

THE MOSAIC

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Pastoral Ponderings



Our 86-year-old custodian, Jim is recovering from a hip fracture. His absence makes me aware of how many things he does behind the scenes. When he is not with us on Sundays, we scramble to find the microphones, bulletins and hearing assistance units, to see that the oil candles have been filled, to de-ice the walks and driveway, and make sure the lights and heat get turned on and off appropriately. We are praying for Jim's full and speedy recovery.

Noticing the tasks that Jim does every week reminds me of many others at work behind the scenes at Emmanuel. The Stewardship Committee went above and beyond their usual duties to plan and implement a new format for our annual meetings. Thanks to their efforts, we had a real celebration of the past year and cheered for our Baptist Bickerings Teams, while also doing the necessary annual business. The Stewardship Committee did not do it alone. It took hours of preparation and service and clean-up on the part of the Nicaragua mission team members to bring us the fabulous pork dinner, and the contributions of several commissions and church officers to process and deliver all the information we received.

Every month, members of Emmanuel serve each other in inconspicuous ways, ways that we may take for granted. For example, Pat Campbell and Beverly Norwood arrive early each Sunday to brew the coffee and set out refreshments for coffee hour. Members of Caring and Fellowship remain afterwards to rinse the coffee pot and wash cups. Ann Buford faithfully assists Jim in returning hymnals and Bibles to their homes following Sunday morning worship. Several of you send cards and make visits to those in nursing homes and hospitals. These things happen every week, including many that I probably don't know about.

This month, the newly elected 2015 diaconate will meet for the first time. Commissions do an enormous chunk of our behind-the-scenes work. They meet monthly to prayerfully discern direction, organize events, divide the labor. They make possible the huge variety of visible ministry that we enjoy – meaningful worship, adult spiritual formation, educational events for children and youth, times of fellowship and fun, mission experiences, opportunities for outreach and service . . . the list goes on. Some commissions have first-time members who are new to this role; others will continue the work they've been doing with the same people they've been doing it with for a while. If you are serving on a commission, thank you! If you are not serving at this time, please offer your support to those who are. We have on-going needs for ushers, nursery workers, child-care providers for adult Sunday School, and folks to set up and clean up for various events throughout the year. If you are willing to join the ranks of the unpaid, but greatly appreciated, behind-the-scenes force that keeps us going, please speak with me or moderator Barb Lahut.

Blessings,
Kathy

From Service to Others...



Service to Others Commission will be featuring various members of the Emmanuel community in the next few MOSAIC editions. We hope you will enjoy learning more about the faces you see in church!

Spotlight on: Jean Burton

Jean moved into the area in 1973 and joined Emmanuel around 36 years ago. She has performed in many roles: teaching Sunday School and Godly Play; serving as Moderator; leading Growing God's Ministry and Room for Grace; working on the Medieval Feast committee; workdays (including pigeon barriers in the tower); Nominating Committee; Pastor Relations Committee; Pastoral Search Committee; and others. She is currently a member of Corporate Management Commission, and continues to work on RFG projects.

Jean is enthusiastic about many aspects of Emmanuel's ministries, such as working with FOCUS Churches of Albany, whose Food Pantry is housed at Emmanuel. She loves rehabbing old buildings and really enjoyed the change the church made to remove the pews and update the bathrooms and nursery. She also is excited about the various mission opportunities Emmanuel offers, particularly in urban ministries. Not least, she loves the Emmanuel faith community and the respect and love everyone displays toward others.

Looking forward, Jean hopes that strong preaching will help Emmanuel continue to strengthen ties among church members and to step out in mission. (BL)



A message from LeDayne McLeese Polaski Executive Director, BPFNA...

THANK YOU for being a Partner of BPFNA (Baptist Peace Fellowship North America) ~ *Bautistas por la Paz!* Your support has brought us through 30 years of seeking peace rooted in justice. 2015 will begin our fourth decade, and it looks to be a full and fruitful year. With our new five-year theme, "**No Longer Strangers: Crossing Borders for Peacemaking**," we'll be addressing the need to cross borders of all types including language, culture, race, religion, nationality, generation, class, and sexual orientation. We'll be doing that in a variety of ways including a **Friendship Tour to El Paso/Juarez**, a related **series of workshops at our annual conference** to encourage local congregations to become involved in addressing justice issues at the border, an **international seminarians' conference** also to be held at our annual gathering, a new publication series called "**The Borders I Cross**" which we be written by members and friends, and a **two-week training to certify new conflict transformation trainers**. All that is in addition to our "regular" work of programming, projects and publications.

YOU are making it all happen, and we thank you!

In addition to your generous church/organizational gift, you can join as an individual member for just \$40/year. Members get subscriptions to Baptist Peacemaker as well as other updates throughout the year.

BPFNA~ Bautistas por la Paz has a \$40,000 matching grant for 2015. New gifts and increased gifts (that is, increased over 2014) will be matched up to \$40,000. So -- if you join as a new member at \$40, your gift will automatically be doubled to \$80. If your membership has lapsed and you re-join in 2015, those gifts will be doubled too. And if you gave in 2014 and are able to give more in 2015 -- the increase will be doubled. If have ever considered becoming an individual member or if you've been meaning to rejoin or if you've thought about giving a special gift, 2015 will be a GREAT time to do that!

Annual FOCUS Worship Service

February 1, 10:30 a.m.

Emmanuel will join other FOCUS congregations for our annual FOCUS worship service which will be held at First Church in Albany, 110 North Pearl Street. Our guest preacher will be The Rev. Dr. Paula Gravelle, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches. Dr. Gravelle has served in active ministry for 29 years. Prior to her work with the Council of Churches, she was Director of Pastoral Care at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady. She is an Empire State College graduate with a B.S. in Community and Human Services earned at the Northeast Center. She was born and raised in Niagara Falls and moved to the Capital Region in the 1970s. She also holds a master's of divinity from Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, and a doctorate of ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington. She lives in Latham.



*The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry currently has a **need for volunteers** who are willing to help pack groceries for individuals and families on Wednesdays and Fridays. To inquire about volunteering, contact volunteer coordinator Beth at bethg@focuschurches.net or call 443-0460.*

**Remember the
Food Pantry Shampoo**



February 14 "Getting the Church to Thrive: Leadership and New Ways of Leading"

ABCNYS lay leaders, church officers and pastors are invited to attend a free workshop on church leadership and governance to be held on Saturday, February 14, 2015, from 9 AM to 12 PM, at First Baptist Church, 45 Washington St., Saratoga Springs, NY. Led by our ABCNYS Executive Minister Dr. Jim Kelsey, churches will be engaged in conversation about whether a one-board structure might be appropriate for your congregation and how it might transform how a congregation understands the task of leadership. Come and learn how churches can thrive rather than just survive! RSVPs are requested by February 10, 2015, via the FBC Saratoga Springs office at 518/584-6301. Coffee and light refreshments will be provided by the host church. Please allow time to locate parking, as on-site church parking is very limited.

*Ash
Wednesday*

Many churches have a simple worship service on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Other churches have a traditional pancake supper on Mardi Gras, the last day before Lent begins. Here at Emmanuel, we believe in making the most of every opportunity and mixing and matching elements from many traditions. So this year, the Lent Committee presents **Pancakes on Ash Wednesday**. Join us at 6:00 on February 18 at 6:00 for a pancake supper followed by a time of worship with the imposition of ashes. Receiving ashes is always optional. Look for a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall to reserve your place at the pancake feast.

The goal of EAD is to strengthen our Christian voice and to mobilize for advocacy on a wide variety of U.S. domestic and international policy issue, through worship, theological reflection and opportunities for learning and witness. In recent years, a group from FOCUS Churches and Emmanuel has made its way to Washington each spring to participate. This might be your year! Financial assistance is available. Contact Rev. Kathy Donley or Rev. Deb Jameson for more information.



ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS 2015
BREAKING THE CHAINS:
MASS INCARCERATION & SYSTEMS OF EXPLOITATION
Friday, April 17—Monday, April 20, 2015
Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City/ Washington DC
<http://advocacydays.org/>

Join over 1,000 Christian advocates in building a movement to shake the foundations of systems of human exploitation (Acts 16:16-40), including a prison-industrial system that incarcerates millions of people in the U.S. and abroad. A world that incarcerates so many and allows some to profit from the exploitation of slave, trafficked and forced labor remains far from the “beloved community” which we are all called to seek.

The U.S. makes up only five percent of the world’s population yet holds nearly a quarter of the world’s prisoners. Still, “imprisonment” is a worldwide problem and takes various forms, as everywhere people around the world remain trapped in detention centers, prisons, factories and drug wars that bind and dehumanize individuals for political or economic profit.

As people of faith, we denounce the elements in our world that justify such systems of exploitation and mass incarceration. At EAD, we will confess our personal and corporate failure to break the chains of poverty, racism, and greed institutionalized in our laws, economy, and social behaviors that collude to perpetuate such human exploitation and strip civil and human rights.

As people of hope, we are reminded that Jesus’ radical message was one of liberation for all and restoration of right relationships. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, networking and mobilization with other Christians, we will face the reality of mass incarceration and corporate exploitation, and call for national policies that bring liberation both to the prisoner and to a world in need of restoration – all culminating with EAD’s Congressional Lobby Day on Capitol Hill.



ABC’s Biennial Mission Summit will be return June 26-28, 2015 with the theme “Share the Journey.” **Rev. Dr. Amy Butler**, senior minister of the historic Riverside Church in New York City, will preach during the Friday evening service. **Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley**, general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, will bring the message on Saturday evening during a celebration of his fourteen years as General Secretary. **Rev. Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III**, executive director of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, will speak during the Sunday morning time of worship.

The Sunday evening service will be highlighted by speaker **Rev. Dr. Don Ng**, president of the American Baptist Churches USA and the first Asian-American to serve in this role. The schedule includes a Festival of Young Preachers and a pre-biennial theology conference theme *Beloved Community: The Church and Theological Education in a Time of Adaptive Change* on Thursday, June 25, 2015. There is money in our church budget to assist with registration costs. Pastor Kathy plans to attend. See <http://www.americanbaptists2015.com/> for more information.

BPFNA  **Bautistas por la Paz**

No Longer Strangers: Crossing Borders for Peacemaking
Baptist Peace Fellowship Summer Conference
July 6-11, 2015
Eastern Mennonite University
Harrisonburg, VA



Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington is the president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group, a Multicultural Organizational Development Firm out of Baltimore, MD. He is an internationally known speaker, consultant, trainer, and writer on diversity, leadership, spirituality, organizational change and community development issues, and he has received several awards both in and outside of the church for his leadership and commitment to the Ministry of Social Justice. Having spent his life in the church, he currently serves as co-pastor of Unity Fellowship Church of Baltimore.



Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers

June 2-11, 2015

International Hope Center

Hamtramck, MI, USA

(Or Kiev, Ukraine May 5-14, 2015)

Led by Dan and Sharon Buttry, this intensive and extensive training will focus on conflict analysis, conflict resolution, personal conflict styles, dealing with diversity in conflict, power issues, nonviolent struggle, strategizing for campaigns, trauma, reconciliation, practical issues for peacemaking over the long-haul, as well

as experiential education methodologies and practices. The training will have a specifically Christian focus, utilizing Bible studies for many of the topics. Those who complete the training will be qualified to lead Conflict Transformation trainings on their own.

The registration fee is \$600, which includes simple room accommodations and meals for the 10 days of the training, training materials, local transportation to and from the airport, group activities and other training-related expenses. The cost for travel to and from Detroit will be in addition to the training costs.

Boaz Keibarak, who participated in a 2013 Training for Conflict Transformation Trainers held in Africa and led by Dan and Sharon, says this of his experience:

The training played a vital role in motivating, enhancing and empowering my skills/capacity for peace ministry. After the end of the training month of November, inter-tribal conflict erupted among communities in the northern end of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya. Great loss of lives, destruction and vulnerability were witnessed. With the skills gained from the training, I was able to arrest the conflicts through a Mediation and Reconciliation Conference. The knowledge learned in the training played a vital role by giving the two conflicting communities ways to discover their conflicts and agree on reconciliation through learning experiential methodology.

Scholarships are available: **application deadline** is March 2, 2015

Registration deadline: April 1, 2015

Spaces are limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Contact bpfna@bpfna.org for more details, a scholarship application, or a registration form.

***An Invitation from the Rev. Jeffrey Matthews, Pastor
Trinity United Methodist Church:***

Hi, Friends:

I just want to take this opportunity to invite you to join me on a pilgrimage of the Holy Land. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to visit the places you've read about in the Bible? Have you ever wondered how it would feel to walk where Jesus walked? A visit to the Holy Land is a journey of discovery. We discover the places and people at the root of our faith. We gain a new view of and intimacy with places that have previously just been names: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Qumran, the Dead Sea, Masada, Jericho and more. We journey with Jesus on the Palm Sunday road and the way of the cross. We share an experience of place and faith and spirit with each other and predecessors throughout the ages. Sound Interesting? LINK: http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/hl15_a_classic_corrected_070714_layout-1.pdf

THE HOLY LAND IS A SAFE PLACE TO TRAVEL. Our tour company has many years of experience with the people, politics, trends and social indicators there.

I'm now planning my 5th visit to the Holy Land departing on October 20, 2015. It's not too early to begin to think about joining me. You can save by registering early and planning ahead gives you the opportunity to consider the things you'll see and do and to read about/consider the ways in which the land and history and culture there have helped form our faith.

I've included a link to the Educational Opportunities website and the current brochure for this trip. NOTE that the cost of the trip for our date starts at \$3,198. Additional costs can include trip insurance (if you elect to take it), charges for a single room (if you prefer one) and transportation to and from JFK Airport (which I will arrange). Otherwise, the price includes: round trip airfare, first class coach, tour guide and admissions to sites (with the exception of optional tour to Masada), gratuities, first class hotels, daily breakfast and dinner and much more.

If you have questions, please contact me by email reply or at 518-463-1293, ext. 11. In the meantime, I HOPE YOU'LL CHECK OUT THE BROCHURE and consider joining me in this trip of a lifetime. You can register online. If you do or if you print the brochure and register by mail, include HOST NUMBER 02509. That will ensure that you are included in my group. AND PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED. THANKS!

Blessings and peace,
Jeff Matthews, Host Pastor

PS - If there is sufficient interest, we may add the extension to Jordan where we would visit Petra, Jerash, Madaba, Mt. Nebo and Amman. Read about it in the brochure and let me know if you're interested in this extra cost option. JM





“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 beginning on February 8. 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!

Nursing Home Visits Continue

The Choir share their gift of song at the Beverwyck on Saturday, February 14. The group will gather for rehearsal at 9:30, and the program will begin at 10:00. If you have questions about this special music ministry, you may contact Michael Clement or Pat Hunziker.

Ladies Lunch Scheduled

Emmanuel ladies will gather at Normanside restaurant on **Thursday, February 5** (11:30 a.m.) to enjoy lunch together. If you plan to attend, please contact Gail Hill or Betty Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged.

Please Note:	
February 2	~ Lent Committee; 5:00, library
February 8	~ Diaconate
February 11	~ Coordinating Council 5:30 at Lahut’s house
February 16	~ Church Office Closed
February 28	~ KBC/EBC meeting at 4:00

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



Let's Go Sledding!

Kids, Parents, Families, Friends, come join us for a sledding outing on **February 21, 10 am-12pm at Frear Park in Troy.**

Bring your snowsuits, sleds, and ice skates, and meet us in the parking lot at 10 so we can find the best hills in the park. Please sign up in the fellowship hall so we can alert you if we have to cancel due to weather. Hosted by the Christian Growth and Development commission.

Happy Birthday

February

Betty Mallory	1 st
Wesley Kendall	5 th
Becca Leet	15 th
David Green	16 th
Tim Bray	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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