



Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
— worship well —

Pictorial Directory

We've added a date!

Tues, Nov. 3, 3pm-9:20pm.

On Sunday mornings sign up in the Elevator Lobby. All other times contact Molly Roden at mjroden@aol.com; or call 703-751-5129.

Photo sessions October 14-17 are full. Need to change an appointment or inquire about other portrait date options? Contact Molly. It won't be complete without YOU!



the Chronicle

September 24, 2009 - volume 42, number 23

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward
The Morality of Information

As I have watched the anger and incivility at widely-reported town meetings over the summer, and, as I was preaching some difficult Biblical stories in which certain Biblical heroes engage in violent acts (Deborah, Joab, Jephthah, Samson), I came across a term by a Biblical scholar (Phyllis Trible) coined – “the morality of reading.” Her point, I believe, is that whenever we read a Biblical text, we have a moral obligation concerning how we process the text.

Her guiding principle is drawn from the Book of Deuteronomy, in which Moses presents the law of the Lord for the people of Israel preparing them for entering the Promised Land. Recalling all the words and commandments God has given Israel – all the “information” they have received – Moses commands:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day,
That I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse;
Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live...

(30:19)

Trible asserts that Moses is calling on the people of Israel to interpret, appropriate, and use their religious tradition for life and blessing, not death and curse. Our moral obligation, she says, is to receive and appropriate our religious traditions—our laws and commandments—in such a way that they provide life, not death; blessing, not curse. Such is “the morality of reading” for the person of faith.

I would apply this as well to the citizen. In a democratic society, in an age in which we are plummeted with information—texts, images, words – it would be nice to assume that the purveyors of information exercised moral care in its accuracy, context, and tone. But unfortunately, that is often not the case. The burden of assessing information—as well as its intent and use—lies on us, the receiver. Just as readers of Biblical texts have a moral obligation to read for “blessing and life,” not “curse and death,” so also do we as citizens have a moral obligation to assess information that comes our way for its moral value: its value to our nation, to our common life as citizens, to our own lives. It is not that we are to ignore negative information and images; rather, we are to use them for life and blessing, not death and curse.

It is the burden of democracy that each citizen must assess the value of information. That is a moral responsibility. Much is at stake on the assessments we make. But we must make them, and can make them, guided, empowered, illumined by the Spirit God provides, God's Holy Spirit.

Larry

Westminster Member will Receive Special Honor

Congratulations to **Alice Kale** who will receive The Del Ray Artisans Award of Merit at a ceremony on Sept. 22 marking the opening of an art show in Alexandria's City Hall. You can also view one of Alice's paintings, a painting of our sanctuary, in the hallway outside the church library.

Volunteers Needed!

The Congregational Life committee is forming two new sub-committees to help with some of the weekly hands-on responsibilities that help the church provide fellowship events for the entire congregation. These two new groups are the Coffee Guild and the Kitchen Guild.

The Coffee Guild, under the leadership of Nancy Hall Berens, will recruit hosts for Coffee Hour/Lemonade on the Lawn for each Sunday of the year, maintain supplies for easy access and use by hosts, and occasionally fill in hosting when there are gaps in the schedule. Contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121.

The Kitchen Guild, under the leadership of Nedra Trahant and Susan Kelly, will help keep supplies organized and kitchens straightened for use by all fellowship groups and activities in the church. Guild members will have oversight of the various kitchens in the church building and will monitor use of kitchen supplies and equipment. Contact Nedra Trahant at Ntrahant@aol.com or 703-243-1233.

Westminster Life Events

Please remember in prayer the families of the following Westminster members who passed away recently:

Homer Walkup, who died on June 12
Marge Smith, who died on July 10
Sherry Wright, who died on July 11
Karen Hoben, who died on August 9

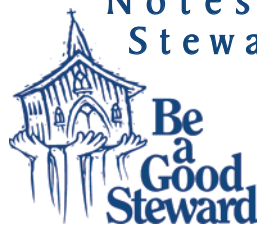
We're happy to announce these additions to the Westminster nursery:

Christopher James Winn, born on June 14 to Rob & Mara Winn
Ryan Alexander Baetcke, born on June 16 to Philip & Marcie Baetcke
Fenton Frederick Heckel, born on June 19 to Matt & Andrea Heckel
Madeline Jane Weitzel, born on July 15 to Rich & Julie Weitzel
Daniel Ashmore, born on July 29 to Philip Ashmore & Katie Donley
Savannah Carolyn Ahart, born on September 9 to Mark & Lindsay Ahart

We celebrate the recent weddings of:

David Touhey & Katherine McAdoo on June 20
Chris McAdoo & Michelle Lee Muccio on July 25

Notes From the Stewardship Committee



A First Pledge
Mary Olsen, Stewardship Committee

I can remember my brother and I being in elementary school and getting five dollars every Saturday for our allowance. The first order of business was to put ten percent in our pledge envelopes for church the next day. Then we had a "college fund" where our parents made us put the remaining fifty percent of our allowance. While my crisp five dollar bill quickly dwindled to \$2.25, I remember taking some pride in where my money went, even if it did take some nudging from my parents.

I haven't always been a diligent pledger. Although I started early, after I moved out of the house to go to college, I barely gave at all. Other than pledging when I was eight, only in the last few years did I commit to giving regularly. However, my first pledge set the foundation for why I give today.

As we begin our 2010 stewardship campaign, we will share with the youth how they can become involved in pledging. Westminster offers so many blessings, and involving the youth gives them the opportunity to see how they can contribute to the many fruits that our church continues to bear.

Bread for the World (BFW) Day

Westminster will celebrate Bread for the World (BFW) Day on Sunday, October 18, in accordance with our pledge as a Covenant Church. We will be re-affirming our commitment to address issues of hunger at home and abroad. Westminster's "Offering of Letters" day on July 12, sponsored by BFW, was very successful. Almost 50 members of the congregation committed to adding their voice to Christians across the nation in support of bi-partisan legislation that would help make our nation's foreign development assistance more effective, more streamlined and better able to help poor and hungry people around the world to find the means to help themselves. This Bill does not request increased funding. Local Congressmen Jim Moran and Gerald Connolly have signed on as co-sponsors of the House Bill. Virginia's two Senators have not yet made a commitment to co-sponsor S.1524, the companion Bill in the Senate. If you wish to express your support you may call Senator Warner's office at 202-224-2023 and Senator Webb's office at 202-224-4024. Emails can be made through the Senator's own web site. For further information call Sam Ulm at 703-751-6210 or Erik Johnston at 703-549-2021. Westminster's National/International Mission Committee is leading this effort.



BFW is a collective Christian voice working since 1974 to make a difference for hungry and poor people throughout the world.

Save the Date! Dates to Remember at Westminster

Looking ahead ... Join us for a year of fun all-church events and share good food and good fellowship with your friends at Westminster!

- **September 26 at 6:30 p.m.:** Potluck with a Purpose: Summer Mission Trip Memories
- **November 7 at 6 p.m.:** Youth Dessert Auction
- **December 13 at 5:00 p.m.:** Christmas Pageant and Dinner
- **February 27 at 7:30 p.m.:** Coffee Cafe
- **March 28 at 9:30 a.m.:** Palm Sunday Brunch
- **June 13 at 11 a.m.:** All-Church Picnic

2nd annual Potluck with a Purpose

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to the 2nd annual Potluck with a Purpose: Summer Mission Trip Memories Saturday, September 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

A-L last names bring either a main or side dish
M-Z last names bring either a salad or dessert
Beverages and bread will be provided.

Enjoy the fellowship of an all-church potluck dinner followed by a program which will highlight this summer's mission trips to Spirit Lake, ND and the Dominican Republic. We'll also have an update on the upcoming trip to Kenya. It will be an entertaining and educational evening for all.



Westminster
Travelers

October 7 - 10. Departure at 9:00 a.m. Trip to Williamsburg, Jamestown & James River Plantations. \$200 plus meals. Waiting list available.

October 29. 7:00 p.m. *Art of Murder*; Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1 trip fee.

All Travelers trips are planned for senior adults of Westminster. Non-members are welcome if space is available.

Are you Young-Hearted?

Looking for a way to become more involved?

Consider working with our youth!

We need game players, mentors, small group leaders, teachers, singers, prayers, cooks, artists, drivers, sports fans, and more.

Contact Patrick!
(703-549-4766 x.102;
phunnicut@wpc-alex.org)

Alexandria Community Says Thank You Westminster!

"Carpenter's Shelter is grateful for your congregation's recent contribution...which enables Carpenter's to be 'more than just a roof' to more than 1,000 children, families, and adults annually. As Carpenter's enters its 20th year in the community, we are reflecting on the impact that we have had on poor families and adults of Alexandria and the surrounding area. None of our achievements would have been possible without the support of our caring community ... Thank you for being a part of Carpenter's mission to end homelessness one child, one family at a time." **Frances Becker, Executive Director, Carpenter's Shelter**

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and especially Senior Services of Alexandria clients, I want to thank you for your contribution. As always, the support of Westminster Presbyterian Church is very important to Senior Services of Alexandria. This donation enables us to continue to provide quality programs and services to seniors in our community." **Janet Barnett, Executive Director, Senior Services of Alexandria**

"At this mid-point in ALIVE!'s 40th anniversary year, I find myself reflecting on the various celebratory events we have enjoyed over the past six months. The ALIVE! birthday party at Westminster Presbyterian Church was a very important part of this special half year. It was beautifully done, just right for the ALIVE! culture and a successful fundraiser as well. [The] hospitality ... of Westminster Presbyterian Church is much appreciated."

Diana H. Day, President, ALIVE!

"Thank you very much for your generous contribution to the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless. Our shelter is always full and our clients' needs for the basics are always great, especially during these frightening economic times. We truly appreciate your support of our work." **Mary M. Adams, Secretary to the Board, AACH**



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Singles Fall Retreat October 2-4 will be in historic Colonial Williamsburg where we will explore the theme of religious life in the colonies. There are still rooms available, so if you have not registered yet and would still like to go, please contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ASAP.

Monday, October 12: Our monthly Dine-Out will be at Ramparts Tavern and Grill, our local neighborhood restaurant, located at 1700 Fern Street in Alexandria. Monday is half-price burger night at Ramparts so join us for fun conversation and fellowship! Meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. to carpool or meet us there around 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27: All singles are invited to our monthly Potluck in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. for a time of food and fellowship. Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share. We will also make sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program (materials provided). Please bring a can of food for ALIVE! for the basket in the church foyer.

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, November 15 is the date for our next Singles Roundtable lunch and discussion to be held following the 11:00 worship service. Watch for details!

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. Please contact nhallberens@wpc-alex.org to learn more!



from Associate Pastor

Patrick Hunnicutt

Westminster Wonderings

Embarking on my fifth full year at Westminster, I realize that there are many things about this church that I have yet to learn. I also imagine that many of you have "wonderings" as well. So, in this space, from time to time I'll tackle some of those elusive nuggets about this place, and these people, called Westminster. If you have such a burning question, please email me (phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org) and I'll assemble a crack team of researchers to enlighten us. Even better, if you have information to solve our quests, please share it with me.

The first question I seek to answer is this: Who are you, Joe Blackwell? Every time I pass by the church entrance, your bench quietly sits, inviting me to rest my weary legs in memory of you. I'd like to know who you are, who you were, and what it is that you would have us remember about you.

Researchers: Get working!

Blessings

Upcoming Construction at Westminster

Jim Buchanan, Facilities Manager

You will soon be seeing workers in and around the church, or the evidence of their work. We have recently signed leases with AT&T and T-Mobile allowing them to place cell antennas inside our steeple to improve cell phone reception in the area surrounding the church. Sprint antennas have already been in place for six years.

In order to accomplish this, there will be the following construction and landscaping occurring around the church property. Once begun, this work is expected to continue for about 2 months.

- Both companies will be placing antennas in the metal portion of the steeple which will require replacement of portions of the metal with a fiberglass type of radio frequency friendly material similar to the panels in the upper third of the steeple which were installed by Sprint. This will not compromise the integrity of the steeple appearance and upon completion the steeple will be completely repainted.
- T-Mobile will locate their equipment on a platform within the brick steeple base. Access is limited to this area and some of the material may have to be lifted from the parking lot and enter through the louvered opening above the "rose window".
- AT&T will construct a brick enclosure around an excavated area along the sanctuary wall on the courtyard side. The wall will surround AT&T's equipment as well as our existing air-conditioner units. The enclosure will be 12 feet wide and about 5 feet tall and extend from the front of the church almost to the library. By excavating and constructing a wall, none of the equipment will be visible from ground level outside the building. The new brick enclosure will be consistent with the architecture of our building.
- The existing storm drain from the Rose Garden to the front of the church will have to be removed and slightly relocated to accommodate the new excavated/walled enclosure.
- To provide the necessary power for the two companies Dominion Power will provide an additional underground power line from the far side of Cameron Mills Road, running near the new storm drain to the end of the new screening wall near the library.
- Some existing shrubs will be removed to make room for the enclosure and other shrubs and plants will need to be temporarily relocated during construction. Some minor changes to the rose garden will be required as that area is restored following construction.

Future plans call for the development of a master landscaping plan for the church property including a memorial for Reverend Karen Blomberg, which can be implemented in phases in the future.

Once construction begins, we plan on including status and details, including an artist's rendering of the courtyard enclosure on the Facilities page of the church website (www.wpc-alex.org/facilities).

Thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee, the Administration and Finance Committee, Jim Buchanan, Bill McCulla, Nancy Bea, and Mike McAdoo for their painstaking and thorough work over the past several years. –Ken Niemann, Chair, Building and Grounds Committee

Receive Communion at Home

Through the ministry of the Deacons, communion is brought to the homes of members who are not able to be present in worship on Sundays when communion is served. If you would like to receive home communion, please contact Eileen Jinks, pastoral care coordinator, at the church, ext. 132. Those receiving find it a meaningful way to maintain their connection to Westminster. Both deacons and elders participate in the Extended Serving of communion.

Convalescent Equipment

A reminder that the church maintains an assortment of convalescent equipment, including walkers, wheelchairs, commode chairs, bath benches, and canes, that are available for loan. If you wish to borrow any equipment, just stop by the church office to request access to the storage room and sign out what you take on the clipboard kept in the church office. Because we are well stocked with many of these items, please check before dropping off new donations. Questions? Contact Eileen Jinks at ext. 132 or ejinks@wpc-alex.org.

Opportunities for Mission and Service

Auction Items Needed. Guest House is looking for donations of items worth \$500 or more that can be auctioned off to benefit its programs this fall. Suggested items might include a week/weekend getaway, art, or cars. Guest House provides female ex-offenders support and assistance to become self-sufficient responsible members of the community. Your donations are tax deductible. If you can help or have questions, contact Kari Galloway at director@friendsofguesthouse.org or 703-549-8072.

Sandwiches Needed for Bag Lunch Program. The bag lunch program needs sandwiches. We serve about 75 sandwiches each time, four times a month. Sandwiches can be made at your convenience and put in the freezer in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. For more information see the Local Missions Page on the church website. If you can help serve, please call Kathy Stenzel at 703-683-4516, or her cell 703- 622-4154. If you have any questions about making sandwiches please call Anne Soens at 202-628-5197(work), 703-548-5320 (home) or annesoen@msn.com.

Messages to Our Troops: The Local Mission Committee has decided to begin a new program that will send messages from our congregation to those serving in the military around the world letting them know they are ever present in our hearts and prayers. We will identify each month a few members of our congregation who are deployed or members of our congregation who have friends and family members in the military stationed around the world to receive well wishes. The first Sunday of the month, starting in October, the congregation will be invited during the fellowship hour to sign on oversized card. If you have a loved one you would like Westminster to send a card to please contact Sean Heather at ssheather31@yahoo.com.



Focus on Missions

Westminster supports programs that serve vital needs in the local community. The Local Mission Committee uses the acronym CHES to help members better remember the needs it serves: Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter, and Self-Sufficiency. In September and October, the committee is highlighting programs that serve some of the most vulnerable members of our community, children. Westminster supports all of these programs financially, and many of its members contribute their time and talents to them as volunteers. If you would like to know more about any of these programs, or would like to be a volunteer, please contact localmission@wpc-alex.org.

Child Development Center of ALIVE! (Alexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!)

ALIVE! is an organization of several Alexandria faith communities that serve critical needs of low-income families in Alexandria. The program supports a preschool for these families at the First Christian Church on King Street.

Carpenter's Shelter

Alexandria's shelter for homeless families has many children currently in residence. The first Monday of every month, Westminster members provide, deliver, and serve food to shelter residents. Additionally, children at the shelter need tutors, chaperones for trips, and school supplies.

George Mason Tutors

For twenty years, WPC has provided funding for an after school tutoring program at the elementary school adjacent to the church. Volunteer tutors build relationships with the children they tutor, meeting with them once or twice each week to help them with their homework, play educational games and give them the confidence they need to succeed in school.

Presbyterian Women Work Day

A group of women meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month to make handmade articles to give to others in need. Among the items they make are stuffed toys for hospitalized children.

Child and Family Network Center

This neighborhood-based community-supported, free preschool serves approximately 135 children from low-income families at four different locations. The preschool also offers speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychological assessments and social services to the children and their families.

Share the Spirit

In December, Westminster members "adopt" a family through the Child and Family Network Center to provide a brighter holiday for low-income working families.

Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH)

AACH provides shelter, counseling, and employment training for homeless families to assist them in rebuilding their lives. Program volunteers help with transportation, child care, and furniture delivery / pick-up.

Save the Date

Energize Alexandria on Saturday, October 26.

Help needy homeowners save on their energy bills this winter by spending a few hours the morning of October 26 weatherizing a home in Alexandria. More details to follow. Contact: Eric Weiss (eric.weiss@winchendon.com)



Save the Date – November 21, 2009 – 7:00 PM

Westminster Presents Valentina Lisitsa!

Reserve Saturday evening, November 21, 2009 at 7:00 pm, for a truly extraordinary musical event. Westminster is pleased to present the internationally acclaimed piano virtuoso, Valentina Lisitsa, in a recital including works by Beethoven, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. This recital is presented under the auspices of the Donald and Rosalee Stubbs Concert Series.

Ms. Lisitsa has been a recitalist and also soloist with major orchestras in the U. S. and abroad including a “sold to capacity” recital at the famed Musikverein Golden Hall in Vienna for which she received several standing ovations (Viennese audiences are by reputation a very critical crowd!). She has toured and continues to tour with Hillary Hahn, the Grammy winning violinist, in major cities such as New York, London, Tokyo, Berlin, Montreal, Vienna, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, as well as many other cities in the U. S., Europe and South America. Locally she played at the National Museum for Women in the Arts this past Summer, and at the Schlesinger Center last year.

Critical reviews of Ms. Lisitsa’s performances have included comments such as: “stunning performance...,” “blazing virtuosity...,” “bona fide angel playing...,” “a gigantic talent. She has infallible fingers, imagination and a control of dynamics – from the softest to the loudest sounds—little short of electrifying ...” and “positively dazzling.” Several Westminster members have had the opportunity to hear Ms. Lisitsa play, and they have been amazed by her musical talent and virtuosic technique, and by her power and grace at the keyboard.

SAVE THAT DATE and tell your friends, because this is an event you do not want to miss!



Bach Vespers

October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1 and 8, at 6:00 pm

Have you asked yourself how early Christians worshiped and what would it be like to step back in time and attend a worship service with a small community of faith when church was not yet fractured along East-West line or fragmented by cultural, historical, or political shifts? Could perhaps such worship give you insight into worship of the post-modern church?

There is a crisis of worship today. The problem goes beyond matters of style (Traditional? Contemporary? TV-like programmatic format? Classical liturgy? Informal gathering?) It is a crisis of content and the crisis of form as an expression of content. Worship in churches today is too often self-involved, the reading of Scriptures is either literal or apologetic, and the worship rarely focuses on the whole story of God and His creation. One can argue that such worship is inevitably shaped by our culture.

Therefore, to seek freedom from this influence, one must go back to the early stages of Christian worship's development and re-discover the richness of the old liturgy and ancient rites. Our Vespers services are based on the earliest Christian rites known, whose texts and prayers that go back to the 4th century if not earlier.

There will be 6 worship services, each one focusing on a day of Creation and respectively on each of the six segments of Church Calendar (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Passiontide, Easter, and Pentecost). Thus the whole story of God will be told, from Creation to Incarnation to Re-Creation. All of liturgy is in the framework of J. S. Bach's transcendent music, and in this context it is the most modern element.

Music in Ministry

Opportunities for Youth grades 6-12

Youth Ensemble – Middle School and Sr. High Youth

Fall rehearsal dates: Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6

Rehearsals: Sundays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Choir Room 112

Youth Bells – Previous handbell ringing experience

Start date Oct. 4, Sundays except 11/8 and 11/29

Rehearsals: Sundays, 4 - 4:30pm; Sanctuary

Opportunities for Children

Carol Choir – Grades Kindergarten – 3rd

Rehearsals: Wednesdays 5:30 - 6pm; Room 106

Beginning Bells – Grades 3rd – 5th

Rehearsals: Wed. 6:00 – 6:30pm; Sanctuary

Confirmation Coming!

All eighth-graders are encouraged to participate in the 2009-2010 confirmation class. Confirmation is designed to help you explore your faith and consider whether you would like to become a full member of Westminster. It is not, however, just for youth who know they want to be members! We urge you to participate, if only to better understand what being Christian, at Westminster, in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., is all about. Yes, you will learn, but we want to make it lively and engaging, not just facts and figures. We want you to think about yourself, who you are, who God is, who is Lord to you, and why this all matters, a lot.

Confirmation Class



This year, confirmation will run from late-October and culminate with our awesome April retreat to Shrine Mont. Those who decide to join the church at the end of the year will do so on Pentecost Sunday in May. If you are interested, please join us for an orientation session—for parents AND youth—on Thursday, October 1 from 7-8 p.m. in the Middle School Fellowship room, Room 401. If you cannot attend, but are still interested, please contact Patrick and he'll give you all the details you'll need to start.

Children and Family Ministry



Thank you!

Many, many thanks to all of those who participated and assisted in this year's M&M Week. Music and More has always been a great success in this church, and this year was no exception! Paul Stetsenko composed an incredible opera set to the words of Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hatches the Egg." All through the week our children (and many from the community) learned about what it means to be faithful through stories, art, computers, and music. Thirty-three children in all (both from Westminster and the community) participated! We focused on the Biblical stories of Daniel, Jonah, and the prodigal son to illustrate both the faithfulness of God and the struggles we have in trying to be faithful to God. We tried something different this year in having it at the end of the summer—and I believe it was a great success. It is my great hope that the enthusiasm on display during our M&M experience has carried right into our program year ... not just in Creation Station but also in our children's music programs. My special thanks to Paul, Molly Roden, Peter Roden, Kristen Folkerts, Nancy Hall Berens, Candace Rush, Debbie McCormack, Jennifer Larrison, Reisa Hines, Anne Gross, Amie Finney, Heather Quaretti, Michelle Marston, Marti Klein, Sarah Buchanan, Lori Stultz, Joe Norris, Sarah Hoffman, and Amey Upton for providing such great support and leadership!

In Christ,
Casey FitzGerald

Milestones of Faith!

In these classes children in kindergarten through fifth grade learn and experience elements of our Reformed faith to aid them on their faith journey and to assist their parents in helping them. All classes begin at 9:45 a.m. Upon completion, they receive a certificate. These include:

Communion Education	1st and 2nd graders, September 27, 2009
Bible Presentations	3rd and 4th graders, October 25, 2009
How to use my Bible	3rd and 4th graders, October 11 & November 22, 2009 and January 24 & February 28, 2010
The meaning of Baptism	4th and 5th graders, January 10, 2010
The Lord's Prayer	2nd and 3rd graders, March 21, 2010

Mornings for Moms: Time Change Reminder

Come to this great fellowship group every Friday. Please note: this group now meets from 11a.m. to 12 p.m. We meet upstairs in room 303/305. New faces always welcome! Hope to see you and your little one(s) there soon! Questions? Contact Casey FitzGerald



Potluck Brunch

Come one, come all!!! We'd love to see you at our next potluck brunch, to be held Sunday, October 4th after the 11 clock service in the Haverkamp Room.

Faith on Tap: Your own, personal Jesus?

Our next Faith on Tap will be held Tuesday, October 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the Capitol City Brewing Company in Shirlington. Join other young adults for great conversation! This month we'll be discussing the nature of our relationship with Jesus Christ. A few months ago, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, proclaimed the following at the governing convection of the church: there is "a great Western heresy – that we can be saved as individuals, that any of us alone can be in right relationship with God. It's caricatured in some quarters by insisting that salvation depends on reciting a specific verbal formula about Jesus. That individualist focus is a form of idolatry, for it puts me and my words in the place that only God can occupy, at the center of existence, as the ground of being." We'll read some versions of this "verbal formula", explore the theology behind both the formulas and her assertions, and talk about how we feel, as individuals and as a community, we are in relationship with God and Jesus Christ!



Dream.Think.Be.Do Study continues!

Meet us in the Bride's Room (small room off of Fellowship Hall) during the education hour (9:45-10:45a.m.) for our young adult study! We understand that young adults have busy schedules—there is no preparation necessary, and this is a series that is valuable no matter how much you can attend! Contact Casey FitzGerald for more information.

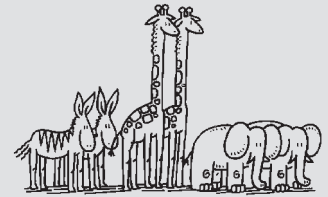


news from United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya

Last month I wrote about how far the UO&A had come since the initial collection to commence construction as part of Westminster's 2000 Christmas Eve offering. This month I have to report how much in additional funds we need to collect to cover 2009 operations. Unlike construction funds where you build as much as you can with the money collected, operating costs must be covered each and every year. In 2006 when the Orphanage reached full capacity of 50 children (33 girls and 17 boys) operating costs were \$37,500. This year as the result of increased costs for food and supplies because of the 2008 and continuing ethnic unrest and drought in much of the country, operating costs will be \$42,500, once again roughly \$850 per child in residence.

So far this year we have collected and sent to Kenya \$35,212.75 for Orphanage operations. Another \$3,800 has been pledged, which means that we need to raise another \$3,500 for 2009 operations by November 30 when we send our final bank wire for 2009 operations. I appeal to anyone who has considered sponsoring an orphan for \$850 but has not yet done so to do so. Of course, contributions of any amount for orphan support will be most welcome. Checks should be made payable to Westminster with the notation for orphan support. Please give prayerful consideration to supporting this ministry of Westminster.

Blessing of the Animals



God's creation, entrusted to us
Sunday, October 4th
3:00 p.m.
Church Grounds

Becoming Calvin

Becoming Calvin, a new play by Ann Timmons, will be performed as a staged reading Saturday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium in Alexandria. This play was commissioned by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. For more info see www.reformedinstitute.com.

Women's Ministry News

Gathering All Women!

The Presbyterian Women's circles of WPC are sponsoring a fall gathering to which all women are invited on Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

The program topic is "Bad Women of the Bible." The speaker is Dr. Sandra Scham, an archaeologist specializing in the Middle East and Biblical archaeology. She will illustrate what archaeology tells us about Biblical women such as Eve and Jezebel. Dr. Scham gave a similar program at the Smithsonian.

Come and bring a friend! Enjoy desserts made by circles. No reservations needed.

Friendship Circles

WPC is starting a new fellowship and Bible study circle for mothers of young children. Details are coming soon.

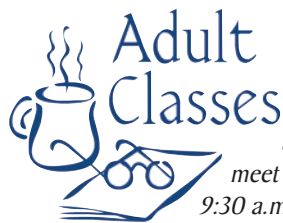
There are several circles that meet monthly at various times and all women are invited to visit and join one. Complete descriptions are on the website under Presbyterian Women, or contact either Clara Beth Van de Water at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or Carol Ensley at 517-225-5897.

Women's Workday for Alexandria Hospital

All women are invited to come to the Haverkamp Room on Wednesday, October 7, at 9:30 a.m. to make pillows and stuffed animals for the hospital. Contact Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445 or just come.

Women's Retreat - Save the Date!

A retreat for all women will be held March 12 - 14, 2010 at a nearby retreat center in Maryland with Joan Reid, one of our former Christian educators, on hospitality.



Adult Classes

Adult Education Programs

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

All adults are invited to the following education programs. No registration is needed except for the Psalms class. Sunday morning classes all meet from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. except the Psalms class, which meets from 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water, cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 120 for more details.

Sunday Morning Classes

I. "How Are Your Conversations with God? - An Invitation to Psalms" October 11 - December 13; Elders Kathy Harkness, M.A., and Connie Ring, J.D., DISCIPLE graduates and Bible study leaders.

Explore unparalleled testimonies of grace, glory, sorrow, and beauty expressed in this collection of poetry. Participants are asked to register for the Bible reading, video, and discussion class. See the church website or Clara Beth Van de Water for information, registration forms, and study guides which cost \$10.

II. "God: the Great Provider" October 11; Beth Norcross, M.A., M.T.S.; Lecturer, Eco-Theology, Wesley Seminary; Retired staff, U.S. Senate's National Parks and Forests Subcommittee. Look at how Biblical writers understood God as the great provider of life's needs and at new insights for relating to earth and its resources in this guest presentation.

III. "Music and Social Justice" October 18 - November 22 (except November 1); Dr. Eileen Guenther, Associate Professor of Church Music, Wesley Seminary; President of the American Guild of Organists.

Listen to music that has made powerful differences in lives of people crying out and singing for justice from Spirituals, the Civil Rights movement, the Holocaust, and anti-war protest music to South African freedom songs, - with Dr. Guenther's commentary.

IV. "A Personal Guide to Climate Change: Present Changes and Predicted Futures" November 1; Dr. Victor Zabielski, Professor of Geology, Northern Virginia Community College; Oceanographer.

Take a hard look at the realities of climate change - ocean chemistry, sea levels, and weather patterns, and how these will affect our world and the world of the next generation, including visual evidence.

Thursday Morning Class for Women Begins October 8

Calling all women! Come to an informal study of "Women in the New Testament: A Middle Eastern Cultural View." We will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room, beginning October 8. The format will include video presentations by Mideast Biblical scholar Dr. Ken Bailey, reading short New Testament passages in class, comments by Rev. Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor and Clara Beth Van de Water, Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries and group discussion. This is a six week series. We are not requesting registration to attend, but we need registration for childcare. This discussion is an opportunity for women of all ages, married or single, to learn and share together. If you can only attend some sessions, that is fine.

Contact Clara Beth for general information or Casey for childcare at Cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 101.

Adult Crossings

The Sunday afternoon class being taught by Dr. Larry Hayward has 75 participants!

Remembrance Season at Westminster

We are expanding our Remembrance season this year to commemorate the lives of all Westminster saints, both those living and deceased. We will particularly honor those we have recently lost and those who were lost in defending our nation or while on active duty in military service.

On Sunday, November 1st, which is All Saints' Day, we will celebrate the lives of our Westminster community and particularly remember those who we have lost in recent months. We will conclude our worship with the Service of Light offering special prayers for, and the reading of the names of, those whose spirit has returned to God in the past few years.

On November 8th, the Sunday closest to Veterans' Day, we will honor the men and women who are now or have served in the military. The Service of Light at the end of this worship service will be dedicated to those members, and friends of members, who lost their lives in combat, while on active duty, or in terrorist attacks. Their names will be read and special prayers will be given.

After each service our remembrance will continue with a tribute in Fellowship Hall. We would ask Westminster members and friends to bring a photograph of someone close whom they wish to remember—a family member, friend, cherished one—to Fellowship Hall, either before and just after the service. The photograph can be in a standing frame, or just a print to be affixed to a display board. With the photograph, bring a printout of the name and a few sentences about the person. If you wish to bring flowers or a votive candle, feel free to do so. There will be someone to assist you.

In addition, we ask your help in letting us know of military personnel who died in service so that their names can be read. Please contact LeAnne Perkowski at the church office with this information. We hope that you will participate in this Remembrance season giving thanks for the Saints of Westminster; so long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us as we remember them.



Women's Book Group

All women are invited to read *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery and discuss it on Monday, October 26 at 11 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext.120 or cvandewater@wpc-alex.org. No registration required. Come if you like!

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study to Begin

A Bible study on Women in the New Testament will begin on Thursday, October 8, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Refer to the Adult Education article for details. Childcare is available.

Church Staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
and Women's Ministries
Sandra CalhounDirector of Westminster Travelers
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Carolyn CarmackFinancial Assistant
Tara CainAdministrative Assistant
LeAnne PerkowskiProgram Assistant
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Marvin JohnsonSexton
Eddie WatkinsSexton

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Volunteer Corner

This past summer, after participating in the mission trip to the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota, I travelled to Huron, South Dakota to visit with some old friends of mine. As I was visiting over the weekend, I attended church with them on Sunday morning. What a pleasant surprise I got. Their pastor, Rev. Kevin Channell, gave a sermon on how all Christians are called to service. He gave this sermon because his church had just called an Associate Pastor and he wanted to remind the congregation that they couldn't sit back and let the new guy do the work they had been doing. Sometimes it appears that we at Westminster are in danger of doing just that. We look at the list of staff and think, "With all those staff people to do things they really don't need me." That is false! The role of staff is to support us as we carry out the ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

For example, Patrick is the youth minister. However, he is in great need of volunteers to help him as mentors and guides to the youth in their activities. If you can help, contact Patrick at phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org. Likewise, Casey is the Associate Pastor for Children and Young Adults. She needs dozens of volunteers to run the Creation Station and children's Sunday school. If you can help her, contact Casey at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org. Volunteers for these activities are welcomed regardless of how much time they can commit. If you can only commit for one time, that will permit another volunteer to take a break. I could go through the list of staff and make a similar point for each one but, you get the idea.

We have all been given gifts by God. "The gifts he gave were ... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," (Eph 4:11-12). We did not all receive the same gifts in order that we could each use our separate gifts to work together for the glory of God. Take a deep look at yourself. What is your gift? Where can you support the church? Are you afraid that your gift is not sufficient? Fear not! It has often been said (but is not diminished by the repetition) that "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called." If you feel even the tiniest of urges to serve, don't hesitate. Step out in faith. You will be surprised at how well qualified you are.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer

Membership Involvement Coordinator