



The
Westminster
Messenger **Compassion,
Truth, Courage,
Hospitality**

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

June-July 2012

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It's that time of year: the days are getting longer, the weather is warming up and daily routines become more relaxed. Summer is almost upon us.

At Westminster, we are transitioning into the summer months ourselves. We are blessed with the opportunity to worship with our FOCUS partners the first Sundays in July and August. I love that our church has covenanted to worship with other congregations, showing our commitment to join with other Christians in worship.

Our own summer worship will be a little different this year with communion every week in July and August.

Summer offers a slower pace and also an opportunity to linger over a conversation, to step back from the regular routine and to do things differently. At Westminster, we are doing new things and experimenting all over the place. We have decided to go for it: to dream big and to take on new challenges.

This June may be a time of life transition for you, a time to get away or simply a new season to enjoy God's beautiful creation. Whatever your life holds in store it boils down to this: God is at work in our midst!

So keep reading. See what is going on in the life of the church.
Pastor Frances W. Rosenau •



Pastoral Reflections: On Changing One's Mind

About the worst accusation that can be thrown at presidential candidates is the charge of flip-flopping. When politicians alter their positions on issues, they become targets for the pundits of the opposition to attack their character and their integrity. Treacherous waters await a candidate who pronounces that his or her opinion has evolved or changed over time. The insatiable appetite of the 24 hour news cycle lives for such gotcha moments these days.

What's so terrible about changing one's mind? Is not the ability to evaluate, to adapt, and to reconsider the sign of intelligence and maturity? And consider the opposite: what does it say for a person to never change his or her mind? Is that at all virtuous? The person whose opinions never alter nor evolve exhibits a rigidity and closed-mindedness that are hardly the attributions that I would want to see in a political leader.

Does God ever change God's mind? The Book of Hebrews proclaims, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (13:8). In Malachi, we read, "for I am the Lord, I do not change" (3:6). Traditional Christian theology argued that God, as the prime mover, as the Almighty, necessarily could not change because that would be a sign of weakness, an indication that God could be affected by another force or being. One of the attributions given to God by the Greeks was *apatheo*, from which the word *apathy* is derived in modern English. In Jesus Christ, we see the Incarnate Word completely vulnerable to the actions of the powers of the world. *Apatheo* is replaced by Christ's Passion. This was scandal of the Gospel that Paul said proved a stumbling block to the Greeks as Paul preached Christ crucified.

God does change God's mind in scripture. God is a flip-flopper. We see this when Moses pleads for God to show mercy towards the Hebrews, and God relents from acting with punishment (Exodus 32:11 ff). In the Gospels, we see Jesus first dismiss the Syro-Phoenician woman, but her relentless faith causes him to reconsider and heal her daughter (Mark 7:25-30).

A preliminary step in resolving this conundrum is to acknowledge that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever because God has always been open to change. This is a truth we profess as we worship the Trinity, a mysterious affirmation of our dynamic God-- a God who has through the centuries changed and adapted in covenantal relationship with humanity.

And since God can change God's mind, maybe we can change our minds, too. Pastor Jim Reisner ●

Annual Church Picnic June 10th

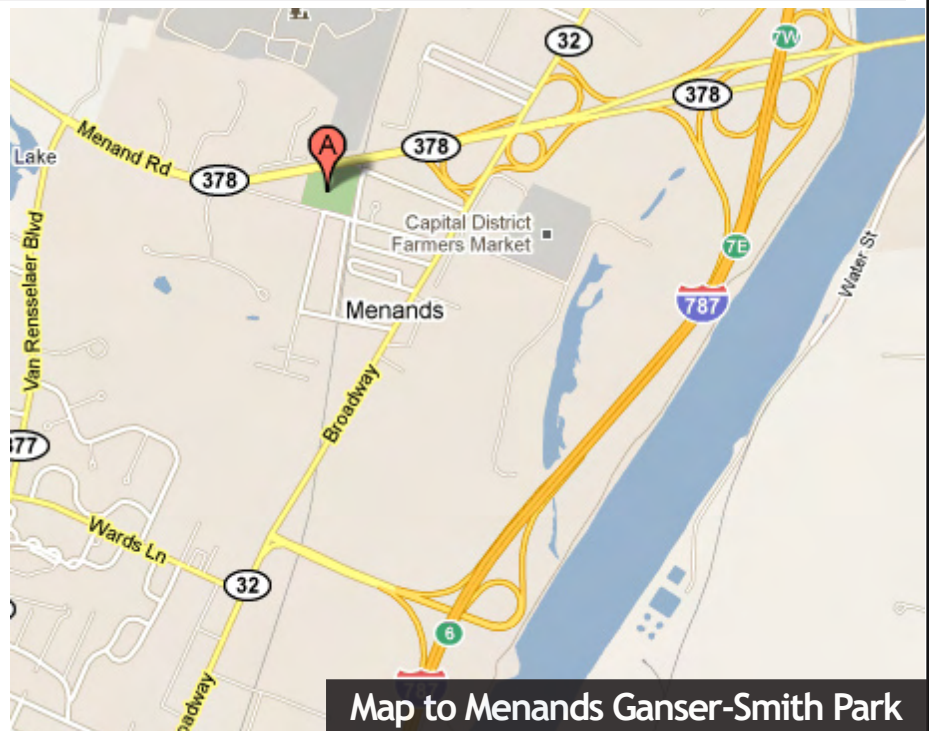
Join your church family for the annual picnic on Sunday June 10, at noon, at the Menands Ganser-Smith Park, which is handicapped accessible, at 53 Menands Rd. Food, fellowship, and games in the spirit of the Olympics! Rides provided if needed. Meats and beverages provided, bring a dessert or side dish to share. Sign up on the bulletin board at church, or by calling the church office. Questions? Contact John Bossung, coordinator, at 475-0169 or johnbossung@verizon.net. ●

DIRECTIONS TO : THE PICNIC FROM THE CHURCH PARKING LOT VIA BROADWAY

1. Take a left out of the parking lot onto Chestnut St toward S Swan St
2. Take the 1st left onto S Swan St.
3. Turn right onto State St
4. Slight left to stay on State St
5. Turn left onto Broadway: travel north for 3.5 miles until you reach Menand Road.
6. Turn left onto Menand Rd. The Park will be on the right.

OR:

1. Take I-787 North to Exit 6.
2. At the end of the exit, take a right on Broadway.
3. Travel .7 miles to Menand Road.
4. Turn left onto Menand Road. The Park will be on the right.



Map to Menands Ganser-Smith Park



June Music at WPC

JUNE 1 & 2: CAPITOL OPERA'S "SHOW WITHIN A SHOW!"

Capitol Opera Albany returns to our church's sanctuary this month to give two staged performances of two Mozart operas—simultaneously! This accomplished professional opera troupe has condensed the comic operas "Bastien and Bastienne" and "The Impresario" into a single work, with what can only be described as zany results! The group will give the first performance at 6:30 PM on Friday, June 1, as part of our church's First Friday series of programs. They will then return on Saturday, June 2, for a repeat performance at 2:00 PM—right after that day's Freihofer Run activities are completed. The stellar cast includes sopranos Page Lucky, Sharon Cheng, Alison Davy, Maria Jacobi and Anne Dugan; tenor Christopher Sokolowski, and Bass-Baritone Christopher Leake. Director Wayne Wyman will also play a role, but for the moment at least, no one is quite sure which one! Come and enjoy! Admission is free; donations at the door are welcome.

JUNE 3: WESTMINSTER CHOIR TO SING DVORAK

At 10 AM on Trinity Sunday, June 3, our Westminster Church Choir will close its 2011-2012 singing season with a presentation of excerpts from Antonin Dvorak's Mass in D Major, presented liturgically during that morning's worship service of Holy Communion. Dvorak composed this work for the dedication of a private chapel in Bohemia. Although he later orchestrated the piece, its original accompaniment was for organ alone, and this is the version from which our choir will sing the Kyrie, Gloria, and Sanctus. (The entire work will be heard in a concert later this year, when the choir resumes rehearsals in the fall.) This is music of exquisite beauty, full of lyrical expression, folk-like melodies, and dramatic climaxes. Do plan to worship with us that morning!

JUNE 15: JUSTAN FOSTER ORGAN RECITAL

Organist Justan Foster, a graduating senior at SUNY Albany and a student of Al Fedak, will present his Senior Recital at Westminster on Friday evening, June 15, at 7:30 PM. Justan is a former student of Craig Williams at West Point's Cadet Chapel, former organist at Trinity Methodist Church, and is presently serving as organist at First Reformed Church in Scotia. His last appearance at Westminster took place this past November, when he agreed at the last minute to step in and share a concert with Al and with Albert Melton, who was suffering from neuropathy. Justan's program will include music of Bach, Dubois, Guilmant, Bedford, and others. Admission is free and all are invited ●



Youth Mission Trip

We have been planning, preparing and fundraising for a year. Now the mission trip to Pittsburgh is almost upon us.

The team of 13 youth and adults will leave Westminster on Friday, July 6th for a week of service and exploration. The trip begins with a visit to the closing worship service of General Assembly: the biannual meeting of our denomination. The team will rub shoulders with Presbyterians from all over the country and the world and get a glimpse of the larger Church at work.

They will discover Pittsburgh, attending worship at a new worshipping community in the South Side of the city before joining the program at the Pittsburgh Project. The Pittsburgh Project helps low-income or homebound residents stay in their homes. Our team will go to work sites every day and do various repairs or projects that the homeowners could not do on their own.

After a full week, the team will return to Albany on July 13th. Please pray for the whole team - leaders and youth - as well as the people they will serve. May the Holy Spirit's transforming power work in all of their lives. ●

June 8, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: The FOCUS Gardening in a Bucket party for Kids. Program: Short presentation about plants, a children's art, and planting of cherry tomatoes for families to take to their rooms. More volunteers needed. Contact Becca if you can help -- beccal@focuschurches.net

Tuesday, July 17, 5:15 - 7 p.m.: Summer BINGO for all Schuyler residents. Summer BINGO programs have been very popular. Email LWilson502@aol.com if you would like to help.

JUNE 17TH SECOND HOUR

WPC invites all interested persons to a presentation on June 17 (11.30 a.m.) by the African Women of Love Ministry (AWOLM), founded by eight U.S. women born in Sierra Leone, including WPC deacon Fatmata Hilton. The women of AWOLM were directly affected by the horrors created by Taylor-armed Sierra Leone rebels yet they are focusing their energies on providing spiritual and practical help to survivors.

The June 17 speakers -- Apostle Virtue K. Bangura, RN from New Jersey and Fatima Bell, RN from Scotia - travelled to Sierra Leone in January to distribute clothing and medical supplies. They will show pictures taken on the trip and describe needs on which AWOLM wants to focus.

Celebrating Westminster: Jeanne Bianchine

As the Director of Christian Education, I have had the best job on staff--being with your children and watching them grow in the ways of our Lord!

There are many moments that I will treasure forever:

- At the end of the Godly Play lesson, the children gather round a large family Bible and take turns reading the scripture. My eyes always fill up with tears of joy when a young child goes from being a listener to a reader. There is no sweeter sound than hearing God's word spoken by the lips of a child!
- Worship Plus for Kids with Diane Bossung ever by my side have made Sunday worship experiences that have been joyful, insightful, worship-ful and just plain fun. It is my hope that the children will cherish these Sundays with fondness. So... who is smarter than a Worship Plus Kid?
- Capital Camp for Kids--time learning about God, really silly camp songs, some fun crafts and a field trip everyday. No wonder we went home happily exhausted!
- To the kids at the Kid's Pew. You all made going to church worthwhile. Each one of you has grown into such wonderful child of God. May you continue to look to Him for guidance as you grow up.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the Truth." III John 1:4



In addition to my Church School and Worship Plus memories, I will miss hearing the church bells ringing at the top of the ten o'clock hour. I sure hope the neighbors woke up for those!

I will also miss those few minutes before we can figure out when Al Fedak's fantastic organ playing will end and that the candles at the front of the church will actually light. Whew! What a great crew that have helped carry out the acolyting task with ease, sometimes and with an extra match!

You all have graciously supported my endeavors and carried through with multiple helping hands from a smiling face of support to preparing and teaching the children each Sunday. It has truly been a pleasure serving at Westminster.

Jeanne Bianchine ●

June Usher Schedule

The following have graciously given Westminster their gift of service. Please be sure to thank them!

Date:	Ushers:	Acolyte:	Church Bell:
June 3	Tim & Lisa Dodman, Eve Ryan, Diane Scaptura, Sheila Holroyd		Caleb & Emmanuel K.
June 10	Ben & Belinda, Maxine, Robert Q.	Andrew W.	Lexy & Grant H.
June 17	Margie Mayer, Cindy Dwyer, Andrew K., Tom Mc Pheeters	Henry K.	Andrew K.
June 24	Marie McClumpha, Sue Schell, Arden Leach, Zach Rosenau	Maxine Q.	Robert Q.

Westminster celebrates the following birthdays in June:

• Kate G. June 3	• Rosemarie Kinum June 17
• Natalie M. June 3	• Michael Shrader June 18
• Heidi Maurer June 4	• Divine N. June 19
• Mary Jean Tedrow June 6	• Bob Frye June 21
• Stephen Tallmadge June 10	• Tim Dodman June 23
• John Lang June 12	• Charles Creegan June 24
• Gregory C. June 13	• Zion M. June 26
• Zach Rosenau June 14	• Jim Seagle June 26
• Andrea Joy Holroyd June 15	• Akinde M. June 27
• Peter McKee June 16	• Kaitlyn B. June 28
• Jack Bossung June 17	

Celebrating the following birthdays in July:

• Cindy Falle July 3	• Connie Frisbee Houde July 17
• Emmanuel K. July 3	• Jim Reisner July 19
• Patricia Trudeau July 4	• Nancy Holroyd July 20
• Eileen Van Oort July 5	• Pete Seagle July 21
• Thomas W. July 6	• Susan Filipp July 23
• Ann Treadway July 8	• Martha Faust July 29
• Mabel Maguire McGraw July 11	• Patrick Foy July 29
• Betsy Rock July 11	• Kristen Gordon July 31
• Clayton Besch July 16	

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

June & July

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Updates on Mission

ALBANY WESTMINSTER PC HELPS MEMBERS BORN IN LIBERIA & SIERRA LEONE RESPOND TO CIVIL WARS

Liberia and Sierra Leone are two of the poorest countries in the world (ranked 182 and 180 out of 187 countries listed in the 2011 Human Development Index). Both countries endured civil wars provoked by former Liberian President Charles Taylor. On April 26, 2012, Taylor was convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (located in The Hague, Netherlands) of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Prosecutors proved during a four-year trial that Taylor had subjected tens of thousands of civilians in Sierra Leone to a campaign of murder, sexual abuse, amputation and slave labor. Liberians speak of a “lost generation” never able to attend school. Infrastructure has sustained enormous damage: for example, pipe-based water supply facilities are at 25% of prewar capacity in Monrovia, Liberia’s capital city.

Albany’s Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC) has mission projects in each country; we invite support from others in Albany Presbytery. For more information, email Fatmata Hilton fatmatahilton@yahoo.com, Felicia Kollie-Gambles yassah@verizon.net or Rev. Frances Rosenau fwrosenau@wpcalbany.org

HOPE MISSION SCHOOL PROJECT IN LIBERIA

Westminster member Felicia Kollie-Gambles, a native of Liberia, has led efforts to bring relief and hope to devastated Liberia. As a result, the Hope Mission School near Monrovia has provided a series of opportunities to serve the Lord. WPC began by providing funds to build simple school buildings and provide scholarships for students. As the school reached 150 students, clean water and sanitation became a major concern. WPC was aided in this effort by FACE Africa, a nongovernmental organization devoted to providing clean water in Africa. WPC raised \$3,600 last year to construct a well for the school. FACE Africa secured a \$12,000 foundation grant to also build a public composting latrine and hand washing station.

The school has grown to 200 students. The well serves not only the students, but also their families and neighbors, 1500 in all. Now that a latrine is available, girls attend the crowded school. In the process, WPC has learned how to work in a war-torn land and has built a network of reliable partners, a crucial link in an area where postwar corruption is endemic. WPC and its partners are now seeking funds for larger and more substantial school buildings

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WALKED IN THE CROP WALK

Initial totals for Westminster are \$9000! Also, a big Thank You to Diane Bossung, our CROP Coordinator, for another great successful year!●

People In the News

Our own Lois Wilson was one of seven area leaders honored at The Interfaith Alliance of New York State's annual dinner on May 1 at the Albany Country Club. Several Westminster members including pastor Jim Reisner were there to see her receive the Robert Lamar Humanitarian Award, which recognizes "outstanding individuals who promote human rights, combat bigotry and prejudice, and work to secure justice and fair treatment for all people." It is given in honor of the Rev. Robert Lamar, longtime pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Albany, who personifies those ideals. Lois was honored for her tireless work to advance social justice and public policy over many years, including initiatives for seniors, for mission in Africa, and for homeless families in Albany

Bill and Margie Mayer have been named Col-
onie Senior Service Centers Volunteers of the Year for 2012. The Mayers were recognized for their help at the cafe and in preparing the Senior Connections newsletter. This comes as no surprise to Westminster folk who have witnessed Bill's and Margie's generous spirits at work through the years.

GRADUATE SCHOOL:

MA, SUNYA, Department of Africana Studies: Esther Acheampong

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE:

Columbia High School: Matthew Scaptura

AN UPDATE: PLEDGES AND PEW CUSHIONS

The Stewardship Committee reports that members of our congregation have made pledges of \$189,433 for the 2012 church year. An additional amount of \$25,207 was pledged as Challenge Fundraising for 2012, resulting in a total of \$214,640. The Committee thanks everyone who has made a pledge and has been faithful in paying a pledge.

A third appeal to the congregation for 2012 brought a total of \$10,701 as pledges to defray the cost of the new pew cushions. Members already have paid \$9,271 toward the total cost of \$24,260, an encouraging response. We still have a way to go with this campaign. As you enjoy sitting on the beautiful new cushions each Sunday, please consider making an initial or further gift so that we will soon have them completely paid for. Any gifts for the cushions made in a person's memory or honor before November will be recognized in a special way ●

Pledges and Pew Cushions



Communion this Summer

The Session

has determined that Westminster will celebrate Communion every Sunday during July and August. The weekly observance of Communion is not as foreign to Presbyterian worship as you might presume. In fact, the reason we don't is due to an accident of history. John Calvin, while pastor of the church in Geneva, suspended the celebration of the sacrament while he re-educated the congregation on its meaning. His intention was to reinstitute Communion to be celebrated every Sabbath. Calvin wrote in his Institutes that the Lord's Supper should be "set before the church very often, and at least once a week." But before he completed his plan, Calvin was removed from the Geneva pulpit.

Our hope is that weekly Communion will enrich our experience of worship, and further serve to affirm our unity in Jesus Christ whose living presence is proclaimed visibly as we break the bread, lift the cup of salvation and share this holy meal ●

June Sermons & Second Hours:

JUNE 3 Trinity Sunday **Communion** II SAMUEL 6:1-11
Antonin Dvorak's Mass in D excerpts presented by Westminster Choir
Pastor Reisner, preaching, *Fasten Your Seatbelts*
2nd Hour: Mary Vickerman: Capital District Community Gardens

JUNE 10 Church School Sunday
3rd Graders receiving Bibles, Recognition of: Church School Teachers, Children's Choir and Graduating High School Senior
Presentation of *The Game Room*, a play written by Nell Stokes-Holmes
2nd Hour: Church Picnic at Menands Park

JUNE 17 REVELATION 3:14-22
Pastor Reisner, preaching, *The Temperature of Spit*
2nd Hour: African Women of Love Ministry-AWOLM

JUNE 24 1 SAMUEL 7:7-12
Pastor Rosenau, preaching, *Where is your Ebenezer?*
No 2nd Hour

Church Calendar

This Summer's Events:

JUNE

- 1
6:30 pm
First Friday
- 2
2:00 pm
Capitol Opera

3 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
6:30 pm Mission Trip -Parents
7:00 pm Youth Group

- 5
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

- 6
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

10 SUNDAY

Church School Sunday

- 10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church Picnic in Menands

- 11
7:00 pm House Committee

- 12
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
6:00 pm Session

- 13
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
6:00 pm Session

- 15
7:30 pm Justan Foster Organ Recital

- 16
3:00 pm Baby Shower for Frances

17 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Second Hour
11:30 Young Adult Picnic

- 19
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7:00 pm Trustees

- 20
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

- 21
22
7:00 pm CRTC Shane Claiborne

- 23
9:00 am- 4:00 pm Shane Claiborne

24 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Session

- 25
7:00 pm Mission

- 26
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

- 27
7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

JULY

1 SUNDAY

- 10 am FOCUS- First Reformed

- 6
6:30 pm
First Friday
Youth Mission Trip to Pittsburgh
through July 13

- 15
Noon
Editorial Deadline
for August Newsletter

SUMMER PREACHING SCHEDULE:

JULY 8 - 9:30 Communion
Pastor Rosenau preaching

JULY 15 - 9:30 Communion
Pastor Rosenau preaching

JULY 22 - 9:30 Communion
Pastor Rosenau preaching

JULY 29 - 9:30 Communion
Peter Durkee preaching

AUGUST 5 9:30 Communion
FOCUS Delmar Reformed

AUGUST 12 -9:30 Communion
Pastor Reisner preaching

AUGUST 19 -9:30 Communion
Pastor Reisner preaching

AUGUST 26 9:30 Communion
Pastor Reisner preaching

SEPTEMBER 2 - 9:30 Communion
FOCUS Westminster

06
07
20
12



Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street
Albany, New York 12210

Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- Summer Hours

9 am- 3 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

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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

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

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