

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

***CACC Spring Assembly
Tuesday, June 4
Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravena, NY 12143***

[Directions from Albany: take Route 9W South to Ravena, turn left at light onto Mountain Rd., left on McCullough, left on Summit, right on Hillcrest. See map at the church web site: www.graceumcravena.org.]

5:30pm registration, dinner served at 6:15pm, followed by Assembly. Reservations for the dinner are required by May 28 by phone (462-5450) or by sending a check (\$10/person) made out to "CACC" with the form included in this newsletter. Anyone can attend just the Assembly (which begins around 7:30) without cost or reservations. Highlights of the evening will include the presentation of this year's Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarships; Hogancamp Seminary Scholarships; and the James and Pearl Campbell Peace and Justice Award. The evening will conclude with a brief Interfaith Prayer Service. Clergy and delegates from member congregations as well as any other interested persons are welcome to attend.

From the Interim Executive Director 

I was able to attend a very enlightening and yet disturbing workshop in April. You may have seen the notice for it in the April CONNECTION: "Help or Hindrance: Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence". Domestic violence or abuse can take many forms--physical, verbal, psychological, and sometimes economic. In any form it is devastating, hurtful and damaging not only to the abused but many times to other family members who witness the abuse. Such abuse can often result in the use of deadly force.

What is hard for many people to wrap their heads around is how pervasive domestic violence is. The statistics are staggering but they only reflect the incidents which are reported. That which goes unreported and undetected is like the portion of the iceberg that lies beneath the water. Domestic violence goes on in our communities, in our neighborhoods and yes, even among the members of our congregations. It is a matter of public health and welfare, it is a moral concern, and it is a spiritual concern. We need to be raising the issue of domestic violence and spousal abuse in our congregations.

People need to know that there are pastors and people in our churches that they can talk to about their own situation in a safe and secure environment. They need to be led to resources that can help them make good decisions for themselves and for their families. They need to know they are not alone, they are not at fault, and they should not feel ashamed. The victim of such abuse needs to be given hope, hope for a future that does not involve hurt or harm.

If you would like to find out more about the resources available in our community, you can be in touch with our office or look for resources and links to various agencies on our web site. We would certainly encourage making the issue of Domestic Violence a topic for your congregational education program and a topic of importance for all ministerial groups in our region. The more awareness we can bring to this issue, the more people caught up in such violence will be able to find help and hope.

I would encourage you to be the “HELP” and not the “hindrance” to lifting the veil, which lies over this terrible and evil thing, we call domestic violence/spousal abuse. For people of faith who follow the prince of peace it is the right thing to do.

--Vernon A. Victorson

You Have a Choice!

Readers of this newsletter can receive a hard copy in the mail, read it on our web site (www.CapAreaCC.org), or get it as an e-mail attachment. Send an e-mail to CapAreaCC@aol.com if you prefer the paperless version. If you wish to be taken off our mailing list, let us know that, as well.

National Day of Prayer-May 2

10:30am-1pm, in West Capitol Park, Albany. Free parking & transportation from Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Colonie, Grace Fellowship in Watervliet, Loudonville Community Church, and Grace & Holy Innocents Church on Clinton Ave. in Albany. There will also be a “Concert of Prayer” at 7pm on April 30 at Light of the World Church, 28 Sparrowbush Rd., Latham. Call Pastor Steve @209-2455 or visit www.albanydayofprayer.com.

Church Women United May Friendship Day-May 3

11:30am registration @ Third Reformed Church, 20 Ten Eyck Ave., Albany 12209. Potluck luncheon & Least Coin offering. Celebration theme: “Swing Wide the Doors of Hospitality”. Bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.

CROP Walk/Church World Service News

It’s not too late to support the CROP Hunger Walk on May 5. Visit www.cropwalk.org, and then follow the prompts to find the walk nearest you. May is a perfect time to hold a “Blankets+” campaign at your house of worship as we celebrate Mother’s Day. A blanket can be a symbol of the love and warmth provided by mothers and those who wrap us in their love. Support for this program helps mothers around the world care for their children. Make donations online at www.churchworldservice.org/blankets or by mailing a check to CWS, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.

Capital District Senior Issues Forum

Nomination forms are available for the Oct. 2 Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony. Nominees must be 85 by the time of the ceremony and able to attend that event. Completed forms must be received by **5/31**. Call the CACC office (462-5450) for a form or more information. Note: Please save the morning of **July 17** for a special program on end of life issues, including organ and tissue donations.

This and That

The Affordable Housing Partnership will offer several workshops during May for prospective homeowners and landlords. Visit www.ahphome.org or call 434-1730The Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare and Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace are sponsoring a showing of "The Healthcare Movie", followed by discussion, 7-9pm on **5/2 @** the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Call 482-0420....The Interfaith Story Circle presents "One Light, Many Windows: Stories from the Eastern Traditions", 7-9pm on **5/7 @** the Hindu Temple Cultural Center, 450 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville, 12211. Call Anne @ 869-5247...Grannies for Peace will hold a peace vigil in Washington Park near the Moses statue from 1-2pm on **5/11**. Contact paxpat@nycap.rr.com for information...Upper Hudson Peace Action will hold their awards dinner at 5:30pm, **5/11 @** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 10 No, Main Ave., Albany. Speaker: Roy Bourgeois. Bring a dish to share. Suggested donation: \$25. Contact info@peaceact.net...

Bethany Baptist Church, 59 Second St. in Arbor Hill, celebrates their 80th anniversary with a Gospel Spectacular, 6pm, **5/18**, and a special anniversary service, 4pm, **5/19**. Call 462-0327...The 14th Annual Albany History Fair will take place from 1-5pm, **5/19**, @ Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St., Albany, 12210. Presentations & activities will explore the theme "Faith, Spirit, Community". Call Historic Cherry Hill@434-4791.

Volunteers Needed

--the Regional Food Bank needs help for a "transplant party" on Sat., 5/4 (rain date 5/ 5), from 9am-3pm at the Patroon Land Farm, 132 Ketchum Rd., Voorheesville, 12186. Transplant seedlings from the greenhouse to the fields, then enjoy a potluck picnic at Thacher Park. Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and place settings provided. Bring a dish to share. Call Laura @786-3691 or e-mail volunteers@regionalfoodbank.net.

--Literacy NY of the Greater Capital Region and the Albany Office of the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants need mentors for refugee families, ESL tutors, and people to help those becoming citizens. Visit www.uscri-albany.org or write melody.literacynycap@gmail.com.

Transitions

We note with sadness the passing of Bob Edgar, a former US Congressman who had served as head of the National Council of Churches; Fr. John Malecki, a Roman Catholic priest who served several area parishes and was among the founders of the Consultation Center of the Diocese; Bernard Fleishman, who had been President of the Interfaith Alliance for many years; Leonard Morgenbesser, a strong voice against gun violence in the City of Albany; Mike Losinger, a tireless AIDS activist who was instrumental in the creation of the Albany area Damien Centers; and Irene Jackson, who had served on the CACC Chaplaincy Commission.

We welcome Deacon Gregory Mansfield as Parish Life Director for the Church of St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph in Rensselaer as the Rev. Adam Forno retires.

Capital Region Theological Center

CRTC provides ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations. Upcoming: "Spring Event: Get on Board!" 5:30-9pm, **5/20** Cruise the Hudson aboard the "Captain JP" while exploring resources to enrich your congregation. Music, dancing, dinner. Cost: \$100 individual; \$225 for a team of four. Register by 5/7. Call 462-2470 or visit www.capitalrtc.org for information about other courses or to register. Scholarships & group discounts available for many events.

Shelter News & Thanks

Sponsored by CACC and hosted by First Lutheran Church, the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter has closed for the season. At the closing dinner on April 30, staff, volunteers, and supporters were recognized. The Shelter was open for 181 nights, averaging 15 guests per night for the entire season. Special thanks to First Lutheran Church for hosting the Shelter, Program Manager Pamela Bullock, and meal coordinator Martha Iannacone. Many thanks to all who have supported this ministry with donations of food, volunteer time, clothing, supplies, prayers, and financial gifts.

May, 2013

- 1 Deadline for Hogancamp Scholarship applications; MLK Committee, 4:30pm
- * 3 CWU May Friendship Day
- * 5 CROP Hunger Walk; Pascha (Orthodox Easter)
- 9 Ascension Day; CACC Board mtg.
- 13 Shelter Oversight Com., 4pm
- *18 Bethany Baptist Church Gospel Spectacular, 6pm
- 19 Pentecost
- 22 CREO Board retreat; Action & Program Com., 4pm

May (cont.)

- 27 Memorial Day (office closed)
- 28 Registrations due for Assembly

June, 2013

- * **4 CACC Spring Assembly @ Grace UMC, Ravenna**
- 9 Festival Celebration Choir Spring Concert, 2:30pm @St. Pius X
- 12 Albany Crop Com., 4:45pm

Please save these dates:

- CACC Fall Banquet: **Oct. 2**
- CACC Musical Celebration: **Nov. 3**

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

Assembly Reservations and a Memorial Day Reminder

You can use this form to send in your reservation(s) for the June 4 Assembly and/or to make a special gift to the Council.

Have you thought about remembering the Council of Churches in your will? Bequests or gifts of cash or stock to our Endowment Fund will help strengthen our financial base so we can continue our ministries in the Capital District. Let us know if you have included CACC in your will so we can thank you now!

Please consider making a special Memorial Day gift to CACC in memory of a friend or relative. We now have a "donation button" on our web site if you would like to donate that way. Visit www.capareacc.org.

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Mail to CACC, 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203

Assembly Reservations (Please send by May 28):

I/we _____
(name/names)

would like to attend the CACC Spring Assembly on June 4 at Grace United Methodist Church in Ravena. Enclosed is \$10 per person. (Checks should be made out "CACC")

Memorial/Honor gifts:

Donor Name _____

I would like to make a special gift to CACC in the amount of _____.

This gift is in memory of/in honor of _____.

Please send an acknowledgement to: _____
