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April
2013

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Easter is here. Everything has changed. Christ is risen indeed!

Now what?

Now it's our turn.

Early Christians stumbled and guessed, met and prayed trying to figure out what the resurrection meant. Death has been overcome; God has broken the chains that kept humanity hostage. Now what?

As Christians today, we spend our whole lives responding to the resurrection and figuring out what it means for us. Do we live in a new way now? Does the resurrection make a difference in our daily routines?

Christian life is a response to the resurrection in our lives. In these pages you will find what that response looks like and what makes up the life of faith: events, celebrations, missions and offerings. Here and there, it may read like a list of happenings. My hope is that you see it instead as an invitation to participate in the life of God with others.

So how will you respond? How is God acting in your life? What would it be like for you to join with others and participate in God's work in Albany and the world? Is there something you are called to do that the church isn't doing? Let's make it happen! •

- Pastor Frances W. Rosenau



PASTORAL Reflections

By Pastor Jim Reisner

THE TONGUES OF ANGELS

"... Jesus said to them 'Do not be afraid . . .'" Matthew 28:10

"What shall it be? What shall we choose: to live half alive and preserve the illusions of a Good Friday world, or live fully alive the Easter truth that Christ is risen, love never dies, not with God, not even with us, and because Christ is risen we too are risen?"

William Sloane Coffin

On Easter, we proclaim our Easter faith: "Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!" That is the essence of the Easter message, and it has a corollary: "Do not be afraid." Our most fearsome foe in life is death, itself, and so on the day when death is defeated, we can abandon our fears and embrace hope. Easter is a day when we are set free from fear, so that we may become fully alive and live boldly and love boldly. We can say along with the Psalmist: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

Whenever God sends messengers to the world, the people to whom they are sent cower and recoil in fear. The first thing the angels then need to say is: "Do not be afraid." They knew the poor mortals quaking before them would be able to hear none of their message unless they were drawn out of their paralyzing fear.

Walter Brueggemann, perhaps the premier Biblical scholar in America today, once addressed a group of clergy from big steeple churches. This was a fairly distinguished and sophisticated gathering. As told by John Buchanon, who was present among the clergy, Brueggemann laid out the Gospel in the simplest of terms:

"Remember when you awoke in the middle of the night as a child and were certain that the shadows outside your window were some kind of terrible monster, and the creaking of the stairs assured you that something awful was about to happen, and you cried out, and your father or mother appeared in your room and took you in his or her arms and said the most important words in the world, "Don't be afraid. It's all right!""

When you tell someone, "Don't be afraid," then you are speaking in the tongue of angels; but as Paul so eloquently writes, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal." Even so, in order to be truly good news, we must say these words with the attitude of love, and with the assurance of presence. Then, people who hear our testimony will know that "love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Love never ends.

If love
never
ends,

then what possibly is there left in this world to fear? Easter morning disperses fear as surely as the sunrise disperses the dark •



THANK YOU

Bill
Waterman

By Patricia Trudeau

THANK YOU

from
Shirley

William Van Antwerp Waterman, Jr.

(At the close of 2012, Westminster received a bequest from William Waterman in the amount of \$205,000. People have asked to know more about the person who made such a generous gift. Patricia Trudeau has been kind enough to share some memories of her friend, Bill.)

Bill Waterman grew up on State Street in Albany. He and his parents were members of Westminster. He was graduated from Boys' Academy, attended Taft School and Yale University. In World War II, he served as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, and was injured in a jump in Southern France.

After the war, he attended Trinity University in Hartford, Connecticut, and then set out for Edinburgh, Scotland for further studies. He then enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Bill was active in the Christian ecumenical movement. He served as an interim minister at the U.C.C. congregation in Schoharie. Bill ran for the Albany County legislature in 1969.

He loved FOCUS, Westminster's liturgy and music, and the Men's Bible Study group. Rick Spalding remembers that Bill had an avid theological appetite. People who knew him saw a man of very devout faith. He came to Wednesday night pot luck dinners sharing herbs from his garden in Berlin, New York, where his family had a farm.

Bill Waterman died December 20, 2009 in Canaan, Connecticut. His memorial service was held at St. John's Church in Williamstown, Massachusetts on February 13, 2010. Bill was a kind, caring and sensitive man. We all liked him very much •

• • • • •

I would like to say a very big "Thank you" to my Westminster family for all the continued prayers and well wishes for my mother and father, and also for myself. My father came home from rehab this past Friday after 6 weeks and he is doing very well. He will have therapy at home 3 days a week. My mother continues her out patient rehab twice a week. I will hopefully start rehab this coming week. The out pouring of help for Lynne with crib room was wonderful. Sue, thanks for the visit and transportation to my doctor appointment. The cards were beautiful. I miss all of you. My goal is to be at African Family Night dinner on the 23rd.

Love, Shirley •

MUSIC

AT *Westminster*

By Alfred Fedak

BRUCE NESWICK ORGAN CONCERT: APRIL 12

The year 2013 marks the tenth anniversary of the re-installation and re-dedication of Westminster Church's fine Skinner pipe organ. To celebrate this occasion, several special events have been planned, the first of which will be a recital performed by concert organist Bruce Neswick, at 7:30 PM, Friday, April 12.

Bruce Neswick is one of America's major talents in the field of organ performance and is especially noted for his superb skill at improvisation, which has won him three first prizes—at the 1989 San Anselmo Organ Festival, the 1990 Boston American Guild of Organists' national convention, and the 1992 Rochette Concours at the Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva, Switzerland.

Bruce Neswick is associate professor of organ at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and was previously director of music at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. He was formerly the organist and choirmaster of St. Philip's Cathedral in Atlanta for many years. Prior to his appointment in Atlanta, he was the assistant organist-choirmaster and director of the Cathedral Girls' Choir at the Washington National Cathedral as well as the director of music at St. Albans School for boys and the National Cathedral School for Girls. These appointments followed tenures as organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Lexington, Ky.; Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Geneva, Switzerland; and St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, N.Y.

A native of Washington State, Mr. Neswick holds degrees from Pacific Lutheran University and from the Yale School of Music's Institute of Sacred Music.

As a recitalist, he has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe and been featured at national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. His playing is widely recognized for its incisiveness, vitality, and expressiveness.

We invite you to join us for this festive musical event, and to bring guests. Admission is free, a freewill offering will be received, and a reception will follow •



MISSION & MINISTRIES UPDATE

AFRICAN SPRING DINNER-THANK YOU

On behalf of the Committee on Ghana, we thank all who came to the African Spring dinner and all who contributed in any way.

Total amount of money received \$6,100 (with more pledge money expected). Early donations have already been sent to Liberia. At least \$1,500 will be wired to Hope Mission School to permit completion of the second permanent classroom.

Elected officials who attended and contributed: Congressman Paul Tonko, State Senator Neil Breslin, Assembly members Patricia Fahy and John McDonald and Bethlehem Supervisor John Clarkson.

Thanks to all who made it a meaningful celebration of our partnerships!

YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On March 16th, the youth volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in Albany. They cleaned out a storage area and sorted aluminum for recycling. Thanks to all who came and made a difference for the families at Ronald McDonald House •



Westminster Youth Group helping out at the Ronald MacDonald House!



KERYGMA

Discovering

the Bible

By Paul Randall

The Bible for nearly 2,000 years has formed the grounding for both Christianity and the values of Western civilization. Yet today many church members aren't very knowledgeable about the Bible. In November 2011 Presbyterian Research Services developed a 40-question survey to measure Biblical literacy among a representative group of Presbyterians. Test yourself with this sample: (answers below *)

EASY QUESTIONS

1. What is the first book of the Bible?
2. Which biblical figure is most closely associated with leading the exodus from Egypt?
3. Who said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands...I will not believe" ?
4. Where was Jesus baptized?

HARD QUESTIONS

5. Which book says "If a man commits adultery with wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death" ?
6. "Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways" is found in which book?
7. Which of Paul's letters says, "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male or female; for all of you are now one in Christ Jesus" ?
8. Which Gospel tells of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple near the beginning of his ministry?

How did you do? Want to do better and learn more? Plan to enroll in a new adult education course at Westminster next fall called Discovering the Bible: a New Generation, taught by Parish Associate Paul Randall.

The class will meet weekly for 30 sessions beginning Thursday, September 5th at the church. Cost for resource book: \$30. Based on the "Kerygma" study materials, this course will be a beginning survey of the Bible as a whole. It will explore biblical people, events, ideas, and places throughout the Old and New Testaments, through reading, reflection, discussion, and application.

A preview of the Kerygma approach will be offered immediately this month, beginning Thursday, April 4 at 5:30 at the church. It will be a 6-week program, "Introduction to Biblical Studies" (cost: \$12). For more information, contact Paul Randall or go to www.kerygma.com.

*Answers: 1. Genesis 2. Moses 3. Thomas 4. Jordan River 5. Leviticus 6. Lamentations 7. Galatians 8. John ●

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL
2013

Happy
BIRTHDAY

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 2ND DURING SECOND HOUR

Hat Show fundraiser for youth mission trip to New Jersey. The youth will put on a talent show fundraiser while wearing silly hats. They will then pass the hat for your donation of support. Come one come all!

RECLAIMING CIVILITY: A look at the principles of civility in Christianity and how they can be used in today's toxic public discourse. This Thoughtful Christian series is based on the work of John Calvin Davis. Join in the three-week discussion during second hours April 21, April 28, and May 5.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER MATTHEW FOX, Occupy Christianity: A New Reformation, Apr. 19, 7-8:30 pm, First Unitarian Society, Sch'dy; Apr. 20, 9am-3pm, St. George's Episcopal Ch., Sch'dy, Come hear Fox's call to reawaken the biblically- rooted tradition we now call Creation Spirituality; learn how study of St. Hildegard can help to guide us to an authentic Christianity in today's world. \$125; Registration deadline: Apr. 3 •

Westminster celebrates the following birthdays this month:

• Laura S.	April 1	• Esther Acheampong	April 17
• Joseph R.	April 8	• Carolyn Martel	April 18
• Samuel Kinum	April 9	• Linda Becker	April 19
• Joel Sebagala	April 14	• Kyra Fuleihan	April 19
• Valerie Shanley	April 14	• Maggie Gallagher	April 28
• Joy Tallmadge	April 14	• Sheila Holroyd	April 28
• Martha Reisner	April 15	• Selena Maurer	April 28
• Emily Tallmadge	April 16		

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



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Tim Dodman

From The Board of Trustees

SAFE SPACE

Last year Westminster identified hospitality as one of our core values. We seek to open our doors to the community around us, and welcome every person. We cannot offer hospitality properly without also creating a safe space.

We know everyone who attends services or special events at Westminster is thankful the building is safe and secure. We work diligently to ensure that each experience is with a sense of peace of mind and wellbeing not only for our visitors and ourselves, but also for those who work in the building on a regular basis.

During 2012 we upgraded the security system and installed a new code box. A new Security Policy and Procedures book has been prepared and will soon be available to all authorized key and code holders. Training and instructions will also be provided soon for all participants.

If you have been issued a key and code for special duties or activities, please contact Nancy Sokil, the Administrative Secretary for the church, to renew and update your security access information. Since there are a limited number of keys, we ask that if you no longer need to have a key, please advise Nancy as soon as possible.

The security and safety of the building is the responsibility of all who have been chosen to hold a key and code. We thank you for your participation and conscientious consideration toward this important and continuous goal for all who come to Westminster Presbyterian Church.



SERVICES & EVENTS

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

The Easter Sunday Worship Service will once again feature music by the Westminster Church Choir, the Catskill Brass and timpani, and will include the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus by the congregation

GOOD FRIDAY: THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Our Good Friday service this year will consist of a series of poignant musical meditations on Jesus' seven last words from the cross, led by the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, the Capital Region's premier chamber ensemble. The service will include excerpts from Joseph Haydn's Seven Last Words for string quartet. The string players will also be joined by a vocal quintet for a performance of Heinrich Schütz's setting of the actual biblical texts, and Al Fedak will perform the 20th-century British composer Alan Ridout's Seven Last Words for organ solo. The music will be accompanied by a projected display of visual art depicting the passion of Christ. This promises to be both a powerful and memorable evening, and we expect many guests to attend. Please plan to join us for this very special service

COMING SOON!

The annual Congregational Brunch will be held on Sunday, April 14, following the worship service. Plan to attend with all your family for this time of good food and fellowship.

CRIME VICTIMS MEMORIAL

Service at Westminster to remember Tonette Thomas

12 noon: Gathering in Westminster Sanctuary for Reflections and Prayers

12:30 pm: Leave Westminster via State Street entrance to march to Empire State Plaza to join those walking with a color guard to 2013 Program to remember 2013 victim.

1 to 3 pm: 2013 Ceremony held rain or shine. One person invited to speak in memory of each victim. Families, including spokesman for each 2013 victim, seated in front rows.





EASTERTIDE

at

Westminster

HEALING SERVICE

Healing was an integral part of Jesus' ministry. Wherever he went, he healed those who came to him seeking help:

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."

The early church understood that it was called to continue Jesus' healing ministry as a part of its concern for the health and well-being of the whole person. Healing ministry is still at the heart of the church and everything we do. Although today we rely on the advancements of modern medicine, we also leave room for the healing power of prayer.

Our worship on Sunday, April 28th, will focus on the theme of healing. The service will allow time for anointing and blessing for individuals who desire it •

Worship Services and Second Hours:

April 7 2nd Sunday in Eastertide Communion

Luke 24:13-35 "Song of the Open Road"

Pastor Reisner, preaching

2nd Hour: Life Together: A Conversation about Westminster

led by Pastor Reisner

April 14 3rd Sunday in Eastertide

John 21:1-19 "Brunch on the Beach"

Pastor Reisner, preaching

2nd Hour: Congregational Brunch

April 21 4th Sunday in Eastertide

Revelation 7:9-17 TBA

Pastor Rosenau, preaching

2nd Hour: Reclaiming Civility, Part I

April 28 Lent 4

Mark 2:1-12 TBA

Pastor Reisner, preaching

2nd Hour: Reclaiming Civility, Part 2



APRIL

*Church
Calendar*
2013

APRIL

3

7:00 pm
Christian Life and Learning

4

5:30 pm Kerygma -
The Study Begins

7 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am ECHO
7:00 pm Youth Group

9

7:00 pm Session

11

5:30 pm Kerygma -
The Study Begins
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

13

3:30 pm Baby Shower

14 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Congregational Brunch

16

6:30 pm Deacons
7:00 pm Trustees

18

5:30 pm Kerygma -
The Study Begins
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

19

12 noon Crime Victims Memorial

21 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
7:00 pm Youth Group

25

5:30 pm Kerygma -
The Study Begins
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

28 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School
11:30 am Young Adult Brunch

MAY

2

5:30 pm Kerygma -
The Study Begins
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

5 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education
11:15 am Church School

1:30 pm CROP Walk

UPCOMING EVENTS in MAY

10 Mother's Day



Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street
Albany, New York 12210

Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9 am- 3 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

Pastor: James L. Reisner

Associate Pastor: Frances Wattman Rosenau

Parish Associate: Paul Randall

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

Associate Minister of Music and Arts: Susan Hermance Fedak

Director of Christian Education: Andrea Joy Holroyd

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

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Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com