

SICM NEWS

Year 46, Number 3 Fall 2014

Steering Committee 2014-2015

Shirley Readdean
President

Rev. James McDonald,
Vice President

Pat Obrecht,
Secretary

Randy McGough,
Treasurer

Rev. Stacey Midge
Past President

Sr. Ann Christi Brink
Cheryl Gerstler
Marsha Mortimer
Rev. Debra L. Sanders
Don Wheeler

Emerita Member:
Rev. Diana Fletcher

Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby,
Executive Director



Schenectady Inner
City Ministry
1055 Wendell Avenue
Sch'dy, NY 12308
Tel: 518 374-2683
Fax: 518 382-1871
information@sicm.us
www.sicm.us

SICM Hosts 7th Annual Harvest for the Pantry

Thank you to all who came to this year's dinner on November 9 for a festive celebration! Chef Nicky Boehm played the role of cuisine creator extraordinaire again, with a new menu, and those in attendance truly enjoyed the new offerings. This year's Harvest again included our "pick-a-prize," offering a variety of items, including gift certificates from local restaurants and retail stores, artwork, jewelry and more! Watch for photos of the Harvest in our next edition!



Summer Interns 2014

Once again, SICM was blessed to have students serving as summer interns. 18 interns helped to achieve the goals of the Summer Lunch program, the Emergency Food Pantry, the Camp@Steinmetz, and the Home Furnishings Program. We very much appreciate all their hard work—we certainly couldn't accomplish all we do without them!

They were: Sarah Conner, Olivia Cox, Justin Dickenson, Jessica Fecura, Lauren Fecura, Rebecca Felczak, Lizzy Gallagher, Nicole Gentile, Kelly Jones, Peter Krauss, Emily Massey, Anna Mattis, Chris Murphy, Katherine Quinn, Ben Taubner, Erin Thiessen, Aliajah Thomas, and Anna Winters. The interns were sponsored by Bellevue Reformed, Burnt Hills UMC, First Reformed (Sch'dy), Lynnwood Reformed, Niskayuna Reformed, St. George's Episcopal, St. Kateri RC, Trinity Presbyterian, Union Presbyterian, and Austin & Marti Spang. As a requirement of the summer internship program, interns are asked to write a paper reflecting on their experiences; here are some insights:

"It was extremely refreshing to work with everyone at SICM; it's hard to find a group of people that are all genuinely good, kind hearted people. Meeting so many people who sincerely wanted to help others brought me an astounding amount of joy. Overall, I believe this internship has helped me to become not only a more well-rounded person, but a *better* person. I plan to volunteer at the pantry whenever I can, and to help people in need however I can. Words can not express my gratitude towards everyone at Schenectady Inner City Ministry for this incredible internship. I can't wait for next year!"

"Out of the three years I have had the privilege of working for the wonderful organization that is SICM, this year has been by far my favorite. Working at the Steinmetz summer camp was one of if not the most rewarding thing I have ever experienced."

"SICM helped me remember that I am not only responsible for my actions and need to take initiative in my own life, but that I can positively affect the lives of others."

SICM provides paid summer internships for older high school and college students. We seek congregations to sponsor positions (full-time or part-time). Please contact Janet Mattis; interns can apply starting in February through the SICM website.



Ministry Notes

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) celebrates the partnership of 54 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the human needs of the city," which means ministries of social service, education, witness and social action. The SICM newsletter and more detailed financial and program information is available from SICM at 1055 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308 or (518) 374-2683. FAX: (518) 382-1871.

Email address: information@sicm.us.

Website address is: www.sicm.us.

SICM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.



“What’s Goin’ On?”

Remembering and celebrating.

As we just celebrated All Saints Day, we recall two saints among us: Rev. Eloise Frazier and Fr. Michael Hogan. Rev. Frazier,

whose story will be told more fully in upcoming events around the Human Rights Commission, was a pioneer for her church, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, for the community, and very much the county’s Human Rights Commission. I was fortunate to know her with the Committee for Social Justice in the difficult times around police and community issues. She is one key reason why Mt. Olivet lives up to the title of “missionary,” including, e.g. serving summer lunch. Fr. Hogan was first pastor of Sacred Heart/St. Columba’s and then St. Joseph’s. He was as well a leader in the community, serving on too many boards to recall (including the SICM Steering Committee), often as chair. His legacy now is St. Joseph’s Place, a ‘back to the future’ ministry offering the kitchen table that was at Sacred Heart now back in the community. He provided for the transition of the former Sacred Heart pantry to SICM so that deliveries continue to the disabled and those too frail to come. With both Rev. Frazier and Fr. Hogan so much more could be said! But usually when I met Fr. Hogan, the first words were: “What’s Goin’ On?” Both of them would rather look forward than behind.

While we stand on the shoulders of giants such as they, we look ahead: What’s goin’ on? Some new things to share:

First, more meals with youth and families. While summer lunch is well received, more ask, can there be more at other times? So we are

exploring ways to provide after school and vacation meals. While the plans are not yet firm, we are seeing ways to provide for children at other times; hopefully unlike summer lunch, these could also involve parents or caregivers.

Second, mobile meals. As readers know, we pioneered successfully mobile meals in the summer. As will be officially reported in the coming months, we will have the resources to own two mobile vehicles that will be customized for such efforts. This is thanks to the collaborative called together by United Way. Needless to say the vehicles should not be stored for the off-summer season; we are exploring other ways to use them. This will likely include mobile meals and a “market basket” initiative (next).

Third, as we continue to work in the “food insecurity” area (the new government term for ‘hunger’) we want to begin to find ways to provide more affordable and healthy food. Thanks to the local food movement, the latter is now much more common (e.g. the Greenmarket); the challenge is affordability, as well as accessibility (e.g. ‘food deserts’). We are looking at a “market basket” type initiative that would provide a share of fruits and vegetables (and more if we can) to low and moderate income families in areas with less access, through Food Stamp (now called SNAP) dollars. This would not be a charity program. Part of it would resemble what SICM did some years ago with the Save and Share Food Buying Coop. Again, the plans are not yet firm but we are working towards next growing season.

Fourth, a new building which now houses St. Joseph’s Place. Two dedicated Sisters of St. Joseph, Sr. Ann Christi Brink and Sr. Linda Neil, are leading this with help from retired sisters (including Sr. Rosemary we see from time to time!). Come and stop in. It is not case work, or case management, but simply and profoundly Biblical hospitality.

It also made sense for SICM to control the former Traffic Division building since it is right next to the pantry and SICM already owns all the parking. We are working to renovate the rest of the building (parish members of St. Joseph did a great job already, and Bob Obrecht) for use by other non-profits; again plans in the works.

As both Rev. Frazier and Fr. Hogan would say: God is Good!

Rev. Phil Grigsby

SCHENECTADY INNER CITY MINISTRY

Executive Director: Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby

Editor, SICM News: Janet Mattis

The Assembly of SICM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from all member congregations: Alplaus UMC, Altamont Reformed, Bellevue Reformed, Bethel AME, Burnt Hills UMC, Carman UMC, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of St. Adalbert, Duryee Memorial AME Zion, Eastern Parkway UMC, Emmanuel Baptist—Friedens UCC, Faith UMC, First Baptist, Sch’dy, First Reformed, Sch’dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First UMC, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus PNC, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lynnwood Reformed, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, New Consecration, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Refreshing Spring, Rotterdam UMC, St. Anthony’s, St. George’s Episcopal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph’s, Sch’dy, St. Joseph’s, Scotia, St. Luke’s, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Paul’s Episcopal, St. Stephen’s Episcopal, Scotia UMC, Society of Friends (Quakers), Stanford UMC, State Street Presbyterian, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Zion Lutheran.

SICM News Bytes



Many thanks to **Robin Larkin and Burnt Hills United Methodist Church** for donating 4 cartons of children's books to SICM. The books will be handed out to families with children using the Food Pantry. The books were left over from the church's Lord's Acre Fair, and we greatly appreciate the donation!



GE Global Research held an internal event called 'VEGSTOCK', which celebrated all things fruit, vegetable and wholesome. As part of this event, t-shirts were made up and offered for sale to attendees. Proceeds were donated (along with extras of t-shirts!) to SICM. GE has been a long-standing supporter of SICM initiatives, including the Summer Lunch Program. Last summer they had 132 employees volunteer more than 400 hours at 13 locations! Thanks, GE Global Research!

Rev. Phil was invited to visit at **Our Redeemer Lutheran in Scotia** recently to receive two checks from their Ton of Food campaign! What a mission minded church! They have collected the equivalent of well over 5 tons with the value we get at the SICM food pantry with the Regional Food Bank. They have a chart in their fellowship hall that shows how far they are getting!

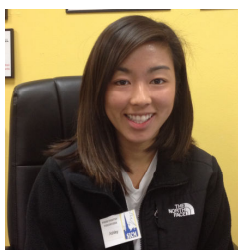


Welcome to St. Joseph's Place and to Ashley Park

St. Joseph's Place is a new initiative offered by St. Joseph's Parish (Schenectady), and honoring Father Michael Hogan. It provides space for mediation and hospitality to those living in neighboring Hamilton Hill, and is especially convenient for guests using the Emergency Food Pantry, located right next door! Sister Ann Christi and Sister Linda are available, along with volunteers, to lend an ear and offer a comfortable space for people.



Sister Ann Christi Brink



Ashley Park

Ashley Park is part of the St. Joseph Worker Program, and spends much of her time assisting at the pantry. Ashley is from California, and is a recent graduate of UC-Santa Barbara, where she was a Global Studies major. She is acclimating to life in the Northeast, and enjoys the rich history of Schenectady as well as the beautiful foliage. Ashley is grateful for her placement here, and for the great staff with whom she works. She is hoping to make the most of her experience here. Welcome, Ashley!



Shelly and Shennan—baggers extraordinaire!

Food Pantry staff members Shelly Ford and Shennan Jarboe assisted Shop Rite with their "Partners in Caring" program, by bagging groceries at the Niskayuna Store. Customers could support the hunger-fighting initiative by making a donation. Thank you, Shari Edwards, Shopper Advocate at Shop Rite!

The September SICM Assembly featured guest speaker **Father Chris De Giovine, Chaplain at the College of St. Rose**. Father Chris spoke to delegates and friends on "Vatican II: Then and Now." The topic was timely, as this year churches celebrate and recognize the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II.



Father Chris De Giovine

Schenectady Inner City Ministry

1055 Wendell Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12308-2807

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, New York
Permit No. 94



@SICM_NY



Follow us on Instagram!



Like us on Facebook!



Follow us on Twitter!

Camp@Steinmetz Has a Great First Year!



With the renovations completed at Steinmetz Park, SICM initiated a day camp dubbed 'Camp@Steinmetz' this past July. SICM worked in partnership with Camp Fowler to provide a day camp experience akin to Fowler (based in Speculator, NY) in the city. The camp was directed by Ryan Cogswell, a Fowler 'graduate', student at Harvard Divinity School and from Lynnwood Reformed. Ryan brought both Fowler and urban camp experience to the task. Six interns supported by congregations ably provided the staffing: Lizzy Gallagher, Kelly Jones, Peter Krauss, Anna Mattis, Erin Thiessen, and Aliajah Thomas.



The camp was a full-day experience for 24 elementary school-aged youth who came from all parts of the community. The days included singing and story time, recreation time and all camp games, discovery time; flex time and lunch; and then rotations for garden/nature and art. Special events included trips to Camp Fowler for swimming, canoeing, and activities; trips to the local MiSci for hands-on exhibits and the planetarium shows, and visit by the Reptile Lady, a big hit! Volunteers from Lynnwood Reformed, Niskayuna Reformed, and First Reformed Sch'dy and Scotia helped. Many congregations provided 'stuff' such as balls, hoops, games, and items that will be used next year.



In writing about the experience, Ryan wrote, "overall, the camp was successful because we created a culture of love among the kids. The counselors always spoke lovingly to the campers, even when disciplining them. This resulted in the kids showing love to one another, although there were certainly conflicts. The world is against most of these kids, but Camp Steinmetz is a place where they are reminded, or taught, that God is for them."

Thank you to all who helped make this wonderful experience happen!