

# 2010 Annual Report



Westminster  
Presbyterian  
CHURCH  
*— worship well —*

Dear Friends,

The Communications Committee offers this booklet as a summary of Westminster's life in 2010. A summary cannot tell the whole story, but it can give you a flavor. We invite you to read, enjoy, and join in worship, service, education, and fellowship.

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.

- Feb. 2 – Coffee Café Encore, Talent Show and Coffee House
- March 28 – Palm Sunday Breakfast
- June 13 – Annual Picnic and Summer Kick-off
- October 17 – Breakfast for Kenyan Ministries Weekend
- November 7 – Stewardship Blessings Brunch
- December 12 – 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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 playtime for the kids.

### **MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster meet every 2nd Friday morning for breakfast as well as sponsoring an annual retreat. Sadly, the men's retreat was canceled this year due to a blizzard. In addition to monthly breakfasts, on June 7 MOW hosted a congregational dinner featuring member Mike Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, speaking on "A Changing Security Environment".

## SENIORS – WESTMINSTER TRAVELERS

Westminster Travelers is for all adults who want to have a great time together! In addition to monthly trips to Little Theater Alexandria, the list of outings is impressive- visits to Islamic Center, Freemasonry's Headquarters, Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and Pope Leighey Home, President Lincoln's Cottage , and a Holy Land Tour including Catacombs in DC, National Symphony Orchestra Rehearsals, Candlelight Tour at Mount Vernon and Holiday Concert at Constitution Hall.

## SINGLES – FLYING SOLO

Our active group of Flying Solo Singles (40 or better!) enjoy 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 Graves' Mt. Lodge featured *The Shack* led by Jeff Hensley.
- Roundtable discussions included gun control, spirituality in everyday life, and caring for aging parents.
- Though Share the Spirit, Flying Solo Adopts-a-Family at Christmas.

## 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 makes pillows for children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital. Other groups open to all women include The Monthly Book Group and Shanghai Card Night.

- Circles added a new circle for mothers of young children
- Women's Fall Gathering focused on a new area project for teen victims of sex trafficking which led circles to respond with support
- In March the annual Women's Retreat was led by former staff member Joan Taylor Reid

## YOUNG ADULTS

In addition to monthly "Faith on Tap" discussion and noshing at a local restaurant, single and married young adults enjoy First Sunday 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).

## YOUTH

### Middle School and Senior High

Weekly Fellowship for our Youth ROCKS! Besides fun activities and outings, discussions and sharing, and annual lock-ins, just look at the October 2010 fall retreats and local mission highlights.

- MS Hallowed-Ween retreat to Shrine Mont
- SH mission retreat to Broad Street Ministries in Philadelphia

Local mission activities included the Help the Homeless Walkathon, the Last Saturday Food Distribution, Share the Spirit Adopt-a-Family Christmas program, and Valentines Cards for local seniors.

## SCOUTS

Sponsored by Westminster since March 1942, recent growth spurts have both Boy Scout Troop 129 and Cub Pack 129 growing in size. The Boy Scout Troop's very active outdoor/camping program includes one high adventure trip per year to places like Philmont Scout ranch and Northern Tier Canoe base in Canada. Four Boy Scouts attained the rank of Eagle in 2010!

## *Education*

### YOUNG CHILDREN, ELEMENTARY & CREATION STATION

Babies and Toddlers are cared for in our dedicated Nursery by our Nursery staff.

- We've added a 4th classroom for children age 4 and under

**Creation Station** is our rotation model for Christian Education for grades Kindergarten -5<sup>th</sup>. Besides the annual Palm Sunday Donkey Processional and Christmas Pageant, this fall, we:

- Started a new curriculum, "Spark"
- Began learning hymns and worship music in gathering time

**Children and Worship** is story telling in a worship setting for ages 3-4 and K-1st during 11a.m. worship

## 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 to Shrine Mont
- Senior High Sundays (Grade 9-12)

## WESTMINSTER WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

In the 2009-2010 school year the Preschool enrolled 75 students. The Don Campbell and the Nedra Trahan scholarship funds in part supported three students' tuitions. Special Events included, Reptiles Alive!, One-Man Band, Family Pajama Night with KD Puppet's summertime playground days, and Parents' Night. The Preschool families participate in many Community Service projects including Jolyn's Angel Tree, Soles4Souls shoe collection, TerraCycle recycling, and Change for Haiti. Parent education classes are offered, and various developmental screenings for 3 and 4 year old students.

## YOUNG ADULTS

In addition to the monthly fellowship opportunities, Casey FitzGerald led several seasonal Young Adult bible study series.

## ADULTS

Sunday morning courses were very popular this year with topics of Celtic Spirituality, The Story of Romans, and Pivotal Points in the History of Christianity. Sunday afternoon courses were on Reinhold and Richard Niebuhr. Rabbi Jack Moline and Larry Hayward did an evening series on Song of Songs. If you missed any classes, there are many recorded lectures added to the adult ed. section of website for listening. In addition, there have been seasonal bible studies for moms led by Casey FitzGerald during the week.

## RESOURCES

The George Pera Library recently added the most up to date Biblical commentaries to the collection.

## *Worship and Music*

### **WORSHIP EVENTS & DEVELOPMENTS**

**Bach Vespers** - in addition to regular Sunday morning worship services, seventeen cantor led Vesper services were held on Sunday evenings, featuring hymn singing and organ music by Bach. Communion was offered at several of these services, followed by a light meal together.

**Byzantine Vigil** - a new type of worship service for Westminster, based on ancient liturgies, led by the Youth Vocal Ensemble and Youth Bells, also included a service of anointing, followed by a light meal together.

### **WORSHIP SERVICES OF NOTE**

- On January 24, Guest Preacher Rabbi Benjamin J. Segal, author of *The Song of Songs: A Woman in Love*, tied to the lecture series in Feb.
- Ash Wednesday liturgy was held with a male vocal ensemble.
- Palm Sunday afternoon liturgy included Bach's Palm Sunday Cantata and a concerto with orchestra.
- The Service of Passion - Good Friday featuring a Setting of Tenebrae for vocal octet and handbells by Dr. Stetsenko.
- On April 27, Westminster hosted a Presbytery meeting and worship.
- Youth Sunday worship focused on the theme of Time via Ecclesiastes 3.
- All Saints' and Remembrance Sunday worship services were based on ancient liturgical mode.
- Westminster hosted this year's community Thanksgiving service with Agudas Achim and Trinity Methodist.
- The December 12 worship featured A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten in worship.
- On December 21, the Longest Night service was again held, asking that God's light would shine in our darkest places.

### **MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

Besides the Westminster Choir's weekly leadership in worship, the Youth Vocal Ensemble and Carol Choir sang in many services. The handbell ensembles – Westminster Ringers, Celtic Cross Ringers, and Youth Handbells, regularly enhanced worship. Music & More Week featured an original children's opera "The Three Hermits", music by Paul Stetsenko, libretto by member Tandy Martin. A Beginning Ringing class for Children was started this fall. Westminster Choir adopted a family through the Share the Spirit mission.

## *Mission*

Every month was filled with activities and ways to serve. There are more than we could possibly mention here, but some highlights of the year are:

- In March, we hosted a Concert for Haiti featuring the Irish Breakfast Band and Boyle School of Irish Dance
- In April, more than 75 Westminster volunteers put faith in action through spring volunteer efforts for Rebuilding Together Alexandria, ALIVE!, Carpenter's Shelter and the George Mason Tutoring program. In addition, the Mission Council facilitated the Officer intreat, exploring ways for Westminster to grow Mission programs in the coming years.
- In June, there was a dinner and presentation on life in Malawi by mission worker Rev. Debbie Chase.
- In August, those who had participated in mission or who were interested in joining enjoyed the annual Mission Fellowship Breakfast.
- October was particularly special as Westminster hosted the 6-day visit of two pastors from Kenya. Activities included a breakfast program, Rev. George Wepukhulu as guest preacher, and a slide show.
- In November, Westminster volunteers delivered 250 Thanksgiving dinners to families in our community through our annual Adopt-A-Turkey program.
- In 2010, more people than ever participated in the Alternative Giving Bazaar. Westminster members provided gifts to 35 local families to make their Christmas special through our Annual Share the Spirit program

## **LOCAL**

The Local Mission Committee has organized the services these organizations provide under the acronym CHESS for **C**hildren, **H**unger, **E**ducation, **S**helter, and **S**elf-Sufficiency. Westminster supports all of these programs financially, and many of its members contribute their time and talents to them as volunteers.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

Throughout Africa, Westminster provides funds to support Presbyterian training in Mozambique, seminary students in Congo and Zambia, missionary support in East Africa, and outreach ministries in Kenya.

## MISSION TRIPS

February 8-22, sixteen people traveled to Kenya, including 11 members from Westminster, and members and clergy from Old Presbyterian Meeting House, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Falls Church Presbyterian Church and Burke Presbyterian Church.

- A high point during the visit to the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge was the dedication of the Academy Building and celebration of six years of the existence of the Academy.
- As of January 1, 2010, the Academy had 249 children, including 36 orphans and 50 scholarship students in several pre-primary classes through seventh grade.

Summer Youth Mission activities

- Middle School youth held a hunger awareness week at WPC, Food and Friends, Inc. (DC) and attended Massanetta Springs Middle School Youth Conference Massanetta Springs Convention Center in Harrisonburg, VA, which focused on Hunger issues.
- Senior Highs worked with the Ghost Ranch Youth Service Corps in Abiquiu, New Mexico

The fall Young Adults mission trip sent 9 members to serve through Appalachia Service Project. Westminster members also donated Christmas toys and gift cards to foster and needy children in Appalachia.

## *Pastoral & Congregational Care*

Session approved increasing the number of deacons from 27 to 30 beginning with the class of 2013. New this year, "Coffee with the Pastors" was held at both Goodwin House Retirement Communities. The Member Response Team (MRT), assisted members in times of need, such as illness or job loss. The Deacon Meal Team, brought meals to member households in short term need, recovering from illness, or with the arrival of a baby. Westminster continued transportation on Sunday mornings to the church from area retirement communities and transportation assistance to appointments.

## *Committees of the Session*

### **CHURCH HOME**

New this year, the Church HOME Committee (Helping Our Members Engage) was formed. With a focus on creating a church HOME for new and long-time members alike, the new committee has already made a big impact. 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 to for identifying members interests and skills, Church HOME produced a poster campaign to "advertise" church activities.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

To address the growing population of young children in the church, the Children's Ministry Sub Committee was formed under Christian Education.

### **PERSONNEL**

Changes and additions to our staff:

- Sandy Calhoun retired after 24 years of service to Westminster's seniors
- Janet Riksen, Mission Coordinator hired
- Sharon Tarr, Director of Westminster Travelers hired

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

With the completion of the Capital Campaign in June 2010, we continue to enjoy our beautiful church building. Now our Building & Grounds Committee seeks to care for, maintain and enhance our facility for the future:

- Received the final recommendations for a Landscape Master Plan of the church grounds and presented to Session. Final details to be coordinated by B&G. Implementation timeline to be determined by Session.
- Developed and presented to Session a long-range maintenance reserve funding plan to address future capital costs and major repairs to the church.
- New cell contracts with AT&T and T-Mobile are now fully implemented.
- Held spring and fall cleanup days
- Completed access panels in sanctuary ceiling to provide for replacement of bulbs and potential re-aiming of spotlights on chancel

## STEWARDSHIP

The 2010 Pledge Stewardship Campaign was very successful, with a total of 403 pledges received for a pledge total of \$1,266,118. The 2011 Pledge Stewardship Campaign "Cheerful Giving" has a goal of 400 pledges for a pledge total of \$1,342,085.

## CHURCH FINANCIAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Westminster Presbyterian Church ended 2010 in a very good financial state. The church has good cash balances, strong revenue sources from pledges, offerings, and contributions. Our expenses stay 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.

- Westminster has NO debt remaining!

Our Foundation increased to a new high level for a total of \$1,313,913. Part of the growth was 5 bequests and gifts of \$64,824 donated to the Westminster Foundation.

The Capital Campaign is nearing completion. The church has much to be proud of in supporting a \$6.2 million renovation project and paying off ALL debts. Some planned and needed follow-on projects can now be addressed with the remaining contributions.

### 2010 Year End Finances

Pledges	\$1,218,963
Offering	\$ 101,168
<u>Other</u>	<u>\$ 188,443</u>
Total Income	\$ 1,508,574

Total Expenses \$ 1,480,601

Year end Net \$ 20,567

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

- 885 total membership as of 12/31/2010
- 76 new members, 14 member deaths, 49 other member losses (moved to the inactive roll, transferred to another church, etc.)
- In past couple of years a significant increase in the number of children and youth, especially 4 years and younger. Also a significant increase in the number of congregation members in the 26-55 age bracket.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2701 CAMERON MILLS ROAD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302  
WWW.WPC-ALEX.ORG 703-549-4766  
CARE LINE : 703-684-2934 FAX: 703-548-1505