

**CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
June/July 2014**

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

Receiving **Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarships** ranging from \$2,000-\$4,000:

- Kali Hagen, St. Patrick's Church in Ravena, a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Names;
- Shaquilla Lahon, Revelation Church of God in Christ, a graduate of the Doane Stuart School; and
- Kayla Owens, Macedonia Baptist Church, a graduate of the Albany Academies.

Receiving **Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships** ranging from \$100-300:

- George T. Chochos, a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church, attending Yale Divinity School;
- Daniel Cobbins, a member of Macedonia Baptist Church, attending Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary; and
- Rev. Candace Dale, a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, attending Drew Theological Seminary.

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

- Pastor Allie Leitzel of First Lutheran Church, who has led her congregation in community outreach and social justice involvement, including housing the Albany Damien Center following their devastating fire last summer; and
- Nadya Lawson, a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, who has been active in women's issues, prison justice ministry, and other concerns at the intersection of religion, race, and oppression.

A Message from the Administrative Director 🐘

Each year since 1998, it has been my privilege to write a message for the June newsletter as I marked another anniversary with the Council. Now that we have a new Executive Director in place, I can step back and retire from my full-time work with the Council as I had originally planned to do a year ago. Since this will be my last opportunity to communicate with you all this way, let me quote some of what I wrote in the CACC 2013 Annual Report:

"I can look back over the past 17 years with joy and with pride over what the CACC is and does...Each Executive Director (5, counting interims) and Board President (7) with whom I have worked, ...each Board member and person who has served on our committees and

commissions (not to mention each of the many volunteers who help at the office, the Shelter, and the CROP Walk), has enriched my life and the life of the Council. Each one has brought different gifts and passions, and each has left an imprint...Many thanks to each and every one of them! I have been greatly blessed by working for such an amazing organization and with such amazing people."

Although my last official day is June 30, I will be in and out of the office all summer to clean out files and assist with the transition to a new part-time office person. Our Executive Director, Deb Riitano, will be expanding her hours to full-time and taking on additional tasks, as well. And, I am not leaving the CACC entirely: I will continue to chair the Albany CROP Hunger Walk Committee, contribute to our Facebook page, and work with the Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism program. So, this is not exactly "good bye", but rather, "God be with you 'til we meet again".

--Kitt Jackson

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.

Planning for the Fall

Mark your calendars now for these events:

September 18: Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry Patrons' Dinner

September 20: "Rooted in Love", a one-woman play about social activist Sr. Dorothy Stang, 7pm @ RPI Chapel & Cultural Center

September 21: 2nd Annual **North Star Peace Walk**, which will begin at 2pm. This is a non-political event. The two-mile walk will include stops at several different houses of worship. Visit www.facebook.com/northstarpeacewalk.

September 27: Capital District AIDS Walk in Washington Park

October 1: CACC Annual Dinner @ Albany Country Club

October 3: Church Women United Fall Forum & bake sale. Brown bag lunch @ First Lutheran Church in Albany. Speaker: Pastor Bill Hempel on the Albany Maritime Ministry

October 6: CRTC Fall Event @ Glen Sanders Mansion

October 15: Capital District Senior Issues Forum Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony @ Congregation Beth Emeth

November 7: Church Women United World Community Day

November 21: CREO event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Vatican Decree on Ecumenism

December 1: World AIDS Day

From the Executive Director

The warm weather we all have waited for is finally here! Every school in the nation will be on summer break. Many of you in the Capital District will pack up your cars, get on trains, stand in line at the airport, plan a picnic, or take a dip in the pool, the lake, or the ocean. Well deserved after the winter that would never end.

For the Capital Area Council of Churches, the “summer dip” we take is in our cash flow. If you have not made your annual contribution to the Council, we ask that you do it now. Our work at the Council is never on vacation. Each gift we receive helps to inspire life change, whether it is through our Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism program, or our Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships for youth entering college, the help we give to seminary students through our Worship & Education Commission, the distribution of CROP Hunger Walk funds, and of course, our work with the Homeless Shelter. During the summer we get ready to serve the record number of folks who live on the streets of Albany and come through our doors during the winter months seeking warmth, safety, and a hot meal provided by so many of you.

Please be there for us so we can be there for them. If you can, please send us a donation before you head out to destinations near and far. Many thanks for all that you do to help the Council be a force in our community.

May your summer be blessed with good times and lasting memories with your families and friends at the beach or in your back yard!

--Deb

Congratulations to...

--the Rev. Glenn Leupold, co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church, who recently received his D. Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary!

--the Rev. Dr. Paula Gravelle, Executive Director of the NY State Council of Churches, celebrating the 30th anniversary of her ordination on June 16!

--the two newest priests of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, Brian Slezak and Jim Davis, who were ordained on June 15!

Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Seniors-July 16

8am registration; 8:30am-3pm program, Carondolet Hospitality Center, 385 Watervliet-Shaker Rd., Latham. This event, presented by the Capital District Senior Issues Forum and the Albany Guardian Society, is for faith community leaders, service providers, congregational members who help support seniors, and other interested people. Cost: \$10, includes lunch. Registration is required and can be done on-line at www.cdsif.org.

Correction: the due date for nominations for the Capital District Senior Issues Forum Lifetime Achievement Awards is June 30, not May 31 as was indicated in the last newsletter. If you know someone who is 85 (or will turn 85 this year) and is still active, please consider nominating him/her. Contact CaryC@colonie.org or call the CACC office for a form.

Transitions

We note with sadness the passing of the Rev. Canon Frederick McQuade, Jr., who had served several Episcopal churches, including the Cathedral of All Saints, and that of Deac. Christine Wickman, who had also been on the staff at All Saints. Farewell and best wishes to the Rev. Steve Butler, retiring from McKownville United Methodist Church. The Rev. Charlie Yang, who has been serving in Voorheesville, will take his place, while the Rev. Robert DeFelice has been appointed to the First UMC in Voorheesville. Rabbi Robert Kasman is the new Chair of the Albany Airport Interfaith Prayer Room Board, replacing Azra Haqqie, who was chair for the past two years.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC offers ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: "*Thus Says the Lord: Listening to the Prophets: Old Testament II*", Thursdays Sept. 11, 18, & 25, and Oct. 2, 7-9:30pm, and Saturdays Sept. 13 & 27, 9am-2:30pm @ Christ Community Reformed Church, Clifton Park. Cost: \$275 (\$225 to audit). Register by 8/26. Visit www.crtc.org or call (518) 462-2470. Scholarships and discounts available. Plan now to attend CRTC's **Fall Celebration** on Mon., Oct. 6, at the Glen Sanders Mansion.

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 4. Preliminary figures from the Albany Walk show 450 walkers/volunteers from 50 different groups. \$45,791 was turned in on Walk Day. With over \$27,000 posted in on-line donations, plus additional income turned in to our office, the income as of June 16 was nearing \$88,000. By the time all outstanding pledges and matching funds have come in, we hope to come close to 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. Or, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny to make an on-line gift.

Note: someone left an umbrella behind on Walk Day. Call our office to describe and claim it. Volunteers are needed to help plan next year's CROP Walk, which has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2015. An organizing meeting will be held on Wed., September 10 at 4:45pm. Call the CACC office at (518) 462-5450 if you would like to be involved.

Host Church needed for the 35th Annual Ecumenical Musical Celebration

If you have a sanctuary that can seat 300 people, and you have good parking and handicap accessibility, please consider hosting this exciting event.

It usually takes place at 3pm on a Sunday afternoon in late October or early November and is a wonderful way to showcase the various types of music being performed in churches of different traditions.

This event was begun in 1977 to bring the churches together as well as to raise funds for the work of the Council. We are also looking for choral groups (e.g. adult or children's choir, liturgical dancers, a bell choir) to be part of the program.

If you are interested in hosting or performing, please call our office at (518) 462-5450.

This and That

June is **Gun Violence Awareness Month**. Learn more about the work of Albany Cure Violence (formerly called SNUG) by visiting www.ta-cr.org.

The Orthodox Parish of St. George, 1 St. George Pl., Albany, 12202, holds a Vespers Service every Monday at 6:30pm, including prayers for peace in Syria and Iraq as well as for the release of the two Syrian bishops held captive since 2013. All are invited to attend.

The **South End Community Outreach Center**, 82 Clinton St., Albany, 12202, is opening a store at 91 Clinton St. to assist the South End neighborhood. Donations of furniture, household goods (clean sheets, small kitchen appliances, dishes glasses, bath towels, face cloths, eating & serving utensils, pots & pans), baby items (clothes, diapers, new bottles, strollers), and gently used/new toys will be accepted. Call Leslie at (518) 258-3861.

The **Interfaith Center at UAlbany**, together with the Turkish Cultural Center, will present a program on fasting practices in different religious traditions on **July 24** from 7-9:30 pm. Following the presentations by an interfaith panel, attendees are welcome to stay and partake in the iftar, a meal after sunset to break the fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan. For details, visit www.albanyinterfaithcenter.org or call (518) 489-8573 X 21.

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, 2014

- 20 World Refugee Day
- 23 Deadline to turn in CROP money
- 25 Action & Program Commission, 4pm;
Regional CROP Com., 5pm
- 30 Deadline for nominations for CDSIF
Lifetime Achievement Awards

July, 2014

- 4 Independence Day (holiday)
- *16 CDSIF Program on Spiritual
Needs of Seniors

August, 2014

- 14-18 Habitat for Humanity
Tent-a-thon @ Tawasentha Park
- Visit www.Habitatcd.org for
details about registration.

Plan ahead: the CACC Fall Banquet will be on Wednesday Oct.1 at the Albany Country Club.

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