

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

"The Abdication of Belief/Makes the Behavior Small"



AN EVENING OF FUN AND LAUGHTER

The Westminster Youth Program cordially invites the congregation to **Dinner, a Variety Show, and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. The evening begins with a silent auction and you will have the opportunity to bid on amazing items. Just a few of the items we will have are:

- original glass creations
- a gourmet Italian dinner delivered to your home
- singing telegrams
- accommodations in Williamsburg in either the fall or the spring
- a relaxing getaway at a lake house
- a private baseball lesson by a member of the T.C. Williams baseball team
- landscape design consultation
- a goodie basket for kids
- a new Kate Spade shoulder bag

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Two quick but dense quotes. The first from Alan Wolfe, a non-believer who is a keen observer of American religion.

"...after spending lots of time visiting evangelical colleges and seminaries and attending megachurch services, I come away bemoaning not some right-wing Christian plot to take over the country, but the sheer tackiness of so much of what I experienced. It would be nice, just once, to listen to a sermon delivered by an evangelical preacher that left one with a deeper sense of the world's ironies and complexities...My friends among the faithful tell me that revelation is not opposed to reason. When I look back in Western history, I see their point. When I look around me at contemporary religious movements, I do not." (The New Republic 10/08/07)

The second from Marilynne Robinson, a Christian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author:

"I realize that in attempting to write on the subject of personal holiness, I encounter interference in my mind between my own sense of the life of the soul and understandings that are now pervasive and very little questioned. The phrase "personal holiness," in what at present is its received sense, suggests a preoccupation with (usually) minor, nameable, and numerable sins and the pious avoidance of them where possible. It suggests a regime of pious behaviors whose object is the advantage of one's own soul. It suggests also a sense of security concerning final things, which is understood as a virtue, though it is in fact a confidence not claimed even by the Apostle Paul..."

The approach to the issue I prefer is not original with me. It is neither less Scriptural, nor less theological, nor less traditional than the sense of the phrase I sketched above, though it has gone into eclipse with the rise in this country of a culture of Christianity that does not encourage thought. I intend this as a criticism not only of the so-called fundamentalists but, more particularly, of the mainline churches, which have fairly assiduously culled out all traces of the depth and learnedness that were for so long among their greatest contributions to American life. Emily Dickinson wrote, "The abdication of belief/Makes the behavior small." There is a powerful tendency

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Get ready for Christmas WITH THE DEC. 9 CHILDREN'S PAGEANT AND CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Get into the holiday spirit by joining WPC members at a congregational dinner directly following the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 9, in Fellowship Hall. The Children's Christmas Pageant will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dinner will be served following the Pageant. The meal will be catered by Tasteful Affairs. Cost will be \$10.00 per adult and \$3.00 for children ages 6 and under. Members will be able to make reservations from November 26 through December 6 by calling the church office or emailing Oraly Spatz: ospatz@wpc-alex.org.



"The Abdication of Belief/Makes the Behavior Small"
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also to make belief itself small, whether narrow and bitter or feckless and bland, with what effects on behavior we may perhaps infer from the present state of the Republic. (The American Scholar, Spring 2006).

Neither Wolfe nor Robinson are easy to read, but I want to highlight key phrases from each:

- a sermon...that [leaves] one with a deeper sense of the world's ironies and complexities.
- a culture of Christianity that does not encourage thought.
- Churches...which have...culled out all traces of...depth and learnedness...
- a powerful tendency...to make belief itself small...

Both Wolfe, from the standpoint of a citizen, and Robinson, from the standpoint of a Christian, call for a thoughtful, deep, learned, robust Christian faith, that takes into account "all the world's ironies and complexities" precisely so that "behavior" will not be "small." Wolfe criticizes evangelicalism for failing to have such depth; Robinson criticizes mainline churches (in whose tradition we at Westminster stand) for failing to use it.

We spend a lot of time at Westminster in processes that are marked by depth: classical music, thoughtful preaching, adult education led by experts in their field, nine-month classes on scripture and theology, liturgical worship, personal sharing and growth in faith groups and Authenticity.

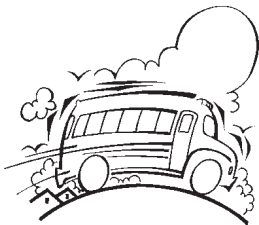
I both believe and pray that the time, dedication, and energy we give to such depth is such that our behavior – in rearing our children, in loving those with whom we are most intimate, in serving the many ways we serve through Westminster, in seeking to create a better life for all in Alexandria, in working in Washington, D.C. – is rarely small.

I both believe and I pray that the depth with which we express our faith leads to action that is bold, daring, and compassionate.

What we do at Westminster, at its best, leads us to serve the world God has created and redeemed, in the name of the Christ who has called us by name, empowered by the Spirit in whom we abide.

Let us never make belief – or behavior – small.

- Larry Hayward



Westminster Travelers

Monday, November 12. 9:30 a.m. depart from church & 9:50 a.m. depart from Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads. *Westminster Walkers*. A new project! Drive via church bus to Long Branch Park, Carlyn Springs Road, Arlington. We plan a leisurely walk of about 45 minutes on a paved path by a rushing stream. \$1.

Thursday, November 15. 1:00 p.m. Depart for *The National Gallery of Art* to see the Edward Hopper Exhibit. \$1.

Tuesday, November 27 – Friday, November 30. 7:00 a.m. Departure. *White Star Tour to Asheville, NC*. Contact Sandy Calhoun, 703-549-4766, ext. 122, to inquire about available space.

Friday, December 7. 5:45 p.m. *US Army Band Concert* at DAR Constitution Hall. Eat an early supper and dress warmly if we have cold weather because we will be waiting in the bus or van until the doors open at 7 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show. \$1.



THANK-YOU'S & MORE

Thanks so much,

For the marvelous meals and care we have received during our joint convalescence under the inspired direction of Linda Harkness, caterer extraordinaire, we have enjoyed meals prepared by her and Donna Cramer, Martha Girard, Marty Klein, Molly North, Joyce Dain-Porteous, Carri Stoltz, Barbara Watts, Cecily Woodrow, Barb Wyman and Lisa Zickar. Also, the wide-ranging chauffeuring by Bea Hurt was essential.

Dick and Micheline Williams

Dear friends,

You have been so thoughtful to send so much care to me during my lengthy illness. I do want to thank you for your prayers and your many kindnesses.

Sincerely,
Ester Jones

Dear Friends at Westminster,

Thank you for the lovely and cheerful flowers you sent. They remained fresh for a week and reminded me each time I looked at them of the blessing it is to be a part of the caring Westminster community. Your notes and cards were also appreciated.

Warmly,
Marge Smith

Dear Friends at Westminster,

Thank you for all your expressions of concern prior to and following my recent surgery. The flowers, card, phone calls, DVDs, and e-mails have been healing for both body and soul. I'm grateful for your community of love and caring.

With much appreciation,
Maggie Hayward

AN EVENING OF FUN AND LAUGHTER

Continued from page 1

- a mahogany chest of drawers
 - an authentic southern pork barbecue dinner for 12
- The youth will serve a delicious meal to you while you relax and enjoy conversation with your tablemates. The Variety Show will begin after dinner and will showcase our middle schoolers and senior highs making music and comedy.

Tickets are \$8.00 for those over 4 with a \$35.00 cap for families. All proceeds from the evening go to fund our youth mission trips in the summer.

To join in the fun, RSVP to the church office. If you have an item or service to donate, please tell Ruth Kane (703-836-0216, rekane@comcast.net) or Patty Chamberlain (703-370-3750, chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com). As Ed Sullivan said, "it's going to be a really big show!"

Blessed to be a Blessing

In Genesis 12:2-3, God says to Abraham (Abram), "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." What an awesome honor it must have been for Abraham to be chosen and blessed by God. What an awesome responsibility it must have been for Abraham to accept that, through him, all the people on Earth would be blessed. Has there ever been a time in your life when you could hardly believe you have so much good in your life; you are bursting at the seams with joy and praise for God and the blessings He has given you; you want to share with others your joy and your blessings? Maybe you feel the same awesome responsibility that Abraham felt thousands of years ago -- his call by God to take his blessing and use it to be a blessing to others.

Abraham's life certainly was not an easy one, and, as we see in the Bible, his faith and trust were often put to the test. We, too, might feel blessed by God but often struggle with our daily walk. God's blessing does not leave us when we struggle; His blessing comes from our continued faith and trust in Him and in His son Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:9 says, "So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith." As members of Westminster Presbyterian Church, we are blessed with a dynamic faithful congregation, a beautifully renovated house of worship, and a Pastor and staff who are committed to serving Christ. As we enter this year's stewardship season, let's follow in Abraham's footsteps and accept the responsibility of our many blessings by seizing the opportunity to be generous -- generous with our time, generous with our talents and generous with our giving. Remember, we are blessed to be a blessing!

Susan Cloud
Stewardship Committee



Remember to set back your clocks on Sunday, November 4, 2007 for Daylight Savings!

A Tribute To Dorothy Neyman

We, at Westminster, are fortunate to have a Memorial Fund, which endows many of our enriched music offerings and experiences for our church musicians, Westminster members and friends, and members of the surrounding community and metropolitan area. It is the Rosalie Brown Stubbs Memorial Fund founded in 1980.

When Rosalie Stubbs died, Dorothy Neyman and her brother Dr. Donald Stubbs established an endowed fund in Donald's wife's name in which only the interest could be used to support special music events – freely offered to all who attended. The focus of the fund was to present two to three concerts a year, which would appeal to the various age groups at Westminster. The fund also supported special music offerings featuring vocal and/or instrumental professionals during special times of the year, i.e. The Commonwealth Brass at Christmas, Easter, and Remembrance Sunday, and large choral works with additional professional musicians as needed. As to the choice of concerts beginning in 1980, decisions were made by the combined efforts of the first Minister of Music, the sequential Directors of Music Ministries and the Music committee.

The first concert was in 1981, a 40 piece orchestra featuring organ, strings and tympani with Robert Shafer conducting. Other concerts included Eileen Gunther organist, the Brass ensemble of the National Symphony Orchestra, J. Reilly Lewis, The Phoenix Boys Choir, The Singing Sergeants, The Washington Saxophone Quartette and the University of Maryland New Dark Age Percussion Ensemble, The Mill Run Dulcimer Band featuring Appalachian Folk instruments and folk songs was invited twice. Perhaps Gene Kendall, one of our pastors dancing clog steps to one of the favorite melodies had some influence on the return engagement.

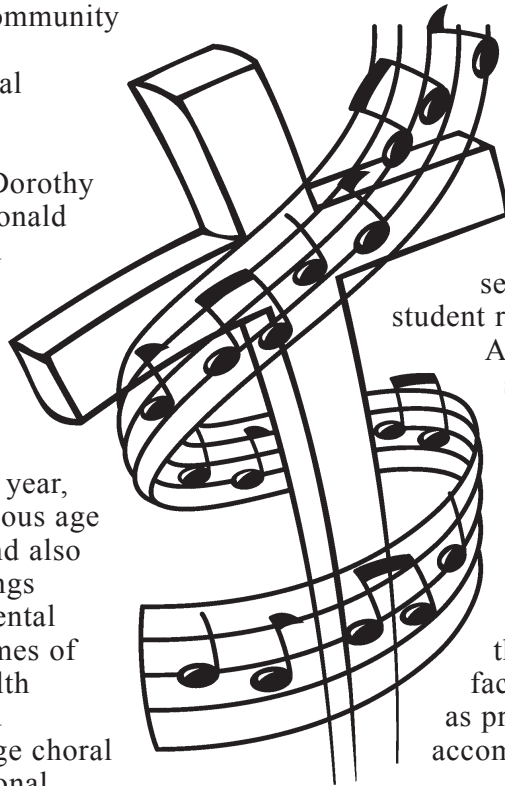
The Young Artist Series, which is also supported by the Stubbs Fund, was initiated in 1986, and

became extremely popular. Outstanding high school students, and three returning as college students, whether as soloist or as members of small ensembles, were invited to participate at Westminster morning services performing at the prelude and during the offertory. All students had to meet a strict criteria prepared by the music committee. Many chosen had won first place at the National Symphony Competition at the Kennedy Center. Jane Ring was the first coordinator of this series followed by Patricia Strother. Each student received an Honorarium and a Young Artist Certificate. We usually had 5 or 6 students from September to May, until 2004 when 83 Young Artists had participated. The first was Alexander Kerr in 1986. He has since become Concert Master of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra. Many of the other Young Artists are members of Symphony Orchestras throughout the United States and Europe, some as faculty members in colleges, and others as professional performers, and accompanists.

Dr. Stubbs died in 1997. Dorothy Neyman made an official request that the fund be changed to the Donald and Rosalie Stubbs memorial fund which was granted. The same restrictions applied.

In closing, several years ago, Dorothy established an additional fund, the Dorothy Neyman fund without any restrictions. This fund financed items at Westminster including the sanctuary choir chairs, the tympani, various organ adjustments and repairs and items that the music budget could not afford. Throughout the years, members of the Stubbs family and some Westminster members have also contributed to the Stubbs Fund. Dorothy Neyman, a fun loving and vivacious individual, died in 2005 at the age of 96, but her legacy lives on for which we are most grateful.

Shirley J. Shelley
Former Music Committee Chair



ADULT EDUCATION

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

All adults are invited to the following programs. No registration is needed. For further information, contact Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 x120).



October Classes

I. Living with Dying: A Conversation about Last Things, October 21 and 28, 9:45 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. Haverkamp Room.

The Rev. Drema McAllister-Wilson, chapel minister at Wesley Theological Seminary and a former pastor of Fairlington Methodist Church, will be the guest teacher. Through presentations, films, storytelling, and sharing, she will discuss how our culture approaches death and bereavement and what Jesus said about last things.

II. Invitation to the Old Testament, October 21 and 28, 9:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M., Westminster Room.

The leaders are Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, and all are welcome.

November Classes

I. Mormonism and Pentecostalism: Growing Traditions Born in America, November 4 through 25, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Haverkamp Room.

A Pentecostal speaker, arranged by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, will speak about the charismatic movement and Pentecostal churches on November 4 and 11.

Kenneth Bowler, director of public and international affairs for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will speak about the history and current situation of the Mormon church on November 18 and 25.

For background reading, the staff of the Interfaith Conference recommends *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century*, by Harvey Cox, and *Mormon America*, by Richard Ostling. An informative interview with Mormon historian Richard Bushman may be found on the website of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life (<http://pewforum.org/events/?EventID=148>).

II. Parenting 101: The Basics of Becoming a Proactive Parent, November 4-25, 9:45-10:45 A.M., Westminster Room.

Through videos and discussions, this series will help you become a proactive rather than a reactive parent. It will teach you how to parent with a plan and with God in the center.

The series is designed for parents of children and teenagers. Patty Chamberlain—elder-elect, preschool teacher, and mother of three—and other Westminster parents will lead the discussions. Books with short readings and suggestions to accompany the videos will be available for \$7.00. They are very helpful but not required.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP NEWS

All women readers are invited to discuss *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen on Monday, October 23, at 11:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. in the church's Cliff Johnson Parlor.



The November pick is *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler. Discussions will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 26, at locations to be announced.

Contact Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 X120) for details, or just come join us.

Fall clean-up day

Mark your calendars! Fall Clean-up day will be November 17, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. till noon. Bring your rakes, brooms and gloves. Help clean up the church lawn and enjoy a fall fellowship morning outside!



CHURCH OFFICERS

The following church officers were elected at a congregational meeting on October 7. They will be undergoing training over the next few months and will be installed in early 2008.

Elder Class of 2010(Unless noted)

Patty Chamberlain – class of 2008 (one-year term): Patty was a member of WPC from 1990-1993, moved to Connecticut, and then rejoined in 1996. She has served on the New Member Committee, helped with the children's choir, taught in Creation Station. She currently is our Wedding Coordinator and also teaches 2 year olds in our Westminster Preschool. She is active in two PTA's, and is her swim team's rep. Patti enjoys traveling with her family, gardening and reading.

Brad Buchanan: Brad has been a member of WPC for 18 months. Since joining he has served with our Youth Ministry. Professionally he is a CPA with the Price Waterhouse Coopers Accounting firm in Northern VA. He grew up in North Carolina and attended the University of Virginia. He is a football fan and enjoys outdoor activities with his wife Tiffany and 2-year-old Kenton.

Linc Cummings: Linc is a long time Presbyterian, ordained as a Deacon and Elder. At WPC he has been chair of the New Member Committee, served as an usher, lay reader, task force member, and actively participated in Tables for Eight, Travelers, and Men of Westminster. He is currently vice-chair of the National/International Presbytery Committee on the Preparation for Ministry. Professionally Linc is a retired IBM executive and President/CEO of Cummings & Associates, Inc., a national association consulting firm headquartered in Alexandria. He was founder of the national Community Associations Institute, long-time flight instructor, FAA Accident Prevention Counselor, Boy Scout leader and has been active in a number of civic associations. Linc is married to Marti Klein, and he has four children and three grandchildren. He and Marti have participated in several international mission trips.

Gail Donley: Gail and her husband, Mike, have been members of Westminster for 27 years, and all three of their daughters were baptized here and have been raised and nurtured by the Westminster family. While she has enjoyed serving on a variety of committees, she is probably most passionate and enthusiastic about the church's outreach to the visitors in our midst, those who worship beside us on Sunday mornings. Gail hopes to use her time on the Session to broaden this ministry by reaching out beyond our sanctuary doors to those searching for a church home. She is a Registered Nurse currently working Oncology at Alexandria Hospital.

Lanny Griffith: Lanny has been a member of WPC for 6 yrs. He has served as an ordained elder for 12 years, and has

been on the Session for the past 3 years. During this time he has served as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee. He and his wife Susan were Co-Directors of the recent Encore Campaign - Realizing the Dream. Lanny is a lawyer and Chief Executive Officer of Barbour Griffith LLC in DC. He and Susan have two children - Sally Hamilton, a senior at Wake Forest, and David who is 18.

Dave Gunter: Dave has been a member of WPC since August 2006 after moving to the DC area. He sings in the choir and since joining has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and has also been active with the Young Adults. Dave is an environmental lawyer with the Department of Justice. He enjoys singing in various choral groups. He and his wife Katherine enjoy hiking and biking.

Ken Niemann: Ken has been a member of WPC for 13 yrs. He has been a deacon since 2004 and has served on the Worship Committee and as Captain and Coordinator of the ushers. He is an engineer and has a consulting firm in Old Town that serves the electric power generation industry. Ken enjoys outdoor activities - hiking, camping, fishing, skiing and golf. He is also a private pilot. Ken is married to Julie Merrill and has a daughter Claire who is 13.

Karen Olson: Karen has been a member of WPC since 1990. She is a member of the choir and has served on the National/International Missions Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Personnel Committee, Communications Committee, Pastor Nominating Committee and AGAPE. She works at Carpenter's Shelter and has served as Church Administrator. Having retired from the US Air Force in 1993, she currently is a Project Leader for the Institute of Defense Analysis. Karen's interests also include Wolf Trap and the Alexandria Symphony.

Anne Pickett: Anne has been a member of WPC since the mid-80's. She has been a deacon for 6 yrs., an elder for the past 3 years, a George Mason tutor, van assistant, office assistant, and is a member of Sarah Circle. Anne is retired from the staff of the House of Representatives. She enjoys gardening, stained glass, yoga, tai chi, cooking and reading.

Deacon Class of 2010 (unless noted)

Christine Matthews – class of 2008 (one-year term): Chris has been a WPC member for 14 yrs. During that time she has served as Chair of the Westminster Weekday Preschool board for 2 terms, chaired the fellowship Coffee Hour (2007), has been a Teacher/Shepherd for Creation Station and completed the Disciple course. She is President of Bellwether Research and Consulting, a public opinion research firm specializing in public affairs and political polling. Chris co-chairs the Garden/Natural Education Committee at her daughter's school and also serves with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. She enjoys swimming, tennis, and hiking.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Mike Barnhart: Mike Barnhart has been a member of WPC for just over 4 yrs. He and his wife Patti came from Peoples Church in East Lansing, MI where Mike was a Stephen Minister. He has been a Deacon since 2003 and has been an usher and on committees that drafted a mission statement and developed recommendations on early worship. He is a Public Affairs Consultant and managing Director for Public Strategies, Inc. He is interested in politics and government, having a Ph.D. in political science. He is interested in sports, especially hockey and football, and enjoys good movies. He and his wife Patti have a daughter Meghan, who lives in Minneapolis and is a merchandising analyst for Target.

Kim Davis: Kim has been a member of WPC for the past 18 yrs. She has taught Sunday School for 3 and 4 yr. olds and also served as Sunday School Superintendent. She is currently a homemaker but has worked in public relations for more than 15 yrs. Kim has been active in her children's school, serving as President of the APT (Association of Parent Teachers), and also as president of the Parents Council of Washington. Her volunteer work includes the Campagna Center and the Child and Family Network Center. She and her husband Randy, also a WPC member, are parents of Kendall 19, a freshman at Lafayette College and Briggs, 17.

Marbeth Paulsen: Marbeth and her husband Tom have been members of WPC for 7 months. She is a new member of the Ruth Circle and a retired teacher. She and Tom have been married for 47 years and have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. During Tom's 34 years of active service, they moved 22 times and Marbeth taught wherever they were stationed, both children and adults. She enjoys a book club, needlepoint, CBS bible study, travel and her grandchildren.

Nancy Pitcher: Nancy joined WPC 17 yrs. ago. She has taught children's Sunday School and has been known as "The Art Lady" for Creation Station since it's beginning. She also has served on the Stewardship Committee and helped with various other youth-related activities. Nancy serves as Director of Administration for the Real Estate Roundtable, a trade association in DC where she has been the past 31 yrs. Nancy enjoys sewing, crafts, spectator sports and hiking. She is the mother of Hanna Gopi who came to her through adoption from India 16 yrs. ago. Gopi, a former youth elder, is attending James Madison University.

Janet Riksen: Janet officially joined WPC in 2006 after being affiliated here for several years. She has participated in many activities such as Ralph Surette's adult education classes, committee to redesign the bulletin, and Crossing the Threshold Committee (Nancy Todd). She is a continuing member of Kathy Harkness' Faith Group, has participated in two Authenticity courses and will be in Larry's Christian Believer class. Janet is a member of the WPC choir and will perform with a group of other choir members in a joint concert with Agudas Achim this fall. She is Senior Projects

Officer at WETA, Public TV and Radio, where she has worked in on-air fundraising for more than 20 years. She enjoys many hobbies: music, art, photography, nature walks and gardening. She is married to Michael Riksen and has two sons Jonathan 24 and Tyler 20.

Ron Shoemaker: Ron has been a member of WPC since 1998. He has served as a Deacon and as an usher for the past 3 yrs. He has been active in the Flying Solo program and currently serves on its steering committee. He completed last year's Disciple class. Ron is an attorney with the IRS - working in the Tax Exempt Organizations office. He plays tennis and is on a local tennis club team. His other interests include gardening and reading.

Betsy Smith: Betsy joined WPC about a year ago. She has gone on the women's retreat, completed the Disciple course, and served as an usher. Betsy has been retired from the Fairfax County Public Schools since 1991 where she taught high school mathematics and also served as a high school administrator. She enjoys history, especially genealogy research and traveling with her husband Lee. She has been a docent at the Smithsonian for 14 yrs. and participated in DAR and Jamestown Society activities. She has 2 daughters, 4 granddaughters and 2 great-granddaughters.

Sam Ulm: Sam has been a member of WPC for 24 yrs. He has previously served as Elder and Deacon, chaired National/International Missions Committee and served on the New Member Committee. He represented WPC in the formation and early operation of Carpenter's Shelter. Sam and his wife Anne volunteer with the Bag Lunch Program. Sam is currently working in non-profit management after a career with a large trade association. His two sons grew up in WPC and Sam is now the proud grandfather of a baby girl.

Sheila Weiss: Sheila and her husband Eric joined WPC earlier this year, having been Presbyterians for 25 yrs. Sheila volunteers in the George Mason Elementary tutoring program and also has worked on the Rebuilding House in April. She particularly enjoyed the question and answer sessions at Agudas Achim earlier this year. Sheila worked as an accountant for several years but recently began teaching ESOL classes with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia's Family Learning center. Sheila enjoys gardening, stained glass, quilting, cooking and traveling with her husband Eric.

Trustee

Mike McAdoo: Mike has been a member of WPC since 1983. He has served as Elder, and on the nomination committee in 2004. He is currently a Foundation board member, a Trustee, and a BSA Troop 129 committee member. He is an attorney and enjoys golf. He is married to Susan, also a WPC member, as well as their 3 children - Chris, Katherine, and Will.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Nominating Committee (Calendar year 2008)

Anne Gross: Anne has been a member of WPC for 36+ years. She has served as a Deacon and Elder, chaired the National and International Missions committee, taught Sunday School, completed the Disciple course, and is currently serving on the nominating committee. She participates in Tables for Eight and is a member of Sarah Circle. She enjoys antiques, travel and being an on-call grandmother to her two local grandchildren. She is married to Walt Gross and has two grown children - Alicia McCaslin who lives in Alexandria and Clay who lives in Athens, Ga.

Suzanne Neureiter: Suzanne has been a member of WPC since 1998. She has worked in the church nursery and Sunday School, participated in Circle 10 and now the Hannah Circle, worked on the Congregational Life Committee, served as an usher, and worked on the Vision Awareness for the recent Encore Campaign. She taught English Literature and Writing at the University of Pennsylvania and in Beijing, and is currently a homemaker. She enjoys camping, reading and spending time with her family.

Fitz Woodrow: Fitz has been a member of WPC for 36+ years. During this time he has served as a Deacon, Elder, Usher, Superintendent of Sunday School, taught Sunday School, was President of the Men of the Church, coordinated the Men's Retreat, and served on numerous committees. He is married to Faye Woodrow, and they have three adult children who have grown up in Westminster. He is retired from the United States Marine Corps as an infantry Colonel of Marines. He presently works in international trade. Fitz enjoys spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Larry Wynne: Larry has been a member of WPC for 5 yrs. He served on the Building and Grounds Committee, served as a Deacon, and helped write the Mission Statement. We are particularly grateful to Larry for the terrific job he did with Coffee Hour while we were at Agudas Achim. Larry is a Senior Inspector for the Department of Justice. He enjoys jogging and gardening. Larry and his wife Mary Love, a life-long Presbyterian, were members of 8 Presbyterian churches during his 30 years of naval service. They have two grown children - a son Regan who is married to Theresa and lives in California and a daughter Elizabeth who lives nearby.

Young Adults



Wednesday, October 24 - World Series Viewing. Join Casey and Jim FitzGerald at their home for pizza and baseball! 2833 Cleave Drive, Falls Church, VA. Please RSVP to Casey FitzGerald via e-mail at YoungAdults@wpc-alex.org

Sunday, November 4 - First Sunday Brunch. All young adults are invited to the home of Micah and Holly King for our monthly brunch following the 11:00 a.m. service.

December 6, 13, and 20 - Young Adults' Advent Study: All young adults are welcome to join a special Advent study which will be held on Wednesdays in Advent (December 6, 13, and 20) at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge. We will be discussing the Advent devotional book *Reflections of Messiah: Contemporary Advent Meditations Inspired by Handel* by Jim Melchiorre (\$12.00). If you are interested in joining this special series, please e-mail Casey FitzGerald at YoungAdults@wpc-alex.org so she can be sure to get the appropriate number of books.

Flying Solo Singles Ministry

Tuesday, October 23 - Potluck, 7:30 p.m. Johnson Parlor. Please bring a salad, entrée or dessert to share. We will be putting together sandwiches for the bag lunch program. Come one, come all!

Sunday, October 28 - Roundtable Discussion, 12:30 p.m., Haverkamp Room. Join other singles for lunch and stimulating discussion!

Monday, November 12 - Dine-Out at Chez Andree, 10 East Glebe Road. Take the opportunity to try some moderately-priced local restaurants while enjoying good conversation. Those who want to carpool should meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. If you prefer, just meet us at the restaurant about 7:15 p.m. E-mail Casey FitzGerald at FlyingSolo@wpc-alex.org with questions.

Thursday, November 22 - Group Thanksgiving Dinner. If you're in town for Thanksgiving, please join other singles for a special potluck Thanksgiving dinner. Location and time TBA. RSVP to Casey FitzGerald at FlyingSolo@wpc-alex.org.

Thursday, November 15 - Special Singles Dinner: If you are between the ages of 30-45 and looking for a fun night out, meet Casey FitzGerald and others from WPC out at the Capitol City Brewing Company in Shirlington (2700 S. Quincy St) on Thursday, November 15 at 7:30 for dinner and fellowship. Please RSVP to Casey no later than Tuesday, November 13 at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.

Do Your Christmas Shopping At Westminster's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar



The Mission Committees' Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar will be held this year on December 2 and 9 following both the 8:30 and 11:00 services in Fellowship Hall.

We encourage you to honor friends, family and co-workers by giving

gifts in their names to charities supported by Westminster instead of the usual unneeded, and in some cases unwanted, gifts this Christmas. The Alternative Christmas Bazaar lets you give gifts to local, national and international charities that will make an important difference in the lives of people in our community, our nation and around the world. For example, you can contribute locally to the Arlington/Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH), Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE), Carpenter's Shelter, or Habitat for Humanity; nationally to Spirit Lake Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota or St. John's Sheetrock Ministry in Pascagoula, Mississippi; and internationally to Heifer International or the National Medical Benevolence Foundation. Cards will be available from Westminster or the organization involved to give to the persons you are honoring by your gift.

Also, this is the primary time to provide continuing support for Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. Last year support was given or pledged for all 42 of the children in residence at \$750 or \$62.50 per month per child. This year there are 48 children (31 girls and 17 boys) that need your support. And, as the Academy grows and expands increasing support for teacher's salaries at \$900 per year or \$75 per month, school supplies and scholarships to provide for teacher training and to permit local orphans and vulnerable children for whom there is no room in the residential facility to attend the Academy.

Finally, as in the past beautiful handmade gifts will be available from the Peru Bridge of Hope Partners for Just Trade and the Rural Coalition Fair Trade Group. These are gifts that also give twice: once to the recipient and once to the workers, their families and communities in Peru and in rural portions of our country.

Another Addition to Sixtieth Anniversary Honor Plaque

With pleasure, we announce that the name of **The Reverend Elisabeth Shelton Hartwell** has been added to the Westminster 60th Anniversary plaque. Upon learning about our plaque honoring members of the Westminster family who have entered careers of Christian service, Betty Nesbitt Shelton contacted us. Elisabeth is the daughter of Elisabeth (Betty) and Brad Shelton, granddaughter of member Elisabeth Nesbitt (deceased,) and niece of member Mary Jo Siclari. She was baptized at Westminster in 1980 and worshipped here until the family moved away in 1989. She graduated from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA, in 2002 with a BA in Psychology and a minor in dance. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 2005. After serving as a chaplain at West Virginia University Hospital for one year, she was ordained at First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, PA where she serves as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care to a congregation of 2200 members. In 2003 she married Tom Hartwell, who is a music teacher.

Please notify Sandy Calhoun, 703-549-4766, x 122, if you know of someone else whose name belongs on our plaque of honor.

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.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Creation Station:



We have just finished enjoying learning about Samuel in Creation Station. Our second rotation, led by Patty Chamberlain, will be on David, the boy. This rotation will run October 21, 28, November 4, 11, and 18. The children will experience this story through workshops in art, computers, cooking, games and science. All children in grades Kindergarten through Fifth Grade are welcome! Creation Station is at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Children & Worship:

Our preschool age children are learning the routine of sitting quietly for their Bible story and then responding to what they have heard. This Montessori-based storytelling program introduces our young children to the flow of a regular worship service: Gathering (welcome), The Word (Bible story), Response to the Word (creative art work in response to the story, prayer of thanksgiving and feast, i.e. snack), and Sending (blessing and goodbye). They are also learning the flow of the liturgical year. We are in the green season of Ordinary Time right now, and in December we will move to the purple Advent season. Children & Worship for 3 and 4 year olds and pre-K children takes place in the Education Wing during the 11:00 worship service.

Milestones of Faith:

In September we held classes in worship education and communion education for children in Kindergarten and First Grade. Each child received a worship bag that is filled with helpful tools and activities for learning how to worship in the regular worship service. If your child has not received a worship bag, please contact Nancy Hall Berens at 703-549-4766, ext. 121. I also highly recommend the book "A Children's Guide to Worship" which is written for both children and their parents. You can order this book from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation at www.ppcbooks.com. The Third Graders received their Bibles on September 23 and have already had a couple of classes in "How To Use My New Bible." The next Bible class is on October 21. There will be one more class in



November. If you are a Third Grader and have not received a Bible yet, please contact me at the church (703-549-4766, ext. 121)

Special Note to the Congregation:

Our young worshipers are learning to participate in the worship service. They are enthusiastic and eager to take part. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know the children of Westminster. I invite you to extend a hand of welcome and a friendly smile to them before or after the service. This will help to make them feel more comfortable in church. Thank you for understanding that learning to worship is an on-going process that the whole church family can participate in. "...and [Jesus] said to them, 'Let the little children come to me'..." (Mark 10:14).

Chili on a Chilly Night Party

Families with Children – Don't forget our Chili on a Chilly Night party for families with children (birth through 5th grade) this Saturday, October 20 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Kristina and David Hill (717 Putnam Place in Alexandria). Please bring finger food, munchies or a dessert to share, as well as a can of food for ALIVE. Our special guest will be Casey FitzGerald who has been nominated to be our new Associate Pastor for children and families. All families are invited to come meet Casey and get to know other Westminster families as well. RSVP to Kristina at 703-837-0960 or davidrhill1@verizon.net.



Special note to children and their families:

I hope that you will join me in welcoming Casey FitzGerald who is the nominee to be our Associate Pastor for children and families. There will be several opportunities for you to meet Casey including at our chili party this Saturday, October 20 (see above) and at fellowship hour after church on Sunday, October 21. Casey will be preaching on Sunday, October 28, and I hope you will be able to attend. We will postpone our last Bible class for 3rd graders so that we can all attend the entire service on the 28th. It has been an honor to serve you as Interim Director of Children's Ministries, and I thank you for your love and support during this time of transition. This is an exciting time for children and their families at Westminster, and we all look forward to Casey's leadership in this vital ministry.

Blessings,
Nancy Hall Berens

For more information on any children's classes or activities, contact Interim Director of Children's Ministry, Nancy Hall Berens at 703-549-4766 ext. 121.

Men' Retreat News

Planning has already started for the annual Westminster Men's Retreat to be held the weekend of February 1-3, 2008. As in prior years, the retreat will again be held at the popular Hollywood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Comus, Maryland. The retreat will be lead by Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, associate professor of Government at Georgetown University and Director of the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. Many of you have had the pleasure of attending the lectures he has given at Westminster's adult education classes over the years on the religious and societal influence of reform theology on this nation's development. Dr. Douglass will be addressing the relationship between faith and reason in contemporary society, and the topic is bound to be timely and provocative.

Those of you who attended last year's retreat or prior retreats know how enjoyable the program, food, and fellowship have been. We fully expect an equally enthusiastic response this year. Consider giving a personal invitation to someone who has not previously attended a retreat. Several men have already indicated that they will be attending, and you can indicate your intention by contacting Kirk Kaneer or Dudley Schadeberg. Registration will commence on November 11. Watch this space and the Chronicle Update for further information.



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

EXCITING NEWS AS WE APPROACH 2008

Much has been happening at the UO&A as we look forward to 2008. Most significantly Rev. Chege has agreed to take in five more children from local rescue centers (3 girls and 2 boys). This brings the number of children for which support will be needed in 2008 to 48 children (31 girls and 17 boys). The increased number of children is made possible by the expansion of space available for living in the new girl's dormitory and construction of a new dormitory for boys over the new kitchen and storage space. The latter construction was undertaken in response to the recommendations of the District Health Officer in a May inspection of the facilities. At that time he found that subject to complying with these recommendations, the institution has met minimum health requirements and should be registered as the United Orphanage & Academy. Prior to that we only had provisional approval to undertake development of an orphanage and academy, so this is a very, very big step forward.

At the Academy one block of four classrooms has been completed and is already in use. There are 67 children attending Early Childhood Development (kindergarten) through Class Four classes at the Academy. Pictures of the

completed classrooms in use are posted on the National/International Mission Committee bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Ground has been broken for a second Academy building that will house four more classrooms on the ground floor and administrative offices, storage space and a computer lab on the second floor. The first inspection of the facilities has been completed, so the Academy is on the way to being accredited by the government. However, to receive accreditation the school will have to be supervised for two years and have no fewer than 160 students enrolled. Once all eight classes for primary education are in session, the Orphanage will provide 40 to 50 students, so a significant number of the students will need to come from the local community. In this connection, Rev Chege is excited about the proposal to provide \$200 per year per student scholarships to orphans and vulnerable children in the local community whose caregivers cannot afford to pay for tuition and meals at the Academy. This will not only permit the UO&A to reach out to orphans and vulnerable children in the area that cannot be accommodated in the residential facility, but also will allow the Academy to obtain accreditation more quickly.

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 Spatz	Program Assistant
Larry Johnson	Sexton
Marvin Johnson	Sexton
Eddie Watkins	Sexton

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The Chronicle

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Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster
Dawn Campbell, *Production Editor*

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

Time Sensitive

Volunteer CORNER

Sunday, September 16 marked the first ever Volunteer Job Fair at Westminster. Over two dozen groups were present showcasing their activities and recruiting volunteers. The groups covered a wide range of activities including committees, support activities, and missions (local and national/international). There was certainly an opportunity to fit every skill level and time availability.

Westminster could not function without volunteers. During the year approximately 500 people volunteer for nearly seven dozen different activities. These volunteers range in age from the very young to the very old. New members and old members get involved. It is a healthy mix and it is rewarding for me to see new names climbing the list of frequent volunteers to replace others who have moved on or cut back due to their current circumstances. It is often said that you get out of something what you put into it. Based on the number of volunteers, many Westminster members are getting a lot out of Westminster.

Even though we have many volunteers, there is

always a need for more. This is especially true because we try not to overload our volunteers. However, this means we need many hands to make light the work. For example, at some churches a few people are asked to teach Sunday school every week for the whole year. At Westminster we ask people to volunteer for one week a month. This lightens the load but it means we need many more volunteers. This is just one example of how we spread the opportunities for volunteers.

On September 16 there was an opportunity to sign-up for a broad range of volunteer activities. However, if you missed that opportunity (or simply couldn't commit at that time) there will be other opportunities to volunteer for specific activities throughout the year. Westminster needs you, and I know that you will respond as generously with your time and talents as you do with your financial resources.

Thank you, Westminster volunteers,
Art Sauer
Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries
asauer@wpc-alex.org