

THE MOSAIC

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EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Pastoral Ponderings

Many of you attended the April Diaconate plenary where I sketched out preliminary plans for a sabbatical leave in the summer of 2018. Fifteen weeks have been set aside for personal/professional renewal, with emphases on Celtic spirituality, social justice, and contemporarily engaged expressions of church. Travel plans include a journey to the Iona Abbey in Scotland with a week beforehand in the Scottish Highlands, a peace-oriented retreat in Belfast, an arts, justice and spirituality festival in Britain, and site-visits to four churches in the United States, chosen for their innovative contributions to the Body of Christ.



While on Iona, I hope to participate in the annual week-long seminar led by the Wild Goose Resource Group. We already use their materials in worship, and their primary musicians, John Bell and Graham Maule, have made several contributions to our hymnal. The retreat in Belfast will be led by Gareth Higgins, who was born in Belfast and directed a ministry of reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics there. He describes the retreat as an opportunity to “enjoy the landscape on amazing walks, hearing music and story, meeting locals, experiencing the peace process by meeting people directly involved in activism and change, and getting to know the culture of Northern Ireland.” Gareth now lives in the United States and is the director of the Wild Goose Festival, which Jim and I have attended a few times. That retreat will end just in time to make our way to Greenbelt, an event in Britain, on which the Wild Goose Festival was modeled. Between the major trips across the pond, I also want to visit four churches:

- The Riverside Church, New York City, affiliated with ABC/USA and the United Church of Christ, which has long provided prophetic witness and action for social justice
- St. Lydia’s, Brooklyn, a church formed in 2008 which engages in worship and hospitality around a dinner table every Sunday and Monday evening and over waffles at brunch once a month.

continued...

- Gilead Church, Chicago, a new church plant co-pastored by my friend Vince Amlin and his colleague Rebecca Anderson. They launched in January of this year with a vision a progressive, inclusive, creative community and have already been featured on NBC's *Today* show.
- St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco – the home church of Sara Miles, a place where radically inclusive communion is shared on Sundays in the same space as well as their daily food pantry ministry.

Plans are being made for high quality worship leadership and pastoral care coverage in my absence, as well as special events for congregational renewal. These hopes and dreams depend in large measure on whether or not we are awarded a Lilly Foundation Clergy Renewal grant. The application has been submitted. We will learn the decision in late August.



Several of you took the time to fill out feedback forms after the April session. Thank you. Your comments were helpful in writing the grant and also in anticipating issues to be addressed in a sabbatical plan with a supply pastor. One comment in particular summed it up well for me, “Kathy’s spiritual priorities will always effect ours. The more she grows, the more we grow.” I am grateful for your support and understanding.

Judy Henningson, Liselle LaFrance, Barb Lahut, Tom Lahut and Jim Wilkerson were involved in writing or editing major sections of the grant application. Their help was invaluable and gratefully received.

*Blessings,
Kathy*

Graduation Open House for Erin Wilkerson

Sunday, May 21

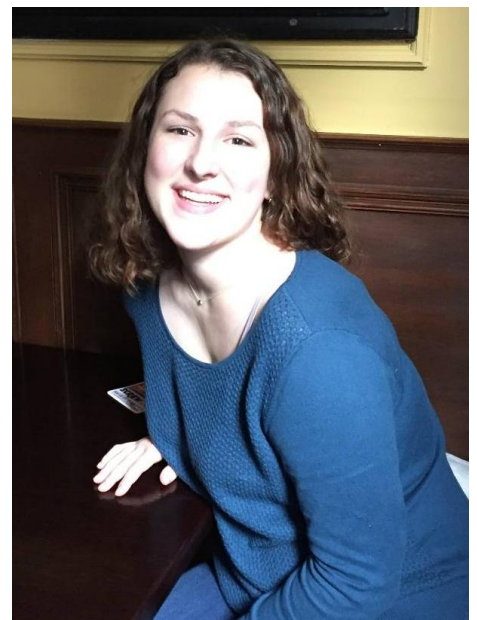
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Home of Kathy, Jim and Erin

29 Joy Drive, Loudonville

When we moved to Albany, Erin was in middle school. Now she is finishing college. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone in her life.

RSVP to Kathy at ebcpastor@albany.twcbc.com



From Service to Others...

CROP Walk, May 7



The 37th Annual Albany CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th. 25% of all funds raised by the Capital Region CROP Hunger Walks goes to local food pantries and soup kitchens. More than 40,000 people in our region use local free meal programs to provide adequate food for their families. 75% of the funds help support the work of Church World Service (CWS) and its partners for hunger relief and development projects around the world.

If you would like to sign up or have questions, see Nancy Horan. You can choose the 3 mile loop with rest stops, or the "Golden Mile". If you are not walking, please consider sponsoring someone who is.

*Thank
you*

The following note was received Clarice Nichols, Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless:

“Thank you for your recent meal donation to Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. Providing a delicious meal is a warm and comforting way to support the guests that we serve. Each year, with the help of meal donations just like yours, more than 60,000 meals are served across our many programs.

Our continuum of services that aims to provide self-sufficiency, empowerment, and stability for homeless and low-income individuals and families relies on generosity and support from the community. On behalf of the IPH staff and guests we serve, thank you. We're building a better tomorrow, together!...

... Your generosity is the heart of our volunteer program, and we are incredibly appreciative. I look forward to a continued partnership, so please let me know if you have any questions. When you're ready, I'd love to help you with another volunteer opportunity.”

The Service to Others Commission supports meal programs of both the Overflow Shelter and Interfaith Shelter during the winter months. Special thanks is extended to all who have generously donated food, time and financial support to this ministry.





“Healthy Congregations” Workshop

May 19-20, 2017

CABA will be hosting this event conducted by Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. *Healthy Congregations* is a workshop designed to improve people’s capacity to calmly articulate what they think and value, and to act on that basis, while staying in active relationship with those who may disagree. Having the capacity to calmly discuss and resolve issues in a Biblical manner is an essential skill for all church members.

This workshop will help you . . .

- Learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation – how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community.
- Learn how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious.
- Gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities.
- Learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, manage reactivity, and overcome sabotage.
- Discover how leaders can function as the congregation's immune system.
- Learn to focus on strengths, resources, options, and the future.

A complete schedule can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

We will meet at the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church on: Friday, May 19 – 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants will need to purchase a workbook for \$20 and provide a hospitality fee of \$10 to cover the costs of snacks, lunch, and beverages.

A Sampling of American Baptist Home Mission Current Volunteer Mobilization Opportunities for 2017

- **‘Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing...Rainelle,’ W. Va.:** assist residents in Rainelle and surrounding areas that were flooded in June 2016 when 11 inches of rain fell in less than two hours. Two work weeks are planned: June 10-17 and 17-24, 2017.
- **‘Coming Together for New Jersey...Rebuild, Renew and Restore’:** Hurricane Sandy devastated New Jersey when it hit the East Coast in October 2012. Join this joint effort of ABHMS and American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, July 8-15
- **‘Home Mission: ’Til the Work is Done’ Work Week, New Orleans:** Twelve years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf Coast, residents continue their efforts to rebuild. But they need our support. Come to New Orleans as we worship, witness and work together to help those in need as they rebuild their homes, churches, communities and lives, July 30-August 5
- **‘Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing’...Murrow Indian Children’s Home and Bacone College, both Muskogee, Okla.:** Murrow Indian Children’s Home is a residential home for orphaned Native American children. Bacone College is the oldest continuously operated institution of higher education in Oklahoma with strong American Baptist ties. Both help with general construction, routine office work, grounds maintenance and landscaping. Work week is planned for July 16-22

For additional information and a complete list of volunteer opportunities, please contact Victoria Goff, ABHMS national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization Ministries, at vgoff@abhms.org or 1-800-ABC-3USA, x2449.

Additional Mission Opportunities:

Water of Blessing Mission Trip to Nicaragua, July 21-30. Cost: about \$1800 per person.

Discovery Team to Honduras, July 7-15: work with a school/orphanage/feeding program/church in Honduras near the border with Guatemala. Led by Dr. Cynthia Falk, an active member of FBC Cooperstown.





Come Help Us
Celebrate

Our 50th
Anniversary



at an Open House
on Saturday,
May 13, 2017,
10 a.m. — 4p.m.

at Emmanuel
Baptist Church
275 State Street
Albany, NY

Come when you can. Stay as long as you like.

Please RSVP to Ian & Edith Leet

951 Myrtle Avenue, Albany, NY 12203

Email: edith.leet@outlook.com or ian.leet@outlook.com

Or call 518- 482-6612



Emmanuel Men are invited to meet for lunch at the Pointe restaurant on Thursday, May 3, 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!



Please Note...
Coordinating Council:
May 9, 5:30 at Malone's

“Spring Car Cleaning with Cornerstone”

Purchase car wash coupons to support Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry any time before May 31, 2017. You get a clean car and Cornerstone benefits!

The fastest and easiest way to buy these car wash tickets is online at our custom home page on the Helping Hands website.



<http://www.hoffmanhelpinghands.com/fundraisers/campusministry> Questions or Concerns: Call 518-489-8573 x26 or email uacornerstone@gmail.com



Work Weekends at Pathfinder
May 5-7 & 12-13

Fellowship, Work and Worship

Won't you consider helping get the camp ready for staff and campers?

All levels of ability are needed. Contact Pathfinder Lodge if you are interested: 607-547-2300 or 315-314-7460

Remember the Food Pantry...



May: razors and conditioner

Notice of Meeting:



The Pastoral Relations Committee serves as a connection between the pastor and congregation. We meet two or three times a year. Our next meeting will be May 10. If you have concerns, suggestions, affirmations or questions about the ministry of the pastor and the congregation, please share them with a member of the committee: Ken Cole, Liselle LaFrance, Barbara Lahut, Betty Mallory, or Edie Simpson.

**Youth Group Retreat
 Jr. & Sr. High**

May 19-21

Pathfinder Lodge

Worship, fellowship, games, campfire, fun!

Registration: 5 pm

Program starts Friday, 7 pm, Ends Noon Sunday

Cost: \$49 per person

For information or to Register (by May 15)

Call Keith Griffin 518-747-4838 or email

Griffink74 @gmail.com

Happy Birthday

Kaw Gay Hei

Laeh Paw

Sydney Klope

Beth Malone

Ericka Silverman

Noah Silverman

David Malone



1st
5th
10th
11th
21st
22nd
23rd

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

**Deadline for the June issue
 of the MOSAIC: May 18**
Church Office Closed
May 29

Emmanuel Baptist Church
275 State St.
Albany, NY 12210

