



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

December 13, 2009
Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mark and Megan Pollock

Chorale Prelude on "God's Son is Coming"

J. S. Bach

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the oppressed.

People: **The wilderness and dry land shall be glad,
The desert shall rejoice and blossom.**

Lighting of the candles

Leader: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

People: **And rejoice with joy and singing.**

All: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

+*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 18

STERLING

The Desert Shall Rejoice

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation is seated)

Almighty God,
You are rich in mercy to all who call upon you.
Hear us as we come to you
Confessing our sinfulness
And imploring your mercy and forgiveness.
We have broken your holy laws
By our deeds,
By our words,
And by the sinful affections of our hearts.
We confess before you
Our disobedience and ingratitude,
Our pride and willfulness.
We confess before you our shortcomings
Toward you and toward our fellow human beings.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
And of your great goodness
Grant that we might hereafter serve you
In newness of life;
Through the merit and mediation
Of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Please continue to pray silently

TRISAGION

12-c. Anonymous (Georgia)

O God almighty, Holy God, Immortal God, have mercy on us, deliver us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

+*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

+ WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Casey W. FitzGerald

THE WORD SPOKEN AND SUNG

ANTHEM

Henry Purcell

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Philippians 4:4-7)

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-7

New Testament, p. 198

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Kindergartners and 1st graders are invited to Children and Worship.

*HYMN OF MEDITATION 2

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

SERMON

Joy In A Time Of Incarceration

Larry R. Hayward

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Patrick A. Hunnicutt

**Christ Jesus,
Though he was in the form of God,
Did not regard equality with God
As something to be exploited,
But emptied himself,
Taking the form of a slave,
Being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form
He humbled himself
And became obedient to the point of death—
Even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him
And gave him the name that is above every name,
So that at the name of Jesus
Every knee should bend,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord!
Amen.**

(Philippians 2:5-11)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Erik Johnston

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Rise up, Shepherds, and Follow

Spiritual (Arr. Hart Morris)

*DOXOLOGY 592

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 38

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Those who are able, please stand.

+Ushers will seat worshipers.

Leading in worship today are Larry R. Hayward, Senior Pastor, Patrick A. Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor; Casey W. FitzGerald, Associate Pastor; Paul T. Stetsenko, Director of Music Ministries; Westminster Choir; Westminster Ringers, Youth Vocal Ensemble; Erik Johnston, Joy Gift Minute for Mission; Mark and Megan Pollock (Lighting of the Candle).

The Congregation is invited to Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall after worship. Coffee Hour is hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

Music Notes The Greek word **Trisagion** translates as "Thrice Holy." In this hymn of great antiquity, God is described in three different qualities - Almighty, Holy, and Immortal. In Western liturgies, *Trisagion* is often used instead of Kyrie. The setting of Trisagion, sung today in English by our Youth Vocal Ensemble, is from Eastern Georgia, written by an anonymous 12-c. monk. Georgia was one of the first countries to adopt Christianity; there are many working cathedrals and churches that were built in the 4th century.


Flowers in the Sanctuary today are given by the Webster Family and the Hawkins Family in memory of George D. Webster.

The beautiful new brass Advent Wreath Stand in the Sanctuary was purchased using funds donated in memory of Richard (Dick) Williams, the late husband of Micheline Williams.

VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP TODAY

Greeter: Elizabeth O'Brien (main), Mary Olsen (library)
Ushers: Jon Hurt (captain), Sheff Richey, Andrew Riley, Melinda Schadeberg, Cassie Schurz, Steve and Patricia Scroggs, Cindy Shaw, Ron Shoemaker, Gwen Lockhart
Bus Driver: Greg Ewell
Counters: Molly Roden, Barb Wyman, Gwen Lockhart, Becky Davies

Transport Assistance and flower delivery are provided by the deacons.

Next Sunday December 20, 2009 Third Sunday of Advent		Worship 8:30 a.m. Chapel 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Micah 5:2-5a Hebrew 10:5-10	Lectionary Passages	Psalms 80:1-7 Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Sermon <i>How Was Mary Favored?</i> Dr. Larry R. Hayward Text: Luke 1:26-38		

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Membership Class is offered on the second Sunday of every month. *This class focuses on activities at Westminster and the meaning of membership.* The next Membership Class will be held **today at 9:45 a.m.** in the Johnson Parlor.

Following the Inquirer and Membership Classes, those joining Westminster will be received by the session **next Sunday, December 20** in the Johnson Parlor and presented to the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

To sign up for these classes and for more information, please contact one of the following people: **Gail Donley** at nsegail@hotmail.com; **David Moser** at moserd@gao.gov; or **Larry Hayward** at lhayward@wpc-alex.org.

THE WESTMINSTER UPDATE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

For more information check out the Chronicle or our website: www.wpc-alex.org

NEWS & NOTES

Don't miss this Christmas tradition! This Evening, December 13

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

5:45 p.m. Congregational Dinner

Dinner \$5 per person, \$20 family max

Children under 5 free

† **Thank you** to all who have submitted your pledges. To date, we have received 282 pledges totaling \$1,044,182. Our total goal of \$1,250,604 is within reach, but we need everyone's support to ensure that this "healthy tree" that is our church continues to bear good fruit. Please submit your 2010 pledge online (www.wpc-alex.org), with the pledge cards in the pews or by contacting Nancy Bea, Church Administrator, at Nbea@wpc-alex.org. Thank you for your generosity and support.

† **Offering Envelopes** for 2010 are available to be picked up in Fellowship Hall for those who requested them. You may still request Offering Envelopes by contacting Nancy Bea in the church office or at nbea@wpc-alex.org.

† **Christmas Remembrances** This year we will not be selling individual poinsettias as memorials for Christmas. However, Westminster will be continuing its tradition of memorial donations in support of our Mission Committees. This year half of the proceeds will go to support Carpenter's Shelter, an emergency and transitional shelter for the homeless in Alexandria; and the other half will go to support the United Orphanage and Academy at Moi's Bridge in Kenya, which provides a home to 50 children and schooling for children from the tribal communities in the area. As in the past, your name and your dedication, in honor of or memory of loved ones, will appear in the bulletin. Please contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office at 703-549-4766 or lperkowski@wpc-alex.org to make your donation.

† **Sanctuary Flowers for 2010:** Sign up at the coffee hours after each service today to purchase the flowers that will beautify our sanctuary on Sundays during 2010. Two vase arrangements are available each week; one arrangement is \$60, two will be \$120. The flowers can be donated in honor or memory of loved ones, and your name as well as your dedication will appear in the bulletin. You can also contact LeAnne Perkowski in the church office for more information or to participate. Be sure to sign up early if you want a particular date.

† **Christmas Wreaths** purchased from the Boy Scouts are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 service.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

† **Sunday morning classes for adults**

- I. Come to our Advent Lecture Series on "**Stories of Jesus' Birth and Infancy: What do They Convey?**" **today, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Haverkamp Room**, with Jeffrey Hensley, former professor of theology, Virginia Seminary. Explore the rich theological and spiritual meanings and significance of these narratives in Matthew and Luke, which go far beyond the surface readings we usually give them in the Christmas season.
- II. **In the Westminster Room, 9:30 – 10:50 a.m.: "Introduction to the Psalms"**, a Bible study from the DISCIPLE Program with DVD, Bible reading, and discussion led by Elders Connie Ring, J.D., and Kathy Harkness, M.A. ends today.
- III. "**Relating to Fellow Christians from Other Cultures**", January 10, 17, and 31, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Haverkamp Room, with Rev. Jacques Hadler, who teaches pastoral care and directs field work at Virginia Theological Seminary. He will discuss experiences and issues in encountering Christians from different cultures and backgrounds, both here and abroad, including different social views and worship traditions, integrating what we learn into our personal faith and relationships, as well as congregational life and practice.

IV. **"Face to Face with the Powerful Idol of Guns: Realities and Myths about Gun Violence in America"**, January 24, 9:45 a. m., Haverkamp Room, with Rev. James Atwood, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington. Rev. Atwood works on ways to reduce the epidemic of gun violence, including an overture recently passed by the PCUSA towards controlling gun access. Learn about shocking statistics of gun crime, the powerful rhetoric of gun lobbying, and how we might act to reduce gun tragedies.

For more information about the above classes, contact Clara Beth Van de Water, cvandewater@wpc-alex.org or 703-548-8868. No registration is necessary.

† ***Dream.Think.Be.Do***, a study for young adults, will resume again in January. Join us in the Bride's Room then for some great discussion! Contact Casey FitzGerald at cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org for more details.

† **Reformed Institute Programs:**

The Reformed Institute is presenting two speakers on Saturday, January 23, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Dr. Christian Smith on **"Passing on the Faith in an Unsettled Culture"** and Dr. Richard Osmer on **"Passing on the Faith in the Reformed Tradition: Old Resources and New Strategies"**, at National Presbyterian Church in D.C. . The event is free, open to all adults, and preceded by a continental breakfast at 9:00 a. m. Dr. Smith directs the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture at Notre Dame and wrote "Soul Searching" about teenagers and a sequel about young adults. Dr. Osmer teaches at Princeton Seminary and has written widely on education for all ages. Registration is desired, but not required. Go to www.reformedinstitute.org or call Clara Beth Van de Water.

"An Educated Laity: an Obsolete Idea?" will be taught Dr. Bruce Douglass, Director of the Reformed Institute, on second Saturdays, 10:00 a. m.-12:15 p.m., from February-May at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean. The idea of theologically informed and Biblically literate church members is part of our Reformed Tradition, but called into question by our fast paced society. Can we include learning in our practice of Christianity? The fee is \$75, but WPC will subsidize participants, bringing the cost to \$50. Register with Mary Hill at 703-518-5125 or www.reformedinstitute.org. Contact Clara Beth about the subsidy, and to let her know that you have enrolled. The first class will be February 13.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

† An opportunity for spiritual growth in the new year: **Pick up a copy of The Year With the Bible for 2010**, a list of daily Bible readings you can use for personal devotion. Copies are in the literature rack, narthex, and foyer tables or contact C.B. Van de Water for a copy.

† **Flying Solo Singles (40s and above):**

Please note: There will be **NO Dine-Out tomorrow night, December 14**, because of our Christmas Party last night.

Tuesday, December 29 (please note change of date!): Our **potluck** this month will take place the last Tuesday in December in the Johnson Parlor at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a salad, entrée, or dessert to share.

We will also make sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program (materials provided). Don't forget a can of food to drop in the ALIVE! basket on your way in!

† **Men's Retreat:** Sign-up for the Men of Westminster winter retreat continues today in Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 am worship service. Our leader for the retreat is Dr. Eric Spingsted, Interim Pastor at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D. C. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and is on the faculty of the Reformed Institute of Washington. The retreat will take place Friday, February 12- Sunday, February 14.

† **Westminster Travelers**

Wednesday, December 16; 2:30 - 8:30 p.m. Radio City Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes at Patriot Center; \$48. (Waiting List.) Call the church office to reserve a space.

Thursday, January 14; 7 p.m. "Scapino", Little Theatre of Alexandria. \$1.

Wednesday, January 27; 9:15 a.m. - 2 p.m. National Gallery of Art; lunch. \$1.

† **Young Adults**

- **Faith on Tap** will meet at the Capitol City Brewing Company on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. Join us for brew and lively discussion.

† Women's Ministry

- **Women's Book Groups** will not meet in December. You may want to put the January 23rd book on your Christmas list, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, by Jamie Ford.

† Youth Happenings:

- **Confirmation and Middle School Youth Café** meet at 9:45 a.m. in youth rooms.
- **Senior High Viewtube** meets at 9:45a.m. in the Scout Room; today's film discussion is *Friday Night Lights!*
- **SUNDAY NIGHT WRAPPING PARTIES:** All youth and their families are encouraged to attend the Children's Christmas Pageant at 5:00 p.m., followed by an all-congregational dinner in Fellowship Hall, where we can eat together and catch up on life.
 - At around 6:15-6:30 p.m., both the Senior Highs and Middle Schoolers will go upstairs to the youth rooms and separately wrap all the wonderful presents we purchased last week for our Adopt-a-Families! We should "wrap" up around 7:30 p.m.
- Have you signed up for the summer mission trips? Senior Highs, have you signed up for the ski-retreat?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION & SERVICE

† **Kenya Mission Trip** February 8-22, 2010 - applications are available. There will be informational meetings today from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and January 10 at 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room. For questions or to receive more information contact Henri Rush at rhcavusa@aol.com.

† ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING OFF TO A GOOD START

The first week of the Alternative Christmas Giving Bazaar was the most successful ever thanks to the generosity of members of Westminster. Total cash receipts for the 19 groups represented came to \$17,559.25 in cash and checks. This compares with \$14,238 in cash in the first week of last year. Last year overall set an all time record for the Bazaar- a record which we hope to surpass this year. There will be opportunities to purchase gifts after the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services December 13. Bring your checkbooks and be as generous as you can. Join the Mission Committees in celebrating the true spirit of Christmas.

Results of week two of the Bazaar and a detailed account of the amounts received by each of the participating charities will be published in next month's Chronicle.

† **Adopt a Family.** You can make Christmas special for a family in need. The Child and Family Network Center is a neighborhood program aimed at providing education and other services to at-risk children and families. Information on the families will be provided so that gifts can meet basic needs for clothing and ensure that toys/items are developmentally appropriate. Please contact Craig and Stacey Lewis at lewiscstga@aol.com.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m.	Worship	Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship	Johnson Parlor
9:30 a.m.	Alternative Giving Bazaar	Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m.	Adult Ed	Westminster/Haverkamp Rooms
9:45 a.m.	Church School	3 rd Floor
9:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class	Room 401
9:45 a.m.	Middle School Youth Café	Room 405
9:45 a.m.	Senior High ViewTube	Room 404
9:45 a.m.	New Member Class	Johnson Parlor
11:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:00 p.m.	Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
12:00 p.m.	Alternative Giving Bazaar	Fellowship Hall
1:30 p.m.	Kenya Trip Meeting	Haverkamp Room
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
5:45 p.m.	Congregational Dinner	Fellowship Hall
6:15 p.m.	Middle School Wrapping Party	Room 401
6:15 p.m.	Senior High Wrapping Party	Room 405

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

6:30 p.m. Celtic Cross Ringers Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:30 a.m. Crafts Class Room 104
10:30 a.m. Staff Meetings Haverkamp Room
12:00 p.m. December 20 and 21 Bulletin Deadlines
7:00 p.m. B & G Committee Westminster Room
7:15 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 129 Room 404
7:30 p.m. Mission Council Meeting Haverkamp Room
7:30 p.m. New Member Committee Johnson Parlor
7:30 p.m. Crafts Class Room 104

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

2:30 p.m. Westminster Travelers Lower Lobby

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 a.m. Chronicle Mailing Westminster Room
10:00 a.m. CE Committee Room 303/305
12:00 p.m. Deadline for December 24 and 27 Bulletins
6:30 p.m. Westminster Ringers Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Master Gardeners Fellowship Hall
8:00 p.m. Westminster Choir Room 112
8:00 p.m. AA Room 103/105

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00 a.m. Mornings for Moms Room 303/305
6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Den 9 Room 404

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

9:00 a.m. AA Room 103/105

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20– FESTIVAL SUNDAY/FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Worship Chapel
9:30 a.m. Choir Breakfast Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. New Member/Session Johnson Parlor
9:45 a.m. Church School 3rd Floor
9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class (Optional) Room 401
9:45 a.m. Middle School Christmas Special Viewing Room 405
11:00 a.m. Worship Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Fellowship Hall
2:15 p.m. Brownie Troop 3999 Room 306

Advent Schedule 2009

Sunday, December 13 - 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 9:45 a.m. Advent Lecture Series in Haverkamp Room: "Stories of Jesus' Birth and Infancy: What Do They Convey"
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- Alternative Gift Bazaar in Fellowship Hall following both services
- 5:00 p.m. Children's Pageant
- 5:45 p.m. Congregational Dinner

Sunday, December 20 - 4th Sunday in Advent

Festival Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- Special Music with the Commonwealth Brass
- Dr. Larry R Hayward preaching
- No 9:45 Church School

Monday, December 21

- 7:30 p.m. Longest Night Service, Sanctuary
- Rev. Casey FitzGerald preaching

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 5:00 p.m. Community Christmas Eve Service
- Story, Song and Candlelight
- 9:30 p.m. Pre-service concert
- 10:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship with communion
- Westminster Choir with harp and flute
- Dr. Larry R. Hayward preaching