THE MOSAIC

Published monthly by

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

275 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12210

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

June 2016 **Volume XXXVII No. 6**

Pastoral Ponderings

I don't usually take vacation in May like I did last month. I don't think I have ever missed three consecutive Sundays at any church I've served, but I really appreciate the sense of rejuvenation and re-creation that flowed from taking that time. In the two weeks that I was away, I was absent from a Coordinating Council meeting and a Diaconate meeting. On my return, I was surprised to find that it felt like the next Council and Diaconate meetings were too far in the future, as if the rhythm of my month was off.

Because I took vacation in the spring, I will be in Albany more than usual this summer. That has me anticipating a different routine than in recent years. Perhaps this will be the year that the backyard and weeds get the attention they need. Perhaps this will the summer that I do some deeper reading. Perhaps Jim and I will take some day trips and explore more of this beautiful region we've been calling home for over 5 years now.

Emmanuel has a summer rhythm which includes church-wide picnics, the Pride Festival, a Vally-Cats baseball game, suspension of Thursday night choir rehearsals for the choir and a break from teaching for most of our Sunday School teachers. Individual Emmanuel members seem to make the most of the long, sunny summer days. Things like vacations, music festivals, kayaking, family reunions, outings to SPAC and Tanglewood, Baptist Peace Camp, summer sports teams and week at Pathfinder seem high on the list of popular events.

One of my favorite images from the accounts of creation is in Genesis 1 where it says that the sun, moon and stars shall be "for signs and for seasons and for days and years." The Biblical writers understood that there was certain rhythm to life on the earth. The psalmist wrote " From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised." (Psalm 113: 3) Some days and seasons are more active, others more reflective. Perhaps some involve more work and others more rest and play. I wonder what kind of season summer is for you? What tasks or disciplines are life-affirming and soul-restoring? What opportunities do you particularly enjoy in summer?

continued…

I am looking forward to being here more this summer. I'm hoping for more unstructured, perhaps even spontaneous, times of fellowship and fun with Emmanuelites and more deliberate appreciation of God's good creation. I'm also hoping that as we each enjoy the opportunities of the season, we will remain connected to our faith community, through weekly worship and fellowship events. And let us please remember that for some people, this summer's rhythm may include visiting Emmanuel for the first time. Even if we are in relaxed summer mode, let us make the effort to be welcoming and responsive to the needs of newcomers. Who knows, we might be entertaining angels unawares.

Blessings,
Kathy

June is "Wear Your Nametag" Month

One of our newer congregants mentioned in church that if everyone wore nametags, it would really help her get acquainted faster. Membership and Evangelism Commission agrees that it would help us all get better acquainted and is declaring the month of June to be "Wear Your Nametag" Month." Edith Leet will make new tags for anyone who doesn't have one, whether you had one before or not. Please sign up in church or call her at 482-6612 to order a new tag.

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…

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

10:00: Emmanuel Baptist Church

1:00: Gethsemane Karen Baptist Church

EBC Theme: *"God Works through People Big and Small"*

Between these two worship times, we will join together for a celebration of children, sharing pizza, noodles and ice cream sundaes! Come for Worship… Stay for the party!

A Teacher's Meeting is scheduled for August 23 at the church, 5:30 pm.
A light supper will be provided. Please mark your calendars now!

Concert Scheduled at Emmanuel

June 4, 4:00 pm

Yeejin Yuk

Prize-winning eighteen-year old pianist bound for Shepherd School of Music at Rice University this fall

Fantasies for Piano Program:

Chromatic Fantasy—Bach; Drei Klavierstucke, D. 946—Schubert; Suggestions Diabolique—Prokofiev; Canciones 6,7—Mompou; The Maiden and the Nightingale—Granados; L'isle Joyeuse—Debussy

From Service to Others…

Dear Friends,
It is time once again for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which we will be taking on June 12 and 19. By the grace of God we are given the opportunity to share our gifts and resources with needy brothers and sisters around the world. Through our gifts, we are able to participate in the many ministries that serve the hungry, the poor, the distressed, the refugee.

This year's theme is "Where you go, I will go," echoing the words of Ruth to Naomi. Like them, refugees today are confronted with dire situations in their homelands and are forced to leave behind their communities to seek help elsewhere. Currently the United Nations estimates that 60 million people around the world are refugees, and this number is expected to rise because of the violence in the Middle East and parts of Africa.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering reaches across the globe, to refugees in every part of the world. Sometimes it helps those in need in our own communities, and at other times it says "you are not forgotten" to the many refugees now living in camps and trying to get to places of safety. When we give to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are helping to ensure that all God's children have what they need.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to this offering.
Service To Others Commission

You're Invited…
Potluck Supper and Special Guests
June 4
Meal at 5:30, Presentation at 6:30

Come and meet Ketly and Vital Pierre, ABC missionaries who will share information about their ministry in Nicaragua. Part of their time was spent in Bluefields where a number of Emmanuel members traveled on mission trips in recent years. The Pierres are now helping strengthen churches and encouraging congregations to plant new churches in the Dominican Republic. Together let's celebrate the Pierre's ministry! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall and indicate what dish you will bring.

Celebrate Pride… Saturday, June 11
Parade Line-up by 11 a.m.
Parade Steps off at Noon
Festival continues (music, food, vendors, people-watching) until 5 PM

Talk to Ruth, Andrea, Betty or Danielle for more information, or to let us know you're planning to be there. If you're going to march with us, we'd like to know to keep an eye out for you!

We're ready to hit the road to bring **Gardening in a Bucket** to Albany family shelters, schools and summer day camps. Children learn about growing and caring for vegetable plants while they decorate pots and assemble a portable garden to take home with them.

We need volunteers to assist the staff. If you can commit an hour or two, please call Belinda at 443-0460 or e-mail **belindaq@focuschurches.net** for dates, times & locations.

Attention, Gardeners!

Are your growing vegetables this summer? How about planting an extra row and donating the harvest to the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry for our families?! Everyone enjoys the fresh bounty of the season. If you have questions, you may contact the FOCUS office.

Recycling, On-line Shopping Provide Income for Emmanuel

Thank you to those of you who bring in your used printer cartridges for recycling for Emmanuel. Each cartridge provides $2 of store credit for office supplies at Staples. By being a member of the Staples Rewards program, Emmanuel can take advantage of special promotions, such as getting reams of paper for one penny each; free shipping; and sales and discounts on needed items. Emmanuel also receives a discount of 2-3% on every purchase at Staples.

Another way to produce a bit of income for Emmanuel is to register for iGive at www.igive.com. iGive is a free service that generates donations when members shop online at any of its more than 1700 participating stores. Most stores donate 1-3% of the amount you spend. Six people are currently registered to have donations go to Emmanuel. Together we have raised more than $250. With more people registered, more donations will go to Emmanuel. (EL)

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 members and friends are welcome to attend. Look for the sign-up sheet to help us plan for the meal.

Congregation Asked to Sign Charter for Compassion

At the congregational quarterly meeting in July, Edith Leet plans to introduce the following motion:

I move that Emmanuel Baptist Church sign the Charter for Compassion and become a Partner in the Charter for Compassion International.

The Charter for Compassion is a worldwide movement aimed at encouraging people to think and act compassionately. Its goal is **"**to make compassion a clear, luminous, and dynamic force in our polarized world." (All quoted material comes from the CfC website, http://www.charterforcompassion.org.)

The movement was started by Karen Armstrong, a religious-studies scholar, best-selling author, and speaker who won the TED prize in 2008. She used the prize to work with other influential scholars and leaders to develop the Charter. It has become central to a global movement and an organization, the Charter for Compassion International.

com-pas-sion – sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it *Synonyms*: sympathy, empathy, concern, kindness, consideration, care, kind-heartedness, benevolence

The text of the Charter for Compassion states:

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep inter-dependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

By becoming a signer of the Charter and a Partner of CCI, Emmanuel will join CCI's "'network of networks' to bring an awareness of compassion and compassionate action to everything we do as we interact with other people and with our environment."

There is no fee for Emmanuel to become a Partner. Partners receive general newsletters, announcements of upcoming events and conferences, and other information of interest. Partners can participate in regular, open conference calls usually with a provocative speaker, and receive a summary report following each of these calls.

Each Partner organization has a dedicated link on the CCI website so that others can read about what an organization is doing and perhaps form alliances with other organizations. The website also offers an ongoing blog, relevant annotated bibliographies, and an ever-increasing library of resources.

For full information about the Charter and Partnership, please visit the website at http://www.charterforcompassion.org (EL)

Begins June 20!

Following are portions of an important letter from Colgate-Rochester-Crozier Divinity School president, Marvin A. McMickle. To read the entire message, you may go to:
http://www.crcds.edu/important-message-from-crcds-president-dr-marvin-a-mcmickle/

"Dear Alumni/ae and Friends of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS):

The world around us is changing and it is now time for CRCDS to consider in a new way how to best carry out its mission in the rapidly changing landscape of the church and the world in the 21st Century.

The Pew Research Center has presented the Christian community with some data that must inform every move we make going forward. For the last decade, the number of persons that self-declare as Christian has gone down by 1% each year. That has implications not only for church attendance and membership, but also for persons that are seeking careers in ministry, for churches that want to hire full-time clergy, for donors who choose to support the church and the seminary, for alumni/ae who care deeply about our mission and for our current and future students who struggle to afford the ever-rising cost of higher education. CRCDS must re-envision how to live out its vitally important mission in this new day. I am pleased to report to you we are already well on our way.

The first thing that struck me when I arrived as president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in 2011 was the richness and the complexity of the school's legacy. I knew, of course, about the school's excellent reputation for putting forth progressive leaders, some of whom were my own mentors. What I had not fully realized, however, were the numerous past iterations of what we have come to know as "CRCDS" and the multitude of locations where its mission has been carried out...CRCDS has experienced a multitude of changes throughout its almost 200 years with each change driven by one central concern: what is the best way to serve God and to live out the school's mission in this day and at this time?...

CRCDS is once again tackling the challenges of our time head-on as evidenced by the school's strategic plan. This new plan calls for significant investment in our traditional graduate degree programs, with an emphasis on recruitment… It also calls for an investment in new programming with alternative models and structures, including investment in online initiatives and the development of new learning communities that will engage broader audiences in unique and enriching ways. Finally, the plan calls us to a heightened sense of stewardship… based not only on philanthropic initiatives, but also a continued focus on effective stewardship of all the school's assets.

This last emphasis led me and the school's Trustees to once again engage in a vitally important conversation about the best physical environment and location for the school going forward….More and more of our students are using fewer and fewer of the campus resources we provide – and pay for. The number of students who commute to campus continues to rise and these students have no need for our dorms, do not eat meals in the refectory, do not require a physical library, do not need a campus bookstore and do not have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful campus grounds, given the significant demands on their time. When taken together, these factors lead to an unavoidable conclusion: our campus was built for a time and style of theological education that no longer exists.Remaining here will not meet our needs going forward and will not help us further the mission…

…we have received an offer that will, in fact, provide us with the resources necessary to establish CRCDS in a new location that will meet our needs and the needs of our strategic plan going forward. …The Trustees have accepted my recommendation to accept this offer and our intention is to establish a new campus location in the greater Rochester area by the 2018 academic year – the year of the school's bi-centennial celebration…God has presented us with a great opportunity to lay the foundation for a new period in the history of our school and I am eager to begin our important work together...The future of CRCDS is bright….

I invite you to come with us as we begin this new journey, this new chapter, and this next move in the life of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School…"

Pathfinder Camp Wish List

FURNITURE
Sturdy dressers
End tables/night stands
Door mats**
Card tables (folding)

HEALTH LODGE
Medical or sport tape
Shower curtains
Rubber or latex gloves
Hand sanitizer
4×4 gauze
large bandaids

SPORTS EQUIPMENT
Life jackets – vest style (any size)
Canoe paddles
Canoes, kayaks
Rope
Tent stakes
Volleyballs
Kick balls
Water shoes (all sizes)
Dive-quality masks & fins (adult sizes)

FOOD ITEMS
Cake & brownie mixes
Bisquick
Minute rice
Pasta
Peanut butter & jelly/Nutella
Peanuts
Chocolate chips
Raisins
Bottled water (Gallon)

PAPER GOODS
Paper towels
Toilet paper (white, singe ply)
Napkins
Paper plates (heavy duty)
Cups, hot & cold (7-9 oz)
Paper muffin cups
Plastic forks and spoons
Zip lock bags – all sizes

MAINTENANCE
Paint brushes (including disposable)**
Brooms**
Rakes & shovels
Sponge mops**
Good working vacuum cleaners**
Dehumidifiers**
Tarps- esp. large **
Indoor Lightbubs

OTHER KITCHEN ITEMS
Liquid dish soap
Liquid hand soap
Disinfectant wipes (e.g. Clorox)

CRAFTS & PROGRAM
Markers
Construction paper, card stock
Beading thread or wire, esp. elastic cord
Glitter, sequins, ribbons, trims
Tape: masking, cellophane, duct **
Colored sand
Fabric paints
Fabric dye
Fun foam
White T-shirts
Clay
Boondoggle
Candle wicking
Ink pads
Old candles
Metal coffee cans with lids
Music stands
Tulip Tie Dye
Embroidery Thread
Unused birthday or note cards, with envelopes**

Emmanuel Ladies are invited to meet for lunch at Normanside restaurant on Thursday, June 2 at 11:45 a.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Pat Hunziker or Betty Mallory so that adequate seating can be arranged. We hope to see you there!

A Note of Thanks

Dear Emmanuel Friends:

Thank you all for your cards, emails, prayers, and expressions of sympathy upon the death of our mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother, Mildred Leet. She always enjoyed coming to Emmanuel and getting to know the people here when she visited us in Albany. We are grateful for her life and love and for the love that our Emmanuel family showers on us so readily.

Blessings,
Ian, Edith, and Becca Leet

Focus Summer Worship Schedule:

All services will be held at <u>10:00 a.m.</u>

July 3 - at First Church
Aug. 7 - at Delmar Reformed
Sept. 4 - at Westminster Presbyterian

Remember the Food Pantry...

June: bar soap

Hats Off to Our Graduate!

Congratulations to ***Arianna Paul*** who graduates from Holy Names High School. Arianna will attend the College of St. Rose in the fall.

Coordinating Council:
June 14, 5:30 at Donley's house
Diaconate:
June 19, after worship

Happy Birthday…

Audrey Ford	3rd
Claudette Mink	5th
Natalie Johnson	7th
Elaine Spoor	8th
Donna Brown	8th
Danielle Johnson	9th
Barbara Lahut	9th
Bob Green	10th
Sarah Malone	13th
Edie Simpson	17th
Robin Bray	18th
Adele LaBarge	19th
Erin Wilkerson	19th
Ken Cole	19th
Eh Kui Do	24th
Edith Leet	29th

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

Deadline for the <u>Summer</u> issue of the MOSAIC is June 18.

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210