



Westminster
Presbyterian
CHURCH
worship well



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the Chronicle

March 16, 2017 - volume 47, number 8

From the Pastor's Study

A Message From Casey FitzGerald
A Time of Transition

As Ecclesiastes 3 proclaims, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." At Westminster, the past few months have been a time of transition as we prepare for the beginning of April and the arrival of our new associate pastor, Whitney Fauntleroy, and the return of Patrick Hunnicutt from sabbatical. It has been a time of giving thanks for what has been, and a time of hopefulness for what is becoming. Along the way, we've had many step up to help with the transition, especially in youth ministry. I am deeply thankful for the commitment of the youth advisors in carrying the youth ministry through this in-between time. We are ready to receive Whitney with excitement and openness. I am grateful for the warm welcome already extended to Whitney during her candidating weekend, I know she is, too.

As we prepare for our new associate pastor configuration, I thought it might be helpful to include brief descriptions of the associate pastor roles moving forward:

Whitney Fauntleroy, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Whitney will be responsible for all ministries pertaining to youth and their families, ministry to young adults (20s-30s single/married without children), and will have general pastoral responsibilities for the entire congregation.

Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

Casey will be responsible for oversight of and visioning for Christian Formation (previously referred to as Christian Education), including children, youth, and adult education/formation. Her administrative responsibilities will include supervision and support of staff for Adult Education, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children's Music, and the Weekday Preschool. Casey will continue to have general pastoral responsibilities for the entire congregation.

Patrick Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care

Patrick will be responsible for the mission visioning and programming of the church, including staffing the Local, National, and International Missions committees, as well as the Pastoral Care Team. His administrative responsibilities will include supervision of staff for Pastoral Care and Congregational Life. Patrick will continue to have general pastoral responsibilities for the entire congregation.

In many ways, we are entering a season of new life—of new and renewed energies for the ministries at Westminster. What a gift it is to serve alongside all of you.

With thanksgiving and hope,

Casey FitzGerald



We welcomed to the Westminster nursery:

- **Alice Rebecca Carr**, daughter of Hannah Choate and Austin Carr.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:

- **Betty Sinclair Thomas**, who died February 24



Member Involvement News

Here's a quiz. Which will help you live longer?

1. Loading up on anti-oxidant supplements
2. Doing something to help others.

As this is a column on getting involved, I'm sure you guessed that number 2 is the correct answer and you are right. A recent study from China (where an aging population gobbles up anti-oxidant supplements) showed that taking large doses of antioxidants actually has a negative effect on longevity. However, many studies by reputable institutions (such as the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, and Johns Hopkins) have shown that helping others helps people live longer, better lives. Simply being socially active with a caring group of friends has also been shown to increase health (both physical and mental).

At Westminster there are ample opportunities to be involved and to help others. Attending worship or educational activities is the simplest way to be involved. If you want to do more, there are a myriad of ways to be involved, such as assisting in the work of church committees or participating in one or more of the many mission programs. For instance, our Carpenter's Shelter program is in need of an assistant leader to help organize the monthly dinners when the leader is unavailable. The annual Rebuilding Together Alexandria service day is on April 29. Westminster has been providing a team for many years. All skill levels are welcomed. Contact localmission@wpc-alex.org if interested in either mission activity!

We are in the midst of a wonderful Lenten series of worship, education and fellowship which I hope everyone has an opportunity to participate in at least once. This will be followed by services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. We always encourage members to come to the 8:30 a.m. service on Easter as the 11:00 a.m. service typically has an overflow crowd.

A quick scan of this newsletter or the website will provide you with information on the many ways to be involved with Westminster and the community. I encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities. For just a few hours of your time you will receive great dividends for your mental and physical health.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer
Membership Involvement Coordinator

Holy Week

Palm Sunday—April 9



8:30 AM Worship in the Chapel

9:30 AM Congregational Potluck Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Join us for our annual church-wide potluck Palm Sunday Breakfast! Please bring your favorite breakfast dish to share (egg casseroles, quiches, fruit, muffins, etc.). No need to bring serving utensils, we have plenty at church. Note to families with children – come have breakfast and then head out for the annual processional with the donkey! If you'd like to volunteer to help with the breakfast, please contact Steve Lastelic at CL@wpc-alex.org.

10:30 AM Donkey Processional for Children on the Front Lawn

11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
John of Damascus | Words by Aleksy Tolstoy (1859),
Music by Sergei Taneyev (1883)
Westminster Choir & Orchestra

Maunder Thursday—April 13

7:30 PM Worship in the Sanctuary
Worship with Communion

Good Friday—April 14

7:30 PM Worship in the Sanctuary

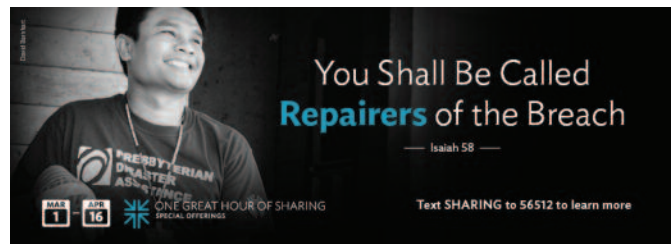
Easter Sunday—April 16

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Special Music with the Commonwealth Brass
No Adult, Children, or Youth Education Hour

Easter Flowers Mission Project (Deadline: Friday, April 7)

Honor or memorialize loved ones with a dedication in this year's Easter bulletin by contributing to the Easter Flowers Mission Project. In addition to providing flowers in the Sanctuary, donations will support the Appalachia Service Project. Checks should be made out to WPC with "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. No minimum and no maximum donation requirement. Contact Jessica Thurnes at jthurnes@wpc-alex.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables us to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than 100 countries—OGHS is the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We encourage you to give generously to this offering during the Easter season. Envelopes will be in the pew racks, or visit specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs to give online.

New Hymnal Dedication



As we announced in October, Westminster is adopting the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*. Now the new hymnals are here! We will be offering you the opportunity to donate a hymnal with a special dedication (see the example, pictured). If you would like to donate, there will be tables set up in the Fellowship Hall after both services starting on April 23.

These hymnals are a wonderful new worship resource, which we'll start using on June 11. Meanwhile, you are welcome to peruse a copy in the library, talk to Pete Vanden Bosch, or contact the Worship & Music Committee at worship@wpc-alex.org.

Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

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



Men's Breakfast

Friday, April 14, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
Is Virginia Really a Purple State?
with Bob Calhoun

Robert Calhoun will address some of the "hot button" issues that were discussed during the recently-completed 2017 Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond and provide some perspective on the upcoming statewide contests for the three top elective offices that will be determined in the general election taking place this November in Virginia.



As has occurred during the last four years, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Republican-controlled legislature continue to be at loggerheads on some salient policy issues confronting the Commonwealth. Although agreement was reached on some legislative actions, other issues continue to remain contentious. There will be races for three statewide offices – the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General – as well as for all 100 House of Delegates seats. There have also been actions taken by the U. S. Supreme Court concerning Congressional and legislative redistricting in Virginia.

Bob is an attorney with the law firm of Redmon, Peyton and Braswell, LLP, in Alexandria, Virginia, specializing in government relations, transportation, planning, and zoning. He is currently a member of the Virginia Code Commission. He was selected as Director of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, serving from 1998-2003.

Bob was elected to the Alexandria City Council on the Republican ticket, serving three two-year terms. In 1984, Bob ran again for a vacant seat on the City Council and served until December 1988, when he was elected to the Virginia State Senate. He represented the people of the 30th Senate District, which included most of Alexandria and portions of Fairfax County, until 1995.

Bob Calhoun earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Tufts University and is a graduate of Yale Law School. He was born and grew up in Oak Park, Illinois. Bob and his wife Sandy are longtime residents of Alexandria as well as active members of Westminster.



Christian Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult

Amey Upton | aupton@wpc-alex.org

“We were surprised that 2 hours had gone by,” said one group. We “found new appreciation for Apostle Paul.” “We gained some new knowledge about the history of the early church

and what had happened, as well as drew on our learnings from Pastor Larry’s Bible Classes.”

WPC is grateful to John Scruggs, Kristen Bishop, Anne Marks, Cathy Smyles, Betsy Preston, Anne Ledyard and Melynda Wilcox for facilitating the six discussion groups for our first Congregational Book Read and I want to thank many of you in our congregation who participated in this inaugural event!

“Our conversation flowed without much effort,” said one participant. This “very informative, well-documented and widely accessible” book, *The Call: The Life & Message of the Apostle Paul*, was a “less academic book and more like biography.” “We addressed the nature of our own calls and spoke about the important aspects of Paul’s life and time.”

So it seems, Adam Hamilton’s book spurred some good discussion and the timing in the year for in-home discussions was enjoyed by many. “Reading together as a church acts as an excellent icebreaker for meeting new people” in our church. “We wandered through lots of different places, just as Paul did!” It appears many would like to have this opportunity again next February to read and learn and grow as we go! Hope you’ll sign up next January!

-Amey

Mental Health Small Group Speaker

Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 PM in Westminster Room

Doris Fuller, Chief of Research & Public Affairs at the Treatment Advocacy Center, will be speaking on “Hiding in Plain Sight.” This talk is open to anyone interested in mental health issues, particularly on those who suffer from severe chronic challenges. She will discuss how mental health illness can deprive all of us of success stories and can destroy those living with severe illness making them feel as if they need to hide.

This is part of a conversation a small group of Westminster members have been having about mental health issues. All are welcome to join the group. Any questions, email Amey Upton.

Navigating the Seas of Change Upcoming Classes

Sundays, 9:45–10:45 AM in Haverkamp Room

April 23–May 21

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Grieb, Meade Professor of Biblical Interpretation & New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary, returns to Adult Education to help us exegete the New Testament in a detailed, intricate way. She will address “How We as Christians Navigate the Seas of Change” in their decision to include Gentiles in the family of early Christians. How does the church adapt to change? Is the Gospel anti-Semitic? Hope you’ll attend this scholarly study led by one of the best.



THANK YOU!

A huge round of applause for Don Smyles, coordinator of our Sunday bus drivers for the past six years and a regular driver himself even longer than that. Beginning this month, Don is stepping down and turning over the scheduling duties to Louise Anderson. Don, we greatly appreciate your faithful and exceptional service. Thank you!

We couldn’t operate the Sunday bus without our intrepid volunteer drivers. Please thank them when you see them: Louise Anderson, Bob Blanchard, Rebecca Buckner, Sarah Fabish, Tom Gangi, Ken Niemann and Sheff Richey. The drivers will tell you what a fun opportunity this is to get to know some of our senior members. If you might be interested in joining the team of drivers, please contact Eileen Jinks, Coordinator of Pastoral Care.

Congregational Life

Join the Westminster Softball Team!

Sign up with Steve Lastelic at softball@wpc-alex.org

The team is open to men and women of all ages—no experience necessary! Games start the first week in April and go through July; we'll play one game per week.

Outsiders Events

Sign up with Kera Winburn at outsiders@wpc-alex.org

Hike on Saturday, March 25

Join us for a hike at Sugarloaf Mountain in Maryland followed by exploring the Artisan shops. The bus will leave WPC at 8 AM and we plan to return by 3. Bring a packed lunch.

Birding at Huntley Meadows on Saturday, April 15

Join Caroline Judy (WPC member, trained ornithologist, and bird enthusiast!) for a morning of birding. Meet at the visitor's center at 8:00 AM. We spend about two hours going at a leisurely pace with frequent stops to maximize bird watching opportunities. With luck, we'll get to see some fun migrating warblers in their nuptial plumage, in addition to the resident birds. Caroline will have a spotting scope for use on the ponds, but do bring binoculars if you have them. Make sure to wear comfortable walking clothes and sunscreen or rain gear as the weather dictates.

Guided Black History Walking Tour of Old Town

Saturday, April 29 at 1 PM

Sign up with Jessica Thurnes at jthurnes@wpc-alex.org

Join WPC's race relations group for a walking tour from Barrett Library to the Alexandria waterfront led by Alexandria City Councilman John Chapman. Cost: \$15/person; *payment to WPC must be received by April 21 to reserve your spot.* Maximum 25 people, so sign up early! For more info about the tour, visit www.manumissionstours.com.

Children and Family Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry | pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org

Molly Roden, Interim Director of Children's Music | mroden@wpc-alex.org



Whole Family Sunday | April 2 | 9:45-10:45 AM in Creation Station

All families with elementary school-aged children are encouraged to attend! Our theme for April/May is Isaac and Rebekah.

Family Retreat | May 13-14 | *Family Faith in Conversation*

Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD

Families with children fifth grade and under (infants, too!) are invited to join us for a wonderful overnight experience. Our time together is filled with plenty of fun and downtime, lots of family and friend engagement, and special opportunities for both adult and whole-family conversation. Our leader, Rev. Jennifer Dunfee, will help us explore faith practices of Islam and Judaism as a means to knowing and loving our neighbors, and even understanding our own belief and identity as Christians. Information and registration form available at www.wpc-alex.org/families. Register by March 31!

Information Session for Parents of Rising Kindergartners | Sunday, May 21 | 9:45 AM in Room 303/305

Learn about all the exciting programs for your rising kindergarten child! We will inform you about Creation Station (Sunday School); Children and Worship (what the children do when they leave after the children's sermon) and children's choir.

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!

Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry



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

Tuesday, March 28 | 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.

Monday, April 10 | Monthly Dine-Out

Aditi Indian Dining, 5926 Kingstowne Blvd #150, in the Kingstowne Towne Center across from Regal Cinema. Aditi features traditional and regional Indian cuisine from Kashmir in the north to Kerala in the south. Offerings include meat, vegetarian and vegan options. Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet at the restaurant at 7:30.

Monday, April 17 | Book Group

It's time to start reading our next book, *Aquinas for Armchair Theologians* by Timothy M. Renick. This book has been described as clear, concise and witty with an accessible text and fun illustrations. Learn all about this important early Christian thinker and his views on a wide variety of subjects from God and angels to sex, war and politics! Discussion at 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

Save the Date!

Flying Solo's annual Fall Retreat will be on Columbus Day weekend, October 6–8, 2017, at Hallowood Retreat Center with Patrick Hunnicutt as our leader! Nestled at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain in rural Maryland, Hallowood offers an ideal location to get away with church friends for a weekend of reflection, discussion, worship, and fellowship.

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, April 20: LTA's *The Fabulous Lipitones*. What happens when a barbershop quartet is forced to take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies? A comical and moving story about the power of song, prejudice, and friendship. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, April 24: Lunch and Learn. We're excited that Westminster member Chris Miles will be our keynote speaker! Chris works in the office of the Architect of the U.S. Capitol and will speak about the renovations of the Capitol building. Join us for lunch at 12:15 PM. Cost: \$10.

Monday, May 15: We will venture to the **Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America**. We will take a guided tour of the Monastery and then walk around the gardens. Lunch will be after. Cost \$2 plus lunch. Meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 AM.

Thursday, June 1: LTA's *Red, White and Tuna*. LTA returns to the third smallest town in Texas to celebrate Red, White, and Tuna! Welcome to Tuna, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to OKKK, the local radio station. In this hilarious third installment of LTA's 2009 production of *Greater Tuna*, two actors again create the memorable population of Tuna, including a few hippies who have returned to their roots for their high school reunion. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Friday, June 30: Join us for the annual presentation of the **children's M&M Week performance** of *Malice in the Palace, the story of Queen Esther*. The performance is at 12:00 noon with lunch to follow. Cost: \$10.

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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



PW Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace,
- and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Connecting with women here at Westminster

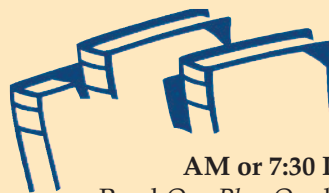
Visit the Presbyterian Women page on the church website to learn more about opportunities for women to deepen their faith in small group settings, connect in fellowship with other women at Westminster, and reach out to those in need in our community and world.

Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, April 5 | 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, April 3 | 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, March 27 at 11 AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

Read *One Plus One* by Jojo Moyes, a novel is about the adventures and misadventures of a hardworking single mom, a “Goth” teenage stepson, a math whiz daughter, and their high tech millionaire friend.

Monday, April 24 at 11 AM or 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor

Read *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson, a charming historical novel set in an English village on the eve of World War I.

Spring Gathering | Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 PM in the Haverkamp Room

Join us for a panel discussion on childhood hunger in Alexandria. Representatives from local schools and programs will discuss how hunger affects student performance in school and what can be done to alleviate hunger right here in our own city.

Connecting with Presbyterian Women (PW) on the presbytery and synod level

Spring Gathering of PW of National Capital Presbytery

Saturday, April 29, 8:45 AM–12 PM

Christ Presbyterian Church in Fairfax (near Fair Oaks Mall)

A gathering of fellowship, worship, mission, and (some!) business. Light continental Breakfast and fellowship; Annual Business Meeting and presentation of New Slate of Officers; Mission Possible! How Can We Join the Journey to Justice?; Worship with Communion and Voices of Praise! www.presbyterianwomenncp.org

June 15-18: Summer Gathering of PW of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic | www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org

the Chronicle

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Sensitive

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

Focus on Missions



Westminster Rebuilding Day Saturday, April 29

Sign up with Eric Weiss at
rebuilding@wpc-alex.org
Participate with other Westminster
volunteers in Rebuilding Together

Alexandria's home fix-up project. Spend most of the day or a few hours making another Alexandrian's home safer and more energy efficient. Typical tasks involve yard work, painting, banisters, installing ground fault interrupt outlets, and caulking. We will have more details from Rebuilding shortly. To volunteer or get more information, email us or talk with Chris Miles, Debra Livingston, or Eric Weiss.

Westminster Community Grant

Applications due on Friday, April 15

Contact Christine Matthews at
communitygrant@wpc-alex.org

For the sixth year, the Community Grant program seeks to award local nonprofits who aid Northern

Virginia residents. The grant represents an opportunity to both enhance support of current church partners and develop new relationships among area non-profits. Funding for the Community Grant Program comes from the Local Mission Committee's budget and through pledges and donations given by individuals during December's Alternative Giving Bazaar.

The Westminster Community Grant is intended to provide area charitable organizations with one-time financial assistance for non-operational expenses. This could include an element required to start a new project, or an unanticipated expense that if fulfilled can bring an existing project to a new level. Westminster focuses its local mission efforts around Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter and Self-Sufficiency; all applying organizations must demonstrate the project's support of services linked to at least one of these areas.

Applications for the 2017 Community Grant are due by 5 PM on Friday, April 14, 2017. Any application received after the deadline will not be considered. Download the application form at www.wpc-alex.org.