

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

Shakespeare, Scripture, and Self

TABLES FOR 8

Sign-up for Tables for 8 for 2007-2008 begins Sunday, August 26 and continues September 2 and September 9 during Fellowship Hour. Kick-off will be Saturday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share with 8 people. Drinks and bread will be provided.

We're looking forward to having many new members participate this year in this group that fosters Christian fellowship by dining in participants' homes. Usually groups meet once every 4-6 weeks, and the host/hostess provides the main dish, while others contribute the remaining courses. This group is sponsored by Congregational Life. If you are new to this concept and have questions prior to sign up, please contact Janet Harris at 703-764-3395.



Tables *for* Eight

In his column of August 8 in *The Washington Post*, Michael Gerson writes concerning the nationwide popularity of Shakespeare plays and festivals:

...Shakespeare's influence is not primarily ideological or even religious; his views on these topics are cloaked and obscure. He does not attempt to explain history or the gods to men but rather to explain men and women to themselves. His narrow topic is humanity, and it is immense: everything from stalking guilt to bawdy humor, from insanity to jokes about [bodily functions], from love to death to those moments when they are inseparable.

In a time deluged by ideology—when everyone is urged to take a side and join the political battle—Shakespeare offers a different message: that the most important and dramatic choices are made in the human soul...

We watch the struggling souls in Shakespeare's plays with uncomfortable self-recognition. In their raw honesty we see our own nature, even those parts that are despairing and lawless. And as these characters are transformed, we see ourselves differently as well.

And so we enter a dark theater (or green or beach or riverside) and escape to what is most real.

When I read these words, I put the paper down in my lap and said to myself: "This is what I see in scripture; this is why I preach!" I see scripture doing what Shakespeare does: "explain[ing] men and women to themselves," bringing to light "choices ... made in the human soul," offering "escape to what is most real." I believe that one reason the particular books of the Bible were chosen by the people of God, over centuries, to be included in sacred literature is the wisdom they portray; and I personally believe that God was acting (and still acts) in that choice – inspiring (which means "in-breathing") life into writers, readers, and hearers of scripture.

It is a joy to teach and preach at Westminster, for your appreciation of scripture and humanity, faith and life, are deep and real. It is a joy to explore that appreciation further in space that is fresh and new and radiant with beauty. I hope this fall that each of us will return to worship, return to adult education, return to *Christian Believer*, return to *Authenticity*, return to Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Youth Fellowship and Young Adults and Flying Solos and Bag Lunch and mission trips and Travelers and to the many expressions of our life together at Westminster as we "escape to what is most real."

— Larry

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



THANK-YOU'S & MORE

Thank You

Thank you so much for all the caring and support extended to me following my Dad's death. The thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls, and hugs were of great comfort as I felt the love and concern expressed by my "church family." Our faith-filled, warm congregation is truly a blessing.

Carolyn Carmack

Thank You

I deeply appreciate the beautiful flowers, visits, cards, and calls received after my recent hip surgery. I would like to say a special "thank you" to Ruth Carlson for her wonderful words of wisdom.

Thank you,
Wilma Gray

Dear Westminster Family,

I cannot begin to express to you my gratitude for the lovely cards and notes you sent me while recovering from my hip mishap and the therapy that followed. The lovely bouquets of flowers and cards aided in my recovery and spurred me on to complete healing. I found myself rereading them and even after returning home, I read some again. Little touches like this certainly give us all hope and happiness for being a part of such a great group of caring people. You all are special.

I am indebted to Westminster and the great staff we have. Their visits were so nice to receive. You all really outdid yourself for me: Larry, more times than I can count; Larry & Maggie, on a lonely Saturday afternoon; Sandy, many times, which brightened my day so much; Karen Blomberg, who had her wonderful words of wisdom and upbeat conversations; Patrick, several times, and on one occasion brought part of the youth group! How impressive they were—thank you one and all! (I hope the phones were covered!!)

I'm continuing to have therapy here at home and I'm "pushing" myself to improve this "leg" of recovery a bit faster.

In closing, on a recent Sunday, Catherine Linton dropped by with the bouquet from the service that was beautiful! The mantle really needed something!

As ever,
Peggy Grant

Thank You from Agudas Achim

Dear Pastor Hayward:

On Sunday, June 3, 2007, I, along with other members of Agudas Achim Congregation, had the privilege of attending services, the dedication ceremony, and the kosher picnic at your beautiful renovated church.

Words cannot adequately express how welcome we all were meant to feel. You and your congregation demonstrated God's great gift to all of us – the power of love.

Please convey my thanks to your colleagues and your congregation for a most memorable experience.

Sincerely yours,

Don Perkal

Senior Vice President

Passages

Our prayers are with the families of **Thelma Hart**, who died June 20, 2007, and **Katherine LaBatte**, who died on June 15, 2007.

Joy of the Church

- ✧ **Mary Elizabeth Winn** was born June 26, 2007, daughter of **Mara and Rob Winn**.
- ✧ **Charles Edward Cassidy** was born April 20, 2007, son of **John Cassidy and Elizabeth Nottingham**.
- ✧ **Sara-Marie Noel Small** was born on August 6, 2007, daughter of **Amy and Tim Small**.
- ✧ **Matthew Paine Heckel, Jr.** was born on August 7, 2007 son of **Andrea & Matt Heckel**.
- ✧ **Allison Elizabeth Deutsch** was born on August 2, 2007, daughter of **Lynn & Mike Deutsch**.

Marriages

- ✧ **Jake Mello and Catherine Rinehart** were married by Larry Hayward in Charlottesville, VA on July 28, 2007.
- ✧ **Oraly Saenz Garcia & Andrew Spatz** were married at Queen of Apostles Catholic Church in Alexandria on July 20, 2007.

“Christian Believer”
Begins On September 16

DISCIPLE

Pastor Larry Hayward will lead this 30-week course starting on Sunday afternoon, September 16. Part of the DISCIPLE program, “Christian Believer” is an introductory-level course in basic theology—the classical doctrines of the Christian faith. The format includes videos, presentations by Larry, and discussions. Readings come from the Bible and a book of short theological writings, guided by a study manual. It is open both to graduates of DISCIPLE I and to those who have done little Bible study. The class will meet from 4:00-6:00 p.m. every Sunday through May 11, except December 16, 23, and 30 and March 23.

Register in person on September 9 after worship. (Bring your checkbook.) The package of readings costs \$40; a New Revised Standard Version study Bible will be available for \$30, if you don’t have one. Alternatively, download a registration form from the church’s website or pick up a form from Clara Beth Van de Water’s mailbox in the church office. Mail the registration form and check to Clara Beth at the church, or leave them in her mailbox.

Notes From Associate Pastor
Karen Blomberg

AUTHENTICITY ROCKS!

Authenticity is defined as living into who we are created to be. Authenticity “practitioners” participate intentionally in a journey of uncovering more and more of God’s presence within and without. In this revealing, authenticity unfolds. On our pilgrimage of authenticity, we learn that we are intimately connected with one another. Community expands and deepens.

I am pleased to announce that my current book on Authenticity has been sent to my literary agent and is being “shopped” to various publishing houses. Westminster members are among the first to experience the practices outlined in the book, *Authenticity: Mindful and Momentous Living*. Three classes are currently offered for those who have already begun the Authenticity courses. For those who wish to learn more about the nature of the class material and are thinking of starting the ten courses, *A Taste of Authenticity* is being offered twice in September. This event includes presentation of some of the core principles used throughout the Authenticity courses. These basic principles are:

- Beginner’s Mind
- The Coherence Model
- Four Dispositions
- Enemies of Learning
- The Role of Intention Setting

Plan to sample The Authenticity Series, by attending one of the following events:

- *A Taste of Authenticity* led by the Rev. Karen A. Blomberg; **Saturday, September 15; 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon Haverkamp Room**

A spiritual smorgasbord which is deliciously served to you as an introduction to the *Authenticity Series*. This is an excellent and fun way to learn if you would like to take Authenticity classes. *A Taste of Authenticity* will be repeated on **Saturday, September 22; 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon.**

- **Weekend Authenticity Retreat**
Foundations of Authenticity (date and place TBA; first Authenticity course in two days)
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

Look for other upcoming Authenticity events including:

- viewing and discussion of *What the #\$*! Do We Know?!*
- discussion and practice of various forms of meditation

Let me know if you want more information, or wish to speak with one of the 30+ Westminster members who are participating in current classes.

Karen B



Westminster Travelers

Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.: “*Sunshine Boys*,” Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

Thursday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m.: *Tour of Dumbarton House*, a Federal mansion in Georgetown, headquarters of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Lunch on your own at Hector’s Restaurant, Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. \$4.

Join the Travelers on motorcoach trips to **Chicago, IL on October 23** and **Asheville, NC on November 27**. Flyers describing these fabulous trips are available in the church office.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ADULT EDUCATION - FALL 2007

Sunday Mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

All adults are invited to the following programs. No registration is needed, except for the DISCIPLE course. Contact Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 x120) if you would like more information.

Invitation to the Old Testament

September 9-October 28

Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, DISCIPLE

I graduates

This 8-week course from the DISCIPLE Program offers the opportunity to read representative examples of Old Testament literature, learn the major themes, and understand the theological perspectives. Registration is required. Forms are available online and in Clara Beth's box in the church office. An information session will be held on Sunday, September 2, at 11:15 a.m. for both those already registered and those wishing to register. Books will be distributed.



Mormonism and Pentecostalism: Growing Traditions Born in America

November 4-25

Kenneth Bowler, Director of Public Affairs, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and a Pentecostal Christian speaker affiliated with the Interfaith Conference

This series provides an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) and the Pentecostal, or charismatic, Christian movement, both of which were born in America and are growing rapidly around the world.

God and Mammon: Reformed Economic Ethics and Its Role in Making the Modern World

September 9-October 14

Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown, and Director, Reformed Institute

This lecture series will examine the key roles that Reformed Christians played in establishing beliefs and practices that led to the emergence of modern economic institutions, as well as Reformed responses to the moral challenges created by the rise of modern market economies.

Parenting 101: The Basics of Becoming a Proactive Parent

November 4-25

Coordinated by Patty Chamberlain, teacher, Westminster Weekday Preschool

This video and discussion course begins a new series of programs for Christian parents of young children and teenagers. It offers specific guidance to help families focus on their own values and priorities. Experienced Westminster parents, coordinated by preschool teacher Patty Chamberlain, will lead the discussions.

Living with Dying:

A Conversation about Last Things

October 21 and 28

The Rev. Drema McAllister-Wilson, Chapel Elder, Wesley Theological Seminary

Through presentations, films, story telling, and sharing, Rev. McAllister-Wilson will discuss how our culture approaches death and bereavement and what Jesus said about last things.

Seeing Salvation: Christ in Art

December 2, 9, and 16

Jeffrey Hensley, M.A., M.Phil, church, educational, and political consultant

Through on-screen images and commentary, this Advent series will examine the ways artists have portrayed Christ throughout history. Each Sunday Mr. Hensley will focus on a period of Christ's life, comparing and contrasting the visions of artists from the earliest times to today.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FALL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Welcome back to another year of exciting learning opportunities at Westminster! I look forward to working with you this fall and to helping our children learn of God's love for each of us. We have classes for every age child.

Childcare and Classes for Pre-Kindergarten Children:

- **8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.** - Nursery and childcare for all pre-kindergarten children in Room 202 (all those born since 2003, including those born in 2002 if not in kindergarten)
- **11:00 a.m. preschool-age classes** (during worship)
 - **Children born in 2007-2008** in Room 202
Nursery care is provided for our youngest children.
 - **Children born in 2006-2005 (1 & 2 yr. old class)** in Room 204. These children learn of God's love for them, experience the church as a welcoming place where they can make friends, choose toys to enjoy, do simple art work, sing songs, listen to stories, hear prayers and pray, and sit together for a snack.
 - **Children born in 2004 (3 yr. old class)** in Room 203. Children in this class will experience the Children & Worship program. Children & Worship is a Montessori-based, storytelling approach to teaching children the Bible stories in a Reformed worship setting.
 - **Children born in 2003 or 2002 & not in Kindergarten (4 yr. old class)** in Room 205. Children in this class will also experience the Children & Worship program (see above).

- 9:45 a.m. classes for children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade:**
- **CREATION STATION for elementary-aged children:**
The fourth year of CREATION STATION will begin for K-5th graders on September 9 in our newly decorated "creation hallway" on the third floor! The children gather at 9:45 each Sunday for opening songs, Bible verse, mission projects, and announcements. At 10:00 we disperse to the individual workshops planned for that rotation (games, science, video activities, puppets, drama, music, computer, cooking, or art). Join us to learn all about "The Book of God's love."
Our rotations this fall will be:
Samuel - September 9 (Open House), 16, 23, 30, October 7, 14: Jennifer Larrison, coordinator
David the Boy - October 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18: Patty Chamberlain, coordinator
Christmas Around the World - November 25, December 2, 9, 16: Marilyn Eckert, coordinator



Milestones of Faith Development schedule (during worship after the children's sermon):

- **How to Worship** for kindergartners and their parents on September 16.
- **Presentation of Bibles** and first How to Use My New Bible class for 3rd graders on September 23. Additional classes on Oct. 14, 21, 28.
- **Communion Education** for kindergartners (and any 1st graders who have not had this training) and their parents on Sunday, September 30.

Please consider getting involved with children's ministry at Westminster – even if you don't have young children in your home! At each baptism we promise together as a church community to "tell this child the good news of the gospel." Come join us in telling the story of God's love for each and every one of us.

Nancy Hall Berens
Interim Director of Children's Ministries
703-549-4766, ext. 121
nhallberens@wpc-alex.org.

Young Adults BBQ

Everyone is invited to Casey and Jim FitzGerald's for a beginning of the year BBQ, Saturday September 15th, 2007. Festivities begin at 6pm. We will be playing games and perhaps even viewing a movie on our 12 foot outdoor screen! Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 12th to Casey: CFitzGerald@wpc-alex.org.

Young Singles Night Out

If you are between the ages of 30 and 45 and single, you are invited to join Casey for a night out on the town, Friday, October 5th. Look for details in the Chronicle update in the coming weeks or contact Casey FitzGerald for more information.

Habitat Volunteers

We would like to thank all those who participated on the WPC Habitat workdays this year. We challenged ourselves in learning new skills, provided the necessary physical help to get the homes built, sampled some wonderful lunches provided by Chili's and Potbelly, and made some new friends along the way. Some of you even volunteered yourselves on other workdays, and I understand there are still some Wednesdays when you can volunteer to help with the current project. Individual volunteers do not need to pre-register, but should call 703-521-9890, x.123 to learn if there is space available for individual volunteers on a given workday. The recorded message is updated by 5:00 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday.

When the Westbrook Forest project is completed, we will have pictures of what we helped to accomplish along with the families who will be living in those homes. Again, we appreciate your willingness to volunteer and hope to be working with you all again at some time in the future.

The National Capital Presbytery is assigned the Habitat workday of Saturday, September 15, on the Westbrook Forest project and is accepting volunteers from any of the local churches. If you are interested in working that day, please contact Paul Grueneberger (p.rj@verizon.net or 703-836-1291). This will be on a first-contact basis since Habitat can accommodate only a certain number of workers on a given day. Responses will be appreciated.

**Ed Clancy
Paul Grueneberger
Chris Poole**

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Fall Worship Schedule resumes Sunday September 9 with worship services at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. and church school for all ages at 9:45.



CHURCH OFFICE UPDATE

On Monday August 27, church office hours will return to 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Be sure to let us know of changes in your address or contact information so we can keep our records current.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEWS

Six women's circles meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Three circles meet in the morning, three in the evening—some at the church, others in homes. Hannah Circle has childcare. We'll be studying the books of Jonah and Ruth. Circles also undertake service projects; several circles recently helped buy beehives to help provide needy people a means of support. On the first Wednesday morning of each month, a Presbyterian Women's Workday is held at the church to make stuffed toys and heart pillows for hospital patients.

Information about Circles and Workday will be available at coffee hour after worship on September 9. Or contact Rosa Fullerton at 703-751-3072 about Circles and Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445 about Workday.

Maggie Hayward, wife of our pastor and a Christian educator, will speak at the Fall Women's Gathering on Wednesday, October 3, at 7:30 p.m. Save the date.

Board members will meet on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER



All women are invited to read *Eat, Pray, and Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert and to discuss it on Monday, September 24, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. Tentatively, the morning group plans to meet at Goodwin House, Bailey's Crossroads (3340 S. Jefferson Street) and the evening group in the Cliff Johnson Parlor. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 x120) if you would like additional information.



**HEY YOUTH!
COME TO OUR
KICK-OFF BREAKFAST!
September 9th at 9:30**

All youth (grades 6 through 12) and their families are enthusiastically invited to our youth program kick-off breakfast between services on September 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. This is a big year for us—new schools, new buildings, new friends in youth group and our improved youth rooms—and we'll want to start things off right. Come hear what's in store for 2007-8 and enjoy some excellent pancakes. All are welcome, just as you are, because we're all in this together. September 9! 9:30! Fellowship Hall!

**KEY SEPTEMBER
DATES FOR YOUTH**

- 9/9 kick-off breakfast (9:30)
- 9/12 Orientation for 9th-grade Confirmation Students (7:30)
- 9/16 Fellowships & YOUth café begin
 - Middle School Youth Café (9:45)
 - Middle School Fellowship (4:30 – 6:00)
 - Senior High Fellowship (7:00 – 8:30)
- 9/21-23 Senior High Retreat to Meadowkirk
- 9/30 Confirmation class begins



**WANT TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MINISTRY?
COME JOIN THE YOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE!**

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. (in the Youth Rooms)

Tour Opportunities with the Westminster Travelers

LAST CALL!

**Chicago, Illinois and more
October 23 –29, 2007**

\$900 per person/double occupancy; \$175 single supplement

7-Day Deluxe Motor coach tour includes:

- 6 nights lodging
- 6 dinners, including Tommy Gun's Dinner Theatre; 6 breakfasts
- Guided tour of Chicago; Sears Skydeck Tour; Untouchables Gangster Tour
- Cruise on Lake Michigan
- Shedd Aquarium; Field Museum; Art Institute; Smith Museum of Stained Glass
- Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Studio in Oak Park; Rialto Theatre in Joliet
- Amish Acres, Nappanee, IN; Tour of Notre Dame U; Longaberger Homestead

\$100 deposit due: September 6; balance: September 23. Checks made to: Westminster Presbyterian Church. Memo: Chicago trip. Cancellation insurance available. Contact: Sandy Calhoun at 703-549-4766. x122.

NEW TRIP

**Asheville, NC in the Christmas Season
November 27 – 30, 2007**

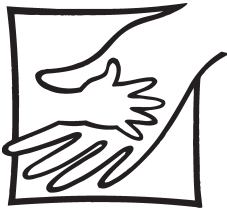
\$600 per person/ double occupancy; \$125 single supplement

4-Day Deluxe Motor Coach Tour includes:

- 3 Nights lodging
- 3 Breakfasts, including buffet at The Grove Park Inn, gingerbread house exhibit
- 3 Dinners, including Deepark Restaurant & Carolina Nights Dinner Theatre
- Evening Candlelight Christmas tour of Biltmore House
- Daytime visit to Biltmore grounds, including Riverbend Farm Village & Winery
- Biltmore Village; Grove Arcade
- Guided tour of Asheville including Smith-McDowell House; Folk Art Center
- Museum of the Cherokee Indian; Chimney Rock Park Tour

\$100 deposit due October 4; balance: October 25. If you wish to purchase cancellation insurance, contact Sandy Calhoun. You may reserve your space before you send your check. Call the church office to put your name in the reservation book.

Please note: The previously announced trips to Asheville in October and Bethlehem, PA in November have been cancelled.



News from
United Orphanage & Academy In Moi's Bridge, Kenya

WE'RE GETTING NOTICED!

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD STATEMENT

The following is a statement in the Congressional Record on Thursday, August 2, 2007 by Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma, based on material supplied by Henri Rush to a mutual friend.

“Mr. President, today I rise in support of the United Orphanage and Academy in Moi’s Bridge, Kenya. As many of my esteemed colleagues know, Africa has a special place in my heart. I visit the continent several times a year to see a number of dear friends. My own granddaughter, Zegita Marie, joined our family through adoption from Ethiopia.

As we hear virtually every day, sub-Saharan Africa is in crisis; the statistics of devastation are staggering. In 2006, 2.8 million people in sub-Saharan Africa contracted HIV and nearly 1 million children died from malaria, according to the World Health Organization. The United Nations estimates that in the same year, there were 12 million AIDS orphans living in the region. These pandemics are further compounded by famine, unsafe drinking water, corruption, and war.

Much has been said of these heart-wrenching situations, but today my message is one of hope. During my travels, I have found Africa to be a place of beauty, courage, and ingenuity. Kenya alone is home to more than 42 distinct ethnic communities, the soaring heights of Mt. Kenya, and one of the largest drama events in Africa, the annual Kenya Schools and Colleges Drama Festival.

Embodying these characteristics, the United Orphanage and Academy cares for 40 children impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Founded in 2001, this beacon of hope lies in rural northwest Kenya, near the Ugandan border. Children ages 4 to 14 are provided with food, shelter, clean water, and quality education. One hundred students are currently enrolled in classes from pre-kindergarten through second grade. Moreover, the home is a place of reconciliation and unity as

children from five distinct ethnic backgrounds and numerous tribes learn to work, play, and grow together.

The vision for the orphanage stemmed from humble beginnings, as conversations between Reverend Stephen Chege and Henri Rush, an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, evolved into a vision to “develop a caring and spiritual space for children to live and grow when they come to the point of having no family or guardian support available to them.” As a result, an ambitious roadmap has been set in place, encompassing everything from procuring a van for vital transportation needs to constructing additional classrooms.

Today, I would like to highlight efforts to expand this mission. Great need requires great hope, and great hope requires great action. Reverend Chege, Mr. Rush and their partners seek to double the capacity of the orphanage to house up to 80 children. Furthermore, plans exist to expand the school to include grades K-12 and further vocational training. The philosopher Aristotle once said: “All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth.” In my humble estimation, the fate of Africa depends, in large part, on the education of young men and women who learn to lead their communities with wisdom and integrity.

I am filled with hope when I see individuals and communities coming together to respond to perhaps one of the greatest crises of our time, and I am encouraged when such initiatives emerge from trans-continental friendships. I believe the United Orphanage and Academy embodies the values and provides the tools necessary to equip Africa's youth to embrace a world of challenges and possibilities.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be entered into the Record as if read live.”

CHURCH WEBSITE

WWW . WPC - ALEX . ORG

Looking for copies of the sermons, Chronicle, Adult education schedule, church officer names, or a copy of last Sunday’s Chronicle Update??? It’s all available on Westminster’s website. Check it out! And let us know if you would like to receive the monthly Chronicle electronically instead of waiting for the U.S. Postal Service to deliver it. E-mail Tara at tcain@wpc-alex.org and read your Chronicle the day after it is printed.



Don't Miss the Reynosa Mission Trip

Are you tired of spending every vacation sitting on the beach or lounging in a mountain lodge while you read and sip a Coke, a Chardonnay, or a beer? You need to break that routine! Now you have a chance to have a hot, sweaty, dirty vacation and practice your Espanol. It is also a chance to work some muscles you have been ignoring or didn't know you have! From October 20 to October 27, Westminster will send a mission group to Reynosa, Mexico to build a small house (roughly 12 feet x 30 feet) for a needy Mexican family. Many of you studied Spanish in high school, college or from a Berlitz Course. Reynosa is a great opportunity to help provide a blessing for a family surviving on two dollars or less a day per family member and to brush up on your Spanish. Latin Americans are so flattered when Americans speak even a few words of Spanish. But even if you never studied Spanish or slept through your class, don't fret, as many of the Mexicans with whom we work know some English. They will help you pick up enough words to communicate.

With the help of groups from churches like Westminster, Faith Ministries has helped the poorest of Mexico's poor build over 1100 homes during the past



twenty years. In fact prior Westminster mission trips have built three of those 1100 houses and helped build one of three Presbyterian churches in Reynosa. A skilled Mexican foreman will guide, direct and teach us all we need to build the house. Faith Ministries has also built and now runs two medical clinics that provide free medical services to people

living in these barrios (or colonias as they are called in Mexico). On October 20, we will fly to McAllen, Texas, where Faith Ministries has its offices in the Betania Presbyterian Church. We will drive across the Rio Grande to Reynosa, where we will be staying in a motel. Each day we will drive to our work site, work in the morning, and have lunch and a short worship service at one of the Faith Ministry supported Presbyterian churches. Then we will return to work in the afternoon. Family members, neighbors, and Mexicans who have received homes themselves under the program will help us build the house. As we labor, perspire, pray and laugh together, we come to know one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. We will meet in the Haverkamp Room on Sunday, September 9 after the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Remembering Marion Aylesworth

It is appropriate from time to time to honor those who have contributed to the development and wellbeing of Westminster Church. Marion Aylesworth and the members of her family are long-time contributors of time, effort, and money to Westminster.

Pastor Cliff Johnson could claim responsibility for the Westminster membership of the Aylesworth family. Phil Aylesworth, Marion's husband, heard and was enamored of Cliff's sermons, so he and Marion and their four daughters, former members of Trinity Methodist Church, became Westminster members in the early 1950's.

Marion Aylesworth survived many moves. She was born in Mississippi, lived as a child in Alabama, studied in Michigan and settled in Virginia. Marion graduated from Michigan State University and so did all four of her daughters: Margaret Aylesworth Ross, Nancy Riethmeier, Sally Spaniolo, and Cindy Zimmerman. This must be some kind of a record that should be reported to the Guinness Book of Records. And to add to the record-setting, all four of Marion's daughters were married at Westminster. Cindy Aylesworth Zimmerman, was the last who married under Westminster auspices, but at another location, since Westminster was then (as it was recently) closed for rebuilding.

Marion served as a deacon in this church, and for too many years to count arranged the worship flowers as well as flowers for other special occasions, hauling the water from the basement to the sanctuary. Besides beautifying the Church sanctuary, she also was a regular member of a Ladies Circle. We are all creatures of habit, and my wife and I remember her regular seat location for each service in the middle of the sixth or seventh row back on the left side of the sanctuary.

As a final gesture of church loyalty and devotion, Marion Aylesworth left a generous bequest to the Westminster Foundation. May her generosity serve as an example for all of us.

Don Fowler
Westminster Foundation

CHURCH STAFF

Larry Hayward	Pastor
Karen Blomberg	Associate Pastor
Patrick Hunnicutt	Associate Pastor
Paul Stetsenko	Director of Music Ministries
Nancy Hall Berens	Interim Dir. of Children's Ministries
Clara Beth Van de Water	Director of Adult Education
Sandra Calhoun	Director of Seniors' Ministries
Casey FitzGerald	Dir. of Young Adults and Singles Ministries
Henri Rush	Coordinator of Nat'l/Internat'l Missions
Vacant	Coordinator for Local Missions
Art Sauer	Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries
Nancy Bea	Business Administrator
Tara Cain	Administrative Assistant
Oraly Saenz Garcia	Program Assistant
Larry Johnson	Sexton
Marvin Johnson	Sexton
Eddie Watkins	Sexton

Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505
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Dawn Campbell, *Production Editor*

Sunday Worship 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Time Sensitive

Volunteer CORNER

Westminster's first Volunteer Job Fair will be held on Sunday, September 16 in Fellowship Hall.

Representatives from various church organizations will be available after both services to tell you about opportunities to volunteer your time and talent. There will be opportunities within the church and within the community. This is more than an information dissemination program. This will be an opportunity to step forward and put your name on the line and make a commitment to further the goals of Westminster in service to Christ.

Local, national, and international missions will be well represented at the Job Fair. It is very important that volunteers step forward for these activities, as the Local Mission Committee is doing an assessment of the numerous programs to determine which ones, if any, should be cut back or eliminated. This step is necessary because the number of volunteers for mission activities has been falling in recent years. Without sufficient

volunteers we simply cannot continue to support the many programs that are currently underway. Congregational response during the Job Fair will be an important measure of support for mission activities.

In addition to mission activities there will be many opportunities to volunteer for activities in support of church functions. Many of these functions are behind-the-scenes and don't get much notice, but they will certainly be missed if there are not volunteers to do them.

Volunteers are an important part of the life of Westminster. To borrow a well-worn recruiting phrase, "Be all you can be." Volunteer your time and talents to make Westminster a "happening place" and to fulfill your own spiritual longings.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer

Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries
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