



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



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the Chronicle

December 14, 2017 - volume 48, number 5

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward Silence and Speech (Luke 1)

In recent months, women have come forward and accused well-known men in journalism and media, entertainment, the corporate world, and political life of having sexually harassed or abused them. While women or girls are not the only victims of abuse, nor are men the only abusers, at this particular moment it is women and girls who are finding voice and courage to speak.

When presented with credible allegations, most sectors have reacted quickly by dismissing the men from their positions; in the political realm, voters or elected officials determine the outcomes, and the process is slower. The employment status in the current cases are not decided in courts of law; rather, they are decided on the basis of whatever power a particular employer has to dismiss an employee, even though most in the news are powerful and wealthy "employees."

In one of this season's stories from Luke, a priest named Zechariah receives a vision from an angel of the Lord that his wife Elizabeth will give birth to a son who will prepare the people of God for the coming of their Lord. Zechariah questions the vision, and the angel who conveys it orders him silent "until the day these things occur." His silence in that moment is golden. A few months later, when Elizabeth gives birth to their son, Zechariah writes on a tablet that "his name is John." Then Zechariah's "mouth [is] opened and his tongue freed." Their son is John the Baptist, who prepares the way for Christ.

Silence is not always golden. In cases of sexual abuse, men and women alike have sometimes been silent in not confronting or reporting suspicious activity to proper authorities (when such are in place). But neither is all speech golden. Sometimes people speak in ways that directly or indirectly blame the victim. Sometimes people make false accusations. Sometimes people speak in ways that are more motivated by the thrill of sharing gossip and scandal. There is "un-golden" speech as well as "un-golden" silence.

But when people find the courage and strength to speak about what has happened to them, and when they decide the time is right in their lives or the lives of their family members, their speech is redemptive for their lives and for future generations. If their speech leads people who are guilty to take responsibility for what they have done, their speech can be redemptive for the guilty as well.

Most of us – men and women alike – can learn from the Zechariah story. After his divinely-imposed silence, when Zechariah speaks it was toward redemption. "Zechariah's mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God." His speech became golden.

Larry



We welcome to the Westminster Nursery

- **Alice Cruikshank**, daughter of Abby & John Cruikshank, little sister to Charlotte and Owen.
- **Aeris Horres**, daughter of David and Lorna Schadeberg Horres. Grandparents are Dudley and Melinda Schadeberg.
- **Ariana Staab**, daughter of Liz & Ryan Richard Staab, little sister of Lucas and Sophia.

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of **Nancy Murphy**, who died December 6. Nancy was mother of Beth Richardson, and grandmother of Claire Costello.

Special Worship Services for Advent & Christmas

Thursday, December 21: Longest Night Service

6:30 PM Worship in the Chapel

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

Sunday, December 24: Festival Sunday with the Commonwealth Brass

8:30 AM & 11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary

The Commonwealth Brass join us for this annual Advent celebration service.

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 PM Worship in the Sanctuary

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

11 PM Worship in the Chapel

At each of our services, hear the story of Christmas and sing familiar Christmas hymns, accompanied by organ, including "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Children are welcome at all our services; the 5 PM service is our "family-friendliest" service.

Sunday, December 31

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

Holiday Office Hours

Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26: Closed

Wednesday, December 27 – Friday, December 29: 9 AM – 3 PM

Monday, January 1: Closed

Tuesday, January 2: Normal office hours resume



Music at Westminster

Benjamin Hutchens, Interim Director of Music Ministries |

bhutchens@wpc-alex.org

wpc-alex.org/music-ministry

Start Choir in January? YES!

The busy holiday-time schedule is past. Maybe your sport is taking a winter break. Now is a GREAT time to come sing with one of the choral ensembles at Westminster! And bring along a friend!

Music Opportunities for Children and Youth

Our choirs for children and youth are a great way to develop lifelong skills. While music is an obvious benefit, research has shown that children who are musicians often enjoy better success in school and get a strong sense of teamwork, fair play, and have loads of fun! Here's a link to a recent article about the benefits of music education for children:

<https://ideapod.com/derelict-school-becomes-national-leader-making-making-surprising-subject-compulsory/>

Grades K-2 - Genesis Choir - Wednesday - 5:15 - 6:15 PM

Grades 3-5 - Covenant Choir - Wednesday - 5:15 - 6:15 PM

Even if it is only for a few months between sports seasons – COME! We seek to build and enhance our young singers' Christian Formation through the music of the church, traditional and new. The younger choirs provide music leadership in worship about once a month.

Grades 6-12 - Youth Ensemble - Sunday – 6 PM

In January we continue to improve as singers as we are building our repertoire as an ensemble. Youth bring music to worship about once a month. We hope to share our music in an 'outreach' event this spring. Invite a school or church friend to come too!

Music Opportunities for Adults

The **Westminster Ringers** offered an outreach concert to the residents of Vinson Hall in McLean on Saturday, December 16. Events such as these are a bit of trick to pull off in the busy Christmas Season. Our Ringers added a dose (jingle?) of joy to the folks at Vinson Hall! You'll be seeing and hearing them at Advent and Christmas services here at church too.

The **Celtic Cross Ringers** is back to ringing! We began on November 29 and hope to bring a piece of music to worship in the new year. There are a few open places in this choir - why don't you come and give ringing a try? Previous experience is not required and ringing is a great way to get to know new folks who share a love of music. Rehearsals are Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 PM.

The **Westminster Choir** is our adult choir and offers choral music at the 11 AM service each Sunday. New singers are always welcome - perhaps you would consider us in your New Year's resolutions list! Previous experience is helpful and voice lessons are available to any who ask. Rehearsals are Thursdays 7:30-9:00 PM.



Westminster Roadsters (Boomers and Beyond)

www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters

Nancy Hall Berens, Director |

nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Please register for events with Nancy
or with the church office.

Thursday, January 11: LTA's *Anne of Green Gables*. Based on the classic novel by L.M. Montgomery, this heartwarming musical takes place at the turn of the century, when a family decides to adopt an orphan boy for help on their farm, Green Gables. The "boy" turns out to be Anne Shirley, who quickly charms her new home and community with her fun spirit and comical adventures. A musical for the entire family. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, January 22: Lunch at Lena's. Meet at the church at 12:15 PM and we'll have lunch together at Lena's. Cost: \$2 plus lunch.

Family Retreat *Raising a Faithful Child in a Social Media World*

May 12-13, 2018

Bishop Claggett Retreat Center,
Adamstown, MD

Families with children age 0–5th grade are invited to experience this wonderful retreat opportunity! Our retreats are great for kids and grown-ups of all ages. Take this time away to reconnect with your own family—and the families that make up the church we call home! Information and registration form will be at wpc-alex.org/families. Registration ends April 8!



Children and Families

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry |

pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org

Molly Roden, Director of Children's Music |

mroden@wpc-alex.org

Whole Family Sunday | January 7 | 9:45-10:45 AM in Creation Station

All families with elementary school-aged children are encouraged to attend! Our theme for January is Joseph and the Pharaoh.

Westminster Weekday Preschool 2018-2019 Registration

In-house registration for the fall of 2018 will begin on January 10, 2018, and will end on January 19 at noon. In-house registration includes former or current preschool families and Westminster church members. (To be considered under the definition of church member, at least one parent must have joined the church by December 31, 2017.) Classes will be available for children who have reached the ages of 2½*, 3, or 4 as of September 30, 2018. (*Applications will be accepted for in-house families whose children turn 2½ by December 31, 2018.) Westminster church members, or former preschool families interested in enrolling their children, may pick up an application in the preschool office beginning January 10. In-house applications are due by noon on Friday, January 19. If necessary, a lottery will be held at noon on January 19 for open spaces.

Open Houses will be held on January 10 & 11 from 9:30-11:30 AM. Reservations are not necessary and you are welcome to drop in any time within the two-hour time frame. The director and Board members will be available to answer questions as you tour the preschool and observe classrooms over our classroom dutch doors. There is a gathering area in the nursery where you can meet Board members and other prospective preschool families. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by parents at all times. (Babysitting is not available.) If you have any questions, please call Carolyn Burke, Director, at 703-549-5267.

Music & More Week! | June 25–29, 2018 | The Lost Boy

M&M Week is our summer musical day camp experience for children who are currently enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Save the date for this week filled with Singing, Drama, Storytelling, Arts and Crafts, Snacks, Recreation, Games, and More! Registration will begin soon!

Schedule:

Monday-Thursday: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | The dress rehearsal begins at 12:00 PM, followed by a bag lunch!

Sunday: 9:00 AM rehearsal | 10:00 AM Performance during worship



Flying Solo Singles Ministry (50's and above)

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

Sunday, December 24 – Festival Sunday and Christmas Eve day

Flying Solo is hosting Coffee Hour after the 11:00 AM worship service. Please let Nancy Hall Berens know if you can help set up, serve, clean up or bring food.

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day Dinner

Nancy Harper has invited anyone who is available to come to her home for a holiday dinner on Christmas Day. Watch for more details to come!

Tuesday, December 26 – No potluck in December this year.

Sunday, December 31 – New Year's Eve day

Join us after the 11:00 AM service to un-decorate the Chrismon tree in the Johnson Parlor, make sandwiches for Bag Lunch, and then go out to brunch together at Northside 10, located at 10 East Glebe Road, Alexandria, VA 22305.

Monday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Come help us serve dinner to the residents at Carpenter's Shelter. Sign-up with Nancy Hall Berens.

Monday, January 8 – Monthly Dine-Out

We'll kick off the new Dine-Out year with dinner at City Kitchen, located in the Trade Center at 330 S. Pickett Street. Carpool from church at 7 PM or meet at the restaurant at 7:15.

Saturday, January 13 – Trip to National Gallery of Art

See the exhibit Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry. Meet at church at 9:00 AM to carpool or meet us at 10:00 AM at the entrance to the exhibit (main floor of the West Building). Snow date is January 20.

Tuesday, January 23 – Monthly Potluck

7 PM in Johnson Parlor
We always start by making sandwiches for Bag Lunch, then share potluck dinner together. Please bring a simple dish for potluck.

Monday, January 29 – Book Group

We will discuss "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. Dinah, daughter of Old Testament patriarch Jacob, narrates this novel which depicts what life must have been like for women during biblical times. 7 PM at the home of Cindy Smith.

Looking Ahead

Save Sunday, February 4 for our annual Super Chili Bowl Party!

Update from the Personnel Committee

As already announced, Casey FitzGerald's last day with us will be Sunday, December 17. We hope you can all join us that day to celebrate Casey and her ministry at Westminster. To formalize Casey's departure, the Session has approved the calling of a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 7, 2018, following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Sanctuary, to act on the Session's recommendation that the congregation join Reverend Casey FitzGerald in requesting that National Capital Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relationship between Reverend FitzGerald and Westminster Presbyterian Church effective January 24, 2018.

The Personnel Committee will be working in the coming months to set in motion a search for a new associate pastor and to determine how we will move forward during this time of transition. To address staffing needs in the near term, Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry, will be taking on additional responsibilities and workload on an interim basis beginning January 1. Nancy Hall Berens, Director of Congregational Life, Singles, and Presbyterian Women, will at that time take responsibility for our Roadsters program. We appreciate the willingness and ability of both to provide continuity and additional help during the search for a new associate pastor.

Reid Stuntz
Chair, Personnel Committee

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

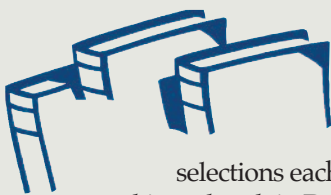
wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women

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

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

Women's Circles

All women are invited to attend monthly circle for Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach. Visit more than one to see which is right for you! Watch for meeting details in the weekly Update or visit the Presbyterian Women's page on the church website.



Book Groups

Book Groups meet to discuss interesting and thought-provoking book selections each month. The book groups are taking a break in December; the January selection is *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt, a coming of age novel where unusual friendship leads to love, grief, compassion, and renewal.

Pillow Ministry

Pillow Ministry meets monthly on first Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in Haverkamp Room to make pillows and stuffed animals for heart patients and children at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai Card Group

Shanghai Card Group gathers once a month on third Mondays at 7:30 PM in Haverkamp Room for some friendly competition and fellowship.

PW Prayer Breakfast with the National Capital Presbytery

"Listening ... Responding to Justice Concerns for Women"

Saturday, January 27 | 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Christ Presbyterian Church in Fairfax (near Fair Oaks Mall)

Invite a friend to accompany you for a morning of concentrated prayer and reflection on women's justice issues: food & nutrition, human trafficking, abuse & violence. Hear personal stories and have prayer time for women suffering in similar situations. The keynote speaker is Therese Taylor-Stinson, a spiritual director and author and former Moderator of the National Capital Presbytery. Worship will be led by the Rev. Lucy Dergarabedian, and will include a Remembrance Ceremony for sisters who passed into Life Eternal during 2017. Offering divided between 3 food banks in VA, DC, MD. All are welcome to learn and pray with us!

Women's Retreat

March 16-18, 2018



Women's Retreat at Hallowood Retreat Center led by the Rev Lucy Dergarabedian on the topic "*Enjoying the Journey.*" This year's retreat will focus on the power of resurrection through the challenges we face in our daily lives. Originally from Beirut, Lebanon, where she was a student of Ben and Carol Weir, Lucy is an ordained Presbyterian minister. She served in the U.S. Army as a chaplain, worked with the Wounded Warrior Project at Ft. Belvoir, and is now enjoying a new challenge of learning sign language!

Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

Men's Breakfast

Friday, January 12, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall
Separation of Powers – Really?
with Fowler West

RSVP to Dudley Schadeberg at mow@wpc-alex.org



Most of us were taught in civics class or history class that our Constitution established three branches of the federal government – Executive, Legislative, and Judicial – to provide checks and balances on each other and prevent any one of them from exercising untrammelled power over the people. We currently are experiencing a blurring of the lines and boundaries of

authority between the powers of the President and executive departments, the Congress (Senate and House), and the Judiciary (Supreme Court and federal judiciary).

During recent decades, Presidents have abrogated power by issuing Executive Orders that have blatantly contradicted the stated will of Congress; Congresses have passed laws that have allowed federal departments a wide berth to issue regulations that were never the intent of the legislation, and the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary have in essence created new law by interpreting existing federal laws in novel ways.

Fowler West is President of West & West LLC, located in Alexandria, Virginia. His work largely involves protection of the environment, especially the Everglades Ecosystem. He spent more than 20 years on Capitol Hill, where in addition to serving as Administrative Assistant to former Rep. W. R. Poage of Texas and as Staff Director of the House Committee on Agriculture under Chairman Poage and former House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, he worked on major agricultural, conservation, rural development, credit, nutrition and foreign food aid programs, including several major farm bills. Fowler also served two terms as a Commissioner at the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). He was twice appointed by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate.

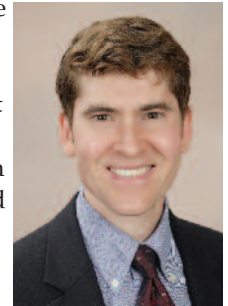
Fowler has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Baylor University, a Master of Arts degree from George Washington University, and Juris Doctor degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. In 2001, Fowler was the recipient of the Steward of the Everglades Award, presented by the Everglades Coalition, for his work in the passage of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan legislation. He serves as Co-Chair of the Standing Committee of the W. R. Poage Legislative Library at Baylor University.

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.



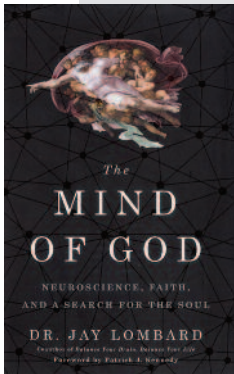
We are fortunate to have Jon D. Wood as our leader. He has served with the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington since 2013 as a member of the Company of Teachers, lecturing and leading seminars on religious topics. He received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, and also 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.

The retreat will again take place at the popular Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain near Comus, Maryland. Registration has begun. Forms are available at the MOW Retreat table in Fellowship Hall, at the church office, and online.

Why I Attend the Men's Retreat

By Art Sauer

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



**2018
Congregation-
Wide Book Read**

“The Mind of God: Neuroscience, Faith, and a Search for the Soul” by Dr. Jay Lombard

Join the congregation to read or listen (It’s a

5-hour audio book!) to this inspiring, insightful and provocative book. Through an exploration of our brains, Dr. Lombard leads you through his discovery of the nature of faith, belief, and hope—and, ultimately, calls us to examine the evidence that points to purpose beyond our biological world. “This book,” says Deepak Chopra, MD, *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Know God*, will awaken new connections in your understanding of the relationship you have between reality, reason, and faith.”

In addition to a small group meeting for book discussion, participants this year have the great opportunity to hear from the author himself! Dr. Lombard will be coming to Westminster in early February to give us a firsthand opportunity to ask questions and hear about his work as he shares with us about the intersection of science and spirituality. Register online at wpc-alex.org/bookread2018, choosing your preference of meeting in a small group at church, or in a facilitators home, and what time/day works best for you.

Adult Faith Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult

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

Towards Fuller Faith and Service

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



You won’t want to miss! Give Cynthia Farrel-Johnson, an Elder at Georgetown Presbyterian, a hearty welcome to Westminster on Sunday December 17, our last Sunday morning class of 2017. She’s a remarkable artist. She’ll share her spiritual portraits project with us. Her faith journey, integrated and woven into her work, dovetails perfectly with our year-long study of fuller faith & service. She’ll share how she came to do spiritual portraits, and other works, and why it’s become so important to her.



There’s lots in store for Adult Education in 2018. Whether you’ve been coming to Adult Ed for years or have been thinking about taking on a new practice for your own growth, discovery, and transformation, we hope you come to try these classes out. Our Sunday morning programs are intentionally planned to offer something for people of all ages and stages of life. Our ability to sustain quality teachers & programs depends on your support!

In the New Year, we’ll be offering classes that lend wisdom about growing through the decades. As individuals, you’ll gain tips on what makes a marriage and examine how your faith has changed in your years of marriage, or ask what life looks like as a single person. We’ll discover how to help families and friends reassess and redefine their spiritual journeys when experiencing health issues: how do we bring new insight and hope during a spiritual crisis? We’ll also have classes on the best nutritional research available today.

As a culture, we’ll ask what the overall importance of manners and its relationship to morality. In the current day’s atmosphere of contempt and mockery in our political culture, how does the moral value of having faith in our fellow human beings fit in? We’ll continue to explore our relationship and engagement with Muslims and Islam as Protestant Christians. We’ll hear from a mother who adopted two Ethiopian daughters to help us better understand how to talk to children of color.

Other classes will examine Scripture, history, and its present-day lessons. We’ll look at how Paul’s letter to the Romans served as a key motivator to the Reformation, but also examine whether those reformers misread what Apostle Paul was saying and doing in that letter. Don’t miss the latest from a Rabbi and a minister coming together again to give us insight on how we might use Scripture to draw life lessons, when they take a look at the “text...pretext...context” of Scripture.

Lenten Series with the Rev. Dan Duggan

Wednesdays, February 21 & 28 and March 7 & 14 | 7:30 PM in the Chapel

Daniel R. Duggan, Director of Chaplaincy at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, will kick-off a series on Wednesday nights during Lent that focus us on living our lives to the fullest. He'll provide us a preview at the adult education hour on Sunday January 14, when he introduces us to James Hillman's *Force of Character* and the three tasks of aging. Then on four Wednesday evenings during Lent, Dr. Duggan will lead us to reflect on the difference between a *ministry of servanthood* & a *ministry of mutuality*. We'll take a look at the spiritual life of individuals as well as communities through the eyes of elders who see wisdom through a different lens. Have you ever explored biblical journaling to examine your own spiritual journey? Do you know how men grieve differently than women? Come learn about the journey through loss so that you might better support another.

His wealth of experience as a Chaplain is not to be missed.

Money Matters

Offering envelopes for 2018 for those who requested them are available for pick up in the Library hallway. You may still request envelopes by contacting Nancy Bea at nbea@wpc-alex.org or 703-549-4766.

Stock Donations and End of Year Giving: If you are using a stock transaction to make a donation, remember that stock transactions may take a week or more to process. It would be most helpful for donors to initiate these transactions **not later than December 18** to help insure timely completion of each transaction. Stock must be transferred before December 31 for it to be credited to you in 2017. Also checks to the church must be postmarked or received before the end of the year to be considered tax deductions for the year 2017 or be credited to you for 2017. The check date is irrelevant if the check is not received or postmarked by December 31.

Statements for 2017: Statements will reflect all church donations postmarked and received by December 31. You have received an interim year-end statement. Please review it and notify Nancy Bea in the church office of any questions or corrections to be made. In mid-January you will receive your final 2017 contribution record which can be used for tax purposes.

Egiving: Westminster provides you with the opportunity to give electronically, having your contributions debited automatically from your checking or savings account. You can make a single donation or set up a recurring giving plan on the Online Giving page on the church website (www.wpc-alex.org). If you have a recurring giving plan in place and have changed your pledge or giving amount for 2018, don't forget to login to your account and change the amount. To create a profile and set up or edit a recurring giving plan, go to the Online Giving tab on the website and select Make a Donation. Simply create your online profile and select a password to use to access your giving plan at any time. If it is easier, contact the church office for a paper authorization form to fill out and return to us to set up a plan for you. You can make a one-time donation without creating a profile. Contact Nancy Bea, Church Business Administrator, with any questions.

Westminster Youth

wpc-alex.org/youth

Contact: Whitney Fautleroy |

wfautleroy@wpc-alex.org

Christmas Clearance Gift Exchange

Youth activities take a break on December 17 after an evening of ice skating for middle school youth. The spring semester kicks back up on January 7. There are a lot of exciting events and opportunities as the new year rolls in. On January 7, both middle and high school youth will have a Christmas Clearance Gift Exchange. What is a Christmas Clearance Gift Exchange? Youth should bring a gift valued at \$5 and under from a clearance rack or bin for a spin on white elephant gifts.

Confirmation 2018

Later in January, our 8th graders will begin confirmation classes (January 21 at 9:45 AM). This year, confirmation includes the opportunity for youth to have adult mentors at Westminster with whom to discuss faith questions, and multiple visits to other faith and worshipping communities.

High School Winter Overnight

High School Youth are invited on a Winter Overnight trip January 25-27 to Massanutten. The cost is \$150.00 and we will be renting a house for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, and fellowship. Please register by January 16.

Parent to Pastor Conferences

From January 17-31, Whitney wants to talk to parents of youth about their expectations and concerns for the youth program. The conversations will be no longer than 30 minutes. Sign up at wpc-alex.org/youth.



WPC in Mission

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



Thanks-Giving and Receiving

Over 60 volunteers (young and younger), including our friends from the Untouchables, a local youth mentoring program, came together on the Saturday before Thanksgiving to prepare and deliver 260 meals for low-income residents of Alexandria. Many thanks to all who participated, and to Sean Heather and Louise Anderson for their committed leadership.

Looking for ways to serve locally and develop connections inside and outside the church?

Our mission programs work to ensure that our financial giving is paired with hands-on involvement. One way we do this is by providing Mission Liaisons, congregation members who serve as a primary (but not sole) contact and connection point with groups to whom we provide support. Our liaisons serve as bridges between WPC and local agencies, keeping up with their needs and wants and looking for ways to connect the wider church with the communities they serve.

Currently, we are seeking Mission Liaisons for:

- **ALIVE** (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically; www.alive-inc.org), the oldest and largest private safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty
- **Neighborhood Health** (www.neighborhoodhealthva.org), which provides comprehensive primary health care services to 15,000 low-income men, woman and children annually who reside in Alexandria and surrounding communities
- **OAR** (Offender Aid and Restoration; www.oaronline.org), which supports men and women returning to the community from incarceration.
- We are also looking for new members for the **2018 WPC Community Grant Team** (wpc-alex.org/westminster-community-grant), as they discern which local agencies will receive grants for projects in the areas of children, hunger, education, shelter and self-sufficiency.

If intrigued, contact Patrick who can explore the opportunity further with you.

Your Foundation Dollars at Work

In November, the Westminster Foundation Board and Session approved use of funds for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (from the Benevolence Emergency Fund), for the 2017 Senior High Mission Trip to Alaska (from the Olson Youth Mission Fund, Klingensmith Youth Mission Scholarship Fund, Zach Stoltz Youth Mission Trip Fund, Ramsey Youth Mission Fund, Youth Ministry Fund, and Mission Scholarship Fund), and for repairs to the church bus (from the Transportation and Maintenance Reserve Account).

Memorial gifts made in memory of our members and friends are also used to provide support to many program areas of the church. In 2017, Memorial Funds were used as follows:

Kate Daniels Memorial Fund	Worship Accessories Fund New hymnal dedicated to her
Charlotte Kodrich Memorial Fund	Worship Accessories Fund New hymnal dedicated to her
Lowrie Beacham Memorial Fund	Worship Accessories Fund New hymnal dedicated to him
Marge Beatley Memorial Fund	Worship Accessories Fund New hymnal dedicated to her
Paul Edgell Memorial Fund	Established an Adult Education Fund in Foundation
Peggy Grant Memorial Fund	Senior Ministries
Mary Hupper Memorial Fund	Adult Education books for Church Library
Jack and Carolyn Allen Memorial Fund	The Jack and Carolyn Allen Music Fund
Amy Voigt Memorial Fund	Women's Programs
Keith Meade Memorial Fund	The Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Margie Carpenter Memorial Fund	ALIVE!

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.

the Chronicle

A publication of Westminster Presbyterian Church
Contributors: Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster
Dawn Campbell, Production Editor
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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Member Involvement News



Christmas is almost here: a time of rejoicing in the birth of our Lord. This year, we have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas Eve on Sunday. I hope that you will attend the morning's Festival Sunday services at 8:30 AM or 11:00 AM, and then return for one of the special Christmas Eve services. There will be a candlelight family service at 5 PM, a candlelight service at 8 PM, and a Christmas vigil service in the Chapel at 11 PM. Each of these services has its own personality, but they all share the special joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The worship services dominate the Christmas season. However, let us not forget that many other things are still ongoing. We still have to provide lunches for the Bag Lunch Program, deliver meals for the Meals on Wheels recipients, and serve dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter. We really need help with the Carpenter's Shelter dinner because we will be serving on New Year's Day. Many of our regular volunteers will be away for the holiday. If you are available, please consider volunteering.

During this Advent and Christmas season, I hope that you have enjoyed the beautiful decorations around the church. Unfortunately, they must all come down after the season ends and they don't come down by themselves. Volunteers will be needed to take down the decorations and carefully store them away until next year. To help with this activity, contact the Worship & Music Committee.

All of the busyness of the holidays can be quite stressful. I hope you take time to focus on the babe from Bethlehem and the hope that He brought into the world. Sit back, relax and, prepare for the New Year and the chance to get a new start on life.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Art Sauer
Member Involvement Coordinator