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May  
2013

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“A little Madness in the Spring  
Is wholesome even for the King.”  
Emily Dickinson

The month of May brings warmer weather and the Tulip Festival to Albany, and also the Feast of Pentecost and the season of the Holy Spirit.

We Presbyterians tend to live in our heads. We are suspicious of emotional or ecstatic expressions of faith. We choose order over ardor. Pentecost introduces a little madness to our faith -a wholesome thing to those of us who need to loosen up a little bit, and to let go of our desire for control.

Who knows what might happen at Westminster, and to ourselves, if we allow God to be God, the true master of all that is? •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

# PASTORAL *Reflections*

By Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

## WHAT'S THE CHARACTER OF YOUR CHURCH?

"What's the character of your church?" asks the Rev. Rachel G. Hackenberg in a recent article of the same title. She describes three basic types of churches and invites her readers to decide which one they are.

The **Easter Church** asks church participants to be a "sanitized self." This is the kind of church where people are polished and put their best face forward, where the environment is controlled and not a hair is out of place. Across denominations or traditions, the Easter church puts forth the image that its people have things figured out.

The **Good Friday Church** welcomes you as a "wounded self." This kind of church acknowledges human failure and woundedness and can seem refreshing to those who feel constrained by the Easter church. While recognizing wounds, however, the Good Friday church does not move past them but stays with them. Hackenberg says that Good Friday churches "focus their identities on a specific need, and they set themselves up to be bandages for congregants' wounds."

### Where do you think Westminster is these days?

The third type of church, the **Pentecost Church** encourages people to be a "healed self." This church recognizes deep pain and death while pushing toward healing and a fuller life in Christ. It does not gloss over pain or wallow in it but seeks healing. Hackenberg describes the Pentecost church's relentless pursuit of healing that "the Spirit's unending call to fuller life in Christ." This type of church does not rest in the Easter or Good Friday mentality but constantly pushes for something more.

Perhaps you have been a part of congregations in the past that fit in one of these categories. Where do you think Westminster is these days?

In April, we had a healing service on Sunday morning. Did you bring a wound to God that day? Were you healed? A service of healing is one small way we attempt to bring healing to the brokenness of ourselves and the world. What are other ways?

Within the next weeks we celebrate Pentecost: the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit continues to stir us up, not letting us get too settled or comfortable. I know that I long to be part of a Pentecost style community where I don't have to be defined by how put together I am or by the pains I have lived through. Instead, I can be defined by Christ's call to a healed life. ●

1. Rachel G. Hackenberg, What's the character of your church?, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rachel-g-hackenberg/whats-the-character-of-your-church\\_b\\_3056030.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rachel-g-hackenberg/whats-the-character-of-your-church_b_3056030.html) (April 15, 2013).

# FROM THE THIRD FLOOR

By Andrea Joy Holroyd

I once heard a story about a little child who made an argument for why time seems to go faster as one gets older. "It's because," he said, "When I was five, a year was a fifth of my life. That's a large amount of time. But when I am fifty, a year will only be one fiftieth of my life! That's why time goes faster as you get older - the years are smaller."

It is amazing how quickly the school year has flown. I look around my office and marvel at the gaps on the shelves. When I first came to work, all the Godly Play stories filled every space of my shelves. Now there are large holes where the stories told this year in class have been moved to the classroom. In We Believe, we are mid-way through the spring curriculum, the final one for the school year. I look at the remaining plans, and marvel at where the time has gone. It has been amazing to watch the young people of Westminster grow not only in their imaginations, but also in their critical thinking skills. We have an inquisitive bunch and it has been a gift to watch them blossom.

It is now May, the time to begin bringing school to a close for the summer. The last day of Church School is June 2nd. Our youth are planning something special for that day, so stay tuned •

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## WHAT IS A HAT SHOW?

Good question.

Think of your basic, run of the mill talent show with music, movement and skits. Now, picture the participants wearing silly hats and passing "the hat" at the end of the show. Voila! You have a Hat Show.

Sunday June 2nd after worship, the youth of Westminster are going to perform in a Hat Show for your entertainment. They will sing, play musical instruments and act in a skit called "A House is Not a Home" a parable of the Homeless Man" written by our own Tom Norman.

Come one, come all. Tell your friends and neighbors. Support the youth mission trip to New Jersey for Hurricane Sandy Relief. And, of course, give generously when the hat comes your way •

# HAT SHOW

By Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

# MUSIC

AT

*Westminster*

## RARE MUSIC FROM THE ROMANTIC ERA TO THE 20TH CENTURY CONCERT: MAY 25

Here at Westminster, we have relationships with musical groups of many stripes. We are pleased to partner with Capitol Chamber Artists in their the final concert of the 44th season - Rare Music from the Romantic Era to the 20th Century - on Saturday May 25, 7pm recital, 8pm concert. Westminster church goers are invited to attend at no charge.

The program will include pieces for violin, viola, piano, flute and organ, including Pie Jesu from the Requiem by Durufle arranged for organ, flute and viola by our very own Alfred Fedak. Artists are Alfred Fedak, organ; Aniko Szokody, piano; Mary Lou Saetta, violin and viola; Irvin Gilman, flute.

Come enjoy the musical offerings of the day and bring a friend! ●



# MISSION & MINISTRIES UPDATE

## GHANA TRIP FUNDRAISER

Put Saturday, June 1, on your calendar for a new culinary treat at Westminster— A “Soul Food Dinner” cooked by WPC member Willie White and members of AVillage..., Inc., in support of the Westminster mission trip to Ghana in July. African American style ribs and chicken, and all the fixens, available for eat in or take out from 4 p.m. on. For take out orders, contact Tom McPheeters at 433-0679, or [tommcp@me.com](mailto:tommcp@me.com).

## MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVER NEEDED

Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed! Starting June 1st, Peter Young Housing, Industries and Treatment (PYHIT) will begin delivering over 200 meals a day to seniors in Albany County. Deliveries are scheduled to be made between 10 am - 1 pm Mon-Friday. If you or anyone you know can help for a few hours a week, please contact Keri O'Brien at 463-1121 or [keri.obrien@pyhit.org](mailto:keri.obrien@pyhit.org) ●



Spring African Dinner  
Photos by Andrew Saptura



# CROP WALK MAY 5th

W.O.W.! Westminster Outreach Walkers will do their part to end hunger on Sunday May 5, 2013 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](mailto:dbossung@verizon.net)
- Raise at least \$30 and receive a CROP Walk 2013 T-shirt.
- Raise \$300 or more and receive a green canvas grocery bag that reads "Ending Hunger One 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 5, 2013. 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.



# CROP WALK

*more info.*

CROP WALK continued from page 6

- **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](http://www.cropwalkonline.org)
  2. Click on New York State
  3. Click on **Albany CROP Hunger Walk 2013** 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!

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR FEEDBACK ON THE NEWSLETTER.

What do you find more helpful? What would you like to see more of? Do you have any editing gifts to share? Contact [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com) ●



MAY  
2013

*Happy*  
BIRTHDAY

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

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

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



# PRAISE and GLORY to you

Praise and glory to you,  
creator Spirit of God. . . .

You come like the wind of heaven,  
unseen, unbidden.

Like the dawn  
you illuminate the world around us.

You grant us a new beginning every day.

You warm and comfort us.

You give us courage and fire and strength.

Be with us, Holy Spirit,

in all we say or think,

in all we do,

this and every day. Amen.

A Prayer of Pentecost

*The Book of Common Worship*



# CRTC CLASSES & BRUNCH PHOTOS

The Capital Region Theological Center is offering the following courses. Register online at [www.crtc.org](http://www.crtc.org) or by phone at 518-462-2470. Scholarships and group discounts available for most classes

What does the CRTC do? They offer: ecumenical theological education, support for clergy, training for ministry, and resourcing services for congregations.

**Faith Seeking Understanding- Introduction to Theology**, Rev. Dr. Gregg Mast, Saturdays July 13 and 20, 9am - 3:30pm; Sundays July 14 and 21, 1- 5pm. This course will be an introduction for those who want to learn more about the central theological tenets of the Christian Church. A Lay Theological Education Program 20-hour core course. \$275 (\$225 to audit); Reg. deadline June 27.

**Canoeing Through Creation**, Rev. Kent Busman, 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9 through 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, Camp Fowler in Speculator, NY. Enjoy the beauty of the earth and reflect upon your place in nature. Discover how to live better live as stewards of God's good Creation. \$350. (Sorry, no discounts.) Reg. deadline: August

## CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH

The annual Congregational Brunch was held on Sunday, April 14, following the worship service. Plan to attend with all your family for this time of good food and fellowship.

Brunch entertainment: Barber Shop Quartet  
Peter Leue, Allan Kirk, Eugene Sit and Paul Randall



50 year members Martha Faust, Dr. Robert Faust, Pam Marvin, Meg Elbow, Joy Tallmadge and Ralph Frey Jr. (Not pictured)

# SECOND HOURS

at  
*Westminster*

## SECOND HOUR ADULT FORUMS IN MAY

Fifty years ago this Spring, Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote his letter from the Birmingham Jail. The document can be seen as the manifesto of the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's, and its use of non-violent resistance as the means for social change. On Sunday, May 9th, our 2nd hour will be a public reading of King's seminal letter.

King had come to Birmingham to desegregate the public accommodations of that city. It was from this jail cell that King wrote the famous words: *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."*

Boston, Newtown, Virginia Tech, Tucson, Aurora, Nickel Mines, Oak Creek -the list goes on and on of cities and towns afflicted by mass shootings and mass murder. Does the heightened level of violence in America challenge Christians in our understanding of what it is to be a peacemaker? For our May 16th 2nd Hour Adult Forum we have scheduled a conversation about violence in America, and what might be the Christian response •

## Worship Services and Second Hours:

**May 5**      6th Sunday in Eastertide      Communion  
Acts 16:6a-15      "The Macedonian Vision"  
*Pastor Reisner, preaching*  
2nd Hour: Civility, Part 3  
*led by Tim & Lisa Dodman, Arden Leach*

**May 12**      7th Sunday in Eastertide      Marigold Sunday  
Acts 16:16-34      "Blessed Disturbance"  
*Pastor Reisner, preaching*  
2nd Hour: A reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s  
Letter from Birmingham Jail

**May 19**      Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-217      "Goodbye to Control"  
*Pastor Reisner, preaching*  
2nd Hour: A community conversation about Peacemaking:  
After Newtown and Boston

**May 26**      Trinity Sunday  
Romans 5:1-6      "The Hope Complex"  
*Pastor Rosenau, preaching*  
No 2nd hour or church school

**MAY**

*Church  
Calendar*  
**2013**

**MAY**

**2**

5:30 pm Kerygma -  
The Study Begins  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**5 SUNDAY**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Church School  
1:30 pm CROP Walk  
First Lutheran

**8**

7:00 pm Christian Life & learning

**9**

5:30 pm Kerygma -  
The Study Begins  
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**12 SUNDAY- Mother's Day**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Church School

**14**

7:00 pm Session

**16**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**19 SUNDAY**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Adult Education  
11:15 am Church School  
7:00 pm Youth Group

**21**

7:00 pm Trustees  
7:00 pm Deacons

**23**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**26 SUNDAY**

10:00 am Worship

**27**

Memorial Day- Office Closed

**28**

7:00 pm Mission

**30**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**JUNE**

**1**

4:00 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

**UPCOMING EVENTS in JUNE**

**9 Picnic on State Street**



## Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

Change Service Requested

## 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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**Twitter:** WPCAlbanyNY

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