



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —

Church Grounds Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 16
8:00am - 12:00 p.m.

We need your help with raking, weeding, mulching, trimming, etc. Come for a half hour or the whole morning.
All help is appreciated.

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the Chronicle

March 17, 2011 - volume 43, number 8

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Our Trip(s)**

Maggie and I want to thank the congregation for your support, interest and prayers during our recent trip to Kenya and Europe. I am also grateful to Casey, Patrick, and the entire staff and Session for doing such a great job in my absence and making re-entry easy, though the 54-minute Session meeting Casey moderated has put tremendous pressure on me for the future!

To report briefly: The trip to Kenya, from February 6-19, gave me a terrific overview as well as detailed understanding of the history of our work in mission to Kenya (and some neighboring countries) that dates back to the mid-1980s; the history, present condition and future options for the United Orphanage and Academy at Moi's Bridge (all good!), which we founded in 2000; and the way Christianity in general and Presbyterianism in particular serve as a powerful alternative—indeed a counterculture—to tough economic and cultural circumstances. Hosted the entire time by Reverends Stephen Chege, George Wepukulu, and Stephen Githuki, as well as their families and congregations, we traveled around about ¼ of the nation of Kenya and then spent several focused days at the orphanage and academy. I now feel like I know as much (possibly!) about our work in Kenya (both at Moi's Bridge and through other projects) as elder Henri Rush, who has been Westminster's leader of this effort since its inception, and that I am now prepared to speak to the opportunities we have as a congregation, particularly as we move forward with our renewed focus on mission in the life of Westminster. We will make a presentation to the congregation at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 8 in the Haverkamp Room.

On a more personal note, following our time in Kenya, we spent February 20-March 4 in Europe, based in London, with side trips to Paris and Edinburgh. This was using the gift of a travel voucher the church gave us when we married in 2006, so more or less a delayed honeymoon. It was a terrific trip as well, and we became hooked on the theatre in London, not an inexpensive habit to adopt, but then most habits are expensive!

Seriously, thanks, and it's great to be back.

Larry



We recently welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

Hunter Lansing Moss, born February 11 in Atlanta, son of Lindsay and Stephen Moss, new brother of Sydney.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of **Joel Allyn Spivak**, husband of Westminster member Ann Decker Spivak. Joel died on Friday, March 4; his memorial service was held on Friday, March 11 in the Westminster sanctuary.



Member Involvement News

Member involvement at Westminster takes many forms. Last month we looked at ways in which members can assist with worship. This month we will look at fellowship opportunities at Westminster. In its broadest form, fellowship takes place anytime two or more members gather together. However, this article will focus on activities where the primary intent is to engage members in fellowship with one another. These activities fall under the purview of the Congregational Life Committee chaired by Pat Prospero and Director of Congregational Life Nancy Hall Berens.

At the risk of oversimplification, these activities can be divided into two groups:

- Those intended to engage the entire congregation, and
- Those targeted for specific sub-groups within the congregation.

The first group includes the all church events such as the Palm Sunday Breakfast (*coming up on April 17 at 9:30*) and the Church Picnic (*on June 12 after the service*). The recent Dinner & Dessert Auction and the Potluck with a Purpose, held in the fall, are examples of fellowship activities that also support our mission work. Fellowship activities are also held in conjunction with worship services. The fellowship period held after each Sunday service is an example of such an activity. The Lenten Dinner series is another example. All of these activities enable our members and friends to get to know one another on an informal basis.

Westminster is a large congregation and it can be hard to get to know other members. For this reason there are also many activities for sub-groups within the church. We have groups organized by age: Youth, Young Adults, and Seniors. There are groups based on gender: Men of Westminster and Presbyterian Women. There are also groups based on marital and family status, for example, Mornings for Moms and Flying Solo (for middle-aged and older singles). The Tables for Eight dinner groups are specifically intended to get small groups together to get to know each other on a more personal basis. The Westminster Travelers are expanding their group to all adult members who are interested in trips to local and national attractions. There are other activities that space does not permit enumerating. However, they are all shown on our website www.wpc-alex.org if you want to explore further.

As wonderful and fulfilling as these activities are they could not function without volunteers. If you would like to help with any of these events or activities please contact Nancy Hall Berens (nhallberens@wpc-alex.org). Nancy would especially appreciate volunteers for the Sunday morning coffee fellowship. Pat Prospero (cl@wpc-alex.org) needs volunteers to help with the Palm Sunday Breakfast and the June picnic.

Participating in the fellowship events of the church is a great way to become fully involved with your church community and build relationships that carry over into other aspects of our life together. They are an integral part of the membership experience. I hope to see everyone at one of our events this year.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer
Membership Involvement Coordinator
<mailto:asauer@wpc-alex.org>



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

Age 40 and above

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

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

Tuesday, March 22: Our March Potluck meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. We will start by making 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!

Monday, April 11: Pasta or Pizza? Join us for our monthly Dine-Out at the Macaroni Grill in Kingstowne for some fun Italian food! Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. to carpool, or meet us at the restaurant located at 5925 Kingstowne Center around 7:20 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26: Time for another Potluck starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor!

News Flash!

Flying Solo Fall Retreat will take place **October 14-16, 2011** at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD ... and our retreat leader will be Maggie Hayward! Come enjoy the fall and fellowship with church friends complete with beautiful views of Sugarloaf Mt. from our cottage deck!

Thanks to all who made the dinner and dessert auction, benefiting the Senior High and Middle School summer mission trips, such a sweet success!

Westminster Travelers



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

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.

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

Line Dancing Trip

For All Adults 21 and over
Saturday, March 26, Members and friends are invited to Nick's for dinner and line dancing!

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.



Next Faith on Tap

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

Young Adults

Potluck Brunch

Sunday, April 3
Following the 11:00 service
Haverkamp Room

Young Adults

Lenten Practice

Writing Our Prayers
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!

Children and Family Ministry



Mornings for Moms

Come with your children for great fellowship time
1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. Contact Marcy
Crisler with questions.

Westminster Young Families Retreat

Registration Deadline Extended
Our Stories, God's Stories
FEATURING: Tracy Radosevic, Storyteller
May 21-22, 2011
Meadowkirk Retreat Center
Middleburg, VA

There are a few more rooms available—if your family is interested please
send in your registration and deposit as soon as possible!



Palm Sunday Donkey Processional

April 17, 2010, 10:30 a.m.
Come meet the donkey and process around the block!!!

Next Moms Study

In the Sanctuary of Women

This unit we will be studying "A Way in the Wilderness: The Book of the Desert Mothers"

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

Mondays March 21-April 4, 10:30-11:45a.m.

Reading Assignments

March 21: pp. 115-131

March 28: pp. 132-145

April 4: pp. 146-160

Upcoming Events with the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

“Should the Belhar Confession Be Added to The Book of Confessions?”, will be presented by Dr. John Burgess, Prof. of Theology, Pittsburgh Seminary, followed by discussion, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at Potomac Presbyterian Church, MD, Sat., Mar. 26, sponsored by the Reformed Institute and National Capital Presbytery. Our presbytery will be voting its view on inclusion in June. This South African Reformed confession was written in face of apartheid and its aftermath. Register using a form from the literature rack in our education lobby, online at www.reformedinstitute.org, or call 703-518-5128.

An educational roundtable “Christian Education in a Commitment-Challenged Culture” will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Meetinghouse at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. Dr. Joyce Mercer, Professor of Practical Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, will facilitate.

Anyone in a leadership role in the educational ministry may attend. This roundtable discussion will focus on “the problem of illiteracy about our own tradition within our own congregations.” Church members “are simply too busy and too committed in other areas of life to spend the necessary time to prepare themselves, much less their children or those new to the faith, for a life of discipleship.” The roundtable will identify member commitments and how they may be reordered, what can be expected from members and church leaders, and how organizations like the Reformed Institute can help to promote “responsible Christian education in our homes and our churches ...”

More information can be found at the Reformed Institute website, www.reformedinstitute.org or in the literature rack in the education wing lobby.



One Great Hour of Sharing Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God’s love with people experiencing need. Our gifts help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

During Lent we focus on the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering and its challenges to our congregation. With so many uncertainties in our world today, it is more important than ever to call ourselves back to the core of Jesus’ message for us - we are to serve Him by serving one another in love.

There are three categories of needs funded by One Great Hour of Sharing - disaster relief, hunger, and self-development of people. Our gifts help both here in the United States and around the world to provide shelter, blankets, food, seeds and seedlings, farm animals, clean water wells, medical care, education costs, and much more.

Please make it part of your Lenten discipline to read our bulletin inserts and information, and give thoughtful and prayerful consideration to how you can serve God by giving generously to serve your brothers and sisters who are suffering. This special offering will be received Easter Sunday.



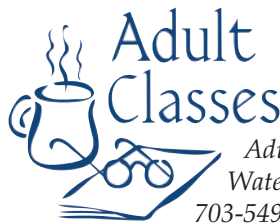
We want to thank our Westminster family for helping us celebrate the arrival of our son Wilson. We took much comfort during his time in the NICU knowing that many prayers were being lifted for his recovery. We also enjoyed the delicious meal and will treasure the Dutch cradle cross. Although we’ve only been members for a short time, we feel right at home and look forward to raising our family at Westminster. God has blessed us with both a healthy son and a loving church!

Many thanks,
Dana & David Black

Palms and Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday

The Palm Crosses distributed to the congregation on Palm Sunday are made in several small African villages. The net proceeds from the sale of the crosses are returned to Africa as non-denominational self-help grants (\$1.8 million since 1976) to meet basic human needs such as disaster and refugee relief, medical and public health programs, and agricultural programs. The African Palm Crosses are made from the dwarf palm *Hyphaena coriacea*.

The Palm fronds used by the Choir and the children are Eco-Palms from Guatemala and Mexico that are purchased through a program that ensures that the palms are harvested in an environmentally sustainable way and that palm harvesters are earning a fair income for their labors. This program is the "Enough for Everyone" program and is supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in conjunction with several other organizations. The purchase of these Eco-Palms is directly from the communities, ensuring that more of the money paid goes to workers. Palms are harvested to minimize impact to the natural forest and to minimize waste, which had previously been as high as 50% of the crop in some areas, now down to 5-7% of the harvested volume. Through these ways, the program helps improve standards of living, and protects the forests, in Central America.



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.

Unpacking Handel's Messiah

March 20 - April 10, Haverkamp Room

Dr. Eileen Guenther, Professor of Church Music, Wesley Theological Seminary

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.

Different Views of Christ's Atonement and Resurrection

March 27 - April 10, Westminster Room.

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

For 2000 years Christians have been trying to understand the meanings of Christ's Atonement for our sins and Resurrection after His death. Jeff Hensley will look at various perspectives to help us with our own understandings of these mysteries, discussing atonement on March 27 and Resurrection on April 10. Mr. Hensley will be away on April 3, so he canceled his three week series on the Trinity previously advertised.

Reformed Theological Perspectives on Global Pentecostalism

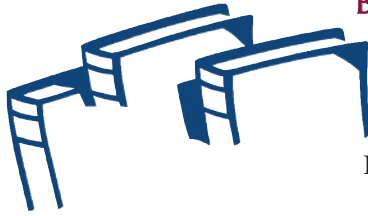
April 3, Westminster Room

Dr. John Lee, Associate Pastor, Korean Presbyterian Church of Rockville; Member, Reformed Institute's Company of Teachers

Dr. Lee will talk about the appeal and spread of Pentecostalism, the fastest growing kind of Christianity in the world. He will offer theological perspectives on Pentecostal, charismatic Christianity from a Reformed Protestant point of view. (Please note that his one-session presentation will come between Hensley's sessions on the Atonement and Resurrection.)

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.



Book Discussion

All women are invited to discuss the Pearl Buck classic, *Pavilion of Women*, on Monday, March 28, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. The April selection is Major Pettigrew's *Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson.

Work Day

Women are invited to sew pillows for heart patients and stuffed toys for children at Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, April 6, 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"



Women's Retreat

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. Please register as you know you can come, to aid the retreat planners. Contact Clara Beth Van de Water at the email or phone number listed above with any questions.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

All are welcome to Attend!
April 17, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Please bring your favorite breakfast dish to share if you are able. We welcome egg dishes, fruit and breads! If possible, please drop your food off in the Fellowship Hall kitchen either Saturday morning 10:00 a.m. – noon or Sunday by 9:00 a.m.

Families – come have some breakfast first and then head out to process with the donkey!

Questions or to volunteer to help, please contact Pat Prosperi at prosper9999@aol.com.

- **Sandwiches needed for Bag Lunch**
– Please make generous meat and cheese sandwiches on whole wheat bread. Bag each sandwich, date and label the outer bag. Place sandwiches in the freezer in Fellowship Hall. Questions or interested in serving bag lunch? Contact Kathy Stenzel at stenzelkathy7@gmail.com or 703-622-4154.
- Senior Services of Alexandria invites you to the **2011 Generation to Generation Gala** on Sat., Mar. 26, including silent auction, dinner and dancing from 6:30 -11:00 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Westminster Member Sandy Calhoun and son Andrew Calhoun will be among those honored. Tickets can be purchased online at www.seniorservicesalex.org, or for more information, call 703-836-4414, ext II.
- On **Friday, March 25** from 8:30 a.m.—5:15 p.m. at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (includes lunch), the **Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministries** of the PC(USA) are sponsoring a Training Day to develop a link with local congregations and Presbyterians interested in social and public witness opportunities. For more information, call Catherine Gordon at 202-543-1126.
- Additionally, the **10th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days**, sponsored by nearly 50 Christian denominations and organizations, will be held **March 25-28**. Presbyterian Women might be especially interested in this event because it will focus on injustices that disproportionately affect women, girls, and families. Register to attend at www.AdvocacyDays.org



Focus on Missions

Spring Brings Volunteer Opportunities and Special Events to our Community.

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

- **April 30: Rebuilding Together Alexandria.** WPC will form a team for this annual event, led by Eric Weiss. The team will perform home repairs for an Alexandria resident. To sign up, please contact Eric at (eric.weiss@winchendon.com). On Sunday, March 27, sign-up sheets will be available after both worship services.
On Saturday morning, April 30th, we will meet in the Westminster parking lot to organize and car pool to our house. We will work for 5-6 hours painting, cleaning, doing yard work and more. This work helps the residents to maintain their home! No previous skills are necessary. Volunteers age 14 and over are welcome. Feel free to volunteer for the whole day or just a couple of hours! Lunch and coffee will be provided. Times and additional details to follow.
- **April 30: ALIVE! Last Saturday food distribution.** 8:30 a.m. at Ladrey Senior High Rise, 300 Wythe Street, Old Town Alexandria. For information or to volunteer please contact Louise Anderson (louiseanderson@erols.com)
- **May 1: ALIVE! Child Development Center Walk-a-thon.** Walk the 5 mile route through Old Town with your friends and family or sponsor a walker to help fund ALIVE's fully accredited preschool for working families. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Registration and pledge forms will be available at the coffee hours after both services in April or contact Margie Carpenter (mmcrpntr@aol.com)
- **May 1: The 9th Annual Carpenter's Shelter Cook-off at the Birchmere!** Adult Tickets are \$35, children ages 6-17 are \$5, and children ages 5 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased online through the Carpenter's Shelter website, www.carpentersshelter.org. Please contact Rita Grazda (rgrazda@aol.com) for more information.
- **May 14: ALIVE! Furniture Delivery.** Saturday morning, Westminster members will help families moving into transitional and other subsidized housing by picking up and delivering donated furniture. This is a great activity for teens and parents. **SAVE THE DATE!** For more information or to sign up please contact Margie Carpenter (mmcrpntr@aol.com).

Opportunities for Mission Involvement at Westminster!

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.

ALIVE! February Food Drive a Rousing Success!

Thanks to all who responded to the call for donations for the ALIVE! food drive in February. Westminster responded with a whopping 54 bags of food (including several large jars of peanut butter), doubling our goal for the month!

Your donations support ALIVE's Family Emergency Program food deliveries to Alexandria families who are referred by local social service agencies and member congregations.

In 2010, the Family Emergency Program provided first-time assistance to 700 families of food or donations for rent or utilities. ALIVE's Emergency program provides a vital safety net for these families, many of which are struggling to cope with extended unemployment or underemployment.

Our challenge is to keep up the good work. Keep the ALIVE! food program WISH LIST in mind when you're shopping:

- Canned protein (tuna/other fish, meat, chili, stews, SPAM)
- Peanut butter
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Syrup
- Complete Pancake Mix (Needs Only Water)
- Dried Milk
- Jello
- Coffee and Tea

There's a gift in every can – so thanks for your continued generosity.

Volunteers are needed to assist with moving food donations from Westminster to the ALIVE! facility at the First Christian Church, 2723 King Street on week days, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please contact Louise Anderson, louiseanderson@erols.com.

Notes of Thanks!

"Your participation in supporting medical missions gives us great joy. All of us at Medical Benevolence Foundation thank you for the gifts, prayers and care that you have demonstrated for the health and wholeness of our brothers and sisters around the world."

Will Browne
Medical Benevolence Foundation

"Your support has touched the lives of many and enables us to continue our work to improve the quality of life for the people of Pignon, those of the Northern Plateau and for those in the Southeast Region, whose lives were greatly affected as a result the 2010 Earthquake, Hurricane Tomas and the Cholera Epidemic."

Normajean Eleazer
Community Coalition for Haiti

"Because of your generosity, families struggling to take care of themselves and their loved ones are better able to make steps toward self-sufficiency during these winter months."

Pierre Ferrari
Heifer International

"Again, thank you for your support of Guest House and for helping to give our residents a "new beginning."

Kari Galloway
Friends of Guest House

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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Clara Beth Van de WaterDirector of Adult Education
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Journey Through Lent 2011

Lenten All-Church Dinners

Wednesdays through April 13, 2011 in Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:00 p.m.Join Larry, Patrick and
Casey for worship through
story, conversation, and
dinner. Everyone welcome
(kids, too)!

Sundays through April 10

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.Worship – Lenten Sermon
Series – “Places of the
Heart” with Larry Hayward
6:00 p.m.Lenten Vespers in the
Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 17

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.Worship
9:30 a.m.Palm Sunday Breakfast
10:30 a.m.Donkey Processional
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 Vigil, Saturday, April 23

7:30 p.m.Worship
A chanting of the Matthew
Gospel. Attendees may enter
and exit throughout the
evening.

Easter Sunday, April 24

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



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