

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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May 2015

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Pastoral Ponderings



Evangelism for organizing our presence at Pride, and thanks to everyone who volunteered at our booth or marched in the parade. If you missed it last year, talk to Ruth Pushee about being involved this June.

On Easter Sunday, one new family worshipped with us for the first time. In conversation at the Easter Reception, I learned that they had previously attended an evening concert at EBC and had visited our booth at the Pride festival. Those two encounters were so positive that they chose to celebrate Easter with us. They thanked me for our witness at Pride, but they noted that other churches were also present there. What set Emmanuel apart, they said, was the sense of confidence in our church expressed by those at the Pride booth. Kudos to Michael and the concert crew, kudos to Membership and

This conversation was a strong affirmation of Emmanuel. To say that we have confidence is not to say that we are arrogant or boastful about our congregation. It is to say that we have purpose and mission, that we are engaged in practicing our faith, and that others can readily see that.

As I have listened to you for the last few years, I have come to believe that there was a time when you did not have this confidence. There was a time when you came to believe that the money would run out, the human energy would run out, and our church would cease to exist. That belief laid a foundation for many of your decisions. You tended to make decisions in the direction of conserving resources to extend life as long as possible. Hearing these newcomers' remark on your confidence was a signal to me that you no longer believe that. Instead, you believe that you have a future. That is a wonderful shift.

I firmly believe that Emmanuel does have a future. That future will arrive as we are living out the mission and purpose to which God has called us. In the coming weeks, we will be hearing recommendations from the Finance Summit and the Capital Campaign Committee. These recommendations will be about allocating resources and exercising stewardship for the present and future of our congregation. As we receive those recommendations and make congregational decisions, I hope that you will join me in leaning into the word of the Lord as it came to the people of Judah through the prophet Jeremiah:

*"For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

Blessings,
Kathy



Coming soon to a pulpit near you

Pastor Kathy will take time away to celebrate graduations with her daughters Molly (B.A, Pomona College) and Erin (A.A. Bard College at Simon's Rock.) In her absence we welcome two other Baptist ministers to our pulpit.



May 17 – Rev. Kymberly McNair

The Rev. Kym McNair is a lifelong resident of Northern Westchester, NY. She is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York where she studied Hebrew Bible and Practical Theology. As the Associate Minister at Antioch Baptist Church, she is the coordinator of the Social Justice Ministry. For the past 5 years she has worked at My Sisters' Place, a domestic violence agency, and she is also a member of collaborative of religious leaders working to address child sexual abuse in faith communities in New York City.

Kym loves challenging herself to live outside of her comfort zone and has zip lined, run/walked a Spartan Sprint and recently competed in her first powerlifting competition. Her most important role is being Titi to her twin nieces, Lydia and Olivia.



May 24 – Rev. Jerrod Huguenot

The Rev. Jerrod Huguenot is the Associate Executive Minister for American Baptist Churches of New York State. A lifelong American Baptist, he attended Ottawa University and Central Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastoral ministry experience in rural Kansas and metro Kansas City. Before coming to New York, he was the pastor at the First Baptist Church of Bennington, Vermont for 7 years. He served on the American Baptist General Board (2002-2007) and presently serves on the Christian Ethics Commission of the Baptist World Alliance. He lives in

Albany with his wife Kerry Shermer and their peaceable (?) kingdom of three cats (Biblia, Paige, and Codex) and a young beagle mix (Fable).

Attention...

Congregational Meeting Scheduled

A specially called Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on **May 31**. This meeting will focus on two issues raised at the quarterly meeting in April -- the allocation of Room for Grace funds and a new capital campaign anticipated to launch later this year.

Financial Summit members have already been working on these things for the last several months. They are preparing clear and concise explanations and recommendations to enable us to make informed decisions for our future. This will be an important conversation. Please make every effort to be present.



CROP Walk

May 3

12:30 Registration

1:30 kick-off at First Lutheran Church

There are many ways to support this annual fundraiser:

- Recruit sponsors and walk the 3 ½ mile route
- Walk the “Golden Mile”
- Hold participants in your prayers
- Sponsor a member of Emmanue’ls team

If you have questions, speak with Karen Green.



**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

May: toothpaste

In addition to the scheduled monthly item requested by the Food Pantry, there is a special need for bar soap, disposable razors and diapers (size 4-6). Donations may be placed in the designated basket at the back of the sanctuary.



Volunteers Needed

In the spring and summer months, FOCUS operates **Breakfast Express** at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. This is a simpler meal than what is offered during Winter Breakfast. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving, please contact

Volunteer Coordinator Belinda in the FOCUS office, 443-0460 or belindaq@focuschurches.net

A Special Message from Corporate Management

Jim Woodard has been a special sexton for us. How can we describe that special quality? Decades of service to Emmanuel Church, with warm smiles and understated support, might be one way. Dedicated, consistent, and loyal are other adjectives. A witness to extensive change. A complex collection of insight, history and technical knowledge of Emmanuel, might be yet another.

Jim has worked during the week, as well as every Sunday morning. Since his fall in January, we have sorely missed Jim and learned how much we depended on him. So it is with nostalgia that we celebrate Jim’s retirement after more than 35 years of working with Emmanuel.

Please join our congregation in a celebration of Jim on Sunday, June 21st (Father’s Day) after church service.

Love Gift, collected in May and June, will represent a token of our appreciation of Jim at his retirement. Please help make this a wonderful celebration and plan to attend. Be sure to clearly mark any contribution as “Love Gift” in the memo line.



Thank
you

We are now in the midst of Eastertide, anticipating the celebration of Pentecost. A few weeks ago, we were observing Lent. Lent Committee members for 2015 were Andrea Carver, Chelah Collins, Judy Henningson, Beeca Leet, Edith Leet, and Ericka Silverman. In spite of a Lenten season that began in February and snowstorms that cancelled two meetings, they arranged for the first intergenerational Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday service of Pastor Kathy's tenure. The judges awarded extra degree of difficulty points to the choir for their performance of "The Seven Last Words of Christ" in near darkness on Maundy Thursday. A special thank you is due to Judy Henningson for the white banners currently displayed in the sanctuary helping us to celebrate Resurrection.

As the apostle Paul wrote, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (I Corinthians 12:4-6)
Thanks be to God!

Over the course of the year, we receive five special offerings which are distributed through American Baptist Churches/USA and/or the American Baptist Churches of New York State. With two of the five done for 2015, here is where we stand:



Retired Missionaries and Ministers -- This offering goes to provide emergency support and thank you checks to persons who served in professional ministry during their working years. Emmanuel gave **\$590** to this offering in January 2015, compared with **\$511** in 2014.

America For Christ -- Monies collected support a wide variety of personnel and projects in the United States and Puerto Rico, including neighborhood action programs, chaplaincy programs, partnerships with American Baptist colleges and seminaries and refugee resettlement initiatives. Twenty-nine percent of our gifts are returned to the New York region for ministry. Emmanuel gave **\$656** to this offering in March 2015, compared with **\$637** in 2014.

Thank for your generosity. The next special offering will be **One Great Hour of Sharing** to be received in June. Look for more information in the June *Mosaic*. In the meantime, keep in mind that one way to support relief efforts after the devastating earthquake in Nepal is through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. All gifts designed for Nepal will be distributed through our mission partners in that region. Gifts may be made at any time. Designate it for One Great Hour of Sharing and for Nepal, if you so desire.

Looking ahead... Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship
June 7, 10 a.m. Colonie Mohawk River Park
Be sure to sign up!

Notice of Meetings...

- May 5 ~ Finance Summit: 6:00
- 7 ~ Pastoral Relations Com. 6:30
- 12 ~ Coordinating Council: 5:30
- 17 ~ Diaconate
- 25 ~ Church Office Closed



Nursing Home Visits Continue



The Choir will share their gift of song at the Clare Bridget in Niskayuna on Saturday, May 16. 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.



Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the Normanside restaurant on May 6, 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. We hope you'll join us!



The children at the "Children's Table" in the sanctuary want to thank

Michele Calvin for the lovely plastic canvas basket that she made to hold our crayons. It's beautiful. Thank you, Michele!



**Looking Out:
the Power of Nature and Music
Trio Concert**

Amanda Boyd-Grout, soprano
Joseph Rutkowski, clarinet
Michael Clement, piano

Saturday, May 16, 7:30 pm

featuring music by
Donizetti, Spohr, Vaughan Williams
Poulenc, Arnold, McCabe
Admission free/donations appreciated

Happy Birthday

- Kaw Gay Hei
- Beth Malone
- Gwendolyn Spann
- Ericka Silverman
- Noah Silverman
- David Malone



- 1st
- 11th
- 15th
- 21st
- 22nd
- 23rd

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

**Deadline for the June issue
of the MOSAIC: May 18.**



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