

THE MOSAIC

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Pastoral Ponderings



As a child, before I ever knew anything about my ethnic heritage, I thought I would like to be Scottish and Irish. That was convenient when it turned out that the major branches on my family tree are Scots-Irish and Welsh. This month, I get to fulfill a long-term dream of spending time in Ireland and Scotland.

I no longer remember why I wanted to be Irish or Scottish or what my childish mind perceived about those cultures. As an adult, I have come to appreciate much of the Celtic tradition. The Church was once loosely divided into Celtic, Roman and Orthodox traditions. Years after my own ordination, I was delighted to learn that the Celtic Church recognized the faith of women as equal to men, thus women served as priests and bishops in the fifth and sixth centuries. Irish law gave more rights and protection to women than other any other law code at the time. Women could be lawyers, judges, warriors, physicians, poets, and artisans. From my perspective, it was a loss for the faith when the Celtic Church was absorbed into Roman Catholicism between the 9th and 11th centuries.

When I selected *Be Thou My Vision* as one of the congregational hymns at my ordination, I chose it because I had loved it for years. At that time, I did not know that its words are from an 8th century Irish poem or that it is set to a traditional Irish tune (SLANE) which is said to have been written in honor of St. Patrick. However, by the time I memorized the benediction I offer most Sundays, I was well aware that it was one version of St. Patrick's Breastplate.

These days I often find power in the Celtic spirituality that shaped the island of Iona, off the coast of Scotland. St. Columba was an Irish priest who founded a monastery on Iona in 563 AD. That monastery lasted for hundreds of years, but eventually fell into disuse, until 1938 when the Iona Community was established. The Iona Community today strives for the renewal of the ecumenical church by exploring more inclusive approaches to worship and working for social and political change. We sing songs from Iona at Emmanuel and we often use their liturgies or dramatic scripts in worship, so we are all being shaped by this rich tradition. I am grateful for the opportunity of this trip and for the gift of time apart from my responsibilities here. This poem, attributed to St. Columba puts into words some of my own hopes:

*Delightful to me to be on an island hill, on the crest of a rock,
that I might often watch the quiet sea;*

*That I might watch the heavy waves above the bright water,
as they chant music to their Father everlastingly.*

Continued...

*That I might watch its smooth, bright-bordered shore, no gloomy pastime,
that I might hear the cry of the strange birds, a pleasing sound;*

*That I might hear the murmur of the long waves against the rocks,
that I might hear the sound of the sea, like mourning beside a grave;*

*That I might watch the splendid flocks of birds over the well-
watered sea, that I might see its mighty whales, the greatest wonder.*

*That I might watch its ebb and flood in their course,
that my name should be--it is a secret that I tell--"he who turned his back upon Ireland;"*

*That I might have a contrite heart as I watch,
that I might repent my many sins, hard to tell;*

*That I might bless the Lord who rules all things,
heaven with its splendid host, earth, ebb,
and flood.*

*Blessings,
Kathy*



**Church Governance Workshop with
The Rev. Dr. Jim Kelsey, Executive Minister American Baptist Churches of New York State
Wednesday, June 8
5:30 light meal, 6:00 presentation**

For many years, the language of our church by-laws has needed updating. Successive moderators have picked up this task in conversation with Coordinating Council and then set it down again in light of other urgencies. Within the last two years or more, the conversation has become less focused on the by-laws document and more focused on a governance structure that meets our current needs. Our average worship attendance is about 70 people. Our current leadership structure calls for 41 people, if all the slots are filled, and that does not include positions like Sunday School teachers, weekly worship leaders, and ushers. It seems unwieldy to expect half of the worshipping congregation to serve in governance roles. In reality, we have adapted this governance structure by simply not filling every seat on every commission. We could re-write our by-laws to describe what we are already doing and simply reduce the number of people expected to serve on each commission. Or we could take a look at the bigger picture and ask good questions -- What kind of leadership do we really need? What governance system would provide the best opportunities for people to practice discipleship and exercise their gifts and also maintain the vision of Emmanuel? What can we learn from other churches? Dr. Jim Kelsey, our regional Executive Minister, will present information on a one-board governance model and spend some time helping us imagine what that kind of structure might look like at Emmanuel. All church member and friends are welcome to attend. Look for a sign-up sheet soon to help us plan for the meal.

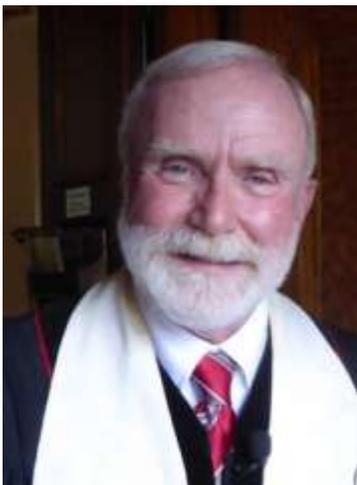


Albany's Most Wanted Preachers At a church near you:



May 1 -- Rev. Jerrod Hugenot serves as the Associate Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of New York State. He works among our congregations, serving as a resource person for pastoral transition, providing support for clergy and lay leaders and encouraging churches to be more involved in their local community. He is a graduate of Ottawa University and Central Seminary, two ABCUSA schools in his native Kansas. He has urban and rural pastoral experience with ABCUSA churches in Kansas and Vermont. He enjoys life with his wife Kerry Shermer and their peaceable(?) kingdom of three cats and a beagle mix pup. To learn more, visit www.abc-nys.org.

May 8 -- Rev. Mark Chaffin is the Interfaith Chaplain of Baptist Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotia, NY. In his position he coordinates pastoral support and spiritual care to 262 residents/patients and their families. Rev. Mark is co-facilitator of the caregiver support group which includes caregivers to persons with dementia and is a member of the facility ethics committee. He has recently become certified to do Interim and Transitional Ministry within the ABCUSA Transitional Ministry Program. Mark's professional interests are in the intersection of Spirituality, Wisdom and Aging. For avocational interests he enjoys performing locally with the Octavo Singers. He enjoys travel and for the past two summers he has been technical support to his significant other, Dr. Julie Shaw in presenting a course – On the Construction/Deconstruction of Meaning Across the Life-span at New York University in Prague, Czech Republic. As a member of Emmanuel, he may be best known to us as the proud father of a daughter Sadie, age 12 and a son Aidan, age 17 and as one who knows the life of a well-traveled parent of soccer tournaments and track meets.



May 15 – Rev. Dr. David Corlett recently retired after 42 years in active parish ministry in the Reformed Church in America. He literally worked his way up the Hudson Valley, serving Reformed Churches in New Paltz, Claverack and finally in Delmar. He regards Delmar's decision to join the FOCUS Ministry as a Covenant Member Church as one of the highlights of his ministry. (Delmar is the first "suburban" church to serve on the team.) Rev. Corlett received his Bachelor's Degree at Hope College, his Masters of Divinity Degree at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry Degree at McCormick Seminary. He is Grandpa to Colin and Abbie Corlett (ages 5 and 4), Dad to two Sons, Andrew and James, and Husband to Susan, his wife of 46 years (as of this July). Dave and Sue now reside in South Bethlehem.

From Service to Others...



Emmanuel Helps "Family Promise"

In March three Service to Others members assisted volunteers from Delmar Reformed Church as they hosted people participating in the Family Promise program. Family Promise engages local congregations who serve as Host Sites, providing shelter, meals and hospitality a week at a time for 3 to 5 families. At the Day Center on New Scotland Ave., families shower, do laundry and receive case management services. At Delmar Reformed, we provided meals and supervised the guests who stayed at the church's parsonage. We three, Mark Chaffin, Joanna Nadeau and Karen Kendall agree that this was easy, satisfying, worthwhile ministry. The guests were friendly and cooperative, making our work uncomplicated. We look forward to assisting Delmar Reformed again in May. If you would like to know more about this special program, you may talk with Karen Kendall or any other member of STO.



Emmanuel collected \$769 for the America for Christ Offering this spring. Thank you to all who contributed.

CROP Walk: May 1

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 Emmanuel's team

If you have questions, speak with Karen Kendall..



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



CABA Women's Meeting

May 7, 8:30 to Noon

Covered dish lunch follows

Latham Community Baptist Church

Keynote Speaker: Trudy Pettibone



“Of Trees I Sing”

May 1, 4 pm

Kennoth Carnes, Baritone

Michael Clement, Pianist

present

*Arias & songs celebrating trees
and their significance*

Music by

Lully, Handel, Schubert, Britten, Duke

Admission Free, /donations appreciated

“Royals and Rivals”

May 15, 4 pm

Deborah Rocco, soprano

Michael Clement, piano

A song cycle by Libby Larsen,

“Try me, Good King”

(the last words of the wives of Henry the Eighth)

Music of Handel, Donizetti, Verdi, Gounod

songs and arias portraying

an array of history’s famous queens

Admission Free, donations appreciated



In Concert at Emmanuel



For the first time in more than a decade, the Capital Region welcomes Marsha Stevens-Pino at a **7:00 pm concert Saturday, May 21** (a free will offering will be taken) and **10:00 am worship, Sunday, May 22** here at Emmanuel.

Marsha is a singer-songwriter for the Gay/Lesbian/Transgender/Questioning/Allied community. She has a very strong commitment to many issues of Social Justice and her music and sharing will stir your heart. The story of her becoming the performer she is now is inspiring and full of forgiveness. She talks about being involved in the birth of the Jesus Movement in the early 70s, of a divorce and discovering her own sexuality, and of churches tearing her songs out of their hymnals when she came out. Now she works with other musicians who desire to share God’s inclusive love with the world!

Several years ago, Christian Century Magazine did an interview and article about Marsha Stevens-Pino. Among other things, they said Stevens became “Conservative Christianity’s worst nightmare – Jesus-loving, Bible-believing, God-fearing lesbian Christian.”

Join us for a concert at 7 pm on May 21st and again for worship on Sunday the 22nd and hear Marsha share and sing with us! See Ruth Pushee or the Membership and Evangelism Commission for more information.



Speaker to Promote a Christian Response to Climate Change

Renowned minister and environmental activist the Rev. Dr. James Antal will be the featured speaker on Sunday, May 15, at the Spring event of the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO). The program begins at 4 p.m. at First Church in Albany, 10 North Pearl Street, near the Palace Theater. A worship service will follow led by the Rev. Daniel Carlso and featuring the Festival Celebration Choir. Admission is free, and all are invited.

Rev. Antal will speak on “Bringing Hope to the Climate Crisis through Faith & Action.” He will show how the scale and urgency of climate change requires our generation to reassess our lives, repurpose our religious practices, and reorient our assets in ways that align with our Christian values and our covenant with God.

Pointing to the responsibility rooted in God’s covenant with Noah and all things alive now and in the future, Rev. Antal calls on Christians to recognize that the Earth is the Lord’s and that there is much at stake. He cites Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s writing in *The Guardian* (April 10, 2014), “Twenty-five years ago, people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse.... To serve as custodians of creation is not an empty title; it requires that we act, and with all the urgency this dire situation demands.” In a similar vein, Rev. Antal wrote in an article about the ecological consequences of the Keystone XL pipeline, “As the first generation to foresee and the final generation with an opportunity to forestall the most catastrophic effects of global warming, this is the time. Now is the moment.”

Rev. Antal is Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, the largest Protestant denomination in the Commonwealth. He has a long history of activism on behalf of the environment. After celebrating the first Earth Day at Princeton University, his work at Yale focused on the yet-to-be-born field of environmental ethics. He founded a national organization to train activist high school students to oppose nuclear war and later served as Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA), an interfaith pacifist organization. He taught for 13 years, then led UCC churches in Newton, MA, and Shaker Heights, OH. In 2010, he founded NEREM (New England Regional Environmental Ministries). Their most recent project was “A New Awakening — Season of Prophetic Climate Witness through Preaching, Prayer, and Practice.” He has also engaged the spiritual discipline of civil disobedience numerous times, most recently at the White House in 2011 to stop the Keystone XL pipeline. In 2013, he authored and was lead proponent of the UCC's vote to divest from fossil fuel companies, the first denomination to do so. He speaks on climate issues all over the country. For more information, contact creoboard@gmail.com. (EL)



***The following resolution was adopted by unanimous vote at the
Congregational Meeting on April 10:***



Whereas the building and property of Emmanuel Baptist Church is a sanctuary devoted to the worship of God and service to all members of the community;

Whereas it is our purpose to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, women and men who use our sanctuary and meeting spaces; and

Whereas it is therefore inconsistent with our mission and the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to permit weapons and firearms while on the premises, now therefore be it

Resolved, Emmanuel Baptist Church and property shall be a weapon-free zone and that no weapons or firearms be permitted, except for representatives of law enforcement or authorized security personnel while on duty.



You Are Invited!!

- Who:** All Emmanuelites, visitors, family, and friends
What: Sunday morning worship and picnic in the park
When: Sunday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.
Where: Colonie Town Park, Pavilion next to ball field
Cost: \$2 per person; \$5 max per family

What to bring:

- Salad, dessert, or other appetizer dish to share
- Folding chair (camp chair, beach chair) for worship
- Sports items
 - Ballfield is next to pavilion
 - Volleyball court also next to pavilion
- Kites, bubbles, other outdoor activities

Other Info:

- Meat for the grill will be provided
- Beverages will be provided



From Christian Growth & Development...



It's Time to Register for Camp!

There are many camping opportunities for children, youth, adults and families at **Pathfinder** this spring and summer. (see last month's newsletter for schedules) **Early registration deadline is May 10**, and allows a \$25 discount. In addition, scholarships are available. Speak with Gretchen Scheu or any member of the Christian Growth and Development Commission for details. Registration deadline for scholarships is May 15.



Opportunities at Green Lake:

Mother's Day Getaway, May 6-8

Give your mom or someone close to you the gift of time together at Green Lake. \$65 room rates (per night) apply May 6-8.

Lawsonia Family Golf Camp, June 19-21

Former WI basketball coach Dick Bennett will speak at the golf camp again this year. This week is a great time for families to bond with each other through a golf camp experience at Lawsonia.

Summer Family Adventure, July 3-9

Uplifting worship, activities for kids, devotions, family games, scavenger hunt, pizza at the Ark, campfires & s'mores, talent show and lots of free time to explore Green Lake.

Green Lake Festival of Young Preachers, July 7

We invite 14-28 year olds to come with a sponsor (parent, pastor, grandparent or ?) to the Green Lake Festival of Young Preachers July 7. Participants preach for 15 minutes from a choice of given texts. They receive an encouraging consultation from a preaching expert, round-table discussion time with peers and edifying feedback from audience.



Open House at Pathfinder Lodge

June 4, 10:00 to 3:00

Rain or Shine

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

Questions? Speak with Marilyn Malone or another member of CGD.

Children's

Day Sunday, June 12

Emmanuel Men are invited to meet for lunch at Normanside restaurant on Wednesday, May 4, at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Bob Hunziker so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!



A Request from Edith Leet

During Lent, several of us undertook a 40-day journaling discipline based on the writings of Parker Palmer. I am interested in developing a similar book, with quotations from a number of sources, that would be the basis of a journaling experience for a future Lent.

Do you have passages from the Bible, poems, quotations from essays, or other writings that intrigue you? Would you like to have the opportunity to reflect on them, write about your reactions to them, and perhaps discuss them with others? If so, please send them to me. I will be collecting material through the end of the year, so any time you come across something you want to share, please send it to me. My email is edith.leet@outlook.com. Other comments and suggestions will also be appreciated. Thank you for your help.



A Note of Thanks

Betty Mallory and daughter, Irene wish to express sincere gratitude for the many

acts of kindness extended during Roy's lengthy illness and since his passing. Your cards, calls, prayers and many other expressions of love and sympathy are deeply appreciated.

**Church Office Closed
May 30**

**Remember the
Food Pantry...**

**May:
Toothpaste**

Happy Birthday...

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



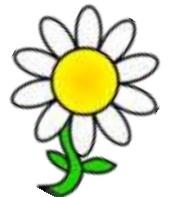
1st
11th
15th
21st
22nd
23rd

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



Coordinating Council:
May 10, 5:30 at church
Diaconate:
May 15, after worship

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



Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
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