

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION Summer 2013

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 5. Final figures from the Albany Walk show around 550 walkers/volunteers from 54 groups. Income, including a \$750 grant from Thrivent and some generous matching funds, has just passed \$92,000. 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 4, 2014 CROP Hunger Walk are asked to contact the CACC office (462-5450). The first meeting will be on Wed., Sept. 11 at 4:45pm.

Transitions

Farewell to Rod Margolis, who has retired as head of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY, and welcome to Rob Kovach, the new President. Farewell, too, to Fr. Michael Farano, who has retired as pastor of St. Pius X Church, and welcome to Fr. James Walsh, the new pastor. Also, the Rev. Jane Baker has replaced the Rev. Kelly Warner at Pine Grove United Methodist Church. We also welcome the Rev. Dr. Paula Gravelle as the new Director of the New York State Council of Churches. Finally, we note with sadness the passing of the Rev. William Turnbull, who served several parishes and schools in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany during his 46 years as a priest.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Visit www.crtc.org to find information about upcoming courses and to register.

Calling all Singers.....

--The Festival Celebration Choir invites interested singers to join them at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany for **"The Big Sing: Hymns Triumphant"** Sept. 20-21. The event includes choral workshops with Maury Castro, Andrew Krystopolski, and Susan Hermance Fedak, as well as rehearsals for a performance of Lee Holdridge's "Hymns Triumphant" Sat. afternoon. Registration: \$15. Rehearsal Fri., 6:30-9pm; workshops & rehearsals start at 8:30am Sat.; concert at 3pm. Register by 9/10. For more information, visit www.festivalcelebrationchoir.org or call (518) 364-9101.

--Christian Arts International invites singers/musicians to participate in an ecumenical concert of Handel's **"Messiah"** in its entirety (Schirmer's edition) on May 30, 2014, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Experience with "Messiah" preferred. Rehearsals begin Fri., 10/4. 4, 6:30-9pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 63 Mountain View Ave., Colonie, and will continue each Fri. until the concert. Registration fee: \$10. Call (518)459-3152 or e-mail Christianarts@nycap.rr.com by Sept. 1 to sign up.

Congratulations to...

--the Rev. Scott VanDerveer, recently ordained as a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany!

--the Rev. Holly Cameron, who recently celebrated her 15th anniversary of ordination and 15th year as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in New Scotland!

--United Tenants of Albany on its 40th anniversary!

Need retreat space?

Grace United Methodist Church, located on a beautiful hilltop in Ravena (20 minutes from Albany), invites your group to consider its space to hold a fall retreat. The Fellowship Hall has a huge fireplace, seats 115 people and is adjacent to a fully appointed kitchen. The Sanctuary with its cathedral ceiling holds up to 200 people and has an organ and a piano. For scheduling and suggested donation amounts, call the church office at (518) 729-6688 or e-mail graceumcravena@statetel.com.

Shelter News/Requests

The Shelter Oversight Committee is pleased to announce that we have received a \$5,000 grant from the TJX Foundation (parent company of TJ Maxx) to support the Shelter during the coming year. We are also grateful to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York for a \$1,000 grant to assist with staff costs and \$300 for food.

Please keep collecting men's flip flops and 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) for details about these and other events.

- Thurs. **Aug. 22nd** Bethlehem Highway Superintendent & Town Justice primary candidates 6-9pm Bethlehem Town Hall
- Wed., **Aug. 28th** Albany mayoral and city treasurer primary candidates 6-9pm First Unitarian Universalist Society, 405 Washington Ave. 12206
- Thurs., **Aug. 29th** 1st and 7th Ward Albany Common Council primary candidates 6:45-8:30pm Sheehy-Palmer VFW Post #6776, 525 Delaware Ave. Albany 12209

Host Families Needed

Three international high school students will be coming to the Capital District at the end of August to attend local public schools, but they need individuals or families to host them for a semester or the entire school year. The International Center of the Capital Region is facilitating placement of these students through the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) under the auspices of the US Department of State. The students, aged 15-17, come from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia or Ukraine, speak English and have health insurance and spending money. Call Caroline (518)859-5774, e-mail her at CLeising@ICCRalbany.org, or go to the following to meet the students and fill out an application: <http://blogs.worldlearning.org/flex/hosting-flex-students/>.

August, 2013

- 8-12 Habitat for Humanity Tent-a-thon
- 12 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- 15 deadline for items for Sept. newsletter
- 16-17 Kateri Peace Conference in Fonda
www.kateripeaceconference.org

September, 2013

- 2 Labor Day (office closed)
- 4 St. Bernard's School of Theology
Opening Convocation, 7pm @
St. Vincent de Paul Church
- 10 FOCUS Golf Outing @ Orchard Creek
www.focuschurches.net

September, 2013 (cont.)

- 12 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
- 15 North Star Peace Walk, 2pm
- *20-21 "The Big Sing"
- 26 Protestant Campus Ministry
Patrons Dinner @ First Lutheran
- 28 Capital District AIDS Walk

October, 2013

- 2 CACC Fall Banquet @
Albany Country Club**
- 7 CRTC Fall Banquet @
Glen Sanders Mansion

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