



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

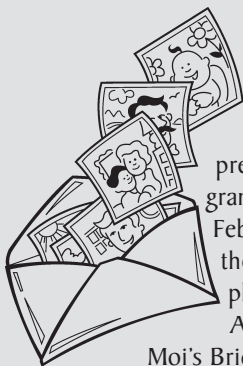
— worship well —

United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge.

Sunday, June 27

8:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall.



Join our group of travelers to Kenya as they present a program about their February visit to the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge. You'll see spectacular photographs and hear inspirational stories from their travels through East Africa. A light breakfast will be served. Please RSVP to Janet Riksen at jriksen@wpc-alex.org.

the Chronicle

June 24, 2010 - volume 42, number II

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt **Whispering Faith**

We are a noisy bunch on Sunday mornings. Gathering together, young and old excitedly share greetings with strangers and friends. Pastors boom through sermons and prayers, their voices amplified by microphones and conviction. Buttressed by our organ's tuneful breathing, the choir makes melody of God's Word, as the morning's liturgy bundles the voices of many into the united gusto of one.

We are noisy indeed, but not always. Sometimes, a mother and/or father cradle their infant child as they await the blessing of Baptism. Standing before them, the pastor recites the sacrament's holy meaning, turns to them and asks, "Who is your Lord and Savior? Do you trust in Christ? Do you seek to help your child to be Christ's disciple, to obey his word and show his love?" "Jesus Christ. I do. I do," they answer. More often than not, we barely hear their reply. The sanctuary that once boomed now merely whispers.

Muted as their voices are, we wrongly confuse them with timidity. Presented with the promises of Christ showered upon their child in the font's spirited waters, parents receive an awesome responsibility to be faithful, and to nurture their child in the faith. Faced with such generosity and the faith it calls from them, parents rightly strip their promises of falsely booming bravado. Their whispered responses become a sign and seal of the necessary union between awe and humility.

It is good for our worship to be loud and confident. But it is also appropriate for us to be hushed from time to time, to hum tentatively along when a hymn's verses are beyond our ability to understand or enact. When our lips tremble, we announce not a whimpering faith but a whispering one, fully dependent on God's help and grace. And when whispers gather, sanctuaries shout, as a baptized community booms with faith and conviction.

Make a joyful noise, quietly as necessary.

-Patrick





Westminster Life Events

We recently welcomed these additions to the Westminster nursery:

- **Caroline Elizabeth Cassidy**, born May 10, 2010 to Elizabeth Nottingham and John Cassidy, and sister to Jack and Charlie
- **Andrew Michael Bryant**, born May 13 to Janie and Alex Bryant

We rejoice in the marriage of

- **Lorna Schadeberg and David Horres** on June 12 in the Westminster Sanctuary. Lorna is the daughter of Dudley and Melinda Schadeberg.

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

- **Hattie Manley "Kit" Stearns**, who died May 24
- **Bruce P. Hedrick**, who died May 20.
- Former member **Margaret "Margo" B. Hurley**, who died June 6
- Former member **Gordon Lacy Riley**, who died November 23, 2009



Thank-You & More

morale. I love all of you.

Six weeks is way too long to be cooped up, away from everybody. I want to thank my good friends for calls, visits, flowers, cards and just for being there for me. They must have known they did wonders for my

Alice Daniels

Thank you to the members of Ruth Circle, who held a great brunch on June 16 to celebrate my 94th birthday.

Kate Daniels

Congratulations Graduates!

After May's Chronicle, we continued to receive exciting news about graduations and future plans. We share their news with pride in their accomplishments and the promise that gives them identity as God's own, no matter where they have been or where they are going.

- **Kathryn Harkness Colarulli**, child of God, daughter of Kathy and Steve Harkness, and her husband, **Peter F. Colarulli**, child of God, son of Cindy Smith, received M.B.A.s from the Judge School of Business, Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K. on May 15.
- **Caitlyn Runyan**, child of God, daughter of John Runyan and Ruth Kane, graduated from Cornell University.
- **Grace Reid Stuntz**, child of God, daughter of Reid and Linda Stuntz, received a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering, University of Virginia, on May 23. She is staying on at UVA to finish the second year of her master's at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy.
- Correction! **Chris Severini** (TC Graduate) will attend William and Mary, not the University of Delaware as printed in last month's article.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is at the heart of our mission to support members of all ages at critical times in their lives. For our pastors, this takes many forms – from visits to celebrate the joy of birth to premarital counseling and hospital visits, to name just a few. One of the ministers is always on call for emergencies. If you need to reach a minister after hours, the recorded message on the church's main number provides information regarding the on-call pastor.

In addition to the pastors, Pastoral Care Coordinator Eileen Jinks and Pastoral Assistant Jill Ewell regularly visit many of our older seniors in homes, retirement communities and skilled care facilities. In the church office, Executive Assistant Tara Cain plays an integral role, fielding calls about member needs, as well as tracking and updating information to keep the pastoral care team current. She also handles information for the Care Line, Prayer Chain, and Joys & Concerns. The members of the Board of Deacons play a role as well, visiting designated care recipients and bringing Communion to those who are unable to attend worship.

Your pastoral care team wants to be available to support you when you are undergoing health challenges or other life crises, but we first need to be aware of the situation. Please don't assume we will find out by word of mouth. We appreciate hearing directly from you or a family member so we can offer our support.

We have been discussing the issue of privacy and health information. We live in a culture now that has strict legal protections on the types of private information that hospitals, insurance companies and health care professionals can divulge. It has caused us to take a new look at the printed information we provide. Because of privacy concerns, coupled with the short timeframe of most hospital stays, we are discontinuing the listing of hospitalizations in the printed "Joys and Concerns" in the weekly bulletin update and on the recorded Care Line.

The "Joys and Concerns" includes a section of prayer requests by members. To submit a prayer request, simply fill out one of the Prayer Request cards in the pews and place it in the collection plate, or you may email your request to Tara Cain, tcain@wpc-alex.org. Prayer requests will run for two weeks and can then be resubmitted. If you indicate "confidential" on the card, your prayer request will be shared only with the pastoral team.

Some may wish to be supported in prayer through the Westminster Prayer Chain, a group of about 40 members who covenant to pray regularly for those needs shared through an email prayer chain. This year, the group is experimenting with optional quarterly meetings as a way to share prayer practices and help build community among the members. One member indicated why the prayer chain is important to her: "I do believe in the power of prayer and think that having the Prayer Chain is a positive force – by getting the word out and having so many people caring and praying for the needs of others." Another remarked that she values the opportunity to be informed when people need prayers because it "enriches my own spiritual life by making a commitment to pray." If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain or learning more about it, please contact Eileen Jinks (ejinks@wpc-alex.org) or Tara Cain (tcain@wpc-alex.org).

Caregiving is vital to the life of Christian faith. At Westminster, we are aware of the countless ways our members offer care and support to one another. Both individually and corporately, you embody the compassion of Christ in this world.

–Eileen Jinks



Westminster Travelers

Wednesday, July 7: Pope Leighey House Tour, Alexandria 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. \$8.50 /person

Wednesday, July 14: Lunch at Gadsby's Tavern, Alexandria 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. \$6/person includes gratuity and tax

Thursday, July 29: American Century Theater, Arlington 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. \$26/person "Serenading Louie" by Lanford Wilson

Tuesday, August 3: Carlyle House Tour 12:30 – 4:00 p.m. \$8/person

Tuesday, August 10: Islamic Center Tour - Embassy Row Ramadan, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Donation \$1.00

Required: Women head covering, (scarf not kerchief), arms and legs covered Slacks/pants can be worn. Men no shorts.

Wednesday, August 25: Air Force Summer Concert 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. Air Force Memorial; Featuring Airmen of Note; Donation \$1.00

Sign up for these trips through the church office at 703-549-4766. Contact Sharon Tarr, Director of Westminster Travelers, for more information at starr@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 122.



Faith on Tap!

7:30 p.m. Capitol City Brewing Company, Shirlington
3rd Tuesdays
July 20: Casey is BACK!

First Sunday Potluck Brunches

Bring a dish to share and come up to the Haverkamp Room to socialize with other young adults! Join us on **July 4** after the worship service.

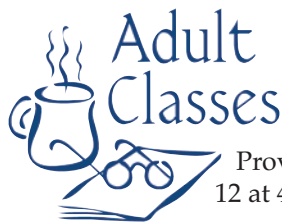
Fall Mission Trip to Appalachia!

September 30 - October 3, 2010

Join Casey FitzGerald and your fellow young adults for our first ever away-from-home mission trip! Pack your bags, jump in a van and drive down together early Thursday morning and get back for dinner on Sunday night. This will be an incredible opportunity both to serve and to connect with other young adults.

- Dates for the trip are September 30 through October 3, 2010
- Travel by vans to Jonesville, Virginia
- Climate controlled lodging with bunk beds and hearty meals
- No building experience required
- Total cost is \$100 per person
- Registration is due on July 15!

This trip promises to be an incredible opportunity both to serve and to connect with other young adults. For more information please contact Janet Riksen at jriksen@wpc-alex.org



Adult Education Programs

Pastor's Class

Dr. Hayward will teach a class on the Biblical book of Proverbs on four Sunday afternoons, beginning September 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Classes

I. Genesis from the DISCIPLE Program, a ten - week Bible study of the first book of the Bible, whose foundational stories still form our thinking today, led By Elders Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring on Sundays from 9:30-10:45 a. m. beginning September 12. Register and purchase a book at the first class.

II. The New Atheism, a lecture on modern day atheism, which is rooted in ignorance of religion, differing from earlier informed atheism, which rejected religious knowledge, by Dr. John Haught, Georgetown University, September 12. 9:45-10:45 a. m., no registration needed.

III. Reinhold Niebhur, a series of four lectures on the 20th century philosopher-theologian whose thought has influenced many, including the current U.S. president, beginning September 19, 9:45-10:45 a. m., no registration necessary.

A book of Bible stories for adults written by Dr. Richard Neff, Presbyterian minister and brother-in-law to members Becky and John Davies, may now be ordered through Clara Beth Van de Water. The Bible contains different types of literature and stories that do not always appear in historical sequence, often making parts of the Bible daunting to read and understand. Dr. Neff wrote *Bible Stories for Adults* (Old Testament) to address this. The book offers the clarity and explication to help people of faith renew appreciation and gain insights into timeless defining Biblical narratives. To order, contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara Beth Van de Water over the summer at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or leave a message at 703-549-4766 extension 120. The cost is \$15 per book. Payment is not due until October, when the books will arrive.

Audio from Adult Education classes in 2009- 2010 is available online at www.wpc-alex.org/adult. Listen at your leisure to the classes of speakers such as Dr. Anthony Tambasco ("Pivotal Points in the History of Christianity"), Dr. Jacques Berlinerblau ("The Use and Abuse of the Bible in Today's Politics") and Dr. R. Bruce Douglass ("Why Not Be Reformed: The Reformed Tradition Through the Eyes of its Critics").

Women's Ministry News



Women's Book Group News

The book for September is *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present* by journalist Gail Collins.

The October choice is *The Help*, a novel about domestic service in the South during the Civil Rights movement, by Kathryn Stockett.

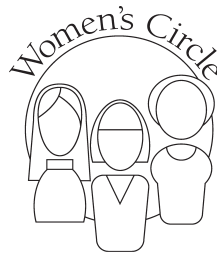
Discussions will be held on the fourth Mondays of the respective months, at 11:00 a. m. and 7:30 p.m. All women are invited. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water, cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 120 for details or just come.

Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for April 10-12, 2011, for a retreat that will help you grow spiritually, using resources from our Reformed heritage, led by educator and historian Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick of the Reformed Institute. It will also be a weekend of fun and fellowship, refreshment and relaxation at the lovely rural Hallwood Retreat Center in nearby Comus, MD.

Friendship Circles

Presbyterian Women Friendship circles will meet monthly beginning in September for Bible study, fellowship, and service. There is a pink sheet with circle descriptions in the education wing lobby literature rack, and information on our church website under Fellowship, Presbyterian Women.



Recommended Reading from Our Church Library

Our library has a copy of the recent book *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women World Wide* by journalist husband and wife team Kristoff and Du Wunn. It is an amazing investigation into lives and situations of women in Africa, India, China, and other countries, and what can happen with education and economic opportunity.

Children and Family Ministry



M&M Week 2010 "The Three Hermits"

August 23-27

Music and More Week is the summer music day camp experience for children kindergarten through fifth grade. Our schedule this year is Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This year the children will work toward a performance of "The Three Hermits" --Paul Stetsenko and Tandy Martin's operatic interpretation of a traditional folk story originally retold by Leo Tolstoy. This is a powerful story about truth, faith, and prayer. We will be learning about faithfulness to God through song, drama, art and computers.

Brochures/registration forms are available at the church, or register online at www.wpc-alex.org/children.

Saturdays in the Park

Come and spend the morning with other young families in the church. All families with young children (0-pre-K) are welcome to join us for light refreshments and fun in the pre-school playground from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. Join us for the next Saturday in the Park on July 17.

In case of rain, park time will be cancelled. Please check your email for news of possible rescheduled dates should we be rained out. Contact Lauren Sigler, Christian Education Chair, with any questions at laurensigler@hotmail.com.

Confirmands Give to Local Mission

On Confirmation Sunday in May, as part of the celebration and gift to our youth, a donation of \$275 was presented on their behalf to Meals on Wheels. The youth voted and chose which mission project they wanted to support. Please be sure to say "thank you" to these wonderful young people if you get an opportunity. They make us very proud!

Sunday, August 22 at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Do you support Westminster mission projects? Are you interested in learning more about how you can be involved in service? Join us for a Mission Brunch, hosted by Local Mission Committee and National/International Mission Committee. A full brunch will be provided. Enjoy fellowship with Westminster members who support mission as close as George Mason Elementary and as far as Kenya. RSVP not necessary but appreciated to Janet Riksen at jriksen@wpc-alex.org



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



Focus on Missions

Summertime Blues? Break Out By Volunteering!

School is out, the heat is on and barbeque grills are cranking up all over Northern Virginia. Summer has officially begun! Between car pooling kids to summer camps, car trips and pool parties, consider some volunteer time for you and your family.

WPC Local Mission activities continue all summer long—Bag Lunch, Meals on Wheels, ALIVE! Last Saturday, and Carpenter's Shelter Dinner will take place in July and August. Check the WPC website for specific dates and contact information. Children can participate in many of these activities.

Or, ask your children to think about something they'd like to do this summer to help the less fortunate. A lemonade stand to raise money for a local charity, a food drive for ALIVE!, collecting toiletries for Carpenter's Shelter residents or participating in a run or walk for charity are great ways to help them feel connected to the meaning of Mission.

Are you new to Westminster? Need more information on Local Mission projects? Details on the organizations we support are on the website. Or, reach out to Janet Riksen, our Mission Coordinator. Janet can help direct you based on your interests.

Have a safe and blessed summer!
Rita Grazda,
Chair, Local Missions Committee

Thank you to Grace!

After seeing the sad stories about the Gulf oil spill's impact on wildlife, Westminster's Grace Breitenbeck, a 4th grade student at Charles Barrett Elementary, decided there was something she could do. She told her parents that she wanted to set up a lemonade stand to raise money to help the wildlife. She decided to give her proceeds to the National Wildlife Federation to support their Gulf Coast efforts. For a minimum \$5 donation to the NWF, donors would get a cup of lemonade, coffee or apple juice and a doughnut, cookie, or other snack.

Grace and her mom got supplies ready on a Friday night; her dad made signs, and they advertised the Saturday morning fundraiser on her neighborhood and school list services. Friends and neighbors were amazingly generous: Grace's classmates emptied piggybanks and donated savings (even birthday money), while parents, neighbors, and the principal of Grace's school donated cash and wrote checks. Church friends Amanda and Laura Wilcox and Anne Marie Berens heard about the fundraiser and made contributions too. Grace was able to bring a donation of \$1,412 to the National Wildlife Federation headquarters in Reston where she got to meet the editors of Ranger Rick magazine and other incredibly nice NWF staff, including the person in charge of all the NWF volunteers in the Gulf. What Grace took away from this experience and what the NWF staff reiterated to her was that one person CAN make a difference.

Notes From the Stewardship Committee



**Be
a
Good
Steward**

"The bold and radical proposal of the Gospel is that we gain life by giving it away."

—Dr. George Pera

It's a simple yet powerful statement – we gain life by giving it away. We do so by giving of our time, talents and treasures to our church community. By sharing our gifts within and beyond the grounds of Westminster, we gain "life insurance" as Dr. Pera artfully explained from the pulpit earlier this month.

Yet the majority of Christians in America don't pay their "premiums." At least one out of five American Christians – 20 percent of all U.S. Christians – gives literally nothing to church or even nonreligious charities. Furthermore, were it not for a relatively small group of Christians who give of their money generously, American Christianity would go financially bankrupt. The top most generous five percent of Christian givers contributes almost 60 percent of all dollars contributed. That's a lot of people missing out on the joys of Christian life insurance!

I'm not saying we win God's affections or receive salvation by giving generously. Rather, those who follow the discipline of Christian stewardship will find themselves called to lives of simplicity, generosity, honesty, hospitality, compassion, and receptivity. Aren't these the qualities that we should strive for as Christians?

In my faith journey, I've heard countless times that churches are Christian only insofar as they learn to live for the sake of others. Dr. Pera drove home this point in his sermon:

If the church's only and abiding motivation is to preserve and protect, the very soul of the enterprise disappears and the church is already dead, if not yet physically, then spiritually.

At Westminster, we are fortunate that we can give for the sake of others. In 2010, the congregation will give almost \$260,000 to local, national and international missions. These groups range from ALIVE! and Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria to the Buckhorn Children's Center in Ohio and the United Orphanage & Academy in Kenya.

By one estimate, if American Christians move to practices of reasonable generous giving, they could generate a total of \$133.4 billion a year. What good could we do locally, nationally and throughout the world with those monies? Think of the possibilities!

What more can we do in this congregation? Remember, we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give away!

David Hoover
Stewardship Committee

Youth Mission Trip



Keep our Youth in prayer as they embark on their mission trips this summer! The Senior Highs are going to Ghost Ranch, New Mexico to serve local communities there (June 28-July 4), and the Middle Schoolers will do local mission work in Alexandria before attending the Middle School Conference in Massanetta Springs, where they will package 10,000 meals for the hungry (July 12-16).

Coffee Hour and Lemonade on the Lawn Hosts Needed

We are searching for people to host Fellowship Hour after church on Sundays once or more throughout the year.



This is a great way for groups to promote their activities and let the congregation and visitors know more about what their group does. Individuals are invited to host as well. If you and your friends or family or group would be interested, please contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org to schedule a date. A minimum of 4 people during the year, and 3 during the summer for lemonade on the lawn, works well. We have streamlined the process in order to make it as easy as possible for folks to host.

You may also contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org if you have any questions. Thank you for helping us with this ministry of hospitality!

Thank You To Our Missions

It was great to be with all the good folks of Westminster Presbyterian Church. I greatly appreciate your gracious hospitality, intense interest in Malawi and your enduring support.

Blessings as we continue to share the journey of faith with our sisters and brothers in Malawi.

Rev. Debbie Chase
Mission Worker, Malawi

On behalf of the Community Coalition for Haiti, we sincerely thank you for your generosity towards those in Haiti through the Benefit Concert. Your donation will go to support Hospital Bienfaisance de Pignon, the only hospital providing healthcare to over 140,000 Haitians in the Northern Plateau. Specifically, we will be getting two small girls, who lost their legs in the earthquake, new ones so they can walk and play again! Your gifts will also provide ongoing food for hospital patients, medical supplies and support for the hospital as they continue to meet the needs of those devastated by the earthquake.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your generosity and on behalf of all those in Pignon, we say "Merci!"

Karen H. Carr
Director, Community Coalition for Haiti

Thank you very much for the donation to RTA. We appreciate your support, both financially and with the great volunteers from the church.

Katharine Medina
Rebuilding Together Alexandria

Thank you very much for your most recent generous contribution to the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. 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. Your gift will help to make a great difference.

Mary M. Adams
Secretary to the Board, Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

Your ongoing generosity is a source of great blessing for our chaplains and for all of us who are a part of the Good News family. I am so thankful for the thousands of friends like you who have chosen to be financial partners and allies with Good News Jails & Prison Ministry in our common goal – to see lives behind bars changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and for the way you encourage our chaplains through your partnership with Good News. I encourage you to remember to pray for our chaplains and the work of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry around the world each day. God bless you.

Harry L. Greene
President & C.E.O., Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and especially Senior Service of Alexandria clients, I want to thank you for your contribution.

Your contribution enables us to continue to provide quality programs and services to seniors in our community and expand our services as the senior population grows and the demands for our programs increase.

Thank you for your generous support.

Janet Barnett

Executive Director, Senior Services of Alexandria

Thank you very much for your ongoing generous contributions to the Friends of Guest House program. Your recent contribution helps us continue to make a difference in the lives of many women and their families in our community. You have been an especially important friend and we wish you the best...

Kari Galloway

Director, Guest House

Carpenter's Shelter is grateful for your congregation's recent contributions. Your donation is one of the many which enables Carpenter's to be "more than just a roof" to more than 1,000 children, families and adults annually.

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*

We are writing to thank you for your donations to the Child & Family Network Centers.

Your support better positions us to continue the important work of serving our neighborhoods: providing early education, diagnostic/therapeutic intervention, and comprehensive services to numerous at-risk children and families living in poverty in Northern Virginia. Since we do not charge families for our programs and services, support from the community is essential.

Barbara Fox Mason

Executive Director, The Child & Family Network Centers

My dear children,

As Meals on Wheels Coordinator for Westminster, I can't thank you enough for choosing Meals on Wheels as the recipient of your Confirmation donation.

I want you to know that you have aroused more Meals on Wheels enthusiasm than I have in 20 years at the church! Congratulations - and many, many thanks!

Ede Thomas & all the volunteers

Meals on Wheels

P.S. I have added all of you to my list of "Meals on Wheels Angels."

Tables for 8

Since 1995 Congregational Life has sponsored Tables for 8. We welcome new members and encourage former members to continue. This fellowship group meets in individuals' homes once every four to six weeks for dinner and camaraderie. The host/hostess provides the main dish, while other participants contribute a dish.

Sign up will be in person on Sundays in September, by e-mail, or by phone. Watch for reminders in late August and early September bulletins.

Kick-off will take place on Saturday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. This event will be a potluck, and those who can attend will bring a dish of your choice to feed 8 people.

You do not have to attend the kick-off to participate in Tables for 8 for the year, but it is your opportunity to meet your new group for the 2010-2011 year and plan your first in-home meeting.

We're hoping for a large turnout this year! The more people who participate, the less likely you are to repeat with former table members. Contact Janet Harris with additional questions at 703-764-3395 or gandjharris@starpower.net.

Summer Worship Schedule:

Sunday, May 30 –

Sunday, September 5

Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. No church school.

Office Hours: Summer office hours will be 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, June 14.

Flying Solo Singles Fall Retreat:

Friday, October 8 - Sunday, October 10: The Flying Solo Singles Fall Retreat will be at Graves' Mountain Lodge in the foothills of the Shenandoah Mountains. Popular Westminster speaker and teacher Jeff Hensley will be leading our retreat entitled



"Coming to the Shack: Finding God's Healing amidst the Pain and Evil of this World." Jeff will guide us in a thought-provoking discussion of Paul Young's recent bestselling novel *The Shack*. Bring your questions, your insights and your openness to new ways of experiencing God and God's reconciling love as we journey together to the Shack – the place of both hurt and healing. Come for a fall getaway in the Blue Ridge and enjoy Graves' Mountain Lodge "down home" hospitality and Apple Harvest Festival as well as the fellowship of church friends! The retreat cost is \$198 per person for double occupancy, or \$220 for single occupancy (as available).

Registration material will be coming in the mail. For more information or to register, see the church website at www.wpc-alex.org/singles or contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121. **The deadline to register is Monday, September 20.**



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Flying Solo is a group for single adults in their prime years (more or less 40 and above) belonging to the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Please contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org to learn more!

Flying Solo Singles Summer Events:

Saturday, July 10: Celebrate Alexandria's Birthday at "Pops on the Waterfront" complete with birthday cake and fireworks! Bring your own picnic or buy food at the event. Meet at church at 5:30 p.m. to carpool, or join us at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, in Old Town. Entertainment at 6:00 p.m. with the Alexandria Singers and at 8:30 with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra ending with the 1812 Overture grand finale at 9:30 p.m. Rain date is July 11. For questions, contact Nancy Harper at 703-360-7728 or ngharp1@verizon.net.

Monday, July 12: Our Dine-Out in July will take us to Kira Italian restaurant in Crystal City located at 2250-B Crystal Drive. Join us for an evening of food and friendship. If you want to carpool, come to the church parking lot by 7:00 p.m. Otherwise, we'll meet at the restaurant about 7:15.

Tuesday, July 27 and August 24: Our monthly Potlucks take place in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share ... and a can of food for ALIVE! to drop in the basket on the way into church. We will also make sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program before we enjoy dinner together.

Sunday, August 8: Join us for Sunday Brunch at Clyde's located at 1700 N. Beauregard Street in Alexandria. It is our tradition to go out to Sunday Brunch in August instead of our monthly Monday Dine-Out (therefore, no Dine-Out on August 9). RSVPs are helpful but not required. Please let Nancy Hall Berens know by Friday, August 6 if you plan to attend (nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) but join us even if you decide at the last minute!

Saturday, September 4: Come to the Highlands – or rather Great Meadow in The Plains – for the Virginia Scottish Games and Festival! Spend the day watching the caber toss, highland dance, and sheepherding and listening to bagpipes, drums and fiddles! Look up your family's clan. Shop for Scottish and Celtic crafts. Try some haggis! Explore the Scottish side of our Presbyterian heritage and have a fun day in the country with friends. Carpools will leave church at 9:00 a.m. and return in the afternoon. You can buy tickets at the door or get a discounted ticket in advance by going to www.vascottishgames.org.

the Chronicle

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

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
and Women's Ministries
Sharon TarrDirector of Westminster Travelers
Nancy Hall BerensDir. of Congregational
Life and Singles Ministries
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Eileen JinksCoordinator of Pastoral Care
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Time Sensitive

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Member Involvement News

There is a new heading for this column. This change is a result of a broadening of my position. When I was "hired" for the job of Volunteer Coordinator at Westminster some 8 years ago my primary responsibility was to encourage members to get involved with our many volunteer activities. Over the years the committees at Westminster have become much more active in promoting their needs and my responsibilities have shifted from promoting just volunteer activities to encouraging members to become involved in the life of Westminster in all of its many aspects. Thus, my position title has been changed from Coordinator of Volunteer Missions to Coordinator of Member Involvement.

Working with the former Assimilation Committee, now the Church HOME {H(elping) O(ur) M(embers) E(ngage)} Committee headed by Dave Aland and Christine Eustis, I will be trying to see that members get the most out of their Westminster membership. Again, the emphasis will be on encouraging awareness of opportunities. We will not be twisting arms. Too often, those tried and true members who do everything are the first that people think of when a new opportunity arises. We will be working to expand the field by identifying individuals who have expressed an interest in a certain activity and approaching them to see if they would be interested in participating in a similar activity through Westminster.

Encouraging members to be involved is one aspect of my job. Another is identifying members who are not involved. Often times these uninvolved members become inactive members and eventually are dismissed from membership. It is sometimes unavoidable that members leave. However, we want to make sure that it is not because they feel that we have ignored them or didn't notice that they were no longer attending worship services. To this end, we regularly review attendance through the signing of the pew pads that are passed each Sunday. Thus, it is important that everyone sign in whenever they are in attendance. With nearly 900 members it is hard for the staff to remember the last time any particular member was in church, especially those members who do not attend regularly. Our members have busy lives and we know that all of them can't necessarily attend church on a weekly basis. However, when we identify a member who has been missing for several weeks we try to identify why. There is a fine line here between being concerned about the member's well being and appearing to be intrusive in their life. You can help by letting someone at the church know if you will be absent for a while and if you need pastoral assistance.

Unfortunately, members sometimes still slip away. We understand that things change, people move, get new jobs, change life status, etc.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer
Membership Involvement

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