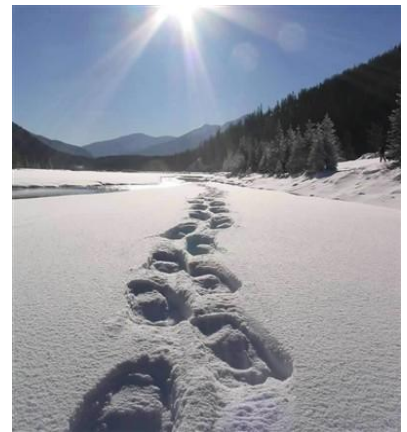


Albany Presbytery E-News

Volume 6, Number 1

January 2011

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



As a New Year dawns.... We look with uncertainty beyond the old choices for clear cut answers,
To a softer, more permeable aliveness
Which is every moment at the brink of death;
For something new is being born in us if we but let it.
We stand at a new doorway, awaiting that which comes....
Daring to be human creatures, vulnerable to the beauty of existence,
Learning to live. ~ Anne Hillman

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!

ALBANY PRESBYTERY TO MEET JANUARY 29

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30AM ~ MEETING BEGINS AT 9:30AM

The first stated meeting of Albany Presbytery will be held on Saturday, January 29th at Brunswick Presbyterian Church. Pre-meeting packets will be available beginning January 19th. Join us as our time together is more enriching, informative and creative. Our last meeting was highly successful and enjoyable, focusing on mission and storytelling. We will attend to the business which must be done, but will continue seeking to balance the business portion of each meeting with educational and missional opportunities for pastors and commissioners that can be applied to your own ministry settings.

This Meeting's Theme: **A PRESBYTERY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY** – What should be the top priorities for the presbytery's ministry? How can we respond to God's call to be the most effective, fruitful and faithful presbytery possible?

Business: Presbyters will consider and vote on the proposed Form of Government (a much shorter, more flexible Book of Order)

Amendment information is available in hard cover from our offices and found on our website under Church Resources: http://www.albanypresbytery.org/ga_amend.html. Information for the meeting may be found on our website: http://www.albanypresbytery.org/meeting_info.html

YOUTH TRIP TO THE UN



Youth in Grades 9-12 are invited to travel to New York City on February 21st, 2011 to visit the Presbyterian Office at the United Nations to study Climate Change and Forced Migration, returning on February 23rd. The mission of the UN office is to equip the church for faithful discipleship in the arena of world affairs. You'll tour the UN, participate in seminars, study the effects of climate change on the world's populations and see a Broadway show. We will return home with an action plan for youth to be agents of positive change.

Estimated cost is \$350. Transportation by charter bus, three meals (breakfast on Feb. 22 and lunch on Feb. 22 & 23), hotel accommodations, the UN tour and seminar fees are included. Youth will need to pay for their dinner on Feb. 21 and 22, and breakfast on Feb. 23. Limited scholarship assistance is available. **A January 17th Orientation in Utica is required of all.** Albany Presbytery attendees will travel together to this orientation. For more information, contact Rev. Brooke Newell, Advocacy Coordinator for the FAB5 PPG in the Synod of the NE (the Presbyteries of Albany, Cayuga-Syracuse, Northern NY, Susquehanna Valley and Utica): 793-3823 or brooke@cjgreen.net. Click here for more information:

DEADLINE EXTENDED! APPLICATIONS WITH A \$50 DEPOSIT MUST BE RETURNED BY JANUARY 3RD

UPCOMING EVENTS

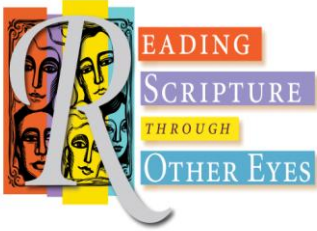


CLERGY PALLIATIVE CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

January 13, 2011 - Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Department of Albany Medical Center, this is an Introductory Session (45-hour CEU program) limited to thirty clergy. Time is 1-3pm. Leading this session is Dr. Joanne Porter, Pediatric Palliative Care Director. Palliative Care focuses on working through the issues that come up for patients and families and on maximizing the quality of life now - in the midst of the experience of serious and/or chronic illness. To reserve your place, please contact Alice Houghtaling **no later than January 10, 2011**: houghta@mail.amc.edu.

WEBCAST EVENT

January 20-21, 2011 - CRTC is proud to present this webcast event in partnership with Trinity Institute and co-sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church in Albany. Join as an international panel of distinguished speakers explores Scripture Study that is authentic, prophetic and transformative! You will have a chance to submit questions and there will be on-site reflection groups plus materials to take home for further study. Keynote Speakers are Walter Brueggemann, Teresa Okure, Mary Gordon and Gerald O. West. Held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Albany. Cost is \$125 by December 21st and \$140 thereafter. Morning refreshments and lunches are included. For more information, contact CRTC at info@capitalrtc.org or 462-2470.



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. This is a FREE one-day seminar. Lunch and refreshments are provided. **Please re-register with the presbytery office:** info@albanypresbytery.org.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING

April 16 - Joann Burell, a Synod of the Northeast participant in the USA Mission Experience trip to South Dakota, will be the featured speaker at the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Albany Presbytery. The Gathering will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls on Saturday from 10am - 1:30pm.

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 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.

ENHANCE YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY



“Which Way Do We Go? Charting Paths for Today’s Youth Ministry”, w/ **Revs. Christy Lang & Blair Bertrand**, (Doctoral Students of **Kenda Creasy Dean**), **Sat., Jan. 22, 9am-3pm at Delmar Reformed Church**, Creative ways to approach youth ministry. Cost: \$75 by December 23., \$95 thereafter; Registration deadline: Jan. 7, 2011.

“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.

YOUTH WEEKEND AT CHRIST THE KING

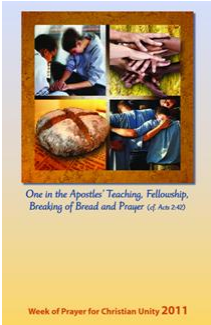
Martin Luther King Weekend - The Gospel according to Harry Potter - Rev. Dr. Tim Coombs and the YAP Events Task Force is sponsoring this weekend January 14 - 16. The theme for the weekend centers around the Courage and Love of Jesus. Cost per person is \$85. For more information, please go to the website: <http://www.albanypresbytery.org/yap.html>.

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.** Look for the displays at the January 29th presbytery meeting and watch for updates on our website: <http://www.albanypresbytery.org/yap.html>

BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN TODAY'S WORLD

RESOURCES FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



Resources are available for celebrating the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25). The theme for the coming year was chosen by diverse Christian leaders in Jerusalem: "One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer." It is based on the book of Acts (2:42) and calls for inspiration and renewal, a return to the essentials of the faith; it is a call to remember the time when the church was still one. The production of the liturgical and biblical material for the week of prayer is jointly coordinated since 1968 by the World Council of Churches (Faith and Order Commission) and the Roman Catholic Church (Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity). Resources for the week are available in English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish, and include an introduction to the theme; a suggested ecumenical celebration which local churches are encouraged to adapt for their own particular liturgical, social and cultural contexts; biblical reflections and prayers for the "eight days"; and additional prayers from, and an overview of, the ecumenical situation in Jerusalem. [Read more.](#) Submitted by *Deborah Harrison*, *Ecumenical News of DEAR of OGA at PCUSA*

ECUMENICAL WITNESSES OF BAPTISM TO MEET AT WESTMINSTER

January 9 at 1pm - Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany will host this meeting. Celebrating its 16th anniversary in 2011, this program of the Capital Area Council of Churches is a visible sign of Christian unity in our area. During 2010, teams of witnesses were present for baptisms in churches of five different denominations. 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 different denominational traditions. All are welcome

INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE

The 38th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service will be held at 7pm on Saturday, January 15th at Blessed Hope Worship Center, 193 Central Avenue in Albany. All are welcome to this annual celebration of the life and work of Dr. King. The evening will include interfaith readings and prayers as well as music by several local groups. Addressing the theme "The Courage to Continue to Strive for Justice", the guest speaker will be the Rev. Samuel Trumbore, Pastor of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. The offering received at the event is the primary source of funding for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund. Last spring, Capital Area Council of Churches awarded a total of \$5,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Applications for the 2011 awards will be available at the service and are due by March 31. If you are unable to attend the service and wish to make a gift to the scholarship fund, you may send your check made out to "CACC-MLK Fund" to 646 State St., Albany, NY 12203. (Park in the lot on Sherman St. behind the church, in the tire store lot across from the church, or on nearby streets.)

CRTC NEWS

New classes forming for 2011 - There are lots of Presbyterian people teaching classes this winter and spring! The Youth Ministry course is taught by Princeton DMin candidates (Presbyterian) in January, Miriam Lawrence Leupold is teaching the Rotation Model church school course in April, and Katherine Sakenfeld, Princeton Seminary professor, is teaching a course on Women in the Old Testament (brochure not ready yet). Please [contact CRTC](#) for more information and to register or phone them at 462-2470.



2011 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, January 29th, 9:30am at Brunswick

Tuesday, April 12th, 4pm at Greenwich

Saturday, June 11th, 9:30am at Cohoes

Tuesday, September 20th, 4pm at TBA

Saturday, November 12th, 9:30am at TBA

http://www.albanypresbytery.org/meeting_info.html

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CONCERNING nFOG

As noted in previous messages from Stated Clerk Dan Rogers and Past-Moderator Terry Diggory, the proposed Amendment to the Constitution – Part 1 of 3 related to the “Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government” (commonly referred to as **nFOG**) will be on the docket for debate and vote at the January 29, 2011, Stated Meeting of Albany Presbytery.

The Stated Clerk gave a brief introduction to **nFOG** at the November 16 Stated Meeting. Rather than attempt to schedule one or more review sessions on **nFOG** in January prior to the meeting on the 29th, Council strongly recommends that all presbyters take advantage of the many on-line resources that are available to study the proposed amendment independently. It is critically important for ministers also to work with their elder commissioners to that meeting and assist them to prepare for the business related to **nFOG**.

During the morning at the Stated Meeting on January 29, there will be a brief overview presentation on **nFOG** followed by an opportunity to ask questions in one of several small discussion groups. The overview presentation will include both the pros and cons of adopting **nFOG**. Debate and action on the proposed amendment will be docketed for the afternoon portion of the meeting.

A good way to start an independent study of **nFOG** is to access the many links that are on the Albany Presbytery web site by clicking on “Church Resources” in the menu on the left side of the Home Page and then selecting “GA Amendments” in the menu that pops up. Links related to **nFOG** are clearly identified. Most of these links are to resources on the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) web site which tend to support adoption of **nFOG**. There is a link to the entire **nFOG** document as well as to several Question and Answer documents. Copies of **nFOG** have been distributed at the last two stated meetings and are still available for pick-up from the Presbytery office. If requested, copies can also be mailed to presbyters. Please note that some resources are also listed in the insert that is included with the printed **nFOG** document. This insert is also included with the on-line **nFOG** document.

The Association of Stated Clerks (ACS) has prepared an analysis of the proposed amendments, and a link to that document is included on the Albany Presbytery web site. On pages 1 and 2 of its analysis of the proposed **nFOG**, the ACS has given arguments both supporting an affirmative vote and supporting a negative vote. Additional arguments supporting a negative vote may be found on the Presbyterian Coalition web site at www.presbycoalition.org by clicking on the “Campaign 2010-2011” tab. A link to this web site may also be found on the Albany Presbytery web site.

Elder Joyce Brewer from Hoosick Falls was one of Albany Presbytery’s commissioners to the 219th General Assembly and served on the committee that debated and acted to recommend **nFOG** to the entire assembly which in turn approved it and recommended that it be sent to the presbyteries for their vote. She will participate in the overview presentation to Presbytery on January 29 and is available to answer questions prior to that meeting. Joyce may be contacted at tjbrewer@wildblue.net. Stated Clerk Dan Rogers is also available to answer questions prior to the meeting and may be contacted at hdr27@juno.com.

IN AND AROUND ALBANY PRESBYTERY



PAF CELEBRATES FIRST COMMUNION

On Saturday, November 20th, the Pakistani-American Presbyterian Fellowship had the first Holy Communion ceremony of four children. Rev. Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Chair of the PAF Steering Committee, attended and blessed the children. PAF currently worships at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Hackett Boulevard in Albany.

Rev. Nadeem Sadiq, Pastor, is available to speak some Sundays at your worship. Contact him at nadeemsadiq996@hotmail.com or 813-8516.

NEW IRS MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR 2011

The IRS has released the [standard mileage rates for 2011](#) which include an increase for both business travelers and those who claim mileage for moving and medical needs. **The new rate is 51 cents per mile.**

OAKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN HAS FOR THE ASKING:

A very good set of the Nine Confessional Banners of the Presbyterian Church and their hanging poles. **If interested, please contact Rev. Al Siegel at 785-0116.** They also have: 50 of the blue 1990 Presbyterian Hymnals in very good condition (two large print) and 100 "Hymns for the Family of God." While there is no charge for these items, any donation to the church would be used in their mission to keep the building open to serve the immediate Troy community. They definitely want to "Stay on the Corner" and leave a Mission Legacy.

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

The Rev. Dr. George Brennan, D. Min has been named the next Executive Director of the Capital Area Council of Churches. A priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, Rev. Brennan has been a resident of the Capital District for the past five years with a particular ministry to the homeless. In 2009, he received the Council's Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Service Award for that ministry. Prior to coming to Albany, Rev. Brennan served as the Director of the La Salette Counseling Center and then of the La Salette Shrine, both in Attleboro, MA. He is a member of the R.C. Commission of Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs, the R. C. Commission on Restorative Justice, and is on the Board of Directors of the Capital Region Theological Center. As did his predecessor, Rev. Brennan will combine his service to the Council with serving a local parish, Our Lady of Hope Church in Copake Falls. We look forward to starting the New Year with Rev. Brennan on January 1, 2011. **An installation service is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, January 23, during the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity.**



*On Behalf of the entire Albany Presbytery Staff,
We wish you a safe and blessed New Year as you
rejoice in Christ's birth and
celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas!*

The Presbytery Office will be Closed on:

Monday, January 3rd - Synod Observance of New Year's Day

Friday, January 14th - Training Day

Monday, January 17th - Synod Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

We may close early or completely on other days depending on the weather