

# THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER



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

## October 2014

In this issue:

Fearless Generosity  
Page 2

Meet Kristen  
Page 3

Church School  
Page 4

Kirkin & Books  
Page 5

Music Appreciation  
Page 6

Music News  
Page 7

Congregational  
Happenings  
Page 8 & 9

More Light  
Page 10

Sundays & 2nd Hours  
Page 11

## We are... THE CHURCH

At the end of many Westminster services, we hear these now familiar words:

*“Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Each Sunday, we come into the building to be the church and to find sanctuary. Then we are sent out to love the world more than we thought was possible. The words of this blessing empower us to walk the way of Christ in everything that we do.

You will see in these pages how we live out our call to serve others: growing our partnerships in Ghana, broadening our hospitality of welcome to all of God’s children, blessing the community with our music ministry, and welcoming new members into the church.

We  
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May these pages and all they represent be a blessing to you and send you out to follow Christ in the world.●

- Pastor Frances Watman Rosenau

# Fearless Generosity

By Arthur Fullerton



As you consider pledging to Westminster this fall, consider how your support makes a lasting difference in the world. Yes, it is true. Your support for Westminster makes a lasting difference.

For example, this spring your support led seven young men to profess their faith in Jesus Christ. Without your support, guidance, and instruction this would not have been possible. How many young men and women have started their life on the right path because of Westminster? What impact have these fine young people made in the world? This doesn't happen by accident or chance.

The good that comes into the world through our work with young people physically repairs the world, too. In the past two years our youth group has participated in mission trips to Pittsburgh and before that the Jersey shore where they physically worked to improve and repair communities damaged by nature and poverty. Sharing the blessings they have received to repair the world. And none of that work would be possible without our pledges and support.

The good that our young people do is only part of the good that Westminster brings into the world. This past winter as the Capital Region shivered through the coldest winter in a generation, Westminster was there with hot breakfasts and a warm welcome for the homeless in our neighborhood. Westminster is there when groups come from around the state to advocate for the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned. Westminster lives out the gospel with our work in the world, but our mission in the world depends on our collective financial support.

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I am sure many of you want to enthusiastically support our mission and are asking yourselves, "How much can I give?" Does the Bible offer any guidance on giving? Yes, the Bible does say how much we can give. The tithe or a tenth of annual income is the Biblical standard for giving. All that we have comes to us as a blessing from God. God asks that we give 10% to help achieve God's work here on Earth. Our giving is a sign and marker of our spiritual health. Do we trust in God to provide for us? Do we believe that we are called to sacrifice to make this world a better place? If we each give 10% of our income to God's work then our efforts together will make the world better. ●

# Our New Office Administrator



## MEET KRISTEN SOUTHWORTH

Kristen is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. She has been living in New York City for the past four years while earning a master's degree in Theology & the Arts from Union Theological Seminary. As a scholar of both theological aesthetics and church history, Kristen has written articles on theopoetics, the theology of music in early Christianity, the vocation of artists, ecumenical theology, the role of the visual in the spirituality of the middle ages, and the theological significance of secular music and art in contemporary Western culture.

Kristen is also a professional singer, songwriter, producer, poet, and graphic designer. She has spent well over a decade performing as an indie-folk singer/songwriter at festivals and popular music venues across the United States. You can hear some of her original music at [www.kristenleighmusic.com](http://www.kristenleighmusic.com).

Kristen recently moved into a new log-cabin style home in the forest near Rensselaerville, where she plans to settle in for a while as she continues her writing and begins work on a new album. She has a passion and flair for organization, and is looking forward to bringing those skills to her role at Westminster. ●



## 13TH ANNUAL AFRICAN FAMILY NIGHT TO FIGHT EBOLA

The Fall African Family Night has become a tradition of Westminster. On November 1st, this year, we will have the 13th Annual African Family Night. This is an opportunity for us to learn more about Africa and to reinforce our cooperation, partnership and friendship with Africa, African Christians and people.

This year there is the challenge of the Ebola epidemic in West and Central Africa. Since the start of the outbreak in December last year the World Health Organization has reported 4,908 cases and 2,410 deaths. The countries affected are Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria and Senegal.

There is still no proven cure for the viral infection. Those afflicted need to be quarantined and isolated to curtail the spread of the disease. According to reports, victims have benefited from treatment with either human blood-based or tobacco plant-based serums that contain Ebola virus antibodies.

Congressman Paul Tonko, the keynote speaker this year, will inform us of the US government efforts to help combat the disease. Danielle Lloyd, an American helper in Liberia, will tell us of her efforts in Africa.

Funds raised will be donated to combat the epidemic as well as develop our partnerships in Africa. ●





# CHURCH SCHOOL

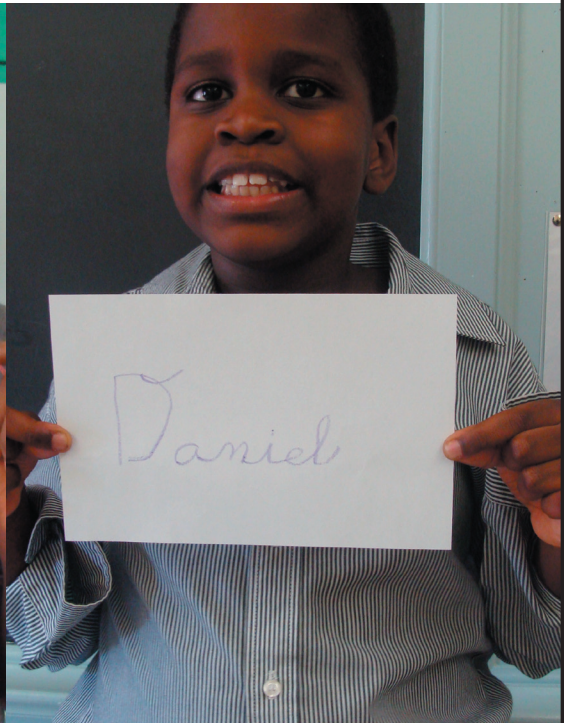
By Belinda Quaye

## CHURCH SCHOOL KIDS

The 2014/2015 Church School year started on Sunday, September 14 with a lot of “noise”. Children and youth together with teachers and some parents, left the sanctuary during the last hymn and gathered in the “Godly Play” room. Here, with Sue Fedak leading with the guitar, we sang contemporary gospel songs, clapped and moved to the rhythm. We then shared bible verses, prayer concerns and prayed together while having snacks. We did all these in TWELVE MINUTES. Imagine the energy in the room. At 11:15am, we were in our various classrooms, ready for our “SMALL GROUPS” where the lessons for the day are taught.

I would like to thank all our past and present teachers and helpers and also to welcome Christabel and Martinson to the team. May the Lord be with you all as you guide the “Future of the Church” on their walk of faith. ●

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# BOOK SALE

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FALL BOOK SALE

October 29th - November 1st  
Thousands of Books!

### Preview Sale

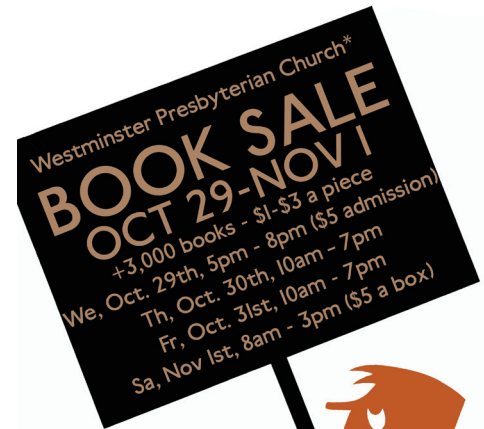
Wednesday, Oct. 29th, 5pm - 8pm  
\$5 admission fee, no limit

### Public Sale

Thursday, Oct. 30th,  
10am - 7:00pm  
Friday, Oct. 31st 10am - 7:00pm  
Saturday, Nov. 1st, 8am - 3pm

Book prices \$1-\$3

Book donations can be dropped  
off with Glenda or in the back  
of the small chapel. ●



\*85 Chestnut , Albany NY

westminsterbooksale@gmail.com





# Celebrating THE Gift of Music

AL AND SUE FEDAK - AN APPRECIATION

Minister: To attend to the needs and wants of others...

This fall, Al and Sue Fedak begin their 25th year ministering through music to us, the people of Westminster Church.

Sue and Al attend to our needs - the need of some gifted souls to sing God's praises in the church choir, the needs of many more to be supported and led in singing the hymns of the church in morning worship. It has been said the hardest task of a church organist is to accompany a congregation - a congregation of many with little musical talent, but with a need to sing God's praises.

Al and Sue attend to our wants - our wants for our children to find a way to contribute to our worship through Sue's Minster Musick Makers - our longing for hope as Al creates music - our need for comfort in times of loss and for beauty when our children are baptized and married - Al and Sue minister to us.

Al and Sue attend to our wants and our needs - together, demonstrating to us the true meaning of loving and serving as one, even as Sue must listen again to Al's corny jokes! They share in ministry, Al and Sue Fedak.

For Sue and Al, as year 25 begins, we give thanks.

The People of Westminster •



**FEDAK FAMILY GALA BENEFIT CONCERT NOVEMBER 9**

Hard as it is to believe, Al and Sue Fedak are beginning their 25th year of musical ministry here at Westminster Church. To celebrate this occasion, and to raise money for a special fund in support of our church's Organ Concert Series, the entire Fedak family (Al, Sue, Peter, Ben, and Anna) will perform a benefit concert in our sanctuary on Sunday, November 9, at 3:00 PM. Their program will feature a wide range of rarely-heard works for organ, voice, classical guitar, and percussion, and will even include some modern dance and works by composers with Westminster connections. The concert will be followed by a champagne reception and dinner at the Fort Orange Club on Washington Avenue. Details regarding ticket prices and menu choices will appear in a formal invitation which will be sent out by the planning committee (Anne Older, chair) to everyone on the church mailing list on or about October 1. But for now, please mark the date and plan to come celebrate the gift of music with Al and Sue on this happy occasion! ●

**CAPITOL CHAMBER ARTISTS ANNOUNCES ITS 2014-2015 SCHEDULE OF CONCERTS**

Westminster Church is fortunate to have its very own chamber ensemble in residence: the Capitol Chamber Artists. The group's core personnel consists of violinist Mary Lou Saetta, cellist André O'Neil, pianist Aniko Szokody, and organist/harpsichordist Al Fedak. Guest musicians are also occasionally featured in performances, depending on the needs of each concert's repertoire.

During its upcoming concert season, the group will be performing at Westminster Church on the following Saturday evenings:

October 11	January 24,	
November 15	February 28	
December 13	March 28	June 6

These events begin at 7:00 PM with a pre-concert recital, followed by a full concert at 8:00. Refreshments are served at the intermission midway through the 8:00 o'clock program. Admission is free for members and friends of Westminster. ●

**POTLUCK HYMNSING #3**

One of the best ways to become more familiar with the great wealth of material in our church's new hymnal, *Glory to God*, is to attend one of our Sunday-night Potluck Hymnsings. This year we have already held two such events at which we enjoyed great food and sang our way through the entire church year. Our next Potluck Hymnsing is set for Sunday evening, November 16, at 6:00 PM. Together we'll explore the psalms and their place in the new hymnal. Bring a dish to share, and your best singing voice. ●



# INTERNATIONAL on STATE STREET

We are

## PEACEMAKING: NEW NAME, SAME MINISTRY

Earlier this year, the 221st General Assembly approved the change of the long standing Peacemaking Offering to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Although the original program always encompassed social justice issues, this new name better defines the beneficiaries of the offering. Individual congregations are still encouraged to use 25% of the gifts to sustain their own peacemaking ministries.

## PLANTING PEACE

Westminster will collect the Peace & Global Witness Offering on October 5th - World Communion Sunday. The mission committee plans to use our portion of the gifts to plant two peace poles in Albany and two in Ghana next year. Peace poles are found in 180 countries and on every continent. They are simple posts in the ground, the words with May Peace Prevail on Earth in a different language on each side. It is to remind communities we are all connected and must all work towards peace.

The two local poles will be planted while our Ghanaian visitors are here. One will be at Westminster, the second in the South End. The other set will be planted next year, when the Westminster travel team is in Tema. The mission committee invites everyone to help “plant peace” with a monetary donation and with the peace pole ceremonies later in the fall. ●



## CONGRATULATIONS

To the African Ebola group who organized a benefit held at Westminster where more than \$3,100 was raised to fight the disease through the work of Doctors Without Borders. ●



# HIGHLIGHTS

## AED DEVICE - ARE YOU CERTIFIED TO USE AN AED DEVICE?

Certification means you are trained both in the use of the device and in CPR. Westminster has an AED located in the kitchen, and we are compiling a list of people who could use the device if needed. Please contact Diane or Alex Scaptura at [dscaptura@msn.com](mailto:dscaptura@msn.com) or at 518-426-5464 to give your certification information. If you would be interested in being trained in either AED or CPR, please contact us about that as well. •

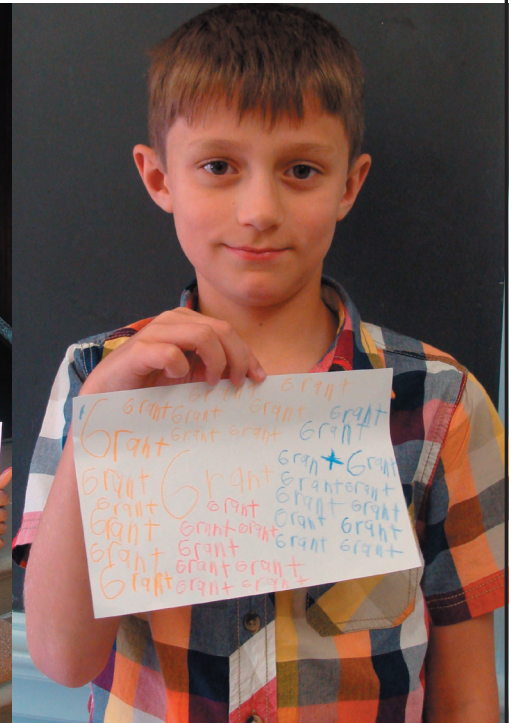
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## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, October 19, 2014 following worship for the purpose of receiving the adopted 2015 budget, approving changes in the terms of call for our pastors; hearing a report from the Stewardship Committee concerning the stewardship drive; and electing church officers for 2015.

Susan Schell, Clerk of Session •

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# MORE LIGHT

By Arthur Fullerton

## WESTMINSTER BECOMES AN OFFICIAL MORE LIGHT CHURCH

In our August session meeting the session voted to become a member of More Light Presbyterians, a group of churches within the PCUSA that welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people as full and equal members of the church.

Westminster has long supported this position in word and in action. Now that the denomination allows same gender marriage in states where it is authorized by civil law, session decided to tell the larger community about our Christian witness of welcome and hospitality for all.

The session resolution reads that we are committed “to equal rights for all who follow Christ regardless of national origin, race, gender, sexual orientation, or physical ability. At Christ’s table we believe all are welcome, and so we welcome all followers of Christ to our Westminster community and pledge to work for full inclusion of all peoples in the body of Christ that is the church.”

In a separate, but related action, the session also voted to revise our wedding policy to announce to the community that our pastors and session now authorize wedding services to be held in the church sanctuary and on the church grounds irrespective of gender for all couples committed to Christian marriage.

If you have more questions about More Light, please don’t hesitate to ask! ●

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MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS





FALL  
2014

# SERMONS & SECOND HOURS

**October 5th** *World Communion Sunday*

Rev. Robert Boyefio-Quartey

2nd Hour: Ghana visitors share their experiences, followed by lunch  
2 pm: African Worship

**October 12th**

“Who do you say...”

2nd Hour: Trustees

Mark 8:27-30

Rev. Frances W. Rosenau

**October 19th**

“Love Lifted Me

2nd Hour: Congregational Meeting

1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Nell Stokes-Holmes

**October 26th**

“Back to the Future”

2nd Hour: Our Reformed Heritage: Scripture in the Confessions

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12; I Thessalonians 2: 1-8

Rev. Alexandra Lusak

**November 2** *Communion*

“The Break Fall Art”

2nd Hour: Trustees

1 John 3:13

Rev. Frances W. Rosenau

**November 9**

“Do We Really Want Light?”

2nd Hour: Vance-Ocampo: Models of Resilient Leadership in the Presbyterian Church

Amos 5: 18-24; Matthew 25: 1-13

Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo

**November 16**

“Havens and Hot Spots”

2nd Hour: David McMillan: The Ministry of Healing

(in anticipation of A Time for Healing in worship)

1 Kings 19:9-16

Rev. Frances W. Rosenau

**November 23**

Meditation: “The Mystery of Healing” Rev. David McMillan

Worship will include A Time of Healing - the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and prayer for healing.

2nd Hour: Arden Leach: Feminist Theology

Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

**November 30**

“Listen, Can You Hear It?”

2nd Hour: Advent Fest and Potluck

Hebrews 1:13-2:4

Rev. Frances W. Rosenau



**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

**We  
are**

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9 am- 4 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

**Pastor:** James L. Reisner (on sabbatical)

**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

**Office Administrator:** Kristen L. Southworth

**Church School Assistant Coordinator:** Belinda Quaye

**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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

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**Twitter:** WPCAlbanyNY

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**Newsletter submissions are due by Noon on November 12.**

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