



Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
— worship well —



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the Chronicle

November 17, 2011 - volume 44, number 4

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt
"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone."
 (Luke 18:19)

Why would Jesus say such a thing? Was he "bad"? Did he sin? No, our faith leads us to worship Christ as the obedient Lamb of God, not spotted or blemished by sin's stains. Yet, we also receive in Scripture that Jesus was tempted by the devil for forty days and forty nights in the wilderness. To be tempted, the possibility must exist of succumbing to that temptation. Fully divine as he was, Jesus could not also have been fully human without acknowledging his capacity to choose paths other than his Father's choosing.

As recent events remind us, danger and violence lurk when people and institutions create narratives of themselves that witness primarily to their own goodness. These cults of "goodness" miss or minimize abuses at great human cost, and they waste precious energy trying to maintain and defend a perfection that does not exist. Worse yet, they worship idols other than God, because those who understand themselves as "all good" need only praise the divine image that exists "perfectly" within them.

By attributing true goodness to God alone, Jesus strips us of the delusion that we are all light, that we walk only in happy valleys and not the wilderness of sin. He points us not to pessimism or self-flagellation. Nor does he relieve us of faith's imperative to choose light over darkness and life over death. Instead, he directs us to place our hope in God, who claims us for righteousness despite all the darkness we claim for ourselves.

The pages that follow announce the many beneficial things Westminster and its people are doing. Good for us. And yet, if we celebrate and speak only of our own goodness, we will have missed the mark, to our harm and the harm of those whom Christ sends us to love.

No one is good but God alone. Praise be to God.

Patrick Hunnicutt

Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Agudas Achim
Congregation and Trinity United Methodist Church

Wednesday, November 23
 7:30 p.m.
 Agudas Achim Congregation
 2908 Valley Drive
 Alexandria, VA 22302
 Rev. Phyllis Earley, Trinity Methodist Church, preaching





We rejoice in the marriages of:

- **Lynne Allison** and **Doug Whittington** on October 29, in the Westminster Sanctuary
- **Woody Davis** and **Dori Boulden** on November 11, in West Virginia

We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Cameron James**, son of Marcy and Vince Crisler, sister to Jacob and Ellie.
- **Madison Elizabeth**, daughter of Rayna & Russ Lowery.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:

- **Jacklyn Lekvin Borthwick**, who died October 30.



Member Involvement News

As we approach Thanksgiving it is time to step back and think about what we have to be thankful for. At Westminster we have a lot to be thankful for. We have a beautiful church building. We have a fantastic staff. We have many interesting and stimulating activities. And we are blessed with the resources to maintain and even expand these activities. We are truly blessed.

Unfortunately, there are people in our community (even our church community) who are not so blessed. They struggle to make ends meet. Perhaps they got laid off from their job or maybe they got sick. Others were struck hard by the economic down-turn and have had savings and home equity, built up over many years of hard work, wiped out.

What can you do to help out? Westminster has many local mission programs that reach out to the community. A number of these programs are particularly relevant to this time of year. On November 19 we will be participating in the Adopt-a-Turkey program by distributing complete Thanksgiving meals to needy families. The distribution will take place shortly after noon, but come a little early and help clean up the church grounds. We will also be participating in the Adopt-a-Family program this year where we help a needy family in our community by purchasing Christmas gifts for the family. In addition, our year-round programs (such as, Carpenters Shelter, Bag Lunch, and ALIVE) will also be helping those in need.

There are also many opportunities for worship, study, and celebration during Advent. Foremost among these are the worship service on December 11 which will feature the Bach Magnificat and, of course, the Christmas Eve Services. These and other events will be well publicized, so, be on the watch and participate in the life of our church community.

Another great Westminster tradition is the Alternative Giving Fair. This fair features many of our mission programs and offers a variety of ways to meet your Christmas gift giving needs. Give a goat through Heifer International and help a poor villager start to make a new life. Buy some fair trade coffee and help independent small farmers make an environmentally friendly living as well as enjoy great tasting coffee. The list goes on. Again, keep watch for news of this event.

All of this activity brings forth another way to participate in the life of the church. Each activity can only succeed if there are sufficient volunteers to perform the necessary tasks. This can be as easy as being an usher for one of the services or staffing a table at the Alternative Gift Fair. Or, even just purchasing an item at the Fair. So, get involved and help this to be a great Advent season.

Yours in Christ,
H. Arthur Sauer
Member Involvement Coordinator



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

For more information about Flying Solo Singles (40's and above), please contact: Nancy Hall Berens, Director of Congregational Life and Singles Ministry at nhallberens@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 ext. 121 or visit our page on the church website at: www.wpc-alex.org/singles.

'Tis the Season...for our annual holiday favorites!

4th Tuesday Potluck

November 22

December 27

7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor

Please bring a dish to share! In November we decorate the Chrismon Tree, and in December we take it down. Each month we make sandwiches for Bag Lunch, too.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Thursday, November 24

12:30 p.m.

Celebrate Thanksgiving with church friends at the historic Mt. Vernon Inn. Contact Nancy Hall Berens to see if any spots are still available. Cost is \$31.50 (tax and tip included).

Adopt-a-Family Shopping

Sunday, December 4

Meet at Fellowship Hour downstairs after the 11:00 service to go to Target at Potomac Yard to shop for our adopted family for Christmas.

Christmas Party!

Saturday, December 10, 5:00 p.m.

Patsy Riley is hosting this year! We'll start by wrapping gifts for our "adopted" family then we'll enjoy a potluck Christmas dinner together. Watch for details by email and in the Sunday Update.

2nd Monday Dine-Out

December 12: Union Station in D.C.

Carpool from church at 6:50 p.m. to King St metro, meet at King St at 7:00 p.m., or, meet at Union Station in D.C. at 7:30 p.m. Come see the station decked in lights for Christmas!

Memorial Gifts

Having recently remembered in worship those Westminster members and loved ones who have passed away, we celebrate the ways in which the work of our church is supported by this cloud of witnesses that surround us.

Westminster has been blessed to have received bequests from the following members during the past year:

- **Robert Mereness** (1/18/1920 – 12/15/2010)
- **Patricia Strother** (3/24/1923 – 4/15/2011)

In January 2011, the session allocated several undesignated bequests received in the prior two years to set up several funds: a Westminster Capital Reserve Fund, to support major building repairs and equipment replacement; a Moi's Bridge Orphanage & Academy Capital projects fund, which will support completion of the classroom building and other capital needs; a National Missions Projects fund, to support one time needs of mission organizations we support; and a Local Missions Projects fund, to support one time needs of local mission organizations we support. The session also provided money to buy new chairs for Fellowship Hall and added support to the Westminster Landscape Project fund.

In addition, memorial gifts made in memory of Westminster members have been used in support of several of the ministries of the church as follows:

- Support of Music Ministry – Mildred Altman (3/4/1917- 7/1/2008)
- The Betsy Fowler Music Fund supporting young musicians participating in worship – Elizabeth Fowler (11/22/1916 – 3/19/2011)
- The Mandy and Walt Youth Fund supporting Senior High Mission work – Walter Wendt (1/10/1914 – 10/14/2011)

The Westminster Foundation Board is most appreciative of these gifts and the work of the church that they continue to support.

Early church life: "I joined the church as a Congregationalist in New England. The town was so small, they federated the Baptists, the Congregationalists and the Methodists. It was called the Warren Federated Church. I played the organ there for Sunday school."

"We had Christian Endeavor, which met every Friday afternoon. I learned the books of the Bible and Bible verses: 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.' We had a little chart and it would add a candle or something to show what we learned. We just expected that we would go to Sunday school and Christian Endeavor. Later on I sang in church choirs."

Favorite hymns: "This Is My Father's World" and "How Great Thou Art"

Favorite Christmas carol: "Joy to the World"

Favorite composer: Mozart

Treasured quotation: I found this years ago and pasted it inside the front cover of my Bible so I wouldn't lose it:

"The secret of the quietness that nothing can disturb is acceptance. Acceptance of life with all of its unreasonableness. Acceptance of unwanted events as part of the risk of living. Acceptance of the simple joys of every day without striving for that which is forever out of reach. Acceptance of the forgiveness and love of God as the source of serenity and joy."

Role model: "My mother. She was such a lady, but she worked hard. She baked everything and sewed for me. We used to look at Simplicity patterns together. Never complained. She came down from bed every morning looking like she could go to the office – makeup, dress, stockings."

Volunteering: "My avocation was volunteer work. I was a docent at the Museum of American History and at the National Building Museum."



Spotlight on Seniors

Part of an ongoing series featuring stories from the lives of our senior members. Seniors are asked to contact Eileen Jinks, Coordinator of Pastoral Care, or one of the deacons to participate.

An Interview with Bobbie Rapp

Deacon Marbeth Paulsen and Eileen Jinks spoke with Bobbie Rapp for this interview.

Small town New England life. "I was born in a lovely, small New England town – Warren, Mass. My dad had a wallpaper and paint store, as did his father. My father built a summer cottage at Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield. I had the best, happiest childhood anybody could have. My dad and I did coping-saw puzzles. We'd get ply board, cut out pictures from the Saturday Evening Post, paste them on the board and go to his workshop and take the coping saw and make puzzles."

By any other name. "My given name is Barbara Arlene Ellis. I became Bobbie shortly after I was born. John was my husband's name, John Bernard Rapp. Compared to Ellis, I didn't much care for Rapp."

"I had one sister, almost five years older than me. Her name was Elizabeth. I called her Liza all my life. Lovely girl. They don't make ladylike people like her anymore."

A house full of music. "My dad played the violin, the tuba in the town band, ocarina and piano. My mother was a very accomplished pianist. My sister was very good at keeping time, and we'd do duets and get silly and laugh."

"My mother had been accepted at the Boston Conservatory, but her mother died that year. Back in those days, there were no places like this [Goodwin House Alexandria], so you were expected to stay home and look after your parent."

Piano lessons. "I took piano lessons from a German piano teacher. She used to say, 'Bobbie, you must remember!' I hardly knew where I was on the page. But we got through nice duets. And our last was 'Eine kleine Nachtmusik.' Oh, we were good, if I say so."

Executive assistant. "After high school, I attended Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow, Mass. I always wanted to be a private secretary. I worked for people who were very high up. I would get the conference room ready and I just liked the whole job. One of my bosses was president of a major telecommunications company and had three states under him."

War bride. "My husband and I met in the library in Springfield, Mass. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in St. Paul when he was 16. He was all brains. Of course, he was drafted into the Army and I was a war bride. I telephoned my parents and I said, 'I'm going to California to get married.' I'd like my daughters to say that to me now!"

"He got into the CID [Criminal Investigation Division] eventually. He was in North Africa and Italy for two years."

Double the joy. "We had twin daughters. They still are very close. I didn't know I was going to have twins. I was supposed to have a baby in June. I was in labor in March and then they were born in April. Everyone was upset. They said, 'Why didn't you tell us? Because now we have to knit another hat!' One daughter is named for my mother, Leda, and the other for my husband's mother, Madelaine. They're the blessing and joy of my life."

A Path to Discovery Sunday Evening Worship

Searching for a way to deepen your spiritual life?

Have you ever wondered how the early Christians worshipped in the years following the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ?

Come discover the ancient traditions and understanding of Christianity that began with the Apostles and was passed on to the early Church Fathers.

Come and see, hear and experience ancient liturgies and music that have survived from the earliest times of our Christian heritage, grounded around the Scriptures and Gospel.

Come and rest in the beauty of this ancient context, interwoven with majestic God-inspired music of later times.

Come and understand through the communication of the spoken, sung, and chanted word, the connection and unification of the Old and New Testaments – the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. For example, come and hear about the linking of the days of Creation of the earth with the mysteries of the major events in the Savior's life, such as The First Day of Creation inexorably linked with the Annunciation; God's incredible gift of Creation, from the very beginning, of freedom to grow, to develop, to evolve and ultimately the freedom to choose – is mirrored in the mystery of the Incarnation occurring at the Annunciation, when Mary's freedom to choose to accept God begins God's new Creation.

All of this can be experienced in the Evening Worship Services which occur every Sunday evening at 5 p.m.

There are four types of Services:

The "*Evening Prayer Service*" of liturgy is taken from The Book of Common Worship, 1993. The service is entirely sung and led by Cantors and Choir, and responsively with the congregation.

The "*Akathist of Thanksgiving*" Service of liturgy is of "Glory to God for All Things" and is a genre of religious poetry – a song of praise, even during suffering. This liturgy originated in the early Christian church.

The "*Bach Vesper*" Service begins with a major prelude, toccata, or fantasia, or the sung Phos Hilaron, which is the Vesper Proclamation. Scriptural texts are then chanted by the Cantor or recited antiphonally by the congregation; these are selected according to the sequence in the four major segments of the two year cycle: "A Story of God," the "Liturgical Calendar," the "German Mass" and a second "Liturgical Calendar."

The fourth Service is the "*Byzantine Vigil*" which, in the past, has been led by the Youth Vocal Ensemble and Youth Bells. This liturgy features Greek Byzantine music and is more than a narrative and re-enactment of the story and mystery of God and his church - it is an unfolding interpretation of the meaning of the Transcendent God revealed in Jesus Christ.

In participating in these Services you may find that your spirit is nurtured and enlightened by the meditative and introspective atmosphere, and that your faith may be strengthened through the greater understanding of how the mystery of the Trinity of God has been manifested in His Creation through His great love.

In participating in these Services you will be joining many others in what has been written about in several books in recent years, documenting postmodern movements in several cultures, including the Western culture in which we live, back to rediscovering the roots of the common Christianity shared by all the major Christian denominations.

2012 Sanctuary Flowers

Westminster members and friends are invited to donate the flowers that will beautify our Sunday morning worship in 2012. The flowers may be given in memory of 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 \$65 for one and \$130 for two. The 2012 Flower Dedication Chart will be available for signing up following each service on November 27, December 4 and December 11. You can also contact Jessica Thurnes in the church office at jthurnes@wpc-alex.org. Be sure to sign up early if you want a specific date.

Christmas Flowers and Mission Giving

Again this year you will have the opportunity to honor or memorialize loved ones with a dedication in the Christmas bulletins by making a contribution to the joint Christmas flowers – mission project. As a sign of our ongoing commitment to missions, our 2011 Christmas project is Friends of Guest House. This is a nonprofit organization that provides a temporary home for women recently released from prison who need basic support services to facilitate a new start in life, and successfully transition back into society. Donations will not only provide outstanding sanctuary flowers at Christmas, but also provide additional funds to help this local mission project. Checks should be made out to Westminster with "Flowers/Friends of Guest House" noted on the memo line. There is no minimum and no maximum! To donate and make a bulletin dedication, contact Jessica Thurnes at jthurnes@wpc-alex.org or at (703)549-7466 in the church office.

Share the Spirit

Westminster is again working with the Child and Family Network Center to provide Christmas gifts for Alexandria families who would otherwise do without. If your faith group, club or family is interested in adopting a family, please contact Kathy Stenzel at LocalMission@wpc-alex.org

Tutoring Program

The Westminster-George Mason tutoring program is entering its twenty-second year serving the children at George Mason Elementary School. There are many children still in need of tutoring, and there is room for the program to grow. If you are interested in participating in this vital program as a tutor or a substitute, please contact Elizabeth O'Brien at LocalMission@wpc-alex.org.

Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless

To help AACH meet client needs, check the AACH web site (<http://www.aachhomeless.org/>) for current needs. You can also find volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact Beth Richardson at LocalMissions@wpc-alex.org.



Focus on Missions

Recollections from National Missions trip to Appalachia

During this past October, sixteen members of Westminster traveled to Jonesville, Virginia to volunteer with the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). The group was divided into three crews. Led by our most experienced teammates, we worked to improve the living conditions of three families in southern Virginia.



Adrienne Griffith writes about some of her experiences:

As I think back on the trip, I can't help but compare it to last year, which was something of a picture-perfect, anecdote-ready experience. The family welcomed us with open arms and worked beside us. They told us all about their lives, and shared lunch with us both days. Despite some challenges, we completed a porch project in two days. This year we didn't see much of the woman who lived in the house we worked on. She didn't eat lunch with us, and she also complained that the group who had been at her place the weekend before left a big mess. While we were working, we saw that a support beam on the front of the house was rotted. When we showed the beam to an ASP staff member, he said we should tear it out, put up some bracing material, and then replace the support. This was not in our original job description!



I guess that this year, I was reminded that it's better to make a start on a hard job than to do nothing at all. I believe we did some good at the house we worked on. We put up gutters on the front of the house; dug a ditch to improve drainage; and replaced some non-supporting boards. While we managed to replace that support, we realized it was only a start in making the house more stable. Finally, we may not have bonded with our homeowner, but we did learn enough about her life and its challenges to realize that interacting with us might not be her highest priority. I pray that the work we did, and the way in which we did it, made a start in helping her and her family. To be continued by others, in God's time.

Save Your Christmas Shopping for Westminster's Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar, December 4 and 11

Plan to do your Christmas shopping this year at the Westminster Mission Committees' Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar, December 4 and 11 in Fellowship Hall following the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. The Bazaar affords you the opportunity to honor friends, neighbors and coworkers by giving gifts in their names to charities supported by the Local, National and International Mission Committees at Westminster. These gifts will make an important difference in the lives of people in

our community, nation and around the world. The need has never been greater since perhaps the end of the Second World War. For example you can contribute to Carpenter's Shelter, Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, ALIVE, Senior Services of Alexandria, Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota, our ministry with Heifer International, and the Medical Benevolence Foundation, the Community Coalition for Haiti and Empowered Women International. Cards will be available from Westminster or the organization involved to give to the person you are honoring by your gift.

This is the primary time to provide continuing support for Westminster's United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. There are 54 children at the Orphanage that require support. And as the Academy grows and expands, additional funds are needed for school supplies and to provide scholarships to permit local orphans and vulnerable children for whom there is no room at the residential facility to attend the Academy, get a good education and at least one nutritious meal a day.

Finally, as in the past delicious chocolate, tea and coffee from the fair trade group Equal Exchange will be available for purchase. These are gifts that also give twice: once to the recipient and once to the workers, their families and communities around the world.



Adopt-a-Turkey

On, Saturday, November 19, volunteers are needed to help distribute 200 boxes of frozen turkey dinners to families in Network Preschool and the Arlandria Clinic, and clients of ALIVE House and Guest House. To learn more about this meaningful service, contact Louise Anderson: LocalMission@wpc-alex.org

Help the Homeless Walkathon

Members of Westminster are invited to walk on the National Mall on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 9:00 am. Over one-third of the ALIVE! House FY2011 budget resulted from friends' participation in the 2010 Walkathon. ALIVE's 2011 goal was 850 walkers, which will earn a bonus of \$15,000.00. To learn more about the results of this event, please contact Louise Anderson at LocalMission@wpc-alex.org

Thank You!

Thanks to those helping to distribute our Street People packets to the folks they encounter on the streets needing assistance. Consider being part of this effort when we distribute packets again.

Thanks also to all who worked with Rebuilding Alexandria Together on Nov. 5 to winterize homes for our neighbors.

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.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Book Group

All women readers are invited to read *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* by Heidi Durrow, winner of The Bellwether prize, a prize promoting fiction that addresses issues of social justice. Discussions will be held on Monday, Nov. 28, at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. The book for January discussions is *The House at Riverton* by Kate Morton. There will be no discussions in December.

Women's Circles

Six friendship circles meet monthly to study the Beatitudes and share fellowship. Details can be found on our website under Presbyterian Women or on our flyer in the education wing lobby rack. Or contact moderator Bonnie Nasr at PW@wpc-alex-org. You are invited to visit and join one!

Women's Work Day

All women are invited to the Haverkamp Room on Wed., Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m., to make children's stuffed toys and pillows for heart patients for Alexandria Hospital. No RSVP needed. Contact Nancy McIver for details.

Women's Shanghai Card Group

The women's card group meets in the Haverkamp Room the first Monday of the month, Dec. 5, at 7:15 p.m. The members will teach you how to play Shanghai. Contact Diane French.



Women's Retreat

Look ahead on your calendar to a celebration of St. Patrick's Day with a Celtic pilgrimage weekend, March 16-18, at the Hallowood Retreat Center, about an hour away in rural MD.

Children and Family Ministry



Parent and Teacher Education: The Red Sea

Sunday, December 4, 9:45 a.m.

Creation Station

Parents, shepherds, and teachers are invited to join in on a Bible study focusing on the story of Moses and the Red Sea. (Our Red Sea unit will begin in January for Creation Station children.) Led by Casey FitzGerald and Sarah Hoffman.

Mornings for Moms

EVERY FRIDAY

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Creation Station 303/305

Mornings for Moms will not meet Friday, December 23 or Friday, December 30.

Spark Story Bible: A GREAT Christmas Gift!

Spark Story Bibles are still available for \$16. These Bibles are great for kids 0-2nd grade (and even beyond)! Please contact Casey FitzGerald for more information.

A Creation Station Christmas

Sunday, December 18th 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Creation Station

Come help Charlie Brown find the true meaning of Christmas with snacks, a movie viewing, and activities. Parents, if you are interested in helping coordinate snacks or activities and/or shepherding the kids that morning, please contact Sarah Hoffman at shoffman@wpc-alex.org.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Family Retreat May 19-20

M&M Week June 25-29

Christmas Pageant



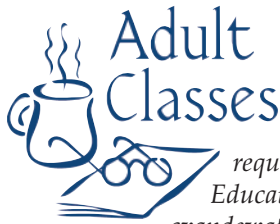
2011 Christmas Pageant and Dinner

All children K-5th grade are invited to be in our annual Christmas pageant! Please sign up on our website www.wpc-alex.org/children or fill out the forms available in the Creation Station wing. We will be practicing our Christmas hymns during Creation Station in preparation for the big event!!!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal December 10, 9:30a.m.
(Sanctuary)

Christmas Pageant and Dinner December 11, 5p.m.

Adult Education



Adult
Classes

Programs are held from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings, except the "Romans" class, which begins at 9:30 a.m. All adults are cordially invited; no registration required. For more information, Contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara Beth Van de Water at cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766 extension 120.

"Introduction to Romans"

concludes Nov. 20, Westminster Room.

"Church Going Is Not a Spectator Sport"

Nov. 20, Haverkamp Room.

WPC Foundation Board

Nov. 20. Learn how our church is enriched by the legacy of the community of saints that preceded and surround us. See what Foundation funds have purchased for the church and learn how the spending of Foundation money is determined.

Advent Lectures:

"Parables in Matthew for Advent Reflection," Nov. 27-Dec.11, Haverkamp Room. Dr. Anthony Tambasco, Professor of Theology, Georgetown University. Listen to reflections on the parable stories Jesus told, which move us from his Jewish roots to faith in Jesus as the Christ or Messiah. They point us to his Final Coming, especially the key parable of the sheep and the goats, which summarizes all of Jesus' parabolic teaching.

Special Advent Program: "A Conversation about Heaven and Hell," Dec. 18, Haverkamp Room. Dr. Christopher Morse, Professor of Theology, Union Theological Seminary, New York, and Dr. Larry Hayward, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church. Christopher Morse is Larry Hayward's former teacher at Union. Two books by Morse made it into Larry's recent sermons, *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Belief*, and *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearsing the Gospel as News*. The conversation will focus mainly on thoughts from the latter book.

Advent Small Group (For EVERYONE!)

Thursdays, 10:30-11:45, December 1-22

Johnson Parlor

Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas by Jan L. Richardson

Join Casey FitzGerald in reflecting on the meaning of Advent using Richardson's wonderful book of Advent meditations. Books are \$10 and are to be read each day during the Advent/Christmas season. Books are available for pick-up in the Library. Payment will be accepted on the first day.

Childcare available upon request. Participants are asked to commit to at least 3 of the 4 dates. Please register with Casey by emailing cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org.



Faith on Tap Welcomes Young Adults from the Area!!!

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
Capitol City Brewing Company
(Shirlington)

Topic: The Occupy Movement

Young Adults Christmas Event

Sunday, December 4, 6:30-9 p.m.

The FitzGerald's

A light supper, a movie viewing, discussion and dessert!

"What Would Jesus Buy?" follows Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir as they go on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse: the end of mankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt! From producer Morgan Spurlock (*Super Size Me*) and director Rob Van Alkemade comes a serious docu-comedy about the commercialization of the holidays." On that night we will also be collecting gifts for residents of the Ladrey building—a Young Adults' Christmas tradition.

Money Matters:

2012 Giving Envelopes will be available in Fellowship Hall by mid-December. Envelopes have been assigned to all who have pledged and requested envelopes. It is costly to mail these envelopes out, so we greatly appreciate your picking them up. These giving envelopes can be used when making contributions toward pledges or for other types of special gifts.

End of Year Giving: Some of our members like to pay their pledge or make a special gift to the church using a stock donation. If you are planning to make a gift to the church with a donation of stock, please contact Mr. Marc Eisner with Morgan Stanley at 703-535-8334. Mr. Eisner will give you the information needed to make the stock transfer. Please also notify Nancy Bea, our Business Administrator, that you are initiating a stock transaction with information as to the purpose or intent of the donation. We need notification from you, the donor, so that the donation will be properly credited to your financial records. Please remember to initiate your stock transaction not later than December 15 so that the office has time to receive the information and make sure it is properly recorded before the end of the year. All year end gifts—checks, stocks or cash—must by law be received by the church or postmarked no later than December 31, 2011 in order to be credited to your 2011 giving record. The check date is irrelevant if it is not received or postmarked by December 31



Notes From the Stewardship Committee

Love Your Neighbor

As most of the congregation is aware, several years ago, Westminster undertook a major renovation to our church facility. Through the generous giving of Westminster members, the church raised the entire amount necessary to pay for this renovation – more than \$6 million. Unlike many churches, Westminster has no debt.

In recent years, members of the church have increased their annual pledges to support the hiring of critically needed staff members and to fund expanded church programs. Earlier this year, the Session allocated a substantial amount of money that has been received from bequests and from monthly income derived from leasing space in the steeple to three different cell phone companies – to fund a variety of reserve accounts. These actions ensure that Westminster will have money in the bank the next time the church needs a major repair such as a new roof; new equipment such as a new HVAC system; or, maintenance for the sanctuary organ.

What this all means is that Westminster has been engaged in a multi-year effort to build and maintain a strong church staff, as well as significant church programs, and to put in place a stable and secure financial foundation for many years into the future.

This year's Stewardship Committee established a goal for the congregation's giving which was 10% higher than the 2011 pledge commitment. Members of the congregation might logically be asking, "What will my increased pledge be used for?" The 2011 annual church budget is approximately \$1.6 million – with pledges making up the vast majority of that amount at about 85%. If pledges are increased by 10%, that would bring in an additional \$135,000 (approximately). The majority of this money would go directly to fund increased mission activities of the church.

The Local Missions Committee has requested an increase of more than \$20,000 to increase support for programs such as the Street People Project, Senior Services of Alexandria, and the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless. The Committee also is requesting \$6,000 to support the Alexandria Untouchables program and other programs focused on at-risk youth.

The National Missions Committee has requested an increase of more than \$44,000, which would increase funding for the National Capital Presbytery mission outreach, provide \$15,000 in new funding for Appalachian Service Project ongoing programs and \$20,000 for the Bdecan Presbyterian/Spirit Lake Native American Ministries in North Dakota.

The International Missions Committee is requesting an increase of more than \$9,000, which would increase funding for the Youth Mission Ministry and support another mission trip to Haiti.

Thanks to all who have submitted their 2012 pledges and to those of you who continue to prayerfully consider what you may be able to give. Your generous commitment to Westminster is greatly appreciated!

David Hill, *Chair, Administration and Finance Committee*
David Hoover, *Stewardship Committee*

Men of Westminster



Men's Annual Retreat News

February 3-5, 2012

Registration for the annual Westminster Men's Retreat will begin on November 20 and will continue through January 22, 2012. Registration forms will be available after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship services at a table in

Fellowship Hall. One of our men will be on hand to give you a registration form and to answer any questions that you might have about the retreat.

The registration form will also be available on the Westminster Presbyterian Church web site under Men of Westminster.

The retreat will be held the weekend of February 3-5, 2012 at the popular Hallwood Retreat Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain near Comus, Maryland.

Our leader will be Jeffrey Hensley, the former national director of religious colleges and universities for the Hanover Research Council, a higher education research firm based in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he served as special assistant to the President of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities and as Assistant Professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary and at Baylor University. Jeffrey Hensley did his graduate work in theology at Yale University, and served as an Erasmus fellow at the University of Notre Dame. His topic will be "Why Are We Here? – Everyday Questions and the Christian Life."

Those of you who have attended past retreats know how enjoyable the program, food, and fellowship have been. Consider not only attending yourself, but personally inviting someone who has not previously attended one of our men's retreats. You do not have to be a member of Westminster to attend. All men are welcome.

Men of Westminster 2nd Friday Breakfast

December 9, 2011, 7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Detective Gary Gleason of the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will speak about identity theft at our December breakfast. He has been a detective with the ACPD for the last 5 years, and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division. All men are welcome.

Youth Adopt-A-Family



Join us as we purchase gifts of need and joy for local families!

December 4th Shop at Skyline Target
(MS 4:30 – 5:30; SH 7 -8)

December 11th Bowl and Wrap
6:30-8:30 both groups @ US Bowl on S. Pickett)

Westminster's Annual Boxwood Workshop



Will be held Tuesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 7 in Fellowship Hall. Come either day at 9:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. to make boxwood wreaths, centerpieces, tabletop trees, candlestick arrangements, kissing balls, and other holiday greens decorations. Extra boxwood, pine roping, bows made to order, pre-made balsam wreaths, and other materials are also available to take home. Cost of making boxwood items ranges from \$10 for kissing balls to \$26 for boxwood wreaths. Most others are \$18. To sign up or get more information, call Madeline Ramsey at 703-379-7458, or e-mail at CBramse44@aol.com by November 28th to hold your place and be sure sufficient materials are on hand. \$5 deposit due with registration. This is a really fun way to start the Advent/Christmas season. We hope you can join us and bring a friend or neighbor.

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
and Women's Ministries
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Advent Schedule 2011

Sunday, November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Worship

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series: *Parables in Matthew for Advent Reflection*, by

Dr. Anthony Tambasco

5:00 p.m. Bach Vespers

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship with communion

Larry Hayward preaching

9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series: *Parables in Matthew for Advent Reflection*, by

Dr. Anthony Tambasco

Alternative Giving Bazaar

5:00 p.m. Akathist of Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship, Chapel

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

Bach, Magnificat (with orchestra)

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series: *Parables in Matthew for Advent Reflection*, by

Dr. Anthony Tambasco

Alternative Giving Bazaar

5:00 p.m. Children's Pageant and

Congregational dinner

(No Vespers)

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Festival Sunday

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

Larry Hayward preaching

Music with the Commonwealth Brass

9:45 a.m. *A Conversation about Heaven and Hell* (with a Theologian and a Minister) with Dr. Christopher Morse and Dr. Larry Hayward.

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 21

Longest Night Service

7:30 p.m. Worship in the Chapel

Casey FitzGerald preaching

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Worship

Patrick Hunnicutt preaching

7:45 p.m. Harp prelude

8:00 p.m. Worship

Larry Hayward preaching

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Vigil (30 minutes)

Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Larry Hayward preaching

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