



THE
**WESTMINSTER
MESSENGER**

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

June
2013

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It's that time of year: the days are getting longer, the weather is warming up and day-to-day life becomes more relaxed. Summer is almost upon us.


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 all around us!

So keep reading. See what is going on in the life of the church •

- *Pastor Frances W. Rosenau*

By Pastor James Reisner



We live in a world that professes scarcity. There is only so much to go around. Our resources are limited and quickly depleting. We can't afford health care for all, quality education for all, food and shelter for all. To provide these basic needs for everyone would bankrupt us. So we are told. Our supply and demand curves require a small supply at the high-end. Our pyramid graphics require that the highest levels come to a point. The few elite thrive on the principle of scarcity.

As far as the world is concerned, wealth is a zero-sum game: only one number can win the lottery. One person's fortune means it is less likely that others will find fortune for themselves. But this is not what the Gospel says.

The Gospel is never either/or. It is always both/and. Jesus said, "I have come to give life, and give it abundantly." The abundant life Jesus is talking about means that there is always enough grace to go around, that the store of God's goodness is never emptied. Since grace is always overflowing, since God always gives us more than what we could or might ever imagine, then we can more than afford to be generous.

The Gospel is always both/and.

The temptation is to hoard our wealth and our resources, to keep hold of what we possess. That makes sense according to the way of the world. But it is not living the Gospel. The temptation in lean times such as these is to tend to our own concerns, and put a hold on our generosity towards others until the day prosperity returns. But the needs of the world have not abated; they have only increased. At a time when many among us have lost much of our savings, are we going to allow circumstances to steal our generosity as well?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ draws us beyond our family to our neighborhood, out of our neighborhood and into the city, out of our city and into the countryside, beyond the near country, and to the ends of the earth. We are all knit together into God's family. We are brothers and sisters to one another in ways beyond our imagining. And God never picks between any of God's children, never nation against nation. In the kingdom of God, it is never a case of either/or; it is always both/and ●

SOUL FOOD DINNER

STATE STREET PICNIC

Support Our Travelers to Ghana

Soul Food Dinner

June 1, 4 to 8 p.m.

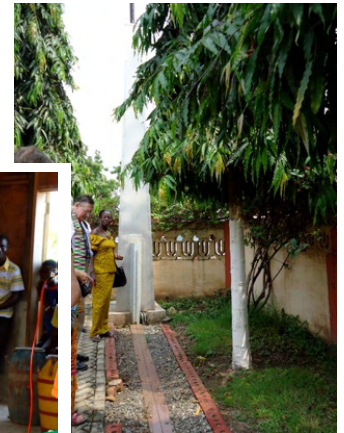
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St., Albany

Eat in or take out

Reservations and phone orders encouraged, 433-0679

\$10 per plate

African-American style ribs and chicken with all the fixings, cooked by Chef Willie White with friends from AVillage and the Westminster congregation.



On July 5 eight travelers from the Albany area, including four Westminster members, depart for Tema, Ghana, for a two-week visit. Our mission is to deepen our mutual relationship with two Tema Presbyterian churches and their members. We will worship and pray with our Ghanaian hosts, visit their mission projects and learn from each other about different styles of worship, mission and ministry.



Spring is here, so that can only mean one thing! It's time once again for our annual church picnic. This year, the picnic will be held right here at the church on State Street right after the church service. Westminster will provide Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, with the rest of the meal being potluck. We ask that you bring salads, side dishes and desserts. There will be lots of fun, food and fellowship. We hope you will be able to attend ●

GREAT MUSIC and a SILENT FILM

Westminster Church's 2013 series of organ concerts, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the restoration of our church's E. M. Skinner pipe organ, will continue on Friday, June 7, at 7:30 PM, with a wonderful recital by Michael Britt.

A native of Baltimore, Michael Britt studied at Peabody Conservatory with some of the country's finest organists, including Thomas Spacht, Donald Sutherland, John Rose, and John Walker, and was a finalist in the prestigious Arthur Poister competition held at Syracuse University. He has served churches in the Baltimore area since 1981, and last year was appointed Minister of Music at Baltimore's Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, where he follows the legendary John Walker, and plays a Skinner organ very much like our own.

Michael Britt is a remarkable performer who is equally at home in both the classical and theatre-organ worlds. He has performed at the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, and studied at the Paris Conservatory with Marie-Louise Langlais. As a theatre organist, he has performed widely throughout the US, on Public TV, and for the Library of Congress National Film Registry's silent film collection.

His concert at Westminster will incorporate some very special features: including colorful works by Edward Elgar, Paul Halley, David Schelat, and Clifford Demarest, and the world premiere of Al Fedak's "Scherzo Ostinato on a Theme by Thomas Ravenscroft," which was written especially for Mr. Britt.

The program will conclude with a screening of the 1920 Buster Keaton silent film classic "One Week," with Michael Britt improvising an original organ accompaniment.

This promises to be a very enjoyable and entertaining event: plan to attend and bring guests! As always, admission is free, an offering will be received, and refreshments will follow the concert.

Don't miss it! ●



FROM THE THIRD FLOOR

GOODBYE

By Andrea Joy Holroyd

Up on the third floor, we will finish our weekly Sunday school classes as of June 2nd. The youth group perform their Hat Show to raise money for their mission trip to New Jersey this summer. They go to help out with Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. If you miss the show but wish to donate, the youth group will be grateful to receive your gift. We wish them Godspeed, good luck, and great times! Also happening this summer: some of our youth are attending Triennium, a Presbyterian youth gathering that happens every three years. Check out <http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org> to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

This will be my last missive from the third floor. I have enjoyed getting to know the youth and children of this congregation. We have so many bright stars, curious critical thinkers. I am excited to watch the future of WPC Albany, and our world. I can see many burgeoning leaders in our third floor crew. Thank you for your faith in me, and thank you for the gift of your children ●

Have you noticed that the cost of peanut butter has gone through the roof? The cost increase has affected the FOCUS food pantry. When it comes to peanut butter, the cupboard is bare. The problem is compounded with the end of the school year. Closed school cafeterias result in an increase in childhood hunger.

So on Father's Day, Sunday June 16, we will be collecting peanut butter for FOCUS. Mary Jean Tedrow recommends a donation of 18 ounce jars of creamy peanut butter. (The pantry cannot accept crunchy.) We will place collection bins at the entrances of the church, and then dedicate these gifts in worship ●

Rejoicing in the New Choir Robes



WITH PRAYER

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO NEW JERSEY

Pray for our youth during their week of mission service in New Jersey July 7-12. We are partnering with Monmouth Presbytery to work on several areas affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Each day the group will work on a different project such as sorting donations, beach clean up and preparing long-term recovery housing for volunteers. Youth groups from around the area will join forces to make the greatest impact.

The mission team will be commissioned in worship on June 30. Come support your youth as they serve those in need.

CENTERING PRAYER IN CENTER SQUARE

Wouldn't it be nice to take a few minutes in the middle of your day to take a deep breath and listen for God's Spirit?

This summer, we will do just that.

For five days in a row, we will have 25 minutes of centering prayer in our Sanctuary beginning at 12:05. People who work in the neighborhood or have a short lunch hour can come and experience a spiritual connection with music, prayer and scripture. There will even be tables in the back if people want to bring their lunch while they pray.

If you cannot come yourself, pray for this service and for the people who need a center in their lives. The first week will be June 24-28. We will repeat it again July 22-26 ●

the Adventure of
LEARNING
the Joy of
GROWTH

DISCOVERING THE OLD TESTAMENT

a **KERYGMA**
program
Foundational Course

In 1916 when Europe was embroiled in World War I, theologian Karl Barth wrote an essay "The Strange New World of the Bible." He said, "There is a river in the Bible that carries us away, once we have entrusted our destiny to it – away from ourselves into the sea." We look for it in history, but it is not our kind of history. We look for it in morality, but it is more shocking than any allegedly new morality - not industry, honesty, and helpfulness as we may practice them in our old ordinary world, but the establishment and growth of a new world, in which God and [God's] morality reign."

Twenty-four people were enrolled in a six-week Bible introductory course at Westminster this spring. Average weekly attendance was 17. We had a great time discussing how the Bible was written, translated, and passed down through generations to the 21st century.

In September Westminster will launch a two-year course "Discovering the Bible," exploring more deeply the content of the Old and New Testaments. During September and October, 2013, and January and February, 2014 we will focus on the Old Testament. We will study the New Testament in 2014-15.

This course will be based on the *Kerygma* series, "Discovering the Bible: A New Generation." It will be led by Rev. Paul Randall, DMin., Parish Associate at the church. Paul has led many *Kerygma* studies in Cincinnati and Delaware, Ohio.

The class will meet at the church 5:30-6:45 pm, for 7 Thursdays September 11-October 24; and for 8 Thursdays January 9-February 27, 2014. Participants are expected to read assigned materials each week in advance. Total cost is \$30 for the resource book.

To register contact the church office, 518-436-8544 or email Paul Randall at randallpaul@gmail.com

PRAISE OUR GRADUATES

Alex and Andrew Scaptura graduate from Columbia High School on June 22nd. Alex will be continuing his certification process as a part of the Clinton Heights Fire Department in East Greenbush and attending Hudson Valley Community College with the goal of being a Paramedic and professional firefighter. Andrew will attend UAlbany with the hope of studying Criminal Justice and minoring in art and music.

Margaret (Maggie) Gallagher will graduate from Bethlehem High School on June 21st. She will attend Dominican University in San Rafael, CA for performance in violin and minoring in history. San Rafael is 12 miles north of San Francisco.

Colleen Holroyd graduated from the University of Rochester on May 19th with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. In the fall she will attend American University to study Arts Management. Colleen has spent her life surrounded by music and the arts. Her involvement with Old Songs Inc and other organizations has shown her the power of music to bring people together. She hopes to facilitate music education through venues such as concerts, festivals, and workshops. Congratulations, Colleen!

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In the fall, Tom Norman will begin a Climate Science and Policy Masters at the Center for Environmental Policy at Bard College.

Nick Scaptura will be attending Law School in the fall ●

Class of 2013 High School Graduates



Class of 2013
College Graduate

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

THANK YOU

GREETERS

We would like to thank Westminster volunteers who have stepped up to help to be greeters on Sunday mornings. We have created five teams of greeters who will be led by Tim Dodman, Cindy Dwyer, Margie Mayer, Peter McKee, Ben Quaye and Eve Ryan. The following greeting teams are scheduled for June.

- 6/2 - Peter McKee's Team
- 6/9 - The Quayes and Dodmans
- 6/16 - Eve Ryan's Team
- 6/23 - Cindy Dwyer's Team
- 6/30 - Margie Mayer's Team

I want to express my heartfelt 'Thank You' to my Westminster friends for the many prayers, beautiful cards, flowers, visits, and transportation to doctor for follow-up after my surgery in April. I know the healing process was enhanced by your caring and support. I also want to thank you for your concern and support for my Mom's health and well-being.

Love,
Gail Garrison

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	• Jenna B. June 21
• Stephen Tallmadge June 10	• Bob Frye June 21
• John Lang June 12	• Tim Dodman June 23
• Gregory C. June 13	• Charles Creegan June 24
• Zach Rosenau June 14	• Zion M. June 26
• Cynthia Frye June 15	• Jim Seagle June 26
• Andrea Joy Holroyd June 15	• Akinde M. June 27
• Peter McKee June 16	• Kaitlyn Bennett June 28
• Jack Bossung June 17	

JUNE
2013

Happy
BIRTHDAY

SECOND HOURS

SECOND HOURS IN JUNE

We have scheduled some significant conversations for the congregation during our adult education forums this June. Our first two Sundays will feature our youth presenting their Hat Show, and our church picnic. You can refer to other pages of this newsletter for more information about those events.

On Sunday, June 16th, Christian Life & Learning will present a 2nd hour on small groups in the church. In the forum, called "To Know and Be Known," CL&L will present plans to form two small groups for the coming Fall. The goal of these group is to give opportunity for people to deepen their relationship with the church community.

The forum on June 23rd will focus on our ministry with Africans at Westminster. While our attention is often directed towards mission work in Africa, there are also needs and hopes to be addressed within the immigrant population in the Capital Region. Can we create connections in our worship, fellowship and education that will strengthen our outreach to Africans living nearby us?

On June 30th, we will share what is ahead in the Summer, including two mission trips and further opportunities to serve in ministry and mission •

Worship Services and Second Hours:

June 2

I Kings 18:20-49

2nd hour: Hat Show- Westminster Youth

Pentecost 3

"Make up Your Mind Already"

Pastor Reisner

June 9

Church School Sunday

Psalm 30

2nd hour: Church Picnic

State Street Entrance, rain location Assembly Room

Pentecost 4

Recognition of Teachers

"Rise! Go forth in Joy!"

Andrea Joy Holroyd, preaching

June 16

Luke 7:36-8:3

2nd hour: Small Groups at Westminster- Christian Life & Learning

Pentecost 5

"Scandal"

Pastor Reisner

June 23

Luke 8:26-39

2nd hour: Our Mission with Africans: a discussion

Pentecost 6

"When Pigs Fly; or, When Swine Flew" *Pastor Reisner*

June 30

Luke 8:40-56

2nd hour: Summer Mission Trips and Opportunities to Serve

Pentecost 7

"The Fringe Element"

Pastor Reisner

JUNE
2013

CHURCH CALENDAR

JUNE

1
4 pm Ghana Fundraising Dinner

2 SUNDAY

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

5

7:00 pm Christian Life and Learning

7

FIRST FRIDAY

7:30 pm Michael Britt Concert

9 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Picnic on State Street

11

7:00 pm Session

16 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education

18

5:00 pm Bingo Party
at Schuyler Inn

23 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education

24

12:05 pm - 12:30 pm Centering Prayer

25

12:05 pm - 12:30 pm Centering Prayer

26

12:05 pm - 12:30 pm Centering Prayer

27

12:05 pm - 12:30 pm Centering Prayer

28

12:05 pm - 12:30 pm Centering Prayer

29

10:00 am 20s 30s at Troy Farmer's Market
282 River St. Troy NY

30 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Adult Education

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

July 5 - July 19

Ghana Mission Trip

July 8- July 12

Youth Mission Trip

July 23- 5 pm Bingo Party

at Schuyler Inn

UPCOMING FOCUS SUNDAYS

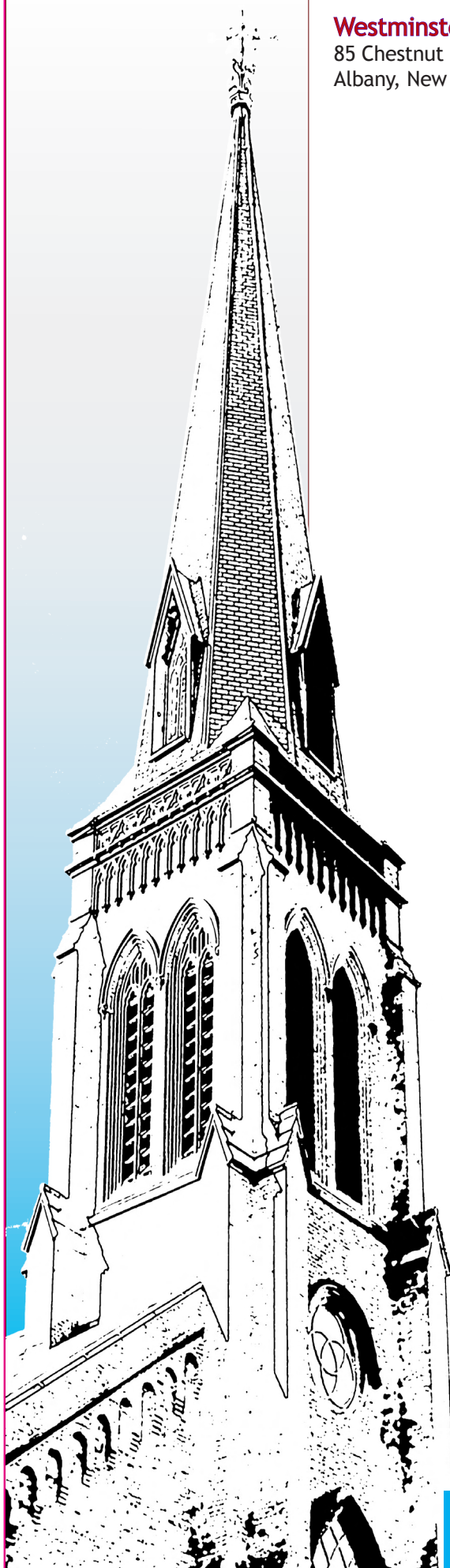
July 7th - Emmanuel Baptist

August 4th - Trinity Methodist

September 1st - First Presbyterian

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

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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Summer newsletter submissions are due by Noon on June 15.
Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com