



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —



Table of Contents

Adult Ed	4
Children and Families	2
Flying Solo	3
Life Events	2
Missions	6
Stewardship	8
Westminster Travelers	3
Women's Ministry	5
Young Adults	3
Youth	4

the Chronicle

April 21, 2011 - volume 43, number 9

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Heaven Today**

Just as my preaching during Lent was away from the lectionary, I have decided to continue this pattern for the sermons I will be giving during the season of Easter, through Trinity Sunday.

I am going to preach a series of sermons entitled "Heaven Today."

They will be based on *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel As New* (London: T & T Clark, 2010), written by the person who taught me theology in seminary, Dr. Christopher Morse, of Union Theological Seminary in New York. Please feel free to buy the book and read along if you like.

The series will offer a way that we can understand, relate to, and be enriched by this traditional Christian doctrine. As the title of Morse's book suggests, I hope that by hearing these sermons, you will come to a deeper appreciation for "the difference heaven makes."

The series, titles and scriptures are as follows:

- May 1:** Heaven Today: *What Comes To Mind?* (Matthew 4:12-17)
- May 22:** Heaven Today: *What Do We Believe?* (I Corinthians 7:29-31)
- May 29:** Heaven Today: *What Is 'Real'?* (Matthew 13:11-17)
- June 12:** Heaven Today: *What Do We Do Differently?* (Galatians 1:1-4; 5:13-26)
- June 19:** Heaven Today: *For What Can We Hope?* (I Corinthians 15:50-58)

You are great listeners and responders to sermons. It is a joy to preach in your midst. I hope you will come as often as you can to hear this series, as well as to all other worship services at Westminster.

Larry



We recently welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

Margaret (Maggie) Audrey Sellevaag, born March 10, daughter of Tom and Melissa Sellevaag.

Vivian McIntyre Josendale, born March 13, daughter of Erin and Peter Josendale, sister to Isabel.

Benjamin Dean Riley, born on March 22, son of Allison and Andrew Riley, and brother of Abigail and Caitlin.

Madeleine Donley Ashmore, born March 24 in England, daughter of Katie Donley and Philip Ashmore, sister to Daniel.

Samuel Ryan Brummond, born April 9, son of Michelle and Tyler Brummond.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of

Elizabeth Archer "Betsy" Fowler, who died March 20, 2011. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, May 18 in the Westminster Sanctuary.

Patricia Sanford Strother, who died April 15, 2011. A memorial service was held at Goodwin House on April 19.

Children and Family Ministry



Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Contact Marcy Crisler with questions.

Moms Study

In the Sanctuary of Women by Jan Richardson

This unit we will be studying "Say What You See: The Book of Hildegard of Bingen." Copies are still available (ask Casey). Childcare provided.

"Hildegard and her kinswomen remind us that seeking God is not a luxury. It's not something we pursue only if we have the time for it, the leisure for it, the resources for it, the disposition toward it." (Jan Richardson)

Come and join us in seeking God, together. These sessions have been deep and meaningful, poignant and challenging, and ultimately (hopefully) informational.

Mondays May 2, 9, 16

10:30-11:45 a.m.

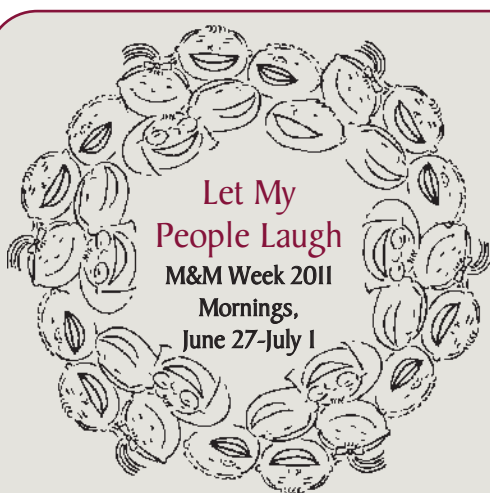
Reading Assignments

May 2: pp. 165-182

May 9: pp. 183-198 (through section 22)

May 16: pp. 198-210

As always, come—even if you haven't gotten around to the readings!



Registration begins May 2

M&M Week is Westminster's version of church camp—with an emphasis on music! All children who have just completed K-5th are invited to participate.

Want to volunteer? Have questions? Please contact Casey FitzGerald.



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

Flying Solo welcomes single adults ages 40 and above to participate in a variety of opportunities for Christian fellowship, spiritual growth and service to others. For information on our group and up-coming events, visit

our page on the church website: <http://www.wpc-alex.org/singles> or contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org to learn more!

Tuesday, April 26: 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 (materials provided) 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.

Sunday, May 1: Changes, Challenges, and Church. Time for another lively **Roundtable Discussion!** We welcome our very own Flying Solo **Barbara Studenmund** who will speak with us about some possible changes coming to the denomination. Barbara is a vice clerk of session at Westminster and an elder commissioner to the April 30 special presbytery meeting which will be considering some proposed amendments to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA. Come hear a hot-off-the-press update about some current issues in the church. Meet in Haverkamp Room at 12:15 p.m. after worship. Lunch provided. No RSVP necessary.

Monday, May 9: Our monthly **Dine-Out** in May will take us to Thai Peppers located at 2018 Mount Vernon Ave in Del Ray. Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like to carpool, otherwise meet us at the restaurant about 7:15. Come join other singles from Westminster to enjoy good food and fellowship!

Tuesday, May 24: Come to this month's **Potluck** starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor!

Saturday, May 28: We will attend a ceremony sponsored by various Veterans Service Organizations to honor our nations' veterans at the historic **Alexandria National Cemetery**, the first national cemetery in the country, established immediately after the Civil War. The ceremony will include a changing of the flag, honor awards to local scouts, and an opportunity for everyone present to place flags on the graves. A picnic will be provided by the VSO (donations accepted but not required). Location: 1450 Wilkes Street. Due to limited parking we will carpool from Westminster at 9:30 for the 10:00 a.m. ceremony. Wear comfortable footwear. This will be a great reminder of what Memorial Day is all about and a chance to explore an interesting historic corner of Alexandria!

Mark your calendars now!

Flying Solo Fall Retreat will be **October 14-16, 2011** at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD. Our retreat leader will be Maggie Hayward who will be joining us for a weekend of *"The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers."* Come enjoy the fall and fellowship with church friends complete with beautiful views of Sugarloaf Mt. from our cottage deck! Registration materials coming soon.

Westminster Travelers



Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Little Theatre Production of [Title of Show]

For more information or to sign up for any Westminster Travelers event, please contact the church office, or Sharon Tarr at starr@wpc-alex.org.



Young Adults Potluck Brunch

May 1, following the 11:00 service
Creation Station Kitchen, Room
308. Please bring a dish to share!

Faith on Tap

Tuesday, May 17
Capitol City Brewing Company
(Shirlington)

At this Faith on Tap we will be coming up with our summer activities schedule and hear about an upcoming mission opportunity ... please join us!

Attention Youth



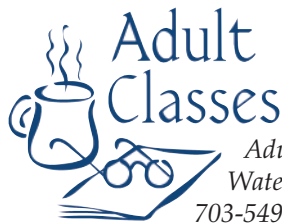
Time for Youth Sunday!

All members of the congregation are encouraged to come to this year's Youth Sunday services, May 15 at 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. We have been busy selecting a theme and developing the elements of the service in a way that both honors our ways of "worshipping well" and opening the service to youthful expression. So come, bring your love of God and of our youth, and let us hear what they have to say.

Blessings,
Patrick

Participate in Our Youth Mission to Haiti

As part of our senior high trip to Haiti in July, our youth will be assisting a medical clinic that will serve the many people who lack access to doctors and health care. We would like to distribute packets of basic toiletries. Please consider collecting and donating travel size toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo. We also will collect pens, pencils and blank composition books (not spiral!) for students of the schools we are helping to build and support. You can drop these items off in the wicker basket under the youth bulletin board in fellowship hall. Thanks so much for your donations!



Adult Education

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

Parables in Matthew in Light of the Resurrection

May 1 and 15, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Professor of Theology, Georgetown University
Jesus taught primarily through the telling of parables. Dr. Tambasco will look at some of the parables as calls to discipleship for us, stressing the need for both justice and mercy.

Report From Moi's Bridge

May 8, Westminster Room

Larry and Maggie Hayward

See pictures and hear Larry and Maggie's assessment of the work WPC does at the United Orphanage and Academy, and in other parts of Africa, based on their February trip.

Five Myths About China

May 22, Haverkamp Room

Dr. David Wilcox, Deputy Director, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board, and Dr. Paul Neureiter, Senior Director for International Trade, Pfizer Inc.

Learn more about the Chinese economy and the myths about China from David, who recently worked in that country, and Paul, who has lived in China and currently works on international trade issues with Asia.

Women's Ministry

All women are invited to participate in fellowship, service and spiritual growth opportunities listed below. Contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara Beth Van de Water for further information at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 120.



Women's Book Discussions

The current selection is *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson.

The evening discussion is Monday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. The morning discussion is Monday, May 2, at 11:00

a.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

The next book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The evening discussion will be Monday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. The morning discussion will be Monday, June 6, at 11:00 a.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

Women's Friendship Circles

There are six women's groups that meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study, times and places listed in the Westminster Update. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at the church for details.



Women's Work Day

Women meet monthly to make heart pillows and stuffed toys for Alexandria Hospital with Nancy McIver. The next Work Day is Wednesday, May 4, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Come and help if you can.



Women's Retreat

A group of women recently enjoyed the 2011 retreat, "Hearts on Fire", with leader Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick at the Hollywood Retreat Center. The next retreat is March 16-18, 2012.

Calling all Graduates!

If you or a loved one are soon to graduate from high school, college or graduate school, we'd love to know and share the good news about their graduation (from where), and future plans. Please contact Patrick (phunnicut@wpc-alex.org) or LeAnne (lperkowsk@wpc-alex.org).



Thank you

A round of applause for John Wilson, one of our intrepid Sunday bus drivers. After 21 years, John is stepping down from bus duty. In addition to driving the bus (and the van before we had the bus), he coordinated the drivers' schedule for many years. John, we greatly appreciate your faithful and exceptional service. Thank you!

New National Mission Committee Offers Opportunities to Serve

The newly formed National Mission Committee is looking for committee members and mission trip participants. The committee held its first meeting in February and is currently planning three intergenerational mission trips for this fall. We are also exploring ways to stay involved with the church's longstanding partnership with the Bdecan Presbyterian Church and surrounding community on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota.

Committee chair and vice chair, Doug Anderson and Erik Johnston, would welcome you to the committee and its work on these projects. It is a great time to be involved as we are seeking new ideas and opportunities for Westminster to become more engaged in mission activities within our greater region and the nation.

Some current ideas include stronger involvement with our Presbytery's mission work in the metro area, especially through supporting new church development. The committee meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Please join us. You don't have to commit to coming every month, but come when you are able. If you have questions, the committee can be contacted at NationalMission@wpc-alex.org.



Focus on Missions

Spring Brings Volunteer Opportunities and Special Events to our Community.

Spring is here, and many local organizations supported by Westminster will be looking for volunteers and event participants for their upcoming activities. Below are just a few opportunities. Be sure to check the weekly Westminster Bulletin Update for more!

For more information or to register for the following events, email the designated contacts at LocalMission@wpc-alex.org

- **Saturday, April 30:** Rebuilding Together Alexandria. WPC will form a team to perform home repairs for an Alexandria resident. Meet in the WPC parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and carpool to 547 E. Duncan (limited parking) at 9:00 a.m. Work will probably end around 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please bring work gloves, rakes and shovels. Volunteer for the whole day or just a few hours. No previous skills necessary; volunteers age 14 and over welcome. Lunch and coffee provided. Sign up with team leader Eric Weiss.
- **Saturday, April 30:** ALIVE! Last Saturday Food Distribution, 8:30 a.m., Ladrey Senior High Rise, 300 Wythe St. For information or to volunteer please contact Louise Anderson.
- **Sunday, May 1:** ALIVE! Child Development Center Walk-a-thon, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Walk the 5 mile route through Old Town or sponsor a walker to help fund ALIVE!'s fully-accredited preschool for working families. Registration and pledge forms available at Fellowship Hour after the 11:00 service or contact Margie Carpenter. More information about the Walk-a-thon and the CDC available at www.alive-inc.org
- **Sunday, May 1:** 9th Annual Carpenter's Shelter Cook-off at the Birchmere! Adult tickets \$5, children ages 6-17 \$5, children ages 5 and under free. Tickets available at www.carpentersshelter.org. Contact Rita Grazda for more information.
- **Thursday, May 12:** Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc. and Alexandria Health Center's annual Fiesta Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser at Alexandria Toyota (3570 Jefferson Davis Highway). All tickets are \$65 per person; \$35 tax deductible. Parking is available at the Potomac Yard Shopping Center. Contact cincodemayoalex@aol.com for more information, including how to become an auction or corporate sponsor.
- **Saturday, May 14:** ALIVE! Furniture Delivery, morning only. Help families moving to transitional and other subsidized housing by picking up and delivering donated furniture. A great activity for teens and parents. Contact Margie Carpenter to sign up.

National Mission Trips planned for Fall 2011

Intergenerational Apple Gleaning Day Trips to Winchester VA

Dates TBD (Two Saturdays in September/October, 2011)

A morning of gleaning apples in beautiful Winchester, Virginia (1.5 hour drive). For those wishing to make a day of it, feel free to stay after lunch and enjoy the Shenandoah Valley.

Gleaning is the ancient practice of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested and giving that fresh produce to people in need. We will pick apples and then bring them back to local shelters and food banks in Alexandria. Perfect for all ages, especially young families looking to expose their children to the importance of mission.

The dates have not yet been determined, but will take place on two separate Saturdays in September or October of this year. Participants meet at the church around 8:00 a.m. and carpool to Winchester. We'll arrive by 9:30 a.m., get a briefing about the orchard and then have fun socializing and picking apples for up to 2 hours. We'll eat our packed lunches and be back on the road by 12:30 p.m.

Appalachian Service Project Trip

October 20-23, 2011

Our return visit to help those in need in Appalachia. Last fall, a group of nine young adults spent a fun and meaningful weekend in Jonesville, Virginia. This year we're inviting adults of all ages to join together and return for a weekend. This will be an incredible opportunity both to serve and to connect with other members of Westminster. Pack your bags, jump in a van and drive down together early Thursday morning and get back for dinner on Sunday night. Our group will stay in a climate-controlled ASP center with bunk beds and hearty meals. We'll be able to enjoy cooler temperatures and stunning scenery.

We'll lay shingles, replace linoleum and 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!

Harvest of Hope Intergenerational Weekend Gleaning Trip

November 4-6, 2011

Harvest of Hope is the ecumenical study, worship, and service mission trip program of the Society of St. Andrew. Join us for a weekend of gleaning, education, and fun! Learn about hunger, some of its causes and find simple ways you can help end hunger in America. Participants will glean beets and turnips each morning, donating the produce to local food banks and soup kitchens.

This intergenerational event is open to anyone over 10 years of age, but children must be accompanied by a parent. This is a great opportunity for your whole family to experience a meaningful and well-organized mission trip where you'll get your hands dirty with gleaning, your spirit filled with worship and your mind revived with hope from educational opportunities about practical steps we can take to alleviate hunger.

This weekend event will take place in Shawsville, Virginia (4.5 hour drive away, near Roanoke). Participants will leave on the morning of Friday, November 4 and return on the evening of Sunday, November 6.

The registration fee is \$75 per person and includes lodging, all meals on site & snacks, educational materials and a t-shirt. Scholarship assistance is available and transportation to the event will be covered by the church.

For more information, please contact: Doug Anderson (National Mission Chair) or Erik Johnston (National Mission Committee Vice Chair) at NationalMission@wpc-alex.org

Benefit Concert for Japan

\$22,355 was raised and the Church was filled to capacity for Westminster's Benefit Concert for Japan which took place on March 25. Our grateful appreciation goes to violinist Hilary Hahn and pianist, Valentina Lisitsa who gave so graciously of their time and immense talents. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped during the evening and to those from our Church and the community who made generous donations. A special thanks to Bradlee Florist for providing the beautiful flower bouquets for Ms. Hahn and Ms. Lisitsa.

Prayers continue to be requested for the people of Japan. You can give through this congregation, making the check out to Westminster, with "DR000117-Japan Earthquake and Tsunami" in the memo line, or at the denomination's website, www.pcusa.org/pda. Updates on the efforts of PC(USA) are also available at this website.

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.

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First Quarter Stewardship Reflection

Thanks to your generous giving, we had an incredibly successful 2011 stewardship campaign. Not only did we meet our goal, but we exceeded it with 421 pledges totaling \$1,349,423!

These pledge dollars are crucial to the services at Westminster and in the communities we serve. Below are some of the many important expenses that your dollars supported during the first quarter (January-March, 2011):

\$2,000 to Carpenter's Shelter
 \$2,500 to Bread for the World
 \$3,025 for office supplies
 \$4,600 to Rebuilding Alexandria Together
 \$319 for childcare for special events other than Sunday mornings
 \$16,774 for utilities
 \$5,000 to shared mission giving (money sent to Presbytery)
 \$1,508 for supplies for coffee hour/congregational gatherings
 \$3,700 for adult education teachers
 \$1,200 for a fire detection system contract
 \$294 for young adult activities

\$1,590 for snow removal
 \$1,044 for an elevator maintenance contract
 \$900 to emergency assistance to Alexandria residents
 \$22,236 in per capita assessment payments to the Presbytery and national church
 \$3,625 to ALIVE

Whether it's keeping the church building safe and maintained, providing important supplies for church functions, or supporting critical outreach in the communities we serve, your dollars are hard at work. Thank you for your generosity,

Mary Olsen,
 Stewardship Committee Chair

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

