

# **CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION**

**January 2012**

**39th Annual**

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Interfaith Memorial Service**

**7pm Sunday, January 15, 2012**

**St. Francis of Assisi Church (formerly St. James)**

**391 Delaware Ave., Albany 12209**

(Park in the lots behind and next to the church.) All are welcome to this annual celebration of the life and work of Dr. King. The evening includes interfaith readings and prayers as well as music by several local groups. Addressing the theme “Stone of Hope”, the guest speaker will be the Rev. Valerie Faust, Pastor of Rhema Power Ministries. Please announce this event to your congregation, family, and friends. The offering received at the event is the primary source of funding for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Last spring we awarded a total of \$5,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Applications for the 2012 awards will be available at the service and on our web site and are due by March 31. If you are unable to attend the service and wish to make a gift to the scholarship fund, please send your check made out to “CACC-MLK Fund” to 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203.

## **CACC Annual Meeting/Winter Assembly-Feb. 7(snow date 2/14)**

5:30pm registration, 6:15 dinner served, followed by the Annual Meeting. New Covenant Presbyterian Church, 916 Western Ave., 12203 (The A-frame church near the State Office Campus) The church is handicapped accessible and has a parking lot. Agenda includes election and installation of officers and members of the Board of Directors, appointments of new Committee and Commission members, approval of the 2012 proposed budget, highlights of CACC activities during 2011, and presentation of the Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Service Award. The evening will end with a brief Prayer Service. Reservations are required for the dinner. Please send a check for \$10/person made out to “CACC”, along with the names of those attending, to our office by **February 1**. You may also call in your reservations by that date and pay at the door. Clergy and lay delegates from all CACC member congregations and other interested persons are welcome. Anyone may attend the Assembly only (beginning around 7:30pm) at no charge.

**From the Executive Director** 📎

**“A Resolution To Listen”**

At the beginning of a new year people often make resolutions, based on what they want to change from the previous year, like eliminating a bad habit or beginning a new venture. It seems to me that it is also appropriate to make changes based on what we want to preserve. Over the past year I have learned more about our member churches than I had ever known before. I have also been convinced that our personal contacts with each other are essential if we are to be a vibrant Council of Churches in the future. It is up to us to preserve that spirit of dialogue.

I became aware of that when I attended our annual musical event in October. Choirs and individuals shared their gift of music and it was a time for all of us to listen. We were not sharing formal worship or working together on a common service project; we spent time listening to each other. That is the kind of thing that I resolve to do more often during the coming year. My hope is that we as a Council of Churches will preserve that spirit and look for more opportunities to listen to one another in the future. Many groups have reached out to us in the past year and have asked to be in dialogue with us. I will be inviting them to join us at our Annual Meeting on February 7, 2012. That is our principal gathering of the year. It is a time when we make major decisions and we have the greatest amount of participation. It would be wonderful if all our member churches resolved to attend and invited new people to become part of our efforts to listen to each other and learn from each other.

*--George Brennan*

## **HELP WANTED**

The Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO) is seeking an Interim Coordinator starting in January 2012. Twelve hours per week, \$20/hr., 6 month contract. For a full job description visit the CREO web page at: [www.albanypresbytery.org](http://www.albanypresbytery.org). Letters of interest and résumés can be sent to: [CREOBoard@gmail.com](mailto:CREOBoard@gmail.com) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Volunteers Needed...**

to lead a Protestant worship service on Friday afternoons for about a half-hour (starting at 2:30pm) at the Hudson Park Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (formerly Julie Blair) on Northern Boulevard in Albany, next to the Channel 10 studios. This is a great opportunity for outreach for area congregations or individuals who want to share God's love with a group of people who often feel forgotten. Members of two area congregations already lead the services on the second and fourth Fridays, but we need individuals/groups to commit to the first, third, or fifth Friday of each month during 2012. If you are unable to commit to the entire year but would like to do this for a few months, we can work with you and the activities director at the nursing home to create a schedule for you. Please call the CACC office at 462-5450.

## **Looking Ahead.....**

February 20: Presidents Day Holiday (office closed)

February 22: Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)

March 2: Albany Church Women United World Day of Prayer Service at Third Reformed Church 11:30am registration (bring bag lunch)

March 25: Albany CROP Recruiters Rally, 4:30-6:30pm at First Lutheran Church

April 6: CACC sponsored Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at noon (host church needed)

## **Transitions**

Welcome to Natasha Pernicka, new Executive Director of Food Pantries for the Capital District (aka The Food Pantries). Macedonia Baptist Church has moved from No. Allen St. to the former Our Lady of Mercy Church, 26 Wilson Ave. in Colonie. The Rev. Peter Pierson has joined the staff at the Cathedral of All Saints, and the Rev. James Brisbin is the new Deacon Vicar at St. David's Episcopal Church in East Greenbush, replacing the Rev. James Kenyon, who has retired. Farewell to Misha Marvel, who has served as Coordinator of CREO (Capital Region Ecumenical Organization) for the past 9 years, and to Mary Lu Bowen, who is retiring as Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches. The Rev. Michael Kinnamon is stepping down from his position as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches due to health reasons. The Rev. Kathryn Mary Lohre is the new President of the National Council of Churches, the first Lutheran to serve in that position.

## **CROP Walk News**

Plan now for your congregation or group to participate in the Capital District CROP Hunger Walks scheduled for May 6, 2012. The Albany CROP Walk Recruiters Rally has been scheduled for 4:30-6:30pm on Sunday, March 25 (snow date April 1). We could use a few new

members on the Albany CROP Walk planning committee. The next meeting is Wed., Jan. 11, at 4:45pm.

### **Nominations Sought for Giles Pastoral Service Award**

Each year, the Council presents an award named for the late Rev. Joyce Steinkraus Giles, who served the CACC as Executive Director from 1977-1986. To be eligible, a pastor must actively participate in the Council or one of its programs, have done outstanding pastoral ministry; and exemplify racial, gender, and denominational inclusiveness. Recent recipients include the Revs. George Brennan and Robert Zittel. To nominate a pastor, send a letter to our office by **January 10**, telling why you think this pastor deserves the award. Be sure to include the name and phone number of his/her church.

### **Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism Annual Meeting-Jan. 8**

2pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 63 Mountain View Ave., Colonie (off Central just east of Colonie Center). Celebrating its 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, this program is one of the most visible signs of Christian unity in our area. During 2011, teams of witnesses were present for 20 baptisms in 9 different churches. Every year, pastors and witnesses (current as well as those who might be interested in joining the program) gather on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord to share experiences and learn about baptism in one of our traditions. We always need more witnesses and participating congregations. Want to become an ecumenical witness of baptism or learn more about the program? Please come to this event, call CACC @462-5450, or contact coordinator Jean Kaercher via e-mail: [parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org](mailto:parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org).

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity-Jan. 18-25**

For more than a century, Christians around the world have dedicated this week to prayer for the full visible unity of the church. The formal observance occurs during the octave in January between the feasts commemorating the Confession of Paul and the Chair of Peter. Once again the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization will host a public prayer service for Christian Unity, beginning at **noon** on Wednesday, **January 18**, at the Roman Catholic Pastoral Center, located at 40 No. Main Ave. in Albany. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical celebration. This year's theme, as presented in the material prepared by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute, is "We Will All Be Changed by the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Cor. 15:51-58). For more information about the Week of Prayer, call the RC Diocese Ecumenical Office at 453-6660 or visit Graymoor's web site: [www.geii.org](http://www.geii.org)

**Help!** The CACC Nominations Committee is looking for people interested in becoming involved with some aspect of our work. We particularly need people with financial expertise for our Finance & Development Committee. Call the CACC office @ 462-5450 for more information.

### **This and That**

The Interdenominational Ministers Conference will hold an "Emancipation Day" service, 4pm on 1/1 @ Mt. Olive Southern Missionary Baptist Church, 236 No. Pearl St., Albany, 12207....Capital District Youth for Christ Excel Leadership Conference for senior high youth & leaders will be 1/13-1/15 in Saratoga Springs. Contact YFC @ 783-5332 or visit

[www.cdyfc.org](http://www.cdyfc.org)...CREDO Capital Region, a support group for GLBT Christians, will meet at 1pm on **1/21**, St. John's Lutheran Church, 160 Central Ave., Albany, 12206. (Use the Bradford St. entrance)...The College of St. Rose offers a Liturgical Music Certificate Program for persons of all faith traditions. Six monthly sessions meet Sat. mornings (1/21, 2/11, 3/3, 4/14, 5/5, & 5/19) from 8:30am-12:30pm, with a closing festival on 5/19. Cost: \$650. Register online at [www.strose.edu/liturgicalmusic](http://www.strose.edu/liturgicalmusic)...The Interfaith Story Circle of the Capital District will present their "Winter Lights" program of story, song, and dance, 2pm on **1/22**, Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Americas, corner of Lake and Central Aves., Albany....Call Marni @381-9474....Children at the Well, an interfaith youth storytelling group, is looking for young teens who are interested in learning to tell stories and meeting kids from other traditions to join their program. The 2012 session will start on January 8 and will meet on Sunday afternoons every week until April. Call Paula @785-7842, e-mail her at [paulabweiss@gmail.com](mailto:paulabweiss@gmail.com), or visit [www.childrenatthewell.org](http://www.childrenatthewell.org).

### **Capital Region Theological Center**

An ecumenical project offering training for laity and clergy. Upcoming courses: "The Church & Its Money", March 3, 9am-3pm; \$75 by 2/3, \$85 thereafter. Register by 2/15. "Befriending Our Inner Teacher: Biblical Foundations & Practices of Discernment", March 8-9, 9am-4pm. Cost \$85 for one day before 2/8, \$95 thereafter; \$165 for both days. Register by 2/21. "Come Into the House of the Lord: The Worship Conference", March 22-23, 9am-4pm. \$85 for one day before 2/1, \$95 thereafter; \$165 for both days. Register by 3/6. Gift certificates and group discounts available. Call 462-2470 or visit [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) for information or to register.

### **ATTENTION: Our Emergency Overflow Shelter Needs...**

**Volunteers:** adult volunteers Tues, Wed., and Thurs. evenings, 6-9pm., to interact with our guests (homeless men); assist with meal set-up and serving; handling laundry (bed linens, towels, etc.), organizing supplies, etc. Call the Shelter phone at 426-1227 between 6-10pm. Training required & provided.

**Clothing:** winter coats & jackets for men, hats/gloves; thermal and regular underwear, T-shirts, and socks

**Supplies:** coffee, powdered creamer, cereal; sturdy paper plates; paper cups (for hot drinks). Donations may be brought to the CACC office during daytime hours (9:30am-4pm) or directly to the Shelter between 6-10pm. Please call ahead (462-5450) before coming to the CACC office.

### **"Bowl for a Bed" Bowl-a-Thon-Feb. 4**

12:30-4:30pm, Sunset Recreation Center, 1160 Central Ave., Albany. Our 5th Annual Bowl-a-Thon to benefit the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter is open to groups of all ages. Register before January 15 for one of the 2 hour sessions (12:30-2:30pm or 2:30-4:30pm) by calling the Rev. Sandy Damhof, Protestant Campus Minister at UAlbany, @489-8573X26 or e-mail her at [sdamhof@albany.edu](mailto:sdamhof@albany.edu).

**Congratulations to....**

--Bob Shovah of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Polish National Catholic Church in Latham, recently ordained as a Deacon!

--Rev. Leonard Comithier, celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church!

--the Rev. Karl Griswold-Kuhn, one of our Hogancamp Seminary Scholarship recipients in 2008, who has graduated from Yale Divinity School, been ordained as an Episcopal Deacon, and is currently serving as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Kinderhook!

--Pastor Katy Stenta of New Covenant Presbyterian Church and her husband Anthony on the birth of their son Ashburn!

### **January, 2012**

1 New Year's Day  
2 Office closed  
6 Epiphany, Orthodox Christmas  
\*8 Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism  
Gathering, 2pm @ Our Savior's Lutheran  
9 Nominating Committee, Noon  
10 Shelter Committee, 4pm  
11 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm  
12 BOARD of DIRECTORS, Noon  
\*15 MLK Interfaith Memorial Service  
7pm @ St. Francis of Assisi

### **January, 2012 (cont.)**

16 Office closed (MLK holiday)  
\*18 CREO Christian Unity Service,  
Noon @ 40 No. Main, Albany  
\*22 Interfaith Story Circle "Winter  
Lights" program, 2pm

### **February, 2012**

\*7 CACC Annual Meeting/  
Winter Assembly  
8 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm  
14 Snow date for Annual Meeting

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