



English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna

May 2017

Celebrate

We will celebrate Women's Day/Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May in line with Mother's Day in Austria. In preparation for the service, I have been reflecting on important women in my life who nurtured me in love and Christian faith, who pushed and prodded me, who disciplined and corrected me. There are too many women to name here—my mother, my grandmothers, my pastor Denise Marikis, my ordination mentor Benita Rollins, countless friends who are women, clergy colleagues, and many others. Thanks be to God for all the women in my life and for the tremendous impact.



Pastor Matthew (right) with his mother Sherrill circa 1988

Women of the Church

We also take time in May to remember and celebrate the vast and innumerable contributions of women at ESUMC, The United Methodist Church, and the Church universal. We recall the stories of old of Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Naomi and Ruth, Rahab, Esther, and many others. We remember that women—Mary the Mother of God, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Salome—first discovered the empty tomb of our risen Savior. Women were instrumental in the early church like Lydia the first baptized Christian in Europe, Phoebe the deacon and emissary of Paul, and Priscilla the missionary.

At ESUMC we commemorate the ministry of our first pastors who were women—Laura Trent and

Kathy Young. We give thanks for the leadership of Edith Varner, wife of ESUMC's first pastor Lee Varner, who led ESUMC for a year after her husband's death in Vienna. There are also many lay women over the years who have chaired committees, coordinated programs, led worship, provided musical leadership, cared for those in need, and much more. We thank them for their faithful service to Christ and the Church and we are indebted to their ministry to and among us.

Breaking Down Barriers

We also cannot forget the struggles women have and continue to face in society and the Church. With strength and courage women have sought and achieved much change while also remaining faithful to broken, sexist institutions.

On 23 July 2008 the Rev. Joaquina Filipe Nhanala was elected bishop. Bishop Nhanala is the first woman elected bishop in The United Methodist Church on the continent of Africa and is assigned to the Mozambique Episcopal Area. She is one of the first (if not the first) woman elected as bishop in any major Christian church on the continent.

Nhanala oversees 29 schools, a theological school, agricultural programs, Chicucue Rural Hospital, two clinics, a seminary, and four Bible schools in addition to 170 congregations and 150,000 church members in Mozambique.



Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala

We are blessed by leadership of women in our church. Thank you!

Looking Back Last Month

Five Baptized on Easter Sunday

Our Resurrection Sunday worship opened with the Charles Wesley classic "Christ Our Lord Is Risen Today" to a standing room-only crowd. After the opening prayer, Pastor Matthew invited ESUMC children forward to watch the baptisms up close.

Five children aged 6 weeks to 10 years old were baptized by water and the Spirit—Sophia Milkulski, Saphira Stanic, Romeo Stanic, Victoria Totolin, & Ronja Haslinger.

Water from the Jordan River and oil from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem were utilized in the sacrament.

We welcome these children into Christ's holy Church and pray God's blessing upon them as they grow in stature and faith.

Photos: *top* Pastor Matthew baptizing Sophia Mikluski, *middle right* the Stanic family after Romeo and Saphira's baptisms, *bottom* the Easter cross decorated with fresh flowers. Photos by Ken Fife.



Wärmestube By the Numbers

The Wärmestube—winter daytime shelter—was open in the 2016/17 season 17 times (17 Tuesdays). A total of 1,513 guests were served in the 2016/17 season with an average of 89 guests per day. The lowest session attendance was 55 and the highest was 104. The Wärmestube was open from 10:00-17:00. Often we had 40 guests arrive at 10:00 when the Wärmestube

Music Sunday was April 23rd

On Sunday, April 23rd, we celebrated Music Sunday. All the ESUMC choirs sang—the children's and Wesleyan choirs, the chancel choir, the African Singers and Drummers, and the Vienna International Gospel Choir. The theme was "How Can I Keep From Singing" focusing on songs of strength and tribulation. Thank you to our choir directors Marilyn Brandl, Andree van Rooy, Wolfgang Zewe, and Deborah Koll-Petty and to our musicians Jeff Greiman, Jerry Barton, Sarah Brustmann, and April Kang for their leadership in our music ministry.

Looking Ahead in May and Beyond

Special Congregational Meeting

Superintendent Stefan Schröckenfuchs has called a special congregational meeting (charge conference) on Sunday, May 28th immediately after worship (approximately 12:35). The purpose of the meeting is to examine and adopt the 2016 church financial audit. No other business will be transacted. Copies of the audit are available in the church office. All professing members of the church are eligible to vote.

Fellowship Breakfast

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be on Saturday, May 6th starting at 9:00. After Breakfast Oscar van Rooy will be having a discussion on "Global Energy Sources, Supplies, Demands, Trends." Breakfast will take place in the fellowship area. All are welcome!

Women's Fellowship Meeting

There will be a women's fellowship potluck and meeting on Saturday, May 13th from 6:30-8pm (18:30-20:00). We'll be sharing a potluck meal together and then creating scripture stones we can use to encourage one another. Please bring something to eat and a smile! Childcare will be provided, however we ask that if you will need childcare to please let Rachel Allen know so enough childcare workers are available.

Young Families Outing

The Young Families group will tour an oil mill in Styria on Saturday, May 27th from 14:30-17:00. The guided tour will be conducted in English and is suitable for both adults and children. It will cost between 8 and 8.50 euros depending on our choice of package and the size of the group. If you interested in joining us (or need some more information,) please email Melissa no later than 1 May 2017.

Annual Conference

The Austrian-wide annual Methodist Conference will be held from May 18th-21st in Linz. Pastor Matthew, Doreen Ighama, and Sarah Kudaya will be attending and representing ESUMC.

Wärmestube Party

There will be a Wärmestube party for volunteers on Saturday, May 27th starting at 15:00 in the back garden.

Organ Concert at ESUMC

In celebration of the Reformation Jubilee there will be an organ concert on Tuesday, June 13th at ESUMC. Entrance is free.

Confirmation Class Offered

Pastor Matthew will be teaching a confirmation class. There will be a meetinf about this class on Sunday, May 28th, at 1:30 in the Wesley Room. Youth interested in confirmaiton and their parents should attend. This class is open to youth aged 12 and older. For more information contact Pastor Matthew or the church office.

Cardboard Needed!

Large pieces of cardboard are needed for VBS. If you have any pieces that are 1 meter or bigger, please save them for us. You can bring them to the church and leave them in the church office. Thank you!

Vacation Bible Sch'l Dates Announced



Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of August 14th through August 18th. All children ages 4 through 15 are invited to attend. The theme will be "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God." If you are interested in helping, please contact the church office at office@esumc.at.

THE PASTORS ARE COMING

From 1-8 May 2017, nearly 35 pastors and their spouses will descend on Bratislava and Vienna for a conference sponsored by the Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East and hosted by ESUMC, the Bratislava International Church, and the Vienna Community Church. All three hosting churches are AICEME members. On 7 May the group will be joining ESUMC in worship. Please warmly welcome them!

The Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East traces its origins to an annual gathering of pastors and their spouses serving English-speaking international churches in Europe and the Middle East. Concerned about isolation experienced by English-speaking churches in Europe in the 1950s and 1960s, the Foreign Language Office of the European Conference of Churches, the International Congregations and Lay Ministry Office of the National Council of Churches in Christ USA, and Presbyterian missionary Ray Teeuwissen organized a conference in Geneva in 1967 for pastors and their spouses serving English-speaking international churches in Europe and the Middle East. The annual meeting continues to this day.

At the pastors' conference in 1974 in Antwerp, Belgium, the pastors attending resolved "that there should be a more formal structure than the present Annual Conference of Pastors and Wives Serving English Speaking Churches in Europe and the Middle East" and "that the name of the new organization be 'The Association of International Churches (Ecumenical - English Speaking - Europe and the Middle East)'".

By the conference in Athens in May 1975, nine pastors reported their churches agreed to the formation of an association of churches. The pastors voted and established the new association. A special committee was appointed and articles of association were drawn up. Invitations to join the emerging association were sent to English-speaking churches around Europe and the Middle East. By the close of the Association's first meeting in Paris on 1 May 1976, nine churches were charter members: the American Protestant Church in Bonn, the International Protestant Church in Brussels, the American Church in London, the International Church in Copenhagen, the American Church in Paris, the American Protestant Church in The Hague, International Church of Stockholm, Vienna Community Church, and the English Language Church of Tehran.

In April 1981 the Association changed its name to the 'Association of International Churches in Europe and the Middle East'.

Long Night of Churches on June 9

The annual Long Night of Churches is Friday, June 9th. ESUMC and our sister congregation Fünfhaus Gemeinde will be hosting a joint church opening. The schedule is:

- 18:30—Music from the African Singers and Drummers
- 19:00—Methodist 101
- 19:30—Dietrich Bonhoeffer Readings with guest band 'Crescendo'
- 21:00—International Food Buffet
- 21:30—Methodism 101
- 22:00—Methodist Prayer Service

There will also be historical exhibits about Methodism and important persons on display as well.

For more information about the Long Night of Churches visit their website at www.langenachtderkirchen.at/



ESUMC Children's Procession on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna

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