

# The Westminster Messenger



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**There** is a revolution going on all around us that is as radical and life-changing as was the 16th century Reformation. That revolution is social media.

The Reformation was affected by social and technological change. It could not have happened without the invention of the printing press. With the printing press came the potential for literacy among the masses, and the possibility of placing the Bible in the pew and in the home.

**“Today new frontiers have opened to communicate the gospel.”**

In 2011, the church is challenged to share the good news, through the internet, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, blogs and any number of other new media.

In this new year, Westminster is introducing a new format for the Messenger. This is just one facet of a larger strategy of outreach to the larger community, and communicating with one another within the Westminster family of faith.

For those who wish to continue to receive the Messenger by mail, we will continue to send you a paper copy delivered to your door. For those who prefer to have the Messenger sent by e-mail, please go to: [www.wpcalbany.org/newsletter](http://www.wpcalbany.org/newsletter) to sign up ●

# Going to Ghana

**Westminster's** 2011 mission team to Ghana, headed by Associate Pastor Rev. Frances W. Rosenau, will include seven missionaries from Westminster and as many as five others from Loudonville Presbyterian Church and Northeast Health.

The team will focus on projects to help Ghana continue to implement the U.N. Millennium Development Goals to eliminate extreme poverty.

**Here I am. Send me...  
and He said, "GO". Isaiah 6:8-9**

Please help the team carry out its projects:

- Increasing sustainable access for safe drinking water in West Africa
- Raising money for insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce maternal and child deaths from malaria.
- Sharing information on how to build a health system to care for patients with memory loss
- Helping to remove barriers to universal primary education through scholarships, including children with disabilities
- Countering deforestation with a series of targeted "Arbor Days" while in Ghana

Fundraising events at Westminster--dinners provided free, goodwill offering will be taken:

- April 2: African Spring Dinner- "Safe Water" 5-9 pm
- April 29: Fund Raiser for Ghana Travel Team 5-7 pm



*African Family Night  
Nov. 6, 2010 ;Rev.  
Alice Kyei-Anti and  
members of the  
Westminster family  
discuss mission projects  
to help eliminate  
poverty in Africa.  
Left to right: **ShellySeely**,  
born in Liberia;  
**Fatama Hilton**,  
born in Sierra Leone;  
**Mama Alice**,  
born in Ghana and a  
former missionary in  
Ghana and Malawi;  
**Nannono Z.**; and  
**Felicia Kollie-Gambles**,  
born in Liberia.*





# Our Local Mission

**On** Sunday February 6, 2011 at 10:00 am, the six covenant FOCUS congregations will worship in a joint service at First Presbyterian Church. Following the service there will be a light luncheon and the FOCUS annual meeting. Updates for 2011 on our ministries together will be presented.

We will celebrate the annual SOUPer Bowl of Caring on February 6th, Super Bowl Sunday by receiving a collection benefitting the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry ●

**FOCUS: SOUPer Bowl Sunday at First Presbyterian Church**

## Emergency Overflow Shelter

**Did** you know that on these cold Sunday winter evenings, Westminster sends volunteers to welcome guests and to cook meals at the Emergency Overflow Shelter?

If you are interested in helping please contact Sheila Wrede at 478.0290 ●

## Going to Schuyler Inn

### Westminster

members have held social events at Schuyler Inn regularly since 2005 to reach out to families in Albany County's largest emergency shelter. In addition to support for Schuyler's basic mission, former residents often have mentioned the importance of the social events in lifting spirits and inspiring hope.

**Next event:** Sunday, February 6, 2-4 pm, joint theme party, "Valentine's Day" and "Super Bowl Sunday."

Set-up time: 1 pm

To offer help, contact Coordinators Margaret Randall or Lois Wilson ●



# Children and Youth

**The** youth of the church, a few “alum” home from college, friends and chaperones gathered for a lock-in December 28th. The group’s energy filled the assembly room!

**If the church is a-rockin’  
there must be a Lock-In!**

The evening began with requisite pizza and soda consumption. After introductions it was on to game time, playing several different types of improv games on the stage in the assembly

room. A highlight was when the characters from the Wizard of Oz met Monty Python and Willie Wonka.

Next, it was on to the youth room to watch a movie followed by a discussion about what it means to be an outsider. The conversation transitioned into talking about Jesus as an outsider focusing on the parable of the great banquet Luke 14:16-24.

The next morning, the alarm sounded at 5:45 am. The youth served breakfast at the FOCUS breakfast program downstairs with skill and enthusiasm. The lock-in concluded in prayer with each person sharing some aspect of the event for which they were thankful. We as a church can be most thankful for the gifts God has given to the youth of this congregation ●





# Hope College Symphonette Concert

**Spring** will arrive eventually. And it will bring music with it. The first event of our upcoming spring concert season at Westminster will take place on Tuesday evening, March 22, at 7:30 pm, when the Hope College Symphonette from Holland, Michigan, will perform in our sanctuary.

Hope College, of course, is the alma mater of Al, Sue, and Ben Fedak, and of many members of Sue's family, past and present. The Hope College Symphonette is a highly accomplished 40-member chamber orchestra directed by Dr. Richard Piipo, which has performed throughout North America and Europe. This will be the group's third appearance at Westminster Church; their previous concerts here were wonderful events: well performed, well attended, and enjoyed by all.

The Symphonette's concert will be free and open to the public. In return, Westminster has

## Westminster's First Spring Concert: March 22

been asked to provide dinner for the group at the church before the concert, and overnight housing in private homes afterward. If you are able to help in preparing or serving the meal, or if you can house 2 or more student musicians overnight, please contact Al Fedak at the church or by e-mailing him at: [alfred@alfredfedak.com](mailto:alfred@alfredfedak.com). Those of you who have housed Hope students in the past know how much fun it can be—these are good, wholesome kids, and they make great houseguests! ●

# Bell Choir to Resume

**Westminstrels** Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 11:15 am, after worship in the sanctuary. Membership is open to anyone, however, music reading skills and a sense of humor are required! We will plan on playing once a month in worship.

Please speak to Susan Fedak or call 427-7744, if you would like to join this wonderful group of musicians ●

# Adult Study at the Beverwyck

**Did** you hear the one about the guys who worked one hour who got paid the same as the guys who worked all day? Or the boss who commended the con man who cheated him?

Those are two of Jesus' stories we don't hear much about. Bring your Bibles, more than one version if you have them, and your imagination. We will want to explore the original context of the stories and try to discern the nature of God; the meaning of Christian community; and what God is asking us to be and do in light of each parable. We'll be talking about them and other less well-known parables on three Wednesday evenings at Beverwyck Retirement Center on **Feb. 2, 9, and 16 from 7:30-9:00 pm.**

● Contact Parish Associate Paul Randall at: [randallpaul@gmail.com](mailto:randallpaul@gmail.com) for details.

## Sermons & Second Hours:

**FEBRUARY 6** 10AM

FOCUS Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Pastor Jeff Matthews preaching, of Trinity United Methodist Church

**2nd Hour:** FOCUS Annual Meeting

**FEBRUARY 13**

Matthew 5:21-37

Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "Jesus Raises the Bar"

**2nd Hour:** Ian Pounds will present a program of his work with the Afghan Child Education and Care Organization of Kabul, Afghanistan. Handcrafted Afghan items will be on sale following worship.

**FEBRUARY 20**

Matthew 5:38-48

Pastor Reisner preaching, "Am I Really Supposed to be Perfect?"

**2nd Hour:** The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1: Pastor Reisner

**FEBRUARY 27**

Matthew 6:24-34

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau preaching, "Confessions of a Hand Wringer"

**2nd Hour:** The Sermon on the Mount, Part 2: Pastor Rosenau



# Church Calendar

## This Month's Events:

### FEBRUARY

- 1**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program
- 2**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
6:30 pm CL&L  
7:30-9 pm Parable Study
- 3**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30 pm Adult Choir
- 4**  
7 pm Friday Night Prayer
- 5**  
11 am China Association  
12:30 pm Bowling for Beds

### 6 SUNDAY

- 10 am FOCUS Service at  
First Presbyterian Church  
1 pm Schuyler Inn Set-up  
2-4 pm Schuyler Inn Party

- 8**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7 pm Session

- 9**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30-9 pm Parable Study

- 10**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

### 13 SUNDAY

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

- 15**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7 pm Trustees

- 16**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30-9 pm Parable Study

- 17**  
7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

### 20 SUNDAY

- 10 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Bell Choir

### 22

- 7-9 am Breakfast Program

### 23

- 7-9 am Breakfast Program

### 24

- 7-9 am Breakfast Program  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

### 26

- 8-12 am Clock group

### 27 SUNDAY

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

### 28

- 7-9 am Breakfast Program  
12:15 pm Ghana Travel Team

## Upcoming Events:

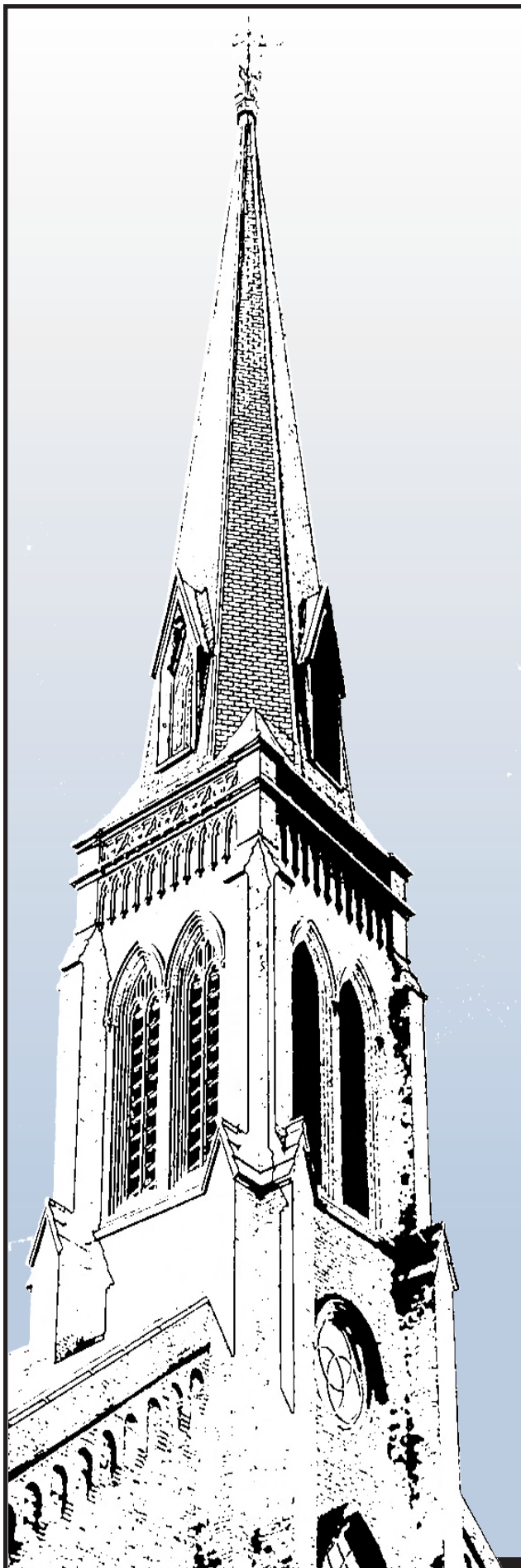
### MARCH

- 22 TUESDAY 7:30 pm**  
Hope College Symphonette

### APRIL

- 1 FRIDAY 7:30 pm**  
Concert: The Svyati Duo  
Cello and Organ from England
- 2 SATURDAY 5-9 pm**  
African Spring Dinner
- 10 SUNDAY**  
Congregational Bunch
- 29 FRIDAY 5-7pm**  
Fundraiser for  
Ghana Travel Team  
Mission Projects

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## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE

9am-3pm Monday-Friday

phone: 518.436.8544

**Pastor:** James L. Reisner

**Associate Pastor:** Frances W. Rosenau

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

**Associate Minister of Music and Arts:** Susan H. Fedak

**Director of Christian Education:** Jeanne Bianchine

**E-Mail:** [info@wpcalbany.org](mailto:info@wpcalbany.org)

**Web:** [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)

**Facebook:** Westminster Albany

**Twitter:** jim\_reisner

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Send March newsletter submissions by February 15  
to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)