



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

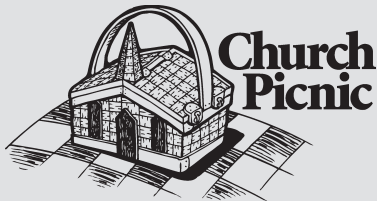
— worship well —

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!



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

the Chronicle

May 21, 2009 - volume 41, number 10

A Message From Associate Pastor Casey FitzGerald Godbearing?

In my most recent sermon, I challenged us to think more about what it would mean for us to be "Godbearers." "Godbearing" is theologian Elaine Robinson's alternative word for "evangelism." Her new terminology allows us to throw away much of the baggage the word "evangelism" carries with it.) I was not surprised when, following my sermon, many of you came up and asked me to tell you again about Godbearing—"what is it, specifically?" The truth of the matter is this: I'm not sure. (Am I allowed to say that?) Robinson believes "Godbearing is expressed in the world as hearing the renewed image of God within, bearing God to others, and bearing with God the suffering of others ... The language of Godbearing expresses openness, otherness, service, restoration and mutuality ... Through Godbearing we make known and make real the healing, transforming, life-giving and-receiving love of God in Christ in the Holy Spirit."¹ This rather amorphous definition can be extremely frustrating. After all, don't we need a concrete definition so that we can follow the Great Commission?² We want to know what Godbearing looks like. I am on a six-month journey to begin to discover what this Godbearing is all about—both theologically and practically speaking. I will be working with six other pastors, an associate general presbyter, and two consultants to explore more deeply our call to become Godbearers. We will be engaged in becoming transformational leaders among transformational congregations. It is my great hope that as I participate in this process, you will too. I expect that we might start to come up with our own understanding of Godbearing together. For now, I believe we should start wrestling with some questions:

- What does it look like to be open to God's Spirit? How can we be more open?
- What does "the good news" mean to you?
- How can we become more comfortable talking about our faith—in and out of church?
- Do we feel personally and/or corporately responsible for "making disciples"? (What kind of energy does this bring up?)
- How might we already be engaging in Godbearing?

Of course, these are just a few starting questions—I'm sure you'll come up with more. (Let me know what they are!) I believe our most important task is to start talking—to speak openly and honestly and out-loud about God and faith, about belief and struggle with belief.

Looking forward to the Godbearing journey together.

In Christ,

Casey

¹Robinson, Elaine. *Godbearing: Evangelism Reconceived*, 76-82.

²Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)

Grillers, Bakers, and Salad Makers your help is needed!

The all church picnic is on Sunday, June 14th. The Congregational Life committee would love your help. We need: shoppers, grillers, grills, bakers, salad/side makers, servers, slicers and dicers, and dishwashers. Please contact Patty Chamberlain, 703-370-3750, chamberlain_patty@hotmail.com to volunteer!!

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.



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.

Regular Monthly Events:

Tuesday, May 26 and June 23: 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, June 8: Our Dine-Out in June will take us to Guapo's Mexican restaurant located at 4036 Campbell Ave in Shirlington. We meet the second Monday of each month at a local restaurant for an evening of food and friendship. If you want to car-pool, meet in the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, we'll meet at the restaurant at 7:15. If it's nice weather, we'll try to get a table outside on the patio!

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 Loudon 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 is \$20. Scholarships are available! Contact Nancy Hall Berens (nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext 121) right away if you'd like to go and haven't registered yet!

October 2-4: Save the first weekend in October for our annual fall Singles Retreat! This year we are planning a retreat in historic Williamsburg around the theme of religious life in the colonies. We will be staying at Williamsburg's Woodlands Hotel next to the Visitor Center. For our main program on Saturday morning, a historical interpreter from Williamsburg will lead us on a guided visit to some of the historic sites related to religious life during the colonial era. We will learn about religious requirements imposed upon colonial citizens as well as issues of religious tolerance and dissent which led to the eventual idea of the separation of church and state. Saturday afternoon will be free for you to explore Williamsburg and the surrounding area as you wish, then we will enjoy a group dinner of traditional colonial fare at the King's Arms Tavern with costumed servers. Our retreat will end with worship on Sunday morning. Details and a registration form will be coming soon!



Nominees Wanted

The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good members who have the gifts of heart, mind and spiritual wisdom to serve as Elders, Deacons, and Trustees, and are on the Nominating Committee of our church starting in February 2010. Officers are elected to three-year terms and Nominating Committee members serve for one year. We seek men and women of strong faith and conviction, joyful hearts, initiative, spiritual maturity, loving concern for others, and who are willing to take an active, informed leadership role in the life of our church so that their love of Christ, their wisdom, and their joy may be given in service to our congregation. Further information on the responsibilities of each Officer can be found in the green Nominating Committee brochure in the Church pews, Narthex and Education Wing.

Members can recommend other members (or themselves) by submitting a green (paper) nominating form to Karen Olson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitting a form online via the church web site, or by mailing in or dropping off the form to the church office.

THE GRADUATES!

With May on its way out, and June upon us, many in our Westminster extended family are passing through a season of celebrating academic milestones. In the last several weeks, many of our sons and daughters have completed their undergraduate and graduate degrees. In the weeks to come, many of our sons and daughters will be graduating from high school and readying for the next, exciting phase of their lives.

If you would like to share your milestone (or your child's) with the congregation, please email Patrick (phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org). We'd love to share the news!

Here's what we know so far about our youth and college-age friends...

- **Lorna Schadeberg**, graduates from the University of Virginia on May 17, with a double major in Foreign Affairs and History.
- **Lynne Wilson**, graduates from Wake Forest on May 18th. Awarded the Fulbright Scholarship, Lynne will soon head to Germany, where she will teach English.
- **Sarah Bryan**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend the University of Vermont
- **Marisa Cagnoli**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend James Madison University
- **Julia Denne**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend Longwood University
- **Megan Epperson**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend Clemson University
- **Grace Goodwin**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend Colgate University
- **Emily Jayne**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend University of Wisconsin
- **Patrick White**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend University of Virginia
- **JW Wilson**, graduating from TC Williams, will attend UNC-Wilmington

Attention Graduating Seniors!

We would love to honor you during worship
on Sunday, June 21 at 10:00.
Please come!



Westminster Travelers

Thursday, June 4. Depart at 7 p.m.
It Runs in the Family, Little Theatre
of Alexandria.

Tuesday June 9 - Friday, June 12.
Depart at 9:00 a.m. Beach trip to
Ocean City, MD.

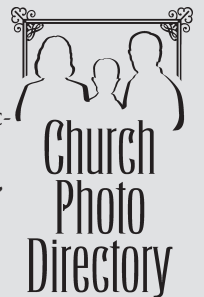
*Trips are planned for Westminster
senior adults but are open to others
if space is available. Call the church
office to reserve.*

New Pictorial Directory

This fall Westminster members will have the opportunity to participate in a new pictorial directory, through Olan Mills, one of the most well-known and respected producers of church directories. More information will come soon, so now is the time to pencil in the dates:

- **August 7 & 8** (to catch college students before their departure)
- **October 14-17.**

There is no cost to have you or your family's photo included, and no cost to the church. Every participant/family will receive a free 8x10 photo. If you choose to order photos they will make a wonderful holiday gift! Contact Molly Roden with questions, mjroden@aol.com.



Volunteers Needed for Bag Lunch Program

Looking for a way to get involved in the community this summer? We still need servers for bag lunch! This requires about 3 hours in a morning and you can involve your teen as well. WPC serves four times a month. Call or email Kathy Stenzel for more details and to discuss dates. kathygstenzel@aol.com 703-683-4516.

Spirit Lake Mission

Everyone at Westminster has a role to play in our Mission trips with prayer, encouragement, preparation, support, or participation. A team went to the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota this past weekend to meet with leaders of the Bdecan and surrounding Presbyterian churches to learn how we can best help them during our July 25-August 1 Mission Trip, as well as over the long run. We are determined to help make a real and lasting difference in their lives. Linc Cummings, Tandy Martin and Art Sauer will report their findings soon.



Focus on Missions

Another Successful Rebuilding Together Alexandria

Thanks to all of you for your great contribution to helping Ms. Mary Gaskins and Ms. Dorothy Turner stay in their homes. We did more than I expected. We painted the front and back steps and railings. We replaced the screens and repaired some rotten wood. In the kitchen we added handles to doors to make them easier to open, replaced light bulbs and added a shield, and replaced a defective under the cabinet light. We fixed the bathroom door so it closes properly. We renovated the front and back doors. It wasn't on the list, but we fixed the handle on the upstairs closet door and added an extra stair banister for better support.

Ms. Gaskins and Ms. Turner were very appreciative. On the homeowner's evaluation of our work, they wrote: *We are very grateful for the service. Thank you.*

And the Rebuilding Together Alexandria team captain emailed me:

Thank you to you and your whole team for a great effort today. You met all of the objectives for the house and then some. I hope you all enjoy the memory of a great day in helping our fellow citizens to live a little more comfortably. - Bill Kehoe

Thanks again.

– Eric Weiss, WPC Liaison for RTA

Thank You George Mason Tutors

For nearly twenty years, Westminster Presbyterian Church has been helping children succeed in school through the Westminster / George Mason tutoring program. This school year, the tutoring program served thirty children in grades 1 through 5. Westminster members Bob Baldwin, Gary Cyphers, Susan Griffith, Jim Hoben, Virginia Mittauer, Anne Pickett, Nancy Richards, Candace Rush, Art Sauer, Bill Watts, Sheila Weiss and Melynda Wilcox met weekly with their assigned students to help them with their school work. Jim Dullea, Jon Hurt, and Henri Rush each tutored their students twice each week. Our tutors form a special bond of trust and caring with their students and truly make a difference in the children's lives. Their dedication and generosity is deeply appreciated by the George Mason Elementary School community. The tutoring program is also grateful to Linda Barnett, Sarah Buchanan, Rebecca Busch, Jessica Richardson and Janet Komoroske who assisted the program this year by filling as substitute tutors when needed.

– Elizabeth O'Brien, WPC Liaison for George Mason Tutors

Children and Families

Summer Church School Schedule

There is no Creation Station in the summer, but our nursery, 1-2 year old and 3-4 year old rooms will continue to be open. For more information, contact Casey FitzGerald.

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 CONTINUES: Every Saturday in June, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Summer is almost here and we will have a number of opportunities for families of young children (babies, too!) to gather at the preschool playground on Saturday mornings for food and fellowship! This is a great way to get to know other moms, dads and kids from the church. Our first event was absolutely wonderful!!! (*Please note that we've moved this event earlier than its previous time.*) Cancelled if actively raining at start of park time. If you would be willing to help run a Saturday, please contact Casey FitzGerald a.s.a.p.

Mother's Study: Wednesdays in July, 9-10:15a.m.—Westminster Room

All moms are invited to join us in watching and discussing Rob Bell's *NOOMA* videos. (For a full description, see young adult study info.) Having spent two units talking about motherhood and faith, we will now move on to general discussion of faith, God and the Bible. Childcare will be provided for \$20. Please RSVP to Casey FitzGerald if you're interested in attending!

Creation Station Sign-Ups Begin NOW!

We are looking for more than a few good men and women to help us with our Creation Station program next year. Be a teacher or a shepherd—it is a wonderful way to develop your own language of faith while helping children learn about God and the Bible. You only need to commit to four weeks at a time. The kids need you ... and you just might need them too! Topics include: How the Bible Came to Be, Jacob, Elijah, In the Manger, Jesus at the Synagogue, The Garden of Gethsemane, and more! Contact Casey FitzGerald if you are looking for ways to be involved with Creation Station or the younger education programs next year.

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!

Thank You!!!

Many thanks to all those who helped make this such a wonderful year for children's education. A lot of really hard work, enthusiasm and patience went in to making sure that our children experienced WPC as a place of comfort, learning, service, worship, and, of course, fun. I anticipate an even better year next year as we continue to work out the kinks (again, thanks for your patience), and hope to further integrate our children's programming into the life of the church. None of this would be possible without your commitment to Westminster and its children. God's blessings are abundant in this place. I am thankful.

Sincerely,
Casey FitzGerald
cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org

Commonwealth Brass Celebrate 25 Years at Westminster!

On Sunday afternoon, April 19, the Commonwealth Brass celebrated 25 years at Westminster with a wonderful concert of sacred and secular music. This concert was sponsored by the "Concert-Donald and Rosalee Stubbs Fund." The Commonwealth Brass is a quintet made up of professional musicians in the Washington, D.C. area. They have a large repertoire offering a wide variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century. They have performed for numerous area universities, high schools, concert series, and churches. They have also been recorded in concert for classical radio broadcast. The program included works by Handel, Bach, Schumann, Bernstein, Rossini, Barber and others. Paul Stetsenko, Director of Music Ministries joined them on organ for two pieces, including the spectacular Toccata from the Fifth Symphony by Charles-Marie Widor. The following quote from a previous concert neatly sums up their performance:

"The Commonwealth Brass is quite an unusual organization. It has found the secret of successfully combining excellent musicianship with charismatic stage presence ... the talented musicians presented a superb program that included works from the 17th to the 20th century ... the musicians combined humor with virtuosity."

—The Washington Post,
July 21, 1988



Women's Ministry News

Book Groups: All women are invited to read and discuss *Change of Heart* by Jodi Picoult on Monday, June 8, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

Work Day: Women are invited to make heart pillows and stuffed animals for Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, June 3, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

Circles Board Meeting: The Presbyterian Women Circles Board will meet on Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. Each circle is urged to send a chair or other representative. Study Books for 2009-2010 will be available.

Bible Study: The friendship circle Bible study for 2009-2010 will be on the *Old Testament book of Joshua*, written from a unique perspective on the land of Palestine and its people then and now by a Palestinian Christian woman.

Invitation: Any woman interested in attending the June meeting of a fellowship circle is invited. The schedule will appear in the Westminster Update.

Contact: Contact Clara Beth Van de Water for details on any of the above at 703-549-4766 ext.120 or cvandewater@wpc-alex.org



Young Adults First Sunday (Potluck) Brunch

Our next brunch will not be until **August 2nd!** Join us for our study and light brunch each Sunday in June instead!!!

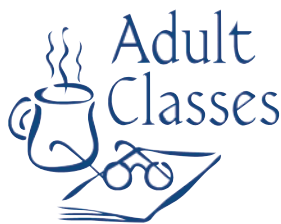
Faith on Tap

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. We will meet on **June 16th** at 7:30 for our next event. 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 June, please contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.

Young Adult Study: Sundays after worship in June!

Meet up for a continental breakfast and good group discussion **each Sunday in June** following worship in the Haverkamp Room. For this study, we will be using the Rev. Rob Bell's video-based discussion series, *NOOMA* for this experience. No advanced-prep needed. If it is especially nice out, we can always watch the video and then head on outside for discussion! Each Sunday is an independent theme, so if you have to miss one, no worries! 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."

Adult Education



All adults are invited to choose from the following programs. Contact Director of Adult Education Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120 or cvandewater@wpc-alex.org for further information.

Announcing "Adult Crossings: God's Journey With Us" A unique overview of the core stories of the Bible, taught by Dr. Larry Hayward. The course will be held on eleven Sunday afternoons, September 13 – November 22 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in Room 103/105 on the first floor. The study guide costs \$15. Look for brochures in the literature racks.

Come to an orientation session on Sunday, June 7, 11:15 a.m., Westminster Room, or on Sunday, August 30, 11:15, Haverkamp Room. Books will be available when you register at one of these sessions.



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

Construction Continues at the Academy

Friday, May 1, Westminster bank wired \$12,751 to the United Orphanage & Academy. \$10,000 was for further construction of the stone Academy building and consisted of \$5,000 each from Westminster and the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. This completed a three year pledge by Westminster and Meeting House to construct a building that would house the primary school (Early Childhood Development through Eighth Grade) for the Academy. The remaining \$2,751 was to support continuing operations at the Orphanage and brings to \$25,110.75 the amount we have sent so far this year for this purpose. The budget for Orphanage operations for 2009 is \$37,500 so we still have a considerable way to go.

The Academy building was commenced in 2007 with \$17,000 of which \$7,000 was from the National Capital Presbytery's Second Alexandria Fund and \$5,000 each came from Westminster and the Meeting House. We had jointly proposed to the Presbytery a three year plan in which NCP would provide \$10,000 for each of three years to be matched by \$5,000 from each of our churches. In 2008 NCP provided \$5,000 and Westminster and Meeting House \$5,000 each for a total of \$15,000. And finally as noted above, although NCP was not able to provide any funds in 2009, Westminster and Meeting House provided the third year of matching funds for a total of \$10,000. In addition Westminster provided \$10,000 in additional funds at the end of 2007 and Westminster, Meeting House and First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, Georgia provided \$10,500 in additional funds at the end of 2008. In sum a total of \$62,500 has been expended to date out of the \$70,000 that had originally been estimated to complete the building as a three story building.

What is the result of that expenditure? A two story 100 foot by 25 foot stone building that contains eight class rooms, of which one is a computer lab. Roughly \$15,000 is needed to complete construction and finish the inside of the rooms on the second floor. Yes there are cost overruns even in Kenya. If sufficient additional funds can be raised a third story will be added to house the entire Primary School (Early Childhood Development through Eighth Grade).

The first floor of the building is currently being used by Fifth and Sixth Grade classes and the computer lab. Next year Seventh Grade will be added so the four classrooms in the first story will be totally occupied. Current plans call for using the second story rooms to house the participants in the February 8 to 22, 2010 trip to Moi's Bridge to dedicate the Academy. Although as reported in the March Chronicle, we hope that the Academy will be self sustaining by January 1, 2010, tuitions and scholarships can not be expected to fund construction. So the work of building the Academy will go on only if members of Westminster and others continue to be generous in their support of construction at the Academy.

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!

Church Staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
Sandra CalhounDirector of Westminster Travelers
Nancy Hall BerensDir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
Jill EwellPastoral Care Assistant
Eileen JinksCoordinator of Pastoral Care
Henri RushCoordinator of African Missions
Art SauerMembership Involvement Coordinator
Nancy BeaBusiness Administrator
Jim BuchananFacilities Manager
Carolyn CarmackFinancial Assistant
Tara CainAdministrative Assistant
Oraly SpatzProgram Assistant
Larry JohnsonSexton
Marvin JohnsonSexton
Eddie WatkinsSexton

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The Chronicle

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

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Volunteer Corner

Many of the rhythms of the church change with the coming of summer. Moving from two services to one at 10 a.m. is a major change. Many committees and groups don't meet as often. Lots of our members go on vacation.

One thing that doesn't change is the need for volunteers. We still need people to help with dinners at Carpenters Shelter (June 1, July 6, and August 3). We still need servers and sandwiches for the bag lunch program. Even though we only have one church service we still need ushers, greeters, and fellowship hosts. There are many things that continue during the summer months and some new things also.

A very important volunteer activity during the summer is care of our gardens and plants. Weeds need to be pulled, plants trimmed, and plants watered. These activities can be timed to fit your schedule. If you can help, call Robin McFarland at 703-751-1574 or Joe Kelly at 703-751-2041.

Be sure to watch the Sunday bulletin updates and the church website www.wpc-alex.org for information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer
Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries