

**CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
January 2013**

**40th Annual
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Interfaith Memorial Service
7pm Tuesday, January 15, 2013
Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church
105 Second St., Albany, 12210**

(Park in the lots next to the church or on the street.) All are welcome to this annual celebration of the life and work of Dr. King. The evening includes interfaith readings and prayers as well as music by several local groups. Addressing the theme "40 Years of Gratitude", the guest speaker will be the Rev. C. Omarr Evans, a 1997 MLK Scholarship recipient who is currently the Executive Pastor of Greater Faith and Deliverance Ministries in Binghamton. Please announce this event to your congregation, family, and friends. The offering received at the event is the primary source of funding for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Last spring we awarded a total of \$8,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Applications for the 2013 awards will be available at the service and on our web site and are due by March 31. If you are unable to attend the service and wish to make a gift to the scholarship fund, please send your check made out to "CACC-MLK Fund" to 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.

CACC Annual Meeting/Winter Assembly-Feb. 4 (snow date 2/11)

5:30pm registration, 6:15 dinner served, followed by the Annual Meeting. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 510 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville, 12211. The church is handicapped accessible and has a parking lot. Agenda includes election and installation of officers and members of the Board of Directors, appointments of new Committee /Commission members, approval of the 2013 proposed budget, highlights of CACC activities during 2012, and presentation of the Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Service Award.

The evening will end with a brief Prayer Service. Reservations are required for the dinner. Please send a check for \$10/person made out to "CACC", along with the names of those attending, to our office by **January 28**. You may also call in your reservations (462-5450) by that date and pay at the door. Clergy and lay delegates from all CACC member congregations and other interested persons are welcome. Anyone may attend the Assembly only (beginning around 7:30pm) at no charge.

From the Interim Executive Director ✎

"Now let us come together and pray, let us listen and let us seek the comfort of our faith."
With these words they began a vigil in Newtown, Connecticut, the Sunday after their terrible loss--a loss which has touched everyone across the country. We are all virtually speechless in the face of such atrocity. It occurs to me that when we are in such a situation, the only language

that makes any sense is the language of faith. And it was that language that we ourselves brought to bear at our own Albany vigil on the steps of First Lutheran Church the Tuesday evening after the tragedy. We named the victims and then took solace in the prayers of our various faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Hindu. It was a real blessing to be part of such a gathering. And, it was a good example of the Council doing what it needs to do--facilitating prayer and listening for God.

The Newtown tragedy is at the forefront in our mind's eye, and I hope and pray it stays there for a long time and helps to guide our conversation about what is flawed in our society, our culture, and our country. And then I pray that this conversation will lead to action for positive change.

As Christians we find ourselves in the season of Epiphany, a season of light breaking through the darkness which surrounds us. We are reminded that Christ has called us to bring his light to the world, the light of God's love and peace and presence. Praying together with our sisters and brothers of other faith traditions is one of the ways we bring that light to the world, for in those actions we enable conversation which can in turn effect change with the help of God.

As we move refreshed into the New Year we will lean heavily on our faith, empowered by God to serve Christ by serving others as God's people in our world.

"Now let us come together and pray."

--Vernon A. Victorson

Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Annual Meeting-Jan. 13

2pm, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Blvd., Albany, 12208. Celebrating its 18th anniversary this year, this program is one of the most visible signs of Christian unity in our area. Each year, pastors and witnesses (current as well as those who might be interested in joining the program) gather on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord to share experiences and learn about baptism in one of our traditions. We always need more witnesses and participating congregations. Want to become an ecumenical witness of baptism or learn more about the program? Please come to this event, call CACC @462-5450, or contact coordinator Jean Kaercher via e-mail: parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity-Jan. 18-25

For more than a century, Christians around the world have dedicated this week to prayer for the full visible unity of the church. The formal observance occurs during the octave in January between the feasts commemorating the Confession of Paul and the Chair of Peter.

The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization will host a public prayer service for Christian Unity, beginning at **noon** on Wednesday, **January 23**, at the Roman Catholic Pastoral Center, located at 40 No. Main Ave. in Albany. All are welcome to this ecumenical celebration. This year's theme, based on materials prepared by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, is "What Does God Require of Us?" (Micah 6:6-8). For more information about the Week of Prayer, call the R.C. Diocese Ecumenical Office at 453-6660 or visit Graymoor's web site: www.geii.org

ATTENTION: Our Emergency Overflow Shelter Needs...

Clothing: winter coats & jackets for men, hats/gloves; new thermal and regular underwear, T-shirts, and socks

Supplies: coffee, powdered creamer, sugar, juice, cereal, snacks; sturdy paper plates, eating utensils, & paper cups (for hot drinks). Donations may be brought to the CACC office during daytime hours (9:30am-4pm), but please call ahead (462-5450) before coming.

“Bowl for a Bed” Bowl-a-Thon-Feb. 2 12:30-4:30pm, Sunset Recreation Center, 1160 Central Ave., Albany. Our 8th Annual Bowl-a-Thon to benefit the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter is open to groups of all ages. Register before January 15 for one of the 2 hour sessions (12:30-2:30pm or 2:30-4:30pm) by calling the Rev. Sandy Damhof, Protestant Campus Minister at UAlbany, @489-8573X26 or e-mail her at sdamhof@albany.edu.

Transitions

Farewell to the Rev. Francis DuBois on his retirement, and welcome to the Rev. Anthony Barratt, new pastor at St. Ambrose Parish in Latham. A belated welcome to Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield at Congregation Beth Abraham Jacob in Albany. St. Ann’s Maronite Catholic Parish has relocated from Troy to the former Third Ave. Methodist Church in Watervliet.

Looking ahead to next month.....

February 3: Souper Bowl of Caring

February 13: Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

February 15: Gospel Gala at the Palace Theater

Please help us save on paper & postage. E-mail us (capareacc@aol.com) if you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail or read it at our web site (www.capareacc.org), or call us at 462-5450 to let us know if you wish to be removed from the mailing list. If you are not a regular supporter of the Council, but wish to continue receiving the newsletter, a minimum donation of \$10 is requested. Please make checks out to “CACC” and mail to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.

Help! The CACC Nominations Committee is looking for people interested in becoming involved with some aspect of our work. We particularly need people with financial expertise for our Finance & Development Committee. Call the CACC office @ 462-5450 for more information.

CROP Walk News

Plan now for your congregation or group to participate in the Capital District CROP Hunger Walks scheduled for **May 5, 2013**. The Albany CROP Walk Recruiters Rally & Awards Celebration has been scheduled for 4:30-6:30pm on **Sunday, March 17** (snow date March 24). We could use a few more members on the Albany CROP Walk planning committee. The next meeting is Jan. 9, at 4:45pm at the CACC office.

This and That

The Interdenominational Ministers Conference will hold an “Emancipation Day” service, 1pm on 1/1 @ Mt. Olivet Southern Missionary Baptist Church, at the corner of Strong and Hulett Streets in Schenectady. The Rev. Dr. Edward D. Smart will preach....Capital District Youth for Christ Excel Leadership Conference for senior high youth & leaders will be 1/18-1/21 in Saratoga Springs. Contact YFC @ 783-5332 or visit www.cdyfc.org....

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: “Is Your Board Bored? How to lead Effective Church Meetings” Rev. Dr. Johan Bosman, Christ Community Reformed Church; 9am-4pm on Sat., **Feb. 2**. Cost: \$80 before 1/4, \$90 thereafter. Register by 1/17. “Coin and Kingdom: Would Jesus Toss Us Out Today?” Instructor: Rev. Norm Tellier, 9am-3pm, Sat., **March 3**. Cost: \$75 by Feb. 1, \$85 thereafter. Register by 2/14. Gift certificates and group discounts available. Call 462-2470 or visit www.crtc.org for information or to register.

January, 2013

1 New Year’s Day (office closed)
6 Epiphany
7 Nominating Com., 4:30pm
9 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm
10 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
***13 Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism
Annual Gathering, 2pm**
14 Shelter Oversight Com, 4pm
***15 MLK Interfaith Service, 7pm**
21 MLK Holiday (office closed)

January, 2013 (cont.)

**18-25 Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity**
*23 CREO Prayer Service, Noon
followed by CREO meeting;
23 Action & Program Com., 4pm

February, 2013

*** 2 Shelter Bowl-a-thon, 12:30-4:30pm**
3 Souper Bowl of Caring
*** 4 CACC Annual Meeting/Winter
Assembly @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**
Registration starts at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:15pm.

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