



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Agudas Achim Congregation

Trinity United Methodist Church

Wednesday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.

at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Preaching: Rabbi Jack Moline

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the Chronicle

November 18, 2010 - volume 43, number 4

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Hellfire and Damnation** *(Or "I knew this title would get your attention")*

This past summer I had the pleasure of re-connecting through reading with the professor who taught me theology thirty years ago, Dr. Christopher Morse of Union Theological Seminary in New York. His book *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Belief* has some gems, from which you will hear more in my preaching. Here are a few on the topic we rarely discuss: Hellfire and damnation.

Morse acknowledges that there are significant passages that depict "hell" and "fire" as places of punishment that is eternal.

- "The dead do not praise the Lord, nor do any that go down into Sheol." (Psalm 115:17)
- "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear whoever can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:29)

In response to these, Morse writes: "... damnation to hell is looked upon as an eternal and unquenchable judgment. Any construal of [the] import [of these passages] for faith today has this factor of an eternal rejection to take into account."

But Morse goes on to say that other passages present another aspect of Biblical associations of "hellfire" and "damnation."

- For example, he writes: "The damning of anyone who is made in the likeness of God is viewed [in the Bible] as the work not of God but of hell." "The tongue is a fire ... with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God." (James 3:6-10). In other words, we do the cursing, not God.
- Hell itself is depicted as receiving a sentence of destruction in the final judgment. In Revelation 12:7-12, "Michael and his angels" defeat and evict Satan.
- Jesus promises Peter: "The gates of Hades will not prevail against [my church]" (Matthew 16:16-18)
- In Revelation 1:17-18, Jesus says: "I have the keys of Death and of Hades." Morse writes: "Hell is looked upon as subject to eternal life in Jesus Christ." Not even hell, fire, nor eternal punishment exist apart from God's grace. Christ places even these "under subjection."

What Morse does for me is allow me to hold on to those parts of the Christian tradition – and the scripture – which I would just as soon leave behind, but to do so in a way that affirms that it is the power of God acting with mercy and grace that promises to carry the day. Hell may exist; damnation may occur; but if and when they do, they are subject to the power of God, and as such, subject to his goodness. That allows me always to hope; always to trust; always to believe that God will find a way to bring good out of evil, life out of death. And that, I find, is worth bringing into any situation: personal or political, social or individual, ethical or existential.

Larry



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

Mary Cambron "Molly" Egerston, who died October 18, Fredericksburg, VA.

William B. "Bill" Devaney, who died October 26, in Ann Arbor, Michigan



Member Involvement News

For the past three months this column has been examining the meaning of membership.

We have looked at the requirements in the Book of Order and at various definitions developed by our Session. From this examination it is clear that membership in Westminster Presbyterian Church is about more than just getting your name on the roll, showing up for worship once in a while, or sending in an occasional contribution. Westminster members are fully engaged in their church community.

While Westminster tries to be a full-service church, offering worship, fellowship, education, and mission opportunities, there comes a time for some members when they cease to be members. We live in a transient area. Many people come to Washington, DC to stay a few years and then move on. Others find that they are looking for another kind of faith experience and move their membership to another church. Some just withdraw and drift away. We are never happy to lose a member but, those who inform us of the move make maintaining our membership rolls much easier.

We do not simply drop people from our membership because they haven't attended in a while. There is well established procedure for determining who should be dropped. Actually, "dropped" is too strong a word. In most cases (unless the member has informed us directly or through a Letter of Transfer to another church) a non-attending member will be moved from "active" to "inactive" status for a number of years. Before going into more detail on how this determination is made I want to make very clear that **NO ONE IS EVER REMOVED FOR GROWING OLD**. This means that if the reason you have not been participating fully in the life of Westminster is due to the difficulties of aging, you will remain on the active membership roll until the Lord calls you home.

The determination to move a member from active to inactive status has several steps:

1. Has the member attended a worship service in the past two years?
2. Has the member participated in any Westminster activities (education, mission, fellowship) in the past two years?
3. Has the member pledged or contributed in the past two years?
4. Is the member involved in pastoral care by the congregation or staff?

These steps are sequential. If at any step the answer to the question is "yes," the process stops and the person is maintained as an active member. Thus, anyone who attends Sunday worship at least once within a two year period will be retained as a member. This is a good reason to be sure to sign the friendship pad when it is passed down the row on Sunday morning as it is the primary tool for recording attendance.

Keeping track of members is an on-going process throughout the year. We don't want to see our members slipping away. When we see that a member hasn't been attending in a while, we make an attempt to reach out and determine the reason. This is not an attempt to shame them into attending. It is just part of our caring ministry to be sure that our members stay connected and get the support they need with life's struggles. We love our members and want to be sure they are getting the spiritual support they are looking for from Westminster.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer, Membership Involvement Coordinator



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

Please join us for fellowship and friendship at our regular monthly events. Of particular interest in November will be our Roundtable lunch and discussion. See below for details!

Enjoy seasonal festivities with your Flying Solo friends at Westminster! The Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are filled with many opportunities for fellowship with friends and family. Please join us for whatever you can fit into your busy schedules!

Tuesday, November 23: Our **Potluck** this month will begin in Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. with sandwich-making for the Bag Lunch program. Please bring a dish to share for dinner. After enjoying dinner together, we will decorate the Chrismon Tree for Advent.

Thursday, November 25: Gobble! Gobble! Our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** will be held at the Mt. Vernon Inn at 12:15 p.m. Contact Nancy Hall Berens to see if there are any spaces still available.

Saturday, December 4: Come view the annual **Scottish Christmas Walk** in Old Town Alexandria! Bundle up and hear some great bagpipes and drums! Carpool from church at 10:30 a.m. (parking in Old Town will be very limited that day!). Parade runs 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5: Meet after the 11:00 service at the Alternative Giving Bazaar in Fellowship Hall. After you do some of your own shopping at the bazaar, join us to go **Christmas shopping** for our Adopt-a-Family family at 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 11: 'Tis the season ... for our annual **Christmas Party!** We will gather in a member's home for fun, food and festivities! Starting at 5 p.m., we will wrap presents for our "adopted" family while enjoying appetizers. Then we will enjoy Christmas dinner together. Details to follow!

Monday, December 13: Our monthly **Dine-Out** will be at Red Curry, a Pan Asian restaurant located at 100 King Street in Alexandria. Carpool from church at 7:00 p.m. or meet us at the restaurant at 7:15 p.m. Enjoy the Christmas decorations in Old Town on your way!

Tuesday, December 28: Time to take down the Chrismon Tree at our December **Potluck!** Bring a dish to share for supper.

Don't forget to check out our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to see pictures from our fabulous fall retreat to Graves' Mountain Lodge!

For more information about Flying Solo Singles visit our page on the church website: www.wpc-alex.org/singles or contact me at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121.

Blessings!

Nancy Hall Berens

Director of Congregational Life and Singles Ministries

Westminster Travelers



To sign up for a trip, contact LeAnne Perkowski in the main office at 703-549-4766 or lperkowski@wpc-alex.org. You may also contact Sharon Tarr, Director of the Westminster Travelers, at starr@wpc-alex.org.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria presents "**A Christmas Carol**" on Thursday, December 2. We will meet at the church and depart at 7:00 p.m. \$1 per person.

Join us for a **Soup and Salad Lunch** on Wednesday, December 8 to enjoy some time with friends and discuss possible future trips! We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Haverkamp Room. Please bring soup or salad for six people to share, and plenty of ideas for places you would like to visit!

We will attend the **U.S. Army Band Concert "A Holiday Festival"** on Friday, December 10 at D.A.R. Constitution Hall. The bus will leave at 5:00 p.m. for the performance at 8:00 p.m. (as seats are first-come, first-served). \$1 per person, with a 15 person maximum.

There's still time to sign up for the **spring trip** to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, April 25-27, 2011. 3 Days and 2 Nights per person occupancy \$399 package includes luggage handling, all taxes and meal gratuities. This price is dependent on a minimum group size of 35 people

- Our group package also includes:
- 2 Nights Lodging, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners including a Cabaret Dinner Show
 - Tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob
 - Gateway Clipper Cruise
 - Guided Tours of the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, National Rooms, Heinz Chapel, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
 - A Visit to the Flight 93 Memorial

Women's Ministry

Invitation to a Circle

Women are invited to visit and join one of our friendship and Bible study circles that meet monthly. Look for details under Presbyterian Women on the church website, in a pink flyer in the education wing lobby literature rack, or call moderator Carol Ensley at 703-339-3590. There is one for you!

Circle News

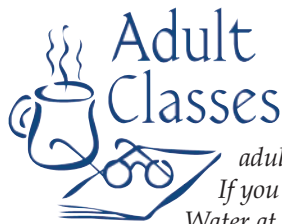
Our circles are engaged in service projects for Christmas, including filling Salvation Army stockings for children, purchasing needed items for low-income seniors in Alexandria through the Community Services Board, helping Courtney's House for child victims of sex trafficking with gifts and donations, and "adopting" local families by filling gift requests through Alexandria's Adopt-a-Family program.

Work Day Opportunity

Women are invited to help make toys and heart pillows for patients in Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, December 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Call Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445 for details.

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

Our annual retreat will be held April 8-10, 2011 at the Hallowed Retreat Center, an hour from Alexandria. The leader will be Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick, educator and historian. She will lead us in spiritual practices of the Christian tradition. There will be time to relax, enjoy nature, good conversation and food.



Adult Classes

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Programs

Sunday morning classes meet from 9:45-10:45 a.m. All adults are cordially invited to attend with no registration necessary. If you want to find out more about a class, contact Clara Beth Van de Water at coandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-47663 ext. 120.

New Classes

"The Intersection Between Church and State", November 21, Jeffrey Hensley, M.A., Yale University, Haverkamp Room.

Examine classic approaches Christians take to complex relations between culture and religion, particularly those identified by philosopher H. Richard Niebuhr and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in light of the 21st century, and discuss how our Reformed tradition might help chart a way forward in contemporary contexts of church-state relations and issues.

"Ending 21st Century Slavery", November 28, M. Lee McClure, Outreach and Research Coordinator, Free the Slaves Foundation, Haverkamp Room.

Did you know that more people around the world are enslaved today than at any period in human history? Learn the shocking background and statistics on modern day slavery and plans and efforts to reduce it through the work of the Free the Slaves Foundation in Washington, D.C., and coordinating groups around the world.

Advent Lectures on "Celtic Spirituality: Ancient Traditions for Modern Times", December 5 and 12, Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Professor, Theology, and Dean, Graduate Studies, Georgetown University, Haverkamp Room.

Delve into the origins, emphases, and timeless influences of Celtic spirituality. Explore elements, lessons, and practices adaptable for we contemporary Christians.

Concluding Class - "Invitation to Genesis", November 21, with Kathy Harkness and Connie Ring, Westminster Room - 9:30 a. m.

Sunday Afternoon Program

"Reinhold Niebuhr: American Power in Theological Perspective", November 21, 4:30-5:20 p.m., Meeting Room 103/105, Dr. Larry Hayward.

Reformed Institute Convocation

"God and the Great Recession"

The Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington announces its annual convocation - "God and the Great Recession: Reformed Perspectives" on Saturday, January 22, 9:30 a.m., National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC. The speakers are Dr. Douglas Hicks, Professor of Leadership Studies and Religion, University of Richmond, and Dr. David Miller, Director of the Faith and Work Initiative, Princeton University. All adults are invited and there is no fee.

Adult Education Audio Presentations on Website

There are a number of Sunday morning audio-recorded lectures on the WPC website under Education-Adult. Our website is www.wpc-alex.org. Listen to what you were unable to attend!

Notes From the Stewardship Committee



As you surely know by now, stewardship season is well underway. The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone who has made a pledge so far. It is wonderful to see so much cheerful giving even during rough economic times. We would also like to thank everyone who made the Blessings Brunch possible, including those who brought food, or helped with setup, serving and clean up. In particular, we thank the Congregational Life Committee for making sure everything went smoothly.

Even though Dedication Sunday has passed, there is still time to make your pledge for the upcoming year. You can mail in your cards or pledge online at www.wpc-alex.org/form4653.htm.

We know that some of you are still considering what to give and some of you have temporarily let pledging slip your mind. We would encourage you make your pledge before the wonderful yet distracting events of the upcoming holiday season overwhelm your schedule.

While Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching as you read this, the fall season itself serves as a poignant reminder of our calling to give cheerfully. Although we are not a particularly agrarian people here at Westminster, we hear the echoes of stewardship in the themes of harvest-time found in many of the Scriptures and hymns that often make appearances in church services during November.

Consider these verses from this well-loved hymn by Anglican bishop William Walsham How:

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!

And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

We encourage you as you make up your mind about pledging to remember that all we have comes from God, and all that we give is returned back to God as well.

Adrienne Griffin



Women's Book Discussion

Women are invited to discuss the mystery *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves on Monday, November 22, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the

Johnson Parlor. Call Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 ext. 120, email at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org, or just come!

Men of Westminster



Men's Retreat News

The winter retreat this year will be on the weekend of February 4-6, 2011. Our leader will be Dr. Eric Springsted. He will be addressing St. Augustine and his relationship to the heritage of Reformed thought.

Registration for the retreat began on Sunday, November 14. A table will be set up in Fellowship Hall for sign up and one of the men will be there to provide information and answer questions about the retreat.

If you have attended one of the previous men's retreats, please consider personally inviting someone to come who has not yet attended. Those men who have attended retreats know how enjoyable and rewarding the programs, food, and fellowship have been. Mark your calendar to make sure that you keep this weekend open.



Faith on Tap

December 21 (3rd Tuesday)—7:30 p.m., Capitol City Brewing Co. in Shirlington

Potluck Brunches

Potluck lunches will resume in January. In lieu of our regular first Sunday brunch, young adults are encouraged to attend the Christmas party on December 5.

Young Adults Advent Study

We will be reading and reflecting on stories from Ted Loder's book *Tracks in the Straw: Tales Spun from the Manger*. Copies are \$12. Please reserve your copy by November 19!

Sundays, December 5-19

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Brides Room (off of Fellowship Hall)
Led by Casey FitzGerald

Young Adults

Christmas Dinner Party

Sunday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.
at the FitzGerald home

We will be collecting and wrapping presents for the residents of the Ladrey Building in Alexandria. Details to follow. RSVP to Casey at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org

Children and Family Ministry



Paid Childcare Positions Available!

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

Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon in room 303/305.

Moms Study

Tracks in the Straw: Tales Spun From the Manger by Ted Loder

Mondays, December 6-20

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Johnson Parlor

Childcare provided

Copies of the book are \$12. Please reserve your copy by November 19. (RSVP to Casey FitzGerald)

Christmas Pageant and Congregational Dinner

December 12 at 5:00 p.m.

(Rehearsal for children in kindergarten through 5th grade will be held Saturday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m.)

Children (K-5th grade) and adult volunteers should sign up to be in the pageant by visiting our website www.wpc-alex.org/children.

Following the children's Christmas pageant, join us for an all-church pasta dinner in Fellowship Hall. Cost of the dinner will be \$9 for adults and children over 8 years old, \$4 for children ages 4-8, and free for children age 3 and under. Family max is \$30. Please RSVP by Friday, December 10 to LeAnne at lperkowsk@wpc-alex.org or call the church office at 703-549-4766. Get into the holiday spirit!





Attention Youth

2011 Youth Summer Mission Trips

Mission trips are a critical component to the youth experience at Westminster. Whether by gleaning Virginia's fields for the hungry, constructing schools for children in the Dominican Republic, distributing food to the sick in DC, our youth discover what it means to "love thy neighbor" and the humility that comes from receiving much more than one gives. We hope you will support our youth as they prepare for the following trips in 2011.

Senior High Mission Trip To Fond Parisien, Haiti July 13-21, 2011

Even before the quake, Haiti was a country of overwhelming need. Now, more than ever, they need our help, and they will have something enduring to offer us as well. Working through the Foundation for Peace, our youth will work hand-in-hand with local communities to build schools, provide medical care, lead vacation bible school, and share in vibrant worship.



Middle School Mission Trip To Philadelphia, PA August 14-18, 2011

Working through Broad Street Ministries, our youth will address poverty, homelessness, hunger and health care through the eyes of faith. They will form relationships with those whom they serve and experience a creative and inclusive community of faith.

A Note of Thanks from the Westminster Youth:

WPC Youth would like to thank all of you who sponsored us as we participate in the Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 20. Your support of our local, national and international mission efforts means so much. If you have not heard from us individually yet, you will!

Love,
Your Youth

2011 Sanctuary Flowers

Westminster members and friends are invited to donate the flowers that will beautify our Sunday morning worship in 2011. The flowers may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, and your name and the dedication will be printed in the bulletin. Two vase arrangements are available for each Sunday of the year; the cost is \$60 for one and \$120 for two. The 2011 Flower Dedication Chart will be available for signing up following each service on November 28, December 5 and December 12. You can also contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org. Be sure to sign up early if you want a specific date.



Flowers
in Memory of...

Church Grounds Cleanup Day

Saturday,
November 20,
8:00 am. - 12:00
p.m. We need
your help with
raking, weeding,
mulching,
trimming, etc.
Come for a half hour or the whole
morning. All help appreciated.



Bag Lunch Program

The Bag Lunch program needs sandwiches. Make sandwiches to help feed Alexandria's working poor. Bagged sandwiches can be placed in the Fellowship Hall freezer, marked with the type of meat and the date made. For more info contact Kathy Stenzel, stenzelkathy7@gmail.com.

Bag Lunch Soup

The Bag Lunch program, providing lunches for the homeless and working poor in Alexandria, will begin soup service early next year. If you'd like to join WPC's soup makers, please contact Louise Anderson at louiseanderson@erols.com or 703-820-3568. No experience necessary.



Focus on Missions

On October 17, 2010, **Rev. George Wepukhulu from Kenya** preached at both services. Please visit our Sermons page (www.wpc-alex.org/sermons) for audio of his sermon, and learn more about Rev. Wepukhulu, Rev. Stephen Githuki and Rev. Stephen Chege on our International Missions page (www.wpc-alex.org/international).

Please visit our website (www.wpc-alex.org/international) to watch an informative and visually stunning slide show of photographs taken by Melissa McCellan during this year's mission trip to Kenya in February.

Share the Spirit and Adopt a Family



Adopt-a-Family

household needs and clothing to popular toys every child desires, but are out of reach to these families.

Please consider adopting a family this Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity for Westminster to share our spiritual and financial blessings with families in Alexandria, but outside the Westminster community. Anyone can adopt a family - individuals, faith groups, or multiple families can shop together to Share the Spirit.

Should you wish to Share the Spirit on behalf of someone special, we would be pleased to provide you with a certificate that you can present indicating that a family was adopted in their honor. If you are interested in Westminster's Share the Spirit, Adopt a Family, program and would like more information, please contact Kathy Stenzel at stenzelkathy7@gmail.com or 703-683-4516.

Adopt-A-Turkey

Saturday, November 20, 12:00 p.m. Meet in the WPC parking lot. Volunteers needed to deliver 200 boxes of frozen turkey dinners to families in need in Alexandria. Trucks and SUVs are helpful, but not required! About a 1 - 2 hour commitment. Contact Louise Anderson, louiseanderson@erols.com, or Michelle Brummond, mbrummond@yahoo.com.

Help the Homeless Walkathon

Saturday, November 20 Plan to walk or sponsor one of our Youth walking on the Westminster Team. Proceeds will support the ALIVE! House, and the mission work of Westminster's Middle School and Senior High Youth. See details on the church website, www.wpc-alex.org.



Memorial Gifts and Bequests

Having recently remembered in worship those Westminster members and loved ones who have passed away, we celebrate the ways in which the work of our church is supported by this cloud of witnesses that surround us.

Westminster has been blessed to have received bequests from the following members during the past eighteen months:

- Cornelia Fugate (7/3/1920 – 11/25/2008)
- Homer Walkup (1/28/1917 – 6/12/2009)
- Helen Omer (dob unknown – 12/16/2008)
- Erma Wallis (6/21/1909 – 2/11/2009)
- Ruth Osborn (2/17/1919 – 10/30/2009)
- Micheline Williams (6/21/1929 – 3/31/2010)

The bequest from Erma Wallis established the Erma Myers Wallis Fund with the primary purpose of addressing major capital needs of the church. The other unrestricted bequests are under consideration by the Session as a part of the long range financial planning currently in process.

In addition, memorial gifts made in memory of Westminster members have been used in support of a number of the ministries of the church as follows:

- New fence for the Preschool playground – Ernest McIver (5/31/1916-10/09/2008)
- A new Sanctuary Advent Wreath – Richard Williams (10/10/1923-10/09/2007)
- Additional equipment for the Sanctuary assisted hearing system
 - Dorothy O’Keefe (dob unknown – 6/11/2008)
 - Winnie Hudson (12/24/1914-7/04/2008)
 - Anne Robertson (3/6/1928 – 12/5/2007)
 - Nancy Shillingburg (3/2/1930 – 12/21/2007)
 - Ruth Hammerbeck (dob unknown - 5/9/2008)
 - Margaret Beacham (4/5/1918- 4/21/2009)
 - Allie Johnson (4/26/1917 – 2/14 2007)
 - Albert (Mike) Marshal (11/19/2008)
- Support of Youth Ministry – E.F. (Butch) Heinlein (6/17/1923-12/11/2008)
- New Kneeling Bench – Guy Carmack (4/22/1911-6/5/2007)
- Local Missions
 - Joseph Grimes (5/20/1940-11/22/2007)
 - Edith Thompson (8/18/1923-7/14/2008)
- Support of Music Ministry – Phyllis Gorrell (1/2/1932-9/26/2008)
- Resource books for Deacons – Roger Clark ((8/5/1937-2/26/2010)

The Westminster Foundation Board is most appreciative of these gifts and the work of the church that they continue to support.

Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is responding to help prevent the spread of the cholera outbreak that has been identified in the Artibonite and Central provinces of Haiti. According to the Haiti Ministry of



Health, more than 3,000 people were hospitalized and more than 250 people have died as a result of the outbreak. The response includes awareness and prevention education; the distribution of kits containing chlorine, aquatabs (water purification tablets), buckets with lids and jerry cans; hygiene promotion activities; the distribution of aquatabs in schools; and, if needed, the provision and distribution of Church World Service (CWS) Gift-of-the-Heart hygiene kits. The kits do not have anything to treat water, but they do have soap and towels along with toothbrush, comb, nail clippers, comb and band-aids. This response is in addition to the ongoing relief and recovery efforts in Haiti that includes WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) activities.

You can give through this congregation, making the check out to Westminster, with “DR000064-Haiti” in the memo line, or by going to the denomination’s website, www.pcusa.org/pda. You can find updates on what we are doing to help at the same page on the website.

Westminster Annual Boxwood Workshop

Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall Tuesday, November 30 or Wednesday, December 1 at either 9:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. to make boxwood wreaths, centerpieces, tabletop trees, candlestick arrangements, kissing balls, and more. Extra boxwood, pine roping, poinsettias, bows, pre-made balsam wreaths, and other materials are also available to take home.

Cost of making boxwood items ranges from \$10 for kissing balls to \$26 for boxwood wreaths. Most others are \$18.

To sign up or get more information, call Madeline Ramsey at 703-379-7458, or email at CBramse44@aol.com by November 22 to hold your place and be sure sufficient materials are on hand. \$5 deposit due with registration.

This is a really fun way to start the Advent/Christmas season, and we hope you can join us.

2010 Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar "The True Spirit of Christmas"



Save your Christmas shopping for Westminster's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar, **Sundays, December 5 and 12.**

The Westminster Mission Committee's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar will be held this year on December 5 and 12 in Fellowship Hall following both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services for your shopping convenience. Please pick up a catalogue at many locations around the church including the main office or visit our website, www.wpc-alex.org where you can also browse the catalogue.

The Bazaar gives you the opportunity to honor friends, family members and co-workers by giving gifts in their name to charities supported by Westminster's Mission Committees rather than by giving some unneeded and probably unwanted gift. Think fruitcake. What could be more in the true spirit of Christmas than giving gifts that will make an important difference in the lives of people in our community, nation and around the world? Cards will be available from Westminster or the organization involved to give to the person you are honoring by your gift.

You can contribute to AACH, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, ALIVE!, Carpenters Shelter, Friends of Guest House, The Fund for Alexandria's Child or Rebuilding Together Alexandria, locally; our mission with Appalachia Service Project, the Spirit Lake Sioux Indian Reservation, nationally; our ministry in Haiti, Bread for the World, Heifer International, and the Presbyterian Medical Benevolence Foundation, internationally.

Also this is the primary time to provide continuing support to Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya.

Since 2001, Westminster has actively supported the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. Moi's Bridge is located in Kenya's Rift Valley, about 225 miles northwest of Nairobi. We have built dormitories that now house 54 children, sanitation facilities, a dining hall, kitchen, office and storage space. We have also dug a well, provided funds to connect to the electric grid, and purchased a 14 passenger van. In 2009 we completed construction of the first two floors of the 3-story Academy building, which will include 8 classrooms, a library, and offices. Funding was provided by Westminster and contributions from individual members of the congregation, and other churches and individuals.

There are currently 35 girls and 19 boys in residence at the Orphanage. It costs about \$950 per year or \$80 per month to maintain a child at the orphanage, which includes clothing, food, medical care, housing, supplies, staff salaries and education.

In 2006, the Academy began offering classes for the children at the Orphanage and in the local community. Unlike class sizes in the local public schools which range up to 110 students per teacher, class size at the Academy is limited to approximately 35-40 per teacher. In 2009-2010 the Academy offered classes from pre-primary through 7th grade for nearly 250 students, including 36 children from the Orphanage and 50 scholarship

students from the local community. In 2011, UO&A plans to add grade 8, at which time it will offer a full complement of primary school classes.

As in prior years, we are seeking funds to continue our ongoing commitment and support of UO&A. 100% of these funds will be used to care for and educate the 54 orphans who currently live there, provide scholarships for orphans and other vulnerable children in the neighborhood whose guardians cannot afford the costs of tuition, lunches and supplies at the Academy, and to complete the third and final floor of the Academy building.

This year we are again offering a “Benefactor” package for \$2,000, which will provide support for two children and one scholarship.

Finally, as in the past, beautiful handmade woolens and ceramics will be available for purchase from Peru Bridge of Hope/Partners for Just Trade and delicious coffee, tea and chocolates from the Presbyterian Coffee Project/Equal Exchange. These gifts also give twice, once to the recipient and once to the workers, their families and communities in Peru and in other places around the world.

This year give gifts that you will feel good about giving and the recipients will be pleased and honored to receive knowing that they have made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

Money Matters:

2011 Giving Envelopes will be available in Fellowship Hall by mid-December.

Envelopes have been assigned to all who have pledged and requested envelopes. It is costly to mail these envelopes out, so we greatly appreciate your picking them up. These giving envelopes can be used when making contributions toward pledges or for other types of special gifts.

End of Year Giving: Some of our members like to pay their pledge or make a special gift to the church using a stock donation. If you are planning to make a gift to the church with a donation of stock, please note the process for doing so. Should you decide to donate stock to the church, please contact Mr. Marc Eisner with Morgan Stanley at 703-535-8334. Mr. Eisner will give you the information needed to make the stock transfer. Please also notify Nancy Bea, our Business Administrator, that you are initiating a stock transaction with information as to the purpose or intent of the donation. We need notification from you, the donor, so that the donation will be properly credited to your financial records. Please remember to initiate your stock transaction no later than December 15 so that the office has time to receive the information and make sure it is properly recorded before the end of the year. All year end gifts- checks, stocks or cash - must by law be received by the church or postmarked no later than December 31, 2010 in order to be credited to your 2010 giving record. The check date is irrelevant if it is not received or postmarked by December 31.

Longest Night Service Tuesday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

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

If you have questions about the service, or would like to come but need transportation, please contact Patrick Hunnicutt.

**What do you give
someone who
already has much?**

**How 'bout the gift of giving
to someone in need?**

**WPC Alternate Christmas
Giving Bazaar
Dec 5 & 12 in Fellowship Hall**



Give the gift of charity.

the Chronicle

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

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

Church Staff

Larry HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Casey FitzGeraldAssociate Pastor
Paul StetsenkoDirector of Music Ministries
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and Women's Ministries
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Marvin JohnsonHead Sexton
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Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505
WebSite: <http://www.wpc-alex.org>
CARE Line: 703-684-2934

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Advent Schedule

Sunday, November 28 - 1st Sunday of Advent

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

Casey FitzGerald preaching

6:00 p.m. Advent Vespers

Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with communion

Larry Hayward preaching

Alternative Giving Bazaar

Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship, in the Chapel

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

11:00 a.m. Worship, in the Sanctuary

Ceremony of Carols with Harp

Alternative Giving Bazaar

5:00 p.m. Children's Pageant and Congregational dinner

Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Festival Sunday

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

Larry Hayward preaching

Music with the Commonwealth Brass

6:00 p.m. Byzantine Vigil

Youth Vocal Ensemble

Tuesday, December 21 - Longest Night Service

7:30 p.m. Worship in the Chapel

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Community Christmas Eve Service

Story, Song and Candlelight

Casey FitzGerald preaching

9:45 p.m. Harp prelude

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with communion

Larry Hayward preaching

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