

THE WESTMINSTER MESSENGER



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

September 2014

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We are... THE CHURCH

We are ... the body of Christ.

We are ... children of God.

We are ... a multi-racial, diverse
and dynamic community of faith.

We are ... a city congregation seeking to feed, clothe, house,
support and pray for people in need,
and to show gracious hospitality to all.

We are ... a worshipping community that values music,
the visual arts,
and all creative expressions that honor God.

We are ... people of the Book who honor and study scripture,
and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We are ... “neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free,
male nor female, for we are...
all one in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Galatians 3:28)

We are ... “a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God’s own people.” (1 Peter 2:9)

We are ... a congregation of Albany Presbytery
and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are ... Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, New York •

- Pastor Jim Reisner

PASTORAL Reflections

By Pastor James Reisner



For the first time in my 33 years of ministry, I will be on sabbatical leave this Fall. I am taking a season of study, reflection, and renewal for September, October, and November.

As I look at an extended time to reflect on my calling, I am planning on pursuing two major themes. First, I have contacted Dennis Tamburello, a professor of Religion at Siena College, to do some reading together on John Calvin's Geneva. Dr. Tamburello is a Franciscan whose doctoral thesis at the University of Chicago was on John Calvin. He has agreed to meet with me on six occasions. I am planning on studying Calvin's Geneva, how he practiced urban ministry and how the influence of his Geneva experiment eventually reached and found expression on American shores.

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For the second project, I am planning on visiting a variety of Presbyterian congregations on the East Coast. I currently have an itinerary of churches reaching from Boston to Richmond, Virginia. These congregations share some common traits with Westminster, Albany. They all have a strong identity with their location as downtown city churches. My intention is to glean from these congregations some best practices in all facets of congregational life. More than that, I hope to gain more clarity on urban ministry and the role of the pastor in building up Christian community in the city.

This will be a test for me on setting boundaries. I am sincerely intending to stay away from Westminster. However, there will be one area where I will keep a hand in, and that is in the preparation for the capital campaign that will be introduced to the congregation in early 2015. (For more information about that, see page three).

In my absence, Frances Rosenau will ably act as Head of Staff and Moderator of Session. I know you will give her your support as she assumes more pastoral responsibilities at Westminster.

I want to thank the session and the personnel committee for their support in encouraging me to enter into what will be for me a special season of vocational renewal ●

--Pastor Reisner

FEARLESS Generosity

By Arthur Fullerton

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“FEARLESS GENEROSITY” FOR A KAIROS MOMENT

Pastor Reisner recently spoke about two Greek words for time - Kronos, meaning time measured like a clock in precise linear increments, and Kairos, meaning the crucial moment when time metaphorically goes off the clock. Kairos time can slow or stop; kairos time can be the perfect moment of bliss or the exact moment when events hang in the balance, the action taken that a split second before or after would have meant disaster or death but coming at just the right time it delivered success.

We believe that God is calling the Westminster community today in a kairos moment. This fall we need to seize this moment by making our annual pledge of time, talents, and treasure and by making an additional commitment to a **million-dollar capital campaign**. In keeping with both these goals, our stewardship theme this year is “Fearless Generosity.”

Why do we need a million-dollar capital campaign? The Board of Trustees has determined that we need to make urgent repairs to the steeple and to the north wall of the church. These repairs will be extensive and expensive. A number of interior repairs also are necessary, including our toilet facilities. The result will be a safe, up-to-date facility that will better serve our church’s mission.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Corinth said, “For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have.” Each of us is called to examine the blessings we have and weigh how God might use us and our gifts. We cannot give what we do not have. But if the eagerness is there, as Paul says, we can give more.

If each person in the congregation, in addition to an annual pledge, were to give a second equal pledge every year for five years we would reach our goal of raising one million dollars while maintaining our annual active ministry. Some can afford to give more and others less. Some may be struggling to maintain their current commitment. Others may have been waiting and watching, looking for the time and place where their help could make a real difference. For those who have been waiting, this is your kairos moment!

Together we can make a difference in the world. Together we can bring food to the hungry in Albany, clean water to our missions in Africa, shelter to our partners at Schuyler Inn, spiritual nurturing to our faith community throughout the Capital Region, and repair our building for future years of service. All that we have, and all that we do, we do in response to the blessings of God. Now is our kairos moment. Let us seize it together!

The CHURCH



RESOURCE FAIR AND AFRICAN DINNER SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

Come together at Westminster Presbyterian Church for a Resource Fair and African Dinner on September 27th, 2014. Join the many co-sponsors (CRTC included!) for an evening of education and introductions. Want to learn about Immigration Status? How about where to find Safe and Affordable Housing? Maybe you need information on Child Care Support? Plus many more topics throughout the evening!

The event will run from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm with a pot-luck dinner beginning at 6:00pm.

There is no charge to attend this event.

What can you learn about at this Resource Fair?

- Immigration Status and Paths to Citizenship
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- How to Access Food & Social Service Benefits
- Job Training
- English as a Second Language
- Child Care Support
- Services for Children with Special Educational Needs
- Free Legal Help and Information
- And more.....



The dinner emcees for the event will be Felicia Kollie-Gambles and Fatmata Hilton. Early arrivals will get more individual attention. Register here or call CRTC at 518-462-2470 ●



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 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 ●

CHURCH SCHOOL

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CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

What's big and small at the same time? Give up? Church School!

We're changing up how the Church School time is spent this year. We're calling it Big Group/Small Group.

The idea is that all the children and youth will come together upstairs for cookies and music time together. They will sing songs (with the youth leading some), and share Bible verses they know or talk briefly about the theme in worship. That will last about 10-12 minutes. Then the kids will break out into their regular classes for the rest of the time.

Church School starts again on September 14th directly after worship. As always, our three classes are taught by trained volunteers:

Godly Play Class is for Pre K - 2nd grade

We Believe is for 3rd - 6th grade

Youth Class is for 7th - 12th grade

All classes meet on the 3rd floor at 11:15. Join us on Sunday morning! ●

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Congratulations to our 2014 confirmation class. Seven young men professed their faith in Christ and joined the church on June 8th: Akinde, Zion, Robert, Henry, James, Emmanuel, and Joseph. We are so proud of their hard work over the past year. Congratulate them when you see them ●



MUSIC AT WESTMINSTER

BY: Alfred Fedak

MUSIC NEWS



CHOIR SEASON BEGINS

Our Westminster Church Choir will begin its regular schedule of Thursday evening rehearsals at 7:30 am on September 4. That evening the choir will prepare music for our annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan service (which will take place the following Sunday), as well as get a head start on its music for the fall season and beyond.

Choir members will also sing at this summer's final FOCUS communion service, which will be held at our church on Sunday morning, August 31. Singers from the other FOCUS churches have also been invited to participate, and anyone else who might like to give choir a try will be welcome that day. The FOCUS service will begin at 10 am; singers are asked to gather in Westminster's chancel an hour earlier, at 9:00 am, in order to warm up and to prepare that morning's anthems and hymns. Come sing with us! The more, the merrier! ●



SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday, November 9, at 3:00 pm, Al and Sue Fedak will celebrate the beginning of their 25th year as Westminster Church's Ministers of Music and Arts with a gala benefit concert in the church's sanctuary. The concert will feature performances by members of the entire Fedak family, and will be followed by a reception and dinner at the Fort Orange Club. All proceeds from the event will benefit the church's ongoing concert series. An Honorary Committee of special donors is being assembled--if you are interested in joining this Honorary Committee, please contact Al at alfred@alfredfedak.com.

Watch for more details in the coming weeks, but save the date and plan to attend! ●

The PITTSBURGH Project

CAUTION: YOUTH AT WORK

The youth group has returned from Pittsburgh with sweat on their brows, dirt on their hands, and many stories to tell. Surely, a shower will take care of the first two. But the stories: they don't wash away easily.

Come hear the report from the Pittsburgh team on September 28th during 2nd Hour. Many people in the congregation contributed to the mission effort this year. You were a large part of this team and their work.

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Come hear about:

- The spiritual meaning of Four Square
- Dry Wall 101
- The Hill neighborhood in Pittsburgh
- Window installation with a chance of rain



HIGHLIGHTS

KERYGMA CLASS

Kerygma Bible Studies will resume Thursday, Sept. 11 at 5:30 pm at the church. We begin our exploration of the New Testament with a 7-week study of Jesus' life. Class will meet each Thursday through Oct. 23. Participants are expected to read chapter 16, "The Good News" in the resource book *Kerygma: Discovering the Bible*. Questions may be directed to Parish Associate Rev. Paul Randall (randallpaul@ymail.com or phone 374-6310.)

AUTHOR, AUTHOR!

Al and Sue Fedak traveled to Columbus, Ohio this past July to attend the national conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. Al helped lead a plenary session introducing our new hymnal, *GLORY TO GOD*, to conference participants, and he and Sue led a workshop on arranging hymns for handbells. Al also led a session at which he presented his fourth, and newest, published collection of hymn tunes called *STONES UNTHROWN*. Published by Selah Publishing Company of Pittsburgh, the book contains 27 new musical settings of texts by a variety of mostly contemporary hymnwriters.

Iteke Prins, another a Life Member of the Hymn Society, also attended the HSUSAC conference and presented her own newly-published hymn tune collection called *A TREASURY OF FAITH*. The book contains 64 hymn tunes, all of them settings of hymns for the lectionary by the poet Gracia Grindal. Iteke has been collaborating for several years with Ms. Grindal, a Lutheran, who is in the process of writing a hymn for each of the scripture readings and psalms in the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary. The book is published by Wayne Leupold Editions of Colfax, North Carolina. ●

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SUNDAY WORSHIP *in* SEPTEMBER

August 31 **FOCUS** **Communion** Pastor Jim Reisner
Psalm 90 “Establish the Work of Our Hands, O Lord”
2nd Hour: FOCUS Reception and
Photos for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Advocacy

September 7 **Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans** **Communion**
Rev. Dr. Joseph Shook
2nd Hour: Kirkin’ Reception

September 14 Pastor Frances W. Rosenau
Exodus 3:1-15 “The Next Big Thing”
2nd Hour: TBA

September 21 Pastor Frances W. Rosenau
Exodus 16:2-15 “Breakfast of Mysteries”
2nd Hour: What’s New in Church School
Margaret Randall & Frances W. Rosenau

September 28 **Tema Visitors** Parish Associate Paul Randall
Matthew 21:23-32 “The Grace of Losing Face”
2nd Hour: Report from the Pittsburgh Project
The Youth Group



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SEPTEMBER
2014

CHURCH CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY August 31

10:00 am FOCUS Worship
11:15 am FOCUS Reception
Photos for SNAP Advocacy

1

Office Closed

3

7:00 pm Christian Life & Learning

4

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY September 7

9:45 am Kirkin' o' the Tartan
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Reception

9

7:00 pm Session

11

5:30 pm Kerygma
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY September 14

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour

18

5:30 pm Kerygma
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY September 21

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School

25

5:30 pm Kerygma
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

27

5:30 pm Resource Fair &
African Dinner

SUNDAY September 28

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour

OCTOBER

1

7:00 pm Christian Life & Learning

2

5:30 pm Kerygma
7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

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SUNDAY October 5

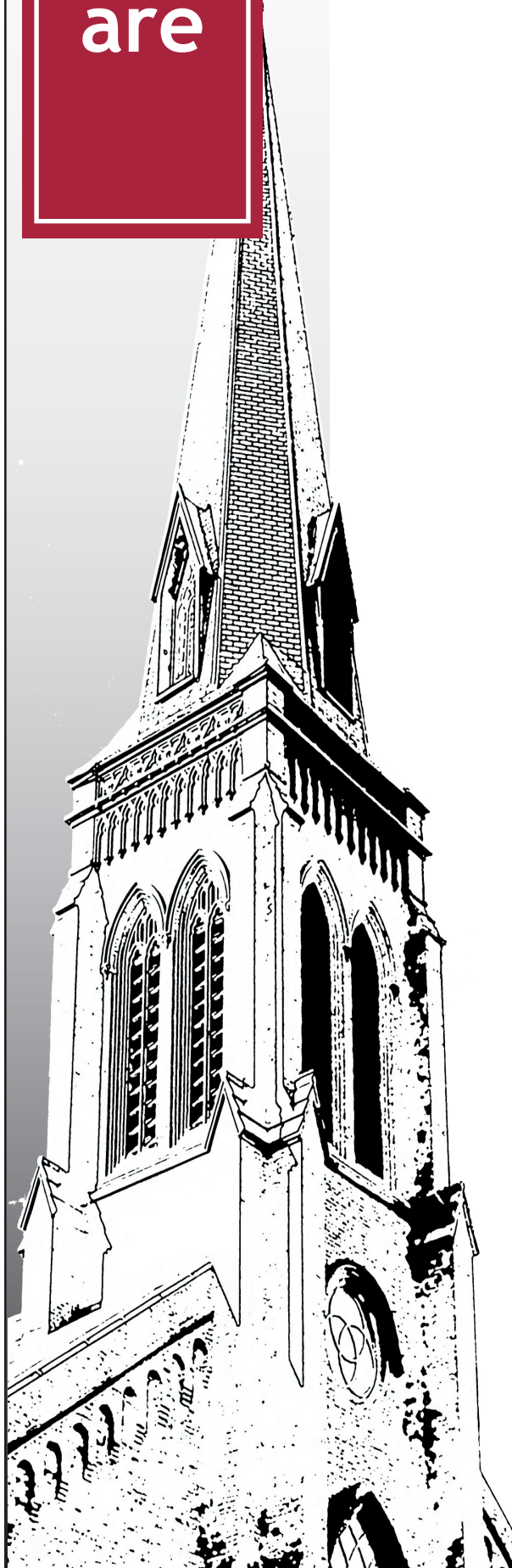
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Church School
11:15 am Second Hour



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Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street
Albany, New York 12210



Westminster Presbyterian Church

CHURCH OFFICE- Hours

9 am- 4 pm Monday-Friday

Phone: 518.436.8544

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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

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**Newsletter submissions are due by Noon on Sept. 15.
Send submissions to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com**