

# FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc.

## Annual Meeting February 6, 2011

**From FOCUS Executive Council President, Irving Smith:** During 2010, God's Grace was evident in the life of FOCUS through the continued support of our Feeding Programs, several new initiatives and prayerful planning and visioning for the future.

Though we were and continue to be in an economic downturn, it was awesome to note and to thank the many volunteers, FOCUS churches and friends, who made it possible to provide 3,768 households with groceries from FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry and to provide 16,000 meals for the men, women and children who frequent the Winter Breakfast Program.

As Advocates, FOCUS worked to influence our Legislators to benefit the poor and the marginalized in our community by transporting a soup kitchen to the Capital in protest for better jobs and living wages for all. FOCUS took up the plight of the poor and hungry via the Annual Thanksgiving Action Press Conference, and numerous visits to our elected officials.

In addition, programs that FOCUS supports on an ongoing basis, including 'Computer for Kids', with 10 students completing the course; Community Harvest Garden with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Siena College Souper Sandwich Club (which makes lunches for the Breakfast Program), and the start of a video project to document FOCUS history.

A Strategic Planning group of the FOCUS Executive Board met several times to vision and plan for the future. The planning process was framed around articulating a shared vision for FOCUS, key areas to zoom in on for our common work together, and to come up with specific steps and actions to achieve for the future. The process culminated at the FOCUS Executive Board Retreat. We looked at 3 areas:

(1) Shared Vision – What is Jesus calling us to do? (2) What are we doing now? and (3) Putting it all together. One of the pieces that the Board recommended is to have a concrete plan for Advocacy. As we continue our calling, we as FOCUS churches need to work together to sustain our current programs, and to be more intent on being a voice for the poor and oppressed in our community.



*FOCUS Executive Council meets for prayer, planning, and visioning on retreat at Sisters of St. Joseph Corondelet Hospitality Center. Not pictured but also present: Rev. Glenn Leupold*

### FOCUS Sets Priorities for 2011

- ♦ **Worship**
- ♦ **Feeding Programs:**
  - Interfaith Food Pantry*
  - Winter Breakfast*
  - Extra Helpings Program*
- ♦ **FOCUS Advocates:**
  - Working for Long-term*
  - Solutions to End Hunger*
- ♦ **Communications:**
  - Getting the Word out*
- ♦ **Capacity Building:**
  - Sustaining Our Common Work*
- ♦ **Ecumenical and Interfaith—**
  - Collaborations &*
  - Membership Outreach*

#### FOCUS Covenant Congregations and Executive Council Representatives:

Rev. David Corlett, Peggy Becker, Deborah Schultze—Delmar Reformed; Andrea Carver, Nancy Horan, Rev. Kathy Donley—Emmanuel Baptist; Irving Smith (President), Tara Lindsey, Rev. Glenn Leupold—First Presbyterian; Rev. Edward Smart — First Israel AME; Alberta Ryan-Pepper, Richard Moneymaker (Treasurer), Rev. Jeff Matthews—Trinity United Methodist; Allan Tedrow (VP), Rev. Frances Rosenau, Rev. Jim Reisner — Westminster Presbyterian

#### FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:

Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA), New Covenant Presbyterian, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

#### Partners in Ministry:

First Lutheran, Albany and First United Methodist Church, Delmar

# FOCUS Adopts 2011 Budget

**The FOCUS Executive Council approves a 2011 budget totaling pledged and anticipated income of \$239,448.**

The budget supports all facets of FOCUS programming and relies on many sources of income.

Pledges from FOCUS Congregations, totaling \$55,615 will continue to support the Community Minister/Executive Director's position, outreach ministries, administration, and project activities. Other income for these uses will come from fundraising and other contributions. They are projected to provide \$59,299, with a total for the core budget of \$114,914.

Food Pantry operation will require \$111,000. That support will come from affiliate partner faith communities (\$16,500), donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, grants, and a direct service contract with the NYS Department of Health.

Winter Breakfast operation will require \$24,534. Support will come from donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, grants, and government funding.

## Grants, Gifts, Contributions Support FOCUS Programs

FOCUS is grateful for and financial gifts from a variety of congregations, businesses, organizations and foundations. They include: All Saints Catholic Church, Beverwyck Worship Community, Capital Area Baptist Association, The Charles R. Wood Foundation, Emmanuel Baptist, First Presbyterian, Albany, Trinity United Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian, Congregation Beth Emeth, First Lutheran, Albany, FUUSA—First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New Covenant Presbyterian, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Delmar Reformed Church, First United Methodist of Delmar, Journey UCC. Also, Adirondack Beverage, Advanced Physical Therapy, Advocates for Human Potential, BJ's Charitable Foundation, Hannay Reels, Homeless and Travelers Aid Society, Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, NYS Department of Health, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP), NYS Operational Support (HPNAP), The St. Andrew's

Society, Stewart's Holiday Match, SEFA—State Employee's Federated Appeal, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Legislative Member Item from Senator Neil Breslin, Feinstein Foundation, Reliable Bowling Group, St. Peter's Health Care Services, SEFCU, Times Union Hope Fund, FEMA, ZIPS and the numerous individuals who support FOCUS through donations and fundraising events.

(Names of individual contributors listed 3x/yr. in FOCUS newsletter.)



## “In-kind” Gifts and Volunteer Hours Boost Value of FOCUS Contributions

*Editor's Note: In addition to contributions of money, FOCUS receives many “in-kind” contributions of goods and services, as well as thousands of volunteer hours. Below are approximations of the monetary value.*

### Executive

Office space — Emmanuel Baptist Church — \$8,500  
Extra Helpings space — First Presbyterian — \$1,000  
Computers for Kids space - Trinity UMC—\$2,000  
School Supply donations — \$6,500  
Volunteer time — 934 hours

### Pantry

USDA Commodities — \$26,069  
Total pounds of Food Given Out: 160,973 lbs.  
Donated food and personal care items — \$3,868  
Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates — \$3,010  
Food Pantries of the CD, food supplement — \$2,054  
Volunteer time — 2,490 hours

### Breakfast

Winter Space — Westminster Presbyterian — \$3,500  
HPNAP Food Grant — \$2,800  
USDA Commodities — \$1,379  
Volunteer time — 2,304 hours

## Funding Our Common Ministry

