



# The Westminster Messenger

Westminster Presbyterian Church • 262 State Street • Albany • New York • [www.wpcalbany.org](http://www.wpcalbany.org)

**May 2011**

**In this Issue:**

Trustee Activities  
Page 2

Special Guest Speaker  
Page 3

Music & Concerts  
Page 4

Children &  
Youth News  
Page 5

Member News  
Page 6-7

Mission & Brunch  
Page 8-9

Community Loan Fund  
Lectionary &  
Second Hours  
Page 10

Church Calendar  
Page 11

**We** are living in a time of wars and rumors of wars, of earthquakes and revolutions. So overwhelming is the information coming at us, it can feel like a bombardment. Perhaps watching the evening news should not be attempted without first donning a helmet and flak jacket.

This Easter the scripture was from Matthew, who is the only Evangelist who records an earthquake taking place on Easter morning. The women who came to the cemetery discovered an empty tomb, and an angel who told them, "Be not afraid." But the guards were paralyzed by fear. They were stupefied as if in a trance.

That is a common response when we are afraid. We

**"God's love is the greatest power on earth."**

can become frozen, overwhelmed, stuck. The temptation is to live in denial and hope the world's troubles will just disappear: to pinch ourselves and pray that it is all a bad dream. The quaking ground beneath us can undo us if we have not the faith to move ahead.

The Easter proclamation is that God's love is greatest power on earth. "Love is stronger than death," writes the poet of the Song of Songs; "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus," affirms the Apostle Paul.

Even in an uncertain and incendiary world, disciples of Jesus can live with confidence that we are always in God's good care, and act boldly with deeds of compassion and justice as we work towards the reign of the kingdom of God ●

by Pastor Jim Reisner

# Trustee Activities

by Forrest Holroyd

Many of the Trustees were busy this month planning and preparing for the Congregational Brunch on April 10. There's a lot more required for that than many people realize. But that's not all we were doing. Much of our work goes on behind the scenes, researching for repairs or improvements, or meeting with various vendors and other experts. Sometimes these projects don't really show, like the furnace controls or sump pump repairs, but are still important.

We expect to have more information soon on several highly visible projects, including replacement of the pew cushions. At 80+ years old, they have held up well,

**Much of our work goes on behind the scenes.**

but are definitely showing their age. We tried getting them commercially cleaned, but the stains can't be removed, the colors can't be restored or guaranteed, and nor can any allergens be removed. No decisions have yet been made, but some of the fabric samples obtained so far were displayed at the Brunch. If you liked some of them, let us know.

Other projects in planning include cleaning the pews and slate floors, replacing curtains, and improving the gardens. These don't cost very much, but greatly improve the church's appearance. And watch for a new color copier. That should arrive some time in May ●



Trustees serving food





# Special Guest Preacher

by Al Fedak

**Mary Louise** (Mel) Bringle will be our guest preacher on Sunday, May 22; she will also lead our Second Hour adult education program. Mel chairs the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (PCOCS), the committee on which Al Fedak also serves, which is in the process of preparing a new hymnal for the PCUSA. The theme of Dr. Bringle's morning message will be "A Family Album."

Mel Bringle is a woman of many gifts. Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Chair of the Humanities Division at Brevard College in North Carolina, she received her PhD from Emory University with a particular emphasis in practical and pastoral theology, and has served as a consultant for the PCUSA's Office of Health Ministries. Recognized in 2002 as an "emerging hymn text writer" by the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada, she has since won many international hymn-text competitions, and her translations of Spanish hymns are widely sung. In fact, on Easter Sunday our Westminster Choir sang an anthem setting of one of her fine texts: "Rise to Sing, the Light Is Breaking." Mel currently serves as President of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and is a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Mel Bringle is an engaging speaker with a delightful personality, and will share with us her own unique perspectives on the role of hymns in the life of the church ●

---

"Rise to sing!  
The light is breaking,  
gleaming gift of day begun  
Hope now springs,  
like blossoms, waking  
op'ning to the rising sun."

Dr. Mary Louise Bringle

# Renowned German Organist in Concert at WPC

by Al Fedak



**On** Friday, May 20, at 7:30 PM, German organist and composer Hans Uwe

Hielscher will perform a solo recital on Westminster's magnificent Skinner organ. Herr Hielscher is organist at the Marktkirche in Wiesbaden, Germany, and served for 17 years as Wiesbaden's Municipal Organist. One of the organ world's busiest musicians, he has taught at Redlands University, served as organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, recorded 18 CDs, written several books on organ-related topics, made numerous radio and TV appearances, played nearly 3000 recitals worldwide, and been named a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the government of France. He is also a prolific composer of organ and chamber music.

**Hans Hielscher, one of the organ world's busiest musicians**

Hans Hielscher's recital at Westminster will be part of his 40th concert tour of the US, and will feature works by Rheinberger

and Franck, as well as several of his own arrangements and compositions, including *Three American Folksongs*, and his *Suite for Organ*.

Admission is free, an offering will be received, and refreshments will follow.

Hans Hielscher's concert is partially underwritten by a *Community Art\$ Grant* from the Arts Center of the Capital Region and the New York State Council on the Arts •



**Hans Hielscher**

# Children and Youth

by Jeanne Bianchine

**Once** a month the children leave the regular worship service and go downstairs for their own special learning time. We affectionally call this, "Worship Plus for Kids". Diane Bossung leads the children with singing and we follow with prayer, bible story and a hands on activity.

This past fall we learned how God uses his faithful: Noah did what God commanded; Martin Luther visited the WPC kids; Ruth, Naomi and Mary were unquestionably faithful. Most recently we have been learning about Samuel, David and the great psalms found in the Bible. Besides Bible verses, we have been memorizing the order of ALL the books of the Bible.

## Are YOU smarter than a Worship Plus Kid?

Challenge yourself during Second Hour on May 15th and find out if you are, "Smarter than a Worship Plus Kid." Pastor Reisner will be our emcee.

Do you need a hint on what to prep for? Start with memorizing: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy...😊

Now how about those minor prophets? Ouch! 😞

See you all on the 15th ●



Worship Plus Kids

# Our Westminster Family

Letter to Charles Creegan from the Emeritus Center at SUNY Albany

Dear Charles:

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of May 22, 2011, the Emeritus Center Board has decided to confer upon Doris Creegan, your mother, the distinguished title of Emeritus Center Research Fellow. Such a title is reserved to UAlbany faculty members who have (a) published at least one scholarly book after retiring from the University, (b) have provided a copy of the book to the Emeritus Center, and (c) have made an oral presentation based on the book, as part of our Emeritus Center Program.

Doris published her book *Echos de la Reforme dans la Litterature de Langue Francaise de 1520 a 1620* in 2001, after retiring from the French Department, when she was 83 years old, and the Emeritus Center has indeed a copy of the book. To my own amazement, Doris also agreed to make an oral presentation to us at the end of last semester, when she was 91 years old. The presentation unfortunately never took place, since Doris passed away a few weeks before the arranged date. The Emeritus Center Board therefore decided to wave the "oral presentation" requirement and, as mentioned above, to confer upon Doris the distinguished title of Emeritus Center Research Fellow.

## Doris Creegan Emeritus Research Fellow

Charles, the name of Doris Creegan will soon be engraved on the plaque located near the entrance of the Emeritus Center. All emeriti are proud of Doris, as I am sure you are.

Best,  
Ray Ortali  
Director of the Emeritus Center ●

## CRTC Wins \$1 Million Lilly Grant

**The Capital** Region Theological Center (CRTC) is the recipient of a \$1million Lilly Endowment grant over four years to develop resources and help make programs available to strengthen congregations in the region. Congregational resourcing expands the scope of current CRTC programming beyond individual education to provide services to congregations in support of growth, mission development and implementation, and best practices. Congratulations to WPC member Martha Reisner, Executive Director of the CRTC! ●

# Mosaic-Arts New Opera Production

by Al Fedak

**Mosaic-Arts**, the interdisciplinary performing arts organization currently in residence at Westminster Church, will present a fully-staged performance of Puccini's opera, *Suor Angelica* on Friday evening, May 27, at 7:00 PM. Admission is free, and donations will be received at the door.

*Suor Angelica* is a one-act opera, the second of three in a cycle known as *Il Trittico*. Its tragic story concerns a young woman who enters a convent after giving birth to an illegitimate son. The title role will be sung

by Kelly Hutchinson, founder and director of Mosaic-Arts.

**Presenting a fully-staged performance at WPC.**

Other cast members will include Lucille Beer, Vedrana Kalas, and Aleks Romano, all outstanding local performers. Nacre Dance Company will also participate, as will the Saratoga Children's Chorus, under the direction of Sue Fedak. Accompaniment will be provided by pianist Joshua Tanis and organist Al Fedak. The hour-long opera will be preceded by a brief concert of favorites from the operatic repertoire, plus a rare organ sonata by Bellini.

Don't miss the opportunity to see and hear this remarkable performance! ●

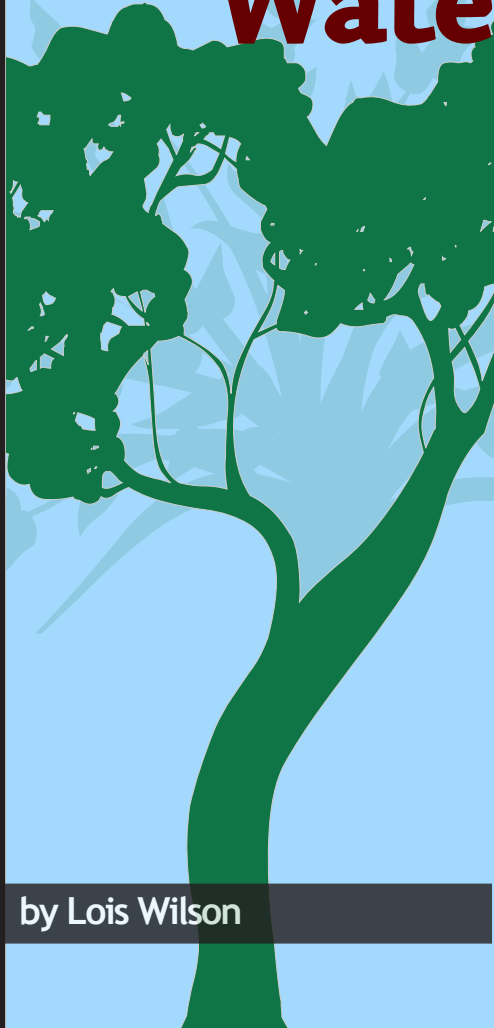
HAPPY  
May  
BIRTH  
TH  
DAY

**Westminster** celebrates the following birthdays this month:

● Emmanuel T.	May 2	● Kathryn Martel	May 17
● Myron Hermance	May 7	● Maggie M.	May 17
● Annie Leue	May 8	● Diane Scaptura	May 19
● Nannano Z.	May 8	● Bryan Bullis	May 23
● Victor Manieson	May 10	● Linnea Hartmark	May 23
● Dodie Seagle	May 12	● Glenn Van Oort	May 23
● Charlie R.	May 13	● James H.	May 24
● Ruth Andrews	May 16	● Anni-Maxine Q.	May 25
● Henry K.	May 16	● Jeanne Bianchine	May 29
● Deya F.	May 17	● Clara Hankins	May 30

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

# Clean Drinking Water for All



by Lois Wilson

**The** Westminster water committee, chaired by Floyd Barwig, is moving ahead to help solve the water crisis at the Hope Mission School in Liberia. Westminster is

supporting, through scholarships, 140 students who have no access to clean water.

On April 2, the Water Committee met with Saran Kaba Jones, Founder of FACE Africa, and with Emmett Wilson, FACE Africa Program Administrator. Later, both made presentations to all of the participants at the Church's African Spring Dinner, and showed pictures of the most recent water project completed by FACE Africa in Liberia.

In mid-April, on behalf of the church, Rev. Reisner, entered into a \$125 contract with FACE Africa for an assessment and field visit to the village around the Hope Mission School. The site visit will include viewing the current source of drinking water, understanding the health conditions of students due to water issues, estimating the number of people in the community who use the current well, interviewing students and community members, locating the closest hand pump or clean water well, and reporting on the needs of school and community.

Westminster will have a report from FACE Africa, documented by photographs and video, in early May. With funds dedicated to the Liberian Clean Water Fund and for the Hope Mission School in the Committee on Ghana budget, the water committee expects to have about \$2,500 on hand as of mid-May. Additional donations may be sent to Westminster Presbyterian Church, memo: Liberian Clean Water Fund ●



WPC Kids Drumming



Saran Kaba Jones



# WPC Congregational Brunch

The 2011 Congregational Brunch, celebrated the 150 year anniversary of our church building, with about 130 members and friends in attendance. Led by the trustees, who planned and prepared the meal, all the church boards played a significant role in the success of the Brunch. The deacons-led program honored the Church's 50-year members as well as the 25-year choir members. The session was responsible for clean-up. The newest feature, a salad and dessert pot-luck, was very popular •



Children with Cornerstones



Choir Members



50 Year Members

# Community Loan Fund of the Capital District

by Sheila Wrede

**This** Sunday, May 1st, come hear a brief presentation on the good work of the Community Loan Fund of the Capital District. The group lends money to small businesses and individuals for projects that strengthen and enhance our neighborhoods.

Come hear about their unique ministry and its impact in our community. CROP Walkers are encouraged to bring a bag lunch and head out after the presentation to First Lutheran •

## Sermons & Second Hours:

**MAY 1 Easter 2 Communion** 1 Peter 1:3-9  
Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "Once and for All"  
2nd Hour: Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region

**MAY 8 Easter 3 Mother's Day** Luke 24:13-35  
Pastor Frances W. Rosenau preaching, "Didn't we know..."  
Baptism of Brianna Duah  
2nd Hour: "What the hell happened to hell?"  
A discussion led by Pastor Reisner

**MAY 15 Easter 4** Acts 2:42-47  
Pastor Jim Reisner preaching, "The End of Poverty"  
2nd Hour: Are you Smarter than a Worship Plus Kid?

**MAY 22 Easter 5**  
Mary Louise Bringle preaching "A Family Album"  
2nd Hour: Mary Louise Bringle, "Report on the New Hymnal Project"

**MAY 29 Easter 6** John 14:15-21  
Pastor Frances W. Rosenau preaching, "Sighs too deep"  
No 2nd Hour

# Church Calendar

## This Month's Events:

### MAY

#### 1 SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
Communion  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Prayer Group  
11:15 am Bell Choir  
1:30pm CROP Walk

5

National Day of Prayer  
7:30 pm Adult Choir

#### 8 SUNDAY Mother's Day

10 am Worship  
Baptism  
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Prayer Group  
11:15 am Bell Choir

9

7 pm House Committee

10

7 pm Session Meeting

12

7:30 pm Adult Choir

14

9 am Youth Planning Retreat

#### 15 SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids  
11:15 am "Are You Smarter  
than a Worship Plus Kid?"  
11:15 am Bell Choir

17

7 pm Deacons Meeting  
7 pm Trustees Meeting

19

7:30 pm Adult Choir

20

7:30 pm Organ Recital:  
Hans Uwe Hielscher

#### 22 SUNDAY

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

26

7:30 pm Adult Choir

27

7 pm Puccini:  
Suor Angelica  
performed by:  
Mosaic-Arts

#### 29 SUNDAY

#### Memorial Day Weekend

10 am Worship  
11:15 am Prayer Group

## Upcoming Events:

### JUNE

3

7 pm Prayer and Communion  
Preparation

#### 5 SUNDAY

10 am Worship  
Faure Requiem

#### 12 SUNDAY

Youth Sunday &  
Church Picnic

#### 19 SUNDAY

Father's Day

#### 19 - July 7

Mission Trip to Ghana

05  
20  
11

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 127  
Albany, NY

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

9am-3pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

**Pastor:** James L. Reisner

**Associate Pastor:** Frances Wattman Rosenau

**Parish Associate:** Paul Randall

**Parish Associate:** James R. Thompson

**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

**Sexton:** Glenda Bennett

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

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

**Facebook:** Westminster Albany

**Twitter:** jim\_reisner

The Messenger is published 10 times a year.

**Editor:** Nancy Burton **Graphic Design:** Jeanne Bianchine

• Send June newsletter submissions by May 15

to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)

