

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings



My daughters attend institutions which put the “Liberal” in Liberal Arts. At their graduation ceremonies, we heard speeches reflecting the worldview of those who lean left on political and social issues in our culture. These speeches were made by graduating students and alumni. It was evident that there is much passion on these campuses around issues

of racism, sexism, sexual violence, and environmental stewardship, and appreciation for the diversity represented by differences among many human beings. I am aware that many Christians of many ages share those concerns and interests and do so in ways that flow authentically from their faith. I am also aware that many Christians across generations have not seen these concerns as valid or relevant to their lives. One effect of that disregard is that young adults in America increasingly see Christianity as invalid or irrelevant to their lives.

Early in May, I attended the New York Minister’s Council Retreat which had an educational component on *The Church of the Future*. In attempting to imagine the church of the future, we looked back at the dominant communication style of churches in the past. Oral culture was the norm for churches from the first century to the Reformation. Print culture became possible at the time of the Reformation with the invention of the printing press. Broadcast culture took hold as televisions proliferated in American homes. Each one of these communication cultures shaped church life in significant ways. As just one example: print culture taught us to value individual autonomy because a people could read scripture alone, for themselves, rather than relying on the literate priest to read it for them, as in the oral culture. There were many changes like that as the cultures shifted, changes that we simply take for granted, as if things have always been this way.

We are now living in the digital age. In many ways, the digital age combines aspects of each of the earlier communication cultures, but communication is more immediate and

Continued...

technology enables multiple participants in any conversation. On this retreat, we learned more than I can repeat in this article, but I will be happy to talk more in another setting. I found these two implications for church in the digital age to be the most interesting:

- 1) Worship in the digital age is flexible/intuitive/open-ended. Transparency is valued over high production values. Immediate appraisal and adaptation is expected. Worship is interactive.
- 2) Community is a byproduct of connected lives. The church provides ways to connect daily life with faith and faith with daily life.

Human beings are diverse and no one church will reach everyone. This is why churches occupy so many places along theological, cultural, political spectrums. Few churches are engaging young adults in our culture and few of those are engaging young adults on the left end of the spectrum. I believe that if any church can engage these young adults, Emmanuel is positioned to do so. We share their concerns about social issues and we do so from a place of authenticity. And we have already embraced many of the values of digital age communication; communication which simply feels normal to these young adults who have never experienced life without a computer. I am hopeful for the young adults of this post-modern generation, for what faith communities will mean to them, and for how they will shape faith communities, including and especially Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Blessings,
Kathy



Church Picnic and Outdoor Worship

June 7, 10 am

at Colonie Mohawk River Park

Beverages and meat for the grill will be provided;
please bring a dish to share.

A sign up sheet is available in fellowship hall.



Summer Reading Possibilities

Many Emmanuelites are avid readers. Pastor Kathy has a few books she picked up at recent conferences which she is willing to lend. Some of them she hasn't even read herself yet, so this offer is not necessarily an endorsement. Some of the books available are:

***Shantung Compound* by Langdon Gilkey** "For even saintly folk will act like sinners, Unless they have their customary dinners." That's the theme of *Shantung Compound*. Take a diverse group of 1,500 Brits and Americans, shut them up in close quarters for two and one-half years in an internment camp, feed them barely enough to survive, let them rule themselves, and see what happens. That's what happened to the foreigners in the Japanese-controlled parts of China during World War II. Langdon Gilkey was a young American teacher at Yenching University near Peking, China, until his internment. This book is based on the journal he kept during that time. Later in adulthood, he was a professor of theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

***The Invisible Girls* by Sarah Thebarger**

After nearly dying of breast cancer in her twenties, Sarah Thebarger fled her successful career, her Ivy League education, and a failed relationship, and moved nearly 3,000 miles from the East Coast to Portland, Oregon, hoping to quietly pick up the pieces of her broken life. Instead, a chance encounter on the train with a family of Somali refugees swept her into an adventure that changed all of their lives.

Half a world away from Somalia, Hadhi was fighting battles of her own. Abandoned by her husband, she was struggling to raise five young daughters in a culture she didn't understand. When their worlds collide with Sarah's, Hadhi and the girls were on the brink of starvation in their own home, "invisible" in a neighborhood of strangers. As Sarah helped Hadhi and the girls navigate American life, her unexpected outreach to the family became both a source of courage and a lifeline for herself.

***Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor**

Taylor has become increasingly uncomfortable with our tendency to associate all that is good with lightness and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness. Doesn't God work in the nighttime as well? In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." She argues that we need to move away from our "solar spirituality" and ease our way into appreciating "lunar spirituality" (since, like the moon, our experience of the light waxes and wanes). Through darkness we find courage, we understand the world in new ways, and we feel God's presence around us, guiding us through things seen and unseen. Often, it is while we are in the dark that we grow the most. Taylor is our guide through a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments.

***Stations of the Heart: Parting With a Son* by Richard Lischer**

Stations of the Heart is a father's heartbreaking and hopeful story about his beloved son, in which a young man teaches his family "a new way to die" with wit, candor, and grace. As the book opens, Richard Lischer's son, Adam, calls to tell his father, a professor of divinity at Duke University, that his cancer has returned. Adam is a charismatic young man with a promising law career, and that his wife is pregnant with their first child makes the disease's return all the more devastating. Despite the cruel course of the illness, Adam's growing weakness evokes in him a remarkable spiritual strength. This is the story of one last summer, lived as honestly and faithfully as possible. *Stations of the Heart* is a book about life and death and the terrible blessing of saying good-bye.



From Service to Others...



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be Received

It's that time of year again when we are given the marvelous opportunity to share in the abundance of needs of our sisters and brothers by contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing. By the grace of God, all of us have the power to give, and the gifts we give make the world more the way God intended it to be – a place where everyone has what they need. Together, we can achieve a fair balance on this planet we all share, giving right back to God what God has so richly bestowed upon us.

The Apostle Paul modeled this ecumenical offering in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, making an appeal to the early Christian communities to respond to those in Jerusalem who had just experienced a devastating famine. Thus, Paul's ecumenical, church-wide offering was not only practical in leveraging funds so they could make the most impact, together, but it was also one of the first visible expressions of the early Church's unity in Christ. This offering, or ministry, was a way for Paul to model the unity of all believers and to provide a pragmatic mechanism for demonstrating their care and concern for one another – even if they did not know each other personally. Just as we do through One Great Hour of Sharing.

This offering reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own congregation or community, and at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in desperate need of our compassion and generosity. God provides the gifts and resources so that we can give back. It's not the size of the gift that matters; it's that we give of what we have. We're simply giving back to God what is already God's – and everyone has a gift to bring!

As the Church in the world, through One Great Hour of Sharing, we have the opportunity to act in one accord as the body of Christ, to ensure that all of God's children have what they need. This is the offering that Paul was promoting, and this is still our ministry, all these centuries later. Together, we will achieve a fair balance, bringing about a world the way God intended it to be.

Please prayerfully consider your donation to this special offering which we will receive on two Sundays in June: June 14 and 21.

Seniors on the Go...

Sponsored by CACC: reservations at 462-5450

June 4, 12:30

Lunch & Movie

"Into the Woods"

at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
\$10 for members, \$12 for non-members

June 17, 9:30-4:30

Mahayana Buddhist Temple in Leeds

Cost: \$55 members; \$58 non-members

Tour, lunch, transportation

Depart from St. Sophia's



*“to everything there is a season.
A time and place for everything under
heaven...”*

Ecclesiastes 3

To the FOCUS Congregations

Dear Friends:

Today I share with you my intention to bring my work with FOCUS Churches of Albany to a close. With God’s help, I have determined it is now time for me to move on to the next step in my journey.

Since 1999 I have been blessed with the most meaningful and challenging work of my career so far. It has been a calling, my life’s work in this time and place and I have been honored and privileged to have walked with you in this shared life called FOCUS.

I will leave fulfilled in the knowledge that together we have accomplished a significant piece in our common ministries. We received the mantle from ecumenical visionaries and created a faith based nonprofit organization that lives out of a mission of hospitality, mercy, advocacy and justice. It is a hybrid ministry that continues to be an ongoing experiment of living God’s reign together.

There are many FOCUS chapters ahead, and I truly believe God is with you and blesses you with all good things as you continue this gift called FOCUS.

I will be transitioning from FOCUS at the end of the year. The specifics of next steps are both nebulous and clear—I look forward to what God has for me next. I hope to see you around as I plan to stay put and work and play in the Capital Area.

We are on the journey together. Know that you have blessed me and have been to me a great community of support, challenge and care.

Sincerely, with gratitude and love,

Rev. Debra Jameson

From the FOCUS Executive Council

In light of Rev. Deb Jameson’s announcement that she will be leaving her position at the end of the year, the Council has begun a review of FOCUS’s mission and the role of the Director of Community Ministry as we plan the next phase of our common ministry. We ask for your support and prayers as we move through this time of transition for FOCUS. If you have questions or concerns, you can speak with me, Andrea Carver or Pastor Kathy (Emmanuel members on the Executive Council).

Nancy Horan, President



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

No. 2 pencils
(sharpened)
Pencil
sharpeners
Pencil
pouches

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 (not fancy)

Pencil boxes, plastic
2" pink erasers
Pens — blue or black
Crayons — 24 count
Colored markers
Colored pencils
Dry-erase markers
Yellow highlighters
Glue sticks
Calculators

If you have questions, you may contact Becca Leet.



Special Invitation to FOCUS Youth

This summer, Westminster Presbyterian Church is hosting a **Summer Mission Program** where middle school and high school youth will spend 3 full days **Serving Albany** in the South End. There will be work on vacant lots in the neighborhood, clean up work and gardening, as well as painting indoors. (Monday, June 29, Tuesday June 30th, and July 1st) After work each day, they will gather for games, worship and dinner together. Youth from FOCUS Churches are invited to participate. This is a great opportunity to be serving our community. Please contact Pastor

Frances Rosenau @ 436-8544 or fwrosenau@wpcalbany.org for more information.

FOCUS gardeners! Tis the season to plant your vegetables. How about planting an extra row with the intent of sharing your extra harvest of fresh produce with the Food Pantry? Contact the FOCUS office if you have questions. (433-0460)



We're ready to hit the road to bring **Gardening in a Bucket** to Albany family shelters, schools and summer day camps. Children learn about growing and caring for vegetable plants while they decorate pots and assemble a portable garden to take home with them.

We need volunteers to assist staff. If you can commit an hour or two call Belinda at 443-0460 or e-mail belindaq@focuschurches.net for dates, times & locations.

Funding for this project is provided by FOCUS donors along with a small grant from the American Baptist Church Matthew 25 funds.



Open House at Pathfinder Lodge

June 6, 10:00 to 3:00

Rain or Shine

Free lunch, tours, crafts, campfire, fun and fellowship

From the Membership & Evangelism Commission

On Sunday, May 17, the Rev. Kymberly McNair was a guest preacher at Emmanuel. She spoke about Acts 1:22b – “For one of these must become a witness with us of Christ’s resurrection.” As part of her benediction, she clarified, that all of us are included in this admonition – Each of us is one who must become a witness (or bear witness) with one another.

Here is your chance! Emmanuel is participating in the 45th Annual Capital Pride Parade and Festival ***Come join with your Emmanuel Family as we show off our COLORS and bear witness to our Welcoming and Affirming Faith at the Capital PRIDE Parade and Festival.***

Emmanuel has long been known for and committed to our Welcoming and Affirming stance. We are a congregation that has proven time and again that we believe all are equal in the sight of God, regardless of any of the many diversities within the human race. As a church we have welcomed LGBTQ folks into participation, membership, and leadership. We have provided a place of refuge for believers who may hear mixed messages from many other faith communities.

Last year, 11 Emmanuel folks took part in the Capital PRIDE, walking in the parade behind an Emmanuel banner and/or attending the Emmanuel booth at the Festival. It was a beautiful, sunny day in Albany’s historic Washington Park. We would like to at least double our participation this year. So, please consider joining us as we celebrate diversity. RP



Saturday, June 13, 2015

Parade Line-up by 11 a.m.

Parade Steps off at Noon

Festival continues (music, food, vendors, people-watching) until 5 PM

Talk to Ruth, Andrea or Danielle for more information, or to let us know you’re planning to be there. If you’re going to march with us, we’d like to know to keep an eye out for you!

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Come and Celebrate!

Corporate Management Commission invites you to a special reception *in honor of Jim Woodard* on the occasion of his retirement. Jim has provided decades of service to Emmanuel Church, with warm smiles and understated support. Dedicated, consistent, loyal and a witness to extensive change, Jim has served Emmanuel selflessly for more than 35 years.

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





Pathfinder Camp Wish List

FURNITURE

Sturdy dressers
End tables/night stands
Door mats**
Card tables (folding)

HEALTH LODGE

Medical or sport tape
Shower curtains
Rubber or latex gloves
Hand sanitizer
4x4 gauze
large bandaids

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Life jackets – vest style
(any size)
Canoe paddles
Canoes, kayaks
Rope
Tent stakes
Volleyballs
Kick balls
Water shoes (all sizes)
Dive-quality masks & fins
(adult sizes)

FOOD ITEMS

Cake & brownie mixes
Bisquick
Minute rice
Pasta
Peanut butter &
jelly/Nutella
Peanuts
Chocolate chips
Raisins
Bottled water (Gallon)

PAPER GOODS

Paper towels
Toilet paper (white, single
ply)
Napkins
Paper plates (heavy duty)
Cups, hot & cold (7-9 oz)
Paper muffin cups
Plastic forks and spoons
Zip lock bags – all sizes

MAINTENANCE

Paint brushes (including
disposable)**
Brooms**
Rakes & shovels
Sponge mops**
Good working vacuum
cleaners**
Dehumidifiers**
Tarps- esp. large **
Indoor Lightbubs

OTHER KITCHEN ITEMS

Liquid dish soap
Liquid hand soap
Disinfectant wipes (e.g.
Clorox)

CRAFTS & PROGRAM

Markers
Construction paper, card
stock
Beading thread or wire,
esp. elastic cord
Glitter, sequins, ribbons,
trims
Tape: masking, cellophane,
duct **
Colored sand
Fabric paints
Fabric dye
Fun foam
White T-shirts
Clay
Boondoggle
Candle wicking
Ink pads
Old candles
Metal coffee cans with lids
Music stands
Tulip Tie Dye
Embroidery Thread
Unused birthday or note
cards, with
envelopes**



Focus Summer Worship Schedule:

All services will be held at 9:30 a.m.

July 5 - at First Presbyterian

Aug. 2 - at Emmanuel Baptist

Sept. 6 - at Trinity Methodist

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

June: bar soap

Summer Office Hours ~ 9:00 to 1:00

Hats Off to Our Graduates!

Congratulations to

***Molly Wilkerson** who received her B.A. from Pomona College and **Erin Wilkerson** who earned A.A. from Bard College at Simon's Rock.*

Molly will begin studies at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles in August.

Erin will work this summer at Blue Rider Stables in Great Barrington, MA which provides a therapeutic riding program for persons with disabilities. In the fall she will continue at Bard College at Simon's Rock, working towards completion of a B.A. in Psychology.

Notice of Meetings...

June 9 ~ Coordinating Council: 5:30

14 ~ Diaconate

26-28 ~ Biennial in Kansas City

**Children's
Day
June 14**

American Baptist Women Summer Meeting

July 11

Clifton Park Center Church

For more information, contact Karen Kendall.

Happy Birthday...

Audrey Ford

Claudette Mink

Natalie Johnson

Elaine Spoor

Donna Brown

Danielle Johnson

Barbara Lahut

Bob Green

Sarah Malone

Edie Simpson

Robin Bray

Adele LaBarge

Erin Wilkerson

Ken Cole

Edith Leet

Kathy Landers-Wise



3rd

5th

7th

8th

8th

9th

9th

10th

13th

17th

18th

19th

19th

19th

29th

29th



**Deadline for the Summer issue
of the MOSAIC is June 18.**



**Summer
Begins...
June 21!**

Emmanuel Baptist Church
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