



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

Dinner and Dessert Auction February 26, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

RSVP to LeAnne Perkowski.

Dinner is \$5 per person, with a
\$20 family maximum.

More information inside this edition!

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the Chronicle

February 17, 2011 - volume 43, number 7

From the Pastor's Study *A Message From Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt* **Prayers of the People**

In recent years, I have dabbled and occasionally immersed myself in the ancient practice of fixed hour prayer. This discipline of praying traditional liturgies at set times during the day predates and is certainly not exclusive to Christianity, but throughout our faith's history it has strengthened and united the body of Christ, the church. Aided by Phyllis Tickle's *Divine Hours* prayer manuals, I have thrilled in sharing the ordered prayers of the church with those present and past. I will confess, however, that my adherence to this practice has mirrored the naïve enthusiasm I have upon rejoining the gym: an initial burst of disciplined and joyful exercise, followed by a missed day here, a missed day there, and before I know it, weeks have passed with nary a tread on the mill.

Prayer is not a discipline. It is an ongoing conversation, rooted in trust but expressive of doubts and pains, with the God who is present to us always, even when we do not pray. But discipline can greatly aid our prayers. Just as all of our church's organization and "order" are not the aim of our faith, but provide the structure for vital faith to exist, so too can discipline create a space for us to remain rooted in prayerful conversation with God, not just on Sunday mornings, and not just when we have "time" to pray or are in the proper "mood." Structure is not the point, but it can help us there. Such discipline cannot thrive in the vacuum of individual spiritual "practices." It needs community. It needs those able to pray to do so on behalf of those who cannot. It needs the Spirit of God to breathe when "two or three" are gathered in Jesus' name.

And so, I am eager to find others in the church who desire to join together in disciplined prayer – for their sake, and the sake of the church local and universal as we share the good news with the world. My ideas are only half-formed, and this form of prayer is not for everyone (nor is it the only valid form of prayer). Yet I am eager for those of you who share my hunger and thirst to contact me so that we can take some humble and uncertain steps towards experiencing prayer as a "place as well as an action ... like small chapels or wayside stations within the day's courses" (Tickle, in *The Divine Hours Pocket Edition*). Give me a call, or shoot me an email. And let's pray.

Yours, In Christ,

Patrick



We recently welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

Langley Ann Dalton, born on January 19, 2011 to Aimee & Trevin Dalton, sister of Hewen

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of former Westminster member **Walt Porteous**, who died on February 7 in Clearwater, FL. His memorial service was held on February 15 at Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield, VA. Burial took place at Fairfax Memorial Garden.



Member Involvement News

Beginning this month I will be writing a series of articles highlighting the role of volunteers in the functioning of our congregation. When you look at our logo you see that we have four areas of emphasis: worship, mission, fellowship, and education. This month I will focus on the role of volunteers in our worship program.

The worship service is a primary function of the congregation. Our worship staff (pastors and music director), are responsible for the planning and conduct of the service. The planning (especially for major services such as Easter and Advent/Christmas) begins weeks in advance. The outline of the service is completed early in the week for each service. Once this outline is prepared the bulletin and announcements are prepared. This is where the work of the volunteers begins.

The first step in the process is to print the bulletins and inserts (announcements and prayer requests) for both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. For many years this task has been performed by Sharon Longabaugh who volunteers a couple of hours each Thursday to printing the 400 - 500 bulletins and inserts. On the few occasions when she is not available Molly Roden or I will fill in. On Friday morning a volunteer (usually Joan McCulla) comes in to stuff the inserts into each bulletin. In addition to the usual church activity announcements and prayer concerns, there are frequently other inserts such as for Joy Gift or One Great Hour of Sharing.

Prior to the service a volunteer (mostly Carolyn Carmack) prepares the Chapel and the Sanctuary. There are many tasks involved in this step. The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary and the Paraments (communion table cover and pulpit markers) are checked and changed according to the liturgical calendar. Markers are placed at the appropriate place in the pulpit Bible and water bottles are provided for the pastors/lay leaders. The sound system is turned on and checked. The candles are checked to be sure they will last through the service, the piano is uncovered, and pews are reserved as needed for baptisms, communion servers, bell or youth choir, etc.

Dozens of volunteers participate in each service. Four ushers are needed for the early service and another nine for the 11:00 a.m. service. The choir is composed entirely of volunteers. These 40 plus individuals practice at least an hour and a half each Thursday night and warm-up half an hour before the 11:00 a.m. service. For special services such as Easter, they participate in both services.

After the service the volunteers clean up the sanctuary. The ushers collect the pew pads and pass them to the church office. Then another volunteer goes through each pew to straighten hymnbooks and bibles as well as the envelopes and cards in each pew. Meanwhile, another crew of volunteers is counting the offering.

If there is a communion service, a team of volunteers prepares the elements and places them in the sanctuary. For baptisms, the baptismal fount is prepared. For other services the candelabra are positioned and each candle checked. For candle light services the baskets of candles are prepared and after the service the wax is cleaned from the candles and candle holders. A team of volunteers is also needed to decorate the church for seasonal services, such as Advent/Christmas, and to remove the decorations when the season is over.

All of this volunteer effort is required to make the weekly worship service run smoothly. The Worship Committee, under the leadership of Rosa Fullerton worship@gmail.com, is always open to more volunteers to help with these activities. Please contact Rosa if you have an interest in helping to fulfill our "Worship Well" motto.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer

Member Involvement Coordinator



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

Flying Solo is a group for single adults more or less 40's and above belonging to the life and ministry of Westminster Presbyterian Church. For information on our group and up-coming events, visit our page on

the church website www.wpc-alex.org/singles or contact Nancy Hall Berens at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org to learn more!

Tuesday, February 22: Our monthly Potluck meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. Come make sandwiches for Bag Lunch (materials will be provided) then enjoy dinner together. Please bring a dish to share and a can of food for ALIVE!

Sunday, March 6: Roundtable Lunch and Discussion after church at 12:15 p.m. in the Westminster Room. Our speaker will be Amey Upton, Westminster member and graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary. Amey will tell us about her personal journey with the Faith and Politics Institute which she has been involved with for many years. Its mission, as stated on the website, is to "advance reflective leadership among members of Congress and congressional staff to bridge the divides that arise in a thriving democracy." Amey will lead us in a discussion about dialoguing with others in faith who have different views on difficult issues. Our discussion will also touch on how faith and work integrate into our daily lives. It will be an interesting perspective on life, faith, politics and work in Washington! Learn more about this organization at www.faithandpolitics.org. Lunch will be provided. No RSVP needed.

Monday, March 14: "Waiting for Good Food?" Our monthly Dine-Out in March will be at the newest spot in Shirlington called Samuel Beckett's Irish Gastro Pub at 2800 S. Randolph St. Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. to carpool, or meet us there at 7:15. Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day a few days early!

Tuesday, March 22: Time for another Potluck starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor!

Westminster Travelers



Thursday, February 24, 7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Little Theatre
Production of "Widdershins"

Thursday, March 17, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. March Lunch and Program at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Avenue, Alexandria. We hope you can join us for this time of fellowship and food with friends from all over Alexandria, sponsored by our friends at Good Shepherd.

April 25-27 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Trip, There is a fantastic overnight trip scheduled for Pittsburgh, highlighting tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, Cabaret Dinner Show and more. The total cost is \$399 per person. Registration and a deposit of half the trip cost are due as soon as possible.

Saturday, March 26 People Enjoying People Line Dancing Trip Members and friends of any age are invited to attend our trip to Nick's! Meet there at 7:00 p.m. for dinner, 7:45 p.m. Line Dancing Lessons, then stay to dance as long as you like! Nick's is located at 642 S. Pickett Street in Alexandria.

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.

Meals Team Needs You

Do you like to cook? Are you a whiz at take-out meals? The Deacon-sponsored Meals Team is looking for you. The team springs into action when a member of the congregation could benefit from having a meal delivered to their home. Whether it's a family with a new baby, someone recovering from a hospitalization, or some other need, receiving a simple meal can be a tremendous blessing.

If you are interested in joining the team or would like additional information, please contact Susan Griffith at MealsTeam@wpc-alex.org.



Why We Do What We Do...Ash Wednesday

by Paul Stetsenko

According to the Western religious calendar, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent that occurs forty-six days before Easter. The forty days of Lent traditionally signify the forty days which Jesus spent in the desert fasting and praying (that is, forty-six days minus six Sundays).

The festival of Ash Wednesday and the accompanying ritual of marking the forehead of those in attendance with the cross is a relatively recent development in Christian worship practices. In fact, these did not exist in the Classical Christianity and thus never transpired in the Orthodox Church. This observance originated in the Catholic Church about a thousand years ago. It is important to trace the history of this festival and the practice so that today we understand their meaning.

The ritual of imposition of ashes is an outgrowth of the ancient ritual of blessing with Myrrh Oil, described - and prescribed - in the Old Testament. The two striking instances of myrrh oil's use in the New Testament only validate the tremendous importance of this spiritual action: a woman pours myrrh oil onto Jesus' head and is then chastised by Judas for being extravagant; and also the myrrh-bearing women bring aromatic oil to the grave and are the first to see the empty tomb.

In the Classical Christianity, blessing with "myron" (olive oil mixed with myrrh and other aromatic substances as described in Exodus 30) signified the continuity of royal priesthood, a seal of the covenants, and a gift of spiritual healing. The Greek word for ointment ("chrisma") is closely related to the word Christ ("Christos"), "the anointed one." Blessing with "myron" emphasizes the divine nature of humanity, the biblical proclamation that humanity was made in Christ's image. In this form, the Orthodox Church has practiced this observance for the past 15 centuries, every Sunday.



After the Great Schism of 1054 AD, when numerous theological and liturgical innovations and changes in the West resulted in the branching off of the Roman Catholic Church from the main trunk of the Classical Christianity, a new ritual was developed in the West. This ritual grafted the use of ashes onto the ritual of Myrrh Blessing, giving it an antithetical meaning. Contrary to the imposition of the myrrh oil, imposition of the ashes emphasized the lower nature of humanity: "Remember, O man, that you are dust, and unto dust you

ASH Wednesday

shall return.” (Genesis 3). Unlike the Blessing with Myrrh Oil, the use of ashes is not explicitly prescribed in the Bible. In the biblical narrative, its use is mostly in the category of the poetic rather than the prescriptive. “O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes” (Jeremiah 6). “I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes” (Daniel 9). This poetic formula resonates from the Book of Genesis all the way to the Letter to the Hebrews. It is interesting that Jesus in his teachings denounced the dramatic outward signs of penitential practices: “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. [...] But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” In the Eastern Church, which is focused in the “orthodoxy of the heart,” the beginning of Lent became a festive and celebratory occasion. The common term for the season, “The Clean Week”, refers to the leaving behind the sinful attitudes and starting one’s life anew by asking forgiveness of one’s neighbor – in this way, the faithful begin Lent with a clean conscience, with forgiveness, and with renewed Christian love within a community. The Western Church, centered in the “orthodoxy of the mind,” adapted the outward expressions of personal penitence on Ash Wednesday. Be it personal or communal commemoration, the beginning of Lent is the time when the flower of repentance and forgiveness begins to open.

During the Reformation, certain observances cultivated by the Catholics were either tacitly inherited or vehemently rejected. The Magisterial branch - Lutherans, Methodists, and Anglicans - has retained many a practice of the liturgical church, including Ash Wednesday and imposition of ashes. The Radical branch – Calvinists, Anabaptists, Baptists, Adventists, and Pentecostals – rejected such practices as “papist.” In the 20th century, many olden practices and commemorations made an understated and low-pitched comeback. This included the display of plain crosses, the use of organs and other musical instruments in worship, hymns that are not explicitly Psalms, the paraments, stained glass, elaborate furnishings with symbolic images, and yes, the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday – all of which had been anathema to the Presbyterians less than 150 years ago. One may only hope that the 1500 year old ritual of Blessing with Myrrh Oil will also become a standard liturgical practice of the third millennium Presbyterian Church.

Westminster Softball Team: SIGN UP TODAY!



Calling all willing and able men and women of Westminster—softball season is approaching! We are trying to put a team together to play in the Alexandria church league. If you’d like to participate on our new softball team, just email Casey FitzGerald (cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org). Russ Lowery will be our team coordinator once the season begins! We need to send our initial team roster by March 11, so please respond a.s.a.p. The first game will be on April 4! (There will be a nominal fee, TBD.)



Potluck Brunch

March 6, Haverkamp Room following the 11:00 worship service.

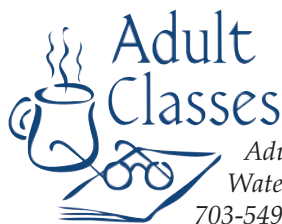
Faith on Tap

(Date Change): FOURTH Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. Capitol City Brewing Company (Shirlington)

Young Adults Lenten Practice

Writing Our Prayers

Join Casey in a 40-day prayer writing practice using the book *Writing to God: 40 Days of Praying with My Pen*. The author is a friend of Casey's. It is a wonderful book! We will meet twice to discuss. Our first session will meet at Ramparts following the Ash Wednesday service on March 9 (8:30ish). Our second session will meet Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. (Ramparts). Come and discuss the meaning and power of prayer in your life! To reserve a copy of the book, please email Casey FitzGerald. Copies will be located in the church library for pick-up.)



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.

"Caring For Your Aging Parents"

February 20, Westminster Room

Ms. Barbara Allen, recently retired Geriatric Social Worker, Arlington County Department of Social Services

Have you been caring for or helping with an aging parent or other close relative or friend? Learn about the many resources available to help older seniors and their adult children or other caregivers from a social worker with thirty-four years experience who also cared for her own mother.

"A Conversation About Prayer"

February 27 – March 13, Haverkamp Room

Mrs. Amey Upton, Master of Divinity; Wesley Theological Seminary, Westminster Elder.

Explore the Bible and prayer, as well as later historical models of prayer. See what Reformer John Calvin and the Presbyterian Book of Worship offer on prayer, learn how to do centering prayer and "lectio divina".

"Opportunities in Cross-Cultural Encounters"

February 27 – March 13, Westminster Room

Rev. Jacques Hadler, Adjunct Professor, Virginia Theological Seminary

In our multi-cultural society, we encounter people from other cultural and religious backgrounds in churches, schools, stores, hospitals, retirement homes, offices, as household help, etc. How can we foster communication and assimilation, using cross-cultural opportunities for personal and faith development?

"Talking With Children About Death"

March 13, Room 103/105

Dr. Rene Hackney, Founder of Parenting Playgroups, author of *Eight Weeks to Positive Discipline*

Parents and grandparents are invited to a discussion of how to dialogue with children about death with "Dr. Rene", who has a doctorate in developmental psychology.

"Unpacking Handel's Messiah"

March 20 – April 10, Haverkamp Room

Enhance your appreciation of the beauty of Handel's "Messiah" and deepen your understanding of its message. These sessions will illuminate Parts I - Lent, and II - Christ's Resurrection and Final Triumph.

“Luther, the Christian Tradition, and the Birth of Secularism”

March 20, Westminster Room

Dr. Jacques Berlinerblau, Professor of Jewish Civilization, Georgetown University

Reformer Martin Luther is one of the major architects of modern secularism. Luther’s “*On Secular Authority*” is a pivotal document between the early Christian thought of Paul and Augustine; and the later thought of Locke, Jefferson, and Madison, through whom Luther’s influence became part of American history.

“The Mystery of the Trinity”

March 27 – April 10, Westminster Room.

Mr. Jeffrey Hensley, Master of Theology, Yale University; Director of Development, The Internet Society.

Learn the historical development of the Trinity doctrine, including disputes between Eastern and Western Christianity. Explore contemporary understandings that may illuminate the mystery of “Three in One” for personal faith, developing a more vibrant sense of the Holy Spirit in one’s life.

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.



Pavilion of Women, a Pearl Buck classic.

Book Discussion

All women are invited to discuss *Half Broke – A True Life Story* by Jeanette Walls on Monday, February 28, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. The March 28 selection is *The*

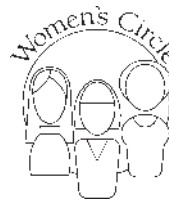
Work Day

Women are invited to sew pillows for heart patients and stuffed toys for children at Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, March 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

Friendship Circles

We have six women’s groups which meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. All support mission projects of their own choice.

Find details at www.wpc-alex.org/presbyterianwomen or from a pink flyer in the education building foyer literature rack. There is a friendship circle for you!



Retreat “Hearts on Fire: Our Journey of Faith”

Modern life has become fast and sometimes passionless. Regular spiritual practices can be seen as time consuming and sometimes boring, not in tune with our electronic world. Yet we long for an opportunity to retreat and feel closer to God. Come retreat to Hallwood where you can find inspiration and experience practices that support and deepen your faith in the God who loves and is present to us.

This retreat will be held April 8-10, Friday evening through Sunday noon, at the Hallwood Retreat Center in Maryland, an hour away. The leader will be Dr. Melissa Kirkpatrick, a religious historian and educator, who is a member of The Reformed Institute’s Company of Teachers.

Registration forms with details can be found on the Presbyterian Women page of the website and in the literature rack in the Education Wing lobby beginning on Sunday, February 20.

Committees of the Session 2011

Administration and Finance:

David Hill (11), Randy Davis (13),
Chris Van Horne (13)

Building and Grounds:

Bill Eckert (12)

Christian Education:

Lauren Sigler (11), Sarah Hoffman (11)

Church HOME:

Dave Aland (12), Christine Eustis (11)

Communications:

Mara Winn (11), Cynthia Allen

Congregational Life:

Pat Prospero (12)

International Mission:

Rob Lalka (13), Melissa McClellan (13)

Local Mission:

Rita Grazda (11), Tom Paulsen (13)

National Mission:

Doug Anderson (12),
Erik Johnston (13)

New Member:

Patty Chamberlain (11)

Nominating:

Eric Weiss (12), Anne Pickett

Personnel:

Susan Cloud (12), Debbie Wells (13)

Stewardship:

Mary Olsen (12), Duncan Campbell

Worship:

Rosa Fullerton (13), Molly Roden (11)

Youth Elder:

Jena Lockard (11), Rebecca Stone (11)

Church Officers

On January 30, new church officers were ordained and installed. Listed below are the current church officers and boards.

SESSION

Larry Hayward,
Moderator
Mike McAdoo,
Clerk of Session
Barbara Studenmund
and David Hoover,
Co-Vice Clerks

Elder Class of 2013

Randy Davis
Rosa Fullerton
Erik Johnston
Rob Lalka
Melissa McClellan
Tom Paulsen
Chris Van Horne
Debbie Wells

Elder Class of 2012

David Aland
Doug Anderson
Susan Cloud
Bill Eckert
Mary Olsen
Pat Prospero
Eric Weiss

Elder Class of 2011

Patty Chamberlain
Christine Eustis
Rita Grazda
David Hill
Sarah Hoffman
Jena Lockard
Molly Roden
Lauren Brown Sigler
Rebecca Stone
Mara Winn

Terry Grindstaff,
Treasurer
Rob Winn,
Assistant Treasurer
(elected by the Session)

DIACONATE

Eileen Jinks,
Staff Liaison

Deacon Class of 2013

Chris Bagley
Kim Davis
Amy Hawkins
John Koon
Marbeth Paulsen
Nancy Pitcher
Betsy Smith
Sam Ulm
Nancie Williams

Deacon Class of 2012

Beth Cutler
Karin Edgell
Mary Filicetti
Tom Gangi
Susan Griffith
Wendy Lockard
Elizabeth Martineau
Shirley Miles
Emily Springer
Sheff Richey

Deacon Class of 2011

Donna Blackburn
Margie Carpenter
Laurie Chidlow
Steven Holton
Chris Matthews
Jeanne Pruitt-White
Kay Torpey
Fred Woods
Wanda Worsham
Lisa Zickar

Trustees

Anne Soens 2011,
Stephen Lastelic 2012,
Becky Jo Moore 2013

Foundation Board:

(elected by the Session)

Class of '11:

Rita Grazda
Andrew Klein
Mike McAdoo

Class of '12:

Terry Grindstaff
Bill Keeth
Doug Todd
Bill Watts

Class of '13:

Sherrie Cathcart
Steve Cathcart
Don Fowler
Howard Kitzmiller

Nominating

Committee:

Elected by the

Congregation:

Bea Hurt
John Runyan
Don Smyles
Barbara Watts

Representing the

Session:

Eric Weiss,
Anne Pickett

Representing the

Diaconate:

Wendy Lockard

Coming HOME

Susan and I joined Westminster in the early 90s, only to be transferred away by the Navy a couple of years after that. Five years and three assignments later, we were given a choice – and we chose the Pentagon, much to the surprise of the assignment officer. “It’s close to home.” we told people. “Do you have family there?” they’d ask. “Yes,” we’d say, “we have a church.”

In almost 30 years, Sue and I moved over 15 times. As the years passed, our original hometowns changed, grew, and became less familiar. Each new assignment brought a new potential home for us, and there was always a Presbyterian Church where we would put down roots. The plaque on our kitchen wall may say “Home is where the Navy sends you”, but for us, home was always in the congregation we joined.

Coming back to the area was really about coming home to Westminster for us. Home is where friends and family are, and it’s where you live and laugh, work and play, break bread and break a sweat. From the first day we walked into Westminster Presbyterian Church almost 20 years ago, someone was inviting us to do something, join something, and be a part of something. That’s what made Westminster home for us.

The Church HOME Committee wants to make sure everyone has a chance to make Westminster the kind of home we have known. In a church with such a wealth of activities and services, our purpose is not only to make sure you don’t miss out on something you could be doing, but to actively work to match your interests and needs to the activities within the church. We not only advertise activities, and help the church committees recruit, but we want to hear from you: what do you need, and what do you feel called to do? What interests or talents do you have that might enrich the work and life of our church home?

Let us match you up with that call. If you call us or send us an email at HOMEcmte@wpc-alex.org, we will do our best to match your interests and talents with something fulfilling at Westminster. We want everyone who walks through the door at Westminster to feel like they’re coming home.

Dave Aland,
Church HOME Committee Chair



Children and Family Ministry

Westminster Young Families Retreat

Registration Deadline March 4!!!
Our Stories, God's Stories
Featuring: Tracy Radosevic, Storyteller
May 21-22, 2011
Meadowkirk Retreat Center
Middleburg, VA

Registration has begun! All families with children 5th grade and under are invited to join in this wonderful opportunity. Tracy Radosevic, Dean of the Academy for Biblical Storytellers, will join us on Saturday to lead two workshops and offer a unique worship through story experience. This is an experience not to be missed! For more details, check out the website, or pick up a brochure at the church. Contact Casey FitzGerald with questions.

Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time first and third Mondays of the month. In February, Nancy McIver came and led moms in a special service project! If you have more ideas of ways to incorporate service into our time together, please contact Marcy Crisler.

Moms Study: Looking Ahead

Save these dates for more study using Jan Richardson's *In the Sanctuary of Women*. This has been a wonderful resource for conversation so far. Come and grow with your fellow moms.

Dates to come (Mondays, 10:30a.m. - 11:45a.m.):
March 14, 21, 28
May 2, 9, 16

New opportunities for mission involvement at Westminster!

Beginning this month, the former National and International Missions Committee is reformed into two separate committees. Members of Westminster are invited to attend mission committee meetings. Listed below are the dates/times of the Committees' monthly meetings at the Church:

Local Missions: first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

International Missions: first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

National Missions: third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to serve through our local, national and international mission ministries, please visit the Church's website or contact Janet Riksen.



Focus on Missions

New Local Mission Project

Following a Minute for Mission by Carolyn Turner (*text at right*), the new Street People Project has begun under the auspices of the Local Mission Committee. The hope is that the packets assembled will give information and limited, but useful, resources to people struggling to find shelter, food and hope.

The first packets were distributed to members of the congregation on Sunday, February 13 following both services. Included in the packets were bus tokens, McDonald's food coupons, toothbrush and paste, an energy bar and laminated cards with information on shelters and other community resources available in the City of Alexandria and Arlington County. Generic packets were also assembled for those who encounter street people as they commute and/or work in D.C.

Much of what went into the packets was donated by members of Westminster, and the packets were assembled by the Middle School Youth Group. Many thanks for your generous support!

The Local Mission Committee welcomes feedback from the congregation on this first step and will continue to look for ways to extend and improve this new outreach program. If you would like to help or need additional information, please email Janet Riksen, Director of Missions, at jriksen@wpc-alex.org.

On-Going Needs for Local Missions

The ALIVE! food bank serves about 500 families in Alexandria. At Westminster, ALIVE! food baskets are located in the Lower/Elevator Lobby East Alcove and in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to your generous on-going support, members of our Local Missions Committee deliver 18-20 bags of food each month, which is then delivered by ALIVE! volunteers to needy families in Alexandria.

The greatest need is for MEALS [a breakfast, lunch or dinner]. For example, breakfast for a family of 4:

- can of juice,
- pancake mix and syrup,
- canned breakfast meat, such as ham.

Other foods needed are:

- Protein: canned meats and tuna, spam, beef stew
- Cereal
- dry milk packets
- canned vegetables and fruit
- pasta and spaghetti sauce
- peanut butter
- baby food and cereal
- tuna helper
- sugar
- pancake mix
- syrup
- canned juice

For more information, please contact Louise Anderson at louiseanderson@erols.com

Minute for Mission delivered on Sunday, January 23, 2011

My name is Carolyn Turner. I serve on Westminster's Local Mission Committee. The acronym CHESS, for Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency, indicates areas of service we support; and today education concerning a group of people with significant needs, "street people" or "people in need we meet on the street or sidewalk", is our focus.

In a sermon several months ago, Larry told of his experience of meeting a woman at an intersection near Falls Church, who was asking for money. This was not the first time he had seen her there and it was obvious she had real needs far beyond the money she was requesting. He explained the discomfort he experienced as he considered what to do. After considering his options, he acted on his decision to give her some money, and continued to his destination.

Since that time, many conversations about similar personal experiences have taken place between individuals concerned about this dilemma. Efforts have been made to become better informed and to gain deeper understanding, to counter the assumptions, prejudices and fears that often dictate our responses to those in such need. Visits with some of the homeless, and conferences with professionals who work directly with people on the street, have given some helpful insights. I'd like to share them with you.

First of all, people we meet on the street, at intersections in traffic or leaning against a building in a commercial area of business traffic, are from every strata of society.

Some are from backgrounds of grinding poverty and have never had their basic needs met. Others are from middle income work-oriented families, and there are those who have had the privileges of education and wealth. Through a combination of circumstances and choices, addictive behaviors, break up of family relationships, loss of employment and status, or other life changing events, they are now on the street, dependent on others for their subsistence.

There are those who are mentally ill and have fallen through the cracks as our education treatment centers have tried less restrictive care, and many are out of treatment altogether. A number of veterans, still suffering from traumatic experiences of combat, find their way to the streets, somehow having missed the resources that could be helpful to them. There are those who are victims of abuse and inhuman behavior and are trying to get enough money to escape from predators. Those who have been in prison and after their release are unable to find employment are among the people on the street. And yes, there are those who have found panhandling as a way of life, sometimes banding together with others, and finding it profitable enough to resist any kind of change.

Fortunately it is not our responsibility to judge the "why" of any we've just mentioned. I believe it is my responsibility to determine the best way I can respond to people in need asking for my assistance. Each person has suffered loss of some kind and we only see the "outside" of the person we meet on the street.

Your Local Mission Committee is in the process of putting together packets that can be one opportunity of response. We hope to have them available for distribution within a few weeks. They will contain laminated resource cards for available housing, food, employment help, mental health contacts, etc. for Arlington and Alexandria. Hopefully in the future we can provide the same for other communities as needed. Two bus tokens, a protein bar, fast food or grocery coupons, sanitary wipes, tooth brush and tooth paste are the other things included.

As we put packets in our cars or briefcases, we can use them as a way to reach across the divide between ourselves and people we meet on the street. By the very act of stopping, greeting a person with a smile, a hello or other word of greeting, the offer of this packet might be welcomed, and hopefully used. It might bring about a change for the better to the recipient and perhaps in us.

Notes of Thanks!

"Faith Ministry continues to serve the poor of Mexico through the clinic, support of the churches at Reynosa, scholarships, providing toys for 1,200 children this Christmas and for providing essential help to the families in the town of Mier. Thank you for standing by Faith Ministry – for support, prayers, concern and hard work."

David Rodriguez, Faith Ministry

"This has been a difficult winter ... The snow bank covers half of our windows. Yesterday, as usual we had a pot-luck meal after the service (30 below zero). We never turn anyone away and serve white and Indian, rich or poor.

We appreciate your commitment to us over the years."

**Louis Garcia, Bdecan
Presbyterian Church, North Dakota**

"Carpenter's Shelter is so grateful for the support of your congregation. Your support of Carpenter's Shelter helps lighten the burden of others, and you are a vital contributor to the mission of ending homelessness one child, one family at a time."

Lisette Bishins, Carpenter's Shelter

"You are an important part of our community of caring individuals who make it possible for Senior Services of Alexandria to fulfill our mission "to foster independence and self-sufficiency enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity."

**Janet Barnett,
Senior Services of Alexandria**

"On behalf of Partners for Just Trade, I would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your gift encourages economic and social justice by helping us to expand a just marketplace for impoverished producers and educate consumers about the benefits of Fair Trade."

**Carrie Hawthorne,
Partners for Just Trade**

2010 Westminster Foundation

The Westminster Foundation also recovered from the depressed market of the recent rescission and is now at \$1.3 million. This represents an increase from 2009 of \$117,100 due to five new bequests donated to the church totaling \$64,800 along with dividends and capital/unrealized gains. With this increase, the Foundation will be able to supplement the Operating Fund in areas of the church as directed by the donors. If you want to leave a legacy to the church, you can talk to any of the Foundation Directors. Just call the church office and they'll have one of the Directors call you.

State of the Church's Finances

The church ended 2010 in a strong financial position, with a good cash balance, strong revenue streams, expenses within budget, and no debt. Total revenue in 2010 was \$1,508,600 while our expenses totaled \$1,480,600, resulting in a total net income of approximately \$28,000. Of that \$28,000, \$12,800 is restricted to specific endowed accounts within the budget. It is important to remember that in 2010, the church operated without using any reserve funds to maintain a balanced budget.

From 2010, the church has more to be thankful for. In addition to the congregation's strong dedication and support, we have additional revenue streams from three cell phone companies. The income from these cell phone companies are planned to be utilized over the next few years to strengthen the church's missions programs, facilities/grounds improvements, and new church activities. The church has truly been blessed with the continued generosity of its members, particularly considering the recent economic climate. Thank you for your continued support. The final 2010 financial reports are summarized below.

2010 Operating Fund

Revenue:

Pledges (96.3% of pledge total)	\$1,219,000
Plate Offerings	\$ 101,200
Special Offerings (e.g., One Great Hour contributions)	\$ 134,700
Endowment and Interest	\$ 22,500
Contributions:	\$ 31,200
- <i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 5,400
- <i>Utilities</i>	\$ 9,300
- <i>Sprint</i>	\$ 16,500
Total Revenue	\$1,508,600

Expenses:

Missions	\$ 270,600
- <i>Local Missions</i>	\$ 63,900
- <i>National/International Missions</i>	\$ 69,000
- <i>Other Benevolences</i>	\$137,700
Staff expenses	\$ 945,400
Church programs	\$ 64,900
Church expenses	\$ 135,600
Building and Grounds	\$ 64,100
Debt Service	\$ 0
Total Expenses	\$1,480,600

Youth Summer Mission Trip Update

As you may know, the Senior Highs are preparing to travel to Haiti in July for their summer mission trip. Our anticipated destination is Fond Parisien, situated 30 miles east of Port-au-Prince near the border with the Dominican Republic. There, we will partner with the Foundation for Peace (FFP) and local church communities to help build a vocational training school, assist with a much-needed medical clinic and lead a vacation Bible school experience for local children. In all this, we hope to bear and share Christ's love with Haitians.



We do so cautiously mindful of the conditions in Haiti, specifically the ongoing cholera outbreak and the acute infrastructure needs of the country. As a way to measure the conditions there first-hand and to make preparations for a positive, transformational experience, a group of six amazing Westminster adults (including myself) will be participating in a leaders' trip to Haiti from February 20-22. During the trip, we will meet with our hosts, tour our worksites and the communities with whom we will be working and worshipping, hand in hand.

Please hold our leaders in prayer for this preparatory visit, that we would have a safe and productive trip and that our eyes would be open to the hope and possibility of what we can accomplish in light of the tragic reality of suffering. Also, please attend our Dinner and Dessert Auction (*see notice on the front page*) on February 26, when you can hear about our leaders trip and provide financial and spiritual support to our youth as they seek to answer God's call.

Yours in Christ,

Patrick



2011 Stewardship Campaign Results

The results from this year's stewardship campaign, "Cheerful Giving," is yet another example of how this congregation's generosity allows us to continue and expand the wonderful opportunities at Westminster, and in our local, national and international communities.

We are happy to report that we exceeded the goal this year and have received 421 pledges totaling \$1,349,423. This is approximately a 6.5 percent increase over last year's pledge total!

The theme from this year's campaign came from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, and his call for them to give cheerfully and willingly. Paul wrote, "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)

It is clear that this congregation gives cheerfully and willingly. Your pledges are so crucial to the worship, education, mission and fellowship needs of those in the church and in the communities that we serve, and we thank you for such a successful campaign.

Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee

Lenten All-Church Dinners

Wednesdays,
March 16 - April 13, 2011
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall

Join Larry, Patrick and Casey on Wednesday nights in Lent for worship through story, conversation, and dinner. Everyone is welcome (kids, too)! Please RSVP to LeAnne in the main office (lperkowski@wpc-alex.org) if you know you're interested in participating, or would like to help with set-up or clean-up.

Supporting the Bereaved Through the Compassion Guild

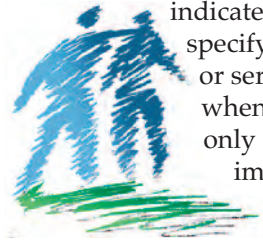
The Westminster Compassion Guild is a group of volunteers who assist and support Westminster families who have suffered the loss of a loved one. They provide ushers and help with preparation of the Sanctuary or Chapel for a memorial or funeral service; greet the family prior to the service; and host a reception afterward. Through these activities, the Compassion Guild represents the church community in expressing loving support for the family and affording them the opportunity to grieve with friends who share their loss.

The Guild relies on its volunteers to make this all happen seamlessly. Yet those of us who see what happens behind the scenes know firsthand the dedication of these members, and we thank each of them for their continued service.

Nancy Harper has been coordinator of the Compassion Guild for the past three years. We are grateful for her commitment, her organizational skills and her sensitivity to the special needs of families during a time of loss. Beginning this month, Bea Hurt and Anne Gross will be assuming her role, and we thank both of them for agreeing to lead the Guild.

We hear from families over and over again how much this support means to them at a most difficult time. Everything is provided for the receptions, freeing the families to spend time with those wanting to offer their condolences and share memories. And because of the generosity of those touched by this ministry, the Guild is able to operate through donations and is not part of the church budget.

The Guild has a reliable core of volunteers, but can always use more help. Please contact Bea Hurt or Anne Gross at compassionguild@wpc-alex.org to indicate if you would like to join the Compassion Guild. You can specify if you would like to be called upon to usher, bring food, or serve/clean up at receptions. Also, it's helpful to indicate when you are typically available – for example, mornings only or weekends only. Please consider becoming part of this important ministry to our members.



Eileen Jinks,
Coordinator of Pastoral Care

Dinner and Dessert Auction

Saturday, February 26
6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Please join Westminster's Youth for their annual Dinner and Dessert Auction on Saturday, February 26. Dinner will be catered by Westminster's Linda Harkness and desserts will be auctioned by our youth to raise money for their summer mission trips.



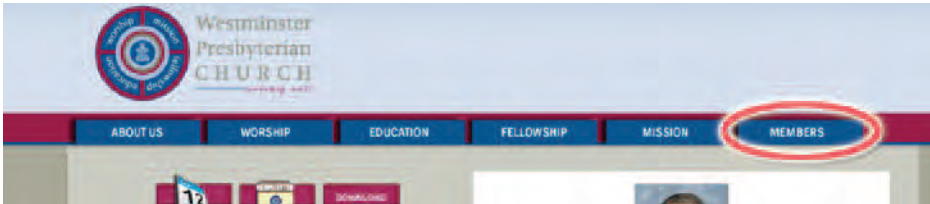
Our Middle Schoolers will be traveling to Philadelphia to work with Broad Street Ministry and learn about poverty, homelessness, hunger and health care. Our Senior Highs will take a trip to Haiti to work with Foundation for Peace. Senior Highs will help construct a vocational school for high school graduates, administer a much needed medical clinic and lead vacation Bible school for local children.

Please come out and support our youth! RSVP to LeAnne Perkowski, and let us know if you're bringing a dessert. Dinner costs \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum per family.

Members Page Directions

Did you know as a member of Westminster, you have online access to the latest events, contact information of other members, and the ability to update your personal information?

Go to <http://www.wpc-alex.org> and click on "MEMBERS"



Then Log In

Previously registered members sign in here with email address and password

A screenshot of the 'Sign In' form. It has a title 'Sign In' and two input fields: 'E-mail Address or User Name' (containing 'member@wpc-alex.org') and 'Password:'. Below the fields is a 'Remember me' checkbox (checked) and a 'Sign In' button. At the bottom, there is a link: 'Forgot your password or user name?'.

First-time users, register here.

A screenshot of the 'Sign In' form, identical to the one above. At the bottom of the form, there is a link: 'Need a login? Click here', which is circled in red.

Need more help? Go to the church website, www.wpc-alex.org, or call the Westminster Office at 703.549.4766.

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. Contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office at lperkowski@wpc-alex.org to sign up.



the Chronicle

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church
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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Eddie WatkinsSexton

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Time Sensitive

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

Journey Through Lent 2011

Ash Wednesday, March 9

7:30 p.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary

Lenten Sermon Series

"Places of the Heart" with Larry Hayward
Sundays, March 13 – April 10
Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Lenten Vespers

Sundays at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
March 13 – April 10

Lenten All-Church Dinners

Wednesdays, at 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
March 16 – April 13

Palm Sunday, April 17

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Worship
9:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Breakfast
11:00 a.m.
Bach Cantata "Be Thou Welcome Heavenly King"

Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:30 p.m.
Worship with Communion

Good Friday, April 22

7:30 p.m.
Worship

Easter Sunday, April 24

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

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