

# The Westminster Messenger

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September 2012

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**Every year** as summer comes to a close and we prepare for the program year to begin at Westminster, I begin to have thoughts similar to the old 60's song:

*"Have a good time but remember  
There is danger in the summer moon above  
Will I see you in September  
Or lose you to a summer love?"*

Summer is a quiet time at 85 Chestnut Street. Some of us head for our Adirondack camps, others are visiting family or exploring new places. Yet we have had a good attendance in worship, and the celebration of Communion on every Sunday in July and August has been a well received experiment.

## Will I see you in September?

Now that September has arrived, I welcome back all of you who have wandered far afield. We are ready for a splendid fall. We begin on Sunday, September 9th with the tradition of the Kirkin' o' the Tartan. Now turn the page and discover what other adventures await you •

Pastor Jim Reisner

# Pastoral Reflections: Partnership

Pastor Jim Reisner

**The poet,** John Donne wrote, "No man is an island, Entire of itself. Each is a piece of the continent, A part of the main." These are not the thoughts of an American. We are the nation of rugged individualism, of the self-made man. The iconic image of the American hero is Gary Cooper in "High Noon", fighting and defeating the outlaws all by himself.

Recently, President Obama has come under criticism for saying to entrepreneurs that "if you've been successful, you didn't get there on your own... somebody along the line gave you some help. If you've got a business - you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen."

In Christianity, there is no such thing as the self-made man (or the self-made woman). We have a creator to whom we are indebted beyond estimation. When it comes to matters of faith, no one can pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. Gratitude is perhaps the primary religious impulse.

We are not only indebted to God, but also we are indebted to one another. God calls us not to isolation but to community - and to partnership. This fall at Westminster we are exploring the possibilities of building partnerships with two congregations in Ghana: the Redemption and Greenwich Meridian Presbyterian Churches in the port city of Tema.

We will welcome to our congregation an old friend, the Reverend Alice Kyei-Anti and a new friend, Barbara Asempe, who is an elder at the Redemption Church. They are coming to Albany as missionaries to us and have much to teach weary American Presbyteries as they share their stories of vibrant congregations in Ghana.

As we ponder Ghana, we will also explore our partnerships in the Capital Region and particularly what connections we can make with AVillage, a new community organization in the South End of Albany.

Westminster Presbyterian Church is not an island. Our partnerships near and far affirm that we are part of the main; a mission outpost connected to the whole Body of Christ which is the Church Universal ●



# Westminster Tradition: Kirkin' o' the Tartan Set for September 9th

by: Valerie Shanley

**Bagpipers** will be playing and banners held high as we celebrate the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian Church with a traditional Kirkin' o' the Tartan on Sunday, September 9th. Pipers from the award winning Capital Region Celtic Pipe Band, under the direction of Pipe Major Gordon Peters, will sound the call to worship in front of the church beginning at 9:45 a.m. A colorful parade of tartan banners, symbolizing families entering into the House of the Lord to worship and praise, will commence at 10:00 a.m.

The Kirkin' ceremony was introduced in the early years of World War II by the Rev. Peter Marshall, who served as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate. Soon, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan began to be celebrated across the nation and beyond in witness to the rich heritage of the Scottish Reformation.

During the service, this heritage will be remembered in psalm, hymn, sermon and creed. This is a special time and way 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. You'll be greeted with "a hundred thousand welcomes" or, in Gaelic, "Cead Mille Failte!" A reception, featuring home-baked shortbread, will follow.

This year, we are pleased to welcome Rev. Jeffrey McArn as our guest preacher. Rev. McArn has been College Chaplain for Hamilton College for sixteen years. A native of Laurinburg, NC, Jeff is a graduate of Davidson College and Harvard Divinity School. He is married to Georgia Frank of the Religion Department at Colgate University. The McArns live in Hamilton, NY and have three children- Madlyn, Halley and Theo.

We hope you'll join in the tradition! Anyone who would like to carry a tartan banner during the service should contact David and Sarah Hershey at 462-4727. Those willing to bake shortbread (recipe provided if desired) or help with the reception are kindly asked to contact Valerie Shanley at 674-5332 ●

# Church School Update

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

# To Pittsburgh and Back

**What a summer** it's been! Some Westminster families traveled far away, some stayed close by. Some kids went to camp, others spent time with family. All of them are bidding farewell to the summer and welcoming the fall with open arms.

Now it's that time of year again - time to kick off the church school year at Westminster. We have another year of growing in faith and Christian discipleship to look forward to. Teachers are preparing to welcome the kids back for their first day of church school: September 16th.

What gifts can you offer to the church school? Prayers are always appreciated for the nurture of the youngest Christians in our midst. That's what they need the most. Also, keep an ear out for special ways you can contribute to or support the church school throughout the year. Sometimes we need a substitute teacher or supplies for a special project. Keep the children in your mind, and together we will support them as the entire Body of Christ ●



**You won't** want to miss the youth reporting on their mission trip to Pittsburgh.

Westminster supported them through donations, prayers and flamingos. Come hear about their trip during second hour on September 16th ●



# New to WPC- Staff: Andrea Joy Holroyd

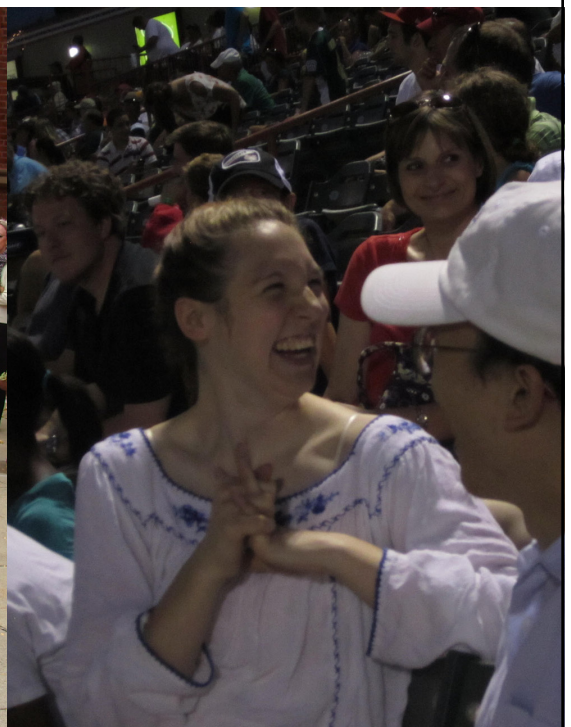
**We welcome to** our staff Andrea Joy Holroyd who is coming on board as our new Director of Christian Education. At its August meeting, Session acted to hire Andrea for a nine month contract that will span the 2012-2013 program year.

Andrea will be working 20 hours a week for us while she will also be enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at the Albany Medical Center. A graduate of RPI and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Andrea is in the process of seeking ordination as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church (the new title is Teaching Elder).

Ms. Holroyd has been a member of Westminster since 2004, participating in the church choir and, of late, assisting with the youth group. She will assume leadership of our youth ministry while Pastor Frances is on maternity leave.

Andrea brings many strengths to her new position. Andrea has always attended city churches and is comfortable in our urban setting; she has previous experience working with special-needs children at Whispering Pines Preschool and her seminary education gives her a strong theological grounding in our theology and faith.

Many of you know Andrea as a musician. Look for her at the Kirkin'. She will be toting her bagpipes and sitting in with the Pipe Band out in front of the church on State Street before our worship begins.



# Glorious Music Coming to Westminster:

Alfred Fedak

## Upcoming Music Events

**The start** of a new program year at Westminster Church also brings with it the start of another year of glorious music, performed by our own choirs, handbell ringers and instrumentalists, as well as by visiting musicians. We have a lot to look forward to in the months ahead--here are some important dates and information:

**Thursday, September 6, 7:30 PM till 9:00:** First Rehearsal, Westminster Church Choir. New members are always welcome; the ability to read music is helpful.

**Sunday, October 7, 11:15 AM till noon:** First rehearsal, Westminster Handbell Choir. Teenagers and Adults who can read music are invited to join.

**Thursday, October 11, 6:30 PM till 7:15:** First rehearsal, Westminster Children's Choir. The Children will sing at morning worship on All Saints' Sunday, November 4.

Anyone considering joining a choir or bell choir for the first time is encouraged to contact Al or Sue Fedak for further information •

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**Several major** musical events will take place at Westminster in the coming weeks: please mark these dates on your calendars:

**Sunday morning September 30:** Hymn Festival during the 10 AM worship service, celebrating Glory to God, the new Presbyterian Hymnal.

**Sunday afternoon, October 28, at 3:00 PM,** the Westminster Choir will present an all-Dvorak concert, including music for organ, voices and instruments. The centerpiece of this beautiful concert will be Dvorak's complete Mass in D Major.

**Friday evening, November 2, at 7:30 PM,** organist/composer Carson Cooman will perform a recital on our Skinner organ. Carson is Artist-in-Residence at Harvard Memorial Chapel and an internationally-renowned composer of choral, orchestral and chamber music. As a performer, he specializes in modern repertoire, and has commissioned Al Fedak to write several pieces for him (some of which he may perform at WPC!).

Please spread the word and plan to attend these outstanding events •



# Missionaries from Ghana

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

## Our partnership

in Ghana is unique—one where we emphasize two-way partnership. For many years, we have not only sent teams to Ghana but have also welcomed missionaries from Ghana to be here with us. This year is no exception.


We welcome Elder Barbara Asempa as our missionary from Ghana this September. Barbara is our first visitor who is not an ordained pastor, part of our effort to rely more on lay leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. She has experience working with World Vision, an international Christian development organization and now runs a Non-Governmental Organization of her own. She will be accompanied by her son, Selorm.

Our dear friend, Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti, will be in Albany during the same time as Barbara's visit. Her presence is always uplifting to our own ministry. We look forward to welcoming all of our visitors to Albany this fall.

Below you will find highlights of our missionaries' visit. Please pray for this partnership and join in all these wonderful events!

- **Sunday, September 16:** Official welcome to Westminster After Second Hour, lunch to discuss the partnership and goals for the future.
- **Thursday, September 20, 12 noon - 2 p.m.:** Lunch Program with Elder Barbara and Rev Alice. Theme: *Joy, Gratitude, Hospitality and Community*
- **Saturday, September 22, 5 to 8:30 p.m.:** African Assembly. Free African dinner. Opportunity to make free-will offerings
- **Sunday, September 23:** Future Partnership between Westminster and two Tema Churches

For a more complete list of the team's activities, look for a brochure at the back of the church or go to our website: <http://www.wpcalbany.org/ghana-mission.html>



# Abundant JOY - Overflowing Generosity

*"We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking." 2 Corinthians 8:1-7.*

In this text, Paul tells the believers in Corinth the story of the Macedonians who didn't have material wealth but gave generously and gladly, giving both money and of themselves. As faithful stewards of the ministry and mission we share, we continue to undertake our ministry at Westminster with abundant joy and overflowing generosity.

Please join us on Stewardship Sunday, November 11, 2012 when we will joyfully 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,

Susan Schell  
Co-Chair Stewardship Budget Committee

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**RUMMAGE SALE:** (noun) "Informal sale of miscellaneous goods; sale of donated articles conducted by a non-profit organization (as a church or charity) to help support its programs".

**WHO:** You, Me, Everybody

**WHERE:** Westminster Presbyterian Church  
85 Chestnut St. Albany

**WHEN:** October 5th & 6th 2012, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**WANT:** Good, clean, gently used items - Household, Clothing, Dishes, Glassware, etc.  
No outdated electronics, No large appliances,  
No large furniture accepted.

All proceeds will benefit the Pew Cushion Fund, so give generously.

**Questions:** Mary Jean Tedrow 371-8765 (actedrow@earthlink.net)  
or Glenda Bennett



# Staff News

**This past summer** Al and Sue Fedak traveled to Texas to take part in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship and Music Conference held at Mo-Ranch near Hunt, Texas, where Al served as the 2012 Routley Lecturer in Hymnology. He and Sue planned and led the conference Hymn Festival with Al at the organ and Sue in the pulpit.

A few weeks later, they attended the PCUSA General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Al as a member of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song (the Hymnal Committee) and as one of the organists for the Hymn Festival held at Pittsburgh's First Presbyterian Church. The GA unanimously approved the contents of the new Presbyterian Hymnal, called Glory to God, which will be released in 2013.

Finally, Al returned to Pittsburgh at the end of July, this time to lead another Hymn Festival at the annual conference of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (the Roman Catholic church musicians' organization). The festival, which took place at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, was called "A Celebration of Grace."



# September HAPPY BIRTH TH DAY

## 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 •



## This September's Events:

# Church Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

#### 2 SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship

3

Office Closed

5

7:00 pm Christian Life & Learning

7

7:00 pm First Friday

#### 9 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship

11

7:00 pm Session

12 Noon

Editorial Deadline  
for October Newsletter

#### 16 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship

7:00 pm Youth Group

18

7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting

20

12 noon-2 pm  
Lunch with Barbara Asempa  
and Mama Alice

22

5:00 pm African Assembly Dinner

#### 23 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship

1:00 pm-4:00 pm Schuyler Inn Party

28

4:30 pm start of Youth Retreat  
at Holmes

29

7:00 pm end of Youth Retreat  
at Holmes

#### 30 SUNDAY

10 am Worship

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Rummage Sale October 5 & 6

Reclaiming Civility,  
Thoughtful Christian Discussion  
October 11, 18, and 25



The following have graciously given Westminster their gift  
of service. Please be sure to thank them!

Date:	Ushers:
Sept. 2	Tim & Lisa Dodman, Tom and Anne Older
Sept. 9	Sheila and Heidi Wrede, Judy Hartley, Arden Leach
Sept. 16	Maurice and Betty Thornton, David and Lexy Hershey
Sept. 23	Mary Jean and Allan Tedrow, Peter McKee, Tony Mason
Sept. 30	Diane, Alex and Andrew Scaptura, Marie McClumpha

09  
20  
12



## 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  
**Minister of Music and Arts:** Alfred V. Fedak, FAGO, ChM  
**Associate Minister of Music and Arts:** Susan Hermance Fedak  
**Administrative Secretary:** Nancy J. Sokil  
**Sextons:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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**October newsletter submissions are due by Noon on Sept. 12.**  
Send submissions to: [westminsternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:westminsternewsletter@gmail.com)