



Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
—worship well—

save
the date

June 8, 11:00 a.m.
Church Picnic

Details to come
in the next Chronicle.

If you'd like to help, contact

Patty Chamberlain,

703-370-3750,

chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com



the chronicle

april 24, 2008 - volume 39, number 9

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

Worship Well

worship well: the sequel

I have been pleased by the number of times people of Westminster have referred to our new logo with its "tag line" – *worship well*. What this shows me is that slowly but surely we are beginning to think what it means to be a congregation of faithful people who mark our life by our commitment to place worship of God at the center of our common life and to offer our best in the elements of our worship – Gathering, The Word, Response to the Word, and Sending.

Directly related to worshipping well is the concept – rooted deep in the prophets of the Old Testament – that worship leads directly to action in the world. A few sentences in our *Christian Believer* workbook say it well:

"The prophets and the psalmists knew ritual, important as it might be as a conveyer of worship, was meaningless if not marked by a commitment to lead a righteous, godly life. The quality of worship was measured by interior matters – sincerity, integrity, purity of heart – and exterior matters – justice."

The sequel to "worshipping well" is serving in the world: those near us in our families, those who live across the street in our neighborhood, "the least, the last, and the lost" in our community, and those unfathomable numbers of people in the world who have physical needs far greater than we imagine.

- There are many ways to take our worship into the world through Westminster ministries: volunteering through our local mission programs, going on one of our national or international mission trips, supporting our extensive work in Africa. This newsletter and our website are full of such opportunities.
- There are many ways to take our worship into the world: serving on boards and agencies, directly helping people in need, serving in the law firms, governmental agencies, lobbying shops, corporations, schools, hospitals, artistic studios, scientific labs, think tanks, medical practices, military branches, political campaigns, non-governmental agencies, businesses and countless other avenues through which we exercise our vocation.

Even in a fallen world marked by complexity, uncertainty, and (yes) sin, a world in which no one person can accomplish everything, we can still do our best to "let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an every-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24).

Such worshipping well – the sequel.

Larry



thank-you & more

thanks to camden

A special thank you goes to Westminster member Camden Richards for her work designing the new church logo which you are seeing on the church website, Chronicle header and bulletin cover. Camden donated her professional expertise to help the Communications Committee and Session by designing the logo based on the mission statement developed previously by the session. You will soon be seeing the new stationary and staff business cards which she also designed. Next time you see Camden, let her know how much her work is appreciated.

to the westminster women's retreat 2008,

I would like to extend my appreciation for the support and love from the ladies who attended this year's retreat. The teachings and the surrounding of the site will remain with me for a very long time. I encourage everyone, if you have the opportunity, to attend such blessed experience. Thank you.

Micheline Williams

I would like to thank the members and staff of Westminster for their visits, cards, flowers and prayers during her long illness. It was truly a wonderful outpouring of Christian love and certainly speeded recovery.

It's hard to express appreciation for such care and love.
Thank you,
Mary Hupper



May 8 (NEW DATE). 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Shenandoah Valley Adventure: Yellow Barn, American Celebration on Parade, Shenandoah Caverns. \$15 (Reduced price) Catered lunch is complimentary. Call the church office to reserve.

May 19 - 24. Ottawa & The Thousand Islands Bus trip. \$850 per person/double room. It is not too late to join this reasonably priced escorted trip. Call Sandy Calhoun for more information.

Thursday, June 5. Little Theatre of Alexandria. *The Underpants*. \$1 trip fee.

All Westminster Travelers programs are planned with senior adults in mind. However, we accept persons under age 60 when space is available. We welcome friends from outside the Westminster congregation. Reservations are made by calling the church office.

thank you from the animal shelter,

Thank you to all the people who donated to the animal shelter. It has been appreciated by all the staff and animals at the shelter. And the generosity has been overwhelming. Thank you again!

Ellen Livingston

thank you

I want to thank you for honoring my retirement from the Preschool during the church service on April 6 and at the reception afterwards. Each time I use the beautiful etched vase, I will remember fondly my years of service. What fun it was at the reception afterwards to see all the former and current students and parents!

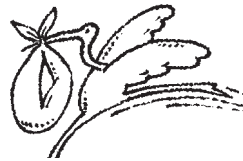
I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities and challenges during the time I served as the Preschool director. These were made easier because I knew I had the consistent support of the church leadership and staff. This support of the Preschool is one of the major reasons the Preschool has gained the reputation it now enjoys. It has been a great 20 plus years and I will miss it; but I look forward to staying involved at Westminster in other ways.

Thank you once again.
Nedra Trahant

congratulations

Newsweek has named Rabbi Jack Moline, longtime friend and neighbor of Westminster, #3 on their list of "top 25 pulpit rabbis" in America. The award is based on a survey in which "ability to inspire the congregation through scholarship and oratory," "community leadership and innovation," ability to meet spiritual and personal needs and goals of his/her congregation," and "leadership within denominational movement" were the criteria. Congratulations, Jack and the people of Agudas Achim!

birth announcement



Congratulations to **Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald** and her husband **Dr. Jim FitzGerald** on the arrival of their new baby boy, **William James FitzGerald**. He was born April 18, 2008 at 7:05 p.m. weighing nine healthy pounds. Both son and mother are well.



from Associate Pastor

Karen A. Blomberg



The person in this picture is Rabindranath Tagore, who lived from 1861-1941. He is known particularly in Bangladesh and in India for his poetry, novels, short stories, songs, and essays. He was a Hindu mystic as well. The following words of his were shared this month at the Local Missions meeting by Priscilla Goodwin, Chair. These words are relevant for our life together, and a reminder that truth comes from many places and traditions.

*I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and BEHOLD, service was joy.*

Service opportunities abound at Westminster. Please note the opportunities which are regularly highlighted in the Chronicle and Chronicle Update as well as the website. In our dreaming and waking moments, may we know such joy.

Voice of Bengal

Rabindranath Tagore, who died in 1941 at the age of eighty, is a towering figure in the millennium-old literature of Bengal. Anyone who becomes familiar with this large and flourishing tradition will be impressed by the power of Tagore's presence in Bangladesh and in India. His poetry as well as his novels, short stories, and essays are very widely read, and the songs he composed reverberate around the eastern part of India and throughout Bangladesh.



flying solo (singles) upcoming events

Flying Solo is a group for singles in their prime years (more or less 40 and above) belonging to the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The group offers single adults the opportunity for Christian fellowship, spiritual and intellectual growth, and service to others. Please let me know if you would like to know more about singles ministries at Westminster! You can reach me at 703-549-4766, ext. 121, or at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org.

that?? Bring your questions for Larry about the life and ministry of pastors and join us for lunch and stimulating discussion. This event is sponsored by Flying Solo for all singles in the church. Lunch will be provided.

flying solo singles – regular monthly events in may:

Monday, May 12: Our Dine-Out in May will take us to Saigon Saigon restaurant in Pentagon Row at 1101 S. Joyce Street in Arlington. We meet the second Monday of each month at a local restaurant for an evening of food and fellowship. If you want to carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, we'll meet at the restaurant at 7:15.

Tuesday, May 27: Our Potluck will take place in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 pm. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, we gather at church for a casual potluck dinner and for our monthly mission project (making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program). Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share. We also encourage you to bring a can or two of food for ALIVE! to help replenish their supplies.

singles roundtable on may 18:

"Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Pastors (But Were Afraid to Ask)" is the topic for the Singles Roundtable led by Pastor Larry Hayward on Sunday, May 18 at 12:15 pm in the Haverkamp Room. Here is your chance to ask all those questions you've been wondering about such as What exactly do pastors do all week between Sundays and How do they find time to do all

Blessings!
Nancy

children and family ministry



making an "ugly quilt"

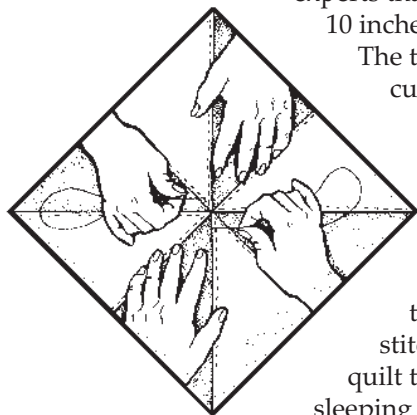
In the *Washing Feet* rotation of Creation Station, Westminster Presbyterian Church children in kindergarten through grade five demonstrated their love

for others just as Jesus showed what it means to love and serve others by washing his disciples' feet.

The children showed God's love by crafting a quilt for a homeless person. They fashioned the quilt, just as the group *My Brother's Keeper* does, by making them from good quality but old materials to discourage theft on the streets. Thus, the name given them is *Ugly Quilt*.

The kindergarten children began by taking donated quilt pieces and placing their own foot and/or hand prints on them. Once the top and bottom covers of the quilt were batted in place, the fourth and fifth grade children were the experts that tied the pieces every 10 inches with crochet cotton.

The third grade children securely sewed on the tails that are used to hold the sleeping bag in a rolled up position. The first and second grade children were responsible for folding the quilt in half and stitching the edges of the quilt together to form the sleeping bag.



The quilt was presented the following week at the 11:00 a.m. service. It was donated the following Tuesday to Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, VA.

Thanks to the Children of Westminster, for their service of patience, care, and skill, which made the 'ugly quilt' so beautiful. Many special thanks go out to Shirley Shelley, for so much of her skill and time in between classes to plan and help layout the process of putting the quilt together. Her generosity enabled the children to have this wonderful experience to serve Him.

By Bonnie Paladino, teacher of our "Ugly Quilt" unit in Creation Station!

sign up to teach or shepherd for 2008!

We are looking for folks to shepherd and teach in Creation Station beginning in September of 2008. Our theme for this year should be quite enriching: Living God's Word. This life-to-Bible study will encourage children to live as Christians in the world by building on their life experiences and connecting them to important Bible stories. Units include: Self-Esteem, Forgiveness, Making Choices, Journey to Bethlehem, Acceptance, Peer Pressure, and Respect.

Teachers are responsible for preparing lessons based on our Power Xpress curriculum, and teaching four weeks in our Creation Station church school program. Types of workshops include art, computers, cooking, games, music, science, storytelling, and video.

Shepherds are responsible for specific grade levels for anywhere between a three to five week period (most units are four weeks). Pick between grades kindergarten, 1st and 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and 5th grades. Shepherds provide support to teachers and children during the lessons. This is a great way to enter into participation in Creation Station.

If you are interested in teaching or shepherding, please contact Patty Chamberlain at chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com.

morning for moms

WPC's moms and kids group continues to meet in Creation Station each Wednesday morning between 10:30 and noon. We'd love to have you join us! Contact Marcy Crisler for more information at marcy@hockingcounty.com for more information.

m&m week, june 16-20

Music and More Week is the summer music day camp experience for children completing kindergarten through fifth grade. Now in our 17th year, M&M Week is a popular activity for children at Westminster.

Our schedule this year is Monday through Thursday, 1:00-3:30 and Friday, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. We will present our musical this year for family and friends on Friday at noon, followed by a picnic in Fellowship Hall.

Our musical this year is "David and the Giants." This is a wonderful story about David, the shepherd boy and his encounter with Goliath. We will be learning the story through song, drama, art and computers.

The tuition of \$25 per child helps to defray the expenses of tee shirts, art supplies, and computer programs.

If you have questions concerning M&M Week or wish to volunteer, please contact Molly Roden by email: MJRoden@aol.com or through the church office: 703-549-4766.

We look forward to sharing this week of fun, faith, and fellowship with you and your children!

young adults ministry



First Sunday Brunches

Come to a brunch sometime soon and enjoy the company of your fellow young adults!

Sunday, May 4, 12:30: Hosted by Jason and Audra Ziebel, 6930 Cove Inlet Ct, Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060. Please RSVP to Jason at jason@zeibel.com.

Sunday, June 1 at 11:15 in the Haverkamp Room: POTLUCK BRUNCH—Bring your favorite brunch

BRUNCH

item or drink to share. (Be advised, summer services are at 10:00 a.m.!) **NO JULY BRUNCH** (Have a great July 4 weekend!) Stay tuned for August!

Dinner with Friends is Back!

If you are interested in participating in small group dinner with folks your age from the church, please sign up today! We will be forming entirely new groups, so even if you've participated in the past, please sign up again! We hope to get things started by June.

Cyndi Zieman will be helping to coordinate this important fellowship ministry.

Scavenger Hunt Adventure!!!

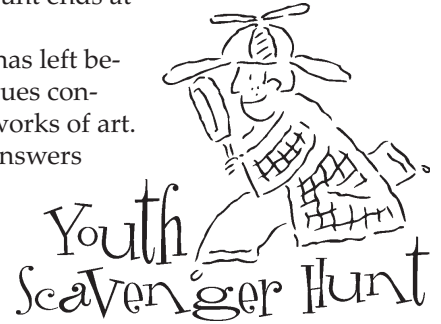
"The Murder at the National Gallery"

Saturday, June 28, meet at the church at 12:45 p.m. (Hunt ends at 4:30)

A murdered curator has left behind a cryptic trail of clues connected with secrets in works of art. As your team gathers answers about the art, you begin to piece together a sordid tale about greed, lust, pride, revenge and treachery, all revolving around the museum's planned multimillion-dollar purchase of a Rembrandt. The murder victim knew too much—and now it's up to you to learn what he knew and discover what drove one of four suspects to commit murder. To find out, you'll have to crack a secret code left in the victim's appointment calendar. Can you figure out who dunnit? Be prepared for our most challenging hunt. Price: \$22.50 per person (this is negotiable if you need assistance).

Please RSVP to the main office by emailing Oraly Spatz at ospatz@wpc-alex.org.

RSVP ASAP!!



what's up with our youth?

In this space, we'll feature news and notes from our accomplished and ever-active youth. Please take a moment to read these few nuggets and share your excitement with the youth and their families

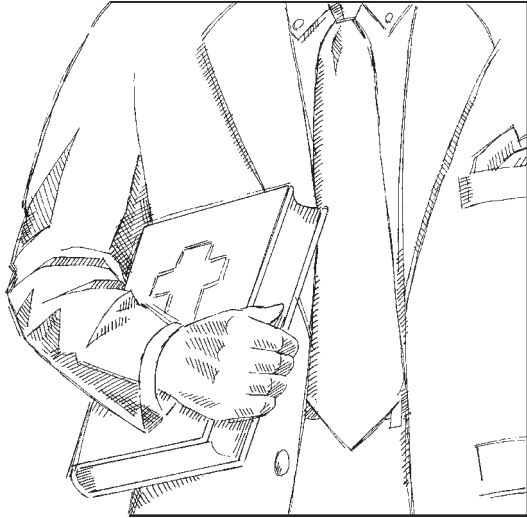
when you see them in church. And, if you would like to be listed here next month, just email Patrick!

(phunnicuttt@wpc-alex.org).

• **Lisa Carlson** (8th grade, GWMS), daughter of Ron & Vicki Carlson, had a great run of science fair competitions, coming in first place at the George Washington M.S. fair, first place at the Alexandria City fair, and 2nd place at the Northern Virginia Regional fair! She explored the transmission of light to a solar cell. When not advancing scientific knowledge and progress, Lisa plays on the T.C. JV Softball team and cello for the

school orchestra, which recently won first place in a district festival.

- **Grace Goodwin** (11th grade, T.C.W.), daughter of Priscilla and Michael Goodwin, had her handiwork featured recently in the Friends Mentor exhibition at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Arts Center.
- **Elizabeth Neureiter** (6th grade), daughter of Paul and Suzanne Neureiter, won the Bronze Award, the highest medal awarded to Girl Scouts! With this accomplishment, she may be able to score us a lifetime supply of thin mints.
- **Liam Sullivan** (6th grade, GWMS), is a member of Westminster-based Scout Troop 129, plays Alexandria lacrosse and clarinet in the GW Band. In the winter, he can be found on the slopes as a member of the Bryce Resort Snowboard Team. Liam loves guitars and plays his Gibson SG as part of The IT Band, along with fellow Westminster member, Carter Goodwin (www.theitband.com).



coming in the fall..... christ and culture

A Weekly Discussion of Current Events in Light of Christian Faith

Led by Dr. Larry R. Hayward

Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sundays afternoons

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Meeting Room 103/105

September 14-November 23 (except October 12), 2008

February 1-March 29 (except February 15), 2009

The discussions will normally be based on a column or op-ed piece appearing the prior week, informed by passages from H. Richard Niebuhr's *Christ and Culture*, short Biblical passages, or other brief theological writings.

- Links to the articles will be announced on Thursday at www/wpc-alex.org as well as in the Sunday Chronicle Update. Hard copies will also be available.
- Sponsored by the Adult Education Committee of Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Open to the public
- Each session is self-contained, but regular attendance is beneficial as well.
- Participants are welcome to suggest articles or writings
- Some sessions may feature panel discussions of WPC members
- Each session is "stand-alone"
- No pre-registration
- People are free to attend week to week as they are interested in the topic
- Copies of *Christ and Culture* will be available for purchase the first several classes

This class is being offered as a follow-up to Larry's teaching of DISCIPLE I and Christian Believer the last three years. One of those classes will likely be offered again in 2009-2010, and a DISCIPLE short course, "Introduction to the New Testament" will be offered Sunday mornings at 9:45 from October 19 to December 7, led by Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring.

sanctuary flowers



If you would like to memorialize or honor loved ones with a flower arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday services, there are a number of open dates available. On most of these dates – including Memorial Day Sunday -- one arrangement has been reserved, but a second arrangement would also be welcomed. No arrangements have yet been reserved for October 5, 26 and December 7. One arrangement costs \$55; two arrangements are \$110. Please call Oraly Spatz in the church office or email her at ospatz@wpc-alex.org if you are interested.

fair trade talk and shopping fair for women



How can we be frugal shoppers and also support social justice for producers? What does the Bible say to us about becoming conscientious consumers? Come to Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. and find out! Learn about

issues of globalization, production, and consumption, and—better yet—start practicing fair trade. Enjoy shopping with four fair trade vendors who offer high-quality unique products made by artisans who are paid a fair wage.

Our speaker will be Elder Eleanor Geiger, a fair trade representative for Peruvian handicrafts through the PC(USA), who has a wealth of knowledge about the history of fair trade. The program and shopping fair are sponsored by Presbyterian Women. Dessert will be served. All women are invited. Reservations are not needed. Come and bring a friend!



Saturday, April 26
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Come help clean up
the church grounds!

one great hour of sharing offering collects \$9,500

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering had collected \$9,421.86 as of the time this story went to press. The Offering which was collected on Easter Sunday, but which still has contribution trickling in, will be divide equally between the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), Hunger and Self Development of Peoples Programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA). PDA has contributed, among other things, to the relief of the more than 300,000 people displaced by the recent violence in Kenya, including relief efforts in Molo Township within Elburgon Presbytery.

adult education programs



Classes meet Sundays from 9:45 in the Haverkamp Room. All adults are invited. No registration is needed.

I. April 27 and May 4: We Are an Easter People: What Happened in the Resurrection and Why? Lectures by Dr. Anthony Tambasco, professor of theology at Georgetown University. These classes will focus on the stories about the apparitions of the risen Christ in the gospels of Luke and John.

II. May 11: Resurrection, a video presentation by acclaimed theologian N.T. Wright, Anglican Bishop of Durham. Wright, often compared to C.S. Lewis, walks viewers through political, historical, and theological issues surrounding the resurrection.

III. May 18: Seeing Salvation: Christ in Art, a presentation of artists' visions of the crucifixion and resurrection by Jeffrey Hensley. This program continues the series on Christ's life in art that Jeff Hensley began during Advent. Hensley holds an M.A. from Yale and is an administrator for the National Association of Christian Colleges and Universities.



women's book group

The selection for May is *The Shack* by William P. Young. Discussion dates will be announced in the Chronicle Update. Or call Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 X120).



focus on missions

More on ALIVE!

Recently many of you have heard in church or read in the paper the bad news about the theft of food from ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically). The good news is that there has been a vibrant response by Westminster members, other ALIVE! member congregations and the local community to help ALIVE! recover from the theft. However, with food costs rising and the economy slowing, the need for food and cash donations persists. Another piece of good news is that all financial and food donations through the end of April will help ALIVE! qualify for a matching grant from the Feinstein foundation. To help with this effort, you can make a check out to Westminster and note "ALIVE! Food". Food collection points are in Fellowship Hall and at the door of the Education Wing. Remember, the deadline for the matching grant is April 30.

Last month's article reported on ALIVE!'s food, furniture and preschool programs. ALIVE! also provides important assistance to Alexandria's needy families through the Family Emergency Program and ALIVE! House. The Family Emergency Program provides emergency help in the form of rental assistance to prevent eviction, payment of utility bills, medicine and other critical needs and a three day supply of groceries. Last year the program was able to meet almost 2,200 requests from low-income, elderly, disabled, working poor and former welfare recipients.

ALIVE! House provides temporary shelter for women and their families and is the oldest continuously operated shelter for women in Virginia. The House provides a comfortable, home-like atmosphere in which four women and their families can use community and in-house services to improve their living, parenting, education, financial management and job skills. House staff help residents find appropriate housing upon leaving the shelter. Westminster Youth support the ALIVE! House by walking each fall in the Fannie Mae Walkathon and giving a Christmas party for the families.

Volunteers are the backbone of ALIVE! operations. Five of its seven programs are staffed and managed entirely by volunteers. Westminster volunteers are needed on May 10 and 31 for Saturday morning furniture pick-up and deliveries. Contact Margie Carpenter at mmcrpntr@aol.com if you can help. The ALIVE! web site, www.alive-inc.org, has information on other volunteer and donor opportunities throughout the year.

local missions announcements

carpenter's shelter dinner

Westminster provides dinner on the first Monday of the month, May 5. Remember to sign up for bringing food and/or serving at the Carpenter's Shelter on the easel in the education wing lobby.

do you volunteer in the community? stand up and be counted!

In an effort to better focus our efforts, the Local Missions Committee would like to know which members of the WPC Congregation currently volunteer in the community. While we are very aware of the organized efforts that support the Bag Lunch program, and meals at Carpenter's Shelter and SOME (to name a few), we'd like to know what other organizations or activities our members support—both those that we support through our current Local Missions committee and those we do not.

Please respond to the following via email to Rita Grazda, rgrazda@aol.com:

1. Your name
2. Your email and phone number
3. Organization you support (include address, phone number and website, if available)
4. What service do you provide?
5. How often do you serve (e.g. hours per week, month, etc.)

If you volunteer for more than one community organization, please provide details on each.

Thank you for your help!

Habitat for Humanity:

The Maple Ridge Habitat Project will start in June, actually in the area where we parked to work on the Westbrook Forest Habitat Project. This will be a 9-unit condominium, and our work days will probably be assigned next month. The site is located at 11328 Westbrook Mill Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030, at the intersection of Waples Mill Road and Lee Highway. We'll be looking for 20-25 people to work on each of our assigned days (usually 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Wednesdays or Saturdays), as well as for a vendor/group/individual to provide lunch for about 35 workers. For questions or to help, please email Chris Poole, pooleplace@hotmail.com.

report on kenya

My recent trip to Kenya to visit the United Orphanage & Academy with Chris McAdoo and Rhonda O'Bannon of Old Presbyterian Meeting House was both more discouraging and more hope inducing than I had anticipated.

The discouraging part was the evidence of horrific violence in which stores, farms and homes predominantly of Kikuyus were fire bombed, and because adobe is not highly flammable, doors and windows were broken out with sledge hammers. We saw the church just outside of Eldoret where 19 women and children who had sought refuge there were burned to death by locking the doors from the outside and setting the building on fire. In all more than 1,200 had been killed and more than 300,000 rendered homeless. We saw 30,000 refugees camping out at the Eldoret Fairgrounds in United Nations supplied tents and 10,000 more in a refugee camp at Mount Elgon. At Burnt Forest we saw 6,000 people living in shacks cobbled together from tin roofing sheets and other salvage. While it appeared that these camps were receiving an adequate amount of ground grains for feeding, in all other respects the living conditions were bad and that was before the onset of the rainy season which will begin any day.

Although the power sharing agreement that was signed off on while we were there has brought the violence under control for now, it does not appear that it will do anything to get the people in the refugee camps to return home. First because most of them have no homes to return to, but even if they did they would not feel safe doing so. They do not trust the police to provide protection and the horror of neighbors that they had lived among for 50 years and considered friends turning on them with no compunction will not be soon forgotten. It will take a long time to rebuild any

kind of trust and meanwhile the displaced will continue to live in refugee camps for the foreseeable future.

On the hopeful side the UO&A appears to hold more promise in its ministry of reconciliation than ever before. Because of its multiethnic approach to the intake of children and the hiring of staff and teachers the UO&A was afforded protection of local officials. None of the violence that swirled all around it impinged upon its campus. We found the children as joyful and loving as ever. And the Academy unlike many of the local public schools was able to open on January 14 for the 2008 school year, which it did providing education from Early Childhood Development through Fifth Grade for the children in the residential facility and from the neighborhood whose parents could afford to pay \$100 a year tuition and lunch fees. Construction was proceeding on the three story permanent stone Academy building, with the first floor almost complete. In fact the Fifth Grade class was meeting in one of the four classrooms on the first floor.

The most hopeful thing to come out of our visit was the decision we made that scholarships should be awarded by a board consisting of a representative from each of the seven tribes that inhabit the area to insure fairness and that all will be represented among the students at the Academy. We believe that such an approach will not only improve the chances of the UO&A surviving any future violence, but also will serve as a model to the community of ethnic diversity and harmony - the very things that are necessary for Kenya to move into the future. To this end we are seeking as many scholarships at \$100 per child per year as possible. So far this year we have 14 scholarships pledged.

—Henri Rush

july 19 to 26 mission trip to reynosa

For the last 20 years, Faith Ministry of McAllen, Texas has been working to improve the lives of the poorest of the poor in Reynosa, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from McAllen. Their programs have helped to build three sanctuaries in the barrios of Reynosa where poor Mexicans have the opportunity to nourish their spirits through worship at Sunday services and receive support in their daily struggles to survive and raise their families. With support from congregations like Westminster, which has sent groups to Reynosa on a number of occasions, Faith Ministry supervised the building of hundreds of small, one room homes for families living at the margins of Mexican society. Finally, with support from Westminster, among others, Faith Ministry's health clinics provide medical services to families that cannot afford private medical care.

A few years ago Tom Geiger and a group from Westminster assisted a Reynosa family of five that had an estimated per capita income of approximately two dollars a day. The oldest daughter in that family was hoping to study to be a pastor.

The home that Westminster volunteers built for them was a bare cement block one room structure, but for this family, it represented a dramatic improvement in their living conditions. That experience was a joy and a blessing for everyone who participated, the members of Westminster and the Mexican volunteers who work with Faith Ministry and, of course, the family members who received the new home. Experiences like these bring memories that will be with you forever.

This Summer Westminster hopes to send a team which will be led by Tom Geiger to Reynosa to construct a home from July 19 to July 26. Please consider joining us. The Westminster team needs at least six volunteers to be able to build a home for a Mexican family. In addition Faith Ministry's two clinics are now in operation and may provide opportunities for those of you who are professional health care providers. Your help would be much appreciated.

Please contact Henri Rush at Westminster or Tom Geiger at thomasgeig@gmail.com if you would like more information.



news from
**united orphanage
& academy in moi's bridge, kenya**
hope for the future

As you have read elsewhere in this publication the situation in Kenya, including in areas surrounding the United Orphanage & Academy are dire and do not provide much cause for being hopeful about the future. UO&A stands out as one bright spot in that otherwise barren landscape. If it can survive the chaos that surrounds it, and it will need our prayers as well as our financial support to do so, it can serve as a model for the ethnic diversity and harmony essential to rebuilding Kenya's future.

The residential facility currently houses 50 children (33 girls and 17 boys) representing four of the seven tribal groups that live in the Moi's Bridge area. While we were there we settled upon an operating budget for the residential facility of \$37,500 for the year 2008 even though future increases in the cost of food as a result of the violence are not quantifiable at this time. To date we have raised just over \$20,000 so we need to raise a substantial amount to cover operating costs for the year. We are still seeking support for children at the amount of \$750 per child per year or \$62.50 a month. Of course lesser amounts to support the operating costs of the Orphanage will be gratefully received. Checks should be made payable to Westminster and noted on the memo line "orphan support".

The Academy is presently providing classes from Early Childhood Development through Fifth Grade for 99 children (35 from the residential facility and 64 from the local community) it has a staff of seven teachers the salaries for whom have been either provided or pledged for 2008. Construction of the three story stone Academy building is progressing as funds permit and it appears that with the \$15,000 to be sent in May from the National Capital Presbytery, Old Presbyterian Meeting House and Westminster it will be possible to fully complete the first floor and commence work on the second story. The most urgent need for the Academy is the development of a sufficient number of scholarships at \$100 per child per year to allow the soon to be created board of representatives of the seven tribal groups in the region to have a meaningful number of scholarships to allocate. Checks to provide scholarships should be made payable to Westminster with the word "scholarship" noted on the memo line.

Pray that God will continue to bless the ministry of peace and reconciliation represented by the United Orphanage & Academy and through it may bring peace and reconciliation to the Moi's Bridge area and all of Kenya.

westminster scouting news

Nick Wilson, an Eagle Scout from Westminster's Troop 129 was selected to be part of a ceremony for the Pope at the White House on April 16. Nick, a 17 year old senior at T.C. Williams high school was part of a contingent of 30 Roman Catholic Eagle Scouts selected from the National Capital Area Council, BSA who formed part of the honor guard for Pope Benedict on his arrival at the White House and during the Pope's speech on the South Lawn on Wednesday morning. While in Troop 129, he completed nearly 100 night camping and hiked over 200 miles. He completed his Eagle requirements in January 2008. Nick will be attending William and Mary this Fall.

men of westminster

Men of Westminster meet May 9 in Fellowship Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 AM for breakfast and conversation. This month's meeting features Gen. Malcolm P. Hooker, USAF (Ret) with an engaging and amazing recount of his 32-year career in the United States Air Force, serving first as a pilot in World War II and the Korean War where he flew in a number of zones, commanded much of the Berlin Airlift, and later commanded most of the major USAF staff organizations. He is today president of the Air Lift Association, president of the Defense Transportation Association, and a member of Westminster. All men are invited for a lively discussion

concert to benefit united orphanage & academy on april 27 at OPMH



There will be a concert by the Children's Chorus of Washington on April 27 at 3:00 PM at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to support school construction at the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. The

Children's Chorus is a highly professional group that has sung at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and various well known choral groups.

The concert will be followed by a reception at which Henri Rush and Chris McAdoo of Westminster and Rhonda O'Bannon of the Meeting House will report on their recent trip to the UO&A with pictures and a video. Anyone interested in the UO&A or the situation in Kenya is encouraged to attend. For further information contact Henri Rush at 703-836-1935.

coffee hour hosts needed



We are searching for people to host the 11:00 coffee hour after church on Sundays once or more throughout the year. This is a great way for groups to promote their activities and let the congregation and visitors know more about what their group does. Individuals are invited to host as well. If you and your friends or family or group would be interested, please contact Oraly Spatz in the church office at ospatz@wpc-alex.org to schedule a date. A minimum of 4 people during the year, and 3 during the summer for lemonade on the lawn, works well. We have streamlined the process in order to make it as easy as possible for folks to host. You may also contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org if you have any questions. Thank you for helping us with this ministry of hospitality!

nominating committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good members who have the gifts of heart, mind and spiritual wisdom to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees, and on the Nominating Committee of our church starting in February 2009. Officers are elected to three-year term and Nominating Committee members serve for one year. We seek men and women of strong faith and conviction, joyful hearts, initiative, spiritual maturity, loving concern for others, and who are willing to take an active, informed leadership role in the life of our church so that their love of Christ, their wisdom, and their joy may be given in service to our congregation. Further information on the responsibilities of each officer can be found in the green Nominating Committee brochure in your bulletins on May 4.

Members can recommend other members (or themselves) by submitting a green (paper) nominating form to Carol Skiba, Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitting a form online via the church web site, or by calling Carol at 703-823-4065.

Jim Silverwood

Jim Silverwood is nominated for an at-large position on the Nominating Committee. He and his family joined in 1998. Since then, he has been active in Scouts, the National and International Mission Committee, and served two three-year terms on the Deaconate. He served on the Nominating Committee last year as a representative from the Deaconate. He works for the Justice Department and is currently involved with Justice-sponsored Assistance Programs in Africa and the Middle East. He was formerly a Federal Prosecutor in the Organized Crime Division. He enjoys playing basketball and golf and has been in an all-male book club for over 30 years! He and his wife Jean, son, John, and daughter Annie, live near Westminster and are very fond of dogs.

Emily Zimmerman

The Nominating Committee is pleased to place in nomination for Youth Elder an outstanding young woman, Emily Zimmerman for a term beginning July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010. Emily is a freshman at Minnie Howard and will attend T.C. Williams High School next year. Her favorite subjects in school are math and chemistry. She will be confirmed later this Spring and has been involved with our church for many years. She has participated in children's choirs, M & M Week, and has been an active member of the Middle School and Senior High youth groups since 6th grade. She runs cross country and rows for T. C. Williams Crew.

The election for youth elder will take place during the May 18, 2008 congregational meeting. Please plan to attend to show your support for this outstanding nominee.

church staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Karen BlombergAssociate Pastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
Sandra CalhounDirector of Seniors' Ministries
Nancy Hall BerensInterm Dir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
Henri RushCoordinator of Nat'l/Internat'l Missions
VacantCoordinator for Local Missions
Art SauerCoordinator of Volunteer Ministries
Nancy BeaBusiness Administrator
Tara CainExecutive Assistant
Oraly SpatzProgram Assistant
Carolyn CarmackFinancial Assistant
Larry JohnsonSexton
Marvin JohnsonSexton
Eddie WatkinsSexton

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volunteer corner

Several years ago the youth of Westminster went on a mission trip to an Indian reservation in North Dakota. They painted the church and did other light maintenance work but, most of all they worked with the children. Thus began an enduring friendship between the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia and the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota. Members of Westminster have returned three times since that first trip and plans are underway for a fourth trip this summer.

The Bdecan Presbyterian Church is located on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation near Devils Lake, ND. As with many Indian reservations, poverty (both economic and spiritual) is rampant. Unemployment and substance abuse are very high. Young people have few successful role models to emulate. There is a strong sense of separation from the non-Indian world around them. In some ways it is like another country.

Some people may ask why we have to go to North Dakota on a mission trip when there are plenty of poor people right here in our area. It is true that there is poverty in

our midst but, it is also true that there are a lot of services and many groups working with our local people in need. Westminster participates in many activities to aid the poor in our area. The same is not true on the Spirit Lake Reservation. There are few people and fewer groups to come to their aid. That is why churches from around the country sponsor mission activities to provide some assistance. These mission programs are mostly congregation to congregation. In addition, rural poverty has a different dimension than urban poverty. It is helpful for our understanding of the need for mission to witness this difference first hand.

Westminster is planning to return to the Spirit Lake Reservation from July 26 to August 2 this year. This will be an intergenerational trip. Adults and teenagers are welcome. Parent/child participation has proven very rewarding on past trips. If you are interested in participating in this very rewarding experience, contact me at asauer@wpc-alex.org.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer

Coordinator of Volunteer Missions
asauer@wpc-alex.org