

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION

May 2014

*CACC Spring Assembly
Wednesday, June 11
First Lutheran Church
181 Western Ave./646 State St. Albany 12203*

[Both the Western Ave. and Cortland Pl. parking lots will be open. The church is handicapped accessible via the Western Ave. entrance.]

5:30pm registration, dinner (choice of chicken or eggplant parmigiana) served at 6:15pm, followed by the Assembly. Dinner reservations are required by June 3 and may be made by phone (462-5450) or by sending a check (\$10/person) made out to "CACC" with the form included in this newsletter. Anyone can attend just the Assembly (which begins around 7:30) without cost or reservations. Highlights of the evening will include the presentation of this year's Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarships; Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships; and the James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award. The evening will conclude with a brief Prayer Service. Clergy and delegates from member congregations as well as any other interested persons are welcome to attend.

From the Executive Director ☞

Alleluia, Alleluia, Happy Easter!

For some of us, we are still walking to Emmaus and wondering what that means to us now, today. We have just ended our Shelter season. It is our guests who open our eyes and teach us about Jesus. They impart the Emmaus Road experience to all of us each day. Our Shelter closing dinner was tremendous. Many thanks to Pastor Allie Leitzel and our friends at First Lutheran Church for the culinary delights that were served to us that night. We all had a wonderful evening. We also thank Pam Bullock, our Shelter program manager, Kitt Jackson, our Administrative Director, and Rev. Vern Victorson, who chairs the Shelter Oversight Committee Chair, as well as all who serve on the Shelter Committee. What would have happened to our guests on their walk each day if we had not been able to stay open throughout this long, cold, icy and treacherous winter?

This Sunday we are gearing up for a different kind of walk-- the CROP Hunger Walk. We pray that the cold, rainy weather we have seen this Spring will take a vacation so our walkers can come and raise the necessary money for our food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Walk with us!

Our Good Friday service was very spiritual and moving. The Good Friday walk is the most solemn of all, commemorating the Way of the Cross and the walk to resurrection. Many thanks

to Barbara DiTommaso and the Prayer & Worship Commission for creating a service that touched our hearts and our spirits. Special thanks to the participants, to Fr. Ken Doyle and Sr. Patricia St. John at Mater Christi Church, and to all who walked with us in prayer.

So what is our Emmaus experience? When we give shelter to the homeless, we share in the resurrection. When we feed those in need, we share in the resurrection. Each time we trust and that trust is broken, we share in the resurrection. When we hope and then are plunged into despair, we share in the resurrection. We are an Easter people. Share in the resurrection. Alleluia! Alleluia!

--Deb Riitano

PS—save Oct. 1 for the annual dinner honoring Kitt on her retirement with the Carlyle Adams Award. More info is on the way.

National Day of Prayer-May 1

10:30am-1pm, in West Capitol Park, Albany. Free parking & transportation from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Colonie, Grace Fellowship in Watervliet, Loudonville Community Church, and Grace & Holy Innocents Church on Clinton Ave. in Albany. Call Pastor Steve @209-2455 or visit www.albanydayofprayer.com.

Church Women United May Friendship Day-May 2

11:30am registration @ Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave., Albany 12209. Potluck luncheon & Least Coin offering. Celebration theme: "Through God Our Hands Can Serve". Invite a friend and bring a dish to pass. All area Christian women welcome.

Ecumenical Event-May 18

4pm, Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady. The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization presents a panel discussion celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vatican's Decree on Ecumenism, one of the major documents of the Second Vatican Council. This workshop will examine the relationship between Roman Catholics, Protestant denominations, and the Orthodox churches.

Presenters include the Rev. Marie Jerge, Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; the Rev. Dr. Allan Janssen, Professor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, Reformed Church in America; the Rev. Jerrod Huguenot, Area Minister for the American Baptist Churches; and the Rev. James Kane, Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. A \$5 donation is payable at the door. Pre-registration is suggested. Call (518) 482-6612 or e-mail creoboard@gmail.com.

CROP Walk/Church World Service News

It's not too late to support the CROP Hunger Walks on May 4. Visit www.crophungerwalk.org, and then follow the prompts to find the walk nearest you. Donations will be received throughout the month. May is also a perfect time to hold a "Blankets+" campaign at your house of worship as we celebrate Mother's Day. A blanket can be a symbol of the love and warmth provided by mothers and those who wrap us in their love. Support for this program helps mothers around the

world care for their children. Make donations online at www.cwsglobal.org/blankets or by mailing a check to CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.

You Have a Choice!

Readers of this newsletter can receive a hard copy 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. If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, let us know that, as well.

This and That

Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless holds its annual "Taste of Albany" on **5/1** at the NYS Museum Terrace Gallery. Music, beverages, and food, plus live & silent auctions. Cost: \$75. Call (518)424-8021 or visit www.atasteofalbany.com....The Affordable Housing Partnership offers several workshops during May for prospective homeowners and landlords. Visit www.ahphome.org or call (518) 434-1730 The Octavo Singers present their spring concert at 7:30pm on **5/3 @** Schenectady's 1st Reformed Church. Program includes Mozart's "Regina Coeli" and Karl Jenkins' "Stabat Mater". Tickets available by phone @ (518) 253-7088, on the web www.octavosingers.com/ and at the door...Grannies for Peace will hold a peace vigil in Washington Park near the Moses statue from 1-2pm on **5/10**. Contact paxpat@nycap.rr.com for information...The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany offers their Spring Enrichment program on the theme "Open the Door of Faith" **5/12-5/15**. Sessions on adult and youth faith formation, liturgy, music, the Bible, etc., are open to all Cost: \$15 session. Register by 5/7. Visit www.rcda.org/springenrichment... Habitat for Humanity invites you to "A Night Out with Habitat" on **5/16 @** Albany's Palace Theater. 6pm cocktails & appetizers, 8pm premiere of the documentary short "Hope Defined", 8:30pm dessert & coffee reception. For tickets, call 462-2993 or visit www.habitatcd.org... An adult faith development retreat entitled "Sustainable Faith for the 21st Century" with Diarmuid O'Murchu will be held at the Carondolet Hospitality Center in Latham **6/6-6/8**. Cost: \$95 for retreat only. Call Barbara @ (518) 449-8744 for details.

Shelter News & Thanks

Sponsored by CACC and hosted by First Lutheran Church, the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter has closed for the season. At the closing dinner on April 22, staff, volunteers, and supporters were recognized. The Shelter was open for 161 nights, providing over 2,350 "bed nights" to more than 130 different individuals. Special thanks to First Lutheran Church for hosting the Shelter, Program Manager Pamela Bullock, and meal coordinator Martha Iannacone. Many thanks to all who have supported this ministry with donations of food, volunteer time, clothing, supplies, prayers, and financial gifts.

Congratulations to....

- the Beth Emeth Sunday Soup Kitchen, celebrating its 30th anniversary!
- Blooming Grove Reformed Church, celebrating its 200th anniversary!
- Barbara Toll (a former CACC Hogancamp Seminary Scholarship recipient), who was ordained and installed as pastor of the Freehold Congregational United Church of Christ on April 12!

--Lynn Hasselbarth, one of last year's Hogancamp Scholarship recipients, graduating from Louisville Seminary and accepting a call to serve a church in Delaware!

Capital District Senior Issues Forum

Nomination forms are available for the Oct. 15 Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony which will take place at Congregation Beth Emeth. Nominees must be 85 by the time of the ceremony and able to attend that event. Completed forms must be received by **5/31**. Call the CACC office (462-5450) for a form or more information. Note: Please save the date of **July 16** for a special program on "Meeting the Spiritual Needs of Seniors". 8am-3pm @ the Carondolet Hospitality Center in Latham. Keynote speaker, lunch, and workshops to help faith communities support their seniors. More details available next month.

An Invitation

June is Torture Awareness Month. From torture and indefinite detention without trial at Guantanamo to long-term solitary confinement with the US, these cruel practices continue to trouble many people of faith. Paul Rehm, a member of the Albany Friends Meeting and NYS Quaker representative to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, would like to work with area congregations to increase awareness of this issue and discuss opportunities for action. Contact him by e-mail at kprehm@aol.com.

Transitions

Dave and Jean Kaercher have stepped down as coordinators of the CACC Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism program. We thank them for their service for the past two and half years and welcome Miranda Rand as the new coordinator. We also welcome Jim Murphy as the Coordinator for CREO, the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization.

We note with sadness the passing of Ed Mondore, a long-time member of the First Church in Albany (Reformed), who had served on the CACC Finance Committee and Board of Directors.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: "*Spring Resource Fair & Trade Show for Congregations*", 4-9pm on 5/12, Western Turnpike Golf Club, Guilderland. \$20 entrance fee includes breakout sessions with experts. "*Fire in the Soul Art Retreat*", with Carol Berry, 6/12-14 @ St. Joseph's Spiritual Life Center, Valatie. Cost: \$335 by 6/15 (inc. meals & accommodations), \$350 thereafter. Register by 6/5. Call 462-2470 or visit www.crtc.org for information about other courses or to register. Scholarships & group discounts available for many events. Bring someone new to a CRTC course and you both attend for ½ price!

Assembly Reservations and a Memorial Day Reminder

You can use this form to send in your reservation(s) for the June 11 Assembly and/or to make a special gift to the Council.

Have you thought about remembering the Council of Churches in your will? Bequests or gifts of cash or stock to our Endowment Fund will help strengthen our financial base so we can

continue our ministries in the Capital District. Let us know if you have included CACC in your will so we can thank you now!

Please consider making a special **Memorial Day** gift to CACC in memory of a friend or relative. We will remember the names of honorees during the closing prayer service at our Spring Assembly.



Mail to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203

Assembly Reservations (Please send by June 3):

I/we _____ would like to attend
(name/names)

the CACC Spring Assembly on June 11 at First Lutheran Church.
Enclosed is \$10 per person. (Checks should be made out "CACC")

Meal choice: _____ chicken parm _____ eggplant parm

Memorial/Honor gifts:

Donor Name _____

I would like to make a special gift to CACC in the amount of _____.

This gift is in memory of/in honor of _____.
(circle one)

Please send an acknowledgement to: _____



May, 2014

- * 1 National Day of Prayer
- * 2 CWU May Friendship Day
- * **4 CROP Hunger Walks**
- 8 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Noon)
- 10 Mother's Day
- *12 CRTC Resource Fair
- *18 CREO Ecumenical Event
- 26 Memorial Day (Office closed)
- 29 Ascension Day

June, 2014

3 Reservations due for Spring Assembly

June, 2014 (cont.)

- 6-8 Adult Faith Retreat
w/ Diarmuid O'Murchu
- 8 Pentecost;
Festival Celebration Choir
Spring Concert
- 9 Fin. Com mtg, 4:30pm
- 10 Shelter Com. mtg., 4pm
- * **11 CACC Spring Assembly**

Save the date: Oct. 1

**CACC Annual Banquet &
Silent Auction**

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