

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
June/July 2013

Congratulations to all of the Scholarship and Award Winners who were recognized at our Spring Assembly!

Receiving **Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarships** ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500:

- Sufyan Ahmad, Beit-an-Nur Mosque, graduating from Bethlehem High School;
- Hayley Mattice, St. Madeleine Sophie Parish, graduating from Guilderland High School;
- Jarquese Mitchell, Union Missionary Baptist Church, graduating from Albany High School;
- Carla Planz, St. Mary's Church in Albany, graduating from Clayton A. Bouton High School in Voorheesville; and
- Alexander Scaptura, Westminster Presbyterian Church, graduating from Columbia High School.

Receiving **Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships** of \$200 each:

- George T. Chochos, a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church, attending Yale Divinity School;
- Lynn Hasselbarth, a member of Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, attending Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and
- Christine Smith, a member of McKownville United Methodist Church, attending Drew Theological School.

Receiving the **James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award**:

- Lois Caulfield, a member of Delmar Reformed Church who is active in assisting refugee and immigrant families; and
- Steve Kozlowski, founder of "Help Fight AIDS Through Books and Music."

A Message from the Administrative Director ✎

For the past 15 years, it has been my privilege to write a message for the CACC newsletter in the June issue as I mark another anniversary with the Council. It looks as though I'm the only permanent fixture around here, since during the past 12 months we have said goodbye to both our executive director (Rev. George Brennan at the end of September) and now our Office Assistant, Aine Leader-Nagy. Aine has been with us for 6 years, coming in one day a week to work on record keeping, keeping up our Facebook page, and doing other office tasks, as well as taking pictures at our events and working with our Communications Committee. We are grateful for her dedication and fine work, and wish her well as she begins a new job with the Albany Institute of History and Art.

The search for a new part-time Executive Director is ongoing, and a revised job description can be found on our web site or sent by e-mail or snail mail if you call the office. Applications are due September 15.

Congratulations to...

--the Rev. Yvonne Taylor, a former CACC Board member, and the Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Interim Pastor at Delmar Presbyterian Church, who recently completed work on their D. Min. degrees!

--Stephen Winters, another former Board member, recently honored by Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy with a 2013 Volunteer Service Award!

--the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, celebrating its 25th anniversary!

--the following Lutheran pastors who recently celebrated anniversaries of ordination: 30th: Chuck Schwartz and Peter Klotz; 35th: Jim Slater; 40th: Dennis Meyer; and 45th: Charles Lindholm!

Summer Appeal

As we enter the summer months, your contribution would be greatly appreciated and will enable us to sustain our ministries. Please mail your gift to CACC at 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.

CACC Summer Shelter Needs

Please keep your eye out for men's inexpensive flip flops (for use in the shower), Also, we could use travel sized soaps, shampoo, and deodorants.

Please hold on to these items until we start collecting supplies in October.

Transitions

Farewell to the Rev. Cass Shaw, who has served as General Presbyter for the Albany Presbytery since 2000 and is moving to Connecticut to become the President and CEO of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport. We note with sadness the passing of June Gerling, who had served on our Finance Committee, and Pastor Ken Latal, who had served several area Lutheran churches. Farewell to the Rev. Robert Lowenthal, retiring from East Greenbush United Methodist Church, and welcome to the Rev. Sundar Samuel who will begin ministry there on July 1. Also, we welcome the Rev. David Gruenwald to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (MS).

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC offers ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: *"Faith Seeking Understanding: Introduction to Theology"*, taught by the Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast. Saturdays 7/13 and 7/20, 9am-3:30pm; Sundays 7/14 and 7/21, 1-5pm. Cost: \$275 (\$225 to audit). Register by 6/27. *"Canoeing Through Creation"* with the Rev. Kent Busman, 10am Mon. 9/9 through 5pm on Thurs. 9/12, Camp Fowler in Speculator. Cost: \$350, includes food and gear.

Register by 8/23. *"Faith Shaping the Western World: Introduction to Church History"*, Rev. Dr. James McDonald, 20 hours beginning 9/18 (6 Wed. evenings and 2 Saturdays, @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Schenectady. Cost: \$275 (or \$225 to audit). Register by 9/2.

Plan now to attend CRTC's **Fall Banquet** on Mon., Oct. 7, at the Glen Sanders Mansion, with Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin as the keynote speaker.

Did you know that June is gun violence awareness month? Learn about the work of Albany SNUG/CeaseFire by visiting www.ta-cr.org.

End of Life Issues: Organ Transplants and Anatomical Gifts-July 17

8am registration; 8:30am-12pm program, Carondolet Hospitality Center, 385 Watervliet-Shaker Rd., Latham. This forum is for faith community leaders, service providers, congregational members who help support seniors, and other interested people. Free, but please register before 7/1 by calling 269-3976 or sending an e-mail with "July 17 Forum" in the subject line to director@albanyguardiansociety.org.

Remember, you have a choice!

You can receive the newsletter in the mail, read it on our web site (www.CapAreaCC.org), or get it as an e-mail attachment. Send an e-mail to CapAreaCC@aol.com if you prefer the paperless version. You can also follow us on Facebook and invite your friends to "like" us.

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. Preliminary figures from the Albany Walk show 550 walkers/volunteers from 50 different groups. \$48,000 was turned in on Walk Day. With over \$25,000 posted in on-line donations, plus additional income turned in to our office, the income as of June 5 was just over \$83,000. By the time all outstanding pledges and matching funds have come in, we hope to meet our goal of \$100,000. If you have CROP Walk money to turn in, please get it to our office ASAP so it can be posted before June 30.

Doug Anderson, who has served as Director of the Upstate NY Office for CWS/CROP for 37 years, will be retiring at the end of June. He worked closely with CACC Director Joyce Giles and others to establish the first Capital District CROP Hunger Walk in 1981. We wish him well and look forward to seeing Amy Bobbette, who will be the new director, at next year's CROP Rally in March.

This and That

June 20 is World Refugee Day. On **6/22** the US Committee for Refugees & Immigrants (USCRI) will hold its 7th annual “**World Refugee Day Picnic**” from Noon-4pm at Washington Park in the field area above the Park Playhouse. All are welcome to bring food or drink to share and to meet with USCRI staff and volunteers, community partners, and our new neighbors from many different countries. Come enjoy international food, games, pony rides, and family fun! Sponsored by the City of Albany with special assistance from Common Council member Dominick Calsolaro. For more information about how to help refugees or to volunteer at the event, contact info@uscri-albany.org or call (518)459-1790.

Vacation Bible School for Seniors! Anyone who is 55+ is welcome to attend “Amazing Grays: *Life on the Senior Side*”. The group will meet at First Congregational Church, 405 Quail St., Albany, 12208, for four mornings in July, **7/22-7/25**, 9:30am-Noon. The program begins with coffee and snacks, and then continues with music, a Bible study, and a choice of workshops on subjects such as baking, crafts, discussion with the morning speaker, and light exercise. The program will end with a special luncheon on the 25th. Requested donation for the week: \$5. For more information or to register, call the church office @ 482-4580 or contact Claire via e-mail at cwhitneycc@nc.rr.com.

The **FOCUS Churches** are collecting school supplies for the children of the families who use the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. If you or your house of worship would like to help, collect #2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, pink erasers, boxes of crayons (24), yellow highlighters, glue sticks, school scissors, spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled), hard sided 3-ring binders (1” or 1 1/2”), notebook paper, marble composition books, rulers & combination locks. Bring donations to the First Unitarian Society (405 Washington Ave., Albany) between 8/1 and 8/26, Mon. - Thurs. from 9am-Noon. Volunteers needed to help pack the supplies into backpacks 8/26-8/28. Call FOCUS @443-0460 or email beccl@focuschurches.net.

June, 2013

- * 9 Festival Celebration Choir Concert,
2:30pm @ St. Pius X Church
- 10 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- 12 Albany CROP Committee, 4:45pm
- 19 Regional CROP Committee, 5pm
- *20 World Refugee Day
- 21 Deadline to turn in CROP money
- 26 Action & Program Commission, 4pm
- 30 Nominations due for CDSIF
Lifetime Achievement Awards

July, 2013

- 1-3 Office closed (vacation)
- 4 Independence Day (holiday)
- 8-12 Adm. Dir. on vacation
- *17 Organ Transplant Forum

August, 2013

- 8-12 Habitat for Humanity
Tent-a-thon @ Tawasentha Park
Visit www.Habitated.org for
details about registration.

Plan ahead: the CACC Fall Banquet will be on **Wednesday Oct.2** at the **Albany Country Club**. Also, the **35th Annual CACC Musical Celebration** will be on **Sunday, Nov. 3** at **St. Francis of Assisi Church on Delaware Ave.**

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