

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161

emmanuelalbany@juno.com

September 2015

Volume XXXVI No. 8

Pastoral Ponderings

In a sermon about the Babylonian exile, I mentioned that I had never planted asparagus because I had never stayed in one place long enough to be able to harvest it. After that, a few of you told me you hoped that I would plant asparagus here in Albany. True confession: I still haven't planted asparagus. But this spring, Jim and I planted two apple trees in our backyard. They are supposed to bear fruit in 2-5 years. Knowing how things tend to go for us, I expect it will take the longer part of that time frame, and we definitely hope to be the ones to harvest those apples.



I am beginning my sixth year as your pastor. From my point of view, it has been a solid time of building strong relationships, continuing vital ministries and starting a few new ones. The five-year mark seems like a good time to stop and assess our journey together. How are we doing in our walk with Christ? How am I, as your pastor, helping or hindering your discipleship? How are we, as companions on the journey for each other, enabling mutual mission and service and spiritual growth? The Pastoral Relations Committee has created a tool to allow us to answer those questions in some specific ways. The surveys will be distributed at the potluck on September 13. They will also be mailed out to those not in attendance that day. If you don't receive one, please call the church office. Your honest, thoughtful responses to the survey questions will be most appreciated.

Many of you invested yourselves this summer to prepare for much of our life together this fall. The Stewardship Committee, which has done great work for the last several years, has proposed that we move to a unified budget, which will be voted on at the October congregational meeting. "Faithing Up to Racism" is the theme of a one-day retreat with members of the Emmanuel-Friedens Church in November. Prior to the retreat, we can start to get to know each other through a bonfire/hayride in October and a pulpit exchange in November. Sunday School teachers for children and youth have been recruited and trained. Even the Advent committee has begun deliberations! Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more information on these and other happenings. There is much to engage body, heart and soul at Emmanuel.

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another . . . Hebrews 10:24-25a*

*Blessings,
Kathy*



Mark your Calendar!
100 Mile Potluck
and
Tour Sunday School Rooms
September 13th

Vacation is over, school is back in session, and our Emmanuel family will gather with renewed energy and enthusiasm following our summer travels and adventures, far and near.

On Sunday September 13th please make or bring a “local” dish, with food utilizing ingredients purchased or grown within a 100 mile radius of Albany. Even if you don’t have a garden yourself, farmer’s markets are all around, and many stores now are selling locally produced fruits, vegetables, meats and dairy products. Not only does this support local merchants, but helps reduce our carbon footprint, in not transporting goods across the country.

At the close of the worship service, the Christian Growth commission invites you to visit their Sunday School classrooms. Come see the teachers and support staff, who are striving to impart the love of God to these young hearts and minds.

While the pot luck foods are being heated up and arranged for buffet serving, our Pastoral Relations committee members will be assisting you to pick up your survey or take the web-link home with you to do the survey on-line later. Be sure to check your name off our list, so we don’t also mail you a copy!

Although Sunday 9/13 will be our first service at Emmanuel in September, we will not be having communion that day. If communion is important to you, be sure to join the FOCUS community at 9:30 AM on 9/6 for the final summer FOCUS service at Trinity Methodist.



You are cordially invited to our
4th Annual

PATRONS’ DINNER

featuring Special Guest

Bishop John Macholz

Upstate New York Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Thursday, September 24, 2015

6:00 p.m. Silent Auction

7:00 Dinner & Program

First Lutheran Church

181 Western Avenue (ample parking is available)

Please RSVP by September 18

Another New Face at Emmanuel

Anyone who arrives early on Sunday mornings will be greeted by Pru Ka La, our new Sunday morning sexton. He is learning all the set up routines and will be providing security during worship. Pru Ka La is a member of the Karen church and is familiar with our building.

Pru Ka La came to this country four years ago with his mother. The two of them live nearby and Pru Ka La works in manufacturing during the week. Be sure to stop by and introduce yourself. If you need something, he will do his best to assist you. Welcome, Pru Ka La!



If you happen to be at church on a Monday morning, you may notice a lot of activity in the parlor. For a few months now, EBC has been the site of Quick Help, a service of the Refuge Community Health Partnership.

Every Monday, Quick Help offers assistance to between 3 to 10 refugee families who are navigating American culture and systems. The issues addressed might include filling out school forms or learning how to pay a parking ticket or reading English correspondence. Most of the time, the Refuge Community Health Partnership has sufficient numbers of volunteers present, including volunteer interpreters who speak Karen or Burmese.

One of the potential but underutilized advantages of having Quick Help at Emmanuel is its proximity to the Department of Social Services. Many of the people who come to us have issues that can be most efficiently resolved by accompanying them to DSS. However, doing that requires having a long time American volunteer plus an interpreter leave Quick Help to spend an indeterminate period of time at DSS. We would need more volunteers, including interpreters, to ensure continuous coverage at Emmanuel.

If you are looking for a way to minister to the Karen community, one way to do that is as a Quick Help volunteer. Here's a description of what a Quick Help volunteer does: You commit to regular weekly 3-hour sessions (e.g. Monday or Wednesday mornings) at designated locations. With the help of volunteer interpreters, you provide various kinds of assistance on matters that can be readily resolved or referred during the session or continued the following week - e.g. making health related appointments, completing forms and responding to notifications related to Medicaid, health insurance plans and government benefits programs, helping with questions regarding bills, completing job applications and resumes, explaining documents from a child's school, contacting landlords, etc.

Quick Help is not a ministry of Emmanuel, but we are happy to host it. If you want more information on volunteering, including a volunteer application, please visit

<http://www.trinityalliancealbany.org/rchpp/>



FOCUS On Schools Needs Volunteers

Below are the dates when we will assemble and distribute the school supplies. Can you volunteer some time? Please **sign up in advance** with Belinda Quaye either by phone or by email: belindaq@focuschurches.net (518) 443-0460

Preparation Days from 10 a.m. to 12 noon: Tuesday, Sept. 1
Wednesday, Sept. 2
Distribution Days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Wednesday, Sept. 2
Thursday, Sept. 3
Friday, Sept. 4



Focus Summer Worship:
at 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 6 - at Trinity Methodist

Why Use a Unified Budget

The Stewardship Committee and Coordinating Council are recommending that Emmanuel should change to a unified budget process, beginning this upcoming (2016) budget year. There are three basic reasons for the change:

1. Many people find the old budget system confusing. This includes many “new givers”.
2. Research shows that churches that use a unified budget have fewer financial problems than those that use older (2 or 3 pocket) budget programs.
3. A unified budget emphasizes the unity of the work at EBC. It says that we, as a congregation, are committed to all aspects of our mission for Christ.

In a unified budget process, we will make one, unified pledge to the church, which will be dispersed according to a written budget. That unified budget will be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting, just as in the past.

Historically, EBC has used a “2 pocket” budget system, named after the old envelopes that churches used with two or three separate pockets for donations. Historically, we have had one budget for the expenses and programs of the church (Current Expense) and a second budget (Benevolence) for certain missions outside of EBC, such as the Capital Area Council of Churches or ABC-USA. Both budgets were printed in the book of annual reports and voted on at the annual meeting. Many (but not all) members of the congregation pledged to both budgets.

Coordinating Council and the Trustees will continue to draft the lines of the budget that cover expenses and programs of the church. Service to Others Commission will continue to draft a plan to administer mission giving. The amount given by EBC to mission will not decrease under this plan. The Current Expense Treasurer and Benevolence Treasurer will continue to write their respective checks, as directed by the budget. Special offerings and funds (ABC offerings, fellowship fund, contingency mission fund) will be unaffected by the change.

This plan will be discussed and voted on at the October congregational meeting.

From the Current Expense Treasurer:

A quarterly congregational meeting was held on August 9. Here is a summary of the Current Expense income and expense, as of July 30.

Income through 30 July:

Pledge: \$54,024.60 (Budget: \$56,551.10)

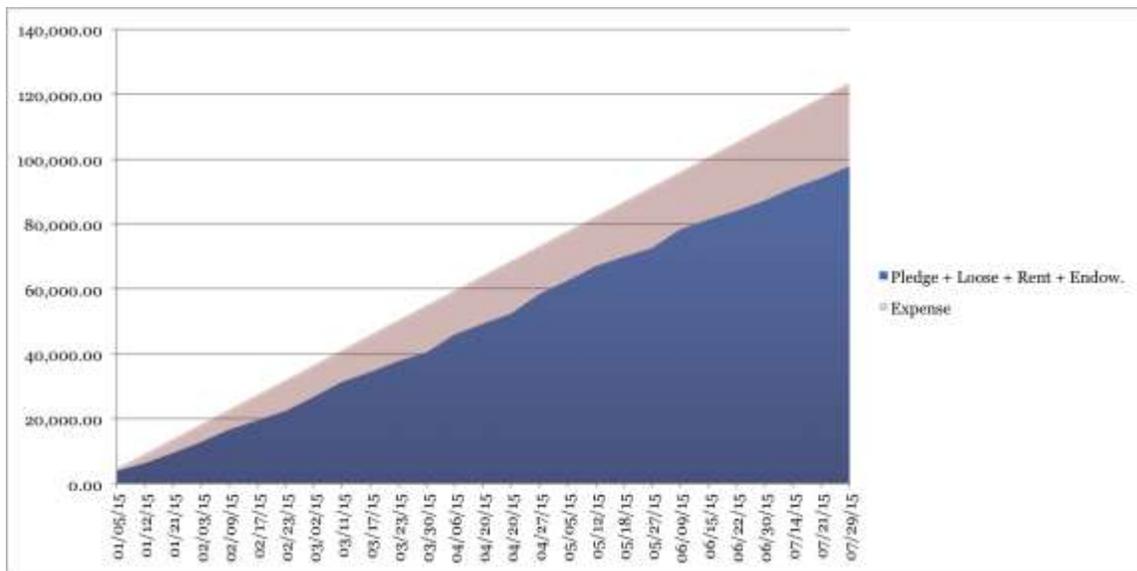
Rent: \$21,475.00 (Budget: \$22,854.83; all tenants are up-to-date, day use is \$1,425.32 under budget)

Total Income: \$98,984.58 (Budget: \$106,216.41)

Expense through 30 July:

Total Expense: \$121,363.91 (Budget: \$124,811.97)

Below is a figure illustrating the cumulative weekly (actual) income and budgeted expense, as of July 30.



Questions are welcome, and should be directed to Kathleen Moore.

**ABC/NY Mission Conference
October 16-17, 2015
Delta Lake Bible Conference Center
Rome, NY**

Special Guests:
Vital & Ketly Pierre, Missionaries in Nicaragua
The Dunnemans, Worship Leaders
plus others!

Conference Fees:
\$85/person for full-time program, housing (3 in a room), and 3 meals
\$45/person for full-time program, commuter, and 3 meals
\$15/person additional fee for double occupancy



Financial assistance is available through the Christian Growth & Development Commission.

2015 Faith for a Fair New York Retreat

October 11, 2015

Dominican Retreat Center (1945 Union St., Niskayuna)



Join people of faith from around the state for our annual Faith for a Fair New York Retreat. This year's retreat will explore how the shift to a low-wage, high-inequality economy is impacting communities across the state and what people of faith can do about it.

We'll look at successful movements in New York and across the country - including the Fight for 15 and Moral Mondays - and look ahead to what we can expect in New York in the coming year.

Throughout, we'll pay particular attention to the role of faith communities in the struggle for justice here in New York.

Speakers will include:

- **Roz Pelles**, longtime civil rights and labor activist and a key leader of the North Carolina Moral Mondays movement, serving as interim executive director of the North Carolina NAACP from 2013-2014. Previously she was the director of Civil, Women's and Human Rights for the AFL-CIO from 2005-2013.
- **Bishop Howard Hubbard**, co-chair of the Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS and bishop emeritus of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. For decades, Bishop Hubbard has been a leading moral voice for economic justice in New York State and throughout the country, .
- **Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis**, Co-Director of the Kairos Center for Rights, Religions and Social Justice and a Founder and the Coordinator of the Poverty Initiative. She has spent the past two decades organizing among the poor in the United States, working with and advising grassroots organizations including the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, the Vermont Workers Center, Domestic Workers United, the United Workers Association, the National Union of the Homeless and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union.
- **Willie Baptist**, Poverty Initiative Scholar-in-Residence and Co-Coordinator of Poverty Scholarship and Leadership Development for the Kairos Center for Rights, Religions and Social Justice. Willie is a formerly homeless father of three who came out of the Watts uprisings and the Black Student Movement. He has 50 years of experience educating and organizing among the poor and dispossessed including with the United Steelworkers, the National Union of the Homeless, and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union.
- **Judith Green**, co-founder of Justice Strategies and one of the nation's leading criminal justice policy experts whose essays and articles on criminal sentencing issues, police practices, and correctional policy have been published in numerous books, as well as in national and international journals. Ms. Greene has over thirty years of experience researching, writing and orchestrating criminal justice reform.
-

Registration Costs:

Full event (registration, single room for Sunday and Monday, meals) - \$225

Full event, early registration (by September 15) - \$200

Commuter (registration, meals) - \$125

Financial assistance is available to those who need it.

Please do not let a lack of funds keep you from attending!

Contact emcneill@labor-religion.org

FAITHING UP TO RACISM

November 21, 2015

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

First Reformed Church of Scotia
224 N Ballston Ave

Adults: \$20

Children and youth: FREE

Includes morning coffee, lunch thematic, age appropriate activities for children and youth

Scholarships available –
Don't let the registration cost keep you from attending. Please ask your pastor about using scholarship funds.

RELATED EVENTS

Bonfire/Hayride for all ages

Sunday, October 18

Immediately following worship

Riverview Orchards,

660 Riverview Rd, Rexford, NY

Hot dogs and S'mores. Dress warmly.

Pulpit Exchange

Sunday, November 8

10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Peter Carman will preach at Emmanuel Baptist Church of Albany. The Rev. Kathy Donley will preach at Emmanuel-Friedens Church.

Potluck Supper

Saturday, November 21

5:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Baptist Church

275 State Street in Albany

A chance for retreat-goers to share some of the day's insights with those who cannot attend. Another opportunity to deepen friendships between our two churches. Bring a dish to share.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25



In this troubling historical moment, many of us struggle to understand and navigate chronic racial issues. How does our faith help us even talk about race, let alone act in faithful ways to dismantle the structural racism of our day?

This one-day retreat offers a grace-filled opportunity to engage in spiritual practices, like humility and deep listening to experiences that are not our own, as we bring our faith to bear on this spiritual/political/human problem. Skilled facilitators (see next page) will tell stories and lead conversations to encourage our own sharing and fuller understanding.

Emmanuel Baptist and Emmanuel Friedens share more than our name: Both our congregations have a strong history of engagement with social issues and mission in the larger community. This workshop will help us get to know each other better and bring us closer as sister churches. By day's end, we also hope each of us individually will have identified one meaningful action step answering the question: "What can I do about racism in my life on a daily or weekly basis?" This retreat will fuel an ongoing supportive and faithful relationship between our congregations as we all seek to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."

FAITHING UP TO RACISM RETREAT FACILITATORS

VALERIE TUTSON graduated from Brown University with a self-designed major, Storytelling as a Communications Art, and a Masters degree in Theatre. Since 1991, she has traveled the country and the world teaching, gathering and sharing stories and songs. Her repertoire includes folktales, and personal and historical stories, with an empahsis on black traditions and first person Bible stories. A lifelong member of the United Church of Christ, she presents at national and regional events, and works inter-denominationally and ecumenically. Valerie knows that stories and storytelling offer us a bridge: to love ourselves, to love God, and to love one another, for the healing of us all.



THE REV. CINDY MAYBECK , founder of Spirit Story ministry, designs original presentations blending Scripture-telling and storytelling as a way to bring God’s word to life and to inspire the church to move forward in faith with hope and joy. She tells the Gospel by heart as it was first told in the early church. An inspiring and accomplished preacher, she served as pastor for 24 years, most recently at Trinity Church in Northborough, MA and previously at Bethany Christian United Parish in Worcester, MA. Cindy received her M.Div. with honors from Andover Newton Theological School.

Retreat Registration Due October 25

Please give completed forms and payment to a retreat committee member (Gretchen Scheu or Liselle LaFrance). Adult registration is \$20 each. Children and youth are free. Additional registration forms are available at church

Adult (s) _____

Child/youth _____

Age/grade _____

Phone _____

Child/youth _____

Age/grade _____

E-mail _____

Special Dietary Needs _____

Child/youth _____

Age/grade _____

Remember the Food Pantry...

September:
toilet paper

Men's Gathering Scheduled

Emmanuel men are invited to meet for lunch at the Normanside Restaurant at 11:45 on Wednesday, Sept. 2. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker or Roy Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged. Hope to see you there!

Contemporary Christian Concerns Class (CCC)

After the worship services on September 27th and October 4th, please join us in the parlor for a two-part workshop on the work of FOCUS and the connections to broader movement to end poverty.

- Sept 27- Karen Kendall and Becca Leet will share details about FOCUS programs, and we'll discuss the landscape of poverty in our community.
- Oct 4 - joined by representatives from the Capital District Area Labor Federation, we'll discuss the big-picture economic shifts that have been pushing more people into poverty.

Throughout, Joe Paparone from FOCUS and Joanna Nadeau will highlight the call of the local church to engage in anti-poverty work, and provide specific steps to action. We hope you'll join us as we discuss, discern, and act on God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves!



**Diaconate will convene
September 20**

*Deadline for October MOSAIC
September 18*

Looking Ahead...

Hayride

Sunday, October 18

Riverview Orchards in Rexford

All are Welcome!

If you have questions, speak with Gretchen Scheu.

Coming in November:

Pulpit Exchange on November 8

Pastor Kathy will visit Emmanuel/Freidens Church in Schenectady while their pastor, Peter Carman brings the morning message here at Emmanuel.

Happy Birthday...

Ruth Pushee
Judah Appe
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
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.

**After Labor Day:
Office Hours ~ 8:30 to 3:30
Office Closed ~ Sept. 7**



Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

