

FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY • 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2016 began on February 7 with our annual worship service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, which featured the installation of the new Executive Director of the FOCUS Churches, Rev. Jim Ketcham.

Our feeding programs continue to meet the needs of our community. The Interfaith Food Pantry served an average of 317 households per month. The average number of guests per morning at Winter Breakfast was 104 and the average number of guests at Breakfast Express (mid-April through October) was 51. The "Breakfast Club," as our guests like to call it, is a place of hospitality as well as food. Monthly service fairs provided resources for the guests during the winter months. With the help of Pastor Mike Asbury and agencies that provide housing to the homeless, we were able to provide new hope to dozens of guests.

We continued to balance acts of charity with justice through our advocacy efforts, coordinated by Joe Paparone. FOCUS Advocates met every other month, exploring ways to be effective change agents and to encourage the participation of members of our respective congregations.

FOCUS once again promoted healthy, fresh food through Gardening in a Bucket. We also assisted with the collection of school supplies for 161 students in the



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

**FOCUS Board of Directors
President, Nancy Horan:**

Albany school district, with 17 additional boxes of supplies delivered to the district. Thanks to our dedicated staff and the many volunteers who keep all these vital programs operating.

As in years past, we worshiped together the first Sunday of the summer months. A special service titled, "Lament, Healing and Hope: A Service of Music, Readings and Prayers for the Healing of the Nation" (planned before the election was held) was attended by about 70 people at First Church on the day after the election.

The idea of a grocery cooperative or FANN has evolved into the possibility of a "right-sized" grocery store in the South End. A group of Siena College students directed by Professor Paul Thurston conducted a study of the neighborhood and available food resources and gave an excellent presentation to the Board. This also was a topic at the Board planning retreat in January 2017. Further discussions with residents and other groups working in the South End continue.

The question of diversity came up at several Board meetings and was explored in more depth at the planning retreat. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

As I have been gathering FOCUS history for our 50th anniversary, I have been struck by the various ways FOCUS has responded as the needs of our community have changed. Looking ahead, I know we will continue to work together to meet the many challenges we will undoubtedly face, as "God's servant people in a broken world."

After 3 years, I am turning over the Board Presidency to Rev. Jeff Matthews. It has been an honor and privilege to serve. I have been constantly energized and encouraged by your faithful support and participation.

Peace and blessings, Nancy Horan

Note from Jim Ketcham, FOCUS Executive Director

Thank you for your support! 2016 giving through our two annual appeals was great, yielding income 1/3 greater than budgeted. We are now able to accept credit card gifts through a secure online giving platform. We'll continue to take paper checks, as always. Please visit the extensively revised website www.focuschurches.net

The feeding programs continue strongly, thanks to the generosity of volunteers and donors under the leadership of experienced, caring staff. We know we are providing food to hungry people. But beyond charity, we must reach out to our neighbors, co-workers, relatives and elected officials to remind them of the obligations on all people of faith to seek justice as well.

We are entering into a period when many of our values about welcoming the stranger and reaching out to support the poor and the marginalized will be strongly challenged. May we all feel the presence and strength of the God who hears and responds to the cries of the hungry, the prisoners, the oppressed and the broken-hearted. Amen.

FOCUS Activities for 2016

Worshipping Together: Remembering who we are and to whom we belong:

• Easter Sunrise Service • Summer Combined Worship Services • Winter Worship

Food Programs: • Interfaith Food Pantry • Winter Breakfast • Breakfast Express

FOCUS Advocates: • Working to End Hunger & Poverty • Moral Mondays at the Capital • "Fight for \$15" • Congregational workshops, advocacy, community organizing, racism, immigration, and social movements

• September 12th "Moral Revival National Day of Action" at the Capital.

Ecumenical & Interfaith partnerships:

• FOCUS on Schools Supplies Project • Gardening in a Bucket for Kids
• Holiday Baskets

Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:

• Congregation Beth Emeth • First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA)
• Islamic Center of the Capital Region • New Covenant Presbyterian
• St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Project Partners:

• Beverwyck Worship Community • Journey UCC • St. Paul's Episcopal

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FOCUS Churches of Albany

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN • DELMAR REFORMED
• EMMANUEL BAPTIST • TRINITY UNITED METHODIST • FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

1967-2017

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Grants, Organizational Gifts, Contributions

Adirondack Beverages	MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
CACC (CROP Walk Funds)	Muslim Community Center
Capital Care Medical Group, LLC	New Covenant Presbyterian Church
Community Loan Fund	OrthoNY
Congregation Beth Emeth	Paul and Patricia Gioia Foundation
Emmanuel Baptist Church	SEFCU
Empty Bowls	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Evangelical Worshipers of Beverwyck Retirement	Stewart's Foundation
First Church in Albany	The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
First Lutheran Church	The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
First Presbyterian Church	Trinity United Methodist Church
First United Methodist Church	Trojan Tele Communications
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA)	US Dept of the Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Serv.
GE Foundation	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Hannay Reels	
Hudson Park Neighborhood Association	
Hunger Action Network of NYS	
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless	
Islamic Center of the Capital Region	

(Individual donors reported 2x annually in the IN FOCUS newsletter)

FUNDING OUR SHARED MINISTRY

The Board of Directors approved a 2017 budget of pledged and anticipated income totaling **\$251,932**. This income will come from a variety of sources.

Pledges from FOCUS Covenant Congregations, totaling **\$61,684**, will continue to support the office staff, outreach, advocacy, project activities, and administration. Other income for these uses will come from fundraising, grants and other contributions for an additional **\$74,500**, with a total for the core budget of **\$136,184**.

FOCUS feeding programs (the Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast and Breakfast Express) are supported by affiliate faith communities, donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, private grants, and a direct service contract with NYS Department of Health "Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program". Feeding program budgets total **\$221,453**.



2016 "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, gifts and services

EXECUTIVE

Space at Emmanuel Baptist: \$2,500

School Supply Donations: \$3,700

Volunteer time: 993 hours

(includes Board of Directors, advocacy, fundraising, School Supply Project and Gardening in a Bucket for Kids)

PANTRY

USDA Commodities: \$13,941

Total pounds of food given out: 124,334

Donated food and personal care items: \$7,413

Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates: \$1,338

Food Supplement: \$2,186

Volunteer time: 2,556 hours

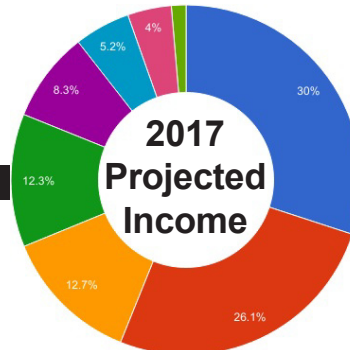
BREAKFAST

Space at Westminster Presbyterian: \$4,500

USDA Commodities: \$1,165

Volunteer time: 2,088 hours

140 volunteers provided 5,673 hours of service in 2016, averaging out to 41 hours per person. THANK YOU!



\$251,932

Government	\$75,648	(30.0%)
FOCUS Congregations	\$65,684	(26.1%)
Fundraising	\$32,000	(12.7%)
Private Grants	\$31,000	(12.3%)
Other Org Support	\$21,000	(8.3%)
Affiliate Congregations	\$13,000	(5.2%)
Donations	\$10,200	(4%)
Misc	\$ 3,400	(1.3%)

2017 Board of Directors:

Delmar Reformed Church: Margaret Becker, Dennis Radliff;
Emmanuel Baptist Church: Kathy Donley, Nancy Horan, Andrea Carver;
First Church in Albany: John Paarlberg, Sue Cox, Becky Hudak;
First Presbyterian Church: Glenn Leupold, Sheryl Sheraw, Barbara Speck;
Trinity United Methodist Church: Jeff Matthews, Richard Moneymaker, Stephanie Threatte;
Westminster Presbyterian Church: Jim Reisner, Nancy Ost;
FOCUS Churches of Albany: Jim Ketcham.