

ONE TABLE

VOLUME XII ISSUE III

SUMMER 2011

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Haiti's Recovery: One Region's Story

CREO recently donated over \$2,500 towards repairing and extending Fondwa, Haiti's rudimentary water system. Throughout the world, millions of women and children daily search for precious water that they must carry to their homes and fields on their heads. This deprives their families and communities of productive work; it compresses their spines and leads to chronic pain.

Barbara DiTommaso, Director, Commission on Peace and Justice

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY

"What do you think about God?" I was a bit taken aback by this direct question from beautiful Rose Ruth, whom I had just met a half-hour earlier. Years before, the 25-year-old Haitian had left her family in a tiny hamlet and come to Fondwa to continue her education beyond elementary school.

Fondwa is one of Haiti's 570 rural regions. In 1988, Father Joseph Philippe organized the Association of Peasants of Fondwa (APF). Despite their deep poverty, by working together and with the assistance of friends in the US who had visited Fondwa, they built and staffed a K-12 school (a rarity in rural Haiti) for almost 700 children, a clinic, radio station, meeting and guest center that could accommodate up to 25 international visitors, an orphanage for 65 children and youth, *the beginnings of a water system*, carpentry co-op, a credit union, bakery, restaurant, beverage store, and a 3-mile concrete road built by hand through unforgiving mountainous terrain. **Most of these structures were destroyed in the 7.1 earthquake of January 12, 2010.**

I had been to Haiti five times and wanted to return ever since the earthquake, but I didn't want to be one more person needing food and water, transportation and security unless I were to have a useful role. I finally returned a few months ago to check on the progress of the University of Fondwa (UNIF). Please replace your usual image of a university with one small cinder block building, a couple of modified shipping containers, 43 students, a small but dedicated staff that continues teaching when there isn't money to pay them, and a vision that Haiti's rural regions can be transformed from places of misery that people want to flee, to thriving communities where agriculture and small businesses could sustain peasant families.

UNIF's goal is to prepare Haiti's young people in agronomy, veterinary medicine and business management so that they can return to their own rural areas and work with the peasants to make the land more productive, improve animal breeding, and develop small businesses to complement their farming. At UNIF's first commencement, in 2009, the 20 graduates were so dignified and proud. For their parents, many unable to read and write, it was as though they were participating in a fairy tale.

Rose Ruth, the UNIF student who asked me what I thought about God, lived at the Fondwa orphanage while she completed high school, and now is a UNIF

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United Church of Christ,
Hudson Mohawk Association

United Methodist Church,
Upper New York Annual
Conference

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School Supplies Help Children Achieve

FOCUS Churches of Albany is collecting school supplies this summer to provide low-income and homeless children with the supplies they need to go back to school in September ready to learn. Some 200 children who use the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry or who live at the Schuyler Inn homeless shelter were equipped for learning last year, and the need continues to increase. **Items needed include:**



#2 pencils	Colored pencils	3-ring binders—1", 1½", or 2"
Pencil sharpeners	Yellow highlighters	Notebook paper -- wide or college-ruled
Pens --- blue or black	Glue sticks	Pocket folders
Pink erasers	Glue bottles	3-hole-punched pocket folders
Pencil pouches	School scissors	3" Post-it notes
Pencil boxes	Marble Notebooks	12-inch rulers
Crayons — box of 24	Spiral notebooks -wide or college-ruled	Combination locks
Colored markers		Backpacks



FOCUS is also collecting money to buy items not donated so that each child receives a full set of supplies. Please mail monetary donations to: FOCUS, 275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 and earmark them "School Supplies."

AFTER August 1, please bring donations of supplies to the FOCUS Food Pantry weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Pantry is located at 275 State Street at the southwest corner of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

FOCUS also needs **VOLUNTEERS** in August from 10am-12pm on the following dates:

Aug. 29 - Sorting Supplies / Aug. 30 & 31 - Packing Supplies /
Sept. 1, 2, 3 - Distributing Supplies to Families

Please call the FOCUS office at 518-443-0460 to volunteer or visit www.focuschurches.net. ■

The Details...

Deadline for Submission
One Table Autumn Edition
Oct/Nov/Dec...Sept 30

Please help us by updating your contact information. We mail our newsletters Third Class for a first-class reason – to save money. While some newsletters may arrive late, we hope the message will always be timely. **This edition was distributed the week of July 10.**

One Table is published quarterly by the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization on recycled paper. Circulation: 450 per hard copy issue, 600 per email, and is archived at albanypresbytery.org. *One Table* serves as an ecumenical voice in our region and is supported by CREO members and *One Table* readers. Only motions duly passed at Board meetings reflect the official actions of the entire Capital Region Ecumenical Organization. Opinions expressed by contributing writers are not necessarily those of CREO.

Articles, news items, and announcements are invited. Publication cannot be guaranteed, but all submissions will be reviewed for use. The Coordinator reserves the right to edit material to conform to editorial policy, style and length. Unless otherwise attributed, articles are compiled and/or written by the Coordinator. ■

Celebrate Summer with a Camping Adventure

Edith Leet, Ecumenical Officer

CAPITAL AREA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

There is still time for kids and adults to take advantage of summer camping opportunities! Pathfinder Lodge, the American Baptist camp on Otsego Lake near Cooperstown, offers week-long camps for kids from 3rd grade through Senior High through August 19. Camps for teens and adults with special needs run weekly from July 25 - August 19. Family camping is offered through October 16.

Two weekend retreats for adults are featured

in July. An "Adult Adventure" will run July 22-25. Enjoy all the facilities of Pathfinder, including hiking, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, crafts, and campfires, along with time for devotions and personal reflection.

A Spiritual Retreat, "Alive in Christ Together" runs July 29-31. Revitalize your spirituality and explore anew your relationship with God through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Some scholarships are available. For more information, please visit www.abc-nys.org/camps or call 315-469-4236, ext. 11. ■

Haiti Cont'd...

(Continued from page 1)

student. She's majoring in business and wants to open a cyber café where people can send and receive e-mail from relatives abroad, recharge their cell phones, and avail themselves of other electronic services. This would help to overcome the isolation that Haiti experiences.

Before answering her question about God, I recalled that in Creole, there are two names for God: Bondye (from the French bon Dieu) and Gran Met (the Great Master, which sounds like the ultimate slave owner). **I said that we often address God as almighty and powerful, but I believe that the God revealed in Jesus is humble and self-emptying, because this God wants to be close to us, especially to the world's marginalized and outcasts.** I didn't say it, but God had come to me in this faith-filled young woman with a yearning to realize the potential with which God had created her.

While there are some stores in the cities, most commerce in Haiti is carried on by women street vendors. A woman may rise before dawn, walk on steep mountainsides to the nearest town, buy goods ranging from matches and rice to clothing and cough syrup, and carry her stock



People in their Sunday best walking home after church. Fondwa had at least 3 churches. The name Haiti means, 'mountainous land.'

back on her head to re-sell at a small profit along the side of the road.

This trip, there was the number of young men in city streets trying to sell bottled water to those in passing vehicles. More than anything, Haiti needs investment and jobs. But the Haitian people need to participate in the decision making that brings factories and employment there. The country has been used and abused by those whose self-interest ignored what was good for Haitians.

In Port-au-Prince, a year and a half after the 2010 earthquakes, there are still thousands of people living in two-person domed tents, depriving people of privacy and human dignity. Some border busy streets where those living there are constantly inhaling vehicle exhaust.

Most of the rubble has been cleared from the streets, but there are still damaged buildings that should be demolished for safety's sake.

Haiti's new president, Michel Martelly, has realistic ideas for raising revenue and practical development goals. Let's wish him well.

For information on visiting Fondwa or donating to UNIF, call 518-453-6695 or email barb.ditommaso@rcda.org. ■

Practicing Hospitality to Vulnerable Neighbors

Rev. Holly Nye, Pastor

EMMAUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc. (RISSE) was founded by Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany, and its services are housed in the Emmaus building. The work of RISSE grew out of volunteer efforts by church members to welcome and mentor area refugee families. As the congregation worked with families through US Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), they discovered longer-term needs beyond initial resettlement. These issues include the need for English instruction, child care and school support for children, help with paperwork and medical/school/social service systems, and social/civic orientation and education.

RISSE seeks to support and empower refugee and immigrant families as they learn about and become integrated into U.S. society. RISSE provides after school and summer programs for children, and a range of social and educational services for their families. The program draws on the resources of local colleges, community agencies, the school district, church denominational structures, and neighboring faith communities to provide families a full range of services and interactions with their new community.

In just four years, RISSE has grown to include a summer immersion program for children, a daily educational after-school program, adult

“Volunteers from a variety of faith communities support the effort with time, talents, and gifts.”

ESL classes in partnership with the school district, and a range of support services for adults. RISSE currently serves 60 children in its after school program. Over 100 adults benefit from social support and education; including ESL classes, resume workshops, job search assistance, and intervention with governmental/ social service agencies. In addition, 20 teenagers benefit from field trips, college visits, participation in a music and dance group, and summer employment with the program.

RISSE remains connected to the relationship-building ethic of the congregation that launched it, even as the organization grows and seeks to increase its reach and impact. Volunteers from a variety of faith communities support the effort with time, talents, and gifts. Members of neighbor churches tutor children, teach English to adults, send household goods and monetary donations, and sponsor children at Christmas, among other efforts.

The RISSE Board, made up of community leaders as well as local church leaders, continues to strengthen its efforts at helping refugees to become at-home in the U.S., and to become employed, productive members of the community. **RISSE staff and board, and the Emmaus congregation, would gladly speak with other congregations and mentor those seeking to reach out to new neighbors in similar ways.**

Learn more at: www.eumcalbany.org or email hn@nycap.rr.com or call 518-482-0486. ■

Ministry to Migrant Workers in our Midst

Bob Brilling, Coordinator

MIGRANT MINISTRIES NORTH
ADIRONDACK ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES-NYS

Summer is here and that means that apple season is just around the corner. In just a couple of months hundreds of migrant workers will arrive to begin picking this year’s crop. Migrant Ministries North ministers to and with approxi-

mately 300 migrant workers each August - October.

Migrant Ministries North is committed to ministering to the migrant and seasonal farm workers in nearby New York counties and Vermont. There are



(Continued on page 5)

Summer Sun, Food, and Fun: Free Meals for Children and Teens!

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, Child Nutrition Program Specialist

HUNGER SOLUTIONS NEW YORK

(F/N/A NUTRITION CONSORTIUM OF NYS)

This summer, kids throughout the Capital Region can eat free meals! Summer meals are now being served at neighborhood locations such as parks, pools, schools, churches, and community centers.

During the summer months, many kids (especially low-income children and teenagers) often experience a nutritional void. Fortunately, free summer meals help bridge this nutritional gap. Not only can kids eat a meal with peers in a social setting, but parents and caregivers can rely on these summer meals to help stretch household food budgets.

Most summer meal sites operate rain or shine, Monday through Friday. No application, sign-up, proof of identification, or permission slip required. Summer meals are supported by the federally and state-funded Summer Food Service Program. **To locate your nearby summer meal site, please call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline: 1-800-522-5006.** Or, please contact any of the following organizations for site locations, dates, and times that meals are served:

Albany County:

Albany City School District: 475-6445
Albany Housing Authority: 641-7502
Cohoes City School District: 237-9100
Regional Food Bank of NENY: 786-3691
Victory Christian Church: 434-6100
Watervliet City School District: 629-3261

Rensselaer County:

Rensselaer City School District: 396-3491
Rensselaer Co Dept for Youth: 270-2960

Schenectady County:

Graceway Ministries: 370-1331
Schenectady Inner City Ministries: 374-2683



Summer food is so much more than a free meal for kids. Please consider supporting your local meal sites. There are [many ways in which your congregation can help out](#): help refer families to a meal site, donate your time, or collect games and activities for kids to use at meal sites, and more. For more information, please visit www.HungerSolutionsNY.org, contact Rachel at 518-436-8757 x21 or e-mail: rachel.rupright@hungersolutionsny.org. ■

Migrant Ministry, Cont'd...

(Continued from page 4)

many ways in which your church can donate time and talent in helping these migrant workers.

One area of greatest need is preparing health-care kits. We are currently looking to fill at least **425 health care kits by mid August**, at which time they will be delivered to the orchards. If your church feels called to become involved in short term mission work at home, preparing health care kits is a meaningful way and very much needed.

Overall, the Migrant Ministry includes:

- Worship services in the camps and encourages congregations to invite workers to worship and other church activities.

- Bibles in both English and Spanish, plus Christian education and other materials.
- Fulfilling expressed needs: medical emergencies, health kits, warm clothing, transportation, help with home problems and counseling when necessary.
- Enrichment of our lives by the fellowship and interfaith experiences of people, forming of lasting relationships from different life situations.

To learn more, or invite a speaker to address your congregation about the needs and opportunities in serving migrant workers in our region, please call 518-229-4588 or email rrbrillingjr@nycap.rr.com. ■

Day of Service & Remembrance

Tracey Martin, Associate Director

REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF NORTHEASTERN
NEW YORK

September 11, 2011 marks the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, as well as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. In observance of this important and historic milestone, thousands of groups and **millions of individuals across the country will pay tribute by participating in the single-largest expression of charitable service in American history.**

In partnership with the stakeholders, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York will take part in this event by hosting volunteers at its warehouse in Latham and the Patrol Land Farm in Voorheesville. Volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, and groups exist on both Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11.

To learn more, please call Volunteer Coor-

dinators Jackie Murray or Laura Martin at 518-786-3691, x234 or send an email to

dayofservice@regionalfoodbank.net.

A food drive will also take place that weekend, targeted at collecting food for the Backpack Program which sends hungry children home from school with food on Fridays to ensure they have food to eat on weekends. People are encouraged to purchase peanut butter (in plastic), jelly (in plastic), boxed macaroni and cheese, juice boxes, or shelf-stable milk in 8-ounce boxes and bring it to the Food Bank between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm on September 10 or 11. The Food Bank is located at 965 Albany Shaker Road in Latham, New York. Those wishing to learn more about the food drive can contact Bob Baker at 518-786-3691, x296 or bobb@regionalfoodbank.net. ■

9/11/2011

Day of Reconciliation

The goal of the 9-11-11 Project is to make the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks into a national day of reconciliation between American Muslims and non-Muslims, be they Christians, Jews, people of other faiths or those who practice no religion.

If you are involved with an interfaith event observing the 10th anniversary of 9/11, please visit www.911-11.org and share them with CREO as well so that the broader ecumenical community may connect and participate. ■

A Healing Journey for War Veterans & Families

Many of our communities are seeking ways to be in ministry to returning military and their families. The documentary film, "The Welcome," offers an opportunity for creating awareness, understanding, and action in our ecumenical and interfaith councils or in local faith communities.

"The Welcome offers a fiercely intimate view of life after war: the fear, anger and isolation of post-traumatic stress that affects vets and



family members alike. We begin to understand that all of us are a vital piece of the Welcome as Veterans try to find the way back home. Their examples of unflinching honesty, courage and love lift us up, inspiring all of us once again to feel our common humanity, always the first casualty of war."

Local faith communities are invited to consider a screening and discussion/panel as a program. Visit www.thewelcomethemovie.com to learn more. ■

Camp Erin – A Free Service of The Community Hospice

Camp Erin is a weekend overnight camp for all kids who have experienced the death of a loved one. Staffed by licensed social workers, nurses and trained community volunteers, it combines traditional, fun, high-energy camp activities with grief education and support.

Campers have the opportunity to remember their loved ones, develop coping skills and enjoy a positive camp experience.

Camp Erin was named after Erin Metcalf, a remarkable young woman who died of liver cancer at the age of 17, to acknowledge her love of children and a desire to help others. Jamie and Karen Moyer of The Moyer Foun-

dation started this grief camp for children as a tribute.

Camp Erin is held September 23 to 25, activities beginning Friday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. It takes place at the beautiful facilities of the Fowler Camp and Retreat Center on Sacandaga Lake in Speculator, NY.

If you would like to talk to someone about Camp Erin, please call Audrey Nadler-Kirchofer 518-694-4980 or visit www.camperinalbany.com. ■



Habitat for Humanity Restores Hope to an Albany Neighborhood

Erica Small, Development Director

CAPITAL DISTRICT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

In July 2011, Capital District Habitat for Humanity (CDHfH) will break ground on “*Morton’s Walk on Alexander*.” This is the largest building endeavor CDHfH has ever pursued; ten houses are slated for construction on Alexander Street in Albany’s South End over the next twelve months. These units will be new, two-story, attached town houses that mimic the historic architectural streetscape of the neighborhood. In addition, the units will be LEED certified at the Silver level.



This project will create broad transformational change in a neighborhood in desperate need of revitalization and to families in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing. It will **change the face of affordable housing in our area.**

The project will develop affordable housing for sale to income-eligible owner-occupants. The purpose is to create economic self-sufficiency for lower-income people through the creation of affordable homes. As with all its projects, CDHfH will use volunteer labor and donations of money and materials to build. After Habitat builds each house, it sells the home to a qualified lower-income family in need. The houses are affordable because Habitat provides each new homeowner with a below market-value sale price and a **zero**-interest mortgage.

The project is possible due to a NY State Homes & Community Renewal agency grant that is funding 70% of the cost of each house.

We seek additional partnerships to support the balance of the project costs, to recruit volunteer crews and to provide construction expertise.

To support this project, call 518-462-2993 or email Erica@CapitalDistrictHabitat.org. ■

As debates over the federal budget continue, the most vulnerable and poor members of our society are being forgotten. Visit www.circleofprotection.us, www.nccendpoverty.org, and www.sojo.net to join many local and thousands of faith leaders across the nation in letters to the Obama administration and Congress calling on them to re-direct their priorities to care for the “least of these.”



Resources and Announcements

For your newsletter or bulletin

Connecting with our New Neighbors

Hundreds of refugee families from war-torn countries now call Albany home. The Albany Field Office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI Albany) sponsors events to help you learn more about the histories and cultures of our refugee neighbors.

More info at www.RefugeesAlbany.org and www.facebook.com/USCRI.Albany

Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany has an active ministry to immigrants and refugees and can always use volunteers, as well (see page 4). Call Pastor Holly Nye or visit www.eumcalbany.org.

Damascus Community Services, in the South End of Albany, has a need for bi-lingual volunteers who are fluent in both Spanish and English. Call the Rev. Gladys Vidor 518-316-1636 for more information. ■

Connect Gardeners to AmpleHarvest.org

Many gardeners are beginning to reap the harvest of their work. However, most gardens produce more food than is needed and much produce goes to waste. Help your congregations spread the word to gardeners about donating their fresh produce to local food pantries by connecting them to Ample-Harvest.org. Note that they also have a page for Christian faith groups at www.ampleharvest.org/LFish-Loaves.php. ■

HERSHEY: WE WANT MORE FROM OUR SMORES!

This summer, people all across the country will be enjoying a campfire favorite: s'mores! We all know that chocolate is an integral ingredient in a good s'more and many people will be using Hershey chocolate in their s'mores. You can support cocoa farmers and advocate for an end to child labor this summer by making your s'mores Fair Trade and telling Hershey to start sourcing Fair Trade Certified cocoa! For more information on why Hershey's is the target of the campaign, visit:

www.raisethebarhershey.org. ■

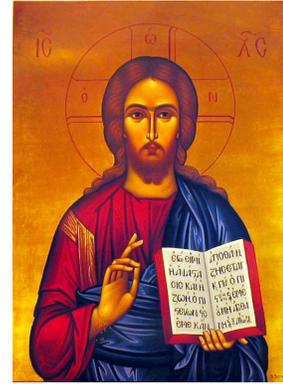
CROP PR Coordinator Position Open

CROP Hunger Walks are ecumenical, interfaith, and multi-cultural annual events. This part time, 10 month position (\$350/month), offers variable hours and clusters of activity during certain months. Recruiting corporate sponsors, dealing with the media, helping design and then ordering the posters, letterhead, and various incentives, and coordinating meetings of the Regional CROP Committee, are main activities of the PR Coordinator. Contact the Capital Area Council of Churches office at 462-5450 or CapAreaCC@aol.com for the detailed job description. Application deadline is July 21 with a projected start date of September 1. ■

Mission Challenge 2011: Where Will Your Mission Take you?

If you are interested in being part of a mission trip this year, visit albanypresbytery.org to get connected with groups inviting ecumenical partners! ■

**The Episcopal Diocese of Albany and
The Cathedral of All Saints
Invite All to the 2011 Bible Symposium**



Join noted Theologian and Lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament Studies Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey for a day of teaching and fellowship. Dr. Bailey's topic will be "Jesus as Theologian" describing his talk by saying: "Generally speaking, the Church in the West sees Jesus as an ethical example and as God's agent in salvation all of which is true and appropriate. However, for theology we generally turn to St. Paul. I am deeply convinced that Jesus is the first mind of the New Testament and that by examining the cultural background to his parables and dramatic actions, we can uncover the profundity of his thought."

The Symposium will be held on Saturday, September 10 from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Doors open at 8:30am. Morning coffee and lunch is provided. Ample parking is available on Saturday at the Cathedral. Cost is \$15.00 and pre-registration is highly recommended. More event information and ticket purchase may be found at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/184146 or call 518-465-1342. ■

Fighting Poverty with Faith

Join with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities across the nation to call for cutting domestic poverty in half by 2020.

October 27 – November 6, 2011

"Working Together to End Hunger"

Anti-hunger events across the country will help to highlight local concern while a national event in Washington DC will involve top religious leaders and members of Congress.

There are many ways YOU can help cut domestic poverty in half by 2020.

For prayers, scripture, and sermons, advocacy postcards, advertisement fliers, organizing toolkit, or even links to download to your congregation's website, visit www.fightingpovertywithfaith.com. ■

Food Help NY: Connecting Your Members to Nutrition Support

Are you seeing more families in need of food assistance than ever before?

Is your congregation struggling to find ways to help these families?

Of all the food provided to meet the nutritional needs of those threatened with hunger, 94 percent comes from the government, and 6 percent from private charity. Even modest reductions in government programs will quickly overshadow all the good done by church and private groups.

Hunger Solutions New York (formerly The Nutrition Consortium of NYS) can help you connect children, families, and older adults to nutrition assistance programs. Visit FoodHelpNY.org or call 1-800-865-5542 to connect with Nutrition Outreach and Education Coordinators in your area. ■

† Visit albanypresbytery.org to find more ecumenical news, pastoral letters and archived One Table publications on the CREO webpages. ■

Area Flooding Prompts Need for Local Disaster Relief

Quick snow melt and heavy rains in April caused record-breaking water levels in the Hudson River and Lake Champlain. This led to severe flooding all along the Hudson and other rivers in the North Country as well as continued flooding of residences around Lake Champlain. **Over 50 homes in Warren and Washington Counties have been impacted - with basements flooded and as much as 5 feet of water in the first floor of some homes.** Foundations were undermined. While the impact on these families is tremendous, the overall amount of damage is not sufficient to receive federal disaster relief funding. So, many homeowners are faced with the daunting task of cleaning up and rebuilding without insurance or government aid.

“Neighbor to Neighbor,” a mission team sent by the Bay Road Presbyterian Church in Lake George, has taken on the task of coordinating recovery efforts for these families. Having served many weeks in the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike, and serving in Nashville this spring, as well as providing building services locally to elderly, infirm and “at risk” individuals, the team has experience with flood clean-up and rebuilding efforts.

Working with area churches, the Red Cross and local officials, “Neighbor to Neighbor” has

reached out to offer guidance, encouragement and labor during the initial clean-up phase.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has supplied an emergency grant to help with expenses and sent members of the National Response Team to meet with leaders of Neighbor to Neighbor and tour the affected areas.

Once clean-up is completed and homes are dried out and treated for mold, the job of rebuilding will begin. At this point, it is still unclear how many homeowners will need financial and physical assistance, but there are many opportunities for people to help with clean-up and other tasks.

If you or members of your congregation would like an opportunity to do mission work “in your own backyard,” please contact Janice and Andy Holding, co-leaders of “Neighbor to Neighbor,” at NTNMission@aol.com. Donations are greatly appreciated. Visit www.bayroadchurch.org/ntn or call 518-793-8541 to learn more. ■



Do you know where your neighbor's money is?

Linda Chandler, Director of Development

COMMUNITY LOAN FUND OF THE CAPITAL REGION
(F/K/A CAPITAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY LOAN FUND)

It's invested at the Community Loan Fund! That's right – CREO, several member organizations and individual congregants are using their money to make a difference right here in our local communities – *and they still retain ownership of their money.*

The **Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region is a nonprofit financial institution** that provides equitable access to capital and economic opportunities by pooling investments and donations from concerned individuals and institutions to make loans and provide business training to community nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and individuals for home ownership and repair, targeting women, minorities and low-income populations.

Incorporated in 1985, the Community Loan Fund has an impressive record of *local* community development activities and a 100% repayment record to investors. *We also welcome donations – of any size – to support our outreach efforts and training and technical assistance programs.* We invite anyone interested in learning how you can align your resources with your values to call 518-436-8586, visit www.mycommunityloanfund.org or email Linda@mycommunityloanfund.org. ■





GOOD NEWS

Go tell it ... EVERYWHERE!

† *The Capital Region Theological Center is an ecumenical project offering training for laity and clergy. CRTC is the recent recipient of a major grant from the Lilly Foundation to expand the scope of its mission and develop new ways to provide resources for congregations. Registration required: (518)462-2470 or www.capitalrtc.org. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes.*

Thus Says the Lord: Listening to the Prophets, Old Testament II, with the Rev. Dr. Beth Tanner. This 20-hour course over 4 evenings and 2 Saturdays begins July 21. Cost: \$250 (\$200 to audit). Register by 7/18.

Empathy in Action: Intro to Pastoral Care, w/ Rev. William Grosch, M.D., Lynnwood Reformed, Begins September 8, A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour course. \$250; \$200 to audit. Reg. deadline: August 23, 2011.

Canoeing Through Creation, w/ Rev. Kent Busman, Sept. 12-15, Camp Fowler, speculator, NY. Get away into the beautiful Adirondacks for hiking, canoeing, and theological reflection on the care of God's good creation. \$300, includes gear and food. Limited space. Reg. deadline: Aug. 24.

CRTC's Fall Banquet, Mon., Oct. 3, 2011, 6-9pm, at the Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia. Key-note speaker will be Barbara Wheeler.

† **Celebrate 50 years of Powell House, Quaker Conference and Retreat Center,** Aug 27, 10am-10pm.. Community Open House—ALL are welcome! There will be games, crafts, food, songs, swimming in the pond, a concert, a bonfire, and more! Cost is \$10/person or \$25/family. Call 518-794-8811 or visit www.powellhouse.org.

† The Capital Area Council of Churches Fall Assembly Banquet / 70th Anniversary Celebration will be on Wednesday Oct. 5 at the Albany Coun-

try Club. Call 518-462-5450 or email CapAreaCC@aol for details.

† The Capital Area Council of Churches annual Musical Celebration will be on Oct. 30 at All Saints Catholic Church. Musical groups are invited. Call 518-462-5450 or email CapAreaCC@aol for details.

† In September, networks will air two documentaries addressing immigration issues from a faith perspective. *Lives for Sale: Immigration & Human Trafficking*, will air on NBC and *Our Nation of Immigrants: How Churches Reach Out* will appear on CBS stations. These programs probe growing concerns about immigrants, their rights and the harsh realities they face. While politicians and the media wrestle with the thorny issue of immigration, *Lives for Sale* exposes one painful, rarely seen human side of illegal immigration - human trafficking in the US. *Our Nation of Immigrants* shows the journey many foreigners embark upon to settle here. Although many of today's immigrants are from different nations than those of earlier centuries, their needs are the same. This explores how faith communities seek to assist and welcome these new Americans.

These specials are produced by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, a cooperative venture of America's Abrahamic faith communities – a broad coalition of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians and a variety of Jewish and Muslim organizations - in partnership with television networks and their affiliated stations across the nation.

Visit www.interfaithbroadcasting.com.

† **Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism** All are welcome to join this program throughout the year as witnesses or to request witnesses at baptisms in Albany area congregations. If you wish to learn more about this program, or learn how you could start one in your community, please call the Capital Area Council of Churches office at 518-462-5450 or visit capareacc.org. ■

One Table

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Capital Region Ecumenical Organization

The Covenant

“Believing ourselves to be under God’s direction through the Holy Spirit, we feel the need for an ongoing regional, ecumenical structure as a vehicle of cooperation for and among those bodies accepting the sole lordship of Christ.

We are aware of the richness of our varied religious traditions, we purpose to work together for the good of all people and to strive for reconciliation among all groups and ideologies.”

“If anyone is poor among you,... do not be hardhearted, ... freely lend them whatever they need.” Deut. 15:7-9