

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
April 2014

Ecumenical Good Friday Service-April 18

Noon, Mater Christi Church, 40 Hopewell St., Albany 12208 (just off New Scotland Ave. between Krumkill and Whitehall) All are welcome to join us as we consider the theme of "Forgiveness...at the Cross and Elsewhere" through Scripture, music, reflections, silence, and prayer. A free will offering will be received to support the ministries of the Council.

From the Executive Director ☞

As I look outside my window and notice folks walking by still bundled up, I am thinking it is time to make the groundhog accountable for his predictions! This seems to be the winter that will not end.

The Council is always busy-- rain, snow, sleet or sun. These cold nights have our shelter at capacity. Although there are reports of a stabilizing economy with unemployment down and the stock market up, our shelter has been busier than ever. Our shelter manager, Pam Bullock, continues to amaze us with her constant vigilance and devotion to our guests. You can all be proud.

We're gearing up for the CROP Hunger Walk. The CROP Rally was a huge success. I saw Kitt smiling from ear to ear. And we were thrilled that our Honorary Chair for the Walk, Congressman Paul Tonko, attended the Rally and helped hand out the awards for last year's winners. In the book Waterless Mountain, a coming of age story about a Navajo youth who wants to become a medicine man, the narrator remarks, "he could tell by the way the animals walked that they were keeping time to some kind of music. Maybe it was the song in their own hearts that they walked to." Please make plans NOW to attend the CROP WALK on May 4 and walk to the "beat of whatever song is in your heart."

For many of us the holiest time of the year is fast approaching. As we look ahead to Passover and Easter, we recognize that both festivals take us from a place of despair to a place of hope. Jews are called on to repair a broken world, while we as Christians are invited to experience a force that transports us from a world beyond repair.

May your Easter holy days be blessed with the Peace of Christ.

--Deb Riitano

27th Annual Siena College King Lecture-April 3

The Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King Lecture Series on Race & Nonviolent Social Change presents Pulitzer prize-winning author Douglas A. Blackmon on "Civil Rights and the Continuing Impact of Slavery in the 21st Century". 7pm, Marcelle Athletic Complex, Siena College. Free. Call 782-6654 or visit www.siena.edu/MLK.

Church Women United Spring Forum & Bake Sale-April 4

11:30am registration @ Union Missionary Baptist Church, 1 Morton Ave., Albany. Bring a bag lunch and bake sale items. Speaker: Amy Bobbette from the Upstate NY office of Church World Service/ CROP.

Also, mark your calendar for the May Friendship Day potluck luncheon, which will be on Friday, **May 2**, at Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave. Albany 12209. Registration begins at 11:30am. Bring a dish to pass and invite a friend to attend with you. Least Coin offerings will be received that day. Celebration theme: "Through God our Hands Can Serve".

Faith & Hunger Network Hunger Summit-April 9 **"Communities of Faith Working Together to End Hunger"**

7-9pm, First Lutheran Church, 646 State St., Albany 12203. Attend this event to learn how "Faith & Advocacy Go Together", hear about "Childhood Hunger" and "Income Inequality & Hunger", and get "Advocacy Tools to Use Right Now". Suggested donation: \$5. Optional soup supper @6pm. Reservations required. Call FOCUS @ (518) 443-0460.

CWS Announces Urgent Need for KITS

The Upstate Office of Church World Service in Syracuse tells us they continue to experience a shortage of School Kits, Hygiene Kits, and Clean up Buckets. Visit www.cwsglobal.org/kits to get information on how to assemble and ship kits. This is a great hands-on project for groups of all ages. To save on shipping costs, there will be a drop-off site in our area during April. Boxes of complete kits may be dropped off at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1229 Baker Ave., Schenectady, April 21, 23, and 25 between 9:30-11:30am. Call Richey Woodzell @ (518) 372-9398 or the church office @ 346-6241.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: "*The Evolution of the Gospel*" with David Sloan Wilson., 4/25 & 4/26, 9am-4pm @ First Unitarian Universalist Society, Albany. Cost: \$165. Register by 4/9. "*Welcoming the Other*" with Rev. Maren Tirabassi, 5/2 & 5/3, 9am-3pm @ Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs. Cost: \$125 by 4/4, \$140 thereafter. Register by 4/16. "*Empathy in Action: Introduction to Pastoral Care*" with Rev. Dr. Bill Grosch, Thursdays 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6:30-9pm, and Saturdays 5/17 & 6/7, 9am-3pm @ Lynnwood Reformed Church, 3700 Carman Rd. Schenectady. Cost: \$275. Register by 4/22. "CRTC Resource Fair", 5/12, 4-9pm @ Western Turnpike Golf Club, Guilderland. \$20 entrance fee, includes breakout sessions with experts. Call 462-2470 or visit www.crtc.org.

Pledge Reminder

The CACC Finance Committee reminds you that we did not send out Pledge Cards for 2014. A donation envelope is enclosed with this month's newsletter for those of you who wish to support the ministries of the Council. We rely on individuals and congregations for most of our support. If you receive the newsletter electronically, you may send your check made out to CACC to our office, 646 State St., Albany NY 12203. Thanks!

Shelter News

Due to the severe winter weather, the Shelter has had a very busy season. We will be marking the end of the season with a **Shelter Closing Dinner on Tuesday, April 22, at 6pm** in Wittenberg Hall of First Lutheran Church. Shelter supporters, volunteers, staff and guests are welcome to attend, but please call the CACC (462-5450) office by April 17 to reserve your place. The last night of operation will be April 25.

We were saddened by the death of Maggie Sherwood on Feb. 13. Maggie had been honored at our Annual Meeting with the Micah 6:8 Award for her commitment and service to the Shelter. We very much appreciate the generosity of those who made gifts to the Shelter Fund in her memory.

Award Nominations Sought

Do you know someone who is doing something that would qualify him/her as a “friend of peace and justice”? Nominate him/her for the **James & Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award**, which is presented at our Spring Assembly. Nomination letters should be received at the CACC office by **May 1**.

Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of the late Grace Hogancamp, the Council has some modest funds available to be used as scholarships for seminary students. Applicants must be members of a member congregation of CACC and should be enrolled in or accepted at a Protestant theological seminary. Application forms are available from the CACC office (462-5450). Completed applications, which must be accompanied by a recent transcript, an essay describing the applicant’s call to ministry, and a letter of recommendation from the applicant’s pastor, are due **May 1**.

From the NY State Council of Churches

The Rev. Dr. Paula Gravelle, Director, invites your congregation to be part of an effort to raise awareness about parole reform. Churches across the state are asked to ring their bells at noon on Wed., April 16, for one minute to draw attention to this issue. Visit <http://prisonaction.blogspot.com> to learn more.

Congratulations to.....

- the Rev. Willie Stovall, celebrating 25 years of ministry at the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Albany!
- the Rev. Robert Luidens, celebrating 30 years of ministry at the Altamont Reformed Church!
- the Rev. Ronald W. Steward, pastor of Antioch Fellowship Christian Center, celebrating 50 years of ministry!
- Albany United Methodist Society on its 55th anniversary!
- Bethany Reformed Church, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the dedication of its building!
- Temple Israel, celebrating its 65th anniversary!

This and That

Children at the Well present “Stepping Toward the Lion: Finding My Story”, a 30 minute documentary film about the involvement of a young Muslim in this interfaith storytelling program, 2pm on **4/6** at the GE Theatre at Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Discussion

follows. Freewill offering. Suggested donation: \$5/adult; \$12/family. Call Joe @ 384-1700 or visit www.childrenatthewell.org.... The Jubilate Singers & Orchestra present “Journey to Jerusalem” featuring Rutter’s “Magnificat”, 7pm on **4/13** @Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Ave., Delmar. Tickets: \$15/adults; \$10/ seniors & students; under 12 free. Reservations suggested. Call 478-9476... The Affordable Housing Partnership presents a free Housing Fair from 10am-2pm on **4/26** @ the Albany Public Library, 161 Washington Ave. Call 434-1730 or visit www.ahphome.org.... Zion’s United Church of Christ will hold their Earth Day Celebration on **4/27** beginning with blessing of the animals at 9:30am. Special worship service at 10am, lunch, displays, workshops for children, information and vendor booths, etc. The church is located at 741 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake 12153.... Congregation Beth Emeth & the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center present their annual Health & Services Fair for adults & senior adults, 10:30am-2:30pm on **5/4** @ the Albany Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Rd. Free health screenings, snacks, and information booths. Call 438-6651 x 112.

Transitions

The Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger will be ordained and installed as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany on Thursday, April 10. We note with sadness the passing of two retired pastors who had served Albany churches, the Rev. Richard Lake and the Rev. M. Thomas Powers, as well as the death of Metropolitan Philip, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church of North America.

Help Wanted

The Festival Celebration Choir is seeking a new permanent Music Director. Founded in 1985, the choir is an ecumenical, non-auditioned choral group of mixed voices dedicated to the joy of singing music in praise of the Lord. Currently consisting of 60 members representing some 40 different churches, the choir performs two major concerts each year (December and June) and rehearses from September to June, traditionally on Monday evenings from 7-9:15pm. The choir also sings at ecumenical events, benefit concerts, and nursing/rehabilitation facilities.

The Music Director is a salaried independent contractor and reports to the Board of this incorporated 501 (c)3 non-profit organization. Applicants for the position should have a degree in music and a minimum of five years of choral conducting experience. The Director works closely with the Assistant Director/Accompanist. Call the Festival Board President, Steve Smith (518) 399-4842 if you have questions. Visit www.festivalcelebrationchoir.org to learn more about the choir and its recent performances.

If interested, please send résumé and supporting material by April 25 to Festival Celebration Choir, Inc., PO Box 3731, Albany, NY 12203

The Council of Churches anticipates an administrative opening in our office this summer when our long-time Administrative Director retires. Watch for further information on our Facebook page, at our web site (www.capareacc.org), and in the next newsletter. Don’t forget to “like” us on Facebook so you can see pictures of our various events.

CROP Hunger Walk-May 4

We invite you to join us in “Ending Hunger—One Step at a Time” and help our “Communities Respond to Overcome Poverty”. People of all ages will collect pledges and walk in one of the ten CROP Walks taking place in the greater Capital District that day. The **Albany CROP Hunger Walk** will be dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. John U. Miller, former Executive Director of the Council of Churches. The Walk begins and ends at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave. Registration begins at 12:30pm. Following a performance by the musical group “Shadowland” and brief opening remarks, walkers step off at 1:30pm, with Honorary Chairperson Congressman Paul Tonko, leading the way. There are new routes this year, a 3 mile loop (with 2 rest stops) or the “Golden Mile”.

Want to get involved? **Walk**--with a group from your house of worship, business, community organization, or your family. **Sponsor a walker**--25% of the money raised comes back to the Capital District to help our neighbors in need and the remainder is used for hunger relief and development projects around the world. **Volunteer**--help is needed on Walk Day, with registration, handing out T-shirts, serving refreshments, etc. Call the CACC office @ 462-5450 or visit www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny to donate, volunteer, or for more information.

Congratulations to the following for their efforts in the 2013Albany CROP Walk: Delmar United Methodist Church received the Gold Sneaker for raising \$15,771; Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Silver Sneaker for \$6,805; Delmar Presbyterian Church, the Bronze Sneaker for \$5,684; the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, the Most Walkers (57); Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Highest Per Capita Amount (for a small group); the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Most Improved; and the Newtonville United Methodist Church, Best New Effort. Once again, the top walkers were Evelyn Stone (\$4,427) and Joe Hodgson (\$3,750).

April, 2014

- 2 Feeding the Interfaith Spirit
- * 3 King lecture @ Siena College
- * 4 CWU Spring Forum
- 8 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- 9 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm;
- * 9 Faith & Hunger Network Summit
- 10 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon;
AUMS 55th anniversary dinner
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 14 Passover begins
- *18 CACC Good Friday service, Noon
@ Mater Christi Church

April (cont.)

- 20 Easter Sunday
- 22 Earth Day
- *22 Shelter Closing Dinner
- 23 Action & Program Com., 4pm

May, 2014

- * 1 Hogancamp Scholarship
application deadline
- *2 CWU May Friendship Day
- * 4 CROP Hunger Walk
- 8 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
- *12 CRTC Resource Fair
- 18 CREO Ecumenical Event

[*denotes more information to be found elsewhere in this issue]