

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

Ratatouille

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

A Service of
Thanksgiving to God
For All of Creation,
Especially Our Animals



Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2701 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
703-549-4766
www.wpc-alex.org

Sunday,
October 14, 2007

3:00 pm

Westminster Rose Garden
(cancelled in the event of rain)

One of this summer's best movies was the animated film *Ratatouille*, written and produced by Brad Bird. It is the story of Remy, a French country rat who so appreciates the taste of fine food that he refuses to settle for "ordinary" garbage on which most of his fellow rats scavenge. Because of his appreciation for excellence, he realizes that he must learn to cook for himself. He does so by landing himself in a famous restaurant and assisting the young man who has inherited the restaurant but who does not know how to cook. When Remy guides the young man – puppet-like – by pulling tufts of hair from beneath the young man's chef hat, the other cooks and customers do not realize that the real genius behind the meals they are eating is not the new, young (human) chef, but Remy the Rat!

In reviewing this movie in *The New Yorker* (7/23/07), David Denby writes that the craftsmanship of the animation is "a wonder" and that the film offers an "ardent celebration of the chef as artist." Denby goes on to say:

At a time when many Americans have so misunderstood the ethos of democracy that they hate being outclassed by anyone, when science is disdained as dangerous and expertise as elitism, this animation artist, working in a family medium, has made [a] brilliant [movie] that celebrates excellence.

This review and film struck me as relating to what we are about at Westminster. We have been created by God, redeemed and called by Christ, in-breathed by the Holy Spirit to do the very best we can do serving God in God's world. We serve through the way we love and exercise responsibility in our families and among our friends; through the way we serve as "experts" or professionals in our working lives; through the ways we serve in the political or non-profit sphere locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally; through the ways we serve our local congregation, presbytery, or denomination in worship, education, fellowship, mission. At Westminster, we don't settle for the "ordinary" on which most of our fellow Christians (and rats!) dine; we seek to appreciate and embody the best.

At the end of his review, Denby says: "*Ratatouille* suggests that some omnivores are better than others. There's nothing to do but get over it." As much as I like Denby's review, I was disappointed by this last comment. As a Christian, I recognize that not everyone has the same gifts. We are not all destined to be master chefs like Remy. But a difference in gifts does not make some of us "better than others." Rather, the challenge for all of us, and the commitment that most of us at Westminster make, is to use the gifts God has given us to the best of our ability in service of the world God has created. That is what Remy did. That is what we seek to do. There is nothing to "get over" about that...only to keep doing it.

– Larry

New Names Added to 60th Anniversary Honor Plaque

The blessings cross and adjoining plaque commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Westminster Presbyterian Church are once again hanging at the end of the elevator ramp on the second floor. Given in memory of long time member Ellenor Burchell, this display recognizes those members of the Westminster family who have gone into careers of Christian ministry. Two new names appear on the plaque: Joshua L. Geiger, and Brynne K. Crowe.

The **Reverend Joshua L. Geiger** is presently living in Dallas, TX with his wife, Shannon, and their 3 children: Silas (5 yrs.), Sophie (4 yrs.) and Naomi (1 yrs.). He is pastor of Cristo Rey Ministries and has been in that position for 5 years. It is a church plant (new church) targeting the Hispanic population of Dallas. Josh and Shannon both attended Westminster Seminary near Philadelphia and have Master of Divinity degrees. He is ordained in the Presbyterian Church of America. Josh and his brother, Ben, are children of Westminster members Tom and Eleanor Geiger. Both boys attended Alexandria public schools and were active in our church youth programs until the Geiger family moved back to Peru.

The **Reverend Brynne K. Crowe** was called to be Associate Pastor of First United Church of Oak Park, IL in August of 2002, having received her Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in May of that year. First United Church is a union church of the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ. Brynne worked as a congressional staffer when she was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. According to our Google search, she left the church in Oak Park in 2004 to "labor outside the bounds" within Mission Presbytery. Unfortunately, she has gone so far outside the bounds, that we have not been able to find her. If anyone knows Brynne's current address, please contact Sandy Calhoun at 703-549-4766.

New Member committee is seeking early morning folks to host the 9:15 coffee in the Johnson Parlor. This requires very minimal effort and is primarily aimed at extending hospitality to our early service visitors. If you can help please call Cathy Smyles at 703-751-1466 or e-mail her at ccsmyles@aol.com.

Church Officer Election

On Sunday, October 7, 2007, there will be a congregational meeting to elect Church Officers following the 11 a.m. service. The Nominating Committee has nominated a slate of Officers including Elders, Deacons, a Trustee, and members of the 2008 Nominating Committee. Biographical information on the nominees will be included in the Chronicle Updates in the Worship Bulletins and on the church website.

Thanks to the 2007 Nominating Committee which included Doug Anderson, Steve Denne, Don Fowler, Anne Gross, Howard Kitzmiller, Jim Silverwood, and Carol Skiba.



Westminster Travelers

- **Thursday, October 18.** 7:00 p.m. departure.
- "The Haunting of Hill House," Aldersgate
- Community Players. \$1 trip fee.
- **Wednesday, October 24.** 11:30 a.m. departure.
- Full English Tea (light lunch) at the Strathmore
- Mansion in Bethesda. Piano recital by Ellen
- Tenenbaum. \$25. Reservations close October 4. You
- may pay on the day of the trip but please note that
- once you make a reservation, you are committing to
- pay for this trip. The Strathmore Mansion is next to
- the new Strathmore Concert Hall.

- **Thursday, October 25.** 7:00 p.m. departure.
- "Intimate Apparel," Little Theatre of Alexandria.
- \$1 trip fee.

Please note: The motor coach tour to Chicago planned for October has been cancelled due to insufficient interest. Flyers for the **November 27 – 30 trip to Asheville** are available in the church office. Deposits of \$100 per person are due October 4 with the balance due on October 25. This trip is nearly full.

Call the church office to make your reservation.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

Just a friendly reminder, 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. We encourage you to honor friends, family, and co-workers by giving gifts in their name to charities supported by the Westminster Mission Committees. Cards will be available to present to your gift recipients.

In addition, as in the past, beautiful hand made gifts will be available from the Peru Bridge of Hope Fair Trade Project and the Rural Coalition Fair Trade Group. The beauty of giving a gift from one of these sources is that it supports and encourages workers, their families, and local communities in Peru and in the rural portions of the United States.

Finally, this is the primary time to provide continuing support for Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya for 2008. All 42 children at the Orphanage will continue to need to be supported in 2008, and, as the Academy grows and expands, increasing support for teachers salaries, school supplies, and scholarships for orphans and other vulnerable children in the Moi's Bridge area will be needed.

 Notes From Associate Pastor
Karen Blomberg

PASTORAL CARE ASSISTANT

Member Jill Ewell is serving in the capacity of volunteer Pastoral Care Assistant at Westminster. Jill has participated in numerous training programs, including the Art of Pastoral Care, sponsored by the American Association of Pastoral Counseling (AAPC). She is a Pastoral Care Specialist through the AAPC certification process.

We welcome Jill to our pastoral ministries. As we prepare for Sandy Calhoun's retirement in June of 2008, Jill will be visiting with our seniors and working closely with Sandy, the Deacons, and me. A pastoral care task force has formed to assess our pastoral needs, and Jill will assist in this process. Jill will be introduced formally in a worship service later this fall. *Welcome Jill!*

Karen B

Remembering Ed & Phyllis Sanders, And Our Responsibilities

One of the things I do to keep thin these days is to run from committee meeting to committee meeting. Presently I'm Chair of the Stewardship and Interpretation Committee of Presbytery.

The job of our committee is to try to interpret the Presbytery's Operating and Mission Budget to the churches of Presbytery, to run workshops on how to conduct stewardship campaigns in the local church...and last, but certainly not least, what we call Wills Emphasis...holding before people the need to make a will and suggesting a few places where they might leave their assets.

Did you know that 6 out of 10 Americans have not made out a will? They are the ones who have not yet heard that the mortality rate worldwide is still 100%. That is foolish, I would say even irresponsible, for adults not to have a will.

It is through a will that you can express where you would like most of your assets to go. They will obviously go, if you have made out a will, to the persons and places you love.

You are winding down a campaign here at Westminster, which has allowed you to make some wonderful and needed changes in this place. Many of you have contributed most generously of your time, talents and material possessions to this cause. But in all this, never forget that you stand on the shoulders of people in the past who thought enough of the mission of

Westminster to pledge generously, and in many cases, to remember this church in their wills so that it may carry out the work that God has given it to do.

Two such people, for instance, are Ed and Phyllis Sanders, who loved Westminster enough to work so very hard through the years for its good. Among the many contributions that Phyllis made was her leadership of the Bag Lunch Program. Over the years, Phyllis and her friends made more than 30,000 sandwiches to feed the poor. Ed served on the Session and on the pastoral search committee, which brought me here in 1980. Don't hold that against him. He was a tremendous human being.

When they sat down to make out their will, they had plenty of loved ones to think about. And they remembered them in their will. But they also remembered Westminster in a wonderful way, which has given a mighty boost to the work of God in this place.

My hope is, first of all, that if you haven't made out a will, you do so for the sake of those you love. And second, that you will remember this place and the wonderful work it has yet to do. Yes, you will be planting seeds for trees under whose shade you will never sit...but those who come after you will benefit in ways that you cannot even begin to imagine.

George Pera
(on behalf of the Westminster Foundation)

ADULT EDUCATION



**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.

I. Invitation to the Old Testament

9:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M., Westminster Room, through October 28, with 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. A short study guide is available for \$6. Come to as many sessions as you can.

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

9:45 A.M.-10:45 A.M., Haverkamp Room, through October 14, with Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown, and Director, Reformed Institute

This lecture series is examining 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.

III. Living with Dying: A Conversation about Last Things

9:45 A.M.-10:45 A.M., Haverkamp Room, October 21 and 28, with 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.

WOMEN'S GATHERING TO FEATURE "THE MYSTERY OF JUNIA: THE LOST APOSTLE" ON OCTOBER 3

All women members and friends are invited to a gathering on Wednesday, October 3, at 7:30 P.M. in the Westminster Room. Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water will present a talk about "The Mystery of Junia: The Lost Apostle."

In his letter to the Christians at Rome, Paul praised Junia as a prominent apostle, yet her name has been erased from many Bibles. Why? Who was she, and why does it matter?

The program will be followed with desserts made by Presbyterian Women circles and conversation in the Johnson Parlor. Come and bring a friend.

COURSES FROM THE REFORMED INSTITUTE

The Reformed Institute, sponsored by Westminster and other area Presbyterian churches, is offering four courses on the third Saturday of each month from October through March. The courses will take place at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean from 10:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M. The course topics are The Great Awakening in 18th Century America, How the 16th Century Reformation Transformed Personal Lives, Deepening Our Spiritual Lives, and the African-American Religious Experience. Register on-line at www.reformedinstitute.org, or get a brochure from Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 X120).

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER

The September book is *Eat, Pray, and Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. It will be discussed on Monday, September 24, at 11:00 A.M. at Goodwin House/Bailey's Crossroads and at 7:30 P.M. in the church's Johnson Parlor.



The October book is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. The discussions will be held on October 23 at places to be announced.

Contact Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 ext. 120) with questions. All women are invited.

Fall Craft Workshop Classes

Below is a list of September and October classes and costs. All classes will meet in Room 104, except Boxwood, which will be in Fellowship Hall. To register, or if you have further questions, please call Madeline Ramsey at 703-379-7458.

You may also bring a project from home or just come hang out and visit us in Room 104 any Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - noon or 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Hope to see you soon !

- **Fused Glass Jewelry** - Tuition \$50, Supplies \$55
Four separate classes:

September 19-20th	7-10 p.m.
September 22nd	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
November 3rd	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
November 28-29th	7-10 p.m.
- **Beginning Stained Glass** - Tuition \$80, Supplies \$40
September 27, October 4, 11, 18th 7-10 p.m.
- **Bead Stringing and Knotting** - Tuition \$30, Supplies \$35

October 3rd	7-10 p.m.
November 1st	7-10 p.m.
- **Precious Metal Clay** - Tuition \$30, Supplies \$45
October 13th 10-2 p.m.

Peru Earthquake

There was a massive earthquake (7.9) in Peru on August 15 that killed hundreds of people and left thousands homeless and without food and water. Though assistance has helped many of the victims, rebuilding homes and lives will take many months and even years.

Because Westminster has sent mission trips to Peru on three different occasions, there is genuine concern about how we can best help people affected by the earthquake. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Office has set up a special fund for receiving financial donations for the Peru relief efforts. Money allows the relief workers in Peru to buy the food, blankets, building materials, etc. that are most needed and appropriate.

Donations can be made to PCUSA designating Disaster Response - Peru (Project ID: DR000179) and mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (USA)
100 Witherspoon St., Louisville, KY 40202.

Online donations using a credit card can be made by referring to the web page Presbyterian Church (USA).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2007

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – ended when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, and for that reason, November 11, 1918, was generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.” This had stayed true for two decades until the World War II broke out.

The focus of the Remembrance Sunday service is the ordinary soldier of World War II. All wars – even of global magnitude – are initiated by a mere dozen in the government. WWII started by the respective governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan with the end result of 60 million people dead, making it the deadliest conflict in human history. Ordinary people do not start wars; however, serving as soldiers, they pay for peace with their lives.

Many nations were involved in WWII, however for the purpose of the service, four nations – Germany, Japan, Russia, and United States – will be represented

by the letters of ordinary soldiers. Each of the four nations went into war for different reasons: Germany – to conquer the world and to establish the global Nazi regime; Russia – to defend their country from a direct aggression; Japan – to maintain the Japanese hegemony in the Far East; and United States – to end the war and destroy the Nazi regime once and for all. The four letters of the soldiers do not directly represent these reasons; however, they provide a testimony of the human character, a portrait of once-alive ordinary people on both sides of the conflict. Each letter, due to its particular content, will be designated as a service rubric i.e., Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Benedictus. On the musical level, these four are also represented by the four movements of Jehan Alain’s Mass (for choir and instruments).

The choral and organ music of Jehan Alain has been chosen to represent the voice of an Artist-Soldier. Jehan Alain (1911-1940) was a French composer; drafted to defend France from the Nazi invaders, he was killed in action.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We had a wonderful opening to our new church school year on Sunday September 9 with many old friends back and many new friends to meet and greet!



CREATION STATION (K-5th grade) started off with an Open House to learn more about this year's rotations and to see the newly re-decorated classrooms and "creation" hallway. Creation is an ongoing process! We are still looking for volunteers to help us complete the mural painting in the hallways – so just let us know if you have a few hours to spare and would like to help. Contact Nancy Hall Berens at 703-549-4766 ext. 121 or by email at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org. We also need a few more teachers and shepherds for future rotations. Our first rotation is now going on and we are learning about Samuel through October 14. Jennifer Larrison is our coordinator with workshops in art, computer, games, cooking and storytelling. Join us at 9:45 am on Sundays!

Children and Worship (3, 4 yr old & Pre-K classes for children born in 2004, 2003, and 2002 in Pre-K) also had a great start with a general orientation for children and parents. This is a worship/storytelling experience for young children, which includes all the elements of reformed liturgy in a quiet worship setting. This takes place during the 11:00 worship service in the children's worship center on the third floor. The children have a chance for creative expression in response to the story each week. Drop off and pick up in 203 for 3s and 205 for 4s and Pre-K.

1&2 year old class (for children born in 2006 & 2005) meets at 11:00 in room 204. The 1 & 2 year old class follows a simple, age appropriate, Bible-based curriculum, which includes stories, prayer, songs, art work, play and snack.

Nursery (for children born in 2007 & 2008): Our youngest children are also in safe, loving hands in our new nursery which is located at the entrance to the 2nd floor hallway in room 206, just as you enter from the education wing foyer. Our dedicated nursery workers are available for childcare of all preschool age children during the 8:30 service and the 9:45 education hour. Nursery care for babies continues through the 11:00 worship service.

The preschool age classes and superintendent positions are now fully recruited with just a few positions left to fill in CREATION STATION. Thank you to all the volunteers who have offered to minister to our children in this way for this program year. Your energy and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated! Thank you!!

MILESTONES OF FAITH DEVELOPMENT:

Presentation of Bibles and first How to Use My New Bible class for 3rd graders will be on September 23, immediately following the children's sermon. Additional classes will be held on October 14, 21, and 28.

Communion Education for Kindergarteners (and any 1st graders who have not had this training) and their parents will be held on Sunday, September 30, after the children's sermon.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP OR CHILDREN IN WORSHIP???

The names may be confusing so here is a quick explanation:

Children in the 3 and 4 year old/pre-K classes attend a special program called "Children and Worship" during the 11:00 worship service in their very own worship center located on the third floor (drop off and pick up on 2nd floor). This is a worship experience designed just for them in a setting that allows for learning how to sit quietly and listen to Bible stories, followed by a creative response time.

Children in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited and encouraged to attend the regular worship service with their parents or loving adult (they are children in worship!). Worship education is provided for them when they first start to attend church in Kindergarten and there are children's bulletins and pencils available each week. In addition, we have worship bags for the youngest of the children filled with appropriate activities that are instructive and fun to work on during the service. It's amazing how much they pick up from the service even when they don't seem to be "paying attention." Bringing small children into our midst is something like letting the smallest member of the family eat at the dinner table. Sometimes they may wiggle, poke, and swing their legs simply because they are children; but they also sing with us, pray with us, and worship with us. I hope that you will join the pastors and me in making sure that Westminster is a place where all worshippers feel welcome – even the little ones!

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.

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Mark your calendars! Be on the lookout for our next fun family event coming up in October for families with any children ages birth through 5th grade. We are planning an encore of our Chili on a Chilly Night that was such a hit last fall. This year we will meet at the home of Kristina and David Hill (717 Putnam Place in Alexandria) on Saturday, October 20 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. We would like to extend a special invitation to families who are new to the church or new to parenthood! Come meet other Westminster families and enjoy some yummy chili!



**HEY YOUTH!
YOUR BODY IS
AWESOME!**

Our bodies are often the source of anxiety, not amazement. Is this what God intends for us? Not so much (check out Psalm 139: 13-14)! Both Middle School and Senior High youth are invited to a Sunday field trip to the Bodies Exhibition in Rosslyn on Sunday, October 7th at 3:00. The exhibit is a tasteful and awe-inspiring presentation of the human body. The cost is \$26.50 for adults & youth over 13; \$18 for youth 12 and under. If we have enough people, we can qualify for a group rate, so please let Patrick know if you can/will attend.

KEY OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUTH

- 10/7 Joint trip to Bodies Exhibition
- 10/14 Fellowship (4:30 – 6:00 for MS; 7-8:30 for SH)
- 10-19-21 MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT to the Goodwins! (please RSVP by 10/14)
- 10/21 SH Fellowship (7-8:30)
- 10/28 Holy Zone!



SAVE THE DATE: VARIETY SHOW, DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

On Saturday, November 3 at 6:30, the youth of Westminster invite the congregation to enjoy dinner and a show in Fellowship Hall. We will also have a silent auction to raise money for youth mission. If you have an interesting item, service or weekend cottage you'd like to donate for the silent auction, please contact Ruth Kane at rekane@comcast.net or 703-683-0216 or Patty Chamberlain at chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com at 703-370-3750.



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

SO FAR 2007 HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR

2007 has been a very good year, so far, for the United Orphanage & Academy. By February pledges of support for all 42 children in the residential facility had been received as well as support for the salaries of five teachers at the Academy. Later in the year the Lenten Challenge Grant Offering produced \$28,462 which was used to purchase a good used van to transport the children, to complete fencing of the property to improve security and to commence construction of a new kitchen. Pictures of these uses of the Lenten Challenge Grant Offering are on the National and International Mission Committee bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Finally, construction of classrooms for the Academy was commenced with a \$7,000 grant from National Capital Presbytery and \$5,000 each from Westminster and Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The first block of four classrooms has been

completed and is in use by classes for grades 1 through 4. However, in 2008 the process commences all over again. All 42 children at the Orphanage will continue to need to be supported at the rate of \$750 for the year or \$62.50 per month. Money for construction of additional classrooms at the Academy will be needed. And, as the Academy grows and expands, support for additional teacher's salaries at the rate of \$900 per year or \$75 per month will be needed, as will additional school supplies. Next year, as an outreach to orphans and other vulnerable children in the Moi's Bridge area that cannot be accommodated in the residential facility, we will be seeking scholarship support of \$200 per child per year to cover the cost of admitting children to the Academy as day students whose care givers cannot afford to pay for tuition and meals.

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

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church
Contributors
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