

# The Westminster Messenger

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**This mission** trip was my third time in Ghana, so I was pretty sure I knew what to expect. The Akwaaba sign still greets you as you step off the plane, the soil is still that very distinctive red hue, and Ghanaians are still among the friendliest people I have met.

There were however, some interesting changes. In Accra, particularly, new buildings are beginning to take form against the African sky, a testament to extensive economic expansion. Rather than the more traditional concrete structures commonly seen in Ghana, these behemoths were of western steel construction, complete with plate glass exteriors. The modernity of these buildings contrasts sharply with the buildings standing next to them, and even more so with construction in the rural villages, where mud brick and thatch roof are commonplace. That is not to say that the essence of Ghana was disappearing: in fact the opposite was true. The buildings seemed to say that this is the new Ghana, a rising economic power, leading the way for other African nations in power and stability. (this article continues on page 3)



Ghana Mission Trip Team

Article by Nicholas Scaptura



# Reisner Reflections: The Gospel of Conan

by Jim Reisner

**Although** I have for a long time enjoyed his comedy, I have regarded Conan O'Brien far more as a source of wit than of wisdom. But in his recent address to the graduating class at Dartmouth College in June, O'Brien shared wisdom borne from his experience of being fired as host of the Tonight Show.

"Fogbound, with no compass, and adrift, I started trying things... Ultimately, I abandoned all preconceived perceptions of my career path and stature. I did a lot of silly, unconventional, spontaneous and seemingly irrational things and guess what: it was the most satisfying and fascinating year of my professional life. To this day I still don't understand exactly what happened, but I have never had more fun, been more challenged—and this is important—had more conviction about what I was doing.

**There are few things more liberating in this life than having your worst fear realized.**

How could this be true? Well, it's simple: There are few things more liberating in this life than having your worst fear realized... Your path at 22 will not necessarily be your path at 32 or 42. One's dream is constantly evolving, rising and falling, changing course.

But the point is this : It is our failure to become our perceived ideal that ultimately defines us and makes us unique. It's not easy, but if you accept your misfortune and handle it right, your perceived failure can become a catalyst for profound re-invention."

Paul said it best in Romans 5:3-5 *"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."* ●

# Ghana Mission Trip 2011

by Nicholas Scaptura

Photos:  
Rev. Frances W. Rosenau

(continued from page 1) In the four years between my visits, Ghana has become a true African success story, though there is more left to be done. Poverty still exists, malaria is still endemic, and clean water continues to be a luxury for most of the country, particularly in the north, to where much of the new wealth will not soon spread. My awe at the speed of this growth is tempered by the knowledge that the influx of wealth does not always mean a bright future for a country. Growth must be free of corruption and greed and properly managed by responsible leaders to benefit the nation. The people of Ghana must rise to the occasion and unite in a desire for the common good by respecting the democratic process that is so hard won in many other nations. They must ensure that those in power act responsibly and effectively to ensure continued prosperity ●



Making Friends at the School for the Deaf



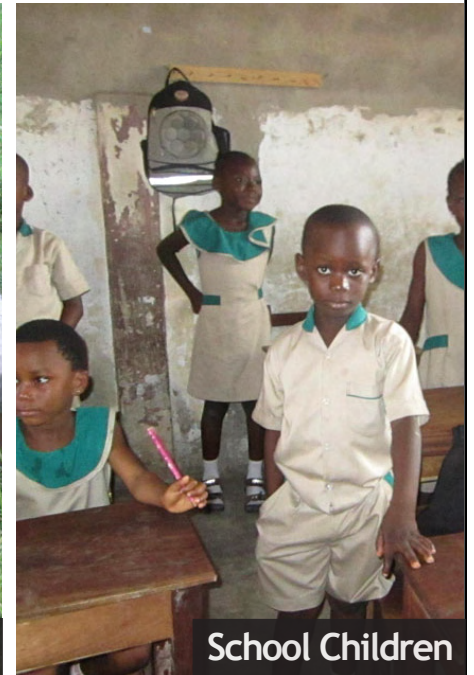
Building Tables



Visiting with Church Members



Planting Trees



School Children

# Iteke Prins, Hymnwriter “Framing God’s Word”

by Al Fedak

# Al and Sue Fedak’s Musical Summer

qui tol - lis pec - ca -

**In July,** Iteke Prins journeyed to Colorado Springs to attend the annual conference of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, of which she is a Life Member. At the conference she led an hour-long sectional workshop introducing her brand-new collection of hymn tunes, called “Framing God’s Word.” The book contains 47 of her original musical settings of hymn texts by various poets: it is her second hymn-tune anthology to be published by Wayne Leupold Editions of Colfax, North Carolina. Congratulations, Iteke!

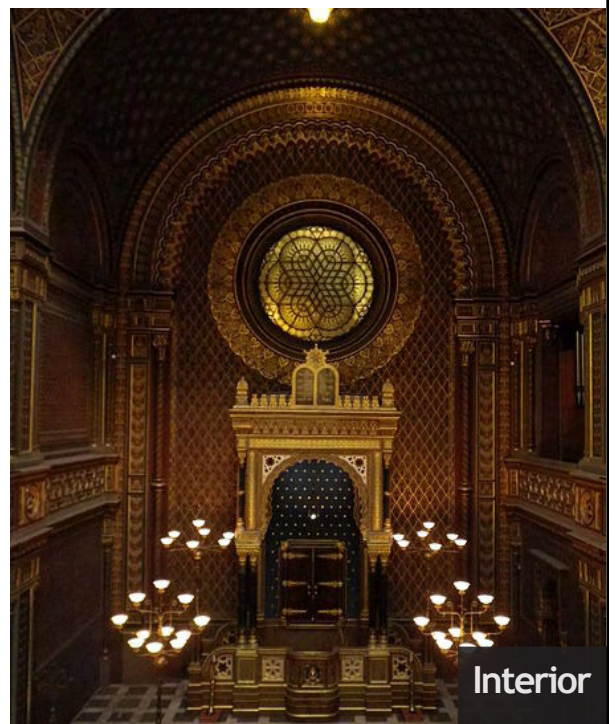
At the end of June, Al and Sue Fedak traveled to central Europe on a ten-day concert tour with the Battenkill Chorale. Sue served as the Chorale’s mezzo-soprano soloist at concerts in Vienna and Prague. Al went along as the group’s composer-in-residence, and also sang with the Chorale: they performed two of his choral pieces, one of which was a new work commissioned especially for the tour. The group also visited Terezin (Theresienstadt), the infamous Nazi concentration camp in what is now the Czech Republic, and sang in memory of the thousands who perished there.

On a lighter note, the American Guild of Organists announced that one of Al’s recent organ compositions, his “Thanksgiving Suite,” was named a winner in the AGO’s Region IV Composition Contest; the work was premiered at the Regional AGO Convention held this past June in Greensboro, North Carolina ●

**Al Fedak’s  
“Thanksgiving Suite,”  
an AGO winner**



The Spanish Synagogue in Prague-Exterior



Interior

# Children and Youth

by Jeanne Bianchine



**Come join** us at Capital Camp for Kids the week before Labor Day-- August 30,31, Sept. 1. This year's theme, "God's World, Our World."

The last week of summer vacation is going to be a great one! A walking scavenger hunt every day--out and about and around our neighborhood. Do you know all the sites and treasures that can be found within blocks of Westminister? You'll "find" out!

Lunch and snacks will be provided by Westminister. Bring a drink container and we'll fill it up when we go out and around the town on our special quests.

We will start each day at Capital Camp for Kids with praise in song and lessons from the Bible. Activities will include some classic arts and crafts and "building" some really cool stuff. We will be doing a fair amount of walking... so wear sneakers.

The camp will run from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm.  
Let us know if you need a ride.

Parents, field trips aren't any fun without chaperones! Come join us! We will also be asking adults from church to help out as well.

Please contact Jeanne Bianchine:wpcdce@gmail.com  
or Pastor Frances: fwrosenau@wpcalbany.org  
or call the church: 436.8544 for more info ●

**Tuesday, August 30 ● Wednesday, August 31 ● Thursday, September 1**



**What street was this photo taken from?**



**Where is this man sitting?**

# Our Westminster Family

Adirondacks. USA

Photos by Connie Frisbee Houde

**Westminster** member **Connie Frisbee Houde** uses her vision as a photographer to depict the spirit and sacredness of people and their surroundings. Since 1990, Connie has traveled to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Jordan, Mexico, Peru, and Vietnam, as well as many locations in the US. The cultural heritage and way of life of many different people are often threatened by global events, war and industrialization. Connie's skill as a photographer coupled with her love of humanity enable her to depict the nobleness of these people and their lands as they strive to keep their autonomy, culture and community alive. While each group maintains its own cultural identity, many attributes, expressions and concerns of living are universal, creating a sense of brotherhood, a global village ●



Cambodia



Vietman



Afghanistan



Ghana



Ghana



Peru

# Mosaic-Arts Kids Course

**Mosaic-Arts** is thrilled to launch a new program this year at Westminster. "Mosaic-Arts Kids" (MAK) will begin in September and run through May. There will be a group for 4th through 8th graders and a senior high group. MAK will meet at Westminster on Sunday afternoons from 2:00pm until 3:30pm and will participate in Mosaic's mainstage season as well as present a gala performance of their own in the spring. The program will include group instruction, field trips, guest artists and more! Our mission is to provide quality music and drama experiences for young people that will inspire, motivate and enlighten the children of the Capital District.

A wonderful group of artists and educators have come together to organize this program utilizing best practices not just for artistic endeavor but also for a safe and supportive learning environment. Tuition, scholarship and general program information is available by contacting Mosaic at [MAK@mosaic-arts.org](mailto:MAK@mosaic-arts.org)

**Al Fedak's** composition for organ and orchestra, "Invocation and Dance," will be aired on "Pipedreams" on **Sunday night, August 28**, on **WMHT-FM, 89.1**. Pipedreams is a nationally-syndicated broadcast from American Public Radio, and can be heard locally each Sunday evening, starting at 8:00 PM. The show's August 28 program will feature organist Huw Lewis giving the premiere performance of Al's work with the Franciscan Chamber Orchestra, directed by the Brazilian conductor Lanfranco Marcelletti. The live recording was made in the year 2000, during a concert at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Albany, as part of the Siena College Music Series. It will be the final piece in the show's 2-hour broadcast. Turn on and tune in!

**August**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## Celebrating the following birthdays in August:

• Sally Buell	Aug 2	• Judy Hartley	Aug 10
• Frank Houde	Aug 2	• Carol Bromley	Aug 11
• Frank Feiden	Aug 2	• Nancy Burton	Aug 18
• Rev. Alice Kyei-Anti	Aug 3	• Belinda Quaye	Aug 25
• Howard Otty	Aug 8	• Olivia Nimely	Aug 28
• Ned Trudeau	Aug 8	• Cynthia Dwyer	Aug 30
• Arden Leach	Aug 9	• Andrew Wrede	Aug 31

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

# FOCUS on Schools

by Mary Jean Tedrow

**It's time** to start collecting school supplies for the children registered at the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry.

Shopping lists are on the bulletin board for your convenience, and since the annual back-to-school sales are underway already, please take advantage of them. Please donate only things that are on the list: for example, yellow hi-liters means yellow; 2" pink erasers means 2 inches; 3-ring binders means hard-cover ones. Calculators should range from \$3 to \$11 each.

Supplies can be brought to the Food Pantry (at Emmanuel Baptist) or left in the small meeting room BEFORE August 26th. We will be sorting on August 29th and packing on August 30th and September 1st from 10:00 until noon. Distribution will be September 1st-3rd for children who are preregistered at the pantry. Some volunteers may be needed for any of those days, so please call the FOCUS office (443-0460) to sign up. I also hope to fill and deliver filled backpacks to the homeless children at Schuyler Inn from the supplies donated to the pantry. Last year we gave out about 200 backpacks in total!

Thank you for your continued support of this project. It's rewarding to see the expression on the faces of some of the children when they come to pick up their backpacks full of supplies. Parents are just as delighted that they don't have to use their meager food money on expensive school supplies, especially when so many school districts are struggling and placing more of the burden for providing supplies on parents ●

# Breakfast Program Expands

by Rev. Deb Jameson

**FOCUS Churches** of Albany, Inc. is pleased to announce a grant award from the NYS Department of Health, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program.

Starting July 1st, FOCUS begins a 5 year contract that will enable the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry and the FOCUS Breakfast Program to expand feeding services (details forthcoming) to low income residents in the Capital Region. FOCUS is one of 40 sites statewide that have been chosen to receive a direct service contract. With this award, and along with the continued financial support from donors and organizations, FOCUS is able to operate these essential programs ●



# Ghana Fundraiser

by Nicholas Scaptura

**The Westminster** Committee on Ghana invites you to attend a fundraiser on Saturday August 13th, which aims to raise funds to pay any remaining trip costs, and to replenish the Committee on Ghana's budget. This will allow for the continued fund-

ing of scholarship students, partnerships, and the option for expanding our involvement in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. The doors open at 5:00 pm, followed by dinner of Ghanaian and American fare at 6:00 pm. There will be reports by the youth members of the team, chance for dialogue, and a few new and exciting activities that are sure to become favorites.

**Save the Date:**

**Saturday, August 13th at 5:00**

We will once again have an honorary committee, so please speak to Lois Wilson or Nicholas Scaptura for details. Once again, save the date, August 13th at 5:00 pm, for the Committee on Ghana fundraiser ●

**Saran Kaban Jones,** Founder and Director of FACE Africa, wrote on July 11 to report that the construction for the new well for the area around the Hope Mission School in Liberia is starting at the end of the month. Saran was the featured speaker at a Church program on April 2. She said, "I'm happy to announce that we have all the funds in place to get the Hope Mission School water and sanitation project started. The Director for our implementing partner is currently in the U.S. on business and once she returns back to Liberia late July, the project will commence. I myself will be in Liberia end of the July to oversee the project and provide direct updates."

For updates with the Water Committee go to:

<http://www.wpcalbany.org/fresh-water-project.html> ●

# Bread for the World

by Sheila Wrede

**What is Bread for the World?**

**Good question** and here is an answer: Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Based in Washington, DC, Bread for the World inspires Christians to help neighbors next door, in the next state and the next continent to change U.S. policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. By God's grace, people offer help to reach far beyond the communities where they live. To learn more information about Bread for the World and their programs log onto [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org); [www.bread.org/twitter](http://www.bread.org/twitter) or [www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld](http://www.facebook.com/breadfortheworld). Then watch the next issue of The Messenger for ways that WPC is involved ●

# Rev. Dr. R. Peter **Durkee** coming to WPC

**The Rev.** Dr. R. Peter Durkee will be our preacher on August 29th. Peter is an honorably retired pastor in the PCUSA after serving congregations in New Jersey, New York, and Minnesota. While at Park Central Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, Peter was Head of Staff when Jim Reisner was Assistant Pastor there. Peter lives with his wife, Anne, in Olmsteadville, New York, up the road from the Seagle Colony and Schroom Lake •

## Sermons & Second Hours:

All Summer Worship at 9:30 AM

**AUGUST 7 at 9:30 am**

FOCUS Worship and Communion at Trinity United Methodist Church on Lark Street

**AUGUST 14 at 9:30 am**

**Romans 12:1-8**

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

preaching "Being Multicultural Part 2 - To Seek Justice"

**AUGUST 21 at 9:30 am**

**Acts 15:1-14,19-21**

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau

preaching "Being Multicultural Part 3 - Radical Hospitality"

**AUGUST 28 at 9:30 am**

The Rev. Dr. R. Peter Durkee, preaching

**SEPTEMBER 4 at 9:30 am**

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

**SEP 11 at 10 am**

**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**

Pastor Reisner, preaching "Ten Years Late"

2nd Hour: Pot-luck picnic on State Street

**SEPT 18** Dedication of Education and Music Ministries

**Matthew 20:1-16**

Pastor Frances W. Rosenau, preaching "The anti-equity work day"

2nd Hour: Report from the Ghana Mission Team

**SEP 25**

**I Corinthians 16:1-4**

Pastor Reisner, preaching "Living Generously"

2nd Hour: Three Cups: A Conversation about Money

# Church Calendar

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11

## This Month's Events:

### AUGUST

3

7 pm Christian Life and Learning

5

5 pm First Friday

### 7 SUNDAY

9:30 am FOCUS Worship  
at Trinity United Methodist

8

7 pm House Committee

9

7 pm Stated Session Meeting

13

5-9 pm Ghana Fundraiser

### 14 SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship

### 21 SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship

### 28 SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship

30 9:30am-2pm  
Capital Camp for Kids

31 9:30am-2pm  
Capital Camp for Kids

1 9:30am-2pm  
Capital Camp for Kids

### SEPTEMBER

2 5 pm First Friday

### 4 SUNDAY

9:30 am FOCUS Worship  
at Emmanuel Baptist

5

Labor Day  
Church Office Closed

### 11 SUNDAY

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Pot-luck Picnic

14

7 pm Christian Life and Learning

### 18 SUNDAY

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

### 25 SUNDAY

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

## Upcoming Events:

30 & 1  
Youth Retreat at Holmes Camp

### OCTOBER

16 Kirkin' o' the Tartan



## Westminster Presbyterian Church

85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, New York 12210

Change Service Requested

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

### CHURCH OFFICE- Summer Hours

9 am-2 pm Monday-Friday (No secretary on Wednesdays)

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

**Sexton:** Glenda Bennett, Joy Tallmadge

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

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**Twitter:** [jim\\_reisner](https://twitter.com/jim_reisner)

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