

# THE CHRONICLE



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## McDONALD'S

By Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

A few weeks ago, on one of the beautiful cool afternoons we have been experiencing, I stopped in CVS on Quaker Lane to pick up a prescription. When I came out, three or four teenage boys were standing outside. One was white. One was black. The others were figures whose number nor race I did not notice. They were dressed in jeans, sweatshirts, hoodies. One of them, who had an eye that looked like it had once been injured but was now healed, said, politely, "Sir, do you know where the nearest McDonald's is?"

When he spoke, I was taken back in memory immediately to Labor Day Weekend fifteen years ago, when I arrived in town to serve Westminster, moved into a high rise condominium in the Carlyle area, and realized that I had no idea where there might be a grocery

store or even restaurant. The Pastor Nominating Committee had "saved" me from "DC traffic" by chauffeuring me around town when I had interviewed; so when I arrived in my large, five year old Buick, fresh from the Midwest, pre GPS, I was timid about driving, even though the streets were deserted on the holiday weekend. A few days later, I finally ventured out, found the Giant on Duke Street, and filled my refrigerator.

When I encountered the teenagers outside CVS, what flashed in my mind was that there was a McDonald's a couple of miles away on Duke Street (which has since been torn down); but because I couldn't think of any others, and sensed they were on foot, I said "Gee, I don't think there is a McDonald's nearby." I felt for them because I knew what it was like to be in a strange city and not know where to turn for food.

As I was speaking, I suddenly returned to reality and remembered that there was a McDonald's just up the street at Bradlee

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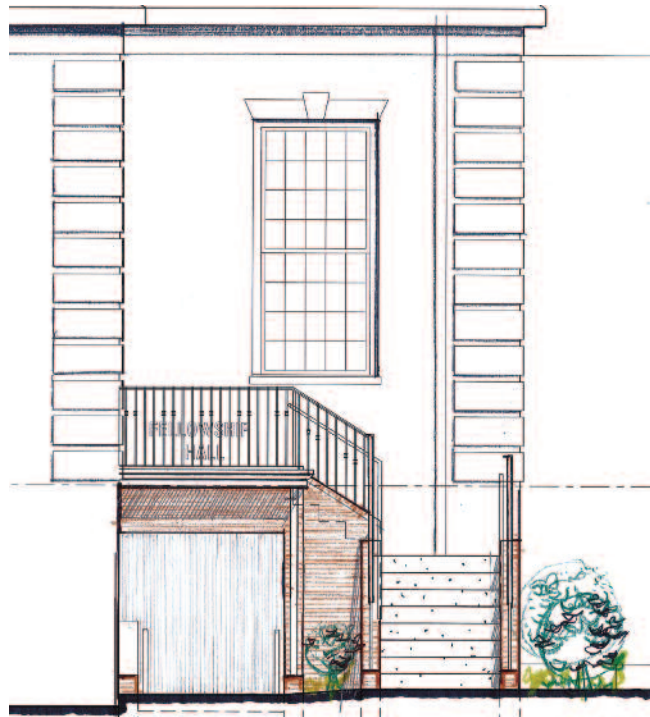
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Center; so I gave them directions, and they headed that way, with a skip in their step, their taste buds already watering over Chicken McNuggets with Bar-B-Que sauce.

What struck me about this exchange is that when we meet someone who is going through something we have gone through – be it mildly unpleasant or severely traumatic – we can be immediately transported back into similar unpleasantness or trauma. When we are so transported, we literally “lose our minds” to the past; and we may (as I did) not only forget that what they need (a McDonald’s) lies close at hand (at Bradlee); but also, we may instruct people to a place (a McDonald’s on Duke Street) that no longer exists. Our disorientation aside, we can also feel an immediate identification with their plight, however great or manageable it is. Because I had once arrived in Alexandria and not known where to turn for food, I “got” what they were going through.

“Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,” God says to the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 15:15). Remembering may paralyze us for a moment, but it eventually leads us to be able to point the way out of slavery into the Promised Land, even if the Promised Land to which we point is a McDonald’s – still in existence where we remember it, after a momentary trip back into the inconvenience of unpleasantness, or worse, the slavery of trauma.

– Larry



## New Projects from the Building & Grounds Committee

*New Church Sign, Fellowship Hall Entrance*

The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Church Clean-Up prior to Holy Week. Thanks to all for scrubbing walls, baseboards, columns, floors, etc. To coincide with the housekeeping efforts, B&G polished the brass railings along the ramps from the elevator and the Johnson Parlor, as well as sanded, painted and cleaned the Sanctuary exterior lighting. In addition, the courtyard landscape shrubbery was trimmed.

B&G continues to work on many efforts in order to keep our facilities operating smoothly and to update the facilities to meet current needs. A number of projects will be ensued in the coming months, which will include a new Westminster Presbyterian Church sign at the corner of Cameron Mills Road and Monticello Blvd, elevator refurbishment, reinstallation of the courtyard sundial, repair of the Courtyard landscape lighting, and the construction of a new Fellowship Hall entrance. More details about the new entrance will be coming soon!

## Westminster Life Events

*We welcome to the Westminster nursery:*

**Natalie Hall**, daughter of Molly & Andrew Hall, little sister to Tucker.

**Wells Kheradi**, son of Laura & Alexander Kheradi.

**Madeline Goebel**, daughter of Blake & Emily Goebel, little sister to James.

*We rejoice in the marriage of:*

**Susan Shanahan & Stephen Foti**, on February 27 in Antigua.

**Grace Elizabeth Goodwin & Samuel Dwyer**, on April 13 in Flint Hill, Virginia.

**Stephen Upton & Annabelle Gilbride** on April 27 in Washington, DC.

*Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:*

**Gerald Lee Delo**, who died February 27.

**Theodore “Ted” Bayler**, who died April 1.

**Yamada, Kiyo Nishida**, who died April 23.





## Staff Retreat

### Thank you for your support of our staff!

Every year, the Westminster staff go away for a short retreat at Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center in Comus, Maryland. We share meals together, enjoy the beautiful outdoors, and play board games (there are some serious Scattergories players among us!). This year, we created a fun arts and crafts project to symbolize our collective work as a staff. We all painted together, mixing our colors on each canvas. Then we each took one canvas to place in our office space – a reminder that while we each work in our own ways, we are all united by our shared work for the church. Next time you're here, see if you can spot our artwork!

## Coming Soon!

### Updates to our building's WiFi

The Digital Ministries Committee has been hard at work implementing a new WiFi system for our building! We hope to have WiFi connectivity for members, friends and visitors throughout (most!) corners of the building. Stay tuned for more information about how to connect!





## Women's Retreat

Thirty women of all ages enjoyed fellowship, fun, and sharing on this year's Women's Retreat "Lean on Me: Cultivating Friendship" led by Melynda Wilcox and Nancy Hall Berens. We explored examples from scripture of different types of friends and how Jesus is a model for friendship with one another. Through stories and small group discussions we gained a deeper understanding of what it means to be a friend and to nurture friendships with others.

## Women's Friendship Tea

60 women enjoyed fun and fellowship at our Women's Friendship Tea in May. Building on the theme of "friendship" from the women's retreat, we gathered for a proper afternoon tea to get to know one another better. We also bid a fond farewell to our friend the Rev Lucy Dergarabedian, who will be returning to her native Lebanon to serve as PCUSA missionary to schools providing education for refugee children along the Lebanese/Syrian border. Our women's circles are supporting her with prayers and donations. We are also excited to announce that our own Evangeline Taylor will be taking on the role which Lucy is vacating as Spiritual Nurturer for Presbyterian Women of National Capital Presbytery. Welcome, Evangeline!



## Palm Sunday Breakfast

Adults and children alike enjoyed sharing potluck breakfast together and interacting with bunnies and donkey!







## Flying Solo Roundtable

Speaker Dylan Scott from Vox came to speak to Flying Solo about his journey into journalism and his experiences covering health care news for Vox.



## Children's Choir Season Concludes With Party, Singing and Ringing!

On May 1 we celebrated our choir year – and what a year it has been!

- We added our Cherub Choir for PreK singers, with a noon "Music Club" after Preschool, and another just before the older choirs rehearse.
- In early 2019 Chorister Ensembles started - one for girls, one for boys, made up of mostly Middle School age singers. The Girl Choristers sang with the Adult Choir several times.
- We sang with the adult choirs for Lessons and Carols, led the early Ash Wednesday Service, participated in Festival Sunday, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter, and shared music in worship many other Sundays.

Two very special events were new this season:

- "Choir Commissioning", in which we sang for our parents and 'received' our robes/vestments.
- "Family Communion" with just our families in Creation Station, led by Pastor Whitney, instructing us along the way.

On May 5 we brought all our best to worship!

- The Cherub and Genesis Choirs sang, and rang Chimes and our new set of Children's Handbells. (Thanks to a generous donation from Jane McCallum!)
- Covenant Choir and Chorister Girls delighted in singing "Wir Eilen" by J.S.Bach, a very challenging duet, which they aced!

We have SO MUCH FUN with our young singers! We are so grateful for such great support from Westminster congregation!

**-Ben Hutchens, Molly Roden and Chris Hagan**

August Music Club for Kids! Rising K-5th Grades. All Sundays in August, 10:20–11 AM in Creation Station (3rd Floor). Right after the children's sermon, Elementary age children will be led upstairs for a time of music and fun, singing, ringing, and games. This is a great time for kids to learn more about their faith through music.

## Carpenter's Shelter Volunteer Spotlight: Children's Hour

### Sue B. Is a Dedicated Children's Hour Volunteer

(The following ran in the Shelter's recent newsletter...way to go, Sue!)

"I was looking for a volunteer opportunity and I started serving meals with my church, Westminster Presbyterian. We prepare and serve dinner once a month. While cleaning up at dinner service, I heard announcements for the Children's Hour and my interest was immediately piqued! I have been volunteering at Children's Hour weekly ever since.

The best part of volunteering at Children's Hour is that the kids are always

excited to see you! Playing and having fun with the kids allows you to completely forget about all the worries and stressors of everyday life and live in the moment.

I initially thought that Children's Hour would simply be sitting and reading to the kids. It's so much more than that. It is actively playing games, doing puzzles, arts and crafts and even singing and dancing. I am not sure who has more fun, me or the kids, but I do know a good time is always had by all!"

Carpenter's Shelter serves the homeless



and formerly homeless in Alexandria. Want to help support their mission or want to volunteer yourself? Contact Melissa Sellevaag and Stephanie VanVliet, leaders of our Local Mission Committee, at [localmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:localmission@wpc-alex.org) to get involved!



## Sharing Stories and Perspective on Ministry in Kenya

Westminster Hosts Kenya Mission Network Gathering

In late March, WPC hosted approximately 80 Presbyterians

from across the country and globe who gathered to share stories and perspectives of ministry in Kenya. Nancy Griswold, Chair of our International Missions Committee (pictured with flowers), organized a robust team of volunteers who served meals, made coffee and tea, and along with the hard work of our

sextons and staff, provided a robust welcome that was so appreciated by attendees and organizers. Yvonne Folkerts and Rebecca Buckner also participated as speakers in the event.

A highlight of the week was the participation of Ellie

Crisler, a Westminster 4th grader, who with her parents' and teachers' permission, took a day off from school to learn as much as she could about ministry in Kenya. Ellie aspires to one day serve in Africa, and her presence made quite an impression. Here, she is pictured with Rev. Lucy Wambui Waweru, Director of Christian Education (Presbyterian Church of East Africa), who gave a keynote address on current educational trends and challenges in Kenya.

The conference helped Westminster to deepen our connections with the larger Church's ministry in Kenya and to infuse our ministry in Moi's Bridge with greater understanding and awareness. Please keep our upcoming mission trip in prayer, as 17 members of Westminster, Lewinsville, and Old Presbyterian Meeting House visit the United Orphanage and Academy (June 18-27) to work, play and worship with the children and staff.







## 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.

### Little Theatre of Alexandria on Thursday June 6: "A Fox on the Fairway"

A charmingly madcap adventure about love, life, and man's eternal love affair with ... golf. Ludwig's play will take you on a hilarious romp that pulls the rug out from underneath the stuffy denizens of a private country club. Enjoy this furious paced comedy, filled with mistaken identities, slamming doors and romantic missteps! Arrive 7:30-7:45 pm to receive your ticket. Show starts at 8:00 pm.

### Lunch & Learn on Monday June 24: "Notre-Dame-de-Paris"

Enjoy an armchair tour of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame with photos from before the recent devastating fire. Nancy Hall Berens had the good fortune some years ago of attending an organ seminar with former WPC organist David Erwin which took place in the many famous Parisian churches. See unique shots of Notre-Dame's organ loft and nave at night, and hear recordings of the great organ which

fortunately was spared during the fire. Nancy and David even snuck out onto the roof – perhaps in search of Quasimodo! Come take a quick trip to Paris, right here at Westminster! 1:00 PM in the Haverkamp Room. \$10 for lunch.

### Beautiful Butterflies at Brookside!

Roadsters enjoyed a lovely outing to Brookside Gardens to see a multitude of flowers and butterflies!



## Your Foundation Dollars at Work

Consistent with the 2018 Report of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Three-Year Financial Planning, the Session approved a transfer of 3.5 percent of the Foundation endowed account value to the operating budget to provide \$91,586 for church mission and programs in 2019.

The exceedingly generous bequest from Gloria Horning was transferred to the endowed accounts in March, bringing the total endowment value to \$2.7 million. The total Foundation value is \$3.9 million, including memorial gifts and undesignated bequests totaling \$518,272, and reserve accounts totaling \$744,639. The reserve accounts are primarily funded by cell phone revenue from AT&T, Sprint, and T-Mobile, who rent space in our steeple for their antennas.

The Session approved use of funds from the Simms Memorial Fund for re-designing the Fellowship Hall entrance and stairs. Other recent Foundation expenditures include expenses for a service visit to secure the racking of the 16' Quintaton, from the Organ Maintenance Reserve Fund, and for adult education, from the Rasmussen Church and Society endowment. Additionally, the Session approved establishment of a new Capital Improvement Reserve Fund with funds from the Operating Budget Reserve.

The Westminster Foundation received new gifts in 2019 for the Henri Rush memorial fund and for the Phyllis Taylor bequest.

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

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Dawn Campbell, Production Editor

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
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## Music and More Week 2019: Table for Five...Thousand! Our Summer Musical Day Camp for Children

All children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us in our wonderful and unique week-long music camp! Children deepen their relationships with God and one another as they prepare a musical. This year, we'll be performing "Table for Five...Thousand!", which tells the story of the story of how one young child's willingness to share led to an event so startling that members of the crowd wanted to proclaim Jesus as King.

Join us for a week of art, music, worship, and games! June 24-29, 2019. Register your child by May 28 at [wpc-alex.org/mmweek2019](http://wpc-alex.org/mmweek2019).