



# The Westminster Messenger

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## The youth group

is on the move. As you may have heard, new things are happening with the youth of Westminster.

We have already started meeting on alternating Sunday nights for games, fellowship and discussion. We have decided to focus our service efforts on homelessness this year - volunteering, learning and praying. And, plans are in the works for a mission trip in July 2012.

Beth Coombe is heading up the Youth Oversight Group to direct the program in its infancy. Our volunteers who will be working directly with the youth are Esther Acheampong, David Hershey and Peter Leue.

As we begin, we need your help. A supportive and involved congregation is one of the most important components to nurturing youth - much more important than a hired youth director.

You can give of your time in a variety of ways. You can work with me to plan several up-coming events, run errands and help set up. You can brainstorm creative fundraising ideas to meet our mission trip fundraising goals.

Most of all, the support we need from you is prayer. Make a special effort to pray for the ministry and the youth specifically. Get to know their names, find out something about them from their parents and pray for them. This youth ministry does not belong to me or to our core volunteers. It is but one part of the Body of Christ and we are all members of it ●

**Pastor Frances W. Rosenau**



# Pastoral Reflections:

Pastor Jim Reisner

**Contagion**, the recently released movie, follows the rapid progress of a lethal airborne virus that kills within days. As the epidemic grows, the worldwide medical community races to find a cure and control the panic that spreads faster than the virus itself.

There are contagions of all kinds. In world economics, we are watching with concern the economy of Greece, and wondering if a contagion of collapse may also affect Spain, Ireland, and Italy, and spread world-wide.

The fear of infection from disease makes us want to distance ourselves from the rest of society. Some of you may remember quarantine signs on neighbors' doors as children recovered from whooping cough, the measles, or mumps. In Biblical times, leprosy was so feared that those who contracted it were forever sequestered to isolated colonies.

But not all contagions are bad. In fact, I think we can see in the ministry of Jesus a contagion of health being spread as he visited the villages of Nazareth, and traveled the roads to and from Jerusalem. Jesus was a healer. He cured seizures, blindness, withered limbs, and internal bleeding. "Arise and walk" and "your sins are forgiven" He proclaimed to those whom He healed. And because disease was a cause for shame and a sign of moral failing, He brought the sick that He touched back into relationship with their families, synagogues, and communities.

**We can see the ministry of Jesus as a contagion of health.**

There is a need today for the church to be a contagion of health. Can we adopt healing as one of the core values of Westminster? Can everything we do, every event we host or sponsor, promote health and healing in Albany, in our church, and in each one of us? In a world that is so broken and divided, we are all in need of mending: our physical bodies, our relationships, our institutions, and our nation.

Jesus comes to us as a healer. He offers us a contagion of health. He tells us, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Abide in me." May we all draw close to the true source of our health, and be made whole by the hand of our Lord Jesus Christ ●



# Kirkin' o' the Tartan for October 16

by Valerie Shanley



**Please come** celebrate the Scottish roots of our Presbyterian heritage at Westminster's annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan worship service on Sunday, October 16. Plan to arrive at 9:45 a.m. to enjoy pipers from the award winning Capital Region Celtic Pipe Band as they sound the call to worship in front of the church. A colorful parade of tartan banners, symbolizing the clans entering into the House of the Lord to worship and praise, will commence at 10:00 a.m.

This is a special time to offer thanksgiving to the Lord and renew our commitment to serve Him. We encourage you to invite guests and introduce them to the Westminster family.

We are very excited to bring

## J. Barrie Shepherd to Preach

The Reverend Dr. J. Barrie Shepherd back to Westminster to be our guest preacher. A native Scot, Dr. Shepherd is Pastor Emeritus of the historic First Presbyterian Church in New York City. Dr. Shepherd has preached and lectured across the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe. He is the author of 13 books, including books of prayers and poetry. He serves as Chaplain to both the New York and Philadelphia chapters of the Saint Andrew's Society. A book signing will be held during the reception following the worship service.

Volunteers are sought to help with the Kirkin'. Would you like to carry a tartan banner during the service? Contact David and Sarah Hershey at 462-4727. Would you be willing to bake shortbread (recipe provided if desired) or help with the reception? Contact Valerie Shanley at 674-5332 ●



Everyone is Scottish on Kirkin' Sunday



Waiting for the Parade of Tartans



# October Concerts at Westminster



by Al Fedak

## Sunday, October 2, 5:00 PM:

“Liederabend” (Evening of Art Songs) presented by Mosaic Arts. Kelly Hutchinson, Corine Salon, Joshua Gurwitz, Amy Shake, and Hannah Moss will perform songs of Schubert, Mahler, Marx, Strauss and Wolf, accompanied by pianists Joshua Tanis and Ming Aldrich-Gan. The program will take place in the intimate setting of the Welles Room, and a freewill offering will be received.

Saturday, October 29: Concert by Capitol Chamber Artists:

**“Liederabend” (Evening of Art Songs) by Mosaic Arts on 10.2 & Capitol Chamber Artists on 10.29**

Mary Lou Saetta, violin; Irvin Gilman, flute; Andre O’Neill, cello; and Al Fedak, organ. A celebration of the “King of Instruments,” featuring Josef Rheinberger’s chamber music with organ. Pre-concert recital at 7:00 PM; concert at 8:00 PM. Donation at the door: \$16 (students \$8); Westminster members admitted free ●

# Children’s Choir on Thursday Evenings



Children’s Choir at Westminster

**Singing,** musical games, choir chimes, smiles! All these things are shared at Children’s Choir on Thursday evenings. All children and youth, ages 4 on up to 17, are encouraged to share their talents with their church family by attending rehearsals from 6:30 to 7:15 pm. We will be singing in November and for the pageant on Dec. 18. Also, older teens are welcome to help out! Hope to see everyone on October 6 at 6:30 promptly.

Ms. Fedak ●



# Children and Youth

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

Apple picking is a fall tradition - one of those signs that the weather will soon get much cooler and the days shorter. You can only pick apples in the fall, for only a few weeks. That makes it so much sweeter.

The youth group will be going to Indian Ladder Farms to pick apples this year. We will meet in the church parking lot at 2 pm on October 15th for an afternoon of fall fun.

**Youth Group to Indian Ladder 10.15**

Bring a friend to help you carry all your apples!

Saturday, October 15th 2 pm ●

Peter Leue has offered to give his labor doing furniture repair for congregation members with all proceeds going to the youth mission trip next July. This work might include furniture repair and restoration (not refinishing or upholstery), custom reproduction architectural woodwork and simple furniture. Visit [peterleue.com](http://peterleue.com) to see some of his work. Peter can be reached on his cell phone at 518.526.3222 or by e-mail at [dustman50@aol.com](mailto:dustman50@aol.com) ●



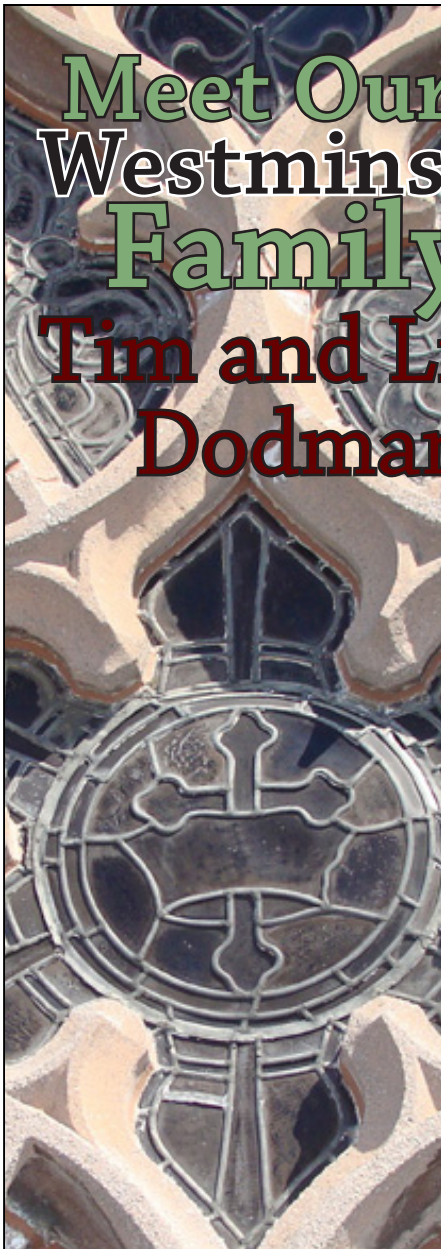
**Not this Reformation Leader...**

Reformation Sunday, will be one to remember for the Children ages pre-k through 5th grade who attend Worship Plus for Kids during the worship service. While we are NOT going to tell you who he is, he was a very important part of the Scottish Reformation ●

**Can you guess who is coming?**



# Meet Our Westminster Family: Tim and Lisa Dodman



## Retired Foreign Service

Officer, Tim Dodman is originally from Port Huron, Michigan. His father's Air Force career took their family throughout the US as well as to Germany and Turkey. During his own government career, which included the U.S. Navy, he has lived in Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Swaziland (where his regional assignment took him to 37 countries in sub-Saharan Africa), Nigeria, Russia, Croatia, and Washington, DC. Tim has been to all 50 States. He has two sons who live in Florida; he became a grandfather for the first time in March.

Lisa works in international development. A native Bostonian, Lisa has lived in New York City, Durham, and Pittsburgh as well as Vladivostok, Moscow, and Zagreb. On returning to the US from Zagreb nine years ago, they moved to the Finger Lakes to be near Lisa's family and moved to Albany over two years ago. A delegation of visitors from Malawi helped them connect with WPC, where the preaching, music, and friendly congregants have made them feel at home.

Tim and Lisa share common interests in reading and cooking; Tim is an avid golfer, Lisa loves to garden ●



Lisa and Tim



... and at Rockefeller Center



# Fall Festival for Seniors

**All seniors are** invited to attend a special Fall Festival for Seniors on Saturday, October 15th from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm at Westminster.

The Fall Festival is designed to promote wellness, have fun, and plan for a good winter. A morning snack and lunch will be offered free of charge to all who attend. FOCUS churches, Westminster's Senior Issues Forum, and others have taken great care in planning this event. When the 2009 Mission Team saw the program in Ghana, created by Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti, they were inspired to present an annual event for Seniors in Albany.

The Hon. Michael Breslin, Albany County Executive, who is retiring December 31, will be our featured guest. Mr. Breslin has been a leader in the area of long-term care, working to allow seniors to remain independent. We hope you will be able to join us ●

**Saturday, October 15th from 10am to 2:30pm**

**Glenda** Bennett announces the birth of her first Great- Grandchild, Serenity Paige Joshlynn Downey born 9.21.11 weighing 7 lbs. 11oz. Congratulations Glenda and family ●

## Celebrating the following birthdays in October:

● Pacia Ferrell Vamvas	Oct. 1	● Laura Hartmark	Oct. 12
● Reed G.	Oct. 2	● Susan Elbow	Oct. 15
● Forrest Holroyd	Oct. 2	● Ben Fedak	Oct. 16
● Amy McPheeters	Oct. 2	● Ruth Russell	Oct. 19
● Grant H.	Oct. 6	● Caleb K.	Oct. 20
● Harvey Prins	Oct. 6	● Ann Fraser	Oct. 22
● Matthew Scaptura	Oct. 6	● Andrew Scaptura	Oct. 26
● Carol Johnson	Oct. 7	● Alex Scaptura	Oct. 26
● Bill Mayer	Oct. 7	● Dr. Robert Faust	Oct. 29
● Spencer Ryan	Oct. 7	● Ken Moore	Oct. 30
● Tim Gordon	Oct. 9	● Sue Barwig	Oct. 31
● Sue Schell	Oct. 9		

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
October

# October 2nd is World Mission Sunday

by Sheila Wrede



**World Communion** Sunday is the day designated by the PC(USA) to collect the **Peacemaking Offering**.

This year, we will use our 25% gifts to supplement the personal undertaking of one of our youth members, Nannano Z. She is committed to educate people in Albany and Washington about the situation in South Sudan. Our money will support the International Committee of the Red Cross in South Sudan where they are working hard to alleviate the suffering and difficulties from a long armed conflict and accommodating many, many, displaced citizens.

After worship, come on down to the second hour and help the mission committee with some hands-on mission!

We will write letters to our congressperson urging for greater support of hunger issues ●

We will assemble hygiene kits for our neighbors in Schoharie and other nearby counties. If you are able to bring some store bought supplies on the 2nd we will need:

- Hand towels (16"x28")
- Wash clothes
- Wide tooth combs
- Nail clippers
- Bar soap (in wrappers),
- Toothbrushes (in wrapper) and
- Band-Aids.

**Calling All Mugs!** With the opening of FOCUS Breakfast Express and the Winter Breakfast Program just around the corner, staff has been busy performing an inventory of supplies. Unbeknownst to us the mug supply is greatly diminished. We're putting a call out for mugs! We ask you to clean out the back of your cupboard - we're looking for 8-12 oz. mugs with handles. They can be any color, with advertising and/or graphics. Please bring them in to the box in the small meeting room off of the Chestnut Street entrance. Thank you ●



# Are You on the Right Path?

by Kelly Crisfield

**Are you on a path** to becoming a better Christian Steward? How are you planning to do so? Hopefully you have started thinking about your 2012 commitment to Westminster. It's that time of year for us to begin preparing for the annual stewardship canvass.

As Paul's letter to the church in Corinth states "*On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week.....*" 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Can you think of a few generous stewards at Westminster? How about those who contribute to our endowment, teach church school, volunteer at the breakfast program or Schuyler Inn? They all have set fine examples of generous living knowing that their time and talents are gifts of God given to bless others. In becoming better Christian Stewards, it is important to know each of you has gifts to share and those gifts are used to sustain our church staff and building, support mission opportunities, help our congregation members grow spiritually, and bring joy and hope to those in need.

We invite you to give according to who you want to become in your relationship with God. Please join us for Stewardship Sunday, November 13, 2011 when we will celebrate our personal faith commitments and God's generosity toward us as we continue to grow in living generously as disciples of Jesus Christ ●



# Breakfast Express to Launch

by Pastor Deb Jameson

**It has been a long** desire and plan of the FOCUS community to provide a community meal year-round. That dream is turning into a reality as we prepare to expand the breakfast program and make it into a 12-months-a-year soup kitchen open to anyone in the city who is in need of a breakfast meal (and a take-away lunch).

The program will have 2 sections: (1) the winter breakfast program will run November - April, 3 mornings a week (T,W,TH) 7-9am serving a hot breakfast; (2) Breakfast Express program will run May - October, two mornings a week (T and W) 7:30-8:30am, serving a cold buffet breakfast.

Volunteers are needed. If you are interested, and have the gift of rising early in the morning, we want to talk with you. Please call Paula Hennessy at the FOCUS office (443-0460) or email: [info@focuschurches.net](mailto:info@focuschurches.net) ●

# Adult Education this Fall

**Two Adult** Education Courses will be offered this month to any Westminster members and friends who might be interested.

**THREE WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**, October 12, 19, and 26 will feature "Biblical Interpretation 101" from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Beverwyck Retirement Center, 40 Autumn Drive, Slingerlands. Study papers are available in the church office or from the leader, Paul Randall: randallpaul@ymail.com

**THREE SUNDAY MORNINGS** during Second Hour at the church, October 30, November 6 and 13, will address the topic "Christian Responses to War." Leaders are Arden Leach and Lisa Dodman. Study papers will be available from the church office or at the rear of the sanctuary •

## Sermons & Second Hours:

**OCTOBER 2 at 10 am World Communion Sunday** Acts 1:8  
Pastor Reisner, preaching "The World is Our Parish"  
2nd Hour: Peacemaking, led by Mission Committee

**OCTOBER 9 at 10 am** Mark 5:21-43  
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Contagion"  
2nd Hour: Ghana Trip Report

**OCTOBER 16 at 10 am Kirkin' o' the Tartan**  
J. Barrie Shepherd, preaching "Ten Years Later"  
2nd Hour: Reception and book signing

**OCTOBER 23 at 10 am** Genesis 1:24-31  
Pastor Reisner, preaching "Dominion"  
2nd Hour: Congregational Meeting

**OCTOBER 30 at 10 am**  
Pastor Rosenau, preaching "Comfort the Afflicted And..."  
Worship Plus for Kids with a special Reformation guest  
2nd Hour: Christian Response to War, Part 1 led by Arden Leach, Lisa and Tim Dodman



# Church Calendar

10  
20  
11

## This Month's Events:

### OCTOBER

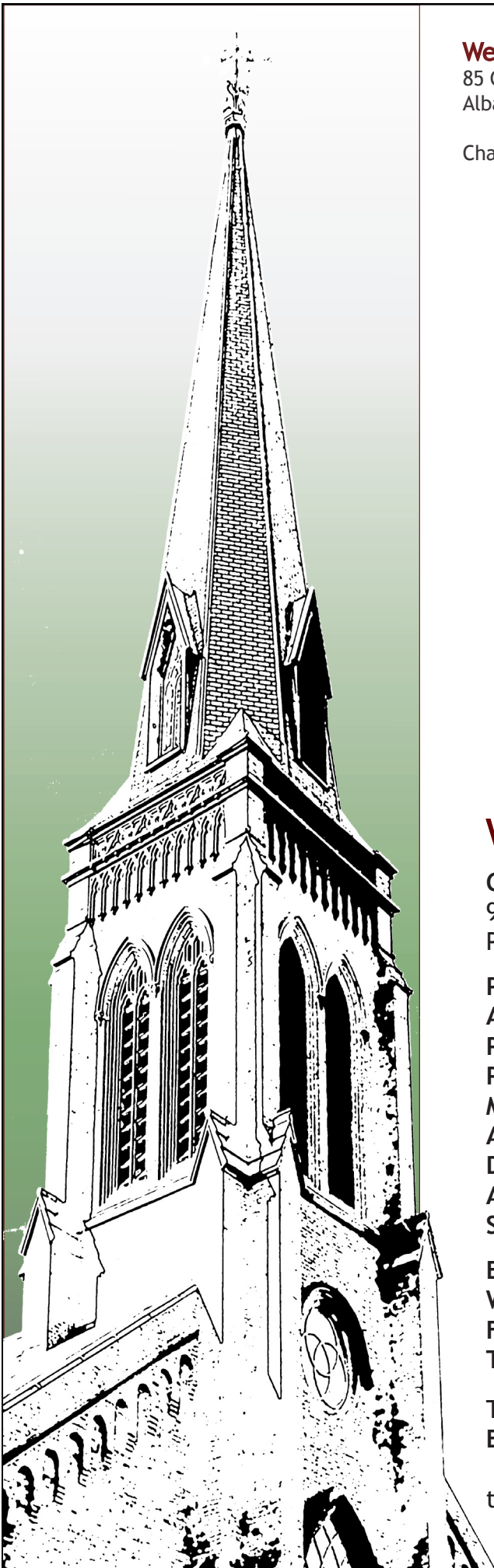
- 1  
7 pm  
Youth Retreat at Holmes Center
- 2 SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Second Hour  
5 pm MOSAIC Arts Concert
- 3
- 4  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast
- 5  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7 pm Christian Life and Learning
- 6  
6:30 pm-7:15pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 7
- 8
- 9 SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Second Hour  
7-8:30 pm Youth Group
- 10  
7 pm House Committee
- 11  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7 pm Stated Session Meeting
- 12  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7:30 pm Thoughtful Christian  
at Beverwyck
- 13  
6:30 pm-7:15pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 14  
6 pm First Friday
- 15  
10:30 am Fall Festival for Seniors  
2:00 pm Youth Apple Picking
- 16 SUNDAY**  
9:45 am Capital Region  
Celtic Pipe Band  
10 am Kirkin' o' the Tartan  
11:15 am Reception  
11:30 am Church School

- 17  
18  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7 pm Board of Trustees  
7 pm Board of Deacons
- 19  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7:30 pm Thoughtful Christian  
at Beverwyck
- 20  
6:30 pm-7:15pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 21
- 22
- 23 SUNDAY**  
10:00 am Worship  
10:30 am Worship Plus for Kids  
11:15 am Church School  
11:15 am Second Hour  
7-8:30 pm Youth Group
- 24
- 25  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast
- 26  
7:30 am FOCUS Express Breakfast  
7:30 pm Thoughtful Christian  
at Beverwyck
- 27  
Noon-2pm FOCUS Volunteer Lunch  
6:30 pm-7:15pm  
Children's Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm  
Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 28
- 29  
7 pm Capitol Chamber Artists
- 30 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 Handbell Rehearsal  
11:30 Young Adult Brunch

## Upcoming Events:

### NOVEMBER

- 4  
First Friday
- 5  
Fall African Family Night



## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

Change Service Requested

## **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**CHURCH OFFICE- Fall Hours**

9 am-3 pm 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

**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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