



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —



## Worship Schedule for Lent

### Palm Sunday, March 28

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship

9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Brunch

4:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday Liturgy

J.S. Bach Cantata 182

"Heavenly King, Be Thou Welcome"

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:30 p.m.

Worship with Communion

### Good Friday, April 2

7:30 p.m.

Worship

### Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour after both services  
in Fellowship Hall

# the Chronicle

March 18, 2010 - volume 42, number 8

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Who Is Jesus Christ?**

As Easter nears, let me share with you some thoughts by scholar Frances M. Young concerning the nature of Jesus and why we turn to him:

For the early Palestinian community, steeped in the hopes and imagery of Jewish apocalyptic and messianic expectation ... [such titles for Jesus] as *Son of Man* or *Messiah* ... expressed their sense of fulfillment in him, however much he had disappointed their preconceived ideas of the Coming One.

For the Gentile churches, a more meaningful understanding was found in the title "*Lord*"; it expressed for them his unique status and authority over their lives, compared with all other authorities, political or religious.

For Paul, obsessed with the claims of the Jewish law, *Jesus Christ* was above all the fulfillment and end of all moral endeavors, the solution to moral incapacity.

For the writer to the Hebrews, the title ... "*High Priest*" ... answered the search for a ritual solution to sin and guilt—the need for mediation with a holy God—indeed answered it so superlatively as to render any other solution utterly inadequate.

To the more philosophically inclined author of John's Gospel, he was the *Logos [Word] of God*, the ground and purpose of the universe, the light which overcame the darkness of the world, and the Way, the Truth, and the Life for the believer; in him the solution of the Gnostic quest was given gratis to those who responded ...

The remarkable thing is that so many different people said essentially the same thing: that he was the solution to their deepest needs and concerns. The multiplicity of ideas and theologies is a testimony to the extraordinary effect of the events surrounding this man, Jesus of Nazareth. [*Sacrifice and the Death of Christ*, p. 8]

As we approach the cross and resurrection this year, let us ask which of these is most compelling to us about Jesus of Nazareth:

- Our apocalyptic and messianic hopes for the future of the world
- His status and authority in our lives compared to all other authorities
- His solution to our moral incapacity
- His answer to our sense of sin and guilt
- His being the ground and purpose of the universe, the light which overcame the darkness of the world?

Fate, authority, morality, sin and guilt, purpose and hope: each of these is significant to us as human beings. In each of these Jesus Christ claims ultimate authority and meaning. Jesus Christ is the center of Easter and the center of our faith. Join us in worship and service, learning and fellowship, all aimed toward him, all made possible through him.

— Larry

## Palm Sunday Brunch



All are welcome to the annual Palm Sunday Brunch March 28, 9:30 -10:30a.m. Fellowship Hall

Families – come have some brunch first then head out to process with the donkey!

If you would like to bring a dish to share, we welcome all egg dishes, breads, and fruit.

Questions, or to volunteer to help, please contact Pat Prosperi, prosper9999@aol.com

## Palm Sunday Donkey Processional!

Sunday, March 28, 10:30

The donkey arrives at 10 a.m. and the children's processional will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Look for the donkey on the grass near the parking lot.

Please bring your children and be prepared for fun fellowship time together!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

For more than 50 years, Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger have found food and safe shelter; those stunned by the aftermath of disasters have found relief and help rebuilding; and communities seeking to take control of their future have found partners in development. The hundreds of millions of dollars Presbyterians have given in the last half-century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly. The undesignated gifts are divided as follows:



**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** - Whenever a disaster occurs, PDA funds quickly fill in the gaps left by other agencies. There are also programs that assist refugees with relocation. This year the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have been devastating, and the needs, particularly in Haiti, seem unreachable. Each dollar helps the people left homeless and injured to find hope for a new tomorrow.

**Presbyterian Hunger Program** - This money goes for ministries working to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes, responding with compassion and justice to poor and hungry people in local communities, in the nation, and throughout the world, as well as ministries addressing homelessness and affordable housing.

**Self-Development of People** - These programs partner with groups of people who are oppressed by poverty or social systems, who want to take charge of their own lives, have organized to do something about their own condition, and have decided what they need to do to produce long-term benefits for themselves. Start-up funds for a new community business often aid families in becoming self-sustaining quickly, raising both their standard of living as well as their feelings of self-worth.

Our special offering for One Great Hour will be received on Easter Sunday. Jesus said "feed my sheep." Please consider prayerfully and give as generously as you are able to help care for all of those in need, here at home and throughout the world. Envelopes are in the pew racks.

## Special Palm Sunday Service

Please join us on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 4:00 for a special worship service. Worship will include the music of J.S. Bach, with a performance of Cantata 182, "Heavenly King, Be Thou Welcome," by the Westminster Choir. Through elements of Ancient-Future Worship, the story of the Passion will be told as part of the entire story of God in the world.



## New Director of Westminster Travelers

The Personnel Committee is pleased to welcome Sharon Tarr as our new Director of Westminster Travelers.

Sharon is a member of St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Rockville. She had a long career as a Navy Nurse before retiring in 2003. Sharon and her husband Paul own a building and renovation business, where she provides administrative support. Their two children, Jesse and Megan, are both students at Florida International University in Miami. Sharon learned of the position through her pastor, Reverend Roy Howard, and knew of Westminster through Reverend Maggie Hayward, who was on the staff at St. Mark in 2007.

Sharon's trip planning experience comes from years of working with her daughter's Girl Scout troop and for Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital as a Health Supervisor Consultant. She has also planned intergenerational events for St. Mark, where she has served as a Deacon and is presently installed as an Elder. She has also participated on the Personnel and Nominating Committees and the Prayer Shawl Ministry in addition to being a Youth Sunday School volunteer.

Sandy Calhoun and Nancy Jane Wilke will be helping her transition into the position, which she will begin on April 1. Please join us in welcoming Sharon to the Westminster Travelers and the Westminster staff. She'll be joining the Travelers on the March 25 outing to the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont.

## New Here? Want to Be More Involved? Join our Youth!

By Rev. Hunnicutt

If you've ever been to a foreign country and shopped in one of those "must-visit" tourist markets, then you know what it's like to read a church newsletter. There, like here, you walk around taking in all the sights and sounds as a cacophony of voices clamors for your attention and involvement. "Come to this event! Contribute to this need!"

I hesitate to add my voice to the cacophony, but if you are someone who is relatively new here, or in a new phase in your life whereby you're looking for a place to plug into this congregation, I do have a wonderful gem to show you. It's our youth ministry ... where big-hearted adults join with energetic teens to share in laughter, conversation, service and worship. The time commitment is only that which you're able to make, nothing more. But you'll find that as you give of yourself, your welcoming spirit and enthusiasm, you receive even more. You'll realize, even if you think you're young, that you're not! But you'll also be vitally refreshed by a community of youth who are honest, engaging and willing to explore and grow in faith and life so long as you are willing to do it with them.

If this sparks any interest in you, please contact me (phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org). I will gladly meet/talk with you, or refer you to one of our active youth advisors who can give a first-hand account of how being with our youth has helped them in ways far more memorable than some trinket you bought on your last trip abroad.



Westminster  
Travelers

**Thursday, March 25.** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Buffet lunch at Cozy Restaurant, Thurmont, MD. Sharon Tarr, the new Director of Westminster Travelers, will join us on this outing. \$10 includes lunch.

**Thursday, April 8.** Noon. Soup & Salad Lunch to meet Sharon Tarr. Haverkamp Room. No charge. Reservations needed by April 1.

**Thursday, April 22.** 7:00 p.m. *Lady Windermere's Fan* at Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1 trip fee.

**April 28 - 30.** 8:30 a.m. departure. Spring Fling to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Call Sandy Calhoun (703-549-4766) for information.

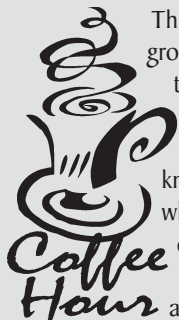
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*All events are planned for Westminster senior adults. Registration may be made through the church office. Non-members of Westminster are welcome to sign up on the Waiting List and will be notified if space is available.*

## 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. The following dates are still available:

- Coffee Hour: April 25, May 2, May 16, May 23 after the 11:00 worship service
- Lemonade on the Lawn: June 6, June 20, June 27 after our 10:00 worship service



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!

## Women's Ministry News

### Spring Gathering Program for Women to Feature Girl Talk, God Talk

All women are invited to a program and dessert hosted by Presbyterian Women circles on Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. The speaker will be Dr. Joyce Mercer, Professor of Pastoral Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, and a Presbyterian minister.

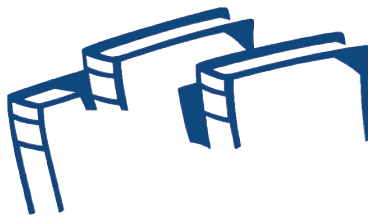
Her topic will be "*Girl Talk, God Talk: Why Faith Matters to Teenage Girls and their Parents*", based on her book of the same title. She will offer insights into adolescent girls' beliefs, values, concerns, hopes, fears, and aspirations. Girls becoming young women today struggle with self-esteem, gender roles, how to deal with sexuality, making choices, and developing strong and sustaining faith in a secular and sometimes unsupportive society.

This will be of particular interest to mothers, grandmothers, teachers, social workers, etc., but is a matter of strong concern to all women who care about the upcoming generation of women and passing on our Christian faith. We hope that you will join us for this talk and time of fellowship! No reservations are necessary.

### Women's Retreat

Women had a wonderful weekend retreat recently at Hallwood.

Mark your calendars for next year's retreat April 8-10, 2011!

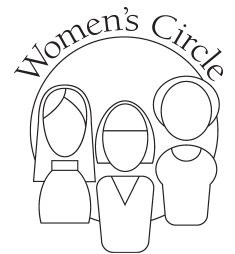


### Women's Book Groups

All women are invited to discuss *Shanghai Girls* by Lisa See on Monday, March 22, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

### Women's Friendship Circles

We have seven friendship circles that meet monthly for Bible study and fellowship. One is right for you! See the description of circles on the website under Fellowship and Presbyterian Women or contact moderator Carol Ensley at 703-339-3590.





## Adult Education Programs

### New and Ongoing Sunday Morning Classes

Sunday classes meet from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. All adults are invited. Contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 extension 120 or [cvandewater@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org) if you want more details. No registration is needed.

#### New Classes:

I. "The Uses and Abuses of the Bible in Today's Politics" will be discussed by Dr. Jacques Berlinerbau, Director of Jewish Civilization Studies, Georgetown University, and author of the highly praised *Thumpin' It: The Uses and Abuses of the Bible in Today's Presidential Politics*, a book discussed with the author on National Public Radio, March 21, Haverkamp Room.

II. "Pivotal Points in the History of Christianity" will be taught by Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Professor of Theology, Georgetown University, for six weeks, April 11 – May 16, Haverkamp Room. Dr. Tambasco will describe the shifts in thinking that caused decisive changes and transformative moments in Christian history, impacting church leaders struggling to define what it means to be Christian.

#### Ongoing Classes:

"The Story of Romans" will conclude with Dr. Katherine Grieb of Virginia Seminary, March 21, Westminster Room.

#### Reformed Institute:

"Passing on Your Faith: The Challenge to Your Congregation" an event designed for volunteer and professional education leaders and planners, will be held on Saturday, April 17, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Dr. Stephen Prothero, Boston University, will speak about his New York Times bestseller *Religious Illiteracy: Is It a Problem?* Dr. Michael Jinkins, Austin Seminary, on "The Life of the Mind in Service of the Church." This will be an opportunity to facilitate fresh thinking about the church's educational ministry to children, youth, young adults and adults. More details will be forthcoming. Look for information at [www.reformedinstitute.org](http://www.reformedinstitute.org)



## Thank-You & More

### Community Organizations Say "Thank You"!

Dear Candace Rush and the Members of Westminster Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of Partners for Just Trade, I would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your gift encourages economic and social justice by helping us to expand a just marketplace for impoverished producers and educate consumers about the benefits of Fair Trade. We are designating some of your donation for the artisans of Huancavelica who suffered devastating losses due to the recent mudslides.

Warm regards,

Carrie Hawthorne, Executive Director, Partners for Just Trade



## Upcoming Events for Young Adults

### First Sunday Potluck Brunches

There will be no first Sunday brunch in April, as the first Sunday is Easter! Our next brunch will be May 2nd after worship.

### Faith on Tap

Special guest leader: Larry Hayward  
Come and share in this special fellowship time.

Tuesday, April 20th, 7:30  
Capitol City Brewing Company,  
Shirlington

## Easter Flowers and Mission Giving



For Easter this year, you have the opportunity to contribute to the beauty of our Sanctuary, honor or memorialize loved ones, and assist those whose lives have been affected by the recent devastating earthquakes – all at the same time. When you make a donation, your dedication will be printed in the bulletin. Westminster will purchase two special flower arrangements for our Easter service with those donations, and all funds not used for flowers will be sent to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund. That fund is helping the victims of the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, among many other people. Sign-ups will be held at the fellowship hours following services on March 21 and 28. You may also contact the office at 703-549-4766 or email LeAnne Perkowski at LPerkowski@wpc-alex.org.



## 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](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) to learn more!*

### Join us this spring for some special activities in addition to our regular monthly events:

**Tuesday, March 23:** Join the Flying Solo Singles for our monthly Potluck at 7:00 pm in the Johnson Parlor. We will begin by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then enjoy a potluck dinner together. Please bring a dish to share and a can of food for the ALIVE! basket in the education wing entrance.

*NOTE: There will be no potluck on April 27 because of the presbytery meeting at church that night. Flying Solo will help host the meeting by handing out box dinners to presbytery commissioners. Then we will make our monthly supply of Bag Lunch sandwiches and eat a box dinner together.*

**Saturday, March 27:** Get a sneak peek at spring at the **US Botanic Gardens!** Carpools will leave the church parking lot at 9:30 am or meet us there at 10:00 am (parking is limited). The main entrance is located at 100 Maryland Ave, SW, at the foot of the Capitol.

**Monday, April 12:** Our April **Dine-Out** will take us to the **House of Dynasty** for Chinese food. A local favorite, House of Dynasty is located at 7550 Telegraph Road in the Hayfield Plaza Shopping Center near Kingstowne. Carpool from the church at 7:00 pm or meet us there about 7:15.

**Saturday, April 17:** Back by popular demand – it's the **Roosevelt Island Hike Encore!** Meet at church at 10:00 am to carpool to Theodore Roosevelt Island on the GW Parkway for an easy hike around this beautiful island which stands as a memorial to our 26th President and his dedication to conservation.

**Sunday, May 2:** Join us for our spring **Roundtable Lunch and Discussion** after church at 12:15 pm. Our topic for discussion this spring will be "Beyond Sunday: Living Out Our Spirituality in Everyday Life." We will explore ways to live our Christian values throughout the week, wherever we go: work, play, home, community ... while also respecting religious diversity.

### Mark Your Calendars Now:

**Monday, May 10: Dine-Out** at Columbia Firehouse Restaurant in Old Town.

**Saturday, May 22:** Special spring outing to **Virginia wine country** – details to come!

**Friday, October 8 – Sunday, October 10:** The fall **Flying Solo Singles Retreat** will be Columbus Day weekend this year, Friday October 8 – Sunday October 10, 2010 at Graves Mountain Lodge south of Sperryville, Virginia. It will be Apple Festival weekend so there will be lots to do!



## Westminster Life Events

We recently welcomed these additions to the Westminster nursery:

- **Grace Lilybeth Artz**, born January 19, to Sharla & Chad Artz
- **Margaret Frances Gangi**, born February 2 to Martha & Tom Gangi
- **Bastian Gray Hoffman**, born February 2 to Sarah and Ian Hoffman

### LIFE EVENTS

- **Alexander Louay Tappouni**, born March 2 to Susie and Amar Tappouni

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

- **Col. Mary Evelyn Bane**, who died January 17
- **Roger Katz Clark**, who died February 25

## Westminster Weekday Preschool Community Service

Westminster Weekday Preschool has continued its emphasis on community service this year by continuing with some projects from last year, and adding a few new ones. The families and staff greatly enjoy participating in the following community service projects:

- **Jolyn's Angel Tree** – Named in memory of director Carolyn Burke's sister, this "project" is hands-down everyone's favorite. WWP families and staff adopted four families and two senior citizens at Christmas and delivered more than 120 gifts right before, and during, the December Blizzard! A glance in the preschool office filled with gifts under the tree reinforces the true meaning of Christmas!
- **Nedra Trahant Scholarship Fund** – Named in honor of our much-loved, former director, this fund (in addition to the church's Mission Fund and Campbell Scholarship Fund) allows children to attend WWP who otherwise may not be able to do so.
- **Swaps** – WWP held four swaps this year: book; clothing; Halloween costume (new!); and toy swaps. "Leftovers" were donated to Community Partners for Children and the victims of the Haiti earthquake.
- **Box Tops for Education** are collected for local ACPS schools
- **Grocery Store Education Fund** proceeds (from Giant gift cards & Harris Teeter & Safeway shopping cards) benefit the Nedra Trahant Scholarship Fund.
- **Soles4Souls** – WWP continues to donate dozens of gently used shoes to this organization every month.

### New this year:

- **TerraCycle** – "Trash for cash" is collected and sent to this organization that makes new products from old juice pouches, chip bags, etc. Proceeds of two cents per item benefit the Nedra Trahant Scholarship Fund.
- **Family Pajama Night w/the KD Puppets** – WWP families gathered in their PJs one cold evening for a puppet show and milk and cookies. Donations were collected for the Nedra Trahant Scholarship Fund.

## Palms for Palm Sunday

The Palm Crosses distributed to the congregation on Palm Sunday are made in several small African villages. The net proceeds from the sale of the crosses are returned to Africa as non-denominational self-help grants to meet basic human needs such as disaster and refugee relief, medical and public health programs, and agricultural programs. The

African Palm Crosses are made from the dwarf palm *Hyphaena coriacea*.

The Palm fronds used by the Choir and the children are Eco-Palms from Guatemala and Mexico that are purchased through a program that ensures that the palms are harvested in an environmentally sustainable way and that palm harvesters are earning a fair income for their labors. This program is supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in conjunction with several other organizations. The purchase of these Eco-Palms helps improve standards of living and protects the forests in Central America.

## Notes from the Worship and Music Committee: Ancient- Future Worship

"Ancient-Future Worship" is a term coined by Robert E. Webber to describe a mode of modern worship that is rooted in the traditions of the early church. Ancient-Future Worship invites us to incorporate elements into our spiritual life that have not been emphasized in many modern Reformed churches, including sung or chanted Scripture and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. By exploring ancient forms of worship, we reestablish deep connections between the early Church and the modern Church, finding another lens through which to view God's eternal story.

This spring, many of the special services at Westminster, including the Ash Wednesday service, our evening Vespers services, and our afternoon Palm Sunday celebration are built upon some of the ideas of Ancient-Future Worship. For example, the "Phos Hilaron" that opens each Vespers service is recorded in writings from the third century A.D., and is the oldest known hymn from outside the Bible still in use today. Paul Stetsenko and the Worship and Music Committee hope that you will find that such ancient practices of Christian worship add a new dimension to your experience of the mysteries of Lent.



## Focus on Missions

### Spring Brings Volunteer Opportunities & Special Events to Alexandria!

The snow is finally gone and with spring right around the corner, many of the organizations Westminster supports will be looking for volunteers or event participants. Here are just a few opportunities. Be sure to check the weekly Westminster Update for more!

- **April 10: AACH Spring Clean Up Day** needs volunteers to help spruce up their grounds. Lunch will be served. For information or to sign up contact Beth Richardson (bethlyone@aol.com) or reach out to AACH directly by contacting Katie Tressel (ktressel@aachhomeless.org).
- **April 24: Rebuilding Together Alexandria.** WPC will have a team, led by Eric Weiss, who will perform home repairs for an Alexandria resident. To sign up, contact Eric (eric.weiss@winchendon.com).  
Meet in the Westminster parking lot at 8 a.m. to organize and car pool to our house. We will work until 2 or 3 in the afternoon to fix up a house to help a neighbor to stay at home. We will paint, clean, make the yard safe and more. No previous skills are necessary. Volunteers 14 and over are welcome. Lunch and coffee will be provided.
- **April 24: ALIVE Last Saturday food distribution.** For information or to volunteer contact Louise Anderson (louiseanderson@erols.com).
- **April 25th: It's Carpenter's Cook Off** time at the Birchmere! Adult tickets are \$40, children between six and 17 are \$5. Kids age five and under are free. For more information or tickets, contact Rita Grazda (rgrazda@aol.com) or Carpenter's Shelter at [www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org).
- **May 2: Step ALIVE Annual Walkathon and community picnic.** For information go to [www.alive-inc.org](http://www.alive-inc.org).

The ALIVE! Child Development Center, CDC, recently received a four-star rating under Virginia's new Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS). Four out of five stars is the highest rating given to date under the new evaluation program that is required of all Alexandria preschools receiving Virginia Preschool Initiative funding. Westminster's annual donation to ALIVE! provides some of the regular operating subsidy to the CDC and a special donation of over \$3000 from a 2008 benefit event at Westminster helped rebuild CDC's playground. The CDC could not survive and continue to provide quality education and childcare to Alexandria's working poor without this support.

CDC's major fundraising event, StepALIVE!, will take place on Sunday afternoon, May 2. Please save the date and walk the 5-mile route through Old Town or sponsor a walker. There will be more information in Sunday bulletins and information tables at coffee hours during the month of April.

## Bringing Mission Home...To Your Home

Rita Grazda, Chair Local Mission

At Westminster, Patrick and Casey have done an amazing job of incorporating Mission into our children's education and youth fellowship programs. When I hear our Youth Elders report on their Mission activities—some very visible to the congregation and others behind the scenes—I'm always impressed at the amount of time and energy they are putting forth to help others.

That said, people often ask me for suggestions on volunteer or mission activities they can do with their children as a family. It's not always easy to identify opportunities with our agency partners due to age restrictions. But, that doesn't mean that there aren't other ways to incorporate mission into our daily lives—especially for families with young children.

The Wilcox family did just that when Laura and Amanda celebrated their birthdays last year. They had a party at which a knitting teacher taught their guests how to knit a simple square. The squares were then combined into a beautiful baby blanket that was donated to Carpenter's Shelter for one of their newborn residents. In addition to having fun with friends, Laura and Amanda were able to give, on a very personal level, to someone in need. What a great example of Mission in everyday life!

Carpenter's Shelter is starting a new program for those interested in becoming more connected to the Shelter. The Circle of Hope, conceived by some local Alexandria moms, will be like a booster club. Members will pledge an annual \$250 donation, and will participate in certain Circle events like a family volunteer day at the Shelter and sponsoring the annual Back-To-School Drive. Let's say your family wants to be a Circle member. That \$250 annual donation breaks down to about \$21 a month. What about asking your children for ideas on things they could give up to fund that \$21? Or, how about donating part of an allowance? The point is to keep the mission conversation going on a regular basis, and to show our children how every little bit can make a huge difference to the less fortunate in the community. For more information on Circle of Hope, go to [www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org).

If Circle of Hope isn't right for your family, consider establishing a weekly or monthly savings jar for your children. The money saved throughout the year can be used for donations or purchases at our annual Alternative Giving Bazaar in December or, for Adopt-A-Family at Christmas. At Westminster, our members do a wonderful job of rallying during the holiday season. But perhaps, by setting aside a few dollars (or nickels) each month, our children will keep the needy top of mind all year round.

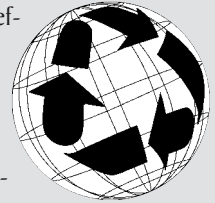
Both the National/International and Local Mission committees are continuing to explore more ways for you to participate in our mission efforts. If you have ideas you'd like to offer, or if you'd like to participate on a committee, please contact Janet Riksen, our Mission Coordinator ([jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org)).

*"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land."*

*-Deuteronomy 15:11*

## going green

In an ongoing effort to be eco-friendly in our operations, the church is providing several opportunities to conserve resources. There are blue recycling bins throughout the church which are for recycling paper, plastic, glass and cardboard. You will notice baskets near sanctuary doors for recycling bulletins. And you may have received this Chronicle only by email this month as we make an effort to conserve paper by only mailing hard copies to those who do not have email or who prefer a hard copy. If you received the Chronicle only by email and would rather get a hard copy delivered by your mail carrier, please contact Tara Cain at [Tcain@wpc-alex.org](mailto:Tcain@wpc-alex.org).





## Children and Family Ministry

### Music & More

Westminster's unique vacation Bible school experience  
August 23-27  
Details to follow

### Spring/Summer Fun

If you would be willing to help coordinate a "Saturday in the Park" or another activity while Casey is away on maternity leave, please contact Casey a.s.a.p.!

### Saturday in the Park

We hope to have at least one Saturday in the Park in May...so stay tuned!

### Maternity leave plans!

As most of you know, I will be leaving for maternity leave sometime in mid-April (whenever baby girl FitzGerald arrives). If you have questions about programs, please contact our Program Assistant, LeAnne Perkowski at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org or Lauren Sigler, fearless leader of the Christian Education committee, at laurensigler@hotmail.com. Thank you for the gift of this time to be with my family!

With gratitude,  
Casey



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

### A Report on Our February Visit

Our group of 13 people (10 from Westminster, 2 from Old Presbyterian Meeting House and one from Falls Church Presbyterian) visited the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge on February 15 through 19, 2010. Others will share their reflections in subsequent issues.

We arrived at around 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 15 after a day of visiting projects in the Elburgon/Njoro Presbyteries, to the welcoming singing of the children at the Orphanage. There is no way to adequately describe the effect this has upon road weary visitors. You simply have to experience it and the genuine joy expressed by the 51 children upon your arrival.

Tuesday was devoted to meeting Rhonda O'Bannon at the Eldoret airport (she was delayed by the snowstorms in Washington) and various projects with the children at the Orphanage, including a valentine making project headed up by Gayle Yoxtheimer. Melissa McClellan and Kay Torpey took pictures of each of the children to update a scrap book started by Judith Dahmann of OPMH on the 2006 trip. Don Smyles and Craig Lewis set about building the housing for six pit latrines (a project which kept them busy for the rest of the week), Marti Klein started cataloging books for the Academy library and installing the Dewey Decimal System (likely the only such cataloging in that part of Kenya) and Linc Cummings began measuring the grounds and buildings to develop a site plan. Wednesday was the central piece around which the visit was planned – the dedication of the Academy Building and celebration of six years of the existence of the Academy. Technically, it was started at the same time as the Orphanage in 2004, because from the outset teachers were hired to help the orphans with their homework. The Academy began including children from the neighborhood in 2007. We planted trees as we always do on such occasions.

As of January 1, 2010, the Academy had 249 children, including 36 orphans and 50 scholarship students in several pre-primary classes through seventh grade. All of the students and some 300 parents were present at the all-day ceremony along with our group and various local officials. Rousing music was provided throughout by a band from the Salvation Army. Each of the Academy classes provided entertainment and there were speeches. The most impressive of the speeches from my point of view was by the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, consisting of one elder from each of the seven tribes in the Moi's Bridge area, to the effect that we all have to learn to work together and think of ourselves as Kenyans, not by our tribal identities, if Kenya is to have a future. That is what the UO&A is and always has been all about, but I was thrilled to hear it so clearly articulated by a Kenyan and the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee at that. The speeches were cut short by heavy rain probably to everyone's relief because the area had been experiencing severe drought. Everyone crowded into the Dining Hall for a feast that went on the rest of the afternoon.

Thursday the majority of the group went to Mt. Elgon National Park. Rhonda O'Bannon and I stayed behind to work with Chege on various accounting and reporting issues identified by the Washington based Oversight Committee. The most pressing needs identified in order of priority were the creation of ten flush toilets and a septic field which could be more easily cleaned out than individual pit latrines for \$12,000 (additional toilets are required by the Department of Health for the Academy), completing the third floor of the Academy Building for \$25,000 and building a brick wall between the campus and the road for \$7,000 to \$10,000. Friday after lunch we left to return to Nairobi by way of Njoro and Nakuru Game Park.

– Henri Rush

## Kenyan Mission Trip a Remarkable Success

The Kenyan mission trip participated in by 16 members from five different churches of the National Capital Presbytery, including 10 from Westminster, was a remarkable success on a number of fronts. The stated purposes of the trip, in addition to spending time with the orphans and school children at the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge were (1) to assess the prospects of revitalizing the National Capital Presbytery-Elburgon Presbytery Partnership, of which Westminster has been a founding member, (2) to review the status of various projects that had been undertaken pursuant to that Partnership and (3) to examine various approaches to dealing with the problems of orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya.

The NCP-Elburgon Presbytery partnership was formally entered into in 1997, following a visit to Elburgon Presbytery by members of National Capital Presbytery in 1996. Its purposes were to provide mutual spiritual support and physical support for various projects selected by the Elburgon Presbytery in Kenya. It was renewed for a second five year period in 2002, but declared void by the former Moderator of the PCEA over his displeasure with what he understood to be the NCP's stand on the issue of gay and lesbian ordination, then expired at the end of 2007. During the interim, work had proceeded on various projects on a church to church basis as authorized by the then Secretary General of the PCEA, but direct presbytery to presbytery involvement was prohibited. The leadership of Elburgon Presbytery, which has since split into two presbyteries (Elburgon and Njoro) has repeatedly expressed the desire to reenter a formal partnership with NCP, but there was no prospect for doing so as long as the former Moderator was in office. In April of 2009 a new Moderator and Secretary General took office. A major reason for the trip was to explore with them and the leadership of Elburgon and Njoro Presbyteries the prospect of resurrecting the partnership. Discussions with the new Moderator, Rev David Gathanju, and the new Secretary General, Rev Festus Gitonga, showed them to be extremely favorable to the reinstatement of a partnership. Discussions with the Moderators and Clerks of the two presbyteries made it clear that they would take action to initiate reestablishment of a NCP-Elburgon/Njoro Presbytery Partnership Agreement. We anticipate receiving a draft Agreement to comment on by late summer or early fall, making it possible for a new Agreement to be in place by sometime next year.

We also visited a number of projects that had been undertaken under the prior agreement, including the Olenguruone Church that was completed with funds supplied by St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda and Westminster and the manse built with funds supplied by Westminster; the Londiani church completed with funds supplied by Westminster; and the Temoyetta church and Njoro Presbytery Offices both being built with funds from Westminster. We worshiped at the Londiani church where damage done during the 2008 riots has been largely restored.

Finally we observed four different approaches to dealing with Kenya's orphans and vulnerable children. In addition to UO&A we visited a Saturday only program in Njoro, a very large orphanage and academy in Nakuru and rescue mission for street children in Nakuru, all addressing this pressing need in different ways.



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!

# the Chronicle

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

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

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## Volunteer Corner

Alexandria (SSA). I mention this now because the SSA has chosen for the theme of its annual Gala, "Generation to Generation." This theme honors the service of multiple generations of Alexandrians who have given of themselves to help make this a better place to live. Westminster seeks to instill this ethic in its members also.

There is an old adage that, "Acorns don't fall far from the tree." Children follow the example of their parents. If parents make a point to attend church and to further the work of the church through giving their time, talent, and resources, then children are more likely to do so as they grow up. Even those of us who do not have children of our own can provide examples of service to and for others.

Westminster offers many opportunities for volunteer activity. As spring arrives there is a special need for people to help maintain the grounds. This is an activ-

ity that can be done largely on your own schedule. The big jobs, such as mowing the lawn, are handled by a contractor. Watering the flowers and shrubs and weeding the flowerbeds can be done on a more flexible schedule. To volunteer, call Robin McFarland at 703-751-1574. Help is needed throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

Also, you may have noticed the increasing numbers of young children coming forward each week for the Children's Sermon. This is good news but it also means that there is a continuing need for church school volunteers – both teachers and aides. You don't need to be a parent to volunteer. If you are interested, contact Casey Fitzgerald at [cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org).

You may also contact me at [asauer@wpc-alex.org](mailto:asauer@wpc-alex.org) or any member of the Westminster staff, Session, or Diaconate to volunteer for one of the many activities taking place at Westminster.

Yours in Christ  
**Art Sauer**  
*Coordinator of Volunteer Missions*