



Westminster Presbyterian CHURCH

worship well



Covenant Singers

Our Covenant Singers (grades 3-6) celebrate the end of a fun, successful year of learning new music and leading us in worship!

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the Chronicle

MAY 25, 2017 - volume 47, number 10

From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Whitney Fautleroy **13 Reasons Why**

By now, I am going to guess that you have heard of the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*, based on the book of the same name by Jay Asher. I do not know what I can add to the various conversations about the many themes in the series: sexual assault, bullying, shaming, suicide, mental illness, friendship. I do want you to know that I have watched the series. I do want you to know that I have read the book. I do want you to know that I am interested in the culture that our youth consume.

When I was doing youth ministry 4 or 5 years ago in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, a few of my youth were really excited about the book. They told me I had to read it. I did. I had forgotten a lot of the details until I watched the show last week. The plot is painful. You know the end in the first episode. *13 Reasons Why* is fiction, but it is fiction that really speaks to some of what youth deal with every day: being a teenager is hard. *13 Reasons Why* reminded me of this. I think sometimes we can forget how hard growing up is because being a grown-up is so hard. When you are juggling family, career, finances, it can be easy to think about high school as care-free days of fun and friendship. For some, high school was just that, but for some high school (and particularly middle school) was painful.

So here is what I propose we can do with *13 Reasons Why* as parents and adults who care about youth. We can engage it. Read the book, watch the show or do both. I think when we engage with *13 Reasons Why* as a primary source rather than as something we read or heard about, we can then engage youth. If you can watch it with youth, talk about it with youth. Because it is fiction, use the characters and the content as conversation starters. *13 Reasons Why* brings up some hard, deep, dark, and sad aspects of adolescence specifically and life more generally. Don't be afraid to face them head on. Be willing to listen more than talk. Be willing to research on your own some resources.

I think the best thing about the new popularity of the show is that it brings things that are often hidden out in the open. I have my opinions after reading articles, listening to podcasts and talking to others about whether certain aspects of *13 Reasons Why* are problematic or not and I trust you all may have come to your own conclusions. I want to offer my time and a listening ear to how we might engage with *13 Reasons Why* as adults who love youth.

Whitney



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Elizabeth Brennan**, daughter of Whitney Mitchell & Eamonn Brennan. Elizabeth is also the granddaughter of Diane Hellmuth and the great-granddaughter of Harriet Polk.

We rejoice in the marriages of:

- **Lindsey Hagan & Kenneth J. Meyer** on April 29 in the Westminster Sanctuary
- **Shirley Miles & Dr. Miklos K. Radvanyi**



Member Involvement News

As we approach Memorial Day and the beginning of summer vacations, it is important to remember that much of the work of Westminster continues. This is especially true of our local mission programs, such as Carpenter's Shelter Dinners, Bag Lunch, and Meals on Wheels. Many of our dedicated volunteers for these programs have already announced vacation plans, so there is a great need for replacements! Parents with teenage or college-aged children may want to consider these activities as a team. None of these activities take more than a couple of hours once or twice a month and can easily fit into a summer schedule. Experienced volunteers will gladly provide the limited training necessary.

Further, our long-serving coordinator for the Carpenter's Shelter Dinners is looking to step down and we need a replacement. If you have ever thought about volunteering for any of these activities, now is the time to step up. Contact localmission@wpc-alex.org if you are interested and you will be connected with the appropriate activity coordinator, or contact me at asauer@wpc-alex.org.

At the end of April, Eric Weiss and Chris Miles lead a group of energetic volunteers for the Rebuilding Together Alexandria project. They helped a single mother and her son fix up their home by replacing the kitchen floor, making some minor repairs to walls and doors, and painting. Many thanks to all those who participated this year. The family was very appreciative of your work. This annual project is a fun way to help others and to hone your home repair skills. There is another opportunity to participate later this year as part of the Energy Saving weatherization project.



On a fun note, I hope everyone is planning to attend the church-wide picnic after the service on Sunday June 4. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided but volunteers are needed to set-up, serve, cook, and clean-up. Please contact CL@wpc-alex.org if you would like to help.

There is a lot going on at Westminster during the summer and your help is needed to keep things running smoothly. If you can help, your participation will be greatly appreciated and your spirit will be uplifted. Let's all work together to keep things going over the summer.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer
Membership Involvement Coordinator



Flying Solo (Singles) Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/singles

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

Sunday, May 28 | Lemonade and Lunch

Flying Solo hosts Lemonade on the Lawn for the congregation on the first official Sunday of summer, then will go out to Lunch at Junction Bakery & Bistro in Del Ray (1508 Mt. Vernon Ave). Join us for a time of service and fellowship. Worship at 10:00 AM; Lemonade at 11:00 AM; Lunch at 12:00 PM. Please let Nancy know if you can help host.

Saturday, June 10 | Outing to the Sackler Gallery

View the Sackler's permanent and special exhibits of Asian art on view before it closes for renovations later this summer. There is currently an unusual exhibition with re-created market place from Old Town Kabul, Afghanistan, which should be quite interesting to see. We'll explore the gallery in the morning and then have lunch at one of the other Smithsonian museums along the mall. Carpool from church at 9:30 AM or meet at the main entrance at 10.

Monday, June 12 | Monthly Dine-Out

Have a seat on the "Front Porch" and enjoy outdoor dining and drinks! The Front Porch is part of Evening Star Restaurant located at 2000 Mt. Vernon Ave in Del Ray. Meet at church at 7 PM to carpool or meet at the outdoor patio at 7:15.

Thursday, June 22: Supper and Softball

Join us to cheer on Westminster's Softball Team as they near the end of their season with the Alexandria Church Softball League. Our team has been league champs for two years in a row!

6:15 PM – Carpool from church

6:30 PM – Cheer on our team at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave

7:30 PM – Dinner at Northside 10, down the street and around the corner at 10 E. Glebe Rd.

Tuesday, June 27 | Monthly Potluck | 7 PM in the Johnson Parlor

Help out at our monthly service project by making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then stay for a simple potluck supper. Please bring a dish to share.

Monday, July 31 | Book Group

Time to start our next book! During the next two summers we will read and discuss "*Friedman's Fables*" by Rabbi Edwin H. Friedman. This year we will read the first half of the fables (p. 1-94) and then do the rest next summer. Rabbi Friedman uses his unique insights and humor to create fables which help us better understand ourselves and others. Learn how new ideas and imagination can help us overcome barriers in ourselves and in our relationships.

Annual Fall Retreat | October 6–8, 2017

Flying Solo's annual Fall Retreat will be at Hallowood Retreat Center with Patrick Hunnicutt as our leader! Nestled at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain in rural Maryland, Hallowood offers an ideal location to get away with church friends for a weekend of reflection, discussion, worship, and fellowship.

Thank You, Paul

The Session has accepted the resignation of Dr. Paul Stetsenko from the position of Director of Music Ministries, effective May 15. Paul is entering St. Tikhon's Orthodox Monastery, in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, as a novice. Paul has served Westminster since August 2003, bringing considerable depth to our music ministry through his liturgical training; conducting adults, bell choirs, children, and youth; arrangement and composition of music; leadership of worship and special musical presentations.

Those who want to honor his work and express their gratitude may make a donation to Westminster designated for St. Tikhon's Monastery. We are grateful to God for the gifts and contributions that Paul has made to the ministry of Westminster these past fourteen years.

Search Committee for a New Director of Music Ministries

The Personnel Committee will be nominating, for Session approval, a small but representative search committee to find a new Director of Music Ministries. This is expected to be a nine to twelve month process with weekly meetings. Members interested in serving on the search committee, or wishing to nominate someone else to serve, should contact the Committee at personnel@wpc-alex.org by Friday, June 9.

Men of Westminster

www.wpc-alex.org/menofw

Contact: Dudley Schadeberg | mow@wpc-alex.org



Men's Breakfast

Friday, June 9, 7-8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

The Faint Young Sun Paradox
with Dr. Victor B. Zabielski

Is the Universe random or controlled? Is there evidence of some grand controlling force acting on the planet? The answers to these questions will bring us to the brink between science, religion, and philosophy. Professor Zabielski's presentation will ponder the possibility of whether the earth's evolution is completely random or is purposeful.



Physics tells us that the nuclear fusion fueling our sun is expanding through time. The sun is thus continuously warming, emitting more and more energy, and will continue to heat up until all the fuel in its core is used up, which may be another 4 to 5 billion years. If the sun is presently heating up, then the corollary to this must also be true: the sun must have been cooler in the geologic past, perhaps as much as 30% cooler when earth was first formed. This implies that the average temperature of earth must have been below freezing for much of its history, similar to present day Mars.

Victor Zabielski is a professor of geology and Assistant Dean of Geology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, Virginia, having taught there since 2003. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Master of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Ph.D. in Geology from Brown University. He also received a two-year post-doctoral fellowship from the University of Minnesota. He worked as a consulting geologist for George Marshall Consulting Geologists in Averill Park, NY, before joining the faculty at NVCC. The field work associated with his work has ranged from the Bahamas, Oman, and in the Canadian Arctic off the coast of Elsmere Island.

Summer Kick-Off Picnic!

Sunday, June 4 @ 11:00 AM
Fellowship Hall and Side Lawn

Celebrate the start of summer with our annual All-Church Picnic! Dress casually for church and enjoy picnic lunch after worship, fellowship with Westminster friends, and fun activities for the kids. Please bring a “picnic-y” side dish (green salad, potato salad, deviled eggs, etc.) or dessert to share (no nuts, please). Burgers, hot dogs, and grilled chicken will be provided. Food served in Fellowship Hall with seating options both indoors and outdoors. Rain or shine! If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Steve Lastelic at CL@wpc-alex.org.



THANK YOU!

At the Easter Sunday service, we were blessed to have beautiful flowers decorating the sanctuary. These flowers were made possible through the generous donations of members and friends of Westminster Presbyterian Church. \$1567 in additional funds is being given to Appalachia Service Project, which seeks to make homes warmer, safer, and drier throughout Appalachia in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee.



Children and Family Ministry

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry |

pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org

Molly Roden, Interim Director of

Children's Music | mroden@wpc-alex.org

Music & More Week:

Malice in the Palace |

Mornings, June 26–30

All children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to join us in our wonderful and unique week-long music camp experience! Children deepen their relationships with God and one another as they prepare a musical. This year, we'll be performing *Malice in the Palace*, a musical that tells the story of Esther. Join us for a week of art, music, worship, and games. Schedule and registration at <http://wpc-alex.org/mm-week-2017/>

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen

Nancy Hall Berens | nhallberens@wpc-alex.org

Moderator, Bea Hurt and Vice Moderator, Janet Harris | PW@wpc-alex.org

Opportunities for fellowship, study, and service with other women at Westminster:

Pillow Ministry | Wednesday, June 7 | 9:30 AM in Haverkamp Room

Sew and/or stuff animals and pillows to give to children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai | Monday, June 19 | 7:15 – 9 PM in Haverkamp Room

Any woman who loves playing cards, friendly competition, and fellowship is invited to attend.

Women's Circles

Even as we are winding down for this program year, we always welcome new women to our circles. Each circle is having time for fellowship in June before taking off for summer. Circles start up again in September. Our 2017-18 Bible study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" will help us explore not only the Biblical community in the Letter to the Hebrews, but also our own communities – of faith, of family, and of friends. Visit the Presbyterian Women's page on the church website to learn more about circles and other women's activities at Westminster.

Opportunity for outreach to others:

We are collecting the annual Presbyterian Women's "Birthday Offering" in Circles this spring. The offering will support three projects this year: Navajo Water Project in New Mexico, Family Justice Center in South Carolina, and First Hand Aid in Cuba. Deadline to contribute is June 1.

Opportunity for learning and fellowship on the synod level

Summer Gathering of PW of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic | June 15-18

www.pwsynodmidatlantic.org

Spend one, two or three days in workshops and worship in the beautiful setting of Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA. Workshop topics range from Bible study to racism, human trafficking, intergenerational dialogue, and children in crisis, to yoga, quilting, and so much more! This is a wonderful time to refresh, grow in faith, connect with Presbyterian women from the whole Mid-Atlantic region, and to get a sneak peek at the new Bible Study for next year on the Letter to the Hebrews. Scholarship assistance is available to help you attend. Contact Nancy Hall Berens to find out more!



Christian Education and Formation

Amey Upton, Director of Adult Education |
aupton@wpc-alex.org | www.wpc-alex.org/adult

Our 2016-2017 Adult education series *Navigating the Seas of Change* came to an end on May 21. We've had tremendous attendance and I am grateful for your support. I hope you've been

able to learn, grow and explore questions about faith and are now living out that faith in the world. Look for information about next year's classes in the upcoming summer *Chronicles*. My door is always open for ideas and thoughts for the coming year. For now, listen to some of this year's Adult Ed participants about our series:

"I love the level of scholarship; objectivity."

"Classes reinforce my need to be involved—not be a bystander."

"I've relearned techniques for self-care."

"Imam Zia & Fatimah Popal interacted with us as they shared the importance of interfaith dialogue, speaking their truth with honesty; opening my eyes to people of different faith."

"Passionate teachers delivered knowledge in a way that is gently confrontational yet illuminating, giving me thought about my role in persecution of immigrants."

"The rational & principled arguments of Peter Wehner (Ethics & Public Policy Center) remind me of the paramount values of love, inclusion, and tolerance of those who see current political situations differently."

"Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana brought personal stories, relevant to today's world, which raised awareness of problems through emphasis on tools and personal responsibility."

"Teachers brought up questions of complacency and responsibility, encouraging me to speak up and discuss important issues of faith and hope."

Others shared:

"Sunday morning programs have helped me to remember to be more receptive to God's grace."

"Dr. Sathi Clarke (Wesley Seminary) offered me a very different approach to Christianity. I've always thought of myself as a concerned Christian---but I realized I could do more in the practice of discipleship. He made me think."

"General Presbyter (of the National Capital Presbytery), Wilson Gunn, provoked good discussion about faith. He updated me about the Presbyterian Church USA today."

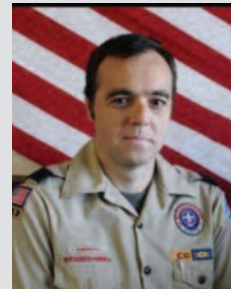
Faith Implications of Sexual Violence, with Ruth Everhart, gave a "first person narrative that was honest, personal and real. She taught me how better to deal with pain and cruelty; a poignant example of reconciling life with faith."

Enjoy summer! Adult Education Hour resumes September 10 at 9:45 AM. See you then.

—Amey

Troop 129 Scoutmaster Recognized by DC Fire & EMS

Enrique Gutierrez, the Scoutmaster of Westminster's Boy Scout Troop, was recently honored by the DC Fire & Emergency Medical Services Departments for providing life-saving assistance. On March 28, Enrique was among six persons who assisted Angelia Boddie, a 20-year veteran of DC Fire & EMS, after she lost consciousness while driving. Enrique rushed to get a defibrillator from his office and used his CPR training to help administer chest compressions and mouth to mouth until paramedics arrived. According to the Colonial District newsletter, Enrique "serves as an example that the lessons learned in Scouting are indeed preparing Scouts. For life."



the Chronicle

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Westminster Roadsters

(Boomers and Beyond)

www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters

*Patty Chamberlain, Director | pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org
Register for events with Jessica Thurnes | jthurnes@wpc-alex.org*

Thursday, June 1: LTA's Red, White and Tuna. LTA returns to the third smallest town in Texas to celebrate Red, White, and Tuna! Welcome to Tuna, where the Lion's Club is too liberal, Patsy Cline never dies, and the residents never stop listening to OKKK, the local radio station. In this hilarious third installment of LTA's 2009 production of Greater Tuna, two actors again create the memorable population of Tuna, including a few hippies who have returned to their roots for their high school reunion. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, June 19: Lunch at Northside 10. Join us for lunch at one of Alexandria's newest restaurants. Cost: \$2 plus lunch. Meet in the church parking lot at 11:15 AM.

Monday, July 17: Trip to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. We will travel to Richmond to visit the VMFA. The Museum has an extensive collection of art including a spectacular collection of Faberge eggs (the largest collection outside of Russia). We will eat lunch at the Museum as well. Cost: \$5 plus lunch (at the Museum most of the exhibits are free; some special exhibits do have a small charge). Meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am.

Thursday, July 20: LTA's Legally Blonde. Based on the well loved movie, this musical follows Elle Woods as she unexpectedly gets into Harvard Law School. Show starts at 8:00 pm; arrive between 7:30 -7:45 to receive your ticket.

Sunday, August 13: Lunch and Learn: Senior Highs in Alaska. Our senior highs will talk about their experience on their mission trip this June to Alaska. Lunch: \$10.