



# Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



## Table of Contents

Adult Formation	6
Children and Family	4
Flying Solo	5
Life Events	2
Member Involvement	12
Men of Westminster	9
Spotlight on Seniors	10
Tables for 8	2
Westminster Roadsters	3
Women's Ministry	8

# the Chronicle

August 17, 2017 - volume 48, number 1

## *From the Pastor's Study* A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **A Good Time Can Be Had By All**

**T**his Fall we will experience the "coming together" of several significant changes on which our church has been focused the past two years, as well as more unexpected changes.

Our new Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries, Whitney Fauntleroy, will have her first school year leading our youth ministry. This can be a time of renewed commitment and involvement for youth and their families in the life of the church, which can be such an important part of the "race" to adulthood which occurs in our culture between sixth grade and graduation from high school. I hope if you are a youth, a friend of a youth, a parent, a potential sponsor or teacher, or a member of the congregation, you will both seek to get to know Whitney and see how you can be involved and supportive.

Patrick Hunnicutt moves fully into his new position as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Mission. As he becomes fully engaged in leading our "triple-header" mission program of local mission, national mission, and international mission, this would be a good time for you to volunteer your time or leadership to one of more than a dozen opportunities for hands on service within our local community of Alexandria/Arlington, the significant outreach we have nationally at the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota and through the Appalachian Service Project, or internationally through the United Orphanage and Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. Even just meeting with and getting to know Patrick in this new role may open your eyes to ways you might serve people in this congregation (pastoral care) and beyond this congregation (mission).

By the time you are reading this, you will likely at least have seen – and heard early fruits of the ministry of – Ben Hutchens as our new Interim Director of Music Ministries. Westminster has had a terrific history of long serving Directors of Music (Dana Brown, David Erwin, and Paul Stetsenko). As we search nationally for our next Director, it is a good time for anyone who has been "sitting and listening" to our choir or bells to pick up your voice or your bells and join in the music program. We are also seeking to expand our growing children's music this year by adding a youth component – all under Molly Roden's capable hands.

I also want to take this time to thank the work of Casey FitzGerald as she has led much of the nuts and bolts of this transition in children's, youth, and adult ministry while moving into the role of Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. While she will take a much deserved sabbatical from the end of October through the end of January, the fruits of that ministry for children, youth, and adults in helping form our faith will continue through Amey Upton, Patty Chamberlain, and Molly Roden. All the while we have terrific groups and events formed in Congregational Life (under Nancy Hall Berens) and continued care through Eileen Jinks.

It can be a great fall....a good time can be had by all....join in and it will!

Larry



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Dean Moyer**, son of Kristen & Jamie Moyer, little brother to Lyla.
- **Beatrice & Malcolm Robinson**, daughter and son of Allison Fraser & Alex Robinson; welcomed by older brother Graham, grandparents Frank and Carolyn Fraser, and aunt Vicki Fraser.
- **Hayes Prum**, son of Anna Kate & Nate Prum; little brother to Campbell.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:

- **Mary Jane Campbell**, mother of Molly Roden and grandmother of David Hines, Leigh Lolos, Janie Bryant, and Peter Roden.
- **Charles Milton Adams**

## Join Tables for 8!

Welcome to a new year of Tables for 8! Join us to make some new Westminster friends. For those not familiar with this group, Tables for 8 (sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee) organizes groups of adults (singles or couples, members or visitors) to meet in homes every 4 to 6 weeks to dine and to enjoy fellowship together. The host or hostess prepares the main dish, while other members of the group contribute appetizers, side dishes, and desserts to complete the meal. It's a fun and interesting way to get to know other Westminster people in a casual setting.

Each group (of about eight people) creates their own schedule after the kick-off meeting in September. We try to create each group with a mixture of singles and couples and with varied age groups, depending on the signup in a given year. We hope to see many new and returning participants in our 23rd year! Please contact Janet Harris with any questions.

### Sign Up

In person on Sundays in September at Lemonade on the Lawn  
Anytime by emailing Janet Harris at [tablesfor8@wpc-alex.org](mailto:tablesfor8@wpc-alex.org)  
Deadline to sign up is Sunday, September 24

### Tables for 8 Kick-Off Meeting

Saturday, September 30  
6:30 PM in the Haverkamp Room  
Meet your Tables for 8 group! Please bring a dish to share that can serve eight people.

## Your Foundation Dollars at Work

The Westminster Foundation grew in July thanks to a bequest for the Gloria Horning Choir Fund. Gloria was a long-time Westminster member and singer in the choir. Memorial gifts for Lowrie Beacham, Marge Beatley, Kate Daniels, and Charlotte Kodrich were added to the Worship Accessories Fund and used to purchase hymnals dedicated in their memory. ALIVE!, the Seniors Ministry Fund, and the Women's Programs Fund benefited from memorial gifts for Margaret Carpenter, Peggy Grant, and Amy Voight, respectively. These and other designated funds in the Westminster Foundation support all church program and mission areas, making a big difference every day in the life and mission of Westminster.



## 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)

Contact Patty to register for the below events:

### Monday, September 18

#### Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and the Samuel C Johnson IMAX Theater

Back by popular demand, we will make one last trip to the IMAX theater to see *Amazon Adventure 3D*. The theater is closing at the end of September to make room for a restaurant expansion. There will be time to walk around and explore the museum and we will have lunch there as well. Cost: \$10-15 plus lunch (ticket cost is based on whether we can get a group discount, so RSVP as soon as possible). Meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 AM.

### Thursday, September 7

#### Little Theatre of Alexandria's *Driving Miss Daisy*

It's 1948 in the Deep South just prior to the civil rights movement. The wealthy, strong-willed, Daisy Wertham, is a Jewish woman living in a WASP-dominated community. Hoke, a dignified, unemployed black man is hired as her chauffeur. This Pulitzer Prize-winning play spans their complex 25-year relationship to show that friendships are found in even the most unlikely circumstances. Show starts at 8 PM; arrive between 7:30-7:45 to receive your ticket.

### Monday, October 16

#### Lunch and Learn: One Year Later, Where Are We Now

Our very popular three panelists (Matt Viser, Deputy Washington Bureau Chief for the Boston Globe, John McArdle, Producer and Host at C-Span, and Dan Judy, Vice President at North Star Research) from last year are returning to do a panel discussion on where we are now as a country one year after the election. They will present their insights, take questions and try to assess where we are now. Cost: \$10 for lunch. 12:00 p.m. in the Haverkamp Room.

### Thursday, October 19

#### Little Theatre of Alexandria's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*

Winner of the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play, this story follows middle-aged siblings, Vanya and Sonia, who live together in present day Bucks County, Pennsylvania in the only home they have ever known. Without warning, their sister, Masha, who happens to be a movie star, stops in for a visit with her much younger boyfriend, Spike. Hilarity ensues as this kooky clan works out their differences about potentially selling the family home. Show starts at 8 PM; arrive between 7:30-7:45 to receive your ticket.

## Personnel Committee News

### Westminster Welcomes Dr. Robert Benjamin Hutchens, D.M.A.

Dr. Ben Hutchens was one of more than two dozen applicants this summer for the Interim Music Director position. There were several interviews and an audition with the search committee (Dave Aland, Lauren Beyea, and Katherine Gunter). Based on their work, the Personnel Committee recommended and the Session approved Dr. Hutchens to be our Interim Director of Music Ministries, beginning in mid-to-late August.

Ben hails from Statesville, North Carolina, and has degrees from Furman University, the University of Alabama, and a doctoral degree from the University of North Carolina. He is a concert violinist, a pianist, and organist. He has conducted children, youth, and adult choirs as well as handbells in the U.S., England, and Italy.

Ben recently finished a seven year term as the Director of Music at All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church in Washington, DC as well as teaching music at Georgetown Day School during the same period. He has served as organist, choirmaster, or music director at Lutheran, Episcopal, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches, directed the National Children's Chorus, the Thomas Circle Singers, and several Independent Schools Choral Festivals. We look forward to working with Ben for the next year!

### Westminster Welcomes Cindy McCeney

Beginning on August 15, you will see a new face in the main office. We welcome our new Financial Assistant, Cindy McCeney. Be sure to introduce yourself when you stop by!

## Children and Young Families

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

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)



### Whole Family Creation Station: Creation and the First Sin

**Sunday, September 10 | 9:45 – 10:45 AM on the 3rd floor**

Come explore Creation Station, our Sunday school for elementary-aged children. Each month we explore new Biblical stories and themes. 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). Take this opportunity to sign up for teaching and shepherding!

### Children & Families Annual BBQ!

**Saturday, September 16 | 4:30 – 7:00 PM  
in the Picnic Area**

Families are invited to join us in our annual fall barbeque at the church! Bring your children and a salad or side to share. We will provide burgers, hot dogs and dessert. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship. Rain date is September 17.



### Children's Choir: Grades K–5 | Wednesdays beginning September 20

We are excited for the kick off of our choir season! Our kids learn vocal and choral skills through singing songs that teach faith concepts and the story of God's people. Our young singers bring their music to Sunday worship approximately twice a month, fostering their development as worship leaders. A special welcome to Interim Director of Music Ben Hutchens, who will be accompanying us this year!

**Genesis Singers** (Grades K–2) rehearse from 5:15 – 5:45 PM (pizza time 5:45–6:15)

**Covenant Singers** (Grades 3–5) rehearse from 5:45–6:15 PM (pizza time 5:15–5:45)

Gather in Room 303/305; Rehearsals are in Room 304. Families (parents, grandparents, other caregivers, siblings) are invited to share pizza dinner weekly with other choir families for a small fee.

### New Singers

**New Singers and parents are invited to a special time on Wednesday, September 13 in Room 303/305.**

We learn some of our songs and games and have a pizza dinner together. Kindergarteners, meet at 5:15 PM; 3rd Graders at 5:50 PM. RSVP to Molly Roden.

### Family Mornings

Parents and guardians of prekindergarten children are invited to a time of informal play and fellowship with other parents! Meet on Wednesday mornings from 10–11:30 AM in Room 302.

### Milestones of Faith

Casey and Patty will lead these special programs for learning about different aspects of faith.

- **Kindergarteners and Parents:** *Worship Beginnings*. September 17, 9:45–10:45 AM, Sanctuary
- **1st Graders and Parents:** *Baptism*. October 22, 9:45–10:45 AM on the 3rd floor
- **2nd Graders and Parents:** *Getting Ready for Communion*. September 24, 9:45–10:45 AM, Sanctuary
- **3rd Graders and Parents:** *Bible Presentation*. February 11, 10:45 AM in the Library & Sanctuary  
(All children wishing to receive a Bible MUST pre-register with Patty!)
- **Reading the Bible.** January 28, 9:45–10:45 AM in the Map Room (Bring Bibles!)
- **4th Graders:** *The Apostles Creed*. April 15, 9:45 AM.
- **5th Graders:** *Serving in Worship*. February 25, 9:45 AM.





## 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)

### Monthly Dine-Out | Monday, September 11

Re-connect with church friends after the summer, and taste a gourmet cheese dish at Cheesetique, 2411 Mt. Vernon Ave, in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. Carpool from church at 7:00 p.m. or meet at the restaurant at 7:15 p.m.

### Flying Solo Outing | Saturday, September 23

Save the date for a tentative tour of the U. S. Capitol. Details coming soon!

### Monthly Potluck | Tuesday, September 26

Help out at our monthly service project by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then stay for a simple potluck supper. Please bring a dish to share. 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

### Fall Retreat | The Next Adventure: Aging Well, Aging Wisely, Aging Wonderfully October 6–8, 2017 at Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, MD Registration due September 18.

We welcome Greg Finch, Director for Learning Initiatives for WildGeeseAmongUs, as leader for our fall singles retreat this year. Through Greg's guidance, we will recognize our own boundaries and seek insights about aging as we chart a course for our best adventures ahead. As friends on a journey, we will discover spiritual resources to wisely reconsider our next adventure. As explorers, we will chart our own course for lives of resilience, renewal, and creativity as we flourish across our lifespan. We will explore the practical realities and serendipities of aging well, aging wisely, and aging creatively. Together, we will learn alongside one another to illuminate the way with our shared stories of adventure and delight.

Information and registration materials available online at [wpc-alex.org/fs-retreat-2017/](http://wpc-alex.org/fs-retreat-2017/) and in the circular rack at the entrance to the Education Wing.

### Book Group | Monday, October 30

7:00 p.m. (stay tuned for location!)

*The Islamic Jesus: How the King of the Jews Became a Prophet of the Muslims* by Mustafa Akyol

Published in February of this year, *The Islamic Jesus* explores the bridge which connects Jews and Christians to the followers of Mohammad. Known as one of the most beloved prophets in Islam, Jesus plays an important role in all three Abrahamic faiths. Learn how these three faith traditions intersect, what they share in common, and how the Islamic understanding of Jesus is connected to both Judaism and Christianity.

## Just Neighbors

Just Neighbors took a few minutes out of a busy day recently to celebrate Operations Director (and grant writer) Stephanie Barnes and the news that Just Neighbors was one of the Westminster Community Grant awardees. The grant is being used to purchase tablets to input client information at their clinics, instead of paper!



## Adult Faith Formation

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



Challenge your current assumptions. Further encounter God's story. Discover, question, and transform as you explore your faith and service to further spread God's love.

On Sunday, September 10, we'll kick-off Towards Fuller Faith & Service, our 2017-18 Adult Education theme, with our very own Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward. Larry's session will frame the Sunday morning classes throughout the upcoming year. We'll be discussing: Where does Westminster Church fit within Christianity today? Are we posed towards fuller faith? Towards fuller service? Our Adult Education programs strive to help us praise God more fully and to serve neighbor more vibrantly. Classes are geared toward helping us remember who we are in an era of flux and change, and to help us learn more about the interactions between God and the people of God. So come be a part of these conversations on contemporary practice and challenge. Stanley Hauerwas, Professor of Ethics at Duke, once said: "Christian formation is to be nothing less than a community capable of hearing the story of God we find in the scripture and living in a manner that is faithful to that story." May it be so!

Amey Upton

## 2017 Adult Fall Classes

For the full schedule, visit [wpc-alex.org/faith-and-service](http://wpc-alex.org/faith-and-service).

Come discover, question and transform at the adult education programs this fall at Westminster. We'll hear from a wide variety of teachers who will share with us on topics ranging from medicine to mission, from personal relationships to what it means to be Presbyterian.

An international advocate for the chronically mentally ill after losing her daughter to mental illness, **Doris Fuller's** passion for service is both inspiring and formidable. **Dr. Sally Satel**, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), is a psychiatrist committed to serving those with substance abuse. Her research areas include drug policy, impact of war and disaster, as well as trends in medicine and transplants. They are both stellar examples of faith in service.

A PC(USA) missionary in Malawi and Zambia, **Nancy Collins** works with Christian leaders in Kenya and Rwanda. Nancy will talk to us about how she came to this work. What might her story tell you about faith? A panel from our own mission committees will share with us how we have been formed by our association with the **United Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya**. We've grown from our relationships in ways none could've imagined. What opportunities lie before us?

Author of *The Art of Being Together*, **Dr. Francis Wade** will talk about what it looks like to disagree successfully and teach about the gifts of renewal and love and marriage. Geared towards transformation, Dr. Wade's class will offer skills for all relationships. **Dr. Amy Dyer** from Virginia Theological Seminary will join us to share personally and professionally about adjusting to life without a loved one and ways to heal from the pain of loss.

As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, **Dr. Bruce Douglass** returns to look at those 16th Century reformations. What is its enduring legacy? How does it impact us and the world we live in today? Recognize and renew what you believe as a Presbyterian with a three-Sunday series on our history and heritage with **Betsy Preston**. Fuller faith requires revisiting (or visiting for the first time!) Presbyterian principles and beliefs. Advent may seem like a long way off, but we're welcoming back **Dr. Tony Tambasco**, who'll challenge us who live in the priesthood of all believers. What does it demand of us? What eager expectations are we called to encounter during the season of waiting and expectation? We'll also welcome an artist **Cynthia Farrel-Johnson**, an elder from Georgetown Presbyterian, to talk about the portraits she created and why it is important to her faith journey.

### New Sunday Morning Small Group Bible Study

October 1–November 6, 9:45 a.m. in Westminster Room

Join us for *The Present Word: Covenant With God*, an 8-week class designed to deepen our faith through small group discussion. Study the Bible to learn from one another and the text; explore assumptions and biases regarding our faith; deepen faith and trust in the faith community; and experience Bible discussion with people of all ages. Facilitators Emily Oehler and Steve & Eileen Denne will encourage discussion and keep the conversation moving. There is an excellent book to guide us through the topics. Although we hope most will attend at all eight sessions, participants can drop in and out. Sign up at [wpc-alex.org/adult](http://wpc-alex.org/adult).



## Thursday Morning Study Group

September 28–November 9, 9:30–11:00 a.m. in Haverkamp Room

This year's theme for adult education, *Towards Fuller Faith and Service*, challenges us to praise God more fully and serve our neighbors more vibrantly. In keeping with this theme, we will use the **Lives of Great Christians** DVDs, part of the Great Courses series, to examine how early Christians developed their faith and how that led them into Christian service. We'll study and learn from people like Francis of Assisi, Augustine, Thomas More, the Desert Fathers and Mothers, Catherine of Siena, Gustavo Gutierrez and those who developed Liberation Theology. Class discussion will focus on how we can use the examples of these devout Christians to deepen our own faith and service. Discussions will be led by Anne Ledyard, Art Sauer and Pat Prosperi. For opening devotionals, participants will also be given the opportunity to share their faith journey and how this has led them into different types of ministry or service. All are welcome to attend.

## Third Annual Dessert & Dialogue: Faith and Public Service

A Conversation with Representative John Lewis & Representative Fred Upton

Moderated by Charlie Cook

Monday, October 23

7:00–7:30 PM | Refreshments & Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

7:45–9:00 PM | Remarks & Moderated Dialogue in the Sanctuary

At the age of twenty-three, Honorable John Lewis (D-AL) was the youngest speaker at the August 1963 March on Washington, a pivotal turning point of the Civil Rights Movement. He played a major role standing up against segregation, chairing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), staging sit-ins, orchestrating non-violent actions, and forging the passage of a comprehensive Civil Rights Bill in 1964 followed by the Voting Rights Act in 1965. A skilled orator, he then went on to become a remarkable and successful member of Congress whose character and word is full of humility, integrity and wisdom.

At the age of thirty-three, Honorable Fred Upton (R-MI) was one of the youngest members of the House of Representatives. A journalism major from the University of Michigan, he got waylaid volunteering on David Stockman's Campaign for Congress. Much to his surprise (and to his wife's...) he's still serving in Congress today. His recent signature is passage of the 21st Century Cures Act bringing much needed increases in funding to medical research, rare diseases, the National Institutes of Health, and to pressing mental health initiatives.

John & Fred became friends while working on the programs and pilgrimages offered through the Faith and Politics Institute. They have worked on numerous bills together, improved pieces of legislation through their work, and sat listening to many hearings as their friendship developed and has lasted through the partisan politics of our day.

Charles E. Cook, Jr. "Charlie", is the Editor and Publisher of *The Cook Political Report*, which has the reputation as a newsletter both parties regard as authoritative. He is also a political analyst for the National Journal Group. He has been known for tracking of Congressional races and often seen as a commentator on news programs and election nights. Charlie will be the moderator for a conversation between John Lewis and Fred Upton, and between the audience and the public servants.

## New Youth Ensemble Starts October 11

Open to all Youth (6th-12th grades) Sundays, 5:30–6:30 p.m. (between Youth Fellowships) in the Adult Choir Room (Room 112)

Continue to strengthen and expand your musicianship and personal and choral singing skills.

Share your instrumental skills in worship, including 'classic' orchestral and band instruments, electric and 'rock'. Take leadership in introducing the Glory to God hymnal to our congregation.

Bring a variety of types of music to worship, including classically composed and hymn based anthems, Gospel, Spiritual and Christian Rock. Questions? Contact Molly Roden at [mroden@wpc-alex.org](mailto:mroden@wpc-alex.org).

## Finger Labyrinth Meditation at Westminster

**Saturday, September 9,  
10:00 to 12:00 p.m.**

Join Nancy Hall-Berens as she leads us in a time of outdoor meditation after we create finger labyrinths. We will create our finger labyrinth indoors in the Westminster Room, then move outside for a guided meditation in the Blomberg Courtyard. RSVP requested to Kera Winburn at [outsiders@wpc-alex.org](mailto:outsiders@wpc-alex.org). In case of rain, we will do our meditation inside.

## 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, Janet Harris | [PW@wpc-alex.org](mailto:PW@wpc-alex.org)

### Bible Study

*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*

All women are invited to join us in studying the Book of Hebrews this year in our small group circle meetings. We will explore the Biblical community in the Letter to the Hebrews as well as the importance of our own communities – of faith, of family, and of friends, with Christ as our foundation. Get a sneak peek at this year's Bible Study at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org).

### Circles start up again in September

Circles are small groups of women of all ages who gather monthly for Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach. In our women's circles we engage in lively discussions, study scripture, explore our faith, foster friendships, and reach out to those in need.

As we gear up for a new program year in women's ministries, we would like to thank our outgoing circle chairs Clara Beth Van de Water, Bonnie Nasr, Tanya Pitzer, Anne Marks, Mary Ann Marks, and Katie Farris for their dedication and leadership over the years. We welcome Sheila Weiss, Terry Wilson, Donna Stenlund, Adrienne Griffin, and Meredith Smoot who join the team of circle leaders on our Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team.

Look for the schedule of circle meetings in the Sunday Update each month, or check out our webpage at: [wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women/](http://wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women/). Feel free to try out more than one circle before choosing which one is right for you. Contact Presbyterian Women (PW) Moderator Janet Harris or staff liaison Nancy Hall Berens for more information.

### Pillow Ministry

**Wednesday, September 6, 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, September 18, 7:15-9 PM in Haverkamp Room**

Any woman who loves playing cards, friendly competition, and fellowship is invited to attend.

### Book Groups

Our September selection is *From Sand and Ash* by Amy Harmon, a historical novel of faith and love between a Catholic priest and his Jewish childhood girlfriend, whom he hides in a convent during WWII. Groups will meet on Monday, September 25 at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM in Johnson Parlor.

### Planning Ahead

**Saturday, September 30** | National Capital Presbytery PW Fall Gathering at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.

**March 16-18, 2018** | Women's Retreat at Hallowood Retreat Center led by the Rev. Lucy Dergarabedian.



## Men of Westminster

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

RSVP to Dudley Schadeberg at [mow@wpc-alex.org](mailto:mow@wpc-alex.org)



### Men's Breakfast

**Friday, September 15, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall  
The Airlines and the Pilot Shortage  
with Thomas W. Young**

Author and pilot Thomas W. Young will speak about the current pilot shortage in the commercial airline industry.

Several factors have created a shortage of pilots not seen in decades, and airline training departments are scrambling to meet demand. No quick and easy solution appears to be on the horizon. Contributing to the shortage are: A large cadre of pilots retiring at this particular time; recent regulations mandating more experience for new airline pilots; and the military services training fewer pilots and trying to keep them longer.

Tom Young is a commercial airline pilot with a large regional airline, based at Reagan National Airport. He has had extensive military flying experience, having logged more than 5,000 hours as a flight engineer on the C-5 Galaxy and the C-130 Hercules while flying to almost 40 countries. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and also flew combat missions to Bosnia and Kosovo. Two years ago he retired from the Air National Guard after 20 years of service. His military honors include the Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Medals, three Aerial Achievement Medals, and the Air Force Combat Action Medal.

Tom is also the author of six novels with military themes, the most recent of which is *The Hunters*, which was released in hardcover in 2015. His previous novels, *The Mullah's Storm*, *Silent Enemy*, *The Warriors*, *The Renegades*, and *Sand and Fire*, are based upon his military background, and have received enormous praise. They are filled with adventure and a deep understanding of the men and women in Afghanistan: Americans, Afghans, military and civilian alike.

Tom Young previously spent ten years as a writer and editor with the broadcast division of the Associated Press. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He and his wife are members of Westminster Presbyterian Church and live in Alexandria.

## ASP Trip to Rainelle, West Virginia (October 19-22)

Adults of all ages and skill levels are invited to work with Appalachia Service Project's (ASP) new Greenbrier Flood Recovery Project to build homes in areas ravaged by the June 2016 floods. If you have questions or would like to register for this trip, please contact the National Mission Committee at [nationalmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nationalmission@wpc-alex.org).



**Early church life.** “My father was raised Christian Scientist, and then of course went to medical school. My mother joined Market Square Presbyterian, a very large, successful downtown Harrisburg church. I had a wonderful Christian education there.

It was expected I would be there every Sunday – with an envelope. Boy, I wish they hadn’t given up envelopes. I’m so in favor of it. That nickel had to be in that envelope.

“We had to memorize in Sunday school. I won a prize for Isaiah 55 and 13th chapter First Corinthians – King James version. That’s considered the high water mark of the English language.”

**Faith and service.** “We joined in 1973. I’ve served on the A&F Committee, Meals on Wheels and the Bag Lunch program. Currently I’m involved with Carpenter’s Shelter and the Worship & Music Committee.”

**Favorite hymn:** “God of Our Fathers”

**Favorite author:** Jane Austen

**Role model.** “If you want me to really be honest, I would say Abigail Adams. She was a firecracker if there ever was one. Having no identity as a living person, she left a will, which was unheard of. She didn’t own anything; her husband owned everything. She’s the one that had that wonderful line when they were setting up the Constitution: ‘Remember the ladies... all men would be tyrants if they could.’”

**Special recognition.** “The Red Cross honored me with the Burke Award. And the Women’s Commission honored me with the Payez Award and also the Making a Difference award for my work with the Girl Scouts.”

**Wisdom you hope to pass on.** “Good manners, courtesies. Being pleasant and polite – and I think it’s disappearing. And, second, to stand for what you believe.”



## Spotlight on Seniors

Part of an ongoing series featuring stories from our senior members. Contact Eileen Jinks, Coordinator of Pastoral Care, or one of the deacons to participate.

### An Interview with Becky Davies

*Eileen Jinks spoke with Becky Davies for this interview.*

**Central PA.** “I was born in Harrisburg, PA, and was named for my two grandmothers: Rebecca and Anna. My parents made it Rebecca Anne. When I was 3 years old, a devastating flood destroyed our home, so we moved to the small suburb of Camp Hill, PA. My father was in general practice of medicine and then took a residency in allergy and was president of the PA Allergy Association. My mother graduated from Dickinson College with a Phi Beta Kappa key in mathematics, and she worked as a mathematician to put my father through medical school.

“I’m the oldest of three sisters. I remember how homogeneous our neighborhood was. We were all WASPs. I think there were two Catholics in my class and one Jewish family in the whole school. It was a pleasure to get out of it.”

**The war years.** “A chunk of my childhood was totally relegated to the war. My father, who as a doctor had unlimited gas privileges, wouldn’t spend a penny, because then they’d say he’s taking advantage. And having just come off the Depression, nobody had any money. There was no hardship except butter. And liver [was too available] – because the armed forces couldn’t ship liver, you didn’t have to have ration points.”

**College days.** “College life was not great for me. I had a favorite great-aunt who wanted me to go to Wellesley, which is where I wanted to go. But my mother died in January of my senior year in high school, and in June the Korean War broke out. My father was in the National Guard, so my father went to war. So I commuted to Dickinson College. And in those days, across the board, the attention paid to women was not what it is now. We all had to fight that fight.

“I met Johnny [her husband, John Davies, died last year] at Dickinson. He was two years ahead of me. I was pre-med and then chose not to go on to medical school. I took an internship in medical technology, so I worked in hospital labs while Johnny was finishing medical school. We were married at Market Square Presbyterian in 1956. Emily was born in 1961, followed by Betsy in 1964.”

**Taking root in Alexandria.** “Johnny had five years of general practice and three years of psychiatric residency and then we moved to this area in 1966. And thank heaven we rented, because I knew within three months I did not want to live in Fairfax County. I wanted to live in the city. We moved to Alexandria in ‘67. I ran the business part of Johnny’s office and got the kids in Scouts and was active in that – as an assistant leader, first-aider and camp trainer. I liked to camp. I loved hearing the rain drip off the canvas.”

**Unexpected career.** “In the mid-’70s, I got interested in an election for the Alexandria representative to the VA General Assembly. The incumbent had been a very prominent part of the massive resistance, and we found a young man who was willing to fight that. I worked hard on his campaign, and he won. That got me interested in politics. When David Speck ran for the General Assembly and won, he called me and said, ‘Would you be my aide?’ It was a surprise request, but I did it. Then later I worked for Senator Wiley Mitchell and Senator Bob Calhoun. So I ended up having just about 10 years working in the General Assembly. Educationally, that was the highlight of my life. There’s a famous quote from Bismarck about two things you should never watch being made: sausages and laws. Well, it’s true.”

## Scholarships and Support for Spirit Lake

As part of its ongoing support of the people of the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota, we fund Bdecan Presbyterian Scholarships for students enrolled at Cankdeska Cikana (Littlehoop) Community College. Below is an article about the genesis of this program, as well as information about four students who received scholarships in 2017 thanks to your support of National Mission. Here are a few other ways your support has enabled the ministry of Bdecan Presbyterian Church:

- Recently, a church from Minnesota installed the WPC-funded siding for the manse that houses our Youth and Outreach Coordinator, Joe Obermeyer.
- Three college student counselors have brought Clearwater Forest's (MN) Camp in a Van to Bdecan for three days this week thanks to contributions from our members.
- Also, a Westminster youth, Charlotte Carey, launched a homemade stationary project on Etsy to support of Bdecan Presbyterian Church after her trip there with our youth in 2016. Check it out at [www.etsy.com/shop/yOARstruly](http://www.etsy.com/shop/yOARstruly)

### The Miracle of Prayer

About 3 years ago on my 40 minute commute in early morning hours I heard an advertisement for scholarships for Native Americans. The advertisement stated that Native Americans were the one minority that often were unable to attend higher education due to the lack of financial resources thus it was important to raise money for scholarships so they could continue their education. The Ministry Team had heard this scenario many times from Louie Garcia, member of Bdecan Presbyterian Church on Spirit Lake Reservation at Tokio, ND. Louie had shared many times that students often started Cankdeska Cikana Community College at Fort Totten, where he works, but would drop out after a couple of semesters due to lack of funds. When I first heard this commercial, I thought it would be great if our Ministry Team could find the funds to send 1 student to the college each year. Over the course of several weeks, I heard this commercial several times and each time I prayed that we would be able to find the funds to send someone from Bdecan Church to Cankdeska Cikana Community College.



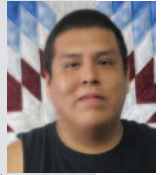
That summer a group from Westminster Presbyterian Church from Alexandria, VA, toured Bdecan and the reservation, including the college. They wanted to see how ministry and things were going after they had donated a lot of money to the Ministry Team to improve ministry and conditions for people at Bdecan Church. They shared when they were meeting with us that they had enjoyed their tour of the College and were impressed with it. In October of that year while Joe Obermeyer, Bdecan Youth and Outreach Coordinator, and I were skypeing with Westminster's Mission Committee, they shared that they had been brainstorming about how they could continue to make a difference to the people of Bdecan or Spirit Lake Reservation. They asked what we thought about them raising funds to provide scholarships for young people to attend Cankdeska Cikana Community College. I shared that I had chills just go through me as I heard this commercial on the radio and prayed that we would be able to find funding for this exact thing.

Fast forward to Fall of 2016 - the first 8 scholarships were awarded to people from Spirit Lake Reservation to attend college at Cankdeska Cikana Community College. God definitely works in mysterious ways if we will just pray, believe, and let Him do His work in His timing. God is good!

*By Donna Preston, Presbytery of Northern Plains Bdecan Ministry Team Leader and Native American Concerns Committee member, Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Coordination Team*

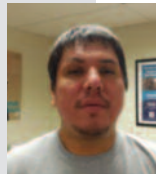
### 2017 Scholarship Recipients

**Lance** was scheduled to graduate this spring and hopes to attend a four-year college in pursuit of a bachelor's in fine arts or art history. Grateful for this scholarship, he wrote, "paying for college is a lifelong commitment."



*"I want to use my education to come back to my community and work with the youth. As an artist I want to show the youth that you can use art work to express yourself. It will also help the younger generation to see there is more to the reservation than drugs and alcohol."*

**Chad** was also scheduled to graduate this spring with an associate's degree in business administration and accounting and plans to attend Mayville State University this fall. This scholarship afforded him more time to spend with his kids, whom he described as his real reason to graduate and get an education.



*"My main goal is after graduating from Mayville State University, is to start an economic development program ... This program will allow someone to startup a restaurant, or maybe another convenience store, allowing money to stay here on the reservation, instead of going to nearby towns to buy our goods."*

**Amanda** is our first repeat awardee. A single mother, she works full-time and studies business administration part-time.



*"My last scholarship I had received from the Bdecan Presbyterian Church back in fall of 2016 has helped me in so many ways, it gave me a lot of encouragement. ... I would be very grateful knowing that if I were to get a scholarship [again] it would benefit me in so many ways, with books, classes, etc. I feel very ecstatic being a college student, it makes me feel invincible knowing that if I set my mind to anything, I can and will accomplish my goals in life."*

**Jeffrey**, a Dakota Studies major, is also a repeat awardee.



*"Setting a good example for the youth not only reinforces that people can achieve great things here in our community. We also show other community members that the Cankdeska Cikana Community College is a great place to start your educational goals."*

# the Chronicle

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Contributors: Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster  
Dawn Campbell, Production Editor  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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## Member Involvement News



Summer is over and a new program year is about to begin. I've started to prepare for the Thursday Morning Study Group. This is a group that grew out of the Bible study that Larry Hayward has been leading. After we had

completed the Old and New Testament studies we still wanted to do more. Larry got us started on a self-directed study and since then we have been running the group ourselves. Pat Prosperi, Anne Ledyard, and I have become the leaders but others have helped from time to time. We have a group of about two dozen regulars and a few others that join in as they can. We meet (no surprise) on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11 a.m. We have a period of study followed by a discussion. The topic can change from week to week, but lately we've been following a theme for several weeks.

This coming fall the topic will be "Lives of Great Christians." Among others, I will be leading a session on the life of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis is famous for his work with animals and the poor. He had real compassion for the poor. He suffered with them. He lived with them. Francis understood that to really understand the needs of the poor you have to know the poor. By coincidence, as I was learning about St. Francis's work with the poor, I saw a report that 10 out of the top 20 richest jurisdictions in the country are in the

Washington, DC area. Surrounded by this wealth, it is hard for us to understand the poor because we see them only on the fringes of our lives. It is one thing to give a little money to help the poor but another thing to meet them as you take them food or help them find housing or jobs.

Fortunately, Westminster provides many opportunities to meet with the poor through our many mission activities. You can take a meal to Carpenter's Shelter on the first Monday of the month. You can serve meals with the Bag Lunch program, or participate in one of another dozen or so programs. While you won't be actually living with them you can speak with the participants and get to know them and their needs on a deeper level. For a more in-depth experience, the weekend trip to the Appalachian Service Project provides an opportunity to see and feel poverty first hand. When you meet people who call a Home Depot garden shed home, you begin to understand how blessed you are and understand the importance of supporting our mission programs.

I encourage every member of Westminster to engage in one of our mission activities in order to understand what Christ meant by "the least of these." In doing so you will come to experience the real meaning of compassion.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer  
Membership Involvement Coordinator