



the chronicle

october 16, 2008 - volume 40, number 3

Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

—worship well—

Remembrance Sunday November 9, 2008

This year's Remembrance Sunday, November 9, will celebrate the Common Soldier of the American Revolution – a doctor, a peasant, a shopkeeper, a city dweller – the one who takes a stand against tyranny and oppression. Through music, liturgy, and the Word, we invite the congregation to step back in time and get in touch with the spirit that moved the colonists to fight for freedom. What was the music that was sung then? What were the scriptural passages that inspired the rebellion? What was preached from the pulpit so that the British called the ministers of the church "the black regiments," and King George III called it "The Presbyterian rebellion"?

This Remembrance Sunday will be the time to remember that we are all the descendants of the Common Soldier of the American Revolution – even though only a few of us are direct descendants, but all indeed are the spiritual progeny of the revolutionaries, who fired the first shot that was heard around the world.

a message from Rev. Casey FitzGerald

godly play

Last week I was less than enthusiastic about attending a three-day teacher accreditation for "Godly Play." We call our Godly Play program "Children & Worship" (offered to children three years old through first grade). I went into the workshop tired from a long week, annoyed that I had signed up for an event that would prevent me from spending time with my family, and brought with me only the hope that I would learn enough nuts and bolts to support our current Children & Worship program. According to the Godly Play website's description, "The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language—parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action—to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives." Despite my less-than-open attitude, what I experienced was three days of Sabbath renewal—three days of open engagement with the mystery of God's presence in my life. I entered into this experience expecting to learn new ways to teach children, but what I learned were new ways I could learn from children what it means to be in relationship with God. At one point, my group was asked to list qualities of children. Children are playful, funny, intuitive, dependent, honest, fun, temperamental, sometimes difficult, immature, loving, curious, hopeful, energetic, innocent, demanding, (and so much more). "Now," said the leader, "substitute the word 'children' with the word 'spirituality.'" It is true—a relationship with God can be both fun and difficult, at once curious and dependent, and at times even temperamental. Jesus said we must become like children in order to enter the kingdom of heaven. I'm pretty sure he was serious! I feel particularly blessed in my own life of faith to be surrounded by the church's incredible children. I invite you to find new ways to get to know the children of our church—it just might change your relationship with God.

thanksgiving eve service



Sponsored by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Agudas Achim Congregation, Trinity Methodist Church
Wednesday, November 26
7:30 p.m.
at Agudas Achim Congregation
2908 Valley Drive. Alexandria
Larry R. Hayward preaching



thank you,

Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered to me at home on Sunday. They are very welcome. I love flowers and coming from the church they mean even more, so thank you all.

- Micheline Williams

"thank you!"

To everyone who attended last month's comedy potluck to benefit the rebuilding of the damaged playground at ALIVE's Child Development Center. We raised \$3059 for ALIVE at this "potluck with a purpose" and enjoyed an evening of fellowship and laughter together with political comedian Dave Werner. Your generosity for this good cause is much appreciated!



Thursday, October 30, 9:30 a.m. departure. Lunch at Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria VA. It's not too late to sign up. \$16. Call Sandy Calhoun about prepayment.

Thursday, November 6, 9:00 a.m. Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. New Hall of Oceans & Imax film. \$1. plus film fee and lunch.

Thursday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. *Scrooge*, Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

Tuesday, December 2, 9:00 a.m. Visit newly reopened Smithsonian Museum of History & Technology. \$1 plus lunch.

Friday, December 12, 5:30 p.m. US Army Band Holiday Concert, DAR Constitution Hall. \$1.

Wednesday, December 17, 4:30 p.m. Festive meal at Moon Bay restaurant at Gaylord Resort at National Harbor. Christmas lights tour following dinner. \$1 plus meal.

Contact Sandy Calhoun if you are interested in the Caribbean cruise on *m/s Eurodam* departing **February 6.**

dear friends,

I cannot begin to thank you for once again cheering me up following my second hip surgery: this time for hip replacement. You are all greatly appreciated.

I can tell you without a doubt that I feel marvelous, am moving better than ever, and send kudos to all the therapists who helped so much following orthopedic surgery!

A special thank you to Eileen and Jill for their visits which were wonderful. Sandy brought the lovely sanctuary flowers which were enjoyed in our tiny room at rehab. My roommate was very impressed!

There were other visits and some perky bouquets brightening up my day.

I want to also thank Eddie for getting bulletins each week to my house and little "extras" to keep me fully informed. I feel as if I was present for many events!

It was very moving to me when Larry made one of many visits. He came to inform me about Karen, being concerned enough to let my nurse know. Karen was a delight as well and was doing something she was excited about, to bring to us her wisdom and delightful ways of enriching us.

My healing was good and progressed well as the days passed. My discomfort was very minimal this time and I was ready to jog around the block, but was encouraged not to do so.

Larry checked in several times, finding my location and with delight that he'd surprised me. He even arrived as I was doing a therapy activity! I was glad for a break.

Please know that I left some names out – I am sorry. I will soon see you to thank you.

I am indebted to the wonderful church that Westminster is and also becoming more under the stellar staff and great members.

Most sincerely and with gratefulness,

Peggy A. Grant

george mason elementary playground

The students, parents and staff of George Mason Elementary are thrilled with the fabulous playground makeover that was recently completed, and they are eager to have Westminster families share in the enjoyment of it. The principal at George Mason would like to pass along some guidelines for using the playground and asks that parents review them with their children:

- There are two mounds on the playground that are covered with soft surfacing. Please do not allow children to bike, scooter or skateboard over them. They are for feet only!
- The Atlantis, the new tall climbing piece of equipment, can hold 20 children comfortably.
- To protect the grass, children should not be outside of the orange netting.
- Once the construction fencing is removed, children should stay clear of the newly planted trees.

help habitat for humanity of northern virginia win up to \$125,000 with just two clicks!

Wells Fargo is holding a Someday Stories Contest where you can vote for your favorite story and Habitat for Humanity (use zip code 22204-Arlington, VA). Also, please ask your friends, family, and colleagues to vote as well. We can vote until November 10th.

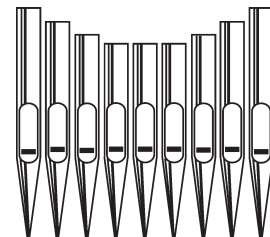
Five Easy Steps:

- Visit www.wellsfargo.com/somedaycontest/hfh
- Fill in your information with the Habitat For Humanity zip code: 22204
- Choose your favorite Someday Story
- Choose Habitat for Humanity as your cause
- Invite friends to vote and ask them to use

ZIP CODE 22204 AND VOTE
FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

new chapel organ

The wonderful new Allen Organ in the Chapel has been donated to the greater glory of God, by Anne and Bob Soens, in loving memory of Johanna Christine Hansen Soens, Bob's mother, who was one of the first women Elders in the Presbyterian Church, and one of the first women Elders to attend the General Assembly. She was also a longtime church choir member.



This Chapel organ was dedicated along with the Sanctuary Piano and Organ on September 21, 2008.



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.

Members of Flying Solo enjoyed a spectacularly beautiful weekend at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware on October 3-5. The theme of our retreat was *"What a Friend we have in Jesus: Friendship with Christ."* Our leader Jeff Hensley took our discussion on friendship with each other and with Christ in some new and interesting directions and encouraged lots of lively conversation! During the weekend we enjoyed some relaxed time for extended conversations and fellowship with friends, delicious food, lively games, quiet prayer, group worship, joyful singing, snapping photos, reading, walking, exploring, laughing, crying, hugging...and even some brave souls went swimming with jumping dolphins! If you had to miss it this year, we hope you will join us for next year's retreat!

upcoming events:

Tuesday, October 28: Our monthly Potluck will take place in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. We will gather 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.

Monday, November 10: For our monthly Dine-Out we will check out the new setting of local favorite, Atlantis

restaurant, still in Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street. Join us for an evening of food, friendship and fellowship! If you want to carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, join us at the restaurant about 7:15.

Sunday, November 16: Flying Solo will once again host Coffee Hour after the 11:00 worship service. Please join us in this ministry of hospitality extended to members and visitors after church. It is fun working together and greeting the congregation as members of Flying Solo.

Mark your calendars...and stay tuned for more information on the following events:

Sunday, November 23: Singles Luncheon and Roundtable Discussion after the 11:00 worship service (this will be in lieu of the November 25 potluck).

Thursday, November 27: Thanksgiving Dinner. All singles are invited to join friends for this special day of thanks!

Saturday, December 6: Christmas Party. Come celebrate the joyful season of Christ's birth with your friends in Christ! This will be instead of a Dine-Out on December 8.

Tuesday, December 30: 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.



year end giving

As you consider the many appeals you are probably already receiving for year end gifts, please keep in mind the UO&A. As explained in last month's Chronicle, because of increased costs of everything resulting from this year's electoral violence we need to raise an additional \$6,000 to cover 2008 operating costs for the Orphanage. Unlike other organizations our fund raising year ends in November. We wire all amounts for 2008 operations to Kenya at the end of November and commence raising funds for 2009 operations at the Orphanage and Academy at the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar on December 7 and 14.

If you have been considering making a gift or an additional gift to the Orphanage to cover this year's operating costs, please make your gift before November 30. Checks should be made payable to Westminster Presbyterian Church and noted "for Orphan Support" on the memo line. Unless you have actually been there and looked into the eyes of the children you are saving, it is impossible for words to adequately convey the difference you are making in their lives. Please help us to cover our 2008 shortfall and plan to give generously to support our 2009 operations. Thank you for caring about the least of these of God's children.

"what else I did on my summer vacation..."

In my article about Ghost Ranch last month, I failed to mention one important thing that I did. While at the ranch, I purchased a book for the church library in memory of Karen Blomberg. A few days after learning of Karen's death during my second week at Ghost Ranch, I saw Philip Newell's newest book called *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* and immediately knew that I wanted to get a copy for Westminster in memory of Karen. Philip, a writer, theologian and former warden of Iona Abbey in Scotland, is now summer chaplain at Ghost Ranch and companion theologian for the new spirituality center at the ranch. Philip and his wife Allie were especially comforting to me during that difficult week. Here at Westminster, I have used some of his prayers and chants for worship with staff, committees and the session. His writings were the basis for our worship at the Flying Solo retreat in early October. The main premise of *Christ of the Celts* is that "the Celtic Christ offers new hope for achieving harmony, healing, and renewal for human beings and for all of creation." Philip inscribed the book in this way:

*Ghost Ranch, July '08
To Westminster Church,
especially remembering Karen Blomberg.
John Philip Newell*

I hope that you will come to the church library and see what insights this book offers on the "essential oneness of life and the interrelatedness of all things" and why it reminded me of several of Karen's passions.

Oh, yes, and I also forgot to mention the spectacular sunrises and sunsets at Ghost Ranch...a magnificent setting for contemplating the healing of creation!

Nancy Hall Berens

youth variety show and silent auction

saturday, november 1 at 6:30 p.m.



Get ready for another great night in support of our youth mission trips! Come and enjoy the culinary delight of John Beard's Italian-restaurant cooking, along with the great youth acts and auction items that made last year's event such a success. To attend, RSVP at the church office by emailing Oraly Spatz (ospatz@wpc-alex.org). We also encourage you to donate items or services for the auction. We need donations large and small, so be creative! Go to the church web site to download a donations form, or contact Ruth Kane (rekane@comcast.net). This will be our main fundraiser this year, so please join us! It is a great way to be involved in the mission life of Westminster.



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, please contact Casey FitzGerald.

session actions on staffing and envisioning

The Session has taken some action on long-term staffing and on the Envisioning Process that began in February of this year. Both of these have been impacted by the untimely death of Associate Pastor Karen Blomberg in July.

In terms of staffing, the Session has approved moving Eileen Jinks, who was recently hired as Seniors Pastoral Care Assistant at ten hours per week, into a new position called Coordinator of Pastoral Care. This position will involve coordinating the work of the Board of Deacons as well as continuing a program of visitation, counseling, and resourcing for seniors. It will be for thirty hours per week. The pastors will continue to provide pastoral care through hospital visitation and counseling, during emergencies and crises, and for weddings and funerals. Eileen will assume this new position November 1.

In terms of envisioning, the Envisioning Task Force has resumed its work. Their analysis, shared by the Session, is that most matters in worship, congregational life, and education that have been suggested for consideration can best be addressed by the standing committees of the Session in those areas. The task force will focus its attention on defining and envisioning our mission efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. The task force will be working with both mission committees in both assessing our current involvement and in determining if changes or new mission programs are in order. Larry Hayward will be working closely with the task force. The task force will provide periodic updates to the Session and intends to have a final report at the Officer In-treat in February.

notes from the stewardship committee



dear friends,

The 2008 stewardship campaign, "The Assurance of Things Hoped For," is almost here! In upcoming church services, you'll be hearing about the many good reasons to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge this year. In this update, however, we'll focus on the "how" instead of the "why." Leading up to Pledge Sunday on November 2, pledge cards will be mailed to you and will be in the pews, just as in past years. However, there are two online tools that the Stewardship Committee would like you to be aware of this year.

online pledge card

The Westminster web site now has an online pledge card that you can use instead of a paper pledge card. This may be convenient for anyone who has lost their card, who is new to the church, or who wants to think about their pledge while they're sitting at home, working on the family finances. There's no need to enter any sensitive financial information. Your name and your confidential pledge amount (or stewardship discussion request) will be automatically e-mailed to the same church staff members that collect paper pledge cards. To access the online pledge card, go to www.wpc-alex.org, and click the Stewardship link under "About Us."

electronic checks

Many of us pay utility bills or other monthly bills through our bank's web site. Did you know that you can do the same for your Westminster pledge? Most banks will allow you to enter Westminster's name and address on their bill paying pages, and then will send a paper check to Westminster in the amounts and at the times you specify.

In addition to the convenience of church members, automatic pledge payments have some important benefits for the church. Westminster's pledge income varies with church attendance: It's relatively low in the summer, and highest in November and December. When members set up automatic payments, it helps to distribute pledged giving more evenly throughout the year, better matching our expenses. Missing church one Sunday no longer means missing your stewardship commitment!

If you have questions about these online options, or would like help setting one of them up on your computer, please contact the church office so they can have a member of the Stewardship Committee contact you.

new members

new members (Joined 8/31/09)

Tracie M. Jurgensen: Tracie and her husband, Erik, have a 2 year old daughter, Lucy, and they are expecting another child, soon. She is a "stay at home Mom" and lives in Alexandria. She hails from Greensboro, NC, and majored in communications at UNC @ Greensboro.

Melissa D. McClellan: Melissa is single, is an attorney with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is from Florida, graduated from U. of Florida in Gainesville, and lives in Alexandria.

Cari M. Richmond: Goes by her middle name, Michelle, lives in Arlington, received a BA from Hollins College, and is a Senior Account Executive with Hill and Knowlton. She attended WPC as a child and she and her fiancé, Kris, are planning a wedding at WPC.

William K. Ozanus: Goes by his middle name, Kris, received his BA from Hampden-Sydney College, and his MBA from Regis U. in Colorado. Kris is from Abilene, Texas, and lives in Arlington, works on the Hill.

Mark A. Sither: Mark is from Parkersburg, WV, and received his BA from U. of Kentucky. His father was a Minister in the Episcopal Church and then became a pastor of a Presbyterian Church. He is retired from the Government Civil Service, lives in Alexandria, and is active in Church and community groups helping others.

Kathy G. Stenzel: Kathy is from Sacramento, CA, graduated from U. of California, Berkeley, majoring in Agricultural Economics. She is married to Tom, and they have five children, and lives in Alexandria.

Thomas E. Stenzel: Tom is from Portsmouth, VA, received his BA from the U. of Richmond, majoring in Journalism/Speech. He is in Association Management with the United Fresh Produce Association. He is married to Kathy, they have five children, and lives in Alexandria.

new members (Joining 9/21/08)

John R. Stebe: John is one of our young adults, from Rockville Centre, NY, and graduated from Webb Institute, majoring in Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering. He is a Naval Architect at the Naval Sea Systems Command, and lives in Alexandria. John comes from a strong Presbyterian heritage, and was an elder at his last church, Bellmore Presbyterian Church, NY.

Lisa W. Anderson: Lisa was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in Fairfax County. She received her BA from Converse College in Spartanburg, SC., and is a Technical Recruiter for Russell Cameron LLC., and lives in Alexandria. Lisa has been one of our stalwart choir members over the past year.

Dianne L. Bricker: Dianne is from Lancaster, PA, grew up in Indiana, graduated from Purdue University where she majored in Broadcasting/Speech. Dianne is a Lobbyist (State Level) for America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), and lives in Woodbridge, VA. Dianne found Westminster through good friend and WPC member, Micheline Williams.

Emily S. Jones: Married to Brian, they have a 2 year old daughter, Ingrid. Emily is from Pullman, WA, and has a BA from Univ. of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA. She is a Fund Raising Consultant for Changing Our World, and active in community programs. Emily, Brian and Ingrid live in Alexandria.

William B. Jones: William goes by his middle name "Brian". He is married to Emily and they have a 2 year old daughter, Ingrid. Brian is from Summitt, NJ, went to U. of Mass. for his BA, and graduated from the Univ. of Washington in Seattle with a MA in Political Science. Brian is a consultant with Mercury Public Affairs. Brian, Emily, and Ingrid live in Alexandria.

Shirley M. Miles: Shirley was born in Laurinburg, NC, graduated from Fayetteville State University, in Fayetteville, NC, majoring in Business Administration & Management. She is a Government Analyst at the U.S. Department of State. Shirley has a grown daughter, and lives in Alexandria.

Jessica B. Richardson: Jessica and her husband, John, have a 10 month old daughter, Sophie. Jessica is from Iowa Falls, IA, and graduated from the Univ. of Kentucky, in Lexington, KY, majoring in Spanish & Journalism. She is a Realtor with McEneaney & Associates, is active in the Alexandria community, and they live in Alexandria.

John B. Richardson II: John and his wife, Jessica, have a 10 month old daughter, Sophie. John is from Salem, VA, and graduated from Appalachian State, in Boone, NC, where he majored in Finance. He is a Commercial Banker with Eaglebank. He and his family live in Alexandria.



young adults ministry

scavenger hunt : last chance!!!

Saturday, November 8 at 2:00 p.m. (we will meet earlier as the actual hunt begins at 2). Watson Adventures (a scavenger hunting company) presents: The Murder at the National Gallery Scavenger Hunt. A murdered

curator has left a trail of clues connected with secrets in works of art. They point to nefarious deeds surrounding the sale of a Rembrandt for millions of dollars. Can you figure out who dunnit? Be prepared for their most challenging hunt. We have reduced the price of tickets to \$10!!! Please contact Casey THIS WEEK if you are planning to attend.

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 events will be held on **October 21** and **November 18** 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 October, please contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.

young adults dinner groups

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

november brunch alternative!

Westminster has its annual "Blessings Brunch" on **November 2**—to which I hope you will come! We will not have our regularly scheduled first Sunday brunch on that day. I would also love to see you come the night before (**November 1**) to the Youth Talent Show and Silent Auction!

save the date! young adults retreat

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26

Young Adult Retreat, co-sponsored by National Capital Presbytery and Reformed Institute at Meadowkirk. Casey will be helping to plan this event (and will be going this year)! Please consider participating—it should be fun and interesting!



children and family ministry

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. We have begun making sandwiches on the first Friday of each month for the bag lunch program. We will also be doing moms-only projects on the last Friday of each month (sitters provided). Hope to see you and your little one(s) there!

SAVE THE DATES!

christmas pageant rehearsal

Saturday, December 13, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
All children grades K-5 are invited to participate in this year's pageant. Contact Casey for more information.

christmas pageant and potluck

Sunday, December 14, 5:00 p.m.

nametags

problem:

- Can't match a name with a familiar face?
- Having Memory Issues?
- Can't remember your own name??
- Are you new to the church?
- Want to be introduced?
- Tired of hi-tech solutions to low-tech problems?

solution:

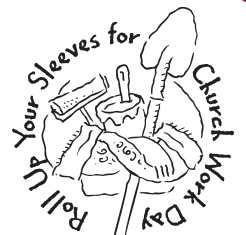
Bring \$3.50 to the Visitor Table on Sunday morning and the New Member Committee will order you a personalized WPC magnetic nametag. (*That means NO holes in the clothes!*)

fall workday

Saturday November 15

Enjoy a fall morning outside and help spruce up our church grounds for the winter.

Bring rakes and work gloves if you have them.



nominating committee slate of officers - fall 2008

elders – class of 2011

Patty Chamberlain - Patty was a member of WPC from 1990-1993, moved to Connecticut, and then rejoined in 1996. She is currently serving as an Elder and is Chair of the Congregational Life Committee. Patty has served on the New Member Committee, helped with the children's choir, and taught in Creation Station. She currently is our Wedding Coordinator and also teaches 3 year olds in our Westminster Weekday Preschool. She is active in two PTA's, and is her swim team's rep. Patty enjoys traveling with her family, gardening and reading. She and her husband, Rob, have three children, and live in Alexandria.

Christine Eustis – Christine joined Westminster this past May. She is a life long Presbyterian and has served as a Deacon at two previous churches. Christine belongs to a circle and is taking the Christ and Culture class. She manages the communications program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency responsible for managing fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Christine enjoys the outdoors and hiking, biking, camping, etc. She is an avid reader, has 3 cats, and spends a lot of her free time visiting her family in Pennsylvania. She will be adopting a child from China and hopes she arrives sometime next year.

Rita Grazda: Rita joined WPC earlier this year after visiting for a few months. She is on the Local Missions Committee and a member of Sarah Circle. Rita also represented Carpenter's Shelter at last year's Alternate Giving Bazaar. She is a human resources executive for a government contractor in Reston. Rita spent the first half of her career in public relations/corporate communications and has been doing HR for about the last 10 years. She spends a lot time traveling since her family and friends are all over the country, and she also enjoys entertaining. Rita is a member of the Development Committee for Carpenter's Shelter and spends time volunteering there each month.

David Hill: David has been a member of Westminster for 9 years. He has been an Elder for the last three years, during which time he has served as vice-chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, and also as a member of the Congregational Life Committee. David and his wife Kristina served as co-chairs of the successful Encore Capital Campaign. Their three children were born and have started to grow up in the church, and he has worked in the nursery, with Church School classes and Creation Station. David is an attorney and is currently the general counsel of the U.S. Department of Energy. He enjoys spending time with his family traveling and riding bikes. David also enjoys following his Mizzou Tigers now that they have a decent football team.

Molly Roden: Molly has been a member of Westminster for 20 years. During this time, she has been most actively involved in choir, children's choir and women's circles. In addition to these activities, she is currently also volunteering as the membership secretary. She coordinated the youth program during the search for a Youth Minister, and coordinated the first capital campaign. Molly was ordained as an elder at age 24 while a member of First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. She has served previously as an Elder here at Westminster, during which time she chaired the Stewardship Committee for two years and was the Clerk of Session for three years. Molly is a homemaker. Her other interests include singing with the Thomas Circle Singers, a chorus whose mission it is to raise money for social service agencies in the District of Columbia. She also spends a lot of time with her parents, children, and grandchildren, most of whom live in the area.

Steve Sieke: Steve and his family have been members of Westminster Presbyterian Church since 2006. Steve is a partner with IBM Global Services where he consults on projects with the federal government. Prior to joining Westminster, Steve's church activities included teaching Sunday School with his wife Marian, and serving as a Deacon, and a Trustee. He also led his church's Homeless Task Force, which successfully rehabbed abandoned houses in Philadelphia and made them available to homeless families. When he is not trying to catch one of his son's sports events, Steve enjoys tennis, racquetball, biking and an occasional game of golf. He lives with Marian, and their 2 boys, Alex (22) and Jack (17) in Alexandria.

Lauren Brown Sigler: Lauren has been a member since October 2007. She has been active in the New Member Committee and Mornings for Moms. She is also serving on the new Children's Ministry subcommittee. Lauren practiced law in the Counsel's Office at the Republican National Committee until 2007, when she decided to stay home full-time with her daughter, Lily, who is now 2 ½. She attended law school at the University of Richmond and received her undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech. She is a native of Columbia, South Carolina. She is a Virginia Tech football fan and enjoys baking and cooking. She lives with her husband, Bill, in Alexandria and they are expecting their second child in January.

Maura Winn: Maura has been a member of WPC for 1 ½ years. She has participated in Rebuilding Alexandria, been a summer Church School teacher, and is a member of the Young Adults Group. She is a clinical study program manager for Abbott Diabetes Care, a division of Abbott Laboratories. She likes gardening, hiking, travel, and cooking. She lives with her husband, Rob, in Alexandria.

nominating committee slate of officers - fall 2008

elder – class of 2009

Mary Olsen: Mary joined Westminster in June 2007. She is a member of the Young Adults group and has taught Church School for toddlers. Mary is a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Air Force and works in a Prisoner of War/Missing In Action (POW/MIA) Office. She also works at the White House part time as a Military Social Aide, supporting social events hosted by the First Family. Mary is earning her master's degree in Communications with an emphasis in Media and Public Relations at Johns Hopkins University—DC campus. She enjoys running, reading and spending time with friends. Mary is excited about the opportunity to contribute more to our congregation.

deacons – class of 2011

Donna Blackburn: Donna recently moved to the Washington area from Kansas to be near her grandsons who are two and five years old. She is currently serving as a Deacon. She is a life-long Presbyterian and an ordained Deacon and Elder. Donna is a retired physical education teacher who enjoys water aerobics and walking for exercise. She lives in Montebello and joined Westminster in August 2007, belongs to a circle, sings in the choir, and helps with the Bag Lunch Program.

Bob Campbell: Bob was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas, for 65 years where he served as an Elder. A retired doctor, Bob has a deep Presbyterian heritage. His great grandfather and his grandfather were both Presbyterian ministers. Bob and his wife, Mary Jane, are the proud parents of Molly Roden, grandparents of David, Leigh, Janie and Peter, and great-grandparents of Felicity and Kalista. Bob enjoys reading and he joined Westminster in December 2007. He is currently serving as a Deacon.

Laurie Chidlow: Laurie and her husband Carl started attending Westminster in 1999, one year after their wedding and the year they moved to Cameron Mills Rd. She teaches children's Church School, has been a shepherd in Creation Station, participates in family events, and belongs to the Mornings for Mom's group. Her son graduated from and her daughter attends Westminster Weekday Preschool. Laurie worked as a government consultant with Andersen Consulting and then EDS for many years, travelling much of the time. After the birth of her second child, Hannah (who is now 3), she decided to stay home for a while to spend more time with her children and to slow down her family's hectic pace a bit. She enjoys playing sports and would love to learn how to surf. One of Laurie's favorite activities is just getting together with other moms. Laurie is excited to work more closely with members of the congregation to continue making Westminster a fabulous place of worship and community.

Steven Holton: Steven joined the church this past Spring after relocating from Georgia. He already plays in the Handbell Choir. Steve is a Patent Examiner for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He enjoys soccer, fencing, reading science fiction, and playing the drums. He was born and raised in Norcross, Georgia, and served as an Elder in the Northwoods Presbyterian Church there before moving to the D.C. area for work.

Laura Kopp: Laura is a returning deacon. She has been attending Westminster for approximately 12 years and she joined the Church in 2000. In addition to her service as Deacon, Laura has taught Church School, helped with Creation Station and served as an Usher. She works with the MITRE Corporation (non-profit) as a consultant to federal government clients. In her hours away from work and church Laura plays tennis and serves as a fundraiser for the Lombardi Cancer Center. She and her husband, Paul, have two boys, Walker and William.

Chris Matthews: Chris has been a WPC member for 15 yrs. She is currently serving as a Deacon and on the Nominating Committee. Chris has served as Chair of the Westminster Weekday Preschool board for 2 terms, co-chaired the fellowship Coffee Hour in 2007, has been a Teacher/Shepherd for Creation Station, and completed the Disciple course. She is President of Bellwether Research and Consulting, a public opinion research firm specializing in public affairs and political polling. Chris chairs the Garden/Natural Education Committee at her daughter's school and also serves on the development committee with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. She enjoys swimming, tennis, and hiking.

Jeanne Pruitt-White: Jeanne joined Westminster in 1993. Having a financial background, Jeanne has helped in a variety of fundraising activities, including the annual plant sale. She also has served on the Youth sub-committee, and as the Assistant Superintendent for the Church School. Jeanne enjoys boating (has a small boat), gardening, and beading. She is often seen around the Church neighborhood walking her dog ... rain or shine.

Fred Woods: Fred joined Westminster about five years ago. He is currently serving as a Deacon. He also sings in the Choir, and is a member of the New member/Assimilation Committee and the Congregational Life Committee. Fred is on the Flying Solos Steering Committee. He is the General Manager of the Pointe at Park Center Condominium. Fred enjoys biking, home renovation, cooking and gardening. He has enjoyed serving Westminster in many ways and working with so many other members who are so dedicated to this church.

continued non page 10

nominating committee slate of officers - fall 2008 continued

Lisa Zickar: Lisa joined Westminster in 1998. She has taught Church School, helped with the Children's Choir, and assisted with M&M week. Lisa will be serving her second three year term as a returning Deacon. She likes to play tennis and run. At home she makes great spaghetti and meatballs for her husband Lou and their children Allie (15) and Sam (12). She is a proud graduate of William and Mary.

nominating committee – class of 2009

Suzanne Neureiter: Suzanne has been a member of WPC since 1993. She is currently serving on the Nominating Committee. Suzanne has worked in the church nursery and Church School, been a story teller for Children in Worship, served as an usher, worked on the Congregational Life Committee, and served on the Vision Awareness Committee for the Encore Campaign. She taught English Literature and Writing at the University of Pennsylvania and in Beijing, and is currently a homemaker. She is married to Paul Neureiter and has three children. She enjoys camping, reading and spending time with her family.

Molly North: Molly joined Westminster in 1993. She has served as Deacon, participated in Tables for Eight, helped create the Member Response Team, helped review the Church's finances, and taught Church School. Molly works as a property asset manager for the Government Services Administration. She likes to attend concerts and plays, travel to exotic destinations, and hike the outdoors. To Molly, Westminster is a nurturing place that puts her in the company of caring compassionate people.

Rusty Ring: Rusty has been a member of Westminster for forty-five years and was baptized by Rev. Cliff Johnson in 1963. Growing up in the church, Rusty sang in the children's' choir and was active in the Westminster youth groups. After college, he returned to Alexandria and served as a youth group adviser for fourteen years. Rusty runs the government affairs office for CVS Caremark and has been with them for 7 years. Before that he lobbied for Mutual of Omaha and also worked on Capitol Hill. Rusty's hobbies include travel, skiing, and reading.

Dudley Schadeberg: Dudley has been a member of Westminster since 1976. During that time, he has been involved in many areas of WPC's ministries including serving as a Deacon, an Elder, a member of the Endowment Board, and a member of the 2002-2003 Music Ministries Search Committee. Dudley is currently serving as Chairman of the Men of Westminster and has just completed a year as President of the Westminster Choir. He is the Realty Officer for the National Cemetery Association in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Dudley also enjoys American history, politics, reading, and gardening. He lives in Arlington with his wife, Melinda, and they have one daughter, Lorna, who is a senior at the University of Virginia.


trustee – class of 2011

Anne Soens: Anne has been a member of Westminster for 13 years. She sings in the Choir, has completed Disciple I, served as an Elder for one year, and helps with the coffee hour after the early service. Anne is a patent attorney in private practice. She enjoys studying piano, reading, and dinners with friends. Anne and her husband Bob live in Alexandria.

women's ministry

thank you to westminster women

Thanks to all who contributed many small items, including socks, notebooks and toothbrushes, to be sent to the needy in Afghanistan via Captain Kibben. This Navy chaplain having served in Afghanistan, spoke at our Presbyterian Women's fall gathering, eliciting a very generous response.



women's book group

The October selection is T.C. Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*. Discussions will be Monday, October 27, 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Johnson Parlor. The November pick is *Daughter's Keeper* by Ayelet Waldman. Discussion date is Monday, November 23, 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Johnson Parlor. All women are invited. For further information contact Clara Beth Van de Water, 703-549-4766 x120.

women's retreat:

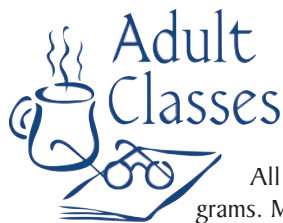
a bouquet of blessings

Save the weekend of March 27-29 for a weekend of blessings at the Hallwood 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.



**adult
education
programs**
Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

All adults are invited to the following programs. 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. "invitation to the new testament"

9:30 – 10:50 a.m., October 19 – December 7, Westminster Room. Come join folks in reading Matthew's gospel and sharing matters of importance for the daily living of our faith. The format includes video and discussion, and the DISCIPLE program study guide for reading that is available for \$9.00. The facilitators are Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, experienced and excellent DISCIPLE leaders. Register before or on October 19. Get forms from Clara Beth Van de Water (703-549-4766 x120), the church office, online at www.wpc-alex.org/adult, or at the first class. Experience the heart of the gospel, which means good news!

II. "current issues in light of christian faith"

October 19-November 2, Haverkamp Room. Explore the issues of Church and State with Major General William Suter, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court (Oct. 19); "Christian Evangelistic Mission vs. Interreligious Dialogue and Understanding" with Dr. John Borelli, Special Assistant to the President on Interreligious Issues, Georgetown University (Oct. 26); and "The Current Crisis of Missing and Exploited Children" with Larry Bonney, former FBI agent and Deputy Director of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Nov. 2).

III. "forgiveness"

9:45 – 10:45 a.m., October 19 and 26, for Creation Station parents, room to be announced. Rev. Casey FitzGerald will lead parents in discussing the nature and practice of forgiveness and teaching it to our children.

IV. "worship well: why do we worship the way we worship at westminster?"

9:45 – 10:45 a.m., November 9 – 23, Haverkamp Room, led by Dr. Larry R. Hayward and other worship staff. Dr. Hayward will do an overview (Nov.9), talk about preaching (Nov. 16), and music (Nov. 23) co-led with Dr. Paul Stetsenko.

"christ and culture" on sunday afternoons

Discussion of issues and faith led by Dr. Larry Hayward, Sundays 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Room 103/105. All adults are invited any Sunday.

men's retreat news

Planning has already started 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 popular Hollywood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Comus, Maryland. The retreat leader will be announced soon.



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 indicate your intention by contacting Kirk Kaneer or Dudley Schadeberg. Registration will commence on November 9. Watch this space and the Chronicle Update for further information.

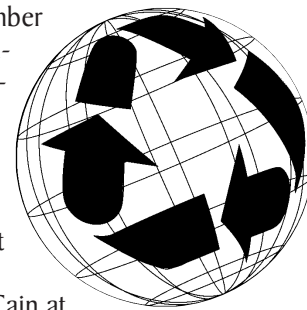
men of westminster 2nd friday breakfast

Sorry if you missed the October MOW Breakfast with Elder Lanny Griffith describing his behind the scenes responsibilities for the Presidential and Vice Presidential debates and following lively discussion.

Don't miss the November 14 MOW Breakfast with Secretary of the Air Force, Elder Michael B. Donley, who will share some of his experiences, thoughts and perspectives. Fellowship Hall, 7:00-8:15 AM.

Eco-friendly Chronicle

In order to save on paper and printing/mailling 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.



church staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
Sandra CalhounDirector of Westminister Travelers
Nancy Hall BerensInterm Dir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
Jill EwellPastoral Care Assistant
Eileen JinksSeniors Pastoral Care Assistant
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
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The Chronicle

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This is the time of year for our annual stewardship campaign. During this time you are asked to think about what Westminister means to you

and to give of your resources accordingly. Financial resources naturally come to mind first and there is no way that Westminister could survive without the generous giving of its members.

Each year I am asked if pledging time & talent compensates for reduced financial pledging. The simple answer is that this is a personal question that must be answered by each person individually. Certainly, the pledges of time and talent allow Westminister to undertake many things that we could not otherwise do. However, financial pledging and time & talent pledging are supplements to each other. We need cash contributions for some things such as utilities, salaries, and support of missions. We need time & talent contributions for things such as serving as officers or committee members, teaching in Creation Station, or any number of activities around the church. The proportion of your contribution that comes in the form of financial giving vs.

volunteer corner

time & talent is an individual decision that results from prayerful consideration.

Meanwhile, we have many needs for volunteers. The Meals on Wheels program desperately needs new volunteers. This is not just a Westminister need: the program for the City of Alexandria is also suffering a shortage of volunteers. You can volunteer with Westminister on the third Tuesday of each month. The commitment generally runs from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm. Ede Thomas (703) 836-7727 can fill you in on the details.

If you would like to volunteer for something but don't know what, please contact me at asauer@wpc-alex.org and I'll be glad to talk with you about what is available. Short-term (even one-time) and longer term commitments are equally appreciated. Some things, such as, helping to run a potluck may not even seem like volunteering but we couldn't do them without you.

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