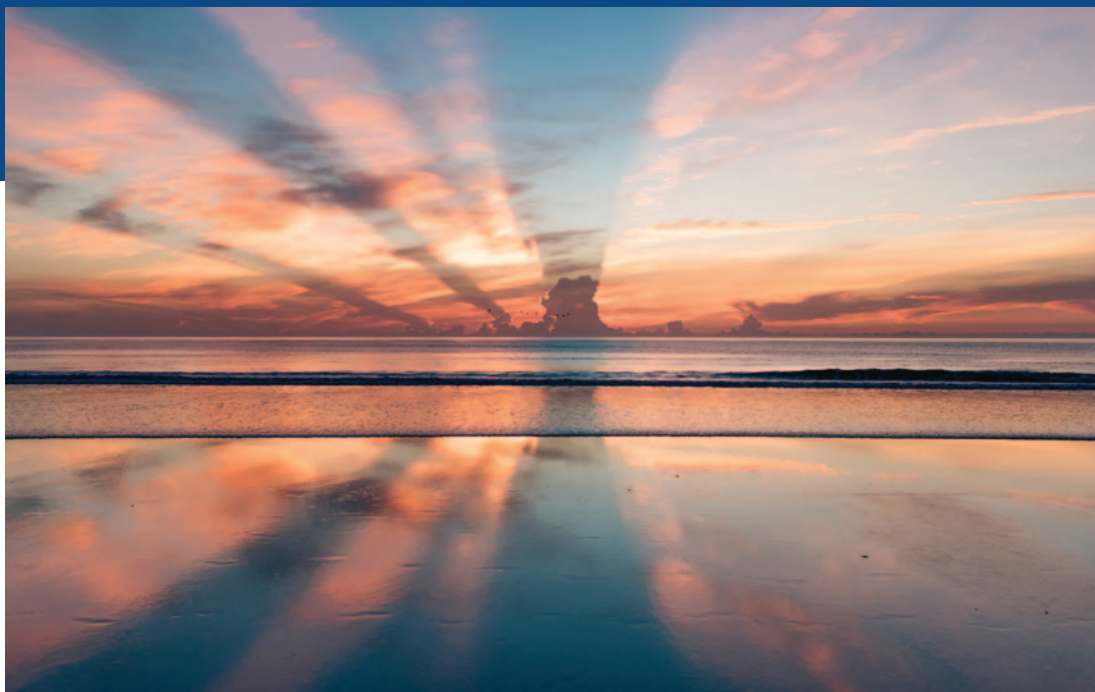


THE CHRONICLE



Finished

By Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward

The opening chapter of the Bible – the first creation story – ends this way: “Thus the heavens and the earth were *finished*, and all their multitude.”

Alluding to the Creation Story, the Gospel of John begins: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” and goes on to proclaim: “The Word became flesh and lived among us.”

In this same Gospel, Jesus’ death is narrated this way: “When Jesus had received the wine, he said, ‘It is *finished*.’ Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

The Hebrew word for “finished” is a strong word, emphasizing the finality of the act being completed. For Jesus to use that word, and, in a Gospel deeply conversant with Genesis, for John to depict Jesus’ use of that word, draws attention to the importance of the word. Christ’s work and

life on earth are indeed finished; he gives up “his spirit” but has already equipped his disciples by giving them the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Comforter, by which live in service to Christ in the world.

I have long believed that this subtle use of the word “finished” in the Bible is important for us. It reminds us that all the elements of creation are present before us, all the words and deeds of Christ have been revealed. Everything we need to thrive as human beings and people of the earth is within our grasp. Creation is indeed “finished,” and Christ’s earthly life is over, but empowered by the Spirit, we have what we need to live in God’s world. God’s work of Creation may be finished, but our work in response is not.

Thomas Edison said: “My so-called inventions already existed in the environment. I’ve created nothing.” We create nothing; we respond to creation. In the life, death and resurrection of Christ, in the gift of the Holy Spirit, God has given us all we need to respond.

– Larry

In This Issue

Congregational Life	4
Christmas Eve	8
Foundation	5
WPC in Mission	5
Retreat News	2

*Christ
IS Coming!*



Flying Solo Singles Fall Retreat

Our retreat "Walking with God" was lovingly led by the Rev Evangeline Taylor, Director of Seniors Pastoral Care. Evangeline shared her wisdom, insights, and good humor with our group for a weekend away exploring together how to connect with God through scripture, reflection, and prayer. We sought to listen to both one another and to God, and to be more aware of the many ways which God speaks to us and guides us on our life's path.



Men of Westminster Retreat

January 24-26, 2020

This year, we welcome our own Rev. Larry Hayward to lead us in *Living and Working In a Place of Politics: The Case of Joab*. Larry strongly believes in encouraging knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. Over the years he has taught year-long courses on the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Bible.

The 2020 Men's Retreat will take place the weekend of January 24-26, at the Hallowood Retreat and Conference Center, located at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain near Comus, Maryland. It will begin on Friday afternoon, and conclude after Sunday lunch.

Those men who have attended previous retreats know how enjoyable and rewarding the program, food, and fellowship have been. The \$242 fee includes overnight accommodations for two nights (double occupancy) in the main lodge, and six excellent meals by the in-house chef. Coffee, tea, water, hot chocolate, and fruit are available between meals at no additional cost. Towels and linens are also provided. Men who have never before attended a retreat should consider attending this one.

You can register for the retreat by filling out a registration form and submitting it: (1) At the registration table in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services; (2) in person to Dudley Schadeberg; or (3) in the Men of Westminster mail slot in the church office. Registration will be open until January 13, 2020.



Facilities Update

From the Building & Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds (B&G) Committee has had a busy spring, summer, and fall! We have removed downed dead trees, trimmed shrubbery, and planted new trees. Additionally, we have replaced the Westminster sign at the corner of Monticello Boulevard and Cameron Mills Road, reinstalled the courtyard sundial, replaced the landscape lighting in the courtyard, installed new parking lot signs, cleaned and sealed the courtyard benches, painted and repaired the Sanctuary and corner sign lamps, and better illuminated the church steeple.

B&G works on many efforts in order to keep our building operating smoothly and to update the facilities to meet current needs. We continue to address building repairs and manage new projects. Over the coming winter months, we plan to refurbish the elevator and install new exterior preschool doors.



Heavy Metal

New Handbells Join Our Collection

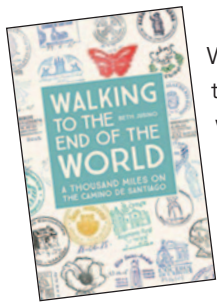
Handbell ringing is an important part of the Music Ministry here at Westminster--our bell choirs have enjoyed decades of music making. Currently, we have 5 octaves of bells from the American foundry, Schulmerich Carillons located in Hatfield, PA. In addition to the handbells, Westminster employs 3 octaves of Schulmerich Handchimes (in our adult choirs) and 3 octaves of Malmark Handchimes in our children's choirs. Most common handbell arrangements employ 3-5 octaves of handbells. Of course, we are far from common and have been looking to increase our handbell collection. In so doing, we are able to learn and offer a wider variety of music.

A generous, anonymous donor approached me about the possibility of purchasing a new bell for us. Weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces, we welcomed our newest bell to the family this fall. It was certainly some 'heavy metal'. In addition to this bell, the Westminster Foundation provided matching funds from Dorothy Neyman Music Fund for a second bell. Many thanks to our anonymous donor and to the Foundation board for getting our collection started. A total of 12 bells are needed to complete this lowest octave. As our musical life continues, be on the lookout for more, large, additions to our handbell collection!

Library Corner

Check out these new additions!

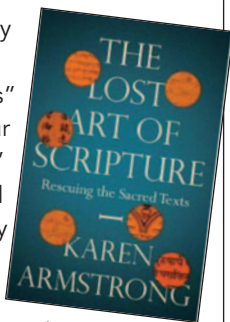
"Truth Restored: A Short History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints" was donated by recent WPC Adult Education speaker Senator Gordon Smith. This little book traces the genesis of the church and the movement as it was organized in Ohio and Missouri, and its martyrs and movement to Utah.



"Walking to the End of the World: A Thousand Miles on the Camino de Santiago, written by Beth Jusino was recommended by our recent Adult Formation Hour speakers, Dave & Amy Donselar, as well as "The Great Westward Walk" by

Antxon Gonzalez Gabarain. Every year a quarter of a million follow some part of the "Way of St. James." This book is a perfect winter-time living room pilgrimage through the pages of details and delights from their views along the trails.

Finally, check out WPC's newly acquired book "The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing Sacred Texts" by Karen Armstrong. "Given our current problems, the scriptures' faith in the divine potential of all human beings seems particularly relevant," says critic Michael Lionstar. In the Bible, St. Paul declares: "I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet"; yet scholars suspect this was actually written by some grump other than St. Paul and has been used to justify the subjugation of women — and by secular liberals to portray the Bible as outdated and misogynistic. According to reviews, similar points can be made of many Scriptures from around the world. Both secular liberals and fundamentalists see Scripture as words to be taken literally, the former to ridicule and the latter to embrace. Karen Armstrong wades into these debates and says that both sides are wrong.



We Read and We Respond

Important Conversations on Creating God's Kingdom by Rev. Whitney Fauntleroy

This past summer, parents were invited to read a book called *Raising White Kids* by Jennifer Harvey, and a few of our advisors went to hear the author speak at New York Avenue Presbyterian. As the busyness of the school year filled up calendars, however, the conversations around the themes of her book and lecture have quieted some.

I was reminded recently that I went into ministry because I believe that Christians, particularly in the western hemisphere, are one of the most powerful groups of people in the world. If the Church took seriously the claims that God's kingdom is a kingdom that we are called to actively work to create, then we cannot afford to let important conversations quiet down. We must listen to the rumbles of our souls. Our youth committee will be exploring in these last few weeks of 2019 what it means for that conversation to take place at Westminster, not just on the 4th floor where our youth dwell but in the larger church.

Our advisors just read a young adult fiction book, *It's Kind of A Funny Story*, about a teenager's struggle with mental health—particularly anxiety. In the same vein as our summer reading, we want conversations to keep going. In January, we are bringing licensed professional counselor Steffanie Kelshaw for a lunchtime conversation about anxiety in teens. Please save the date!

Book Read

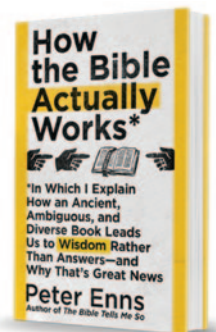
How the Bible Actually Works

A Review of Our Congregational-Book-Read Book by Debbie Wells

Have you ever wondered how the Bible relates to the reality of life in this new-age, internet-fueled world? Do old rules apply anymore? Is the Bible meant to be a how-to manual?

As I read the book *How the Bible Actually Works* by Peter Enns, I was intrigued by his premise that this ancient text is a dynamic, relatable, flexible guide leading us to the wisdom God shares with us and it is our duty as Christians to use that wisdom to navigate the challenges we face in our personal lives, our community and our world today. We should embrace the diverse perspectives and sometimes conflicting narratives that biblical writers bring to their interpretation of ancient stories and laws remembering that, "ambiguity in the Bible isn't a problem to be solved. It is a self-evident reality. It is also a gift..." Enns challenges us to reimagine God and proposes that we must do so "for the past to have any spiritual vitality in the present." With refreshing humor (I literally laughed out loud) and self-deprecation rather than sanctimony, Peter Enns challenges us to use the Bible as a toolkit for applying God's wisdom in our lives.

I hope you'll sign up for the Congregational Book Read to explore and discuss these ideas, and then join Peter Enns when he comes to Westminster on March 15 for the Dessert & Dialogue! Visit wpc-alex.org/book-read to sign up.





Chickens and Carpenters

Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me food." (Matthew 25:35)

As Christians, we're called to feed the hungry. At Westminster we live out that call by participating in several local missions efforts to feed the most vulnerable in our community.

At the Carpenter's Shelter, Westminster members prepare and serve dinner to residents on the first Monday of each month. Over the past year, 20 Westminster volunteers have served approximately 720 meals consisting of variety of homemade and prepared foods to adults and children living at the shelter. Longtime Westminster members **Jane Ring** and **Becky Davies** have been participating in this ministry since the shelter's inception more than 30 years ago! Jane and Becky, along with **Ellen Jones**, although no longer serving each month, continue their legacy of commitment by funding the purchase of prepared chicken, a favorite among shelter residents. The chicken is ordered, delivered and served each month alongside a buffet of other dishes by members **Rhonda Pudwill-Munier** and **Craig Munier** (pictured on the right), who plan to leave the area when they retire in the months ahead. The local missions committee is looking for someone to take on the task of coordinating the chicken part of the meal each month. Might you feel the call to help with this "chicken ministry?" or in other hunger-related ministries of the church? Contact localmissions@wpc-alex.org.

Your Foundation Dollars at Work

Throughout 2019, the Westminster Foundation Board collaborated with the cognizant Session Committees to spend our Foundation dollars in support of all Church program and mission areas. Examples include:

Administration and Finance

- Church bus maintenance, from the Transportation and Maintenance Fund

Buildings and Grounds

- Steeple light repair, from the Zandar Wilke Memorial Fund
- Room 106 sound system (pending), from the Kiyo Yamada Memorial Fund
- Sundial reinstallation (completed) and new roses (pending), from the Trites Rose Garden Fund
- Elevator refurbishment (pending), from the Capital Maintenance and Reserve Fund
- New church sign, from the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund
- Fellowship Hall entrance architect and construction, from the Simms Memorial Fund

Christian Formation

- Children's books for the Westminster Library, from the Nancy Pera Memorial Fund
- Youth mission trips, from the Ted Bayler Memorial Fund, Klingensmith Scholarship, Zach Stolz Youth Mission Trip Fund, and Ramsey Youth Mission Fund

Congregational Life

- Women's retreat, from the Women's Programs Fund and the Retreat Reserve Fund

Digital Ministries

- New computer servers, laptops, and a tablet, from the Technology Reserve Fund

International Mission

- Moi's Bridge capital projects, from the Henri Rush Memorial Fund

Local Mission

- Gift to Carpenter's Shelter for the New Height Capital Campaign, from the Local Mission Activities Fund

Worship and Music

- Music programs, from the Alice Daniels Memorial Music Fund, Phyllis Gorrell Music Fund, Special Music Performance Reserve Fund, Pauline Storey Banks Music Fund, and Gloria Horning Choir Fund
- New handbell, from the Dorothy Neyman Music Fund with a matching gift for a second handbell
- A service visit to secure the racking of the 16' Quintaton, from the Organ Maintenance Reserve Fund

Also in 2019, the Session approved a transfer of \$91,586 (3.5 percent of the Foundation endowed account value) to the operating budget to provide for church mission and programs, such as adult education programs, from the Rasmussen Church and Society Trotter Religious Tolerance endowments. These and other designated funds in the Westminster Foundation make a big difference every day in the Church's life and mission.



Apple Gleaning Trip

On Saturday, September 28, 17 intrepid souls from Westminster gleaned apples at Marker-Miller Orchards (unfortunately, some of us were still busy loading the trucks when we took the picture). The apples went to the Society of St. Andrew, to distribute to local food banks. There was nice weather and few rotten apples, so we filled up multiple truckloads! It was a rewarding morning of fellowship and helping provide fresh produce to those in need. After we finished, we enjoyed some barbecue and apple cider donuts.



Societal Transition: Prison and Post-Prison Ministries

Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering

We welcomed the following speakers to talk about their work in prison and post-prison ministries:

- Curt Powell, Westminster member and volunteer with Kairos Prison Ministry
- Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Executive Director of OAR: Offender Aid and Restoration
- Marisa Tordella, Director of Development of Friends of Guest House

This program helped raise our awareness about the need to minister to those in prison and to those recently released from prison. We learned how each organization functions to help the incarcerated and/or recently incarcerated in their transition back into society after prison, and how our church members may be able to help or participate in their ministry.



"Welcome to Virginia" Campfire

This fall's campfire was dedicated to all-things-Virginia in honor of Jacob's arrival at Westminster. We celebrated the recent arrival of our new associate pastor Jacob Bolton and his family by introducing them to their new state with tasty Virginia specialties, a roaring campfire, and lively company!



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 HaywardPastor
Patrick HunnicuttAssociate Pastor
Whitney FauntleroyAssociate Pastor
Ben HutchensDirector of Music Ministries
Patty ChamberlainDirector of Children's Ministries
Nancy Hall BerensDir. of Congregational Life
Molly RodenAssociate for Children's Music
Art SauerMembership Involvement Coordinator
Evangeline TaylorDirector of Seniors Pastoral Care
Arney UptonDirector of Adult Education
Lavinia Davis-LauxDirector of Finance
and Administration
Jim BuchananFacilities Manager
Cindy McCeneyFinancial Assistant
Tara CainExecutive Assistant
Jessica ThurnesProgram Assistant
Larry JohnsonSexton
Marvin JohnsonHead Sexton

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

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Eve at Westminster

Tuesday, December 24

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 4 PM service is our "family-friendliest" service.

11 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
Congregational carols with organ
Childcare available

4 PM Worship in the Sanctuary
Candlelight Service with the Children's Choirs

Note new time this year! Starting at 3:30, we'll sing some of our favorite carols as everyone arrives before the service begins.

8 PM Worship in the Sanctuary
Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
With the Westminster Choir, Choristers,
harp and oboe
7:45 PM Prelude

11 PM Worship in the Chapel
Candlelight Service with congregational
carols led by harp
10:45 PM Prelude

