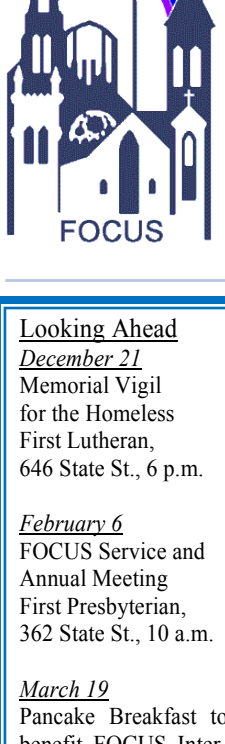


If you have any comments on the content or formatting of this email, we would love to hear from you!
Please send replies to info@focuschurches.net



IN FOCUS

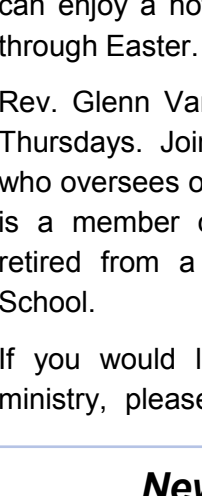
Vol. 5, No. 3

Winter 2010-11

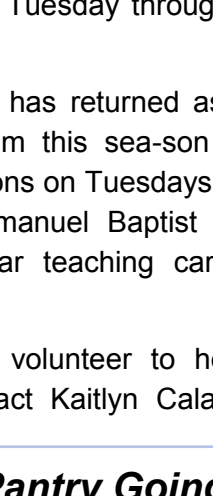
Our newsletter has gone digital!

You are receiving this because you have shared your email address with us. At any time you may unsubscribe by following the instructions at the bottom of this email.

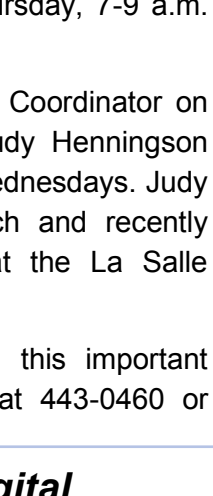
- Looking Ahead**
December 21
Memorial Vigil for the Homeless
First Lutheran, 646 State St., 6 p.m.
- February 6**
FOCUS Service and Annual Meeting
First Presbyterian, 362 State St., 10 a.m.
- March 19**
Pancake Breakfast to benefit FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry
Delmar Reformed 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar
- March 25-28**
Ecumenical Advocacy Days
Washington, D.C.
- April 24**
Easter Dawn Service
West Capitol Park, 6:30 a.m.
- May 1**
CROP Walk
First Lutheran, 646 State St., 1 p.m.



Glenn Van Oort



Judy Henningson



Kaitlyn Calaluca

Breakfast Program in Full Swing

Since the FOCUS Winter Breakfast Program opened for the season on November 2, volunteers and staff have served nearly 3,000 hot meals and countless cups of coffee. Guests can enjoy a hot meal Tuesday through Thursday, 7-9 a.m. through Easter.

Rev. Glenn Van Oort has returned as Co-Coordinator on Thursdays. Joining him this season is Judy Henningson who oversees operations on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Judy is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and recently retired from a 20-year teaching career at the La Salle School.

If you would like to volunteer to help in this important ministry, please contact Kaitlyn Calaluca at 443-0460 or

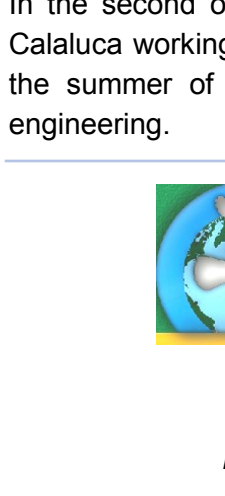
News, Pantry Going Digital

Computer recordkeeping and social media have become integral to FOCUS ministries, with two important changes taking place this year.

This issue of *IN FOCUS* marks the end of our paper only publication of FOCUS news. News will now be available at the FOCUS web-site and by e-mail on a more timely basis. Sign up for FOCUS emails at info@focuschurches.net

For the last five years, the layout and design of the *IN FOCUS* newsletter has been in the capable hands of Edith Leet, Emmanuel Baptist member and longtime FOCUS volunteer. Edith's labor of love has provided FOCUS with a consistent, quality vehicle of communication. Now we're happy to free up some time for her other loves: professional editing and serving on the Albany Public Schools Board of Education. Thank you, Edith!

FOCUS is the collaboration of six covenanted churches, joined by six other faith affiliates, united in a common calling to serve our neighbor's needs in Albany's Capitol Hill and beyond as God's servant people in a broken and hurting world.



Our website is a great place to learn more about FOCUS. Go to www.focuschurches.net for information on our programs, volunteer opportunities, and fundraisers. If you are registered on Facebook, click on the Facebook logo to see our FOCUS page. Click "Like" to receive FOCUS news and updates right on your Facebook feed!

In the Food Pantry, volunteers have been trained to use the Guest Database, and they are now recording information electronically. Pantry Manager Lorraine Houk said she is excited by the change.

On December 21st
The First Day of Winter and Longest Night of the Year
The FOCUS Churches and the Capital Area Council of Churches will hold
A VIGIL at 6 p.m.
to remember the homeless men and women who have died in our midst during 2010
First Lutheran Church
646 State St.
near the corner of Western & Quail
Please Join Us

FOCUS and VISTA Continue Partnership To Fight Poverty

The Siena College AmeriCorps*VISTA Fellows Program (SCVFP) is a postgraduate national volunteer service program based at Siena College. In partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, the SCVFP fights poverty in the Capital Region by building the capacity of community-based organizations through sustainable partnerships with Siena College.



In the second of a three-year partnership, FOCUS is pleased to have Kaitlyn Calaluca working with us as the development and volunteer coordinator through the summer of 2011. Kaitlyn is a RPI graduate with a degree in materials engineering.

Let your voice be heard!

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

That's the theme for the 2011 Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference on March 25 - 28 in Washington D.C.

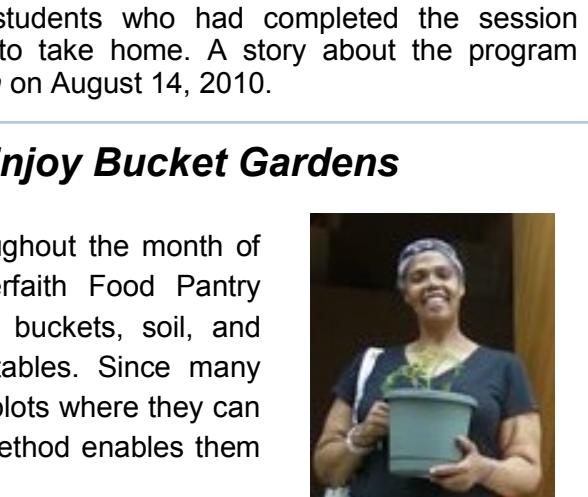
Conference organizers assert that "as women and men of faith, we can be a formidable force for change in the treatment of women around the world and... the recognition of their vital contributions to social, religious, and family life."

A contingent from FOCUS congregations will represent FOCUS on Capital Hill. You can be part of it. Scholarships are available from both FOCUS and the Capital Region Ecumenical Organization (CREO).

Contact Rev. Deb at the FOCUS office, 443-0460 for FOCUS scholarships or Misha Marvel at mishamarvel@gmail.com for CREO scholarships.

For more information about the conference, visit:
www.advocacydays.org

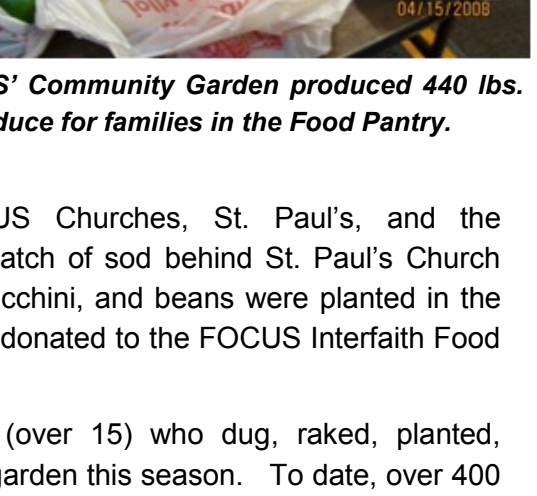
Don't Miss Our
FOCUS Winter
Worship
and Annual Meeting
February 6, 10 a.m.
at
First Presbyterian
Church
362 State Street



The FOCUS administrative office has outgrown its space on the second floor of Emmanuel Baptist and has moved up to the third floor (off the gym). Stop by for a visit! Enter the building via the Pantry entrance on the west side of the church.

School Supply Project Provides Successful Start to School Year

The school supply project, FOCUS on Schools, took place the last week of August and the first week of September, just in time to get children from our Food Pantry area the supplies they needed to start the school year right. More than 150 children in grades Pre-K through college received backpacks full of supplies, including pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, highlighters, binders, and more.



From mountains of supplies, volunteers chose just the right items for each grade-level backpack.

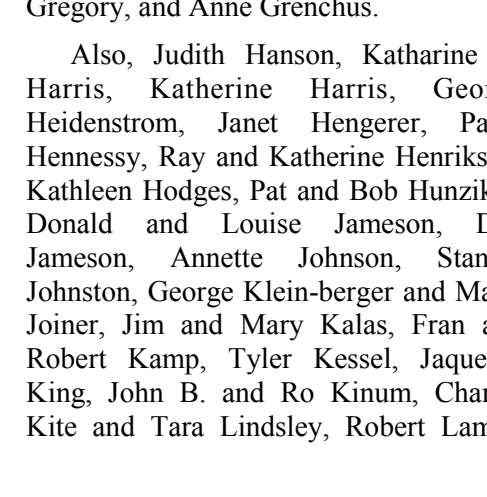
In addition, almost 50 children living at Schuyler Inn, a shelter for families, were given backpacks full of supplies. When all the needs of individual children were filled, extra supplies went to 15 schools from the Albany City School District. They can be given to students who enroll later in the year.

Edith Leet, one of the coordinators of the project, estimated that families might pay between \$8-10 for supplies for a Kindergartner, and more than \$50 in supplies for a high school student. She pointed out that for many families on tight budgets, such expenditures are impossible. The FOCUS on Schools project fills an important need in the community, she said.

The FOCUS on Schools project relies on collaboration between numerous faith communities and private donors. Thank you to SEFCU, which donated 103 backpacks for the project, and to many faith communities for your support: All Saints Catholic, Beverwyck Worship Community, Cathedral of All Saints, Congregation Beth Emeth, Delmar Reformed, Emmanuel Baptist, First United Methodist Church of Delmar, First Presbyterian of Albany, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA), Journey United Church of Christ, New Covenant Presbyterian, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Trinity United Methodist, and Westminster Presbyterian.

Thank you also to the many individual volunteers and donors who made this project a success. The names of everyone who contributed time, talent, and resources can be found at the FOCUS website:
www.focuschurches.net

Hail and Farewell!



F. Rosenau K. Donley

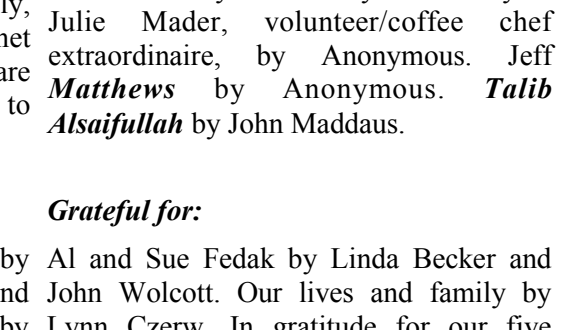
FOCUS is pleased to welcome Rev. Kathy Donley, who has been called to serve as Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rev. Frances Wattman Rosenau, who joins the pastoral staff at Westminster Presbyterian, and Alberta Ryan-Pepper, who joins the FOCUS Executive Council, representing Trinity UMC. We are sorry to say goodbye to Margaret Wieland, longtime member of Trinity UMC who recently served on the FOCUS Executive Council. Margaret and her husband have relocated to California.

Celebrate the Season in FOCUS Churches!

Christmas Eve
Delmar Reformed, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar — 5, 8, 11 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist, 275 State St. — 7 p.m.
First Presbyterian, 362 State St. — 7:30 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist — 7:30 p.m.
Westminster Presbyterian — 7:30 p.m. music, 8 p.m. service

Christmas Day
First Presbyterian, 362 State St. — 11 a.m.

Boxing Day (December 26)
Delmar Reformed, 386 Delaware, Delmar — 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Emmanuel Baptist, 275 State St. — 9:55 a.m.
First Israel AME, 381 Hamilton St. — 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian, 362 State St. — 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Trinity United Methodist — 10 a.m.
Westminster Presbyterian — 10 a.m.



Program Gets Kids Inside Computers

The Computers for Kids (CFK) program ran for five weeks this summer. Students learned to open up a computer and look at its components, install and use software, and more. Instructor Matt Lahut taught the students how to use JAVA and HTML, enabling them to create their own webpages, write résumés, and generally learn their way around using a computer.

The CFK students also went on several field trips to computer-based businesses, including Vicarious Visions, a game-making company in Menands, and Nanotech Park in Albany. Specialists also came to the classroom, located at Trinity United Methodist Church, to talk about job skills, interviewing techniques, and other career information.

At the end of the program, students who had completed the session successfully received a computer to take home. A story about the program appeared in the Albany Times Union on August 14, 2010.

Pantry Guests Enjoy Bucket Gardens

Gardening in a Bucket ran throughout the month of June. Guests of the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry received five-gallon or three-gallon buckets, soil, and seedlings to grow their own vegetables. Since many Pantry guests do not have yards or plots where they can garden, this alternative gardening method enables them to have fresh produce at no cost.

Response to the project was enthusiastic. Eighty-three families took home the means to grow their own produce, with tomatoes and peppers being the most popular. Cabbage, basil, lettuce, beans, and radishes also were offered.

"It was so great to hear people's excitement when they heard about the project," said project coordinator Becca Leet. "Many people said they enjoyed gardening but had no place to do it. They were really happy to get the supplies." A *Faces of Faith* column in the Albany Times Union highlighted the project in July.

Garden Yields Pantry Produce

A small but stalwart band of volunteers gathered in August to pick produce grown at FOCUS' Community Harvest Garden. The garden, which is located at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Hackett Boulevard, was a new project this summer.

FOCUS' Community Garden produced 440 lbs. of produce for families in the Food Pantry.

Volunteers representing the FOCUS Churches, St. Paul's, and the community created the garden from a patch of sod behind St. Paul's Church building. Tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, and beans were planted in the plot, and the resulting produce has been donated to the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry.

Many thanks to all the volunteers (over 15) who dug, raked, planted, watered, mulched, and harvested in the garden this season. To date, over 400 pounds of produce from the 20x20 garden has been utilized by pantry guests.

Golfers Raise \$3,000 for FOCUS

The Annual FOCUS Golf Outing was held on September 14 at Orchard Creek Golf Course in the Altamont. Twenty-nine golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the links, doubling the size of the event from 2009 and raising over \$3,000 for FOCUS. The foursome of Michael Calaluca, Marty Schaffer, Scott McEwan, and Bob Falk took home the top prize, but everyone who participated had a great time.

Thanks go out to the donors of the raffle prizes and to our sponsors: Adirondack Beverage, Advanced Physical Therapy, Advocates for Human Potential, and Bob and Leslie Westphal. Thanks also go to VISTA Kaitlyn Calaluca, who coordinated the event.

A Tribute to Dr. Elmer Green

Dr. Elmer Green, a long-time member of Israel AME, died following a long illness on May 8, 2010. Dr. Green had served faithfully on the FOCUS Executive

Council for more than two decades, keeping his congregation connected to the ecumenical work of the neighborhood churches. For those who had the privilege of working with Elmer he was most admired for his, humility, humor and warmth.

Dr. Green served the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) with distinction for over 37 years. Dr. Green was involved in not only directing and promoting New York State dental public health programs, but also in guiding research and mentoring dental health students.

For more than 30 years, he also managed the Dental Rehabilitation Program, which promotes the provision of orthodontic treatment and care for eligible children with severe physically handicapping dental defects. His efforts helped to improve the quality of life of thousands of children and families through improved orthodontic services. He was married to the late Grace T. Green, a school administrator and former FOCUS Co-Director in the early 1990's.

Gifts to FOCUS from February to November 2010

Individuals:
Nick and Jeanne Alesandro, Aimee and Guy Allaud, Susan Allen, Jane and George Allen, Joe Kenyeres and Jim Amanatides, Norman and Ruth Andrews, Laurie Beberwyck, Richard and Peggy Becker, Dorothy Berger, Diane and John Bessung, John Bessung, Sr., David and Ann Brandon, Ruthanne Brod, Martha Brown, Pat Bulgaro, Nancy Burton, Carol Lee and Mark Richard Butt, Michael Calaluca, Dorinda Campano, Pat Campbell, Elaine Clawson, Virginia Colorito, Dr. Ray Colucciolo, Hon. Richard Conti, and Priscilla Crago.

Also, Sandy Damhof, Richard and Dawn Dana, Gerard Deighan, Arden and Marilyn Dockett, Timothy Dodman, G. Nisbet and Jennifer Dorsey, Kevin Dulin, Nichola and Jeff Dutre, Thomas J. and Cynthia Dwyer, Frederick Eames, Albert and Susan Easton, Irene Economic, James Edgar, Millicent Eidson, Carl W. Ekenberg, Linda English, Charles and Ruth Estey, John Fedele, Pamela Finch, Freda Gardner, Fran and Janet Gelzheiser, Shirley Gibbons, Randy Goldberg, Margie Gonzalez, E. Joyce Gould, J. Kenneth Graham, Carolyn Gray, Erica Greene, Barry and Karen Greay, Anne Gregory, and Anne Grenchus.

Also, Judith Hanson, Katharine B. Harris, Katherine Harris, George Heidenstrom, Janet Hengerer, Paula Hennessy, Ray and Katherine Henrikson, Kathleen Hodges, Pat and Bob Hunziker, Donald and Louise Jameson, Deb Jameson, Annette Johnson, Stanley Johnston, George Klein-berger and Maria Joiner, Jim and Mary Kalas, Fran and Robert Kamp, Tyler Kessel, Jaquelyn King, John B. and Ro Kinum, Charles Kite and Tara Lindsley, Robert Lamar,

Delmar, First Presbyterian, Albany, Hannay Reels, Journey United Church of Christ, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, New Covenant Presbyterian, SEFA, SEFCU, Senator Neil Breslin—LEGISLATIVE Member Item, St. Andrew's Episcopal, St. Andrew's Society, Stewart's, Times Union Hope Fund, Trinity United Methodist, United Way, and Westminster Presbyterian.

Martin. Meri Meislahn by Carol Bullard, Robert and Linda Stevens, Joseph Roche and Lee Helsby. Robert Palm by Jean and Warren Burton. Joan Schinnerer by Lois Wilson. Oneida and John Smith by Irving and Diane Smith. Pola Yolles by Arlene Gilbert, Lois Griffin, Nancy Horan, and Mark Yolles. Albert Patterson by Lorna McCartan, Maria Kirchofer Carver and Lewis Carver, Sr. by Andrea Carver.

them by Ned and Patricia Trudeau. My daughter by Virginia Hayes. Rev. Robert Lamar by Carolyn Snyder Lemmon. Deb Jameson's service to others by Alice Schrade. Kathy Linhardt by Colleen Ryan. Julie Mader, volunteer/coffee chef extraordinaire, by Anonymous. Jeff *Matwallah* by John Maddaus.

Celebrating: Journey United Church of Christ by Martha and Thomas Corneil. Judy and Tod Wing's 50th wedding anniversary by Don and Judy Mark.

Grateful for: Al and Sue Fedak by Linda Becker and John Wolcott. Our lives and family by Lynn Czerw. In gratitude for our five grandchildren by Gloria and David Wood.

We Need Your Help

The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry is now providing a 7-day supply of groceries to more than 300 families each month.

The Winter Breakfast is averaging over 130 people each morning. A hot, nutritious breakfast and a take-away lunch bag are offered to each individual.

Your donation helps feed hungry families in Albany.

[CLICK HERE](#) to find a donation form that can be mailed to the FOCUS Office at 275 State Street, Albany.

IN FOCUS is a publication of the FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc. Rev. Debra Jameson, Editor. Graphic design and production by EHL Editorial Services, Albany NY. The FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 membership organization including Delmar Reformed Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Israel AME Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Affiliates of the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry Program are Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Program Partners include Delmar United Methodist Church and First Lutheran Church.

The FOCUS office is located at 275 State St., Albany NY 12210.
Phone: 518-443-0460 FAX: 518-443-0461
Email: info@focuschurches.net

If you have received this message in error, or would no longer like to be a FOCUS subscriber, please send an email to news-unsubscribe@focuschurches.net with the subject "unsubscribe."

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email info@focuschurches.net!