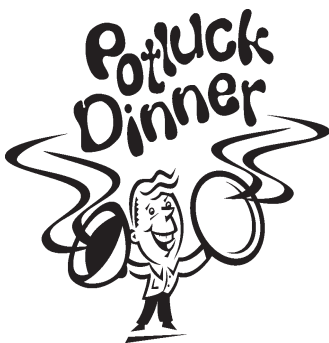




Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
—worship well—

save
the date
for a special all-church
local mission benefit event!

Mark your calendars now for a congregational potluck dinner followed by a political comedy show by comedian Dave Werner on Saturday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. Back by popular demand, Dave Werner, a lawyer and former member of the Capitol Steps, will get us in the mood for the fall presidential elections with his wit and humor. This fun event will be a benefit performance to support a local mission project. Look for more details in the next Chronicle!



the chronicle

June 18, 2008 - volume 39, number 11



from associate pastor

Karen A. Blomberg

new responsibilities

At my initiative the Personnel Committee reviewed a request from me and recommended to Session a shift in my responsibilities at Westminster. Beginning July 1, I will be serving among you as Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Mission.

For the past several months I have been discerning how I may best be of service to God at Westminster Church. Spiritual formation is something I have always been passionate about. This has only increased since I wrote the *Authenticity Series*® four years ago. In addition to the *Authenticity Series*® more opportunities for spiritual formation at Westminster will become available. Some of these include small groups, services of Wholeness and Healing, other special worship services, church officer training events, one-on-one spiritual guidance, and staff retreats. Serving as staff liaison for our Local Mission and National/International Mission Committees is part of my new role as well. Faith in action, or “mission” is a natural response to our spiritual commitment.

The following quote from *Hungry Hearts*, a publication from the PCUSA Office on Spiritual Formation, describes well my focus as Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Mission:

This is how I would describe spiritual formation: moving *beyond belief in doctrine* and toward a participation in the *sacred, inexplicable* life of faith...moving beyond belief in a system of affirmations or confessions or doctrines, and *participating* in the life of the Risen Christ. Not an emotional response but a corporeal realization that Christ lives in us and we the *ekklesia* (the church or the “called out”) are his body in the world. It isn’t rational in the Enlightenment sense of that word, but it is mindful. It doesn’t make sense, but it infuses the senses...

—Doug Gebhart, *Hungry Hearts*, 2006.

I invite conversation with you about where you are on your spiritual journey, and what Westminster may do to enhance your experience of spiritual development. I welcome your input about how Westminster may continue to be the center for Faith in Action locally and around the world. See the Faith in Action opportunities in this and upcoming issues of The Chronicle and the Sunday Chronicle Update for how you may participate in the many programs and projects available at Westminster.

Our congregation is comprised of generous and talented people. I am full of gratitude for the opportunities I continue to have at Westminster to be in ministry with you.



dear friends at westminster,

We were so happy and honored to have so many members of Westminster at Ruth's memorial service. And so pleased to have Dr. Larry Hayward take part in the beautiful service for my Ruth at Goodwin House Alexandria. Ruth loved her many years at Westminster and enjoyed taking an active part in the life of the church.

Thank you too for the very nice cards of sympathy. Our daughter Linda joins me in sending you this note of appreciation for your love and kindness.

Warmest regards,
Ed Hammerbeck

to my westminster family,

Thank you so much to the members of our church for sharing your concerns for me during my recent hospitalization. Your cards, notes, phone calls and numerous acts of kindness were so encouraging. The Memorial Day flowers were beautiful. I'm blessed to be a member of this church.

Sincerely,
Margaret Phillips

thank you

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped make the church picnic a HUGE success. It was an event that was enjoyed by all despite the blazing heat. A special thank you to Men of Westminster, Presbyterian Women, Flying Solos, the Congregational Life committee members, Young Adults, Madeline and Chuck Ramsey, Art Sauer, Becky Davies, and Bill and Joan McCulla who went above and beyond the call of duty.



Tuesday, July 8. 9:00 a.m. Butterfly Pavilion, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. \$1.

Wednesday, July 16. 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Tour of Leisure World VA with Audrey and Campbell Gillon. Lunch at The Dock at Lansdowne. \$1 plus lunch.

Thursday, July 24. 7:00 p.m. 1776 at Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

Travelers trips are open to non-church members if space is available. Call the church office to make a reservation.

thank you

Thanks to all of our Westminster family who have showed us with cards, thoughts, and prayers in the past several months. You have helped to ease our grief during John's mom's illness and death, and also helped us get through my dad's recent move into the memory loss floor at Goodwin House, Baileys. This has been a difficult time for our family, and it's been so wonderful to be surrounded by so many caring Westminster friends. It's times like this that remind me exactly what makes Westminster such a special place in which to worship and share the passages of our lives.

Janet and John Komoroske

dear friends,

Your prayers, calls, and visits have helped me tremendously during my recovery from a broken hip. The altar flowers you have shared with me brightened my days. Sharing communion both at home and at the rehab center has been a sacred privilege.

In all of these blessings I give my sincere thanks.

Elise Hardy

congratulations

Congratulations to **Eleanor Geiger** who was recently recognized by the *Alexandria Times* for her work with Partners for Just Trade. The article chronicles Eleanor's work helping Peruvian artisans achieve fair wages for their work. Their products are available annually at Westminster's Alternative Bazaar, and were available at the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering when Eleanor spoke about Partners for Just Trade and its work. Look for the article posted on the Mission bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to **David Buchanan** who participated in the Virginia State Special Olympics games held in Richmond June 6-8. Despite the very high heat that resulted in cancellation of all Saturday afternoon events, David's 4x100m relay team won a Gold medal, David won a Gold medal in his 1,500m race and a Bronze medal in his 800m race.

**less-able & convalescence
equipment available**

A reminder to Westminster members and friends: If you have out of town guests this summer whose stamina is less than their enthusiasm for sightseeing, consider borrowing one of our convenient travel wheelchairs. We also have an assortment of other equipment available for post hospital convalescents to use. Contact the church office to learn about check-out procedures.



faith in action opportunities

green team forming now

If you are interested in joining the conversation about how Westminster may be more mindful in its use of resources, please contact Karen @ kblomberg@wpc-alex.org.

carpenter's shelter

The 1st Monday of every month is Westminster's day to prepare and/or serve food at Carpenter's Shelter. Sign up in the Lobby.

families involved in mission trips

There are opportunities regionally and nationally for folks to participate as families in mission trips from 3-7 days in duration. Why not explore this as a possibility for a 2009 different kind of vacation? It will be an experience you will remember as a family for many years to come. Contact Karen @ kblomberg@wpc-alex.org if you want to discover possibilities to grow as a family and make a difference in others' lives as well.



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.

save the date - flying solo retreat!!

October 3-5, 2008: Mark

your calendars now for the annual 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. Early October is a great time to stroll on the beach and connect with Westminster friends in a relaxed atmosphere. We hope you will join us! Brochures with registration materials are being mailed out to those on the Flying Solo mailing list and are also available in the church office. Please contact Oraly Spatz at ospatz@wpc-alex.org to get a brochure.

summer singles events:

Our **monthly Potlucks** will take place in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month during the summer on **June 24, July 22, and August 26**. We will 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 of food for ALIVE!

On July 14 we will have our usual **monthly Dine-Out** at Via Veneto restaurant located at 1309 Shenandoah Road in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center just off Ft. Hunt Rd. Carpool will leave the Westminster parking lot at 7:00 or meet us at the restaurant at 7:20.

On August 10 we will go out to **brunch at Clyde's** after church instead of the second Monday Dine-Out that month. Please RSVP by noon on Friday, August 8, to Oraly Spatz in the church office at ospatz@wpc-alex.org or call her at 703-549-4766 ext. 112 so that we can make a reservation at this busy, popular restaurant. Carpool with us after Lemonade on the Lawn or meet us at Clyde's at 11:45.

Special Event on Saturday, July 12! Join other Westminster singles for the USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presenting their annual "Pops on the Waterfront" concert. Flying Solo will be joining the festivities for this big birthday bash including the city's birthday cake and fireworks! Bring your own picnic or buy food at the event. Parking is limited, so plan on meeting at the church at 5:30 p.m. to carpool, or join us later down at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, between Pendleton and Union Streets in Old Town. Entertainment starts at 6:00 p.m. with the grand finale fireworks at 9:30 p.m. For more information, call Art Sauer at 703-971-7232.



news from
**united orphanage
& academy in moi's bridge, kenya**
half yearly report

As we approach the end of the first half of 2008 and prepare to bank wire funds to the United Orphanage & Academy account a number of observations concerning the year so far appear to be in order.

First - As a result of the generous response to the appeal for scholarship funds contained in the last Chronicle, total scholarship funds raised so far this year come to \$2,800. This will provide for 28 scholarships for children in the community whose guardians or caregivers cannot afford to pay the tuition and lunch fees to attend the Academy. These scholarships will be administered by a board of respected representatives of each of the seven tribes that inhabit the Moi's Bridge area to ensure fairness and public participation in the process. As I've said before this is the most promising outreach to the community undertaken by the UO&A to date. We would ultimately like to have as many as 10 scholarship students per class which would come to 60 this year and 70 next year. Please keep in mind the children of Moi's Bridge as you prepare for your children to go back to school this Fall.

Second - In March when we were at the UO&A a budget of \$37,500 (\$750 per child x 50 children) was established for the operations of the residential facility for 2008. Expenses through April for this operation have come to \$17,300

which if multiplied by three come to almost \$52,000. Reverend Chege advises that expenses for the first four months were inflated by newly purchased beds, mattresses, blankets, sheets, mugs and plates required to meet inspection team requirements and substantially increased costs for food and gasoline as a result of the ethnic violence in Kenya. He assures me that the costs of operation for the entire year will be close to the \$37,500 budget. In any event, we have raised \$27,292 to support Orphanage operations to date so we still have a long way to go under even the most optimistic scenario. Please consider a donation to Orphan Support, which is the account at Westminster that funds Orphanage operations.

Finally - In March we established a budget of \$6,300 (\$900 per teacher x 7 teachers) for the Academy. I am happy to report that this amount has been met. As a result the Academy is currently providing education for classes from Early Childhood Development through Fifth Grade. There are currently 100 children attending the Academy of which 35 are from the Orphanage residential facility.

In addition four children from the Orphanage residential facility are being sent to Secondary Boarding Schools at a cost of \$3,800. Old Presbyterian Meeting House is providing these funds.

notes from the stewardship committee



Last Winter, the Faith Groups read a book written by John A. Calhoun entitled "Hope Matters - The Untold Story of How Faith Works in America." We heartily recommend it to anyone who wants to be challenged but uplifted, and doesn't mind being made a bit uncomfortable in the process. It is a compendium of the gritty, true stories of persons who grew up in circumstances of incredible hardship with which few of us can directly associate. These remarkable people not only survived, they thrived while dedicating their lives to helping others in similar circumstances. They did this out of love but also, as the preface explains, "the essential fuel: forgiveness, reconciliation,

sacrifice, thanksgiving, using pain as an instrument of healing, and serving one's neighbors." Two of the people spoke of the meaning in their lives of the Hebrew expression *tikkun olam* ("repairing the world" or "perfecting the world"), our obligation to make the world a better place. "Tikkun olam holds that God purposely left the world incomplete, inviting man to help Him steward his creation, assisting Him with those He created, especially the poor, hungry, and naked . . . Under it lies the assumption that God has given to man, unlike all others in creation, dignity and freedom to distinguish and choose right from wrong, and to join in a covenant with Him to help create a more just and loving world." *Tikkun olam* - stewarding God's creation.

westminster's former choir robes



With the gift of the new Choir Robes by Jon and Bea Hurt for all the Westminster Choirs, Westminster's former Choir Robes became available for donation to churches in need of robes. Several avenues were pursued to identify these churches. The most successful method was the posting of a notice in the electronic newsletter of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.

Now, all of Westminster's former Choir Robes have new homes! Three churches were the recipients of the robes and two of the churches have a connection to Westminster through former members. The largest number of robes (about 100) went to Hamburg Presbyterian Church in Hamburg, New York. The Children's Choir Director there is Karen Hummel. Karen and her husband Guy were former members of Westminster, and Karen writes:

"Where to begin to thank you for your generous gift of choir robes! Hamburg Presbyterian is the delighted recipient

of your gently used blue cassocks and cottas. We couldn't be more pleased! We are already beginning plans for their first use in worship. . . My husband Guy and I were members of Westminster while we lived in Arlington and before we moved to the Buffalo area. We have wonderful memories of our time with you as we were active teaching Church School, as an Elder, 'Tables for Eight,' Outreach Committee, etc. We can't help but be reminded of our Presbyterian 'connectedness' now as we accept your gift of robes."

About 20 robes went to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, where Jane Bourdow, also a former Westminster member, is the Director of Music. She also thanks Westminster and reports that "the robes are being put to good use." The rest of the robes (about 40) went to Hope Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

The churches are all so pleased to have our former robes. Hamburg Presbyterian Church is now hoping to send their former robes to a church in Mississippi that was greatly affected by Katrina.



give and receive "a bouquet of blessings" at annual women's retreat

The theme for our 2009 women's retreat will be "A Bouquet of Blessings." Mark your calendar for March 28-30, 2009, for a weekend of blessings at Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland—just an hour from Alexandria. Our leader will be Clara Beth Van de Water, director of adult education and women's ministries.

the generosity of westminster women

At our recent Presbyterian Women's spring gathering led by Eleanor Geiger, church women purchased almost \$1,000 worth of fair-trade crafts from Partners for Just Trade and Ten Thousand Villages. Proceeds from these handicrafts support the very poor women and men in Latin American and Africa who actually made them.

The women's book groups, which include both church members and friends, were moved by the spirit to donate \$150 to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan after reading *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson.



what's up with our youth?

about nothing, but everything!

I shift uneasily in my seat as the impending *Chronicle* article deadline approaches (21 minutes and counting). Thoughts abandon me. Words scurry like cockroaches into dark hiding places. The cursor blinks its merciless rhythm, and my eyes squint at the glaring white emptiness of "Document3". Smelling weakness, the siren songs of the Web lure me to places where minutes and hours disappear. I'm stuck again that oft-visited place where procrastination and distraction conspire to sabotage any strivings towards fruitfulness.

Come on, Patrick! Don't you have exciting youth events to announce? Thoughtful insights from Scripture to impart? Soul-touching anecdotes to make us laugh, and cry, and believe?

I have none of these things today (only 7 minutes left). I do have the joy, vulnerability, excitement, trepidation, amazement, and wonder of anticipation. Sally is pregnant. We're expecting twins! This is all the news I'm fit to print (and I'm already one minute late).

Much love,
Patrick



adult education programs

come to a reformed institute course at our church

Westminster is excited to host a course taught by Dr. Ann White of the Reformed Institute's Company of Teachers on Thursday mornings, October 6 through November 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. The topic is *"What the Reformers Teach Us About Thinking, Praying, and Living Today."* You will find that the 16th century Protestant reformers of church and society speak directly to our problems and preoccupations. This class will be open to members of churches in National Capital Presbytery. The course fee will be discounted for Westminster members, since our church is a sponsor of the Reformed Institute. Watch for upcoming details, or call Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 X120).

explore and discuss issues of "christ and culture"

Participate in "Christ and Culture," a weekly discussion of current events in the light of Christian faith, on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. beginning on September 14. Pastor Dr. Larry Hayward will give brief presentations and facilitate discussion. You are invited to attend whenever you can; no registration is necessary. Copies of H. Richard Niebuhr's classic book *Christ and Culture* will be available for \$12 at the first couple of sessions. There will also be short contemporary readings, such as newspaper or magazine articles, each week.

women's book group

All women are invited to read *The Camel Bookmobile*—a book about a traveling library in Kenya by Masha Hamilton—on Monday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the parlor. The church library has a copy to check out.

The September pick is *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett, a historical novel about building a cathedral in 12th-century England. At over 900 pages, the book is one of the longest ever best sellers. Both entertaining and educational, it's a great summer read, so start soon. There will be both morning and evening discussions on Monday, September 22.

If you have questions, contact Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 X120).

special flood relief offering for first presbyterian church, cedar rapids, iowa.



Westminster is receiving donations to be forwarded to the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Larry Hayward served as Pastor of this church from 1990 through 2004, when he accepted the call to Westminster. This downtown congregation sustained damage to its basement, but more importantly, serves as a hub

for ministries to needy and homeless people in Cedar Rapids through a clothing re-sale shop, a county-wide food bank, and through a weekly free meal for anyone in the community. These programs will be in even more demand as the city seeks to recover from the flooding of June 13-14. Please consider making a donation to Westminster for this cause, designated "Cedar Rapids Flood Relief."

the nedra trahant scholarship fund

In celebration of Nedra Trahan's 20 years as Director of Westminster Weekday Preschool, the Preschool Board established "The Nedra Trahan Scholarship Fund" to be used for children who may have need of tuition assistance to attend the preschool. Thus far over \$11,000 has been donated by Preschool parents, former parents, staff and friends to this Scholarship Fund. The Preschool currently receives monies from the Local Mission committee and the interest on the Campbell Fund for at-risk children and/or other children in need. We are very grateful and delighted to have these additional monies to allow children to participate in our wonderful preschool.



DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE LEADER FOR OUR CHURCH?

seeking god's servants

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

—Romans 12:4-8

help us seek out those whom god has called to lead our congregation

Please give us your recommendations of those individual communicant members whom you believe 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.

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.

Recommendations can be submitted online via the church website (in the Officer section), in writing or verbally to any of the Committee members, or submitted in writing to the church office.

Please let your voice be heard!

members of the 2008 nominating committee

Carol Skiba, Chair 703-823-4065
cmscpa@mindspring.com

Don Fowler, Vice Chair 703-836-4980
Ddfowler55@aol.com

Anne Gross 703-549-4036
annelgross@home.com

Christine Matthews 703-684-6709
christinelmatthews@comcast.net

Suzanne Neureiter 703-243-0245
suzanne@neureiter.net

Jim Silverwood 703-683-6263
jsilverw@hotmail.com

Fitz Woodrow 703-354-4871
wintl@verizon.net

westminster presbyterian church officers 2008

session

Paul Van de Water, Clerk of Session
Carolyn Fraser, Vice Clerk
Larry Hayward, Moderator

elder class of 2010

Brad Buchanan
Linc Cummings
Gail Donley
Lanny Griffith
David Gunter
Ken Niemann
Karen Olson
Anne Pickett

deacon class of 2010

Michael Barnhardt
Kim Davis
Marbeth Paulsen
Nancy Pitcher
Janet Riksen
Ron Shoemaker
Betsy Smith
Sam Ulm
Sheila Weiss

elder class of 2009

Eileen Denne
Don Fowler
Frank Fraser
Priscilla Goodwin
David Moser
Stephen Moss
Elizabeth O'Brien
J.W. Wilson
vacancy

deacon class of 2009

Bill Eckert
Karin Edgell
Catherine Linton
Wendy Lockard
Mary Mbu
Carri Stoltz
Barbara Watts
Barbara Wyman
vacancy

elder class of 2008

Patty Chamberlain
David Hill
Brian Laubscher
Robin McFarland
Meredith Mitchell
Paul Neureiter
David Roden
Carol Skiba
Cathy Smyles

deacon class of 2008

Donna Cramer
Martha Girard
Linda Harkness
Maria Kaneer
Laura Kopp
Chris Matthews
Fred Woods
Lisa Zickar
vacancy

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
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

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

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Time Sensitive

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ALEXANDRIA, VA

volunteer corner



Summer is here. It's time to take a break, relax, and rejuvenate. I'm heading for the beach with some of my Flying Solo friends from the church. Then, at the end of July I'm heading to North Dakota with the Spirit Lake mission trip. You may find it odd that I've included a mission trip with my summer vacation plans. However, the folks at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church, where we stay, are like family. So, going there is like going home. Also, the change of pace and place on a mission trip provides a welcome relief from the day-to-day activities here in Alexandria.

Pleasant as our summer vacations may be, summer will soon be over and our regular activities will start up again. The Fall is always a busy time at Westminster and lots of volunteers are needed to make our program successful. So, while you are soaking up the sun at the beach or sitting beside a cool mountain lake, take some time to think about how you will help to make the next year at Westminster the most productive ever.

With best wishes for a refreshing summer,

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