



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

## Annual Summer Kick-Off Picnic

Sunday, June 13

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall and  
Monticello Blvd Lawn

Come celebrate the summer with our annual church picnic! Enjoy a picnic lunch after worship, share summer plans with friends, and have a relaxing meal at church. We will be serving food in Fellowship Hall with seating options both indoors and outdoors this year.

**All food will be provided at no cost!**

After eating, there will be activities for kids on the side lawn (face-painting, giant bubbles, etc). Families may also go out back to play in the playground with church friends. **Dress casually for church that day!**

If you have any questions or want to help out, contact Pat Prosperi at 703-354-7268 or prosper9999@aol.com.



Church  
Picnic

# the Chronicle

May 20, 2010 - volume 42, number 10

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward Cities

I flew home over Mother's Day weekend to spend time with the woman who brought me into this world and, who, in the words of poet Billy Collins, gave me

...a breathing body and a beating heart,  
strong legs, bones and teeth,  
and two clear eyes to read the world...

my mother, Carolyn Hayward, who lives in the suburbs of Memphis, Tennessee. In the years since I left Memphis to go off to college, I have rarely been in the city in the spring. Thus I drew special pleasure as I jogged each day down streets I had once trick-or-treated and around a track surrounding a football field on which I had once (long ago) performed heroic feats; and sat in a rocking chair on her front porch, reading and smelling freshly-mown Bermuda grass, the likes of which I had mowed for a "living" during my high school years. Having lived in a high-rise since 1999, when I mowed her grass it was like driving the 1960s red Volkswagen bus I drove in high school: doing something I used to do but hadn't done in years!

I also worshiped in the church of my childhood, a few blocks from her home, as well as in a "cathedral" church in the city to which I had often gone as a young person to hear exceptional preaching. On the way back I drove around my old neighborhood, my old school, my high school haunts. Just to see them. Just to smell them.

We are all from somewhere. For some it is farming communities, for some desert plains, for some mountainous regions. For me it is cities. Memphis. New York. Houston. Washington, D.C. Even though I am refreshed by the smell of freshly-mown grass, it is cities from which I draw my truest and deepest energy.

In Genesis 4:17, we read:

Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch;  
and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch.

Commentators tell us it is unclear whether Cain or Enoch built the city, and that neither "pro" nor "anti" urban attitudes are expressed here, but rather a matter of fact statement about the first city, the first place where many were from.

There is nothing "pro" or "anti" about where we are from. City or village, American or Europe, prairie or mountain. What matters is what we take from our origins. What matters is returning to them from time to time. What matters is finding our place in God's creation, "glorifying and enjoying" God "forever."

*Prayer: Lord, give us the ability to know our roots, return to them, draw from them, and serve you in our own day and time, our own place. Amen.*

— Larry



## Westminster Life Events

We recently welcomed these additions to the Westminster nursery:

- **Sydney Paige Cooper**, born April 28 to Chuck and Beth Cooper
- **Karsten James Langweg**, born May 5 to Marjorie & Greg Langweg

Please remember in prayer the family of **Col Edward E. Hammerbeck**, who died May 1, 2010

## Summer Worship Schedule:

**Sunday, May 30 –**

**Sunday, September 5**

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

**Office Hours:** The church office will be closed on Monday, May 24 for a one day staff retreat, and on Monday May 31 for the Memorial Day holiday. Summer office hours will be 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, June 14.

## Women's Ministry News



WPC's **women's friendship circles** will have fellowship get-togethers in June-no Bible study. The gatherings will be listed in the Westminster Update. If you do not belong to a circle, June is a fun time to visit.

A **work day** to make toys and pillows for Alexandria Hospital will be held Wednesday, June 2, in Haverkamp Room at 9:30 a.m., so come if you like to do a little hand work, help hospital patients, and enjoy good company.

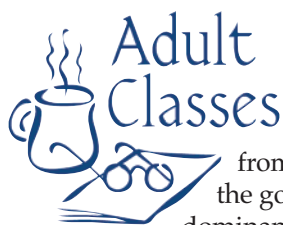
The **circle Bible study** for 2010-2011 will be on *the book of Revelation*, a mysterious and challenging work of apocalyptic literature. The study book author has done a wonderful commentary with clarifications for our understanding and appreciation of this final book included in the Biblical canon. So join a circle and you will learn much while enjoying great fellowship. The study starts in September.



The **women's book group** will meet Monday evening, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Pulitzer-prize winning classic, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, by Thornton Wilder. No morning meeting will be held.

The book group will meet again on Monday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss *Molokai*, a poignant story about the leper colony that used to be there, by Alan Brennert. Discussions are held in the Johnson Parlor. All women are invited- no reservations necessary.

We have a wonderful leader for our **2011 Women's Retreat**, Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick. Melissa is an educator with a doctorate in history and has been teaching for the Reformed Institute. She will lead us in a retreat focusing on our Christian spirituality from the perspective of the Reformed Protestant heritage. I have received requests to have a retreat centering on our spiritual lives, and so we will! The retreat weekend will be APRIL 8-10, so mark your calendars NOW!



## Adult Education Programs

Come to the Haverkamp Room on Sunday, May 23, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. to hear Elder Paul Neureiter talk about the government and politics in China. China has become a dominant player on the world stage, and Paul, who lived in China for five years, will tell us about this. Paul has worked for the USG and the private sector in and with China, taking frequent trips there.

*Beginning Memorial Day weekend, adult education classes recess for the summer.*



## 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!*

**Saturday, May 22:** There's still time to join us for the annual **Jazz Festival and wine-tasting at Chrysalis Vineyards!** Meet at church at 9:15 a.m. to carpool. Tickets are \$20 at the door if you have not already made a reservation.

**Tuesday, May 25:** Join Flying Solo Singles for our monthly **Potluck** at 7:00 p.m. 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.

**Monday, June 14:** Our June **Dine-Out** will take us to the popular Penn Quarter in D.C. to eat at Jaleo restaurant located at 480 7th St, NW (two blocks north of Archives metro stop or one block south of Gallery Place/China Town stop, 7th and F St exit). Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. to carpool to the King Street metro or meet at King St. metro at 7:10. Otherwise meet us at the restaurant at 7:30. Come join other singles from Westminster to enjoy Spanish tapas downtown!

**Tuesday, June 22:** Join us for another **Potluck** at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. Please bring a dish to share after we do our monthly Bag Lunch sandwiches.

### Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, July 10:** Celebrate Alexandria's Birthday! Join us for "**Pops on the Waterfront**" complete with birthday cake and fireworks! Oronoco Bay Park, 6-10 p.m. (carpool from church at 5:30).

**October 8-10:** The fall Flying Solo Singles Retreat will be Friday October 8 – Sunday October 10, 2010 at Graves Mountain Lodge near Sperryville, Virginia. 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 lead us in a thought-provoking discussion of Paul Young's recent bestselling novel *The Shack*. Bring your questions, your insights, 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. Registration materials coming soon.



## Westminster Travelers

**Thursday, June 3** *Play it Again Sam* at Little Theatre. \$1. Depart Westminster at 7:00 p.m. Return at 10:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 9** *Hairspray the Broadway Musical* at Toby's Dinner Theater in Columbia, MD. The bus departs at 8:00 a.m. and will return around 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$54, includes the transportation, show, buffet, beverages, tax, and gratuity. Call the church office as soon as possible to register.

**Tuesday, June 29** Franciscan Monastery Tour in Washington, DC. \$1. Bus departs at 1:00 p.m. and returns at 4:00 p.m.

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For more information, contact Sharon Tarr, Director of the Westminster Travelers, at [tarr@wpc-alex.org](mailto:tarr@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766 extension 122.

**Men of  
Westminster Dinner**  
**June 7 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Featuring Secretary of the  
Air Force, Mike Donley**

Our very own Mike Donley will speak on "A Changing Security Environment: This is Not Your Father's Air Force" at a dinner sponsored by the Men of Westminster to which all men and women are invited. Mike has had an outstanding career serving in the Army, as head of operations of the Pentagon, and now as Secretary of the Air Force since 2008. It is a great chance to better appreciate and understand the security challenges facing us in the future.

The dinner will be catered and there will be a \$13 charge with two entrees—lasagna and chicken. Thus, we must ask you to sign up in advance by calling the church office, signing up on the Fellowship Pad or sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.

## Holy Week Journey at Westminster

The Holy Week Journey this year at Westminster offered extraordinary worship experiences for those who attended. Although it is difficult to try to describe faith or religious experiences, since they often can seem beyond words, several Westminster members were willing to share their thoughts about these worship Services. If you are seeking what these members have found, please consider joining us for special musical and evening Services in addition to Sunday morning worship.

### What members said about the Holy Week Services:

"... Each of us came out of the church feeling we had participated in a powerful religious experience. We were especially mindful of the effect that the music had on our minds and hearts."

"I found the whole series of services from Palm Sunday morning through the second Sunday of Easter to be an extended meditation on the passion and resurrection of Jesus. The biblical texts, the inspired preaching, the music choices all worked together to form a very moving whole."

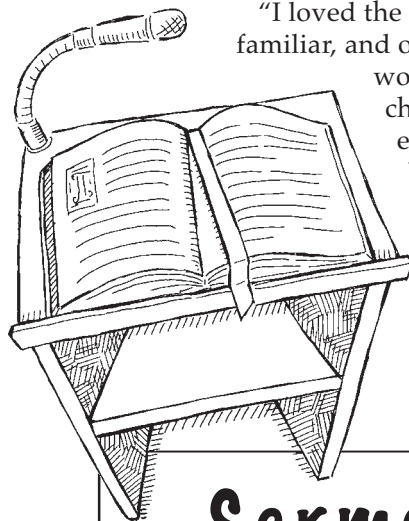
"A numinous experience can be the feeling of being in communion with a "wholly Other" – or God. The Holy Week worship Services were "moving" both in the "emotional" sense, and also in the sense of moving our souls to a higher plane. The numinous moments were beyond description and those who experienced these worship services were truly blessed."

### Mundy Thursday:

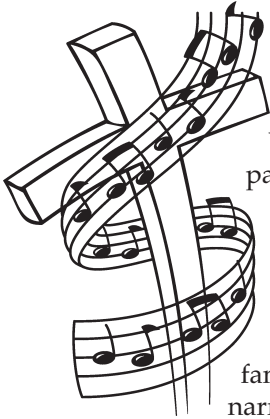
"I loved the music ... What a glorious mix of spiritual, familiar, and old-fashioned hymns (one that my father would have recognized from his Baptist childhood days). And the soulful song at the end was probably the most pleasing to God because it expressed ... purity of faith."

"'Stripping of the church' ... It is moving, especially participation of the youth of the church, the cyber-generation, juxtaposed with this ancient, mystical ritual."

"The simple peal of the bells, and silence – to my mind there is nothing more moving."



**Sermon  
Memories**



**Palm Sunday Liturgy with Bach Cantata:**

"The Palm Sunday afternoon service was enriching. Beginning with the beginning and taking it to Holy Week put things into perspective, that the crucifixion was part of God's overall plan."

"The music was very meaningful."

**Good Friday:**

"The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross, which was so unfamiliar to us, was an entirely fitting climax to the passion narrative."

"I just wanted to convey how moved I was by the beautiful and haunting music from tonight's service ...It really ... took me to another place."

The "feeling I had and that was one of timelessness ... Similar to how I feel at Vespers, I feel I could easily be worshipping several hundred years ago or in the present."

"... The Good Friday service was probably the most spiritual and moving service I ever experienced. The beautiful singing, with candles being extinguished as the singers departed, the Crucifer bearing the veiled cross, the lighting of the candles, and ending with the haunting solo melody in the darkness, all contributed ... to such pure worship of God."

**Easter:**

"... What a wonderful Easter message. Very meaningful to me given my interfaith family and this very diverse community we abide in!! How well you seem to give us the Word in order to live our lives in a fuller and open way ..."

"The Sunday service was excellent. In addition to the great music, ... the sermon was exceptional. I thought tailoring the sermon to visitors who might not be highly versed in scripture, particularly the resurrection, and to those of us who might have read or studied worked well."



**PCUSA Environmental Ministries**

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (USA) has an Environmental Ministries Office? People sometimes wonder about the value of our connectional church. Among the benefits are the many resources available to us from the Larger Church offices. You have recently seen information on One Great Hour of Sharing which provides disaster assistance through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ministry. With the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in the headlines and Earth Day recently celebrated, it is timely to recognize the environmental resources available to us through the PCUSA as well. Check out Eco-Journey, the blog of the Environmental Ministries office at <http://presbyterian.typepad.com/ecojourney/environmental-health/>, or the resources and activities of the Environmental Ministries office at [www.pcusa.org/environment](http://www.pcusa.org/environment).

**And did you know,  
Friday, May 21 is  
Bike to Work Day?**



### Faith on Tap!

7:30 p.m. Capitol City Brewing Company, Shirlington  
3rd Tuesdays

#### Coming up:

**June 15:** Tyler and Michelle Brummond host

**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!

**Sunday, June 6** (after 10:00 service)—hosted by Andy and Oraly Spatz!

### 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.

Our group will stay in a climate-controlled Appalachia Service Project center with bunk beds and hearty meals. And we'll be able to enjoy cooler temperatures and stunning scenery.

We'll lay shingles, replace linoleum, build handicapped ramps. If you have construction experience, you'll be matched with jobs that suit your skills. Even if you have no building experience, the staff will show you the ropes—helping you develop skills you didn't even know you had!

For more information (or if you want to be a part of organizing this trip) please contact Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org).

## 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. to 12:00 p.m. and Friday, from 9:00

a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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.

Registration now open. Brochures/registration forms are available at the church, or register online at [www.wpc-alex.org/children](http://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 preschool playground from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. on **June 19** and **July 17**.

In cases 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](mailto:laurensigler@hotmail.com).

### Summer Schedule

Our Sunday school summer schedule begins Memorial Day weekend—May 30—when we switch to our 10:00 a.m. services. There will be no more Creation Station or Children & Worship. Children ages 0-pre-K will continue to have childcare available during worship. Most families of these children have been assigned to help out during the summer—be sure to check your mail!

### WPC Baseball Outing

Hosted by Larry Hayward and Sheff Richey



**Sunday, July 11**

Meet at Braddock Metro at 12:30 p.m.

Washington Nationals vs San Francisco Giants

\$22 per ticket

To sign up, email [Lperkowsk@wpc-alex.org](mailto:Lperkowsk@wpc-alex.org). Make checks out to WPC, “baseball game.” RSVP by June 10



## Focus on Missions

### Sandwiches Needed for Bag Lunch

Please make sandwiches on whole wheat bread with generous portions of meat and cheese (no condiments). Each sandwich must be bagged, and the outer bag should be labeled with the date and type of sandwich. Sandwiches can be left in the freezer in the kitchen off Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact [kathygstenzel@aol.com](mailto:kathygstenzel@aol.com) or 703-683-4516. Thank you!

### WPC Carpenter's Shelter Dinners

Please welcome Kristine Burt as Co-Chair of the dinners WPC serves at Carpenter's Shelter on the first Monday of each month. If you would like to join Kristine, Co-Chair Marti Klein, and the other dedicated volunteers, just sign up on the signup poster that appears in the church's education wing lobby during the last few days of each month. For more information, contact Marti at [cummingslc@aol.com](mailto:cummingslc@aol.com), 703-979-1023, or Kristine at [Kristine\\_Burt@yahoo.com](mailto:Kristine_Burt@yahoo.com), 703-836-1671.

### May 29: ALIVE Last Saturday food distribution.

For information or to volunteer contact Louise Anderson ([louiseanderson@erols.com](mailto:louiseanderson@erols.com))

*Thank you Westminster,*

Thank you to the 36 terrific volunteers this year on Rebuilding Day-the most ever! The homeowner called the Rebuilding Together Alexandria office to thank the wonderful team who worked on her home-she couldn't believe how great they made her house look in one day! It is so nice to know that we can always count on volunteers from our church being willing to help those in need in our community. Thank you!

*Mary Giordano, Rebuilding Together Alexandria*

## Hope for Malawi

Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Come enjoy a complimentary dinner and a presentation by Reverend Debbie Chase entitled "Hope for Malawi". The presentation will include an update on life in Malawi, Africa where Debbie has been under appointment as a mission worker since 1999. Debbie is also dean of academic affairs at the University of Livingstonia, College of Theology, a seminary of the Synod of Livingstonia, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP). She is also lecturer of Old Testament, systematic theology and pastoral psychology. Please RSVP to Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org).

## United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge Mission Trip

Sunday, June 27 at 8:30 a.m. in 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. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org).

## God's Own, Our Graduates

by Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt

Around this time, our high school/college/graduate seniors are frequently asked "Where are you going to college?" or "What are you doing after graduation?" Our questions derive from loving and supportive curiosity, but they can unintentionally convey the impression that where they are going is who they are -- that their identity is primarily defined by what school they will attend or job they will take. In the church, we would do well to remember God's promise to a journeying people, that "I ... will be your God, and you shall be my people" (Leviticus 26:12).

Below is a list of those seniors for whom we have received information about graduation and post graduation plans. We share their news with pride in their accomplishments and joy in the promise that gives them identity as God's own, no matter where they have been or where they are going.

(If you or your loved one is not listed, please contact Patrick or LeAnne).

## Congratulations Graduates!

**Janie Roden Bryant**, child of God, daughter of David and Molly Roden, will graduate from Emory University College of Medicine with a degree of Doctor of Medicine and begins a Pediatric Residency at INOVA Fairfax Children's Hospital in July.

**Rachel Carpenter**, child of God, daughter of Margie Carpenter, will graduate from Wakefield High School in Arlington and will attend Endicott College (Beverly, Mass.).

**Katie Clark**, child of God, daughter of Roger and Susan Clark, is graduating from the University of California, Berkeley and will move to San Francisco in search of a position relating to international development or health/nutrition.

**Benjamin Carter Grazda**, child of God, nephew of Rita Grazda, is graduating from Durango High School (Durango, CO) and will attend American University.

**Will Hawkins**, child of God, son of David and Amy Hawkins, will graduate from St. Stephens St. Agnes and attend the University of North Carolina.

**Matt Kilby**, child of God, son of Mike and Suzanne Kilby, will graduate from TC Williams High School and will attend and play baseball for the US Naval Academy.

**Will Longabaugh** child of God, son of Mark and Sharon Longabaugh, will graduate from TC Williams and attend Amherst College.

**Michelle Martineau**, child of God, daughter of William and Elizabeth Martineau, will graduate from TC Williams and attend Vassar College.

**Will McAdoo**, child of God, son of Mike and Susan, graduates from UVA and will do lung cancer research at the UVA Oncology / Hermatology Department.

**Peter Roden**, child of God, son of David and Molly Roden, is graduating from the University of Mary Washington with a major in Religion and Classics.

**Meg Runyan**, child of God, daughter of John Runyan and Ruth Kane, will graduate from TC Williams High School and will attend Old Dominion University.

**Chris Severini**, child of God, son of Jody Severini and Rebecca Busch, will graduate from TC Williams and will attend the University of Delaware (Honors Program).

**John Smyles** child of God, son of Don and Cathy Smyles, will graduate from UVA Law on his way to a clerkship in Columbus, Ohio.

**Margaret Smyles**, child of God, daughter of Don and Cathy Smyles, will graduate from St. Stephens St. Agnes School and will attend Virginia Tech.

**Zachary Stoltz**, child of God, son of Gerry and Carri Stoltz, is graduating from Clemson University.

**Meg Upton**, child of God, daughter of Fred and Amey Upton, will graduate from Wake Forest University.

**Stephen Upton** child of God, son of Fred and Amey Upton, will graduate from St. Stephens St. Agnes and attend Williams College.



## Notes From the Stewardship Committee



### A Responsible Steward

I recently considered purchasing a new car to replace my current vehicle. Though it's completely operational, it's getting old and isn't as comfortable as it used to be. I started thinking about what I'd be willing to pay for a new car, how much I could save for a down payment and what amenities I could afford. After careful consideration, I realized that I didn't need a new car right now and that I could be a better steward of the money I would have spent on a vehicle.

When I think about being a responsible steward, I don't only think of my financial contributions to the church. When I think of stewardship, I also think of making the most of the resources that I have, and conserving the resources that I use. I think of prioritizing what I need versus what I want, and striving to want less of what I don't need. I think of living life a little less comfortably because it's not worth the price, financial or otherwise, to indulge.

While financial stewardship commitments to the church are certainly important, God calls us to be responsible stewards of all of his gifts in this world. After all, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

**Mary Olsen**  
Stewardship Committee Chair

## Westminster Volunteers Demonstrate Faith In Action

It's spring in Alexandria. While for some that means the start of travel soccer and allergy medications, it also signals the time of many opportunities for hands on service in our communities. In recent weeks, Westminster members have been actively involved all over the community, helping our neighbors in need. Here are just a few of the stories of what they are doing and more importantly, why they are involved.

### Wanda Worsham: Bag Lunch

What a blessing it is to be a Deacon and member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and how I appreciated being a part of the discussion about the future of Mission at WPC. One of my devotionals recently focused on the fact that we all come to Christ in spiritual poverty and that we have nothing but ourselves as servants to offer in return for the gifts God gives us. Through the Bag Lunch Program I have met some wonderful devoted people who do far more than I, and I appreciate their guidance in this opportunity to serve. From the making of the sandwiches for the recipients of the Bag Lunch Program to provide nourishment for the body to the serving of the lunch, which with a smile and an attempt at interaction, it is my hope to provide nourishment for the soul, I am the one receiving a blessing. Those whom we serve have truly been a gift to me.

### Vince Crisler: Rebuilding Together Alexandria

There are few things in life that make you feel better about the future of the human race than observing a group of volunteers in action. Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to witness such a blessing first hand. As the co-captain for Rebuilding Alexandria, I worked with Eric Weiss to plan for a work day on a house belonging to a resident of Alexandria. She was a very nice woman, but definitely needed an "extra boost" on her house to keep her going. As Eric and I developed plans for what we were going to try to tackle with our team of volunteers we had to work through quite a few variables. What was the weather going to be like? How many people would show up? What tools do we need? Do we have anyone with carpentry experience? What about electrical experience? The list went on and on. When the day finally came, we were there early getting set up; rain was in the forecast and we still didn't know how many people would be there, but we had a very ambitious schedule for any size group. Then, the people started coming, and coming. Within 30 minutes, the small house was a beehive of activity. We had over 20 volunteers and still more were showing up. Better yet, it looked like the rain would skip us almost completely providing us with the opportunity to get all of the outside work completed. The team in the backyard of the house cleaned out piles of brush, years of old toys and rusted lawn furniture, and another adventurous team cleaned out a shed that obviously hadn't been touched in a while. It was truly an amazing sight to see so many people happily serving someone they had never met! At one point we had over 30 people helping out with various tasks that included: complex trim carpentry to fix a poor door installation; hanging a new ceiling fan in a bedroom; landscaping the front yard; repairing broken screens; fixing a broken step on the back deck; and priming and painting the living room/dining room area.

By the end of the day, our entire "To-Do" list had been completed and the house looked much better than Eric or I expected. When the volunteers finally went home to contemplate their own to-do lists, the homeowner was almost in tears of joy. She was so grateful for all of the work that had been done on her

house and was amazed at the joyful spirit displayed by everyone that day. I too was humbled by the amazing power of service that our group of volunteers put on display and will never forget the smile on the face of the homeowner while we walked her through her house at the end of the day to show her what had been accomplished. Thank you to everyone who made this project possible this year - I am already looking forward to our next house!

### **Collin Hester: ALIVE! Last Saturday Food Distribution**

On an early, overcast Saturday morning in April, volunteers showed up at the Ladrey Senior Residence (300 Wythe St.) in Alexandria with their smiles and strong arms to partake in ALIVE's Last Saturday Food Distribution. Under the fantastic oversight and direction of Westminster Presbyterian member Louise Anderson, around 20-30 volunteers sorted, bagged, and distributed a large room full of non-perishable food and fresh produce for low-income Alexandria residents. At around 8:30 a.m., Louise had a brief meeting with the first-timers to explain the time-tested techniques and processes for getting the necessary food in each bag and delivered to the residents in a timely fashion. People quickly scattered to their designated "posts" and began carrying out their duties. The food was sorted and an assembly line was formed. I was in charge of opening the paper bags at the head of the table, and then quickly passing the bag down the line of tables as other volunteers placed their designated food item in the bag. The crackling sound of paper bags being feverishly handled and everyone's chatting and laughing permeated the room and reminded me of a busy newsstand in New York City. After this phase, the bags are only half-filled with food, and are brought to another area of the room, where they are lined up on the floor in well organized rows to serve as another food staging area. Multiple volunteers lined up between the rows and pass (sometimes hurl) from one person to the another the larger canned goods, potato chip bags, and hygiene products that also get placed in each bag. Once the bread and produce get added to the bags, a sea of volunteers with shopping carts quickly disperse and deliver the food to the patiently awaiting residents in the building. While delivering the food, I was happy to be greeted by the warm and welcoming residents, who undoubtedly appreciate ALIVE's passion to help out the less fortunate in their community.

### **Paul Van De Water: ALIVE! Furniture Distribution**

Along with half a dozen other members of Westminster, I volunteered to help deliver furniture for ALIVE on a recent Saturday morning. For me, this was the first time. At First Christian Church on King Street we met up with two ALIVE trucks and drivers; some of us went with one, Eric Weiss and I with the other. Eric and I helped pick up good used furniture from two ALIVE warehouses, a home in Old Town, and another in Beverly Hills. Then we delivered it all to an apartment in the West End. We were greeted by a veteran who, thanks to a housing voucher, had just been able to put a roof over his head. Previously, he told us, he had lived in his car for more than a year. Aside from a thin mattress, his apartment was bare, and he was extremely appreciative of the furniture that we brought. If you have usable furniture that you no longer need, you can be sure that ALIVE will find it a good home. And if you have time to help pick up and deliver furniture on a Saturday morning, you will find it a very rewarding experience.

*Each of these members found their own unique way to be involved in mission. If their stories inspire you, check the bulletin for our next Local Mission activities. Or, contact Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org) for information about becoming involved.*

## **Chancel Elements in Westminster's Sanctuary**

Two of the central elements on the Chancel in the Westminster Sanctuary are the Pulpit and the Communion Table. Both of these beautiful pieces of worship furniture were designed, made, and hand-carved by a Westminster member, George E. Weidner, in the basement of his Fairlington apartment. They were given to Westminster by Mr. and Mrs. Weidner and dedicated in 1949.

Both pieces are solid walnut. The Communion Table carries the inscription "This Do in Remembrance of Me" with a Maltese Cross on either side of the central panel. The central panel depicts one scene from each of the Gospels, the elements of the Lord's Supper, the Wafer, Communion Chalice, and the grapes suggesting the wine.

The Communion Table Runner and the two Pulpit Bible Markers that adorn these pieces of worship furniture are called Paraments. These Paraments are silk damask and were made by Eleanor Geiger, with assistance from Carolyn Carmack, who are both members of Westminster.

There are four sets of Paraments, in the four colors used to symbolize the seasons/events of the Liturgical Year:

The Purple Paraments are used during Advent, a time of preparation, and Lent, a time of penitence.

The White Paraments symbolize joy. They commemorate the pivotal points in Jesus the Christ's life and are used for Christmas, Easter, and other special days such as the days for the Baptism of the Lord, and Transfiguration of the Lord.

The Red Paraments symbolize the work of the Holy Spirit. They are used on Pentecost and for Ordination and Installation, and for church dedications.

The Green Paraments symbolize "Ordinary Time" which is generally the two time periods between the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

# 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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## Time Sensitive

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



## Volunteer Corner

Often, when people are asked to volunteer, their response is "I'd love to but, I'm just too busy right now." That's a very understandable response in a busy world where we're often

working/commuting 10 or 11 hours a day and weekends give very little respite. However, it's wrong!

Volunteering (helping others) is one of the best ways to escape from the constant grind of a demanding job. Brian Mulaney, a former advertising executive, says that, "The most selfish thing you can do is help other people." He should know. He quit his high-paying high-pressure job to co-found Smile Train which helps tens of thousands of children around the world each year. Volunteering fills a need that we can't get any other way.

I can testify to that on a personal level. For many years I was working day and night, sometimes 80-90 hours a week. At some points I joked that I was only working half days because I only put in 12 hours a day on the job. It was during one of these periods that a friend asked me to go on a mission trip. Of

course, I laughed and said, "I'd love to but I'm just too busy right now." The friend persisted and I finally broke away from the job and went on my first mission trip. I had a great time getting sweaty and dusty, tired and dirty, and filled with a sense of fulfillment that the many hours on the job never seemed to provide. I've been on over a dozen mission trips since and they have all been good experiences. Of course, one thing led to another and I started volunteering locally. At first, I did it before or after work. Volunteering before work left me pumped up to face the challenges of the day. Volunteering after work rejuvenated me. Best of all, when I got an opportunity to retire early, I (unlike many colleagues who never had time to volunteer) knew that there was a life outside of the office.

So, if you don't think you have time to volunteer, think again and give it a try. Serve a meal at Carpenter's Shelter; spend a Saturday with Rebuilding together or Habitat for Humanity. Spend some time helping around the church working with youth or children or helping with one of our many events. There are dozens of ways you can get involved.

Yours in Christ

**Art Sauer**

*Coordinator of Volunteer Missions*

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