



# Annual Report

2010 was a year of growth for the ministries of the Cortland County Council of Churches! We are pleased to offer an overview.

## **PROTESTANT CAMPUS MINISTRIES:** *Wednesday Worship*

Attendance at weekly worship, once again, grew. Our numbers include both students and staff. Through the series called "This I Believe" a variety of people have shared guiding principals of their lives. This fall speakers included Kassim Kone, Jim Miller, Dr. Mecke Nagel, and retiring staff member Louis Larson. Even as our faith community grew, we also became a web of support for one another. When the director of the SUNY Rock & Blues Ensemble, Steve Barnes died suddenly, we lit a candle that was a beacon of hope in the midst of that tragedy. God saw us through a very difficult time, even as God's Spirit was felt in sharing our weekly joys and concerns.



## *The Interfaith Crew*

Our students dubbed themselves "The Interfaith Crew", and they also

- packed Health Kits for Haiti
- shared a weekly meal called "Stuff that Matters"
- gathered Sunday @ 9 PM for worship or games or discussion.
- hosted a study on Jonah for an area confirmation class.
- raised \$300 walking in the CROP Walk
- sang "The First Song of Isaiah" during area church services
- went to church each Sunday morning, followed by breakfast & discussions about the services.
- Hosted our parents for a special lunch.

### **Staff Bible Study**

Beginning in June, seven staff members met and studied the Bible. We started with Genesis, and by the end of the year, we had finished Numbers. Our study group represents, in part, the Health Center, the Library, Advisement & Transition, and Chemistry.

### **Cortaca Mug**

This 3rd Annual event provided an alcohol and drug-free alternative during “Cortaca Jug” (when Cortland plays Ithaca in football). Beginning at 9 p.m. we had live music, games, snacks, and lots of laughter at the Interfaith Center until 3 a.m. Once again, community “elders” came and taught students how to spin & knit, fold Moravian stars, and make cinnamon buns. Retired Professor Peter Jeffers also provided a glass-blowing demonstration. Throughout the evening, over 41 students received prizes, including an iPod and an iPad. The Council of Churches, partnering with “Cortland Nites,” sponsored the event. True to the name, coffee was served in special mugs throughout the evening.

### **COUNCIL OF CHURCHES’ ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Epiphany Choir Festival**

Seven choirs performed for an audience of nearly 200, as we “sang in the new year” at St. Anthony’s. We have extraordinary talent in our community!

#### **All Church Picnic**

In July, our delegates were joined by other members of the community for a first time special picnic.

#### **Golf Tournament**

18 foursomes played, as we honored Carl & Jane Edlund for their contributions to the Cortland community.

**Chautauqua** began with a grand outdoor worship service on the Green in Homer

where Father Pete Williams had everyone doing the chicken dance! Each evening, people chose classes in tracks that ranged from “Local Authors” to “Gardener’s Delight”. Children and youth were included in special activities. Our week ended with dinner under the tent, followed by a slide show by naturalist Rick Marsi.

#### **CROP Walk**

Late in October, nearly 300 people walked to fight hunger in our world. Area food pantries and outreach programs receive 25% of the over \$11,500 that was raised!

#### **Community Thanksgiving Service**

Hosted by the Homer Avenue UMC, our community Thanksgiving service was an end-of-year highlight!



As an ecumenical body, our mission is to minister to and serve with people of all faiths and creeds on campus and in the community by living out the teachings of Jesus.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Shalom!

Rev. Paul Pitkin  
President

Rev. Vicki Johnson  
Executive Director