

THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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October 2015

Volume XXXVI No. 9



Pastoral Ponderings

The crisis in Syria has finally got the world's attention. The images are heart-wrenching. The scope of the problem is staggering. Half of Syria's population has been displaced. 4.1 million Syrians are now refugees. In our Sunday morning prayer times and other conversations, many of you have expressed your deep concern for these people who are enduring such suffering and loss and trauma. I know that many of us are regularly praying for those in crisis and those who are working to provide for immediate needs and longer term solutions. We are also praying for peace in Syria.

International Ministries of the ABC/USA has sent \$10,000 from One Great Hour of Sharing funds to our mission partners who provide direct services to Syrian refugees. Our own Service to Others commission sent \$1,000 from our contingency fund as well. As a denomination and as a church, we will continue to attend to this need.

In the meantime, I am aware that concern for refugees is not a new thing for Emmanuel. You have cared for refugees from Bosnia and Russia in the past. And many of us are even now in relationship with our sisters and brothers from the Karen congregation. Some of them, like Kaw Gay Hei and X Khoo Thut, and our own Ehseh Kapaw Wah, have gained U.S. citizenship, but they came here as refugees fleeing violent persecution in their homeland.

In August, we celebrated two years of partnership with the Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church (GKBC). Before they came to us, they had prayed for a hospitable place where they could be a thriving congregation. God enabled us to be the answer to their prayers – what a privilege! They have blessed us in many ways – with opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ, in celebrations of weddings and baptisms and shared worship services, with invitations to Karen New Year and personal milestones like citizenship ceremonies, with the presence of children who attend EBC worship and Sunday School, and by being a visible reminder that God is known and worshipped by people all over the world, many times in more vital ways than our current cultural expressions of the Christian faith.

Our original agreement was that the GKBC would contribute \$200 per month in rent. After the first year, they voluntarily increased that contribution to \$250. Their rent is always paid in

Cont'd...

advance and generally two or three months at a time. In gratitude for two weddings this summer, they gave us an additional \$500 as a gift. This is from a congregation who only began to pay their pastor a minimal salary in the last few months.

As we begin our third year of sharing space, the GKBC is starting a Sunday School on Saturdays. They will use the fellowship hall and the former youth room on the second floor west side. Saturday school will last from 11:00-12:00, but there will be people in the building before and after that time, because of transportation shuttles. The youth group will continue to rehearse music in fellowship hall until about 2:00, with spillover for transportation until 3:00. The Saturday School had formerly been in Karen homes, but has outgrown those spaces. We continue to work with each other, flexing our schedules to share space as needed. If you are part of a group planning an EBC activity on a Saturday, please be mindful of this.

I share your heartbreak over what is happening in Syria. We will continue to pray fervently for the Syrian people and the world's response. And in this moment, I am especially grateful that Emmanuel is being part of God's answer to prayer for refugees from Burma/Myanmar.

*Blessings,
Kathy*



We celebrate with Kaw Gay Hei and X Khoo Thut, members of the [Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church](#), who were sworn in as U.S. citizens on September 18. Present from Emmanuel to bear witness were: Kathy Moore, Judy Henningson, Marilyn Malone, Jean Burton, Barb Lahut, Kathy Donley, Sally Cole, Ken Cole, Jim Wilkerson and Tom Lahut (not pictured).



From Service to Others...



World Mission Offering to be Received

During the month of October you will have the opportunity to donate to the annual World Mission Offering. Your gifts support International Ministries' partners and nearly 1,800 missionaries and global workers in more than 70 countries around the world.

An example of your contributions at work is what is being done in once-Communist Hungary. The country is still recovering from forty years of repressive Communist rule, during which schools were controlled by the government. However, churches now have the opportunity to run schools where they can teach the Bible, nurture students in their faith, and open new doors by providing courses in conversational English. International Ministries partner, Hungarian Baptist Aid has been given the opportunity to manage 49 schools throughout the country.

Your support of WMO will help International Ministries recruit new global workers, provide ongoing behind-the-scenes support to sustain them in the field, and strengthen ties with partners around the world who are selflessly helping to spread the good news. Let us join together to help people everywhere come to Christ, grown in their relationships to God and change their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Beginning on October 4, envelopes will be provided for your convenience in supporting this annual appeal.

International Ministries Seeks Additional Funds

As the Syrian refugee crisis has deepened over the last four years, International Ministries has responded in several ways. Funds have been sent to assist refugees in Lebanon and to serve displaced people within Syria. As a first step in the recent response, IM sent an additional \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing emergency funding to provide immediate relief for Syrian refugees and IDPs. Of this grant, IM partners Hungarian Baptist Aid and the Union of Baptist Churches of Serbia have each been given \$5,000. The aid will be used to supply food and water, clothing, shelter and medical clinics. Future grants will support the efforts of all IM partners who are providing relief.

However, the pool of OGHS funds available to make initial emergency grants is significantly depleted. Therefore, the ability of IM to provide aid for Syrian IDPs and refugees will depend on giving that is focused on this need. You can make tax-deductible contributions through Emmanuel, online by credit card or by mailing a check to International Ministries, Attn: Syria Refugee Relief, PO Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482. All checks should be identified with "OGHS-Syria Relief" in the memo line. If you have questions about this appeal, you may speak with Karen Kendall.

Special Note: In response to this need, the Service to Others Commission has sent a \$1,000 gift from the commission's contingency fund.

Report on Regional Offering

In August, we received gifts for the American Baptist Churches of New York State. As of August 30, you had given \$950 which compares with \$829 in 2014. This offering supports our region staff who offer ongoing support to churches and pastors. It helps to provide for regional educational events, like one on church governance which several of us attended a few months ago, and the mission conference coming in October, which several of us are attending. Thank you for your generosity



During the Biennial Mission Summit, June 26-28, 2015, the epistle below was drafted and signed by many Biennial participants, including Pastor Kathy. The President of ABCUSA, Rev. Dr. Don Ng, read this letter before preaching the closing sermon of the event. Many years ago, the delegates at a Biennial Mission Summit could affirm a statement like this with a vote. That mechanism no longer exists. Instead all members of the ABCUSA family are invited to sign this document and commit ourselves to racial justice.

An Epistle of Metanoia from the 2015 Mission Summit to the ABCUSA family

In light of the sin of racism that has infected each and every part of our nation we, the gathered delegates and participants of the 2015 Mission Summit of American Baptist Churches USA, the most diverse Protestant body in our nation, grieve racism's effects on our people. Therefore, we collectively speak against and repent of our participation in the sin of racism wherever it is found. The presence of white supremacy for too long has gone unacknowledged and prevented us from living as the body of Christ.

Between now and the 2017 Mission Summit we urge each ABCUSA congregation to covenant in order to seek justice & reconciliation, hold one another accountable in this endeavor, and pursue local incarnated manifestations of the Beloved Community.

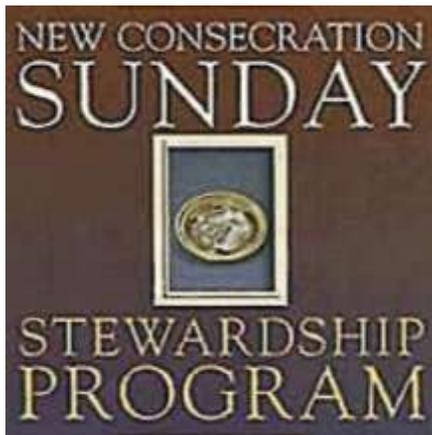
You may add your signature at this link: <http://www.abc-usa.org/2015/07/01/an-epistle-of-metanoia-from-the-2015-mission-summit-to-the-abcusa-family/>



The Rev. Dan Buttry was our mission speaker in 2013. He and his wife, Sharon, are global peace consultants with International Ministries.

Sharon and Dan and Henna Caiping from the Philippines are leading an intensive 10-day Training for Conflict Transformation Trainers for people in Asia and the Pacific. They are teaching activists skills and training tools in conflict resolution, mediation, nonviolent struggle, dealing with diversity, and trauma healing.

The original program was scheduled for February 2016 in the Philippines, but there was so much response that they have scheduled a second program the following 2 weeks. That means they need more scholarships than originally planned to bring activists from India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand, and many other countries. \$30 will provide for one day of room and board. \$60 will provide for flip chart papers. \$100 will provide for an air ticket within the Philippines. \$500 will provide for an air ticket from India. Every gift will help peacemakers be equipped to make a positive difference in the often violent conflicts in their homelands and throughout the region. If you wish to support this project, you may give directly at this link <https://www.gofundme.com/9q3pgzm8>. Or you may put designated gifts in the offering plate on Sunday (make sure they are clearly labeled) and we will forward them to International Ministries.



Consecration Sunday is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Barbara Lahut
Moderator



Winter Breakfast Volunteers Needed:

FOCUS Churches of Albany is looking for new volunteers for the Winter Breakfast Program. Are you interested and available? Please call the FOCUS office at 443.0460 or email Belinda at: belindaq@focuschurches.net (Shifts available T,W, & TH; full or half shifts available)



“Chopin: Champion of the Piano”

*A selection of Preludes, Nocturnes,
Etudes, Waltzes, Mazuks, Polonaise,
Ballades and other works*

Michael Clement, Pianist

Sunday, October 11

4 pm

Admission Free / donations appreciated

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

“I have this hunch that people really find Jesus compelling, and they see what Christianity really could be. But what they see instead, so often, is an institution that tries to protect itself and promote itself,” Nadia said. “I think they want to have a place where they can speak the actual truth about themselves in the world and they don’t have to pretend.”



Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

&

Saturday, December 12, 2015, 9:00am-4:00pm

(Lunch will not be provided for this event)

First Lutheran Church

181 Western Avenue

Albany, NY 12203

Nadia is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints, an ELCA mission church in Denver, Colorado. She is a recovering alcoholic who used to be a stand-up comedian. And she’s leading voice in the emerging church movement.

The Capital Region Theological Center is handling logistics and registration for this event. More information is available here <https://crtc.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=525>

If several people from EBC register together, we can get a group discount. Please speak with Pastor Kathy by October 25 if you plan to attend. The early registration deadline is November 6. Scholarship help is available from CRTC and from EBC.

Student-Friday Only	\$ 15.00
Student-Saturday Only	\$ 15.00
Student-Friday AND Saturday Combined	\$ 30.00
General Attendee-Friday Only	\$ 25.00
General Attendee-Saturday Only (Early Bird through 11/6)	\$ 105.00
General Attendee-Friday AND Saturday Combined (Early Bird through 11/6)	\$ 120.00

Oct. 25 Event to Celebrate Expansion of Interfaith Relations

Fifty years ago, on October 28, 1965, the Second Vatican Council issued the proclamation *Nostra Aetate*, which articulated the Roman Catholic Church's understanding of its relationship to other religions and its desire for closer interactions with them. The proclamation ushered in a new era of interfaith dialog, understanding, and respect.

You are invited to a celebration of this historic event on Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m. at the Howard Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, 959 Madison Avenue, on the St. Rose College campus. The celebration is co-sponsored by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO).

The program will include presentations by six faith traditions: Ba'hi, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Presenters will talk about their faith's perspective on *Nostra Aetate*, its impact on them in the decades since, and hopes for the future. A panel of young people from the University at Albany will then comment on their views of interfaith relations today and their ideas of what the future may bring.

Following *Nostra Aetate*, interfaith relations and shared ministries have expanded and deepened in the Capital Region, and our area is regarded as one of the most vibrant interfaith communities in the nation. Examples are the Sidney and Beatrice Alpert Interfaith Lectureship at the College of St. Rose, the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, the Interfaith Center at the University at Albany, ongoing formal and informal interfaith dialogs, interfaith prayer services, and interfaith involvement in ministries such as food pantries; care for homeless, immigrant, and low-income people; and advocacy on issues of peace and justice.

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



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 will tell stories and lead conversations to encourage our own sharing and fuller understanding.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25

See Liselle LaFrance, Gretchen Scheu or Kathy Donley for registration forms.



Ladies Lunch Scheduled

Emmanuel ladies will gather at Bellini's Restaurant (Newtonville) on **Thursday, October 1** (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.

Diaconate & Quarterly Congregational Meeting October 11

The meeting will include an official vote on the Unified Budget Proposal:

Based on the research and studies of best church practices from church consultants, Coordinating Council proposes that Emmanuel Baptist Church adopt a unified budget to commence in 2016.



Breathing Space: Mid-week Worship in Advent

On three Wednesdays in December (Dec 2, 9 and 16) we will provide some breathing space, some holy time, in the midst of an often busy season. On those Wednesday evenings, we will share a simple meal at 6:00 followed by a simple time of worship. The format of that worship service has yet to be determined, except that we know it will not have a sermon.

Pastor Kathy is looking for a few people interested in helping her create these worship experiences. No experience in planning or leading worship is required. What is desired? Creativity, a willingness to experiment, a desire to help ourselves and others stay connected to the Sacred, especially in the holy season of Advent. If you are interested, please contact Kathy soon.

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

**October:
Deodorant**

*Deadline for the
November MOSAIC
October 18*



Bonfire/Hayride for all ages Sunday, October 18

Immediately following
worship

Riverview Orchards

660 Riverview Rd, Rexford, NY

Emmanuel-Friedens Church in Schenectady has invited us to join them for their annual bonfire and hayride on October 18. It is a lunch-time event for all ages with hot dogs, s'mores, cider doughnuts and cider. There is a suggested contribution of \$5 per person/\$15 per family.

Attendees are asked to contribute one of the following: a package of hot dogs or hot dog rolls, and items for s'mores (graham crackers or Hershey bars or marshmallows). Emmanuel-Friedens will supply plates, napkins, cups, roasting sticks, water and condiments. *Please sign up in fellowship hall and indicate what you will bring.* Dress warmly. There will not be adult Sunday School at Emmanuel that day.

Happy Birthday...

Chris Moaton
MarilynMalone
Jim Woodard
Warren Burton
Bien Baez
Adam Barelski
Taylor Stroebel
Bernie Kennedy
Madeline Green
Heather Green



1st
6th
6th
6th
11th
14th
16th
20th
23rd
28th

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

**Church Office Closed
October 12**

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

