

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

**CACC Annual Dinner  
Wednesday, October 2  
Albany Country Club**

**300 Wormer Rd., Voorheesville 12186**

Registration, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and social hour (with cash bar) will begin at 6:00pm, with dinner at 6:45pm, followed by the program and celebration. Cost: \$55. The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of this year's Carlyle Adams Ecumenical/Interfaith Award to Dr. Mussarat Chaudhry and Audrey Hughes, co-chairs of the Muslim-Catholic Dialogue sponsored by the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Commission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany.

To make a reservation for the dinner, please fill out the form in this newsletter and send it with your payment to the CACC office before **September 20**. No tickets will be sold at the door. Clergy, CACC delegates, and other interested persons are welcome to attend.

**From the Executive Director** ✍

Two events happened this summer, which had an impact on me and many others. The first was the death of a friend and colleague, Pastor Mark Frickey of the Southern Columbia County Parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Mark was in his mid-forties and suffered from a congenital liver disease. He spent a good part of the spring and early summer in the hospital. At one point he was at the top of the list to receive a transplanted liver, but sadly, there was no liver available at that time. At his memorial service his father made a simple but impassioned plea for all of us present to consider being organ donors ourselves and to encourage others to give it serious thought.

In July I attended a well put together and presented program on end of life issues, with a focus on "Organ Donation and Anatomical Gift Giving". Towards the end of our time together we had short presentations by religious representatives (Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist), all basically relaying the message that nothing in their faith traditions stood in the way of organ donation. In fact, the opposite was more the norm. My favorite was the Jewish response, which was "If you can, you should". At that gathering I thought again about Pastor Mark and about the liver that was not available when he needed it.

There is a bumper sticker out there, one of the few I really like, which says "Don't take your organs to heaven. God knows we need them here." I think that's right and I also think that as people of faith we need to use our houses of worship as forums to promote organ donation and to encourage our people to be donors themselves. Material and information abounds and is easily accessible. If you need some guidance, give us a call and we will point you in the right direction. Also, as individuals, we need to be talking about these decisions with our children so that if the time ever comes when our organs might be a life giving miracle for another human being, our children will know to say "Yes, that what our parents wanted."

As the summer ends and the fall schedule heats up, I look forward to seeing many of you at events such as the Protestant Campus Ministry Patrons Dinner on September 26 at First Lutheran Church, our own Annual Dinner on October 2 at the Albany Country Club, and the Musical Celebration on November 3 at St Francis of Assisi Church on Delaware Ave. We have much to do in the months ahead.

May God bless us in our efforts!

--Rev. Vernon A. Victorson

### **FOCUS Golf Outing-Sept. 10**

8am registration & breakfast, 9am play starts, 2pm lunch & raffle drawing, Orchard Creek Golf Course, Dunnsville Rd., Altamont. Cost: \$120/single, \$440/foursome, includes greens fees, cart, prizes, food. Lunch only (for non-golfers): \$20. Sponsorships available. Proceeds benefit FOCUS feeding programs. Register by 9/3. Call 443-0460 or visit [www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net).

### **North Star Peace Walk-Sept. 15**

2pm start at Congregation Beth Emeth parking lot, 100 Academy Rd., Albany 12208. The walk will include stops at various houses of worship, interfaith prayers, teachings, singing, and fellowship. This is an intergenerational, inclusive, non-political family event. Participants are invited to wear white and carry banners or signs of peace (e.g. "Peace" "Peace Now" "Piece by Peace" etc.) The walk will end at Masjid As-Salaam Mosque, 276 Central Ave., Albany 12206. For more information, contact Barbara Dworkin, Peace Walk Co-Chair: [barbaradworkin@englishperfect.com](mailto:barbaradworkin@englishperfect.com).

### **AIDSWalk-Sept. 28**

11am registration, 12pm, walk begins @Washington Park, Albany. Proceeds benefit AIDS service organizations such as the Damien Center and Support Ministries. Call 448-WALK or visit [www.aidswalk-capitalregion.org](http://www.aidswalk-capitalregion.org).

### **This and That**

The Opening Convocation of St. Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry will begin at 7pm on 9/4 @ the Church of St. Vincent de Paul, 900 Madison Ave., Albany. Bishop Howard Hubbard will be the speaker. Topic: "A Bishop Reflects on the Second Vatican Council"...Congregation Agudat Achim, located at 2117 Union St. in Schenectady, presents the 2013 Professor Stephen Berk Lecture Series on "The New Middle East", 7:30pm on Monday nights, beginning 9/9-10/14. Tickets: \$10 per lecture, \$45 for the series. Call 393-9211 or visit [www.agudatachim.com](http://www.agudatachim.com) for information or reservations...The Interfaith Story Circle will meet from 7-9pm on 9/18 at Christ Our Light Church, 1 Maria Dr., Loudonville, 12211. Bill Roylance will be the facilitator. Theme: "Finding God in Ordinary Places". Call Anne @869-5247...Regretfully, "The Big Sing" sponsored by the Festival Celebration Choir and originally scheduled for 9/21-9/22 has been cancelled due to low registration...Capital District's Habitat for Humanity ReStore has relocated to 70 Fuller Rd. in Albany and has doubled in size. Donations of new home building materials are being accepted. It's also a great place to shop for cabinets, paint, windows, etc.

### **Looking ahead to October:**

**10/2** Capital District Senior Issues Forum Lifetime Achievement Awards

Ceremony at Congregation Beth Emeth

**10/4** Church Women United Fall Forum

**10/6** World Communion Sunday

**10/12** Lamar Lecture featuring Dr. Thomas Long, 4pm at First Presbyterian Church

**10/29** Sidney & Beatrice Albert Interfaith Panel at The College of Saint Rose

### **Musical Celebration Update**

We are please to report some additions to the list of participants in the Ecumenical Musical Celebration scheduled for 3pm on Nov. 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Albany. Agnes Armstrong, organist at the Helderberg Reformed Church in Guilderland Center and St. John's Lutheran Church in Altamont, will be the Guest Organist. Also, the choir of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, under the direction of Harry Ermides, will perform.

### **Community Hospice offers Congregational Programs**

Community Hospice (an affiliate member of CACC) has been working with congregations in the Capital District for many years. They have now developed a program to inform "congregational caregivers" so they may be a resource to their friends in faith. Community Hospice staff will meet with local faith community leaders and staff to discuss and plan what type of program best meets their needs. Then, a single program or a series of programs will be presented, offering information about topics such as: The Hospice Philosophy-A Holistic Approach, Advance Directives, Hospice Resources, and Bereavement. The programs, which are offered free to all congregations, are led by professionals: nurses, social workers and chaplains on the Community Hospice staff. For more information, or to schedule presentations for your faith community, please contact Rev. Don Stake, Public Relations Specialist, The Community Hospice, by phone (518)285-8179, e-mail [dstake@communityhospice.org](mailto:dstake@communityhospice.org), or visit [www.communityhospice.org](http://www.communityhospice.org).

## Reservation Form for CACC Annual Dinner on Oct. 2

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ tickets at \$55 each. Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal choices: (Please indicate how many of each.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala Florentine      \_\_\_\_\_ Potato Encrusted Boston Scrod  
\_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant Rollatini                      \_\_\_\_\_ Kosher meal

Please detach form and send with your check made payable to "CACC" so that it arrives by **Sept. 20**. Reservation deadline is firm; no tickets will be sold at the door. Mail to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203

(detach here)



### CWS/CROP WALK News

Church World Service and its partners are responding to recent disasters around the world. There is a desperate need for funds as well as for hygiene kits, school kits, clean up buckets, and baby kits. Take advantage of back-to-school sales to stock up on supplies for school kits, and then contact a local sewing or quilting group to make cloth bags for your kits. Recruit people of all ages to join in what can be a great intergenerational project. Visit [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org) or call 1-800-297-2767.

The final total for the 2013 Albany CROP Hunger Walk was \$93,505, which means that \$23,376.25 will come back to CACC for distribution to Albany County food pantries and soup kitchens. Planning has begun for the **May 4, 2014** walk. Persons interested in serving on the Albany CROP Walk Committee are welcome to attend its first meeting on Wed., **9/11**, 4:45pm at the CACC office. Call Kitt @462-5450.

### Transitions

The Rev. Abby Norton-Levering has left the Glenmont Community Church to become the Ministries Coordinator for the Albany Synod of the Reformed Church in America. This month we will welcome the Rev. Karen Pollan as new pastor of the Delmar Presbyterian Church. After 33 years as Director of the Roman Catholic Diocese Commission on Peace and Justice, Barbara DiTommaso has retired. Also retiring this month, after serving as pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church for 36 years, is the Rev. Robert W. Dixon. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton has been elected as Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Currently serving as Bishop of the Northeast Ohio Synod, she will begin her six-year term on Nov. 1. Finally, we mourn the passing of the Rev. Anthony Gulley, who served several Catholic parishes in the area, and David Griggs-Janower, whose vision and leadership in the music world, both sacred and secular, will be missed,

## **Capital Region Theological Center**

CRTC offers ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming courses and events: “Joy in Worship: Feeding Preacher, Congregation and God”, Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas, Sat. 10/19, 9am-3pm, location TBA. Cost: \$60 before 9/20, \$75 thereafter. Register by 10/3. Fall Celebration, Mon, 10/7, 6-9pm, Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia. Silent auction, hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and guest speaker Sr. Anne Bryan Smollin. Reservations required. “It’s All About the Stories: How to Effectively Advocate for Others”, Rev. Daniel B. Hahn, Wednesdays, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 6:30-9pm, City Mission/Schenectady Works Building. Cost: \$135 by 9/23, \$150 thereafter. Register by 10/7. Shuttle service from First Church in Schenectady available. Call 462-2470 or visit [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) to register for any of the above.

**Corrections:** The Rev. Dr. Yvonne Taylor recently received her Ed. D. degree, not a D. Min as was reported in the June/July newsletter. Also, Rob Kovach is the new Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, not the President as was reported in the last issue

### **Shelter News**

As we move into the fall we are again beginning to think about the Overflow Shelter that CACC operates at First Lutheran Church. We are happy to announce that Pamela Bullock will return as Program Manager, and she is already considering the staff needed for another smooth season of providing for the homeless in our community. This year we will open on November 15<sup>th</sup>, so come October we will be looking for volunteers as well as donations of various items, a detailed list of which will appear in next month’s newsletter.

Supplies needed include cereal, juice, coffee, powdered creamer, and sugar; paper goods (paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissue, napkins, plates, bowls, hot/cold cups); new men’s flip-flops, socks and underwear; and cleaning supplies (bleach, laundry detergent, dish detergent).

**Please do not bring any items in until we ask for them.**

As always, your contributions are a big part of making the Overflow Shelter work, for without the support of people of faith in our community and beyond, this ministry would not be possible. Checks should be made out to “CACC Shelter Acct.” and sent to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203

We also ask for your prayers for Pamela, her staff and all of the volunteers.

### **CACC Executive Director Job Search Update**

The deadline for applications for this part-time position is September 15. The detailed job description and position requirements are posted on our web site, [www.capareacc.org](http://www.capareacc.org).

### **Got e-mail?**

Remember, you can help us save on paper and postage by receiving this letter by e-mail or reading it at our website. Please send us an e-mail informing us of your choice so we can add your address to our e-mail list.

## **Candidate Events**

With the League of Women Voters of Albany County, CACC is co-sponsoring several candidate events. Visit [www.lwvalbany.org](http://www.lwvalbany.org) for details

### **September, 2013**

2 Labor Day (office closed)  
9 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm  
10 Primary Day  
11 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm  
12 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon  
\*15 North Star Peace Walk, 2pm  
20 Banquet Reservations due  
20-21 The Big Sing **CANCELLED**  
due to low registration

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

25 Action & Program Com., 4pm  
\*26 PCM Patrons Dinner @ FLC  
\*28 Capital District AIDS Walk  
30 HANNYS Annual Meeting

### **October, 2013**

\*2 **CACC Banquet @ Albany  
Country Club**

**Be sure to mark your calendar for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual CACC Musical Celebration, 3pm  
on Sunday, Nov. 3 @ St. Francis of Assisi Church, 391 Delaware Ave., Albany**

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