

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION

April 2012

Good Friday

Ecumenical Worship

Noon, April 6

The First Church in Albany (Reformed)

110 No. Pearl St., Albany, 12207

(Free parking in Sheridan Ave. lot; tell attendant you are here for the service. Paid parking in other lots or on streets. Handicapped accessible.)

All are welcome to join us as we reflect on the "Seven Last Words of Jesus the Christ". The service will include Scriptural meditations and Taizé music. A free will offering will be received for the ministries of the Council.

From the Executive Director 📧

"Churches and Cabarets"

Recently the Albany Common Council passed a new ordinance that requires a permit for certain musical events in public places, including churches. It has been referred to in the press as "*The Cabaret Ordinance*". The final text was less restrictive than the original but, it passed before churches could adequately consult with each other and voice their concerns. The basic concern is whether churches should be included in this ordinance at all. Six months from now the Common Council will review the matter again.

I anticipate that many of our CACC member churches will want an opportunity to talk about this issue and I invite you to make your wishes known. There also might be other concerns that the churches should be discussing. In either case, I would be happy to convene a meeting.

In times past we often discussed issues like this at a noontime gathering but, we discontinued that when attendance declined. Please contact the CACC office (462-5450) to suggest days and times that work best for you.

--George Brennan

King Lecture-April 12

7pm, Alumni Recreation Center, Siena College. The Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King Lecture Series on Race & Nonviolent Social Change presents Bishop Howard Hubbard as this year's speaker. Free. Call 782-6654.

Church Women United Spring Forum-April 13

11:30am registration at West End Presbyterian Church, 585 Central Ave., 12206. Bring bag lunch and money for bake sale.

“Tools for Caregivers”-April 21

8am-Noon, Bulmer Communications Center, Hudson Valley Community College, 80 Vandenberg Ave., Troy. Are you caring for a senior or does a senior rely on you for help? This free event offers workshops, speakers, resources, and support. Free, but advance registration is required. Call 269-3976. Visit www.capitalregioncaregiver.com for more information.

Shelter Closing Dinner-April 26

6pm in Wittenberg Hall of First Lutheran Church. This dinner (on the last night the Shelter will be open this season) is for all Shelter supporters, volunteers, staff, and guests. Many thanks to all who have supported the Shelter this year. Free, but please call 462-5450 by **4/18**.

Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships

Thanks to the generosity of the late Grace Hogancamp, the Council has some modest funds available to be used as scholarships for seminary students. Applicants must be members of a member congregation of CACC and should be enrolled in or accepted at a Protestant theological seminary. Application forms are available from the CACC office (462-5450). Completed applications, which must be accompanied by a recent transcript, an essay describing the applicant's call to ministry, and a letter of recommendation from the applicant's pastor, are due May 1.

This and That

Children at the Well will hold a vegetarian potluck dinner at 2pm on **4/1** @ the Schenectady Jewish Community Center, followed by a Youth Interfaith Story Circle. Also, the Children at the Well interns will present a storytelling program at 2m on **4/22** at Albany's Steamer 10 Theater. Call Paula @785-7842 or visit www.childrenatthewell.org...Check out "Canstruction" at the NYS Museum (4th floor) between **4/5-26**. Teams of architects will construct zoo animals out of cans. Bring a can of food to vote for your favorite. After the event, the cans go to the Food Pantries. Visit www.zoocandoit2012.com... The Christian Dance Fellowship of the Capital District is hosting a regional worship dance conference on **4/21**, 9am-2:30pm @ Christ's Church of the Capital District, 4 Charles Park in Guilderland. Cost: \$15 for adults/teens; \$10 for youth (12 and under). Registration and fee accepted at the door. Bring a bag lunch. Call 209-5424 or 438-4398...Earth Day Celebration at Zion's UCC Church, 741 Taborton Rd., Sand Lake, 10am-4pm, **4/22**. Free admission, activities & displays for all ages. Call Rev. Robert Loesch @674-8204 ...The College of St. Rose and the Consultation Center present a panel discussion on "Polarity and Civility", 6-8pm on **4/26** @ the Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, 959 Madison Ave. Free will offering. Registration not required but appreciated. Call 489-4431...Congregation Beth Emeth & the Jewish Community Center are holding a Health & Human Services Fair for Adults/Senior Adults from 10:30am-2:30pm on **4/29** @ the Sidney Albert Jewish Community Center, 340 Whitehall Rd., Albany, 12208. Free screenings, massages, refreshments, information booths, etc. Call 438-6651 ext. 112...National Day of Prayer is on **5/3**. Albany events in West Capitol Park include a "Concert of Prayer" at 10:30am and prayers for government officials at noon. Transportation available from several area churches. Visit www.albanydayofprayer.com.

Congratulations to...

--the Presbyterian Church in New Scotland on its 225th anniversary!

James & Pearl Campbell Peace & Justice Award

Do you know someone who is doing something that would qualify him/her as a “friend of peace and justice”? Send a letter nominating the person(s) for this award to the CACC office by **May 8th**. The award will be presented at the CACC Spring Assembly in June. Previous recipients include Carrie Brown, Susan Beale, Joan Horgan, Gert Johnson, and Paula Weiss.

Transitions

Farewell and best wishes to Brian O’Shaughnessy as he retires from serving more than 25 years as Executive Director of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, and welcome to Sara Niccoli, who has been working as co-director for more than a year and now is the Executive Director. Welcome to the Rev. Susan Vincent Cox, who has joined the staff of the First Church in Albany as Minister for Discipleship and Mission.

Capital Region Theological Center

An ecumenical project offering courses for laity and clergy. Upcoming: “Dr. Randall Zachman/Fr. Dennis Tamburello Dialogue”, Siena College, 6:30-8:30pm on **4/20**. Cost: \$35. “Works of Love: The Challenge of Being a Disciple”, Randall Zachman, 9am-4pm on **4/21**, Siena College. Cost: \$95. Both events: \$105. Register by 4/5. “Unprotected Texts: Misconceptions About Sexuality & the Bible”, Dr. Jennifer Knust. 9am-4pm, **5/10& 5/11 @** Colonie Community Reformed Church. Cost: \$95 for one day, \$165 for both. Register by 4/24. “Shane Claiborne: A Call to the Simple Way of Radical Christianity” Special two-day event to explore issues of peace-building, social justice, and the call to truly live like Jesus. **6/22-23**. Details to come later. Call 462-2470 or visit www.capitalrtc.org.

Looking ahead to May....

May 1: Interfaith Alliance Awards Dinner, 6pm @ Albany Country Club

May 3: National Day of Prayer

May 4: Church Women United May Friendship Day potluck luncheon @ Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany

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CROP Hunger Walks-May 6

We invite you to join us in “Ending Hunger—One Step at a Time” and help our “Communities Respond to Overcome Poverty”. Hundreds of people of all ages will collect pledges and walk in one of the ten CROP Walks taking place in the greater Capital District that day. The **Albany CROP Walk** will be dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. John U. Miller, former Executive Director of the Council of Churches. The Walk begins and ends at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Ave. Registration begins at 12:30pm. Following a musical performance and brief opening remarks, walkers will step off at 1:30pm. Choosing between a 4.5 mile loop (with 3

rest stops along the way) or the “Golden Mile”, walkers will put their faith in action to help hungry people. Refreshments at First Lutheran after the walk.

Want to get involved? **Walk**--with a group from your house of worship, business, community organization, or your family. **Sponsor a walker**--25% of the money raised comes back to the Capital District to help our neighbors in need and the remainder is used for hunger relief and development projects around the world. **Volunteer**--help is needed with folding T-shirts (before the Walk), and on Walk Day, with registration, handing out T-shirts, serving refreshments, etc. Call the CACC office @ 462-5450 to volunteer, get materials, or for more information.

Congratulations to the following for their efforts in the 2011 Albany CROP Walk: Delmar United Methodist Church received the Gold Sneaker for raising \$26,310; Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Silver Sneaker for \$10,929; Bethany Baptist Church, the Bronze Sneaker for \$7,123; Delmar Presbyterian Church, Highest Per Capita Amount (for a small group); Pine Grove United Methodist Church, Most Improved; and St. Pius X School, Best New Effort. Top walkers were Evelyn Stone (\$5,960) and Joe Hodgson (\$3,230). The awards were presented at the CROP Rally on March 25.

April, 2012

- 1 Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins
- *6 **CACC Good Friday Service**, Noon
@ The First Church in Albany
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 10 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- 11 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm
- 12 BOARD of DIRECTORS, 5pm
(note time change!)
- *12 King Lecture @ Siena, 7:30pm
- *13 CWU Spring Forum, 11:30am
- 18 CREO Board, Noon
- 19 Prayer/Worship/Faith Com., 1pm
- 25 Action & Program Com., 4pm;
Dev. Com. 4:30pm

April (cont.)

- *26 Shelter Closing Dinner, 6pm

May, 2012

- * 1 Hogancamp Sem. Scholarship
application deadline;
Interfaith Alliance Awards Dinner
- * 3 National Day of Prayer
- 4 CWU May Friendship Day
- * **6 CROP Hunger Walk**
- 10 BOARD of DIRECTORS Retreat
- 17 Ascension Day
- 27 Pentecost
- 28 Memorial Day (office closed)

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