



Greater  
Rochester  
Community of  
Churches

2 Riverside Street  
Rochester, NY 14613  
(585) 254-2570 phone  
grcc1@frontiernet.net email  
www.grcc.org

#### Board of Directors

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Development

Elder John Wheeler

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## the *Ecumenical Messenger*

Spring 2006

### Come to: "GospelFest 2006!" A 30th Anniversary Celebration

Featuring the music of:

Rev. Alvin Parris III  
University Gospel Choir Director

**Saturday, April 1, 8 PM**

University of Rochester - River Road Auditorium  
300 E. River Road (formerly St. Agnes High School)



Performing:

- ♪ University of Rochester Gospel Choir
- ♪ University of Rochester Alumni Gospel Choir
- ♪ Special Guests--Recording Artists, Divine Nature
- ♪ In His Presence
- ♪ The Voices of New Life

Suggested Donation - \$5.00, \$3 for Students with ID

All proceeds to benefit children's poverty –

**For more information call:** Rev. Alvin Parris III at 436-0085 X27

Or Greater Rochester Community of Churches: 254-2570

Information also available on the web at: [www.rochester.edu/news/](http://www.rochester.edu/news/) or [www.grcc.org](http://www.grcc.org)

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### **Second Chance With Our Mayor**

Mayor Bob Duffy will address the GRCC forum on **April 24, 1:00 p.m.** at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1000 N. Winton Road (between Empire and Merchants.)

His visit will allow us to bring to him insights that have developed over the three months since he had to miss our annual meeting. He is displaying a desire to listen carefully to the community, so we are fortunate for this opportunity to bring our best thinking to him.

One of the Mayor's initiatives that will be in full swing late April is a **city-wide clean-up** which is set to begin right after Easter. Look for ways your congregation can help out. The more GRCC can offer opportunities for action and dialogue, the more we can continue to yield to common purpose and cooperation.

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GRCC is an association of churches, ecumenical clusters, religious organizations, individuals and denominations working together in our community – sharing in worship, prayer, interfaith dialogue, and justice ministry.

## Greetings from the President



### *A Strong Board for Strong Purposes*

The new GRCC Board met for the first time on February 27. Twenty-three board members were present. The board continues to grow stronger, now with the head of a large housing agency, a parish priest from the Roman Catholic community, a prison chaplain passionate to do something about the violence in the community, a new African American pastor with passion to address poverty, as well as the ongoing passions for social justice from all board members.

It is clear that God does not assemble such a group unless God has a strong purpose for it. At our March retreat we will continue to discern how the Spirit can best focus and multiply our gifts. Please remember your GRCC in prayer each week.

### **This is what we believe:**

- The strength and compassion of our churches and religious groupings can come together in a way that will change our community.
- Our task is to make a two-way highway on which we can meet other people of faith, city to suburb, and form friendships that transform the dynamic of fear into a dynamic of faith.
- Our most potent gift is still the Word. Saint Francis said, *“Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary use words.”* We are discovering the unifying Word that can unite mainliners with evangelicals with Pentecostals across cultural lines. Speaking that Word simply without judgment will change everything.

You and I are privileged to be living in great times. Let’s put our hearts together in prayer and our wallets together in giving and our shoulders together in work as the way forward is revealed to us. We thank you for your love of Christ and of the Community He inspires. See you on April 1 for our benefit concert.

In Christ’s love,  
*Richard Newell Myers*

**GRCC Received a grant for the Ecumenical & Interfaith Archives and is looking for a part-time clerk to computerized the archives. This historic information will soon be accessible to everyone.**

**To learn more, contact Rev. Larry Witmer, archive chairman, at 342-6376 or email him at:**

**[lewitmer@aol.com](mailto:lewitmer@aol.com).**

*We are thankful for the support of our members, partners, and individual donors. Is your congregation a member? Have you sent your member dues for the year? Don’t wait. We are doing such good work now to address the needs of our most vulnerable... those who count on the faith community to make a difference. Help us to make that difference.*

Your financial support to GRCC is very important. Won’t you take a moment to send your personal contribution to: GRCC, 2 Riverside Street, Rochester, NY 14613. To find out more, call: 585-254-2570 or fax: 254-6551

Name \_\_\_\_\_

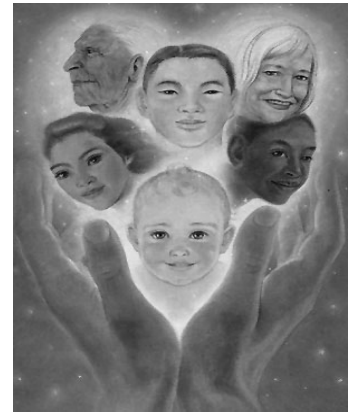
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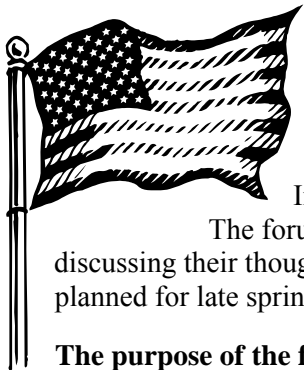
# Faith In Action -- Celebrating "Each Child's Sacred Worth"

Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Clarion Riverside Hotel

Could this picture be how God sees us; held in divine hands, radiating our differences, shining with the potential of all that the Divine has placed within us? And yet, we know that our people are often in pain. Some of God's beautiful children don't have enough to eat... or live in fear of violence... or lack the parenting that we all need in order to blossom. Some of these children in pain live right in our own community. As sisters and brothers of these children, whether here or halfway around the world, we can all bring the potential of this beautiful picture into focus by putting our faith into action.



At its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration Dinner, GRCC will lift up the sacred worth of children, and the work of the greater faith community by inviting you and your congregation or religious group to choose one person or a couple from your community that you would like to see honored this night. Honorees of all ages will be acknowledged. We hope to have some youth honorees, as they bring us the hope of a new future. Your church should be receiving its package of information soon, but you can call the office and have them sent now, or you can go online and download them today at: [www.grcc.org](http://www.grcc.org) June will be here before we know it. So take the time to announce this event in your faith community and start planning for Faith In Action now! Plan to come! Plan to nominate those in your community, young or old, or in-between, who help God's vision come to life.



## "Meet Your County Legislator" -- Spring 2006

In 2003 (GRCC) organized a forum in 22 of the 29 Monroe County Legislative Districts. The forums were successfully held throughout the county with many people attending and discussing their thoughts and opinions with their county legislator. A second "**Meet Your County Legislator**" is planned for late spring.

### The purpose of the forums are:

- To provide an opportunity for communication between county legislators and the people who elected them
- To stimulate interest in and concern for the issues facing the community
- To learn the legislators' goals for the upcoming year
- To dialogue about policy and budgetary issues

"Dialogue with our legislators, along with voting, is a foundational responsibility of Christians living out our faith in society. Let's experience the opportunity to share our concerns and values as God's people."

We expect these forums will provide the citizens of Monroe County an opportunity to understand the priorities of their legislators, share concerns, and exercise their responsibility as citizens to engage in the democratic process. At the same time, legislators will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with their constituents and share their plans and priorities. The forums will be different from the first time, as they will be grouped into two or three legislative districts.

To learn more about this event, or to participate in its planning, contact the GRCC office or call Marvin Mich at Catholic Family Center's Social Policy Office at 262-7021. More information will be provided on our website and through other publications as it becomes available.

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Address Correction Requested

**Other Upcoming Events:**

**Rally for Darfur:** April 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m. Temple Brith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Avenue. For petitions, postcards, and to know more prior to attending this event, call Hillary Bruton at the Jewish Community Federation at 461-0490 X240 or email: [hbruton@jewishrochester.org](mailto:hbruton@jewishrochester.org).

**CROP Walk** is Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. To know more about area locations, call David Allen at 888-297-2767 (toll-free) at Church World Service, 200 C Gateway Park Dr, North Syracuse, NY 13212, or email him at [dallen@churchworldservice.org](mailto:dallen@churchworldservice.org). This information is also on the GRCC website at [www.grcc.org](http://www.grcc.org).



***10 Year Anniversary!***

PNFCU with GRCC continuing as the 501c3 sponsor is celebrating 10 years of service to people from the most underinvested neighborhoods in the City of Rochester. As the first community development (low income) credit union, Progressive has given out nearly \$7 million in loans (average of \$2500-3000) with a current delinquency rate of 2%, has built and repaired credit for hundreds of members and has numerous programs-youth, share securing loans, “microlending,” and so much more.

With a new logo of a rising star and the theme of “*Give Yourself Credit, We Do*”, we invite all who supported us at the beginning and all who are interested for the first time to contact or visit us and learn more about our current story and needs. (Call Sr. Beth at 244-4817 or email [srbeth1@juno.com](mailto:srbeth1@juno.com))

*A big thanks to GRCC and the faith community for so much support over these years.*

***When you support GRCC your contribution reaches out  
across the community and touch many lives!***