

# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



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# Chronicle January 19, 2017 - volume 47, number 6

### From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Casey Fitzgerald

The Busy Day

A few weeks ago, as I approached my church mailbox, I was greeted by the sight of purple construction paper and a lovely child's drawing: a booklet entitled: "The Busy Day." Its cover bore a picture of our communion table and the elements upon it, surrounded by pastors and children. I opened it up to discover one second grader's account of a very special Sunday in the life of the church—her participation in both children's choir and in the second grade leadership in communion.

She reflected on the excitement of the morning, from her French toast breakfast, to speaking into a real microphone. She wrote down the entirety of the choir song's lyrics, remembering that "Jesus Christ calls his friends to the table to dine, as we come as his guests, to share the bread and wine. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" She recalled her invitation to the congregation: "This is the Lord's table. It is a table for all God's children!" In ten written and illustrated pages, she recounted her connection with her family, with her church, and with her God. What a gift it is to serve in a congregation which takes so seriously the promise that the table is for all God's children.

There was one unexpected occurrence on that busy day, when she was asked to do more lines than she'd originally prepared. She writes, "I practiced [the new] lines and then church started. The usual thing happened and then communion! I said my lines and they were fun! So if you are scared it is actually very fun sometimes!" What a message for us all at the start of this year—a message typical of angels—"DO NOT BE AFRAID!"

May your faith find you moving beyond fear and into growth this year. May you "taste and see that the Lord is good." May you experience God's radical love and welcome. May you be a vessel for that love and hospitality.

With gratitude and hope,

Casey



Thank you and blessings to all the members of Westminster, who have shared their caring, love and prayers after my back surgery in November. Especially, I am thankful for visits from Pastor Patrick and Eileen Jinks, the concerns of Pastor Larry, communion and flower deliveries by Deacons Margaret Hirsch, Norman Speicher and Cindy Shaw, and the wonderful meal from Anne Ledyard.

-Jack Pitzer

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Day candles and taking down our Christmas decorations!: Caroline Chamberlain, Grant Chamberlain, Maggie Chamberlain, Patty Chamberlain, Mary Poole, Bill Tate, Pete Vanden Bosch, Rob Winn, Fred Woods, Wanda Worsham, and the Flying Solo group.

#### Thankful for Westminster!

On behalf of all of us connected with Just Neighbors, I want to thank those who contributed to this ministry through the Alternative Giving Bazaar. Your generosity helps us continue to provide legal services to our immigrant brothers and sisters who have cases that fall within existing U.S. laws. The book of Hebrews calls on us to "welcome the stranger among us" and that's what we do every day. Thank you for joining us in this ministry through your financial gifts!

-Anne Ledyard

### Member Involvement News



The start of a new year marks a time for new beginnings and the annual round of resolutions to improve our lives. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has resolved to lose weight, eat better and exercise more. To these standard resolutions I hope many of you will join me in resolving to devote more time to church activities.

Our Local Mission activities are always in need of new volunteers. Check the weekly Westminster Update for upcoming needs. There are many upcoming vacancies in the **Bag Lunch program**. You only need volunteer for one day at a time, and the time commitment is less than three hours! The sandwiches are already made; you just have to pack the bags, warm up the soup, and serve the lunches. You could also volunteer for the monthly **Carpenter's Shelter Dinner** and the monthly **Meals on Wheels delivery**. A note to localmission@wpc-alex.org is all you need do to get on the list!

Looking ahead to the spring, the annual Rebuilding Together Alexandria workday will be on April 29. We will be putting together a crew to fix up a house for an Alexandria senior. All skill levels are needed. Most of the work consists of sprucing up the yard, painting, and minor household repairs such as installing grab bars and light fixtures. If you want to practice your home repair skills before you tackle that job you've been putting off on your own home, here's your chance! Email rebuilding@wpc-alex.org to get involved.

**The Children's Education programs** have a continuing need for volunteers to lead classes and act as shepherds. You need not be a parent. Patty Chamberlain (pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org) welcomes all interested people of all ages!

For those who can't find the time to participate in additional projects, Sunday morning worship is a great place to start. It may seem strange to include worship in the list of things that the congregation can improve on in the New Year, but on any given Sunday less than 30 percent of our members are in worship! Now is a great time to commit to regularly joining together in worship. Coming in March, the Lenten Dinners and Study will be a special time to be involved in church life. All ages and family status are welcomed. It is a wonderful way to informally get to know other members.

Westminster has numerous ways for members to grow in faith and service. I hope you will find some new ones in the coming year.

**Art Sauer** *Member Involvement Coordinator* 



### Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

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



The Flying Solo group enjoys dining out at Chadwick's in Old Town in January.

# Tuesday, January 24 | Monthly Potluck | 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor

Come make sandwiches for Bag Lunch then enjoy potluck dinner together. Please bring a simple dish to share.

### Saturday, January 28 | Baltimore Museum of Art

Trip to Baltimore to see the Matisse/Diebenkorn exhibit! Contact Nancy Hall Berens to see if there are any spaces still available. Cost \$16 plus lunch. Leave on the church bus at 9:00 AM, return in the afternoon.

#### 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 illustrates the ways that people try to be good to one another even in difficult times. 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

### Sunday February 5 | Super Chili Bowl Party! 5:30 PM at the home of Nancy Harper

Nancy Harper has invited us to her home for our annual chili and football party! To go along with the chili, we need folks to bring appetizers, sides, salads, cornbread, desserts and drinks (no red wine, please). RSVP directly to Nancy Harper to let her know what you'd like to bring. Look for Nancy's address and contact info by email or see her at Fellowship Hour after church. Enjoy fun, fellowship...and football with church friends!

### Monday, February 13 | Monthly Dine-Out

Enjoy good food and good friends at Busboys & Poets, located at 4251 S. Campbell Ave. in Shirlington. Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet at the restaurant at 7:15.

### Sunday, February 26 | Roundtable Lunch and Discussion

In an Affluent Society Such as Ours, Should Health Care Be Viewed as an Individual's Right or as a Privilege?

12:15 PM in the Haverkamp Room. Lunch will be provided.

Our speaker will be Westminster member Jim Muyskens, University Professor, Graduate Center, City University of New York, and Former President of Queens College, CUNY. Jim's publications and courses are in the areas of (1) ethics of health care, specifically questions of justice and rights as well as nursing ethics, and (2) philosophy of religion, specifically the role of hope in religious commitment. The topic for our Roundtable discussion will focus on the following questions: As Congress is grappling with the politics of repeal and replacing the Affordable Care Act, what are the fundamental ethical questions we should be debating? For example, is access to a decent minimum of health care a right? Can we call an affluent society such as ours just if millions of residents do not have access to basic health care and then suffer and die as a result? Join us for this important and timely discussion!

### Men of Westminster

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

#### Men's Breakfast



Friday, February 10, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

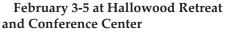
The Causes of the American Revolution with Dr. Jim R. McClellan

Why did the colonists risk their lives, wealth, and sacred honor by revolting and taking up arms against the British? Wasn't there a better and less violent way to resolve the differences that they had with Parliament and King George III of England? While it is more pleasing to think that the American Revolution

happened because all colonists loved freedom and hated tyranny, the real causes of the conflict are not quite that simple. Dr. McClellan will take a look at a variety of explanations offered by historians since 1776.

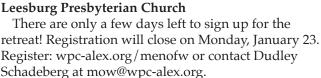
Dr. Jim R. McClellan has been a history professor at Northern Virginia Community College, and has taught American history and government since 1975. He is currently the Dean of the Liberal Arts Division at the Alexandria campus of NVCC, a position he has held since 2009. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in government and history and Master of Arts degree in history and government from the University of Texas, Arlington. Jim holds a Ph.D from the University of Cincinnati. He is the author of seven books, and has published numerous essays and articles in scholarly publications, magazines, and newspapers.

#### 2017 Men's Retreat



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

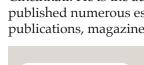
Rev. James F. Cubie, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation at Leesburg Presbyterian Church



We are fortunate to have Rev. James 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.

2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which gave birth to the fundamental 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 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!



### Focus on Missions



The 2016 Alternative Giving Bazaar raised \$55,987 for organizations supported by our Local, National and International Mission Committees. The Mission Committees wish to thank the congregation for your tremendous

outpouring of generosity. Your donations exemplified the true spirit of the Christmas season.

**Christmas Joy Offering:** Thank you for giving generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). This year's Offering from Westminster brought

\$8,413 to 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.

**Christmas Flowers Collection:** During the Christmas holiday season, we were blessed to have beautiful flowers decorating the sanctuary. These flowers were made possible through the generous donations of members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church. \$471 in additional funds is being given to Northern Plains Presbytery for Bdecan Presbyterian Church, which serves the Spirit Lake



### Christian Education and Formation

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

"Educated persons are those who are critically reflective about themselves, their way of life, their profession, and their moral choices." –Dr. Edmond Pellegrino "The most useful piece of learning in life is to unlearn what is untrue." –Antisthenes (445-365 BC)

What kind of student was Jesus? We get a snapshot of Jesus in the temple learning, witnessing, questioning in Luke (2:46–47). As you welcomed 2017, did you make a religious resolution? Perhaps not...So set a religious resolution right now to follow Jesus' example of life-long learning and "on the job training" by hearing from expert teachers available at Westminster throughout the year.

Christian Education here at Westminster resolves to continue to offer programs to deepen your knowledge of God and knowledge of yourself and to help you grow in your faith. Resolve to attend WPC's new Lenten dinner series on the "Theology of Busyness." Resolve to go on retreat with the men, women, families or singles groups of the church. Or resolve to make a new practice of attending Sunday morning adult education or Lenten Centering Prayer or join a Woman's Circle.

Resolve to participate. When you persevere, as did the Apostle Paul, by taking one step at a time and trusting where God might be leading you in your learning, or unlearning, it can provide you the life-long training you just might need to navigate the seas of change that surely come as part and parcel of being human. Happy New Year!

-Amey

### Navigating the Seas of Change Upcoming Classes Sundays, 9:45–10:45 AM in Haverkamp Room

January 22 - Dr. G. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter of the National Capital Area talking about adaptive change and leadership and about our presbytery. A good chance to ask questions about the greater body of Christ in our region. January 29 – Ambassador Philip Wilcox will address Israeli/Palestinian conflict and American diplomacy. February 5 – Peter Wehner of the Ethics & Public Policy Center will speak about marginalized Christians and political roles in engagement that is both effective and faithful. Feb 12, 19 & 26 - Welcome for the first time at Westminster Sati Clarke, one of the most popular professors at Wesley Seminary, to teach a series on world religions and Christian theology.

#### Congregation-Wide Book Read

Over forty people are reading *The Call: The Life &* Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton during the month of January. In February, facilitators will lead 6 different group discussions about Paul's life and missionary journeys. "Paul was a man full of flash & fire, passion and vigor, wit and charm, pride and humility, enormous self-confidence, and fear and trembling" said E. P. Sanders in his book about Paul. Some say Paul's greatest strengths were his greatest weaknesses. As "We Navigate the Seas of Change" in our nation, our world and in ourselves, Paul sets a unique example of trying to conserve the tradition and reform. He spoke of compromise and authority; of acts of faith in the midst of dark times; and, of speaking boldly yet compassionately. It is my hope these small conversations will be fruitful, provocative and fun.

# Lenten Dinner Series: "Navigating Busyness" | Wednesdays, March 8, 15, & 22 | 7-8:30 PM

Joanne Steller from Foundry United Methodist in DC will join us for a special Lenten Wednesday evening series, "Navigating Busyness." What does Jesus teach us about busyness? What practices might you make room for in order to grow in God's grace? Mark your calendars now, line up a sitter, and make sure you're not too busy to come!

### 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

Thursday, February 23: LTA's *Key for Two*. Harriett is a divorcee with financial woes who takes in two gentlemen boarders. She juggles who is there when and all is well until they arrive at the same time on the same day. Show starts at 8:00 p.m.; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, February 27: Trip to the National Museum of the American Indian. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the church parking lot for a trip to explore the museum. We will eat lunch at the museum and be back no later than 2:00 p.m. Cost \$2 plus lunch.



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- George Wilkins Simon, son of Jenni
   & Nick Simon, little brother of
   Teddy.
- Margot Elizabeth Ozanus, daughter of Michelle & Kris Ozanus, little sister of Oliver, Alex, and Penelope

### Children and Family Ministry



### Whole Family Sunday | February 5 | 9:45-10:45 AM in Creation Station

All families with elementary school-aged children are encouraged to attend! Our theme for February is Lydia.

### Family Retreat | May 13-14 | Family Faith in Conversation Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

Families with children age 0–5th grade are invited to experience this wonderful retreat opportunity! Our retreats are great for kids and grown-ups of all ages. Take this time away to reconnect with your own family—and the families that make up the church we call home! On our retreat, we'll be exploring how taking a look at the faith practices of Islam and Judaism, alongside a look at Christianity, can help us know and love our neighbors and inspire us with new ideas for family rituals and activities that strengthen our Christian belief and identity.

Our retreat leader is the wonderful Rev. Jennifer Dunfee. Jennifer serves as the Chaplain of the National Presbyterian School, a nursery-6th grade school of 300 students. She creates interactive worship services, teaches classes from Bible to Christian ethics to Christianity in conversation with Judaism and Islam, oversees mission and service, and provides pastoral care to the community. Before working at NPS, Jennifer was the associate pastor for youth and families at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. She lives with her three children and spouse on the campus of The Madeira School, an all-girls high school, where her husband chairs the history department.

The Claggett Center is situated on 268 acres with a working farm and fantastic views of Sugarloaf Mountain and the Monocacy River Valley. It's a place where inspiration abounds—you can take the time to hike a trail, enjoy your meals on the patio, or relax in a porch rocker and watch the sunrise. Bishop Claggett is about an hour and fifteen minute drive from Westminster. Information and registration form will be at www.wpc-alex.org/familes. Registration ends March 31!

### Music & More Week | Mornings, June 26–30 | Malice in the Palace

M&M Week is our summer musical day camp experience for children who are currently enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Led by Casey FitzGerald, Patty Chamberlain, and Molly Roden, this is a special week filled with singing, drama, storytelling, arts and crafts, snacks, recreation, games, and more! Many volunteers and parents also teach and assist. Registration will begin soon!

#### 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



Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Rachel, Hannah, Ruth...Who are these women and what do they have in common? They are all important women in the Bible and they also happen to represent the names of each of our six Women's Circles! Over 100 women are involved

with a circle here at Westminster. We meet monthly for Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach. This year, we are exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" We have been looking at how each of the four gospels portrays Jesus, and now we are studying how the apostle Paul and other scriptures and faiths view Jesus. For each lesson, what is most important is how we ourselves understand Jesus in our own lives and in relation to what we are reading and learning in circles. It's never too late in the program year to join a circle and to begin to deepen your faith through study and discussion with other women in the church. Visit the Presbyterian Women's page on the church website to learn more.

## PW National Capital Presbytery Women's Prayer Breakfast

*Mission Possible!* | Saturday, January 28 | Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge

Discover new trends and faces of PW and PC(USA) as together we venture into a new year of spiritual nurture and service. A great way to worship, pray and share concerns together! \$15 for registration and breakfast plus an extra opportunity to help fund delegates from our Presbytery to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (March) and a PW Global Exchange to Indonesia (September). The Ebenezer ladies are wonderful hosts in preparing breakfast and sharing their faith in spirited singing during the meal and worship. We'll be carpooling from church or selected neighboring points. Contact Bea Hurt at pw@wpc-alex.org for more information and pre-registration.

### Women's Gathering

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

Sunday, February 12 | 12:15 PM in Haverkamp Room (snow date 3/5) 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 refrigerator across from Haverkamp Room.* 

#### Women's Retreat

Retweeting with Ruth led by the Rev. Maggie Hayward
Friday, March 17—Sunday, March 19 | Hallowood Retreat Center

Register: www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen by Wednesday, March I Wither Thou Goest? To the Westminster Women's Retreat, of course! Join with Maggie Hayward as we follow the Old Testament character of Ruth in a new way. We'll take a look at the book's importance as literature and as scripture, and the weaving of the human and divine intentions in the story. What might Ruth tweet to the world in our time? In seeking the purpose for our lives, what is our responsibility and what do we leave to God? Plan now for a relaxing weekend get-away with friends, old and new, as we talk together about what is going on in our lives that may be interesting, funny, or useful to one another. No electronic skills required! Maggie is the pastor at Northwood Presbyterian in Silver Spring, MD, and also happens to be married to Larry Hayward, whom some of you might know!

### Monthly Events

# Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, February 1 | 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, February 6 | 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!

### Book Groups led by Clara Beth Van de Water

Monday, February 27 at II AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

Read *Queen Sugar* by Natalie Braszile, a novel about personal transformation, family relationships, and race relations set in the context of sugar cane farming in the contemporary South.



A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church Contributors: Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster Dawn Campbell, Production Editor Sunday Worship 8:30 & II:00 a.m.

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### Westminster Foundation

In November 1976, Westminster's session authorized the establishment of the Westminster Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund was established in 1981 with just under \$54,000. In 1999, the session revised the Endowment Fund charter to establish the Westminster Foundation, creating an expanded role in receiving and administering gifts and bequests to the church beyond the original endowed accounts. Through investment and continued gifts and bequests from our members and friends, the Foundation has grown to a value of \$2,170,481, and supports all program areas of the church.

The Westminster Foundation Board consists of twelve members serving 3-year terms. The newly elected members of class of 2019 are Morgan Johnson, John Woods, Chris Van Horne, and Mark Pollock. Margaret Myers was elected to the Class of 2017 to fill a vacancy. They join continuing Board members Chairman Lanny Griffith, Vice-Chair Spencer Dickerson, Rob Winn, Bill Keeth, Laurie Blackburn, Judy Harper, and Julie Taylor.

Some of the ways in which the Foundation has provided support

to the church's programs in 2016 were:

- Safety improvements to the elevator from the Capital & Maintenance Reserve Fund
- New office computers from the Technology Reserve Fund
- Support for the women's retreat from the Retreat ReserveFund
- New carpets for the Child & Family Network Centers Preschool from the Local Missions Project Reserve Fund
- Support for youth mission trips from the Zach Stoltz Youth Mission Trip fund and the Chuck Ramsey Youth Mission Fund
- Musicians for the Remembrance Sunday Service from the Dorothy Neyman Music Fund

Westminster is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends who have remembered the church and its work with their gifts and bequests. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the work of the Westminster Foundation, email foundation@wpc-alex.org or contact any one of the members of the Foundation Board.