

THE ENVOY

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

Issue 322

January 2015

Emmanuel Friedens Church
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Pastor

Rev. Peter J.B. Carman

Music Director

Don Kerr

Office Hours

9 am-3 pm M-F



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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends,

Just about a year ago, I stood before you in worship for the first time to preach what old-timers sometimes called a "trial sermon." And you then met to vote on calling a new pastor.

The year has flown by: 2014 was a time of great transition for me personally and for our family. It has also been a time of much change for the congregation. In addition to all the good things that *normally* make up the life of this congregation, in 2014, Emmanuel Friedens Church...

Bid a grateful farewell to David Gregory and Jo Page, your very capable interim team;

Welcomed aforementioned new pastor (me), with great hospitality and warmth;

Bid a warm goodbye to Marcia Tolman, who has been your faithful Christian Education Minister for significant years of transition;

Formed a "Journey Committee" to help us undertake deliberate planning for the church's future;

Held a day-long church retreat to get better acquainted and reflect on our journey together, Pat present and future;

Installed above-mentioned new pastor in a lovely worship service full of joy and warmth;

Began work planning for an afterschool program for children;

Offered hospitality at our first monthly "Last Saturday Brunch", receiving members of our wider community, waiting on folk at table, sharing together with little sense of "us and them"!

What a year! Amidst the challenges and occasional pain of real change, you have brought a good spirit to our life together. Thank you, Emmanuel Friedens people, for repeated flexibility, patient explanations to the new minister, and cheerful readiness to try new things!

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As we begin 2015, I am profoundly hopeful for the future of Emmanuel Friedens Church. In addition to putting in action the goals we set forth at that retreat in October, I am hopeful that this spring our Journey Committee will bring you significant proposals for the longer term, to chew on and sort through! Most of all, I feel sure that we will continue to grow in spirit and deepen in love as we together follow Christ: on this street corner on which our church building is located; and in every scattered home and neighborhood touched by our life together.

In the Peace of Jesus,
Peter

The Weeks Ahead in Worship

Sunday January 11: First Sunday after the Epiphany
The Dedication of Laura Ellen and Edward Thomas Leyden
Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Mark 1:4-11
Sermon: *In the Beginning* Peter J.B. Carman

Sunday January 19: Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend
Special Musical Offering from the newly re-formed Emmanuel Friedens Band
Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Sermon: *Soul Force* Peter J.B. Carman

Sunday January 25: Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Mark 1:14-20
Sermon: *Going Fishing* Peter J.B. Carman

Sunday February 2: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
(Presentation of Christ)
We Gather at the Communion Table
Readings: Psalm 84; Luke 2:22-40
Sermon: *The Blessing* Peter J.B. Carman

Community Worship Services

An Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace will be held at 7 pm on Tuesday, January 13 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of the Albany Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church has extended an invitation for a time of prayer for peace. Participants include representatives of the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim faith traditions.

The event will include readings from the sacred texts of each tradition, as well as prayers for peace. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger will deliver the remarks.

The event is free and open to the public. The Cathedral is located at the corner of Eagle Street and Madison Avenue in Albany.

For more information, contact the Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany at 453-6660.

Ecumenical Unity Service—On Wednesday, January 21, at 12:45 pm, everyone is invited to gather for an Ecumenical Christian Unity Prayer Service, which will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, our downtown neighbors State Street.

A Message from Don Kerr...

Peter, Jody Radez, James Brown, Danielle O'Brien, and I are working on reviving "THE BAND", an ad-hoc group of singers and instrumentalists that will play on a regular monthly basis. I am especially excited about this, since it is something that I have hoped to do ever since I came to Emmanuel-Friedens. And, finally, it is really going to happen!

The group will perform "praise music", music from various folk traditions, and songs from many ethnic sources around the world. This will add new dimensions and, I hope, further enrich our worship with more variety.

If you sing or play an instrument and want to be involved, please send me an e-mail at sweelinck5@gmail.com. I will add you to a mailing list, so that you can receive monthly notification about singing dates and rehearsal times.

From Outreach and Mission

The Outreach and Mission Committee has successfully hosted our first Free Community Brunch! It was held on December 27, from 10:30-11:30 am. We had about 20 people from the community and another 20 people from the church.

We served pancakes, sausages, eggs, fruit, and beverages. Everyone who was there had a great time. Thank you to all who were able to come and volunteered in anyway, including eating and talking!

This brunch is going to be held the last Saturday of the month for the foreseeable future. That means **the next brunch is Saturday, January 31, 10:30-11:30 am**. Please join us and the community for food and fellowship!

Cassidy Lent
Outreach and Mission

Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, January 25, 2015
Following Worship

Please make sure that you attend this meeting as we vote on the 2015 church budget. Thank you.

A lunch will be served prior to the meeting.

Have You Sent in Your Pledge for 2015?

We thank those who have pledged so far and we encourage those who have not, to return your pledge card soon. Thank you. Additional cards are located on the table at the back of the Sanctuary or in the church office.

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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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Community News



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration... (Sponsored by the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission)

With the theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! Share the Dream!" this year's celebration will take place Sunday, January 18 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 1068 Park Avenue. This year's program is dedicated in remembrance of the Reverend Eloise M. Frazer, a tireless advocate and founder of the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission's Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition, who passed away last year. This special tribute for Rev. Frazier will be held at 2:00 pm followed by the regular program at 2:30 pm.

Dr. King's birthday celebration will feature keynote speaker Rev. Horace Sanders, Pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church and also include the King Community Choir. Parking is available at the Wendell Avenue entrance. Everyone is invited to attend and to participate in this celebration.

Capital Region Theological Center - For information on 2015 program and course offerings, check out www.crtc.org, (518) 462-2470, info@crtc.org, 160 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206