



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church

# THE CHRONICLE



## Sears

By Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

When I was a child, we lived about twenty miles east of downtown Memphis, but in the days before suburban shopping centers and malls, we still travelled into the heart of the city for most of our shopping, movie-going, errand running. I got my first library card from the McLean Central Library in midtown Memphis. I have fond (and some not so fond memories) of trips into the city to the doctor, to Montesi's Supermarket (which also recently closed) for "big shopping," to a jewelry store our next door neighbor owned for whatever watches we bought or repairs we needed.

Trips into the city always took us by the Crosstown Sears, an imposing art-deco building built in 1927 off North Cleveland Street. While we rarely shopped at that location, nearly everything we bought came from a Sears somewhat closer to us:

school supplies and clothes, Keds, tools, appliances, tires. The father of a childhood friend in the neighborhood managed the appliance department. One of the few times I remember my parents arguing occurred when my father came home and found, in his words, that mom had bought me "nicer clothes for church than he had for work." I don't recall how the argument was settled, but neither do I recall taking the clothes back. Later in life, I once interviewed for a position in a church in the Chicago area on whose search committee sat a man who was introduced as the CEO of Sears, in what were better times for the company.

It has been a bit wistful of late for people in my generation to watch Sears file for bankruptcy, just as it has been sad to no longer hear Cronkite say "and that's the way it is," to see Oldsmobile close and once great newspapers fold.

A recent alumni magazine from the school from which I graduated in Memphis featured eight graduates – all

*Continued on page 2*

## In This Issue

Advent	2
Adult Formation	10
Children and Family	3
Flying Solo	7
Foundation	5
Life Events	2
Men of Westminster	6
Mission	8
Music Ministry	9
Westminster Roadsters	5
Women's Ministry	4
Youth	3

*Continued from page 1*

younger than me – who have been involved in transforming the old Crosstown Sears into a “vertical urban village with hundreds of workers, shoppers, diners, artists, and residents interacting on multiple levels every day.” Were I to visit the renewed site, experience tells me I would be impressed but would also miss the way things used to be. The new replaces the old, and life goes on.

The good news is that life does go on. Changed, yes. Sometimes sadder, yes. Sometimes liberated from things from which we needed liberating. Even the writer of Ecclesiastes, who surveyed the passage of time and lamented “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity,” concluded: “The end of the matter ... Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone.”

If you are terribly wistful for the past, you can always take a Sunday afternoon drive in your father's Oldsmobile. Oops. I forgot. You can't. Best to just stick to the commandments.

– Larry

## Westminster Life Events

*We welcome to the Westminster nursery:*

**Case Bullard & Sutton Bullard**, son and daughter of Michelle & Benjy Bullard; welcomed by older siblings Avery, Beau and Wallis.

**Landon Motter**, son of Tori Van Horne and Taylor Motter, in Plano, TX. Landon is the grandson of Chris & Vicki Van Horne.

*We rejoice in the marriage of:*  
**Kelly Peterson and John Potts**, on October 20 in Round Hill, VA.

## Special Worship Services for Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas



### *Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service*

**Tuesday, November 20 | 7:30 PM at Agulas Achim Congregation**

We join with Trinity United Methodist Church, Agudas Achim Congregation, and the Church of St. Clement for a festive community service. A freewill offering will support ALIVE! (ALExandrians INVolved Ecumenically), which addresses both short-term and long-term needs in our community.

### *Advent Lessons and Carols*

**Friday, December 7 | 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary**

**Sunday, December 9 | 11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary**

We will tell again the story of the prophets of Israel and how they foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Brass and string quartets join our choirs of adults, youth, children and bells.

### *Christmas Pageant & All-Church Dinner*

**Sunday, December 16 | 5 PM in the Sanctuary**

Come see our children tell the Christmas story, then enjoy a pasta dinner together!

### *Longest Night Service*

**Friday, December 21 | 7:30 PM Worship in the Sanctuary**

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.

### *Festival Sunday with the Old Towne Brass*

**Sunday, December 23 | 8:30 AM & 11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary**

The Old Towne Brass join us for this annual Advent celebration service.

### *Christmas Eve Services*

**Monday, December 24**

**11 AM | 5 PM | 8 PM Worship in the Sanctuary**

**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. Our evening services will be candlelight services.



## Westminster Weekday Preschool Registration

Westminster Weekday Preschool (WWP) is a developmental program that encourages each child to grow socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively at his or her own pace. We are a school family of 76 children and 14 teachers. WWP is a morning based preschool for children 2½-5 years of age. Registration for the 2019-2020 academic year will begin January 2019. Two open houses are scheduled: January 15 and 17, 2019.

We are a play-based preschool, where children learn about their world through interacting with peers and adults alike. On any particular day you might see a visiting (or child) astronaut, a volcano being blown up, a pumpkin being painted purple, and binoculars used to search for birds in the trees. Our children cook apple pies, dig for buried treasure in the sandbox, play spy, and read a myriad of books.

## It Takes a Village: Thanks to the Westminster Adults Who Work with Our Youth

Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy

I just read *Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain* by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D. This is not a recommendation, as I didn't like the book. However, Siegel did write a lot about the importance of adult relationships with teenagers, and it is always good to be reminded of the importance of adult relationships as a pastor with a love of teenagers. There are so many wonderful and unique individuals who sacrifice Sunday mornings, evenings, and weeks in the summer to be one of the adult relationships in our youth's lives. I want to highlight some of the diversity in our advisors and teachers to showcase the possibilities for meaningful consistent relationships that are available for our youth and adults

at Westminster.

Some spend their Sunday mornings getting to know and love and teach our youth about faith: in one room, we have a mother with two small children, and a Kindergarten teacher who just ran the Baltimore marathon; in the other, we pair a life-long educator with a young adult in her early twenties who grew up in the church.

In the evenings, we have another young adult who joined the church one week and the next month she was plugged in; a mom of a 6th grader who works with the high school; a caterer, a man with grown children, and a newly married couple.

And while these descriptions are neither exhaustive or as deep as they could be, every week I am honored and grateful to

serve in ministry with them. Beyond that, we have a committee of parents who organize families to make sure we have food and snacks and transportation to various events; and have gathered a team of completely different adults to walk with our 8th graders as they complete the confirmation process in 2019.

In this time of year where many of our relationships rise to our consciousness, think about those adults who walked with you during your teenage years. Consider reaching out to them via the phone or a letter to thank them. In my own life, I am reminded over and over again that it truly takes a village. Thank you to the village of adults at Westminster who work with our youth: Dean Kern, Maddie Stone, Jordan Wright, Meredith Smoot, Sarah Buchanan, Jena Lockard, Mary Johnson, Linda Harkness, Bill Watts, Kara Gorski, Kelly and John Potts, Kathy Stenzel, Jim Sample, Betsy Preston, Marcy Crisler, Laurie Blackburn, Debbie McCormack, and Bill Taylor.





## 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

*"Arise, shine, your light has come!"*

Elizabeth Martineau and I spent four days in August at the triennial Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women, just down the street from the Presbyterian Church (USA) headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky – aka, "Louavul" – the city of my childhood!

This was my first Churchwide PW Gathering (Elizabeth's second), and it was an amazing experience. The theme of this year's gathering was "Arise, shine, your light has come!" It was an adventure in learning, worshiping, singing, and connecting with other Presbyterian women. What fun to be surrounded by 1600 Presbyterian Women from all over the US and the world. I was amazed at the diversity of ages and backgrounds of the women I saw there. I was amazed at the racial diversity of the group. I was amazed at the diversity of countries represented. And I was amazed at the breadth and

depth of mission involvement throughout the history of women in the church.

I always say in my Chronicle articles, and tell new members, that women's circles have three main components: Bible study, fellowship, and mission outreach. But I'm afraid that I have under-estimated the power and effectiveness of so many determined and dedicated women.

What I learned at the PW Gathering is just how extensive and how effective women's mission involvement currently is and how important it's been throughout approximately 230 years of Presbyterian presence in America. When men were running the church in the early days and often said "it" couldn't be done, women found a way to do it. There's a long history of women acting on behalf of the downtrodden....Women decided on their own to send missionaries into the

field in the 1800's, after being told the church wouldn't/couldn't do that. Women started the Presbyterian Peacemaking Committee. Women started the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Women anticipated the reunion of the two denominations and spent several years organizing themselves to join forces when reunion finally happened in 1983 (after splitting in 1861 during the Civil War).

What an experience the Gathering was: plenary sessions with dynamic speakers witnessing to current social justice advocacy and mission outreach, small group workshops on a variety of spiritual, biblical, and mission issues, a peace and justice march in downtown Louisville, worship, singing, and communion with 1600 PW sisters, and a grand celebration of 30 years of the current Presbyterian Women's organization as the most recent manifestation of 230 years of women's work in the Presbyterian church. I hope to spread the word about what great work PW is doing so that we can attract more women at Westminster and more women across the denomination to uphold and continue PW mission into the next generations.

The Bible study for our women's circles this year is "God's Promise: I am With You." Workshops at the Gathering and the study itself remind us that God is always with us, in good times and bad – no matter how good or bad we are! May we do what we can to shine some of God's light into the lives of those who struggle, suffer or are in need. May we comfort them. May we help them recover and rebuild. May we support them as they seek to move forward in their lives and in service to Christ.

No matter what the issue – hunger or housing, substance or sexual abuse, peace or persecution, immigration or environment, Presbyterian Women are there helping and training and nurturing God's people.... shining God's light in the world!

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!" (Isaiah 60: 1)





## 2019 Women's Retreat

*"Lean On Me:  
Cultivating Friendship"  
March 22–24, 2019 at  
Hollywood Retreat Center*

What can we learn about friendship from the Bible and from people who nurture friendships well? What place does friendship play in our lives... friendships with people and friendship with God? Who are some of the friends who have been influential in your life? In what ways have they cared for you and made your life richer? In what ways do you experience God as your friend? In what ways would you like to? We will explore together some diverse examples and models for cultivating friendship as well as some of the myths associated with the idea of "friendship." Join us for a weekend exploring the art of friendship led by two Westminster friends Nancy Hall Berens and Melynda Wilcox!

## Roadsters (BOOMERS & BEYOND)

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

Nancy Hall Berens, Director | [nhallberens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nhallberens@wpc-alex.org)

Please register for events Nancy or with the church office.



**Lunch & Learn: "Getting to Know You" on Monday, November 19.** Our special guest in November will be the Rev. Evangeline Taylor, Westminster's new Director of Seniors' Pastoral Care. Come get to know Evangeline and help us welcome her to Westminster! 12:00 noon in the Haverkamp Room. \$10 for lunch.

**"A Christmas Carol" at Little Theatre of Alexandria on Thursday November 29.** Ring in the holiday season with the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, bitter old miser 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! Please arrive between 7:30-7:45 pm to receive your ticket. Show starts promptly at 8:00 pm.

**Carols at the National Gallery of Art on Saturday December 15.** Roadsters and Flying Solo join together to go hear the Westminster Choir and Westminster Ringers perform Christmas Carols in the Rotunda of the National Gallery. Church bus will leave the WPC parking lot at 12:30 pm and will return around 3:30-4. Priority seating to those needing the bus (\$2). Overflow will carpool or take the metro.

**"The Fantasticks" at Little Theatre of Alexandria on Thursday January 10.** Try to remember a time when your greatest adventure was the first romance of your life. This funny and sentimental musical is the tale of a boy, a girl, and their meddling fathers who nudge them toward marriage by pretending to keep them apart. This long-running musical has been enchanting audiences with its universal themes and memorable songs for more than 50 years! Please arrive between 7:30-7:45 pm to receive your ticket. Show starts promptly at 8:00 pm.

## Your Foundation Dollars at Work

In September, the Westminster Foundation Board and Session approved use of funds from the Capital Maintenance and Reserve Fund to purchase a new oven for the Fellowship Hall kitchen. In August, additional funds from the National Mission Projects Reserve Fund were used to fund the balance of the Spirit Lake mission trip. The Foundation received an additional gift from the Gloria Horning Bequest. These and other designated funds in the Westminster Foundation support all Church programs and mission areas, making a big difference every day in the Church's life and mission.

## Men's Breakfast

Friday, December 14, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall  
With John McArdle, C-SPAN's Washington Journal  
RSVP to Dudley Schadeberg at [mow@wpc-alex.org](mailto:mow@wpc-alex.org)

With so much of today's media focused on talking at the American public, it's becoming harder and harder to find an outlet that allows the public to have a voice in the discussion. But for nearly 40 years, C-SPAN has made it a priority to let viewers drive the conversation. During the 2018 election cycle, and the previous two election cycles, John McArdle has had a front row seat on that process as a producer and host of C-SPAN's Washington Journal, the network's daily call-in program. John will discuss how C-SPAN works to create a forum that allows the public to engage with Members of Congress, leading journalists, and policymakers about news events, legislation, and public policy issues.



Along with his on-air and production work for the Washington Journal, John hosts C-SPAN's Newsmakers program and C-SPAN3's American History TV. Before joining C-SPAN, he spent three years covering environmental and energy policy issues as a reporter for Greenwire. John began his journalism career at Roll Call Newspaper. As a reporter for Roll Call's politics teams, John covered House and Senate races during the 2008 and 2010 election cycles; as a staff writer, he covered Capitol Hill with a focus on the Capitol

Police, the Library of Congress, and the legislative branch appropriations process.

John is a graduate of the University of Virginia and holds BA degrees in History and Media Studies. Born and raised in Darnestown, Maryland, he has served as a national board member of One in Four, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of rape and sexual assault, with a focus on college campuses. John and his wife Laura joined Westminster in 2014. They have two children, David and Lucy.

## 2019 Men's Retreat

February 1-3, 2019 at Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center  
*The Future of Work with Dr. Bruce Douglass, Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington*

In virtually all its different forms, from paid labor to "housework", work appears to be undergoing profound changes in our time. Some people regard this development as a wonderful opportunity, while others see it as a dangerous threat to human well-being. Which is it? Can it be both? Is there a worthy alternative to the work-centered way of life our societies have had ever since the Industrial

Revolution? If so, what is it? If not, what are we to do about the threat to paid labor now being posed by automation? Why is this a spiritual as well as an economic matter? Is it time for Protestants to rethink their long-standing commitment to the "work ethic"?

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Bruce Douglass as our 2019 retreat leader. He is a noted authority on John Calvin and the Protestant Reformation, and how reformed theology subsequently influenced the development of modern Europe and the creation of a new constitutional republic in the New World that we know of as the United States of America. Bruce retired earlier this year from his post as Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University, where he taught

political and social theory. A graduate of Yale (Master of Divinity) and Duke University (Masters and Ph.D in political science), he chaired the Department of Government and also served as Dean of the Faculty of Georgetown College. His publications include several edited volumes, such as *One Nation Under God, Catholicism and Liberalism*, and *Liberalism and the Good*. His essays have appeared in a variety of scholarly journals as well as such popular publications as *The Responsive Community*, *The Christian Century*, *Commonweal*, *Christianity and Crisis*, and the *New Oxford Review*.

Registration will continue through January 20. Forms are available at the Men of Westminster Retreat table in Fellowship Hall, at the church office, and online.



# Reflections on the Flying Solo Retreat

*"Primed to See and Do: Visions of God for the People of God"*

The Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt led Flying Solo in a time of recognizing and recalling moments when God seems to have had something to say or reveal to us at one point or another in our life. In these moments with God, we may have had a sense of God's presence, felt a nudge to do something or to change direction, or encountered a divine surprise! During the weekend we had the opportunity to share those "accidental" encounters through discussion, reflection, worship, and artistic expression.

Here's what some of the participants had to say about the retreat:

"Patrick picked an excellent topic, and he shared his own personal experience—which encouraged the participants to share their own experiences."

"All of it was fantastic, but I think the time we had in a circle explaining our magnificent art works was my favorite. I felt that whole exercise brought us all closer."

"I most enjoyed the sharing of participants' experiences and the many ways God shows he is ever present and how he cares for us all. Painting was a nice touch and showed for some a hidden talent."

"The best part of the retreat was the strong program. I particularly enjoyed the water color exercise."



"I think the Saturday night explanations of our pictures brought us all together personally, and by that time we were prepared for that sharing. I was especially impressed by how many of us have had experiences when we felt God was with us, helping us through some difficult time."

"I appreciated the comfortable forum which enabled people to really share."

"I was able to point out several incidents in my life which could not be explained by any rational or logical means; each of which were life changing and could only have come about by some higher power."

"A favorite part of the retreat was getting together with the group and hearing how others see and think... often how we see the same thing differently."

"It was wonderful!"

## Upcoming Events with Flying Solo Singles

(50s and above)

[wpc-alex.org/flying-solo](http://wpc-alex.org/flying-solo)

**Nov 12:** Dine-Out at TJ Stone's

**Nov 18:** Roundtable Lunch with Evangeline Taylor

**Nov 22:** Thanksgiving Dinner at Chart House

**Nov 27:** Decorating Johnson Parlor during Potluck

**Dec 5:** Shopping for Holiday Sharing family

**Dec 8:** Christmas Party (snow date Dec 10)

**Dec 10:** Dine-Out (or snow date for party)

**Dec 15:** Joint trip with Roadsters to hear choir sing at the National Gallery of Art

**Dec 23:** Host Fellowship Hour after worship

# Helping Those Who Hunger & Thirst



## *Apple Gleaning Trip*

On Saturday, October 6, a ten-person-strong contingent of adults and children from Westminster helped glean apples at Marker-Miller Orchard in Winchester. The apples went to food banks supported by the Society of St. Andrew. At least one truckload filled with over 300 bags of apples was headed to the DC area. It was a rewarding morning of hard work and fellowship to help provide fresh, healthy produce to families in need. And the cooler temperatures and apple cider slushies afterwards were nice bonuses!

Gleaning is one of several ways our missions help to feed the food insecure and vulnerable members of our global community. If you would like to help, here are other opportunities in the coming weeks:



## *Adopt-A-Turkey Thanksgiving Dinner Packing and Delivery*

We are looking for helping hands on Saturday, November 17 to assemble boxes and stuff them with Thanksgiving grocery items. After we have pulled the boxes together we deliver them to our community partners. Volunteers will be needed that morning starting at 8AM and we expect to wrap up before 11AM. The whole family is welcome to come for an hour or for the entire morning. If you are interested in helping out or have questions, please contact [localmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:localmission@wpc-alex.org).

## *Cents-Ability*

Collect small change to make a big difference! Take a bank home, put in a few cents at each meal, and bring it back on Collection Sunday on November 18. In addition to supporting the Hunger Programs of the PC(USA), a portion of what we raise supports our Adopt-a-Turkey program, which provides Thanksgiving meals to families in our community. Contact [nationalmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nationalmission@wpc-alex.org).

## *Alternative Giving Bazaar*

Each year, Westminster celebrates its annual Alternative Giving Bazaar (AGB), a festival of giving that provides an opportunity to honor friends and family with gifts in their names to nearly twenty organizations supported by our Local, National and International Mission Committees. One purchase gives rise to two gifts: 1) to the people whom these donations will serve, and 2) to members of your family, friends, co-workers or neighbors whom you enable to be a part of this expression of love and care. The AGB is also a great introduction to the mission ministries of our church. This year, the AGB will be held on December 2 & 9 after the 11:00 service in Fellowship Hall. As part of your Advent devotion, make a point of visiting one of the tables and making a connection with the mission representative. We will also have children's activities to help our younger ones enjoy the bazaar. If you cannot attend, go to the church web site to read the AGB catalog and prayerfully consider finding ways to support one of the featured groups with time, talent or treasure.

## *2019 Kenya Mission Trip*

Interested in learning more about a summer 2019 trip to the Orphanage & Academy in Moi's Bridge, Kenya? Please join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, November 11, from 12:30 – 1:30 PM in Haverkamp Room. If you have questions about the meeting or are interested but cannot attend, please contact Rebecca Buckner at [UOA@wpc-alex.org](mailto:UOA@wpc-alex.org).



# Children's Choirs Make an Eco-Friendly Change

Gaia Sidahmed & Tara West (Westminster fifth graders)

Early in the 2018-2019 choir season, a big change started happening. The children's choirs have always used disposable place settings for dinner after rehearsal. About 750 individual plates, cups, and flatware were used and thrown away in one choir season. A parent suggested using reusable instead of disposable place settings. It started with reusable cups and flatware, which were donated. The church then bought reusable plastic plates to match the cups. The place settings are durable and can stand high use. We can finally make use of the dishwasher in the Creation Station kitchen as it was intended! One parent also made tablecloths and brought in candles to 'uplift' the dining experience. Another change is that the veggies are now prepared by choir volunteers to save money and packaging. Many willing volunteers are helping to make these improvements possible. Now, the church spends much less on disposable place settings, and can spend that money on other improvements.

During an interview, Molly Roden, Associate for Children's Music, answered the following questions:

**Q:** Did you agree with using disposable place settings?

**A:** "I disliked the waste, but it was easier in some ways for volunteers to use disposable because no one had to load up the dishwasher."

**Q:** What did you do to change from using disposable to reusable place settings?

**A:** "It started with a parent who suggested the change and donated reusable cups." This change saves the church about \$200 per year.

Now that everything is set, the dining experience is much more comfortable for the children. It's a win-win for the children's choirs! This change is helping to respect and take better care of God's wonderful and amazing creation.



## 2019 European Concert Tour – All Are Welcome!

Join us in July 2019

Next summer, the Westminster Choir is embarking on a concert tour of Latvia and Estonia. Westminster members and friends are invited to join them – this trip is open to all, not just to singers! For more information, visit [wpc-alex.org/music](http://wpc-alex.org/music) or contact Dr. Ben Hutchens, Director of Music Ministries, at [bhutchens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:bhutchens@wpc-alex.org).

Photo: Kristian Pikner, Aerial view of Pärnu, Estonia.  
Via Wikimedia Commons.



# 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.  
Church Office: 703-549-4766 • wpc-alex.org

## CHURCH STAFF

Larry Hayward .....Pastor  
Patrick Hunnicutt .....Associate Pastor  
Whitney Fauntleroy .....Associate Pastor  
Ben Hutchens .....Director of Music Ministries  
Patty Chamberlain .....Director of Children's Ministries  
Nancy Hall Berens .....Dir. of Congregational Life  
Molly Roden .....Associate for Children's Music  
Art Sauer .....Membership Involvement Coordinator  
Evangeline Taylor .....Director of Seniors Pastoral Care  
Amey Upton .....Director of Adult Education  
Cambria Van de Vaarst .....Assistant Director of  
Music Ministries  
Lavinia Davis-Laux .....Director of Finance  
and Administration  
Jim Buchanan .....Facilities Manager  
Cindy McCeney .....Financial Assistant  
Tara Cain .....Executive Assistant  
Jessica Thurnes .....Program Assistant  
Larry Johnson .....Sexton  
Marvin Johnson .....Head Sexton

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #9  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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

## ADULT FORMATION

# Embracing Transformation

Kristen Bishop, Elder,  
Christian Formation Committee

As I have been subbing for Amey Upton this fall, I feel I have truly been living out the Adult Formation theme of "Embracing Transformation." Not only transformation of myself and increasing my leadership and coordination abilities, but also a transformation of getting to know each of my committee members better and being able to better utilize their skills and abilities. This is especially true as we begin planning our events for the winter/spring of 2019: the Congregation-Wide Book Read (we will be reading *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff) and the Dessert & Dialogue.

Major thanks go to the wonderful members of the Adult Formation Committee. During the Sunday school hour, we finished a 7-week series on Luke given by Dr. Katherine Grieb, which highlighted the disciples' transformation, and now we move to transformation in our own church with each of the pastors plus Patty & Ben talking about their areas of expertise. We'll finish up the fall semester with Dr. Jim Muyskens talking about the nature of truth and then we will anxiously await the things Amey has for us with her return in January (including hopefully a little bit of a break for me :)).

