

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Summer 2014

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Pastoral Ponderings



*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.
Psalm 113:3*

NRSV

Summer never seems to last as long as the other seasons. It is definitely not as long as winter which must have stolen some days from spring this year. All kinds of good things happen in the summer – family reunions, baseball leagues and tournaments, vacations, swim lessons, summer camps for children and adults, outdoor concerts and plays, and picnics, just to name a few. The time seems so full that I’m never quite sure where the expression, “long, lazy days of summer” came from.

Emmanuel started off June with a church-wide picnic followed by Children’s Day, both of which occurred before the official first day of summer, but which set an expectation of good things to come. I hope you have already begun to enjoy your summer. Many of us will be out of town or missing from worship at some point this summer, but the church doesn’t take a vacation. We will worship together every Sunday, although three Sundays will be at other locations as we join our FOCUS brothers and sisters. When you are in town, please make a habit of being in worship with us. It’s one of the good opportunities of the season.

Emmanuelites will be taking advantage of the opportunity for summer conferences. Pastor Kathy and Jim will attend the **Wild Goose Festival** in North Carolina. The theme of this year’s festival is *Living Liberation!* An amazing line-up of speakers will address topics such as mass incarceration, immigration reform, community building and intersectional activism. Nancy Horan, Andrea Carver and maybe a few others will meet other Oddball Baptists at the Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference, also known as **Peace Camp** in St. Catharines, Ontario. Using the theme *One Creation*, theologians, preachers and musicians will celebrate our place in the Beloved Community and our place on a planet groaning under the weight of our carelessness. Along with a few others from New York, Tony and Marilyn Malone will enjoy beautiful Green Lake, Wisconsin and the **World Mission 200th Anniversary Celebration**. All American Baptist missionaries, development workers and global consultants are coming in for this event as

well as 100 international leaders from our partners around the world. Expect some conversations about these events in adult Sunday School classes this fall.

Closer to home, there will be picnics, a baseball game, camp, a pool party and other times to share fellowship with Emmanuelite friends. This summer newsletter is full of possibilities. Mark your calendars now!

From east to west, from dawn to dusk, keep lifting all your praises to God!
Psalm 113:3 The Message

Blessings,
Kathy



**For EBC children, youth
and their families
Saturday August 9, 2014
3:00-6:00 p.m**

Pastor Kathy's House

Bring: your swimsuit, towel, and at least one adult. Lawn chairs are helpful too.

We'll swim for a while and have supper before you go home.

RSVP by August 1 to
jimwilkerson65@gmail.com
or 506-7646

From the Retreat Committee

(Pat Campbell, Andrea Carver, Amy Palmer, Ericka Silverman and Marilyn & Tony Malone)

Plans were well underway for our Fall retreat. We chose a place and a leader, but..... we could not coordinate the two. So we are postponing that retreat until next spring. ☹

But there is good news. We recognize how much Emmanuel folks enjoy relaxing together so....

In lieu of the August church picnic, we will be having a day-long picnic at **Pathfinder Lodge** on **Saturday, August 30**. Activities will include swimming, boating, hiking, meals, and time for fellowship, quiet reflection, and intergenerational devotions. Look for details and a registration form on a separate page. A couple of things to note:

- Reservations are due by July 27
- Meals will be prepared by Pathfinder cooks (lunch, supper, even breakfast if you come early)
- There is a cost involved, but scholarships are available if needed.
- There is the option to spend Friday night at camp if you want.
- Travel time to Pathfinder from Albany is an hour and twenty minutes.

From A. Roy Medley, General Secretary, ABC/USA

Dear American Baptists,

There are two critical actions regarding Burma the Board of General Ministries took on June 13.

One is with regard to US financial support for the Burmese military and the other concerns a proposed law on religious conversion. Each of these issues has the potential for great harm to Baptist Christians and others in Burma.

For over 20 years now, Karen, Chin and other ethnic groups who are primarily Christian have been fleeing Burma because of the military's onslaught against them. The ruthless human rights violations of the military are well documented. When in Burma in Dec 2013 for the Judson celebration the ABC delegation heard first-hand testimony from the Kachin about the ongoing atrocities against them by the military. The first action below supports the intent of current legislation in our congress that will prevent aid going to the Burma military until they have shown progress in their human rights record. Simply put, we do not want our government providing support to a military that is murdering, raping and driving Baptist brothers and sisters from their villages. We urge you to ask your own congressperson and Senators to sign on as sponsors of the bill.

The second action regards a religious conversion law that is being introduced into the legislative process in Burma. It would severely restrict the rights of Christians and other minority religions to share their faith with Buddhists. The bill carries jail terms and other punitive measures for those who do so and clearly contravenes the guarantee of religious liberty in their own constitution. ABCUSA will be voicing its concern to both our government and the government of Myanmar as stated below.

While we rejoice in the progress that has occurred in Burma, these are matters that harm Baptist brothers and sisters in Burma. We ask for your prayers and your action.

Here are the specific actions (voted on June 13, 2014):

VOTED: We endorse the intent of Senate Bill 1885 and House of Representative Bill 4377 to require advances in human rights and religious liberty by the government of Myanmar as a condition of security assistance and we urge our congregations to support such legislation.

VOTED: The Board of General Ministries expresses to both the government of Myanmar and the US government our strongest concerns over the restrictions of religious liberty contained in the proposed religious conversion law. Its restrictions against the right to freely choose a religion violates internationally recognized fundamental human rights. ~ Roy

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Marilyn & Tony Malone will be attending the World Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin, on July 21-26. They are asking for support in the following ways:



1. Pray for safe travels for us and the 150 missionaries who will be coming in from all over the world.
2. During the week, we will participate in a 5K STEP walk to raise money for the Student Tuition Expense Program. This project pays for school uniforms, shoes, books, school supplies, tuition and even medicine for children, youth and young adults entering college. Families shouldn't have to choose between feeding their children or giving them an education. STEP gives hundreds of children in 14 countries a chance at a better future that can help lift them out of the downward spiral of poverty. We invite you to STEP with us by giving us your donations prior to July 20 (checks can be made out to International Ministries). Thank you! MM

Reservation form for Picnic at Pathfinder Lodge

Saturday, August 30, 2014

(Friday night optional)

This is a relatively unstructured event, a time to fellowship and play together, to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of Pathfinder, and to experience the presence of God.

- ❖ All meals and snacks on Saturday are provided by Pathfinder.
- ❖ Reservations due by July 27
- ❖ Travel time from Albany is an hour and twenty minutes.



Cost (payable with reservation, unless other arrangements are made)

Adults \$30
Family of two adults \$50
Children, age 6-12 \$10
Children 5 & younger Free

Friday night option:

Add \$50 per cabin (sleeps up to 8 people). Breakfast included.

Evening campfire featuring hot dogs and super s'mores beginning at 7:00. (participants will contribute food)

Outline of the Saturday activities:

Arrive anytime! (Breakfast is at 8:30)

9:00-11:00 – recreation and free time; snack

11:00-12:00 – Intergenerational program event

12:00 – Lunch and time for sharing and reflection

1:00-4:00 – waterfront open for swimming & boating

4:00-5:00 – Intergenerational worship/closing devotion

5:00 – Supper

6:00 – Good bye!

Return by July 27, to Marilyn/Tony Malone, Andrea Carver, Amy Palmer, Ericka Silverman, or Pat Campbell.

Names of adults: 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Names & ages of children 12 and younger: 1 _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

Do you need help with transportation? _____ For how many? _____

Can you provide transportation? _____ For how many? _____

Are you interested in the Friday night option? _____

If yes, list persons sharing a cabin: _____

Are there any special needs or requests? _____

Date received _____ Amount received _____ Amount due _____

From Service to Others...

Molly Wilkerson will be in Nicaragua this summer. She will be volunteering with AMOS, a faith-based organization which seeks to improve the health of people in rural communities in Nicaragua. Dr. Roberto Martinez, a Nicaragua currently living in Syracuse, talked about AMOS with an adult Sunday School class last winter.

Molly will be there for 12 days, participating in a Rural Immersion Experience, in which individual volunteers will come together to form a team of 10-15 total members. They will be working alongside AMOS Staff and community leaders to decrease the level of malnutrition and anemia in children under 5 years old. They will be assessing children's nutritional status and educating families on healthy nutritional habits, topics on which they will be trained in during their orientation time in Managua prior to the rural portion of the trip. Following worship on **Sunday, August 24**, Molly will share stories of her experiences in Nicaragua. Anyone who is interested is invited to join us in the parlor.

Special Offering to be Received

During the month of July, you are invited to donate to the annual New York State Regional Offering. Monies raised support and enhance our shared ministries with American Baptist Churches of NYS such as: area field ministry, outdoor ministries, stewardship education, youth ministries and the lay study program. Envelopes will be available for your convenience.

Thanks to Nancy Horan, Michelle Calvin, Jean Farcher, Lori Scolaro, Edith Leet, Hannah and Gretchen Scheu and Chelah Collins for participating in this year's CROP Walk. Thank you, too, to all their sponsors. The total they earned for the cause was \$1381.



Special Announcement

The sister of our custodian, Kaw Gay Hei, is coming to Albany with her family from a refugee camp in Thailand. Her family includes herself, her husband and 4 children, ages 8 months, 4 years, 8 years and 12 years. They are expected to arrive on July 14.

Kaw Gay is trying to find household goods to furnish an apartment. If you have furniture suited for a family of 6 living in an apartment that you would be willing to donate, please contact Pastor Kathy or Kaw Gay. In addition to furniture, items like dishes, pots and pans, towels, pillows, blankets would be useful. Please do not just bring items to church. We do not have storage space. Please speak with Pastor Kathy or Kaw Gay about any potential donations. Thank you.



Focus Summer Worship Schedule:

All services will be held at 10 a.m.

July 6 - at First Church

Aug. 3 - at Delmar Reformed

Aug. 31 - at Westminster Pres.

Pulpit Guests Scheduled at Emmanuel:

July 20: Mark Chaffin, Chaplain at Baptist Health and Rehabilitation Ctr.

July 27: Jim Kelsey, Executive Minister, ABCNYS



Below are some of the supplies that are requested for the FOCUS Churches School Supply Project:

No. 2 pencils (sharpened if possible)
Pencil sharpeners
Pencil pouches
Pencil boxes, plastic
2" pink erasers
Pens — blue or black Crayons — box of 24
Colored markers
Colored pencils
Dry-erase markers
Yellow highlighters
Calculators

Glue sticks
Glue bottles
School scissors
*** 1-subject spiral notebooks wide-ruled and college-ruled**
Hard-cover 3-ring binders — 1" or 1½"
Notebook paper — wide-ruled
*** Notebook paper college-ruled**
*** Marble composition books wide and college-ruled**
12" Rulers
Pocket folders
3" Sticky-back notes
Backpacks

Donations may be delivered to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany from Monday, August 18 through Thursday, August 21, 9 a.m. to Noon. (405 Washington Ave.)

Looking Ahead...

CRTC presents: Energy and Ethics

A conversation with Floyd Barwig

former Director, Office of Energy Efficiency and Environment, State of NY Public Service Commission

Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. to Noon

Location (TBD)

Event fees (includes continental breakfast): **\$45 by August 29**; \$50 thereafter

Registration deadline: September 11

According to Floyd Barwig, "Energy does not exist in isolation ~ energy choice has an impact. Let's take the issues, look at the pros and cons, have a conversation, and leave better equipped to make informed decisions – and then put your faith into action!"

On November 15 and 16, Duane Binkley from ABC International Ministries, will be with us. Duane specializes in work with ABC Karen congregations. Details of the two-day opportunity will be forthcoming. In the meantime, Service to Others is looking for someone to host Duane while he is here. If you can help, please contact Karen Kendall. Thank you.



Notice:

A Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held on July 13 after worship



Bless you all! Thank you to Pastor Kathy for her visits and wise words. Michael ~ your music is always so special. The Choir ~ giving their time on a work day to add to the service. We appreciate the member's visits ~ the cards and notes we received. Walt and I have experienced a warm welcome always at Emmanuel Baptist. Thank you for all your love and concern.

Elaine and Karen Spoor

Remember the Food Pantry July: shampoo August: razors & toothbrushes



Have you volunteered to play with the children yet?

Opportunities to care for children during worship in the summer months

are available! Choose either Nursery (birth to age 2) or Preschool (age 2 through grade 3). There is a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall, or call the church office.



The next MOSIC will be published in August; deadline, August 18. That newsletter will highlight upcoming September events.

A church family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 20 at the home of Bob and Karen Green. Meat for the grill and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair if you have one. (Time TBA)

Happy Birthday...

MaKayla Smith		1 st
Lydia Johnson		3 rd
Amanda Gibson		4 th
Kevin Cole		6 th
Bessie Gibson		10 th
Nancy Horan		11 th
Beth Fuchs		13 th
Tracy Collins		14 th
Andrea Carver		14 th
Kendra Lahut		14 th
Rebecca Lamar (Malone)		21 st
Jim Wilkerson		23 rd
Esther Moore		26 th
Elaine Clark		29 th
Amber Collins	31 st	
Randolph Franklin	31 st	

AUGUST

Elisabeth Scheu		1 st
Bill Silverman		2 nd
Kimberly Norwood		5 th
Sam Hill		8 th
Michael Green		11 th
Ruth Johnson		21 st
Beverly Norwood		22 nd
Parmilla Allen		23 rd
Shamaal Ford		26 th
Karen Kendall		30 th

Congratulations...



We join the Graham family in welcoming Beverly Lisbeth Scott, who is the fifth great-granddaughter of Ken and Audrey Graham. She was born on May 29 in Bloomington, Indiana to John and Janet Altman Scott. Weight: 8 pounds, 11 ounces. Length: 22 inches

Summer Office Hours ~ 9:00 to 1:00
Office Closed ~ July 4 & Sept. 1

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