

## Steering Committee 2019-2020

Rev. Peter JB Carman  
*President*

Randy McGough  
*Treasurer*

Alan Butler, Sr.

John Carter

Sr. Ann Christi Brink

Anne Cole

Rev. Tim Coombs

Rev. Jason Fulkerson

William Monaghan

Barbara Vivier

Rev. Dustin Wright

Emerita Members:  
Rev. Diana Fletcher

Past President:  
Shirley Readdean

Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby  
*Executive Director*

## BUILDING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE

BUILDING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE is the name for SiCM's Capital Campaign that was launched officially on October 22. The goal is \$796,000 which will provide for:

- A new SiCM Community Resource Center through a two story addition to 837 Albany Street
- This addition will include a kitchen/resource room; teaching kitchen; additional offices for program and administrative staff; storage and bathroom; and entrance with stairway
- Significant upgrades at the food pantry with a new roof; chairs; additional entrance to improve guest flow; additional bathroom; new entrance; office and intake upgrades; and community room
- St. Joseph's Place continues but with additional kitchen and bathroom facilities
- New traffic flow in the parking area
- Warehouse area improvements
- Murals and additional façade improvements as resources allow. *Continued on page 3*

## ALL OF SiCM IS NOW ON ALBANY STREET

In 2011 SiCM moved from Albany Street to Wendell Avenue; initially with Union Presbyterian Church and then Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church. We are deeply grateful to both for hosting us. In November, our administrative offices moved from our Wendell Avenue location to 837 Albany Street to be closer to our food pantry and to form a "SiCM campus."

When the addition is built, staff will spread out a bit and our new executive director (see right) will move in. Our email and phone numbers have remained the same.

Give us a visit and don't be a stranger. Until the new addition, the entry is in the front.

**NOTE: NEW MAILING ADDRESS**  
with the transition we are now using a PO Box – PO Box 1049, Schenectady, NY 12301-9998. All mail is being forwarded.

## REV PHILLIP GRIGSBY LEAVING SiCM AS OF JANUARY 1

Rev Phillip Grigsby, SiCM's Executive Director since 1986 announced he will be leaving SiCM at year end. He will continue as Chair of the Building Ahead to the Future Campaign; the Steering Committee and Assembly will select a search committee with the help of NYCON (NY Council on Nonprofits); and they have asked Jo-Anne Rafalik to provide leadership until a successor is chosen.

All are invited to a Retirement Party on Sunday, January 26th at 4PM at College Park Hall, which will be a reception and dinner. Tickets are \$75 and include salad and meal of your choice. Call Laura at (518) 374-2683 ext. 103 to reserve your ticket. Rev. Phil has asked that all donations go the capital campaign. Please see his column on page 2 for reflections and President Peter Carman's Last Word on page 4 for more.

### Schenectady Community Ministries

837 Albany Street  
P.O. Box 1049  
Sch'dy, NY 12301-9998  
Tel: 518.374.2683  
information@sicm.us  
www.sicm.us

save the date!

souper bowl  
Sunday, February 2nd, 2020

Your donation  
supports the  
SiCM Emergency  
Food Pantry!

Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) celebrates the partnership of 50 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the needs of the community." The SiCM newsletters, financial and program information are available from SiCM at 837 Albany Street, Schenectady, NY 12307

SiCM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm. 990 Form available by request.

Phone: 518.374.2683

Email address: [information@sicm.us](mailto:information@sicm.us)

Website address is: [www.sicm.us](http://www.sicm.us)

## SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

PO Box 1049

873 Albany Street

Schenectady, NY 12301-9998

Phone: 518.374.2683

E-mail: [information@sicm.us](mailto:information@sicm.us)

Website: [ww.sicm.us](http://ww.sicm.us)

The Assembly of SiCM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from 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 Reformed, Sch'dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First UMC, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus PNC, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lisha Kill Reformed Church, Lynnwood Reformed, Parsons Memorial-COGIC, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer 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. 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, Trinity Reformed Church, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Zion Lutheran



## Ministry Notes

### All Good Things Must Come to an End

After 33 1/2 years, it is time to say goodbye. Not an easy decision. I remember vividly my first day on the job at State Street Presbyterian Church. SiCM has moved three times since! So long ago but it seems like yesterday. I have worked with (at times) and advocated to (at times) 5 city Mayors and more Council Members than I can count!

I am thankful to have been called to this ministry. I have been blessed. The day after I came, the newspaper headline was: "GE lays off 4,000." I knew then that SiCM and I would be facing difficult days. At our last Assembly meeting, I shared some of the ups and downs; not everything worked. But it is good to recall our successes: our campaign to restore school lunch in schools and initiate school breakfast; SAFE House; Bethesda House; the Community Land Trust; the Project SKIP playground; safe parks and edible playgrounds; a model food pantry; summer meals with mobile meals; gardens; Spiritually Sound and Physically Fit; the Schenectady Damien Center; Food4Schdy; campaigns with the Committee for Social Justice on police and community issues; the recent campaign to stop a liquor store coming to Albany Street; the recent "miracle of multiplication" led by MVP for a new van, and more. I've written up three articles about SiCM's history and approach; send me a shoutout if you would like one.

I am leaving SiCM in a good place. With the strong start of the capital campaign, SiCM will focus, add programming, and move ahead. Thank you to all who have given so far! Although it is a challenging fiscal time, SiCM is in a good place financially. I am grateful – for SO much and SO many. I am especially grateful to Jo-Anne Rafalik for stepping in to provide transition leadership from her strong experience and dedication.

I am also grateful to the current (and past) dedicated staff that work hard each day. I am grateful for our strong Steering Committee, who with the assistance of NYCON (NY Committee on Nonprofits) will guide the search for my replacement. I am grateful for our congregations and partners for support in many ways. I am grateful to our leaders, especially the ones I recall who have gone before in the "communion of saints" that I have been blessed to work with and on whose shoulders truly we stand.

As I depart, I know you will continue to support this ministry. Please, do not only keep up your support but add to it. The work is needed today more than ever. With your support it can flourish.

Remember: "change is inevitable, but transformation is optional." Go with God at those places of transformation where we believe God to be at work. Or as my own Congregational/UCC forebears put it: "There is yet light and truth to break forth."

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby

Jan and I will be busy downsizing but plan to be around; glad to keep in touch, my cell phone remains the same (518-441-1390) and personal email is [phillipn.grigsby@gmail.com](mailto:phillipn.grigsby@gmail.com)

save the date!

# empty bowls

Sunday, March 1st, 2020, 2PM

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel 100 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12308

**event features**

- delicious variety of soups & breads
- soup bowl to take home
- short informational program



## Building Ahead continued from page 1

We are now more than half way to our goal of \$796,000! You can help! SiCM is offering to name a room in the new addition in your honor with your generous donation of a minimum of \$5k for an office, and \$25k for the Pantry Reception Area. SiCM is also offering you the opportunity to invest in our future by purchasing shares at \$50/month with a three year commitment totaling \$1800, and earning you a spot on the honorary committee.



The first phase of the Capital Campaign can be seen here, with the renovation of the food pantry's roof. Thank you for your support and Building Ahead to the Future with us.

To download the brochure for Building Ahead to the Future, go to <https://www.sicm.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/4-Fold-for-PDF2.pdf>



Thank you to the community businesses and organizations who donated \$44,000 to purchase SiCM a new van after the previous vehicle was totaled. Donating partners include MVP Health Care, The Schenectady Foundation, Seymour Fox Foundation, Wright Family Foundation, the Little Family Foundation, First Reformed Church and Price Chopper/Market 32.

"It represents a great collaboration of our community," said Rev. Dr. Bill Levering of First Reformed Church Schenectady.

The van is very important and is used to transport clients home from the food pantry. The old van was totaled in a crash in Schenectady's Mont Pleasant neighborhood last month after another driver ran a stop sign.



## DRIVING THROUGH

You might have seen SiCM this summer at Price Rite handing out boxes of food and school supplies to 400 families in need at the 2019 Schenectady Price Rite Feed The Children Back-to-School Drive Thru Giveaway.

## The Deal with Summer Meals

The summer meals 2019 program was a success! Our new location at St. George's Episcopal Church in the Stockade was very welcoming to our program. The kitchen being on one floor allowed for us to quickly pack lunches for our mobile sites before heading out into the Schenectady streets to feed hungry kids. This year we provided 27,268 meals at fixed sites, 16,129 meals at mobile sites, 11,887 breakfasts for a grand total of 55,284 meals! **Thank you to all of our volunteers, interns and staff who made this program possible. We could not do it without your support!**

## Schenectady Community Ministries

PO Box 1049  
Schenectady, NY 12301-9998

Address Service Requested

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

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

January 26, 2019	Rev. Grigsby's Retirement Party
February 2, 2019	Souper Bowl
March 1, 2019	Empty Bowls
May 3, 2019	Crop Walk

See website for details: [www.sicm.us](http://www.sicm.us)

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## **The Last Word**

by Rev. Peter Carman, President

Dear SiCM friends,

By the time you get to these words, you will have read of the host of changes and growth happening at SiCM. We are in Transition with a capital T. After 33 years of remarkable service, Rev. Phil Grigsby has announced his retirement beginning January 1. The years of his service have been some of the toughest in the history of Schenectady. While the city went through a time of increasing poverty, and sometimes painful struggle, Rev. Phil led the churches in responding directly to the increasing need and challenges. He has been direct in speaking the truth as he sees it, even at times when that did not make him popular in all quarters. And he leaves behind him not only the legacy of memories, and the echoes of a clear voice of conscience, but an organization that is today well-equipped to move into God's future.

Before leaving, Rev. Phil has led the planning, fundraising and building process required to create our soon-to-be-expanded united campus. He has led the Steering Committee in finding the right resources for a deliberate and timely transition, and he has helped us locate and put in place an excellent transitional staff leader in Jo-Anne Rafalik.

In January 2020, we plan to throw a party to tell Rev. Phil, together, how much his ministry has meant to us. But I hope you won't wait for the party. Take time, in your own way, to tell Rev. Phil yourself, be it in writing or in person, what's on your mind as he moves to the next (sure to be engaged) phase of his life.

As your president this year, and as a part of the wonderful team that is your current Steering Committee, I share just a little of the anxiety you may feel about the transition. We have been very reliant on our Director for a very long time. And yet that anxiety is quickly dispelled, as I consider: the practical and spiritual gifts we have among us; the excellent staff that is continuing; the plans already being implemented for the transition; and the legacy of visionary leadership that Rev. Phil leaves behind.

Thank you, Rev. Phil. And thank you, each and every one of you who takes part in what is, after more than half a century, a lively and faithful movement. If we all step up and work together, our current leader has given us all the tools we need to move into a future as committed to justice, and as steeped in compassion, as SiCM has been from its founding.

In Peace

Peter JB Carman, President