



Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
worship well



Table of Contents

Adult Ed	12
Children and Families	8
Flying Solo	3
Life Events	2
Member Involvement	2
Missions	6
Music Ministries	5
Stewardship	15
Tables for Eight	12
Westminster Travelers	3
Women's Ministry	10
Young Adults	9

the Chronicle

August 25, 2011 - volume 44, number 1

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward
This Fall

As many of us return from summer vacation and breaks from school, I want you to know that I am really excited about our church this fall and the many opportunities we have together. Some of what you will see and experience includes:

- An adult Bible study (DISCIPLE) I will once again be teaching;
- Small groups for families;
- Enriched activities in children's ministries with the addition of Sarah Hoffman to our staff;
- A challenging stewardship campaign seeking to extend our mission reach locally, nationally, and internationally;
- New faces in the pews and around the church from many new members who have joined and many who have given birth or received new children into their homes;
- Youth who have had tremendous mission trips this summer to Haiti and Philadelphia;
- Vesper services each Sunday evening;
- A special evening service commemorating the tenth anniversary of September 11;
- Three mission trips for adults;
- More participants in our music program with some new choir members and growing numbers of children and youth in music;
- A moving forward with our ministry to Seniors;
- Strong adult education opportunities on Sunday morning with a visit from my friend and teacher, Dr. Christopher Morse, of Union Seminary in New York; and
- Baptisms, baptisms, and more baptisms.

I do hope that you will find your way through our church in a way that fits your life (spiritual and otherwise!) and challenges you a bit. And I hope you will always be moved to invite others to share in the Christian faith as we have been given it through this wonderful congregation.

Larry



We rejoice in the marriages of:

- **John Savage Moran to Fiona McCarthy**, on July 7, 2011, in Warrenton, VA. John is the son of Don and Cathy Smyles.
- **Mary Hastings to Darrell Suto**, on August 6, 2011,
- **Danielle Nicole Carbone to William Peter Tabri**, on August 5, 2011

We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Aedan Matthew Thornblad**, born June 20, 2011 son of Corey and Matt Thornblad, and brother of Lilly.
- **Madeline Rynier Hoover**, born July 11, 2011 daughter of David and Elizabeth Hoover, and sister of Caroline.
- **Elias Moses Maddox**, born on July 26, 2011, son of Gini and Harper Maddox
- **Ivy Elizabeth Hines**, born August 20, 2011, daughter of Reisa and David Hines, sister to Felicity, Kalista and Andrew.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of **Dulcie Davidge Webster**, who died August 2, 2011.



Member Involvement News

Fall is a busy time for Westminster's national mission program. By now you have heard about our trip to Jonesville, VA to work with the Appalachia Service Project, the overnight gleaning trip to Shawsville, VA and the one day trip to Winchester for apple picking. These are flagship programs of the national mission program but there are several other activities also.

Coming up soon is the annual offering of letters sponsored by Bread for the World. Westminster is a covenant member of Bread for the World, an organization which supports food programs for poor people in the U.S. and around the world. The offering of letters is a targeted effort to let our representatives in Congress know that we don't want them to forget the poor and hungry as they go about trying to balance the various budget priorities before them. Sam Ulm and Erik Johnston are leading this effort. They will supply sample letters and the addresses for our representative and two senators. You are free to write your own letter or you can use the one provided.

We also maintain a continuing relationship with the Bdecan Presbyterian Church on the Spirit Lake Reservation in Devils Lake, ND. Westminster groups have made numerous mission trips to this Native American church. However, the rising cost of travel and the depth of their poverty (spiritual and economic) have resulted in us taking a more hands-off supportive role. Currently we are encouraging the local Presbyterian Churches to develop a youth ministry program which we will help to support. We are also engaged in developing a support network of other churches that have been involved with the Bdecan Church. While these efforts may cost nearly as much as sending a mission team once a year, we think that they will be more productive and lead to a more enduring result.

If you are interested in helping to plan these activities or to participate in one of the mission trips, you may contact the Committee at NationalMissions@wpc-alex.org. The Committee is always seeking new volunteers. Attendance at meetings is appreciated but, simply letting the Committee know of your interest will allow them to keep you informed of planned events. You can then participate in planning and implementing the events as your interest and time permits.

Meanwhile, be sure to attend the Celebrate Mission Breakfast on Sunday, August 28 at 9:00 a.m. All of Westminster's mission programs will be on display.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer

Membership Involvement Coordinator



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Flying Solo Singles 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!

Saturday, September 3: Journey to Scotland ... at the Virginia Scottish Games and Festival! Watch some caber-tossing, sheep-herding, dancing, piping, drumming and more! Look up your family's clan. Try some haggis! For those who wish to take a side trip on the way home, stop at nearby Barrel Oak Winery for a little wine-tasting. Carpools leave church at 9:00 a.m. and return in the late afternoon. Get your own ticket at the gate. Cost: \$20. Location: 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plains, VA, off Route 66 Exit #31 to Rt. 245 (Old Tavern Road). Parking is free this year!

Monday, September 12: Our September Dine-Out will take us to Aladdin's Eatery located at 4044 Campbell Ave in Shirlington. Aladdin's Middle Eastern cuisine has some great vegetarian options. If you want to carpool, come to the church parking lot by 7:00 pm. Otherwise, we'll meet at the restaurant about 7:15.

Sunday, September 18: Retreat Preview!! Come after worship for popcorn and a movie in preparation for our fall retreat on the Coen Brothers' films. We will meet at 12:15 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room to watch *A Serious Man* together. Popcorn, beverages ... and salad (for something healthy!) will be provided.

Tuesday, September 27: Our monthly Potluck is at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. We will start 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 foyer.

Deadline approaching for the Flying Solo Singles Fall Retreat:

October 14-16, 2011: Flying Solo Fall Retreat at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD. Our retreat leader Maggie Hayward will join us for a weekend entitled *"Everybody's Lookin' for Answers."* We will explore theological and spiritual themes in the Coen brothers' films as we discuss such topics as free will, forgiveness, compassion, the will of God, justice and grace, the problem of evil, and the definition of sin. Come learn about "the Gospel according to the Coen Brothers!" Registration material is available at www.wpc-alex.org/singles or by contacting Nancy at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121. **Deadline to register is Sunday, September 25!!**



Westminster Travelers



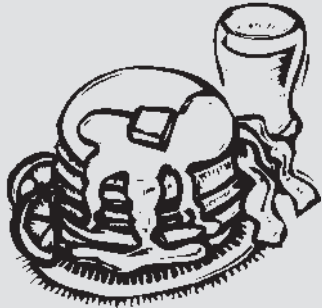
Little Theater of Alexandria:
Thursday, September 8: "Rabbit Hole"

Show starts at 8:00 pm. Please arrive early to receive your ticket. To make a reservation, contact the church office at 703-549-4766 or LPerkowski@wpc-alex.org. Open to non-church members if space is available.

For more information or to sign up for any Westminster Travelers event, please contact the church office.

Youth Kick-off Breakfast!

Sunday, September 11
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall



Enjoy a great breakfast to start off our youth program year!

Parents and siblings, please come too!

Welcome Sarah Hoffman

The Personnel Committee, with the approval of the Session, announces the hiring of Sarah Hoffman as the Children's Ministries Coordinator, effective August 1. The purpose of the half-time position is to provide leadership for and coordination of children's education and ministry at Westminster in conjunction with the Associate Pastor for Children and Families, Casey Fitzgerald. The Session funded this position beginning in 2011 as a response to the fact that in recent years our church school population has grown to over 200 children elementary school age and under. Sarah served on Session as Vice Chair of the Christian Education Committee, resigning from Session effective July 27 in order to accept the Children's Ministries position. Sarah and her husband Ian joined Westminster in 2008 and they have a young son Bastian. Sarah is a lay leader and participates in the Mary Circle, Young Adults Ministry, and Young Families ministry. Sarah graduated from the University of Virginia in 2003 and most recently was a preschool teacher at Browne Academy in Alexandria. Prior to Browne, Sarah taught Middle School English and Civics and served as a High School Sign Language teacher. In her previous church, Stone House Presbyterian in Williamsburg, Virginia, Sarah was a Worship Music Leader. The Personnel Committee believes that Sarah will bring not only her significant experience to this position at Westminster but she will also bring her enthusiasm, energy, dedication, organization and leadership to her work and to the work of our Associate Pastor, Casey Fitzgerald.

Welcome Sarah!





Music Ministries

*Praise the Lord in song for God has done excellent things
(Isaiah 1:5)
Many opportunities for all ages.*

Choir Picnic!

Saturday, September 10, Ft. Ward Park.
All are welcome!
Please call Beth Cutler for details.

New times for Children's Music Ministries

1st Rehearsal Wednesday, September 14

KINDERGARTNERS ONLY

5:15 - 5:45 p.m.

Meet & Greet

Kindergarten – 2nd grade Wednesdays, starting September 21

5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Carol Choir

5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Music Fun – NEW! Music development through games & instruments.

3rd – 5th grades

Wednesdays, starting September 21

5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Beginning Chimes and Bells

5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Alleluia Choir

Adults & older youth

Westminster Choir – leads 11:00 a.m. worship weekly

First Rehearsal:

September 8

Rehearsals:

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sundays 10:15 a.m.

Need childcare? Contact Church HOME Committee: HOMEcmte@wpc-alex.org

Westminster Ringers – intermediate/advanced handbells

First Rehearsal:

September 15

Rehearsals

Thursdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Celtic Cross Ringers – beginner/intermediate handbells

First Rehearsal:

September 12

Rehearsals:

Mondays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Youth– grades 6-12

Youth Ensemble

First Rehearsal:

To be announced; contact Paul Stetsenko for details (Pstetsenko@wpc-alex.org)

Rehearsals

Sundays 6:15 - 6:55 p.m.

Youth Handbells

First Rehearsal:

September 18

Rehearsals:

Sundays 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

ATTENTION!

People who like to have fun and would like to lead worship with beautiful music playing bells...



The Celtic Cross Ringers, under the direction of Dr. Shirley Shelley, begins its Fall 2011 rehearsals on Monday night, September 12, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a group of fun loving people, with varying musical talent, who like to participate and lead worship with beautiful music playing bells. The group needs new "ringers," both regular members and substitutes. Please contact the Church office if you are interested in ringing with the group. You can also show up at the first rehearsal on September 12. Bells and gloves are supplied! Previous experience is not necessary.

Support needed for ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution

As detailed in a front-page article in the Washington Post on June 24, the Capital Area Food Bank will begin charging their members for produce. The impact on the 700 local food agencies who rely on this food, including ALIVE!, will be dramatic.

As the article explains, the Capital Area Food Bank planned to begin charging a fee of \$.10/pound to offset food and transportation costs this July, and noted that it was \$1 million over budget this year for fresh produce. This new charge will add thousands of dollars to the ALIVE! budget.

Fresh produce distributed at ALIVE!'s three locations (Ladrey in Old Town, Cora Kelly in Arlandria, and Resurrection on Beauregard) is a crucial source of healthy food for clients each month.

Westminster members volunteering for the ALIVE! Last Saturday program at the Ladrey Senior high rise in Old Town have spent hours sorting and bagging fruits and vegetables from the Capital Area Food Bank. As volunteers know, our offerings can include staples like onions, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and lettuce and more seasonal items such as bananas, strawberries, and corn.

In a typical month, we serve 200 clients at Ladrey a minimum of 6 pounds of produce, although it can be much higher if we get heavy items (like watermelon).

How can you help? Support the upcoming stewardship campaign. Local Missions is requesting additional monies in the 2012 budget to be directed specifically for ALIVE! produce.

Clients at the Last Saturday program at Ladrey are senior citizens and others referred by Alexandria social agencies. All are grateful for this food. Your dollars will make a difference.

Louise Anderson



Focus on Missions

September 18 is Bread for the World's "Offering of Letters" Day at Westminster

Westminster will be joining churches across the nation on September 18 in a letter writing campaign to members of Congress to express support for two key programs that are most vital for Americans facing hunger and extreme poverty.

Organized by Bread for the World, the "Circle of Protection" initiative this year aims to encourage Senators and Members of the House of Representatives to continue their past strong support for Food Stamps (now called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP) and WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.) These two programs have received strong bi-partisan support over a long period of time for successfully reaching those whose health and lives are most threatened by hunger and poverty, especially young children.

The critical need for Food Stamps and WIC is exacerbated this year by the continuing economic distress, with high unemployment, and by the unusually large numbers of tornadoes that devastated many places in the country. The Food Stamp/SNAP program has a special Disaster Food Assistance Program that is activated during natural disasters. It has seen a more than 30 percent increase in program assistance in several states over the last 12 months. In one state hit hard by tornadoes, 38 percent of all residents are receiving food stamp benefits. While Congress will be addressing a large number of critical issues in the coming budgetary talks, the "Circle of Protection" initiative encourages its members to keep these two programs adequate for current and changing needs.

Westminster is a Covenant Church of Bread for the World and provides financial and other support through the National and International Mission Committees. These two groups are organizing and leading the Offering of Letters campaign.

Bread for the World always pursues bi-partisan support and solutions. It was created in 1974 to provide a "Collective Christian Voice" on issues of most concern on hunger and the poor, both in our country and abroad. Currently more than 4,000 churches and 65,000 members are working with the organization.

Bread for the World



Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God

Matthew 4:4

Mission Breakfast Celebration

Sunday, August 28 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall Hosted by the Local, National and International Missions Committees

You are invited to enjoy fellowship and show appreciation to Westminster members who support Mission activities throughout the year by giving time, talent and dedicated service. A full breakfast menu will be provided. Childcare will be available.

RSVP not necessary but appreciated to Janet Riksen, JRiksen@wpc-alex.org



**Meet
for
Breakfast**

Further information and a large number of materials will be available in Fellowship Hall on September 18, after both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. Contact Sam Ulm or Erik Johnston at NationalMission@wpc-alex.org for more information.

Three National Mission Trips planned for this Fall

Appalachian Service Project Trip

October 20-23, 2011

Only two spaces left for the Fall Mission Trip to Appalachia!

Join other Westminster members for our return visit to help those in need in Appalachia. Pack your bags, jump in a van and drive down together early Thursday morning and get back for dinner on Sunday night. Dates for the trip are October 20 through October 23, 2011.

- Travel by vans to Jonesville, Virginia
- Climate controlled lodging with bunk beds and hearty meals provided
- No building experience required
- Total cost is \$145 per person

This trip promises to be an incredible opportunity both to serve and to connect with other members of Westminster. For more information please contact Director of Missions, Janet Riksen at jriksen@wpc-alex.org.

Intergenerational Apple Gleaning Day Trip to Winchester VA

Saturday, September 17, 2011

- Perfect for all ages, especially young families looking to expose children to the importance of mission.
- Gleaned apples will be given to local shelters and food banks in Alexandria.
- Transportation details and other information available on flyers in the education wing lobby. More information about the orchard at www.markermillerorchards.com

Registration deadline is Sunday, September 11

Harvest of Hope Intergenerational Weekend Gleaning Trip

November 4-6, 2011

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. This intergenerational event is open to anyone over 10 years of age, but children must be accompanied by a parent.

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.

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 about all our mission trip opportunities, please contact: Doug Anderson (National Mission Chair) or Erik Johnston (National Mission Committee Vice Chair) at NationalMission@wpc-alex.org.

Street People Project

On the way home from work today I met Phil and Bob. They were sitting outside the Farragut West 18th Street Metro stop entrance. I was glad to meet them because in my carryall was one of the WPC Street People packets and I really didn't want to carry it home – it adds a little weight to my load. Bob pounced on the packet and Phil was disappointed because I didn't have another with me – I promised to be back tomorrow with another packet. And then Jackie, who was selling flowers, let me know she was with them, and of course she'd love a packet too. I've handed out the packets, saying that they are from my church, to street regulars who I see repeatedly, like the older woman in the wheelchair at Farragut West 17th Street, or the man in Farragut Square who looks a bit confused but looked me in the eye and thanked me for the packet. And I've now talked to a man I've passed for years who regularly sits on the sidewalk on 18th – and he looked at me (a rarity) and said he appreciated the packet. In previous years I've given people who asked for handouts packaged food or drink, but this is the first time I've given out packets that include mouthwash and information on where to go to take a shower! It's like I go on a mission trip each day on my way to and from work.

Barbara Studenmund

Family Fellowship

Young Families BBQ

Saturday, September 10

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Families are invited to join us in our annual fall barbeque at the church! Please bring a dish to share as follows (according to the first letter of your last name): A-F Salads, G-M Veggies, N-R Fruit, S-Z Desserts. We will provide burgers and hot dogs! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship and a moonbounce!

RSVPs appreciated! Please email Sarah Hoffman at shoffman@wpc-alex.org if you are able to attend!

Mornings for Moms

1st and 3rd Fridays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Starts September 16!

Creation Station 303/305

Moms and kids are invited to join us twice a month in the church for fellowship and service. We will begin on September 16 by making sandwiches for the bag lunch program. Bring your kids, a snack if you'd like, and be prepared to meet other moms in the church and make lasting friendships. Contact Casey FitzGerald with any questions.

Children and Family Ministry



Children and Parent Education

Children & Worship

Children & Worship begins Sunday, September 11. Our Children & Worship curriculum is based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. All they lack is the appropriate

language to help them identify and express it so it can be explored and strengthened. This approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. It is truly a worship-filled experience. 4 year olds will meet in their classrooms and head up to Children and Worship shortly thereafter. Kindergartners and 1st graders will leave the sanctuary for Children & Worship following the children's sermon most Sundays. (This year, we are giving our 3 year old class its own curriculum!) Contact Sarah Hoffman, Shoffman@wpc-alex.org, with questions.

Creation Station Begins (K-5th)

Open House, Sunday, September 11

9:45-10:45 a.m.

Come and enjoy treats, meet other families, do some short activities, explore the rooms, and register your children! (Parents and siblings stay with their children during the Open House.)

Sundays beginning September 18, 9:45-10:45

Join us for our first unit on Moses! Children 3rd grade and older should bring their Bibles.

We are still in need of faithful adults to serve as teachers and shepherds in Creation Station. Contact Sarah Hoffman, Shoffman@wpc-alex.org, if you are ready to answer the call!

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, September 25

11 o'clock worship

All third graders will receive their new Bibles as a part of the worship service on September 25. We will meet in the library following Creation Station for the pinning on of flowers. If your child is able to attend, please RSVP to Casey FitzGerald by September 20.

Parent and Teacher Education: The Burning Bush

Sunday, September 25, 9:45 a.m.

Creation Station

Parents, shepherds, and teachers are invited to join in on a Bible study focusing on the third chapter of Exodus—the story of Moses' encounter with the burning bush. Our children will be learning all about Exodus 3 in October ... let's prepare for church and family discussions together! Led by Casey FitzGerald and Sarah Hoffman.

Casey FitzGerald – Cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org

Sarah Hoffman – Shoffman@wpc-alex.org

For Parents

Moms Book and Bible Study

Led by Casey FitzGerald

Wednesdays, September 14 - October 5

In the Sanctuary of Women by Jan Richardson

This unit we will be studying Richardson's chapter: "A Habit of the Wildest Bounty: The Book of Brigid."

Copies still available in the library (\$15). Childcare provided!

Reading Assignments

September 14: pp. 65-78

Sept 21: pp. 79-92

Sept 28: pp. 93-100

October 5: 101-110

Join a Small Group!

Have you been yearning for a deeper sense of community at Westminster? Hoping to engage your faith in a more meaningful and challenging way? Want to experience growth in your spiritual life? Parents are invited to join small groups this year, coordinated and guided by Casey FitzGerald. This opportunity will be open to young adults who are single or married, with or without children. (Don't think you are a "young adult"? Remember, Westminster is very generous with this term ... thankfully.)

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of our small groups in the coming program year. Groups of 4-7 participants will be formed. Some of these groups will be split by gender. There will be a number of small group options (with different commitment levels) presented at the information session. Come to the information session to learn more—sign-ups will happen in the days that follow, so you will be under no obligation to join.

Our information session will be held on **Sunday, September 18** at 9:45 a.m. in Room 103/105. **Groups will begin in October.**

Contact Casey FitzGerald with any questions at Cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.



Faith on Tap

Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.
Creativity and Faith

Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.
Sexuality

Location TBD

Small Groups Information Session

September 18, 9:45-10:45 a.m.,
Room 103/105

Young adults are invited to participate in small groups this fall. There will be a number of options presented at our information session. If you cannot make the session but want to sign up or learn more, please email Casey FitzGerald, Cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org. See small group description under the Children and Family section for more information.

All-Church Potluck with Youth Mission Trip Presentation

Sunday, October 2
12 Noon in Fellowship Hall.

A-M last names bring a main or side dish.

N-Z last names bring a salad or dessert.

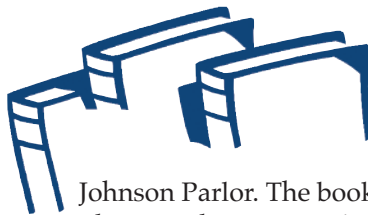
(bring your dish to Fellowship Hall before worship)

Beverages and bread will be provided.

Enjoy the fellowship of church friends and hear all about the youth summer mission trips!

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.



Johnson Parlor. The book for **October 24** will be *Sacred Hearts*, a novel about a reluctant nun in 16th century Italy. There is no sign up to attend. Contact discussion leader Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766#120, or cvandewater@wpc-alex.org for further information.

Women's Book Groups

All women are invited to discuss *Cutting for Stone*, a novel about doctors practicing medicine in Ethiopia, by Abraham Verghese, MD, on Monday, **September 26**. Come to a discussion at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the

Women's Circles

We have six friendship circles meeting at various times and all women are invited to join one. All will meet monthly starting in September to study the Beatitudes and share fellowship. Details are in fliers in the literature rack or online under "Presbyterian Women" on our church website. You may also contact moderator Bonnie Nasr at PW@wpc-alex.org or staff member Clara Beth Van de Water.



Women's Work Day

All women are invited to come to the Haverkamp Room at 9:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, September 7** to make heart pillows and stuffed toys for Alexandria Hospital. No RSVP is needed. Contact coordinator Nancy McIver or Clara Beth Van de Water for details.

Women's Fall Gathering on "Everyday Spirituality"

A program on "Everyday Spirituality" will be given by guest Bonnie Davis, Spiritual Nurture Coordinator for Presbyterian Women, National Capital Presbytery, on **Wednesday, October 5**, at 7:30 p.m., Haverkamp Room. Bonnie has a Master's from Wesley Seminary. Bonnie will give us a presentation and invite attendees to think about where God is in our daily lives - in the good, cluttered, transitional, grieving, and praying times, etc. - offering the opportunity to share if desired. She will offer insights on how to maintain a spiritual life in difficult times. She knows firsthand of what she speaks, as she is dealing with the death of her mother and celebrating the birth of her granddaughter, and finds herself in a time of transition. All women friends and members of WPC are invited. Dessert will be offered after by Presbyterian Women circles.



Women's Retreat

Women's Retreat

A retreat for women will be held **March 16-18, 2012**, at Hallowood Retreat Center, an hour away.

The theme will be "Celtic", as March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. The leaders will be WPC staffers Nancy Hall Berens and Clara Beth Van de Water.

An Opportunity to Learn the Bible

DISCIPLE

There's still time to sign up for our DISCIPLE course.
Join us for the first class on **September 1**.

- Meeting times:** Every Thursday evening
7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
September 1, 2011—May 31, 2012
Except: November 24, December 22 and 29, April 5
Haverkamp Room
- Those eligible:** WPC members, visitors, friends
General public
People who have taken DISCIPLE before
- Commitment:** Thirty minutes of reading a day
Ability to attend 28 of 34 weekly sessions
- Cost:** \$30 for purchase of manual
\$30 for purchase of *New Interpreter's Study Bible: NRSV*
Scholarships and payment plans available
Manuals and Bibles will be distributed September 1

Sign up with LeAnne Perkowski, Lperkowski@wpc-alex.org
or Larry Hayward, Lhayward@wpc-alex.org

We will have a brief "information session" on DISCIPLE following
worship August 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

Be Part of a Music Ministry for Seniors/Homebound

Music experienced in worship is one of God's gifts of love and beauty that reaches and touches us spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

Sacred music can become an important part of our lives. It can lift and heal our spirits, providing a common thread that connects us deeply to one another and to the Holy. Yet at some point, illness or advancing age may make it difficult to experience sacred music at Church, leaving an empty place in hearts and lives.

To help fill this void, the Worship & Music Committee is supporting a Music Ministry for seniors and those who are homebound that will begin this Fall under the leadership of Carolyn Carmack, with the assistance of Eileen Jinks, Pastoral Care Coordinator:

- Anyone in the Church is welcome to join in singing hymns/sacred music or play instruments for our homebound members
- Initially, one Sunday afternoon a month, and one Monday a month (during the day) starting in October -- visit one or two homes or nursing/retirement communities to sing (primary audience is Westminster members)
- Informational/organizational meeting Sunday, September 11, after the 11:00 AM Worship Service
- Possibly expand to two weekdays a month
- Possibly expand to the playing of musical instruments at visits (initially visits will be singing Hymns)
- Potential to expand to small programs of music at nursing or retirement facilities

If you are interested in being part of this great opportunity sharing the gift of sacred music through this exciting new Music Ministry, please contact Carolyn Carmack by email: Ccarmack@wpc-alex.org, or by phone at the Church: 703-549-4766, Ext. 115.

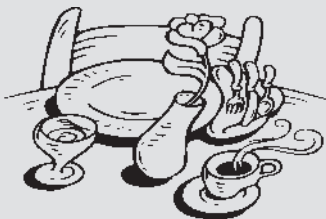
Tables for 8

Do you enjoy fine dining? Do you like to make new friends? Do you appreciate fellowship and camaraderie with others at Westminster? Then Tables for 8 is for YOU!

Sponsored by Congregational Life, Tables for 8 have been building deeper bonds among Westminster members since 1995. Following our kick-off potluck at church on **Saturday, September 24** at 6:30 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room, each group of eight to nine will meet independently for the remainder of the year. Normally, most groups try to meet once every four to six weeks in members' homes for dinner. The host or hostess prepares the main meat dish, while other members of the group bring the remaining courses to be shared by all.

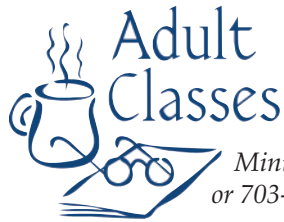
There is no program to prepare. Just come and enjoy one another's company and create lasting bonds with fellow Westminster members. This activity is for any adult of any age--both singles and couples.

To sign up, please e-mail or call Janet Harris. You may also sign up in person during fellowship hour on Sundays, September 4, 11 and 18. We look forward to having many new participants as well as returning members this fall. Mark your calendar now for September 24!



Tables for Eight

Adult Education



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

"The Kingdom of God in America: A Fresh Look at H. Richard Niebuhr's Depression-Era Classic"

September 11-October 2, Haverkamp Room

Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Professor, Political Science, Georgetown University; Director, Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

These lectures will examine 20th century Yale Professor H. Richard Niebuhr's theological and sociological views of America's place in history in his now classic 1938 book, in light of the many changes in the U.S. and the return to hard economic times.

"Theology in Art"

September 11-25, Westminster Room

Rev. Larry Golemon, PC(USA), Research Consultant in Theological Education

Explore, reflect, and discuss theological and spiritual dimensions of the visual arts through portrayals of the fundamental themes of God, Jesus, Spirit, and Church.

"Introduction to Romans"

October 2-November 20, Westminster Room

Elders Kathy Harkness, M.A., and Connie Ring, J.D., DISCIPLE graduates, Experienced Group Bible Study Leaders

Learn about and discuss the foundational document of ALL Christian theology - Paul's letter, including the relationships between God and Christ and Christians and Jews, as well as later theologians' interpretations - through reading, video, presentation, and discussion. *Please note* this class begins earlier than the others, at 9:30, and participants may purchase a \$12.00 study guide at the class.

"Facing Tomorrow's Challenges –Today"

October 9, Haverkamp Room

Admiral Margaret Kibben, Deputy Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Armed Services; PC(USA) minister

Hear about our armed services' commitment to our country and willingness to sacrifice, even through ten years of war, and the critical need to care for them and their families.

“Christianity in China: Reflections on the Missions and Challenges of the Church in a Communist Society”

October 16-30, Haverkamp Room

The Rev. Dr. John Yieh, PC(USA), Professor of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary

China is now a major global power with one fifth of the world's population, where living under communism presents particular challenges for Christians, including the background of missions, development of Chinese-style Christianity, and the gospel and politics.

“Responding to Cataclysms: Examples from Earth's Past”

November 6, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Victor Zabielski, Geology Department Chair, Northern Virginia Community College

The geologic record shows ancient cataclysms and climate changes, but climate has been relatively stable for 10,000 years. Most scientists believe we are beginning a new phase of climate change. What can we learn from the past to help us with the future of our planet?

“Making Sense of Evolution: Darwin, God, and the Drama of Life”

November 13, Haverkamp Room

Dr. John Haught, Senior Fellow, Science and Religion, Woodstock Theological Center, Georgetown University

Can so-called “evolutionary naturalism” explain the drama of life, or is there a place for theology and religion? Hear Haught discuss this subject of his recent book (copies available to purchase).

“Church Going Is Not a Spectator Sport”

November 20, Haverkamp Room

WPC Foundation Board Members

Learn how you can commit to your church by leaving a legacy of support that makes a difference, including specifics of planned giving and endowments.

“Parables in Matthew for Advent Reflection”

November 27-December 11, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Professor of Theology, Georgetown University

Listen to reflections on the parable stories Jesus told which move us from his Jewish roots to faith in Jesus as The Christ or Messiah and point us to his Final Coming, and especially to the key parable of the sheep and the goats, which summarizes all of Jesus' parabolic teaching.

“The Difference Heaven Makes”

December 18, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Christopher Morse, Professor of Theology Union Theological Seminary, New York

Dr. Morse, a former teacher of Dr. Hayward, will lead a special program. Two of his books made it into Dr. Hayward's recent sermons, *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Belief*, and *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearsing the Gospel as News*. His presentation will focus mainly on the latter.

Adult Sunday School Class



Service of Memory and Thanksgiving

September 11, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Westminster

Presbyterian Church

Reflections:

What Have We Learned?

Paul H. Bea, Jr.

Secretary of the Board
Families of September 11

Rear Admiral Margaret Grun
Kibben,

Chaplain, United States Marine
Corps, Deputy Chief of Naval
Chaplains

The Honorable Michael B. Donley
Secretary of the Air Force

Sermon:

The Field at Anathoth

Larry R. Hayward
Jeremiah 32:1-8



Interfaith Trip to Israel with the Agudas Achim Congregation

February 15-27, 2012



For many years, Westminster Presbyterian Church and our neighbors at the Agudas Achim Congregation have enjoyed a strong interfaith relationship. In 2012, we are able to build on that relationship with an interfaith trip to Israel. Rev. Larry Hayward and Rabbi Jack Moline will lead the group from both congregations.

Our trip will have many highlights, including:

- Tour of Zichron Yaacov, Israel's first Pioneer "settlement" in the 1800s
- The mystical city of Safed and the Golan Heights (Jeep tour)
- Sea of Galilee including Capernaum, the Mountain of Beatitudes, and the Nof Ginsar (an ancient boat from the time of Jesus)
- A class on Israel's ethnic diversity at Nazareth College and discussion with students
- Nazareth and the Church of the Annunciation
- Tours of Mt. Carmel, Megiddo and Caesaria
- Tel Aviv: Founding of the Modern State with a tour of their Independence Hall
- Driving Israel's electric cars
- U.S. Embassy tour and meeting with the Ambassador
- Gaza to learn about life under "fire" and visit the bomb museum
- Recite the traditional prayer of gratitude – the Shehechyanu- while overlooking the city of Jerusalem
- Ash Wednesday services at Via Dolorsa and the Church of Holy Sepulchre
- The world's first Holocaust Memorial Museum – Yad Vashem
- Har Herzl National Military Cemetery and Herzl Museum "experience"
- Archeological "dig" in Emek Tzurim
- Optional "Dead Sea Day" including Masada tour, lunch and float in the sea or a visit to Bethlehem
- Special tour of Jerusalem's newest underground excavations in the ancient city of King David
- Festive breakfasts, lunches and dinners

We are working with the travel agency Travels and DIALOGUES, Inc. to coordinate with members and friends from Westminster and Agudas Achim. Our itinerary and the registration form, including pricing information, can be found on our website, www.wpc-alex.org. Please send all registrations and payments to the travel agency directly.

If you have any questions, please contact Larry Hayward. We hope you consider joining us on this trip of a lifetime.

Notes From the Stewardship Committee



The Stewardship Committee would like to thank you, the Members of Westminster, for your strong financial commitment during this current calendar year of 2011. Through your pledging, the Congregation supports a beautifully-maintained Church home, a tremendously-talented Church staff and multiple educational and fellowship opportunities for its members; furthermore, Westminster's giving has had a meaningful impact on our local, national and international communities through the many mission efforts in which we participate and lead.

As we begin the preparations for the 2012 Stewardship Campaign, we would like to highlight several examples of programs that benefit from Westminster pledging:

Building Maintenance and Repairs

Funds help keep our building and its grounds safe, beautiful, comfortable, and well-maintained. Expenses have included chapel exterior painting, fellowship hall refrigerator and freezer repairs, fire system inspection/service, elevator maintenance contract, parking lot restriping and driveway repair and lawn care.

Utilities and Phone

Keeping the building cool, the water running, and the lines of communication open are critical day-to-day operations that couldn't be accomplished without the congregation's financial support.

Adult Education Teachers

The wide array of adult educational opportunities offered at Westminster help us to grow more in the Christian faith, and skilled instructors help us to seek a greater appreciation of the gospel.

Background Checks

Funds support background checks for all volunteers who work with children at Westminster.

Carpenter's Shelter

Located in Alexandria, Carpenter's Shelter provides emergency shelter to families and single adults who have become homeless. The first Monday of every month, Westminster members provide and deliver food to the shelter's residents.

Guest House

Westminster supports the Guest House in providing housing and services for women coming out of jail or prison who need support to transition successfully back into their lives and communities.

Bag Lunch Program

The Bag Lunch program feeds the hungry weekdays Monday through Friday at Meade Memorial Church in Old Town, Alexandria. Westminster serves there about four days a month.

Shared Mission Giving

Westminster, along with the other churches in the Presbytery, contributes to the mission programs of the Presbytery and larger Church.

It is important to note that these are but a few of the many meaningful programs that our financial commitment supports. Thank you for your *Cheerful Giving!*



the Chronicle

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

Summer Sunday worship 10:00 a.m.

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Officer Nominees

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, August 28 following worship to elect two Elders to fill unexpired terms.

Sean Heather is nominated as Elder to fill an unexpired term (Class of 2011). Since Sean and his wife Celeste joined Westminster in 2007, he has been active in many mission activities including ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter, and heading up the project to send cards to our military overseas. He also co-chaired the Mission Council which reviewed where WPC stood, and where we can go, with our mission efforts. Sean believes there is much our church can do in this area, that we need "to find a way to really engage the congregation and increase participation." The Heathers have a 3-year-old, William, and enjoy the church's young families' activities and helping with children's ministries. Sean is executive director of the Global Regulatory Cooperation Project at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and likes golfing, yard work and gardening in his spare time.

Suzanne Neureiter is nominated as Elder to fill an unexpired term (Class of 2011). She and husband Paul chose to join Westminster in 1993 because they found our church "gave the most to carry with us through the week." Suzanne has a Ph.D. in English literature and has taught in college in the U.S. and in China, one of the places in Asia she and her family have lived. The Neureiters have three children, Elizabeth (15), Chris (12), and Laura (6) all of whom are active with children and youth at WPC. Suzanne has volunteered in a wide range of these activities including nursery aide, Creation Station teacher, and Children in Worship. She has been a member of the Nominating Committee, enjoyed the fellowship of women's circles, and is a regular at the adult Christian Education classes. She also works with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, likes to garden and read, and especially enjoys camping with her family.

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS