



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

welcome back sunday

September 7, 2008

Join us for the start
of the new program year!

8:30 a.m.

- **Worship in the Chapel** - *Every
Profound Mind Needs a Mask;*
Larry R. Hayward
- **Nursery care for pre-kindergartners**
in Room 206

9:45 a.m.

- **Youth breakfast** in Fellowship Hall
(youth & parents grade 6-12)
- **Creation Station** (2nd floor)
classes for kindergarten – grade 5
- **Nursery and preschool childcare**
in Room 202
- **Adult Education classes**
 - *"The Reformed Tradition: Why
Bother?"* in Haverkamp Room
 - *"Three Thriving and Diverse
Forms of Christianity"*
in Westminster Room

11:00 a.m.

- **Worship in the Sanctuary** - *Every
Profound Mind Needs a Mask;*
Larry R. Hayward
- **Classes for Preschoolers**
Rooms 203 – 205
- **Nursery care for infants**
in Room 206

the chronicle

August 21, 2008 - volume 40, number 1

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

Worship Well

poignancy and thanks

I write this article long before you will read it, three days after the Memorial Service for Karen Blomberg, late at night as I prepare to leave town on a vacation for three weeks. I write it aware that what I say now may be less relevant by the time you read it.

But what I want to say is this: Karen's loss is poignant. She meant a whole lot to many people in ways we saw and in ways we will never see. She was unique and our lives are better, richer, for having known her. I am grateful to God for having known her, and for serving this great church that she served so well and so long.

I am also grateful for you. You have been your wonderful, understanding, compassionate, loving selves to one another and to all of us who work here, especially to Patrick, Casey, and I who remain your pastors, and to Nancy Bea and Tara and Oraly and Paul and Jim and Eddie and Marvin and Clara Beth and Sandy and Nancy Hall Berens and Carolyn and Art and Henri and Larry who work here and who miss her as cohort and colleague. Thank you for mourning with us and allowing us to mourn.

Remember: "In life and in death we belong to Jesus Christ."

Thanks to Karen for teaching us that, and thanks to you for making that a living reality.

Larry

In Memoriam — Karen A. Blomberg

An In Memoriam page has been put up on the church website containing audio files of the July 27 memorial service and some picture memories of Karen compiled by a friend.

Eco-friendly Chronicle

In order to save on paper and printing/ mailing costs, we are encouraging folks to receive the monthly Chronicle electronically. Many of our members already do. Starting in September everyone who has an email address on file with us will receive the Chronicle by email, unless you let the office know that you prefer to get a hard copy by mail. If you use email but do not want to receive the Chronicle electronically, please notify Tara Cain at Tcain@wpc-alex.org.



seniors ministry

dear members of westminster:

We are very pleased to introduce to you Eileen Jinks, our new Seniors' Pastoral Care Visitor. She has wonderful experience in pastoral care and I believe she will fit well with our congregation. Eileen will start on August 1 and truly looks forward to visiting with you over time. She provided the following:

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to work with Westminster Presbyterian's staff in support of the pastoral care of the congregation. I look forward to getting to know many of the senior members of your faith community, particularly those who are homebound or in continuing care communities. It will be a privilege to get to know you and hear your stories.

For most of my professional life, I have worked with words, as an editor or public information officer. In recent years—particularly through support I've received through my own congregation, Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington—I began to consider how I might serve in pastoral care. This led me to undertake the nine-month Art of Pastoral Care course, followed by a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Goodwin House. Through these experiences, I have developed my skills and been affirmed in my decision to work with seniors.

I'm looking forward to working with your pastoral staff in this most important area of ministry and hope to meet many of you.

Eileen

Please welcome her when she comes to visit. She will be formally introduced to the congregation on Sunday, September 7 during the two services.

Sincerely,
Larry R. Hayward
Pastor

same smile

As of June 30 I retired from the job of Director of Seniors' Ministries but continued working with the Westminster Travelers. The Co-Director of the Travelers, Nancy Jane Wilke, and I are happy to plan, drive, and escort trips for another year. As you can see from the Travelers' schedule, we are embarking on some new pathways and following some old favorites. My years of being a pastoral visitor and counselor have been a rare privilege. Thank you for allowing me to share in your joys and sorrows. I need only to leaf through an old Westminster Directory to be flooded with fond memories. With the hiring of Eileen Jinks and the continued work of Jill Ewell, the pastors of Westminster have excellent help in providing pastoral care to our congregation. Thanks be to God!

Sandy Calhoun,
Co-Director of Westminster Travelers



thank you

I was deeply touched by the many cards, prayers, and other expressions of sympathy I received from the members and staff of Westminster following my father's death in June. During an emotionally and physically exhausting time, I was reminded of why I consider this church to be so much more than simply my place of employment. You truly are family to me. Thank you for your compassion and support, and for allowing me to have a place in such a caring and generous congregation.

Sincerely,
Tara M. Cain, Executive Assistant

dear westminster,

I can't find the words to describe how much the support from the Westminster family has helped us in this difficult time. A member of our church family visited me in the hospital. The communion service in our home after I got out of the hospital provided so much comfort. I can't express my thanks for the amazing nursing services of Kristy and Gail, administering my IV antibiotics and then flushing my line on the weekends, to keep it open while we waited to see if the antibiotics worked. Gail brought what she described as "leftovers" which consisted of steak and brownies among other items. Alicia of course helped in countless ways with rides for Mark to the hospital, a salmon dinner, etc. The list goes on and on. KB has been amazing, checking on us. We have felt all the prayers and been helped so much. I also want to take this opportunity to remember all those who gave us rides to Hopkins after the surgery, and a special thanks to Martha Girard for coordinating all the rides! We have felt so much love and community spirit. A wonderful part of all this is that we have gotten to know several members, what an incredible congregation. We are honored and blessed to be part of this church family. I don't have words to express how we have been lifted and carried by this outpouring of love and support.

Ann (and Mark) Reumann

dear westminster friends,

I was certainly touched and quite overwhelmed with the generosity of Westminster Church as demonstrated by the check which you sent. We are most appreciative and very humbled by the strength of the familial ties of the Presbyterian Church which motivated your congregation's contribution to us. We know that Larry Hayward has been an advocate for us, but also know that it was from individual members of your congregation's spirit of sharing that we have received this donation.

We are still in the midst of the clean-up and feel confident that we will be able to be back in our building before the summer is over. Unfortunately, there are others who have been much more severely victimized by the flood. The rebuilding of Cedar Rapids downtown and several historic neighborhoods will take years. Many small businesses and thousands of homes have been inundated by the flood waters. We are setting aside donations made to us so that we may in turn funnel these funds in appropriate ways not only to support our own ministries, but also to provide support for reconstruction of lives and livelihoods as our city is rebuilt.

Thank you not only for your support of First Presbyterian Church Cedar Rapids, but also for your support of our community and its many needs as a result of this crisis. Our Session will be most grateful, as will be the congregation at large.

Sincerely,
Ted Miller, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

To my Westminster family,

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your incredible outpouring of love and support during this exciting time in the life of my family. Jim and I appreciate all that you have done for us individually and communally and are grateful that our son William will be raised in such a warm and caring church environment. We are especially appreciative of the generous parental leave I was able to take after Will was born. It was a wonderful (and tiring!) twelve weeks at home, for which I will always be grateful. I am delighted to be back in your midst.

In Christ,
Casey FitzGerald

thank you

We are very thankful for all of the notes, cards, telephone calls and emails wishing Paul well following his collapse in church on June 15. Our congregation and staff are truly caring people. Fortunately, the problem was not serious and he was able to resume normal activities very quickly.

Karin and Paul Edgell

office hours

The church office returns to fall office hours on Monday, August 18 with the office being open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



flying solo (singles) upcoming events

If you have questions about any of these events or would like to know more about Singles Ministry at Westminster, please contact Nancy Hall Berens at 703-549-4766, ext. 121, or nhallberens@wpc-alex.org.

regular monthly events in September:

Monday, September 8: Kick-off the new program year with us at our first Dine-Out of the fall. In September we will eat at Overwood Restaurant at 220 N. Lee Street in Old Town. On the second Monday of each month singles from Westminster meet 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, September 23: 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!

Singles Retreat in October:

October 3-5, 2008: Now's the time to register for the Flying Solo Retreat which will take place in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Our topic this year will be *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus: Friendship with Christ"* led by Jeff Hensley, a popular speaker in some recent adult education classes at Westminster. We will discuss how we understand friendship with Christ and friendship as both Christians and single persons in the context of our contemporary culture. What does it mean for Christ to call us "friends"? What implications does "friendship with Christ" have for the way we view friendship with others? We will be renting two traditional beach houses, side by side, in the heart of downtown Rehoboth Beach, just one and a half blocks from the beach and boardwalk. We hope you will join us! Please contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org if you need a brochure with registration materials.



computer lab for the academy

As the result of a generous gift from the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia, two people from that church and one from Old Presbyterian Meeting House will be traveling to Moi's Bridge in August to determine the feasibility of the Academy setting up a computer lab. The group will consult with Director Chege and teachers at the Academy to determine the requirements for computer equipment and software. They will canvas local distributors in Eldoret and Kitale to determine what computers and software are available to satisfy the identified requirements. If suitable equipment and software is available, they will commence a demonstration project with two to four computers. Before leaving they will work with individual teachers at the Academy to ensure that they are comfortable with the equipment and help plan for integrating them into the curriculum at the Academy for the semester that starts in September. Follow up is planned by a group from FPC Marietta in December to determine the success of the demonstration project and assess whether additional equipment should be purchased. It is a blessing to have partners like FPC Marietta and the Meeting House supporting operations at the UO&A.

We continue to desperately need support for 2008 operations at the Orphanage. As reported last month only \$27,000 of the \$37,500 - \$50,000 needed to support 2008 operations have been raised thus far. Please consider sponsoring a child for \$750 or making a contribution in any amount to "orphan support" which is the account at Westminster that is used to fund Orphanage operations.



nominating committee

The Nominating Committee has been meeting this summer to select a slate of officers for Westminster. Thank you to all of the Westminster members who submitted names for consideration by the Committee. Please hold the members of the Committee in your prayers as they finalize God's work.

The slate will be announced in September and the Congregational Meeting to elect Officers will be on October 5, 2008.

Members of the 2008 Nominating Committee:

Anne Gross	Don Fowler (Vice Chairman)
Chris Matthews	Suzanne Neureiter
Jim Silverwood	Carol Skiba (Chairman)
Fitz Woodrow	

virginia insurance counseling and assistance Program

Dealing with health insurance and medical bills can be a real headache. This is especially true for seniors and their caregivers who often must navigate the current Medicare landscape alone. The Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP) has trained counselors who provide free, confidential and unbiased counseling to help beneficiaries utilize and understand a wide range of health insurance issues and options including Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare supplemental insurance, prescription drug benefits, and long term care options. They can also assist you in filing for benefits and dealing with grievances and appeals. To reach a local counselor in Alexandria/Arlington area and take advantage of this free resource, please call Joel Mekler, VICAP Coordinator at the Arlington Agency on Aging at (703) 228-1700.

meet the Rev. Ted and Sue Wright september 21

On September 21 the Rev. Ted and Sue Wright will be participating in both church services and teaching a course on African Spirituality during the Adult Sunday School hour between services. They are Co-Directors of the African Evangelism and Church Growth Program, a joint program of the PC(USA) and the Outreach Foundation which Westminster has supported since its inception in 1984. The original Co-Directors were the Rev. Bill and Nancy Warlick, who served for almost 20 years and visited Westminster many times during that period. Ted and Sue are the third couple to serve as Co-Directors.

Over the years Westminster has contributed more than \$300,000 to the building of churches and the supporting of seminaries and seminarians in Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Wrights are currently based at the Justo Mwale Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia from where they cover the countries of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Come and meet this outstanding Christian couple who have been serving the people of Africa on our behalf for almost three years.

notes from the stewardship committee westminster is growing younger



Have you noticed an increase in the number of children participating in the Children's Sermon during our regular worship?

Have you noticed that there has been an increase in the number of baptisms in the church? These increases are not occurring by accident.

In May of 2004 Westminster had only 66 resident members in the age range of 26 – 35 (married and single) out of a total resident membership of 843. Today the number of young adults in the age range of 26 - 35 is 90 out of a total resident membership of 806. The 45% increase in young adults is largely a result of the decision by Larry Hayward and the Session to add a staff position and to hire Casey FitzGerald to focus on the ministry and outreach to the young adults of the community. Casey FitzGerald began her work at Westminster in November of 2006.

In addition to hiring Casey, Westminster began an initiative to upgrade the web site. The Session realized that the Generation Xers used the web to shop for churches. Financial resources from an anonymous gift and resources from the operating budget as well as volunteer gifts of a tremendous amount of time and talent have given Westminster an impressive web site.

The data from our data base regarding new members in the age range of 25 - 36 (single and married) confirms that the two initiatives that began in 2005 and 2006 have paid off. In 2005 there were 7 new young adult members, in 2006 13 new young adult members, in 2007 29 new young adult members and thru May, 2008 7 new young adult members.

Gail Donley, chair of the New Member Committee re-

ports, "there is hardly a Sunday that goes by when one or more of our Young Adult visitors doesn't mention how impressed they are that we have a clergy person assigned to our young adult ministry. They are the ones who tell me that the majority of churches in the area do not have young adults, let alone clergy to represent them." Gail mentions that Casey reaches out to our young adult visitors and new members both individually and collectively. "She will frequently meet an interested visitor for coffee", Gail reports. Casey provides opportunities for Bible study, mission, baseball games, dinners and game night at her home, etc. "Mornings for Moms" has been a successful program for mothers of children age 0 – 4.

Gail Donley further reports what an attraction our website has been to the Young Adults. The reason that we know that our website is the best around is because that is what our visitors and new members tell us. The majority of our first time visitors found us through the website when we were worshipping at Agudas Achim.

Westminster has had this exciting growth in part because of the financial resources pledged during our Stewardship Campaign since 2006. This is an example of what energized staff can do for our church. The Church has been blessed with staff and volunteer leaders who have a vision and are willing to act on that vision. This growing group of Generation Xers is adding vibrancy to our worshipping community and will continue the legacy of active involvement in our community and in the world. We are alive with fresh ideas and lots of energy.

A Baby Boomer from the Stewardship Committee



Thursday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. *Picnic*, Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1 bus fee.

Tuesday, September 23 - Friday, September 26, Ocean City, MD beach trip. Waiting list only. Depart at 9:00 a.m.

December 2 - 5, White Star Tour to Myrtle Beach, SC, \$485 per person double, \$575 single. Shows at Carolina Opry, Alabama Theatre & Dixie Stampede. Flyers available at church office. Contact Sandy Calhoun at church or Nancy Jane Wilke, 703-960-8174 for more information.

February 6 - 14, Holland America cruise on m/s Eurodam. Don't miss out! Our travel agency, Friendly Travel American Express, is holding spaces for us until the end of August. Details on flyer in church office.

Dedication Concert for New Sanctuary Piano & Refurbished Organ

September 21, 2008, 2:00 PM

Paul Stetsenko



Organ: *Three Chorals* by Cesar Franck
Intermission (15 minutes)

Piano: *Goldberg Variations* by J. S. Bach
(Each segment will be 45 minutes)

Reception following concert
in Fellowship Hall

focus on missions



The Local Missions Committee is rolling out our new CHES program to better communicate with the congregation so that Westminster members can learn more about our many programs in

local mission. CHES is an acronym for the five areas in which Local Missions works: Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency. For September and October, we are highlighting our programs that support Children:

- **George Mason Tutoring Program** – Tutors work with one or two children, assisting them with homework and other school assignments at the elementary school next door to Westminster. Contact: Elizabeth O'Brien, 703-684-3980.
- **Child Development Center of ALIVE** – a preschool for at-risk children, funded mostly by grants and donations, located at First Christian Church on King Street. Contact Margie Carpenter, 703-892-8164 or Louise Anderson, 703-820-3568.
- **Carpenter's Shelter** – Alexandria's shelter for homeless families, with many children currently in residence. Westminster Members prepare and serve dinner on the first Monday of the month. Other needs for children include tutoring, chaperoning trips and providing school

supplies. Contact for serving dinner: Marti Klein, 703-979-1023, Contact for Carpenter's Shelter programs: Rita Grazda, 703-837-1735.

- **Presbyterian Women Work Day** – Makes, among other things, stuffed toys for hospitalized children. Meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Contact: Nancy McIver, 703-370-1445.
- **Child and Family Network Center** – A neighborhood-based community-supported, free preschool serving approximately 135 at-risk children and their families at 4 locations. Other services provided by the preschool are speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychological assessment and social services. Contact: Diane French, 703-683-4870.
- **Share the Spirit** – In December Westminster members 'adopt' a family through the Child and Family Network Center to provide a brighter holiday for low-income working families. Contact: Christi Davenport, 703-823-0642.
- **Arlington Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH)**: Provides shelter, counseling and employment training for homeless families. Contact: Priscilla Goodwin, 703-549-6139.

save two dates

carpenter's shelter turns 20!!

Help us Celebrate

20 Years of Service to the Community

We hope you will join us in the celebration of our efforts to fulfill the needs of our clients as they work towards a better tomorrow.

Interfaith Prayer Service

Historic Christ Church
118 N Washington St
Alexandria, VA 22314
Thursday, September 25
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join us for a reflective inter-faith service, full of scripture readings, singing, and inspirational messages from Carpenter's Shelter members.

For more information, email Shaina at ShainaLamchick@carpentersshelter.org

urban country night...on the runway

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Historic Terminal A Lobby

Friday, September 26

8:00 pm – midnight

Tickets are \$75 per person before September 1st and \$100 per person after this date. Reserved tables for ten: \$1,000.

Ticket price includes complimentary parking in Terminal A.

Directions: Park in Terminal A, follow signs to the event. Also accessible by Metro via the blue/yellow lines.

Don't miss this festive, hip evening with live entertainment, delectable food, silent auction items and more.

All proceeds from Urban Country Night will benefit our education program designed to empower our families to permanently end their homelessness.

For more information or to purchase tickets, see the Carpenter's web site at www.carpentersshelter.org



tables for 8



Tables for Eight

Tables for 8 are looking for new members, as well as welcoming returning members, for 2008-2009. Participants gather in members' homes once every 4-6 weeks to share a meal and fellowship. The host/hostess provides the main dish, while other members bring various courses to complete the meal. It's a grand time to get to know people better and to share in Christian camaraderie. This is suitable for both singles and couples (adults only) and is sponsored by Congregational Life.

Plan now to sign up for Tables for 8, beginning in September, for the 2008-2009 season. There will be 3 consecutive Sunday opportunities to sign up, beginning September 7, during social hour following the 11:00 service (September 7, September 14, and September 21.) The kick-off dinner will be held at Westminster on Sunday, October 5, at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish of your choice to serve 8 people on Oct. 5. Drinks and bread will be provided. We look forward to seeing a large turnout this year. Call Janet Harris with questions : 703-764-3395.

back to school drive!

Carpenter's Shelter is seeking school supplies to help the shelter's youngest residents get ready to go back to school. There are currently many children at the shelter and we need to help them succeed in school. Please bring your supplies to the bin in Fellowship Hall. Items needed include:

CRITICAL ITEMS: Backpacks, glue sticks, large pencils, pencil sharpeners, tabbed dividers, large crayons, 3-ring binders, child-safe scissors, erasable red pencils, colored pencils, erasers, graph paper, highlighters, index cards, spiral notebooks

OTHER SUPPLIES: Vinyl pencil pouches, 4-function calculators, small staplers, large markers, protractors, scotch tape, compasses, Wet Ones, gallon zip lock bags, hand sanitizer, tissues, ruled paper, pocket folders, rulers, pocket dictionaries.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP: Gift cards to Old Navy, Target, Walmart for school clothes

Questions on the Back To School Drive? Contact Rita Grazda, rgrazda@aol.com

invitation to attend national/international mission committee meetings

The National/International Mission Committee is responsible for supervising Westminster's participation in the operations of the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya (UO&A). As you will read in an article elsewhere in this publication, the Academy is in the process of establishing a computer laboratory as the result of a generous gift from the First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia. Because of our connection with the UO&A Westminster is involved with a number of other churches supporting its activities.

The N/IMC is also responsible for supervising the disposition of \$63,500 allocated by the Session to it in the Annual Budget for such things as constructing churches, and supporting seminaries and seminarians in Africa; supporting clinics and schools in Mexico and on an Indian Reservation in North Dakota; and organizing mission trips.

Finally, the N/IMC is responsible for conducting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering at Easter; the Christmas Joy Offering; and, in conjunction with the Local Mission Committee, the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar the first two Sundays in December. N/IMC also serves as Westminster's liaison with Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad.

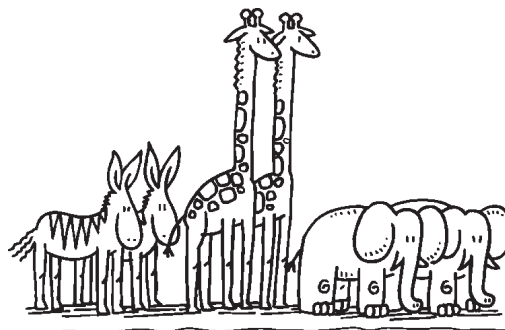
Anyone interested in becoming involved in any of these activities, or who simply wants to find out more about Westminster's involvement in mission activities, is cordially invited to attend Committee meetings. They are generally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Haverkamp Room and last about an hour. The first meeting of the Fall is September 3 and we have an exciting docket of things to discuss.

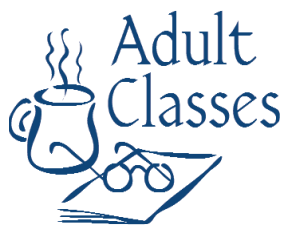
Save the Date!

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5 at 3:00 p.m.

Rose Garden





adult education programs

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. Meeting rooms will be listed in the Chronicle Updates in the weekly worship bulletins. Contact Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 if you want further information.

“The Reformed Tradition: Why Bother?”

September 7 – October 12; Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown, and Director, Reformed Institute

Examine the current state and future prospects of Reformed Protestant Christianity in the light of its history through this lecture series. What are the challenges facing us today, and does it matter whether our tradition has a future to which we are faithful?

“Three Thriving and Diverse Forms of Christianity”

September 7 – 21; Documentary Videos and the Directors of the African Evangelism Program

Take a look at the thriving Amish (Sept. 7) and growing Jehovah’s Witnesses (Sept. 14) through videos and discussion with Clara Beth Van de Water and at vital African Christian spirituality (Sept. 21) with Rev. Ted and Sue Wright, directors of the African Evangelism and Church Growth Program of the PC(USA) and Outreach Foundation.

“Will Our Faith Have Children?”

September 28 – October 12; Dr. Patricia Lyons, Teacher of Religion, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School

Hear and discuss the latest research about the spiritual development of children and adolescents, listen to their music, and take an actual tour of websites that form their landscapes for living.

“Invitation to the New Testament”

October 19 – December 7; Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, DISCIPLE I graduates

Explore the New Testament through the lens of the Gospel of Matthew because it is intentionally arranged as a resource for understanding the story of Jesus and his teachings, applying them to life together as faith communities. Read other selected portions of the New Testament as they thematically relate to issues raised by Matthew. Registration information for this discussion oriented DISCIPLE class will be in the September Chronicle newsletter, Chronicle Updates in worship bulletins, on the website, or contact Clara Beth Van de Water at church.

“Current Issues in Light of Christian Faith”

October 19 – November 2; William Suter, Clerk of the Supreme Court; Dr. John Borelli, Georgetown University; and Larry Bonney, Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Explore issues of church and state before the Supreme

Court (Oct. 19), Christian evangelistic mission vs. inter-religious dialogue and understanding (Oct. 26), and the current crisis of missing and exploited children in the U.S. (Nov. 2).

“Worship Well: Why Do We Worship the Way We Worship at Westminster?”

November 9 – 23; Dr. Larry R. Hayward, Senior Pastor, other staff clergy as available, and Dr. Paul Stetsenko, Director of Music Ministries

Understand and discuss overviews of worship (Nov. 9), preaching (Nov. 16), and music (Nov. 23) at Westminster.

“Personal Stories of Mission Participation”

November 30; Westminster Members Involved in Mission
Share in the excitement of and commitment to missions of service at Westminster by hearing stories and testimony from some of those involved.

“Unpacking Handel’s Messiah”

December 7 and 14; Dr. Eileen Guenther, Professor of Church Music, Wesley Seminary

Listen to, enjoy, and appreciate the Christmas portion and themes of Handel’s Messiah.

“Christ and Culture” with Dr. Hayward

Begins September 14

“Christ and Culture” will be a weekly Sunday afternoon discussion of current events in light of Christian faith, led by Dr. Larry Hayward from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in meeting rooms 103/105. Discussions will usually be based on a column or op-ed piece appearing the previous week, informed by passages from Niebuhr’s classic *Christ and Culture* book, Biblical passages, or brief theological writings. Links to the articles will be announced on Thursday at www.wpc-alex.org and in Sunday’s Chronicle Updates. Hard copies will also be available.

Copies of *Christ and Culture* by H. Richard Niebuhr will be available to purchase for \$12 during the first few sessions, or contact Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120. No registration is required. Attend weekly or as your interest and schedule allow. The planned schedule is September 14 – November 23 (except October 12) and February 1 – March 29 (except February 15).

Partake of this wonderful opportunity to look seriously at the issues of our day with our pastor and friends in light of our faith.

reformed institute classes

“What the Reformers Teach Us About Thinking, Praying, Living”: A Weekday Course at WPC

The 16th century church Reformers speak directly to our problems and preoccupations:

1. We're frenetically busy; they ordered their priorities.
2. We grab at freedom without discipline; they undertook obedience to God's commands.
3. We idolize assertiveness; they understood complete dependence on God.

Can the Reformers show us how to get our lives into better balance? Yes – and this course will consider how – through reading and discussion of the Reformers' works alongside discussions of our present cultural situation. Details on reading material will be provided for registrants. This course will meet Thursday mornings for six weeks from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. The dates are October 9 – November 13. The teacher is Dr. Ann White, retired chair of the history department at Edmund Burke School, Washington, D.C. Dr. White has a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, belongs to National Presbyterian Church, and is member of the company of teachers of the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. This is a Reformed Institute course.

Westminster is one of the churches that sponsors the Institute's programs. The course fee to members of sponsoring churches is \$75; Westminster members' cost is only \$60. Checks should be made out to the Reformed Institute. You can register online at www.reformedinstitute.org or pick up a registration form at our church office, at Sunday morning classes, or from Clara Beth Van de Water. Registration deadline is October 1. If

you need a scholarship, contact Clara Beth. We may be able to provide transportation from retirement homes if there are class participants who can provide rides. The course is open to members of churches in the presbytery, so it's a good opportunity to meet new folks as well as learn how to apply the Reformers' ideas to our lives in a meaningful, positive way!

Reformed Institute Courses on Saturdays at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, McLean, VA

If Saturday morning suits you, two courses will meet on the second Saturday of each month, October through March, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Courses are on Jonathan Edwards and colonial America and on Reformed interpreters of Biblical morality. All details can be obtained from Reformed Institute administrator Mary Hill at 703-518-5125 or mhill@reformedinstitute.org, or pick up brochures in the church office, at Sunday morning adult classes, or from Clara Beth Van de Water.

“The Problem and Promise of Work-Life Balance”

This Reformed Institute course is designed for folks who work in D.C. and will meet Wednesdays, September 10 – October 15, from noon to 1:15 p.m. at Western Presbyterian Church in D.C. The instructor, Rev. David Gray, has worked in churches, the private sector, and in government. Courses and registration details can be obtained from Reformed Institute administrator Mary Hill at 703-518-5125 or mhill@reformedinstitute.org, or pick up brochures in the church office, at Sunday morning adult classes, or from Clara Beth Van de Water.



what's up with our youth?

God's Passion for You(th)!

youth kick-off breakfast!

All 6th to 12th grade youth and their families are invited to our annual kick-off breakfast on September 7, 2008 at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall. It's a great time to reconnect, welcome new friends, and taste a preview of the coming year's youth program at Westminster. No RSVPs are required, but they are helpful (contact Oraly Spatz in the church office: ospatz@wpc-alex.org). Our regular programs of Sunday morning classes and fellowships will begin the following week, 9/14 (4:30 – 6:00 for Middle School; 7:00 – 8:30 for Senior High).

senior high retreat

High schoolers, put September 19-21 on your calendar for our annual fall retreat. We're returning to Meadowkirk, where we're graduating up to the high ropes course! More details to come...

looking for a great service opportunity?

Participate in the youth program! It's full of opportunities to grow in faith and fellowship with our youth, a fantastic bunch of energetic and spirit-filled young men and women. Care to make and develop ongoing friendships that deeply impact lives (yours and others)? Be a youth advisor! Want to experience and enable spiritual formation? Help learn and teach in our Middle School Youth Café! Want local and national/international mission opportunities? Pick up a hammer and join our youth in mission! Bottom Line: if you have a talent, resource or passion that you want to share with youth, no matter how small, please contact Patrick Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor, or Elizabeth O'Brien, Elder for Christian Education.

women's ministry

presbyterian women friendship circles

Seven friendship circles meet monthly for fellowship, Bible study, and service. Four meet in the evening; one is especially for mothers of young children and one for young women without children. Three meet in the morning; one at Goodwin House Alexandria.

Circles will begin a study of Luke's gospel in September. Each circle chooses its own charity to support. Information about circles can be obtained from moderator Rosa Fullerton (703-519-0392), vice moderator Alice Daniels (703-360-8082) or staff liaison Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 ext.120) a list of September meeting times and places will be in the September Chronicle Update in the worship bulletin and online at our website www.wpc-alex.org under Fellowship/Presbyterian Women. All women are cordially invited to visit a circle and join if you wish.



a bouquet of blessing for our women's retreat

Save March 27-29, 2009 for a weekend of blessings at the beautiful rural Hallwood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland, an hour from Alexandria. Our leader will be Clara Beth Van de Water, our director of adult education and women's ministries.

monthly women's workday to help alexandria hospital

A workday to make heart shaped pillows for heart surgery patients and stuffed animals for child patients is held the first Wednesday morning of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Contact coordinator Nancy McIver (703-370-1445) for details or just stop by our next workday, September 3.

women's book group

The September selection is Ken Follet's *The Pillars of the Earth*, a novel about the building of a 12th century cathedral. Discussions will be held Monday, September 22 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. All women are invited. For further information, call leader Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120.

children and family ministry



tired of the momfia? come to mornings for moms!

When I first became pregnant I was given the following warning: "Parenting is like a competitive sport in Northern Virginia." I have read another article since giving birth to Will which referred to groups of moms engaged in such "competitive" parenting as the "Momfia." I find this word extraordinarily amusing...and parenting certainly does come with a fair amount of pressure! If you are tired of the Momfia, or just looking for other moms with whom you can connect and share your experiences, please consider coming to our group on Wednesday mornings (from 10:30-noon). We meet upstairs in room 305 for conversation and snacks while the kids play (or, as it is with my son, just drool and smile). Hope to see you and your little one(s) there...no pressure!

teachers and shepherds still needed!

Casey is back and looking to fill in all of our teaching and shepherding spots for the ENTIRE YEAR. We have a lot of spots left and really need your help. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Casey FitzGerald.

M&M week was a success!

Many thanks too all the adults and children who made M&M Week so wonderful this year. Paul Stetsenko and Molly Roden did a fantastic job coordinating the program, in which children learned and told the story of David and Goliath in many different ways—including an incredible end-of-the-week musical. Look for information on next year's program coming soon!

Family Chili Night

Saturday, October 13th
4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Hosted by the Hill Family
717 Putnam Place
Alexandria, VA
703-837-0960

If you would like to bring a dish to share, please email David and Kristina at DavidRHill1@verizon.net.

Please Note
Church School Begins September 7th!

Comedian Dave Werner in "The Lighter Side of Election 2008"

Proudly presented by the Local Missions and
Congregational Life Committees

Saturday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in
Fellowship Hall

Enjoy the fellowship of an all-church potluck dinner followed by a benefit comedy performance to help rebuild the playground at ALIVE's Child Development Center in Alexandria.

Free will offering at the door.

Dave, a lawyer and a former member of the Capitol Steps, offers a humorous take on political life in the Nation's Capital and this fall's election headlines mixed with musical impressions of famous politicians.

For the potluck dinner, please bring a dish to share if you are able. People whose last name begins with A-L please bring appetizers and main courses, and those with names M-Z please bring salads and desserts.

Drinks will be provided.

Childcare will be provided during the performance.

For set-up and childcare planning, please RSVP to the church office at 703-549-4766 by Thursday, September 25.

Extra help is always appreciated! If you can help out with set-up, clean-up, or childcare please call Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or call her at church (ext. 121).



Dave Werner - comedian

Like many of his classmates, Dave Werner took his Yale Law degree to a Washington, D.C. firm to launch his career... and to win the "Funniest Lawyer in Washington" contest at a local comedy club.

Encouraged by his amateur success, Dave decided to go into comedy full time. So, in 1987, he went to work on Capitol Hill... As a Senate staffer, he joined Washington's highly regarded musical satire troupe, the Capitol Steps. Dave says he sang "in trios, quartets and committees."

Since going solo in 1995, Dave has performed for trade associations and corporate meetings around the country, entertaining them with equal parts inside-the-beltway political commentary and Iowa-bred humor. "I'm kind of a C-SPAN Music Man," he says.

Dave has appeared on the CBS's Evening News with Dan Rather, NBC's Today, and on PBS. You may also have read about him in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, or The Washington Post. From Bar association meetings in Washington, to building industry conferences in California, Dave keeps audiences around the country rolling with his routine. Westminster enjoyed Dave's performance "The Lighter Side of Washington" in 2005. We are thrilled to bring him back to our church for a second benefit performance to support local mission efforts.



young adults ministry

Faith on Tap

Calling all young adults yearning for exciting faith-based discourse and perhaps a malty beverage or a fountain soda! If you're interested, we'll be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning August 19th at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol City Brewing Company in Shirlington. We'll provide the appetizers; you provide the scintillating conversation (and a few dollars for your beverage of choice). If you are interested in joining us in August, please contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.

Young Adults Dinner Groups

Cyndi Zieman has graciously offered to coordinate our dinner groups for the Fall. If you are interested in getting together occasionally with 6-10 other young adults from the church, sign up today! Please email Cyndi at czيمان@wmata.com to sign up.

Young Adults Second Sunday Brunch

In September we will start the program year off right by heading to Dixie Bones in Woodbridge, VA for our brunch. For September only, the brunch will occur on the SECOND Sunday (September 14th). Following worship we will head out by caravan to the restaurant to enjoy some good old fashioned southern BBQ. RSVP to Casey FitzGerald.

church staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
Sandra CalhounDirector of Westminister Travelers
Nancy Hall BerensIntern Dir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
Jill EwellPastoral Care Assistant
Eileen JinksSeniors' Pastoral Care Assistant
Henri RushCoordinator of Nat'l/Internat'l Missions
Art SauerCoordinator of Volunteer Ministries
Nancy BeaBusiness Administrator
Jim BuchananFacilities Manager
Carolyn CarmackFinancial Assistant
Tara CainAdministrative Assistant
Oraly SpatzProgram Assistant
Larry JohnsonSexton
Marvin JohnsonSexton
Eddie WatkinsSexton

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volunteer corner

I hope everyone is wrapping up a wonderful summer. It's great to take a break from the daily grind. If you are like me, a vacation is not just a time to relax but, it's also a time to reflect. In days gone by I used to reflect on everything that had gone wrong in my life. That was depressing and left me drained. Then, I realized that there is nothing anyone can do to change the past but, the future is a blank page and reflecting on lessons learned can help us write a new more hopeful script. Now when I return from vacations I'm rejuvenated and looking forward to putting my new found knowledge to good use.

Very shortly Westminister will be starting a new program year. There will be many opportunities for each of us to contribute to and participate in the many activities. Elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle there are articles detailing the various activities. As you bring your summer to a close, consider how you can best use your lessons learned to serve Christ here at Westminister and throughout the community.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer, Coordinator of Volunteer Missions
asauer@wpc-alex.org