



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

— worship well —



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# the Chronicle

November 17, 2016 - volume 47, number 4

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **A Prayer for Our Nation**

**F**ollowing the election season through which we have just passed, with Thanksgiving coming within a few days, I share with you a prayer that comes from our Presbyterian tradition, in hopes that expresses the faith that lies at the heart of many in our nation:

O God, who by Thy providence did lead our forefathers and foremothers to this good land wherein they found liberty and freedom to worship Thee: We beseech Thee ever to guide our nation in the way of Thy truth and peace, so that we may never fail in the blessing which Thou hast promised to that people whose God is the Lord; through Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord.

Amen.

*Larry*

## Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service



Tuesday, November 22

7:30 PM @ Agudas Achim Congregation



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Paul Mack**, son of Jen & Dan Mack, little brother of Sam
- **Cailainn Ptomey**, daughter of Christopher Ptomey & Colleen Green

We rejoice in these marriages in the Westminster Sanctuary:

- **Joshua Bennett Moore** and **Mary Rose Tabri** on October 8
- **Peter Donald Ide** and **Catherine Anne Nance** on November 5

## Holiday Office Hours

Monday, December 26 &  
Tuesday, December 27: Closed

Wednesday, December 28 –  
Friday, December 30: 9 AM – 3 PM

Monday, January 2:  
Closed

Tuesday, January 3:  
Normal office hours resume

## Advent & Christmas 2016

### wpcadvent.com | A Daily Devotional Advent Calendar

Prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming into the world with this daily devotional. Each day will bring a new post, beginning on Sunday, November 27 and concluding on Christmas Eve. Sign up at [wpcadvent.com](http://wpcadvent.com) to receive it daily by email. If you signed up last year, you do not need to sign up again; you will get the devotions automatically! Print copies will be available around the church.

### Annual Boxwood Workshop

**Tuesday, November 29 & Wednesday, November 30 | 9:30 AM or 7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Come either day to make boxwood wreaths, centerpieces, tabletop trees, candlestick arrangements, kissing balls, and more. Cost of making items from \$14 to \$30. Extra materials, bows made to order, pre-made balsam wreaths available. Email Madeline Ramsey at [crafts@wpc-alex.org](mailto:crafts@wpc-alex.org) for more information or to reserve a place.

### Centering Prayer in Advent: November 30 and December 7, 14, 21

All Westminster members and guests are welcomed on Wednesdays during Advent to reflect on selected Bible passages and writings and to spend time in silence listening for God's spirit and love. We'll start at 4 PM in the Westminster Room and end at 5. We'll be led by Amey Upton. Hope to see you there!

### Alternative Giving Bazaar

**Sundays, December 4 & 11 in Fellowship Hall following both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services**

The Alternative Giving Bazaar provides a great opportunity to honor friends and family by giving gifts in their names to any of almost two dozen organizations supported by the Local, National and International Mission Committees at Westminster. These gifts will reach deserving people in our community, nation and around the world. As examples, your gifts to local organizations can help support local families through ALIVE, feed a Meals on Wheels client, allow Just Neighbors to assist refugees, or purchase provisions for Carpenter's Shelter residents. Nationally and internationally, gifts can support our friends at the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota, or support the United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. A catalog listing all participating organizations and describing how your contributions will help will soon be available online and in print in the education wing lobby.



### Christmas Pageant & All-Church Dinner: Sunday, December 11 at 5 PM in the Sanctuary

Come see our children tell the Christmas story, then enjoy a pasta dinner together! (Small fee for dinner.)

### Christmas Flowers and Mission Giving:

Honor or memorialize loved ones with a dedication in the Christmas bulletins. In addition to providing the two flower arrangements in the Sanctuary, donations will support the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, with whom we partner in support of their member church Bdecan Presbyterian on the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota. Checks made out to Westminster with "Christmas Flowers" noted on the memo line. There is no minimum/maximum donation requirement. Contact Jessica Thurnes by Monday, December 12.

### Christmas Joy Offering:

This PC(USA) Offering is shared by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families; and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. Remember our support to these two vital services of the Presbyterian Church as we seek to honor every child of God this Christmas season.

## Special Advent Worship Services

### Sunday, December 4: A Ceremony of Carols

11 AM worship in the Sanctuary, featuring the Westminster Choir performing Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, a Christmas cantata for choir and harp featuring texts from *The English Galaxy of Shorter Poems*, a 1933 collection of Middle English poems edited by Gerald Bullett.

### Sunday, December 18: Festival Sunday with the Commonwealth Brass

8:30 AM & 11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

### Wednesday, December 21: Longest Night Service

7:30 PM Worship in the Chapel

For many, the Christmas season is a particularly difficult one. On this shortest of days, we will worship and reflect on what it means to dwell in the darkness of night. Together we will lift up our whole selves to the Lord, asking that God's light would shine in our darkest places.

### Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

11 AM Worship in the Chapel (*Childcare available in the nursery*)

5 PM Worship in the Sanctuary

8 PM Worship in the Sanctuary (7:45 PM Prelude)

### Sunday, December 25 & Sunday, January 1

11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary (*one service only*)

## Westminster Roadsters (Boomers and Beyond)



[www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters](http://www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters)

Patty Chamberlain, Director /

[pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org](mailto:pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org)

Register for events with Jessica Thurnes /

[jthurnes@wpc-alex.org](mailto:jthurnes@wpc-alex.org)

**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*. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30 and 7:45 to receive your ticket.

**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: \$5 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: \$2 plus lunch.

## Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

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



### Men's Breakfast

Friday, December 9

7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

*The 2016 Presidential Election and Its Impact on the Political System*



Matt Viser will be the featured speaker at our December 9 Breakfast Meeting. He will talk about the 2016 presidential election and its impact on the political system. As Deputy Washington Bureau Chief for the *Boston Globe*, Matt followed the

election closely, interviewing nearly all of the candidates and traveling around the country. He will also discuss the changing media landscape, the growing distrust in it, and how a paper like the *Boston Globe* approaches its national political coverage.

Matt has written about a range of topics, from Secretary of State John Kerry's first trip abroad to Senator Ted Cruz's years at Harvard Law School to a gallery in rural Kansas that honors the losers of presidential elections. He also started the *Globe's* coffee blog, *DoubleShot*, which launched two years ago with an exploration into the mysterious coffee served at the White House.

At the White House Correspondents Dinner in 2015, he won the Merriam Smith Memorial Award for deadline reporting, for a behind-the-scenes account of how the Iran deal was struck in Vienna. In 2013, he was a finalist for the Livingston Award for Young Journalists, and was part of a team that won the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress. Both awards recognized work done as part of the *Globe's* "Broken City" series, which examined partisan gridlock in Washington.

Matt is also a contributing editor at *Town and Country* magazine, and he regularly appears on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he has been at the *Globe* since 2004 and previously reported for the State House bureau, the City Hall bureau, and *Globe West*.

He and his wife, Anne, live in Arlington and joined Westminster in 2012. Their twins, Benjamin and Abigail, turned four in October and can often be found on Sundays running around Fellowship Hall with more than their fair share of cookies.

### 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 500<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Why I Attend the Men's Retreat

*By Art Sauer*

I enjoy attending the Westminster Men's Retreat because it is a great way to get away from the everyday hubbub and just relax. The retreat center is in a bucolic setting and the serenity is very calming. Also, the spotty cell phone reception makes it hard for outsiders to interrupt this relaxing atmosphere. The retreat is also a terrific way to get to know other men in the church on a personal level, as we enjoy sitting and chatting in front of the fireplace or around the dining tables. Plus, the programs are pretty interesting and thought-provoking!



## Children and Family Ministry

[www.wpc-alex.org/families](http://www.wpc-alex.org/families)

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

### 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](mailto: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.)

**Wednesday, November 30 | 6-7 PM in Fellowship Hall**

*If your family is unable to attend the Advent wreath making workshop on Sunday, you may come to Fellowship Hall during the Boxwood Workshop to make your wreath! Only the family wreaths can be made at this time.*

### 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!

### Westminster Weekday Preschool 2017-2018 Registration

In-house registration for the fall of 2017 will begin on January 11, 2017, and will end on January 19 at noon. In-house registration includes former or current preschool families and Westminster church members. (To be considered under the definition of church member, at least one parent must have joined the church by December 31, 2016.) Classes will be available for children who have reached the ages of 2½\*, 3, or 4 as of September 30, 2017. (\*Applications will be accepted for in-house families whose children turn 2½ by December 31, 2017.) Westminster church members, or former preschool families interested in enrolling their children, may pick up an application in the preschool office beginning January 11. In-house applications are due by noon on Thursday, January 19. If necessary, a lottery will be held at noon on January 19 for open spaces.

Open Houses will be held on January 11 & 12 from 9:30-11:30 AM. Reservations are not necessary and you are welcome to drop in any time within the two-hour time frame. The director and Board members will be available to answer questions as you tour the preschool and observe classrooms over our classroom dutch doors. There is a gathering area in the nursery where you can meet Board members and other prospective preschool families. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by parents at all times. (Babysitting is not available.) If you have any questions, please call Carolyn Burke, Director, at 703-549-5267.

### 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*.

## Attention Youth



## Upcoming Youth Events!

### Youth Cafe Continues

**December 4 and 11, 9:45 AM on the 4th floor**

There will be no Youth Cafe from December 18–January 1.

### Celebration Event

**Sunday, December 4 at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Youth and parents are invited for dessert and fun as we celebrate an amazing 11 years with Patrick Hunnicutt at the helm of our youth ministry, and offer our blessings to him as he becomes our Associate Pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care.

### Youth Fellowship

**December 11, 6 PM:** All youth meet at the Target in Bailey's Crossroads for our marathon shopping event to prepare the gifts for the families we'll sponsor!

**December 18, 7 PM:** High School and College Reunion Dinner (No Middle School Fellowship on the 18th)

*Questions? Email us!*  
[youthvolunteer@wpc-alex.org](mailto:youthvolunteer@wpc-alex.org)



## Christian Education and Formation

[www.wpc-alex.org/adult](http://www.wpc-alex.org/adult)

Amey Upton | [aupton@wpc-alex.org](mailto:aupton@wpc-alex.org)

With Thanksgiving almost here, I find myself thankful for the support and participation this fall in our series on the seas of change. Change seems increasingly part of our everyday lives it can make us feel uncertain and stressed. Yet a foundation of our Presbyterian belief is “the church reformed; always being reformed.” As winter arrives, I hope you’ll continue to explore how we can navigate these changes. We’re reminded to create hope by building skills, by raising people up, and by embracing change. As we are being reformed, we discover that more we love, the less we fear and the less we fear, the more we love. Hope, in the midst of change, is often created by our love for one another.

In our classes, Rev. Ruth Everhart explored the seas of shame that often accompany sexual exploitation. In crisis her theology didn’t match her reality, but her courage and acts of faith pushed her past her fear. Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana spoke about the seas of digital change. She calls us to be intentional about its use. She offered that technology is at its best when used for community, for lament, for theology; not for addiction, malice, or temptation. Indeed, digital power can consume our time, attention and focus so we are invited to use it vigilantly and to build up the body of Christ.

Dr. Francis Collins invited us to be partners in the seas of healthcare change of precision medicine. He invites us to sign up at [www.nih.gov/precisionmedicine](http://www.nih.gov/precisionmedicine); to be players in the discovery of new care by lending your health to science. Dr. Peter Stearns traced the ebbs and flows of fear throughout the decades, often tied to incidences of war, disease, crime, governance and global shifts. Remedies to fear can include taking risks, building neighborhood relationships, and enacting gratuitous acts of tolerance, love and faith. Jim Muyskens outlined many complexities in provision of healthcare. He challenged us to think about what justice looks like in U.S. healthcare.

Now we welcome (back) Dr. Bruce Douglass. Come sail the seas of Reformed Theology as we return to the roots of our Presbyterian faith. Dr. Douglass will steer us through our heritage, through insistence of the unique authority of the Bible, and focus us on the nature of God and our own humanness.

No doubt the seas of change are all around us! Join the voyage of this delicate balance of faith, hope, love and works as we sail into these next few months discovering more biblical ballast for life’s voyage. See you in class!

-Amey

### Congregation-Wide Book Read in January & February 2017!

*The Call: The Life & Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton

Announcing a new WPC opportunity! I hope you’ll join in the fun. Sign up in December, read the book in January, and then meet in February in small, facilitated groups in homes or at church to discuss. A handful of members have previewed and selected our book. Do you have an appreciation for the Apostle Paul? His life was filled with shortcomings and many have found themselves disagreeing with him. But his life, when viewed as a whole, reveals a heroic, faithful Apostle. Nearly two thousand years later, his words still speak to us. The book is written by a good storyteller, is easily ordered online or downloaded to your e-reader, and we will order a handful ahead of time for those who want to pick one up at the church. Look for sign-up instructions in December.

### Reformed Institute Programs |

[www.reformedinstitute.org](http://www.reformedinstitute.org)

- **Annual Convocation: “The Reformation and the Struggle for Justice”**  
Saturday, January 28 | 9:30 AM – 12 PM at National Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Allan Boesak will kick-off the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the protestant reformation.
- **“Romans and the Reformation”** | February 11, 18, 25 and March 4  
Rev. James Cubie & Dr. Jon Wood will teach this class.  
Information available online and at the church.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

[www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen](http://www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen)

Nancy Hall Berens | [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org)

Moderator, Bea Hurt and Vice Moderator, Janet Harris | [PW@wpc-alex.org](mailto:PW@wpc-alex.org)



### Women's Circles

Join one of our circles for the 2016-2017 Bible Study "Who is Jesus?" 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.

### Shanghai | Monday, December 5 | 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!

### Workday Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, December 7 | 9:30 AM in Haverkamp Room

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

### Women's Gathering Rescheduled!

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

Sunday, February 12 | 12:15 PM in Haverkamp Room (snow date March 5)

Speaker: Nancy Hall Berens

How can we as 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



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

Monday, November 28 |

11 AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

The book choice for November has changed. All women are invited to read *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, a short and powerful classic novel by Willa Cather.

### Planning Ahead: Watch for details coming soon!

**Women's Prayer Breakfast** | National Capital Presbytery Women meet each winter for prayer, fellowship, and reflection.

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



## Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

[www.wpc-alex.org/singles](http://www.wpc-alex.org/singles)

Nancy Hall Berens, Director | [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org)

### **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.

### **Sunday, December 4 | Shopping for Holiday Sharing Program**

Meet at 12:30 PM under the clock in Fellowship Hall to carpool to Potomac Yard to go Christmas shopping for our sponsored family. If you are unable to shop with the group, you may make a donation to the effort via Nancy Harper who is coordinating the project again this year.

### **December 10 | Annual Christmas Party!**

Patsy Riley has offered to host our Flying Solo Christmas Party in her new home this year. As usual, we will start with appetizers and gift-wrapping for our sponsored family, then we’ll share a potluck-style holiday dinner together. 5–8 PM. Watch for more details in the Westminster Update and by email.

### **Monday, December 12 | Monthly Dine-Out at Carlyle, 4000 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington**

Enjoy some of the finest food around as well as the festive holiday lights in Shirlington Village. Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet there at 7:15 PM.

### **Sunday December 25 | Christmas Day!**

Flying Solo is hosting Coffee Hour after the 11:00 service then we’ll go out to a local restaurant for Christmas Dinner afterwards.

### **Monday, January 30 | Book Group**

Join us to discuss “*All the Light We Cannot See*” by Anthony Doerr. Set in France during WWII, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a blind French girl and a German boy, it illustrates the ways that people try to be good to one another even in difficult times. 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

## Appalachia Service Project Trip

Recently a crew of seven Westminster members, accompanied by two George Washington University grad students, made the trip to the ASP center in Guyan Valley, West Virginia. We spent two days sanding, painting, replacing a floor and installing insulation. In spite of rain, lots of mud and chilly temperatures, a lot was accomplished and some new friends were made!



## 2017 Worship Flowers

Westminster members and friends are invited to donate the flowers for the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship Services in 2017. The flowers may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones, and the contributor(s) name and the dedication will be printed in the bulletin. Two arrangements are available for each Sunday of the year (except Easter and Christmas, which are special donations); the cost is \$70 for one and \$140 for two. The 2017 Flower Dedication Chart will be available for signing up following each service on November 27, December 4 and 11. You can also contact Jessica Thurnes in the church office. Be sure to sign up early if you want a specific date!



# the Chronicle

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Dawn Campbell, Production Editor  
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Nancy Hall Berens .....Dir. of Congregational  
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Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Time Sensitive

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

## Member Involvement News



One of the most important ways that a member can be involved with the church is attendance at worship. Without this a congregation cannot exist. John Calvin, the founder of the Reformed Church, felt that it was very important to not only read the Word but to hear it preached on a regular basis in the community of other believers. Thus, regular communal worship is an integral part of the Reformed Church member's responsibility.

First, some background on Westminster's attendance trends. Westminster averages about 400 members (both services combined) each Sunday. The 8:30 service averages around 65 in attendance each week and the 11:00 service averages around 335 (these are round numbers, as there is a variance week to week). Easter is our best-attended Sunday worship service with over 700 people attending (this is why you are encouraged to attend the 8:30 service!). Not all of those attending are members. We have around 90 visitors each week and they really appreciate the friendly greeting that our members extend. As for our membership, the average Westminster member attends once a month. Of course, we have some members who attend nearly every Sunday and some who rarely attend.

While we would prefer that members attend every week, we recognize that there are a variety of reasons that members cannot attend. Many members have jobs that require them to travel; others are in frail health and cannot attend regularly, if at all. With the flu season coming we encourage members who are sick to remain at home and recover before returning to church. Vacations, Sunday sports leagues for children, and simply needing to recover from a hectic week are among the other reasons that members do not attend regularly. Regardless, we do encourage members to attend as frequently as possible. A full sanctuary enhances the sense of community.

Shortly we will enter the season of Advent. Each Sunday during this season of preparation for celebration of our Lord's birth will be special. Please plan to attend.

*Yours in Christ,  
Art Sauer  
Coordinator of Member Involvement*