



# The Westminster Messenger

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**“Be not** afraid.” These are the first words that Jesus speaks to the women who go to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

“Be not afraid.” These are words we need to hear as we live through earthquakes and after shocks, as wars go on with no end in sight, and revolutions arise in land after land.

Michael Lindvall, Pastor of Brick Presbyterian Church, has written: “It’s possible to live fearlessly in a world of fearsome headlines. But I’m not going to tell you that there’s nothing to be afraid of. Jesus said, “Be not afraid.” He didn’t say, “There is nothing to be afraid of.” Lindvall then declares, “You can live fearlessly even though there are fearsome things.”

This describes the courage of our Easter faith. “In the world there will be tribulation,” Jesus said, “But I have overcome the world.” Our Easter faith does not turn its eyes from the troubles of this world. We declare that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave God has affirmed the victory of life. God’s love is the most powerful thing on Earth, and has overcome every destructive force and evil power, even death itself •

**“ You can live fearlessly even though there are fearsome things.”**

by Pastor Jim Reisner

# Easter Sunday Music Celebration

Once again on Easter Sunday, our fine Westminster Choir will be joined by the joyous sounds of the Catskill Brass Quintet and timpani.

Special pre-service music will begin at

**Pre-service music begins at 9:45**

9:45 AM. Then, at 10:00 AM, the choir and brass will lead us in joyful hymns and anthems, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated, and the service will close with the Hallelujah Chorus, sung by the entire congregation and choir, and accompanied by brass, timpani, and organ.

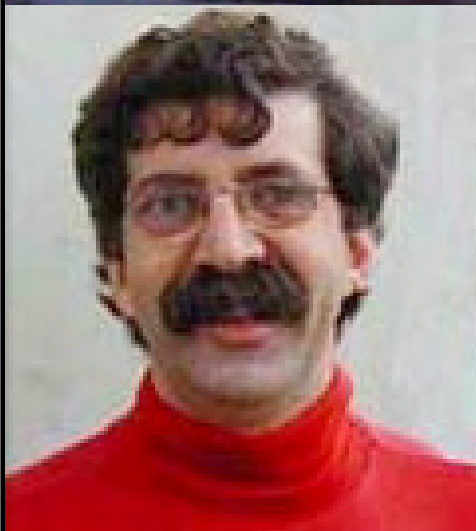
Come celebrate with us!

150 years  
in  
**Albany**

**On April 17th** Albany City Historian Tony Opalka will be our speaker during the Second Hour. The long-time historical resource person and preservation advocate is the current official historian of the city of Albany. Tony was appointed by Mayor Jerry Jennings to succeed the late Virginia Bowers, who died in 2007. His tenure began on May 1, 2008.

## **Celebrating 150 Years on State Street**

In the historiography of Albany, New York, he is best known for his many contributions to ALBANY ARCHITECTURE - an indispensable resource on the city's built environment. Over the years, he has conducted a number of popular and informative walking tours of Albany's historic neighborhoods. Currently, he is employed as an historic preservation program analyst for the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. To help us celebrate our 150th year as a congregation on State Street, Tony will be discussing the historical significance of the church and the neighborhood around it ●



Tony Opalka

# Our Cornerstone

by Pastor Jim Reisner

**We sing,**  
“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation,  
Christ the head and cornerstone.”

You can find the cornerstone of Westminster Presbyterian Church on the eastern edge of our sanctuary building on State Street. The date on it reads **1861**. What comes to mind when we think of 1861 is the onset of the Civil War. War must certainly have been on the minds of the people who gathered in Albany on April 17th to break ground on the building of our sanctuary. Just five days before, Confederate forces had fired upon Fort Sumter. On April 15, newly-inaugurated President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 new Union soldier volunteers. The Civil War had begun.

We can only speculate about what people were thinking at the ground breaking ceremony for State Street Presbyterian Church, as it was called then. But certainly we know that they were taking a leap of faith at a time when the nation was entering head-long into war.

Westminster has a history of taking on great tasks during critical moments in history. After a disastrous fire in 1928, the congregation rebuilt the sanctuary at the onset of the Great Depression. These examples inspire us, as we are facing our own challenges of war and economic recession, to bring a similar resolve to the living of our days and to our service in the name of Jesus Christ ●

**The Westminster** Boards are excited to welcome all congregants to the annual Congregational Brunch, April 10th. This year’s theme “150 Years and Going” celebrates the Church’s long history, from laying Westminster’s cornerstone in 1861 to our bright future ahead.

# Congregational Brunch

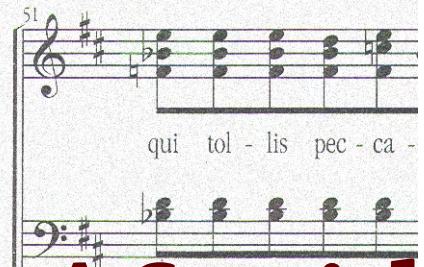
by Kelly Crisfield

The annual congregational brunch is one of Westminster’s oldest traditions, sponsored by the Session, Trustees, and Deacons. The Trustees have planned a menu consisting of hors d’oeuvres, a main course and drinks. This year, we invite you to bring a **side dish** or **dessert** to share. Deacons will be seated at every table to help encourage the sharing of stories about life at Westminster, and Session members are in charge of clean up.

While reservations aren’t required, we encourage you to sign up to assist in planning. Deacons will be circulating with clipboards before/after worship. In addition, there is a sign-up sheet in the Chestnut Street hall, or you can call the Church office at 436-8544 ●

# Tenebrae Service

by Al Fedak



# A Special Gift for Westminster

**Our Good Friday** Tenebrae service will focus on a series of organ Meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ by John Huston (1915-1975). The composer, a pupil of Clarence Dickinson and Harold Friedell, was an organist in New York City and taught at Union Theological Seminary's School of Sacred Music. His seven Meditations for Good Friday were composed in 1956, and reflect the drama and deep emotion surrounding Jesus' last moments on the cross. Following each meditation, the choir and congregation will sing a stanza of Delores Dufner's recent hymn, "Faithful Cross, O Tree of Beauty," a modern rendering of an ancient church song set to the familiar hymn tune PICARDY. The choir will also sing an anthem by the contemporary British composer Colin Mawby, as well as a musical setting of the Reproaches by Tomas Luis de Victoria. The service will end in silence and darkness. We invite you to be present for this deeply moving worship experience ●

**This** past December, Westminster Church was the happy recipient of a generous gift from members Jim Cronen and Robin Thomas: a two-manual French-style harpsichord. The instrument was built during the 1970s from a kit purchased from the shop of the renowned Boston harpsichord builder Frank Hubbard. Over seven feet long, it has three registers (or sets of strings), two of which play at unison pitch and one which plays an octave higher, a coupler which permits both keyboards to be played at once, and a buff stop which partially dampens the strings to create a gentle, lute-like effect. Many Westminster members will recall hearing this instrument once before, when it was played at the church about three years ago during a Sunday morning service at which the choir sang some baroque Advent cantatas, accompanied by a small chamber ensemble. This new instrument will provide the church with many more opportunities for creative music-making, both in worship services and at concerts. We are very grateful to Robin and Jim for the gift of this splendid instrument! ●



# Children and Youth

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

**Did you** know that the first Mardi Gras celebration in the U.S. was held in Mobile, Alabama in 1703? Did you know that "Shrove" means atonement or penitence? You would if you were at the Pancake Supper.

The Westminster youth hosted a wonderful event. They decorated the assembly room in green, purple and gold, greeted people as they entered and served guests at their tables. A few generous adult volunteers were responsible for all the delicious food. A good time was had by all.

## Highlights from the March Pancake Supper

The total raised is over \$250 - all in the name of future youth mission projects ●

**Westminster's Adrienne G.** is a freshman point guard on the very successful Shaker High girls' basketball team. On Saturday, March 5, 2011, the Shaker High Blue Bison posted a 59-52 victory over Colonie High in the Section II Class AA championship game, giving the Shaker team its first sectional title since the 1981-82 season. The 2010-2011 season ended with the Bison winning 21 games and losing just 3. Congratulations, Adrienne!

**Kyle B.** qualified to compete at the NYS Indoor Track Championships at Cornell University on March 5. Kyle and his Bethlehem Central HS teammates ran the 4 x 400 meter relay earning sixth place with a time of 3.38 minutes ●



Congrats to Kyle



Congrats to Adrienne



# Our Westminster Family

by Carol Zepf

Dear Westminster Presbyterian Church Family,

I felt so warmly surrounded and supported by all of you as I journeyed with both my mother, Clara, and daughter, Pam's, significant other, Charles, as they both gently and peacefully lived the last few months of their lives in Pam and Charles' home.

Under wonderful hospice and family care, they were room-mates, side-by-side, in their hospital beds comfortably arranged in the living room. The living room/dining area is one big open space -- which meant that they were always included in the hustle and bustle of life at home.

They both most especially enjoyed the Friday nights when my Grandson, Daniel, and his high school buddies, gathered around the table for their big pizza and hot wings meals together before retreating to the upstairs area for zonkz-zonka music and video games. Never a dull moment! The young people kept both of them alert, entertained, and energized for a long time.

We all give thanks for the Great's (as she was known by all -- great-grandmother to the young boys) and Charles' parts in each of our lives, and rejoice in the new life they have now each entered and claimed -- until we meet again.

**Thank you for all your support.**

Thank you for all of your cards, your phone calls, your love, and your support.

Special thanks to Jim Reisner, who sat right close behind me at Charles' funeral--with a warm and comforting hand on my shoulder, as Pam and grandson, Charles, spoke words of thanks for the ways that "Big Charles" shared his life with us.

With much love,  
Carol Zepf ●

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**Dr. Tom Older** recently was awarded the inaugural Heart Hero Award at the American Heart Association's 28th Annual Capital Region Heart Ball. Dr. Older performed Albany's first coronary bypass surgery in 1970, and developed the cardiothoracic field in the Capital Region ●

# Trustee Activities

by Forrest Holroyd

**If you happen** to see a Trustee poking around in odd places in the church, talk to him or her! The Trustees are putting together a plan to complete more than 100 projects, ranging from fixing the exterior walls, to replacing the pew cushions, refurbishing the gardens, and upgrading lighting systems.

The Trustees are the stewards of church property, but we can't do the work alone! We need your help with gardening, painting, plastering, and many more jobs that cannot be done by our custodial staff.

**These projects need attention- we are going to do that, with YOUR help.**

Of course, many of the projects need money as well as labor, but we cannot fund all of these from our endowment. We will be looking at novel ways of generating extra revenue, but there will be many projects that can only be accomplished with your financial support. Many of them are expected to have a long-lasting impact, making our church a more attractive place both for us and prospective new members.

If you want to see the entire list of projects ask a Trustee - they each have a copy, and each of them has been asked to create a plan for completing one or more projects on the list. If you want to know where your favorite gripe ranks in priority, talk to Board President Forrest Holroyd! ●

HAPPY  
**April**  
BIRTHDAY

**Westminster** celebrates the following birthdays this month:

● Laura S.	April 1	● Esther Acheampong	April 17
● Louise Burch	April 6	● Carolyn Martel	April 18
● Joseph R.	April 8	● Linda Becker	April 19
● Samuel K.	April 9	● Kyra F.	April 19
● Joel Sebagala	April 14	● Jeffrey Almstead	April 28
● Valerie Shanley	April 14	● Maggie G.	April 28
● Joy Tallmadge	April 14	● Sheila H.	April 28
● Martha Reisner	April 15	● Selena Maurer	April 28
● Emily T.	April 16		

Sorry if we missed your birthday. Please send your birthday into the church office so we may have it on record ●



# CRTC Classes

## The Capital

Region Theological Center (CRTC) is sponsoring two courses that Westminster members may want to attend. The first, **FAITH, POWER AND PERSPECTIVE: WOMEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** is on April 8, at Union Presbyterian Church, in Schenectady. The cost is \$95.

Women play powerful roles in the Old Testament: their stories of radical faith in response to God had the

**Students will meet Old Testament women in a new way.**

power to change the course of history in their own time. They *still* have the power to give us new perspective and inspire our living today.

Dr. Katherine Doob Sakenfeld will take attendees through a number of the Biblical narratives with an eye to feminist interpretation. Students will meet Old Testament women in a new way, with time to explore personal response to texts, and to discuss how different contexts may shape our lives of faith and our perspectives on the roles of women in church and in society.

**ADDING STRENGTH, SPEED AND BALANCE TO YOUR CONGREGATION**, May 12-13, 2011, at the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church. During this two-day workshop, with the guidance of instructor Dr. Jeff Woods, participants will explore two key components of a vital, healthy congregation: congregational identity and vision. Day one will address personal and congregational identity through the lens of storylines. Understanding that stories that we are living can help us better understand patterns of behavior, responses to crises, and opportunities for ministry.

On day two participants work toward a narrative vision for their congregation. During this hands-on coaching session, Dr. Woods will guide participants through the process of clarifying identity, discerning vision, narrowing missional priorities and producing results. Participants will have the opportunity to see how identity, mission, vision and results weave together to form a cohesive focus, and begin to develop that sense of focus during the workshop.

Early Bird Registration: \$85 per day or \$165 for both days.  
After 4/14/11: \$95 per day or \$175 for both days. 10% Discount for 3 or more. Call the CRTC at 518-462-2470 or go to their web site: <http://www.capitalrtc.org> ●



# One Great Hour of Sharing

by Sheila Wrede

We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, April 17th. The offering supports disaster relief, hunger programs and the Self Development of People, which recently gave a generous grant to A Village, Inc., in Albany's South End.

If you would like to make a donation to the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster, checks can be made out to Westminster with Japan Earthquake on the memo line. If you prefer to donate cash during worship, please label an envelope with "Japan" on the front. On-line contributions can be made at [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

Thank you for all your support of the PCUSA and Westminster! ●

**Make a donation on Palm Sunday**

# Our Local Mission

by Glen Van Oort

As another year of the "Breakfast Club" draws near to a close we thank those who came, both guests and volunteers.

A breakfast guest wrote this about the Breakfast Club from the perspective of guests:

needs are filled.  
not random; family.  
the servers and the served;  
who are who? ●



# CROP Walk coming May 1st

by Diane Bossung

## His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

**End hunger** one step at a time by walking in the annual Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty (CROP) Walk on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 1:30PM. Contact Diane Bossung at 475-0169 or [dbossung@verizon.net](mailto:dbossung@verizon.net) for a sponsor record envelope to start collecting pledges to support our local Food Pantries and Church World Service programs around the world.

Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP. Sponsors can also donate to the Westminster Outreach Walkers team online at: [www.cropwalkonline.org](http://www.cropwalkonline.org). This year's walk is dedicated to the memory of the Rev. John U. Miller.

Step off with other Westminster walkers from the First Lutheran Church in Albany to walk the Golden Mile or a longer 4.5 mile loop and make a difference in our community and the world!●

### Sermons & Second Hours:

#### APRIL 3 Lent 4

Psalm 89

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau preaching, "Faithfulness in the Groundwater"  
2nd Hour: Bible Study: Psalm 130, Pastor Jim Reisner

#### Wednesday, April 6

- Re-imagining Mission: Rev. Cass Shaw,  
General Presbyter of Albany Presbytery

#### APRIL 10 Lent 5

Psalm 130

Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "Out of the Depths"  
2nd Hour: Congregational Brunch

#### Wednesday, April 13

- Re-imagining Denominations: Rev. David McMillan

#### APRIL 17 Palm Sunday

Psalm 118

Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "The Festal Procession"  
2nd Hour: April 17, 1861, Tony Opalka, City Historian

#### APRIL 21 Maundy Thursday Communion

Psalm 116

Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "The Cup of Salvation"

#### APRIL 22 Good Friday

Psalm 22

#### APRIL 24 Easter Communion

Psalm 30

Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "Clothed in Joy"  
No 2nd Hour: Children's Egg Hunt on the third floor

# Church Calendar

## This Month's Events:

### APRIL

1  
7:30 pm Svyati Duo Concert

2  
5 pm African Spring Dinner

### 3 SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Prayer Group  
11:15 am Bell Choir  
1pm Spring Party at Schuyler

5  
7-9 am Breakfast Program

6  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
5 pm CL&L  
6pm Light Dinner  
6:45pm Lenten Study

7  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
6:30 pm Children's Choir  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

### 10 SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids  
11:15 am Congregational  
Brunch

11  
7 pm House Committee

12  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7 pm Session

13  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
6 pm Light Dinner  
6:45 pm Lenten Study

14  
7-9 am Last Breakfast Program  
6:30 pm Children's Choir  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

15

### 17 PALM SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Prayer Group

19  
7 pm Deacons  
7 pm Trustees

21  
10 am-1pm Holy Week  
Experience for Children & Youth  
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday  
Service  
8:30 pm Adult Choir

22  
7:30pm Tenebrae Service

### 24 EASTER SUNDAY

10 am Easter Worship  
11:15 am Easter Egg Hunt  
for Children

25  
7 pm Mission Committee

28  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

29  
5 pm Ghana Mission Team  
Fundraiser  
7 pm Prayer and Communion  
Preparation

## Upcoming Events:

### MAY

1 SUNDAY  
1 pm CROP Walk

8 SUNDAY  
Mother's Day

15 SUNDAY  
"Are you Smarter than a  
Worship Plus Kid?"

### JUNE

12 SUNDAY  
Youth Sunday &  
Church Picnic

19 SUNDAY  
Father's Day

04  
20  
11

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

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## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

9am-3pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

**Pastor:** James L. Reisner

**Associate Pastor:** Frances Wattman Rosenau

**Parish Associate:** Paul Randall

**Parish Associate:** James R. Thompson

**Minister of Music and Arts:** Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM

**Associate Minister of Music and Arts:** Susan Hermance Fedak

**Director of Christian Education:** Jeanne Bianchine

**Administrative Secretary:** Nancy J. Sokil

**Sexton:** Glenda Bennett

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to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)

