

**CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
CONNECTION
October 2013**

**35th Annual Musical Celebration
Sunday, November 3rd, 3pm
St. Francis of Assisi Church
391 Delaware Ave., Albany, 12209**

Park in the church lots or on the street. The church is handicapped accessible from the St. James Place lot.

The program showcases music being performed in our churches. Participants include choirs from the host church, the East Greenbush United Methodist Church, the Festival Celebration Ecumenical Choir, the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church Choir, Albany Lutheran Cluster Churches Choirs, and Guest Organist Agnes Armstrong. Refreshments will be served after the concert. A free will offering will be received to support the ministries of the Council, but advance gifts may be made by using the tear-off form on the last page of this newsletter. Gifts received by October 22 will be listed in the program. Please post the enclosed flyer at your church or another location.

A Message from the Interim Director ☞

Consider this please: there are at least 11 Soup Kitchens and 26 food pantries in Albany County. I know this because I sat in on the CROP WALK allocations committee meeting the other day as they determined where to distribute the 25% local share of the CROP WALK funds raised in 2013. Now, Albany County is by far not the poorest county in the state of New York. We are not the richest either, to be sure, but none the less it seems staggering to me that in our little corner of the world we have 11 soup kitchens and 26 food pantries and the word we hear from all of them is that they are seeing more and more people each year.

Many people talk about following Biblical instruction, some say to the letter. Well, if there is one Biblical mandate that stands out for me, it is “feed the hungry”. (If you’re looking for a quick reference check Matthew 25.)

It seems that all through the Bible we have more references to looking out for the poor and the hungry and the homeless than almost anything else. From a Christian point of view then, but certainly not our faith group alone, it makes feeding the hungry a major priority in life. God would have those of us who are blessed, who have enough or maybe even an abundance, to turn and provide blessing for others, kind of a loaves and fishes sort of thing.

There is a story in my family about my Grandfather having to eat famine fare in his native Sweden when the times were tough. Famine fare is the mixing of ground tree bark with flour in order to extend its use. Probably tasted like cardboard. One of my favorite poems is titled “The Peasant Paavo” and comes from a Finnish source. It tells of how this poor man had for a number of years tended his meager fields only to have his crop destroyed by flood or hail or frost, but he carried on never losing faith. In the conclusion he is blessed with a beautiful

crop and with his wife falls to his knees thanking God. His wife rejoices that she will no longer have to prepare her bread by mixing bark. And the last verse reads...

*Paavo took the good-wife's hand and spake thus:
"Woman, he endureth trials only,
Who a needy neighbour ne'er forsaketh.
Mix thou in the bread a half of bark still,
For frost destroyed our neighbor's cornfield."*

As you sit down to dinner tonight and pause to give thanks for the food God has placed on your table, take a moment to think about our neighbors in Albany County who depend on those soup kitchens and food pantries.

--Vernon A. Victorson

Note : The Church Women United Fall Forum scheduled for Oct. 4 has been cancelled. World Community Day will be **Nov. 1** @ Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church, 2291 Western Ave., Guilderland. 11:30am registration. Bring a bag lunch. The program, "Walking Through the Doors of Opportunity", will include an interactive Bible study led by Kitt Jackson.

Transitions

The Community Loan Fund has a new Executive Director, Linda MacFarlane. She replaces Bob Radliff, who stepped down after 17 years with the organization. Deacon Walter Ayres is the new Director of the RC Diocese Peace & Justice Commission. We note with sadness the passing of two former CACC Board members. Sr. Mary Gen Smyth, RSCJ, was the co-director of Abba House of Prayer for more than 25 years, chaired the CACC Prayer & Worship Commission, and was coordinator of the Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism program from 1997-2002. Mary Rita Pagano, a member of Blessed Sacrament parish, represented the Uptown Churches ecumenical cluster. May they both rest in peace.

This and That

The Grafton Peace Pagoda (Crandall Rd., Petersburg) will celebrate its 20th anniversary on **10/5**. Visit www.graftonpeacepagoda.org or call (518) 658-9301...The Interfaith Center at UAlbany will hold an Open House from 2-6pm on **10/9**. Refreshments served...October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Albany County Coalition Against Domestic Violence invites you to wear purple on **10/16**. Visit www.opdv.ny.gov for more information ...Food Pantries for the Capital District will hold their Harvest Evening Celebration from 5:30-8:30pm, **10/17**, at the Century House, 997 New Loudon Rd., Latham. Cost \$65. RSVP by 10/10 to www.thefoodpantries.org...The Interfaith Story Circle will meet from 7-9pm on **10/17** at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1 St. George Pl, Albany, 12209, for "Personal Tales about the History of Faith Traditions"...The Homeless Action Committee will hold their annual Dinner & Silent Auction starting at 6pm on **10/18** at the Fuller Firehouse Banquet Hall, 1342 Central Ave., Albany. Cost: \$40, RSVP to 426-0554 by 10/10....The FOCUS Churches of Albany & the Hunger Action Network of NYS are sponsoring "Empty Bowls" from 5-7:30pm on **10/24** at the Linda, 339 Central Ave., Albany. Cost: \$25. Choose a ceramic bowl

made by a local artist and fill it with gourmet soup to help fight hunger. Call 434-7371 or 443-0460 for reservations.

Lamar Lecture with Dr. Thomas Long-Oct. 12

4pm @ First Presbyterian Church, 362 State St. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Long is professor of preaching at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. He will speak on "Trouble in the Old Mainline Churches: Parabolic Answers to Honest Questions". On Sunday, 10/13, Dr. Long will preach at the 8:30 and 10:45 am services, as well as lead the adult education class. For more information, call 449-7332 or visit www.firstpresalbany.org.

Faith for a Fair NY Retreat-Oct. 22-23

Dominican Retreat Center, 1945 Union St., Niskayuna, from Noon on 10/22 until 1pm on 10/23. Designed for clergy and leaders of all faiths to network, learn and take action around issues of economic justice. Find details about speakers and workshops and information about registration at www.labor-religion.org or call Joy Perrett at (518)213-6000 ext. 6348.

Kieval Institute Jewish-Christian Studies Colloquium-Oct. 27-28

Siena College, 515 Loudon Rd., Loudonville. 2:30-5pm Sunday afternoon & 10am-Noon Monday. Scholars-in-residence Prof. PHEME Perkins and Prof. Zev Garber will speak on "The Jewish Jesus". Free & open to the public. Contact Peter Zaas @783-2361 or visit www.siena.edu/kieval.

Congratulations to....

- Audrey Hughes and Dr. Mussarat Chaudhry, recipients of this year's Carlyle Adams Ecumenical/Interfaith Award!
- Our Lady of the Assumption parish in Latham on its 50th anniversary!
- St. Mary's Church in Waterford on its 100th anniversary!
- the 29 area seniors honored on October 2nd by the Capital District Senior Issues Forum with Lifetime Achievement Awards!
- the Religious Sisters of Mercy, celebrating 150 years of service in Albany!
- the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem (in Selkirk) on its 250th anniversary!

Capital Region Theological Center

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

Call 462-2470 or visit www.crtc.org to register for courses or to obtain more information. Group discounts and scholarships available for some courses. Lunch included for full day events. Upcoming: "*Breakfasts for Champions: Marketing Your Church's Message*", Fred Daniels, Tuesdays, 10/15, 22, and 29, 7-8:30am, Lynnwood Reformed Church, Carman Rd., Schenectady. Cost \$75 for a team of two, includes breakfast. Reg. by 10/8. "*Boundary Awareness: Do You Know Your Limits?*" Rev. Dr. David Olsen, Nov. 7, 9am-3pm, Delmar Presbyterian Church. Cost: \$90. Register by 10/31. "*21st Century Faith Formation for All Ages*", John Roberto, 9am-4pm Thurs., Nov. 14, and 9am-3pm Fri., Nov. 15, Community

United Methodist Church, Slingerlands. Cost: \$135 by 10/16, \$160 thereafter. Register by 10/28.

Emergency Overflow Shelter

The Shelter will open for the season on November 15 and we hope to operate until April 25, 2014. The Shelter Committee has applied for several grants, but will need your ongoing financial support to operate for the full season. Perhaps your congregation would consider organizing a special event to benefit the Shelter. Be creative!

Look for a **Wish List** of needed supplies on the last page of this newsletter.

FLASH! This just in: The **Ten Thousand Villages** store located in Stuyvesant Plaza will host a “Community Shopping Day” on **Sunday, Nov. 17, from Noon-5pm** to benefit CACC. 15% of all purchases made during those hours (excluding gift cards) will benefit our Emergency Shelter. Tell your friends and plan to stop by to do some of your holiday shopping. The mission of Ten Thousand Villages is to benefit farmers, craftspeople, and artisans in developing countries. So, any purchases made will not only benefit the person in another country who made the item, but will also help the homeless people in Albany who use our Shelter.

It's Election Season!

The CACC is partnering with the Albany County League of Women Voters to co-sponsor several candidate forums during October. We believe that people of faith should be informed about their choices before they cast a vote. Events are being held in City of Albany and the Towns of Bethlehem, Colonie, and Guilderland. Volunteers are needed to represent CACC and help at these events—greeting people, handing out programs and question cards, reviewing questions for candidates, etc. Call our office (462-5450) if you can help. Visit www.lwvalbany.org for dates and locations of the candidate events.

Looking Ahead to November and beyond

Nov. 1: Church Women United World Community Day

Nov. 3: CACC Ecumenical Musical Celebration

Nov. 12: Kristallnacht Interfaith Commemoration

Nov. 15: Shelter opens for the season

Nov. 17: Community Shopping Day at Ten Thousand Villages to benefit the CACC Shelter

Nov. 19: Community Caregivers Gala

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 1: World AIDS Day

2014

Jan. 12: Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism gathering

Jan. 15: MLK Interfaith Memorial Service

Feb. 8: Shelter Bowl-a-thon

May 4: CROP Hunger Walks

Need choir robes? Altamont Reformed Church has 20 adult choir robes, assorted sizes, to give away to a church. The robes are washable, burgundy color, and come with a set of reversible stoles. Call the church office at 861-8711 if you are interested.

CACC 35th Annual Musical Celebration-Nov. 3

I/We wish to contribute to the 35th Annual Ecumenical Musical Celebration:

____ As a Saint (\$250 and over) ____ As a Benefactor (\$200-249)

____ As a Sponsor (\$100-199) ____ As a Friend (\$35-99)

Please print your name and congregation (optional) as you wish them to appear in the program:

Given in memory or in honor (circle one) of:

Please make check out to "CACC" and send to 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203 before 10/23.

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SHELTER WISH LIST

A Breathalizer (costs about \$200)

Cleaning products: Pine Sol, bleach, laundry detergent, dish detergent, dryer sheets

Paper products: paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, facial tissue, heavy duty 20 gal. trash bags, food service gloves; heavy duty paper hot cups, bowls, plates; sturdy plastic eating utensils

Men's Clothing: new socks, underwear (sizes 36, 38,40); T-shirts (L, XL, 2X); inexpensive flip flops (for use in shower)

Toiletries: small sized toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, hand sanitizer, lip balm, hand lotion

Food: cereal, Kool-Aid mix, canned apple or orange juice, snacks (cookies, popcorn, etc.), sugar, coffee, powdered creamer

Volunteers to help with meals, make beds, do laundry, sign in guests, etc.

Call the Shelter phone @426-1227 after Nov. 1.

Financial gifts are always welcome. Please make checks out to "CACC Shelter Acct." and mail to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.

October, 2013

- 6 World Communion Sunday
- 7 CRTC Banquet
- 8 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- 10 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
- *12 Lamar Lecture
- 14 Columbus Day (office closed)
- 16 CREO Board, Noon;
Finance Com., 4:30pm@ the
Interfaith Center
- *22-23 Faith for a Fair New York Conf.
- 23 Action & Program Com., 4pm
- *24 Empty Bowls hunger event
- 27 Reformation Sunday
- 28 Regional CROP Com., 5-7pm

October (cont.)

- 29 Community Loan Fund Celebration
- 31 Reformation Day

November, 2013

- *1 CWU World Community Day
- *3 **Musical Celebration, 3pm**
@ St. Francis of Assisi
5 Election Day Vote!
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 14 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon
- 15 Shelter opens for season
- *17 Shopping day @ 10,000 Villages
to benefit the CACC Shelter
- 20 Action & Program Com., 4pm

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