

# CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION November 2013

## **A Message from our Interim Executive Director** 📧

The juxtaposition of the opening of our Emergency Overflow Shelter at First Lutheran and the celebration of our National Day of Thanksgiving should strike an interesting chord in all of us as we move through November. It is a reminder that within our community and within our country there is both abundance and need.

Thanksgiving is truly an American Holiday one in which every citizen of the nation can participate regardless of faith tradition, ethnic origin, race, or even political persuasion. Consider that, in the face of these very divisive times in our nation, Thanksgiving Day is a most unifying holiday and that alone is cause for celebration.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we will reopen our seasonal Overflow Homeless Shelter by which we are able to offer sanctuary to some of “the least” of our community through the coldest months of the year. The Shelter is but one example of what we as Christians can do to offer thanksgiving to God for the abundance with which we have been blessed. All of our congregations will be finding different ways in which to demonstrate our thanksgiving, with food baskets or community dinners and other acts of compassion toward our neighbors in need. While November is a time for us as Americans to highlight our thanksgiving to God, giving thanks is something that people of faith seek to do daily throughout the year for the blessings we have received.

I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and pray that God will keep us ever mindful of the needs of others.

*--Rev. Vernon A. Victorson*

## **Church Women United World Community Day-Nov. 1**

11:30am registration, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, Guilderland Bring a bag lunch and money for offering. Program follows lunch. Celebration theme: “Walking Through the Doors of Opportunity”.

## **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Musical Celebration-Nov. 3**

3pm @ St. Francis of Assisi Church, 391 Delaware Ave., Albany, 12209. program features choirs and musicians from several area churches. Free will offering. Refreshments follow.

## **Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration-Nov. 12**

7pm, Page Hall, 135 Western Ave., on the downtown UAlbany campus. *Kristallnacht*, “the night of broken glass”, on Nov. 9-10, 1938, is considered by many as 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 “As a Young Girl of Thirteen”, an inspiring documentary about Holocaust survivor Simone Lagrange, who never let her spirit be broken. Call 694-9984 for more information.

### **Community Shopping Day for CACC Shelter-Nov. 17**

Noon-5pm, at the Ten Thousand Villages store, Stuyvesant Plaza. Start your holiday shopping AND support our Shelter by purchasing beautifully crafted fair trade items at this store. CACC will receive 15% of the value of all purchases (excluding gift cards) made between noon-5pm on this day only. Can't go on 11/17? Go on 11/24 and support Troy Area United Ministries.

### **Community Hospice Wave Riders Fall-Winter Schedule**

Free six week support group for grieving children and teens (3-17 years old).

Albany programs meet Thursdays, 5:30-7pm 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 12/12, and 12/19 @ 26 Wilson Ave., Colonie. (Macedonia Baptist Church). Call Tara Hempel @ 729-2660 or visit [www.HospiceWaveRiders.com](http://www.HospiceWaveRiders.com) to apply. Space is limited. Groups also meet in Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady County. Call 729-2660 for more information.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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, 2014 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 First Lutheran Church, 646 State St., Albany, by Dec. 1.

--Mayan Hands, a fair trade, non-profit organization, works with more than 200 weavers who belong to 8 different cooperatives. They create beautiful items, such as baskets, handbags and purses, table linens, charming felted animals and nativities, and more. To arrange for a sale of these items at your house of worship or workplace, contact Brenda Rosenbaum by email at [mayanhandsny@mayanhands.org](mailto:mayanhandsny@mayanhands.org).

--support the Fair Trade Project of the NY State Labor-Religion Coalition by ordering coffee, tea, chocolate, etc. Visit [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org).

### **Transitions**

Best wishes to Tom Tipple as he retires from his position of Executive Director of Community Caregivers, and welcome to Kathy Burbank, the new Director.

## Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations.

Upcoming: "The Good News Now: The Evolution of Christian Faith" A simulcast in partnership with Trinity Institute NYC. Fri & Sat. 11/22 & 11/23, 9am-3pm @ Trinity Presbyterian Church, Scotia. Cost: \$130. Visit [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) for information about other upcoming courses and events.

### This and That

Mendelssohn Club concert, 3:30pm on **11/10** at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 391 Delaware Ave., Albany, 12209. Cost: \$15 at the door or in advance by calling (518)783-3604. Proceeds benefit the church organ fund...The Interfaith Story Circle will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Niskayuna Reformed Church on **11/14**, starting with a vegetarian potluck at 6pm. Call Gert @ 374-0637....The annual Equinox Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at First Presbyterian Church, corner of State and Willett in Albany, on **11/28**. Volunteers needed for preparation, delivery, and cleanup. Call 434-0131 to volunteer or to order a dinner.

### Pledge Reminder

Have you fulfilled your 2013 pledge to CACC yet? The 2014 pledge mailing will be going out this month to individuals and congregations. We rely on your support to sustain our ministries.

### Don't Forget to Vote

The Action & Program Commission reminds you to exercise your democratic right to vote on November 5. In addition to city and town contests, there are several statewide propositions. One of them is New York Casino Gambling Amendment, Proposal 1, regarding the authorization of casinos in areas other than non-Native American tribal lands. There has been considerable debate about the language of the proposition as it appears on the ballot, so we urge you to learn as much as you can about this issue and the other propositions before you vote.

### Homelessness/Shelter News

November is "Homelessness Awareness Month". The CACC Emergency Overflow Shelter opens Nov. 15 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. If you have collected any of the items from last month's wish list, call the CACC office (462-5450) to arrange for drop off.

Volunteers are needed during the evening (6-10pm) to help with laundry, making beds, greeting guests, etc. Call the Shelter phone (426-1227) and leave a message for Pam and she will get back to you.

**There will be an Open House at the Shelter from 5-6:30pm on Tuesday, Nov. 12, for those who wish to tour the facility before we open for the season.**

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. 8, 2014**, 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](mailto: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 at the Schuyler Inn in Menands. Groups/individuals/families needed to purchase \$20 gift cards for Price Chopper and Rite Aid 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](mailto:Lwilson502@aol.com).

### **Congratulations to....**

--Bishop Howard Hubbard on his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination!

#### **November, 2013**

- \*1 CWU World Community Day;  
All Saints Day
- \*3 CACC Musical Celebration, 3pm  
@ St. Francis of Assisi;  
Daylight Savings Time ends
- 5 Election Day Vote!
- 11 Columbus Day (office closed)
- \*12 Kristallnacht Commemoration, 7pm;  
Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm;  
\*Shelter Open House, 5-6:30pm
- 13 MLK Committee, 3pm
- 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Noon

#### **November, 2013 (cont.)**

- \*15 Shelter opens for season
- \*17 Community Shopping Day  
@ 10,000 Villages, Noon-5pm
- 20 Special CREO meeting, Noon;  
Action & Program Com., 4pm,
- 28 Thanksgiving Day;  
Hanukkah begins

#### **December, 2013**

- 1 World AIDS Day, Advent begins

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

(Note: You may read this newsletter on our web site ([www.capareacc.org](http://www.capareacc.org)), follow us on Facebook or, send us an e-mail if you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.)