



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



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the Chronicle

October 19, 2017 - volume 48, number 3

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

By the time you read this article, the World Series will nearly be in full swing (forgive the Patrick-like pun), the deepest schism in Westminster (not Republicans vs. Democrats, but Cubs fans vs. Nats fans) will have been resolved at least for this season, and we will all know whether the raging controversies of the day on which I write this – Wednesday, October 11 – (was Dusty Baker right to pull Scherzer after one hit in Game 3 and to pitch Roark over Strasburg in Game 4?) will have faded into the research of baseball archeologists and forensic investigators. But I am writing this a few hours before the Nats and Cubs will play Game 4 after yesterday's rainout.

So I want to talk about rainouts.

Rainouts are those events in our lives when expected resolutions get delayed: the engagement ring is not yet offered, the house closing is put off, the job offer remains on hold, the lab results are not yet complete so the diagnosis is still tentative and the treatment plan is not developed.

Rainouts have their merits. They sometimes allow us to start over: to go with a stronger starting pitcher than we would have the day before. They give us more time: do I want to offer the engagement ring? Do I want to accept it? They allow us to get things more nearly right: is the diagnosis I will give the patient conclusive, or might final lab results change it?

Rainouts also have their challenges. They require us to wait. They require patience. They may force us to re-visit a decision we thought we had made. They can also give those of us prone not to make decisions another reason – or excuse – for putting a decision off.

In the end, even after a rainout, the game is still played, eventually. Someone wins and someone loses. And we don't really have any way of knowing what the outcome would have been had the sun been shining and we played the day before.

The truth is, rainouts are part of life. Like so many other things, it is what we do with them that matters. Jesus said: "The rain falls on the just and the unjust." He might have added: "The sun rises on both as well." And the game is played.

Larry



We celebrate the marriage of **Rosalie DeFilippo and Jonathan Vecchi** on October 7 in the Westminster Chapel.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of John E. Shillingburg, who died September 25

Your Foundation Dollars at Work

In September, the Westminster Foundation Board and Session approved use of funds from the Henri Rush United Orphanage and Academy Fund for purchase of a school bus to replace the existing bus, which is beyond repair. The Board and Session also approved use of the Capital and Maintenance Reserve Fund for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment repairs. These and other designated funds in the Westminster Foundation support all Church program and mission areas, making a big difference every day in the Church's life and mission.



Notes From the Stewardship Committee

Westminster's Stewardship committee has worked hard to think about the different ways that our church impacts our lives through worship, fellowship, music, missions, and education, among other things. As we considered the role of Westminster in this past year—a rather turbulent year in Alexandria and across the country for many of us—we noted how important Westminster has become as a place where many of us turn for spiritual guidance, clear thinking, community, and respite. To reflect this, our Stewardship theme for this year is "Lighting the Path, Together." We think this theme reflects the role that Westminster plays in our lives, for us and our families.

During the next few weeks, we are asking each church member to prayerfully consider an increase to their annual pledge of 4.6 percent. The bulk of this increase goes to fund normal cost of living increases for clergy and staff at Westminster. Notably, it also helps fund our first full year of having four full-time clergy, something we as a church have been working on for two years now. Beyond this, a significant portion of the budget increase is also directed towards our mission work, especially our support of the Moi's Bridge Orphanage in Kenya. The increase also covers increases in our budget for more mundane (but essential) areas such as postage and building maintenance.



Since we started the stewardship campaign in early October, a few people have asked why we don't just round-up and ask for a 5% increase. In short, it's because the 4.6% increase reflects exactly what the session has estimated Westminster requires in 2018, and not a dollar more than that. Pledges from our whole church community are what allow Westminster to plan its activities and benevolences for the next year well in advance; they also help us to ensure that our buildings and grounds receive the maintenance they require.

If you have never pledged before and want to learn more about it, or have questions about tithing, please don't hesitate to contact me, Larry, Casey, Patrick, or Whitney, or one of the other church leaders. As we work to meet our goal, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can "Light the Path" with Westminster through your pledge, and our prayer is that your generosity will deepen your relationship with Christ, and with our Westminster church community.

Ben Kennedy
Chair, Stewardship Committee



Flying Solo Singles Ministry (50's and above)

wpc-alex.org/flying-solo
Nancy Hall Berens, Director |
nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Monday, October 30 – Book Group

7 PM at the home of **Cindy Smith** (address coming by email).

“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.

Monday, November 13 – Monthly Dine-Out

Join us at Kora, a casual Italian trattoria located at 2250 Crystal Drive in Crystal City, to enjoy some good Italian fare. Carpool from church at 7 pm or meet at the restaurant at 7:15. Parking is free in the garage at the foot of 24th Street across Crystal Drive as well as on the street.

Sunday, November 19 – “Munch and More”

12:15 PM in **Johnson Parlor**

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

Tuesday, November 21 – Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

7:30 PM here at Westminster (no 4th Tuesday potluck in November). Join our neighboring faith communities to give thanks for the blessings in our lives!

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the home of Judy Curtis

Judy has graciously invited us back to her home for Thanksgiving again this year. Enjoy a tasty holiday with church friends! Details and directions by email closer to the date. RSVP to Nancy Hall Berens or Judy Curtis.



Westminster Roadsters (Boomers and Beyond)

www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters
Patty Chamberlain, Director |
pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org
Contact Patty to register for the
below events:

Monday, November 20

**Tour of Woodlawn Plantation
and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-
Leighey House and Lunch.**

We will travel down to Woodlawn Plantation to take a tour of the two homes. Each home tour is approximately 30 – 40 minutes long. There is a 15 minute walk in between the two houses. After our tour we will travel to the Riverbend Bistro for lunch. Cost: \$20 plus lunch. Time of departure is to be determined, but it will be around 9:30 AM.

November 29 or 30

**Little Theatre of Alexandria’s
Christmas Carol**

LTA rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols and Tiny Tim. Show starts at 8 PM; arrive between 7:30-7:45 to receive your ticket.

December

Roadsters will take a break for the holidays.

Eileen Jinks to Retire



On September 27, the Session was notified of Eileen's faithfully-reached decision to retire from her position as Pastoral Care Coordinator, effective December 15, 2017. As hard as this news may be to hear, we are so grateful for the many ways she has touched our lives and given witness to God's steadfast love in our midst. We have been so richly blessed by her presence and leadership in her over nine years in this position.

In the coming weeks, we will start making plans to honor Eileen and give her a proper send-off to retirement. Working with Patrick, the Personnel Committee will also begin work to assure the ongoing staffing and support of the ministries of compassion that Eileen has so giftedly shared and will continue to share until her departure.

Let us hold Eileen and each other in prayer as we enter into this time of thanksgiving and transition.

Children and Young Families

www.wpc-alex.org/families

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



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. For further information

contact Becca Bagley, beccabagley@gmail.com.

Whole Family Creation Station: Joseph and His Brothers

Sunday, November 5 | 9:45 – 10:45 AM on the 3rd floor

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

Family Advent Wreath-Making Workshop

Wednesday, November 29 | 5:45 PM in Fellowship Hall

All families are invited to come and make an Advent Wreath for your family! A \$5 per family contribution is helpful. (If you have your wreath and candle holders from last year, we'd love for you to use it again.) RSVPs are encouraged so we can insure we have enough materials.

Annual Christmas Pageant

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

Rehearsal

Sunday, December 3 | 9:45-10:45 AM (during Creation Station)

Rehearsal, Pageant & All-Church Dinner

Sunday, December 10

Rehearsal, 9:45 – 10:45 AM (during Creation Station)

Dress Rehearsal, 4:00 PM

Performance, 5:00 PM

All families are invited to see the show!

Family Retreat

Mark your calendar for our Spring Family Retreat, May 12-13, 2018 at the Bishop Claggett Center. More details to follow in upcoming Chronicles.

Music & More Week

Save the date for our M&M Week for elementary school aged children! This year's production is *Lost Boy*, the story of Mary and Joseph losing young Jesus in the temple. June 25–29, 2018 in the mornings.



Music at Westminster

Benjamin Hutchens,
Interim Director of Music Ministries
bhutchens@wpc-alex.org
wpc-alex.org/music-ministry

Music Opportunities for Children and Youth

The Music Ministry is off to a great start this fall. Our *Genesis Choir* and *Covenant Choirs* offered music in worship in October and will do so again in December. Their director's - Molly Roden - love of music making and deep faith is contagious! These choirs are for children in grades K-5 and rehearse on Wednesday afternoons - pizza included. As afternoon/evening commitments (i.e. sports, dance, etc.) change, please know that your children are welcome to join these choirs! The Youth Ensemble began rehearsals in early October. They will offer a solo piece in worship on Remembrance Sunday and will join with the Westminster Choir and orchestra as we sing Bach's Masterwork: Ein Feste Burg on October 29.

Music Opportunities for Adults

The *Westminster Ringers* offered a fun & challenging setting of the familiar hymn "Let All Things Now Living" on October 8. This ensemble will offer music again at our Community Thanksgiving service on November 21 and throughout Advent and Christmastide. We have a full choir at present, and are always looking for capable musicians to function as substitutes. If you are new to ringing, the *Celtic Cross Ringers* is for you. At present this is on hiatus but I hope to begin rehearsals again on Wednesday evenings in November. We are in need of 4-6 more ringers. Previous experience is not required and ringing is a great way to get to know new folks who share a love of music.

The *Westminster Choir* has gained several new voices and enjoyed a day long intreat on Saturday, October 7. While we spent loads of time working on music for upcoming service, the most important aspect of the day was the fellowship we enjoyed with one another. We have room for more voices! Voice lessons are available to help you get your voice 'in shape' too.

For more details about any of our music ministries, please reach out to Ben Hutchens.

Services with Expanded Music Offerings

Reformation Sunday | Sunday, October 29 at 11 AM

We will mark the 500th anniversary of the reformation by offering Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata "Ein Feste Burg." This is a piece for string orchestra, three oboes, organ, and choir. The congregation will join their voices with those of the choir and orchestra as we sing "A Mighty Fortress" together.

Remembrance Sunday | Sunday, November 12 at 11 AM

On this Sunday, we remember the fallen. Several choral anthems, accompanied by harp, will be offered to mark this important day as we remember those who are at rest; where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but light everlasting.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Tuesday, November 21 at 7:30 PM

Join in the festive community service lead by staff from various houses of worship in Alexandria and hosted by Westminster. The Westminster Choir and Westminster Ringers will make musical offerings at this service.

Advent Lessons and Carols | Sunday, December 10 at 11 AM

Brass and string quartets will join our choirs of adults, youth, children and bells to tell again the story of the prophets of Israel and how they foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. This service will be accompanied by string quartet, brass quartet, and organ. Be sure to get it on your calendar and invite family and friends!

Sunday, December 24

11 AM | Festival Sunday with the Westminster Choirs and Commonwealth Brass Quintet

8 PM | Christmas Eve Lesson and Carols with the Westminster Choirs and String Quartet

Westminster Youth



October is a busy month for our youth at Westminster. We had a speaker from Montreat Conference Center share with us about the youth conferences. We are hoping that attending the youth conference will be a possibility in the next year or so. Last Saturday, the middle school youth had a great time at Kings Dominion. Our High School Youth will be meeting at Alexandria Pastry Café for Breakfast and Bible from 10 AM-12 PM on October 22. Over the next year, we will be exploring some of the existential questions in Philippians 4:8. The Youth are hosting a Fall Festival on October 29 from 5-6 PM. There will be games and candy.

Westminster Fall Clean Up Day

**Saturday, November 18, 8:30
AM-12 PM**

We gather in Fellowship Hall, grab coffee and a bite, then dive in to raking leaves, trimming, cleaning beds, etc. If you'd like to help keep our church grounds beautiful, the Building and Grounds Committee would appreciate the help. Bring work gloves, rakes, or leaf blowers if you have them. Youth can help as well. Get those service hours!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women

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

Janet Harris, Moderator and Alison Griffin, Vice Moderator | PW@wpc-alex.org

Women's Circles

Small groups of women meet monthly for Bible study, mission outreach, and fellowship with one another. Our Bible study this year is called "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" where we will focus on the importance of community, both in the Bible and in our own lives. Check our page on the church website for meeting times and descriptions of each circle, plus other activities for women at Westminster.

Book Groups

Meet to discuss interesting and thought-provoking book selections each month. The November selection is *The All of It*, a lovely novella by Jeannette Haien. It is a quiet tale of a stunning confession to an Irish priest and his response, a story of love and morality. Clara Beth Van de Water will lead discussions on Monday, November 27 at 11 AM and 7:30 PM in the Johnson Parlor.

Pillow Ministry

Meet monthly on first Wednesdays at 9:30 AM to make pillows and stuffed animals for heart patients and children at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai Card Group

Gathers once a month on third Mondays at 7:30 PM for some friendly competition and fellowship.

Advent Gathering

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 PM

"O Come, Emmanuel - Advent with our *Glory to God Hymnal*"

Molly Roden and Interim Director of Music Ben Hutchens will lead us in learning more about this new hymnal for our denomination. We'll enjoy singing familiar hymns of the season, and explore some "new songs to the Lord" included in this wonderful worship resource.

Women's Retreat

March 16-18, 2018

Women's Retreat at Hallwood Retreat Center led by the Rev Lucy Dergarabedian on the topic "*Enjoying the Journey.*" Watch for more details in the November *Chronicle*.

Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

Men's Breakfast



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

*Construction at the Architect of the
Capitol with Christopher Miles, PE*
RSVP to Dudley Schadeberg at
mow@wpc-alex.org

When you think about the United States Capitol Building, your thoughts probably turn to the Congressmen and Senators and the legislation that results from their deliberations. Have you ever wondered about the structure itself, the Senate and House Office Buildings, and the Capitol grounds that provide the environment for the Members of Congress, their staffs, and the many visitors to Capitol Hill to function and enjoy the surroundings?

Chris Miles is Assistant Director of the Construction Division in the office of the Architect of

the Capitol. He will give us short history of the Capitol buildings and grounds, and a glimpse of the construction and improvements currently underway to maintain this important national resource. His presentation will include numerous descriptions and pictures of ongoing projects.

Chris worked as a Project Engineer at the Library of Congress for the Architect of the Capitol

from 2002 to 2015. Prior to that, he worked on construction projects at the Naval Surface Weapons Center in Indian Head, Maryland. He received his degree in Mechanical Engineering

from the University of Detroit, and has been a Licensed Professional Engineer since 1996.

Chris grew up in Traverse City, Michigan, and moved to the East Coast in 1987. He and his wife Laura are members of Westminster. They have two daughters.

2018 Men's Retreat

**February 2-4 at Hallowood
Retreat and Conference Center**

*Reformational Reckoning
with the End*

**Jon D. Wood, George
Washington University**



Christians assert that Jesus reveals the sense of all creation. He is the decisive point – the beginning, and crucially, the end. Protestantism became a movement only because Reformers set an urgent agenda to extol Jesus' decisiveness from amidst the heaps of trailing phrases and outrageous failings. Does any of this sound relevant five hundred years later? Jon will explore with us some of the ways in which the Reformed tradition provides a rich legacy of engaging the world with an urgent conviction that Jesus alone is the point, the period, the exclamation of a redemptive story.

We are fortunate to have Jon D. Wood as our leader. He has served with the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington since 2013 as a member of the Company of Teachers, lecturing and leading seminars on religious topics. He received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and also holds a Ph.D. in Church History from Princeton. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at George Washington University, where he teaches the history of Christianity and world religions.

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

Deadline for Dedicating a Hymnal

Sunday, November 5

You may still dedicate a *Glory To God* hymnal in memory or in honor of someone special to you. All dedications will be published for worship on November 19. Send your request to worship@wpc-alex.org. Each hymnal is \$20; payment can be made by cash, check made out to WPC with "hymnal donation" in the memo line, or online at wpc-alex.org. All requests to dedicate must be received by Sunday, November 5 to be included on November 19.



Third Annual Dessert & Dialogue: Faith and Public Service

Monday, October 23 | 7–9 PM in Fellowship Hall

A conversation with Honorable John Lewis & Honorable Fred Upton, moderated by Charlie Cook, Editor & Publisher of the Cook Political Report. They will each address how their faith has intersected with their public service and answer questions from one another, the moderator and the audience.

Join the Small Group Bible Study

It was John Calvin who said, “Departing from ourselves, we turn to God, and having taken off our former mind, we put on a new.” Open to something new; to new possibilities in faith. Join the newly-started Sunday morning Adult Bible Study, held in the Westminster Room weekly from 9:45–10:45 a.m. Newcomers welcomed. Be in touch with Amey Upton or Eileen Denne to get your copy of “The Present Word: Covenant with God” study guide.

Adult Faith Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult

Amey Upton, Director | auppton@wpc-alex.org

Towards Fuller Faith and Service

Sunday mornings | 9:45–10:45 AM in Haverkamp Room

I find that I agree with John Calvin, that “...the more we know ourselves, the more we know of God. And the more we know of God, the more we seem to understand ourselves.” I hope you’ll continue to come, or come for the first time, to discover, question and transform during Sunday morning education hour, and then go out into the world serving and observing the grace of God. - Amey

Just as modern physics replaced the Aristotelian physics of the 17th Century, and later the Darwinian revolution in biology, so too we now face the challenges and changes of contemporary times. Sally Satel, M.D. is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a psychiatrist and lecturer, who will be with us on Sunday, October 22 sharing her deep insights and expertise about the complicated topic of addiction. How do we serve those with **addictions**? What is US domestic drug policy? What about the psychological impacts of war & disasters? What are current day trends in medicine and policy? There are many challenges surrounding the web of addiction. Come deepen your understanding of addiction from an expert.

Don’t miss the chance to hear a WPC panel talking about our shared ministry and work at Moi’s Bridge Academy in Africa on October 29. How might we further support our Kenyan brothers and sisters? To help us deepen our understanding and stimulate our further service, Patrick Hunnicutt and others will talk about WPC ministry in Kenya and explore how we might grow in faith in service with them.

As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation this year, we welcome back Dr. Bruce Douglass, Director of the Reformed Institute, who will talk about *Reformation Era Best Sellers*. Beginning Sunday, November 5, Dr. Douglass will examine four key texts that played an important role in bringing about the Reformation: “Freedom of a Christian” by Martin Luther; “A Sermon before the Princes” by Thomas Muntzer; “Institutes of the Christian Religion” by John Calvin; and The Geneva Bible.

Elder Betsy Preston, life-long Presbyterian will be offering a three-part class: *Presbyterian “CI”: Nope...not Criminal Investigation—Church Investigation!* Grab the chance to deepen your understanding of what it means to be Presbyterian. What do we believe? How do we organize ourselves? A Presbyterian 101 Class, for both those who know little and for those who know a lot about all things Presbyterian. Starts November 19.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on October 29 immediately following the 11:00 AM service for the purpose of approving the nominees for the Session and Board of Deacons Classes of 2020. The Committee appreciates the blessing that is this active and vibrant congregation which is so willing to serve. The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce and present the following nominees for elder: Alex Bryant, Phil Kuhl, Jill Maguire, Jill McClure, Ted Pusey, Candace Rush, Jim Sample, John Scruggs, and Melissa Sellevaag; and the following nominees for deacon: Becca Bagley, Bill Eckert, Jim Ewalt, Jim Helm, Susan McAdoo, John McArdle, Chris Miles, David Moser, and Anne Pickett.

WPC in Mission

wpc-alex.org/serve

Contact: Patrick Hunnicutt | phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org



On a sunny Saturday, September 23, a “core” group of WPC volunteers and friends gleaned nearly 4 tons of apples (how ‘bout them apples!) as part of the Society of St. Andrew’s efforts to provide nutritious and healthy food to low-income residents of Virginia. As we enter into a season of Thanksgiving, consider expressing gratitude through service at one of the many other agencies that Westminster supports with its time, talent and treasure. If you are interested or have questions, contact Patrick or localmission@wpc-alex.org.

- **Enable Affordable Housing | Saturday, October 28, 9 AM–12 PM**
Rebuilding Together Alexandria seeks volunteers of all skill levels to rehab a foreclosed condo that will be sold to a low-income family in the City of Alexandria.
- **Learn More about WPC’s Ministry in Kenya | Sunday, October 29, 9:45 AM**
See the Adult Ed notes elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.
- **Serve Dinner at Carpenter Shelter | Monday, November 6**
WPC volunteers prepare and serve dinner the first Monday of each month. Dishes can be delivered to the shelter’s refrigerator at 930 N. Henry Street in the afternoon or brought ready to serve by 5:30 PM. New volunteers always welcome! Sign up on the sheet in the education wing lobby.
- **Deliver Meals on Wheels | Tuesday, November 21**
Typically the 3rd Tuesday of the month | Volunteers needed to drive and deliver meals. Time commitment approx. one and a half hours.
- **Package and Deliver Thanksgiving Meals | Saturday, November 18**
Join WPC’s annual project to provide local families a sumptuous Thanksgiving meal.

Outsiders Hike & Walk in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia

Saturday, November 4, 8 AM–5 PM

Join us for walking around Harper’s Ferry, walking on the C&O canal, or hiking to the Overlook. Pack a lunch or sample local fare at one of the restaurants. Plan to bring water. Bring sunscreen, hat, and bug spray as appropriate. Meet at the church to leave on the bus by 8 AM. Entrance fee is \$5.00 per person without a National Parks pass. RSVP required to Kera Winburn at outsiders@wpc-alex.org.

Sabbatical for Casey FitzGerald

The Session has approved Casey taking a three-month sabbatical, beginning on October 24. In the Presbyterian Church, pastors are eligible for sabbaticals after six years of ministry in an individual church; Casey is now in her 12th year with us. Casey’s primary sabbatical goal is for “intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make [my] heart sing” (to use the words of the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program description). While she’s away, she’ll be reading, writing, and creating. Casey will return on January 23, 2018—ready to engage with what is next for the church!

the Chronicle

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Time Sensitive

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

Member Involvement News



October is Stewardship Pledge Month at Westminster. If you haven't already submitted your pledge, please try to get it in soon. You may submit your pledge by mailing in the pledge card you receive in the mail, going to wpc-alex.org/stewardship, or simply calling in to Business Administrator Nancy Bea. However you choose to make your pledge, you can be assured that it is important regardless of size. In addition to the financial support it provides our congregation, it provides a vote of confidence in the programs at Westminster.

Our pledges let the Session know how much they can allot to each program with assurance that the congregation supports them. While pledges are not legally binding, over the years between 95 and 100 percent of the amount pledged has been received. There is no set amount that you have to pledge. Let your conscience be your guide. One way of determining what to pledge is to think of how much you would give each week without a pledge and then multiply that by the number of times you expect to attend worship services.

Stewardship is an important part of participating in the life of the church, but it is not the only one. Participating in worship, fellowship, educational events, and mission are equally important. One of my favorite worship services is coming up in November. Remembrance Sunday calls us to remember those who have given of themselves in service to country, those who have served and those who have fallen in service. As one who served during the Vietnam War, this is a personal remembrance of fallen friends and those who still suffer the trauma of war. As the year progresses, we will have a Thanksgiving service – this year Westminster will be hosting our annual community interfaith service – and will then move into the joyous Advent season which culminates with the Christmas celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you will make time to attend many of these services.

If you check the announcements in the bulletin or online, you will see that there are lots of educational and fellowship opportunities available. Both special one-time opportunities and ongoing opportunities. Mission activities provide a double opportunity for fellowship with other members and service to the community. I hope you will partake of one or more of these opportunities. The spiritual rewards are well worth the small investment of your time. However you participate, it will be appreciated.

Yours in Christ,
Art Sauer
Member Involvement Coordinator