheon discussions on this subject. Dr. Allan Janssen, First Church's theologian in residence will be the facilitator. The Rev. Dr. Janssen is Affiliate Professor of Theological Studies at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and RCA General Synod Professor of Theology. The gatherings will be held three Wednesday noons: February 3, 10 and 24 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and will include a light lunch. These conversations are open to anyone but please email or call ahead to let us know you are coming. 463-4449 firstchurch@verizon.net



Peace Camp

The 29th annual summer conference of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) will be held at Brock University located in St. Catherine's, Ontario (about an hour from Buffalo) July 15 -19.. This year's theme will focus on environmental justice.

Emmanuel has been a partner congregation of BPFNA for a number of years. Andrea Carver and I have attended peace camp in the past, and plan to again this summer. Please speak with us if you would like to know more. The following is a good description: *A gathering for anyone and everyone who longs for the spirituality, inspiration, skills, knowledge and community to support a life of peace rooted in justice. Known affectionately as "Peace Camp," Summer Conference is a special time of gathering for peacemakers across North America and the world.*

For more information about the conference, including profiles of the leaders, and to learn about BPFNA, check their website: www.bpfna.org

~ Nancy Horan

"It never ceases to amaze me how my week there empowers, challenges, and delights me."

200th Anniversary Celebration!

July 21 – 25, 2014

Green Lake, Wisconsin



The World Mission Conference is not just for missionaries, it's for anyone interested in knowing what God is doing in the world! Whether you know a little or lot about mission work, this event is for EVERYONE. You'll hear stories from folks fresh from the field as you rub shoulders with brothers and sisters from dozens of countries. It will be inspirational, educational and a lot of FUN! ALL of the current International Ministries missionaries and their families will be in Green Lake this week! You'll get to visit with them and meet some of the newly endorsed missionaries preparing to head out on the field for the first time. Plus 150 international partners from around the world! More information and registration available here: <http://www.internationalministries.org/read/49675>

This might just be YOUR 2014 learning opportunity. Scholarship help is available through the Christian Growth commission. Early registration discounts end on March 31.

Medieval Feast is Fast Approaching!

This year's Medieval Feast is set for May 3rd, a Saturday evening. Using what we learned from last year, we hope to improve upon this year's Feast and make our contribution to the Room for Grace fund even larger. The committee has planned great food as well as a magician, dancers, fencers, storytellers, surprises, and more. Plan to come yourself and bring your neighbors and friends. Costumes are not required but they make the evening that much more fun.



Tickets are available now at the special price of \$20 for adults from Emmanuel and \$10 for children. Tickets for the general public are \$30 per adult and \$10 per child aged 12 and under. After March 2, the prices will be \$35 for adults and \$10 for children. Special gift cards are available if you want to give a Feast ticket as a Valentine, Easter, birthday, or anniversary present. Please see Edith Leet if you are interested in a gift card.

An added attraction at this Feast will be a silent auction. To make this aspect a success, we are asking everyone to consider items they are willing to donate for the auction. This is not a garage sale!! We are looking for significant items that could interest participants enough to write out a hefty check. Do you have items you could contribute? Or perhaps you have tickets to a local event or a vacation home you could offer for a weekend? We will be asking many of our advertisers and vendors for items also. Amy Palmer will be keeping track of auction items.

What made last year's Feast such a success was the many Emmanuelites who came and cooked and cleaned and performed and kept the evening running smoothly. (Remember those oatmeal trenchers?) We hope everyone will join in again. We need help now to solicit advertisements and silent auction items, to help publicize the event, and to work on costumes and decorations. On Friday, May 2nd, we will need many hands to prepare food and set up "Emmanuel Manor" in the sanctuary. Many hands will be needed again on Saturday to cook and serve the Feast, perform, and clean up afterwards. Please see Jean Burton for more details.

What makes this fundraiser so special is that we expect most of the funds raised to come from outside Emmanuel. Our goal this year is \$4,000. We can do it!!

CANCELLED:

The Beethoven Concert planned for Feb. 23rd is postponed until Spring due to heating problems.

Notice of Meetings...

February 9 ~ Diaconate

16 ~ Lent Committee after Sunday Sch.



Movie Day Scheduled

ALL breakfast and pantry volunteers are invited to enjoy some fellowship on Saturday, February 15.

We'll meet for breakfast/brunch at Justin's on Lark St. (www.justinsalbany.com) at 10:30 a.m. and then head off to the Spectrum Theater for a movie of choice. Please RSVP to Andrea Carver at either 486-2974 or acarver@mail.nysed.gov **no later than Thursday, February 13** so she can give the restaurant a number of people attending. If you have any questions, speak with Andrea.



"Love Kits"

Emmanuel is once again participating in this annual collection which provides personal care items for guests of the

Interfaith Shelter. A box containing empty bags for the "love kits" will be available in Fellowship Hall during the month of February. You are asked to take one and fill it with items such as toothpaste/brushes, deodorant, shampoo, razors, etc. A special treat such as a candy bar or granola bar is always welcome too! The Service to Others Commission will see that they are delivered to the Shelter the first of March. Thank you!

Dinner to be Delivered

On February 9, Emmanuel will provide a meal for the guests of the Interfaith Shelter. If you can provide a pot of chili, please let Karen Kendall know. Guests are always grateful for these special suppers.

**Church Office Closed:
February 17**

Save the Date... March 28
FOCUS Friends are Invited:
"Cabin Fever" Comfort Food
& Movie Night
5-7:30 at Westminster Pres.
Watch for details!

Remember the
Food Pantry

February: feminine hygiene products

**Deadline for the March issue of
the MOSAIC is February 18.**

Volunteer with Community Hospice

You are invited to offer support to Hospice patients and their families through the Community Hospice Volunteer Program. Volunteers make friendly visits to patients, provide respite for caregivers, give practical support such as running errands or fixing a meal, or perhaps just provide quiet presence. The most important gift volunteers bring is being there to listen and to honor patient's stories.

The next training for volunteers will be held at the Community Hospice, 445 New Karner Rd., beginning March 17 and will include 4 evening sessions and 1 Saturday. For more information call 724-0295 or email: rcarlson@communityhospice.org



Happy Birthday...

Betty Mallory	1 st
Aaron Johnson	9 th
Wesley Kendall	5 th
Becca Leet	15 th
David Green	16 th
Jacek Barelski	17 th
Tim Bray	18 th
Cassandra Paul	18 th
Gail Hill	28 th



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

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275 State St.
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