



The Westminster Messenger

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March 2012
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Some historians

theorize that Jesus died because he was in

the wrong place at the wrong time, that Jesus stumbled into the vice grip of Judaic nationalistic hope on the one side, and Roman brutal oppression on the other.

The Gospels tell a very different story. They portray a Jesus who is very intentional about his purpose and direction, and very aware that, when he goes to Jerusalem for the Passover, he will be persecuted and killed. At least three times in each Gospel Jesus tells his disciples of his impending death, even though the disciples want to hear nothing of it.

**In our devotion may we mirror the ...
determination of Jesus**

Luke says of Jesus that "he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). This is the source of our theme for Lent this year -Facing the City. For the six weeks of Lent we will in our worship travel the road to the city. In our devotion, may we mirror the determination and purpose of Jesus as we follow in his steps. As we recall his love for us, "so amazing, so divine," may we pledge to him "our souls, our lives, our all." •

by: Pastor Jim Reisner

Pastoral Reflections:

Pastor Frances Rosenau

I moved to Albany about a year and a half ago. Since I came here, I have made an effort to get to know the people who live in our near neighborhood. Of all the neighborhoods in the Capital Region, the few blocks that surround our church are the most quickly changing, the most alive day and night, and the most concentrated during the workday.

The fun part of my job is dreaming up ways to reach out to all these different groups of people in a meaningful way. What needs do people working downtown have? How can we connect with the young students and professionals who live in these blocks? There is no single program that will reach them all. Nevertheless, in Lent we are trying something new to reach out to our neighborhood.

A few years ago, I visited the Danish capital, Copenhagen. In the height of Northern European winter, the Cathedral is open three nights a week. They call it Night Church. On the night we attended, an artist had created an installation of images and pathways weaving through the aisles and small side chapels. Hundreds of young people wandered in and out of the building as a choir of a dozen sang soothing tones that echoed in the massive sanctuary. We came away feeling we had truly encountered the Holy.

Here at Westminster, we are attempting a Night Church of our own. Our version will have a mixture of silence and readings with music at 10-minute intervals. Worshipers will have the opportunity to visit interactive prayer spaces throughout the sanctuary, or just sit quietly and pray. They can come for a few minutes or for the whole hour.

Please join us in praying for this new endeavor. Pray for the people who wander by or who are looking for God in their lives ●

*Westminster
Presbyterian
Church*

262 State St.



Night Church

an open worship experience

Fridays in March at 7 pm
stop in + wander + light a candle

Lent at Westminster

The season of Lent, structured as it is to remember the journey of Jesus to the cross, is also the perfect time for articulating the call of Jesus to discipleship. In these forty days we may contemplate not only the wonderful power of the cross of Christ, but the power inherent in taking up our own crosses too. Opportunities are daily before us, times when we may give our lives sacrificially to acts of love, compassion, justice, and peace. In this season we are wise to ponder not only the cross in our sanctuaries, but the picture of Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, calling all his disciples to take up our own crosses and to walk with him in paths of love and service.

Paul C. Shupe
Feasting on the Word

- **Feb. 29** Old Testament Personalities Bible Study 12 noon
"Abraham," led by Jim Thompson. Bring a bag lunch.
- **March 2** Night Church: Welcome to Sacred Space.
Come and go as you please. 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary.
Theme: Path ahead
- **Mar. 7** Old Testament Personalities Bible Study 12 noon
"Jacob," led by David McMillan. Bring a bag lunch.
- **March 9** Night Church: Welcome to Sacred Space.
Come and go as you please. 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary.
Theme: Laying down burdens
- **Mar. 14** Old Testament Personalities Bible Study 12 noon
"Moses," led by Jim Reisner. Bring a bag lunch.
- **March 16** Night Church: Welcome to Sacred Space.
Come and go as you please. 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary.
Theme: Encounter the world
- **Mar. 21** Old Testament Personalities Bible Study 12 noon
"Ruth," led by Glenn Van Oort. Bring a bag lunch.
- **March 23** Night Church: Welcome to Sacred Space.
Come and go as you please. 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary.
Theme: In God's image
- **Mar. 28** Old Testament Personalities Bible Study 12 noon
"David," led by Alexandra Lusak. Bring a bag lunch.
- **March 30** Night Church: Welcome to Sacred Space.
Come and go as you please. 7-8 pm in the Sanctuary.
Theme: Light

Music at WPC:

A Musical March

by Alfred Fedak

qui tol - lis pec - ca -

mi - se - re - re

no - bis,

During the month of March, members and friends of Westminster Church will have the opportunity to be graced by a number of wonderful musical offerings.

First, of course, are Westminster's Lenten *Night Church* experiences, about which more information can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Messenger and on the church's website. From week to week, these services will feature guest musicians performing contemplative worship music: cello, classical guitar, harp, harpsichord, folksong, and organ. Come, light a candle, meditate, and listen.

Westminster Church will also host three weekend concerts during the month of March:

- At 3:00 PM on Sunday, March 18, the Monday Musical Club of Albany will present its annual Artist Member/Young Persons' concert in our sanctuary. This venerable organization was established in 1904 to foster a broader musical culture throughout the community, and to encourage further artistic development among its members. The group also awards scholarships to student musicians on a competitive basis—this year's winners will appear on the group's Westminster program, along with several of the club's Artist Members, performing a variety of vocal and instrumental selections. All are invited.
- On Saturday, March 24, the Capitol Chamber Artists will return to Westminster for an evening of music for flute, violin, cello, harpsichord, piano, and organ. Their 8:00 PM concert will be preceded by a 7:00 PM recital; both events are free to church members.
- And the very next day, Sunday, March 25, at 5:00 PM, the musicians of Mosaic-Arts will present a concert of vocal music entitled "It Once Was Opera," a fascinating program exploring themes common to both opera and musical theatre. The concert will take place in our sanctuary, and donations are welcome.

Finally, during our Sunday morning worship service on March 18, our Westminster Choir will present a brief Lenten cantata by the early baroque composer Christopher Bernhard (1628-1692). This poignant work, titled "Jerusalem, Thou That Killest the Prophets," is a verbatim setting of that day's scripture text (Luke 13:34), and will be sung in German. Accompanying the choir will be members of the Capitol Chamber Artists: violinist Mary Lou Saetta, flutist Irvin Gilman, cellist Helene Arras, and Al Fedak playing harpsichord continuo. Ms. Saetta will also accompany the choir's offertory anthem, Al Fedak's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

We hope you will include some or all of these special musical events in your Lenten observance this year. Al Fedak ●

Children and Youth

The youth of Westminster have been busy! Have you seen them around the church and in the community? Besides their regular program, the youth recently cooked a meal for the Emergency Overflow Shelter. They delivered the food to First Lutheran, then prayed over the meal and all who would be nourished that evening.

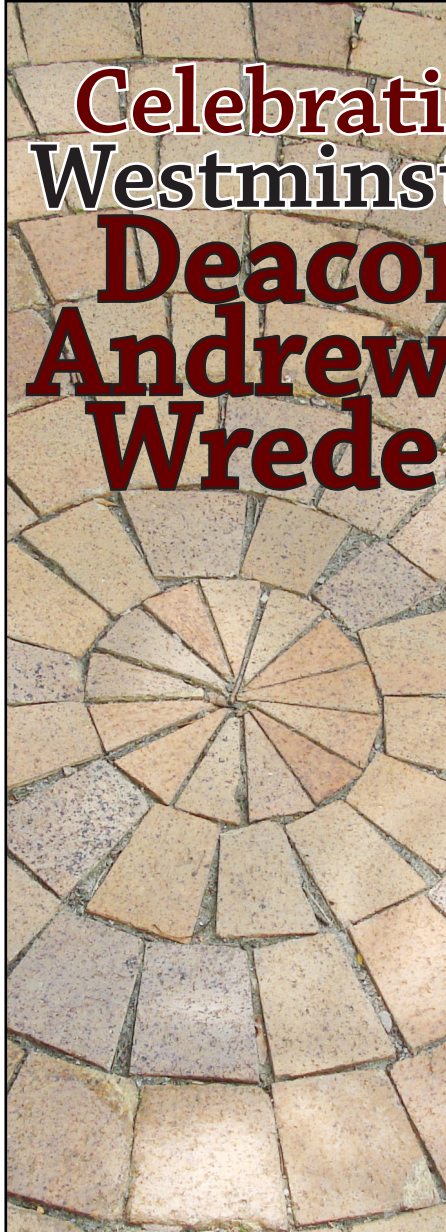
The youth also raised money for the Emergency Overflow Shelter at the Bowling for Beds Bowl-a-thon. Thank you to all who sponsored bowlers and supported this worthy cause. Our youth are putting their faith into action to help those in need in the Capital Region.

Thank you to all who helped with the Flamingo Fundraiser. Special thanks go to our coordinators Andrea Holroyd and Eugene Sit. Many people in the church drove, bought flamingos and were good sports when they found flamingos in their yards. With support from all corners of the congregation, we were able to raise over \$2700 toward the youth trip to Pittsburgh in July. Thank you to all who supported our efforts to help those in need in Pittsburgh. ●

Children's Choir begins on Thursday, March 15, at 6:30 to 7:15 pm. All the children and teens of Westminster are invited to participate in praising God through music!

We'll be singing on Palm Sunday, April 1 ●





Celebrating Westminster Deacon Andrew Wrede

Andrew Wrede, our newly ordained deacon, is eager to assume his duties on the board. He is especially looking forward to visiting people in the hospital and delivering flowers to them. Andrew, 14, is a freshman at Bethlehem Central High School. His favorite subject is history, and he would like to be a history teacher in the future. He also plays the clarinet in the high school concert band.

Andrew is a boy scout in Troop 75, and especially enjoys camping. He participates in the scout service projects including volunteering at the regional food bank.

Andrew has been going to Westminster his whole life. He was baptized here and confirmed as a member in 2010. He is an active member of the youth group.

Pastor Reisner has always regarded Andrew as one of the best theologians at Westminster, in that Andrew thinks and talks about God in creative and profound ways.

The following is a reflection that Pastor Reisner wrote after a "Time with Children" when Andrew was about 7 years old.

An Infinity of Inches

That day in church we were talking a lot about shepherds, so when the children came forward for their lesson I showed them a shepherd's staff. I asked about how the shepherd might use the staff, and the children had some good ideas. "To keep the sheep from running off," said one. "To beat off the wolf," answered another. This is a smart bunch of kids.

I then talked about how the shepherds used very long crooks, and one of the reasons was to pull down the dead wood off of trees to use for firewood. Then I asked, "since we call Jesus the Good Shepherd, how long is his crook?" Immediately, Andrew raised his hand and said, "I know. Infinity inches."

Great answer! Everyone in the congregation began to applaud. Lesson over.

Theologians come in all shapes and sizes. Andrew is young, but he already understands something about the mystery of faith: that the Creator God of all there is also cares for each one of us like a doting parent. Our God is concerned with infinity, and with infants. The vastness of the Space is beyond our reckoning, but God cares for the Creation in every place, in every nation, in every city or town, on every street, in every home, and in every heart. Andrew has it right, as far as God is concerned infinity is measured in inches ●



CRTC : Befriending Our Inner Teacher

The Capital Region Theological Center is offering the following course:

Befriending Our Inner Teacher

Biblical Foundations & Practices of Discernment

Featuring distinguished speaker and author, Rev. Marjorie Thompson

Come explore the key themes of discernment:

- The Nature of Discernment: Gaining a Heart of Wisdom
- The Helping Spirit: Leaning Into God's Will
- Identity, Gifts & Fruits: Discovering Passion & Energy
- Consolation & Desolation: Examining Consciousness
- Communal Discernment: Exploring Patterns & Resources

A must for all who seek a deeper understanding of themselves, others, and Christ.

When: Thursday & Friday, March 8 & 9
9 am - 4 pm

Where: First Reformed Church of Scotia
228 N. Ballston Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302

Register today at: <http://www.capitalrtc.org> ●

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

- March 4: **Ushers:** Judy Hartley, Lois Wilson, Lawrie Lierheimer
Bob Stone
Acolyte: Charlie R. **Church Bell Ringers:** Joseph R.
- March 11: **Ushers:** Margie Mayer, Ruth Ann Brod,
Carol Bromley
Acolyte: Maxine Q. **Church Bell Ringers:** Robert Q.
- March 18: **Ushers:** Kelly Crisfield, Maggie Gallagher, Sue Schell,
Zach Rosenau
Acolyte: Sheila H. **Church Bell Ringers:** Lexy & Grant H.
- March 25: **Ushers:** Allan & Mary Jean Tedrow, Diane Saptura,
Cindy Dwyer
Acolyte: Joseph R. **Church Bell Ringers:** Charlie R.

Celebrating the following
birthdays in **March:**

● Peter Fedak	March 9	● Anna W.	March 21
● Robert Bojdak	March 10	● Lawrie Lierheimer	March 24
● Rev. Frances W. Rosenau	March 11	● Nancy McClumpa Idland	March 28
● Elizabeth McMillan	March 19	● Julie Mader	March 31
● Larissa Filipp	March 21		

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

March Usher Schedule

HAPPY BIRTH DAY March



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Flower Fund

April 1st we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and the children's fish banks. The PC (USA) splits the money roughly into thirds to benefit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the grant giving program called Self Development of People. These programs help the denomination respond quickly to emergencies, help alleviate hunger, and empower the marginalized so they may help themselves. These programs are all important ministries and directly benefit from our gifts. Thank you for many years of faithfully supporting One Great Hour of Sharing.

Contributions for Lent and Easter are now being accepted. Enhancing the beauty of our sanctuary with Lenten Banners, Palms, and Easter lilies, is possible with your gifts to the Flower Fund. Please send your donations to the church office along with the name or names of those for whom the money is given. The list of names will be printed in the church bulletin. If you wish to contribute to the Flower Fund for our regular worship services, please call the church office or sign up on the Flower Fund board, found in the narthex ●

AFRICAN SPRING DINNER

Saturday, March 31, 2012, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Co-chairs:

Felicia Kollie-Gambles & Fatmata Hilton

The program will include Dancing for Dollars, a 50 / 50 raffle, and craft activities for children and others. Dinner is free.

Honorary Committee: \$50 per person.

Checks to: Westminster Presbyterian Church

Memo: African Dinner ~ March 31

RSVP by March 29 to 518 436-8544

or info@wpcalbany.org

Money raised at dinner will be used to fund church projects in West and East Africa ●



March 31st African Spring Dinner

Co-chairs Felicia Kollie-Gambles and Fatmata Hilton are planning a program which features reports on two projects undertaken in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the past year and performances by Westminster children and youth.

Both Liberia and Sierra Leone rank low on the UN's Human Development Index because of devastating civil wars which ended less than a decade ago. In both countries people speak about a lost generation that never had an opportunity to attend school and note that far too many people still have no access to either clean drinking water or basic sanitation. WPC mission projects in each country are wonderful stories which "need to be told" as a committee member said recently.

Saturday, March 31, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

LIBERIA: Felicia Kollie-Gambles will talk on March 31 about a project which started as a result of her visit to in Liberia in 2010. Her pictures of the filthy drinking water near the Hope Mission School galvanized the Albany area community to action. In April 2011 Westminster teamed up with FACE Africa. At the end of December 2011 the Hope Mission School had a hand-dug 40-foot well which provides clean drinking water for about 200 school children + 1,300 more from surrounding communities. There are now six public latrines for the area and the first public hand washing station. Felicia will report on the completed project and un-met school building needs. Some of the children walk from more than five miles each way to attend the area's only school.

SIERRA LEONE: Fatima Bell, RN (born in Sierra Leone) from African Women of Love Ministry, will discuss the reaction of people in Sierra Leone when Fatima and other cousins of Fatmata Hilton made their post-Christmas trip to Sierra Leone to distribute gently used clothing and shoes to refugees who still live without basic necessities. Westminster helped to pay for the container shipments, and many WPC members donated clothing which was sorted and packed by Fatmata and her family.

PERFORMANCES BY WESTMINSTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

--Westminster children in the Sunday School class for Grades 3 -6 will present an original play written by Nell Stokes-Holmes, a regular Westminster attendee and chair of the Martin Luther King Scholarship program for the Capital Area Council of Churches. Her play, "The Game Room," starts in an empty room in which children have been sent for weeks to wait for their parents. On this particular day, the children decided they wanted to use their skills and talents to act to make their environment different ●

5 Wednesdays in Lent Lunch & Bible Discussion

"Old Testament Personalities" will be explored 12:00-1:00 pm at the church on five Wednesdays during the Lenten season. The schedule is Feb. 29 - Abraham; March 7 - Jacob; March 14 - Moses; March 21 - Ruth; March 28 - David.

Leadership will be shared among the several ministers (now called "teaching elders") who are on staff or part of the Westminster family.

Resources are available from "The Thoughtful Christian" study materials and can be sent to you by contacting the church office or via e-mail through Paul Randall at randallpaul@ymail.com. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea fixings will be available •

Sermons & Second Hours:

LENTEN PREACHING SERIES, 2012 *FACING THE CITY*

FEBRUARY 22 Ash Wednesday II COR. 5:20-6:10
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Ambassadors of Reconciliation"

FEBRUARY 26 Lent 1 LUKE 9:51-62
Pastor Reisner, preaching "The Set of His Face"
2nd Hour: The Lenten Journey - led by Pastor Reisner

MARCH 4 Lent 2 MARK 9:17-39
Pastor Reisner, preaching "I believe, Help my Unbelief"
2nd Hour: Justice - led by Nell Stokes-Holmes

MARCH 11 Lent 3 JOHN 2:13-25
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Spring Cleaning"
2nd Hour: Compassion - led by Tony Mason

MARCH 18 Lent 4 LUKE 13:31-35
Pastor Rosenau, preaching "The Lament over Jerusalem"
2nd Hour: Beauty - led by David Green

MARCH 25 Lent 5 LUKE 19:41-47
Pastor Reisner, preaching "When Jesus Wept"
2nd Hour: Action - Felicia Gambles, Floyd and Sue Barwig

APRIL 1 Palm Sunday JOHN 12:12-26
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Falling Man"

APRIL 5 Maundy Thursday 1 CORINTHIANS:23-26
Pastor Rosenau, preaching "Until All are Fed"

APRIL 6 Good Friday
Tenebrae Service

Church Calendar

03
20
12

This Month's Events:

Note: The FOCUS Breakfast Program is held at Westminster every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7- 9 am

MARCH

1

7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

2

7:00 pm
Night Church

3

10:00 am
Play Rehearsal

4 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:15 am Bell Choir

7

12:00 Noon
Old Testament Study & Lunch

8

7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

9

7:00 pm
Night Church

10

10:00 am
Play Rehearsal

11 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:15 am Bell Choir
7:00 pm Youth Group

13

7 pm Session

14

12:00 Noon
Old Testament Study & Lunch

15

Noon
Editorial Deadline
for March Newsletter
6:30 pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

16

7:00 pm
Night Church

18 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:15 am Bell Choir
12:00 Noon Play Practice

20

7 pm Deacons

21

12:00 Noon
Old Testament Study & Lunch

22

6:30 pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

23

7:00 pm
Night Church

24

7:00 pm
Capital Chamber Artists Concert

25 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:15 am Bell Choir
12:00 Noon Play Practice
5:00 MOSAIC-ARTS Concert
7:00 pm Youth Group

26

7:00 pm Mission Committee

28

12:00 Noon
Old Testament Study & Lunch
6:30 pm
Children's Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

30

7:00 pm
Night Church

31

10:00-11:30 am Decorate
for Palm Sunday
10:00-11:00 am Play Practice
5:00-8:30 pm
Spring African Dinner



Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street
Albany, New York 12210

Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- Winter 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: Jeanne Bianchine

Administrative Secretary: Nancy J. Sokil

Sextons: Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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April newsletter submissions are due by Noon on March 15.
Please send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com.