

# **CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION**

**January 2014**

**41st Annual**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Interfaith Memorial Service**

**7pm -- Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

**St. Vincent de Paul Church**

**900 Madison Ave., Albany, 12208**

(Park in the lot 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 "Open Minds, Open Hearts", the guest speaker will be Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools for the Albany City School District. 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 \$8,500 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Applications for the 2014 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 our office.

## **CACC Annual Meeting/Winter Assembly-Feb. 3 (snow date 2/4)**

5:30pm registration, 6:15 dinner served, followed by the Annual Meeting. McKownville United Methodist Church, 1565 Western Ave., Albany 12203. The church is handicapped accessible and has a large parking lot. Agenda includes discussion and approval of new by-laws, election and installation of officers and members of the Board of Directors, appointments of new Committee /Commission members, approval of the 2014 proposed budget, reception of new member congregations, highlights of CACC activities during 2013, and a special award presentation. 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.

## **Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Annual Meeting-Jan. 12**

2pm, Altamont Reformed Church, 129 Lincoln Ave., Altamont 12009. Celebrating its 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 22**, 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 "Has Christ Been Divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13). For more information about the Week of Prayer, call the R.C. Diocese Ecumenical Office at 453-6660 or visit the Graymoor web site: [www.geii.org](http://www.geii.org)

### **New Executive Director Installation-Jan. 19**

3pm, Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, The College of Saint Rose, 959 Madison Ave., Albany, 12208. All are welcome to attend the installation of Deborah C. Riitano as CACC Executive Director. Reception follows. We are grateful to the Rev. Vernon Victorson for serving as Interim Director for the past year and a half. He has agreed to continue as Chair of the Shelter Oversight Committee until the end of the 2013-2014 season.

### **Forum on "The Future of Services for Albany Area Seniors"- Jan. 28**

12:30-4pm, St. Sophia Orthodox Church, 440 Whitehall Rd., Albany 12208. This free event, sponsored by the NY Statewide Senior Action Council and the Albany NNORC, is for seniors and senior service providers. It begins with a lunch meeting where seniors can discuss their priority concerns with one another. At 2pm, local officials will present their vision for the future of senior services, and from 3-4pm, attendees will have access to an "open microphone" to address the officials about the concerns of seniors in Albany County. Reservations needed, so please call Statewide Senior Action Council at 436-1006 by Jan. 24 to reserve a seat.

### **ATTENTION: Our Emergency Overflow Shelter Needs...**

**Volunteers:** Tues., Wed., Fri., 6-9pm or 6-10pm. Call 426-1227 and leave a message for Pam if interested. Training required & provided.

**Supplies:** coffee, powdered creamer, sugar, juice, cereal, snacks; sturdy paper plates, eating utensils, & paper cups (for hot drinks); heavy duty trash bags. 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. 8** 12:30-4:30pm, Sunset Recreation Center, 1160 Central Ave., Albany. Our 9th 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](mailto:sdamhof@albany.edu).

## Transitions

Welcome to the Rev. Shannon Vance-Ocampo, who will be serving as Transitional Presbyter for the Albany Presbytery of the PC(USA). The Rev. Dirk Gieser (Associate Pastor at the Delmar Reformed Church for the past 9 years) is the new pastor at Emmanuel Reformed Church in Castleton. Aine Leader-Nagy (our former Office Assistant) is the new President of the Board of the Interfaith Center at UAlbany. The Rev. James Winkler has been chosen to serve as the new General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, which has moved its office from New York City to Washington, D.C. Dr. Agnes Abuom of the Anglican Church in Kenya is the new moderator of the World Council of Churches.

## CROP Walk News

Plan now for your congregation or group to participate in the Capital District CROP Hunger Walks scheduled for **May 4, 2014**. The Albany CROP Walk Recruiters Rally & Awards Celebration has tentatively been scheduled for 4:30-6:30pm on **Sunday, March 23** (snow date March 30). We could use a few more members on the Albany CROP Walk planning committee. The next meeting is Jan. 8, at 4:45pm at the CACC office.

## This and That

The Festival Celebration Choir Christmas concert (snowed out on 12/15) will be at 2:30pm on **1/5** at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception....The People's State of the State gathering will take place at the NYS Capitol on **1/7**...The FOCUS Churches of Albany are offering a book study of "Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion" by Sara Miles during January. Sessions offered on **1/8, 15 and 22** at noon @ Westminster Presbyterian Church and 7pm @ Delmar Reformed Church. Call 443-0460 for more information or to get your copy of the book.... The Occupy Albany movement will lead a "Freedom From Want" march at noon on **1/14** from W. Capitol Park..."Just Jesus" is the theme for Capital District Youth for Christ Excel Leadership Conference for senior high youth & leaders, **1/17-1/20** in Saratoga Springs. Contact YFC @ 783-5332 or visit [www.cdyfc.org](http://www.cdyfc.org).

## Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: "*City of God: Faith in the Streets*", Sara Miles, Sat. Feb. 1, 9am-3pm@Delmar Reformed Church. Cost: \$75 by 1/3, \$90 thereafter. Register by 1/16. "*Why Can't We Talk: Civil Discourse as a Habit of the Heart*", John Backman. Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26, 7-9pm, Niskayuna Reformed Church. Cost: \$105 by 1/9, \$120 thereafter. Register by 1/20. Gift certificates and group discounts available. Call 462-2470 or visit [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) for information or to register.

## A Month of Prayers for Peace

Starting on January 1, 2014, a community of people who appreciate the power of focused thought and prayer will be conducting an historic experiment: Can we lower the number of aggravated assaults in the City of Albany (compared to the previous five years) with our collective intention of peace? You are invited to spend 15 minutes each day by focusing your

thoughts and prayers on peace. Visit [www.AlbanyPeaceProject.com](http://www.AlbanyPeaceProject.com) to learn more and find out how to receive daily meditations.

### **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.

### **A belated but grateful report on our Annual Fall Dinner**

The dinner was once again a successful event. The awardees were notable for their outstanding spiritual efforts on behalf of the community-at-large, the attendees made for very good company, and the silent auction was a great deal of fun. There were some very desirable items and the bidding, at times, was best described as “vigorous”. Many thanks to the Board, staff, and members and friends of CACC for their support, their donations, and all their efforts in making the evening both successful and enjoyable.

#### **January, 2014**

- 1 New Year’s Day (office closed)
- 6 Epiphany
- 8 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm
- 9 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon

#### **\*12 Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism**

##### **Annual Gathering, 2pm**

- 14 Shelter Oversight Com, 4pm
- \*15 MLK Interfaith Service, 7pm
- \*18-25 Week of Prayer for  
Christian Unity
- \*19 Installation of new Director, 3pm
- 20 MLK holiday (office closed)

#### **January, 2014 (cont.)**

- \*22 CREO Christian Unity Service, Noon
- 22 Action & Program Com., 4pm
- 28 Reservation deadline for Assembly

#### **February, 2014**

- 2 Souper Bowl of Caring
- \*3 CACC Annual Meeting @  
McKownville UMC  
(4 Snow date for Annual Mtg.)
- \*8 Shelter Bowl-a-thon, 12:30-4:30pm
- 11 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm

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