

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

September 2014

Volume XXXV No. 8

Pastoral Ponderings



On vacation in Florida this summer, Jim and I went sea kayaking. We spent a wonderful few hours in the water on the backside of a barrier island. Dolphins and manatees surfaced several times near our kayaks, while Jim saw sting rays gliding along below. It was a great summer adventure. That was in mid-July.

Between then and now, I have met with Coordinating Council, the Stewardship Committee and the Advent Committee. I have also served on the ABC/NYS Biennial Planning Team. Summer adventures surely belong to one of the “times for everything” categories in Ecclesiastes.

Almost every Upstate New Yorker I know hates to see summer come to an end. But don't despair, fall and winter have their good gifts too. Yes really, even winter.

Whether you have been away or you've been here all summer, please make every effort to be part of our community on September 7 as worship with communion brings us together. Plan to stay afterwards for our 100-mile potluck lunch. During lunch, we will hear about some coming attractions – a new video curriculum for our re-forming youth class, a spring mission trip back to Nicaragua, and a few compelling topics that our adult Sunday School will be exploring. We will be registering children and youth for participation in our Sunday School program and introducing this year's teachers. We have some new teachers and new curriculum that we are excited about. It will be a great time to reconnect and to anticipate our life together this fall.

continued...

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information on the New York State Biennial. This is a gathering of American Baptists in our region which meets every two years. You may remember that Emmanuel hosted one of those meetings in 2012. This year's event will be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Utica. As part of the planning team, I can tell you that we have worked to make this event a celebration and reflection of the diversity of American Baptists in New York. In the conferences I attend, I am often inspired by the passion of African-American preaching, and I regret that it is not something that EBC folks get to hear (at least not when I'm preaching). The preacher for the Biennial is Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, the current president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. I am looking forward to the Biennial especially for the opportunity to hear him preach. I hope you will be there too.

The Stewardship and Advent Committees are also hard at work on plans which will be unveiled in due time. There is a time for every purpose under heaven. Join us for the good things which are happening in this season.

Blessings,
Kathy

Kicking off the New Season...

Membership and Evangelism Commission is organizing a 100 mile Pot Luck meal for **Sunday, September 7**, following worship. Dig through your cookbooks or Grandma's recipes or make up a new recipe to use the bounty of wonderful foods that can be found within 100 miles of Albany. Visit a farmer's market, a local organic market or your own garden to make a delicious dish to share.

We are also looking for assistance with set-up and clean-up that day. If you can help, please speak with Andrea. Also, please to facilitate our planning, please sign up. Thanks! Andrea



An Opportunity to Serve

Our Karen friends have brought up a need and asked for our help. Many of their children are struggling in school. Their parents often don't have enough mastery of English to interpret even the simplest assignments. They are asking if Emmanuel folks might provide some after school help. We are exploring this possibility. The time frame would be something like 4-6 pm on one or more weekday afternoons. So far eight people have expressed an interest. Would you like to participate in developing this new outreach? Call the church office or Marilyn Malone (785-0022) for more information.

Deadline for the October issue of the MOSAIC is September 18.

From Service to Others...

People's Climate March

(a notice from the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America)

In September, heads of state from around the world will be in New York City for a historic summit on climate change. And there they will find the people mobilized - people who are standing up in their communities to organize, to build power, and to shift power to a just, safe, peaceful world; a world with an economy that works for people and the planet.

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA) is organizing a contingency to attend the People's Climate March on Sunday, September 21, 2014. We hope you will join us in New York City as we stand together and march for a world safe from the destruction caused by climate change!

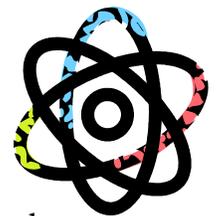
If you are interested and need transportation, there is a bus leaving from Albany - see <http://peoplesclimate.org/transportation/> and go to the New York state list.

Also, the Stony Point Center (about one hour north of NYC) is offering affordable accommodations of rooms and also tent space, but there is limited space. Accommodations will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis and can be made from Stony Point's website (stonypointcenter.org) beginning around Aug. 15 -16.

Contact Kate Fields (kafields18@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating in the march and to find out where to meet the BPFNA group. For more information about the march, please visit peoplesclimate.org. (Nancy Horan)

Special Outing Scheduled

The Service to Others Commission is planning a trip to the Museum of Science in Schenectady on Sunday, September 28. This will be an excursion for all ages. Details have not yet been finalized, but if you have questions, you may contact Karen Green. In the meantime, mark your calendar and plan to join the fun!



Save the Date...

Springbrook Church Heritage Day is Saturday, September 27, 11 am at 3 pm. Enjoy a Celebration Service, lunch, and tours of Springbrook's main campus. Springbrook is an extraordinary school and homes for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. It is also one of the programs that EBC supports through our benevolence budget. Plan to come and learn more, and you will be blessed by the folks you meet there.



The Service to Others Commission has arranged to have Duane Binkley from ABC International Ministries share at Emmanuel on November 15 & 16. Duane specializes in work with ABC Karen congregations. Details of the two-day opportunity will be forthcoming. In the meantime, the Commission is looking for someone to host Duane while he is here. If you can help, please contact Karen Kendall. Thank you.

Notes about Peace Camp

Hello, my name is Andrea. I'm from the Hudson River Valley watershed. My mother's name was Maria, and she was from the NY City Hudson River watershed. My grandmother's name was Barbara, and my great-grandmother's name was Lauretta. Both were from the Frankfurt on Mein watershed.

I tell you this because at Peace Camp in St. Caterines, Ontario, Canada the theme was "One Creation". We are all residents of Mother Earth. We don't own the planet; we are stewards of our Mother. The resources are being depleted at such a rate that there will be nothing left for the 7th generations yet to come after us. The Six Nations always consider how to make decisions based on the "7 generations to come".

I learned lots of things regarding our use of resources and the rate of depletion. One Creation, it says in the Bible, "love your neighbor". How do we deplete our natural resources with no thought for our neighbor? How do we justify what we are doing to our Mother Earth when the Bible says we must "tend the garden"?

I know there are no easy answers or solutions that can happen immediately yet we must stand up and do the things we can. An example would be to say "no" to the Brakken crude oil going through the poorest neighborhoods in our cities.

At Peace Camp there are like-minded, socially aware people who are our neighbors in the one creation we call Mother Earth. I would strongly and enthusiastically encourage people to attend Peace Camp.

Energy & Ethics

Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

First Lutheran Church of Albany

Registration Deadline: September 11

EVENT FEES (includes continental breakfast):

\$45 by August 29; \$50 thereafter

Floyd Barwig, former Director, Office of Energy Efficiency and Environment (OEEE), State of NY Public Service Commission, will facilitate a conversation to get you fired up and talking about energy issues. He holds degrees in science and architecture from RPI and UC Berkeley.

From Corporate Management...

Team Work for 2015 Capital Campaign

The restoration work of Room for Grace II is nearing completion! Tower, roof, and buttresses have had extensive repairs. By the end of September, drainage problems along the west wall will be completed.

In 2015, a campaign to repay our loan will begin. This fall, could you “Step up to the plate” and consider becoming part of the team to help Emmanuel plan and execute that campaign strategy?

Hitting a home run, is a baseball phrase that has been used to describe finding excellent financial resources, especially for Emmanuel’s restoration work. Corporate Management has worked to explore grants and foundations as potential funding resources for our church’s urgent repairs completed in 2013 and 2014 at Emmanuel. We’ve had minor successes with many financial resources external to our church. But no “Grand Slam” for Emmanuel has materialized.

Repaying Emmanuel’s \$300,000 loan within the next ten years is both straightforward and complicated. Repayment will require Emmanuel’s fellowship pledging, beyond their weekly offerings, in order to repay the loan we all agreed was necessary.

We can win this challenge with a strategy of basics: good fielding of questions, regular hits with our membership, touching base with everyone in the congregation, few strikeouts, few errors (no stealing!) and enough runs to win!

Consider becoming part of the 2015 Capital Campaign team to retire Emmanuel’s Room for Grace II indebtedness. Speak with Jean Burton, Tom Lahut or the Pastor before the end of the baseball season!



Rural and Migrant Ministry works for the creation of a just rural New York State through: nurturing leadership; standing with the disenfranchised, especially farmworkers and rural workers; changing unjust systems and structures. In May, they organized an interfaith delegation of more than 100 civil rights advocates, clergy and farmworkers from across New York state to spend "Farmworker Day" in Albany. Several workshops for the youth were held here at Emmanuel. Following is a note of thanks:

Dear Dorothy,

I was looking back again on the photos from the Youth Arts Group use of the space at Emmanuel on May 5th and thought: Wow! It really was a tremendous day for our students. They felt like powerful leaders despite their youth as they led visiting teens through different workshops across the space.

Thank you again for letting us use the rooms at no cost. The students have fond memories of the experience.

Best wishes,

Katia, Rural & Migrant Ministry



Two Performances in September

“Handel’s opera *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* in an abridged semi-staged version will be presented in two performances: Friday, September 19th at 7:30 pm and Sunday September 21st, at 4 pm at Emmanuel.

Directed by Michael Clement, the opera includes soloists, chorus and orchestra. **Cesare** : mezzo soprano **Frances Pallozzi-Wittman**; **Cleopatra**: sopranos **Amanda Cara Boyd** and **Deborah Rocco**; **Sesto**: mezzo sopranos **Heidi Skok**, and **Kara Cornell**; **Cornelia**: **Irina Tekhonenko**; **Tolomeo**: mezzo sopranos **Elizabeth Lehmann** and **Carol Curran**; **Achilla**: bass-baritone **Charles Martin**. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. For further information write to mclement14@nycap.rr.com.”

From ABC/NYS Finance Committee...

July 18, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

The Lord is doing many wonderful things through our 293 local American Baptist Churches in New York State. As a matter of fact, just last week I (Jim Rice) visited with a number of longtime friends who are active in ABC churches in the North Country Association and they shared with me how God is blessing their respective ministries. They are grateful for the connection with our ABC/NYS Region and the many ways that the Region assists and encourages healthy, vibrant church vitality in the American Baptists of New York State.

As we are now midpoint in the calendar year we thought it would be useful for you to know where the Region stands financially as we enter the second half of the year.

	Budgeted	Actual
Current Income	\$226,400	\$188,439
<u>Expense</u>	<u>230,138</u>	<u>208,273</u>
Net	<u>-3,738</u>	<u>-19,834</u>

We have covered this \$19,834 deficit with a surplus that we carried over from last year. This surplus was the result of an unexpectedly large distribution from the American Baptist Foundation; this distribution will not repeat itself this year. We are grateful for the many ABC churches and individuals who have throughout the years generously supported the Region’s efforts to assist local ABC churches in leadership transition and training, conflict resolution, and many other means of encouraging local church vitality.

The bulk of the Region’s support comes from two sources: United Mission Basics and the Region Offering. If your church has not yet participated in this year’s Region Offering entitled; “. . . *being rooted and established in love*” or through United Mission Basics contributions or in some other way, we would like to encourage you to help us eliminate this shortfall so that these vital ministries are not impacted. You can find more information about the Region Offering at <http://www.abc-nys.org/programs/region-offering>. Thank you for your support. See you at this year’s Biennial October 3-4, 2014 in Utica, NY!!

God bless you richly,

Jim Rice
Finance Committee Chair

James Harriff
Treasurer

Jim Kelsey
Executive Minister

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW YORK STATE

Some examples of the ministry our supporters made possible in the first half of 2014:

TIME SPENT WITH CHURCHES

- Staff worked with three churches who needed support working through their conflicts.
- Staff preached in 31 churches.
- Staff met with search committees 18 times.
- Staff made 41 onsite visits with lay leaders of local churches.
- Staff led 17 seminars/ trainings in local congregations or at Associational meetings

TIME SPENT WITH PASTORS

- Staff personally counseled or offered encouragement to 48 of our pastors.
- The Region held a new pastors orientation, with 33 participants.
- The Region held a conference for pastors with the theme “Navigating the Emotional Waters of Ministry,” with 27 participants

TIMELY & ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATIONS

- *What is God Doing Among Us* and *Region Notes* (If you are not receiving these communications, please contact Mary Schwarz at mschwarz@abc-nys.org)
- *Since You Asked...We Looked for an Answer*, a document that answers questions that are pertinent to tax and legal issues our churches face.
- Regular blogs from Region staff about church and faith.

PROMOTING BROADER MINISTRY

- Region staff planned and is promoting our “Waters of Blessing” mission trip to Nicaragua next April.
- Region staff arranged for visits of missionaries to our churches
- Region staff supported the Committee on Ministry, which works with candidates pursuing a call to ministry, and the Lay Studies program, which equips people for leadership in local churches

A FEW REFLECTIONS BY STAFF

- When churches are under duress and leadership faces critical decisions, I have felt very helpful to congregational leaders not being “the answer man” but a “resource” and “friendly outsider looking in” to help them arrive at answers befitting their church situation or crisis.
- Helping pastors with realizing the struggles and stressors of ministry are not uniquely “their” problem, connecting them with resources, colleagues and ways to seek more fruitful ways to minister in the changing context of 21st century ministry.
- When I work with churches in conflict and people in that church tell that they are praying for me as I do my work, I realize how important their congregations are in their lives. I feel privileged to be invited into their congregations’ lives.

I spent 10 years as a missionary before coming to New York State, five of them in Italy helping Africans understand a system and culture that I myself often found confusing. Now as I work with the Baptists from Burma among us, I know how they feel as they try to navigate a new system in a language that is not their mother tongue. I work hard to be encouraging and patient as I try to guide them and their churches in ways that will enable them to flourish. It is a great gift to work with these courageous believers.

“Rooted in Love”
The Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang
a one woman drama performed by Nancy Murray, OP

Saturday, September 20, 2014

7:00 pm

Chapel + Cultural Center at RPI
(2125 Burdett Avenue, Troy)

Tickets: Adults \$15, Students/Seniors \$10

Tickets may be purchased online:

<https://rcda.thankyou4caring.org/ccrcda/rooted-in-love>

Catholic Charities' Commission on Peace and Justice invites you to a performance by Nancy Murray, OP, in remembrance of Sister Dorothy Stang, an American nun who was murdered on an isolated road near the Brazilian town of Anapu. She had lived in the country for nearly four decades and was known as a fierce defender of the Amazon rain forest and the people who lived there.

Sister Nancy Murray, OP, is an Adrian Dominican sister-actress who was born into a family of actors (Bill Murray is her brother) in Wilmette, Illinois. She was a pastoral minister in the Archdiocese of Chicago for many years. She travels the country, and internationally, presenting A One Woman Play about St. Catherine of Siena and some years ago, presented in Cincinnati at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Westwood. <http://nancymurray.adriandominicans.org/>

About Sister Dorothy Stang

Sister Dorothy, 73, was born in Dayton, Ohio, one of nine children. She was raised on a farm in a traditional Catholic family. She entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur community in 1948 and professed final vows in 1956. From 1951 to 1966 she taught elementary classes at St. Victor School in Calumet City, IL, St. Alexander School in Villa Park, IL and Most Holy Trinity School in Phoenix, Az. She began her ministry in Brazil in 1966, in Coroata in the state of Maranhao.

A citizen of Brazil and the United States, Sister Dorothy worked with the Pastoral Land Commission, an organization of the Catholic Church that fights for the rights of rural workers and peasants, and defends land reforms in Brazil. Her death came less than a week after meeting with the country's human rights officials about threats to local farmers from loggers and landowners.



We have received words of greeting from Gary Harris, our Intentional Interim Minister from December 2002 to 2004:

“...I moved to the Orlando Florida area and am in the process of planting a church in the inclusive Baptist tradition as a house church in my home in Davenport.

The Circle of Hope ALIVE is the church's name, and it is in partnership with The Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, The Alliance of Baptists, and The Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, with membership pending in The American Baptist Churches of the Rochester Genesee Region. The church meets at 11:00 AM each Sunday, followed by a soup lunch. Please pass the word along as this is the only AWAB church in Florida and the only Alliance Church in the Orlando area. You are welcome to visit, whether you are on vacation, a snow bird, or have relocated to that area. Please let others know as well. Growing a church is a slow and intentional process, especially in getting the word out.”

Contact Information:

The Circle of Hope ALIVE

(The Rev.) Gary W. Harris, Founding Pastor

www.facebook.com/circleofhopealivechurch 863-420-3040

**ABC-NYS Biennial
October 3 & 4
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica, NY**

**Installation:
Rev. Jerrod Huguenot**



**Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Marvin
McMickle**



Others participating in our Biennial celebration:

- Bethany Baptist Church, Syracuse Choir
- Board of Mission officers & Board members
- Chin Christian Church, Syracuse Choir
- First Baptist Church, Rome & Tabernacle Baptist Church, Utica Karen Choir
- Nate Maxfield & Band
- St. Paul's Baptist Church, Utica



friday, october 3, 2014

9:00am - 3:30pm

st. paul's baptist church

219 Leah Street, Utica, NY 13501

\$25/person

"When money is tight, and there [doesn't] seem to be enough people, and you can't keep up with the maintenance of the buildings, it's easy to forget this simple truth: *Your church has a future.*"

- Gerald W. Keucher

- Topics:**
- Overview of Challenges & Changes for the church and pastors today
 - Church Budgeting with Limited Resources
 - Compensation for the Pastor in Every Size Church (Presented by MIMBB)
 - Stewardship Worship Ideas
 - Property Management as Investment for the Future (Presented by Gerald Keucher)
 - ABC Forms, Reports & Other Information
 - Resources, Samples and other forms to take back to churches

American Baptist Churches of New York State

5865 East Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville, NY 13078
315.469.4236

\$40.00/person*

Five or more from one church (sent in one envelope): \$30/person

* includes lunch, refreshments, ice cream social & program costs

If you are interested in attending the Biennial, please speak with Barbara Lahut. Perhaps we can get the discount!



Adult Bible Study

Beginning on September 3, Adult Bible Study will be held on Wednesdays at 1:00 in the church parlor. Join us as we explore the lectionary passage for each week. The theme for September is "Season of Creation. If you have any questions, you may contact Marilyn Malone. Hope to see you there!

Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the 76 Diner at 11:45 on **Wednesday, Sept. 3**. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. Hope to see you there!



Work Day at Emmanuel

Saturday morning on September 13th will be a Work Day. Lunch to follow at noon.

- 1) Cleaning and organizing in our church will involve routine chores.
- 2) Anchoring wire mesh for pest control in the tower will be completed.
- 3) This is also an opportunity for the curious to explore Emmanuel's tower, with no obligation expected. Come and see the church from a different angle! (CM)

Mark Your Calendar...

- Aug . 31 ~ FOCUS Worship at Westminster
Sept. 1 ~ *Church Office Closed*
9 ~ Coordinating Council
14 ~ Diaconate
18 ~ *Deadline for the October Mosaic*

Entertainment Books are here again. The cost is \$25, and profits will help to "span the gap". Remember, the books make great gifts! See Marilyn Malone to purchase a copy.

Remember the
Food Pantry

September:
toilet paper

Looking Ahead

CACC ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Wednesday, October 1

at Albany Country Club

Kitt Jackson, who just retired from 17 years as Administrative Director of the Council, will be honored and celebrated with the Carlyse Adams Ecumenical and Interfaith Silent Auction... fellowship and fun... Watch for details!

Happy Birthday...

Ruth Pushee
Dorothy Wilburn
Ariana Paul
Veronica Smith
Gillian Horan
Pickett Tait Simpson
Madison Stroebel
Nathan LaBarge
Julianna Palm
Pat Hunziker
Frank Scheu
Marion Dickinson
Mark Chaffin



1st
4th
5th
8th
14th
16th
17th
17th
21st
26th
27th
29th
29th

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



Congratulations...

to Amy and Morgan Garner (and big sisters, Genevieve and Aurora) on the birth of Brianna Tiegen, who was born on August 7. Weight: 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Length: 19 1/2 inches Tom and Barbara Lahut are the proud grandparents.

Church Office Closed ~ Sept. 1

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

