



Church *matters* FALL 2018

INSIDE THE MIND OF AN ELDER

The elders have observed several trends over the past 5 to 6 years and sometimes it can be observed farther back than that. One of the trends is the decreasing willingness for members to serve on boards, committees, or as chair persons, etc. Another trend observed is the natural disruption of the effectiveness of boards and committees when transitioning from one year to the next. The changes in teen leadership have been stressful. And, the Pastoral transitions in this interval have not been as smooth as we would wish. It has also been observed, that the church has serious issues, identified under Cliff's administration, that were to be addressed -- and they were. However, it has been observed that the body is still broken, the popular term used to be dysfunctional. This last observation is, and it is not, an indictment. On the one hand we are a fellowship of sinners and sinful dysfunction is expected. On the other, there are issues that still have to be addressed because, in as much progress as we have made as a body, there are still deficiencies that we should and must overcome. It was under Cliff and Jim that our vision statement was honed to what it is today. It hadn't changed much from what it was prior; we felt it was basically sound. We worked through the Biblical basis for our vision and it is easier to see the scriptural basis for the vision we put forward in its present form. i.e. "Loving God. Loving people, helping them to know and follow Jesus."

This is the vision the elders put before the congregation. It was incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws. We were in the process of "alignment", that is actually using the vision as guide to our decision making -- getting the boards to align their decision making with the vision -- and trying to get the congregation to accept decisions and changes, that may have been contrary to some opinion but was a result of following our vision. Brad has allowed us to develop the vision into what we call the WIN, or what does following the vision look like. That has been promoted as "Know, Share, Take". Essentially this is; knowing the Grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our head and our hearts, equipping to share that knowledge, Grace, and Gospel, and Taking that knowledge, Grace, and Gospel into the community and world around us.

In trying to address the trends, systemic issues, mentioned above, we observed that we were missing an important Biblical component in the life of EGCC. It is contained in our vision statement in helping to know and follow Jesus i.e. be a disciple. We have described that component as "mentored succession". There are numerous Biblical examples of it and not to take advantage of that insight seemed presumptuous. We had discussed the need for board / committee participation to be a mentored experience; the need for the youth ministry to have continuity through a mentorship, not only for the Youth Minister but volunteer staff as well. Finally, we came to understand the advantage of having a senior level pastor mentor a junior level pastor that would eventually accept the senior level responsibility. Without getting into what one means by senior and junior level pastor I envisioned it as passing the baton in a relay race. There is a region of track where both runners are running in stride so that as one arm swings back the other's swings forward so that the baton can be grabbed and let go without breaking stride and without dropping the baton. It's an image of mentored succession -- the runner receiving the baton may actually be the better runner, but for a time they run in stride with each other until the baton can be safely passed. - Elder, Tom Bischoff



East Glenville
Community Church

Kick-Off Sunday
September 9th

Sign Up in the Foyer!

Sunday School - 9am

Service - 10:30am

Picnic - 12 - 2pm

BBQ

Games

Bounce
House

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Our Worship Ministry is a deeply committed community of vocal and instrumental musicians and sound and media technicians who love worshipping God and serving together. Our purpose is to help East Glenville worship in an inspiring and God exalting way.

Our East Glenville choir, worship team and tech teams are made up of people of all ages who serve in Sunday morning worship. We prepare each week during 'Wednesday Worship' where we not only rehearse, but grow together through prayer and fellowship, - and have fun! The choir meets from 6:45 pm – 8:30 pm. At 8 pm the worship band joins the rehearsal. This year the instrumental ensemble will also be joining us a couple times a month. The worship team continues to rehearse until 9:30 pm. The choir is open to all in grades 9 and older. The worship team is open to experienced musicians by audition.

If you love to sing praise to the Lord, play an instrument, or are interested in worship production, this September we invite anyone who might be interested in any capacity to attend rehearsals. Extensive musical experience is not required and training is provided for all tech team roles. The most important qualification is having a heart for Christ-centered, God glorifying worship! Our Fall Kick-Off is Wednesday night, September 12. We would love to see you there!

If you have any questions or would like more information contact Sandie Wanamaker at worship@egcchurch.org, or call 518.932.3286.

INSTRUMENTAL MINISTRY

Music abounds at East Glenville Community Church! If you play a musical instrument and have three years experience or more, we would love to have you join us. There are many opportunities to share your gifts. We have an instrumental group that plays throughout the year as well as small mixed ensembles and soloists that play more often. What ever your comfort level, we have a place for you! If you are interested in playing or just have questions, please feel free to contact Donna Dowling at donnadmusic@gmail.com or call at 518.365.7665.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special informational meeting for the congregation of EGCC will be held on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21 at 7 PM in Buchanan Hall. This will not be a business meeting, but rather an open forum for the purpose of sharing, considering and discussing feedback and viewpoints regarding the recent staffing proposal circulated by the Elders. Copies of the proposal are still available in the foyer for anyone who did not receive the July emailing, or it may be sent by regular mail from the church office on request. The proposal is also posted on the church web site.

PRAISE GANG!

We'll be kicking off our kid's choir ministry in just a few short weeks, on Wednesday, September 12th! Boys and girls who are entering Kindergarten, up to & including 8th grade, are invited to join our weekly rehearsals, which are held in the preschool wing of the church from 6:45 to 7:45.

Praise Gang is a unique ministry giving kids the opportunity to serve their church family through their participation in the worship service, as well as build on their choral and musical skills. On top of that, the boys and girls grow in their relationship with God and with their friends, through prayer and the singing of Scripture-based songs.

We're always looking for new members! Call or text Melisa Olson at 518.435.5836 with any questions or to let her know that your child will be returning.

JOIN US THIS FALL FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Where do families, adults and children of all ages and stages of their faith explore the Bible together with gifted teachers? In our Sunday School classes that encourage discovery, discussion and application of God's principles through the study of His Word.

Classes for children age two through adults offer age-appropriate instruction and are led by teachers who help students to know and love God, love people and take the gospel out into our community so others can know and follow Jesus.

Children's Classes

This fall, our young children will continue with a curriculum that helps them see the Bible as more than a collection of stories but as one big story about Jesus. It's a narrative that continues from Genesis to Revelation, centered on God's plan for redemption and filled with stories of heroes as examples to follow, lessons to help us avoid pitfalls and tales of victory that give us strength and hope.

Older children study how God's redemptive plan is revealed in Scripture as well, with a particular focus on issues facing today's culture. Classes for junior high and senior high school students help participants read and apply the Bible, grow in their relationship with God and recognize that relationship as vital so it shapes their every decision as they move toward adulthood.

Adult Classes

Our Adult Sunday School program offers three "tracks" that provide a variety of topics geared to different interests and learning styles.

Adult Sunday School is comprised of :

The Kingdom Living Class taught by Geoff Switts.

The Bible track, which will start in the Gospel of John will be taught by Adrian Perregaux to be followed by I Peter taught by Pastor Phil. Each class will be about 6 weeks in length.

The Pilgrim's Progress taught by Tom Bischoff will continue through September.

Starting in October, we will be embarking on a track which is more Practical Theology. It is directed to all adults but especially those who are interested in serving on boards, committees, or teachers, etc. and is designed to be helpful for all those who will be serving in 2019 We will be going over the Vision and Win statements, Constitution and By-Laws, Personality traits and gifts as they pertain to ministry, and communication.

We are open to other ideas for Sunday School topics. A few that we are considering are: Hospitality, How to lead and participate in a Life Group, How to give away your faith, Know what you believe, Speaking to one another in love: Mt 5 and Mt18. Are there others that that would be helpful? Let us know your thoughts.

Spotlight on Sunday School for 2- and 3-year-olds

How do you grow a fully-mature disciple of Christ who loves God, loves other people and has a heart for the lost? Start early. VERY early.

Our 2- and 3-year-old Sunday School Class is taught by Henrietta Baziluk, better known as "Grandma Chicken." She is deeply loved by our children and parents, who are happy to see their little ones eager to learn about Jesus each week.

For those who are wondering, the "Chicken" portion of her "alias" comes from her first name HENrietta, not from any particular affiliation with poultry.

Grandma Chicken and her classroom assistants, Carol Czach and Patty Kopper, help little ones learn about the Bible and Jesus with stories, crafts, songs and structured playtime. Toddlers come to understand that Jesus is the Son of God and that He loves them. They learn to respect the Bible as a very special book and they grow in Christian character with encouragement to share, show kindness, obey rules and cooperate.

Grandma Chicken, who has taught the youngest Sunday School class at EGCC for 20 years, has also sharpened her skills in helping to ease separation anxiety (sometimes the parents are more anxious than the children at first, Henrietta explains with a smile).

"I tell parents 'give it two or three weeks.' Children learn quickly that Sunday School is a safe, caring place, and by week two or three, it's become a familiar and comforting setting too," she said. When asked what's the most important thing she would like parents to know about the 2- and 3-year old class, she replied "We have fun but that's not all. We have fun with a purpose. We are dedicated to helping the children to learn about and love Jesus."

INTENTIONAL MISSIONS by Steve Laskoski

A few weeks back, at the Spring Mission Conference, when the Cuba Mission Trip information was presented, I had the opportunity to address the congregation and closed my comments with the words, "now it is our turn." Being a returned member, who moved away and came back to EGCC, I have the perspective of seeing changes over about a seven year period. The biggest change I see is that many of the men who were my mentors have gone home to be with the LORD. Within the past few weeks I've also had the opportunity to do media for the Frontline Training (Greeters and visitor follow up). At that meeting I was reminded how those who came before us served, and welcomed some of us into the congregation. I said a similar thing to the trainer that I said to the congregation. These people need to become those who went before us, it is their turn now.

We are all missionaries, that is our role as Christ followers. Sometimes we serve behind the scenes, sometimes out front where others can see us, sometimes we leave our comfort zone and step out in faith. But we are all called to serve. When it comes to missionaries, we have an obligation to support and serve them, it is consistent with our history as a church, and it is consistent with our call as a Christian. One of the other changes I see is a somewhat shallower focus on our rich mission history. I've challenged those who are going on the mission trip to get to know a missionary, and also to ask non family members of the church to pray for them as they prepare for a witnessing mission trip to Cuba. This is a great opportunity to begin to know and understand what it is to be a missionary outside our comfort zone.

Certainly there are some of us who already have relationships with our active or retired missionaries. Getting to know these people who serve on our behalf, locally or on foreign soil, is a blessing to them, and a blessing to us. My first experience meeting a real live missionary made me realize he was a real person with real struggles, just like me. When I met a retired missionary, I found another mentor. After that we visited, invited, corresponded with, prayed for and financially supported the missionaries of EGCC. See, being a Christian is going to cost something. God's gift of salvation is free to receive, but obedience to God's Word is costly. We are all called, we are all expected to be obedient, our relationships in church are not like work or a social club, within the family of Christ, these are our brothers and sisters.

Our brother, Pat Daly, has a great perspective on what it means to be called into Christ's service. Unlike volunteering, "...there is a deeper level of commitment, joy and reward." That call is not "only for people who heard God calling them to the jungles of Africa...it's about something more down to earth, more obvious than that: God calling you and me to use our gifts in our local church." I challenge each of you to stretch in several different directions, as your life permits, and seek the places where you hear the call to serve, then serve with all your heart, mind and soul. That is the cost of service, but the rewards are a closer relationship with brothers and sisters, a closer relationship with God through Christ, and those relationships are not limited to earthly life in time and place, those rewards never end.

MISSIONS MINISTRY

As we are all looking forward to the arrival of fall, plans move ahead for a short term mission trip. At a meeting in June, it was decided to focus on going to Cuba but other trips are possible if anyone is interested but can't go on the trip to Cuba. We are still working on finalizing the date for the trip to Cuba and other meetings were set for after church, on August 19th and likely September 16th. So, if you have any interest in going abroad (Cuba or elsewhere) to help further the Kingdom then please come and join the meetings. If you have any special questions Steve Laskoski is heading up the planning for the short term mission tip.

Lastly, we want to report that VBS was able to raise \$900.00 for Topaza, the orphanage in Madagascar. This money has been sent and we are looking forward to hearing how the money was used and the reaction of the children. In addition to the money shirts will be sent to Topaza via the Cooper's vacation trip to Madagascar in August.

Have a wonderful rest of summer.

Yours in Christ,
The Mission Board;
Bruce Cooper Chairperson

DIACONATE BOARD

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There is no one like you! If you want to discern what God's will and purpose is for you, take a look at yourself. God's plan will match the interests and abilities that He has given you. Maybe you can learn new skills or strengthen and enhance the ones that you already possess. Ask yourself how you can use your current situation and your abilities right now to serve Him by serving others. There's no time in your life that God cannot use you in some capacity. God has put you where you are for a purpose. No one else is right where you are, meeting the specific people that you meet. What you have to offer in the way of a warm smile, an encouraging word, or a helping hand may be what shines Jesus' light and brightens someone's day. The gift of your time and your abilities may help you realize God's plan for your life – and uplift another's life at the same time. God gives us all jobs to do and expects us all to serve.

The Diaconate Board oversees many ministries within the Church that serve and care for others. We have needs for volunteers in many ministries including: meals, visitations, greeters, ushers, hospitality, serving at City Mission, etc. In October we will need volunteers to help with the Fall Festival.

October 1st the Shoebox Ministry begins with boxes due back at the end of October. November is the annual food drive to help those in need. Please consider helping in one or more of our ministries.

Brenda Mills, Chairman

JUNIOR DIACONATE

The Junior Diaconate is a ministry for children 3rd – 12th grade who are interested in serving God by serving others. The JD team fills the pew racks each Sunday and tidies up the pews, picks up communion cups each month and helps to refill the trays for the following month. Special projects are done a few times each year that include baking cookies for shut-ins and a Mother's Day mini pie sale to raise money for those with a need. If your child is interested in serving on the JD team, please have them contact Susan Williams.

DORCAS & FLANNELGRAPH

Dorcas and Flannelgraph Ministries are making plans for fall. There are lots of interesting things to do and we look forward to some new volunteers. Do you sew? Come! Do you paint or use scissors? Come! Look for more information in the September bulletin. For Dorcas information call Carol Vercocki at 518 399-7897. Call Ann VanWie at 518 399-5328 for Flannelgraph.

HELP NEEDED

Our next City Mission Serve date on September 14th at 5pm. Looking for a group of 8-10 people to serve dinner. Arrive at 4:45pm.

Please sign into the City Mission Portal 5 days ahead of serve date. If you already have an account set up the web site is:

[http://
eglenvillecc.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com](http://eglenvillecc.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com)

If you are unable to do this and prefer to call the City Mission. Please contact Lori Meguin at 346-2275. You may also contact Holly Britton at 399-6357.

TRUSTEES

Dear Church Family,

The Trustees are excited for our upcoming fall season. With a change of season, comes the need to work and preserve all that our Father has given us.

We are planning on having monthly, church wide work days. This will give our congregation an opportunity to both fellowship with one another, and keep up on projects that need to be addressed.

Also please let us remember to at all times leave things in a better condition than we found them. This is His house, let us give reverence at all times.

As always, we welcome suggestions on ideas to preserve and improve our building and grounds. We are planning on introducing a suggestion box to help facilitate this.

In Christ,

David Connors and the Trustees



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry is happy to be up and running! We thank those of you that took our survey to help guide our planning. Please make sure you join us Saturday, September 22nd at 9am for our kick off breakfast. We will be sharing our mission and vision, upcoming events and programs and our own Carol Potochney will be sharing with us. Most of all, come to connect with each other and our Lord!

Women's Ministry has Bible Studies that will begin this fall.

Wednesday mornings during preschool a Mom's group meets and has babysitting available. Katie Fischer will lead discussion based on Paul David Tripp's book "Parenting: 14 gospel principles that can radically change your family."

Our Wednesday night Bible study begins September 12th at 7pm and will be led by Kristen Capeci. We'll be using Beth Moore's "Law of Love" as we study Deuteronomy. Unlike other Beth Moore studies there is not in-depth homework but a weekly article and focus for quiet time.

Thursday mornings, 9:30-11am, Donna Williams will be leading a study "Nehemiah-a heart that can break" by Kelly Minter starting September 13th.

Thursday afternoon Nancy Snyder will be teaching on James.

Women's Ministry is working to provide more opportunities for all of us to connect. If you have an idea or feedback, please catch one of us on the leadership team (Shelley Cull, Kristin Armstrong, Kim Switts, Jackie Singer, Michele Sloan, Peg O'Donnell or Kristen Capeci).

Make sure you are part of our Facebook group, EGCC Women's Ministry!



ELLM'S FARM FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY

Family & Friends at Ellms Farm is on Friday,
September 28th from 4 - 6 pm.
448 Charlton Rd Ballston Spa, 12020

Cost is \$8 per person. 2 yrs old and under are free.

Includes play areas and corn maze.

All are Welcome!!!! Bring friends and family!

For more information, contact Susan Perregaux
(518)399-3151 ext.12 or children@egcchurch.org



Coming instead of Trunk or Treat:

FALL FESTIVAL AND CONCERT

Sat October 13, 2018
1 - 4 pm

Be a part of our community outreach event
with live Gospel music!
Our own Worship Team will perform in an outdoor
concert setting!

Public will be invited, free admission.

Volunteers needed for festival activities:

Carnival games

Hay rides

Popcorn, pulled pork, cotton candy

Harvest themed fall decorations

To volunteer or for more information contact:

Brenda Mills, Shelley Cull,

Sandie Wanamaker or Susan Perregaux

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be
prepared to give an answer to
everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope
that you have.*

EGCC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Celebrating 55 years!!! East Glenville Christian Preschool was established in 1963 as a non-profit, non-denominational Christian Preschool, which is open to all. The Preschool is a ministry of East Glenville Community Church. Our main goal is to teach Christian values through practical situations with the use of Bible stories, music and prayer. Our other objective is to prepare the children for future learning by introducing basic concepts and social skills in a variety of ways so they will have a positive attitude for learning. We desire to meet the special needs of each child for love and encouragement, giving them an opportunity to know God and His love, and the skills to interact with their peers in a positive way.

We currently have classes for 2, 3, and 4 year olds. Openings available in the 3 and 4 year old classes for September.

If you or anyone you know would like to visit the school or get more information, please contact us: Email: preschool@egcchurch.org;
phone: 518-280-7865; or visit the preschool tab at: egcchurch.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE FALL 2018

Our EGCC children's ministry has a new name:
EXPLORERS, for kids from pre-k - 5th grade!

In Sunday school, Jr Church, Spark, Praise Gang and VBS our children are learning to explore the Bible and find the treasure God has promised them. Exploring is an adventure that engages a child and equips them for a journey of faith throughout their lives.

Our infants and toddlers will be Li'l Explorers!

New night for Spark - Saturday
instead of Friday!

Expanded time, **from 6-8pm!**

Light dinner will be offered to kids at 6pm,
rsvp is required.

Save the dates!

Saturday September 22, 2018

Saturday October 20, 2018

Saturday November 17, 2018

Christian Parenting Newsletter will be provided
monthly to EGCC families.

Relevant information for parents who want to
focus on guiding their children's spiritual growth is
published by GROUP.

Current EGCC events will be added to keep
parents informed of what's happening at our
church!



VBS MISSIONS PROJECT UPDATE

Our Vacation Bible School students and families contributed to a missions collection of \$900 in June 2018 to provide support to Topaza Orphanage in Madagascar. The orphanage is home to 43 children from infants to students in university. We pray that the Topaza children will know God is at work in their lives and they are deeply loved by Jesus.

Below are pictures of two children who live at the orphanage:





LIVING NATIVITY

December 6, 7 & 8, 2018

Last year EGCC'S Living Nativity was a new and fresh way for our church to share the good news of Christ's birth with our community. Several hundred people came to see and hear the story of Christmas over the three night run.

This year we'll be building along the same vision with a few changes that should make it an even stronger community outreach. Six consecutive outdoor scenes with sets, still life actors, scripture scrolls and live animals will collectively tell the story as guests walk down a luminary lit path. They'll then come into the building and enjoy special music and carol singing along with a brief message from Pastor Brad. Finally, they'll be welcomed into Buchanan Hall to enjoy delicious refreshments with live instrumental music.

This will be a whole church event, and all are welcome to participate! There are many ways to serve from set design, costumes, signs/lettering, actors, publicity, both instrumental and vocal music, baking, and most importantly, prayer. There will be a Storyboard Meeting in September with more details. If you're interested in helping / have questions see Melisa Olson, Susan Perregaux, or Sandie Wanamaker.

Please begin to pray now that God will lead, direct, and bless this outreach in a wonderful way!

*"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another. "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."
Luke 2:15*

Church Events

- **Sept 8th - No Men's Breakfast - Cancelled**
- **Sept 9th - Kick -Off Sunday**
- **Sept 12th - Wednesday Night Program Begins**
- **Sept 15 - Worship Team Kick-Off**
- **Sept 17th - Preschool Begins**
- **Sept 21st - Church Informational Meeting**
- **Sept 22nd - Women's Breakfast**
- **Sept 22nd - SPARK**
- **Sept 28th - Ellm's Farm**
- **Sept 30th - Discover EGCC Welcoming Lunch**
- **Oct 2nd - Servant Council Leader Meeting**
- **Oct 7th - Shoebox Collection Begins**
- **Oct 13th - Fall Festival & Concert**
- **Oct 26th - 27th - Offsite Women's Event Beth Moore**
- **Nov 3rd - Men's Breakfast**
- **Nov 4th - Food Ingathering Begins**