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THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

Office: (518) 465-5161 emmanuelalbany@juno.com

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Pastoral Ponderings

This Lent has been a rich season. Our discipleship has included both inward and outward expressions. This is something we seek to balance in our lives – attending to the relationship between ourselves and God and attending to our relationships with others, or to say it another way, loving God with heart, mind, soul and strength AND loving our neighbor as ourselves.

On the inward journey this season, some of us have attended more closely to prayer. We have practiced simply being in God's presence, with no words or activities to fill that space, just deepening silence and awareness. We have practiced praying with the psalms, recognizing that the book of Psalms has been the Jewish and Christian hymnbook and prayer book from ancient times. Some of us even tried writing a psalm of our own. We practiced *lectio divina*, a prayerful form of Bible reading, seeking to discern God's guidance through careful attention to Scripture. We have done all of these in conversation with each other, bringing our own questions and faith experiences to share.

On the outward journey, some of us participated in a mission trip to Nicaragua. For those who went, it was an intense time, a very literal journey to another culture, seeing the world through the eyes of others, sharing gifts and stories and friendship. It was also an expression of trust in God – trust that God called us to this task, trust that God was already at work in Nicaragua and would be present with us in that place and would use us to bless the world. Only five Emmanuelites made that physical journey, but they took 8 people from outside our congregation with them, and they took many of us along in spirit. We shared their outward journey with our financial support and our prayers. And from that mutual sharing, our vision of God in the world was also expanded.

Whatever our individual focus has been this season, we have come together in worship. Standing at the foot of the cross, we have heard Jesus' last words, words about forgiveness, about earthly and heavenly paradise, about the new community Jesus creates, about the God to whom we commit our spirits. Seeking to follow Jesus daily, going deeper with inward and outward practices, inviting others to follow Jesus with us – this is our mission. Brothers and sisters, let us press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Blessings,
Kathy

The 2014 Lent Committee included Chelah Collins, Karen Green, Judy Henningson, Kathy Moore, and Jim Wilkerson. They developed our theme of the Seven Last Words from the Cross. The season is not over,and they are still at work on the Lenten Movie Night and Maundy Thursday worship.

We offer a special thank you for the banners which have focused each week's worship on one word from the cross. Thanks to Jean Burton for prepping the canvas, to Becca Leet for inking the banners for each of the seven words, and to Judy Henningson for the Easter banner.

Lenten Movie Night
Friday, April 4
Pray the Devil Back to Hell
6:30 p.m.

Join us for a film that portrays prayer combined with action for justice. *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* tells the story of Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace, a group organized by Leymah Gbowee, a social worker who eventually received the Nobel Peace Prize. By convincing the Christian and Muslim women of Monrovia, Liberia to work in partnership, the group's efforts led to peace after years of civil war. Thousands of women — ordinary mothers, grandmothers, aunts and daughters, both Christian and Muslim — came together to pray for peace and then staged a silent protest outside of the Presidential Palace. Armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions, they demanded a resolution to the country's civil war. Their actions were the critical element which brought about an agreement during the stalled peace talks.

A pizza supper will be served. Join us for this inspiring film and conversation afterwards. The film depicts the reality of the brutality of war. It is not recommended for children. Parental discretion is advised.

Maundy Thursday April 17
5:30 p.m. Bread and Broth Supper
6:30 p.m. Worship around tables

We gather on this night to remember. We remember Jesus' table fellowship with his disciples and the last supper he shared with them in Jerusalem. Maundy is from a Latin word for commandment because on this night we remember his commandment ~ "love one another as I have loved you." This year's service will provide a review of the six words we have heard from the cross leading into the final word "It is finished". We will share in communion and a time of serious reflection preparing us for the joyful celebration of Easter morning.

Easter Party
Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. to noon
Games; Craft Activities; Easter Egg decorating; Treasure Hunts and more!
Lunch included
Plan to attend, volunteer to help, bring friends!
Sponsored by CGD Commission

CHILDREN (ages 1-12)….Bring friends, cousins, neighbors! Please sign up in the fellowship hall so we will know how many to plan for. (We wouldn't want to run out of candy!)

ADULTS: You can help by filling eggs, assisting with crafts or games, or helping with lunch. Please see sign up sheets in the fellowship hall, or contact Beth Malone.

Good Friday Worship

April 18, Noon
at Mater Christi
(40 Hopewell St; just off New Scotland Ave. between Krumkill and Whitehall)

FOCUS Easter Sunrise Service
April 20, 6:30 a.m.
West Capitol Park
Rev. Keith Scott, presiding
Pastor Mike Asbury brings Easter message
Breakfast following at Emmanuel

Special Guest on April 27

Wendy Dwyer will be our guest in the Contemporary Christian Concerns class following worship on April 27. She is a long-time peace activist. In 2005, she was arrested for civil disobedience during a protest at Fort Benning, Georgia against the School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It is a military training institute focused on training officers from Central American countries. Many of its graduates have been implicated in serious human rights abuses and manuals used at the school appear to condone if not promote the use of torture. Come to hear that story and many others as she shares her passion and commitment to peace with us.

From Service to Others…

As a Partner Congregation of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, we support the work of Conflict Transformation around the world. In 2014, through the Gavel Memorial World Peace Fund, the BPFNA:

- Supported the 4th Interfaith Women's Seminar in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The session went well despite heightened tensions in the country.
- Is supporting Conferencia Bautista Latinoamericana por la Paz / Latin America Baptist Conference for Peace -- a gathering of Baptist leaders in Rio de Janeiro in April ahead of a meeting of Unión Bautista Latinoamericana /Latin American Baptist Union.
- Is sponsoring Boaz Keibarak as he continues his work among the Pokot and Turkana people of the North Rift region of Kenya. **Note: Boaz is someone Dan Buttry trained and worked with.**
- Is making possible a year-long Conflict Transformation training through PHARP (Peacebuilding, Healing and Reconciliation Programme) in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Is continuing Conflict Transformation trainings in Northeast India and expanding into South India in the Fall, partnering with the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation and Andhra College in Hyderabad.

Through this work, our congregation is linked in real and important ways to effective programs of peacebuilding far beyond ourselves!

Mission to Bluefields, Nicaragua Excerpts
March 16-22, 2014
Read more at the blog http://ebcmission2014.wordpress.com/

. . .my favorite moment today? A young mother of two struggled to hold both children on her lap while trying to administer a less than tasty medication to her younger daughter. The child writhed and cried, yelled and squirmed. The mother, exhausted but determined, turned to me and said "Will you hold her?" A moment of silence. A smile. She handed her over.

The kid looked at me and I looked at the kid. At first I thought she was going to break in to tears and I am pretty sure she sensed my fear that this was in fact going to happen. So she stopped. Once again we looked at each other, unsure of how to proceed. I decided to sing. In Spanish. The song made no sense. It went something like this. *Como se llama? Te gusta queso! Te quiero por siempre!* Translated. What is your name? You like cheese! I love you forever! The child looked confused. She paused. And then she decided to laugh. Little did I realize that the many young mothers in the background had listened too. My silliness, my attempt at Spanish, and my (in)ability to carry a tune seemed to prove that I was there because I truly cared. And that everything, at least for that moment in Bluefields time, really was going to be ok.

After 4 days of clinic, I have some new perspectives on our visit. We are here to:
To form human connections with those who may feel forgotten.
To help families understand their health care needs.
To treat some people acutely.
To give many people a context to self manage their chronic illness.
To experience the fierce pride and energy parents have about their children.
To be reminded of poverty and riches and the role we play in promoting continuing poverty.
To practice humility. We do not have the answers to the needs.
To make important friendship among ourselves and those we meet.
To walk the path of justice.
To integrate this experience in our lives and faith.

Today we took a 30 minute Panga flat bottom boat ride to Kukra Hill where there is a Baptist Church and school planted by the Pierres. The people were kind and gracious. Poverty was much more apparent there. We were supposed to see about 100 people but ended up with seeing about 200. What a crowd scene! We are back in Bluefields tired but doing well. We have seen and been part of the lives of people who we would have never known if we did not respond to the call. The practice of health care is really secondary to this. We had a great team meeting and worked out flaws we have found in our system. Then we had sharing of concerns and had a really meaningful time of personal reflection. Finally Marilyn, got to say "Good night Campers" and most of us went to bed, dead tired.

There was a lot of trusting today. Breakfast at 6:30, pile into the truck at 7:00, on the boat at 7:30, start the clinic at 8:00 (Well it was supposed to start at 8, but there was a taxi ride and unpacking and setting up the pharmacy that took longer than 3 minutes). Would someone bring us water? What about lunch? Well, the jugs of water arrived just as our bottles were emptied, and at noon, a table was moved and lunch appeared. Such is the nature of mission work. We give up control and trusted others to take care of us. This reminds us that really God is in control. In the paraphrase of Micah 6, Peterson describes walking humbly with God as not taking ourselves too seriously, but taking God seriously. We experienced that today.

Could we possibly help each of the patients we've seen as much as they have helped each of us?

Peace Camp, July 14-19

Just a reminder – The BPFNA Summer Conference will be in St. Catharines, Ontario from July 14-19 on the campus of Brock University. With the theme of ***Una Sola Creación/Une Seule Création/One Creation***, the week focuses on environmental justice and features an impressive lineup of speakers, musicians, workshops, and more.

More information on the conference leaders and a link to the registration form is online at: http://www.bpfna.org/gather/summer-conference

Looking ahead through 2019, locations for the summer conference include:

- **2015** July 6-11 - Eastern Mennonite University - Harrisonburg, VA
- **2016** - location and date TBD - Philadelphia, PA
- **2017** - dates TBD - Misión Mazahua - Toluca, Mexico
- **2018** July 2-7, 2018 - Keuka College - Keuka Park, NY
- **2019** - location and date TBD - Western United States or Canada

The Service to Others Commission wishes to thank the many volunteers who have helped provide meals for the guests of the Interfaith Shelter and the Overflow Shelter this winter. Special thanks goes to Edie Simpson for her "sweet" contributions ~ Dessert is always a special treat! The staf and guests at both locations have expressed their sincere appreciation for this ministry.

FOCUS invites you to a special event:
"Communities of Faith Working Together to End Hunger"

hosted by the Faith & Hunger Network

- April 9, 7-9 pm Optional soup dinner from 6-7; program begins after dinner.
- Location: First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave.
- $5 Suggested Donation

Come learn, network, and put feet to your faith in meaningful action against hunger.
Issue areas will highlight childhood hunger & income inequality.

Coordinating Council is reaching out to all Emmanuel attendees to see if you have an interest in helping to plan the next church retreat. Retreats are a special time for the group of people who participate. Each has the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature, enrich your personal spiritual growth, and gives those present time to expand and deepen relationships within the faith community.

Planners can help decide not only the where, when, how long of the event, but also who may help lead us in a positive experience for all, and what that programming may include. Many hands make light work, and if you are inspired to be part of this team, please contact Barb Lahut (766-9333) or blahut@nycap.rr.com

200th Anniversary Celebration!
July 21 – 25, 2014
Green Lake, Wisconsin

The World Mission Conference is not just for missionaries, it's for anyone interested in knowing what God is doing in the world. It will be inspirational, educational and a lot of FUN! More information and registration available here: http://www.internationalministries.org/read/49675 Scholarship help is available through the Christian Growth Commission.

Lords and Ladies:

May 3rd is a special day to gather at the Great Hall at Emmanuel for the Medieval Feast. The meal will feature Pigge Roste (Crown Roast of Pork) and wortes (delicious! Come to find out what this is.) Magic, Stories, Dancing, Singing, Poetry and Laughter will fill the evening. All who come and bid in the auction could win prizes such as an Adirondack weekend getaway, access to the church tower with friends for the 4th of July fireworks, restaurant gift cards, craft weaving, pottery, and other unique items. So spread the word and buy your tickets to reserve a spot. No tickets will be sold at the door so call ahead (the church office 465-5161) and make a reservation. Tickets are $35 for adults, $10 for children. Emmanuel members pay only $20. Bring your friends for an evening of fun and frivolity.

Check us out on Facebook and the web - http://www.emmanuelalbany.net/MedFeast.htm.

To support this effort considering being a sponsor or volunteer to assist at the event. We need servers, cooks, clean-up crew. We could also use tablecloths and candles. Candles can be half used, any size, any color. We will need additional serving platters. If you lend a platter, be sure to put your name on it. After worship for the next several weeks Jean, Amy, Becca and Edith will be available to answer questions and sign you up to help.

A tradition at Emmanuel has been to decorate the sanctuary with lilies at Easter and to deliver them to our homebound and ill members. If you wish to purchase a plant, please check the appropriate box(s) below and indicate if the plant is in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is $12 per plant. Please give the completed form to Karen Green along with your payment.

☐ I would like the lily designated in memory/honor (circle one) of

_____

☐ I would like the plant donated to a church member.
☐ I would like the plant for myself.

NAME:_____

Emergency Overflow Shelter Closing Dinner Scheduled

April 22
First Lutheran Church
If you would like to attend, you may call Kitt at the Council office, 462-5450.

Notice of Meetings…

April 8 ~ Coordinating Council: 5:30 at Malone's
13 ~ Quarterly Congregational Mtg. Diaconate

Ladies Lunch Planned

Emmanuel women will meet for lunch at Normanside Country Club on Thursday, April 10 at 11:45 a.m. Please let Betty Mallory know if you plan to attend so that adequate seating can be arranged. Call: 785-8142.

"♪" from the Choir

"Elijah, the gift that keeps on giving! The Choir was surprised at practice this month when Edie Simpson arrived with gifts that continue the glow we all felt from the November *Elijah* performance that honored Pickett. In addition to a lovely picture of Elijah on his chariot addressing God that will grace the choir room, Edie brought lovely sweets (which we devoured) and a generous contribution. With gratitude, we will be using that gift to buy additional hymnals dedicated to the choir's use, so there will be more hymnals available for the congregation. Michael and the Choir were so touched by all this we wanted to take this opportunity to say: "We love you Edie!"

Remember the Food Pantry

April: deodoratnt

Deadline for the May issue of *the MOSAIC* is April 18.

Work Day Scheduled

Work Day on Saturday April 26 will address some delicate sanctuary painting, cleaning at the organ loft, and addressing some flooring concerns.

Do your eyes see areas at Emmanuel that need TLC ("tender loving care")? Corporate Management can work to address such needs for "This OLD Church." Your perspective makes a big difference for us all.

Saturday morning 4/26, please bring your work clothes, and we'll all share lunch afterward. (TL)

Choir Vistis Nursing Home ♫

The Choir will share their gift of music at the Eddy on Saturday, April 26; rehearsal at 9:30, program at 10:00. This special ministry brings joy to residents and staff alike. If you have questions, you may contact Michael Clement or Pat Hunziker.

Happy Birthday…

Laura Folos	1st
Anthony Malone	5th
Geoffrey Bray	6th
Andrew Malone	6th
Matthew Normile	8th
Chris LaBarge	11th
Ian Leet	13th
Tenosha Ford	16th
Hannah Scheu	18th
Isaac Folos	19th
Lillian Matejcak	20th
Alyce Malone	21st
Jonathan Bray	23rd
Kristen Stroebel	23rd
Karen Green	27th

"Take me out to the Ballgame"

Join Emmanuel friends as we enjoy a baseball game together on Sunday, July 20 at 5:00. Cost: If you purchase 4 tickets for $25, a hotdog and beverage are included. Payment deadline is June 1 (the church picnic) If you have any questions, you may contact Andrea Carver or Frank Scheu.

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275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210