



# FOCUS

## LOOKING AHEAD

**February 14**  
Empty Bowls

**March 2**  
Interfaith Lobby Day

**March 27**  
Sunrise Easter Service  
@ West Capitol Park

**April 2**  
Pancake Breakfast  
Fundraiser

**April 14-18**  
Ecumenical  
Advocacy Days  
in Washington D.C.

FOCUS is six covenant churches, four faith affiliates, and two faith partners, doing together what we cannot do alone. United in a common calling to respond to our neighbor's needs in the city of Albany and beyond, as God's servant people in a broken and hurting world.

# IN FOCUS

Vol. 10, No. 1

WINTER 2016

Hello! As your new Executive Director, I've spent four weeks learning the programs, staff and volunteers that make FOCUS run. I am very impressed, especially with the longevity and dedication of our volunteers in the Interfaith Food Pantry and the Breakfast Club.

Speaking of longevity and dedication, Allan Tedrow, who's been our Financial Secretary for years, is stepping down from the board. If you are a person who's good with numbers and you're willing to serve on our board (10 meetings a year), we'd love to meet you! Please contact the FOCUS office at 518-443-0460.



Thank you all for your warm words of welcome – and for your patience as I get over 200 new names in my memory!

P.S. Be sure to check out our upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter, like Empty Bowls (Feb 14) and the Pancake Breakfast for the Interfaith Pantry (April 2).

Rev. Jim Ketcham



## FOCUS Worship Services for 2016

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Psalm 100:2*

### Easter Sunrise Service:

- March 27 @ West Capitol Park

### Summer Combined Worship Services:

- July 3 @ First Church in Albany
- August 10 @ Delmar Reformed Church
- September 4 @ Westminster Presbyterian

# EMPTY BOWLS

\$25  
Reservation

HUNGER ACTION NETWORK OF NEW YORK STATE  
& FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER

**Sunday, February 14, 2016 from 1 to 3 pm**

Reservations Requested: Call FOCUS 443-0460 or HANNYS 434-7371  
or sign up on 2.7 at the FOCUS Worship Service at Westminster



**FOCUS**  
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Location: The ELKS Club  
25 S. Allen Street  
in Albany (free parking)



## Empty Bowls

Empty Bowls is a great event for you to fight hunger, enjoy homemade soup and bread -- and you get to keep your own hand-crafted bowl!

The cost is only \$25 per participant and proceeds are split evenly between FOCUS Churches Inc., and the Hunger Action Network of New York State (HANNYS).

Come enjoy gourmet soups prepared by the Chef's Consortium and other local restaurants. Coffee by Starbucks. Call the FOCUS office: 443-0460 to register. \$25 reservation. You may also register at the door on 2/14.

## SAVE the DATE:

• **Easter Dawn Service**  
**Sunday, March 27 6:30 am**

Wake up early and join us at the FOCUS Easter Dawn Resurrection Service on Easter morning, March 27 at 6:30 am at the West Capitol Park. (opposite the Smith Building).

A breakfast will follow at Emmanuel Baptist Church. All are welcome.

• **Pancake Breakfast**  
**Saturday, April 2 8:00 am - 11:00 am**  
@ the Capital District Irish American Association  
Raising money for the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry

**FOCUS**  
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

The Capital District Irish  
American Assoc.

375 Ontario Street

**Saturday, April 2**

(Park in the large parking lot)

**FOCUS Interfaith Food  
Pantry**

(8 am to 11 am)

**Pancake Breakfast**

www.FOCUSchurches.net

## Dear FOCUS Community,

The expressions of love you have showered upon me all these years has been a sustained blessing, and especially over the last months it has been amazing. Your kind greetings, thoughtful notes & cards, financial gifts, church send-offs, an open house reception, and words of wisdom and appreciation - I am grateful.

It has been a vocational fulfillment to work with a visionary Board, dedicated staff and volunteers all within the context of faith communities intentionally partnering with each other. My prayer is that you hold on to and live the gift of this unique ministry - "doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God". Thank you for the privilege of journeying with you for awhile.

A new year and a new chapter for us all.  
Shalom, As-Salaam Alaikum, Peace be with you,

(Rev.) Deb



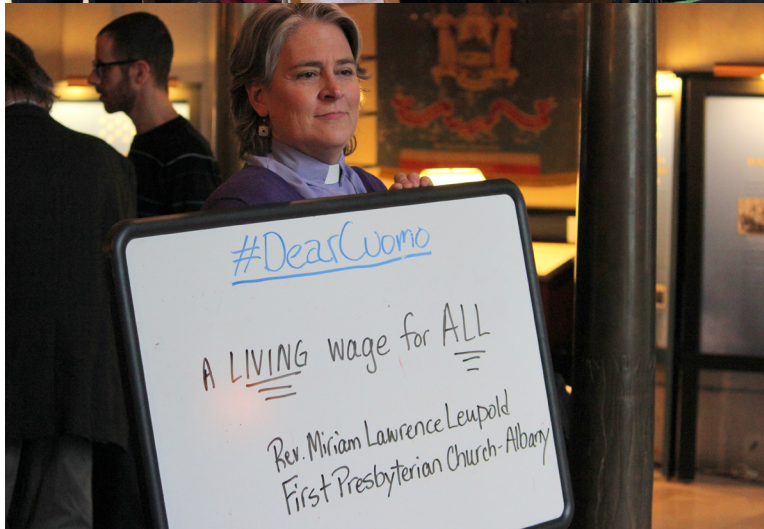
Thank You

## FOCUS Advocates in 2016

Building on the successes and partnerships of last year, 2016 will be an exciting time of development and action for the FOCUS Advocates. I'm particularly excited about the unique roll our faith communities have in the work for justice. By seeking to end hunger, we tap into a universal human need, and can quickly identify all of the various systems and forces (some might say, powers and principalities) that keep people hungry, broken, and oppressed. Building relationships and standing in solidarity with marginalized people in our communities is something FOCUS does well, and is an essential ingredient in making social change.

This year, FOCUS will continue to offer educational workshops in our congregations. We'll build skills for effective advocacy and organizing, and connect more deeply with allied organizations and faith communities doing similar work. We'll challenge our elected leaders to do what is right. I hope you'll join us.

To be part of the FOCUS Advocates  
 Contact Joe:  
[joep@focuschurches.net](mailto:joep@focuschurches.net)  
 518-290-0268





# FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

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

In 2015, FOCUS continued its mission of hospitality, advocacy and justice, answering the call to be God's servant people in a broken world. With dedicated staff and volunteers, the FOCUS food programs responded to the needs in our community.

The Interfaith Food Pantry served an average of 292 households per month. The average number of guests at Breakfast Express (mid-April through October) was 51, and the average number of guests per morning at Winter Breakfast was 108. FOCUS promoted healthy, fresh food through the Gardening in a Bucket project and the Community Harvest Garden. In a related project, FOCUS and others collected school supplies which were distributed to students in the Albany schools.

Advocacy efforts were an integral part of FOCUS throughout the year as we spoke out and worked for long term solutions to hunger and poverty, often joining with other organizations and groups with similar interests and goals.

With the start of our new Advocacy Coordinator, Joe Paparone, the Hungry for Justice Project was merged with FOCUS Advocates and re-launched. The FOCUS Advocates are developing as a group dedicated to mobilizing congregations for organizing and advocacy. They are also involved in on-going anti-poverty and social justice campaigns.

During 2015, we worshiped together as a FOCUS community. The annual winter service was held at First Church Albany, where the good news was preached by the Rev. Dr. Paula Gravelle, Executive Director of the NYS Council of Churches. A hardy group gathered for the Easter sunrise service in West Capitol Park, which was followed by a community breakfast at Emmanuel Baptist Church. FOCUS members also joined together in worship the first Sunday of the sum-

mer months. A new development this year was a forum after each of these services. Topics were solitary confinement, minimum wage and the grocery collaborative.

Plans for the grocery collaborative (Friends and Neighbors Network or FANN) are progressing. The goal of the collaborative is to provide food security for low-income households in ways that maintain dignity, create relationships and develop skills through a jointly operated, hands-on, democratically controlled enterprise. The location is set for Union Missionary Baptist Church on Morton Avenue. Work is underway to secure a source for the food. In October, Nancy Yarnell of Food Security for America came to Albany to conduct a training and informational session for FOCUS staff and Board members.

Finally, 2015 has been a year of change. In the spring, Rev. Deb Jameson announced she would be stepping down as Director of FOCUS at the end of the year. For 16 years, we have been greatly blessed by her ministry, vision and presence among us. FOCUS and the wider community had the opportunity to wish Rev. Deb Godspeed at an event in December.

It has been a privilege to serve as President and to work with so many faithful staff and volunteers. In particular I would like to thank Allan Tedrow of Westminster Presbyterian Church who has served on the FOCUS Executive Council for many years, filling the role of Financial Secretary and Vice-President. We wish Allan well as he retires from this position.

In January 2016 FOCUS welcomed Rev. Jim Ketcham as the new Executive Director of the FOCUS churches. As we go forward together in 2016, seeking to balance charity and justice, your support, participation and prayers are most welcome.

## FOCUS Activities for 2015

### **Worshipping Together:**

*Remembering who we are and to whom we belong:  
Easter Dawn, Summer Services, Winter Gathering*

### **Food Programs:**

- Interfaith Food Pantry
- "Grocery Collaborative"
- Winter Breakfast
- Breakfast Express

### **FOCUS Advocates:**

- Working for Long-term Solutions to End Hunger & Poverty
- "Hungry for Justice" Project

### **Ecumenical & Interfaith partnerships:**

- FOCUS on Schools supply project,
- Gardening in a Bucket for Kids • Holiday Baskets

### **Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:**

- Congregation Beth Emeth • Albany Unitarian Universalist Society (AUUS)
- 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
- Angels to Each Other—All Saints Catholic



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

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT • FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

## Grants, Organizational Gifts, Contributions

Adirondack Beverages	Islamic Center of the Capital Region
Advanced Physical Therapy	Journey United Church of Christ
All Saints Catholic Church--Angels to Each Other	MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
American Baptist Churches USA	New Covenant Presbyterian Church
American Baptist Foundation	Presbyterian Church USA
Capital Area Council of Churches /Church World Service	Hunger Fund
The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region	Seeds for Peace
Congregation Beth Emeth	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Delmar Reformed Church	Stewart's Holiday Match
ELCA Domestic Hunger Program	Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Emmanuel Baptist Benevolence	Trinity United Methodist Church
Feinstein Family Fund	Trojan Tele Communications
First Church Albany	United Church of Christ
First Lutheran Albany	Justice and Witness Ministries
First Presbyterian Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church Society
Albany Unitarian Universalist Society	
GE Foundation Matching Gifts	<b>(Individual donors reported 2x annually in IN FOCUS newsletter)</b>
Hannay Reels	
Henry V. Labarba and Associates	

## "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

**FOCUS Administrative Office space:**  
**Emmanuel Baptist - \$2,500**  
**School Supply donations - \$6,500**  
**Volunteer time - 1,081 hours**  
**(including advocacy, fundraising, Executive Council and school supply project)**

### PANTRY

**USDA Commodities - \$27,656.**  
**Total pounds of Food Given Out - 131,656**  
**Donated food and personal care items - \$6,913**  
**Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates - \$1,600**  
**food supplement - \$2,912**  
**Volunteer time - 2,887 hours**

### BREAKFAST

**Space at Westminster Presbyterian - \$4,500**  
**USDA Commodities - \$1,244.**  
**Volunteer time - 4,084 hours**

## Funding Our Shared Ministry

The FOCUS Executive Council approved a 2016 budget of pledged and anticipated income totaling \$317,214.

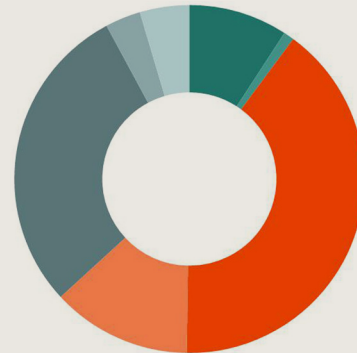
The budget supports all facets of FOCUS programming and relies on many sources of income.

Pledges from FOCUS Covenant Churches, totaling \$63,035, will continue to support the Executive staff, outreach, project activities, and administration. Other income for these uses will come from fundraising, grants and other contributions. They are projected to provide an additional \$84,000, with a total for the core budget of \$147,035.

FOCUS feeding programs, the Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast, and Breakfast Express are supported by affiliate faith communities, donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, grants, and a direct service contract with NYS Department of Health, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance funding. Feeding program budgets total \$170,179.

**Almost 300 volunteers provided nearly 8000 hours of service in FOCUS Programs in 2015.**  
*(Averages out to 27 Hours per person)*

## 2016 Projected Income



## 2016 Board of Directors:

**Delmar Reformed Church:** Rett Zabriskie, Nancy Landrigan, Margaret Becker, Dennis Radliff; **Emmanuel Baptist Church:** Kathy Donley, Nancy Horan, Andrea Carver; **First Church in Albany:** John Paarlberg, Sue Cox, Peter Pagerey; **First Presbyterian Church:** Glenn Leupold, Miriam Leupold, Sheryl Sheraw; **Trinity United Methodist Church:** Jeff Matthews, Richard Money maker, Stephanie Threatte; **Westminster Presbyterian Church:** Jim Reisner, Frances Rosenau, Allan Tedrow; **FOCUS Churches of Albany:** Jim Ketcham.





## Remembering Pam O'Bryan

Pam O'Bryan was a sweet and caring volunteer that tirelessly showed up to the pantry every Tuesday morning for many years. She was dedicated to assisting our pantry families in many ways from helping them to choose items off of the select menu to picking produce offering a little extra for the children. Pam often spoke of her craft shows with pantry guests and her co-volunteers, and she was always pleasant and welcoming to anyone that crossed her path. She was a great lady, and we miss her terribly. Lorraine Houk

Pam (at left) at the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry



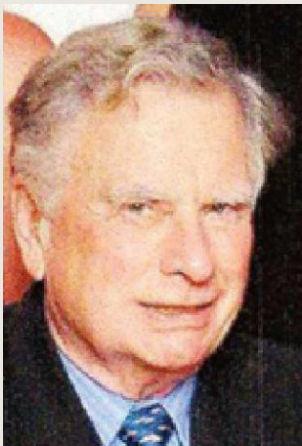
Rev. Andy Russ

## Remembering Andy Russ

*"I recall walking up rickety Lancaster Street stairs into a potential crisis, with a frying pan and a jar of jelly flying out the door to greet me. I recall AAHO, the Emergency Food Task Force at birth, Christmastime evictions, rats, seeing food, housing, poverty and other issues become a part of the Focus dream. The poor may always be among us. It is comforting to know that Focus will always be among them."*

From the FOCUS 25th Anniversary publication (can be found at [www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net))

Rev. Andrew C. Russ, 62, died Tuesday, September 29, 2015, at his residence after living gracefully with cancer for many years. Andy was a chaplain for the Community Hospice of Rensselaer County for 17 years (2015). Andy was the first street minister for FOCUS, serving 1979 – 1982.



Rev. Donald Pangburn

## Remembering Donald Pangburn

Rev. Donald S. Pangburn, Esq., 81, of Altamont died Monday, December 7, 2015, at home with his family. Don was born in New Brunswick, N.J., the son of Rev. Harold and Helen (Anderson) Pangburn. He received his B.A. at Hope College in Holland, Mich., and M.Div. at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. He also received his J.D. at Rutgers University School of Law. Don served as pastor at 5 churches including East Greenbush and Bellevue Reformed Church in Schenectady. Don served concurrently with his ministry as executive director of Troy Area United Ministries, (TAUM). May we keep his wife and family in our prayers.

In FOCUS is a publication of the FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc.; Rev. Jim Ketcham, Editor. FOCUS Churches of Albany, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization covenanting with Delmar Reformed, Emmanuel Baptist, First Church in Albany, First Presbyterian, Trinity United Methodist, and Westminster Presbyterian. Affiliates of the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry Program include Congregation Beth Emeth, First Church in Albany, Albany Unitarian Universalist Society, Islamic Center of the Capital District, New Covenant Presbyterian, and St. Andrew's Episcopal. The FOCUS office is located at 275 State St., Albany NY 12210.

Phone: 518-443-0460

FAX: 518-443-0461

Email: [info@focuschurches.net](mailto:info@focuschurches.net)

[www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net)

## Donors Play Vital Role in FOCUS Programs Contributions Made between August 2015 and January 15, 2016

### Individuals

Nick and Jeanne Alesandro	Linda English	Roseann Lohrey, <i>In Honor of Deb Jameson's retirement. Congrats and Best Wishes Deb!</i>
Jane and George Allen, <i>In Honor of Deb</i>	Deb and Eric Fagans	Bill and Anne Long, <i>Feeding Programs in Honor of Ginny Hayes</i>
Jim Amanatides	Cynthia A. Ferrari	Barbara and Chuck Manning
Richard Angelo	Cheryl Foy	Julie and David Martin, <i>In Memory of Frank and Shirley Martin</i>
Mary Applegate	Lawrence Gambino	Rev. Jeff Matthews
Michael and Toni Asbury	Janet Gelzheiser, <i>In Memory of Francis Gelzheiser</i>	Daniel and Adrienne V. Mazeau
Paul and Melanie I. Axel-Lute	Patricia and Paul Gioia	Gordon and Aimee McKane
Janet Axelrod, <i>In Honor of Edith Leet</i>	Roger and Carol Green	Tom McPheeters
Donna Baker Holley, <i>In Honor of Rev Deb</i>	Barry and Karen Greene	Holly Montgomery
Keith Barber	Geoffrey Greene	Esther Moore
Joyce Bascom	Judith Byrne Hale	David and Martha Musser
Laurie Beberwyck	Elizabeth and Kenneth Halvorsen	Shirley and Rudy Nelson
Richard and Peggy Becker	Mr and Mrs Charles Hammer	Nancy Ost
N.R. Benedict	David and Margaret Hannay	Rev. John Paarlberg
Helen and Frank Benoit	William Hasselbach	Dr. Robert Pennock
Elizabeth Berberian	Virginia Hayes, <i>In Honor of Fynn Hayes Diegel</i>	Leslie Phelan
Joan K. Bobier	Lee Helsby, Joseph Roche	Jean Poppei
Eileen Bossard	Paula Hennessy, <i>In Memory of Josephine Hennessy</i>	Dennis Radliff
Diane and John Bossung	Edwin and Dolores Henningson	Paul and Margaret Randall
David and Ann Brandon	Sam and Gail Hill	Kathy Ravida
Jonathan and Robin Bray	Kathleen Hodges	Aaron B. Richardson
Paula Brewer	Nancy Horan, <i>Celebrating Deb Jameson's Ministry</i>	M. Ruth Russell
Karen Brown	Glenn and Donna Humphreys	Evelyn and Spencer Ryan
Martha and Peter Brown	Khalida Husain	Peter C. and Donna Sarinelli, <i>In Memory of Ruth Culnan</i>
Bruce Brynolfson	Kitt Jackson, <i>In Honor of Rev Deb Jameson</i>	Carl and Susan Schell, <i>Gift for Deb Jameson</i>
Carol Bullard	Jeffrey and Lee Johnson, <i>In Honor of Julie Kinley</i>	Peter and Nancy Schiff
TJ and PM Burch	Annette Johnson	Kay and James Schlembach
Carol Butt	Karen Kaufmann	Martha and Fred Schroeder
Carol Lee and Mark-Richard Butt	Carole & Rit Keith, <i>Celebrating "The Group"</i>	Matthew Schultz
Alice Carpenter	Tyler Kessel	Harriet Seeley, <i>In Honor of Deb Jameson &amp; her FOCUS Ministry</i>
Lois and Patrick Caulfield	Kathryn Ketcham, <i>In Memory of Rev. Dr. John B. Ketcham</i>	Abraham and Mona Selover
Vanessa L. Cayford	Margaret and Steve King, <i>In Honor of our Families</i>	Robert and Pamela Selover
Leslie A. Cheu	Curtis J. Klope	Jeanette Sharp
Hon. Richard Conti	Paul Koberger	Julia Shaw, <i>In Memory of Ruth Shaw</i>
Barbara Cooley	Betsey Kuzia	Peter B. Shawhan, <i>In Honor of Rev Deb Jameson</i>
Janet Cornell	Nancy Landrigan, <i>In Honor of, Celebrating and Grateful for Deb Jameson!</i>	Sheryl Sheraw
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Correia, <i>In Honor of Grace Roznowski</i>	Joseph Lemmond	Paula Sippel, <i>In Memory of Katherine Enockson</i>
Susan and James Cox, <i>In Honor of Deb Jameson</i>	Rev. Glenn Leupold	Carolyn Smith
Pamela T Crane	Tara Lindsley, Charles Kite, <i>In Honor of Deb Jameson</i>	Linda & Robert Stevens, <i>Grateful for having enough food and shelter</i>
Julia Creighton	Anne Liske	Nell Stokes-Holmes
Ruth E.Devol		Judith and Leroy Suess
Jeff Carlson & Karen Dewitt		Rebecca Syltebo
Tim and Lisa Dodman, <i>In Honor of Deb Jameson</i>		
Kevin J. Dulin		
Frederick Eames		
Irene Econome		
Steven and Mary Elliott		
Emmanuel Baptist Benevolence		

## We Need Your Help

Your contributions make a positive difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors.

The **FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry** is now providing a 6-day supply of groceries to an average of 325 families each month.

The **FOCUS Winter Breakfast Program** runs November through April and serves a warm breakfast, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Please help us by giving:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ amount

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ amount . In honor of/in memory of (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me information about volunteering in FOCUS programs.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: FOCUS, 275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210

Gale M. Taratus  
 Allan and Mary Jean Tedrow, *Grateful for  
 Rev Debra Jameson's years of Leadership*  
 Todd and Jennifer Thomas  
 James R. Thompson  
 Ned and Patricia Trudeau, *In Memory of  
 all who died from gun violence;  
 In Honor of Art Buell's work*  
 Regina M. Trzcinski  
 Roger and Sheryl Warner, *In Memory of  
 Ray Warner*  
 Robert and Leslie Westphal  
 Elizabeth S. White, *In Honor of Mary  
 and Keith Scott*  
 Rev. Mary White  
 Margery Whiteman  
 Patricia A. Wilcox  
 Lois Wilson, *Celebrating Belinda Quaye,  
 Tod and Judith Wing*  
 Carl and Caroline Wirth  
 Gloria and David Wood, *In Honor of  
 Philip & Marilyn Riddle*  
 Bill and Amy Yates  
 Barbara Zaron  
 David and Iva Zornow

### Organizations

Adirondack Beverages  
 CACC  
 Community Loan Fund  
 Congregation Beth Emeth  
 Delmar Reformed Church  
 Emmanuel Baptist Church  
 First Church in Albany  
 First Lutheran Church  
 First Unitarian Universalist Society  
 of Albany  
 Islamic Center of the Capital District  
 MAZON- A Jewish Response to Hunger  
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
 Troy Savings Bank  
 The Community Foundation for the  
 Greater Capital Region  
 Trinity United Methodist Church  
 OrthoNY  
 SEFCU  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

***Want to know the latest  
 FOCUS news before the next  
 newsletter?***

**Go to our website:**  
[www.focuschurches.net](http://www.focuschurches.net)

**Sign up for FOCUS Alert  
 e-mails.** (see the home page  
 on our website)

**How about Facebook?**  
[www.facebook.com/Focuschurches](http://www.facebook.com/Focuschurches)

**or a little Twitter:**  
[www.twitter.com/FOCUS\\_Churches](http://www.twitter.com/FOCUS_Churches)

## In FOCUS

275 State Street,  
 Albany, NY 12210