



# the chronicle

September 18, 2008 - volume 40, number 2

## Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

### dedication concert for new sanctuary piano & refurbished organ

September 21, 2008,  
2:00 PM  
Paul Stetsenko

Organ: *Three Chorals*  
by Cesar Franck

Intermission (15 minutes)

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

Reception following concert  
in Fellowship Hall



### *From the Pastor's Study*

A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

### mutual forbearance

By the time you read this, we will be about a month away from electing a new president. It has been an intense primary season. The race seems to be close...again. Turnout should be increasing...again. And intensity is high on both sides.

I have been thinking a lot about the Constitution these days, not the United States Constitution per se, but rather the Presbyterian Constitution, known as *The Book of Order and The Book of Confessions*. In what is the "preamble" to our Presbyterian constitution, we say:

*...there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other.*

These words, written over three-hundred years ago, are crucial to church life, but they are not limited to matters ecclesiastical. In this election, "there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ." Not just "may" but "will." Some such people "of good characters and principles" are seeking the highest and second-highest offices in the land. Most are like you and me: studying, following the race, possibly working or volunteering in campaigns, planning to vote. No matter what we believe, no matter whom we plan to support, no matter who wins and who loses, "it is the duty of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other."

This is not only a "duty" for Christians, but it makes sense as well, for Christians and others. The body politic called America will be healthier the more "mutual forbearance" we exercise.

I urge you to follow the race. Work your heart out. Vote your conscience. And then respect the millions of others who will do likewise.

Larry

### comedian dave werner in "the lighter side of election 2008"

On Saturday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall an All-Church Potluck Dinner will be followed by a Benefit Comedy Show. Proudly presented by the Local Missions and Congregational Life Committees. Proceeds of freewill offering to help rebuild the playground at ALIVE's Child Development Center in Alexandria.

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

A-L please bring appetizers and main courses, M-Z please bring salads and desserts. Childcare will be provided during the performance (birth – elementary). The performance is appropriate for ages 8 and above. For set-up and childcare planning, please RSVP to the church office at 703-549-4766 by Thursday, September 25.



thank-you & more

**dear westminster friends,**

Thank you all so much for your hugs, cards, and support after the death of Charlotte Walkup. This outpouring of love has meant a great deal to all of us and shown us how much she was loved and respected. We especially appreciated all of your prayers for us and the visit of and follow-up with Patrick Hunnicutt.

Sincerely,  
**The Walkup, Lloyd, and Hurley Families**

**dear church family,**

Many have been so kind to ask about my journey in Seminary over these past four years. Because I have been interning at another church during the last academic year I did not worship regularly at Westminster and therefore have not been able to see people as much as I have in past years. I am writing to let people know where I am in my seminary journey and to invite questions and/or comments about my studies over these past few years at anytime.

I will continue to be an intern at Georgetown Presbyterian Church during this academic year. I have completed 82 of 90 credits for my Masters of Divinity degree. I hope to graduate from Wesley Theological Seminary this coming May and hope to take the four required Presbyterian Ordination Exams next August 2009.

I hope to go before Westminster Session sometime later this fall to ask for their approval to proceed to my next step, from Inquiry to Candidacy in the Presbyterian Church (USA), which will lead me further into the Presbytery process toward service and ministry with the Presbyterian Church.

I ask for your continued prayers as I approach what should be a rigorous year of study, discernment and challenge. With warm regards, much love, and appreciation,  
**Amey Upton**

**flood relief:**

Thanks to all who contributed to the flood relief effort for the 1st Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Westminster members and friends were most generous. These individual contributions, along with a donation of \$1,700 from the Westminster Foundation Emergency Benevolence fund, enabled us to send \$8,560 to 1st Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids which will be used to support members of the community and the church in their recovery process.

**westminster membership**

We celebrate our growing membership as we continue to welcome new members just about every month. Our current membership now totals 893 people. Some of these folks are currently not in the area but maintain their membership at Westminster for a variety of reasons. Our statistical reports to the General Assembly also use two different categories (affiliate members and members) but all are active members. Some people are confused at times when we reference membership numbers by category so we wanted to give a little background as well as our total membership number. We celebrate our thriving congregation as we begin another active program year!



**Thursday, October 9.** 2 p.m. Cruise Tea. No, not that Cruise - Haverkamp Room. Representatives from Holland America Lines and Friendly Travel will share information about our Caribbean cruise on the m/s Eurodam. This event is planned for those lucky 33 who have already made reservations but open to anyone interested in learning more about cruising. Rsvp to the church office. 703-549-4766.

**Thursday, October 16.** 7:00 p.m. *Dearly Departed*; Aldersgate Community Methodist Church . \$1 trip fee.

**Thursday, October 30.** 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Lunch at Grave's Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA. Enjoy a family style meal after a scenic fall ride to Old Rag Mountain. Sign up through church office. Send check for \$16 made out to Nancy Jane Wilke, 3603 Oakwood Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310. Price is based on a full bus of 15.

**sanctuary flowers**

If you would like to memorialize or honor loved ones with a flower arrangement in the sanctuary for Sunday services, only one arrangement has been reserved for the following dates: Sept 28, Oct 5, Oct 26, Nov 23, Nov 30, Dec 14. A second arrangement would be welcomed. Each arrangement is \$55. Please call Oraly Spatz in the church office or email her at ospatz@wpc-



alex.org if you are interested.

## plan to do your christmas shopping at westminster on december 7 and 14

Remember to save your Christmas shopping for Westminster Mission Committee's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar, which will be held this year on December 7 and 14 following both the 8:30 and 11:00 am services in Fellowship Hall.

We encourage you to honor friends, family and co-workers by giving gifts in their names to charities supported by Westminster instead of the usual unneeded, and in some cases unwanted (think fruitcake) gifts this Christmas. The Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar lets you give gifts that will make an important difference in the lives of people in our community, our nation, and around the world. For example, you can contribute locally to AACH, ALIVE, Carpenters 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). Cards will be available from Westminster or the organization involved to give to the person you are honoring. These gifts are two gifts in one: one to meet the needs of a person, family, or group of people you will never know; the other to honor your family member, friend, co-worker or neighbor.

In addition, as in the past, beautiful handmade gifts will be available from the Bridge of Hope Peru Artisan Group. These are gifts that also give twice: once to the recipient and once to the workers, their families and communities.



Finally, this is the primary time to provide continuing support to Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge Kenya, which houses 50 children (33 girls and 17 boys) in the residential facility and provides education for more than 100 children at the Academy. As you will read elsewhere, both the Orphanage and the Academy survived the violence following last year's contested Presidential election intact, but the disruption caused by the violence has dramatically increased the cost of all supplies. As a result we will need to increase the amount necessary to support a child at the Orphanage from \$750 or \$62.50 per month to \$850 or \$71 per month and to provide a teacher from \$900 or \$75 per month to \$950 or \$80 per month for 2009.



## flying solo (singles) upcoming events

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

### flying solo singles upcoming events:

**October 3-5:** *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus: Friendship with Christ"* There is still time to sign up for the Flying Solo retreat at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Our retreat leader will be Jeff Hensley, a popular speaker in some recent adult education classes at Westminster. We will discuss what it means for Christ to call us "friends" and how we understand friendship as both Christians and single persons in the context of our contemporary culture. Please call 703-549-4766 or contact Oraly Spatz at [ospatz@wpc-alex.org](mailto:ospatz@wpc-alex.org) if you need a brochure. We've extended the deadline a bit, so please register by September 24! We hope you will join us!

**Tuesdays, September 23 and October 28:** Our monthly Potlucks take place in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 pm. On the fourth Tuesday of each month, we gather at church for a casual potluck dinner and for our monthly mission

project (making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program). Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share.

**Monday, October 13:** Our monthly Dine-Out in October will take us to Vaso's Kitchen, a cozy Greek restaurant in Old Town, located at 1225 Powhatan Street. We meet the second Monday of each month at a local restaurant for an evening of food and fellowship. If you want to carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, join us at the restaurant about 7:15.

*Flying Solo is a group for singles in their prime years (more or less 40 and above) belonging to the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The group offers single adults the opportunity for Christian fellowship, spiritual and intellectual growth, and service to others.*

Blessings!  
Nancy



**good news and bad news  
as we enter the home stretch for 2008**

The year 2008 could not have gotten off to a worse start for Kenya and particularly the area surrounding the UO&A in Moi's Bridge. As you will recall over 1,000 people were killed and over 300,000 were driven out of their homes, farms and businesses, which were destroyed in violence following the contested 2007 Presidential election. The UO&A was not subjected to the violence that swirled around it, we believe because of its multiethnic admission policy, and, in fact, became a sanctuary for more than 100 of its immediate neighbors. Through the generosity of members of Westminster and friends almost \$20,000 was raised to meet the emergency, and, as a result, the refugees were resettled to other safe places and the Academy was able to commence classes for the 2008 school year on January 14.

Since then the situation in the country has improved, as a result of a compromise between the opposing political forces, and people are slowly beginning to return to their homes. According to Director Chege, the 50 children at the UO&A were never in harms way and were not too badly traumatized by the violence that surrounded them – an assessment with which I concur as a result of my visit there in mid-March. The situation around the UO&A has continued to cool. The Academy has enrolled over 100 students in classes from Early Childhood Development through Fifth Grade, including 39 children from the residential facility. All of this is very good news indeed!

On the other hand, as a result of the violence and disruptions resulting from it, the costs of everything for operating the Orphanage (food, clothing and health care) have increased dramatically. This means that we will need to raise at least \$6,000 before we can begin to address raising money to cover costs for 2009. In the past, operating costs have been covered by the end of November, so that we can start raising funds for the succeeding year at the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar. (*This year's Bazaar will be held on December 7 and 14: see article on page 3 of this publication*) We hope to be able to continue this practice. It also means that we will need to ask people to provide \$850 or \$71 per month to support a child at the Orphanage in 2009 and \$950 or \$80 per month to provide a teacher.

**on october 19 westminster will  
celebrate bread for the world sunday**

On October 19 Westminster will join thousands of churches and other worshipping communities across the country in celebrating Bread for the World Sunday. Bread for the World Sunday offers the opportunity for organizations and individuals to rededicate themselves to urging our nation's leaders to support efforts to end hunger in the United States and around the world.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to take action to end hunger at home and abroad. Westminster has been a Covenant Church in the Bread for the World network for 20 years. Participating in the Offering of Letters, as we did in June, and in celebrating Bread for the World Sunday, as we will do on October 19, are ways that we fulfill our obligations as a Covenant Church. Look for the Bread for the World insert in the October 19 bulletin.



**westminster's craft group**

Fall is upon us and Westminster's Craft Group is gearing up for fall classes and open workshops. Join us any Tuesday 9:30 a.m. - noon or 7:30 – 10:00 p.m. for open workshop. Bring anything from home to work on or just come see what is happening. We are in Room 104 of the Education Building. Classes coming up in September include Beginning Stained Glass, September 18, 25, and October 2, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m., and 3-Dimensional Hinged Stained Glass Box, September 17 and 24, 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. To get more information or to register for any of these classes, call Madeline Ramsey 703-379-7458 or CBramse44@aol.com.



We need volunteers for Meals on Wheels on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month for about 2 hours either to drive or take the meals into the house. Please call Ede Thomas at 703-836-7727 for details. Thank you!



## notes from the stewardship committee thoughts on giving

All of us have our own thoughts and opinions regarding our spiritual calling to “give unto others”, be it financial giving or in time and talents. But as with any of our opinions, sometimes it helps to have affirmation or reformation of these opinions by listening to those of others. Below is a collection of short quotations on the subject of giving unto others from some well-known sources. These statements might just move us to deeper thought on where we are personally in this aspect of our Christian lives.

*“Our wills are ours, we know not how. Our wills are ours to make them thine”* - Tennyson

*“Service is the rent we pay for our room on earth.”* - Lord Fairfax

*“There cannot be a surer rule, nor a stronger exhortation to the observance of it, than when we are taught that all the endowments which we possess are divine deposits entrusted to us for the very purpose of being distributed for the good of our neighbor.”* - John Calvin

*“It is more difficult to give money away intelligently than it is to earn it in the first place.”* - Andrew Carnegie

*“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”* - Winston Churchill

*“It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”* - Mother Theresa

*“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands – that, I still possess.”* - Martin Luther

*“Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.”* - John D. Rockefeller Jr.

*“Stewardship is not just one part of Christian discipleship; it involves every aspect of life in all the stages of life.”* - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

*“As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled.”* - Victor Hugo

*“To ease another’s heartache is to forget one’s own.”* - Abraham Lincoln

*“Defer not charities till death. He hath does so, is rather liberal of another man’s than of his own.”* - Francis Bacon

As you can see, this is a diverse collection of commentators – some religious, some secular; some political, some philosophical. All, however, share one common message in that giving is an undeniable responsibility. You may have noticed that, perhaps, the most poignant source of inspiration on the topic of giving – the Bible – is missing in the collection above. The Bible is so abundant on this topic that it is too difficult to isolate any one passage or quotation. Proverbs and the Psalms provide great inspiration. Jesus delivers the parable of the talents in Mathew 25. The Apostle Paul implores the church to giving in his second letter to the Corinthians.

As we enter a new year in which we pledge our time and talents to God, the Stewardship Committee asks all of us to reflect (in thought, prayer, and word) upon our Christian calling and responsibility of giving unto others, as those quoted above have done. Perhaps each of us can develop our own citation to invoke and inspire our responsibility to God, each other and all brothers and sisters in faith.

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## focus on missions



### ALIVE! child development center needs our help to rebuild playground

On June 4 punishing winds from a severe thunderstorm toppled a tree behind First Christian Church and destroyed the primary piece of playground equipment at ALIVE’s Child Development Center.

Sadly, the students were unable to play outside all summer, but by the end of August the playground was cleared and made safe. When school started after Labor Day, outdoor recess resumed. However, the playground has no equipment. Westminster members can help solve that problem!! Make a donation at the all-church potluck dinner on September 27 or mail a check to the Westminster office. Write the check to Westminster, with the notation “CDC Playground”. Each contribution, no matter how small or large, is important, and ALIVE! appreciates every CDC supporter.

The ALIVE! CDC offers quality full-day preschool/day care, on an income-based sliding fee scale, to Alexandria families who otherwise might not be able to provide such an experience for their children. Children who attend a quality preschool program – including adequate outdoor play -- are better prepared to meet the academic, social and emotional requirements of kindergarten. Many at-risk children live in neighborhoods where it is either not safe to play outdoors or there is no play area available. Therefore, it is even more important for children to develop their gross motor skills while they are at school. The CDC is an important investment by the Alexandria community to help build self-reliant families and to give children from families of the working poor some of the same opportunities Westminster parents are able to give their children.

## "what I did on my summer vacation"

Sound familiar? Isn't that the composition we all had to write when we went back to school in September? Well, here goes an updated version of an old classic!

This summer I had the chance to spend two weeks at **Ghost Ranch**, a Presbyterian conference and retreat center in northern New Mexico that many of you have heard me talk about and which a few of you have also visited. I have been going to Ghost Ranch for summer vacations ever since I was 6 years old when my father, a Presbyterian minister, would take us there for combination family vacation and pastoral study leave. My husband Tom was required to visit Ghost Ranch before we got married (definitely a prerequisite to marriage in the Hall household!), and our daughter Anne-Marie has been going to "the ranch" ever since she was 20 months old. We don't get there every summer, but we do go there regularly.

Tom, Anne-Marie and I attended the first-ever Family Week at Ghost Ranch in early July called "We are Family." It was such a success that they are planning on making it an annual tradition. We attended morning worship, took a watercolor class together, went on hikes, went swimming, canoeing and horseback riding, sang around the campfire, roasted marshmallows, enjoyed an afternoon milkshake, hunted for rocks in the arroyo, walked the labyrinth, petted the burros, spied a rattlesnake or two and several kinds of lizards, listened for coyotes in the distance at night, joined the 4th of July parade around the alfalfa field, hiked to the dinosaur quarry, visited the anthropology and paleontology museums, met individuals and families from all across the country, rediscovered old friends, exchanged ideas and opinions, prayed and sang together, read in the quiet of the always-open library, sat staring at the majestic red rock mesas by day and the star-filled sky by night, and took lots and lots of pictures! It was a full and wonderful week!

After one week at Ghost Ranch, we traveled around Colorado, Utah and Arizona to some of the wonderful national parks in the southwest. We then went back to New Mexico for a second week at the ranch. Tom had to return home to work, so Anne-Marie and I picked up my friend Catherine from Paris and took off for another week at Ghost Ranch. For that second week, Catherine took "Yoga for Well-Being," Anne-Marie participated in the children's activities program and I attended a semi-



nar entitled "Discerning the Signs of the Times" in which several speakers discussed topics pertinent to the upcoming elections and to the Olympic Games in China. As you can see, there is always a wide-range of seminars offered, from the arts to theology, from archaeology to geology, from outdoor adventures to spiritual quests. Something for everyone! This was Catherine's first visit to the ranch, and she was truly amazed at what she experienced. Catherine told me that she was looking for adventure and new experiences this summer and that she definitely found both at Ghost Ranch!

We were surrounded by the beauty of God's creation in a pocket of New Mexico which had attracted Georgia O'Keeffe to make it her home many years ago and paint the unique landscapes of the area - and which has continued to draw artists and adventurers, pastors and parents, singles and spouses, students and seniors, to what we call "The Magic Place." The motto of Ghost Ranch is "Let our world change your world." It's not particularly easy to get there nor particularly luxurious when you do arrive, but I know that a visit to the ranch will be a transformative experience for you if you give it a try.

This summer was an especially poignant year for me to be there because of Karen's death. Karen loved Ghost Ranch, had spent time there and was excited that we were going back. There was a special community of Christians to surround me when I got the sad news. And it was a gift from heaven that Pam Beard showed up at my cottage door one day to give me a much-needed hug from home!

As a child, I probably wrote several back-to-school compositions about going to Ghost Ranch during my summer vacation, and it's fun to write one again as an adult and to hear Anne-Marie tell her friends and teachers about our experiences there. Check out the Ghost Ranch website and get a glimpse of what might be in store for your next adventure: [www.ghost ranch.org](http://www.ghost ranch.org). They offer courses during the fall, winter and spring as well as summer. There are two locations, one in Santa Fe and one in the high desert near the village of Abiquiu. Who knows? Maybe you can include Ghost Ranch in your next travel account!

Nancy Hall Berens



## young adults ministry

### faith on tap

Calling all young adults yearning for exciting faith-based discourse and perhaps a malty beverage or a fountain soda! If you're interested, we meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next event will be held on October

21 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](mailto: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](mailto:czie-man@wmata.com) to sign up.

### young adults first sunday (potluck) brunch

In October we will resume our regular first Sunday brunch schedule, and meet in the Haverkamp Room after

worship (and the congregational meeting scheduled for that day). Please bring something yummy to share! RSVP to Casey FitzGerald.

### scavenger hunt: last chance!!!

Saturday, November 08 at 2:00PM (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. Tickets: \$20. Please contact Casey by Friday, October 10th if you are planning on attending.

### save the date! young adults retreat

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 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!



## what's up with our youth?

### save the date: variety show, dinner and silent auction

The youth of Westminster invite the congregation to Dinner, a Variety Show, and Silent Auction on **Saturday, November 1** at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The evening begins with a silent auction and you will have the opportunity to bid on amazing items. We will enjoy another amazing meal, followed by wonderful entertainment from our middle school and senior high youth. The money raised will support our youth mission trips. If you have an interesting item, service or weekend cottage you'd like to donate for the silent auction, please contact Ruth Kane at [rekane@comcast.net](mailto:rekane@comcast.net) or 703-683-0216 or Patty Chamberlain at [chamberlain\\_patty@hotmail.com](mailto:chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com) at 703-370-3750.

## needed: a few good fans!

As a former mascot, I know how important it is to have the support of the crowd. So many of our church's youth participate in sports, bands and activities where fan support can make a huge difference. That's why I'm asking you to consider being a part of a newly formed Youth Fan Club! The Youth Fan Club (perhaps the "Westminster Wackos?") is a yet-formed cadre of adults who would enjoy cheering on our young men and women on the playing field and in the performance hall. It's a great way to meet young people and their families and demonstrate the love of God outside our church walls. If you are retired and have a free afternoon or two, or if your schedule is flexible enough to accommodate a winter band concert, come on! Let's prove that ministry can be a spectator sport! (interested? Contact Patrick at [Phuncutt@wpc-alex.org](mailto:Phuncutt@wpc-alex.org)).



## children and family ministry



### **mornings for moms moves and more!**

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! Casey FitzGerald

### **teachers and shepherds still needed!**

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

### **trick or treat for alive!**

Children and parents are invited to participate in our Trick or Treat for ALIVE program in October. On Sunday the 19th, after worship, we will meet in the front lobby to go and distribute flyers around the neighborhood. On Saturday, October 25, we will meet at 4:00 p.m. in the church lobby (in costume!) to go and trick or treating for canned goods throughout the neighborhood to bring to ALIVE. If you are a parent/adult who will take a leadership role in this event, please let Casey know a.s.a.p.!!!

### **save the date!**

### **blessing of the animals**

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

We will be collecting various items for local animal shelters in the days and weeks leading up to this special service. Please see the local missions page on our website for a list of appropriate donations!

A line drawing of three animals: a donkey on the left, a giraffe in the middle, and an elephant on the right. They are standing on a simple ground line.

### **adult education**

#### **forgiveness, October 19 and 26**

The children in Creation Station will be having a four-week unit focused on forgiveness in November, and the adults will get an opportunity to focus on forgiveness as well. Using curriculum from "The Thoughtful Christian," Casey FitzGerald will lead discussions on the nature and practice of forgiveness, and how we teach our children to forgive both themselves and others.

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## westminster-george mason tutoring

*"Thank you for helping me with my English. I had fun at tutoring. Thank you for being my good friend."*

*"Thanks for helping me get better at reading. I really had fun with you. I hope I can see you again sometime."*

*"You were the best tutor that I ever had. You were nice to me, and you helped me with my homework."*

*"Thank you for working with me. I really miss you. Maybe I will see you again next year."*

These are excerpts from just a few of the letters written to WPC members by children who received academic assistance through the Westminster-George Mason Tutoring Program last year. Westminster tutors help struggling students complete their homework and prepare for tests and give them confidence and encouragement. Tutors work one-on-one with students on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:35-3:35 in the school library from October through May. If you would like to serve as a tutor or substitute, please contact Elizabeth O'Brien at elizabethobrien@aol.com or 703-684-3980.

## women's ministry

### "A View from the Field:

#### **A Chaplain's Experiences in Afghanistan"**

Captain Margaret Kibben, Chaplain Corps, United States Navy, will present a chaplain's experiences in Afghanistan on Wednesday evening, October 1, 7:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. She will share her experiences as a theater chaplain in Afghanistan, offer perspectives on the life of service members in Afghanistan, the role and mission of the US/NATO military forces and the life of the Afghans.

In 2006 the Rev. Dr. Kibben, a Presbyterian minister deployed as Command Chaplain, Combined Forces Command, Afghanistan. Currently she is assigned to the Office of the Chief of Navy Chaplains at the Pentagon.

Captain Kibben's talk is sponsored by Presbyterian Women's circles who will serve dessert. Although this is our Fall Women's gathering, both men and women are invited to attend, and no registration is required.

Captain Kibben would like for attendees to bring a small gift of supplies for Afghans, such as children's vitamins, toothpaste and brushes, and socks. A list will be available later on the Westminster Presbyterian Women's webpage or the Chronicle Update.

### **monthly women's workday to help alexandria hospital**

A workday to make heart shaped pillows for heart surgery patients and stuffed animals for child patients is held the first Wednesday morning of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Contact coordinator Nancy McIver (703-370-1445) for details or just stop by our next workday, October 1.



### **a bouquet of blessings for our women's retreat**

Save March 27-29, 2009 for a weekend of blessings at the beautiful rural Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland, an hour from Alexandria. Our leader will be Clara Beth Van de Water, our director of adult education and women's ministries. God says "You shall be blessed like a watered garden" (paraphrased from Isaiah 58:11)



## women's book group

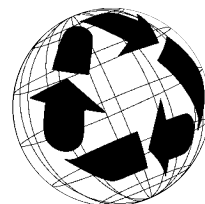
The October selection is T.C. Boyles's *The Tortilla Curtain*, a novel about the American dream and immigration. Discussions will be held Monday, October 27 at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. All women are invited. For further information, call leader Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120.

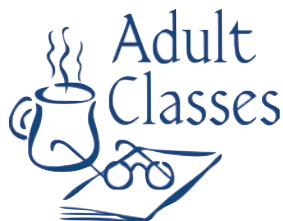
## MOW

The Men of Westminster meets the second Friday of each month from 7:00 to 8:15 AM in Fellowship Hall to discuss contemporary issues and enjoy fellowship over breakfast. Upcoming discussion leaders are: Les Garrison, a retired Marine who recently spent three years in Iraq as a contract civilian building community among the troops and the Iraqis and now is in charge of teaching all our soldiers going to the Middle East how to do the same; Lanny Griffith, CEO of BGR, a major international consulting firm that helps drive elections behind the scenes; Mike Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, to share some of his thoughts and experiences. Join us!

## going green

In an ongoing effort to be eco-friendly in our operations, the church is providing several opportunities to conserve resources. There are blue recycling bins throughout the church which are for recycling paper, plastic, glass and cardboard. You will notice baskets near sanctuary doors for recycling bulletins. And you may have received this Chronicle only by email this month as we make an effort to conserve paper by only mailing hard copies to those who do not have email or who prefer a hard copy. If you received the Chronicle only by email and would rather get a hard copy delivered by your mail carrier, please contact Tara Cain at Tcain@wpc-alex.org.





## adult education programs

Sunday mornings, 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.

All adults are invited to the following programs. No registration is needed, except for the DISCIPLE course. Meeting rooms will be listed in the Chronicle Updates in the weekly worship bulletins. Contact Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 if you want further information.

### ***“The Reformed Tradition: Why Bother?”***

**September 21 – October 12**

Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown, and Director, Reformed Institute, Haverkamp Room

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

### ***“African Christian Spirituality”***

**September 21**

Directors of the African Evangelism Program, Westminster Room

Take a look at vital African Christian spirituality with Rev. Ted and Sue Wright, directors of the African Evangelism and Church Growth Program of the PC(USA) and Outreach Foundation.

### ***“Will Our Faith Have Children?”***

**September 28 – October 12**

Dr. Patricia Lyons, Teacher of Religion, St. Stephens and St. Agnes School, room to be announced

Hear and discuss the latest research about the spiritual development of children and adolescents, listen to their music, and take an actual tour of websites that form their landscapes for living. Dr. Lyons will discuss what young people can and do believe and what they do with their belief. If you want to read beforehand, pick up a copy of *Soul Searching: The Religion and Spiritual Lives of America’s Teenagers* by Christian Smith.

### ***“Invitation to the New Testament”***

**October 19 – December 7**

Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, DISCIPLE I graduates, Westminster Room, 9:30 to 10:50 a.m.

Explore the New Testament through the lens of the Gospel of Matthew because it is intentionally arranged as a resource for understanding the story of Jesus and his teachings, applying them to life together as faith communities. Read other selected portions of the New Testament as they thematically relate to issues raised by Matthew. This eight-week DISCIPLE class uses a study guide to read the Bible and cost is \$9.00. If you need a New Revised Standard Version Bible, contact Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120. Obtain registration forms from Clara Beth or the church office or register online at the church website.

### ***“Current Issues in Light of Christian Faith”***

**October 19 – November 2**

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

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

### ***“Christ and Culture” with Dr. Hayward***

“Christ and Culture” is a weekly Sunday afternoon discussion of current events in light of Christian faith, led by Dr. Larry Hayward from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in meeting rooms I03/I05. Discussions will usually be based on a column or op-ed piece appearing the previous week, informed by passages from Niebuhr’s classic Christ and Culture book, Biblical passages, or brief theological writings. Links to the articles will be announced on Thursday at [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org) and in Sunday’s Chronicle Updates. Hard copies will also be available.

No registration is required. Attend weekly or as your interest and schedule allow. The planned schedule is **September 14 – November 23 (except October 12) and February 1 – March 29 (except February 15)**.

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

## reformed institute classes

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

The 16<sup>th</sup> century church Reformers speak directly to our problems and preoccupations:

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

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

Westminster is one of the churches that sponsors the Institute's programs. The course fee to members of sponsoring churches is \$75; Westminster members' cost is only \$60. Checks should be made out to the Reformed Institute. You can register online at [www.reformedinstitute.org](http://www.reformedinstitute.org) or pick up a registration form at our church office, at Sunday morning classes, or from Clara Beth Van de Water. Registration deadline is October 1. If you need a scholarship, contact Clara Beth. We may be able to provide transportation from retirement homes if there are class participants who can provide rides. The course is open to members of churches in the presbytery, so it's a good opportunity to meet new folks as well as learn how to apply the Reformers' ideas to our lives in a meaningful, positive way!

You can register up until the first day of class on October 9 if there is space

### **reformed institute courses on saturdays at lewinsville presbyterian church, mclean, va**

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

## tables for 8



### **Tables for Eight**

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

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping us with this ministry of hospitality!



## church staff

Larry Hayward .....Pastor  
 Patrick Hunnicutt .....Associate Pastor  
 Casey FitzGerald .....Associate Pastor  
 Paul Stetsenko .....Director of Music Ministries  
 Clara Beth Van de Water .....Director of Adult Education  
 Sandra Calhoun .....Director of Westminster Travelers  
 Nancy Hall Berens .....Intern Dir. of Congregational  
 Life and Singles Ministries  
 Jill Ewell .....Pastoral Care Assistant  
 Eileen Jinks .....Senior Pastoral Care Assistant  
 Henri Rush .....Coordinator of Nat'l/Internat'l Missions  
 Art Sauer .....Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries  
 Nancy Bea .....Business Administrator  
 Jim Buchanan .....Facilities Manager  
 Carolyn Carmack .....Financial Assistant  
 Tara Cain .....Administrative Assistant  
 Oraly Spatz .....Program Assistant  
 Larry Johnson .....Sexton  
 Marvin Johnson .....Sexton  
 Eddie Watkins .....Sexton

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

### The Chronicle

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*Contributors*  
 Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster  
 Dawn Campbell, Production Editor  
 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m

### Time Sensitive

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## volunteer corner

If you ask “Why do people volunteer?” most people will probably respond “To give back to the community,” or “To help others.” A recent Gallup survey found that 52 percent said they volunteer to be useful or to help others. An-

other 38 percent said they volunteer because they enjoy it and it makes them feel better about themselves. Study after study has shown that volunteers are happier, healthier, and live longer than non-volunteers. This is not a chicken and egg phenomenon. There is something about volunteering that is beneficial for the volunteer.

Here are seven good reasons to volunteer:

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Learn a new skill            | 5. Gain a new perspective   |
| 2. Make social connections      | 6. Know that you are needed |
| 3. Give back to your community  | 7. Boost your self-esteem   |
| 4. Develop and grow as a person |                             |

Do any of these reasons appeal to you? Westminster has a great many opportunities to volunteer. You can volunteer in the church education program, as a youth activity leader, or in any number of local mission activities. There are also many opportunities to assist in daily or weekly activities of the church. Westminster goes to great lengths to make volunteer opportunities fit into

your schedule. Volunteering once does not commit you for life (or even a second time). Interest in volunteering is the primary requirement. People of all skill levels are welcomed. Most activities don't require special skills and whatever training is required is gratefully provided.

Here are some activities that are in great need of new volunteers.

1. Meals-on-Wheels – requires about 2 hours once a month from about 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Routes are established. All you have to do is drop off the food. Westminster provides volunteers on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Contact Ede Thomas 703-836-7727
2. Creation Station – Story tellers, shepherds, and other assistants are needed. Contact Casey Fitzgerald for more information 703-549-4766 or [cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org)
3. Youth Advisor – Help run our activities for teens once a week, once or month, or whenever you can. Contact Patrick Hunnicutt at 703-549-4766 or [phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org](mailto:phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org)
4. George Mason tutoring Program – Spend an hour on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or both days helping a student master their lessons. Love of children is the major requirement. Contact Elizabeth O'Brien for more information [elizabethbobrien@aol.com](mailto:elizabethbobrien@aol.com)

Yours in Christ,

**Art Sauer**

Coordinator of Volunteer Activities  
[asauer@wpc-alex.org](mailto:asauer@wpc-alex.org)