



the Chronicle

November 20, 2008 - volume 40, number 4

Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —



Advent 2008 Schedule

Sunday, November 30



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel with Sacrament of Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Sacrament of Holy Communion; Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald preaching

Sunday, December 7



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel; Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald preaching
9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series: "Unpacking Handel's Messiah", with Dr. Eileen Guenther

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A Message from Associate Pastor Patrick Hunnicutt

Do Holy Eyes Read the Chronicle?

Hundreds of you will open this newsletter, in print or online form, to see what's cooking in the weeks and months ahead at Westminster. Perhaps God's very self pores over these pages, looking for opportunities to touch our lives in ways that have heavenly consequences. "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways," Paul writes in Romans. Indeed, God's movement among us is not something to be scheduled. Our Blackberries and calendars are filled with appointments and events: drive the kids to soccer practice; meet with the accountant; see the doctor about that new discomfort. These are events. But God may mysteriously happen in the midst of them, giving us the faith, hope and love we need to run this race with perseverance. That is the gift promised to us by a God who can be Immanuel, God with us, today.

Wonderful activities have filled these pages. The senior highs may go bowling. That is the event. But God may happen to help a youth feel more connected to the fellowship of youth group than she has before. The seniors may go on a trip to the mountains. That is the event. But God may happen to give a grieving widow a creation-filled reason to be alive that day. The education ministry may offer a fantastic new class. That is the event. But God may happen to nudge someone out of their spiritual rut into a whole new way of understanding and living their faith.

We plan events, while God happens in them. So read on, and hope along with me that holy eyes are reading along with you.

- Patrick

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service



Thanksgiving Eve;
November 26, 2008, 8:00 p.m.
Agudas Achim Congregation
Dr. Larry R. Hayward, preaching

Sponsored by
Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Agudas Achim Congregation,
Trinity United Methodist Church

2008 Advent Schedule

continued from page 1

11:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and American Carols Service in the Sanctuary
Alternative Gift Bazaar in Fellowship Hall following each worship service

Sunday, December 14



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel;
9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series: "Unpacking Handel's Messiah", with Dr. Eileen Guenther

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary; Rev. Larry R. Hayward preaching

Alternative Gift Bazaar in Fellowship Hall following each worship service

5:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Pageant followed by a Congregational Chili Dinner in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 21



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Festival Sunday

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary; 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; Rev. Casey W. FitzGerald preaching

9:30 p.m. Pre-service concert

10:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion; Dr. Larry R. Hayward preaching

*Christ
is Coming!*



Dear Westminster,

Sally and I would like to say a special thank you to all the youth, parents, advisors and friends who surprised me with a fantastic baby shower a few weeks ago. I had no idea it was coming! Your generosity and shared excitement really mean the world to us, and we can't wait to share our new bundles of joy with you all.

Yours in Christ,
Patrick Hunnicutt

Dear Friends,

For the many beautiful sympathy cards and notes that I have received from you since my husband's death I give heartfelt thanks.

They, and the presence of many of you, especially my Elizabeth Circle, at his memorial service at Christ Church were a great comfort to my family and me.

Patrick was a real source of strength for us and conducted a beautiful graveside service.

May God bless each of you.

Gratefully,
Elise Hardy

Dear friends and members of Westminster Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all for the many cards and notes received during and following Ruth's recent illness, which was the termination of a much longer battle. Ruth read each note and card, responding with pleasure to their kind words and prayers. Especially thanks to Patrick for the wonderful service and sermon which captured so well Ruth's humor and love and joy of life and to Rachel Circle for the reception afterward.

Sincerely,
John Carlson & family

Thank you

On behalf of the youth and their families, I want to thank you for your deeply generous support given during the variety show and silent auction. Yours was the truly amazing performance of the night.

Blessings,
"Not-so" Michael Jackson

Dear Westminster Family,

Your continuous support and loving care helped sustain Ernest and me over the last very difficult three-plus years. Your many visits to our home, the hospital, Ruxton and Woodbine, flowers, cards, notes, phone calls, and just listening ears were all a tremendous help at such difficult times.

With all my heart, my family and I thank you. How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful extended family!

Love,
Nancy McIver

Notes From the Stewardship Committee



The 2009 Stewardship Campaign has targeted an 8% increase in pledge income to \$1,266,662 in order to maintain the current level of activity and to continue our growth and mission in Alexandria and across the world. But we have also stressed that our stewardship decisions should be individual, spiritual decisions, rather than strictly financial ones, because they say everything about what Westminster means to us individually. Reflecting on what Westminster means to us, Carolyn and I have increased our pledge by 8%. Westminster is our church home for many reasons of which we are continuously reminded. But the coming year will mark a special time as our personal lives and our Westminster lives again intersect: we came to our personal pledge decision knowing that our oldest daughter, who grew up in the church, will be married here in 2009. Every member of our church can point to a similar motivation. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I urge each of you, as you consider your pledge decision, to reflect on what belonging to the Westminster community means to you and why you make Westminster your church home. A collective list of these items would be a long one indeed.

You may pledge on-line through the Stewardship link on the church website (www.wpc-alex.org); by utilizing the pledge cards found in the Fellowship Pads in the pews; or by calling (703/549-4766) or emailing (nbea@wpc-alex.org) Nancy Bea.

Sincerely,
Frank Fraser, Chair Stewardship Committee

Money Matters:

2009 Giving Envelopes will be available in Fellowship Hall by mid-December. Envelopes have been assigned to all who have pledged and requested envelopes. It is costly to mail these envelopes out, so we greatly appreciate your picking them up. These giving envelopes can be used when making contributions toward pledges or for other types of special gifts.

End of Year Giving: Some of our members like to pay their pledge or make a special gift to the church using a stock donation. If you are planning to make a gift to the church with a donation of stock, please note the process for doing so. Should you decide to donate stock to the church, please contact Mr. Marc Eisner with Morgan Stanley at 703-535-8334. Mr. Eisner will give you the information needed to make the stock transfer. Please also notify Nancy Bea, our Business Administrator, that you are initiating a stock transaction with information as to the purpose or intent of the donation. We need notification from you, the donor, so that the donation will be properly credited to your financial records. Please remember to initiate your stock transaction not later than December 15 so that the office has time to receive the information and make sure it is properly recorded before the end of the year. All year end gifts- checks, stocks or cash- must by law be received by the church or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2008 in order to be credited to your 2008 giving record. The check date is irrelevant if it is not received or postmarked by Dec. 31.

Congregational Life Needs Your Help!

We are compiling a list of volunteers who will help with all church events by baking, helping set up, and helping clean up! There are 4-6 events a year where you may be asked to assist. It's a wonderful way to be involved in the community life of the church. Interested? Contact Patty Chamberlain, 703-370-3750 or chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com to be a part of the team!



Westminster Travelers

Thursday, December 6

9:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Visit the Turner Exhibit; National Gallery of Art;

\$1 plus lunch at the cafeteria.

Friday, December 7

5:45 – 10:30 p.m.

US Army Band Holiday Concert at DAR Constitution Hall.

The early departure helps us secure street parking. \$1.

Thursday, December 13

5 – 9 p.m.

Christmas dinner at Army-Navy Country Club in Fairfax; driving tour of holiday lights in Northern Virginia.

\$26. Non-refundable. Register at the church office but make checks to Nancy Jane Wilke; mail to 3603 Oakwood Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310 by 12/6. You will be called to make your entrée selection.

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.

Lost and Found

The Fellowship Hall kitchen has a variety of platters, plates, and serving pieces that do not belong to the Church. Please check the table in Fellowship Hall for your long-lost serving piece. All unclaimed pieces will be donated to one of the church's kitchens. Questions, contact Patty Chamberlain, 703-370-3750 or chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com

Presbyterian-related Colleges and Universities

Did you know that there are 62 Presbyterian-related colleges and universities in the United States? If you would like to learn more about these schools, check out the October issue of The Presbyterian Outlook in the church library. This issue includes the 2009 guide to Presbyterian Colleges, information on Presbyterian scholarships, and other articles related to the college search.

Service of Healing and Wholeness

These services will end during Advent and will resume following the first of the year on a monthly basis. Watch the Sunday bulletins for a schedule.



news from
**United Orphanage & Academy
 in Moi's Bridge, Kenya**

Become A Benefactor In 2009

By the time you read this the United Orphanage & Academy (UO&A) will have commenced fundraising for its 2009 Operations. As in the past, the principal time for raising funds to get the New Year off to a good start is the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar. This year the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar will be held on December 7 and 14 in Fellowship Hall following both services. (*See Article elsewhere in this publication*).

Before turning to 2009, however, a brief word about 2008 Operations is in order. This year we raised \$37,500 for Orphanage operations. While this met the budget established in March, it may not be enough to meet expenses, because of sharp increases in food, clothing and supplies as a result of the violence following the disputed 2007 Presidential election. There are funds in reserve to meet these additional expenses, if necessary. For the Academy we raised \$6,300 to cover the costs of seven teachers and \$3,000 to provide 30 scholarships for local children to attend. In addition, National Capital Presbytery, Old Presbyterian Meeting House and Westminster each sent \$5,000 for a total of \$15,000 to undertake further construction on the Academy building. The remaining cost to complete a two story building, as opposed to the three story building originally envisioned, will be \$10,000.

Turning to 2009, the projected budget for the Orphanage is \$42,500 which breaks down to \$850 per child for the year or \$71 per month and for the Academy is \$8,550 to cover support for nine teachers at \$950 per year or \$79 per month. We will continue to solicit \$100 per year scholarships to permit orphans and other vulnerable children whose guardians cannot afford even the modest tuition and fees charged by the Academy to attend. This outreach to the community furthers the objective of the UO&A by reaching out to the children of all seven of the tribes inhabiting the Moi's Bridge area and providing an enriching learning experience. The scholarships are administered by a board having that as an objective.

Because so many people last year contributed funds to support each of the above categories (orphan support, teacher support and scholarships) we have this year created a special category of gift called the Benefactor Package. For \$2,000 a person can provide support for an orphan, a teacher and two scholarships. In addition to individuals, we hope that organizations within our church, such as Flying Solo or Women's Circles, as well as other churches might decide to become benefactors of the UO&A. The need is great, but the generosity of members of Westminster and other friends of the UO&A is even greater. The 50 children in the Orphanage and more than 100 at the Academy are dependent on that generosity. Please remember them and give as generously as you can this Christmas Season.

Great Memories With Our Youth

Here are some wonderful memories from the past month in youth ministry:

- Being soaking wet and freezing with the middle schoolers on our retreat, and never being happier.
- Sharing communion in the great outdoors, with KB's stole caressing the elements and adding to the color and beauty.
- Watching Zeel run my dog, Krimpet, to the ground with the ball at the dog park.
- Buying mocha drinks for Meg, Chris and Tre as we listened to music in a different kind of church.
- Watching Grace, Megan, Emily, Rebecca and Caroline create and perform an awesome Grease routine in less than an hour.
- Being TOTALLY surprised by the parents, youth and advisors who gave Sally and me a wonderful baby shower.
- Listening to the senior highs playfully teasing each other in the van on the way to bowling.
- Hearing a parent say how excited he is to have his daughter excited to go to church for any reason.
- Watching a gathering of parents, advisors and youth plan two months of amazing fellowship activities in a half an hour.
- Sharing the prologue of John to attentive confirmation students.
- Writing college recommendation letters for senior highs that I will be very sad to have leave us.
- Seeing a packed fellowship hall at the variety show.

All that in a month's time...and there will be many more. Praise be to God!

Patrick

The Advent Service of Lessons and American Carols



On Sunday, December 7, at 11:00 a.m., we will celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent with a Service of Lessons and Carols. This has become our Advent tradition, instituted a very

long time ago by David Erwin, our former music director.

Historically, this service is not ancient – indeed, it was a brainchild of Dr. Eric Milner-White, who in 1918 at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College, Oxford. He composed the Service of Lessons and Carols and instituted it at King's Chapel; what prompted him to do it was his conviction that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Radio broadcasts have made it a world phenomenon, and many Protestant denominations promptly followed suit. Since this was a quintessentially British invention, this type of service was imported to these shores unchanged – same texts, same English carols. In this form, it has been conducted many times at Westminster.

A few years back, we decided to see if any other possible music – other than British carols - can become central to this service. One idea was to explore the Scottish, Irish, and Welsh musical traditions; hence the Service of Lessons and Celtic Carols which was conducted at Westminster last year.

This year, I thought of searching for Advent and Christmas carols, written in America. This resulted in a compilation of carols, whose not a single note was written in Europe – indeed, all of the hymns and carols in this service are native to America, from all over the country and ethnic strata. There will be Christmas music that came from New England, New York, the American South, the Central Appalachians, the Southwest... and of course, how can such a service be without Negro Spirituals and Black Gospel? This special service will be lead by our Westminster Choir, Westminster Ringers, and Children's Choirs.

Paul Stetsenko

Director of Music Ministries



Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

Christmas Memorial Poinsettias will once again decorate our sanctuary this Christmas. The poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 21 through Sunday, December 28, after which time the donors may take them home. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10 and the deadline for ordering is Monday, December 15. Please contact the church office (703-549-4766) to place your order. If you prefer, you may make a memorial donation to ALIVE! in Alexandria. The check should be made out to Westminster with "ALIVE! – Christmas" in the memo line. Dedications to honor or in memory of loved ones will be printed in the bulletins.

2009 Worship Flowers

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 2009 Flower Donation Chart will be available for signup following each service on November 30, December 7 and 14, or you may call the church office at 703-549-4766 for additional information.

Save the Date! 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.

Christmas Pageant and Congregational Dinner

December 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Get into the holiday spirit with our annual children's Christmas Pageant featuring all those in grades K-5 as well as the Alleluia and Carol Choirs.

Following the pageant, join us for an all-church chili dinner in Fellowship Hall. Cost of the dinner will be \$10 for anyone age 12 and older. Children under 12 eat for free!

Please RSVP by December 12 to ospatz@wpc-alex.org or call the church office



**Christmas
Pageant**

Catch the True Spirit of Christmas at Westminster Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar on December 7 and 14

The Westminster Mission Committee's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar will be held this year on December 7 and 14 following both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services in Fellowship Hall

What could be more in the true spirit of the season than honoring friends, neighbors, family and coworkers by giving gifts that will make an important difference in the lives of people in our community, our nation and around the world? The Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar lets you do this by contributing to charities supported by Westminster. For example, you can contribute locally to AACH, ALIVE, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Carpenter's Shelter or Habitat for Humanity; nationally to the Spirit Lake Sioux Indian Reservation in North Dakota or St. John's Sheetrock Ministry in Pascagoula, Mississippi; and internationally to Heifer, International or the Medical Benevolence Foundation of the PC(USA). If you are considering making a year end gift to any of these organizations, why not make it at the Bazaar? Cards will be available from Westminster or the organization involved to give to the person you are honoring.

In addition, as in the past beautiful handmade crafts will be available from the Bridge of Hope Peru Artisan Group and coffee, tea and chocolate will be available from the fair trade group Equal Exchange.

Finally, this is the primary time to provide continuing support to Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. The Orphanage houses 50 children (33 girls and 17 boys) from five of the seven tribes that live in the Moi's Bridge area. The Academy is providing an education from Early Childhood Development through Fifth Grade for more than 100 children including, through scholarships, children from all seven tribes. As a result of dramatically increased costs due to the recent violence in Kenya, the amount necessary to support a child at the Orphanage will be \$850 or \$71 per month and to provide a teacher for the Academy will be \$950 or \$79 per month for 2009.

Men's Retreat News

Sign up began on November 9 for the annual Westminster Men's Retreat to be held the weekend of January 30-February 1, 2009. As in prior years, the retreat will be at the Hollywood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Comus, Maryland. The retreat will be led by Rev. Gareth Icenogle, who received his doctorate at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, with a focus on discipleship. He has been a parish minister for the last 18 years, serving as the Senior Pastor of National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. from 2004-2008. He has also taught discipleship as an Adjunct Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is committed to helping people become followers of Jesus and grow to spiritual maturity. The retreat topic will be "Lessons in Leadership from the Life of Moses."

Those of you who attended last year's retreat or prior retreats know how enjoyable and rewarding the program, food, and fellowship have been. We fully expect an equally enthusiastic response this year. Consider giving a personal invitation to someone who has not previously attended a retreat. You can sign up for the retreat by completing a registration form in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 am worship service, or by contacting Kirk Kaneer or Dudley Schadeberg. Watch this space and Chronicle Updates in your weekly bulletin for further information.





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.

Sunday, November 23: Singles Luncheon and Roundtable Discussion after the 11:00 am worship service in the Haverkamp Room. Our retreat leader Jeff Hensley will join us once again for another lively discussion. The topic for the roundtable will be "Now Thank We All Our God: Gratitude as a Spiritual Discipline." We will explore the difference between thankfulness and appearing merely happy or optimistic. We will also consider how we can be thankful in the midst of difficult times, which should be appropriate as we are facing economic crises, the approaching holidays and the stress that often comes with that. Drinks and main course will be provided. Please bring a salad, chips or dessert to share. This will be in lieu of the November 25 potluck, so we will begin by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program, followed by lunch and discussion. No RSVP necessary – just come on up after church!

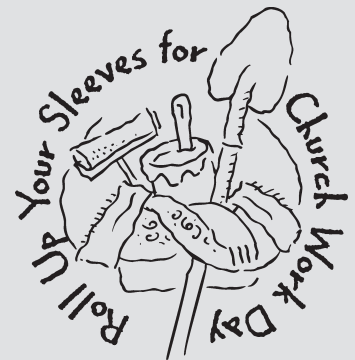
Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Dinner. All singles are invited to join friends for this special day of thanks! This year we will be sharing Thanksgiving Dinner at Chadwicks restaurant in Old Town. Chadwicks will be serving a traditional turkey dinner for \$13.95 which includes roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce and a vegetable. Drinks, dessert, etc. are extra. They will also have their regular menu items available. If you'd like to carpool, meet at church at 4:30, otherwise, we will meet at Chadwicks at 5:00 pm. The restaurant is located on the waterfront at 203 The Strand, between Prince and Duke Streets. It would be helpful if you could RSVP by Tuesday, November 25 to Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext 121.

Saturday, December 6: Christmas Party. Come celebrate the joyful season of Christ's birth with your friends in Christ! I am excited to announce that this year's Christmas Party will be hosted by Nancy Duykers in her beautiful town home in the Belle Haven area of Alexandria. We'll start around 5 pm with wrapping presents for our Adopted Family, along with hors d'oeuvres. Nancy will be preparing a delicious cassoulet for dinner. Other dishes will be potluck. This will be instead of a Dine-Out on December 8.

Tuesday, December 30: Potluck. Please note that our December Potluck will be held on December 30 rather than December 23. If you're home during the holidays, join us for our monthly potluck and sandwich-making for Bag Lunch. Bring a can of food for ALIVE! as well to share the holiday spirit with those in need.

Westminster's Annual Boxwood Workshop

Space is still available in our annual boxwood workshop. Plan now to come to Fellowship Hall Tuesday, December 2nd or Wednesday, December 3rd at either 9:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. to make boxwood wreaths, centerpieces, tabletop trees, candlestick arrangements, kissing balls, and more. Extra boxwood, pine roping, poinsettias, bows, and other materials are also available to take home. Cost of making boxwood items ranges from \$10 for kissing ball to \$24 for wreath. Most others are \$16-\$18. To sign up or get more information, call Madeline Ramsey at 703-379-7458 or e-mail CBramse44@aol.com. Registrations will be taken if space and materials are available. \$5 deposit due with registration. This is a really fun way to start the Advent/Christmas season, hope you can join us.



Fall Workday

Fall Clean-up. Saturday, November 22. 8-11AM. We'll focus on leaf removal and general cleanup, so please bring a rake. Coffee and donuts provided. We need your help; the cost for an outside contractor to perform this work would be at least \$2,000. Thank you. Hopefully you can join us. If you have any questions, contact Ken Niemann or Robin McFarland.

Mitten tree

Very soon you will see our mitten tree displayed in the front lobby (off the parking lot). Please bring in gloves, mittens, and hats for children and hang them on the tree. Your donations will be given to local children through the Child and Family Network Centers. Thank you!

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 Fridays following Thanksgiving and Christmas (November 28th and December 26th).

Save the Date:

M&M Week !!!

August 31-September 5, 2009

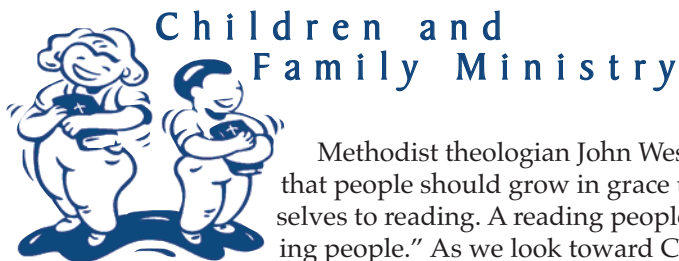
Music & More week will be happening at the end of the summer this year. Please mark your calendars for this great summer experience for children K-5th grade.

Christmas Pageant and Rehearsal

All children grades K-5 are invited to participate in this year's pageant. Parents/guardians of children interested in participating in this year's pageant should visit our website to register by Wednesday, December 3rd.

Rehearsal: Saturday, December 13th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Christmas Pageant and Dinner
Sunday, December 14th, 5:00 p.m.



Methodist theologian John Wesley wrote, "It cannot be that people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will always be a knowing people." As we look toward Christmas, I am compelled once again to provide you with a list of good books for children of all ages. Through reading, children are exposed to lessons of compassion, grace, forgiveness, caring, and the great narratives of our tradition. Whether checked out from the local library or given as a gift, it is my hope that these books will both delight and challenge our children.

May we all grow in grace this Advent season!

Casey FitzGerald

For Children

Green Plagues and Lamb: The Story of Moses and Pharaoh written by Kathleen Long Bostrom and illustrated by Dennis McKinsey. A retelling of the classic Moses narrative from Exodus...in Seussian verse!

A Child's Book of Graces, written and compiled by Lois Rock. Cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving for all of our blessings with this book of mealtime graces.

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge written by Mem Fox and illustrated by Julie Vivas. A young boy loves to visit the "old people's home" next door and becomes especially fond of a woman who has lost her memory. The story recounts Wilfrid Gordon's efforts to help her find her memory. It is, simply put, a beautiful story.

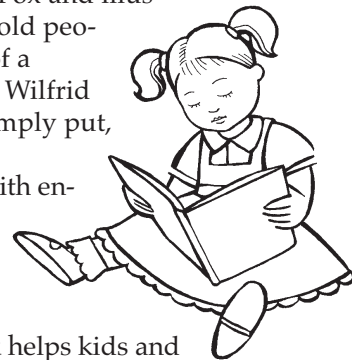
The Blessing of the Beasts written by Ethel Pochocki with engravings by Barry Moser. I think I mostly love this book because of Mr. Moser's incredible engravings. This is a lovely tale of a cockroach and a skunk who wonder if God's blessings are for them.

The Great Trash Bash by Loreen Leedy. This cute book helps kids and families understand what it means to be good stewards of the environment.

Christmas in the Barn written by Margaret Wise Brown and illustrated by Diane Goode. If you love Goodnight Moon (which I do!), here is another great re-telling of our treasured Christmas story.

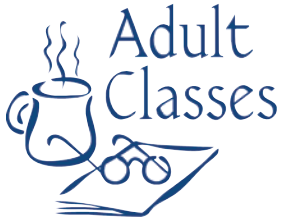
Water Come Down! The Day You Were Baptized written by Walter Wangerin, Jr. and illustrated by Gerardo Suzan. This book is a wonderful celebration of God's claim upon us in baptism.

What is God's Name? A board book by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso with illustrations by Phoebe Stone. To put it plainly, I am a HUGE fan of all things Sasso. I would recommend any of her children's books, but particularly love this board book version for my son.



For Parents

Got little time to read? How about a podcast? One of my favorite public radio programs, *Speaking of Faith*, has a wonderful interview with Rabbi and author Sandy Eisenberg Sasso on "The Spirituality of Parenting." Visit <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/spiritualityofparenting/> to listen or download!



Adult Education Programs

Classes meet Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45 a.m. except the New Testament Class which meets from 9:30 – 10:50. All adults are cordially invited. 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.

I. Continuing Classes

1. **“Invitation to the New Testament”**, a video and discussion class from the DISCIPLE program of Bible studies focusing primarily on Matthew, continues through December 7, Westminster Room. The leaders are Elders Connie Ring and Kathy Harkness.

2. **“Worship Well: Why Do We Worship the Way We Do at Westminster?”** A presentation by Dr. Paul Stetsenko and Dr. Larry Hayward on the music we use in worship, will be held November 23, Haverkamp Room. There’ll be opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions.

II. New Classes

1. **“Personal Stories of Mission Participation”** will be shared by some of our WPC folks on November 30, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., Haverkamp Room. Mission participants will share what their experiences meant to them and impacts on the recipients. And we’ll hear about how our current Envisioning Task Force hopes to refocus our missions.

- Kenyan United Orphanage and Academy – Paul Van de Water
- Partners for Just Trade – Geoff Caldwell
- George Mason Tutoring and Bag Lunch Programs – Elizabeth O’Brien
- Share the Spirit/ Adopt-a-Family Program – Christi Davenport
- Envisioning Task Force – Wes Hickman

2. **Advent Series on “Unpacking Handel’s Messiah”**, December 7 & 14 with Dr. Eileen Guenther will illuminate the Christmas portions of Handel’s beloved “Messiah” so that we can more greatly appreciate its beauty with deeper understandings. Dr. Guenther is Professor of Church and Music and Director of the Chapel at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. We are fortunate she is a longtime friend of WPC members Marcia and Jim Buchanan, and has graciously agreed to be with us during Advent.



Women’s Book Group

Women’s book discussions on *Daughter’s Keeper* by Ayelet Waldman will be Monday, November 24 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. All women are invited. Join us! We will not meet in December.

Men of Westminster

Missed the MOW Breakfast meeting Friday with the Secretary of the Air Force? Recently appointed Elder Mike Donley shared his experiences, thoughts and perspectives on leading our nation’s Air Force. Fascinating! Don’t miss the December 12 MOW Breakfast with Admiral Tom Paulsen discussing his work in changing the culture of urban youth.

Women’s Retreat: a Bouquet of Blessings

Save the weekend of March 27-29 for a weekend of blessings at the Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland, an hour from Alexandria.



Circle Book Redistribution and Payment

Circle leaders should put extra books as well as book payments in Clara Beth Van de Water’s box in the church office. Some circles need more books and others are holding onto extras. More can always be ordered if needed, but redistribution costs the church less than holding onto books never sold. Thank you.



Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 7th 12:45 p.m.

The FitzGerald's 2833 Cleave Drive, Falls Church, VA

All young adults are invited to a special brunch event after the 11 o'clock service on Lessons and Carols. Just bring yourselves! (If you know you can come in advance, please RSVP to Casey!)

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 meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next event will be held on December 16th 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 December, please contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.



focus on missions

ALIVE! Ongoing and Special Needs

The ALIVE! Food Program always needs more canned soups, canned fruit, jelly, canned tuna and meat, cereal and 1 lb. bags of rice. Collection box is in Fellowship Hall. The ALIVE! House needs a refrigerator for the resident manager's apartment, a tabletop multi-page copy machine, a scanner, small and medium-sized boxes of laundry detergent, metro cards and bus tokens. Contact Margie Carpenter at mmcrpntr@aol.com if you can donate any of these to ALIVE! House.

Local Missions – You Can Help With Hunger

The Local Missions Committee's CHESS program represents the five areas in which Local Missions works: Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency. November and December will focus on hunger programs. During these challenging economic times, the organizations supported by Westminster need our help more than ever.

- **Adopt-a-Turkey**, Saturday, November 22 at Noon. Volunteers are needed to help distribute 300 boxes of frozen turkey dinners to families in Network Preschool, Habitat for Humanity, the Arlandria Clinic, AACH, and ALIVE. Contact Louise Anderson at louiseanderson@erols.com or 703-820-3568.
- **Bag Lunch Soup Makers**. Our clients in the Bag Lunch program love Westminster's Loaves and Fishes Turkey Chili. Join our soup making team for about two hours to help us make a fresh batch. Contact Louise Anderson at louiseanderson@erols.com or 703-820-3568.
- **Bag Lunch Program**. The bag lunch program at Westminster always needs sandwiches and servers. Servers are needed four days a month. Sandwiches can be made at your convenience. If you can help serve on Friday, 12/12; Monday, 12/29; and/or Friday, 1/2, please call or email Priscilla Goodwin 703-549-6139 or mpgbc@comcast.net. If you have any questions about making sandwiches please call Anne Soens at 202 628 5197(W) 703 548 5320 (H) or annesoens@msn.com.
- **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.
- **Meals on Wheels**. Volunteers are needed for only two hours once a month on the third Tuesday. Contact Ede Thomas at 703-836-7727.
- **ALIVE Collection**. Help ALIVE keep its pantry full. You can bring canned goods and other nonperishable items to the collection basket next to the door in the education wing.

Officers Elected

According to the *Book of Order*, "all ministry in the Church is a gift from Jesus Christ. ... to those called to exercise special functions in the church – deacons, elders... God gives suitable gifts for their various duties ... (they) should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord." Westminster is privileged to have elected members with these characteristics as Church Officers on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at the Congregational Meeting. All of these Officers will be trained in January and assume their duties on February 1, 2009.

Congratulations to the following members who were elected:

Elder, Class of 2009

Mary Olsen

Elders, Class of 2011

Patty Chamberlain
Christine Eustis
Rita Grazda
David Hill
Molly Roden
Steve Sieke
Lauren Brown Sigler
Mara Winn

Deacons, Class of 2011

Donna Blackburn
Bob Campbell
Laurie Chidlow
Steven Holton
Laura Kopp
Jeanie Pruitt-White
Fred Woods
Lisa Zickar

2009 Nominating Committee, At-Large

Suzanne Neureiter
Molly North
Rusty Ring
Dudley Schadeberg

Trustee, Class of 2011

Anne Soens

Special thanks to the 2008 Nominating Committee for their work in selecting these nominees:

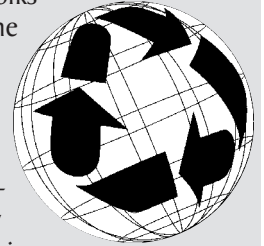
Carol Skiba, Chair
Don Fowler, Vice Chair
Anne Gross
Chris Matthews
Suzanne Neureiter
Jim Silverwood
Fitz Woodrow



Annual Church ELECTION

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 began receiving 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.



Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



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

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 BerensIntern 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

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The Chronicle

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Dawn Campbell, Production Editor

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Volunteer Corner

We are now into the season of Thanksgiving. What are you thankful for? I'm thankful for good health, good friends, a warm community, and a warm home. Despite the economic clouds and substantial percentage loss in my net worth (at least on paper) I still have much to be thankful for. However, there are many in our community, nation, and the world that are not in the same situation. Many people are in poor health, have few friends, live in isolation, or cannot even afford to heat their home (if they have a home at all). What can you do to help these people?

At Westminster we have a long history of reaching out to help others. It is a witness to our Christian faith. As the hymn says, "They can tell we are Christians by our love." During the next month we will be participating in the "Adopt-A-Turkey" program through which we will provide over a hundred Thanksgiving dinners. We will participate in the "Share the Spirit" program by adopting families that we provide with Christmas gifts which they could not otherwise afford. In addition, we will be continuing our year round programs, such as, providing dinners at Carpenter's Shelter, delivering Meals-On-Wheels, and serving bag lunches.

All of these activities require volunteers. Priscilla Goodwin and the Local Mission Committee are providing leadership for these activities. The Share the Spirit program especially needs volunteers. To adopt a family, contact Christi Davenport at gallenc@aol.com, or, sign-up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday. The Meals-On Wheels program provides meals to over 100 people a day. There is a desperate shortage of volunteers for this program. They especially need volunteers to deliver meals the day after Thanksgiving. If you are interested call the City-wide coordinator at 703-836-4414 ext 12. If you can be a regular volunteer, contact Ede Thomas at 703-836-7727.

We all have many reasons to be thankful. We are a blessed people and a blessed nation. As Larry said in his sermon on November 9 – "Earn it!"

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