



**Capital Area Council of Churches, Inc.**

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Albany, NY  
Permit No. 363

Current Resident or:



## Winter 2014-2015

### CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### DECEMBER:

- 25. Christmas Day
- 31. African Watchnight Service  
@Westminster Presbyterian Church

#### JANUARY:

- 8. Maggie Sherwood Lounge Dedication  
@ Emergency Overflow Shelter
- 13. Interfaith Prayer Vigil @ Cathedral of  
the Immaculate Conception
- 15. MLK Service@ Macedonia Baptist
- 20. Lunch Bunch with a Movie
- 24. Service for Week of Christian Unity@  
St. Francis of Assisi Church

#### FEBRUARY:

- 2. Candlemas Day
- 3. CACC Annual Meeting @St. Sophia's  
Greek Orthodox Church
- 3. St. Blaise Day
- 7. Bowling for Beds @Sunset Lanes
- 11. Oscar Party@ St. Sophia's 12:30 pm
- 18. Ash Wednesday

Once again, *thank you* to all the many churches who contribute meals every night throughout the winter to the Emergency Overflow Shelter.



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# The Connection

## The Capital Area Council of Churches

DECEMBER 2014

### THE BUSYNESS AROUND the CACC

I am a senior now —no not a high school senior or a college senior. I am the Medicare card-carrying kind of senior. But I still live my life according to a school schedule. I am not sure why that is except to say that I always felt energized in the autumn when school began. It was, in fact, a new year. Another chance.

We are busy in the Council offices. REALLY busy—we just finished with the Musical and opened the doors of our Emergency Homeless Shelter, we are planning programs for our Seniors on the Go, and we are beginning the necessary end-of-year details of the office operations. As reported, our offices have just moved to the second floor of First Lutheran Church. It is a great space above the Wittenburg Hall. There are no windows to the outside world but there are huge glass windows looking down into the Hall. On Tuesday mornings, I am privileged to hear the Senior Citizen orchestra practice. And although I feel like “Statler and Waldorf,” the old guys sitting in the balcony in the Muppet shows, there is only high praise for that group of seniors who continue to do what they love—making music.

That huge window in my office also gives me the opportunity to see the work of the Damien Center. Their chefs lovingly create nutritious meals for those who have HIV/AIDS. I can also see and hear the sounds of tables being set-up and taken

**BUSYNESS** (Continued from Page 1)  
 down for dinners, mats placed on the floor for the “karate kids” who come to class in the evening, and a myriad of other church activities coming together. All of this occurs at the capable hands of the hard-working sexton, Alex, who is always willing to help and always with a smile.

At this time of renewal, think about the ways you might be able to help at CACC. What is God asking you to do with your gifts, talents and treasures?

Stewardship comes in many forms but it is always about doing what God wants us to do. We need more financial support. We are struggling to meet our responsibilities. We need more people to be involved in our ministries. I am confident that God will give CACC what we need through you. Please ask God what He is calling you to do to continue the work of the Council. Make that all important “gift” to the Council now.

Christmas is here. May your holidays be blessed with all those you love and all those who love you.

Smiles and Blessings and with you in Ministry,  
 Deb

## EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER

The Emergency Overflow Shelter has gotten off to a busy start. The cold temperatures and measurable snow have sent many of our neighbors on the street clamoring for a warm place to stay. Pam Bullock has been there to greet our friends and welcome them in.

Recently, one of our “Seniors on the Go” did a little shopping for the shelter. She sent over twenty knit hats, accompanied by the following note about the Shelter:

*“We offer them kindness  
 Just for awhile.  
 We give them a reason  
 To bring on a smile.  
 We give them a place  
 To lay down their head.  
 We are all God’s children,  
 It’s often been said.”*

Thank you P.J. for hearing the scripture imperative found in Deuteronomy:

*“I command you, saying, ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor, and to your needy, in your land.’”*

Your thoughtfulness, warmth, and generous spirit touches all of us.



## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

We’ve done it! The Capital Area Council of Churches is on Facebook! We have been for a while. Have you taken a recent look? That’s where you will find the most recent updates. Do you want us to post something for you? Please email us at [capareacc@gmail.com](mailto:capareacc@gmail.com). Here are some photos of our recent postings:



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Barbara Toll on being installed as Pastor at Clinton Heights.

A special congratulations to Deacon Jim Konicki, (CACC webmaster) on his priestly ordination on Dec. 6 and celebrated his first Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Mt. Pleasant.

## IN SYMPATHY

We are saddened at the loss of Steve Carlson from First Lutheran Church. Steve was a servant of the God in every way. He was a fighter for justice and always lifted up those who were in need by responding to those needs with action. He was a huge supporter of the Emergency Overflow Shelter and saw to it that the building was always warm and welcoming to our guests at the shelter.

*“In this merit, may his soul be bound up in the bond of life with the souls of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, and with the other righteous men and women.”*

And let us say Amen.

## 36th ANNUAL ECUMENICAL MUSICAL

Our Thirty-Sixth Annual Ecumenical Musical was a hit! A little different than other years, we had quite a diverse program—everything from the chimes of bells to the sacred and the divine to Gospel and Christian rock.

We are grateful to the Lutheran Cluster Singers, the EmBellishments, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Choir, the NY Catholic Chorale, and our Christian rock performer, Nathaniel Firorino, 15. Special thanks to Dottie Johnson, guest organist and choir director for her help and expertise and to Fr. Gregory Francis Desmaris whose attention to detail, glorious invocation and faithful presence will always be forever appreciated. Thank you to Rev. David Presinger for his "musical" Benediction and his support.

We are grateful to Jeanne and David Kaercher for their support in the name of the Ecumenical Witness to Baptism Program. This unique program ties us together and reminds us we are "one faith, one baptism, one God and Father for all."

A committee is in place and we are already making plans for next year's celebration.

We are grateful to the following for their support of our musical afternoon:

### SAINTS

The Capital District New York Chapter of Thrivent

The Reverend Robert C. Lamar  
First Presbyterian Church, Albany

### BENEFACTORS

Dorothy Ellinwood

Kitt Jackson

Jim and Mary Kalas

Nancy and Charles Scholes

### SPONSORS

Jeanne and David Kaercher

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### SHELTER NEWS/REQUESTS

Please keep collecting travel size toiletries, and watch for sales on sturdy paper plates, bowls, hot cups, and plastic silverware.

## INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE



### Mark Your Calendar!

At the suggestion of Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, an Interfaith Prayer Service to pray for peace is being planned for January 13, 2015 at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 7:00 pm. We hope you will join the local interfaith community to pray for peace at a time when the whole world is witnessing with incredulity a heightened state of conflict and inter-religious intolerance. Please come and join your prayers and your hearts with the community. Call the Capital Area Council of Churches for more information—462-5450.

## PROJECT SUNSHINE

On Tuesday, November 18, six members of Seniors on the Go worked on an incredible service project called Project Sunshine with our intern, Chelsea! The ladies created twenty-two Surgi Dolls, which will be given to children facing medical challenges. The dolls will be decorated by the children and then used by doctors to show where they will be treated using play medical tools. Each child will get to bring their doll with them into the operating room and keep it forever as a means of comfort. The dolls were sewn together by our talented Joanne, and stuffed by the rest of the ladies! Thanks again to all who contributed- you've really made a difference in the lives of those kids!

Group includes: Pat Helf, Lenore Kesten, Joyce Haupt, Peg Johnson, Shirley Reinhardt, Chelsea Carson and Joanne Romeo.



## A WORD FROM UNITY CHURCH

Unity Church at 21 King Avenue, Albany, now offers a weekly Multi-Faith Music & Meditation Service Sundays at 6:00 pm. This service incorporates devotional music from many spiritual traditions including Hinduism, Sufism, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and many songs representing a non-denominational universal spirituality including original music by our music team. Unity Music Director Roger Mock, who is currently studying to be an interfaith minister, plans and leads the service along with his music team and Unity Pastor Rev. Jim Fuller. Services also include prayers, readings and reflections from various sacred sources and a time for guided meditation.

The service is free, open to all, and lasts about an hour. Many find it to be an inspiring and uplifting way to both end the week-end and begin the new week with a positive and centered focus.

*"Unity One Song is a wonderful, beautiful, heart-opening, sacred sound...a collective resonance that always fills me with overflowing goodness to share through life and service."* -Rev. Anthony Antonecchia

*"I love the Sunday night service! It acts as an important start to my week by refocusing me on the holy and giving me nourishment to carry forward on Monday."*

-Barbara Sinacore

Unity Church is located at the corner of Bradford St. and King Avenue. Heading east on Central Avenue from Everett Road, King Avenue is the first traffic light. Turning right (south), the church is one block in from Central Ave. Website: [www.unityalbany.org](http://www.unityalbany.org)  
Phone: 518-453-3603

## Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

### SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is scheduled for January 15 at 7:00 pm. at Macedonia Baptist Church at 26 Wilson Avenue in Colonie (formerly Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church.) Add the date to your calendar now. The evening, sponsored by the Capital Area Council of Churches, is a major fundraiser for the MLK Scholarship for high school seniors. Donations can be made to the Capital Area Council of Churches MLK Scholarship and mailed to the Council at 646 State Street, Albany, NY 12203. There will be more info to follow in our next newsletter. As always, check out our website at [www.capareacc.org](http://www.capareacc.org) or the Council's Facebook page.

## SENIORS ON THE GO... Join us!

It's a new year and our Seniors-on -the-Go group is collecting dues for the 2015 membership. Together we have traveled, partied, had some incredible moments and some of us have prayed together.

We have helped people with small tasks to stay in their homes. We have helped folks with social security issues, arranged transportation, given information and referral on home care and Medicare, and held several important meetings regarding transportation.

We invite you to renew your membership for the new year. The cost for a full year is \$20. The membership allows you to pay a lower price for events and trips. Anyone can join! (of course being a senior helps—55+) Let's continue to expand this project and ministry. We will be sending you a new application soon.

By the way, if you bring in a NEW member, the cost to you and your friend will be \$18 for 2015.

## Winter Events!

**December: HOLIDAY PARTY RE-CAP**  
The holiday party was a smash. It was great food and wonderful entertainment by Rev. Bert Fay and Joe Cybulski. It was a great afternoon.

### January: LUNCH BUNCH

Be part of the Council's Winter "Lunch Bunch" on Tuesday, January 20 at 12:30 PM at St. Sophia's! We will have a little lunch from Sam's, your choice of chicken parmigiano or eggplant parmigiano, followed by the movie "And So It Goes" with Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton. (Did you know Michael Douglas' family lives in Albany and that he attended Camp Nassau as a teenager?!)

The cost is \$10 for Seniors on the Go members and \$12 for non-members. Call CACC at 462-5450 to make your reservation.

### February: NAME THAT OSCAR SONG...

**February 11** join us for a "pre-Oscar" party. Lunch and music will be the fare that day. Joe Cybulski will entertain us with music from Oscar winning movies over the years. Get ready for some movie trivia as well. Plan to make your reservation for our luncheon party (chicken or vegetarian) soon. Cost is \$18 for SOTG members and \$20 for non-members.