

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CONNECTION

November/December 2011

Thanksgiving

The Council of Churches will not be sponsoring a community worship service on Thanksgiving Day this year. We are grateful to the Cathedral of All Saints for hosting the service for many years. You are encouraged to attend one of the many local ecumenical and interfaith services during Thanksgiving Week. Among them are:

Sunday, **Nov. 20**: No. Colonie Clergy Association Ecumenical Service, 3pm @ Calvary UMC, 15 Ridge Pl., Latham; “An Evening of Song and Praise”, 7pm @ St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 35 Adams St., Delmar

Tuesday, **Nov. 22**: Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving, 7:30pm @ Congregation Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Rd., Albany (bring food offering for FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry); also, Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7pm @ First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, 8 Church Rd., Selkirk

Wednesday, **Nov. 23**: Ecumenical Services, 6:45pm @ St. Lucy’s /St. Bernadette’s Catholic Church, Grand St., Altamont; 7:30pm @ St. John’s Lutheran Church, 160 Central Ave., Albany

A Message from our Office Assistant

Find Us on Facebook!

Last spring, the Capital Area Council of Churches launched into the world of social media and joined Facebook. These days, if an organization isn’t on Facebook, it appears antiquated and inaccessible to the large population of online users. When online users search for information, but can only find incomplete or outdated material, they can become frustrated and conclude that the organization they are searching for isn’t active. We don’t want the Council to have that kind of online reputation. We want people to know that CACC *is* active and that CACC can connect them to local ecumenical activities. Facebook also helps us elevate CACC’s online visibility since search engines direct people to our Facebook page if our page relates to topics they are interested in. It’s a great way to reach out to new audiences!

The best way to showcase our new Facebook page is for you to get online and look at it. Don’t have a Facebook account? That’s okay! Follow this process and you can still see our Facebook page: 1) Go to the CACC website, www.capareacc.org. 2) Look at the top of the page and click on “Blog”. 3) Look on the right-hand side of the Blog page for the “Find us on Facebook” section. 4) Click on “Capital Area Council of Churches.” 5) You should now be looking at our Facebook page. Click on the links, browse our events, and look at our pictures! If you already have a Facebook account, please “Like” us. It’s a great way to *connect* with CACC!

Aine Leader-Nagy

Want to be more involved with CACC?

The CACC Nominating Committee is seeking individuals to serve on CACC's Board of Directors and its various committees and commissions. In particular, we need folks with financial know-how to serve on the Finance Committee and the Development Committee. We are also looking for people to serve on the Albany CROP Hunger Walk Committee. Call our office @ 462-5450 for more information.

Transitions

Farewell to the Rev. Stan Bilinski, Chair of the CACC Faith & Learning Commission and the Airport Prayer Room Board, as he moves to Ohio to become pastor of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church in Parma. Azra Haqqie is the new Chair of the Airport Prayer Room Board. Finally, we mourn the passing of Harry Howes, a former CACC Board President.

Hunger Action Network Calls for Thanksgiving Action

The Hunger Action Network of NYS invites you to help call attention to the growing problem of hunger by joining the annual "Thanksgiving Fast" on 11/21. There will be a press conference that day at 11am at Westminster Presbyterian Church, site of the FOCUS breakfast program.

Holiday Ideas

Instead of buying more "stuff" for people who already have too much, consider one or more of the following to bring more meaning to Christmas:

--adopt a Cornerstone Campus Ministry student (\$200) for a mission work trip to Alabama in January. Contact 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.

--shop at 10,000 Villages at Stuyvesant Plaza, a store operated in conjunction with Mennonite Relief Services to benefit crafters and artisans in developing countries.

--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, 2012 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 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 475 State St., Albany.

--Mayan Hands, a fair trade organization, works with more than 250 weavers who belong to 12 different cooperatives. They create beautiful woven items, baskets, felted, knotted, and beaded products. To arrange for a sale of these items at your house of worship or workplace, contact Brenda Rosenbaum by email at mayanhandsny@mayanhands.org.

--the Roman Catholic Diocese Commission on Peace & Justice will bring its "Work of Human Hands" display of fair trade sale items from the developing world to your church. Call Barbara @ 453-6695.

--support the Fair Trade Project of the NY State Labor-Religion Coalition by ordering coffee, tea, chocolate, etc. Visit www.labor-religion.org.

Homelessness/Shelter News

November is "Homelessness Awareness Month". The Emergency Overflow Shelter opened Nov. 1 and will operate 7 nights a week, from 7pm-7am, until April 27. Hot meals, clean clothing, showers, toiletries, and referrals to appropriate services will be provided to up to 19 male guests per night. Thanks to the crew from Cornerstone Campus Ministry who came on Oct. 29 to clean and set up. A "**Homeless Memorial Service**" has tentatively been scheduled for 6pm on Dec. 21, the longest night of the year, at First Lutheran Church. Check out our Facebook page in December for details.

Note: The annual "Bowling-for-Beds" Bowl-a-thon has been scheduled for **Sat., Feb. 4, 2012**, 12:30-4:30pm (choose one of the two 2-hr. sessions) at the Sunset Recreation Center on Central Ave. If your 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.

A **community coalition** providing social events, holiday gifts, homework help, clothing, etc. to homeless families and veterans needs volunteers and support for their programs. Groups/individuals/families needed to fill shoeboxes with small gifts for the holidays, donate household items for families moving out of shelters into apartments, provide homework help for kids, and /or help with parties. Contact Lois Wilson (Lwilson502@aol.com).

Music, Music, Music!

Sun., **11/27**: 3pm, Advent Procession, Cathedral of All Saints, Albany

Sun., **12/4**: 3pm, Christian Arts performance of "Messiah", St. Pius X Church, Loudonville. Donations \$15-\$10. Call 459-3152; 4pm, Guilderland Interfaith Council Advent Service @ Christ the King Church, Westmere

Sun., **12/11**: 2:30pm, Festival Celebration Choir Christmas Concert "Through Their Eyes: Perspectives on the Nativity", @ St. Pius X Church, Loudonville. Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/students, seniors. Tickets at the door.

Tues., **12/13**: "Messiah" @ All Saints Cathedral

Sat., **12/17**: 7pm "Amahl and the Night Visitors" @ Westminster Presbyterian Church. \$15 donation appreciated.

This and That

...The Capital District Senior Issues Forum & the Albany Guardian Society will host "A Dialogue with Legislative & State Agency Staff" for seniors and providers of senior services, 8:15-11:30am, **11/17**, @ First Lutheran Church, 646 State St., Albany. This is an opportunity for people to share thoughts and ideas about State Government Programs for seniors. Free, but please register by calling 434-2160... Equinox holds its annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on **11/24**. Volunteers needed for preparation, delivery, and cleanup. Call 434-6135 to volunteer or to order a dinner....Three Spirits Tell Stories of the Season, 3-5pm, **12/4** @ The

First Church in Albany, 110 No. Pearl St., Albany, 12207, featuring storytellers Kent Busman, Joe Doolittle, and Harlan Ratmeyer. Suggested donation: \$10/person, \$25 family. Proceeds benefit Schoharie Flood Relief. Call Joe @ 384-1700... “Jewish Roots of Christian Liturgy”, an intergenerational interfaith program sponsored by the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue Committee of the RC Diocese of Albany, 6:30-8:30pm, **12/6 @** the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Call 372-8821... “An Evening of Quiet: Prayer & Music in Preparation for Christmas” featuring Tim Janis & the Choir of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Troy; 7:30pm, **12/13 @** St. Joseph’s Provincial House Chapel, 585 Watervliet-Shaker Rd., Latham. Free will offering. Interfaith Story Circle meets 7-9pm, **12/14 @** Temple Israel, New Scotland Ave., Albany.

Congratulations to....

--Rev. Jim Reisner of Westminster Presbyterian Church on his 30th anniversary of ordination!
 --the Rev. Iona Dickinson, Associate Pastor of the Delmar United Methodist Church, and her husband Phil on the birth of their daughter, Salina Rose!

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC became a wonderful resource center for disseminating information about relief work and needs following the devastating floods. Visit their web site www.capitalrtc.org for upcoming courses/events and ongoing needs.

November, 2011

*17 CDSIF Legislative Forum
 *21 HANNYS Thanksgiving Fast
 24 Thanksgiving Day (office closed)
 27 Advent begins

December, 2011

1 World AIDS Day
 *6 “Jewish Roots of Christian Liturgy”
 8 BOARD of DIRECTORS potluck
 *11 Festival Celebration Choir Concert

December, 2011 (cont.)

13 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
 14 Albany CROP Com., 4:45pm
 21 Action & Program Com., 4pm;
 Hannukah begins; *Homeless
 Memorial Service, 6pm
 23 Office closed
 25 Christmas Day
 26 Office closed
 31 New Year’s Eve

PS Have you fulfilled your pledge?

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

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