

The Westminster Messenger

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

May 2012
In this Issue:

Pastoral Reflections
Page 2

Crop Walk
Page 3

Music News
Page 4

Children &
Youth News
Page 5

Member News
Page 6-7

Congregational Brunch
Page 8

Lectionary &
Second Hours
Page 10

Church Calendar
Page 11

The impact

of the resurrection continues on, even though Easter was long ago. The season between Easter and Pentecost is traditionally a time when we read about the early church in Acts.

Early Christians stumbled and guessed, met and prayed trying to figure out what the resurrection meant. Death has been overcome; God has broken the chains that kept humanity hostage. Now what?

As Christians today, we spend our whole lives responding to the resurrection and figuring out what it means for us. Do we live in a new way now? Does the resurrection make a difference in our daily routines?

Westminster is a congregation that lives out the resurrection well. Every year in May, we rally together for the CROP Walk, raising money for those in need nearby and across the globe. The CROP Walk is just one example of the many ways this congregation lives out Christ's call to new life.

What difference does the resurrection make? If Westminster is any indication, the resurrection makes a big difference in how we see our role in the community and how we befriend partners near and far. Notice the signs of the resurrection in these pages. See God working through us to transform the world ●

by: Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

Pastoral Reflections:

Pastor Jim Reisner

A few Sundays ago, in the greeting line after church one of you (and I don't remember who) told me the story about Oscar Wilde. Wilde visited the South some twenty years after the Civil War. One of his stops was in Charleston, where one evening he was walking along the beach near Fort Sumter, and commented to a woman about how beautiful the moon was. "Ah, yes," she replied, "but you should have seen it before the war."

The Gospels, and all of scripture, are filled with marvels, mystery, and miracles, but some of these miracles have to do with what doesn't appear in the pages of scripture. Nowhere in the book of Acts do you ever hear any of the apostles say, "I wish Jesus were here." Now, that's a miracle!

Think about that for a second. Wouldn't you think at least once somebody would have been caught murmuring, "Jesus would know what to say right about now;" or "remember the good old days when our master used to take a few fish and loaves and turn it into a banquet for thousands?"

...with God, there are no rear view mirrors

The apostles are never nostalgic. They never miss Jesus. They never miss him because they experience his presence with them in the Holy Spirit. They are not looking over their shoulders for the Master to step forward and take charge; instead, they are empowered by the Spirit to proclaim his presence in every situation before them. When we make our pilgrimage with God, there are no rear view mirrors. Jesus said as much when he said, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

When we embrace nostalgia we are rejecting God's call to us to follow and serve God in our own time and place. There are times when we are called to a new location and a new practice of our faith. That often happens in a lifetime. But we cannot be called to another time. We cannot go back in time to serve God gladly. When it comes to serving God, we only have the present--a present where our faithful acts and witness work toward a future where God's will may be done on Earth as it is in heaven ●

CROP Walk W.O.W.

W.O.W.! Westminster Outreach Walkers will do their part to end hunger on Sunday May 6, 2012 at the Albany CROP Walk.

Last year, Westminster earned the "Silver Sneaker" for raising almost \$10,000 for Church World Service. 25% of this money supported local feeding programs in Albany while 75% supported programs in more than 80 countries around the world providing:

- Emergency food & supplies after disasters like hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, famines, and war.
- Safe drinking water
- Seeds, tools & education to help people grow more and better sustainable food.

Let's do it again! There are many ways to get involved to build a world where there is enough for all!

- **RAISE MONEY!** Get a CROP Sponsor Envelope from Diane Bossung and collect donations. Contact Diane at 475-0169 or via email at dbossung@verizon.net
- Raise at least \$30 and receive a CROP Walk 2012 T-shirt.
- Raise \$300 or more and receive a green canvas grocery bag that reads "Ending Hunger Ones Step at a Time".
- **WALK!** Put your sneakers on and walk with others for the full 5-mile route or the shorter Golden Mile on May 6, 2012. The walk starts and finishes at First Lutheran Church located at 646 State Street in Albany (The church faces Western Ave. between Quail and Lake). Registration begins at 12:30 pm in the church hall and the walk begins at 1:30 pm. Westminster walkers often bring a bag lunch on Walk Day and eat together church before walking.
- **DONATE!** Donate whatever you can by offering a walker

- Cash
- Check made out to CWS / CROP
- Online donations to our team:
Westminster Outreach Walkers.
 1. Visit www.cropwalkonline.org
 2. Click on New York State
 3. Click on Albany CROP Hunger Walk 2012 from the list provided
 4. Click on DONATE
 5. Click on SUPPORT A TEAM
 6. Click on Westminster Outreach Walkers and choose DONATE NOW
- Please note that the Westminster Mission committee will match \$.50 on each dollar raised by Westminster!



Music at WPC: A Musical May

First Fridays Starting Up Again

CAPITOL CHAMBER ARTISTS PERFORM AT WPC - MAY 12

On Saturday evening, May 12, the Capitol Chamber Artists will present the final concert of their 2011-2012 season in our church sanctuary, performing works of Bach, Mozart, Vitali, Veracini, and McGibbon. A 7:00 PM pre-concert recital will be followed by the full concert at 8:00 PM. Members of the group include Mary Lou Saetta, violinist; Irvin Gilman, flutist; André O'Neil, cellist; and Al Fedak, harpsichordist and organist. Members and friends of Westminster Church will be admitted free of charge, and everyone is invited.

FIRST FRIDAY: MAY 4

In May, we will be kicking off **1st Fridays** for the season, with performances at Westminster on the first Fridays of May, June, July, August and September. 1st Friday, administered by the Upstate Artists Guild, aims to introduce a wider audience to the unique vitality of the artists and venues of Albany. 1st Friday promotes interest in the arts by making it accessible, through a coordinated effort to open museums, galleries and other public places where art is displayed or performed. Throughout last summer, Westminster was the site of several performances by area groups. This May's performance, starting at **6:30 pm** on **May 4**, will feature *Oobleck*, a six piece funk-based instrumental horn band! Weather permitting, they will play on the front steps of the church.

To make this a successful event, we need volunteers to help welcome guests, hand out programs, answer questions, and point guests in the direction of the rest rooms. With many volunteers, the shifts will be short, so you can enjoy the concert and the rest of what 1st Friday has to offer. If you would like to help, please e-mail Elder Leah Boijnowski, at leah.threatte@gmail.com.

Plan to join as many as 1,000 art and music lovers on the tour of venues in downtown Albany, the Lark Street area and Delaware Avenue. For a complete map of all the places open on 1st Friday, go to <http://1stfridayalbany.org> ●

Children and Youth

Nell Stokes-Holmes wrote and directed the play, "The Game Room" which was wonderfully acted out on March 31st, the night of the Spring African Dinner. Perhaps there will be an encore presentation in the near future?! Stay tuned! ●



THE GAME ROOM

By:
Nell Stokes Holmes



Celebrating Westminster: Alfred Fedak

Al Fedak has enjoyed a string of good news recently. On March 29, the Pingry School in Martinsville, New Jersey, awarded him its very first Alumni Arts Achievement Award in Music. The three other inaugural honorees were dancer/choreographer Miguel Gutierrez, artist/designer Harry Allen, and Al's classmate, Jon Sarkin, who took up art after suffering a brain injury, and went on to become a world-famous artist. Most of Al's family were on hand to attend the awards ceremony, including his brother and sisters, and Sue, Peter, and Ben. Pingry also commissioned Al to write a new school song for the school's 150th anniversary; for this Al collaborated with Mel Bringle (Chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song), who preached at Westminster last year, and who produced the song's text.

During Easter week, as announced in these pages last month, "Pipedreams," NPR's national weekly organ-music program, broadcast a recording of Al playing one of his works on Westminster's Skinner organ.

And one of Al's choral works was performed at Harvard Memorial Church on Easter morning. Harvard University had commissioned Al to compose the opening anthem for the Easter service at which the church's new C. B. Fisk pipe organ was inaugurated. Thus, the work was the very first choir-and-organ piece to be performed with the new instrument. (It was also sung that morning here in Albany by our own Westminster Choir.) The new piece will also be featured in a PBS documentary about Harvard's new organ, which will be scheduled to be telecast in early 2013 •



CRTC Events

GET ON BOARD! CRTC River Cruise on the Hudson, May 21, 2012, 5:30-9:00 pm, Learn and have fun while you and your team explore resources to enrich your congregation. Speed-resourcing with the experts! Music, hors d'oeuvres, and more. Details on CRTC website! \$200/ team of 4. \$100 individual. Register by May 7.

SHANE CLAIBORNE: A CALL TO THE SIMPLE WAY OF RADICAL CHRISTIANITY, Emmanuel Baptist in Albany, June 22 & 23. Do we make "statements of faith" when we really need "statements of practice"? Explore issues of peace-building, social justice and the call to truly live like Jesus in your neighborhood. Fri. only: \$25 by 5/23; then \$35; Sat. only: \$85 by 5/23; then \$95; Both days: \$105. Age 25 & under: \$10 for both events ●

May Usher Schedule

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

Date:	Ushers:	Acolyte:	Church Bell:
May 6	Pat & Cheryl Foy Bob Stone Lawrie Lierheimer	Charlie R.	Thomas W.
May 13	Allan & Mary Jean Tedrow Carol Bromley Ruthann Brod	Sheila H.	Lexy & Grant H.
May 22	John & Leah Bojnowski Judy Hartley Peter McKee	Henry K.	Andrew K.
May 27	Maurice & Betty Thornton Lois Wilson Tony Mason	Maxine Q.	Robert Q.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May

Westminster celebrates the following birthdays this month:

● Emmanuel T. May 2	● Kathryn Martel May 17
● Myron Hermance May 7	● Maggie Martel 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 ●

Congregational Brunch April 15, 2012



Young Adult Update

“Where are all the young people?”

“Why aren’t they in church?”

Sound familiar?

I can tell you why the young adults of Westminster are not in church: they are doing work projects in the South End or eating out at a local restaurant. The young adult group meets once a month, usually after worship, and we always go out somewhere in the community together.

On a recent weekend, our group gathered at a vacant lot on Catherine Street that has been turned into a Children’s Garden. Though it was a cool day, we worked up a sweat shoveling, raking and weeding all in preparation for a community work day on Earth Day. We hope to return to the South End in the summer to continue work on one of their many vacant lot gardens.

The Young Adults are meeting monthly and growing fast. It is a great way to share food (there’s always food) and what’s going on in our lives ●



May
20th

Second Hour

On May 20 we are fortunate to have Rev. Otuo Acheampong, father of Esther Acheampong of our congregation join us at worship. He will be visiting the USA for Esther's university graduation.

Both Esther and her father know first-hand of some of the challenges that developmental disabilities, and other issues such as disabling injury and age-related disabilities like dementia pose for people in Ghana and those who care for them.

Rev. Acheampong and Esther will make brief presentations on their perceptions about barriers to help and ways to help, including the role of the church, and there will be time for a Q and A and interaction with our panelists.

Carolyn Smith will present the discussion. Members who have close experiences with disabilities in the USA are especially invited to attend ●

Sermons & Second Hours:

MAY 6 Eastertide 5 **Communion** **LUKE 24:13**
Pastor Reisner, preaching, *The Road Goes Ever On*
2nd Hour: Paul Randall leading, Part 1:
Our Presbyterian DNA: Beliefs and Behaviors

MAY 13 Eastertide 6 **Mother's Day** **DEUTERONOMY 32:1-14**
Pastor Reisner, preaching, *The Mother Eagle*
2nd Hour: Paul Randall leading, Part 2:
Our Presbyterian DNA: Beliefs and Behaviors

MAY 20 Eastertide 7 **ACTS 1:12-26**
Pastor Reisner, preaching, *The Times in Between*
2nd Hour:
Panel Discussion with Carolyn Smith, Rev. Acheampong and Esther

MAY 27 Pentecost **ACTS 2:1-21**
Pastor Rosenau, preaching, *Alighting Fire*
No 2nd Hour

Church Calendar

This Month's Events:

MAY

- 1 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
2 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7 pm Christian Life & Learning
3 7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal
4 6:30 pm
First Friday

6 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
1:00 pm CROP WALK
8 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
7 pm Session

- 9 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
10 7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal
12 7:00 pm
Capitol Chamber Artists Concert

13 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship Plus
11:15 am Second Hour
15 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
Noon
Editorial Deadline
for June Newsletter
16 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
17 7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

20 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour
11:30 am Young Adult Brunch
7:00 pm Youth Group

22

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

23

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

24

- 7:30 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

27 SUNDAY

- 10:00 am Worship
28 Memorial Day- Office Closed
29 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press
30 7:30- 8:30 am FOCUS Breakfast X'press

Upcoming Events:

JUNE

- 1 First Friday
3 SUNDAY
Last Choir Sunday
Dvorak Mass in D in Worship
10 SUNDAY
Youth Sunday & Church Picnic
17 SUNDAY
Father's Day

JULY

- 6 Youth Mission Trip to Pittsburgh

05
20
12



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- Spring 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

E-Mail: info@wpcalbany.org

Web: www.wpcalbany.org

Facebook: Westminster Albany

Twitter: jim_reisner

The Messenger is published 10 times a year.

Editor: Nancy Burton

Graphic Design: Jeanne Bianchine

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