



THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER

Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • www.wpcalbany.org

November 2013

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Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.


-Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you want to keep a secret, put it in the church newsletter. That's what I used to say. Most months pass by without my hearing a comment about the contents of the Messenger, but not this past month. In the October 2013 Messenger, I wrote what I hoped would be a provocative reflection. I succeeded.

Turn the page, and welcome to November •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP *continued*



I began the essay, "I am thinking that maybe Westminster should do away with church membership. Now that I have your attention..." I then went on to reflect on the preferences of Generation X and Millennials for whom the concept of membership is not appealing. This is a challenge for the church currently and in the years ahead and is worth pondering. What I failed to do was to communicate that for folks like me (Baby Boomers and the Greatest Generation) church membership works just fine, and has throughout our years of involvement in the church.

Let me assure everyone that we are *not* about to do away with church membership. We are *not* about to drop life-long members from our roles. People who have given untold hours of selfless service and have dedicated significant financial resources to the ministry and mission of Westminster Presbyterian Church through the years will not be put out the door. I am concerned that some of you may have interpreted my words as unappreciative or dismissive of the contributions of time and talent that church members have made. That certainly was *not* my intent! But as one of my homiletics professors once said, "You are responsible for not only what you say, but also for how you are heard."

We have what I hope can be a teachable moment. People are asking some very good questions. As the session discussed this in its October meeting, one elder asked, "What kind of commitment are we asking people to make as they become members, or as they become part of our community?" Another voice wondered whether by accommodating an uncertain commitment, we might water down and devalue the whole concept of membership for everyone. An e-mail gave an historic perspective that differences in succeeding generations' sensibilities have been evident in the church for centuries and we are merely entering a new phase of an age old debate.

Thank you for reading last month's newsletter. Thank you for reading this. Thank you to those who have taken me up on my request that you speak to an elder or write a letter to session. We have an important conversation underway.

I invite you to come to the Sunday, November 24th, 2nd hour, "Church Community and Commitment," when we will continue the discussion ●
--Pastor Reisner

WE GIVE

FAITH AND STEWARDSHIP

Called to be faithful . . .

We have seen Westminster grow and blossom these past few years, energized by what our faith has helped us to be and to accomplish and the promise of more to come.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 10, please prayerfully consider what you might do to help reach our stewardship goal of \$210,000 in the context of how you are called to be faithful.

In Christian fellowship,
Arthur Fullerton and Susan Schell
Stewardship Budget Committee ●

Called to serve as church officers ...

New church officers were elected at the October congregational meeting:

Session	Class of 2016
Elizabeth McMillan	
Tom Norman	
Sue Schell	
Willie White	

Trustees	Class of 2016
Floyd Barwig	
Forrest Holroyd	
Diane Scaptura	
Peter Wrede	

Deacons	Class of 2016
Cindy Dwyer	
Marie McClumpha	
Ben Quaye	

A fourth deacon remains to be seated. The Nominating Committee requests that they present a nomination to fill this position at the Annual Meeting on the 4th Sunday in January ●

“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”
1 Corinthians 4: 1-2

GLORY TO GOD

BY: ALFRED FEDAK

WESTMINSTRELS BELL CHOIR

Westminster's bell choir will be playing at the Sunday, Oct. 27th Hymn Festival, 4:00 pm. But we are also looking for new ringers to fill up our tables and join in the music making and laughter. Rehearsals are on Sundays after worship, about 11:15 am until noon. If you can read music and count, you could be a new ringer! Please contact Sue Fedak for more information or to let her know you'd like to play.

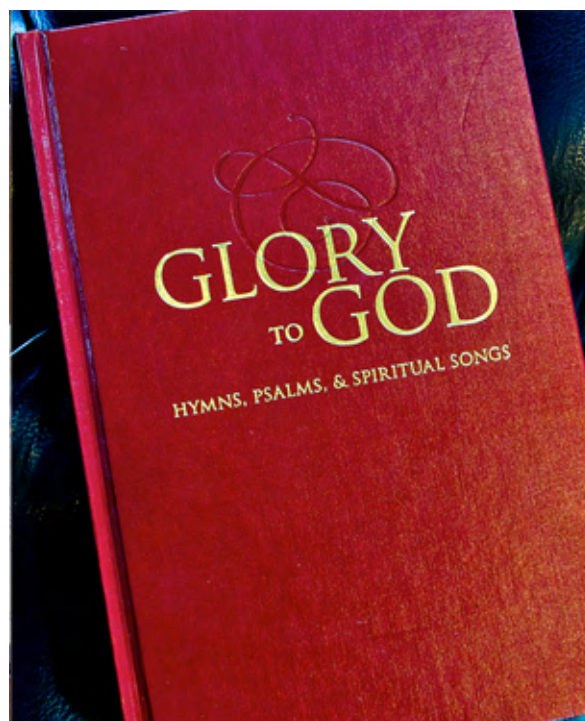
BURNT HILLS ORATORIO SOCIETY CONCERT

As some of you may know, Susan and Alfred Fedak add to their Westminster profile by conducting and accompanying other musical groups. Sue became the artistic director of Burnt Hills Oratorio Society last year, and Al has been the accompanist with them for the past 15 years. WPC members Margaret Randall and Susan Filipp sing alto in the group, which performs major choral works twice a year.

You are cordially invited to attend BHOS's fall concert, "Celestial Melodies and Eternal Harmonies", featuring Britten's "Jubilate Deo", and "Hymn to St. Cecilia", and Bach's Motet 1, "Sing to the Lord" and Cantata 1, "How Brightly Shines the Morningstar" and 191, "Gloria in Excelsis". The concert will take place on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 3:00 pm, at First Reformed Church, Scotia. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online at www.bhos.us

HYMNAL DEDICATION SET FOR NOVEMBER 3

At our morning worship service on November 3, All Saints' Sunday, Westminster Church's new hymnals will be formally dedicated. During that service, every individual in whose name a book has been given, either as a memorial or other remembrance, will be specially acknowledged in the bulletin. If you wish to give a hymnal to the church and have it inscribed with a memorial or honorary dedication to a friend or loved one, please use one of the pink envelopes found in the pews to make your donation, or send your gift directly to the church office by October 27. The cost per book is \$15. Besides being a wonderful remembrance, each new hymnal represents a gift we give to the next generation of worshippers at Westminster Church. Glory to God! ●





MINSTER MUSIK MAKERS SING!

The Minster Musick Makers will begin rehearsals on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm in the Youth Choir Room. All children and teens are invited to join in singing, playing instruments, getting a treat, and playing an occasional game of "Sardines".

We will be singing for worship on November 24, and for the play/pageant on Dec. 22. If rides are needed, please contact one of the Fedaks or the pastors, and we'll be happy to help out.

Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to praise God! ●

NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS

It's time for confirmation again! This year we have four young people who will be led by four teachers/mentors. The class begins in November, and ends in June with Confirmation. The leaders are Andrea Holroyd, Arden Leach, Tony Mason, and Peter McKee.

When a young person is baptized as a child, parents make promises and faith statements on their behalf. When they come of age, they confirm those promises as their own. A period of education and formation comes before so that the young people know what it means to profess the faith they have grown up with.

Please pray for the confirmation class as they go through this important time together. The vows you took at their baptism are critical during this time in their faith journeys ●

MISSION AT WESTMINSTER

MISSION BUDGET

When the 2014 budget was presented to the congregation in October, there was a request for further information about the Mission budget. We are supplying here the actual budget allocations for 2012. These numbers closely approximate financial commitments for 2013 and 2014. Some local discretionary mission funds are held back until late in the year in order to address emergency needs that often occur in December, so we cannot yet supply actual numbers for 2013.

Mission Budget Spending 2012

PCUSA Unified Mission	\$43,000
Theological Education	\$2,000
Sub-Total	\$45,000
FOCUS Pledge	\$23,000
Committee on Ghana	\$7,500
Emergency Overflow Shelter Meals	\$750
Local & Global Mission	\$39,400
TOTAL	\$115,650



LOCAL AND GLOBAL LINE ITEMS

LOCAL LINE ITEMS

FOCUS Minister's Discretionary	\$1,500
FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry	\$5,000
FOCUS Breakfast Program	\$1,500
Capital Area Council of Churches	\$3,800
M.L. King Jr. Scholarship	\$500
Emergency Overflow Shelter	\$2,500
Equinox Dom. Violence Shelters	\$1,000
AIDS Services & Housing	\$500
HATAS (Homeless & Trav. Aid)	\$500
Schuyler Inn Ministries	\$2,000

GLOBAL LINE ITEMS

Doctors without Borders	\$500
Medical Benevolence Foundation	\$250
Contact & Resource Center (Leb.)	\$500
Lebanese American University	\$500
Near East School of Theology	\$500
CROP Walk	\$2,000
Bread for the World	\$250

Total (Local & Global Mission) \$23,300

The Mission Committee works diligently to apply funds where there is great need, and where Westminster members are personally committed in their service to God. If you have questions, you may inquire with Mission Committee members: Tom McPheeters, Chair, Fatmata Hilton, Margaret Randall, Allan Tedrow, Lois Wilson and Sheila Wrede. The committee is also looking for new members and would welcome interested people to come to their meetings. Mission giving represents over 14% of our Annual Budget. These gifts are supported by your pledge. Please consider a generous pledge so we can continue a ministry of justice, mercy, and love to Albany and the world ●

LOCAL DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

Felicia Gambles Liberia Shipment	\$ 500
A Village Admin. Support	\$300
Face Africa Honorary Committee	\$300
Community Loan Fund of Cap District	\$250
HAC Sleep-a-thon	\$200
Troy Area United Ministries	\$100
Habitat for Humanity	\$200
Mission Yearbooks	\$69
Focus mission basket	\$16
Postage - Bread for World Postcards	\$36
Three gift cards - Schuyler Kids Club	\$150
Unified Mission	
LaBastille Orphanage - Haiti	\$250
CROP extra money for match	\$1125
Connie Houde - African Trip	\$300
Youth Organics	\$500
Meals - African Missionary	\$113
Ghana Mission Network Registrations	\$570
Playground Catherine Street	\$500
Kekeli, Inc (Carrie Brown)	\$100
Council of Churches Banquet Ad	\$65
Senior Issues Forum	\$500
Cuttington Dorm - Liberia	\$250
A Village Inc. Mississippi Day	\$250
Living Waters for the World	\$150
Free School Tuition	\$200
Nancy Ost, Internship program	\$500
Josh Heikkila - PCUSA Ghana support	\$300
PCUSA Hurricane Sandy	\$500
African American Cultural Center	\$500
FOCUS Christmas Gifts	\$650
End of Year: Emrgcy Overflow Shelter	\$1000
Transfer for 2013 mission trip	\$3000
Addiction Care Centers - Vista House	\$125
Lodges - for Schuyler Inn residents	\$300
Tema Churches mission partnership	\$260

Total Expenses \$14,128

Carry over to 2013 \$1,972

Total Local Discretionary \$16,100

FROM OUR DEACONS

SECOND HOUR PROGRAM on DEMENTIA

Nancy A. Cummings, Director of the Alzheimer's Center at Albany Medical Center, will speak at the Second Hour Program in the Assembly Hall on November 17 at 11:30AM. The speaker has a long history of working with patients and care partners who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Please let the ministers and members of the board of deacons know ahead of time any issues or questions that you might have so that the speaker can address your concerns. The program is sponsored jointly by the Board of Deacons and Christian Life and Learning.

In addition to being the recipient of the 2002 Professional of the Year Award from Leading Age/New York, Nancy Cummings has held positions at the Eddy Alzheimer's Services, Alzheimer's Service Line, Northeast Health; Hawthorne Ridge; Marjorie Rockwell Center; the Albany Guardian Society Home; Beechwood; and Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home ●

Dodie Seagle
Moderator
Westminster Church Board of Deacons

HELEN RISING FUND UPDATE

The Board of Deacons thanks all who were guided by the Holy Spirit and so generously helped to supplement the Helen Rising Fund with donations totaling \$1656.97 ●

AFRICAN FAMILY NIGHT

We welcome you to join the festivities of African Family Night on Saturday, November 9th. The evening will feature an address by Dr. Kwadwo (Joe) Sarfoh on African Union, wonderful African food, the music of Charles Norby, and activities for people of all ages. All persons attending African Family Night are encouraged to sign up on Sunday morning. Add your name to the list in the Chestnut Street Hall or with a person carrying a clip board. Reservations may also be made by calling the Church office -- 436-8544. ●

NOVEMBER
2013

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Celebrating the following
birthdays in November:

● Paul Randall	Nov.6	● Jane McLaughlin	Nov.16
● Cynthia Frye	Nov.8	● Grant H.	Nov.17
● Marianne Rings	Nov.10	● Eleanor K.	Nov.17
● Olive N.	Nov.10	● Dr. Alex Filipp	Nov.19
● Ian McClumpha	Nov.11	● Peter Leue	Nov.22
● Ben Wilhelm	Nov.13	● Michael Kinum	Nov.30
● Greg Dwyer	Nov.15		

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

Worship Services and Second Hours:

November 3 **All Saints' Sunday** **Communion**
Dedication of New Hymnals
Ephesians 1:1-14 "Saints Alive!" *Pastor Reisner*
2nd hour: Who Are the Saints? A discussion led by Pastor Reisner

November 10 **Stewardship Sunday**
I Corinthians 4:1-6 "Trustworthy Stewards" *Pastor Reisner*
2nd hour: Deb Jameson on Toxic Charity

November 17 **Healing Service**
Isaiah 65:17-25 "Bending in the Wind" *Pastor Rosenau*
2nd hour: Caring for Someone with Alzheimer and Dementia

November 24 **Thanksgiving Sunday**
Ezekiel 34:11-24
"How Have You Treated the Weak Among You?" *Pastor Reisner*
2nd hour: Church Community and Commitment, a discussion led by Pastor Reisner

NOVEMBER
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CHURCH CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

3 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School

5

7:00 am Breakfast Club begins

6

7:00 pm Christian Life & Learning

7

6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

9

5:00 pm African Family Night

10 SUNDAY

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

11

Office Closed

12

7:00 pm Session

14

6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

17 SUNDAY

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

19

7:00 pm Deacons
7:00 pm Session

21

6:30 pm Minster Musick Makers
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

23

9:30 am Presbytery (@ New Scotland)

24 SUNDAY

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

26

7:30 pm Thanksgiving Service at
First Unitarian Universalist Society

28 & 29

Office Closed

1 SUNDAY- Advent 1

10:00 am Worship



SUNDAY GREETERS:

November 3: Carol Bromley, Cindy Dwyer, Judy Hartley, and Margie Mayer

November 10: Ruthanne Brod, Marie McClumpha, Peter McKee, and Willie White

November 17: Alex, Andy and Diane Saptura, and Eve Ryan

November 24: Tim and Lisa Dodman, Ben and Maxine Quay



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

Church School Assistant Coordinator: Belinda Quaye

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com