



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

—worship well—



Longest Night Service

For many people, the Christmas season is a particularly difficult one. Amidst all of the joy that surrounds us, many of us experience our own sense of loss and pain more acutely. This Christmas, you are invited to attend our Longest Night Service (held on the longest night of the year). Together we will lift up our whole selves to the Lord, asking that God's light would shine in our darkest places. Join us on **Sunday, December 21**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel, for a time of special music, scripture, stories, silent reflection, and prayer as we prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

If you have questions about the service, or would like to come but need transportation, please contact Casey FitzGerald.

the Chronicle

December 18, 2008 - volume 40, number 5

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Who Is The Incarnate One For Us?**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the incarnate one, the one who is "the Word [become] flesh" for us, I'd like to share some words from H. Richard Niebuhr about who Christ is for us:

- For some Christians and parts of the Christian community Jesus Christ is a great teacher and lawgiver who in what he said of God and the moral law so persuades the mind and will that there is henceforth no escape from him. Christianity is for them a new law and a new religion proclaimed by Jesus. In part it seems to be the cause which they have chosen; in part it is a cause which has chosen them, by wresting consent from their minds.
- For others Jesus Christ is not so much a teacher and revealer of truths and laws as *in himself*, in incarnation, death, and resurrection, and living presence *the revelation of God*. Jesus Christ, by being what he is, by suffering what he did, by being defeated in crucifixion, and by returning victoriously from death, makes evident the being and nature of God, exercises the claim of God on human faith, and thus raises to a new life the [people] he encounters.
- For still others Christianity is primarily neither new teaching nor new life but a *new community*, the Holy Catholic Church; hence the work of Christ which occupies the center of their attention is his founding of this new society which mediates his grace through word and sacrament. Niebuhr then adds:
- However great the variations among Christians in experiencing and describing the authority Jesus Christ has over them, they have this in common: that *Jesus Christ is their authority*, and that the one who exercises these various kinds of authority is the same Christ.

Whether in your own faith, you come to experience Jesus Christ as

- Teacher and lawgiver
- Revelation of God
- Or new community

What you experience and who you follow is one and the same as those who experience and follow Christ through one of the other. The one we follow is Christ.

As we are moved, once again by his birth, my prayer is that we each find our place in Christ, as teacher/lawgiver, as revelation of God, or as new community, and that over the years and experiences, the multiplicities of who he is shapes who we are.

Have a Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you at one or more of our many services during the season!

Larry



Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday in Advent - Festival Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary;

10:45 a.m. Special prelude, music by the Commonwealth Brass and Westminster Choir

Dr. Larry R Hayward preaching

Longest Night Service

7:00 p.m. Worship in the Chapel; Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald preaching

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Community Christmas Eve Service; Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald preaching

9:30 p.m. Pre-service concert, Max Reger's *Christmas Cantata*

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service, music with Westminster Choir, soloists and string ensemble

Dr. Larry R. Hayward preaching

Sunday, December 28

11:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. Patrick A. Hunnicutt preaching

Office Hours

The church office will close on Christmas Eve at 1:00 p.m. and will remain closed through Friday, December 26. Office hours on Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30 will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The office will again close on Wednesday, December 31 at 2:00 p.m. and will reopen with regular office hours on Friday, January 2. Merry Christmas from all the staff at Westminster.



From the Building and Grounds

Thanks to all who helped with the clean-up of the outside of the building. We had 30 people and some Scouts from Troop 129. There were two people who had never raked. What fun!

Thanks

To Gale Grindstaff and Fred Woods, and their company of Christmas decorators, Terry Grindstaff, Carolyn Carmack, Joan and Bill McCulla, Jackie Borthwick, Jane Ring, Joe Kelly, Faye and Fitz Woodrow, Margaret Phillips, Cicely Woodrow, Carol Dickerson, Robin McFarland, Nancy McIver, Molly and David Roden, and the Flying Solo group. All these folks have given greatly of the talents and their time to enhance our surroundings for this holiday season. Take a moment to say "Thanks" the next time you see them.

Congratulations

To Jane Ring who was honored as one of Alexandria's Living Legends in the Dec 4-10 edition of the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Jane is being honored for her extensive service to the community and particularly for her volunteer work with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra through the Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria. See the Packet's website, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com to read the entire article.

Money Matters:

Offering envelopes for 2009 for those who requested them are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall. You may still request envelopes by contacting Nancy Bea at Nbea@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766.

Stock Donations and End of Year Giving: If you are using a stock transaction to give to the operating fund or Capital Campaign, remember that stock transactions take several days to process. It would be most helpful for donors to initiate these transactions not later than December 20 to help insure timely completion of each transaction. Stock must be transferred before December 31 for it to be credited to you in 2008. Also checks to the church must be postmarked or received before the end of the year to be considered tax deductions for the year 2008 or be credited to you for 2008. The check date is irrelevant if the check is not received or postmarked by December 31.

January Statements for 2008 will reflect all church donations postmarked and received by December 31. You have received an interim year-end statement. Please review it and notify Nancy Bea in the church office of any questions or corrections to be made. In mid-January you will receive your final 2008 contribution record for tax purposes.



Focus on Missions

New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep

By Rita Grazda, Local Mission Committee

What is it with New Year's resolutions? We Americans seem compelled to commit to something that often is the same thing we resolved and failed at in the year before. Exercise. Quit smoking. Eat healthier. Be more patient. Clean the closet. Mine was ridiculously easy for 2008: Go to bed earlier. How hard could that be? Yet 11 ½ months later I'm still staying up too late and waking up too tired.

Maybe we fail because most resolutions are about us. If I don't exercise, or eat healthier or get sleep, I'm the only one really impacted. Perhaps we'd hold stronger to our resolutions if we made some that do impact others. The Local Mission Committee invites you to consider a few of these resolutions for 2009:

- Skip Starbucks once a week and at the end of each month, donate the money saved to a local charity.
- During one grocery shopping trip each month, purchase a few items on the critical needs list (peanut butter, canned goods, pasta, beans, baby formula, juice boxes, diapers, etc.) for ALIVE or Carpenter's Shelter.
- Commit to doing one volunteer activity in 2009. Whether it's helping with Bag Lunch, working with Rebuilding Together Alexandria, serving dinner at Carpenter's Shelter, tutoring at George Mason or helping ALIVE plan its spring Walk A Thon, a few hours on your part can mean a lot to those in need. Each organization's website has volunteer opportunities posted.
- Learn more about one of the organizations that Westminster's Local Missions Committee supports. Just understanding the scope of the services these organizations offer may trigger an idea of how you can help.
- Create a family project by getting your kids involved in giving back to others. Donate proceeds from a lemonade stand or mini bake sale to one of the local charities.
- Join the Local Missions Committee. We're always looking for members with energy, passion and new ideas to join us!

These are just a few simple suggestions as food for thought. If you haven't been an active volunteer in the past, start small. As we all struggle with the stress of the holidays, a scary economy and the cold of winter, let's remember those of our neighbors who are in even greater need.

Need help deciding on your CFC donation? Please consider donating to one of the local mission programs that Westminster supports. The CFC code for ALIVE! is 44658, for The Carpenter's Shelter 87293, and for Rebuilding Together Alexandria 72369. The last day to turn in your form is December 19.

The Arlandria Health Center is seeking gently used coats and hats to distribute to their clients. If you have one, please contact Nyrma Hernandez: nhanhsi@aol.com, 703-360-4387.



Westminster Travelers

Thursday, January 8. 7 p.m.
Greater Tuna; Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1 trip fee.

Monday, January 12. 1 p.m. Movie matinee. See Chronicle Update on Sunday, 1/11 for movie selection. \$1 plus movie.

Thursday, January 29. 9 a.m.
Smithsonian Museum of American Art. We'll enjoy the exhibits, including a photographic show, and the new glassed in courtyard. \$1.

As the weather gets colder, perhaps you want to reconsider joining our **cruise to the Caribbean in February**. It's not too late! Contact Sandy Calhoun at 703-549-4766.

Nancy Jane Wilke and Sandy are planning our next bus trip. We are considering Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky departing May 4 and/or Chicago, Illinois departing July 11 or 12. These trips would be for 7 days and cost approximately \$950. We would love to hear your preference.

Travelers trips are designed for Westminster's senior adults. If space is available, we are happy to accommodate guests. Register by calling the main church office number.

The Chrismon Tree

outside the Library is decorated with Chrismons (CHRIST + MONogram) which were made by women of Westminster.

The Chrismons of white, gold and silver proclaim the

Name, the Life, and the Acts of Jesus the Christ. The evergreen tree symbolizes the eternal life our Savior secured for us. The lights represent Jesus, the Light of the World. The Chrismon

Tree originated in Danville, Virginia, in 1957; and a Chrismon Tree has graced our church each Christmas since 1971.



The 2009 Martin Luther King Memorial Service

sponsored by the City of Alexandria, area churches, and civic organizations will be hosted by Westminster on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. Please plan to attend this annual community service.

Save the Date:

The Congregational Life Committee is happy to announce the first Westminster Coffee House. Saturday, February 21st in the evening.

Are you a musician who would like to perform, or are you an artist who would like to display your art work? Please contact Patty Chamberlain, 703-370-3750 or chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com



news from

United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya

Looking Ahead To 2009 And Beyond

As reported to the Session at its last meeting, in 2008 Westminster transmitted a total of \$97,705.50 to the United Orphanage & Academy for all purposes, including almost \$20,000 in emergency relief to help them deal with the violence which broke out all around their campus following the disputed 2007 Presidential election. Hopefully there will not be a need for such funds in the future. Also \$25,500 of those funds were devoted to construction of the stone Academy building, which requires only an additional \$15,000 for completion as a two story building instead of the three story building originally contemplated. Of these total funds, \$26,500 was supplied by other churches and the National Capital Presbytery. The other churches participating are: Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia.

Principal expenses for 2009 in addition to the \$15,000 (not \$10,000 as reported in last month's Chronicle) for completion of the Academy building will be \$42,500 to operate the Orphanage, \$8,550 to operate the Academy (grades K through Sixth Grade), plus as many scholarships as we can raise at \$100 per child to provide outreach to orphans and other vulnerable children in the area to enable them to attend the Academy, and finally, \$8,500 or so to pay for eight children at the Orphanage to attend Secondary schools. This figure will increase year by year as additional children at the Orphanage are prepared to attend Secondary school. The UO&A Oversight Council is actively engaged in seeking ways to deal with the increase of these expenses for future years.

We got off to a good start on fundraising for 2009 at the first week of the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar. A total of \$ 5,695 in cash and an additional \$13,000 in pledges was raised. However, as you can see we still have a long way to go to meet the UO&A's needs for 2009. If you have not already done so please consider giving generously to support this mission of Westminster.

2009 Sanctuary Flower Sign-Ups

Westminster members and friends are invited to give flowers to beautify our Sunday morning worship. The flowers may be given in memory of or to honor loved ones. Two arrangements are planned for each Sunday, and you may purchase one or both for specific dates, the cost of one arrangement is \$60, two are \$120. Call the church office at 703-549-4766 to sign up to give flowers or for additional information.



Flowers
in Memory of...

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during Advent our denomination asks for a Christmas Joy Offering. The money collected in this offering is used for two purposes: 1) Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Programs and 2) Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges.

The Board of Pensions Financial Assistance Programs are used to aid church workers with modest retirement incomes. These added funds can supplement a small pension through the Income Supplement program. Others may have trouble meeting housing expenses and they are helped with Housing Supplements. The Shared Grant Program assists congregations, governing bodies, and denominational organizations in providing funds to church workers to meet emergencies such as large medical expenses.

These funds are critical in meeting our responsibilities to church workers who, in many cases, have labored for the Lord at minimal salaries. Church workers include everyone who works for the denomination, not just the clergy. Westminster is blessed to be a large church in an affluent area. However, many churches have fewer than 100 members and few financial resources. Through the Christmas Joy Offering we can help to be sure that those who choose to serve the Lord wherever they are called do not suffer undue economic hardship in their retirement.

Your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering will also support the denomination's work through Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges. The funds collected go to provide scholarships to students who otherwise could not afford to attend college and also to assist in the administration of these colleges. Several of these schools work primarily with Native American students. Several of our friends at the Spirit Lake reservation (where Westminster has an on-going mission relationship) have benefited from this program through attendance at the Cook School for Christian Leadership in Tempe, Arizona. The opportunity to get post secondary education at one of these schools is an important step in breaking the bonds of poverty which are so prevalent on Native American reservations throughout the country.

It is not often that we can get a two-fer with our contributions but, your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering is one such opportunity to help two very important areas of Christian ministry.



Children and Family Ministry

Westminster Weekday Preschool's in-house registration for the Fall of 2009 will begin Jan. 14. Classes will be available for children who have reached the ages of 2 ½, 3 or 4 as of September 2009. Any interested church members should obtain an application from the preschool office after January 13.

Application forms must be returned to the preschool office any time before noon on January 23. Open houses for parents interested in observing the program will be held on January 21 and 22 between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. It is not necessary to make an appointment. For further information, please call Carolyn Burke, Director, at 703-549-5267 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Westminster Weekday Preschool is licensed by the Commonwealth of VA and was featured in Northern Virginia Magazine in 2008 as one of the top preschools in Northern Virginia.

"Worship Well" Class Online

If you would like to listen to the three recent classes on worship led by Larry Hayward and Paul Stetsenko as part of our Adult Education program, go to: www.wpc-alex.org/adult

Seeking Transportation Volunteers

The Church occasionally receives requests, particularly from our senior members, for special, short-term transportation needs. While the Deacons attempt to meet these requests, we would like to augment our ranks. If you are willing to help someone with a ride on occasion, especially if you are available during the day, please email Eileen Jinks, Coordinator of Pastoral Care, at ejinks@wpc-alex.org, or phone her at the church, ext. 132. We will maintain a list of volunteers and send out a notice when we receive a request for assistance. Thanks in advance.

Mornings for Moms

Come to this great fellowship group every Friday between 10:30 and 12. We meet upstairs in room 305 for conversation and snacks while the kids play. Please note: we will NOT meet on the Friday following Christmas (December 26th).

Save the Date:

M&M Week !!!

August 31-September 5, 2009

Music & More week will be happening at the end of the summer this year. Please mark your calendars for this great summer experience for children K-5th grade.

Young Adults

Faith on Tap: Date Change

Faith on Tap in January will be on the second Tuesday (Inauguration Day is the third Tuesday), January 13 at 7:30. Place TBA.

Women's Workday

Women meet the first Wednesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room to make pillows for heart patients and stuffed toys for children at Alexandria Hospital. Join us! Contact Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445, who coordinates this.

Women's Circles

There are seven circles that meet monthly, either the second Tuesday or Wednesday of each month for friendship, Bible study, and service. January would be a good time to visit one. Three meet during the day and four meet in the evening. For details, see the Chronicle Update or call moderator Rosa Fullerton at 703-519-0392 or staff liaison Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120

2009 Women's Retreat:

A Bouquet of Blessings

Join Westminster women on retreat March 27-29 at the lovely Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, MD, near Sugarloaf Mountain. We will begin our weekend of blessings with Friday supper and conclude with Sunday Worship.

Come "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," Look at what Jesus says about blessings, and share stories of blessings. Enjoy the blessings of nature's beauty and companions in faith.

The leader will be Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries, Clara Beth Van de Water. The \$220 fee includes meals. The rooms are hotel style with private baths. There will be an opportunity to register in person after both worship services on February 1st. Registration forms will also be available to download from the church website by mid-January. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 with questions.



Dr. Morton Sherman to be featured speaker at Men of Westminster Dinner on Monday, January 12, 2009

On Monday evening, January 12, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, all men are invited for dinner together, with Dr. Morton Sherman, the new Superintendent of Schools for the City of Alexandria, as the featured speaker. His topic will be "The Vision for Public Education in Alexandria."

Women are invited to hear Dr. Sherman by coming to Fellowship Hall between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m. The dinner will be for men's fellowship only.

All men of Westminster are invited and strongly urged to come to the dinner. However, we must have a firm count for the caterer. The price for dinner is \$15.

Please sign up in advance NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5 on the Sunday Friendship pads, or email ccring@ober.com. We must collect from everyone who signs up whether they attend or not.

The Alexandria School Board is chaired by Westminster's own Yvonne Folkerts. The public school enrollment is 10,700 with a budget of \$199M of which the City funds 84%, which represents 31% of the City's general fund budget.

Dr. Sherman accepted the position in Alexandria during the summer and has an extensive background in education, serving last as the Superintendent of Schools in Tenafly NJ, and previously in Cherry Hill NY. He also was Superintendent for South Orangetown Central School in New York. Prior to that, he was Superintendent of the Norwich Free Academy and assistant superintendent in Westport, CT.

Dr. Sherman has a well-earned reputation as a visionary and hard working advocate for education. His remarks will be important to us as parents, friends and taxpayers in Alexandria. The Question and Answer period at the conclusion will enable your thoughts and concerns to be addressed.

Men's Retreat Update

Registration for the annual Westminster Men's Retreat began last month and the response has been enthusiastic. Registration will continue through Sunday, January 11. Sign-up forms will be available after the 11:00 am Sunday worship services at a table set up in Fellowship Hall and in the lobby of the education wing. Someone will be on hand to give you a registration form and answer any questions that you may have about the retreat. You can also contact Kirk Kaneer or Dudley Schadeberg for further information.

The retreat will be held the weekend of January 30 – February 1, 2009 at the popular Hallowood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Comus, Maryland. Our leader will be Rev. Gareth Icenogle, who served as the Senior Pastor at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. from 2004-2008, and who has been a parish minister for the last 18 years. He received his doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, with a focus on discipleship, and has also taught there as an Adjunct Professor. He is committed to helping people become followers of Jesus and grow to spiritual maturity. His retreat topic will be "Lessons in Leadership from the Life of Moses".

Consider not only attending yourself, but giving a personal invitation to someone who has not previously attended one of our men's retreats. Although most men attending the retreat are members of Westminster, all men are welcome.





Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

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.

Tuesday, December 30: The December Flying Solo **Potluck** will be held on December 30 (rather than December 23) starting at 7:00 pm in the Johnson Parlor. If you're home during the holidays, join us for our monthly potluck and sandwich-making for Bag Lunch. Please bring a can of food for ALIVE! to share the holiday spirit with those in need as well as a dish to share for dinner.

Monday, January 12: Our monthly **Dine-Out** in January will take us to Café Pizaiolo to check out the new branch they have recently opened in Del Ray located at 3112 Mt. Vernon Avenue (where Hector's used to be). Meet at church at 7:00 pm if you'd like to carpool, otherwise meet us at the restaurant about 7:15. Come join other singles from Westminster to enjoy good food and fellowship!

Tuesday, January 27: You are invited to join the Flying Solo Singles for our monthly **Potluck** on January 27 at 7:00 pm in the Johnson Parlor. We will begin by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then enjoy a potluck dinner together. Please bring a dish to share and a can of food for the ALIVE! basket in the Education entrance.

Sunday, February 1: We'll be having our annual **Super Bowl Party** at Nancy Harper's home located at 8903 Camden Street in Alexandria starting at 5:30 pm. Nancy will make chili – please bring salads, breads, appetizers, or desserts and a beverage as well if you'd like. Come cheer on your favorite team!

Flying Solo is a group of singles at Westminster more or less in their 40's, 50's and 60's. We meet regularly each month for a Dine-Out at a local restaurant and for a Potluck at church where we do our monthly service project of making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program. In addition we have special events throughout the year including three roundtable discussions and a weekend retreat. For more information about singles events at Westminster, please contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or call Nancy at 703-549-4766 ext 121. All events are also listed in the singles ministry section of the church website: www.wpc-alex.org.



Women's Book Group

Women's book discussions on *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins will be held Monday, January 26, 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Johnson Parlor. This classic 19th-century mystery novel is credited as being the first in this genre in English. The novel is long, so you may want to start soon. Join us for lively discussions! Clara Beth Van de Water facilitating the group; call her at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 with questions.

Adult Education Programs

January education for adults will be on Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. No registration is needed. All adults are invited. Call Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 if you want more details.

I. "The Life of the World to Come: What Do Christians Believe About the Future?" January 4-25, with former Virginia Theological Seminary professor, Jeff Hensley, Westminster Room. Come examine the Christian doctrine of eschatology or "last things" with Jeff Hensley, a consultant from the Hanover Institute. Jeff has three masters degrees from Yale University in the areas of philosophy and religion.

He will address the following questions: Is there life after death? Must Christians hope for heaven? What do we mean by the second coming of Christ? What does it mean to believe in the resurrection of the dead? And will some be "left behind?"

Jeff taught the popular Advent series on Christ in art and led the well received singles retreat on friendship. He is a gifted teacher and this topic is one we all wonder and speculate about with hope and faith.

II. "Is Everyone Awake Yet? The First Two Great Awakenings in American History," with Alan Capps of the Anser Institute on Homeland Security, Haverkamp Room.

This will be an examination of those periods in American History prior to the Civil War that featured dramatic religious revivals. What caused them? Who led them? What were the consequences?

Alan will elucidate enduring divisions in American Christianity over the relative importance of having emotional experiences vs. holding orthodox beliefs that came out of the Great Awakenings. He is currently earning his doctorate in American History at George Mason University. Alan is a wonderful teacher with a breadth of knowledge, so his WPC history classes are always popular. If you are a history buff, this one's definitely for you!

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 Westminster Travelers
Nancy Hall BerensInterim Dir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
Jill EwellPastoral Care Assistant
Eileen JinksCoordinator of Pastoral Care
Henri RushCoordinator of African 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

Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505
WebSite: <http://www.wpc-alex.org/>
CARE Line: 703-684-2934

The Chronicle

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

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

Time Sensitive

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #9
ALEXANDRIA, VA

Volunteer Corner



It's Christmas time again; that wonderful time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There are concerts and parties; buying, giving, and receiving gifts; travel to family gatherings or preparing our home for guests. It's a wonderful time of year but, it's also a hectic time of year. In all of the hubbub leading up to the celebration of our Lord's birth it is important to remember what the hubbub is all about.

Christmas celebrates God's wonderful gift to us – the gift of his son who offers us eternal salvation. We can never repay God for this gift but, we can show our appreciation through furthering his work here on earth.

Westminster has a large array of opportunities to show our appreciation. Our congregation couldn't function without the service of many scores of volunteers. Our local, national, and international mission programs likewise depend on the service of many volunteers. When you finish exchanging gifts with family and friends and settle back to relax after the Christmas meal, please consider how you will give back through your time and talents in response to the wonderful gift you have received from God at Christmas.

Have a wonderful Christmas,
Art Sauer
Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries
asauer@wpc-alex.org