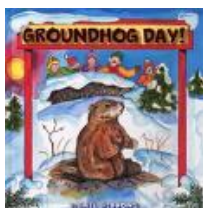


# Albany Presbytery E-News

Volume 6, Number 2

February 2011

**ALBANY PRESBYTERY IS ALL OF US...IN MISSION AND MINISTRY TOGETHER!**



**"In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood had as iron,  
Water like a stone, Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago."**

*- Christina Rossetti*

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Our E-News is for all members of Presbytery and automatically distributed to all ministers, chairs, clerks of session, mission partners, the Fab5 and laypersons who specifically request a copy. Please share this issue with your congregation, students away at school, the home-bound and those in the military. Forward it using your email distribution list. Post it on your bulletin board. Print extra copies as handouts. The E-News is distributed on the First of Each Month and posted on our website. Deadline for submission of articles is about a week before publication. Thank you!

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## **COACHING WORKSHOP WITH LAURIE FERGUSON**

**Rescheduled - Mark Your Calendars!** - Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 9:30 - 2:30 at The Commons at Brunswick Presbyterian Church. More details are on our website: [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming\\_events.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming_events.html). This is a FREE one-day seminar. Lunch and refreshments are provided. Please re-register with the presbytery office: [info@albanypresbytery.org](mailto:info@albanypresbytery.org).

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

**We celebrated the life of Charlie Woodman at the January 29th Presbytery Meeting with Rev. Eric Fagans remembering and sharing during opening worship. Below is the Memorial Moment from the Meeting Packet.**



The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Woodman, member of Albany Presbytery since 1994 and pastor of the Stillwater United Church, died on December 27, 2010. Known to most in the Presbytery as Charlie, he was a wonderful pastor, colleague, friend, mentor, musician and shepherd. He served on a variety of committees and task forces for Albany Presbytery in areas of visioning, evangelism, transformation, redevelopment and pastoral care. He served on and chaired the Personnel Committee for a number of years. He, along with others, made presentations to help us understand the difference between adaptive and strategic thinking. Words that describe Charlie and his ministry include creativity, music, inclusion, flexibility and sense of humor.

Many remember him for his upbeat way of speaking (whatever the topic), his guitar accompaniments and the story he told of the sardines and the whale, which got people laughing and thinking.

The hope, grace, and dignity that Charlie showed in his difficult journey through the last several years as he battled liver cancer provided a courageous example for us all, including his colleagues within the Presbytery he considered part of his family. Many will remember and give thanks for his sharing in worship leadership at the Presbytery meeting in Valatie just weeks before his death. His wife, Pam, and his sister, Mary, continue as active members of Albany Presbytery and live on to do God's work in his memory.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS

WASHINGTON, DC - March 25 - 28, 2011

Development, Security and Economic Justice: **What's Gender Got to Do with It?**



As Proverbs recognized long ago, women's contributions are integral to enriching social, religious and family life. Gender's got a lot to do with it! However...in homes and communities, out in fields and marketplaces, along borders and in areas of conflict...violence, poverty and other social evils keep women from attaining their full potential.

As women and men of faith, we can be a formidable force for change! Come to Ecumenical Advocacy Days! During these days filled with worship and dialogue, we will be inspired and equipped to speak boldly on behalf of all God's daughters. Together we'll advocate on Capitol Hill for women's physical and emotional safety, their economic security and freedom and promote people-centered ecologically-sustainable development, economic justice and peace for the flourishing of all our communities. Registration is now open.

For more information, go to this website: <http://advocacydays.org/> and/or contact Rev. Brooke Newell, Advocacy Coordinator for the FAB5 PPG in the Synod of the Northeast: 793-3823 or [brooke@cjgreen.net](mailto:brooke@cjgreen.net).

## PHEWA RETURNS TO NEW ORLEANS

**April 25 - 29** Hands-on building, daily worship, local cuisine, network meetings, site visits, conversation groups and opportunities to participate in the liveliness of New Orleans as it readies for JazzFest. For more information and to register, contact Bebb Wheeler Stone at 295-8931 or [bebbstone@nycap.rr.com](mailto:bebbstone@nycap.rr.com). For mission trip applications, click here: [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/mission\\_trips.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/mission_trips.html).

## SIMPLIFYING COMPUTERS FOR SENIORS

**March 15-17 at Holmes** - Learn how to write documents and letters, work with pictures, discover the world wide web and develop internet skills, send and receive e-mail, manage files and folders. There will also be information about comparing the different Windows versions available today. This series is especially geared toward those age 50 and over to learn to communicate socially. For more information and to register, go to Holmes' website: <http://www.presbyteriancenter.org/documents/11docs/IT%20for%20Seniors%2011.pdf>

## "FREEDOM SUMMER" AT ST. ROSE



Don Hyman, Chair of COR, the Legends and Legacies Theater Series and the College of St. Rose presents "Freedom Summer," a play about the summer of 1964 when students from all over America volunteered to go to Mississippi to help bring about much needed change, beginning a new chapter in student activism in the American civil rights movements and three brave young men would become martyrs. **February 26, 2010 at 7pm** - Doors open 6:00pm ~ College of St. Rose, St. Joseph Auditorium ~ For further information contact [hymandonald@yahoo.com](mailto:hymandonald@yahoo.com)

## BUILD A HOPEFUL FUTURE FOR AFGHANISTAN

**February 13 at 11:15 at Westminster Presbyterian, Albany** - Ian Pounds and one of his students will be available to speak and for a Q&A on Rethinking Afghanistan One Orphan at a Time. Ian lives in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he volunteers as an educator. The orphanage he works at run one-of-a-kind programs (Afghan Child Education and Care Organization [www.afceco.org](http://www.afceco.org)). He is touring the Northeast this winter to raise awareness and support for this program, the orphanage and a free and secure Afghanistan. More information is available on our website under Upcoming Events.

## BIBLICAL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

**February 12** - Biblical Story Teller Rev. Dennis Dewey, will hold a Biblical Storytelling Workshop and Performance at Nicolls Memorial Presbyterian Church, 228 Crosby Boulevard, Old Forge, NY. This is a Workshop and Performance in the fine art and spirituality of telling Biblical Stories by heart! The Workshop is 2pm - 5pm and the Performance 7pm - 8:30pm. There will be a free-will offering. Reservations are appreciated call: 315-369-3475. All are Welcome!

## SAVE THE DATE - CONVERSATIONS WITH KATHIE SAKENFELD

**April 7** - Albany Presbytery will host a dinner and informal conversation with Kathie Sakenfeld, exploring new emphases and trends in biblical studies. This will be held the evening before her CRTC workshop, "Faith, Power and Perspective: Women in the Old Testament" to be held at Union Presbyterian on April 8th. For those women who attended Princeton Seminary, there may be an additional conversation with Dr. Sakenfeld and Freda Gardner about your shared Princeton experience. Please stay tuned for further details!

For More Upcoming Events, go to our website: [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming\\_events.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/upcoming_events.html)

# ENHANCE YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY



**“Sunday is Fun Day! Church School Rotation Model Workshop” w/ Rev. Dr. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, April 2, 2011, 9am – 4pm, at First Presbyterian in Albany,** Come discover why Rotation Model works for all learning styles and may size churches. See it set up and take home lots of resources. Bring a team to maximize the learning! \$65 by March 3, \$75 thereafter; Registration deadline: March 17, 2011.

## SUMMER CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

**Now is the Time** for youth and their families to begin deciding where to attend camp this summer. Albany Presbytery has partnered with three area camps: **Holmes Presbyterian Camp** in Hudson River Presbytery, **Skye Farm Methodist Camp** and **Fowler Camp** of the Reformed Church. All are eagerly ready to welcome Albany Presbytery youth. **Scholarship money from Albany Presbytery is available for those who need assistance:** [http://www.albanypresbytery.org/youth\\_scholarships.html](http://www.albanypresbytery.org/youth_scholarships.html).

## WINTER CAMP 2011 AT CAMP FOWLER

**Revive, Rejoice and Join In!** Registration is now open for youths in Grades 6-12 for February 20-22nd. The fee includes meals, lodging at Chi Rho & Pine and materials: \$110. Please call Camp Fowler at 518-631-6789 to register or visit their website at [www.campfowler.org](http://www.campfowler.org) to register online.

## FAMILY RETREAT AT HOLMES

**Talking with Your Kids About What Really Matters, March 25-26** - Ever wonder if you are asking your children the right questions? How to get them to open up? Explore the issues that really matter to you as a family? Deadline for registration is March 11th. For more information and registration, please go to Holmes' website and scroll down: <http://www.presbyteriancenter.org/>.

## CONFIRMATION RETREATS AT HOLMES

**Youth With a Purpose Feb 11-12 or A Little Lower Than Angels March 18-19 or Living Faith Out Loud April 1-2** - For more information and registration, please go to Holmes' website and scroll down: <http://www.presbyteriancenter.org/>.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND TERMS OF CALL

Noting that recent Federal tax legislation has reduced FICA (Social Security) withholdings by 2 percent for 2011 and that, in the past, Presbytery voted to share social security withholding costs with pastors, COM RECOMMENDED and Presbytery **ACTED** by a voice vote (on January 29th, 2011) to require churches to continue to pay what they have been paying (7.65 percent of income) and to allow the entire 2 percent reduction in withholding (from 7.65 percent to 5.65 percent of income) to be passed to the pastors, since the legislation specifically targets individuals and not employers.

## ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH'S MISSION MINISTRIES

Presbytery **ACTED** (on January 29th, 2011) to approve a recommendation from the Board of Trustees to request of the sessions of its churches list those free services, programs or uses of facilities that contribute to the well-being of the community in which they are located; and that such lists be sent to the Board of Trustees at the Presbytery Office by March 1, 2011.

## NOTICE TO CHURCH TREASURERS

Effective immediately, please change the remittance address for Albany Presbytery to our downtown Troy offices:

1915 Fifth Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

Currently, you send Mission and Per Capita payments to our lockbox in Cohoes. Effective at the end of February, our bank will no longer offer us that option at a price we can afford. Remittances sent to the lockbox after February 28 will be delayed or returned. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and, as always, thank you for your timeliness in submitting your Per Capita and Mission/Ecclesiastical Remittances for your church.

# BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN TODAY'S WORLD

## JOINT WORSHIP IN CAMBRIDGE

We wanted to share with others in Albany Presbytery..."the picture of a sign taken by a parishioner stating our activity for the winter, that of worshiping together with another denomination. We are both sharing and praying with each other, how novel! It has worked out beautifully." *Submitted by Martha Waite of United Presbyterian Church in Cambridge*



## HOW MEG KNIGHT BROUGHT FAIR TRADE TO BALLSTON SPA



Kudos to Meg Knight, a member of First Presbyterian in Ballston Spa. An article about her fair trade work was in the January 4th edition of the Green America newsletter. Meg is willing to come speak to other churches to educate folks about fair trade. Please contact her directly: Her email address is [knightm@nycap.rr.com](mailto:knightm@nycap.rr.com) and her phone number is 885-4258. The article is below:

Meg Knight, Green America member, and Fair Trade advocate in Ballston Spa, NY, reports great recent success with her community's campaign. Named the first New York Fair Trade Town in 2008, Ballston Spa has seen the number of local businesses offering Fair Trade products triple. "I'll encourage our coalition to use and adapt wonderful organizing tools, like Green America's Fair Trade your supermarket campaign, as we proceed with plans for our third Fair Trade Conference this spring," says Knight. With other advances, like a locally shot Fair Trade movie, Fair Trade in the schools and churches, and Reserve Trick-or-Treating, Fair Trade is on the move in Ballston Spa ... [Read more »](#)

### MORE RESOURCES:

**Fair Trade Your Supermarket** -- Our campaign gives your resources for educating store owners about Fair Trade, getting more Fair Trade products onto store shelves.

**"Dark Side of Chocolate" Screenings** -- Help us get the word out about conditions at the beginning of the cocoa supply chain with screenings during the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day.

**Fair Trade Guide** -- Download or order copies of our Fair Trade Guide for more great action ideas for Fair Trade – Fair Trade fundraisers, Fair Trade towns, a Fair Trade workplace, and more (plus, links to hundreds of Fair Trade businesses).

## JAMES CALVIN DAVIS: IN DEFENSE OF CIVILITY

*Submitted by Paul Randall and originally published in The Thoughtful Christian*

### Arizona Shooting Sparks Prayer, Political Blame Game

The recent shooting in a Tucson, Arizona supermarket has saturated the media the past few days. And the response has been split between offerings of prayer and support for the victims, their families, and even the shooter, and accusations of political influence from the Tea Party and an acrimonious political climate to explain why the shooter decided to open fire. The Thoughtful Christian Team believes both reactions deserve to be discussed and suggest your church use the following resources as you not only try to make sense of the tragic killings, but also as you try to wade through the "blame game" political discourse.

#### Making Sense of Tragedy . . .

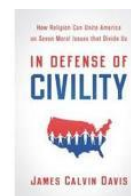
It is natural for Christians to wonder about where God is in these situations. Throughout history and in our Scriptures, the people of God have tried to discern just where God is and why such a disaster occurred. Our immediate reaction is usually to find blame. Someone must have done something to deserve this. Actually, there is another way to look at where God is to be found during disasters and personal tragedies.

Both the youth and adult studies below give participants a chance to think about new ways of seeing God in the midst of disaster and also talk about spiritual practices that prepare us for responding to difficulty.

- [Where Is God When Disaster Strikes?](#) (Adult)
- [Finding God in Times of Tragedy](#) (Youth)

#### . . . While Remaining Civil

In his book, *In Defense of Civility*, author **James Calvin Davis** argues for religion's potential to enrich both the content and the civility of public conversation. This book will interest all concerned citizens yearning for more careful thinking about the role of religion in public debate.



In order to spark more fruitful and thoughtful conversation in regard to this tragedy, The Thoughtful Christian Team is providing an excerpt from Davis's book. In this chapter, which may be downloaded by [clicking here](#), Davis culminates his work in the previous chapters by standing "In Defense of Civility."

If this chapter appeals to you or your group, we invite you to keep the conversation going by studying the book chapter by chapter.

**To purchase this book, see the attached flyer or go to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)**

## SMALL FARMER FUND



As part of the Presbyterian Coffee Project, the Small Farmer Fund is one way that the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Equal Exchange and PC(USA) congregations work together to support small farmer projects in coffee growing regions around the world. Thanks to the coffee and chocolate that Presbyterians buy through Equal Exchange, the Small Farmer Fund raises about \$20,000 each year!

For each pound of fairly traded products that Presbyterians purchase through the Presbyterian Coffee Project, Equal Exchange donates 15 cents to the Small Farmer Fund, which is administered by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Congregations and individuals are invited make their own contributions to the fund as a way of the farmers and their communities. Project # H000111. For more information, go to the website: <http://gamc.pcusa.org/donate/H000111/>.

The last project funded was to a coffee cooperative in Nicaragua for a project that included constructing new stoves that use much less wood than traditional stoves, as well as tree planting in the coffee fields. The project was in an area that had been heavily deforested, which causes erosion, stresses the coffee plant, and contaminates the water. Many of the trees that they planted were fruit trees... an extra source of nutrients for the families! **To read more about one farmer and coffee company in Mexico, go to pcusa news:** <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2010/11/16/growing-dream/>

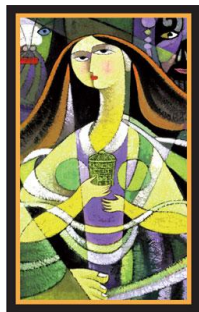


## MORE AUTHORS AMONG US

Earl Johnson is a frequent contributor to *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine. Read his most recent article on page 22 in the February 7, 2011 issue entitled *Sulkha*. If you've recently authored something, let us know so we can share your gift with others!

# WORSHIP RESOURCES

## RESOURCES FOR CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY



On February 27, 2011, we celebrate the beautiful women in the household of God who regularly do beautiful things in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ. There are women in scripture and women in our congregations who regularly do beautiful things and are remarkable saints in the faith. The Celebrate the Gifts of Women resource, written by Rhashell Hunter, includes a worship service with a call to worship, prayer of confession, assurance of pardon, suggested hymns, suggested scripture readings and a litany celebrating the gifts of women; sermon starters and program suggestions; and recommended resources for further study. Also available: [a flier to spread the word](#)

Find worship elements, sermon starters, and study suggestions for your own celebration from the GAMC's Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries. [Learn more](#) →

## RESOURCES FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is celebrated throughout February. The PCUSA offers a video: *Black Presbyterians: The Legacy Series* and other resources as well as: *Capturing Memory Through the Spoken Word*, about oral history and storytelling.

At the [2010 Peacemaking Seminar](#), Vanessa Hawkins made a presentation on oral history as a way of capturing and sharing stories of making peace and seeking justice. [Download Oral History Workshop](#). Her presentation included the use of a video, [Black Presbyterians: The Legacy Series](#). This video, which she helped produce, features Black Presbyterians telling the stories of their faithful witness to Jesus Christ during the Civil Rights movement and how they worked to shape the consciousness of the Presbyterian denominations. To read more and for further resources, go to the Swords into Plowshare Website: <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/09/capturing-memory-through-the-spoken-word.html>

## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT



**It's time to order your *Presbyterians Today* 2011 Lenten Devotional Guide** – As we celebrate the bridges we're building with our Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Korea—and welcoming Korean-speaking communities within the PC(USA)—I'm delighted to recommend to you a spiritually-uplifting new bilingual Lenten devotional guide published by *Presbyterians Today* magazine called *Living the Word Through Lent*. The author, Kevin Park, associate for theology in the General Assembly Mission Council's office of Theology and Worship, invites us to journey through Lent with the written Word of Scripture to encounter the living Word, Jesus Christ. The meditations in this year's guide are printed side by side in both Korean and English, and the beautiful illustrations by Korean-born Jason Raish have an engaging Asian flavor. This is a great resource for congregations and families. Subscribers to [Presbyterians Today](#) will receive the devotional guide in their January/February issue. [Order extra copies](#).

# IN AND AROUND ALBANY PRESBYTERY

## MAYFIELD SABBATICAL QUILT - OUR STORY

Submitted by Nancy Frank who also made this presentation at the January 29 Presbytery Meeting.



Thank you for allowing us to share the story of our “Sabbatical Quilt”. As you may know, our Pastor, Bonnie Orth, applied for and was given a grant for a 4-month Sabbatical this past year. The application for the grant was based, in part, on the poem, “The Patchwork Quilt” by Helen Lowrie Marshall. Since ours is a congregation with many quilters, Bonnie asked us to make a quilt – while she was away – that would tell about our church and congregation. We started “brainstorming” – even before she left – to come up with an idea of how to accomplish that.

We wanted to plan a quilt in which all areas of our church would be represented. Since the building itself is the place where we all meet, we started in the center with the church. Surrounding that we added blocks that depict the main areas of our church family: Choir, Presbyterian Women, Bible Study, Sacraments (to represent our Session), Sunday School, Prayer Chain, Youth Group, Food Pantry, Midnight Run, Fundraisers, Knitters Group and Quilters. Each block was made by a person from the group represented – quite an accomplishment since they are not all quilters or even seamstresses!

We could have stopped there but decided to find a way for as many of the members and friends of the church to be included as possible. Many “friendship blocks” were stitched with the idea that we would have people sign them. Some of them were signed when people came to church. Some were taken home with members to be signed and then returned. One church member made calls to homes and hospitals for more member’s signatures. Three of our former pastors were contacted and they welcomed the opportunity to be part of our “story” by signing one of the blocks. In all about 160 friendship blocks make up the next border of the quilt.

I think it was at this point that the project took on a life of its own. We knew that our church family was not complete without Bonnie. After some searching, we found some pictures of her “looking like a minister”. These were added to the top left corner. Of course, the rest of the Orth Family had to be included so some photos of them on their Sabbatical trip were included in the bottom right corner. We were beginning to tie everything together and decided to add our Mission Statement in the upper right corner.

That left one corner undone. We could have put the Patchwork Quilt poem there but then we had a “God Wink”. A retired minister (Rev. John Magee) who had been filling in for Bonnie wrote a letter that was included in our September Newsletter. The words he wrote in one of the paragraphs were the perfect “ending to the quilt top”. After getting his permission, those words were added to the bottom left corner.

We thought we were finished then but felt that there is so much more to our church and family. Our youngest Sunday school children’s names were added to the small blocks on either side. Each of the small blocks across the top and bottom have written on them things that happen at our church – these include special services and events and all the different things that keep our church building (and family) busy all year long.

Making this quilt during Bonnie’s sabbatical helped to keep us together during her absence. One church member made this comment. She said, “At many churches I’ve attended, if the minister was gone for a month, the church would have fallen apart. But here, everything keeps going on, everything gets done, and we are as strong as ever”. These words are so true for that “small” church up in Mayfield!

When Bonnie returned, we presented her with the quilt during a worship service in November. We wanted her to know that we had missed her and were glad she was back. We also wanted her to know that her “flock” was alive and well and that our “Journey of Faith” had continued in her absence. And to borrow a few words from Rev. Magee, we wanted her to know that our “little congregation of wonderful folk made up of various personalities and temperaments” was still going strong, still “unique and loved by God and held together by threads of grace, trust and joy”. (Note: Bonnie also completed a complementary stole during).

## APPLYING FOR YOUR 2011 LILLY GRANT

Bonnie Orth was able to take this sabbatical because of her approved application from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. This year, Lilly is offering as many as 120 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. The theme for the 2011 National Clergy Renewal Program is **What Will Make Your Heart Sing?** For information on this program and the grant information, please see the attached brochure or contact the presbytery office.

# CRTC SPRING COURSE OFFERINGS

**“Coin and Kingdom: Would Jesus Toss Us Out Today?”**, w/ **Rev. Norm Tellier, Certified Financial Planner**, Sat, Feb. 26, 9am -3pm, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 10 N. Main Ave, Albany  
For all who manage money in the church.  
Cost: \$75 by 1/26, \$85there after. **Registration deadline: Feb. 10, 2011**

**“Connecting with Calvin: Restoring Unity to the Church”**, w/ **Dr. Randall Zachman**, Sat., Mar. 26, 9am-12m, at Siena College  
One of today’s leading Calvin scholars, Dr. Randall Zachman sheds light Calvin’s on desire for unity rather than the division with which he is often associated.  
Course fee covered by sponsors; free will offering to be taken. **Registration deadline: Mar. 18, 2011**

**“Faith, Power & Perspective: Women in the Old Testament”**, w/ **Dr. Katharine Doob Sakenfeld**, Fri. April 8, 9am-4pm, at Union Presbyterian Church,. Stories of faith in response to God that changed history. A course for men and women together!  
\$85 by Mar. 4; \$95 thereafter. **Registration deadline: Mar. 23, 2011**

**“Adding Strength, Speed & Balance to Your Congregation”**, w/ **C. Jeff Woods**, Thurs. & Fri., May 12 & 13, 9am-4pm, Explore components of healthy congregational identity and visioning with this national consultant from Alban.  
\$85 by April 26; \$95 thereafter. **Registration deadline: April 14, 2011**

**“A Walk in the Woods: Backpacking Through Creation”**, w/ **Rev. Kent Busman**, Fri.-Mon., April 29-May 2 - Join other pilgrims on this spiritually and physically challenging journey through the Western Adirondack Wilderness.  
\$250. **Registration deadline: April 13, 2011**

Register online at [www.capitalrtc.org](http://www.capitalrtc.org) or by phone at 518-462-2470. Watch the CRTC website for information on these and many other courses available in 2011. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes; please contact them for an application.



The Board of Pensions is happy to announce the calling of a new Regional Representative for the Synod of the Northeast. The Rev. Dr. Allison Seed served most recently as pastor of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Independence, Missouri. She previously served four other congregations as pastor or interim pastor. Allison has also served as a hospital chaplain, campus minister at Furman University, and college chaplain at Lander University.

Allison received her B.A. from Duke University, M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and D. Min. from Erskine Theological Seminary. Her service to the greater church includes a term as moderator of Heartland Presbytery, two terms as chair of the Heartland Presbytery Council, and membership on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of Mid-America. She was a member of the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and served as chair of the Council. She also served on the Six Agency Review Committee and is now on the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation Review Committee.

Allison is married to Robert Seed and is mother to two grown children, Noelle Baroody, a student in Albuquerque, and Andrew Baroody, an attorney in New York City. With her husband she is also parent to a year-old golden retriever named Scout. Her hobbies include traveling, reading murder mysteries, walking, films, Duke basketball, an occasional crossword puzzle, and fashion. Allison assumed her position at 2000 Market Street on January 4.

**The Presbytery Office will be Closed on February 21st**

**Norma will be out of the office on February 23rd**

**Dan will be out of the office February 15 - March 8**