

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

A pastor from another church recently shared an insight into Emmanuel with me. He said that a few years before I arrived here, he read a letter about Emmanuel which was produced by lay leaders. Perhaps it was a fund-raising letter. Perhaps it was part of a newsletter. I don't know the occasion. What struck this pastor was that the letter was written by regular church members, not Emmanuel's pastor at the time. He said that many of the statements made about Emmanuel might also have been truthfully said about his own church, but that the lay people in his congregation would never have done so because that was the pastor's job. His observation was that faithful lay leadership and ownership of our shared ministry has been one of Emmanuel's strengths for a long time. I would agree.



I am grateful for many aspects of our community life. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, let me express some appreciation.

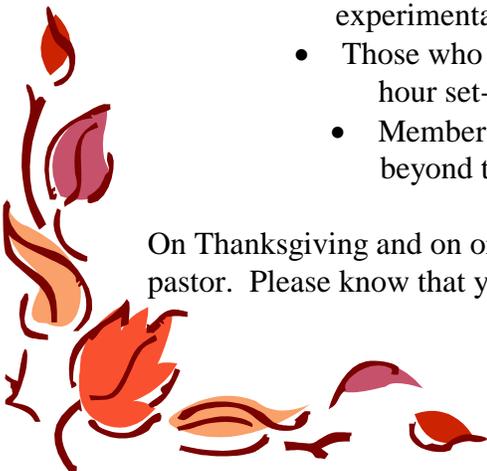
Thank you to:

- Our food pantry and breakfast program volunteers who are seen only by those they serve, which they do week in and week out.
- Folks who send cards and make phone calls of encouragement as soon as needs are known. I often go to the hospital or nursing home to discover that, without being asked or seeking credit, another Emmanuelite has been there ahead of me.
- Emmanuelites providing friendship and tangible help to our Karen brothers and sisters.
- Participants in worship who flex with different styles and elements of worship enthusiastically, or at least without audible grumbling.
- Leaders on Church Council and Diaconate who are willing to explore creative, experimental ideas and to consider seriously the perspectives of newcomers.
 - Those who support and sustain on-going ministries, like nursery care, coffee hour set-up and clean-up, and spiritual formation opportunities for all ages.
 - Members of the choir who bring their best to rehearsal and worship, and beyond that, share their musical gifts in area nursing homes and concerts.

On Thanksgiving and on ordinary days, I give thanks for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Please know that you are one of the blessings in my life.

Peace,

Kathy



The Canticles of Christmas



A canticle is a song in Scripture that is not a psalm. Our Advent worship will celebrate the music of Scripture in well-known Christmas canticles, like the songs of Zechariah, Mary, Simeon and the angels. They are also known by their opening Latin words: Benedictus, Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, and Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Along the way, we will also explore some familiar texts from the prophets Isaiah and Micah, which were set to music by composers like Bach and Handel.

Join us for a season rich in song and story.

An Angel Playing a Flageolet
Edward Burne-Jones 1833-1898

Every Sunday
Worship at 10:00 a.m.

For all ages

- Nov 30** Decorating the Chrismon Tree during worship
- Dec. 5** Open House at Pastor Kathy's house
6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14** Christmas cookie exchange following worship
(packing goodies for friends in need of cheer)
- Dec. 22** Christmas Reception following worship
Choir Concert 12:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28** Continental Breakfast & Worship Around the Tables



Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Whether it's memories of caroling, Christmas pageants, or Christmas Eve services, the hymns of Christmas are some of the most evocative parts of the season for many of us. They refocus our spirits and remind us of the holiness and mystery of God's incarnation. In the season, the Contemporary Christian Concerns class will spend time with Advent/Christmas hymns exploring the context in which they came to be written and the theology and meaning we find in them. Join us in the parlor after morning worship to enjoy *Silent Night*, and *O Little Town of Bethlehem* on November 30 and December 14.



Please join us for a Christmas party at the pastor's home on **December 5 from 6:30-9:30 p.m.** Kathy and Jim will provide chili and roasted red pepper soup and beverages. You are invited to bring side dishes or desserts. Feel free just to drop in for as long as your schedule allows or to relax and stay a while. This is an event for all ages. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall so we know how many people to expect.

After worship on December 14, we will pack cookie bags for guests at the FOCUS breakfast program. Please help us plan by signing up today to indicate how many cookies you can contribute. Pastor Kathy has room in her freezer to store cookies if you want to bake soon. All ages are welcome to be part of the assembly line.



There will be a special congregational meeting following worship on December 7. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the current expense and benevolence budgets for 2015. In previous years, we have approved the budget in January. Doing so in December will allow us to begin operating under the new budget on January 1, 2015.

Wondrous Winter
A Christmas Song Celebration
December 21, 12:30 pm

Emmanuel Baptist Choir and Friends
Michael Clement, director

A reception will follow
 Admission is free: donations accepted

From Service to Others...



Special Collection

During Advent, Service to Others invites you to help our Karen brothers and sisters by providing some cold weather clothing. There is a collection box for donations of mittens, hats, scarves, and gloves in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please speak with Karen Kendall. Thank you.

Request from Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless

Interfaith Shelter has a wish list as the cold weather settles in:

- Washable Blankets & Sheets
- Heavy Duty Disposable Plates/Cups/Utensils
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Ground Coffee
- New Men's Winter Boots

Have items to drop off? You may speak with Karen Kendall to make arrangements.

Winter Breakfast Now being Served

FOCUS Winter Breakfast has begun with over 100 guests the first morning! A key to its success is having an adequate corps of volunteers. The hours of operation are 6:30am – 9:10 am on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (half shifts also available). If you are interested in helping out, contact Beth at 443-0460 (bethg@focuschurches.net).



The Food Pantry is asking for cake mixes to add to the special holiday baskets that will be distributed to guests. Won't you consider donating a box or two?

In addition, there is a need for shampoo and deodorant. You may place your donations in the designated basket in the sanctuary.

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry Looks at New Model

Inspired by the work of Robert Lupton (*Toxic Charity*) in the Atlanta area, FOCUS is exploring an alternative model to food pantries for addressing food security issues. It is built around collaborative groups of low income households who meet and manage the food distribution program. Each household pays a small fee at each meeting. The goals include community development and promotion of dignity and ownership for the participants. This would not replace the Pantry, but provide another means of meeting part of family food needs in a specific geographical area in our neighborhood.

Save the date... **January 25, 2015**

FOCUS and the Hunger Action Network of New York will hold their annual joint benefit **EMPTY BOWLS** at the Elks Club, 25 South Allen Street, Albany from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Each participant will receive a handcrafted bowl and will be able to fill it with soup from the Chef's Consortium of the Hudson Valley, and have, on the side, some artisan bread from the Rock Hill Bake House of Glens Falls.





Please Note...

December 2 ~ Coordinating Council
5:30 at church

December 7 ~ Diaconate
~ Budget Vote

**Church Office Closed:
December 24 & 25
Merry Christmas!**

Happy Birthday...



Kathy Moore	8 th
Michele Calvin	9 th
Brian Hughes	11 th
Matthew Lahut	12 th
Dwight Smith	12 th
Tom Lahut	14 th
Jennie DeFlaviis	15 th
Tammy Skinner	18 th
Molly Wilkerson	20 th
Charles Johnson	31 st

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

Entertainment Books are available. 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.



*Winter begins
December 21*

*Deadline for the January issue of the
MOSAIC is December 18.*



The holiday tradition at Emmanuel has been to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias and to deliver them to our homebound and ill members on Christmas Eve. If you wish to purchase a plant, please check the appropriate box(s) below and indicate if the plant is in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$12 per plant. The poinsettias will be available on Christmas Eve. Please fill out this form and give it to Karen Green along with your payment.

In addition, greens and wreaths are hung both inside and outside the church. If you would like to help with that expense, please let Karen know. Thank you.

- I would like the poinsettia designated in memory/honor (circle one) of _____
- I would like the plant donated to a church member.
- I would like the plant for myself.

NAME: _____

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