



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



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the Chronicle

October 20, 2016 - volume 47, number 3

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward A Stewardship Message

As you know, many years I will preach three to five sermons in the fall on stewardship, highlighting both the importance of making a financial commitment to the church and the goals the church has in terms of supporting our ministry, facilities, and mission with the commitments we receive. Last year we challenged the congregation for a 7.5% increase and received over 11% to increase our mission giving and to move Casey FitzGerald into a position as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, Patrick Hunnicutt into a position as Associate Pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care, and to call a new Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults. Patrick and Casey have made the bulk of those moves over the past few months, and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is on track to call a person for this new position within several months. All is as it should be.



**GIVE,
AND
IT
WILL
BE
GIVEN
TO
YOU**

Luke 6:38

To continue on this track, Westminster will need 4.6% more in pledges for 2017 than in 2016. While we all feel this is do-able, it remains a challenge and a commitment. While I am not preaching specific stewardship sermons this year, I want you to know how very important it is for us to continue to support the work of Westminster along the path we have set. I urge you for the sake of your own spiritual growth, your commitment to this church, and for the church's ministry to take seriously your commitment, consider increasing, and if you are new to pledging, join us in this effort. And I urge you to place yourself on a track to tithing, giving ten per cent of your gross income to the work of the church. Many at Westminster (including my wife and I) do this. It becomes very spiritually rewarding both to get there and to keep growing once you are.

I cannot say enough how grateful I am for this congregation, for your continued warmth and receptivity, your maturity, your humor, and most of all the way you seek to live out your faith in this community and world. You bring me much joy.

Larry

New Hymnal to be Adopted

After a careful, year-long study, the Session approved a new hymnal for WPC: *Glory to God*, which was published by our denomination in 2013. This new hymnal has 250 more hymns than our current one and is about the same size. Some of the hymns in the former hymnal were seldom sung, and those were replaced, often by hymns that were written fairly recently.

The precise timing for this change is uncertain, but the hymnals will be in place sometime in 2017. Before that happens, members will have the opportunity to purchase a hymnal for the church and dedicate it in honor of or to the memory of someone.

Here are some of the questions that are often asked when a congregation changes hymnals:

Question: What's wrong with the hymnal we have?

Answer: We love our blue hymnal. The main reason for the change isn't any particular problem with it, but there are opportunities we'll gain by adopting the new one. For example, *Glory to God* omits some hymns we seldom or never sing and replaces them with new choices. The ones we like will become our "new old favorites." Some you already know; for example, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, *Softly and Tenderly*, *Jesus is Calling*, and *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* are added in the new hymnal.

Question: It seems like we just got the blue hymnals. How often do we change?

Answer: Since 1874, our denomination has published a new hymnal every 19 years on average. The blue hymnal was published 26 years ago, and we've been using it for 23 years. We don't need to adopt a new hymnal just because the national Presbyterian Church has published it, but after careful study, we think this is the right time and the right book for us.

Question: What changes in worship will this cause?

Answer: We're not planning any worship changes as a result of the new hymnal. Our pastors will continue to choose the hymns for each Sunday based on our church's traditions and tastes, to support the worship themes of the day. We certainly will try some of the new hymns when and if they are appropriate to our services. *Glory to God* also has more music that is useful in other settings, such as children's and retreat worship.

Question: What hymns will we notice are gone?

Answer: Very few. The ones we've used most often are "Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley," "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise," and "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came." We hate to see them dropped. But the good news is that we have a license that allows us to print any hymn in the current book and sing them when we like.

Question: What kinds of hymns are added?

Answer: Many of the new hymns reflect the growing diversity of worship styles within our denomination. For example, there are more praise songs and songs from the Taizé tradition. We are in the midst of what's been called the "hymnic explosion," with more new hymns than ever before, and the hymnal authors picked out the best of those that they could find. Some are fantastic, some we probably won't ever sing. The overall mix of types of hymns is almost identical to our current hymnal.

Question: The last hymnbook had some changes in language to make it more inclusive. What kinds of changes in language will we see this time?

Answer: There are very few noticeable changes in wording, and those are intended only to make the hymn easier to sing or bring the hymn back to its historical roots. A few verses on familiar hymns were dropped or added; for example, "Be Thou My Vision" now has four verses, as it did in our previous hymnals.

Any change to the worship material that we use every single week is a matter for serious thought. We've tried to consider this question from every angle and we're confident that this is a good step for our church. If you have more questions, please ask a member of the hymnal task force. We have lots of background we can share with you. And we look forward to singing with you out of *Glory to God* next year!

Hymnal Task Force

*David Aland, Michelle Clover, David Gunter,
Molly Roden, Pete Vanden Bosch*



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/singles
Nancy Hall Berens, Director |
nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Tuesday, October 25 | Monthly Potluck | 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor

Join us for our monthly service project of making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program (materials provided); then enjoy dinner together. Please bring a simple dish to share for dinner.

Monday, November 14 | Monthly Dine-Out

Red Hot & Blue BBQ describes itself as a “Memphis-style blues-themed barbecue restaurant” located at 6482 Landsdowne Center in Kingstowne. Enjoy good food, good music, and good friends! Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet there at 7:30 PM.

Sunday, November 20 | “Munch and More” | 12:15 PM in the Johnson Parlor

We will gather after church for a couple of service projects and to enjoy lunch together. We’ll start by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program, then we’ll decorate the Chrismon Tree in preparation for Advent. After our projects, we will enjoy lunch and fellowship together. Lunch provided – no RSVP.

Tuesday, November 22 | Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | 7:30 PM at Agudas Achim

Join three neighboring faith communities to give thanks for the blessings in our lives! (No 4th Tuesday potluck in November)

Thursday, November 24 | Thanksgiving Day Dinner

At the home of Judy Curtis. Arrive at 2 PM; dinner at 4 PM. Do you like to cook? Coordinate with Judy and bring a dish. If not, you may contribute \$10. Wine also appreciated. Directions by email closer to the date. RSVP to Nancy Hall Berens or Judy Curtis.

Looking Ahead

December 4 | Shopping for Holiday Sharing family

December 10 | Annual Christmas Party!

Westminster Roadsters

(Boomers and Beyond)



www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters
Patty Chamberlain, Director |
pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org
Register for events with Jessica Thurnes |
jthurnes@wpc-alex.org

Monday, November 21: Lunch and Learn at Westminster. Westminster member John McArdle will be our guest speaker. John is a producer and a host of CSPAN’s Washington Journal. John will talk about his reflections on Election 2016. Lunch is \$10 and begins at noon.

Wednesday, November 30 or Thursday, December 1: Little Theater of Alexandria’s *A Christmas Carol*. For the past few years, LTA has been able to host groups for the dress rehearsal of *A Christmas Carol*. At this time we don’t know yet if the dress rehearsal will be on November 30 or December 1.

Monday, December 12: Shopping trip to the Leesburg Outlets. We’ll meet at 10:00 AM for our trip out to the Leesburg Outlets to do holiday shopping. We’ll plan to be there for enough time to shop and have lunch at the food court. Cost: \$1 plus lunch.

Monday, January 23: Lunch at Hank’s Oyster Bar. Meet at the church at 11:15 and we’ll have lunch together at Hank’s in Old Town. Cost: \$1 plus lunch.

Men of Westminster

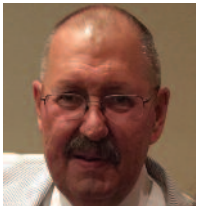
www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

Contact: Dudley Schadeberg | mow@wpc-alex.org



Men's Breakfast

Friday, November 11
7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
*An In-Depth Overview of the
U. S. Immigration System*



Paul Wickham Schmidt, recently retired United States Immigration Judge, will give us a guaranteed-to-be entertaining overview of our immigration system. Who is favored? Who is excluded? Who are the outcasts? Where do the refugees fit in? Judge Schmidt has "seen it all"

and done most of it during his 43-year career in immigration law.

Judge Schmidt was appointed as an Immigration Judge in 2003 and retired in 2016. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chairman of the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review; served as acting General Counsel of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), where he was instrumental in developing the rules and procedures to implement the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; and practiced business immigration law with Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue. He has also served as an adjunct professor of law at George Mason University School of Law and at Georgetown University Law Center.

Paul W. Schmidt received his BA from Lawrence University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where he served as editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. Judge Schmidt has written extensively for the American Immigration Lawyers Association and is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Wisconsin and District of Columbia Bars, and was one of the founding members of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges. Judge Schmidt was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and grew up in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He and his wife, Cathryn Piehl Schmidt, have resided in Alexandria, Virginia since 1973. They have two married sons and a married daughter, and seven grandchildren, all living in Wisconsin.

Paul Schmidt's presentation on immigration earlier this year at a WPC Adult Education class provoked a lively discussion. Come learn and join the dialogue on one of the most important issues facing our country and our community of faith.

2017 Men's Retreat

February 3-5 at Hallowood Retreat
and Conference Center

*Justification: Is It Still the Article by
Which the Church Stands or Falls?*

Rev. James F. Cubie, Associate Pastor
for Christian Formation at Leesburg
Presbyterian Church



2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which gave birth to the fundamental set of beliefs that make us Protestants—our beliefs about the Bible, grace, sin, and who God is. At the center of those beliefs is the doctrine of justification: that we don't earn God's love, it is given to us as a gift. In the 16th century, this idea became an effective prophetic protest against the theology and practices of the Roman Catholic Church. But a lot has happened since then; is this fundamental doctrine still at the center of what we should believe? Join us at the men's retreat to answer that question!

We are fortunate to have the Rev. James F. Cubie as our leader. He has served with the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington since 2011 as a member of the Company of Teachers, leading seminars and retreats. He is also a frequent lecturer on religion and theology. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and holds a Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

It is not too soon to mark your calendar to reserve this weekend. The retreat will again take place at the popular Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain near Comus, Maryland. Sign up will begin in early November.



Children and Family Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor for Children & Families | cfitzgerald@wpc-alex.org
Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry | pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org
Molly Roden, Interim Director of Children's Music | mroden@wpc-alex.org



High School Youth Overnight Lock-in

A "Fantastic" night of mission, fun and food!

Friday, November 18

RSVP to Patrick at phunnicut@wpc-alex.org

Whole Family Creation Station: Four Friends

Sunday, November 6 | 9:45 – 10:45 AM on the 3rd floor

Whole Family Sundays—the first Sunday of each month—give families the opportunity to learn and grow TOGETHER. Moms, Dads, Grandparents, siblings (of any age), and more are invited to learn God's story together. The intergenerational Sundays will prepare families for learning and understanding the Biblical story that will be focused on for the rest of the month (when the K-5th graders have their own education time).

Milestones of Faith

Third Graders: Reading the Bible. November 20, 9:45-10:45 AM in the Map Room (Bring Bibles!)

Family Advent Wreath-Making Workshop

Sunday, November 27 | 9:45 AM on the 3rd floor

All families are invited to a fun morning of Advent activities! RSVPs are helpful in determining supplies; email pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org. A \$5 per family contribution is helpful. (If you have your wreath and candle holders from last year, we'd love for you to use it again.)

Annual Christmas Pageant

All K-5th graders are invited to participate in the pageant! If you can't be at the rehearsals, please just let us know, your child is still welcome to be a part of the pageant.

Rehearsal

Sunday, December 4 | 9:45-10:45 AM (during Creation Station)

Rehearsal, Pageant & All-Church Dinner

Sunday, December 11

Rehearsal, 9:45 – 10:45 AM in the Sanctuary

Performance, 5:00 PM

All families are invited to see the show!

Family Retreat

Mark your calendar for our spring Family Retreat, May 13 -14, 2017 at the Bishop Claggett Center. More details to follow in upcoming Chronicles.

Youth Ministry Update from the Personnel Committee

In order to prepare the way for a new Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, our youth ministry will be entering an intentional interim period. As of November 20, Patrick Hunnicutt will step down from leadership of our youth ministry programs. Youth, parents, advisors, and other volunteers will take the lead on programming, under the supervision of Casey FitzGerald in her new role as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. Patrick's time with the youth will be celebrated by the youth and their families at a special youth event, date TBD. We are incredibly thankful for Patrick's eleven years of faithful service with our youth and their families, and excited for what's next at Westminster.



Christian Education and Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult
Amey Upton | aupton@wpc-alex.org

Navigating The Seas of Change

How Do We as Christians Navigate the Seas of Change?

How do we as Christians navigate our engagements with Muslims in the global seas of change? There is so much to learn. Dr. Dodd Simms and Salih Sayilgan challenged us to learn more about Islam; to learn more about how to talk with those who differ from us. How do we share about our faith with those of different faith? A follow-up opportunity on January 8 & 15, 2017 will allow us to hear from Salih's wife, Zeyneb.

How do we as Christians navigate illness on spiritual terms? Dr. Christine Pulchalski challenged us to think about our own "life-meaning;" to explore what underlies our religious convictions as we are caregivers and cope with illness and decision-making over illness.

How do we as Christians find God in trauma? Rev. Ruth Everhart shared her story of sexual violence and challenged us to ask tough questions of "Why me?" "Where is God in trauma?" and to journey with God when pain, suffering and sorrow overtake us. What do we do with anger? Shame?

As I type this we are about to hear from Dr. Francis Collins and from Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana. Each adult education class isn't just a teacher in an area of current affairs or health issues but is meant to invite us as Christians to examine our faith journey and call us to response. Wrestling with tough faith questions helps us to navigate the seas of change. These programs, I hope, will offer you the chance to hear how others have navigated through their faith, hope and love. Hope to see you in class!

-Amey



**October 30, November 6, &
November 13**

*Issues of Justice in the Provision of
Healthcare*

Dr. Jim Muyskens, President of
Queens College, the City University of
New York, 2002-2013

The question of the right to access to health care runs deeper than partisan politics. Is an affluent society an unjust one if it does not provide this access? Does our commitment to Christian ethics mean that we have a collective duty to support public policies in favor of providing access? Dr. Muyskens, a WPC member, has written and taught on religion and medical ethics.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

All are welcomed on Thursday mornings through November 17 to review Old Testament stories from the Garden of Eden and the "Fall" with a DVD series by Amy-Jill Levine and Charles Mathews. Sessions are being led by Art Sauer, Pat Prosperi, Anne Ledyard, Patrick Hunnicutt and Amey Upton. Come learn about the creation story, original sin, grace, forgiveness and so much more. 9:30-11:30 AM in Haverkamp Room.

Mental Health Small Group

If you are interested in joining a group of members interested in mental health challenges and issues, feel free to contact Amey to learn more about it!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen

Nancy Hall Berens | nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Moderator, Bea Hurt and Vice Moderator, Janet Harris | PW@wpc-alex.org



Women's Circles: "Who is Jesus?"

We've had a great start to our 2016-2017 Bible Study in our Women's Circles. All women are invited to a small group "circle" for Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach.

Explore with us how Jesus is portrayed in the Bible and beyond, and grow in your understanding of Jesus' role in your own life. Look for the schedule of circle meetings in the Sunday Update each month. Contact Presbyterian Women (PW) Moderator Bea Hurt and Vice Moderator Janet Harris or staff liaison Nancy Hall Berens for more information.

Workday Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, November 2 | 9:30 AM in Haverkamp Room

Sew and/or stuff animals and pillows to give to children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai | Monday, November 7 | 7:15 – 9 PM in Haverkamp Room

Come play the Shanghai card game on the first Monday of each month. Any woman who loves playing cards, friendly competition, and fellowship is invited to attend!

Women's Fall Gathering

Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World: Lessons Learned from Celtic and Native Traditions

Sunday, November 6 | 12:15 PM in Haverkamp Room
Speaker: Nancy Hall Berens

How can we as 21st century women relate to ancient Celtic and Native American traditions? Celtic and Native reverence for the created, physical world beckons us to look for God in our everyday lives and to care for the creation which surrounds us. Nancy will share with us some of what she has learned about Celtic spirituality from travels in Ireland and Scotland, as well as seminars at Ghost Ranch Conference Center in New Mexico. Nancy's presentation will include some meditative time through prayer, music, and visuals in addition to her talk. All women are invited to attend. BYOB: Bring Your Own Brown-bag-lunch! Space for lunches in the fridge across from Haverkamp Room.

Planning Ahead

March 17-19 | Women's Retreat at Hallowood Retreat Center led by the Rev. Maggie Hayward



Women's Book Groups | led by Clara Beth Van de Water

11 AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

All women are invited to read *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O' Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* by Dr. Linda Hirshman of Brandeis University. This double portrait shows how the two justices complemented

each other with their contrasting views and special friendship. Justice John Paul Stevens says it very accurate, most readable, and shows readers a lot about how the Supreme Court works. This month, the usual meeting date falls on the Monday after Thanksgiving (November 28); the groups will discuss moving the date at the October meetings.

Plan to Attend Westminster's Annual Alternative Giving Bazaar!

Sundays, December 4 & 11 in
Fellowship Hall following both
services

Honor those on your Christmas list by purchasing gifts or making contributions in their names to any of two dozen charities that will be participating in Westminster's annual Alternative Giving Bazaar. Gifts to these organizations make an important difference in the lives of needy people in our community, our nation and around the world.



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Wells Bowman**, daughter of Liz and Matt Bowman and little sister to Hale.

The Westminster Foundation

www.wpc-alex.org/foundation | foundation@wpc-alex.org

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all of your work and in everything you put your hand to. (Deuteronomy 15:10)

In 1999, the Westminster Session established the Westminster Foundation, creating an expanded role in receiving and administering gifts and bequests to the church. Through investment and continued gifts from our members and friends, the Foundation has grown to just over \$2.1 million and supports all program areas of the church, including music, youth ministry, children's and adult education, capital improvements, and mission work.

Some of the significant and visible ways in which the Foundation has provided support to Westminster include:

- Construction of the courtyard from the Karen Blomberg and David Griffith Memorial Funds, the Michlene Williams bequest, and from the Capital Improvement Endowment account
- Women's, men's, family and youth retreats from the Retreat Reserve Fund
- Youth mission trips from the Klingensmith Scholarship Fund, the Zach Stoltz Youth Mission Trip fund and the Chuck Ramsey Youth Mission Fund
- Ruth Pattyson, Margaret Phillips, and Dulcie Webster Memorial Funds used to purchase the new communion table in the Chapel
- Gil Brown Memorial Fund used to support Children's Ministry and the new murals in Creation Station, and
- Westminster's Music Ministry through the Betsy and Don Fowler Music Endowment Fund, and the Phyllis Gorrell Music Fund.

Recently, the Session approved the designation of the Harriet Grant bequest of \$144,000 to establish endowed accounts in the Foundation for Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry. Additionally, Westminster received an extraordinarily generous gift of \$200,000 to the Foundation from the estate of Jack & Carolyn Allen to further Westminster's outstanding music ministry.

And, as announced during a *Minute for Mission* this past July, the Westminster Foundation Board laid out plans for our Planned Giving effort to help our congregation become more aware of the Foundation and this effort moving forward.

Planned giving through the Foundation builds for the future of the church and can be given by members from their assets now and in the future. Some donors make endowed gifts, which preserve the principal and generate income from interest and dividends while other donors give the church discretion to spend the entire gift. Some gifts are given in a one-time donation, while other gifts are provided as a memorial to honor family members or friends. Gifts can be directed by the donors to specific program areas.

While some give to the Foundation through their wills and estates, there are many other opportunities to support the work of the Foundation both now and in the future including cash gifts, retirement funds, bequests and charitable trusts. How we continue to serve our wonderful congregation, the Alexandria community, our nation, and throughout the globe will depend greatly on our collective and continued contributions to the Foundation.

Feel free to contact Church Business Administrator Nancy Bea; one of the pastors, or a member of the Foundation Board (Lanny Griffith, Spencer Dickerson, Carl Chidlow, Chris Van Horn, John Woods, Judy Harper, Julie Taylor, Laurie Blackburn, Mark Pollock, Morgan Johnson, Rob Winn, or Bill Keeth) if you have questions or need further information. We also have brochures on the planned giving campaign in the church office.

These are indeed blessed times for the Westminster family. Thank you for your time and your prayerful consideration. As Matthew 6:21 says – *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.”*

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 30

The Session has called a meeting following the 11 AM worship service for the election of officers. The nominees for Elder are Katherine Gunter, Nancy Griswold, Monica Kern, Sarah Hoffman, Joy Cameron, Jim Girard, Bill Keeth, Melissa LoPresti, Neil Sampson, and David Wilcox. The nominees for Deacon are Alexis Crumbley, Rhyann Hance, Griffin Farris, Martha Girard, Gale Grindstaff, Ruth Kane, Hester Lawver, Judi Morrel, Kirstin O'Connor, Chris Van Horne, and Bill Eckert.



Cents-Ability Collection on Sunday, November 20

The final Cents-Ability collection for 2016 will take place November 20. This is our last chance to raise money for Westminster's Adopt a Turkey Program, as well as other hunger programs in our nation and world. Please fill up those banks and bring them to either service. Thank you for your support in the fight against hunger!

Daylight Saving Time Ends!

Sunday, November 6

Don't forget to turn back your clocks!

