

# 2017 Annual Report



Westminster  
Presbyterian  
C H U R C H  
— *worship well* —

Dear Westminster Members and Friends,

I hope you will take time to read this Annual Report, because it seeks to capture both facts and figures and the heart and soul of our church. It goes without saying that after more than a decade of stability among our staff leaders – clergy and lay – we are in the middle of several years of change.

- It has been as wonderful to welcome Whitney Fautleroy as our Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults as it has been bittersweet to say goodbye to Casey FitzGerald as our Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. It will be exciting to begin the search for the person to succeed – through surely not replace – Casey.
- It has been wonderful to welcome Ben Hutchens as the leader of our music – so crucial to the way we worship God – even as we have appreciated the quality and spiritual heights to which Paul Stetsenko led us in his music leadership for nearly fifteen years.
- It is great to have Patrick Hunnicutt moving into leadership of the many and far reaching missions of Westminster, and to oversee our far ranging pastoral care, even as we have said goodbye to Eileen Jinks and seek the next person who will pay particular attention to our seniors.
- Behind the scenes, it has been terrific to welcome Cindy McCeney to our financial staff as we have said goodbye to Carolyn Carmack and the many roles she play at Westminster.
- We anticipate with “fear and trembling” the impending retirement of Nancy Bea from her administrative leadership of our church, and look forward to finding the right replacement for the many ways in which she has been the glue that holds our large church together and keeps it running so well.

As always, I want to thank the leadership of countless officers – Session members, Deacons, Clerks of Session, Treasurers, Foundation Board members – as well as the hundreds of lay persons who serve in ways seen and unseen. It is not only dozens of children in worship coming forward to hear the children’s sermon or to sing that bring joy to this church, it is all of you who give it time and energy and focus. You are wonderful and it is an honor to serve in your midst.

Larry R. Hayward, Pastor

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# FELLOWSHIP

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life committee plans all-church fellowship events throughout the year, some in conjunction with other groups in the congregation, in order to celebrate our life together as one church family. In 2017, we hosted three Lenten Dinners, the Palm Sunday Breakfast, the Summer Picnic, the Fall Campfire & Chili Cook-Off, and the Christmas Pageant Dinner.

The committee also serves as the liaison between Session and the following fellowship and outreach groups: Young Adults, Flying Solo Singles, Roadsters, Seniors Ministries, Men of Westminster, Presbyterian Women, Faith Groups, the Outsiders Group, Tables for Eight, Westminster Craft Group, Westminster Softball Team, Women's Shanghai Card Group, Women's Sewing Day / Pillow Ministry, and sponsored Scouting organizations (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Venturing Crew).

Fellowship Hour takes place after worship each Sunday. During the most of the spring, summer, and fall, it is Lemonade on the Lawn in the Blomberg Courtyard and front lawn. During the winter and other cold weeks, it is Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall. Church committees, fellowship groups, and other organizations take turns hosting. Doug Anderson organized and hosted coffee hour for the early service each week in 2017 (thank you, Doug!).

## ADULTS

In 2017, the church continued to have a variety of smaller groups and events for adult fellowship. The Outsiders hiked Sugarloaf Mountain and in Shenandoah National Park, walked and went birding at Huntley Meadows, walked at Meadowlark Gardens, and created and walked finger labyrinths. The Tuesday Morning Faith Group continued seasonal book discussions and small-group fellowship. In July, church members enjoyed the annual outing to a Nationals game, hosted by Larry Hayward. The Westminster Softball Team played weekly games in the spring and summer, winning the regular season championship. Tables for Eight held monthly dinners at the homes of its 51 members and had their 2016-17 kick-off potluck in September. The Craft Group held its

annual holiday boxwood workshop, which attracted many members, friends, and visitors.

## **FAMILIES**

Rev. Casey FitzGerald and Patty Chamberlain served children and their families with a large range of programs throughout 2017. The annual M&M Week, our music camp experience for elementary-aged children, was held in June. Children worked toward a performance of "Malice in the Palace," the story of Esther. The Palm Sunday Donkey Processional and Christmas Pageant were held. The Family Retreat was held at the Claggett Center led by Rev. Jennifer Dunfee, who explored the faith practices of Islam and Judaism as a means to knowing and loving our neighbors and understanding our own belief and identity as Christians. Families were supported through a family picnic, parent education opportunities, Milestones of Faith for children, and Family Mornings.

## **MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster sponsors a hot breakfast throughout the year on the second Friday of the month. During 2017, the speakers included the Dean of Liberal Arts at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College Dr. James McClellan; Vice President of Legislative Affairs at NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association David Hoover; Department of Defense cybersecurity consultant David Aland; Westminster Pastor Larry R. Hayward; commercial airline pilot and military novelist Thomas Young; and Assistant Director of the Construction Division in the office of the Architect of the Capitol Christopher Miles, P.E.

MOW also organizes and hosts an annual men's retreat in February at Hollywood Retreat and Conference Center in Frederick County, MD. The 2017 retreat leader was Rev. James F. Cubie, Associate Pastor for Christian Formation at Leesburg Presbyterian Church and a member of the Company of Teachers with the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington. The retreat theme was "Justification: Is It Still the Article by Which the Church Stands or Falls?"

During 2017, Men of Westminster hosted Fellowship Hour on Mother's Day.

## **SCOUTS**

Scouting has been part of Westminster's youth ministry since January 30, 1941 when the Boy Scout Troop was first chartered. Membership is up again this year with 130 boys in our Cub Scout Pack and 85 boys in our Boy Scout troop. Both units are very active with camping and advancement including a new hiking program for the Cub Scouts. The Troop's highlights included a week at Camp Ottari and their biennial summertime 10 day trek to Philmont. Seven Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank. Our Co-ed Venturing Crew (young men and women ages 14 through 20) spent a week sailing on a large catamaran in the Bahamas. Several members from both our Troop and Venturing Crew attended the National Jamboree at the relatively new Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

## **WESTMINSTER ROADSTERS—BOOMERS AND BEYOND**

The Westminster Roadsters had a wide variety of activities during 2017, with seventy participants. We had lunches at Hank's Oyster Bar and Northside 10, and we took trips to the National Museum of the American Indian, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and Woodlawn Plantation and the Pope-Leighey House. Roadsters continued their monthly trips to the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Two "Lunch and Learns" were also held. Westminster member Chris Miles spoke on "Preservation, Renovation and Construction on Capitol Hill." John McArdle, Dan Judy and Matt Viser (all Westminster members) did a presentation on the political climate, entitled "Where Are We Now: One Year Later."

## SINGLES – FLYING SOLO (50's AND ABOVE)

Flying Solo Singles shared together in fellowship, service, and spiritual growth through a wide variety of activities during 2017. We enjoyed monthly Dine-Outs and Potlucks, two Roundtable discussions, one Munch & More gathering, quarterly Book Group discussions, our annual Fall Retreat, and several special events and mission projects. Some highlights of 2017 include:

- Fall Retreat to Hallowood Retreat Center with retreat leader Greg Finch as we embarked on *"The Next Adventure: Aging Well, Aging Wisely, Aging Wonderfully."* We explored realities and delights of aging with the hope to navigate life with resilience, creativity and community, and to flourish across our life span!
- Roundtable discussion on ethical questions behind the health care debate led by WPC member Jim Muyskens in February and another Roundtable in April to learn all about the new Presbyterian Hymnal with members Pete Vanden Bosch, Molly Roden, and Melynda Wilcox. In the fall we enjoyed Munch & More with Eileen Jinks to bid her a fond farewell!
- Service projects included making sandwiches each month for the Bag Lunch program and participating in the Holiday Sharing program at Christmas to provide gifts for a needy family.
- Book Group met quarterly to read both fiction and non-fiction works and to explore issues of life and faith. In 2017 we discussed *All the Light We Cannot See*, *Aquinas for the Armchair Theologian*, *Friedman's Fables*, and *The Islamic Jesus*.
- Special events included a visit to the Matisse/Diebenkorn exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art, a trip to the Sackler Gallery, a Nats baseball game, and an outing to the Library of Congress. We also had fun at our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Day dinners, and of course, our Super Chili Bowl and Christmas parties!

An important aspect to Flying Solo is the sense of community we share with church friends, reaching out to one another in Christian love and support as well as being an integral part of the entire church family.

# WOMEN

## CIRCLES AND BIBLE STUDY

In 2017, our six Women's Circles met monthly in small groups for Bible study, fellowship and service projects. Each year, the Bible study program offers us opportunities for discussion of what scripture means in our daily lives. Circles also take time to share joys and concerns, to foster fellowship and friendship, and to reach out to those in need through cards, prayers, and offerings. Each year we collect the Thank and Birthday Offerings which support special mission projects benefitting women and children as well as participate in the Fellowship of the Least Coin where we support the lives of women in prayer and in substance throughout the world.

In the 2016-17 program year, our circle Bible study was **"Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"** where we learned how different books of the Bible and different faiths portray Jesus from their own unique perspective, and we discuss the significance of Jesus in our own faith experience as well. In 2017-18, our Bible study is **"Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews"** where we are exploring 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.

Here is how each of our six women's circles describe themselves and their activities in 2017:

**Elizabeth Circle** has been meeting for many years and continues to inspire and reflect. Second Tuesday mornings find us in the Johnson Parlor taking turns leading the Bible study, praying together, and sharing a sandwich for lunch. We enjoy planning and participating in local and national PW activities. In addition to supporting two Angel Tree recipients at Christmas, we presented a check to a church family in need. We are blessed by great attendance and wonderful fellowship, highlighted by a special Christmas lunch at WPC and lunch "out" in June, hopefully at the new dining venue at Goodwin House Alexandria. Contact: [elizabethcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:elizabethcircle@wpc-alex.org).



**Mary Circle:** As Westminster's youngest circle, we hold our "book club"-style circle meetings at members' homes, welcoming visitors, new members, and long-time attendees. Although we started as an evening circle for mothers of young children some years ago, we now have an expanded membership of women in their 20s to 40s, some with and some without children. This diverse group of women has been a welcome addition to the original circle membership, and we hope to build on that momentum. We also plan to continue our collective interest in community service in the coming year. We invite you to join us the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm, or to contact us at [marycircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:marycircle@wpc-alex.org) with any questions.

**Ruth Circle:** If you desire in-depth Bible study from volunteer leaders within our membership, visit Ruth Circle in Johnson Parlor on second Wednesday mornings. Everyone has input in timely discussions, prayer joys/concerns. We always leave rejoicing in God's presence and feeling we are truly sisters in Christ! During 2017 we experienced the joy of giving to Spirit Lake Reservation, Moi's Bridge Academy, Presbyterian Home of the Highlands, Presbyterian Children's Home, Women's Empowerment (PCUSA Giving book), Cuban Rural Health Clinics, ALIVE, Blessings in a Backpack, 2 Salvation Army Angel Tree children, Fellowship of Least Coin, and a grocery card for a family in need from our Sunshine/Mission offerings. Welcome! Contact: [ruthcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:ruthcircle@wpc-alex.org).

**Hannah Circle** helped serve and clean up the Lenten dinners in February and hosted Lemonade on the Lawn in July and September. We dined at Celtic House Irish Pub and Restaurant in June. Our service projects included donating our mission collection to Blessings in a Backpack through ALIVE! On October 15, 2017, we joined together with the other circles and celebrated World Food Recognition Sunday during Fellowship Hour by publicizing the Blessings in a Backpack program and collecting food and monetary donations. Our circle purchased Christmas gifts of a bicycle, clothing, and toys for two children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program. We also had a "Yankee gift exchange" of previously read books at our December meeting. Contact: [hannahcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:hannahcircle@wpc-alex.org).

**Rachel Circle:** A diverse group of ladies of all ages, Rachel Circle is composed of some ladies who have been members of this circle for decades, whereas new members continue to join us. We support one another, as well as the mission programs of PW, and we socialize twice a year by dining out together. We enjoy being together and sharing our thoughts about life and our philosophies, while learning more about the Bible through our lessons each month. Contact: [rachelcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:rachelcircle@wpc-alex.org).

**Sarah Circle** members share joys and concerns at each meeting which helps us build stronger personal connections and give support to our sisters. The Sarah Circle "Sunshine" fund is used to purchase Angel Tree gifts and to support local organizations and charities. We have a Christmas gathering at a member's home, and in June we enjoy an end-of-the-year Pot Luck. Sarah Circle is a multi-generational circle and holds our meetings at the church. Contact: [sarahcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:sarahcircle@wpc-alex.org).

### **OTHER WOMEN'S EVENTS**

The Women's Pillow Ministry, Book Groups, and Shanghai card groups all met monthly for service and fellowship.

### **SPECIAL 2017 EVENTS**

**Women's Retreat:** "Retweeting With Ruth" was the theme of our annual retreat, with Maggie Hayward leading us in seeing the Old Testament character of Ruth in a new way.

**Winter Gathering:** "Ancient Wisdom for a Modern World: Lessons Learned from Celtic and Native Traditions" with Nancy Hall Berens as speaker.

**Spring Gathering:** "Food for Thought: Understanding Childhood Hunger in Alexandria" panel discussion with representatives from Alexandria City Public Schools, Blessings in a Backpack, ALIVE, and Child & Family Network Centers.

**Advent Gathering:** "O Come, Emmanuel - Advent with our *Glory to God* Hymnal" presented by Molly Roden and Ben Hutchens where we learned the ins and outs of our new Presbyterian hymnal.

Beyond our programs at Westminster, several of our women attended the Presbyterian Women (PW) Synod Summer Gathering in June and experienced a variety of workshops on a wide range of topics including an introduction to the new Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews "Cloud

of Witnesses.” Our women also attended fall and spring gatherings on the presbytery level of Presbyterian Women where we had the chance to learn and to pray alongside sisters in Christ from the whole Washington area. Our thanks go to Bonnie Nasr who served for many years as our liaison to Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery and who has kept us connected with PW beyond our church. Elizabeth Martineau has now stepped into this role, and Beth Richardson is serving as PW NCP treasurer.

Our deep gratitude goes to Bea Hurt for her service as Moderator of PW here at Westminster. Janet Harris now serves as the new Moderator of the Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Team, and Alison Griffin has joined Janet on the leadership team as Vice Moderator. We also would like to thank the individual circle chairs and group organizers, and we look forward to continuing our faith journey together. Thanks also go to Bonnie Paladino who once again headed up the Salvation Army Angel Tree gift-giving effort which circles participate in each year at Christmas.

This year we also recognized two individuals, Nancy McIver and Bonnie Nasr, for many years of special service to PW and women’s ministry at Westminster and in the presbytery, by presenting them with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women. Their involvement in PW at Westminster and in the presbytery has touched the lives of many in our greater community in Alexandria and beyond. We have been blessed to share in ministry with them through their dedication to helping those in need.

## **YOUNG ADULTS**

The Young Adults group met monthly at “Faith on Tap,” for casual, faith-based discussion and fellowship. They also met informally for brunch and at Beer and Hymns, a non-denominational meet up for singing old-school hymns and enjoying beverages. Young Adults also participated in fellowship outings, including Handel’s *Messiah* and plays. Young Adults also did an Advent Bible Study.

## **YOUTH**

Youth fellowship highlights include a middle school trip to Kings Dominion, overnight lock-ins for middle school and high school youth, attendance at all-congregational events like the campfire, and numerous fellowship gatherings including our annual pancake breakfast. Youth are also invited once a year to a class dinner with their respective graduating class. See elsewhere in the report for youth activities as they relate to mission and education.

## **EDUCATION**

### **YOUNG CHILDREN**

Babies are cared for by our dedicated paid Nursery staff. There is a paid staff person in each of the four separate childcare rooms for the age groups of ones, twos, threes and fours. A parent volunteer is also present. We continued to provide a weekly Bible lesson to our preschool children.

### **ELEMENTARY AND CREATION STATION**

In Creation Station, our rotation model for Christian Education for Kindergarten – Grade 5, we continued our Whole Family experience. All family members are encouraged to participate in this hour during the first Sunday of each month. During the rest of each month, only the children come to Creation Station. The children continue to learn the story taught by volunteers through storytelling, art projects, drama, cooking, video, games, and puzzles. The 4th and 5th graders hosted coffee hour. The Children & Worship program continued to provide Biblical Stories to kindergarten and first graders during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. M&M Week (Music & More) was held in late June. Thirty-plus participants sang, danced, and told the story of Esther.

## YOUTH

Middle school youth and their adult leaders continued to meet most Sunday mornings during the program year to explore faith and Scripture. Nine youth participated in Confirmation, culminating in their becoming members of WPC. All youth led the congregation in worship on Youth Sunday in May, when they designed the order of worship and led in song, prayer, scripture, the children's sermon, and preaching.

## ADULTS

Our Adult Christian Formation classes, built on the four pillars of Biblical Studies, Health & Wholeness, Current Affairs, and, Spiritual Formation, were united in 2017 around the theme "Navigating the Seas of Change." From September 2016 until May 2017, classes offered opportunities to learn about change: from misperceptions of people of other faiths, to hearing about changes faced by the National Capital Presbytery; from Ambassador Philip Wilcox challenging our understanding of conflicts in the Middle East to a series on how the Holocaust radically transformed the relationship between Christian and Jews. Classes looked at world religions and how God might be at work today in our lives. Having a theme gives Adult Education a framework from which to choose speakers and provides a common purpose by which classes are bound. It allows continuity throughout the year. Between January 8 and May 21, 695 people attended Sunday morning Christian Formation Classes.

The First Annual Congregation-Wide Book Read took place in February. 50 members read "The Apostle Paul" by Adam Hamilton. Participants shared: "I loved being in a members' home"; "I learned a great deal about Paul"; "I loved the book's accessibility to a wide group of ages"; and "I gained new appreciation for Apostle Paul." This first-time event was a big success.

A Lenten Series was held on Wednesday evenings with teacher Joanne Stellar, co-founder of the "Practicing Spirituality" class at Foundry Methodist Church. Joanne taught about "Navigating the Theology of Busyness." An average of 20 people attended this new series.

"Towards Fuller Faith & Service," chosen by the Adult Christian Formation Committee for the theme for 2017-18, kicked-off with Rev. Larry Hayward framing where WPC fits within Christianity today.

Throughout fall and winter, classes helped us look at how to deepen our faith, from learning to make a difference for someone with mental illness to how WPC's support of missionaries in Zambia & Malawi matters. We looked at important principles for living in loving relationships and what beckons us to go out in the world to serve. Between September 10 and December 17, 503 persons attended Sunday morning classes.

The Third Annual "Dessert & Dialogue" was held in October. The Honorable John Lewis (D-GA & Civil Rights Activist & Medal of Freedom 2011 Recipient) and Honorable Fred Upton (R-MI) held a conversation, moderated by Charlie Cook (Cook Political Report) about how their faith had informed their public service and how their work together on issues helps them to understand views different from their own. The event was very well attended, well received, and organized by the Adult Christian Formation Committee with help from a stellar group of volunteers and the Congregational Life committee.

Centering Prayer was held during Lent and Advent in 2017. Six to eight people gathered to practice sharing of Scripture, sharing reflections, and sharing a time of silence.

For the first time, a Sunday morning Small Bible Study was taught by Elders Eileen & Steve Denne, Elder Susan Cloud, and Emily Oehler for eight weeks in October and November. "The Present Word" study was used, and an average of 6-8 persons were in attendance.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee coordinates with the church staff in all aspects of organized worship at WPC and represents the Session in these matters. Regular activities include organizing volunteers for and arranging logistics for administration of the Lord's Supper, ushering, provision of flowers, arranging many aspects of sanctuary and chapel care, and involvement in strategic planning for worship services. These all take the efforts of many people each week, for which we are grateful.

The committee also coordinates with the music ministry at Westminster. We experienced a change in leadership this year, as we said goodbye to Paul Stetsenko in May after 14 years of service at Westminster and welcomed Ben Hutchens as our full-time Director of Music Ministries in December. Under their direction, along with the leadership of Molly Roden, our adult choir, Genesis and Covenant children's choirs, newly formed Youth Ensemble, and bell choirs provided weekly leadership in worship.

Special items of interest this year:

- Palm Sunday was highlighted by Sergei Taneyev's *St. John of Damascus*, led by Dr. Stetsenko and our adult choir.
- We welcomed Whitney Fauntleroy, who was installed as Associate Pastor by the National Capital Presbytery in May.
- The new PCUSA hymnbooks, *Glory to God*, arrived and were dedicated by the congregation in honor and memory of friends, relatives, and our community in the church, Alexandria, and the world.
- We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a worship service highlighted by Bach's cantata *Ein Feste Burg*, led by Dr. Hutchens and our adult choir.
- We continued our tradition of a Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, which we hosted at Westminster and celebrated along with our friends and neighbors from Agudas Achim Congregation, Trinity United Methodist Church, and the Episcopal Church of St. Clement.
- Our Advent "Lessons and Carols" service, led by Dr. Hutchens and all of our vocal and bell ensembles.

# MISSION

The mission committees are pleased to share the following with the congregation. Because of strong stewardship support and your special donations beyond your annual pledge, we were able to continue to expand support for mission. We also want to thank everyone who gave of their time. The countless volunteer hours serve as the face of Westminster in our community lending a helping hand with a personal smile. A big thank you to you for your efforts and support in 2017!

## LOCAL MISSION

All of our local mission efforts are geared around our theme of Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter, and Self-Sufficiency (CHESS). An increase in budget for Local Mission led to a total expenditure of more than \$125,501.

Adopt-a-Turkey: \$7,713.28. Thanksgiving meals were distributed to 260 Alexandria area families. Volunteers from the congregation and a team from Offender Aid & Restoration provided the people power to pack the boxes and take them to various drop points around town.

Alexandria City Social Workers' Client Support (Emergency Assistance): \$4,800.

Alexandria Untouchables: \$3,000. A mentoring program that focuses on developing male youth into successful men who live healthy and productive lives.

ALIVE: \$17,000. Our largest recipient of financial support, ALIVE also benefited from Westminster's volunteer effort in support of their last Saturday food distribution every month, a team of volunteers that deliver donated furniture one weekend a year, and more than 200 bags and boxes of food donated by our families.

Bag Lunch Program: \$3,500. The congregation made more than 2,700 sandwiches and distributed them as part of a four times a month meal service that fed approximately 50 people each meal. WPC also supported Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, bag lunch host, with a donation of \$500 for general operations.



Bridges to Independence: \$9,000. Gives homeless people shelter, counseling, and employment training so that they can return to living independently. In August, WPC also sponsored a team from Community Lodgings to participate in Bridges to Independence Kickball Tournament fundraiser.

Carpenter's Shelter: \$9,000. While our financial support was welcome, it was our service through preparing and serving dinner the first Monday of every month that was perhaps most appreciated. More than 40 different volunteers supported the effort during the course of the year, contributing more than 240 hours of volunteer service and serving approximately 800 meals.

Child and Family Network Centers: \$4,000. Preschool for low-income families.

Friends of Guest House: \$10,000. Housing and job training for women after imprisonment.

George Mason Tutoring: \$3,500. For two days a week from October through May, Westminster was able to organize tutoring for approximately 20 students thanks to the work of 20 volunteers.

Just Neighbors: \$3,000. Legal counsel to the most vulnerable immigrants in northern Virginia.

Meals on Wheels: \$4,000. The third Tuesday of every month a dedicated group of approximately 14 volunteers delivered about 100 meals each week to seniors and shut-ins.

Neighborhood Health: \$4,000. Health care for low-income families.

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR): \$2,000. Support of incarcerated and recently released individuals.

People in Need Packets: \$3,000. Twice a year packets filled with information, toiletries, and McDonald's gift cards were assembled by volunteers for distribution by the congregation to the homeless. In all,

more than 200 packets were taken and shared with our least fortunate neighbors.

Rebuilding Together Alexandria: \$4,000. Westminster supported a spring and fall work-day. In the spring, a volunteer crew of approximately 18 people helped to rehab one house. In the fall, a volunteer crew weatherized one house.

Senior Services of Alexandria: \$12,000. Westminster volunteers support services that foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity, including Meals on Wheels, transportation and groceries to go. One volunteer is serving on Senior Services' new Ambassador Program to enhance community awareness of programs for seniors in Alexandria.

We thank you for your support in 2017 and have exciting plans for 2018. If you have questions or would like to get involved, contact Elizabeth Martineau, chair, at [LocalMission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:LocalMission@wpc-alex.org).

### **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GRANT**

This marked the sixth year of the Westminster Community Grant Program. Local Mission granted \$24,450 to the following organizations:

- Bethany House of Northern Virginia: \$5,000. New stove and tile flooring.
- Just Neighbors Ministry, Inc.: \$2,000. Surface tablets to streamline client intake.
- Neighborhood Health: \$5,000. Dental supplies and behavioral games.
- Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN): \$3,500. Forty crib sheets and education on Sudden Infant Death (SIDS).
- The Reading Connection, \$2,500. Books for children's book club.
- United Community Ministries: \$3,580. Two four seat strollers.
- Velocity Bicycle Cooperative: \$2,870. Seven bicycle scholarships.

## **NATIONAL MISSION**

In 2017, the National Mission Committee maintained our church's steadfast support of our three main projects—ministry and mission at Bdecan Presbyterian Church and throughout the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota; housing rehabilitation in Appalachia through the Appalachia Service Project; and gleaning to address regional hunger with the Northern Neck Food Bank and Society of St. Andrew—and responded to natural disasters affecting our fellow Americans in places like West Virginia and Puerto Rico. Augmenting donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance from Westminster members following hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the National Mission Committee also contributed to National Capital Presbytery's developing partnership with Presbyterian churches in Puerto Rico. Thanks to the time, talents, and treasure of Westminster members, we continue to positively impact lives from North Dakota to West Virginia and beyond.

## **BDECAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT SPIRIT LAKE**

Westminster's support of students at Spirit Lake's Cankdeska Cicana Community College really took root in 2017. Eleven more Bdecan Presbyterian Scholarships were awarded. The recipients share the common dreams of providing for their children and giving back to their tribe and community. It is not hyperbole to say we are making those dreams achievable one semester at a time. At Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Joe Obermeyer, the resident Youth and Outreach Coordinator, was busier than ever in 2017 hosting a college spring break trip, vacation bible schools, the Dakota Presbytery meeting, and the second annual Bdecan PUSH (Physically Uniting to Support Health) 5K walk and run, in addition to the weekly KICK children's ministry, Sunday services, and the monthly food pantry. On average, the food pantry delivers over 1,500 pounds of food to 87 families each month. The Bdecan Kid's Winter Wear Giveaway, which our church supported financially, outfitted over 100 children with new coats, snow pants, and boots. Recognizing that the Bdecan ministry is not possible without Joe, our church made a particular commitment to his personal and professional development this year. As a start, we funded his attendance at Synod School in Iowa, where Joe reconnected with childhood friends who have committed to bring groups from their churches to Bdecan in 2018. This past summer, volunteers from churches in Minnesota finished the

renovation of Joe's home using siding and materials our church provided. Heading into 2018, our partnership with Northern Plains Presbytery in sustaining the Bdecan ministry is as strong as ever, but our support remains critical.

### **APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP)**

For Westminster's annual ASP mission trip, we tried something new in 2017. ASP launched Rebuilding Rainelle in response to floods that devastated communities in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, in June 2016. In October, nine Westminster members and Rev. Hunnicutt traveled to Greenbrier County and volunteered at Hope Village, a neighborhood of brand new homes in White Sulphur Spring. Once complete, Hope Village will house seniors, veterans, and others who lost their homes in the flood. For the second year in a row, we crawled under houses to install insulation between floor joists, but at least these houses were new and the crawl spaces were clean! Westminster also made a special gift to ASP this year to replace the commercial dishwasher and accompanying hot water heater at the Guyan Valley Center in West Virginia. Many Westminster members have done dish duty in the kitchen at the Guyan Valley Center, which houses and feeds hundreds of ASP volunteers each year.

### **GLEANNING TRIPS**

Steady downpours don't stop Westminster members from gleaning—collecting usable produce left behind when a field is harvested. On a very rainy Saturday morning in July, nine Westminster members helped glean over 10,000 pounds of corn from a field on the outskirts of Montross, Virginia. Northern Neck Food Bank, which facilitates gleaning of farms on Virginia's Northern Neck, distributes the produce to food banks through central Virginia. On a much sunnier September 23, a group of 15 Westminster members and George Washington University graduate students helped glean nearly 8,000 pounds of apples at Marker-Miller Orchard in Winchester, Virginia, with the Society of St. Andrew. The Society of St. Andrew is a national organization that coordinates a multi-state gleaning network and distributes 25-30 million pounds of gleaned and salvaged produce to charities every year. Westminster also continued to provide financial support to the Society of St. Andrew and Northern Neck Food Bank in 2017.

## **CENTS-ABILITY**

Our quarterly Cents-Ability collections of loose change for hunger raised a total of \$1,357.03 in 2017. A significant portion of the amount raised (60%) was used to support the Adopt-a-Turkey program run by the Local Mission Committee, while the rest went to Presbyterian Church (USA) hunger programs.

## **INTERNATIONAL MISSION**

The International Missions Committee coordinates the mission activities of Westminster through direct partnerships, through the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in cooperation with mission organizations.

## **UNITED ORPHANAGE AND ACADEMY**

For more than 14 years, Westminster has supported the work of the United Orphanage and Academy (UOA) in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. There are currently ~50 children and youth living at the orphanage, ranging in age from 4 to 18, and 6 that are away at college that we support. There are almost 130 students attending the Academy, which goes from primary school through 8th grade. In addition to supporting the children living at the orphanage, Westminster (along with other U.S. churches that support this effort) continues to provide financial support for approximately 40 scholarship students from the surrounding area. Westminster resources also provide support for those children who continue past secondary school to college or technical school. It is our goal to give the children of the orphanage every chance to succeed in making the transition from youth to adult.

In June 2017, members of the UOA Steering Committee from Westminster, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and Lewinsville Presbyterian visited UOA. They spent time with the children, met with the teachers and staff of the Academy, and worshiped in a local Presbyterian church. They also discussed current and future needs and future leadership for UOA with Reverend Stephen Chege, Director of UOA and his grandson, Stephen Njoroge, who is taking an active interest in the management of UOA. Since their return, significant funds from a legacy gift established in the memory of Henri Rush, Westminster member and co-founder of UOA, along with other IM Committee funds were used to purchase a new 25 passenger school bus for transportation of students who attend the academy from the

community. A new water system at the Orphanage providing running water to the kitchen and bathrooms was also completed in 2017 with funds the Committee and from a Rotary grant. In October, members of the UOA team led a panel discussion about the project during adult education as part of the overall theme, "Towards Fuller Faith and Service."

### **EAST AFRICA MISSIONS**

In 2017, Westminster continued to provide scholarship funds to support a seminary student at Justo Mwale Theological College in Lusaka, Zambia. We have a new scholarship student this year, Rev. Goliath Munthali. The International Mission Committee continued to provide financial support for Nancy Collins, the PCUSA Regional Liaison for East Central Africa. Nancy Collins provided updates throughout 2018 about Justo Mwale, Chasefu, and her work in Africa. She was able to visit Westminster in September 2018 and present a minute for mission at both services. She taught an adult education class about her mission work and also met with the International Missions Committee for an evening meal. All her presentations were very inspirational.

### **OTHER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

While Westminster's most extensive international mission efforts are in Africa, we also continued to provide support in other areas.

- Westminster has had a long relationship with Faith Ministry in Mexico, where we provide scholarships for two school-aged children in Reynosa.
- Westminster has also provided support for medical missions in Haiti since the earthquake there in 2010. In 2017, we provided financial support to nursing programs of the Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti and the Community Coalition for Haiti (CCH). In addition, Westminster provided \$2500 to the Presbyterian Disaster Agency for international disaster relief.
- In 2017, Westminster provided financial support to Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group focused on ending hunger and poverty.

## **YOUTH IN MISSION**

Youth continue to be active participants in the mission life of Westminster. At the local level, youth have

- Prepared meals for the Adopt-a-Turkey program.
- Participated in the Last Saturday Food Distribution program.
- Participated in the City of Alexandria Holiday Sharing program.

Additionally, youth mission trips continue to be a highlight of the program. In the summer of 2017, our high school youth traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska, to do cabin construction and work at a youth camp. Our middle school youth went to Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia to learn about and participate in urban ministry in the context of Christian faith.

## PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Every day the Pastoral Staff and the Deacons, with the help of the entire congregation, seek to be a caring presence to those experiencing illness, grief or major life transitions. Some related activities from the past year:

- Deacons made 26 extended Communion visits to members on Communion Sundays, in addition to 72 visits to deliver Sunday flowers.
- Meals Team volunteers, coordinated by Deacon Carol Keller, provided meals to 8 families with new babies and other needs.
- The Card Ministry, under the creative leadership of Deacon Amy Stenlund and Nancy Pitcher, made and sent some 200 cards, including sympathy cards and seasonal cards to homebound members throughout the year.
- The Compassion Guild, under the leadership of Carol Dickerson and Susan Griffith, provided support for 11 memorial/funeral services, and coordinated receptions following most of those services.
- A team of dedicated volunteer bus drivers, coordinated by Louise Anderson, provided transportation every Sunday for residents of the Goodwin Houses and Washington House.
- The 35 members of the Prayer Chain maintain a confidential prayer list that typically includes 25 to 30 individual prayer requests at any one time. Members met three times during the year to share prayer practices and concerns.
- A spring “Coffee with the Pastors” was held at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads. Two afternoon gatherings with Larry were held at members’ homes at Goodwin House Alexandria in the summer. In December, receptions in honor of Eileen Jinks’ retirement were held at both Goodwin Houses.
- The Member Response Team continued its work to assist members in need.



## OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION

### CHURCH HOME

The HOME (Helping Our Members Engage) Committee continues to focus on the ways new and long-time members make Westminster their church home. The function of the committee is to facilitate the involvement of members in the life of the church by developing bonds among members and enhancing spiritual growth through activities in the life of the church. The HOME Committee participates in weekly visitor review meetings, joins the New Member Committee to meet with people considering membership at Westminster, and works with staff and pastors to identify the interests and skill of members. It also serves as a liaison between new members and the church's committees to connect the two. During 2017, the HOME Committee began attempting to more closely track members who have not been active within six months, identifying those who may need more attention, as well as checking on new members who joined three months earlier, to make sure they are finding ways to engage. The committee also organized and hosted two New Member Brunches and recruited Recently Joined Members to host three Coffee Hours.

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

2017 was an active year for B&G in the sense that we had many issues arise that needed to be addressed quickly and efficiently: failed cooling units, water pumps, boiler controls, leaky pipes, etc. We also have started programming maintenance of our building exterior to clean, scrape and paint areas over time so as to avoid future failures. Hardly exciting stuff but necessary for the uninterrupted and myriad activities within Westminster. As in past years, our Facilities Manager Jim Buchanan was the point man on these tasks and he was assisted in decision making by the collective wisdom of B&G members, who as a group have the institutional memory of every nook and cranny in our complex.

We also accomplished some minor improvements as our budget allowed: new dehumidification in Fellowship Hall, several new trees, black out blinds in the Westminster Room to enhance AV presentations, new flooring in the preschool bathrooms and a new video security

system soon to be finished that will keep all of those using our facility safer.

As stewards of Westminster, we now look to the future to plan and budget for repairs and replacements using a recently completed Capital Maintenance Reserve Study that looked forward a couple of decades. With the guidance of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Foundation Board, we strive to accurately predict what will wear out when and for how much. This will become a continuous task but one that forces us to be better planners. Shortfalls are inevitable but as a committee we believe Westminster is better prepared than ever.

## **DIGITAL MINISTRIES**

2017 was an exciting year for the Digital Ministries committee. Early this year we launched Westminster's new website. The committee is proud of it and hope everyone finds it easier to use. Following the website launch, the committee took on the task of redesigning the logo. After the site launch it became painfully aware that WPC's current logo is not a good fit for use on the web. The design process has been lengthy but is finally complete so keep an eye out for the new logo soon!

## **NOMINATING**

At a congregational meeting in June, we presented two nominated youth elders to the membership for their approval. At a congregational meeting in October we presented the deacons and elders for the class of 2020 church officers. Additionally, the committee identified and presented new members to serve on the committee in 2018, and a church trustee. The committee wishes to thank all of those who volunteered to serve as an officer. The committee appreciates the blessing that is this active congregation whose members are so willing to serve.

## PERSONNEL

The purpose of the Personnel Committee is to provide for an orderly, focused and considerate means to build a healthy work environment for all Church staff. We work together to serve as a support group for the pastors and other members of the staff, as well as to develop and revise personnel policies, job descriptions, and evaluation processes. At Westminster, the Personnel Committee oversees 19 Church staff that includes full-time, part-time, and volunteer employees.

Committee action in 2017 involved the following:

- Whitney Fauntleroy joined as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults in April.
- Patrick Hunnicutt returned from Sabbatical in April.
- Paul Stetsenko resigned as Director of Music Ministries in May to enter St. Tikhon's Orthodox Monastery.
- Carolyn Carmack retired as Financial Assistant in August, and Cindy McCeney was hired in August as the new Financial Assistant.
- Ben Hutchens was hired as Interim Director of Music Ministries in August, and became the permanent Director of Music Ministries in December.
- Margaret Hirsch served as volunteer Pastoral Care Assistant until October.
- Eileen Jinks retired as Pastoral Care Coordinator in December, and a search committee is seeking her replacement.
- Nancy Bea announced her intention to retire in the spring of 2018, and a search committee is seeking her replacement.
- Casey FitzGerald's last day with us was December 17, as she transitioned to the position of Co-Pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church in Annandale.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Westminster Presbyterian Church remains strong financially thanks to the ongoing commitment and support of our members. The church is financially secure with good cash balances and strong revenue from pledges, offerings, and bequests. Realization of our 2017 pledge commitments was in line with historical averages, resulting in collection of 98% of promised contributions. Net income versus expenditures was positive.

The Westminster Foundation, which invests and oversees funds established through special gifts and bequests, ended the year with a balance of \$3.3 million. This is a 52% increase over the prior year due primarily to receipt of several large bequests. These funds support every area of the church's program and mission. Income from cell phone leases continued to add to the Foundation Reserve funds, generating \$82,875 in 2017. During the year, Reserve accounts were used for new computers, retreats, as well as boiler and HVAC repairs.

### **2017 Year-End Finances**

Operating Income	\$2,042,857
Operating Carryover	43,000
Operating Expenses	(2,055,805)
<b>Net Income (Expenses)</b>	<b>\$ 30,052</b>

### **Westminster Foundation**

<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$3,348,613</b>
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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

1,015 total members as of 12/31/17

- 53 new or reactivated members (includes 9 confirmands)
- 16 member deaths
- 29 other losses (transfers to other churches, removed, inactive)
- 17 child and infant baptisms, 1 adult baptism
- 15 births in member families

# OFFICERS, BOARDS & STAFF 2017

## SESSION

Dr. Larry R. Hayward, Pastor | Patrick A. Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor  
Casey W. FitzGerald, Associate Pastor | Dave Gunter, Clerk  
Debbie Wells, Vice Clerk | Melissa McClellan, Vice Clerk  
Rob Winn, Treasurer | Kristin Stone, Assistant Treasurer

### **Class of 2017**

Dan Judy  
Steve Lastelic  
Wendy Lockard  
Margaret Myers  
John Scruggs  
Kyle Smoot  
Reid Stuntz  
Paul van Son  
Matt Viser

### **Class of 2018**

Sue Aland  
Nathan Argust  
Kristen Bishop  
Marilyn Eckert  
Tom French  
Anne Marks  
Elizabeth Martineau  
Lara Sayer  
David Ware  
Ansley West  
Rob Winn

### **Class of 2019**

Lauren Beyea  
Joy Cameron  
Nancy Griswold  
Katherine Gunter  
Sarah Hoffman  
Bill Keeth  
Melissa LoPresti  
Neil Sampson  
David Wilcox

## DIACONATE

Norman Speicher, Moderator | Anne Ledyard, Vice Moderator  
Eileen Jinks, Staff Liaison

### **Class of 2017**

Bob Blanchard  
Bill Eckert  
Jean Fabish  
Jenny Inabinet  
Brian Jones  
Amber Lempke  
Mary Poole  
Norman Speicher  
Amy Stenlund  
Elizabeth Walsh

### **Class of 2018**

Linda Duncan  
Michael Duodu  
Nancy Harper  
Carol Keller  
Anne Ledyard  
Sheff Richey  
Bill Taylor  
Nancy Todd  
Barbara Watts  
Erskine Wells

### **Class of 2019**

Alexis Crumbley  
Griffin Farris  
Martha Girard  
Gale Grindstaff  
Rhyan Hance  
Ruth Kane  
Hester Lawver  
Judi Morrel  
Kirstin O'Connor  
Chris Van Horne

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Bill Keeth (Chair), Mary Filicetti (Vice Chair)  
Amber Lempke (Deacon Representative)  
Brian Folkerts, Frank Fraser, Madeline Ramsey, Mara Winn

## **TRUSTEES**

Mike McAdoo (Class of 2017)  
John Runyan (Class of 2018)  
Randy Davis (Class of 2019)

## **FOUNDATION BOARD**

### **Class of 2017**

Carl Chidlow  
Spencer Dickerson  
Lanny Griffith  
Rob Winn

### **Class of 2018**

Laurie Blackburn  
Judy Harper  
Bill Keeth  
Julie Taylor

### **Class of 2019**

Morgan Johnson  
Mark Pollock  
Chris Van Horne  
John Woods

## **2017 STAFF**

Larry Hayward, Pastor  
Patrick Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor  
Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor (through December 2017)  
Whitney Fauntleroy, Associate Pastor  
Paul Stetsenko, Director of Music Ministries (through May 2017)  
Ben Hutchens, Director of Music Ministries (beginning August 2017)  
Nancy Bea, Business Administrator  
Jim Buchanan, Facilities Manager  
Carolyn Burke, Preschool Director  
Tara Cain, Executive Assistant  
Carolyn Carmack, Financial Assistant (through August 2017)  
Cindy McCeney, Financial Assistant (beginning August 2017)  
Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry  
Nancy Hall Berens, Dir. of Congregational Life, Singles, and Women  
Eileen Jinks, Pastoral Care Coordinator (through December 2017)  
Molly Roden, Interim Director of Children's Music  
Art Sauer, Member Involvement Coordinator  
Jessica Thurnes, Program Assistant  
Amey Upton, Director of Adult Education  
Marvin Johnson, Larry Johnson, Ed Johnson, Sextons

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