THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Pastoral Ponderings

One of the ways you care for me is by providing time away from ministry for my own spiritual and professional renewal. I am writing this at the end of a week at the Washington Island (Wisconsin) Forum. This is a part of the country heavily populated with Lutherans. Thirteen denominations are supposedly represented among the 210 attendees, but I met mostly Lutherans and Presbyterians. I strongly suspect I am the only Baptist here. Every person to whom I introduced myself expressed delighted surprise that Baptists have women clergy. The only exception was the woman from Maine who was a UCC pastor and was utterly nonplussed at meeting an ABC woman pastor. So that is a kind of learning in itself.

The Rev. John Bell, of the Iona Community in Scotland, was our teacher. John Bell's passion is the renewal of congregational worship. His presentation, entitled "Re-Appropriating the Word", included such topics as the curse of literacy, missing women, what shall we tell the children, and the importance of the imagination. He suggested that we often approach the Bible as if it is an instruction manual or a textbook for life, when a better metaphor might be a treasury, a family album to be shared, re-told and remembered together. A couple of things he said that stuck with me: "If the Bible is our story, it should be inside of us." And "Imagination is the epicenter of creativity." I have long valued creativity and he provided a few more tools for unlocking my imagination in terms of understanding Scripture.

In early July, I will attend a seminar at the Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids called "Creative Reading for Imaginative Preaching." This week-long event has required me to read essays, poetry, two novels and a young adult book in preparation. The work of the week will be to learn more about effective use of language and image and the ongoing task of observing human nature, all with the hope of becoming a more effective preacher.

These two events have in common an emphasis on story and imagination as ways in which we attempt to think about God. We look to the Bible to know the places where God has spoken before, that we may perhaps learn to recognize the voice of God in our own lives.

continued…

For the rest of this summer, I am immersing myself in the Biblical stories of David, the shepherd boy who became King of Israel. These are marvelous, complicated, confusing stories. The books of I and II Samuel, in which David's life is described, deal with questions about leadership, political savvy, moral courage, and military strategy, along with the ever-present question about where God is in the midst of it all. This is perfect material to consider as we watch presidential hopefuls jockeying for position more than a year in advance of the election. I'm choosing six of these stories for sermons between July 19 and August 30. I encourage you to read I and II Samuel for the whole context. Please make every effort to be present in worship these summer Sundays – and bring your imagination with you.

Blessings,
Kathy

New Faces at Emmanuel

Emmanuel welcomes some new faces this summer. Kaw Gay Hei has left us as he has accepted a full time position.

Taking over the weekly cleaning and maintenance tasks, Joseph Burns will join Emmanuel staff at the end of June. Joe comes to us with a wealth of experience including janitorial background and working with steam boilers. If you are in the church building during the week, be sure to introduce yourself.

Hsar Paw has joined Emmanuel staff to handle set up and clean up on Sunday mornings. Hser Paw is a member of the Karen congregation and welcomes the chance to prepare the sanctuary for worship. Be sure to say hello on a Sunday morning.

From Christian Growth and Development…

Members of the Commission are: Beth Malone, Audrey Ford, Ericka Silverman, Jim Wilkerson, Marilyn Malone

Children's Sunday School

June marks the end of another wonderful and exciting year in our Sunday School program!

*Did you know… **42 children** , birth to age 18 were active participants!*
This is almost twice as many as five years ago.
***28 teachers** and helpers led the five classes!*
This is essentially the same number as five years ago.

If you were present for the Children's Day worship, you know the energy these children contribute to our corporate worship. We celebrate all this growth!

Pathfinder Information

Eight children have registered to attend Pathfinder Lodge this summer.
Beginner: June30-July 3, MaKayla Smith, Eh Kui Doh, Cri December Paw
Juniot Arts: July 12-17, Veronica Smith, Paw Mary Wah, Elisabeth and Hannah Scheu
Peace: August 8-14, Sa Kler Moo
It is not too late to register for Pathfinder, and scholarship funds are still available. Registration forms are on the bulletin board in fellowship hall or you may contact Gretchen Scheu.

Help Needed!

("Here am I; Send me!" Isaiah 6:8b)

1. There are openings in our Sunday School teaching teams. Can you give a Sunday a month to work with our children? We will provide you training ans support. Call any CGD member to talk about the opportunities.
2. Child care for children up to age 5 is needed during worship in the summer months. There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Volunteer for one or two (or more) Sundays to help give our dedicated teachers a break.
3. In the fall we want to provide child care during the audlt Sunday School time (11:30-12:30) We would like to hire someone to be our regular care giver (or two people to share the job) and have others volunteer to be assistants. Watch for a sign up sheet or call any CGD member for details.

If you would like more information about volunteering, come to the Teacher's meeting on Thursday, August 20, 5:30 at church. (supper included)

Sunday School will resume on September 13 for children and on September 27 for adults. Get a head start and register your children during the summer. Forms will be available in August.

Teacher's Meeting Scheduled
August 20, 5:30 at church

Agenda includes:

* Meeting with your team teachers
* Scheduling for the year
* Church safety training
* An over-view of our curriculum & philosophy

*** SUPPER**

If you're not sure about teaching, this is a good opportunity to learn what it's all about. If you're a seasoned teacher, you know how important it is to share ideas and prepare for the new season. Plan to come on August 20!

PRIDE PARADE 2015
EBC with EMMANUEL-FRIEDENS CHURCH

Both supplies and monetary contributions are needed to equip children adequately for the start of the school year. Contributions should be marked FOCUS School Supplies• and sent to FOCUS: 275 State Street, Albany 12210. Find more information on the FOCUS website.

If you have questions, you may contact Becca Leet.

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 Update

As noted in last month's *Mosaic*, Rev. Deb Jameson will be leaving her position as Director of Community Ministry for FOCUS at the end of the year. A search committee is being selected by the FOCUS Executive Council and will be convened in late July to begin the process of finding a new director.

As one of the founding churches of FOCUS, Emmanuel has always been active in the programs as they have developed and evolved. Recent Emmanuel involvement in FOCUS includes the following: **Staff**: Judy Henningson, Becca Leet, Karen Kendall, Mike Asbury; **Pantry volunteers**: Pat Hunziker, Bob Hunziker, Edie Simpson, Dwight Smith, Becky Syltebo; **Breakfast volunteers:** Andrea Carver, Nancy Horan, Edith Leet, Kathy Moore, Dwight Smith. **Executive Council representatives**: Andrea Carver, Kathy Donley, Nancy Horan.

Many others at Emmanuel have supported FOCUS financially and by donating food, fresh produce and other items for the Pantry and school supplies for pantry families; by participating in fundraising events; by picking up food at the Regional Food Bank; and by being a part of advocacy efforts on hunger and economic issues. Volunteers are always needed, either on a regular or substitute basis. There is information on volunteer opportunities on the FOCUS website (focuschurches.net). Belinda Quaye is the volunteer coordinator and can be reached by email (belindaq@focuschurches.net) or by calling the FOCUS office 443-0460.

Focus Summer Worship Schedule:

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

July 5 - at First Presbyterian

The Rev. Alexandra Lusak, preaching
After worship: Chris McNabb from National Religious Campaign against Torture, and Joe Paparone from FOCUS will speak on solitary confinement.

Aug. 2 - at Emmanuel Baptist

Sept. 6 - at Trinity Methodist

ABCNYS Regional Offering

On Sundays, July 26, Aug. 9, 16, and 23, Emmanuel will receive this Regional Offering. Below is an excerpt from a message Executive Minister, Jim Kelsey sent which helps us understand how this Regional ministry takes shape:

"When I think about the ministries of the American Batpist Churches of NYS, I realize that it comes in small pieces:

- A pastor counseled
- A search committee guided
- A church conflict mediated
- A deacon board trained
- An ordination candidate encouraged
- A trustee board advised
- A mission trip organized and led
- A youth convention planned
- A program at an Association meeting
- A supportive conversation at a pastors' breakfast had
- A new pastor welcomed to the Region
- A church shown a new way of understanding stewardship
- A lay person led to discover their calling to ministry and then trained
- A request for information fulfilled
- A new pastor's intallation celebrated
- A church assisted in understanding her community and discovering her calling to ministry

…When you invest in Regional ministry, you are joining with many others who believe that God is doing marvelous things among our churches. I encourage you to see what God will do with what you give. Strengthen our churches by supporting Regional Ministry!"

Remember the Food Pantry...

July: shampoo

August: razors & toothbrushes

Choose Your Favorite...
Be part of our singing faith on **July 12th** during our summer **hymn sing**. Think ahead and choose your favorite hymn to share. Do you love the lyrics? Relish the recollections it triggers? Hum the melody all day? We also want to know why that hymn has a special place in your heart. Bring your choice and join the fun!

Sign Up Now…

Tri-City Valley Cats Game
July 19 at 6:00
Note time change!
Cost: $6.50

AND…

Picnic at the Scheu's house; 12:15'ish.
Please sign up.

Ladies Lunch Planned

Emmanuel ladies will gather at Normanside Country Club on **Thursday, August 6, (**11:30 a.m.) to enjoy lunch together. If you plan to attend, please contact Betty Mallory so adequate seating can be arranged.

Summer Office Hours ~ 9:00 to 1:00
Office Closed ~ Sept. 7

The next *MOSAIC* will be published in August; deadine, August 18. That newsletter will highlight upcoming September events.

A Note from Jim Woodard

I want to thank everybody for your thoughtfulness during my long hospitalization and rehabilitation. I really appreciate all the cards, calls and visits.

I also enjoyed seeing everyone at the retirement party that you so kindly gave for me. The ice cream cake was great! Thank you for the generous gift too. ~ Jim

From Rural & Migrant Ministries

(Youth from Rural and Migrant Ministries gathered at Emmanuel on their advocacy day in the spring.)

"On behalf of all the members of the *Youth Arts Group* and myself, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the wonderful people at Emmanuel Baptist Church for your hospitality, for allowing our group to use your space and making us feel at home.

Thank you for all the support you and your staff bestowed upon our organization and for your kindness. .. Your hospitality truly provided our teens with an inspirational experience and an important message of unity and empowerment that we will not soon forget…I look forward to continuing our relationship and hope we willhave many opportunities to work together in the future.

Sincerely,
Andres Chamorro, Youth Empowerent Coordinator

CABA Women's Gathering
"Rejuvenate in July"
Saturday, July 11, 8:30-11:30
Potluck Salad lunch following
Clifton Park Center Baptist Church
Please bring a personal care item or paper products for the local food pantry.
Lois Linster, keynote speaker
Cost $5; call 786-1054 to register

Watch for details about a pool party to be held at the Donley/Wilkerson house on Saturday, September 5th from 3 to 6. Mark your calendar and plan to join the fun!

Work Day

August 8
9 a.m. to Noon
light lunch provided
There are tasks for all skill levels.
We hope to see you there!
Many hands make light work.

FOCUS gardeners! If you have extra fresh produce from your garden, won't you consider sharing your bounty with the Food Pantry? Contact the FOCUS office. (433-0460)

Summer's Here!

Summer has begun, and with it come staff vacations, abbreviated church office hours (9 am to 1 pm) and conferences/workshops for the Pastor. If you have a pastoral need during Pastor Kathy's time away, July 5-12, you may contact the church office. Arrangements for clergy support will be in place.

When Dorothy is away (August 3-6 and 10-11), volunteers will staff the office so your messages and needs will be heard. We hope that you, too, find time for rest and relaxation during the summer months. Enjoy!

Happy Birthday…

MaKayla Smith	1st
Lydia Johnson	3rd
Amanda Gibson	4th
Kevin Cole	6th
Bessie Gibson	10th
Nancy Horan	11th
Tracy Collins	14th
Andrea Carver	14th
Kendra Lahut	14th
Rebecca Lamar (Malone)	21st
Jim Wilkerson	23rd
Esther Moore	26th
Elaine Clark	29th
Amber Collins	31st
Randolph Franklin	31st

AUGUST

Elisabeth Scheu	1st
Bill Silverman	2nd
Kimberly Norwood	5th
Sam Hill	8th
Michael Green	11th
Ruth Johnson	21st
Beverly Norwood	22nd
Parmilla Allen	23rd
Shamaal Ford	26th
Liselle LaFrance	28th
Karen Kendall	30th

Seniors on the Go…

Sponsored by CACC: reservations at 462-5450
"West Side Story"
Mac-Haydn Theater in Chatham
July 23; pick up at 1:00
$65 for members; $69 for non-members
includes transportation and ticket

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