



# the Chronicle

January 20, 2011 - volume 43, number 6

## Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

“My faith in a loving Creator of the galaxies, so loving that the very hairs of my head are counted, is stronger in my work than in my life, and often it is the work that pulls me back from the precipice of faithlessness.”

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### From the Pastor’s Study

A Message From Casey FitzGerald

### Faith, Wonder, and the Bandwagon

Author Madeleine L’Engle once wrote, “My faith in a loving Creator of the galaxies, so loving that the very hairs of my head are counted, is stronger in my work than in my life, and often it is the work that pulls me back from the precipice of faithlessness,” (*Walking on Water*). L’Engle’s confession is often my own. I am incredibly grateful to be called to a ministry that requires an engagement and practice of faith with regularity. A college professor of mine once noted that it was not the most special people that were called to ministry, but the ones that needed the most help! I am grateful to have this ministry which draws me toward God time and time again. I am grateful for the opportunities to wonder with you about our faith, our God, and who we are becoming as followers of Jesus Christ. I want to do that even more. And so, with a bit of fear and trembling, I have decided to jump on the bandwagon and start a blog. I am hopeful that in the process and practice of blogging, my own faith life will be deepened, and that the faith lives of others will be engaged along the way.

Though this blog is not an official Westminster blog, it reflects my ministry here and beyond. I will use it to consider issues of faith and life, of transformation and discipleship, of the profound and the seemingly mundane. (In addition, for any who would like to engage in my studies but cannot attend, the blog will also provide a venue for reflection and dialogue on the assigned topics.)

Come and join the conversation at [www.faithandwonder.com](http://www.faithandwonder.com)! I look forward to sharing this new page in my life and ministry with you.

In Christ,

Casey

### Come to the Dinner and Dessert Auction

(A Sweet Westminster Tradition)

Saturday, February 26

6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall



Enjoy a great meal and bid on some amazing desserts in support of our youth mission trip to Haiti and Philadelphia. Consider bringing a dish that can either be auctioned or sold. If you can, please RSVP with LeAnne in the church office ([lperkowski@wpc-alex.org](mailto:lperkowski@wpc-alex.org)), and let us know if you’re bringing a dessert. Dinner costs \$5 per person with a \$20 maximum per family.



We recently welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

**James Tyler Bagley**, born December 13, 2010 son of Becca and Chris Bagley

**Asher Charles Johnson**, born December 21, 2010, son of Morgan and Tim Johnson,

**Wilson Benjamin Black**, born on December 22, 2010, son of David & Dana Black

**Matthew Lindell Glover**, born December 25, 2010, son of Effie and Colin Glover

**Brooks Davis Campbell**, born December 29, 2010, son of Duncan and Kristen Campbell

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of **Capt. Robert H. Mereness**, who died December 16, 2010



## Member Involvement News

January is the start of a New Year and with the start of a New Year comes New Year's resolutions. Of course, there are the obligatory "I'm going to lose weight" and the related "I'm going to get in shape" resolutions. However, I hope that you have also made a resolution to maintain or expand your commitment and involvement with Westminster.

Involvement can take various forms. Many people feel that being involved means participating in our mission programs. This is a worthy goal and our many mission activities are always looking for more people to help carry out their work. This year there will be more focus on missions as the work of our National/International Mission Committee will be divided into two separate committees. (*See page 11 for more information on this.*)

As important as mission activities are to the work of Westminster, there are still many other ways to be involved. The simplest way is to regularly attend worship services. Less than half of our members attend services weekly and many attend only once or twice a year. If you are one of these members, why not make your resolution to attend church at least once a month? We really do miss you and would like to see you more often.

There are many other ways to be involved. One is to serve as a teacher or classroom aide for our Sunday School. We need about 10 people per week. You can serve for a week or for a longer period. Serving as an usher on Sunday morning or as one of the hosts for fellowship after the service are other ways to be involved. The choir is open to those who would like to lend their voices to enhance our worship experience. The junior high and senior high youth groups need adults to assist Patrick Hunnicutt in planning and conducting activities.

Another easy and fun way to be involved is to attend some of the all-church events. These events are held throughout the year. Some are fund raisers, such as the dinner at the end of February to raise funds for youth mission trips or the mission dinner we have each Fall. Other events, such as the picnic on the second Sunday in June, are just a time of enjoying each other and getting to know other members. Even though these events are sponsored by various groups, it takes many volunteers to plan, set-up, serve, and clean up. The Congregational Life Committee welcomes anyone willing to help with these activities.

As you can see, there are many ways to be involved at Westminster. This year make it your resolution to gain a deeper appreciation of membership by getting involved.

Yours in Christ,

**Art Sauer**  
*Membership Involvement Coordinator*



## Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

*Flying Solo is a group for single adults in their prime years (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: <http://www.wpc-alex.org/singles> or contact Nancy Hall Berens at [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) to learn more!*

**Tuesday, January 25:** Our January Potluck starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor! Please bring a dish to share. You may also want to drop a can of food for ALIVE! in the basket as you enter the Education Wing.

**Sunday, February 6:** You are invited to our annual Super Bowl Party at Nancy Harper's home located at 8903 Camden Street in Alexandria starting at 5:30 p.m. Nancy will be making chili for the group. Please bring salad, bread, appetizers, munchies or dessert to share as well as your favorite beverage (no red wine, please!). Come cheer on your team with Westminster friends!

**Monday, February 14:** Join us for a Valentine's Day Dine-Out! Love to try new foods? Here's a chance to taste some traditional Afghan cuisine at Bamian Restaurant located in Bailey's Crossroads at 5634 Leesburg Pike (where Rt. 7 and Columbia Pike meet, next to Babies R Us). Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like to carpool, or meet at Bamian at 7:15 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 22:** Time for another Potluck! We'll start at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

## Travel Plans

Maggie and I are traveling to Kenya from February 6 through 19 to attend the International Mission Conference in Mombasa, visit the United Orphanage and Academy our church sponsors at Moi's Bridge, and visit the other sites our church and presbytery support. We will be with Reverend Stephen Chege, Reverend George Wepukhulu, and Reverend Stephen Githuki the entire time. The latter two visited Westminster in October. This will be my first time to the orphanage and academy (Maggie's second) and will give me the opportunity to see firsthand this most important mission work of our congregation.

Following that, we are going to remain in London until March 4 for a vacation. When we married in 2006, the church gave us a travel voucher as a wedding gift, and this vacation portion of the trip will be the first opportunity we have had to use it.

While away, Patrick Hunnicutt and Casey FitzGerald will continue their work and be in charge and leading worship. Reverend Margaret Kibben, will be preaching one Sunday, Patrick and Casey the other two. You will be in good hands.

We are both grateful to the congregation for both aspects of this trip!

*Larry Hayward*

## Westminster Travelers



**Thursday, February 10:** George Washington Masonic Memorial. We will depart at 2:45 p.m. from the church, or you can meet us there at 3:00 p.m. \$6 for tour costs. This site is handicap accessible.

**Thursday, February 17:** Lunch and program at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. \$2.

**Thursday, February 24:** Little Theatre performs "Widdershins". 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. \$1.

## Westminster Trip to Pennsylvania

Join us for a Spring Trip to Western Pennsylvania **April 25-27**. \$399 per person. Registration and a deposit of half the trip cost are due as soon as possible. Included in this cost is travel on a luxurious bus, 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners including a Cabaret Dinner show, Tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, a Gateway Clipper Cruise, guided tours of University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and a visit to the Flight 93 Memorial. See the flyer in the education wing lobby or the website for more details.

*Sign up for trips through the church office. For more information on any of the trips listed, please contact Sharon Tarr, Director of the Westminster Travelers, at [starr@wpc-alex.org](mailto:starr@wpc-alex.org).*

## New Additions to the Pera Library

The library added many new items last year so stop in and browse. Here are a few recent titles:

**Biographies-** *The Life of Thomas More* by Peter Ackroyd and *Remember Us: My Journey from the Shtetl through the Holocaust* by Martin Small and Vic Shayne

**Fiction-** *Little Bee: A Novel* by Chris Cleave

**Non-fiction-** New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn's highly-praised *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* & Brad Meltzer's *Heroes for My Son*.

**Audio-** *Altering the Blueprint: The Ethics of Genetics* by Alexander McCall Smith

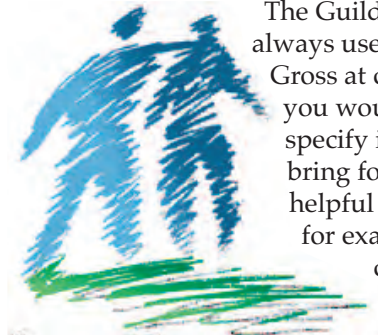
## Supporting the Bereaved Through the Compassion Guild

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](mailto: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*

## Changes coming to the Lobby

Since before we moved back into our newly refurbished church home in 2007, a number of congregation members have been involved in discussion, envisioning, and design proposals for a new look and improved function for the Lobby Entrance from the parking lot. In September 2010 the Session approved several changes to the Lobby, long awaited, long in the planning and designing.

### *The Goal:*

- To integrate the lower, intermediate, and the upper church lobby into one continuous, welcoming space,
- help people locate and move to their desired activity,
- provide information about Westminster missions and activities,
- and offer an opportunity to become involved.

### *Immediate changes:*

The **Lower Lobby East** alcove will become the Mission donation collection site. The ALIVE! collection baskets have been moved next to the bench. Information will be posted to tell what agency is receiving the collection, who benefits, and what may be donated. This in part fulfills a major goal of the Envisioning Task Force and the Mission Council that anyone walking into the building can see that mission is happening at Westminster.

The **Upper/Education Lobby** will become "Sign up central", the go-to point for registering for events, activities and mission. For example, when it is time for the February Carpenter's Shelter sign up, the sign up chart will go in the Ed Lobby, next to the cabinet. We'll move chairs and plants as needed. Temporarily, we'll be using the cabinet as our sign up counter.

### *Staying the same:*

The **display carousel** in the Lower Lobby will stay, updated at least weekly. Look here for group-specific printed material, as well as pieces of church-wide interest. Materials of church-wide interest, such as the Chronicle and Year with the Bible may be found in other places, including the Narthex of both the Sanctuary and Chapel.

More exciting changes are planned to make our major point of entrance more informative and engaging for members and visitors. We hope to make progress soon and will keep you informed.

**Molly Roden,**  
*Chair of the Lobby Task Force*

## 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.

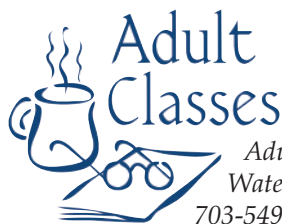




### Retreat "Hearts on Fire: Our Journey of Faith"

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 Hallowood 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 Hallowood 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.



## 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](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766 extension 120.

### "PAUL'S PRISON EPISTLES: PHILIPPIANS"

**January 23 – February 13**, Westminster Room

Dr. Katherine Grieb, Professor of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary

Paul's letters from prison, when he was incarcerated for spreading faith and civil disobedience, set a pattern for later Christian involvement in prison, for folks such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, and Nelson Mandela. Study the letter to the Christians in Philippi and read in conjunction with 20<sup>th</sup> century letters from prison. Be inspired by Paul's witness to countless hearts and minds, including ours.

### "GRIEF, LOSS AND CHRISTIAN FAITH"

**January 23 and 30**, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Joyce Mercer, Professor of Practical Theology, Virginia Theological Seminary

Explore the dynamics of grief and loss in human experience, the religious beliefs and practices that help us deal with them, and move toward healing. Also learn how to speak to and help others when they suffer losses, with the support of the church as a community of care.

### "THE MIDDLE EAST IN PERSPECTIVE"

**February 6 - 20**, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Raja Nasr, Professor of Education, Marymount University; formerly serving Elder, Presbyterian Church, Lebanon

Explore the long history of Middle Eastern cultures through modern times. Look at the monotheistic religions born in the Middle East, especially Islam. Examine the major issues and challenges facing the Middle East, and the West as well, as we try to deal with situations in relating to the Middle East.

### "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.

## Women's Ministry

### Presbyterian Women and National Capital Presbytery

**2011 Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, January 29**, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave. The theme is "Seeds of Hope: Continuing our Bible Study of Revelation, Apocalyptic Hope for Today." \$10 registration. For more information, reservations and/or carpooling please contact Bonnie Nasr, 703-933-6016.

### Winter Gathering

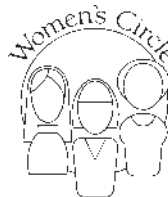
Rev. Maggie Hayward will present "That the Children May Know: The Role of Scripture, Family, and Church in the Faith of Children", **Wednesday, February 2**, 7:30 p.m., Haverkamp Room. Review Biblical texts and themes concerning childhood. Women of all ages invited; dessert served by circles. Child care available: reservations for it preferred for planning (not mandatory). Contact LeAnne Perkowski at church office to sign up.

### Work Day

Women are invited to sew pillows for heart patients and stuffed toys for children at Alexandria Hospital on **Wednesday, February 2**, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room. Contact Nancy McIver at 703-370-1445.

### Friendship Circles

Westminster has six friendship circles which meet monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Find details at [www.wpc-alex.org/presbyterianwomen](http://www.wpc-alex.org/presbyterianwomen) or from a pink flyer in the education building foyer literature rack. Visit a circle convenient for you.



### Book Discussion

All women are invited to discuss *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton on **Monday, January 24**, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.



The February selection is *Half-Broke Horses – A True Story* by Jeanette Walls for discussion on Monday, **February 28**, at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at [cvandewater@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org) or 703-549-4766 ext.120 for more information or just come!

## Men of Westminster



### MEN'S RETREAT UPDATE

The Men's Retreat will take place the weekend of February 4-6, 2011 at Hallwood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain near Comus, Maryland.

Our leader will be Rev. Eric Springsted, who received his Master of Divinity and PhD in philosophy and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. The topic will be "St. Augustine and the Journey of a Soul". Dr. Springsted will be addressing St. Augustine and his relationship to the heritage of Reformed thought.

Those men who have made reservations will be receiving an email in late January with guidance and instructions concerning the retreat arrangements. All men who registered for the retreat have either already received or will receive a book "St. Augustine's Confessions" as part of their payment for the retreat. If you have registered but not yet paid, you may make your payment by one of the three following methods: (1) in person to Dudley Schadeberg or Kirk Kaneer; (2) placing your check in an envelope and placing it in the Men of Westminster mail slot in the church office, or (3) by mailing it to Dudley Schadeberg, 2220 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207.

Registration for the retreat closed on Wednesday, January 19, but it is possible that a space or two may still be available as of the date the Chronicle is distributed. For more information contact Dudley Schadeberg at (703) 528-1275 [home] or (202) 461-8932 [office], or by email at [dudley.schadeberg@va.gov](mailto:dudley.schadeberg@va.gov).



### Potluck

Next Potluck Brunch: **February 6!**

### Young Adults Third Annual Bowling Tournament DATE CHANGED!!!

**Friday, February 11, 8:00 p.m.**

6228 North Kings Highway

(Parking lot entrance on Poag St.!)

Many will bowl, but only one will be crowned 2011's bowling champion. Don't miss out on this fun event!!!

RSVP to Casey FitzGerald.

### Faith on Tap

Tuesday, February 15, Capitol City Brewing Company (SHIRLINGTON)

## Children and Family Ministry



### Our Stories, God's Stories

Westminster Young Families Retreat

**FEATURING: Tracy Radosevic, Storyteller**

May 21-22, 2011

Meadowkirk Retreat Center

Middleburg, VA

Registration has begun! All families with children 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



Family Retreat

### Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Moms Study: In Church and Online!

*In the Sanctuary of Women* by Jan Richardson (\$15)

Be sure to reserve your copy a.s.a.p.!

Facilitated by Casey FitzGerald

This FIRST study using the book (we will use it throughout the winter /spring) will focus on Eve. Please see reading assignments below.

#### In Church

Mondays, January 24, February 7, 14 (Jan 31 has been cancelled)

10:30-11:45 a.m.

Westminster Room (24<sup>th</sup>), Johnson Parlor (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>)

Childcare available

#### Online

Reflections will be posted Monday afternoons on Casey's blog:

[www.faithandwonder.com](http://www.faithandwonder.com)

Read the book at home and contribute as you are able. Using Richardson's incredibly rich book of reflections and prayers, we will seek to understand how sanctuary is created in our own lives, create relationships with one another, and maybe even risk being transformed in the process. If you aren't available for the Monday morning study, please consider becoming a part of our online "sanctuary"—a perfect opportunity for moms who work outside the home!

#### Reading Schedule

January 24: pp. 11-35

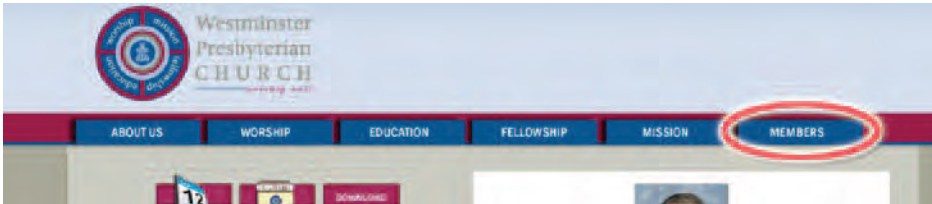
February 7: pp. 36-49

February 14: pp. 49-62

## 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](http://www.wpc-alex.org), or call the Westminster Office at 703.549.4766.

## Weekday Preschool

Westminster Weekday Preschool is offering our "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Becky Bailey Conscious Discipline Class". After trying it out on the preschool parents last year we'd like to invite any interested church members to join us this year!

In the class we will watch DVDs of Becky Bailey teaching her Conscious Discipline techniques, followed by discussion to learn from each other. Westminster has used these techniques, including her I Love You Rituals, for many years and have found them to be very successful at school and at home! Come and learn how to calm yourself before you help your child learn to approach difficult situations in his own state of calm!

Class dates are:

- Thursdays, January 27, February 3, 10, 17
- Wednesday, February 23

All classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Westminster Room near the church office. The cost is \$75 per family (both parents can attend for that cost). The \$75 also includes Becky Bailey's Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline book. For an additional \$11 (total of \$86) you can also purchase Becky Bailey's I Love You Rituals book.

It's a great class! We hope you'll join us! Please RSVP with your payment to Adrienne Vincent, in the preschool office, by Thursday, January 20.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.

—Matthew 25:35-40



## Focus on Missions

### Mission News

During the Christmas Season, Westminster gave generously to those in our community and around the world!

#### 2010 Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar

The 2010 Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar was a great success, raising \$47,223.40 in cash as compared with \$33,251.17 in 2009. Additionally, \$13,450 was pledged to the United Orphanage & Academy, bringing the total in cash and pledges raised for 2010 to \$60,673.40.

Amounts of cash raised for those organizations supported by our Local, National and International Mission Committees are listed below:

Alexandria's Child	\$ 175
Spirit Lake	\$ 407
Community Coalition for Haiti	\$1,481.60
Senior Services of Alexandria	\$ 1,490
Carpenter's Shelter	\$ 815
Guest House	\$ 962
AACH	\$ 1,540
Rebuilding Together Alexandria	\$ 350
Creation Station Cocoa sale for Moi's Bridge	\$ 92
Heifer Project International	\$ 3,550
Medical Benevolence Fund	\$ 900
ALIVE!	\$ 2,136
Equal Exchange Products	\$ 1,539
Alexandria Neighborhood Clinic	\$ 1,450
Peruvian Products	\$3,325.80
Bread for the World	\$ 400
Moi's Bridge Orphan Support	\$ 13,980
Moi's Bridge Academy	\$ 2,430
Moi's Bridge Orphanage	\$ 10,200

This has been a tremendous outpouring of generosity. The Mission Committees wish to thank all of the members of the congregation who participated in the 2010 Alternative Giving Bazaar. Your donations exemplified the true spirit of the Christmas season.

## New opportunities for mission involvement at Westminster!

Beginning in February, 2011, the former National and International Missions Committee is being reformed into two separate committees.

Incoming Elder Rob Lalka will chair the International Missions Committee. This committee will continue the vital work of our congregation and our support of the Moi's Bridge Orphanage and Academy in Kenya.

Additionally, the committee will support the Youth Group mission trip to Haiti this summer and is actively engaged in examining additional areas of mission needs that can benefit from our prayers, plans, and actions.

The National Mission Committee is chaired by Elder Doug Anderson. It is planning spring and fall trips to the Appalachian Service Project in Jonesville, Virginia. It is also developing the opportunity for regional, multigenerational mission trips, including weekend and one-day mission trips focusing on hunger concerns.

The only thing missing in mission is YOU! Members of Westminster are invited to attend mission committee meetings to learn how we reflect God's love into the world, and how you can become a part of our response to the blessings we have received.

The International Mission Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2. Please check the Sunday bulletin announcements to learn of the date and time of the National Mission Committee's February meeting.

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to serve through our mission ministries, please contact Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org).

## Local Mission Puts Faith into Action!

In 2010, Westminster committed to increasing our involvement with Mission activities by seeking out new volunteer opportunities, providing more information on volunteer activities to the congregation, and actively inviting new members to join our volunteer efforts. And what an incredible job you did! We provided food, shelter, education, and support to 10 Alexandria agencies in a hands-on way. On average, more than 50 WPC members volunteered each month, each in their own way, to help those less fortunate in our community.

From serving the hungry through our Bag Lunch program, to tutoring students at George Mason Elementary School or winterizing a home through Rebuilding Together, we found ways to demonstrate that our faith goes beyond words.

We had some great successes this year; more volunteers than ever before participated in our April Rebuilding Together project. More than 30 WPC members, friends and family showed up to do much needed repairs and landscaping for a local family. Our Bag Lunch program saw new members and the WPC Youth join the volunteer ranks. As beds filled up at Carpenter's Shelter, our monthly dinner team went from feeding 50 to 70 people. And our Adopt a Family/Share the Spirit program provided Christmas gifts to 36 Alexandria families—11 more than we cared for in 2009.

Despite our best efforts, the needs of our community continue. Have you been thinking about getting more involved in your community? Whether you have a few hours or a few days, the Local Mission Committee members can help you find an opportunity to put your faith into action. For details on our programs, visit the WPC web site.

## Westminster Shared the Spirit!

Through the continued generosity of the Westminster community, we adopted 36 families in our Share the Spirit/Adopt a Family program with the Child and Family Network Center. Thank you for sharing your blessings with so many children and families this Christmas who without your generosity, would have gone without.

## Christmas Joy Offering

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). This year's Offering brought \$7,027 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling.

## Gifts to Appalachia Service Project

Toys, clothes and gift cards worth over \$500 were given by our Members to the Appalachia Service Project and the communities that they serve. Your generous donations brought joy and hope to the many children and families who are in need and unable to share the gifts of giving and receiving during this Christmas season

Also, during the Christmas holiday season we were blessed to have beautiful flowers decorating the sanctuary. These flowers were made possible through the generous donations of members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Additional funds of \$450 are being given to the Appalachia Service Project Jonesville, Virginia Center where our Young Adults traveled for their fall 2010 mission trip.

# 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.

## Church Staff

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Casey FitzGerald .....Associate Pastor  
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## Time Sensitive

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

## Youth Mission Trip to Haiti Bringing Hope to Reality –Please Help Us

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 5-7 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. And, 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*

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