



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

## Byzantine Vigil

Sunday, December 19,  
6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Youth Vocal Ensemble and Youth Bells will lead the Byzantine Vigil, which features Greek Byzantine music. The Vigil is more than a narrative and re-enactment of the story and mystery of God and his church. It is an unfolding interpretation of the meaning of the Transcendent God revealed in Jesus Christ.

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# the Chronicle

December 16, 2010 - volume 43, number 5

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **In The Flesh**

Two passages that ring out at Christmas are well known:

- "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." (*Genesis 1:1*).
- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... and the Word became flesh and lived among us." (*John 1:1, 14*)

The first opens the Bible with the Creation Story; the second opens John's Gospel, connecting the coming of Christ "in the flesh" with Creation.

When we celebrate the birth of Christ – his Incarnation (enfleshment) – we are celebrating that God has come and taken up residence in the Creation God made.

- This means, among other things, that God takes the world and its people seriously. God celebrates Creation; God weeps with Creation; God exercises care and stewardship over Creation.
- This also means that Creation – and everything we do and experience and are responsible for in it – matters.
- There is nothing in the Created world – which includes human life – that lies outside the realm of God.

As we live our lives in the world God created, we can draw strength from the promise that God cares for and takes seriously everything we experience. Nothing lies apart from God. All our heartaches and all our dreams occur under God.

This seriousness – and this celebration – form part of why we welcome Jesus Christ into the world with such joy.

*Larry*

### Longest Night Service

Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

For many people, the Christmas season is a particularly difficult one. Amidst all of the joy that surrounds us, many of us experience our own sense of loss and pain more acutely. This Christmas, you are invited to attend our Longest Night Service (held on the longest night of the year). Together we will lift up our whole selves to the Lord, asking that God's light would shine in our darkest places. If you have questions about the service, or would like to come but need transportation, please contact Patrick Hunnicutt.



We recently welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

**Elizabeth Stevens Kent**, born November 6, 2010, daughter of Laura and Drew Kent

Please remember in prayer the families and friends of **Norma Lea Devaney**, who died November 22, 2010, in Ann Arbor, MI.



## Member Involvement News

December is a great month for getting members involved. Even members who only come once or twice a year will be attending a service or church activity this month. The many Advent and Christmas events are shown throughout this volume of the Chronicle. We'd love to see everyone at least once during this festive season. Our schedule of services for Advent and Christmas are listed on the back page of the newsletter.

In January we will return to a non-holiday schedule but, that doesn't mean things will slow down a whole lot. The activities of the church will continue and that means lots of volunteers are needed. Casey Fitzgerald ([cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org)) is in constant need of folks to help with Creation Station and Children's Sunday school.

The Communications Committee is looking for people to help spread the news about what is happening at Westminster. They need help implementing the information center in the Education Wing Lobby as well as maintaining and improving our website. If you have any interest in this area, contact Mara Winn ([comm@wpc-alex.org](mailto:comm@wpc-alex.org)).

Also, there will be many congregational events coming up in the new year. The Congregational Life Committee is looking for people who can help with planning, set up, serving, and clean up. If you are available for any of these tasks you should contact Pat Proseri ([cl@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cl@wpc-alex.org)).

Have a blessed Christmas and I hope to see everyone during Advent/Christmas and the New Year.

**Art Sauer**  
*Membership Involvement Coordinator*



## Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

*Flying Solo is a group for single adults in their prime years (more or less 40's and above) belonging to the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. For information on our group and up-*

*coming events, visit our page on the church website: <http://www.wpc-alex.org/singles> or contact Nancy Hall Berens at [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) to learn more!*

**Tuesday, December 28:** Join us for our monthly **Potluck** at 7:00 pm in the Johnson Parlor. If you are home during the holidays, come to make sandwiches for Bag Lunch (materials will be provided) and to have dinner together. Please bring a can of food for ALIVE! to share the Christmas spirit with those in need as well as a dish to share for dinner.

**Monday, January 10:** Our monthly **Dine-Out** in January will take us to Busboys and Poets at 4251 S. Campbell Ave in Shirlington Village. Meet at church at 7:00 pm if you'd like to carpool, otherwise meet us at the restaurant at 7:15. Come join other singles from Westminster to enjoy good food and fellowship!

**Tuesday, January 25:** Our January **Potluck** starts at 7:00 pm in the Johnson Parlor!

**Sunday, February 6:** You are invited to our annual **Super Bowl Party** at Nancy Harper's home located at 8903 Camden Street in Alexandria starting at 5:30 pm. Nancy will be making chili for the group. Please bring salad, bread, appetizer, munchies or dessert to share as well as your favorite beverage (no red wine, please!). Come cheer on your team with Westminster friends!

## Money Matters

**Offering envelopes** for 2011 for those who requested them are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall. You may still request envelopes by contacting Nancy Bea at [nbea@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nbea@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766.

**Stock Donations and End of Year Giving:** If you are using a stock transaction to give to the operating fund or Capital Campaign, remember that stock transactions take several days to process. It would be most helpful for donors to initiate these transactions not later than December 21 to help insure timely completion of each transaction. Stock must be transferred before December 31 for it to be credited to you in 2010. Also checks to the church must be postmarked or received before the end of the year to be considered tax deductions for the year 2010 or be credited to you for 2010. The check date is irrelevant if the check is not received or postmarked by December 31.

**January Statements** for 2010 will reflect all church donations postmarked and received by December 31. You have received an interim year-end statement. Please review it and notify Nancy Bea in the church office of any questions or corrections to be made. In mid-January you will receive your final 2010 contribution record for tax purposes.

## Westminster Travelers



**December 23 Lunch and Program** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will depart at 11:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. \$2.00

**January 6 Festival of Lights** at Bull Run State Park We will depart at 5:00 p.m. and return around 10:00 p.m. \$2.00

**January 13 Little Theater "Oliver"** We will depart at 7:00 p.m. and return at 10:30 p.m. \$1.00

**January 20 Lunch and Program** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We will depart at 11:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. \$2.00

**April 25-27 Fallingwater/Kentuck Knob** The trip will also include tours of the University of Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Memorial Garden and the Flight 93 Memorial. The total trip cost is \$399. Reservations should be made by no later than January 17. A deposit of half the trip cost is due no later than January 24.

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*For more information on upcoming Travelers trips, contact Sharon Tarr at [starr@wpc-alex.org](mailto:starr@wpc-alex.org) or visit the website at [www.wpc-alex.org/travelers](http://www.wpc-alex.org/travelers). You may sign up for an event by calling the church office.*

## Office Hours

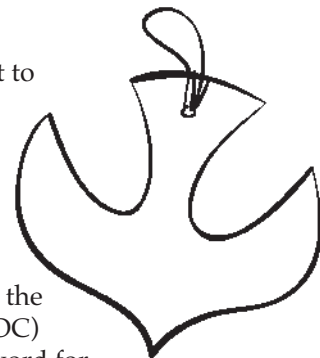
The church office will close on Christmas Eve at 1:00 p.m. and will remain closed through Tuesday, December 28. Office hours on Wednesday, Dec. 29 and Thursday, Dec. 30 will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The office will again close on Friday, December 31 at 2:00 p.m. and will reopen with regular office hours on Tuesday, January 4. Merry Christmas from all of the staff at Westminster.

## The Chrismon Tree

The beautiful tree outside the Sanctuary and adjacent to the Westminster Library is a Chrismon Tree.

“Chrismons” are tree decorations in the form of a variety of Christian symbols that represent aspects of the Person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ, or the ministry or history of the Christian Church. Examples of just a few of the meanings for some the symbols:

- **XP** -- or the Chi Rho monogram, which is taken from the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ (XPICTOC)
- **IHS or IHC** -- are the first three letters of the Greek word for Jesus (IHCOYC). IHS is also interpreted as meaning Iesus Hominum Salvator (“Jesus, Savior of men” in Latin).
- **Seashell** -- for the water of Baptism
- **Butterfly** -- for the immortality of the soul
- **Crown** -- for the Kingship of Christ Jesus



Chrismons are primarily White with Gold and sometimes Silver. For the Chrismons on the Westminster tree, Gold stands for God, the Father; Silver or White stand for Christ; and the two colors used in combination show the interrelationship of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The teachings of Jesus are depicted on White balls or on White backgrounds with Gold and White symbols.



At the top of the tree is the large “Descending Dove” which is mentioned at the Baptism of Jesus and as the symbol for the Holy Spirit.

The Chrismons on the Westminster tree were made by the Women of Westminster (now called Presbyterian Women) during a project begun in 1971 by Jane Ring and Shirley Jones. About 60 women contributed from one to thirty Chrismons each. The exquisite tree skirt which covers the base of the tree was made by Elsie Britt.

For more information about the Westminster Chrismons, there are small booklets available in a container on the table near the tree.



## Thank-You & More

I want to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and prayers following my recent heart surgery. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as my recovery continues. I am so grateful for all of you at Westminster.

**Olga Puspoki**

Words are inadequate to express our appreciation for the army of WPC family members who have helped Henri and me since his stroke. A battery of drivers has been needed to help get Henri to all his appointments every week; the delivery of beautiful flowers from the sanctuary; meals; all the individuals who help cover the responsibilities he initiated prior to his stroke including The United Orphanage & Academy, Alternative Christmas Bazaar, communications with UO&A supporters, Coordination of African Ministries, and the hosting of visitors from Africa having to do with UO&A. Before we were able to return to weekly services I cannot begin to tell you what it meant to have communion delivered to our home.

Special thanks to Janet Riksen who has done such a beautiful job taking care of so many of the areas that Henri had handled.

Sincerely,

*Candace Duckett Rush (Mrs. Henri)*

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for this Advent and Christmas season. The Flying Solo group decorated the Johnson Parlor Christmas Tree and a host of folks led by Gale Grindstaff worked on decorations in the Sanctuary and around the building. This group of "decorating elves" includes Fred Woods, Terry Grindstaff, Nancy Duykers, Jane Ring, Carolyn Carmack, Dave Gunter, Bill & Joan McCulla, Barbara & Bill Monson, Joe & Susan Kelly, Shera Fitzsimmons, and Carol Dickerson.

A hearty thanks to all.

**The Worship and Music Cmte**

## 2011 Sanctuary Flowers

Westminster members and friends are invited to donate the flowers that will beautify our Sunday morning worship in 2011. The flowers may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, and your name and the dedication will be printed in the bulletin. Two vase arrangements are available for each Sunday of the year; the cost is \$60 for one and \$120 for two. Contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org to sign up.



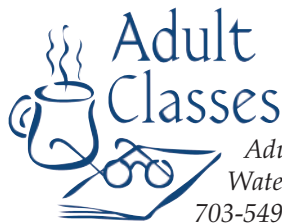
## Women's Ministry



### Women's Retreat "Hearts on Fire: Our Journey of Faith"

Modern life has become fast and sometimes passionless. Regular spiritual practices can be seen as time consuming and sometimes boring, not in tune with our electronic world. Yet we long for an opportunity to retreat and feel closer to God. Come retreat to Hallowood where you can find inspiration and experience practices that support and deepen your faith in the God who loves and is present to us.

This retreat will be held April 8-10, Friday evening through Sunday noon, at the Hallowood Retreat Center in MD, an hour away. The leader will be Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick, a religious historian and educator, who is a member of The Reformed Institute's Company of Teachers.



## Adult Education

Programs are held from 9:45-10:45 a.m. All adults are invited with no registration required. Contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara Beth Van de Water for further information at [cvandewater@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766 extension 120.

### "Paul's Prison Epistles: Philemon And Phillipians"

**January 9 – February 13, except January 16, Westminster Room**

Dr. Katherine Grieb, Professor of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary  
Paul's letters from prison, when incarcerated for spreading faith, set a pattern for later Christians, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela. Read the short letter to Philemon on January 9, and study the letter to the Christians in Philippi on January 23 – February 13. Be inspired by Paul's witness to countless hearts and minds, including ours.

### "Making Sense Of The Sermon On The Mount"

**January 16, Westminster Room**

Dr. John Yieh, Professor of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary  
The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew is considered the most important collection of Jesus' teachings on how to live. How do we make sense of Jesus' idealistic visions in terms of practical guidance?

### "God And The New Physics: Learning About The Creator By Studying The Creation"

**January 9 and 16, Haverkamp Room**

Dr. David Siegrist, Engineer, Mitre Corporation  
This series will introduce classical and contemporary concepts of physics for non-scientists, and interactions of these theories with religious beliefs. Evolving discoveries in physics can enhance our understandings of God and roles in God's universe as people of faith.

### "Grief, Loss And Christian Faith"

**January 23 and 30, Haverkamp Room**

Dr. Joyce Mercer, Professor of Practical Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary

Explore the dynamics of grief and loss in human experience, the religious beliefs and practices that help us deal with them, and move toward healing. Also learn how to speak to and help others when they suffer losses, with the support of the church as a community of care.

### "The Middle East Perspective"

**Feb. 6 - 20, Haverkamp Room**

Dr. Raja Nasr, Professor of Education, Marymount University; formerly serving Elder, Presbyterian Church, Lebanon

Explore the long history of Middle Eastern cultures through modern times. Look at the monotheistic religions born in the Middle East, especially Islam. Examine the major issues and challenges facing the Middle East, and the West as well, as we try to deal with situations in relating to the Middle East.

## "Caring For Your Aging Parents"

February 20, Westminster Room

Ms. Barbara Allen, recently retired Geriatric Social Worker, Arlington County Department of Social Services

Have you been caring for or helping with an aging parent or other close relative or friend? Learn about the many resources available to help older seniors and their adult children or other care givers from a social worker with thirty-four years experience, who also cared for her own mother.

## "God And The Great Recession"

The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington announces its annual convocation

Saturday, January 22, 9:30 a.m., National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC.

The speakers are Dr. Douglas Hicks, Professor of Leadership Studies and Religion, University of Richmond, and Dr. David Miller, Director of the Faith and Work Initiative, Princeton University. All adults are invited and there is no fee.

## Women's Ministry

### Winter Gathering

Rev. Maggie Hayward will be the speaker for our women's gathering on Wednesday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Dessert will be served by Presbyterian women circles. All women are cordially invited.

### Work Day

Women are invited to sew pillows for heart patients and stuffed toys for children at Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, January 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Contact Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445.

### Friendship Circles

Westminster has six friendship circles which meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Find details at [www.wpc-alex.org/presbyterianwomen](http://www.wpc-alex.org/presbyterianwomen) or from a pink flyer in the education building foyer literature rack. Visit a circle convenient for you.



### Book Discussion

All women are invited to discuss *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton on Monday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at [cvandewater@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766 ext.120 for more information or just come!

## Men of Westminster



### Men's Retreat News

Registration for the annual Westminster Men's Retreat began on November 14 and will continue through January 17, 2011. Over half of the spaces available have already been reserved. Reservation forms will be available after the 11:00 Sunday worship services at a table set up in Fellowship Hall. One of our men will be on hand to give you a registration form and answer any questions that you might have about the retreat.

The retreat will be held the weekend of February 4-6, 2011 at the popular Hollywood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain, near Comus, Maryland.

Our leader will be Dr. Eric Springsted, who is on the faculty of the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. Dr. Springsted holds a PhD in philosophy and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, and was formerly a Chaplain and lecturer at Princeton. Dr. Springsted will be addressing St. Augustine and his relationship to the heritage of Reformed thought. Those of you who have attended past retreats know how enjoyable the program, food, and fellowship have been.

Consider not only attending yourself, but personally inviting someone who has not previously attended one of our men's retreats. You do not have to be a member of Westminster to attend. All men are welcome.



### Faith on Tap in December Change!

**December 21** (third Tuesday)—  
7:30 p.m., Longest Night Service (in  
Chapel) 8:30, Faith on Tap at Ramparts  
(1700 Fern St., Alexandria)—come to  
one or both!!!

### Potluck Brunches Resume in January

Our monthly potluck brunch will  
be held on **January 9** (second Sunday)  
in the Haverkamp Room following the  
11 o'clock service.

### Young Adults Third Annual Bowling Tournament

**Friday, February 4, 8:00 p.m.**  
Many will bowl, but only one will  
be crowned 2011's bowling champion.  
More details to follow. RSVP to  
Casey FitzGerald.

## Children and Family Ministry



### Our Stories, God's Story Westminster Young Families Retreat

May 21-22, 2011

Meadowkirk Retreat Center, Middleburg, VA

All families with children from

birth through 5th grade are invited to join us for our first  
ever (or, in a really long time) family retreat. Meadowkirk is  
a wonderful place to gather—only an hour drive—with  
private rooms for each family. Registration will begin in  
January. Limited space will be available! More details to  
follow. Please contact Casey FitzGerald with any questions,  
or if you'd like to be a part of the planning.



### Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time 1st and 3rd Mondays of  
the month.

### Moms Study: In Church and Online!

*In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson (\$15)

Facilitated by Casey FitzGerald.

#### In Church

Mondays, January 24, 31, February 7, 14

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Westminster Room (24th), Johnson Parlor (31, 7, 14)

Childcare available.

#### Online

Reflections will be posted Monday afternoons.

Read the book at home and contribute as you are able. Web address will be  
sent out in January.

Using Richardson's incredibly rich book of reflections and prayers, we will  
seek to understand how sanctuary is created in our own lives, create  
relationships with one another, and maybe even risk being transformed in the  
process. If you aren't available for the Monday morning study, please consider  
becoming a part of our online "sanctuary"—a perfect opportunity for moms  
who work outside the home!

Please reserve a copy of the book no later than January 5. (If you miss the  
deadline, it can be easily ordered on Amazon.com!)



## Attention Youth

### 2011 Confirmation Class (For 8<sup>th</sup> graders)

An opportunity to:  
Explore your faith and the faith of the church  
Ask questions  
Pursue membership in Westminster  
Make and deepen friendships  
Have fun and be serious at the same time

**We begin on January 9!**

If you want to participate, please contact Patrick Hunnicutt (phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org)



**Dinner and Dessert Auction  
coming on February 26, 2011!**

### Paid Childcare Positions Available!

We are working to develop a list of childcare workers whom we will pay to take care of our little ones during various church events. Workers must be at least 18 years old and submit the necessary background check forms. If you are interested, or know of someone in or out of the church who might be interested and able, please contact LeAnne Perkowski at LPerkowski@wpc-alex.org.

## There is Still Time to Cheerfully Give

As we come to the final two of weeks of the 2011 Stewardship Campaign, "Cheerful Giving," we want to THANK YOU for all your pledges that are so critical for Westminster's vast array of worship, fellowship, education and mission opportunities. If you haven't pledged yet, there is still time! Please do so as your pledges are critical to planning and budgeting for important expenses within and outside the walls of Westminster. You may register your pledge online at [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org), bring your pledge card to church and place it in the offering plate, mail the card to the church or contact Nancy Bea at 703-549-4766 with your pledge. All pledges are confidential and greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your Cheerful Giving.

The Stewardship Committee



*"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

### Thanks for Your Donations:

Many thanks to all who contributed Christmas toys, clothes and gift cards to the Appalachia Service Project and the communities that they serve. Your generous donations will bring joy and hope to the many children and families who are in need and unable to share the gifts of giving and receiving during this Christmas season.

### Thanks to our Volunteers:

I would like to thank all of you who volunteer month after month to assure that the residents of Carpenter Shelter have a great dinner on the first Monday of each month. I would particularly like to welcome the 10 volunteers who served dinner for the first time during 2010. Your dedication makes my job as coordinator very easy.

**Marti Klein,**

Co-Chair, WPC Carpenter Shelter dinners



## Focus on Missions

### Alternative Giving Off to a Good Start!

Many thanks to all of you who supported this year's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar. The response was terrific. More people than ever before visited Fellowship Hall after Church services on Sunday, December 5 and 12. Results of the Bazaar and a detailed account of the amounts received by each of the participating charities will be published in next month's Chronicle.

\*There is still time to make a Christmas donation in support of the many charities supported by Westminster's Mission Committees. Just visit the Church website [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org) and look for the Alternative Giving Bazaar Catalogue which will be available through the month of December. You can mail your checks, made out to Westminster Church, or leave them in the Church Office. You can also pick up a gift card to give to another person you might wish to honor by your gift. If you have questions, please contact LeAnne Perkowski in the Church Office.

"The Alternative Giving Bazaar was a great way to shop for our grandparents. They always tell us they 'don't need anything,' but we still want to give them Christmas presents. So, at the Bazaar we got a necklace from Guest House and fair trade coffee and tea. Then we got them a share of rabbits and a part of a share of ducks from the Heifer Project. They love getting gifts that help others." —**Caroline, Maggie and Grant Chamberlain**

### Good News for Moi's Bridge Orphanage and Academy:

In October, the National Capitol Presbytery (NCP) Global Grants Mission Program awarded to Westminster a \$5,000 matching grant from the Resurrection Fund Global Grants Program for use at the United Orphanage and Academy in Mois Bridge, Kenya. Westminster will provide a matching amount of \$5,000, and the funds will be used to help complete the 3rd and final floor of the new Academy building. This is the third grant Westminster has received from NCP for use at UO&A; the first in 2007 was for \$7,000, and the second in 2008 for \$5,000.

### Still in Search of ... Family Mentors

Would you like to share a family's journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency? If so, please consider becoming a mentor to a family in the Arlington-Alexandria Coalitions for the Homeless transitional housing program. This is a great activity for a group of four to six people. If you do not have a group already, we will help you get together.

If you'd like to learn more about AACH's transitional family housing program and how you can help, please contact Beth Richardson at [bethlyone@aol.com](mailto:bethlyone@aol.com) or 703-582-6305.

### Bag Lunch Soup:

The Soup Group will be gathering in January to prepare another batch of soup for the Bag Lunch program, which serves the homeless and working poor in Alexandria. New members welcome and no experience necessary. Please contact Louise Anderson, 703-820-3568 or [louiseanderson@erols.com](mailto:louiseanderson@erols.com)

## Christmas Joy Offering

### What Child Is This?

In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas day.



Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs. As we celebrate Jesus' love in our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that boundless love that changes lives.

### What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. 50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

### Westminster Presbyterian Church Responds

Descriptive inserts included in the worship bulletins during our December services provide clear and compelling examples of the needs that this gift meets, as well as how this offering supports and upholds us all in the body of Christ. Special Joy Offering envelopes are located in the pew holders for your designated contribution. You may also send a donation directly to WPC, with a notation on the memo line of "Christmas Joy Offering."

## Christmas Flowers and Mission Giving

Again this year you will have the opportunity to honor or memorialize loved ones with a dedication in the Christmas bulletins by making a contribution to the joint Christmas flowers – mission project. This year we want to continue support to the Appalachia Service Project (ASP), the partner on the Westminster young adults' mission trip a few months ago to Jonesville, Virginia. There, WPC members helped this struggling community with housing needs, but also realized first-hand the many pressing needs of the children of that region. After returning to Alexandria the young adults followed up by gathering and sending clothing, toys, and gift cards to the community they had served. As a sign of our ongoing commitment to this mission and communion with those in need, our 2010 Christmas project will not only provide outstanding sanctuary flowers at Christmas, but also distribute additional help to our Jonesville neighbors through ASP. Checks should be made out to Westminster with "flowers/ASP" noted on the memo line. There is no minimum and no maximum! To donate and make a bulletin dedication, contact LeAnne Perkowski at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org or at (703)549-7466 in the church office no later than Monday, December 20.

# the Chronicle

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Contributors: Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster  
Dawn Campbell, Production Editor

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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Casey FitzGerald .....Associate Pastor  
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Clara Beth Van de Water .....Director of Adult Education  
and Women's Ministries  
Sharon Tarr .....Director of Westminster Travelers  
Nancy Hall Berens .....Dir. of Congregational  
Life and Singles Ministries  
Jill Ewell .....Pastoral Care Assistant  
Eileen Jinks .....Coordinator of Pastoral Care  
Janet Riksen .....Coordinator of Local & Nat'l Missions  
Henri Rush .....Coordinator of African Missions  
Art Sauer .....Membership Involvement Coordinator  
Nancy Bea .....Business Administrator  
Jim Buchanan .....Facilities Manager  
Carolyn Carmack .....Financial Assistant  
Tara Cain .....Executive Assistant  
LeAnne Perkowski .....Program Assistant  
Larry Johnson .....Sexton  
Marvin Johnson .....Head Sexton  
Eddie Watkins .....Sexton

Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505  
WebSite: <http://www.wpc-alex.org>  
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## Time Sensitive

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

## Schedule of Upcoming Services

### Sunday, December 19 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Festival Sunday  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship in the  
Sanctuary

Larry Hayward preaching  
Music with the Commonwealth Brass

6:00 p.m. Byzantine Vigil  
Youth Vocal Ensemble

### Tuesday, December 21 - Longest Night Service

7:30 p.m. Worship in the Chapel  
Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

### Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Community Christmas Eve  
Service

Story, Song and Candlelight  
Casey FitzGerald preaching

9:45 p.m. Harp prelude

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with  
communion

Larry Hayward preaching

### Sunday, December 26 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

### Sunday, January 2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas

11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
Larry Hayward preaching



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