

Emmanuel Friedens Church
 218 Nott Terrace
 Schenectady, New York 12307

**Mark Your Calendar
 (June 2014)**

Sunday, June 8
 Children's Day

Saturday, June 14
 Capital Pride March & Festival
 Washington Park, Albany

Sunday, June 15
 Fundraiser for SW& M
 @ the Sweet Frog

Saturday, June 21
 Community Carnival, 2-4 pm
 Schenectady Pride Event

Sunday, June 22
 Pride Worship Sunday
 Children's Pool Party @
 the Bisgroves

Sunday, June 29
 Rain date for
 Children's Pool Party

The June issue of the ENVOY will be distributed the week of June 2. The deadline to submit announcements, committee news, etc. is May 27. Thank you.

A Reminder From the Church Building Use Committee

The Church Building Use Committee is looking for renters to fill the remaining four vacant offices. Spread the word to your friends, colleagues and family by posting on Facebook, or sending an e-mail, or just by word of mouth.

Information to know: The spaces range in size from 165-244 square feet. The rent is \$206-\$305 monthly depending on office size. Rent includes security system, parking, the use of larger meeting spaces in the church building, water/heat, and partial handicapped accessibility. Anyone interested, please tell them to call 374-4114 for more information or to arrange a tour with a member of the Building Use Committee.

As a Welcoming and Affirming/ Open and Affirming Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church and Friedens United Church of Christ welcomes and affirms all persons without regard to sex, martial status, age, race, sexual orientation, or abilities, inviting all into membership, mission, and leadership.



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THE ENVOY

Built on tradition • Living in the spirit • Celebrating our future

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Issue 315

May 2014

January in the Church's Life

It feels like January. Fortunately, it is a little warmer (in our sort of Spring, we keep hoping!). But it feels like January; it is a time in the church's life to look backwards and to look ahead. Every January we see the image of the old god Janus with two faces, looking both ways.

We look backwards with gratitude. We are grateful for the dedicated ministry of two interim ministers, Rev David Gregory and Rev Jo Page. It was unexpected. Some thought David 'too busy' to consider being an interim. Some thought Jo was no longer 'in the loop' with parish ministry. So much for that planning! Both accepted the call, and both contributed greatly to the interim time, and both gained a great deal as well. We certainly wish David well as he continues to develop the ministry at Spirit of Peace; and we certainly wish Jo well as she continues to seek areas of ministry, more likely with a congregation.

We are equally grateful for the dedicated ministry of the Search Committee. Chaired by Faye Saville, the Committee went 'above and beyond' in their work of discernment, research, reading, interviewing, and all the rest. The Committee went the 'extra mile' and the Chair often went beyond the extra mile. Their work is not quite done. Their last step is to help plan our settled pastor's installation service, which will be in the Fall. We celebrate the Committee's work.

We are grateful as well for the all the members who stepped forward during the interim time to take on what needed to be done. Some of this we know, some we do not. But we are grateful to all. An interim time is an exercise in resiliency. We can be grateful that it shows again that we are a resilient congregation. Or as I have said before: change is inevitable but transformation is optional. It is something we live in to.

But now we look ahead. We need to take what we have learned. I encourage us to remember some words by David Gregory in his last sermon here by encouraging us to 'celebrate the past but let go of it.' This is a challenge for any congregation with a history, but particularly in this community. It is so easy and romantic to recall the glory days of GE, think about 4 department stores downtown, and the like. In the congregation, we like to recall also what some see as glory days: more staff, more members, more youth, it goes on. God calls us to look ahead: "Behold this new thing I am doing" Scripture informs us. The future, thank God, is not like the past only longer (Darryl Strawberry, baseball philosopher said that); but it will be

Pastor
 Rev. Peter J.B. Carman
 (as of 5/15/2014)

Director of Christian Education
 Marcia L. Tolman

Music Director
 Don Kerr

Office Hours
 9 am-3 pm M-F



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a new future if we discern and look for God at work among us and in our community.

What will that future be like? Scripture again and again tells us to “work out our salvation.” David encouraged us to look beyond our closed doors. We might look to those who walk across the parking lot. We might look to young people and try our best to let them make their own mistakes. We might look at ways the building and ministry can be bridges even more than now.

Now some may feel that now that we have a settled pastor that we can sit back. Of course Peter Carmen will have ideas. But sorry to tell you: that yes it is a time to catch our breathe but not a time to sit back. I am sure that Peter will say at the same time that we need to work together on our church’s next ministries. What can be the shared visions? What are the purposes of the church and its ministry in this time and this place? We need to look up, to look ahead, and then to be called forth.

Rev Phillip Grigsby
Moderator

Notes and Announcements



Dear, dear People of Emmanuel Friedens,

I want to thank you so much for your generous gifts and the lovely and sumptuous reception you gave for David and me on our last joint Sunday with you. I hope you know how much it has been both a privilege and blessing to serve you in this past year. I will miss you, but I will keep you in my prayers as I hope you will keep me in yours as we continue to serve, with joy, in Christ's name.

In Love and peace, Jo

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Ray Saville
November 9, 1949-May 3, 2014

Michael Saville, the son of Anna Faye and John Saville, passed away suddenly on May 3 at his home in Spring, TX where he had been recovering after a period of illness. Michael was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, baptized in 1961, and belonged to the church’s youth group.

Services for Michael were held on Wednesday May 7 at the Forest Park Funeral Home, Woodland TX followed by the burial at Forest Park Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Faye and John, and the family at 25 Lorwood Drive, Scotia 12302. If you wish, donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society in memory of Michael.

Denominational and Community News

UCC NY Conference Annual Meeting
“Being Bold from Generation to Generation”
May 30-June 1, 2014
Niagara Falls, NY

The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization

(*CREO) presents Vatican Council II—50 years later, a panel discussion and worship celebrating five decades of ecumenical relationships between the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian Denominations.

When: Sunday, May 18 from 4-6 pm

Where: Emmanuel Friedens Church

Preregistration is suggestion. Registrations forms are available in the church office or register online at creoboard@gmail.com. A \$5 donation is payable at the door.

*CREO is the Capital Region ecumenical expression that brings together representatives from varied Christian traditions & organizations to stay informed and participate in shaping the ecumenical church.

Schenectady Light Opera Company
Presents *Young Frankenstein*
(website: www.sloctheater.org)

Show Dates and Times:

May 9-11 and 15-18

Matinees on Sundays, 2 pm

All other performances, 8 pm

If you buy tickets to the show, use the code “LGBT” and a portion of your ticket price will go to support Emmanuel Friedens’ “Dignity For All” Scholarships. So come out to see a good performance while supporting our scholarship fund, and also seeing Danielle O’Brien, who is a cast member in the show.

Union College Kids Field Day!

May 24, 10 am-12pm

@ Union College Frank Bailey Field
Come out and play with Union College athletics and students!



“Come Out to Play”

Spring Concert

Saturday, May 31 @ 7:30 pm

@ Emmanuel Friedens Church
Adults \$10 (pre-sale); \$12 @ door

Capital Pride and Festival
Saturday, June 14 @ 12 pm
Washington Park, Albany

Emmanuel Friedens invites you to be a part of the largest PRIDE celebration in upstate New York! We will be walking in the parade as a group. After the parade, take time to check out all the ongoing activities throughout the park especially our exhibit table.

Of Interest...

UCC Files Historic Lawsuit on Marriage and Freedom of Religion

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) filed a lawsuit on April 28 in US District Court in Charlotte, North Carolina arguing that North Carolina laws defining and regulating marriage as between a man and woman restrict UCC ministers from performing their religious duties and are unconstitutional.

Although filed by the General Synod, there are 150 UCC congregations in North Carolina. Currently the state of North Carolina prevents couples of the same gender from obtaining a marriage license and makes it a crime for ministers to officiate at a marriage ceremony without determining whether the couple involved has a license. The UCC in the lawsuit argues that the law limits ministers' choices, violates the principle of "free exercise of religion" upon which the church is built, and restricts the freedoms of religion and expressive association guaranteed in the First Amendment.

In announcing the action, Rev. Geoffrey A Black, general minister and president of the UCC (and previously Conference Minister of NY) said, "The United Church of Christ is proud to defend the religious freedoms upon which this nation was founded. It is unfortunate that even today laws are designed to treat gay and lesbian people unequally. In its efforts to restrict marriage, the state of North Carolina has restricted one of the essential freedoms of our ministers and of all Americans."

The Rev. Dr. J Bennett Guess, and officer of the Church and openly gay man said, "The United Church of Christ believes in advocating for justice. We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. God calls the church to speak truth to power. We are standing up for the freedom of religion, and to protect the rights of our ministers to do their jobs in faith."

The background is that In 2012, North Carolina voters approved Amendment One, which limited a domestic legal union to a covenant between a man and woman. Under state laws consistent with Amendment One, it is a Class 1 misdemeanor for a minister to perform a marriage ceremony for a couple that hasn't obtained a license, and such a license may not be issued to same-gender couples. A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by up to 120 days in jail and/or probation and community service. In addition, the laws allow anyone to sue the minister who performs a marriage ceremony without a license and collect up to \$200 if they prevail. The UCC believes that this prohibition and penalties also apply to a minister performing a religious ceremony not intended to result in a legal marriage.

This limitation on free exercise of ministers, officers or others is in conflict with the UCC General Synod's *Equal Marriage Rights for All* resolution adopted on July 4, 2005. This resolution affirms "equal marriage rights for couples regardless of gender and declares that government should not interfere with couples regardless of gender who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities and commitment of legally recognized marriage."

(Article compiled from the UCC media release; for more information check www.ucc.org.)

Christian Education & Activities**Youth Group Events**

June 8 : Children's Day—planning worship for this day
Hosting a reception for Marcia Tolman

The youth group attended the movie "Heaven is for Real" after studying the book and learning about heaven in class. We all enjoyed the movie and recommend it to the congregation.

The youth group took on the task of filling and hiding eggs and baskets for this year's Easter celebration. We had a beautiful sunny day for the hunting and the kids had a wonderful time!

The annual Rummage Sale was a big success! We made over \$870. Most of the people who came to the sale look like they were genuinely in need and were happy with our prices. First, a big thank you to all who donated items, without them what would we sell? Thank you to all the bakers! There were so many who helped but a special thank you to Sheila who took a week off from work to make this happen, to my mom and Jocelyn who put up with all of my bossing them around, Freddie my favorite pricer, Marcia, Maria, Marilyn, and of course Faye Bailey, who has never failed to be a wonderful cashier! Margaret, Brian, Davis, Nick, Madison and Connor were all at the sale. The youth group uses the money generated by the rummage sale and the clothing sale to support their activities and also to give back to the community such as making a \$100 donation to the ongoing 2014 Damian Center's annual fund.



Look for our clothing sale coming up in October! We will be collecting soon.

As always, the youth thank you for all of you kind support!

Nancy Spencer, Youth Group Leader

"Dining to Donate" Fundraiser to benefit the School of Wonder & Mystery
All-Day on May 12 @ Applebee's (2400 Cambridge Rd. in Schdy.)
Applebee's will donate 10% of your check when a voucher is presented-ask Charlie Lent

Christian Education & Activities (Continued)

Adult Sunday School

May 18: No class



Safe Church Training

Including Community Safety

May 25, 2014 ~ 11:15 am-12:30 pm

Marcia L. Tolman, Presenter

Mandatory Safe Church class for teachers, staff, leaders, drivers and volunteers (last Chance before Marcia leaves)

God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons abuse or injury. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults grow safe and strong.

This class will be basic “nuts and bolts” training, Safe Church is designed to help reduce the risks in their church and community ministries. This training provides a minimum standard and is recommended for anyone working with children or youth either as staff or volunteer. A certificate for completion is given and remains valid for three years.

June classes: To Be Announced (Classes Through 6/29)

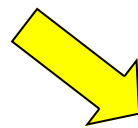


Camp Websites to Get You Connected

Camp Vick and Pathfinder
http://www.vpcministries.org

Camp Fowler
http://www.campfowler.org

Scholarships for attending camps are available. Call Marcia.



Fire Drill on June 1 @ 11:30 am (during Sunday School)

Church News and Events

School of Wonder and Mystery will be held the week of July 21-25 from 9 am-1 pm. The theme is “Light of the World.” I am asking the congregation for help this year. We can sure use the following:

- ⇒ volunteers to take part in the planning of this program. It is important for a group of people to be a part of this so that it can continue and be even better next year.
- ⇒ volunteers (adult) to spend a day or two during the actual week of the program to help with arrival, snack, game time, lunch, and dismissal.
- ⇒ donations of food or grocery store certificates for snack and lunch.

I thank you for all your support and words of encouragement.

Charlie Lent, 694-6589 or clloves21@hotmail.com

Church News and Events (Continued)



The Outreach and Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their support of the Giffy's Bar-B-Que on April 25. It was a huge success, not only raising money for the School of Wonder and Mystery but in gaining the community's support. We had a fantastic turnout and sold over 230 chicken dinners! We would like to thank Maria Puccio, Marcia Tolman and Dave Snyder for all of their help. Thank you to the volunteers from the Criminal Justice office and to Deb Lent, Charlie Lent and Brianna Tejada for helping everything to run so smoothly on the assembly line! Thank you to Nancy Spencer for allowing us to use her garbage cans! And thank you to the committee members, Marion Shearer, Pat McAllister, and June Schermerhorn for all of your help that day!

Robyn Axon
The Outreach and Mission Committee



COMMUNITY CARNIVAL

Saturday, June 21
2-4 pm (rain or shine!)

- Lots of volunteers are needed-
- Please sign-up on on Sundays-

April Happenings at Emmanuel Friedens-
Refer to Insert– backside of Calendar

News from Nicaragua...

During our three months in Nicaragua ,we did not have the opportunity to visit our sister church, Getsemani Baptist in Los Gutierrez Norte that is located three hours of challenging travel from where we live. However, we did talk with the former pastor of the church, Rev. Carlos Castillo, who is not well and could use the prayers of people from Emmanuel Friedens. Carlos is 76 and has a large, loving family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren by his side. As a pastor, he gets free medical care from the Baptist Hospital in Managua, and he is a man of strong faith. Prayers for his family would also be appreciated: his wife Rafaela; daughter Yenis (a teacher in the school our church used to fund); her children Estafani, Lucretia, and Marilyn and their children. The current pastor of Getsemani Baptist, Rev. Jose Oliver Garcia Sanchez, would welcome any visitors from Emmanuel Friedens and we and they are hoping that some younger folks from our church may consider a mission trip to Los Gutierrez at some point in the future.

Sandy George and John Detwyler

Please join us on Sunday, May 18 for a reception as we welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Peter J.B. Carman. The reception will follow the worship service in the Board Room.