

**CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
November 2012**

**Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace
Sunday, November 11, 3pm**

Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, 959 Madison Ave., Albany, 12203, on the campus of the College of Saint Rose. All people of faith, whatever your tradition, are welcome to help us reclaim the origin of Armistice Day—a day to celebrate peace. Call the CACC office (462-5450) for more information.

A Message from our Interim Executive Director 🐘

By now most of you know that the Rev. George Brennan has resigned from his position as Executive Director of Capital Area Council of Churches CACC and that I have been appointed Interim Director. As many of you may not know me all that well, let me give a little introduction. I am an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and served my last full time call at First Lutheran Church in Albany until my retirement in July of 2011. During my ministry in Albany I served on the Board of Directors of the CACC, including three years as the Board's president. I have been involved with the Emergency Homeless Shelter from its inception and have had a close working relationship with many of the Council's leaders over the years. This is not unfamiliar territory for me and I look forward to working with you as we continue the good work of the Council in the months to come.

We now hit the ground running as we open the Shelter for the season on November 1st. I hope we can all pay particular attention to this ministry and keep Pam Bullock and her staff, as well as the Oversight Committee, in your prayers as we open for yet another year. We look for the day when the powers that be say to us "you are not needed any more", but nobody is telling us that yet. In fact it is the opposite --they look forward to the day we open each year. I ask that each of us and our congregations look to the needs of the Shelter as we consider our year-end mission giving.

The underlying superstructure of all the ministries and work of the CACC is that of the funds made available for the operation of the Council itself. To that end I remind you of two things happening this month. One is our annual Musical Celebration, which is set for Sunday, November 4th at 3PM, at First Lutheran Church in Albany. What a great time to bring your friends and introduce them to the work of the Council of Churches!

The second is a letter which will ask for your financial commitment to the work of the CACC. When you receive this letter I hope that you will give it prayerful thought. The Council needs the support of its member congregations and of individuals who value the importance of the ministry that we are called to carry out together in the name of Christ.

I have taken the time this month to highlight the Shelter ministry, which is current and urgent, but the Council also enriches us spiritually with occasions for worship, prayer, and fellowship. Through events like the Interfaith Prayer Service on November 11th, we find mutual support for our work.

My hope is that next month I will be able to be clear with you as to what I see as my task as Interim Director for the next few months.

--Rev. Vernon A. Victorson

Church Women United World Community Day-Nov. 2

11:30am registration, Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Bring a bag lunch and money for offering. Program follows lunch. Celebration theme: "Abiding in Community: Sights and Sounds of Harmony".

Kieval Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies Colloquium-Nov. 4-5

Serra Hall, Siena College, 515 New Loudon Rd., Loudonville. Theme: "Behind the Scenes at Vatican II". Guest scholars: Judy Banki from the Tanenbaum Center & Philip Cunningham, Ph. D., Prof. of Theology, St. Joseph's University. Call Peter Zaas @248-3372 or visit www.siena.edu/kieval.

Holiday Ideas

Instead of buying more "stuff" for people who already have too much, consider one or more of the following:

--adopt a Cornerstone Campus Ministry student (\$200) for a mission work trip in January. Contact sdamhof@albany.edu for details.

--make an alternative gift in someone's honor to an organization such as the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, the Capital Area Council of Churches, Equinox, Community Hospice, or the CACC Shelter.

--shop from "The Best Gift Catalog" put out by Church World Service to purchase animals, school supplies, farm tools, etc., to improve life for children and families in the developing world. Visit www.cwsbestgifts.org.

--Albany Maritime Ministry needs shoeboxes packed with items for the "Christmas at Sea" program for seafarers who come through the Port of Albany. Suggested items are warm socks, gloves, hats; batteries (AA, AAA, or C); writing paper, envelopes, pens; canned nuts, chocolate, cookies; toiletries (razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, chapstick with sunscreen, foot powder); travel board games, 2013 calendars (with outdoor scenes), & something unique to Albany or upstate NY. Fill a shoebox, wrap in holiday paper, and deliver to the CACC office or the office of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 475 State St., Albany.

--Mayan Hands, a fair trade organization, works with more than 250 weavers who belong to 12 different cooperatives. They create beautiful woven items, baskets, felted, knotted, and beaded products. To arrange for a sale of these items at your house of worship or workplace, contact Brenda Rosenbaum by email at mayanhandsny@mayanhands.org.

--the Roman Catholic Diocese Commission on Peace & Justice can bring its "Work of Human Hands" display of fair trade items from the developing world to your church on 12/15 or 12/16. Call Barbara @ 453-6695.

--support the Fair Trade Project of the NY State Labor-Religion Coalition by ordering coffee, tea, chocolate, etc. Visit www.labor-religion.org.

--donate gift cards from Target or Wal-Mart to the South End Community Outreach Center to be used as holiday gifts for families in the South End of Albany. Send them to the Center, 82 Clinton St., Albany, 12202.

Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration-Nov. 14

7pm, Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., on the downtown UAlbany campus. *Kristallnacht*, “the night of broken glass”, on Nov. 9-10, 1938, is considered to mark the beginning of the Holocaust. This service includes prayers and readings from several faith traditions, candle lighting in memory of Holocaust victims, and a screening of “The Rescuers”, a documentary about non-Jewish diplomats who helped save thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. Call 694-9984 for more information.

Community Shopping Day-Nov. 18

Noon-5pm, at the Ten Thousand Villages store, Stuyvesant Plaza. Start your holiday shopping AND support our Emergency Shelter by purchasing some beautifully crafted fair trade items at this store. CACC will receive 15% of the value of all purchases made between noon-5pm on this day only.

Congratulations to....

--Rev. Jim Reisner of Westminster Presbyterian Church on his 30th anniversary of ordination!
--the Rev. Frances Wattman Rosenau, Associate Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and her husband Zach on the birth of their son, Asher!

This and That

The Albany United Methodist Society is having an Open House from 5-7pm on **11/9** at 340 First St., Albany, 12206, to celebrate their building dedication and showcase the community center. Call 432-0818...Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry hosts a presentation by Dr. David Lewis on “Should Fracking Be in Our Future?” at 7:30pm, **11/12** at the UAlbany Interfaith Center. Call 489-8573x26...The Interfaith Story Circle meets 7-9pm, **11/15**, hosted by the Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh community, 1944 Union St.(corner of Rte. 7 & St. David’s Lane) in Niskayuna. Theme: “Stories of Thanksgiving”. Contact Suman Joshi at sumanalpine@yahoo.com....The Equinox Community Thanksgiving Dinner is on **11/22**. Volunteers needed for preparation, delivery, and cleanup. Call 434-0131 to volunteer ...

Homelessness/Shelter News

November is “Homelessness Awareness Month”. The Emergency Overflow Shelter opens Nov. 1 and will operate 7 nights a week, from 7pm-7am, until the last week of April. Hot meals, clean clothing, showers, toiletries, and referrals to appropriate services will be provided to up to 19 male guests per night. Thanks to the crew from Cornerstone Campus Ministry who came on Oct. 27 to clean and set up.

If your congregation, youth group, or service organization is looking for a project, why not organize a special event to benefit the Shelter? Host a supper, a car wash, an “undie Sunday” collection, or some other activity. Be creative!

Note: The annual “Bowling-for-Beds” Bowl-a-thon has been scheduled for **Sat., Feb. 2, 2013**, 12:30-4:30pm (choose one of the two 2-hr. sessions) at the Sunset Recreation Center on Central Ave. If your youth group or congregation would like to participate, contact the Rev. Sandy Damhof at UAlbany so she can send you a packet of information. Call her @489-8573 x 26 or send an e-mail to sdamhof@albany.edu.

A **community coalition** providing social events, holiday gifts, homework help, clothing, etc. to homeless families needs volunteers and support for their programs. Groups/individuals/families needed to purchase Price Chopper gift cards and organize basic clothing gifts for the holidays, provide homework help for kids, and /or help with parties. Contact Lois Wilson by e-mail at Lwilson502@aol.com.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Note: The John Calvin class that was to take place on 10/30 has been rescheduled for 11/20. Visit www.crtc.org for information about upcoming courses and events.

Correction:

The date for the annual gathering of Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism was incorrect in the last newsletter. The event will take place on Sunday, Jan. 13.

November, 2012

- 1 Shelter opens
- * 2 CWU World Community Day
- * **4 CACC Musical Celebration, 3pm**
@ First Lutheran Church
- 6 Election Day Don't forget to vote!
- 8 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
- * **11 Interfaith Peace Service, 3pm;**
Veterans Day
- 13 Shelter Oversight Com, 4pm
- * 14 Kristallnacht Commemoration, 7pm

November, 2012 (cont.)

- 15 CROP Allocations Com., 4:30pm
- 19 HANNYS Thanksgiving Fast
- 22 Thanksgiving Day (office closed)
- 28 Action & Program Com., 4pm

December, 2012

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 4 Guilderland Interfaith Council
dvent Service, 4pm @ Christ the King

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