

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

rites of passage

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, May 27, we will begin our summer Sunday morning schedule of one worship service at 10:00 a.m. There will be no church school classes other than the preschool classes that meet during worship.

We mark significant passages of life with ritual: baptisms, confirmation, graduations, marriages, admissions to the bar, ordination, retirement, even death. We mark passages with rites.

Our church will experience a rite of passage soon. On Sunday, **June 3rd**, we will mark the completion of our renovation and we will offer in worship the initial offering for our "Realize the Dream Campaign." We will also recognize and thank our members, persons who have professionally assisted us, neighboring congregations, and specifically our friends at Agudas Achim. So we will dedicate, recognize, and celebrate.

The schedule is as follows:

10:00 a.m.	Service of Dedication
11:15 a.m.	Recognition
Noon	Picnic

Please join us for this significant rite of passage.

— Larry

What is Our Dream?

Westminster Presbyterian Church has long been a community of faith that is committed to study, service and sharing God's love. Over the years, many dreams have originated and flourished through that commitment and Westminster's continuing emphasis on worship, education, mission and fellowship: nonbelievers have become believers; members have improved the lives of those less fortunate through local mission efforts; our children have learned to love music and then to use their talents to touch others; our monies have supported and nurtured African children who may someday give back to the world as nurses and doctors; seniors have been given the opportunity to remain active and inspire younger generations. Along with many others, these are the dreams that are Westminster's.

Our beautifully renovated facility will enhance our ability to study, serve and share God's love, as well as our ability to encourage and foster dreams. The funds raised through the Encore Campaign will allow us to "realize the dream" of a completely renovated and modern space. These funds will allow us to be free of debt, and such freedom will enable us to grow and serve more effectively with our time, talent and treasure. Realizing the dream of our new facility is just the first step—there are many dreams still to be realized in and through the lives of those who are a part of Westminster.



THANK-YOU'S
& MORE

Thank You

It takes a lot of willing hearts and hands to have a good Bag Lunch Program, and we do. It takes some flexibility to work with the program without the use of the church's kitchen's workspace and easy access to the freezer, but we did. Luckily, Barbara at Meade Church, (where we also serve) allowed us to prepare the bags there, making the process this year very do-able.

Besides the servers who must schedule their serving time ahead of time, we have others who work on their own time including the supply buyers, soup and sandwich makers, those who accessed the freezers and kept the freezers stocked, and the helpful office personnel.

I want to thank all these people for their work and dedication this year, some of whom may have done these jobs for several years. One such group is Flying Solo, who make sandwiches before they get to eat their dinner. Since there is limited space here, and most sandwich loaves were delivered to freezers nameless, they can't be listed. However, we do know the servers, and their names follow: Ginna Mittauer, Sally Slough, Beth Knisley, Gil Brown, Lois Marlow, Elizabeth O'Brien, Ruth Kane, Carol Dickerson, Amey Hawkins, Melynda Wilcox, Nancy Hall Berens, Bonnie Paladino, Kristin Stone, Robin McFarland, Anne and Sam Ulm, Ginny Schaeffer, Mary Giordano and friend Marcie, and Gail Donley.

We always need new people to make sandwiches and to serve. If you would like to be involved in any part of this process, please call Peggy Thompson at 703-823-9781.

Thanks again, everyone.
Peggy

Welcome Oraly

We are welcoming Oraly Saenz Garcia to our office staff as our new Program Assistant. Oraly joined the staff on Friday May 4. She will be working on the weekly bulletin and Chronicle Update as well as other administration functions. You can reach Oraly at Osaenz@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 112. Stop by and introduce yourself to Oraly and give her your personal welcome.

Dear Sandy & Nancy Jane:

The hotels! The food! The theatres! And the company of you traveling companions. What a wonderful way to spend a week. Thanks for including me, you really know how to throw a party.

- Kelva

Thank You Westminster/George Mason Tutors

This year, thirty children at George Mason Elementary School received extra help with school work through the generosity of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Eleven of these children had the special care, friendship, and guidance of Westminster Church members. Bob Baldwin, Mary and Cara Giordano, Jon Hurt, Janet Komoroske, Anne Pickett, Art Sauer, Barbara Watts, and Sheila Weiss faithfully spent an hour each week meeting one-on-one with their students. Jim Dullea and Susan Griffith gave their students the extra benefit of two tutoring sessions each week! Connie Clancy, Jim Hoben, Candace and Henri Rush, Betsy Smith, and Melynda Wilcox provided valuable assistance to the program by filling in as substitute tutors when needed to ensure that the students had consistent help throughout the year. Thanks so much to all of you for cheerfully giving your time to children in the community.

Elizabeth O'Brien

Co-coordinator

Westminster George Mason Tutoring Program

Thank you

Karen, Sheila and I thank the many of you who have prayed for Karen, sent cards and visited her in the hospital. Karen is now at the acute rehab unit of the Virginia Hospital Center, Rm. 237, 1701 N. George Mason Dr., Arlington, VA 22205. Your love is immense and vital to all of us.

The Hobens

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The upcoming book is *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Discussions will be held on Monday, June 4, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Clara Beth Van de Water's home near the church. All women are invited. Call 703-548-8868 if you need directions.



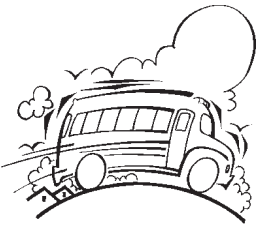
WANTED

WANTED: Volunteers to host coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service (or 10 a.m. in the summer). Dates available beginning May 20th.

REQUIREMENTS: A welcoming smile and willingness to take a little time out of your Sunday. Members of a church group, families, or individuals may volunteer - a great way to get out there and meet people or get the word out about your group!

HOW TO APPLY: Please contact Christine Matthews (703-684-6709), christinelmatthews@comcast.net or Lauren Smith-Papke (703-299-9543) laurensp@hotmail.com. After you choose a date, we will provide you with a list of responsibilities and tips on what you need to provide and how to do the set up and clean up.

Please contact us soon - the benefits are amazing and you will be rewarded with much gratitude!!



Westminster Travelers

June 4 – 7. *Ocean City Escape at the Park Place Hotel.* Trip is filled. Contact Sandy Calhoun to be on the waiting list.

Thursday, June 7. 7 p.m. *The Philadelphia Story*, Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

Thursday, June 21. 7 p.m. *Oklahoma!* Aldersgate Community Players. \$1.

Wednesday, June 27. 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Lunch at *Magothy Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar*, Arnold, MD followed by *tour of Acorn model home* in Crownsville, MD. \$1 plus lunch.

Westminster Travelers trips are planned with Westminster senior adults in mind. Guests are welcome if space is available two days before the trip. Put your name on the waiting list if you are interested. Call 703-549-4766 to reserve your space.

Volunteering – Worship in Action

WPC’s members have a proud history of commitment to mission in the community, in food, shelter, education, self-sufficiency, children’s needs, and general assistance. Whether it’s a one-time, one hour commitment, once a year, or monthly – every effort makes a difference:

- In the community, supporting ALIVE’s Last Saturday program, furniture donation and distribution, providing sandwiches for or serving the Bag Lunch program, Carpenters Shelter, So Others Might Eat (SOME), or Meals on Wheels; volunteering at the Network Preschool, as a George Mason Tutor, Habitat for Humanity, Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH), or participating in the Homeless Walk-a-Thon; pounding nails for Habitat for Humanity or Rebuilding Together Alexandria, delivering turkeys at Thanksgiving and adopting families at Christmas from the Network Preschool, ALIVE House, and AACH.
- For Local Missions, serving on the committee, and as liaison between WPC and the organizations we serve in the community. Currently, we seek liaisons for ALIVE! and SOME to alert us of volunteer opportunities, events, and needs for resources or financial support. Our liaisons help us allocate our local mission budget as equitably as possible.
- To the Congregation through the Member Response Team (MRT). With members from Local Missions, the Diaconate, and the Congregation at-large, the MRT responds to a broad range of requests for assistance within the Westminster community, seeking to be discerning stewards of time, resources, and money for WPC.
- Providing leadership for Westminster’s ministries in the community as a volunteer to the Local Missions Coordinator. The Local Mission Coordinator maintains ties between WPC and key staff for the city and the non-profit organizations we support with volunteers and funds. We have been blessed by the commitment and service of our Local Missions Coordinator, Judy Hansen, who is relocating to North Carolina. After her retirement, Judy was looking for a way to keep involved in the community, and the Local Mission Coordinator position offered a meaningful way to respond to evolving needs here in Alexandria.

Your time is a precious gift. Share it!

Louise Anderson,
Vice chair of Local Missions
703-820-3568



Notes From Associate Pastor
Karen Blomberg

WHAT'S THIS "AUTHENTICITY" THING ANYWAY ?

A number of Westminster folks have been asking about the *Authenticity Series*.

What the heck *is* it, anyway? It is something that must be experienced, and is difficult to explain. This is a hard concept for most of us Presbyterians. However, this article may help.

One of our Westminster Authenticity "practitioners" suggested I read the book,

Eat, Pray, Love by Elizabeth Gilbert. An eloquent writer, Gilbert lets us in on her personal journey of Authenticity. Following a traumatic set of circumstances, Gilbert travels to Italy, India, and Indonesia. What she lives into are practices of Authenticity. She chronicles her intentional exploration of making sense of her life, her growing understanding of God, and her connections with others. Her holy inquiry includes examining her life routines and rituals. After coming to peace with her messy divorce by creating a practice, or intention of reconciliation, Gilbert writes this:

This is what rituals are for. We do spiritual ceremonies as human beings to create a safe resting place for our most complicated feelings of joy or trauma, so that we don't have to haul those feelings around with us forever, weighing us down. We all need such places of safekeeping...

Having released the resentment, guilt, and "should haves," Gilbert discovers newfound energy. She shifts into a lighter and mindful life. I recommend *Eat, Pray, Love* not only as a good read, but as a way of understanding what the Authenticity Series is about. If you are intrigued by the conversations Elizabeth Gilbert has with herself, God, and others, the Authenticity Series may be for you. New courses will be offered this fall, providing Westminster practitioners the opportunity, within a safe, challenging, and nurturing context, to have incredible dialogue with themselves, God, and others.

Karen B

THE STREAMS OF YOUTH MISSION

"Happy are those," the Psalmist says, whose "delight is in the law of the Lord" (Psa. 1). Those who take joy in hearing God's word and probing the life God wills for them, "are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season...and in all they do, they prosper." These words are the foundation of what Westminster's youth will be doing together this summer.



For many wonderful years, youth have been embarking on summer mission trips to places as distant as the mountains of Peru and as close as a rural Maryland farm. Through these trips, youth have seen worlds outside of their own and have been able to contribute slightly, and receive mightily, from what those worlds have shown them. These trips are, and will continue to be, a highlight of our youth ministry at Westminster.

This summer, however, the youth will embark on a different kind of trip. From **June 10-16**, the senior highs will participate in the annual Montreat Youth Conference in NC, where they will join hundreds of other youth to connect their stories with the story of God through play and worship. From **June 26-29**, the middle school youth will hop to Massanatta Springs, VA, and join hundreds of other youth to revel in their common identity as those "signed, sealed and delivered" for a life of faith.

These high-energy trips, though not the standard mission trips, are not a "break" from mission. They are our way of rooting ourselves in the source of our mission, Jesus Christ, so that we might better follow where he beckons us to serve. At Montreat and Massanatta, we will delight in the Lord, in what God tells us and wills for us. We will be planted by the stream of God's living water, so that we might bear good fruits in our service to Alexandria and God's vast world in the months and years to come.

Thank you for your prayers of support and continued financial support of our youth ministry at Westminster as we embark on these trips. Happy are we who are blessed to grow and bear fruit in that ministry.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

You have heard the words “punch list” referred to in our renovation here at WPC. I am writing one final article with a “punch list” of things to finish **CREATION STATION AND** decorate the nursery. I'll list them and if you are able and willing, call me to volunteer and get more details. All help is appreciated!

1. Sew valance for the kitchen “Garden of Eatin”.
2. Mount mirrors on inside of closets in “Paradise Players”.
3. Put up 13'x 8'8” world wallpaper map in “East of Eden”.
4. Paint the anchor and interview tables in “Paradise Players” CSN studio.
5. Put shelves in one section of the CE storage room cabinets to increase the usability of the cabinets.
6. Organize the stories for Children and Worship in “The Seventh Day”.
7. Sew a valance for the window in the nursery.
8. **PAINTING DAY FOR THE MURAL IN THE Garden of Eden HALLWAY WILL BE ON SATURDAY, MAY 19.** I'll be here at 10 a.m. and provide paint, brushes, ideas, etc. Wear your painting clothes and come help! Creativity desired but also provided!



Many have already helped and I want to say thank you. I hesitate to list names because my memory will fail and I'll leave out some but I, and Westminster's children, will be eternally grateful that you have come forth.

M&M Week

M&M Week is another opportunity. This year it will be **June 13-22** and we will be learning Vivaldi's *GLORIA* for Young Voices. Brochures are being mailed so sign up. Plan to attend their presentation of this musical on June 22 at 12 p.m. in the sanctuary.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AT WESTMINSTER of elementary age (K-5th grade).

Others are offered throughout the year but these are the main ones.

Creation Station at 9:45 Church School hour September through May where they will learn the Bible stories through the workshop rotation model, rotating through workshops of cooking, art, computers, puppetry, drama, video, geography, science, games, etc. Don't you wish Sunday School had been this interesting when you were a child? **“It's never too late to have a happy childhood” so NOW is the time to volunteer to teach in this program for a 4-5 week rotation at a time convenient to you.**

Milestones of Faith Development is a program I began two years ago to assist parents with the faith development of their children. Classes are offered in milestones important to the age and development of each grade. Parents usually attend with the children because they are and will be the main teachers of the faith. We, as in our baptismal vows, will assist them and this is one more way we as a church fulfill our vow.

Kindergarten children: How to Worship in “Big” Church (late summer or early fall when they begin to attend the worship service “full time”).

First grade children: Communion Education (usually the last Sunday in September)

Second grade children: The Lord's Prayer (usually offered in late winter)

Third grade children: How to Use My Bible (offered for several weeks after they receive a gift of a Bible from WPC in September)

Fourth grade children: What does Baptism Mean? (offered in mid December before our Baptismal Renewal Service in January)

Fifth grade children: Participation in Worship (at times throughout the year and Children's Sabbath in May)

Upon completion of each Milestone class they receive a certificate and memento related to the class.



Be a pioneer and work on a first endeavor for Habitat of Northern Virginia—a 12-unit condominium in Fairfax County. The site is located at 11328 Westbrook Mill Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030, at the intersection of Waples Mill Road and Lee Highway. Find out what hidden talents you have by lending a hand on this very worthwhile project that will house 12 deserving families. These families will work side-by-side with you in building their new home. You will gain first-hand experience in learning construction skills, but you will go away knowing that you helped provide a home for these families. To be part of the construction crew of this condominium, you must be at least 16 years of age.

Westminster is scheduled to provide approximately 20-25 workers on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The workday will begin at 8:30 a.m., and cleanup will begin at 3:30 p.m. Chili's will be providing lunch for this work day.

If you are able to work on May 19, please send an e-mail to Paul Grueneberger at p.rj@verizon.net or call him at 703-836-1291. Paul will also be able to provide directions to the site.

DID YOU KNOW.....

The Deacons, along with the Local Missions Committee, have partnered to form the **Member Response Team (MRT)**. The MRT responds to members who have an emergency situation including job loss or other unexpected and temporary challenges. MRT helps members connect with local organizations as well as with appropriate people in our congregation to help meet immediate crises of members. Two deacons, two local missions committee members, and two members at large comprise this active group.

For more information contact Elder Christopher Ptomey (ckpndc@comcast.net) or Deacon Jim Silverwood (jsilverw@hotmail.com), or call the church office.

Presbyterian Women

The leadership board will meet on Wednesday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. Starting in September, our Six fellowship circles will study and discuss God's call in the Biblical books of *Jonah* and *Ruth*. The support and friendship provided by circles is priceless, so consider joining! Details will follow.

Update from the Educator Search Committee

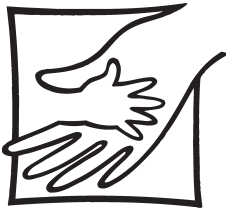
A search committee was elected by the congregation in mid-April to fill the vacancy that will be created by the upcoming retirement of Joan Taylor Reid, who has served as our Director of Christian Education for over eight years.

The committee consists of Steve Cloud, Jennifer Larrison, Elizabeth O'Brien, Lou Ruffino, Melynda Wilcox, chair, and Bobbie Whittier, who is a representative from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. They have been meeting weekly and are hard at work.

Their first task is to complete a "Church Information Form," a detailed document which must be filed with the denomination's national office in Louisville, KY in order for us to receive applications from ordained candidates seeking positions as Associate Pastors for Christian Education. A slightly-different version of the Church Information Form will also be filed so that we can solicit applications from non-ordained certified Christian Educators. A "dual search" is being conducted in order to have the broadest possible pool of candidates available to us. Because the Presbytery's salary guidelines are identical for certified Christian Educators and Associate Pastors, there would be no difference from the standpoint of the annual operating budget if we call an Associate Pastor for Christian Education or hire a non-ordained educator.

The committee hopes to complete the Church Information Form in time for the Session to approve it at its May meeting. Once approved, the information is added to the Presbyterian Church database, and candidates may begin submitting their own resumes, or "Personal Information Forms."

If you know of anyone who might be interested in the position, please encourage them to apply. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Melynda Wilcox at 703-549-3865 or Melynda.wilcox@gmail.com.



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

AND NOW ON TO BUILDING THE ACADEMY

As a result of the extraordinary success of the Lenten Challenge Grant Offering (reported in last month's *Chronicle*) and a gift of \$6,200 from the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia, a bank wire for \$34,662 was transmitted to the UO&A on April 27. This will permit acquisition of a good used van, establishment of a van maintenance fund, and completion of all of the Orphanage's short term infrastructure needs. Acquisition of a 44 seat bus to permit all of the children to be transported at one time for an estimated \$45,000, construction of a hostel/guest house, and, perhaps, increasing the capacity of the residential facility to accommodate 80 children instead of the 43 currently in residence are longer term goals.

However, for now attention has been turned to constructing an academy to provide outstanding inspirational education for the children in the residential facility and other children in the Moi's Bridge area. The construction of the Academy has been a part of Director Chege's plan from the beginning. The necessity for such an educational facility became immediately apparent to those of us who visited the primary schools the children attend last July. As a result of the government's decision to make primary education free without increasing the number of classrooms or teachers available, the average class size for a single teacher was between 90 and 110 students. Moreover the children were spread among five different schools and in some instances had to travel substantial distances to get to the school.

As reported in the *Chronicle* of August 16, 2006, first steps toward the creation of the Academy were

taken in January 2006, when Rev. Chege hired three teachers to teach the early childhood development, first and second grade classes. This January a teacher for third grade was added. These teacher's salaries of \$900 per year for the school year 2007 have been generously supported by members of WPC. The Kenyan school year runs from January through December with the months of April, August and December off. Classes have been meeting on a space available basis in other facilities of the Orphanage.

During a visit in February of this year plans were developed for constructing the infrastructure for a full-blown academy, which would provide classes from Early Childhood Development through 12th grade and include classes for vocational education. A total of 17 classrooms and a computer lab at a cost of roughly \$60,000 were contemplated by the plan. Joined by the Old Presbyterian Meeting House and with the approval of both Sessions, WPC and Meeting House applied to the National Capital Presbytery for a matching grant that would envision construction over three years with NCP providing \$10,000 and WPC and Meeting House \$5,000 each for 2007, 2008, and 2009. As of this writing the Grant Review Team of NCP has recommended a grant of \$7,000 which we hope will be confirmed by the Mission Interpretation Committee shortly. The resulting funds (\$17,000) should permit construction of the first five classrooms and the computer lab. Future reports will detail construction progress for the Academy as well as the Orphanage.

ADULT EDUCATION NEW DISCIPLE COURSES

Two new courses from the DISCIPLE program will be offered in 2007-2008. These courses are designed both for folks who have completed DISCIPLE I and those who haven't. Registration information will be available in June.

1. Christian Believer: Knowing God With Heart and Mind, a study of classical theological doctrines for today's living, will be taught by Dr. Larry

Hayward on Sundays, September 16 through May 5, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

2. Invitation to the Old Testament, an eight-week Bible study, will be taught on Sunday Mornings, September 9 through October 28, by elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring. This course is ideal for those who want to experience DISCIPLE but can't commit to long-term study.

CHURCH STAFF

Larry Hayward	Pastor
Karen Blomberg	Associate Pastor
Patrick Hunnicutt	Associate Pastor
Paul Stetsenko	Director of Music Ministries
Joan Taylor Reid	Director 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

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The Chronicle

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church
Contributors
Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster
Dawn Campbell, *Production Editor*

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m

Time Sensitive

Volunteer CORNER

Last month I informed you that we will not be having the traditional Time & Talent campaign this year. Instead we will be

having a Volunteer Job Fair on September 16 in Fellowship Hall. This is a new event and many questions have been raised. In this and future articles I will try to answer some of these questions.

How will the job fair be different from the activities on Welcome Sunday the week before? Welcome Sunday activities will be directed to the community at large and will be intended to highlight what Westminster has to offer. The job fair will be directed specifically to Westminster members and is intended to get as many as possible to make a commitment to serve as volunteers for our many activities.

What types of "jobs" will be featured? It is my hope that every activity at Westminster that needs volunteers will be present. This includes everything from mission programs to day-to-day activities around the church and serving on committees or participating in the music and education programs.

Will there still be opportunities to volunteer at other times during the year? There will be other opportunities to volunteer for specific activities throughout the year. However, this will be the only time that members will have an opportunity to see the broad range of activities available at Westminster and speak directly with those responsible for running these activities.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

For nearly 30 years Westminster members have been serving breakfast once a month at the So Others Might Eat (SOME) shelter in northwest Washington, DC. Our long-time leader of this program would like to pass on this opportunity to someone else. The duties involve ordering and picking up the food prior to the Saturday morning breakfast (the local mission committee budget pays for the food), lining up two or three assistants to help prepare the breakfast, and rising early on the second Saturday of each month to go to the shelter to prepare the breakfast. Normally, everyone is back at the church by 8:30 a.m. and ready to go about their weekend. If you are interested in this position contact me at asauer@wpc_alex.org or Jon Butterbaugh at butterjon@cox.net.