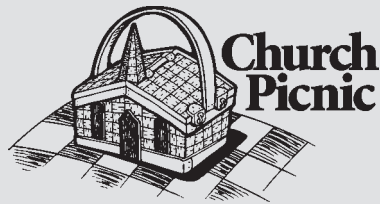




Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
—worship well—



Save the Date

**Westminster's Summer
Kick-Off**

Sunday, June 14th
11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Come celebrate the summer with our annual picnic/kick-off. Enjoy a picnic lunch after worship, share summer plans with friends, and have a relaxing meal at church (all food will be provided – see related article if you can help with this). We will be serving the “picnic” indoors in Fellowship Hall but families are invited to go out back to play with church friends at the playground afterwards!

If you have any questions contact Patty Chamberlain, 703-370-3750, chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com .

the Chronicle

April 23, 2009 - volume 41, number 9

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward
Don't Leave The Driving To Us

For many of us, we join a church and want to be involved in the things that provide us with the most meaning: worship, a fellowship group, a service opportunity. We are understandably not as interested in the “bigger picture” of how the church is governed, how it works as an organization, where it is going. We leave that to others who have such interests.

Believe me, I understand in a busy world, often all we have the time and energy for is the immediate aspect of church life to which we relate. And I am grateful for the many people at Westminster who are active in one or more of our many programs, but who more or less “leave the driving to” others.

But these others—including me— want to “share the driving” with you, to give you the opportunity to steer for a few minutes, or at least hear why we are driving the way we are, and possibly offer a few suggestions from the passenger seat. [Hopefully, no backseat driving!]

On two upcoming Sundays, after worship, Melynda Wilcox, the Chair of our Envisioning Task Force, and I will make a brief presentation and take questions about the draft of the task force’s report that is now available online. The draft is being “fleshed out” with financial projections by our various committees this spring and summer, we anticipate a formal adoption of the draft in July. The entire fall preaching series will be dedicated to a focus on our ministry as a congregation growing out of this report. So we would really like you to join a conversation about “driving” Westminster!

Sunday, May 17, 2009
Noon
Haverkamp Room

Sunday, June 21, 2009
11:00 a.m.
Haverkamp Room.

I hope to see you there!

P.S. You may read this report at www.wpc-alex.org/session (under the Session Packets) or ask the office for a copy.

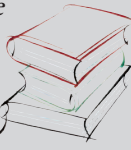
—Larry

Religious Themes in Literature

Sundays 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Haverkamp Room

Dr. Larry Hayward will conduct a reading and lead a discussion of contemporary literature in a “coffee house” setting. No advance reading required.

- **April 26:** *He’s at the Office*, a short story by Alan Garganus
- **May 3:** Contemporary American poem



Career Connections

In response to current economic conditions, Computer CORE, a local nonprofit organization, has started the Career Connections Job Networking Club. The group is free and open to the community. Participants are asked to bring their résumé and any job leads to share. The Job Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 6-7 pm, at Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. For more information, contact Beth Lovain at: beth@computercore.org.

Torah Fair at Agudas Achim Sunday, May 31, 2009

In celebration of the creation of their new Torah, Agudas Achim Congregation has invited the members of Westminster to join them for a Torah Fair on Sunday, May 31, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will begin in the Agudas Achim sanctuary at 11:30 am with a 15-minute introduction by Rabbi Jack Moline, scribe Rabbi Menachem Youlus and the Reverend Larry Hayward. During this short information session we will witness Larry inscribing a letter with Rabbi Youlus in the new Torah scroll. Afterwards, we will join members and friends of Agudas Achim at various “booths” where we will learn about how a Torah scroll is made, what it is like to be a scribe, what materials are needed to inscribe a Torah, etc. They have described this event to be like a “state fair” complete with festival food such as hotdogs and hamburgers. The event is free. There is a cost for food and for inscribing a letter in the Torah if you would like to do so.

In the Jewish faith, inscribing in a Torah is a “mitzvah,” the fulfillment of a commandment [That every person shall write a scroll of the Torah for himself (Deut. 31:19)]. Agudas Achim is encouraging us to participate by inscribing our own letter in their new Torah scroll. The minimum dedication is for a letter, which is \$54 for an adult, \$18 for a student (age 13-21) and \$6.13 for a child (under age 13). If you would like to make a dedication and inscribe a letter in their new Torah, please fill out the form found on the Resources page of the Westminster website (www.wpc-alex.org/resources) and send it directly to Agudas Achim.

A representative from Agudas Achim will call you to schedule a specific appointment time to inscribe your letter.

In preparation for the fair and for information on the making of a Torah, the scribe Rabbi Youlus suggests going to the following website www.saveatorah.org to watch a short six minute video. The website of the Agudas Achim Congregation also has more information: www.agudasachim-va.org. The Torah Fair is a great event for children to learn all about the Torah and how a Torah scroll is made. There will be hands-on activities for every age.

For those who would like to walk down to Agudas Achim together after our worship service, we will meet at Lemonade on the Lawn at 11:15 am. For those who would like a ride, we can arrange carpools. Please contact Oraly Spatz in the church office if you can offer a ride or if you would like a ride (OSpatz@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766).

For questions or more information, please contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121. If you have questions about the dedications, you may contact Julia Pitkin-Shantz directly at jpitkin@umich.edu or at 703.505.7731.

WPC Travelers Program Continues Ambitious Agenda

According to Director of Westminster Travelers, Sandy Calhoun, WPC Travelers continue to be on the go, despite the economic challenges for members.

Some recent trips included an April lunch at Pirate's Cove in Galesville, MD; a trip to see "Gross Indecency" at Little Theatre of Alexandria; and on April 17, a sold-out trip to Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus at Patriot's Center.

Not only do Travelers go out for lunch or on local excursions, Sandy and long-time WPC Travelers partner Nancy Jane Wilke, make all the arrangements for exciting out-of-state trips. Coming up is a special motor coach tour to Lexington and Louisville, KY, **May 3 - May 9**.

The trip includes a dizzying array of sightseeing: visits to two famous horse farms; breakfast and watching a morning workout at Keeneland Racetrack; dinner and a show at Kentucky Horse Park; a visit to the Kesmark Equine Rehabilitation Center; a visit to Ashland and the estate of Henry Clay; a visit and lunch at Shaker Village (Pleasant Hill); breakfast at Churchill Downs Racetrack just four days after the running of the Derby; a visit to the Kentucky Derby Museum, Riverboat Dinner and Dancing and boat race; visit to Frazier Historical Arms Museum including a show; visit to Heaven Hill Bourbon Heritage Center; a visit to the Glassworks Museum and Louisville Slugger Museum, and the opportunity to hear the Stephen Foster Singers at My Old Kentucky Home Place. If you haven't signed up, the cost is \$1,135/per person/ double.

Another multi-day trip will be **June 9 - 12** to Ocean City, MD. This trip is via church bus and costs \$200 plus meals.

Reservations may be made through the church office. Trips are planned for senior adults of Westminster. Non-members and younger persons are welcome for all multi-day trips.

A recent note from Lois Nixon, sister of Charlie Loucks, to Sandy reveals how much WPC Travelers has meant to members and non-members:

Dear Sandy,

Thank you for your thoughtful note.

I too, remember happy times with the WPC Travelers – the trip Bill and I took with you to Maine, etc. was the last one of that kind he could manage. We spoke of it often over the last couple of years and of how much fun we had.

Thank you for those memories, and in fact, for all the kind things you and Nancy Jane do for the "mature" members of the church. It means so much more than perhaps you can imagine.

My love and best wishes to you and all-

Lois Nixon

Sandy and Nancy Jane plan to retire at the end of 2009, and will be organizing fewer day-time outings between July and December. They will continue to plan the out-of-town trips and other events for WPC Travelers. The Personnel Committee is organizing a Search Committee to find a new director for travel and recreational programs for seniors on January 1, 2010.



**Westminster
Travelers**

May 3 - 9. 7:00 a.m. departure. White Star Tour to Lexington & Louisville, Kentucky. \$1135 per person/double. \$290 single supplement. It's not too late to sign up. Call Sandy Calhoun at 703-549-4766.

May 14. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Lunch at The Osprey's Landing Restaurant, Belmont Bay, VA followed by tour of the Workhouse Art Center, Lorton. \$1 plus lunch.

June 4. 7:00 p.m. departure. *It Runs in the Family* at Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

June 9 - 12. 9:30 a.m. departure. Ocean City Beach Trip. Park Place Hotel on the Boardwalk.

Final payment of \$100 due on May 11 to Nancy Jane Wilke. Space may be available. Call Nancy Jane (703-960-8174) or Sandy.

Trips are planned for Westminster senior adults but are open to others if space is available. Call the church office to reserve.

Walk for a Good Cause Sunday, May 3rd

Sunday, May 3, 2009 will be proclaimed ALIVE! DAY by the City of Alexandria to mark the 40th anniversary of ALIVE!'s service to the community. The ALIVE! Child Development Center (CDC) will celebrate this event by holding its 28 annual Step Alive! walkathon on that day.

Step Alive! walkers from the ALIVE congregations (yes, this includes Westminster!) and the Alexandria community will gather at the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, at 1:30 pm for a five mile walk through Old Town. There will be a picnic immediately following the walk. Registration fees are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and youth. (There is no fee for children under 12.) Walkers are encouraged to raise additional funds through pledges of support from friends, family and associates. Pledge forms and additional information about the event are available on-line at alive-inc.org or by phone at 703-837-9300. If you would like to volunteer at or for the event, please contact Barbara Watts at bwatts68@comcast.net or 703-683-0938.

Please join us for a fun and rewarding day in support of this important program!



Focus on Missions

CHES: The Final "S"...Self-Sufficiency

Last fall, the Local Mission Committee rolled out its theme of CHES as an umbrella descriptor of the communication programs we support. CHES stands for:

- Children
- Hunger
- Education
- Shelter
- Self-Sufficiency

Each of the community organizations that Westminster supports provides services in one of these areas. For May and June, our focus is on Self-Sufficiency—perhaps the most critical of all these areas. The programs that fall under Self-Sufficiency are those that help our neighbors get back on their feet so they can lead more stable, productive lives.

A famous Chinese proverb says, "Give a Man a Fish, Feed Him For a Day. Teach a Man to Fish, Feed Him For a Lifetime." That's exactly what many of our Local Mission programs do. For example:

ALIVE! provides, food, furniture, housewares, transportation and emergency financial assistance to those in need, allowing them to remain living independently. In addition, through its Child Development Center, it is giving both children and parents the skills and tools they need to grow up to lead successful lives.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is part of a national program that spends the last Saturday in April repairing the homes of local residents so they can remain in them. Most of the homeowners are elderly, and all must meet income requirements. Imagine the joy of being able to remain in your own home due to the kindness of strangers!

Habitat for Humanity is an international program that combines volunteer labor, skilled trades people, and donations to build affordable housing. Homeowners work alongside volunteers. Habitat sells the homes to the homeowners with no profit and provides affordable loans. The homeowners "earn" part of the home by participating in the building process.

Guest House helps women who are ex-offenders transition back into the community. The program at Guest House is designed to empower the women by providing the tools necessary to achieve self-sufficiency, including housing, food, counseling, and assistance with employment, medical, legal, and social services.

Carpenter's Shelter's mission is to break the cycle of homelessness in our community by providing education programs, counseling, tutoring, and job mentoring in addition to being a residential shelter for families with children as well as adults.

George Mason Tutoring matches Westminster volunteers with children who need help with school work in order to succeed academically.

Meals on Wheels delivers food to homebound individuals so they can remain in their homes as opposed to a care facility.

Each of these programs, in their own ways, allows the individuals served to gain skills, confidence or simply a resource necessary to lead a better quality of life.

As summer approaches, perhaps you'll have time to volunteer with one of these organizations. For information, see the Local Mission section of the WPC website, or contact a member of the Local Mission team.

--Rita Grazda, Chair, Local Mission

Opportunity for Mission: Summer Mission Trip

Plans are moving forward for a mission trip to the Spirit Lake Dakota Indian Reservation in North Dakota. It has been four years since our last mission trip to work with and help the folks at Bdecan Presbyterian Church on the Reservation in Tokio, ND. This is a forgotten place in need of prayerful support and assistance and home to the people who gave us the two magnificent quilts hanging in our Haverkamp Room. A small group from Westminster will be traveling to the reservation in mid-May to discuss plans for the mission trip and creation of an on-going mission activity.

A church-wide intergenerational mission trip will be going this summer from July 25 to August 1 to worship, provide materials and help church members build much-needed simple windbreaks on their front doors, facilitate a fun-filled Vacation Bible School for 50 or more children, and help the Elders introduce church back into their lives.

We are looking for at least 10 people who want to see this part of the country and help with any of these activities. We'll fly into Grand Forks, van to the Reservation, and stay at the Spirit Lake Casino Hotel near the Bdecan Church. While there, we will attend the annual Spirit Lake Pow Wow. Our National and International Missions Committee will pay the cost of participation. Tax deductible contributions will be accepted from anyone at Westminster to help defray the travel, food, lodging, and materials costs and to assist with our mission activities on the reservation. Prayer partners are also welcomed.

Members of the National/International Missions Committee will be holding an informational meeting on this trip and our broader mission to the reservation after the 11 am service on April 26 in the Haverkamp Room. Everyone interested in this exciting mission opportunity is invited whether or not you intend to go on the trip.

Contact Art Sauer at asauer@wpc-alex.org for further information.



Thanks to Westminster for Fabulous ALIVE! Birthday Party

Westminster hosted ALIVE!'s 40th Anniversary Birthday Party on March 8th. A very big "thank you" to Priscilla Goodwin, chair, Jane Ring, pianist, Patrick, Casey, the middle school youth group and many other WPC members who threw a lovely birthday party for ALIVE! Guests not only devoured cakes, cupcakes and punch, but also donated more than \$10,000 at the auction emceed by former mayor, Kerry Donley. The proceeds will provide much needed support in the face of ever increasing needs for family emergency payments, shelter and food.

Community Organizations Say "Thank You WPC!"

"Thank you very much, as always, for your recent very generous contribution ... to the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless. We truly appreciate your support of our work. Your gift helps to make a difference."

Mary M. Adams,
Secretary to the Board

"Thank you very much for supporting Rebuilding Together Alexandria this year with a sponsorship to help our neighbors in need in our community. Your contribution to RTA helps these homeowners – elderly, disabled, and families with children – stay safely, comfortably, and independently in their own house."

Katharine Medina,
Executive Director

"Thank you ... for your recent donation ... to Senior Services of Alexandria. Donations such as yours enable SSA to continue to provide services to older Alexandrians so that they can live independently. We are grateful to you for your generosity."

Janet Barnett,
Executive Director

"Please extend a heartfelt thank you to the parishioners at Westminster Presbyterian Church ... Your continued commitment to the Child and Family Network Centers has allowed hundreds of Northern Virginia's most vulnerable young children to defy their poverty statistics by entering kindergarten ready to achieve."

Barbara Fox Mason,
Executive Director

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. Hope to see you and your little one(s) there! Questions? Contact Casey FitzGerald.

Saturday in the Park: Saturday, May 9, 9:30-11 a.m.

Now that spring is fast approaching, we will have a number of opportunities for families of young children (babies, too!) to gather at the pre-school playground on Saturday mornings for food and fellowship! This will be a great way to get to know other moms, dads and kids from the church. If you know you're coming in advance, please RSVP to Laurie Chidlow at laurie.chidlow@verizon.net.

Save the Date: Music & More Week!!!

August 31-September 4, 2009. Children K-5th grade are invited to experience our unique summer program. Details to follow!



Young Adults First Sunday (Potluck) Brunch

Our next brunch is **Sunday, May 3rd!** Come eat with us in the Haverkamp Room and bring a dish to share if you're able!

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 usually meet on the third Tuesday of each month. **HOWEVER**, in May we will meet on the second **Tuesday, May 12**. Stay tuned for location details. 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 April, please contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.

Young Adult Study Begins in June!

For this study, we will be using the Rev. Rob Bell's video-based discussion series, *NOOMA* for this experience. The description reads: "Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in ... *NOOMA* is a series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. *NOOMA* is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion." Specific times/dates have not been set—please email Casey FitzGerald with your input as to times/days of the week that work best for you!

Elder Nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members for Elder. These nominees will be presented for election at a called congregational meeting on Sunday, May 3 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Susan Cloud to fill a vacant term in the class of 2009. Susan has been a member of Westminster for 13 years. She has been a member of the Christian Education committee, a Christian Education Teacher, on the Youth Subcommittee, the Stewardship committee, a Small Group Leader, and on the Capital Campaign Committee. In addition, Susan is a member of a Circle, the Women of Westminster and has served on the Board of Women of Westminster. She is married to Steve Cloud and has two sons, Sam (13) and Tommy (11). Susan grew up in Old Saybrook, CT, graduated from Gettysburg College, and worked on Capitol Hill and in the Department of Education, then for the Education Trade Association prior to becoming a stay at home mom. She enjoys playing tennis, reading volunteering at the schools her boys attend, and weekly Bible Study.

Chuck Ramsey to fill a vacant term in the class of 2010. Chuck has been a member of Westminster for 34 years. He has been a Sunday School co-Superintendent, an ordained Deacon and Elder, the liaison between the Scout Troop and the church, chair of the Stewardship Committee, co-Skipper of Yawls (a couples group), and a member of a Long-Range Planning Committee, the Christian Education Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Chuck works for the IRS Office of Chief Counsel as a Branch Chief. He is married to Madeline and has raised 3 boys in the Westminster Youth Programs. Chuck enjoys fusing and slumping glass and stained glass.

Rebecca Stone for Youth Elder for a term beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. Rebecca was confirmed as a member in 2008. She is an active participant in youth group and has gone on a mission trip to Maryland and this year will be going to the Dominican Republic. Rebecca is a 10th grade student at T.C. Williams High School. She enjoys playing sports, to include softball, volleyball and swimming. In her spare time, Rebecca likes to hang out with friends, go to the beach, ride roller coasters and loves to scrapbook, when she has the time.



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

Travel to Moi's Bridge February 8 to 22, 2010

A group from Westminster, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and perhaps others that have supported the UO&A are planning to travel to Moi's Bridge to participate in the dedication of the Academy in February of 2010. We will also be joined by a group from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church that will be going to Njoro to participate in the activities of the orphanage they have been supporting in conjunction with Njoro Presbyterian Church of East Africa. We will travel with them as far as Njoro, spend a day or two there and then travel on to Moi's Bridge.

Tentative plans call for departing from Washington the evening of February 8, spending the day of February 9 in London, arriving in Nairobi the morning of February 10, spending February 10 and 11 in Nairobi, leaving for Njoro Friday, February 12 so as to be able to observe operations of the Njoro orphanage Saturday, February 13 (unlike UO&A it is a Saturday only operation), leaving February 14 after church for Moi's Bridge, spending Sunday through Friday at the UO&A, leaving Friday, February 19 to return to Njoro, overnight in Njoro, leave Saturday, February 20 to return to Nairobi (via the Nakuru Game Park), spending Saturday night and Sunday in Nairobi, taking the late night (midnight) plane to London which connects with a noon plane to Washington arriving mid afternoon on Monday, February 22. We will leave the group traveling to the Njoro Orphanage, there and reunite with them Friday February 19,

Anticipated cost for the trip will be \$2,500 which will cover air fare, transportation within Kenya and all costs except miscellaneous personal expenses. Some slight modification of the above schedule may be made to take advantage of lower cost airfare. Participation will be limited to persons 18 years of age or older.

If you think you might be interested, or for more information, contact Henri Rush at 703-836-1935 or rhcavusa@aol.com. I am planning a brief informational meeting for May 17, immediately following the 11:00 service to get a sense of how many people might be interested in participating in such a trip

Donations Needed for Senior High Mission Trip

The Senior High youth group needs your help to gather medical supplies for our upcoming mission trip to the Dominican Republic in late June, 2009.

During the trip, we will assist in providing a free medical clinic for those without access to quality healthcare in the capital city of Santo Domingo. There, we will distribute much-needed health-kits to the estimated 1,000 visitors who will visit the clinic. The kits would include the following items:

- travel-size shampoo
- travel-size toothpaste
- travel-size soap
- toothbrushes
- band-aids
- single use antibiotic creme
- single use alcohol wipes

To the extent you can provide donations of any or all of these items, we would be most grateful. You can leave the supplies in Fellowship Hall, in the designated basket located under the youth ministry bulletin board (immediately next to the hallway leading to the elevator). We will be taking donations through May.

Thank you for your help!

MOW Breakfast 2nd Friday of each Month

The **April 10** Men of Westminster breakfast featured Les Garrison, USAF Academy graduate who served 20 years as a Marine officer, retired, and then volunteered after 9/11 to serve as a senior DOD and later State Department civilian building community in Iraq. He now trains soldiers going to Afghanistan and Iraq. He described his fascinating work in Iraq and spoke glowingly of the progress made there - along with some cautions for the future.

The **May 8** breakfast will feature WPC member Gen. Malcolm P. Hooker (Ret) who flew major missions during WWII in Africa and Japan, and later in Viet Nam, holding a number of commands including the 316th Carrier Wing and Division Director Operations 18th Air Force. Upon retirement, he served as president of both the National Defense Transportation Association and the Airlift Association. He will share some of his experiences and perspectives. Don't miss it!



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.

Singles Roundtable on May 3:

Sunday, May 3: For our next Singles Roundtable luncheon and discussion, we welcome back Larry Hayward as our speaker. Larry will be speaking about his work on the board of the Faith & Politics Institute. Meet us in the Westminster Room about 12:15 pm (right after a short congregational meeting) for lunch, a video about one of the pilgrimages organized by the Faith & Politics Institute and discussion. Lunch will be provided. This event is sponsored by Flying Solo for all singles in the church.

Flying Solo Singles – regular monthly events in April and May:

Tuesday, April 28 and May 26: 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 a time of fellowship. Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share. We encourage you to bring a can or two of food for ALIVE! to drop in the basket on the way into church. Some months we also make sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program depending on their need (materials provided for this).

Monday, May 11: Our Dine-Out in May will take us to Southside 815, a restaurant in Old Town specializing in southern cuisine located at 815 South Washington Street. We meet the second Monday of each month at a local restaurant for an evening of food and friendship. If you want to carpool, meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, we'll meet at the restaurant at 7:15.

Mark your calendars for these special up-coming events:

Saturday, May 30: Join us for a day in the country at Meadowkirk, our presbytery's camp and retreat center in rural Loudoun County. The theme of our "mini-retreat" will be For the Beauty of the Earth: Celebrating God's Creation. We will enjoy the beauty of nature and discuss our relationship to God's good creation during this all-day event (no overnight). Carpools will leave the church parking lot at 8 am and return to Westminster by 6 pm. Morning discussion and continental breakfast will be followed by an easy afternoon nature hike after lunch, then we'll do a short wrap-up with worship and end our day together with Happy Hour! Cost for the day (including breakfast and lunch) is \$20. Scholarships are available! Look for more details with the registration form in the mail.

October 2-4: Save the first weekend in October for our annual fall Singles Retreat!

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. Please let us know if you would like to know more about singles ministries at Westminster!



Adult Education

All adults are invited to choose from the following programs. No registration necessary. Call Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 with questions. Adult Classes meet Sundays from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. as follows:

“The Epistle of James: A Window into Jewish Christianity”

Our spring Sunday morning class is on the New Testament Book of James, associated with Jesus’ brother. It meets **Sunday, April 26 – May 26**, from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., in the Haverkamp Room. The teacher is Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Prof. of Theology, Georgetown University, and frequent Smithsonian lecturer. Dr. Tambasco will cover James’ exhortation in the face of suffering, poverty and riches, wisdom and integrity, and James’ vs. the apostle Paul’s views of the significance of Biblical Law, including faith vs. works. All adults are invited; no registration needed.

Religious Themes in Literature

Dr. Larry Hayward, our pastor, will conduct a reading and discussion on contemporary literature in a coffee house setting on **Sundays, April 26 and May 3**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Haverkamp Room. No advance reading required. All adults invited.

Adult Education Ideas for 2009-2010

Give your ideas for topics and speakers to Clara Beth Van de Water at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org

“What Roman Catholics Can Teach Us About John Calvin”

Dr. Randall Zachman of Notre Dame University, author of *John Calvin and Roman Catholicism: Critique and Engagement, Then and Now* will speak for the Reformed Institute on **Saturday, May 2**, from 10:00 to noon at Potomac Presbyterian Church, Potomac, MD. Father John O’Malley of Georgetown University will offer a response. The program may be of special interest to former Roman Catholics.

All adults are invited; registration is encouraged but not required. Register at www.reformedinstitute.org or 703-518-5125, or contact Clara Beth Van de Water, cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 120 for more information. Look in the narthex or education wing foyer for fliers. The event is free.

This event celebrates the 500th anniversary of the birth of Calvin, arguably the most influential theologian for Presbyterianism.

“Why Jesus Matters” – Reformed Institute Lay Colloquy

The Reformed Institute is holding a lay colloquy on “Why Jesus Matters” from the perspective of Reformed theologians on four Friday afternoons and evenings, **October 2-3, December 4-5, February 5-6, and April 9-10**.

The leader will be Dr. George Stroup of Columbia Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The colloquy will meet at Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria.

The subsidized fee for Westminster Presbyterian members is \$300, which includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch.

Participation is limited to twenty adults total; Westminster is limited to two participants. Participants need to be able to commit to all four weekends. The deadline is early May, so please contact Clara Beth Van de Water ASAP if you think you may be interested. Additional scholarship money is also available. This is a very special opportunity for serious study with good fellowship.

Women’s Book Group

Women are invited to discuss *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor, Monday, April 26.

The next selection is *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult – dates to be announced.

Women’s Retreat

Women at our recent retreat shared a wealth of multiple blessings. Gifts of tree seedlings to be planted where needed were given through Heifer International in grateful memory of Ruth Carlson and Karen Blomberg.

Next year’s retreat will be March 12-14, 2010, and our leader will be former WPC educator Joan Reid.

Presbyterian Women Announce New Moderator

Our PW organization will welcome Carol Ensley as our new moderator at our June board meeting. Thank you to outgoing moderator Rosa Fullerton for a great job and to Alice Daniels who continues as vice moderator for circle meeting communication.

For current fellowship circle information see the church’s website or call liason Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120

Church Staff

Larry HaywardPastor
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Volunteer Corner

Several years ago the youth of Westminster went on a mission trip to an Indian reservation in North Dakota. They painted the church and did other light maintenance work but, most of all they worked with the children. Thus began an enduring friendship between the members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia and the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, North Dakota. Members of Westminster have returned three times since that first trip and plans are underway for a fourth trip this summer.

The Bdecan Presbyterian Church is located on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation near Devils Lake, ND. As with many Indian reservations, poverty (both economic and spiritual) is rampant. Unemployment and substance abuse are very high. Young people have few successful role models to emulate. There is a strong sense of separation from the non-Indian world around them. In some ways it is like another country.

Some people may ask why we have to go to North Dakota on a mission trip when there are plenty of poor

people right here in our area. It is true that there is poverty in our midst but, it is also true that there are a lot of services and many groups working with our local people in need. Westminster participates in many activities to aid the poor in our area. The same is not true on the Spirit Lake Reservation. There are few people and fewer groups to come to their aid. That is why churches from around the country sponsor mission activities to provide some assistance. These mission programs are mostly congregation to congregation. In addition, rural poverty has a different dimension than urban poverty. It is helpful for our understanding of the need for mission to witness this difference first hand.

Westminster is planning to return to the Spirit Lake Reservation from July 25 to August 1 this year. This will be an intergenerational trip. Adults and teenagers are welcomed. Parent/child participation has proven very rewarding on past trips. If you are interested in participating in this very rewarding experience, contact me at asauer@wpc-alex.org.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer
Membership Involvement Coordinator