



# The Connection

The Capital Area Council of Churches

SEPTEMBER 2014

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## THE SUMMER SNAPSHOT

It's getting darker earlier now and I am beginning to feel breathless about summer coming to an end. There is no justice in this.

The summer has been filled with many things—good and bad. Our world continues to spin out of control as we sit by and watch the tension in Gaza and Israel and Iraqis trapped on a mountain. I have been to several prayer vigils for the safety of all our brothers and sisters living in the Middle East. Please continue with your prayers as well.

Jane E. is in the office answering phones, reading the mail, typing, researching etc. etc. and taking care of me by keeping me on task. What a gift she is for ALL of us.

Our “Seniors on the Go” program took off like a NASCAR race. Seniors call everyday to add their name to our group and to take advantage of this expanded ministry. CACC co-sponsored with the Senior Issues Forum a program that discussed the “Spiritual Needs of Seniors” in July. We have received many thought-out action plans from those who attended and CACC will continue to explore these responses so that we can be of help to our member churches and as well as individual seniors who have joined us.

(Continued on Page 2)

## THE SUMMER

### SNAPSHOT (Continued from Page 1)

The really big news—The College of Saint Rose donated four computers to the Council. We are so grateful to my alma mater that I love so much for helping us get up-to-date technologically.

Shortly, we will have the pleasure of two interns from Bryant and Stratton to man the office and help us with technological concerns as well as general office work. We hope by the time you are reading this they will be in place and at your/our service.

I have been working on some new initiatives for the shelter as well. Hope we will soon have some progress to report. Pam stays in close touch and we continue to brainstorm new ways we can serve our guests. We are so grateful to First Lutheran for partnering with us in this important ministry.

Early in July I had the opportunity to go to the Islamic Center of the Capital District during Ramadan to break the fast at their Iftar on July 9. Christians should join in on Iftar Celebrations of Ramadan with our Muslim friends during these holy days of Ramadan for our Muslim brothers and sisters, all Christians have a part to play. In a world of such religious diversity, Christians

have a special responsibility to reach out with the love, respect, and the compassion of Christ basing our respect for one another in part on our common faith values. Ramadan offers a special opportunity for just this. It was a wonderful inter-religious evening. A great time to share table fellowship with our Muslim brothers and sisters. Many faiths were represented and so much goodwill exchanged. Hope some of you will join with me next year.

After 17 years at the desk, Kitt Jackson retired as Administrative Director at the Council. (See article on honoring Kitt) We are delighted to say that Jane E. Schweikert stepped up and is filling in as interim administrative assistant. Although a little like Ground Hog Day, (the movie) Jane E. and Deb are busy creating, deleting, purging, searching and redesigning. Let us know what your gifts and talents are. We can put you to work if you have the time.

On a personal note, my daughter Amanda was married on Aug. 1 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. It was a great night for the Riitano clan—

Excitement is growing and can be felt through the halls of First Lutheran.

Coffee's on... come by.  
Deb

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION

### October 1st

Our annual celebration will take place, **Wednesday, October 1** at Albany Country Club. As many of you know, we will be honoring and celebrating Kitt Jackson with the Carlyle Adams Ecumenical and Inter-faith Award for her 17 years of service as Administrative Director to the Council. We are currently working on a silent auction to supplement this evening of fun, fellowship and antics. The Honorary Committee is a veritable “who’s who” of the heavenly realm.

Invitations are almost off the press and in the mail. If you don’t receive your’s soon, call us at 462-5450 so that we can get one to you. If you would like to donate a silent auction item, we would love it. Call us and we can pick it up for you. You won’t want to miss this night.

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP WALK NEWS

CWS is assisting refugees and responding to natural disasters around the world. Many thanks to all who participated in the 10 Capital Region CROP Walks on May 4. Final figures from the Albany Walk show around 450 walkers/volunteers from 54 groups. Income, including a \$750 grant

from Thrivent and some generous matching funds, is just under \$93,000. One-quarter of the funds raised will come back to this area to help local food pantries and soup kitchens. Persons interested in serving on the Committee to plan the May 3, 2015 CROP Hunger Walk are asked to contact the CACC office (462-5450). The first meeting will be on **Wed., Sept. 10** at 4:45 pm.

## URGENT NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Albany Maritime Ministry has an urgent need for volunteers. This is a vital and powerful ministry — an ecumenical ministry welcoming international seafarers arriving in the Capital area. Work will be done in and around the Port of Albany.

The following are needed:

- **Seafarer Center Receptionists-** be a hospitable presence in the Seafarers’ Center greeting and serving the needs of guests at the Center.
- **Drivers-** driving AMM’s 15 passenger van locally.
- **Ship visitors-** going aboard ships to welcome, orient and offer services.

You will be trained and supported in this work. Please call 463-0571 and leave a message. Please consider joining us.  
*Albany Maritime Ministry*

## SENIORS ON THE GO...

### Growing like Topsy!

Our senior club is blooming! In less than ten days more than sixty Capital Area seniors had called to join our team. If your church senior group has not yet been in touch with CACC, please call us at 462-5450 to let us know so that we can be sure we have you on our outreach list.

We have many events and outings planned. ALL are welcome regardless of neighborhood, faith tradition, or living arrangement. If you live in a single-family dwelling, join us. If you live in an independent apartment residence, join us. If you live in a high-rise or a low-rise or assisted living, or special housing, or in the South End, Arbor Hill, Delmar, Whitehall Road, Pine Hills, or West Hill, join us. When Abraham was in the desert, he would keep all the sides of his tent open so that he could see who was coming. We, too at the Council, have the sides of our tent raised so that we can see you as you join us.

Here are some activities we have planned:

**August 20** – “The Cruise and Shmooze” luncheon boat ride on the Capt. JP \$47/\$49 non-member

**September 4** – Olana and Pollace’s Resort in the Catskills. \$67/\$69 non-member.

Our tent is open.....

## CABARET NIGHT

It’s Cabaret Night on Wednesday September 17. Join us at St. Sophia’s Orthodox Church for an evening of fun, music and food with a “fifties” ambience. Listen to the velvety voice of Joe Cybulski the Capital District’s own “crooner.” Plan on hearing some of your “rat pack” favorites and joining in by singing or dancing as well. Test your memory on some fifties trivia too. Otherwise just plan on having your jaw drop as you listen to Joe belt out a Sinatra hit.

Choice for dinner is Chicken Marsala or Pasta Primavera. The cost is \$20 for CACC members and \$23 for non-members. Call Jane E or Deb at CACC -- 462-5450.

## THE PEACE and JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Peace and Justice Committee of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany will sponsor “Rooted in Love: The Life and Death Story of Sr. Dorothy Stang.” Sister Nancy Murray — a sibling of comedian Bill Murray — will bring her one-woman show,

“Rooted in Love: The Life and Death Story of Sr. Dorothy Stang,” to Sun of Justice Chapel at RPI on **Saturday, September 20.**

Sr. Nancy wrote “Rooted in Love” to share the story of Sr. Dorothy, known by book title and deed as “Martyr of the Amazon.” Sr. Dorothy spent nearly 40 years standing up for peasant farmers and land issues in Brazil. She was killed Feb. 12, 2005 when two hired gunmen shot her six times as she read from the Beatitudes. Tickets are \$15 and \$10 for students and seniors. It promises to be a great evening. Call CACC for questions or tickets 462-5450.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY of PEACE**

**Sunday, September 21** has been set aside as “International Day of Peace.” To commemorate the day the North Star Peace Walk will once again take place. More than 30 churches, mosques, temples, colleges, organizations and people striving for peace will walk together in solidarity beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Masjid Al Salaam Mosque on Central Avenue. The walk will then head over to Arbor Hill. We still need a few more stops to act as a water station or a place to just be together in peaceful prayer. This is not a political rally. Only messages of peace will be displayed. If you have questions, or would like to have your group represented, please call CACC at 462-5450.

## **THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

The Anti-Trafficking Task Force composed of members of area religious communities and the Capital Area Council of Churches is busy planning a workshop day on Monday, **October 13, 2014** from 9:00 – 1:00 at the Academy of the Holy Names. This workshop is open to all and the hope is to heighten awareness on the subject of human trafficking, its causes and suggested responses.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. Every year, human traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits by victimizing millions of people around the world, and here in the United States. Human trafficking is considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world. And it goes on here in the Capital District.

Please watch for the flyer and plan to attend this important day with psychologists, clergy, social workers, clinicians, activists and interested folks who want to combat this heinous violence. Come and learn what you can do to help the victims and prevent these crimes. Call the CACC office at 462-5450 for more information.

## FATHER GREGORY

During these days of turmoil, and the increased persecution of religious minorities in the Middle East, especially in Christian communities, it is only right that we should pray more frequently and fervently for their well-being. We should make every effort to familiarize ourselves with the history and present situation of these Christians, who are among the oldest communities in Christianity.

In this effort you are most cordially invited to join the faithful of St. George Orthodox Church, 1 St. George Place, Albany 12202 on Monday evening for Vespers and special prayers for Christians of the Middle East. A special information presentation will follow the service on Mondays, **Aug. 25** and **Sept. 8**. For further information please call Fr. Gregory at 590-8630.

## CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. CRTC is pleased to announce that Bishop Edward Scharfenberger will be the keynote speaker at their Fall Event on **Oct. 6**. An exciting new course “Close Encounters... of the Science & Religion Kind” has been added to the fall line-up. Visit [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) for more info.

## CONVOCATION

The opening convocation for St Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 10**, 7 pm at the Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, 959 Madison Avenue, Albany.

Our speaker is Dr Michael Brannigan, Pfaff Professor of Ethics, College of Saint Rose and Adjunct Professor of Moral Theology, St Bernard’s. His topic: “What’s Right with Our World? An Ethicist Surveys the Scene”.

No charge; all are welcome!

For more information: 453-6760  
or [kitty.hanley@rcda.org](mailto:kitty.hanley@rcda.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS to...

--the Food Pantries of the Capital District on their 35th anniversary!

## SHELTER NEWS/REQUESTS

Please keep collecting travel size toiletries, and watch for sales on sturdy paper plates, bowls, hot cups, and plastic silverware.

## ELECTION SEASON BEGINS

Once again, the CACC will partner with the League of Women Voters of Albany County (LWVAC) and other organizations to co-sponsor candidate forum events during the election season. Visit the LWVAC web site ([www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org)) for details about these and other events.



# SEPTEMBER 2014

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## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	① 1	2	3	④ 4	5	6
7	⑧ 8	9	⑩ 10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	⑱ 18	19	⑳ 20
㉑ 21	22	23	24	25	26	㉗ 27
28	29	30				

### TRANSITIONS

We welcome the Rev. John Macholz as new Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and bid farewell to the Rev. Marie Jerge, who served two terms in that position.

Pastor Allie Leitzel is the new Dean of the Hudson Mohawk Conference of the ELCA, replacing Pastor Chuck Schwartz.

At the CACC Spring Assembly on June 11, two new Board members were elected: Donald Bunk, as Chair of the Finance Committee, and Susan Szczerbacki, who will chair the Development Committee.

The Capital District Chapter of the Interfaith

Alliance of New York State recently elected John Amidon as its new President.

We also welcome Dr. Carolyn Stefanco as the new President of The College of Saint Rose.

Also, Fr. Kevin Mullen, OFM, is stepping down as President of Siena College.

The Rev. F. Edward Coughlin will serve as Interim President. Vicar Lauren Blatt will be serving as a pastoral intern at First Lutheran Church and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church for the next year.

Finally, we note with sadness the closing of the Community United Methodist Church in Slingerlands after more than 140 years of ministry.





## Capital Area Council of Churches, Inc.

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## FALL 2014

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

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#### SEPTEMBER:

1. Labor Day
4. Senior Olana & Pollace's Resort Trip
8. Vespers & Prayers for Middle East  
@ St. George Orthodox Church
10. Opening Convocation  
@ Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary
18. Senior Cabaret
18. Cornerstone Protestant Campus  
Ministry Patrons' Dinner
20. Sister Nancy Murray @ RPI
21. National Back to Church Sunday
21. International Day of Peace
27. Capital District AIDS Walk

#### OCTOBER:

1. CACC Annual Celebration  
@ Albany Country Club
6. CRTC Fall Event
13. Anti-trafficking Task Force
15. Senior Issues Forum Lifetime  
Achievement Awards Ceremony

#### NOVEMBER:

7. Church Women United  
World Community Day
21. CREO event to mark 50th Anniversary  
of the Vatican Decree on Ecumenism