



The Westminster Messenger

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

September 2011

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The Presbyterian

legacy in Ghana is strong. Everywhere we went in Ghana, we saw influence from the Presbyterian Church. Granted, our guides were all Presbyterian, and we traveled to areas of the country where we had partners. Nevertheless, we saw amazing things the Ghanaian Presbyterians are up to.

In Ghana, "Presby" is a common shortened name for Presbyterians. There are Presby churches, Presby schools and, yes, Presby people. In their system, children's school uniforms differ depending on what kind of a school it is. For example, government-run schools wear yellow and brown. Catholic schools wear green. Presby schools wear blue.

I was amazed at how many blue uniforms I saw as we were driving through the countryside - students walking to and from school, playing games or eating lunch. They all jumped up and waved at our bus as we sped by.

Unlike in the U.S., Ghanaian schools that are administered by a religious organization are not expensive. The government pays the teachers' salaries, and the church does all the administration and other fund development. Therefore, Christian schools are not elite establishments meant only for the rich.

In Ghana, I saw a country with a different history from my own in which an institution that I am a part of is able to better accomplish its purpose: serving the poor, the marginalized and the forgotten. I'll never look at a blue uniform the same way again •

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau



Pastoral Reflections:

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

In July and August, I preached a sermon series on being a multicultural church. The basic idea of the series was how we live as the vibrant and diverse community of faith that we are.

This is a conversation you as a congregation have been having since long before I arrived. And I want to continue that conversation as we seek to follow God's call in our communal life.

Fast forward to the first Sunday after Labor Day, the first Sunday in the new program year. This is a time when kids head back to school, the pace of work speeds up and the temperature begins to cool just a bit. At church, we look forward to coming back and seeing everyone we have missed over the summer.

As I understand, every fall we as a congregation have a picnic outside the church to kick off the fall season. There are games, food and, of course, plenty of Presbyterians.

This year, the Sunday after Labor Day is September 11th

and the tenth anniversary of the horrific attacks. In worship, we will remember that day in prayer and song.

**Yes, it's a picnic.
What is different is our intention.**

After worship we will have our usual potluck picnic. But, this year the purpose will be different. This year, we will have a unity lunch.

In the midst of such devastation and violence, it would be easy to become calloused, to shut others out or to turn to hate. We as a church are making a choice to be together and to be unified. Is it a picnic? Yes, it's a picnic - same burgers and hotdogs.

What is different this year is our intention. We are a congregation that celebrates our diversity and seeks to come together in forgiveness when others would turn to extremes. We want to show our neighbors and the world that we choose unity over division, and love over hate ●

Lots of WPC Activities are Starting Back up

by Sue Fedak



by Jeanne Bianchine

Like the Mini-Wheats commercial, it's time for school and BELLS to start again.

The "Westminstrels" will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 15, at 6:30 pm, for three weeks, and will play in church on Sunday, Oct. 2. Rehearsals will switch to Sundays after worship (about 11:15 AM) beginning on October 30. (The Second Hours on Sundays in October are very full of events not to be missed.)

If you are interested in joining this lively group, please speak to Sue Fedak or email her. Ability to count musical rhythms, be a "team player", and a sense of humor are primary assets to be a "Ding-a-Ling" in this intergenerational group. Teenagers and adults are welcome! ●

Ring in the New Church Year!

Kids! It's that time of year again--**Church School!** Join us after the Worship Service on the third floor every Sunday starting on September 18th. If you are in pre-K through 2nd grade go to the Godly Play class. Third Graders through 6th graders can go to the Older Elementary Class. Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers can go to the Youth Room. Your teachers will be waiting for you!

Worship Plus for Kids is starting back up on September 25th. Kids in pre-K through 5th grade can get a break from the Worship Service and come downstairs for singing, praying, a Bible lesson and a fun learning activity while your parents listen to the sermon ●



Worship Plus for Kids is starting back up



Westminstrels During Worship

Westminster Choir Rehearsals to Begin Again

by Al Fedak

The Westminster Church Choir

will open its 2011-2012 singing season at 7:30 PM on Thursday evening, September 8, when the group will meet for its first rehearsal. The Westminster Choir sings at every Sunday morning worship service between Labor Day and Pentecost, provides music for services on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and other special occasions, and also performs one or two major choral works each year, either during worship services, or at Sunday afternoon concerts. New singers are always

welcome: the ability to read music is a definite advantage, but even more important requirements are a pleasant singing voice, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a willingness to commit one's self to the many hours of learning and service which choir membership entails. If you are interested in becoming a member of our church's fine choir, please contact Al Fedak either by phone: 436-8544 or by email: avfedak@aol.com •

**"This will be our singing day:
word and tune will both be true."
Richard Leach**



qui tol - lis pec - ca -

Church Receives Collection of Organ and Choral Recordings



Thank you, Jim Flagler!

The Rev. James Flagler, an Episcopal priest who has sung tenor with our church's choir from time to time (including at last June's Fauré Requiem), recently moved to Chicago. We will miss him greatly! But before he left town, Jim gave Westminster Church the gift of music - recorded music, that is. Jim left us much of his personal CD collection, which he decided not to take to his new home because of space limitations. This collection consists almost entirely of organ music, sacred choral music, and psalms and hymns, performed by some of the world's finest organists and choirs in some of the world's most famous and beautiful churches, cathedrals, and concert halls. More than 50 of these compact discs will shortly be on display in our church library, and will be available to anyone wishing to sign them out.

What a wonderful way for church members and friends to enjoy beautiful and inspiring sacred music at home! •

Children and Youth

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

Children's Choir Beginning Date

by Sue Fedak

New things are happening with the youth group. Be a part of the transformation!

Come to our first ever Youth Group Fall Retreat. We will travel down to Holmes Presbyterian Camp for an overnight retreat to kick off our new program. There will be games, group building activities, music and fun.

Friday &
Saturday
Sept 30th
- Oct 1st

Youth Group Fall Retreat is Coming

Deadline for registration is September 18th - More details coming soon. Please contact Pastor Frances: fwrosenau@wpcalbany.org or call the church: 436.8544 for more info ●

All children, ages 4 and up, are invited to come sing and ring on Thursday nights, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, beginning on **October 6**. Christian hymns and songs are taught and a bit of fun-time happens, too!

Put it on the calendar *now*.

October 6 at 6:30 pm

See you in a month! SHF ●



We can't wait to sing again!



Fourth Graders with their new Bibles.

Our Westminster Family

Westminster members got together a lot this summer, enjoying each other's company. Whether at the Jericho Drive-In watching a movie; hosting a First Friday on the church grounds; on a picnic at the Peace Pagoda in Grafton or with dear friends at a Ghana Fundraiser, this was a great summer!



At the Drive-in

At First Friday

At First Friday



Picnic at the Peace Pagoda

Ghana Fundraiser



Two Westminster Members to be Honored

Westminster

seniors aged 85 and older have been recognized for their lifetime achievements every year since the first Capital District Senior Issues Forum ceremony was held at Westminster in 1998. The ceremony moved to Congregation Beth Emeth in 2000.

There will be 35 seniors honored at the September 20, 2011 ceremony held at Beth Emeth. The three Presbyterian honorees at the 2011 ceremony all have a connection with Westminster Presbyterian Church; they are:

- **Ruth Andrews**, age 88, nominated by her husband Norman Andrews;
- **Arthur Buell**, age 85, nominated by his three daughters -- Jean Buell Nichols, Carol L. Buell, and Donna R. Buell; and
- **Joy Ford**, age 86 in December, nominated by Westminster member Nancy Kuivila (and herself a former honoree).

Both Mrs. Andrews and Mr. Buell have been members of Westminster for more than 50 years. Mrs. Ford is a member of Albany's New Covenant Presbyterian Church •

Celebrating

the following birthdays in **September**:

• Katie Dwyer	Sept. 1	• Channelle Ndagire	Sept. 10
• Jim Thompson	Sept. 4	• Jessie Fuller	Sept. 14
• Margie Mayer	Sept. 5	• Heidi W.	Sept. 15
• Albert Zeppieri	Sept. 5	• Lisa DeBiere	Sept. 17
• Norm Andrews	Sept. 6	• Olivia Williams	Sept. 18
• David Hershey	Sept. 7	• Kathleen Roark	Sept. 21
• Colleen Holroyd	Sept. 7	• Colin S.	Sept. 22
• Robert Q.	Sept. 7	• Gail Garrison	Sept. 23
• Daniel S.	Sept. 8	• Allan Tedrow	Sept. 23
• Julia Haywood-D.	Sept. 9	• Mahria Bennett	Sept. 25
• Starr Norman	Sept. 9	• Greg Wilhelm	Sept. 26
• Diane Bossung	Sept. 10	• Catherine George	Sept. 29

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

Statement from WPC Session

The following is the Statement from WPC Session and 2011 Mission Team to be read at Tema Redemption Church in Ghana on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011 in Worship Service Marking Retirement of Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti:

Westminster

Presbyterian Church in Albany
Presbytery rejoices that it is one of the many congregations in 19 countries outside of Ghana that has benefitted from Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti's 42-years of ministry to the Church. We specifically thank the Tema Redemption Church for permitting Rev. Alice to be in residence at Westminster for several weeks in both 2007 and 2010 and for allowing her to arrange her schedule to lead Westminster travel teams in both 2009 and 2011.

In a sermon preached at Westminster on October 7, 2007, Mama Alice said, "As Christians, we should pray without ceasing for our nation and community... and for the Church to become the voice for the voiceless." In a later part of that sermon, she said, "you must put your faith to work."

Both in her visits to the US and in our travels with her in Ghana, we have clearly seen how Mama Alice puts her faith to work. In an October 17, 2010 speech at Westminster she talked about steps taken in Ghana to help eliminate extreme poverty. She said, "The UN's Millennium Development Goals have been helpful in increasing progress for our people, but there is still much to be done. We need your prayers and encouragement for action of individual citizens."

We applaud Mama Alice for her 42-years of full-time work for the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and five years as a teacher and for her individual action, as a worker for the Church, to combat extreme poverty and hunger, promote universal primary education, empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health (and significantly reduce the maternal death rate in Ghana), combat malaria, and promote environmental sustainability.

Mama Alice has repeatedly demonstrated, and continues to demonstrate, how one person can make a difference in the lives of others. We will be forever grateful to her for her love and for all she has done to support and affirm us as individuals ●

Updated August 14, 2011

Saints Alive Living Generously

by Kelly Crisfield

"On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week... The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."

1 Corinthians 16:1-4.

As faithful stewards of the ministry and mission we share, we continue to seek ways to live generously in Christ. We invite you to share in our stewardship journey, as we explore what it means to live generously.

In this Corinthian text, Paul challenges each of us to give, no matter what role in life we play. Generosity will be defined differently for each of us. What thoughts come to mind when you think of giving? Health, peace, joy, hope, opportunity, discipleship, faith, renewal... There are many motives for giving. Giving generously keeps us alive spiritually and fulfills our need to provide for others. It also demonstrates our faith and love in Jesus Christ.

Please join us on **Stewardship Sunday**, November 13, 2011 when we will celebrate God's generosity toward us and honor God's invitation to bless those who are eager for the good news of Jesus Christ.

In Christian fellowship,

Kelly Crisfield
Co-Chair Budget/Canvass Committee

Schuyler Inn this Christmas

by Lois Wilson

Thinking about how to help
families this Christmas? homeless

Long-time Schuyler Inn volunteers joined Rev. Frances Rosenau and people from other congregations on Tuesday, August 23 - prior to the last summer bingo party - to begin discussion on how to share responsibilities for the annual 2011 holiday party at Schuyler Inn.

If you are willing to help with organizational tasks prior to the holiday party, such as getting the containers for gifts, distributing the empty gift containers, organizing the filled gift containers as they are returned, putting together packages for each family, ordering refreshments, or assisting with the party itself, please see Pastor Rosenau or Lois Wilson during the month of September •

Adult Education this Fall

Do you think of yourself as a “thoughtful Christian”? If so, you are invited to join others in either or both of two short discussion groups in October and November.

“Biblical Interpretation 101” will meet for three Wednesday evenings 7:30-9:00 on October 12, 19, and 26 at Beverwyck Retirement Center, 4 Autumn Drive, Slingerlands. Topics to be considered include language and social settings in the Bible; how interpreting the Bible has changed over the centuries; and why people interpret the Scriptures differently today. Rev. Paul Randall will lead the discussion.

“Christian Responses to War” will be discussed on three Sunday mornings following worship during Second Hour at the church. The dates are Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13. Arden Leach and Lisa Petter will lead sessions on how Christians face the complexity of conflicts in other countries and our own country’s involvement in war; pacifism; just war theory; and Biblical texts that relate to war and peace.

Background papers are available through the church office or from Paul Randall randallpaul@gmail.com ●

Sermons & Second Hours:

SEPTEMBER 4 at 9:30 am

FOCUS Worship and Communion at Emmanuel Baptist Church (across State Street from Westminster).

SEPTEMBER 11 at 10 am

Pastor Reisner, preaching “Ten Years Later”

2nd Hour: Pot-luck picnic on State Street

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

SEPTEMBER 18 at 10 am

Dedication of Education and Music Ministries

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau, preaching “The Anti-equity Work Day”

2nd Hour: New Youth Program

Matthew 20:1-16

SEPTEMBER 25 at 10 am

Pastor Reisner, preaching “Living Generously”

2nd Hour: “A Look at the Future”, by the 2020 Vision Task Force

I Corinthians 16:1-4

Church Calendar

This Month's Events:

SEPTEMBER

1

9:30 am-2pm
Capital Camp for Kids

2

7 pm First Friday

4 SUNDAY

9:30 am FOCUS Worship
at Emmanuel Baptist

5

Labor Day
Church Office Closed

7

7 pm Christian Life and Learning

8

7:30 pm-9 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

11 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
at WPC
11:30 am Potluck Picnic
on State Street
5-7 pm Schuyler Inn Party
6 pm Youth Kick Off Party

12

7 pm House Committee

13

7 pm Stated Session Meeting

15

6:30 pm-7:15pm
Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

18 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Back-to-Church-School
11:15 am Second Hour

19

Albany Presbytery
at Lake George

20

Albany Presbytery
at Lake George
7 pm Board of Trustees
7 pm Board of Deacons

22

6:30 pm-7:15 pm
Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

25 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

29

6:30 pm-7:15 pm
Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm-9:00 pm
Adult Choir Rehearsal

30 & 1

Youth Retreat at Holmes Camp

Upcoming Events:

OCTOBER

2 SUNDAY

Peacemaking Offering
12, 19, 26
Thoughtful Christian
at Beverwyck

14

6 pm First Friday

15

Fall Festival for Seniors

16 SUNDAY

10:00 am Kirkin' O' the Tartan

NOVEMBER

5

Fall African Family Night

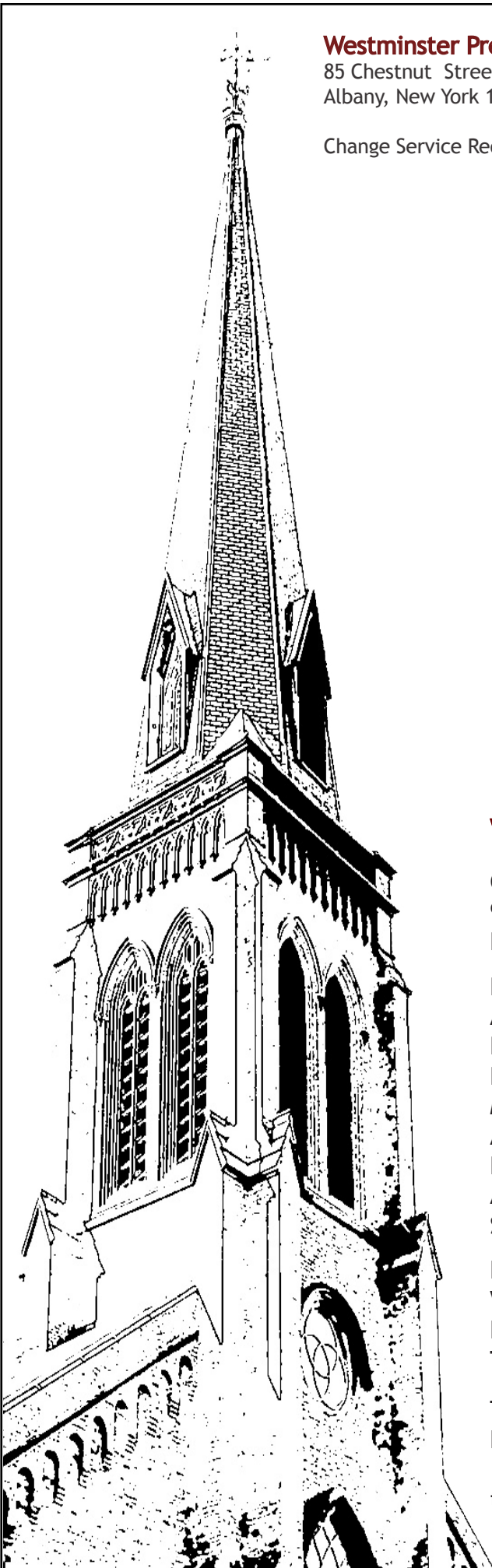
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20
11

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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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to: westminsternewsletter@gmail.com