



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —



## Worship Schedule for Lent

### Ash Wednesday, February 17

7:30 p.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

### Palm Sunday, March 28

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship

9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

7:30 p.m.

Worship with Communion

### Good Friday, April 2

7:30 p.m.

Worship

### Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship

Fellowship Hour after both services  
in Fellowship Hall

# the Chronicle

February 18, 2010 - volume 42, number 7

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward Winter Reading

It would be a more interesting lead-in were I to say, "The recent snowstorm gave me an opportunity to do a lot of reading." It did, but I didn't take the opportunity as much as I could have. However, what I did do is review some reading in which I had engaged over the summer and fall. The nature of our politics the past couple of years – and my increasing familiarity with it as a resident of Alexandria – has driven me back to reading some classical texts in American history that I first read in high school and college. Among these are some written by an historian I have particularly enjoyed "re-discovering": the late Richard Hofstadter.

Hofstadter sheds light on the oft-noted fractious and virulent strand our political discourse has taken. In 1962, he first published *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*, in which he points to revivalism in religion, populism in politics, self-help and practicality in business, and desires for educational equality as all contributing to a culture that often disparages the role of reasoned, measured thoughtfulness in our national decision making. A year later, in a famous essay entitled "The Paranoid Style in American Politics," he traces evidence throughout our history, on both left and right, of "uncommonly angry minds" and "qualities of heated exaggeration, suspiciousness, and conspiratorial fantasy." In the book that first made him famous, *The American Political Tradition*, published in 1948, he outlines ways in which events often control leaders more than leaders events, and ways in which historical change is both complex and gradual, specifically in analyzing the leadership of Abraham Lincoln.

This reading leaves me with several thoughts. It places our current divisiveness in some perspective. We have always had divisiveness, virulence, even hatred and anger as part of our political discourse. While this is unfortunate, it is not necessarily fatal. I have some sense that we will, as a nation, "muddle through," as we have in the past.

My reading also leaves me with a deep appreciation for the complexity of governing a nation as large as ours, and for the terrific challenges our leaders, public officials, and public servants face. I want to praise all who labor in the field of politics and government for taking on the challenges. I pray for their success, even as at nearly every opportunity we are reminded of their failures in governing and their shortcomings as human beings. While I don't want to excuse bad behavior or ineptness, I do want to say that we are all human beings, we do make mistakes, and we can only accomplish so much.

My reading also leaves me with a sense that there is a unique balance between what we as common citizens believe, desire, and feel, and the extent to which what we believe, desire, and feel represents all the dynamics and realities of a situation. Sometimes what we feel can become reality, but

*continued on page 3*

## Join us for the Westminster Coffee Café

Saturday, February 27  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Hear Westminister musicians, view works from Westminister artists, and enjoy conversation with Westminister friends. Relax and enjoy a fun evening of music, art and refreshments.

Admission free (free will donation basket available)

Childcare will be available

Questions, contact  
Nancy Hall Berens  
(nhallberens@wpc-alex.org).



## Sunday, May 9 is Youth Sunday!



Come enjoy a worship service lead by the Youth of Westminister!



## Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

*Flying Solo is a group for single adults in their prime years (more or less 40 and above) belonging to the life and ministry of Westminister Presbyterian Church. Please contact Nancy Hall Berens at [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org) to learn more!*

- **Sunday, February 21, 12:15 p.m.:** Our next Roundtable Discussion will be led by the Reverend James Atwood on the topic of gun control. Jim is a retired Presbyterian minister from the Washington area and has been a long-time advocate of gun control. Bring your thoughts and your questions! We will make sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program, then our own lunch (no charge) will be served in the Haverkamp Room. (Please note: there will be no potluck in February because of the roundtable)
- **Monday, March 8:** Our monthly Dine-Out in March will be at Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant located at 112 King Street in Old Town. Join us for dinner at this Irish restaurant in honor of St. Patrick's Day! Meet at church at 7:00 p.m. if you'd like to carpool, otherwise meet us at the restaurant about 7:15 p.m. Come join other singles from Westminister to enjoy good food and fellowship!
- **Tuesday, March 23:** Join the Flying Solo Singles for our monthly Potluck at 7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor. We will begin by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then enjoy a potluck dinner together. Please bring a dish to share and a can of food for the ALIVE! basket in the education wing entrance.

## A Concert for Haiti

The National/International Missions Committee Presents a Concert for Haiti

Saturday, March 20 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy lively music and dancing provided by the Irish Breakfast Band and Boyle School of Irish Dance.

Adults \$10 (minimum donation), Children (10 and under) free

100% of donations will go to Hospital Bienfaisance De Pignon and the Community Coalition for Haiti, which continue to provide medical treatment and supplies to thousands of people injured in the earthquake. For more information contact Janet Riksen at [jriksen@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jriksen@wpc-alex.org).



## Winter Reading

continued

often it cannot. In which case “thought” can be something that helps us in our disappointment; and sometimes what we believe, desire, and feel has about it a truth and wisdom – though arrived at through the heart rather than the mind – that leaders, in their understandable awareness of complexity, are apt to miss. In such instances, “thought” can assist leaders to be in touch with the realities of democratic governance, in which the heart is not always misguided.

We have been, and continue to be, fortunate as a nation. Those of us of religious persuasion often attribute that good fortune – to varying degrees – to the blessings of our God. I believe we are fortunate, I believe in many ways we are blessed. For each I am thankful, and for being able to watch our politics and governance – and yes, God’s blessing upon them – from a closer seat than many in our country, I am thankful.

– Larry

## The Mystery of the Fourth Floor on a Sunday Morning

By Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt

Church basements, with their youth rooms, storage closets and darkened nooks and crannies, are often the unexplored territories of church architecture. This was somewhat true at Westminster before our renovation. But now, it is our fourth floor that remains a mystery to so many, particularly during the hours of 9:45 and 10:45 on Sunday mornings. While many of you are enjoying stimulating classes or dropping off your children at Creation Station, a community of learning and activity bustles upstairs.

If you ventured upward to join them, you would see a groggy, but earnest gathering of over twelve eighth-grade confirmation students and their spiritual guides, Elizabeth O’Brien, Barbara Studenmund and me. Together, the class has encountered the meaning of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. Urged to think, they have wrestled with the reality of evil and suffering and the visible imprints of humanity on sacred Scripture. They have composed mosaics of faith to help them claim their emerging faith and consider joining Westminster as full members on Pentecost Sunday.

Down the hall, our sixth and seventh graders feast on Darry Dupree’s warm Krispy Kreme Donuts as they explore the life, ministry and meaning of Jesus Christ. Prompted and prodded by teachers Nancy Todd and Marilyn Eckert, the group shouts John the Baptist’s spirited cry, “Repent!” and forges an introduction to our Savior while building a vocabulary of Christian faith.

In the Scout Room (yes, we have a Scout Room!), our Senior High View Tube class dispels the myth that confirmation means graduation from church. Prompted by familiar films, such as *Twilight*, *Wall-E* and *I Am Legend*, our dedicated group probes matters of faith and adolescent life. Teachers and helpers (Anne Ledyard, Oraly Spatz, Alan Dyer) lead the discussion and carve out a place of welcome and support.

All this happens upstairs. So, while Horace Greeley is said to have urged young American men to “Go West!” I invite you to look up to the unexplored territory of the fourth floor on a Sunday morning. There, our young men and women are led to wondrous discoveries.



Westminster  
Travelers

**Wednesday, March 17** from 9:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. The National Gallery of Art. Visit two new exhibits: *The Sacred Made Real: Spanish Paintings & Sculpture 1600 - 1700* and *From Impressionism to Modernism: The Chester Dale Collection*. Lunch on your own at the Gallery Cafeteria. Cost is \$1.

**Thursday, March 25** from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Buffet lunch at an old favorite restaurant: *The Cozy* in Thurmont, MD. Cost is \$1 plus lunch.

**April 28 – 30**, Join Sandy and Nancy Jane for a 3 day trip to Amish country via the church bus. For \$275 per person sharing a double room at Hershey Farms Inn in Strasburg, you will see the new musical *Joseph at Sight & Sound* Millennium Theater, another play, *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof*, at the historic Fulton Street Theatre, visit the Lancaster Farmers’ Market, and enjoy a stop at Longwood Gardens. The price includes all this plus two breakfasts and one buffet dinner. Call the church office soon to reserve. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person made to Westminster Presbyterian Church is due by February 22. Please mark envelope Attention Sandy Calhoun.

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*Westminster Travelers trips are open to seniors who are not WPC members if space is available.*

## MOW Breakfast

The men of Westminster meet for breakfast, fellowship and program the second Friday of each month in Fellowship Hall from 7:00-8:15 a.m. Our February 19 program will feature Elder Dr. Robert D. Campbell, a retired internal medicine/geriatrics physician and cancer survivor. He will share some of his experiences along with his view of how the practice of medicine has changed, politics and medicine are intertwined, and his outlook for health care for the future. (Note: because of Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays, this breakfast will be held on a third Friday.)

Our March 12 program will feature Rev. Dr. Walter D. (Jack) Turner, a retired Baptist minister turned Presbyterian who served three major churches (including the largest church in the largest city in the U.S.), oversaw scores of churches, participated in Presidential prayer groups, and much more. He will share some of his experiences and how God called him to preach and to be thankful.



## Women's Ministry News

### Women's Retreat on "The Gift of Hospitality"

The retreat is coming up on March 12-14 at the Hallowood Retreat Center in Maryland, about an hour from Alexandria. The leader is our retired Director of Children's Ministries, Joan Taylor Reid, known for her talent, creativity, and sense of fun.

All women are invited to come on the weekend retreat and experience the gift and joy of hospitality in a comfortable hotel style retreat center in the midst of nature's beauty. Registration forms are online and in the literature rack in the education wing lobby. You may also contact Clara Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 extension 120 or [cvandewater@wpc-alex.org](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org).



### Women's Book Group News

The book for the Monday, February 22 discussion is *Heart in the Right Place: A Memoir* by Carolyn Jourdan. All women are invited to discuss it at 11:00 a.m. or 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor

with Clara Beth Van de Water.

The book for March 22 is *Shanghai Girls: A Novel* by Lisa See.

### Presbyterian Women Board Meeting

The circle chairs and officers will meet on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room. We will talk about our April Spring Gathering for all women featuring Dr. Joyce Mercer, author of *Girl Talk: God Talk*, to be held on Wednesday evening, April 7.

### Women's Work Day

All women are invited to join Nancy McIver in making toys and heart pillows for Alexandria Hospital on Wednesday, March 3, at 9:30 a.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

### Women's Friendship Circles

Women meet in small groups monthly for fellowship and Bible study.

There are morning and evening groups. All women are invited to join one. There are pink information sheets in the literature rack in the education wing lobby and information online under Presbyterian Women, or contact moderator Carol Ensley at [carolanne.ensley@yahoo.com](mailto:carolanne.ensley@yahoo.com).





## Adult Education Programs

### New and Ongoing Sunday Morning Classes

Sunday classes meet from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. All adults are invited. Contact Director of Adult Education and Women's Ministries Clara

Beth Van de Water at 703-549-4766 extension 120 or [cvandewater@wpc-](mailto:cvandewater@wpc-alex.org)

[alex.org](mailto:alex.org) if you want more details. No registration is needed.

#### New Classes:

**I. "Presbyterian 101"**, taught by Elder David Roden, begins February 14, Haverkamp Room. David is Senior Consulting Manager, AECOM, and has taught confirmation and adults at WPC.

February 14: "What Do Presbyterians Believe about God and Jesus Christ?"

February 21: "What Should a Presbyterian Church Be Doing?"

February 28: "How Should a Presbyterian Church Be Governed?"

**II. "The Story of Romans"**, February 14- March 21, except March 7, taught By Dr. A. Katherine Grieb, Virginia Theological Seminary professor, Westminster Room.

The apostle Paul wrote his letter to the church in Rome about 57 A.D. It is the primary foundation for Christian theology. The Protestant Reformer Martin Luther said, "This epistle is in truth the principal part of the New Testament." The class text will be the New Testament book of Romans. Copies of Dr. Grieb's book about Romans will be available to purchase for those who wish to do further reading.

**III.** Elders Doug Anderson and Paul Van de Water will lead a class on **health reform** on March 7 and 14, Haverkamp Room.

**IV.** Dr Jacques Berlinerblau, Georgetown University, will talk about **the use and abuse of the Bible in today's politics** on March 21.

#### Reformed Institute:

"**An Educated Laity: an Obsolete Idea?**" will be taught by 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](http://www.reformedinstitute.org). Contact Clara Beth about the subsidy, and to let her know that you have enrolled. The first class will be February 20.



## Upcoming Events for Young Adults

### First Sunday Potluck Brunch

March 7, after 11:00 a.m. worship  
Haverkamp Room

Bring a dish to share and come join in on this great fellowship time!

### Faith on Tap

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Capitol City Brewing Company,  
Shirlington

Don't miss out on what could be Casey's last FoT before maternity leave!

Come for good food and discussion. Hope to see you there!

## A Message from the Bag Lunch Crew

Dear Friends,

The bag lunch program needs sandwiches. We serve about 60 sandwiches each time, four times a month.



Sandwiches can be made at your convenience. Just put the sandwiches into the freezer in the kitchen with a label "bag

lunch," the number of sandwiches, and the date. Sandwiches should be on whole wheat bread with no condiments, and the sandwiches should be cut in half prior to being wrapped. It is important to wrap each sandwich individually, as we cannot serve unwrapped sandwiches. Since the lunch is for those who otherwise would not have lunch, please make the sandwiches generous.

There are some guests who do not eat red meat. Therefore, it would be very useful to provide about five turkey sandwiches per serving. These sandwiches should be packaged separately and labeled "turkey."

If you can help serve, please call Kathy Stenzel at 703-683-4516, cell phone 703-622-4154.

If you have any questions about making sandwiches please call Anne Soens at 202-628-5197(W) 703-548-5320 (H) or annesoens@msn.com.

## Church Officers

On January 31, 2010, new officers were ordained and installed. The following are the Church Boards for 2010.

### SESSION

Larry Hayward, Moderator  
Carol Skiba, Clerk of Session  
Sharon Longabaugh, Vice Clerk

### DIACONATE

Eileen Jinks, Staff Liaison

### **Elder Class of 2012**

David Aland  
Doug Anderson  
Susan Cloud  
Bill Eckert  
Jim Girard  
Mary Olsen  
Pat Prosperi  
Eric Weiss

### **Deacon Class of 2012**

Beth Cutler  
Karin Edgell  
Mary Filicetti  
Tom Gangi  
Susan Griffith  
Wendy Lockard  
Elizabeth Martineau  
Shirley Miles  
Emily Springer  
Sheff Richey

### **Elder Class of 2011**

Patty Chamberlain  
Christine Eustis  
Rita Grazda  
David Hill  
Molly Roden  
Steve Sieke  
Lauren Brown Sigler  
Rebecca Stone  
Mara Winn

### **Deacon Class of 2011**

Donna Blackburn  
Laurie Chidlow  
Steven Holton  
Laura Kopp  
Chris Matthews  
Jeanne Pruitt-White  
Fred Woods  
Wanda Worsham  
Lisa Zickar

### **Elder Class of 2010**

Linc Cummings  
Gail Donley  
Lanny Griffith  
David Gunter  
Ken Niemann  
Karen Olson  
Anne Pickett  
Chuck Ramsey  
Emily Zimmerman

### **Deacon Class of 2010**

Michael Barnhardt  
Kim Davis  
Marbeth Paulsen  
Nancy Pitcher  
Ron Shoemaker  
Betsy Smith  
Sam Ulm  
Sheila Weiss

## Treasurer's Summary Report

December 2009

Submitted by Terry Grindstaff, Treasurer

### 2009 End-of-Year

Operating Income	\$1,373,945
Budgeted Operating Reserve	\$ 36,632
<u>Budgeted Endowment Carryover</u>	<u>\$ 17,614</u>
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$1,428,191</b>

<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>-\$1,412,709</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 15,482</b>

<u>Net Income</u>	<u>\$ 15,482</u>
Restricted Endowment carryover	\$ 7,406
Unrestricted Operating reserve	\$ 8,076

Assets	
Operating	\$ 458,988
Foundation	\$1,196,795
<u>Capital Campaign</u>	<u>(\$ 138,760)</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,517,023</b>

### Operating Budget

The Operating Budget closed in 2009 in a strong manner. Total revenue collected in December was \$190,647 which, following historical tradition was the largest monthly collection of the year. For 2009, total revenue collected was \$1,410,577 which includes the \$36,632 from the Operating Reserve. This is 95.0% of the budgeted level (\$1,484,364) for 2009.

The large revenue collection in December was primarily due to strong pledge collections [\$126,635], plate offerings [\$10,748], and Special Offerings [\$48,176]. Budgeted revenue levels for 2009 were either met or exceeded except for (1) pledges and (2) Special Offerings levels as indicated below.

Total expenses in December were also very strong (\$196,277). Total expenses in 2009 were \$1,412,709, which was 95.2% of the amount budgeted (\$1,484,364). All church committees were well within their budgeted expense levels.

Of the net income of \$15,482 a total of \$7,406 is unused money remaining in endowed budget accounts. Therefore, of that net, \$8,076 remains of Operating Reserve.

### Westminster Foundation

The Westminster Foundation continued to experience strong growth out of last year's recession. The total asset value of the Foundation at the end of 2009 was \$1,196,795. This is an increase of \$281,463 from the beginning of 2009 (\$915,332). The major causes for this large increase in 2009 were due to:

1. \$217,000 from 5 bequests to the church;
2. \$ 13,005 for new Memorial funds;
3. \$ 670 from increased contributions to existing Foundation funds; and
4. \$ 50,788 in increased capital growth from our investments.

### Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Fund in 2009 continued to illustrate the church's strong commitment to pay off the debt from our church renovation in 2007. Total collections in December were \$141,845 primarily from pledges with a little from special offerings and interest. Thus far, the church has collected 86% (\$1.984 million) of the total pledge commitment from the Encore Campaign (\$2.3 million). We anticipate collecting the remaining \$322,672 in pledge commitments over the remaining 6 months of 2010. Total expenses in December were \$1,225 primarily for interest on the Cardinal loan.

No payment to the Cardinal Bank loan was made in December. Total debt from the Capital Campaign at the end of 2009 was \$354,816 which consisted of a \$150,000 to Cardinal Bank and a \$204,816 to the Westminster Foundation.

### Postscript to Capital Campaign

Westminster Presbyterian Church paid off the Cardinal Bank loan in early January 2010. This means that the church has only \$204,816 left to pay off the loan from the Westminster Foundation over the next 6 months in 2010.

## Church Staff

Larry Hayward .....Pastor  
Patrick Hunnicutt .....Associate Pastor  
Casey FitzGerald .....Associate Pastor  
Paul Stetsenko .....Director of Music Ministries  
Clara Beth Van de Water .....Director of Adult Education  
and Women's Ministries  
Sandra Calhoun .....Director of Westminster Travelers  
Nancy Hall Berens .....Dir. of Congregational  
Life and Singles Ministries  
Jill Ewell .....Pastoral Care Assistant  
Eileen Jinks .....Coordinator of Pastoral Care  
Janet Riksen .....Coordinator of Local & Nat'l Missions  
Henri Rush .....Coordinator of African Missions  
Art Sauer .....Membership Involvement Coordinator  
Nancy Bea .....Business Administrator  
Jim Buchanan .....Facilities Manager  
Carolyn Carmack .....Financial Assistant  
Tara Cain .....Administrative Assistant  
LeAnne Perkowski .....Program Assistant  
Larry Johnson .....Sexton  
Marvin Johnson .....Sexton  
Eddie Watkins .....Sexton

Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505  
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### The Chronicle

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church  
*Contributors*  
Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster  
Dawn Campbell, Production Editor

Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

### Time Sensitive

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## Volunteer Corner

What brings happiness? Food, money, power, and sex all rate highly as happiness providers. However, you may be surprised to learn that giving also rates

highly as a source of happiness. Giving of yourself is one of the best sources of happiness.

In a recent (Jan 17) New York Times Op-Ed, columnist Nicholas Kristof commented on this subject. He had just finished reading *The Happiness Hypothesis*, by Jonathan Haidt, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia. His findings are relevant to us as we seek to find happiness in our Westminster community. He found that happiness is tied to giving of ourselves, and people with religious faith tend to be happier than those without. Also, "one study found that people who focus on achieving wealth and career advancement are less happy than those who focus on good works, religion or spirituality, or friends and family." Kristof says, "I see it all the time. I interview people who were too busy but reluctantly undertook some good cause because (sigh!) it was the right thing to do. Then they found that this

little "sacrifice" became a huge source of fulfillment and satisfaction."

Westminster offers many ways to achieve this satisfaction and fulfillment. We are involved in dozens of mission activities. There are also numerous ways to support the church through participation in daily and weekly activities of the church. Creation Station and children's Sunday school need many teachers and assistants. It's not just for parents; anyone can help. Or, commit a couple of hours a week to helping the music program by singing in the choir, playing bells, or assisting with one of the children's choirs.

Charity may have a mixed record of helping others but it has an almost perfect record of helping ourselves.

If you want to increase your happiness but don't know where to begin, contact me at [asauer@wpc-alex.org](mailto:asauer@wpc-alex.org) or any member of the Westminster staff, Session, or Diaconate. Check out the website [www.wpc-alex.org](http://www.wpc-alex.org) for ideas.

Yours in Christ  
**Art Sauer**  
*Coordinator of Volunteer Missions*