TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Visitor





TRANSFORMED!

Eastern University's Traveling Drama Ministry will appear at Tabernacle Baptist Church on Saturday, February 24 and Sunday, February 25

Transformed!, An Eastern University's Student Drama Ministry which seeks to glorify God through dramatic presentations of the Gospel. Using contemporary theater as a means of proclaiming the Gospel message, *Transformed!* performs programs consisting of skits that challenge the audience to reflect on society and to live consistent Christ-like lives. *Transformed!* is a group of nine students. It has earned an excellent reputation for the quality of its programs and the testimony of its members.

They will be performing this month at Tabernacle on the following dates:

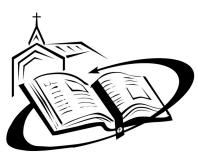
- Saturday Evening, February 24 from 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m. YOUTH NIGHT- Transformed! will lead an evening of youth activities for grades 7-12, college age and young adults. Tabernacle wishes to invite youth from other American Baptist Churches, in the Mohawk-Oneida Association, for fun and inspirational drama that will include skits, improvisation and games.
- Sunday, February 25 10:00 a.m.—at our ENGLISH WORSHIP SERVICE- Transformed! will present a powerful Christian drama with a message of transformation. Their focus will be on love, unity and confidence through Jesus Christ.

Eastern University is an American Baptist University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Please join us for the presentations by this dedicated Christian ministry drama team, *TRANSFORMED!* A special offering will be received both Saturday and Sunday for the ministry of *Transformed!*

The Deadline to submit an article for the March Visitor is Sunday, February 18.



The Church Office will be closed on Monday,
February 19 for
Presidents' Day



Interim Pastor's Page



Decision Making on the Road of Life

While at home recently, I was looking through some old pictures and came across one sent by a good friend who is a retired speech and English professor. It is a picture of picturesque New England fall foliage. My literaryminded Professor gave the caption: "We are in the shadow of poet Robert Frost country here in Vermont... looking for the fork in the road... but found only one road in the yellow wood... so we took it. Perfect."

Of course he was referring to the poem, "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost, one of my favorite poems.

I think it is a favorite because it reminds me of the many decision-making "forks in the road" of my life, both literally and figuratively.

Literally, it reminds me of decisions that had to be made at a fork in the road while walking or driving and figuratively, life changing decisions that had to be made at the fork in the road times called life.

For all of us, life has those forks in the road. However, I am thankful that we don't have to make those decisions alone. Our Lord who knows all about us, promises through the Holy Spirit to help us in making those decisions.

Two scriptures come to mind that affirm the Lord's promise of help:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge him and he will direct your paths"
 "Trust in the Lord with all your water.
 As I think about the and also the story of Peter, I remind myself of the import

(Proverbs 3:5&6)

 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given to him." (James 1:5)

The poem also reminds me of something else about decision making.

The traveler not only made a decision but then acted upon his decision. "I took the road less traveled by..." Often in life, we get to the difficult place of making a decision but because of fear, outside pressures and a number of other things, we fail to act on our decision or we make the wrong decision because it is more popular.

I often think of the story of the Apostle Peter, who with the other disciples, was out on the Sea of Galilee in a terrible storm. The Bible narrative says that Jesus went

to them, walking on the sea. Not sure if it were Jesus, Peter called out, "Lord, if that is you, let me come to you. " Jesus said, "Come." The Scriptures tell us that immediate Peter got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus.

Peter, like the traveler in the poem, made a decision and then acted on it. He got out of the boat and started walking toward Jesus.

However, one more thought comes to me about decision making in our lives. The story tells us that Peter was doing fine as long as he had his eyes on Jesus. When he took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink in the water.

As I think about the poem and also the story of Peter, I remind myself of the importance of not only making decisions but acting on the decisions and then keeping my eyes on the Lord to guide me.

Pastor Richard





Karen Pastor's Page

ကစါယှဉ်ရူးတူသံသးလပင်္ဂါအခ်ီပညီ

၁.လ၊တာ်ပျာ်တာ်ဖွဲးဘားအင်္ဂါ

ရိမ္၊၃း၂၃–၂၄စံးဝဲဒဉ်,အဂ္ဂါဒ်အံးပှၤခဲလာ်မ၊တၢ်ဒဲးဘးဒီးတချူးနှာ်ဘဉ်ယွာအလၤကပီးဘဉ်ဒီးပဘဉ်တၢ်ဟ် တီဟ်လိၤပုၤကလီကလီလၢယွာအဘျူးအဖိုဉ်လၢယ့ဉ်ရှူးခရံဉ်အတၢ်ပုံးကာ့၊ပုၢအယ်လီး

မးသဲ၂၀း၂၈–ပုၤကညီဖိခွါအံးတဟဲဘဉ်ဒ်သိးပုၤကမၤအီၤလၢအစ္ဒအပုၤအတၢ်မၤဘဉ်မ္၊်ဒ်သိးအကမၤအစ္ အပုၤအတၢ်မၤဒီးဟ္၌လီၤအသးလၢပုၤကညီအါဂၤအပ္ဒၤလီၤ

၁ပ္၊တရူး၁း၁၈စံးဝဲဒဉ်နအဂ့ၢ်ဇ်အံးသုသ္နဉ်ညါလ၊တာ်ပ္၊က္၊သုဇ်သီးသုကထူဉ်ဖျဲးလ၊တာ်အိဉ်မူလ၊အတကဲ ဘျူးလ၊သုန္ဒာ်သါလ၊ဖံဖုလ၊ပျူးတဖဉ်အအိဉ်နှဉ်လီ၊

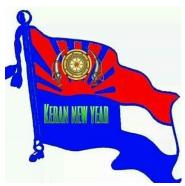
ပဝဲပှာခရံဉ်ဖိအင်္ဂါဘဉ်ဃးဒီးတါပျုံတၢ်ဖွဲးဘးနှဉ်ကစာ်ယ့ဉ်ရှုးခရံဉ်အကစာ်ဖဉ်ဝဲဟုံးနှာ်မူဒါဒီးတူာ်သံအသး လာတာပျာ်တာဖြဲးဘးအင်္ဂါလီး.

ါ•တ)က်ဥ်ညုအင်္ဂဟ၊ဂညုဒ္မးသးအပျွ

တာ်ကိုးမံးစီးလာပမိဉ်နှဉ်သူးလီအီးနှဉ်ပဘဉ်ဟံ့ဉ်အိဉ်စီးအပူးအကလံးလီး လာပသားသမူကပူးဖျဲးစီးတာ် စံဉ်ညီဉ်အင်္ဂါပကစာ်ယှဉ်ရှူးဘဉ်ဟံ့ဉ်တာ်အပူးလာအမှာ်အသားသမူစီးတူာ်သံအသားလာပင်္ဂါလီး စကရံဉ်သူးအဆားဖိဉ်၆း၂ဝနှဉ်စံးဝဲဖဉ်အင်္ဂါဖ်အံးတာ်ပွားကားသုလာအပူးလီးမာသားဖိနှဉ်စီးမားလားကပီးယွာလာ သုနီးခ်ိနီးကစာ်တက္နာ ကေစ်ယှဉ်ရှူးအတာ်တူာ်သံအသားအားမှာ်လာတာ်ပွားကားပသာသမူအင်္ဂါလီး ၁ပူးတရူးသာ၉နှမ့်မှာ်တာပွားကားသုလာခရံဉ်အသွံ့ဉ်လာအလုံးဖိဉ်ပူးဖိဉ်ဖိသိဖိလာအတာ်သံဉ်သူမိဉ်ကျာ်စီးအ တာ်မဲဉ်သူမိဉ်ဂီးတအိဉ်ဘဉ်အသိုးလီး မိကပအဲဉ်ဆာကာ့အစာလာအဆဲဉ်ဆိပုအယိတက္နာ တာ်မဲခ်သူမိဘိဂီးတအိဉ်ဘဉ်အသိုးလီး မိကပအဲဉ်ဆာကာ့အစာလာအဆဲဉ်ဆိပုအယိတက္နာ စစ်စဉ်အပြီးလီးလီး မိကပအဲဉ်ဆာပိုးလီး မိကပအဲခ်ခုအပြီးလီး မိကပအဲခ်ခဲ့သို့ပြီး မေးလာကောင်္ဂြန်းလိုင်းမှာ လေ့သောကာ့အခြားလီး မော်လေ့မှာ မေးသည့် မေးလေ့သောကာ့အခြားလီး မေးလေ့သည့် မေးလေးလေ့သည့် မေးလေ့သည့် မေးလေ့



"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28



January 6, 2018
Karen New Year
Celebration
at MVCC



Stewardship Pledges Reach 100% Mark!

As of January 21, 94.77% of Restoration and Preservation, 101.61% of Current Expense, and 104.22% of Missions has been pledged. If you have not yet returned your completed pledge card, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church, Attention: Financial Secretary. Extra pledge cards and Stewardship packets are available on the literature table in Thorn Chapel. Thank you to everyone who has turned in a completed pledge card!



Tax Tips from our Treasurer, Brad Gould Earned Income Credit (EIC)

For 2017, the EIC can be as much as \$3400 if you have one qualifying child, \$5616 if you have two qualifying children, \$6318 if you have 3 or more qualifying children and \$510 with no qualifying children.

You qualify for this benefit if you have a social security number and you meet the earned income requirements. If you do not have a social security number, you may still qualify.

Income Earned During 2017

- Your tax year investment income must be \$3,400 or less for the year.
- Must not file Form 2555, Foreign Earned Income or Form 2555-EZ, Foreign Earned Income Exclusion.
- Your total earned income must be at least \$1.
- Both your earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must be no more than:

Filing Status	Qualifying Children Claimed				
	Zero	One	Two	Three or more	
Single, Head of House- hold or Surviving Spouse	\$14,880	\$39,296	\$44,648	\$47,955	
Married Filing Jointly	\$20,430	\$44,846	\$50,198	\$53,505	

Interim Pastor's Annual Report

"I planted, Apollos watered but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants, nor the one who waters is anything but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose...for we are God's servants, working together. You are God's field, God's building." (I Corinthians 3:6-8) (NRSV)

On March 24, I arrived to become your interim pastor. I was met by Mike Dunne, who took me to the parsonage so I could get settled. Going to the very nice house in which I was to live was the first of many welcoming events that I was to experience in the next few days. So much effort had been made to make it comfortable for me. That evening, I attended a welcoming dinner with Pastor Dan, church leaders, staff and several of the church youth; a good introduction to my new call.

The following Sunday was another welcoming experience. Since I had always wanted to go to Burma to witness the ministry started by Adoniram Judson over 200 years ago, I was excited to have the privilege of serving in a church made up of so many Karen Christians who were faithfully continuing to share the message of the Gospel that was preached by Missionary Judson, so long ago, and I was not disappointed my first Sunday here. At the end of Sunday, the Lord confirmed my call here as interim pastor. Of course, a highlight of the day was experiencing over one hundred children coming forward for the children's sermon. I had never witnessed that in all my years in ministry. What a blessing!

In the weeks that followed, meeting with Pastor Dan, church staff and church leaders helped to familiarize me with the church's mission, ministries and everyday activities. However, I would like to express special thanks to Karen Dunne who spent much time providing me with important information about Tabernacle and living in Utica as well as Tom and Gwen Deragon for taking me to meet church members who could no longer come to church on a regular basis. Of course, being at a church where so many members speak a different language is indeed challenging but thanks to Pastor Dan and some of our Karen church leaders, this also proved to be a delightful experience.

However, now that I have been here for ten months, I would like share with you the impression of Tabernacle Baptist Church that stands out in my mind. Through serving with staff, lay leaders and church ministry teams, interacting with members here at church and visiting members in their homes, it is the wonderful spirit of our church family that stands out to me.

That wonderful spirit is seen each week in the compassion, concern, generosity and willingness to help when needed. It is seen in the faithful church attendance. It is seen in the warm and caring interaction among members, from our youth to our seniors. It is seen in the prayer concern.

It is also seen in the commitment of volunteers who serve in so many areas of church life: Sunday School teachers and workers, Karen singers, youth choir, praise band, ushers, communion preparers and servers, office volunteers, cleaning volunteers, preparers of church meals, Caring Corner workers and members who serve in so many areas of church life that are necessary for the mission and ministries of the church.

That spirit is seen in the commitment of our Lay Leadership: Moderator, members of our Ministry Coordinating Council, Ministry Teams and Staff Relations Committee. as well as our Staff: Karen Dunne, Minister of Christian Education, Say Wah Htoo, Christian Education Associate, Tammy Daly, Administrative Assistant, Melody Gay, Organist, Brad Gould, Treasurer, Robert Mandry, Financial Secretary, Mike Dunne and Lew Olivadese, Sextons. Of course, that spirit is seen in Pastor Dan with whom I have the privilege of serving.

It is seen in the faithful giving of tithes and offerings that support the ministry of Tabernacle Church.

Two examples of the wonderful spirit I have been blessed to witness are seeing 12 of our young people profess their faith in Christ in the waters of Believers' Baptism and seeing the restoration of the Davison Tower of Refuge which was completed by the generous and sacrificial efforts and gifts of members and friends of Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Thanks to God who uses us to grow His church and then blesses us to benefit from the results of our labors. God has certainly blessed Tabernacle Baptist Church, and I feel privileged to be here to experience His blessing as well as to experience the wonderful Tabernacle Baptist Church spirit that you have shared with me through your love and support during these months as your interim pastor.

Faithfully,

Pastor Richard D. Burke

Karen Pastor's Annual Report

We are very thankful to God for bringing us through the year 2017, and His blessings upon us. Reflecting upon 2017, all our church members came and worked together as God enabled them. In working together, I would like to highlight some of the works and activities in the annual report.

- Karen Worship Service: After the English Worship Service, we have Karen Worship Service every week, and we continue with home fellowship service after church worship service, if there is any invitation from families. We also have prayer session Saturday evenings from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Women's Group: We have Bible Study on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. followed by group prayer. On the third Sunday of each month, we have home fellowship service if there is any invitation from families.
- Youth Group: We have Youth Fellowship and Bible Study from August 7-12. The bible studies first took place in the church building from August 7-10, and they continued and finished at a camping site from August 11-12. Every Saturday, at 5:00 p.m., the youth study the Bible and practice songs for the Sunday Service, directed and led by Eh Mu Dah and Olive San.
- Mission to Myanmar: We are supporting 11 mission works. There are 19 workers. 300, 000 kyat is contributed to each mission work a year, coming to a total of \$3,000.00 a year.

May the Lord guide and lead us in the work throughout 2018.

May the Lord bless you all,

Pastor Daniel Calvin San



The following individuals are giving leadership in a variety of roles to our congregation in 2016. They are your resource persons for questions, concerns and suggestions. They can also help you find a place of service and ministry within our congregation.

> **Worship & Witness Ministry Team Officers**

> > Faith Nurturing Ministry Team

Paw Nay Hser Karen Dunne Aung Tin Moderator Gwen Deragon Mu Dah Vice Moderator Khinsoe Moe Susan Beal Church Clerk Gwen Deragon Eh Mu Dah Kyi

Gran Ju Aye, Youth Rep. **Bradford Gould** Treasurer Financial Secretary Robert Mandry

Stewardship Ministry Team

Eh Nay Paw Joanne Gould David Tomidy, Chair Kler Eh Soe Ka Hser Htoo Elizabeth Nyein Mike Dunne Olive San Doe Doe Keh Carol Bennett

Khinsoe Moe Thomas Moe, Youth Rep. Maria Htoo, Youth Rep.

Church-Staff Relations Committee

Susan Beal Joanne Gould John Marvel

Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines ~ February 2018



Praise and Worship Band Rehearsal	Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.
Karen Christian School	Saturdays, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Karen Language Classes and Children's Music Practice	Saturdays, 3:00 p.m.
Karen Choir Practice	Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.
Youth Praise & Worship, Bible Study and Song Practice	Saturdays, 6:00 p.m.
English Worship Service and Sunday School	Sundays, 10:00 a.m.
Karen Worship Service	Sundays, 11:15 a.m.

Sunday School Teachers' and Assistants' Communion Service

		Sunday, February 4, 9:15 a.m.	
Communion Sunday	Sunday, February 4, 10:00 a.m.		
Stewardship Ministry Team M	Sunday, February 11, 12:30 p.m.		
Worship and Witness Ministry	Sunday, February 11, 12:30 p.m.		
March Visitor Article Submissi	ion Deadline	Sunday, February 18	
Faith Nurturing Ministry Tean	Sunday, February 18, 12:30 p.m.		
Women's Worship Service	Third Sunday of	Each Month, 5:00 p.m. (February 18)	
Office Closed for Presidents' D	ay	Monday, February 19	
Church Cleaning Day		Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m.	

Transformed! Traveling Drama Ministry Presentation

Saturday, February 24, 6:30 p.m. and February 25, 10:00 a.m.

Ministry Coordinating Council Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 12:30 p.m.

Youth Worship Service

Last Sunday of Each Month, 6:00 p.m. (February 25)

Pastor Daniel to Visit Thailand and Burma

Pastor Daniel will be visiting Thailand and Burma, from *February 28—March 23*. He will be joined by his wife, Anna, son, Johnay and daughter, Olive. They plan to visit Pastor Dan's mother and the rest of their family and friends. Please hold them in your thoughts and prayers, asking God to watch over them and bless them on their journey.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you for the 4 poinsettia plants. They are beautiful! Thank you for praying for me. Keep doing it, it's working! Thank you for coming to see me. I love the Tabernacle Baptist Church. There is power in prayer!



Eh Ta	2/1		Mary Elizabeth Thomas	2/17
Moo Day Ket	2/3		Thin Win	2/17
Joshua Htoo	2/4		Kwe Ka Baw	2/18
Eh Kaw Thaw	2/5		Eh Ahah Kyi	2/18
Rayhtoo Kyet	2/5		John Eh Mi	2/18
Elvis Lay	2/5		Dee Noe	2/18
Hser Lay Moo	2/5		Ta Dah	2/19
Zygmunt Malowicki	2/6		Hei Ku Moo	2/20
Ler Say	2/7	\	Dee Dee Htoo	2/22
Gran Ju Aye	2/7		Tammy Daly	2/23
Rachelle Ellis	2/7		Kay Klo	2/25
Hser Doh Paw	2/10		Janet Pickard	2/25
Robert Hagues	2/11		Da Lay	2/26
Ta Wah Wah	2/12		Eh Nay Paw	2/26
Kmler Paw Pyu	2/13	4 /	Eh Ta Baw	2/27
Alexander Htoo	2/14		Paw De Say	2/27
Christ Hay Than Htoo	2/14		Mu Twae	2/28
		1		

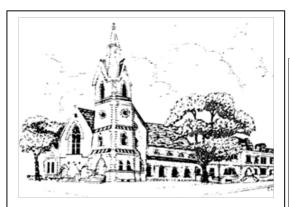
If you would like yours or a family member's birthday announced in our Visitor, please contact Tammy in the Church office at 315-735-7534 or churchoffice@tbcutica.org



Tabernacle Baptist Church

13 Clark Place Utica. New York 13501 Nonprofit Org. US POSTAGE PAID Marcy, NY Permit No. 289





Tabernacle Baptist Church Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. English Service11:15 a.m. Karen Worship

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Closed on Fridays In Case of Emergency, please contact:

Pastor Richard 315-864-8438 954-933-1834

Pastor Daniel 315-790-4449

Church Office 315-735-7534

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Richard D. Burke Interim Pastor
Rev. Daniel Calvin San Pastor
Rev. Dr. James V. Davison Pastor Emeritus
Karen Dunne Minister of Christian Ed.
Say Wah Htoo Christian Ed. Associate
Tammy Daly Administrative Secretary
Lewis Olivadese Sexton
Michael Dunne Sexton

CONTACTS

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Office Email churchoffice@tbcutica.org
Website www.tbcutica.org

Pastors' Email

Pastor Richard <u>ricbur555@aol.com</u>
Pastor Daniel <u>associatepastor@tbcutica.org</u>

theylar@gmail.com