

# 2011 Annual Report



Westminster  
Presbyterian  
C H U R C H  
— *worship well* —

Dear Friends,

The Communications Committee offers this booklet as a summary of Westminster's life in 2011. We invite you to read, enjoy, and join in worship, service, education, and fellowship. None of what was accomplished would have been possible without the generous resources provided through stewardship, special contributions, and the countless volunteer offerings of time and talent by the congregation.

Larry R. Hayward  
Pastor

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## *Fellowship*

### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

With a focus on developing ways to enhance the church's sense of community by planning and implementing special activities for the entire church family such as picnics and dinners, the year was filled with many wonderful and well-attended all-church Congregational Life events.

- March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13 - Lenten Dinners
- April 17 – Palm Sunday Breakfast
- June 12 – Annual Picnic and Summer Kick-off
- October 2 – All-Church Potluck after worship
- November 6 – Stewardship Blessings Brunch
- December 11 – Christmas Pageant and Congregational Dinner

### **ADULTS**

Tables for Eight, small group dinners in members' homes, is active again this year and had a kick-off potluck on September 24th. The Craft Group also held the annual boxwood workshop. The faith groups, small group fellowships, continue seasonal studies.

### **FAMILIES**

This year's activities for Families with Young and Elementary School Children included a large gathering for a fall barbeque at the church, several weekend playground gatherings in spring and summer and Mornings for Moms for casual conversation and play-time for the kids. Mom's Studies were offered throughout the year based on Jan Richardson's *In the Sanctuary of Women*.

### **MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster sponsors a monthly hot breakfast with speakers of interest at 7:00 – 8:15 am on the 2nd Friday of every month throughout the year. A bible study was offered on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 – 8:30 am. MOW also has an annual weekend winter retreat in February at the Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center near Sugarloaf Mountain in Frederick County, MD.

## **SENIORS – WESTMINSTER TRAVELERS**

Westminster Travelers continued their monthly trips to the Little Theater of Alexandria in Old Town. They saw many fun productions by some fine local actors.

## **SINGLES – FLYING SOLO**

Our active group of Flying Solo Singles (40 or better!) enjoys Monthly Dine-Outs and Potlucks, Roundtable lunch discussions, and an annual weekend retreat. Their monthly potlucks include making sandwiches for Bag Lunch.

- Fall Retreat to the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown, MD, with discussion of spiritual themes in the Coen brothers' films led by Maggie Hayward.
- Roundtable discussions included how to dialogue with others who have different views, learning about some changes and challenges in the denomination, and a slideshow trip to the famous cemeteries of Paris.
- Through Share the Spirit, Flying Solo Adopts-a-Family at Christmas.
- Enjoyed fellowship with one another at Super Bowl Party and Christmas Party.

## **WOMEN**

Women have so many options for meaningful fellowship– and fun! Six Presbyterian Women's Circles meet monthly for Bible study, fellowship and service projects. Presbyterian Women Work Day meets monthly to make pillows for children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital. Other active groups open to all women include The Monthly Book Discussion Groups, morning and evening, and the monthly Shanghai Card Night.

- Women held a Fall Gathering with Clara Beth Van de Water speaking on Jesus: "Our Shepherd Lord"
- The annual women's spring retreat focused on "Reformed Spirituality" led by Melissa Kirkpatrick

## YOUNG ADULTS

In addition to monthly "Faith on Tap" discussion and noshing at a local restaurant, single and married young adults enjoyed occasional Brunches at Westminster and the Annual Bowling Tournament. This year's mission activities include participating in Christmas Gift Giving to Ladrey Senior Housing, and a Mission trip to Appalachia (see MISSION). Seventeen young adults participated in Young Adult Small Groups this fall. Each group covenanted to study, play, worship and serve together. Westminster Young Adults hosted A Faith on Tap open to other churches in National Capital Presbytery to discuss the faith and lives of young adults.

## YOUTH

### Middle School and Senior High

Both our Middle School and Senior High youth met regularly (typically weekly) for a variety of fellowship and mission events. Highlights included our Middle School retreat to Shrine Mont, our Be-Attitude themed senior high lock-in, and local mission projects including Rebuilding Alexandria, Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon, ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution, and our Christmas Adopt-a-Family project.

## SCOUTS

Sponsored by Westminster since March 1942, our Cub Scout Pack #129 has 130 boys (grades 1-5) and our Boy Scout Troop #129 has over 50 boys (ages 11 through 17). The Boy Scout Troop's active outdoor/ camping program in 2011 included a week at camp Ottari near Roanoke VA and a high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Four Boy Scouts attained the rank of Eagle in 2011.

## *Education*

### YOUNG CHILDREN

- Babies are cared for in our dedicated Nursery by our Nursery staff.
- Parent volunteers staff four separate childcare rooms for the age groups of ones, twos, threes and fours.
- This fall we began using Spark Curriculum to provide simple Bible lessons to our two and three year old classrooms. The four-year old/pre-K classroom continues to attend Children & Worship.

## ELEMENTARY AND CREATION STATION

- In **Creation Station**, our rotation model for Christian Education for grades Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup>, we continued using our Spark curriculum and incorporating hymns and music in gathering time.
- The annual M&M Week, our music camp experience for elementary aged children, was held in June. Children worked towards a performance of "Adam's Apple" and learned about the story of Adam, Eve and the Garden of Eden. The Easter Sunday Donkey Processional and Christmas Pageant were held.
- We continued with **Children and Worship**, story telling in a worship setting, for ages 4 and K-1<sup>st</sup> during 11 am worship.
- In August, Sarah Hoffman began working as the Children's Ministries Coordinator.

## YOUTH

Each Sunday during the school year our youth continue exploring their faith, led by adult members of the congregation.

- Middle School Youth Café (Grades 6-7)
- Confirmation Class (Grade 8) including retreat with the Reformed Institute
- Senior High Sundays (Grade 9-12)

## ADULTS

Sunday morning classes were well received on a variety of topics. These included Paul's prison epistles and letter to Romans, God and physics, grief, the Middle East, Jesus' parables, prayer, cross-cultural communication, Handel's Messiah, Pentecostalism, Atonement and Resurrection, Christianity in China, H. R. Niebuhr's "The Kingdom of God in America", theology in art, climate cataclysms, and evolution and theology. Some lectures are accessible online at the church website.

Casey Fitzgerald led weekday small group Bible studies and Larry Hayward started a well-attended evening DISCIPLE course last fall.

Westminster continues to support the excellent additional educational programs offered by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington.

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

A variety of good books for adults and children were added to the wonderful Pera library.

## *Worship and Music*

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

- **Vesper Services:**
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the 2-year Bach Vespers series.
  - Fall of 2011 Vespers was expanded to weekly Sunday evening services, adding three new formats: Byzantine Vigil, the Evening Prayer setting from the Book of Common Worship 1993, and the Akathist of Thanksgiving.
- **March 25, a Benefit Concert** for earthquake-ravaged Japan, offered by renowned musicians Hilary Hahn and Valentina Lisitska, was speedily organized as a cooperative effort between the Music Ministry and Mission. The event was extraordinarily successful in terms of attendance, logistics and donations. Over \$22,000 was raised!
- **Music Ministry Outreach**, a new ministry organized by Carolyn Carmack working with Eileen Jinks, brings sacred music and hymns to homebound members of the congregation.
- **Children's Music Ministry**
  - Ms. Betsy Baumgartner was hired to fill the newly created Assistant Director of Children's Music Ministries position.
  - Music & More Week focused on Adam and Eve, and God's everlasting love and forgiveness, concluding with a presentation of the musical *Adam's Apple*.

## MUSIC ENSEMBLES

- Besides the Westminster Choir's weekly leadership in worship, the Youth Vocal Ensemble and Children's Choirs sang in many services.
- The handbell ensembles – Westminster Ringers, Celtic Cross Ringers, Youth Handbells and Beginning Bells, regularly enhanced worship.

## WORSHIP SERVICES OF NOTE:

- Our youth led an inspiring **Youth Sunday** worship in May with the theme of "New Beginnings," using Harry Potter and the story of the woman at the well.
- **Lenten season:**
  - Palm Sunday worship included a cantata with choir and orchestra at the 11:00 service
  - An Easter Vigil was celebrated the night before Easter, through chanted recitation of the entire Gospel of Matthew.
- **The tenth anniversary of 9/11** was commemorated with a service that featured speakers Michael Donley, Secretary of the Air Force; Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, Deputy Chief of Naval Chaplains; and Paul H. Bea, Jr., Board Member, Families of September 11.
- **Advent worship services:**
  - Bach's Magnificat for choir, soloists and orchestra was featured on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service
  - Changes in the Christmas Eve services were well received:
    - Candlelight was added to the 5pm service
    - The Candlelight Service traditionally held at 10:00pm was moved to 8:00 pm
    - The Vigil of the Nativity was added at 11:00 pm.

## *Mission*

### LOCAL

The Local Mission Committee is pleased to provide this overview of what Westminster was able to do in 2011 to improve the lives of our neighbors and our community. Here is where our financial support went and highlights of our non-financial involvement:

- **ALIVE!** - \$14,500 – Our largest recipient of financial support, ALIVE! also benefits from Westminster's volunteer effort in support of last Saturday food distribution every month as well as providing volunteers to deliver donated furniture one weekend a year.
- **Carpenter's Shelter** - \$8,000 – While our financial support was most needed and welcome, it was our service through preparing and serving dinner the first Monday of every month in 2011 that was perhaps most appreciated. Nearly 40 different volunteers supported the effort during the course of the year, contributing more than 240 hours of volunteer service and serving approximately 900 meals.
- **Rebuilding Together Alexandria**- \$4,600 – Beyond the financial contribution, Westminster supported a spring and fall workday. In the spring, a volunteer crew of approximately 18 people helped to rehab one house. In the fall, a volunteer crew of approximately 8 people weatherized two houses.
- **George Mason Tutoring** - \$4,500 – For two days a week from October through May, Westminster was able to organize tutoring for approximately 25 students thanks to the work of 30 volunteers.
- **Meals on Wheels** - \$3,400 – The third Tuesday of every month a small, but dedicated group of approximately 14 volunteers delivered about 100 meals each week to seniors and shut-ins.
- **Adopt-A-Turkey** - \$1,500 – Distributed 300 Thanksgiving meals to Alexandria area residents.
- **Bag Lunch** - \$1,500 - Sandwiches, sandwiches, sandwiches. In 2011, the congregation made approximately 2,650 sandwiches and distributed them as part of a four times a month meal service, which fed on average 60 people per week.
- **Street People Project**– New in 2011 we launched the distribution of packets to the homeless in Arlington, Alexandria, and DC. This effort was not budgeted and was made possible largely through special contributions. In total, the congregation took 100 packets for distributions.

In addition, during the Christmas season we were able to make many lives a little brighter through the Alternative Giving Bazaar, Share the Spirit/Adopt-A-Family program, and contributed gift bags, gift certificates and dinner to needy families.

## INTERNATIONAL MISSION

In its first year as an independent committee, the Westminster International Missions Committee made a great deal of progress to strengthen the church's missions work in communities around the world. Beginning with a comprehensive mapping of all of the various activities for which the committee is responsible -- from projects in Reynosa, Mexico, Fond-Parisien, Haiti, and in various parts of Africa -- the committee made a series of decisions about where resources should be prioritized in the coming years.

The hallmark of the committee's work has been, and will continue to be, the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya.

- This year, with help from funding provided by Westminster, the orphanage completed the construction and finishing-out of the 3rd floor of the academy building, thus allowing the addition of grade 8 to the Academy.
- There are now approximately 55 orphans and 250 children attending the Academy daily, and 7 of the orphans took the National Exam and will be entering secondary school in 2012.
- Larry and Maggie Hayward visited Moi's Bridge in February and stayed for several days visiting with Rev. Chege and local pastors, providing a clear picture of the current situation on the ground and deepening the relationship between Westminster and the Orphanage even further.

Other projects undertaken by the committee include efforts in:

- Justo Mwale, Zambia, where a seminary student attends classes this fall with the support of a scholarship sponsored by our church, and
- East Africa, where we are partnering with the Njoro and Elburgon Presbyteries in Kenya to complete construction of churches in the communities of Temoyetta, Kikipu, and Londiani.

Westminster also became increasingly involved in caring for the world's most needy in times of disaster and recovery, including:

- In March, WPC hosted a benefit concert for the Japan earthquake/tsunami relief effort where two world-class musicians, Valentina Lisitsa and two-time Grammy Award winner Hilary Hahn, performed at the church, to raise \$22,010 for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.
- In July 2011, a group of Westminster senior highs went on a mission trip to Haiti, where they worked side-by-side with the citizens of Fond Parisien to build a vocational school, helped with vacation Bible school for disabled and displaced children, and distributed health kits to families in one of the poorest communities in Haiti.

## NATIONAL

The National Mission Committee currently focuses on three primary areas: housing rehabilitation in Appalachia as a participant in the Appalachia Service Project; regional hunger concerns through gleaning trips in connection with the Society of St. Andrew; and support of Native American ministry and mission with the Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake, North Dakota.

- September saw 44 WPC members (age 2 to 92) participate in a National Mission Committee trip to Winchester, Virginia through the Society of St. Andrew's Gleaning Network. Over 550 lbs. of apples were gathered and distributed to families in need as a part of the ALIVE! Last Saturday Program
- Also in October, 16 WPC members returned to Jonesville, Virginia to support the housing rehabilitation program of the Appalachia Service Project. Teams from our congregation refurbished three homes.

In addition to the mission trips noted, beginning in November, National Mission Committee began support of a winter food pantry for the Bdecan Presbyterian Church at Spirit Lake, North Dakota.

## MISSION TRIPS

Summer Youth Mission activities:

- In August 2011, our Middle School youth travelled to Philadelphia to participate in a week-long urban mission program sponsored by Broad Street Ministries (BSM). The youth partnered with other church youth to serve at a variety of city mission projects, including urban farming, making and serving meals for the homeless and terminally ill, a prison book ministry and much more.
- Our Senior Highs embarked in July 2011 on an ambitious and successful trip to Fond Parisien, Haiti, where they partnered with the Foundation for Peace to help construct a vocational school for impoverished and earthquake-ravaged communities. They also led Vacation Bible School sessions for local youth and distributed medical supplies and water purification systems in rural communities.

## ***Pastoral & Congregational Care***

Every day the Pastoral Staff and the Deacons, with the help of the entire congregation, seek to be a caring presence to those experiencing illness, grief or major life transitions. Some related activities from the past year:

- “Spotlight on Seniors” – an interview with a senior member – was started this fall as a regular feature in the Chronicle.
- Music Ministry Outreach program began in October to bring hymn singing monthly to members who are homebound or ill.
- Deacon Meals Team volunteers provided meals to 17 families celebrating births or adoptions, in addition to meals to several members coping with health issues.
- Deacons made 19 extended Communion visits to members on Communion Sundays.
- Compassion Guild provided support for 9 memorial/funeral services, and coordinated the receptions following the services.
- Quarterly meetings brought together Prayer Chain members to share prayer practices, and monthly email updates kept them current on prayer requests.
- “Lunches with Larry,” in addition to our traditional “Coffee with the Pastors,” were held at both Goodwin Houses.
- Member Response Team continued its work to assist members in need.

## *Committees of the Session*

### **CHURCH HOME**

New in 2010, the Church HOME Committee (Helping Our Members Engage) continues to focus on improving the way new as well as long-time members make Westminster their church HOME. The function of the Church HOME Committee is to provide ways to involve members in the life of the church, to develop bonds among members, and to enhance the spiritual growth among members through connecting them into the life of the church. Besides working with the New Member Committee, and making better use of the church database as a tool for identifying members interests and skills, Church HOME produced a poster campaign to "advertise" church activities.

### **PERSONNEL**

Changes and additions to our staff:

- Sharon Tarr resigned as Director of Westminster Travelers
- LeAnne Perkowski resigned as Program Assistant
- Sarah Hoffman, Children's Ministry Coordinator, hired
- Jessica Thurnes, Program Assistant, hired
- Betsy Baumgardner, Assistant Director of Children's Music Ministries, hired
- Patty Chamberlain, Acting Director of Seniors Activities, hired effective February 1, 2012

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

Building & Grounds Committee was busy this year caring for, maintaining and enhancing our facility for the future:

- Held spring and fall cleanup days
- Coordinated commencement of design for Cameron Mills streetscape including the courtyard. This includes allowing for a potential elevated plaza with handicap access to the narthex.
- Installed an automated external defibrillator in the lobby and fellowship hall
- Completed restriping of the parking lot

### **NOMINATING**

The Nominating Committee presented slates of officers for the Congregation's consideration as church officers twice in 2011. The committee would like to thank those who volunteered and those who considered volunteering.

## STEWARDSHIP

The 2011 Pledge Stewardship Campaign was very successful, with a total of 403 pledges received for a pledge total of \$1,349,423. The 2012 Pledge Stewardship Campaign "Love Your Neighbor" has a goal of 400 pledges for a pledge total of \$1,484,365.

## CHURCH FINANCIAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Westminster Presbyterian Church ended 2011 in a very good financial state. The church has good cash balances, strong revenue sources from pledges, offerings, and contributions. Our expenses stayed within revenue, with the annual Operating Fund covering routine operation of the church, church programs and fellowships, benevolences and missions, staff, and building and grounds maintenance.

Our Foundation increased to a new high level for a total of \$1,355,794. Part of the growth was due to gifts totaling \$80,818 from 4 bequests.

The Capital Campaign drew to a close in 2011. The church received additional pledge contributions and ended the year with \$85,505 in funds, which are being used to address follow-up projects from the renovation.

### 2011 Year End Finances

Pledges	\$ 1,315,765
Offering	122,812
<u>Other</u>	<u>163,489</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,602,066
Total Expenses	\$ 1,538,809
Year end Net	\$ 63,257

Part of the excess income from 2011 will be used to support the church's 2012 budget, which will include expanded mission activities.

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

934 total members as of 12/31/11 - a gain of 49!

- 77 new or reactivated members
- 9 member deaths
- 13 other losses (transfers to other churches, inactive, etc.)
- 33 child and infant baptisms, 4 adult baptisms
- 27 births or adoptions in member families

Again, another year of significant increases in the number of families with young children age 4 and younger. Also, the percentage of members aged 26-55 increased again this year.

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