

# 2016 Annual Report



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

Dear Westminster Members and Friends,

No annual report can capture the spirit of any organization, especially a church. But we hope that the facts and figures and summaries of activities and ministries at least capture some of the spirit and witness of Westminster. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, talent, and treasure to help this church bear witness in the way we do.

Larry R. Hayward  
Pastor

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# FELLOWSHIP

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life Committee plans all-church fellowship events throughout the year, often in conjunction with other groups, to celebrate our life together as one church family. The highlight of 2016 was hosting a lunch on February 28 to celebrate Westminster's 75th Anniversary, with over 300 members, former members, and friends of the church in attendance. Other special events we hosted were five Lenten Suppers, the Palm Sunday Breakfast, the Summer Picnic, the Fall Campfire & Chili Cook-Off, and the Christmas Pageant Dinner.

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

Fellowship Hour takes place after worship each Sunday. Church committees, fellowship groups, and other organizations take turns hosting throughout the year. We have Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall during the winter and Lemonade on the Lawn in the Blomberg Courtyard and front lawn in the spring, summer and early fall. A special "thank you" goes to Doug Anderson who organizes and hosts coffee hour for the early service each week.

## ADULTS

The Outsiders group – a new fellowship group established in 2016 – sponsored a hike in Great Falls, outdoor yoga in Belle Haven, and hiking and cider tasting in Frederick, Maryland. The Tuesday Morning Faith Group continued seasonal book discussions and small-group fellowship. In July, members enjoyed the annual baseball outing to see a Nationals game. The Softball Team played weekly games in the spring and summer and won its second straight Alexandria Church Softball League Championship. Tables for Eight held monthly dinners in members' homes and had their kick-off potluck in September. The Craft Group held its annual boxwood workshop in December, which attracted many members, friends, and visitors.

## FAMILIES

Rev. Casey FitzGerald and Patty Chamberlain served children and their families with a wide range of programs throughout 2016. The annual M&M Week, our music camp experience for elementary aged children, was held in August. Children worked towards a performance of "Moses and The Freedom Fanatics" and learned about the story of Moses. The Easter Sunday Donkey Processional and Christmas Pageant were held. Families were supported through a family picnic, parent education opportunities and Fridays for Families.

## MEN OF WESTMINSTER

Men of Westminster sponsors a hot breakfast on the second Friday of every month. In 2016, speakers included former Senior Executive Counsel of the Washington Legal Foundation Paul Kamenar, Esq; U. S. Congressman Fred Upton of Michigan's 6th District; homeland security and civil liberties policy analyst at the Cato Institute Patrick Eddington; former U. S. Immigration Judge Paul Schmidt; and Deputy Washington Bureau Chief for the *Boston Globe* Matt Viser.

MOW hosts a men's annual retreat in February at the Hollywood Retreat Center in MD. The 2016 leader was author Rev. David Williams, pastor at Poolesville Presbyterian Church in MD. The theme was *Integrating Faith and Science: History, Tensions, and Possibilities*.

During 2016, Men of Westminster hosted the March 16 Lenten Dinner and Fellowship Hour on Mother's Day.

## SCOUTS

Scouting has been part of Westminster's youth ministry since 1942. As a result, both Cub Scout Pack 129 and Boy Scout Troop 129 are now celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continuous service. Cub Scout Pack membership this year is up to 100 boys and Boy Scouts membership is 70 boys. In addition to the normal day camp for the youngest boys and a week of Summer Camp for older scouts, the Troop spent a week sailing the ocean around Florida's Sea Base. Five Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank. The Venturing Crew size is 17 boys & girls ages 14-20, many of whom tackled a 10-day trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico.

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

The Westminster Roadsters had a wide variety of activities during 2016, with seventy participants. Our trips included: the Museum of Natural History to see *Ocean 3D* and the *National Parks* movies, the Ratner Museum in Bethesda, lunch at Tempo Restaurant, a walking tour of River Farm, lunch at the Harris Crab House in Kent Island, a tour of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary in Old Town and another trip to the Leesburg Outlets. Roadsters continued their monthly trips to the Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Three “Lunch and Learns” were also held. Whit Ayres spoke in March about the upcoming presidential election. John McCardle presented in November and gave his perspective after the election. Both Whit and John are Westminster members. In August, the Roadsters had a lunch with the high schoolers and heard about their mission trip to the Bdecan Church in North Dakota.

## **SINGLES – FLYING SOLO (50’s AND ABOVE)**

Flying Solo had an active 2016 with many events geared to fostering fellowship, service to the church and to the community, and education. We had monthly Dine-Outs and Potlucks, one Roundtable Lunch presentation, a new Munch & More gathering, quarterly Book Group discussions, our annual Fall Retreat, and several special events and mission projects. Some highlights of 2016 include:

- Fall Retreat to Bishop Claggett Center with Eileen Jinks leading us in discussion and discovery on “Cultivating a Sense of Wonder.”
- Roundtable Lunch on the “Sights & Sounds of Ireland” followed by conversations about future hopes and dreams for our group.
- 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 fiction and non-fiction to explore issues of life and faith. We discussed *The Secret Chord*, *What Jesus Meant*, *God Stories*, and *Calvin for the Armchair Theologian*.
- Special events included a tour of the Masonic National Memorial, a visit to the Pentagon and Air Force memorials, and a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration as well as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day dinners, and our annual Super Chili Bowl and Christmas parties.

In addition to engaging in fun fellowship activities, Flying Solo is a community of church friends who reach out to one another in Christian love and support when members are experiencing grief, sadness, or difficulty. We are truly blessed to be a blessing to others.

## WOMEN

Women at Westminster have many opportunities to connect with one another and to deepen our faith together. The core of our women's program is our six Women's Circles, small groups which meet monthly for Bible study, fellowship and service projects. Our 2015-16 study was "Come to the Waters;" our 2016-17 study "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" teaches us how different books of the Bible and faiths portray Jesus from their own unique perspective. Each year, the Bible study program offers us insight into the meaning of scripture as well as opportunities for discussion of what it means in our daily lives. In addition, each circle takes time to share joys and concerns, casual fellowship conversation, and to reach out to those in need through cards, prayers and offerings. This year, we would like to highlight each of our six women's circles:

**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, planning PW mission activities, and sharing a sandwich for lunch. We hosted "The Empty Bowl" Fellowship Hour to promote awareness of world hunger and 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, usually at Goodwin House Alexandria.

**Mary Circle:** As Westminster's youngest circle, we welcome participation from women interested in joining our "book club"-style circle meetings on a flexible basis. Additionally this year, we have fostered a collective interest in community service, volunteering at Carpenter's Shelter among other efforts.

**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 2016 we experienced the joy of giving to Spirit Lake Reservation, Moi's Bridge Academy, Presbyterian Home of the Highlands, 2 Angel Tree children and a family in need from our Sunshine/Mission offerings.

**Hannah Circle** helped serve and clean up the Lenten dinners in February and hosted Lemonade on the Lawn twice in July. We dined at Pines of Florence in June. Our service projects included donating our mission collection to Friends of Guest House and making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch Program in November. We purchased Christmas gifts of bicycles, 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.

**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.

**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.

In addition to attending circles, Westminster women participate in Pillow Ministry organized by Nancy McIver, to make pillows for children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital; in Book Groups, with discussions in both morning and evening, led by Clara Beth Van de Water; and in the Shanghai Card Night coordinated by Anne Pickett. Bonnie Paladino once again headed up the Angel Tree gift-giving effort which circles participated in at Christmas. Each spring we have an annual Women's Retreat which was led in 2016 by Therese Talyor-Stinson on the topic "Balancing Act: Finding Sanctuary in the Midst of

Busyness.” We enjoyed opportunities to grow in faith, to sing, pray, and worship, and to connect with one another in Christian fellowship. Our Spring Gathering featured Mary Pat Brennan, commissioner to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, on “Improving the Lives of Women Worldwide.”

Beyond our programs at Westminster, several of our women attended the Presbyterian Women (PW) Synod Summer Gathering in June and experienced a wonderful introduction to the new Bible Study on “Who is Jesus?” Our women also attended fall and spring gatherings on the presbytery level of Presbyterian Women. Heartfelt thanks go to Janet Harris who organized the National Capital Presbytery’s (NCP) annual Prayer Breakfast which Westminster hosted in January 2016. It was a joy to welcome to Westminster so many sisters in Christ from the whole Washington area. Sincere gratitude goes to Bonnie Nasr who serves as our liaison to Presbyterian Women of the National Capital Presbytery and who helps keep us connected with PW beyond our church. Elizabeth Martineau is now serving on the PW NCP nominating committee and Beth Richardson is serving as PW NCP treasurer.

We have all appreciated the continued service of Bea Hurt as Moderator and Janet Harris as Vice Moderator of the Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Team as well as the individual circle chairs and group organizers, and we look forward to continuing our faith journey together in the new year.

## **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 a paint-your-own pottery trip.

The Young Adults hosted Fellowship Hour after worship, and two members participated in the Reformed Institute’s Young Adult Leadership Cohort where they were able to share ideas with young adults from other Presbyterian churches in the DC area.



## **YOUTH**

Youth fellowship highlights include a fall High School retreat, a middle school trip to Kings Dominion, overnight lock-ins for middle school and high school youth, attendance at all-congregational events like the anniversary dinner and the campfire, and numerous fellowship gatherings including our annual pancake breakfast, game nights, bowling, and a super bowl party. 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 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 Bible lessons 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, 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 August (instead of June). Thirty-plus participants sang, danced, and told the story of Moses.

## **YOUTH**

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

## ADULTS

In spring 2016, we held 27 Sunday morning Adult Education classes. On average, 25 people attended each class; 189 people attended at least one class. 5 of WPC's most popular teachers returned; 7 new teachers taught classes. Topics were chosen from four pillar categories: Biblical, Spiritual, Current Affairs, and Health & Wellness. Classes included a parenting series with Bev Tauke; a class on America's moral crisis with Phil Wogamon; a special series with Larry Hayward and Rabbi Jack Moline on Biblical Outsiders; Rev. Jean Coyle challenging our thoughts about "soulful aging;" a study on the Apostle Paul with Dr. Kathryn Grieb; and an immigration series with Cesar Gonzalez addressing legislative challenges, Judge Paul Schmidt addressing judicial issues, and Alison Soulen addressing the day-to-day challenges immigrants face.

In the fall of 2016, we tried a new format for Adult Education. All classes for 2016-17 focus on a central theme: "Navigating the Seas of Change." The classes have been well received, with attendance increasing and new participants becoming involved. We offered just one class per Sunday, 18 in all, each addressing different aspects of the year-long theme. An average of 43 people attended each class. Our kick-off class with General James Cartwright and WPC member Michael Donley, former Secretary of the Air Force, was attended by 110 people and featured a powerful perspective of changes in the military. The classes continued to reflect our four pillars: A class on spirituality of the mind and body with Dr Puchalski of GWish (Health & Wholeness); a series on basic Reformed theology with Dr. Bruce Douglass and a class on finding God when dealing with sexual violence with Rev. Ruth Everhart (Biblical); a Muslim-Christian dialogue with Salih Sayligan and Dr. Dodd Simms, and an exploration of theology in the smartphone age with Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana (Spiritual); a class on fear in America with Dr. Peter Stearns and a class on justice in healthcare with WPC member Dr. Jim Muyskens (Current Affairs).

WPC also hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Dessert & Dialogue" with Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, who addressed the complexities of the changing face of healthcare. 130 people attended.

Centering Prayer was offered during Lent for the second time, in connection with the Lenten dinners. An average of 10 people attended each session. During Advent, in December, Centering Prayer was also offered, averaging 7 persons per session.

Rev. Larry Hayward again offered a weekly Bible study, “reading and Learning the Old Testament,” which 50 persons are attending this year. The Thursday Morning Study Group continued during the spring and fall of 2016. A DVD series of Amy Jill-Levine on the “Great Figures of the New Testament” was led by WPC members Art Sauer, Pat Prosperi, Bobbie Whittier, and Anne Ledyard. In the fall a series was offered on the Fall, Creation, Original Sin, Grace and Forgiveness led by Art Sauer, Pat Prosperi, Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Amey Upton, and Anne Ledyard. 30 + persons continue to attend this “offshoot” of the OT/NT class.

Faith Group, meeting since 2001 when Karen Blomberg organized groups in the congregation, still meets at Kathy Harkness’ home in the spring and the fall on Tuesday mornings for six times. In fall 2016, the group read “Grounded: Finding God in the World—A Spiritual Revolution” by Diana Butler Bass. The discussions are always lively and the readings provocative. This group is always open to newcomers!

A group of members met as the WPC Mental Health Discussion group in October to share thoughts and ideas. We talked about resources available in the region, listened to one another’s experiences of mental health disease, and offered a word of encouragement to one another, and to family members, individuals, and neighbors to provide support and understanding to those with mental health challenges. It is hoped we will continue to hold periodic conversations and bring speakers to WPC to help educate ourselves about these brain disorders.

## 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 adult music ministry at Westminster. Our 30-member adult choir, under Paul Stetsenko's direction, provided weekly leadership in worship. Highlights included Mozart's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The two bell choirs provided music at eight services.

Special items of interest this year:

We refined and filled a new volunteer position, the liturgical coordinator, who prepares the sanctuary and chapel each week for worship and assists in preparation for funeral services. This position was created by the Session in late 2015.

We studied the new PCUSA hymnbook, *Glory to God*, over the course of a year. On the basis of that study, the Session decided to adopt this hymnbook in 2017.

This is the second year we created a set of web-based Advent devotionals.

We are continuing to look for someone to reinvigorate and lead our music ministry outreach in 2017, which in the past has visited members unable to regularly attend worship due to age or illness, to provide music and worship.

# 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 2016!

## LOCAL MISSION

All of our local mission efforts are geared around our CHESST theme: Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter, & Self-Sufficiency. An increased in stewardship budget for local mission for a total expenditure of more than \$122,000.

**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.

**Carpenter's Shelter: \$9,000.** In addition to financial support, more than 40 members volunteered to prepare and serve dinner the first Monday of every month during the course of the year, contributing more than 240 hours of volunteer service and serving approximately 800 meals.

**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.

**George Mason Tutoring: \$4,500.** For two days a week from October through May, Westminster was able to organize tutoring for approximately 25 students thanks to the work of 30 volunteers.

**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 homebound persons.

Adopt-A-Turkey: \$8,000, plus funds from the Cents-Ability Offering. Thanksgiving meals were distributed to 300 Alexandria area families. Volunteers, including the youth group, provided the people power to pack the boxes take them to various drop points around town.

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.

People in Need Packets: \$2,000. 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.

We also supported:

Alexandria Untouchables: \$4,000. Developing male youth into successful men who live healthy and productive lives.

Bridges to Independence (formerly, Arlington/Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless): \$9,000.

Just Neighbors: \$2,000. Provides immigration services in Virginia.

Child and Family Network Centers: \$4,000. Low-income preschool.

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

Neighborhood Health: \$2,000. Health care for low-income families.

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

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

Senior Services of Alexandria: \$12,000. Support for a variety of senior services.

## **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GRANT**

2016 marked the fifth year of the Westminster Community Grant Program. The Local Mission Committee granted \$25,000 to the following organizations:

- Alexandria Tutoring Consortium: Books for kindergarteners and first graders in the program.
- Charles Barrett Elementary PTA: Construction of a garden bed and benches.
- Community Lodgings: Ten summer field trip scholarships for at risk youth.
- Hopkins House: Four scholarships for the Westminster Early Childhood Institute.
- Literacy Council of Northern Virginia: English literacy instruction to low income parents and children in Alexandria City Public Schools.
- Neighborhood Health: Pediatric health equipment and supplies to serve low income and immigrant families.
- Velocity Bicycle Cooperative: Four bicycle scholarships for residents of Carpenter's Shelter.
- Volunteer Alexandria: Pillow packs with supplies for 45 low income children to take to summer camp.

## **NATIONAL MISSION**

The National Mission Committee solidified and expanded our church's commitment to our three main projects in 2016: 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. Westminster members supported these projects through volunteer service outside the Beltway and donations, both in-kind and monetary. The committee also facilitated financial contributions through the quarterly Cents-Ability program for hunger and one-time donations to Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Young Adult Volunteers' house in Washington, DC, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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

2016 was a tremendous year for our church's partnership with Bdecan Presbyterian Church in its ministry to the surrounding Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The committee chair and vice-chair joined 22 youth, four other adults, and Rev. Hunnicutt on a high school mission trip to Spirit Lake in June. Joe Obermeyer, the resident Youth and Outreach Coordinator we support at Bdecan and a tireless and passionate advocate for this community, hosted us. Our youth led a lively vacation bible school, installed a pair of new basketball hoops, built a new fire pit and benches, shared fellowship with dozens of very energetic kids, learned a lot about life on a reservation, and saw the tribe's impressive herd of buffalo. Rev. Hunnicutt presided over communion and baptized two of Bdecan's youngest members. We delivered 200 pounds of toiletries donated by Westminster members, school supplies, and backpacks to the tribe's foster care agency to help meet the needs of the 250 children and youth they serve. A meeting with staff at the Cankdeska Cicana Community College facilitated the award of the first Bdecan Presbyterian Church scholarships, funded by Westminster members, to eight college students. We outfitted runners and walkers in the first Bdecan PUSH (Physically Uniting to Support Health) 5K with t-shirts—outreach about the ministry that can be worn again and again. Creation Station families made message magnets to sell at the Alternative Giving Bazaar and dedicated the proceeds to Spirit Lake. Our continued financial support of Bdecan will provide even more opportunities for their children and youth in the year to come.

## **APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT**

Westminster's relationship with the Appalachia Service Project remains strong. When floods devastated parts of West Virginia in June, we made a financial gift to ASP's nearly immediate response, Rebuilding Rainelle. In October, a group of nine returned to the ASP Guyan Valley Center in Brenton, West Virginia. For the first time, two George Washington University graduate students joined seven Westminster members on the trip. One team removed, reinforced, and replaced a sagging kitchen floor in one man's home. The other team helped finish a home addition that will allow the family to host a foster child, sanding and painting the walls and installing insulation underneath the new room.



## **GLEANNING TRIPS**

Our church continues to give our labor and resources to the Northern Neck Food Bank and the Society of St. Andrew, who work together to ensure unpicked produce from Virginia farms and orchards goes to Virginia's neediest families. About a dozen Westminster children, youth, and adults literally followed the professional pickers and harvested the leftover corn on a Colonial Beach, Virginia, farm on July 30. Youth and adults from the Untouchables, an Alexandria mentoring organization, joined us. With only a few other volunteers in the field that day, our group made over 4,000 pounds of corn available to central Virginia food pantries via the Northern Neck Food Bank. On October 1, another group of about a dozen youth and adults helped glean over 8,000 pounds of apples with the Society of St. Andrew at Marker-Miller Orchard in Winchester.

## **CENTS-ABILITY**

Our quarterly Cents-Ability collections of loose change for hunger raised a total of \$1,578.16 in 2016. 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 12 years, Westminster has supported the work of the United Orphanage and Academy (UOA) in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. There are currently ~55 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 150 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 February 2016, a group from Westminster and Old Presbyterian Meeting House visited UOA. We spent time with the children, visited the secondary schools they attend in Moi's Bridge, met with the teachers and staff of the Academy, and worshiped in a local Presbyterian church. We also were able to discuss current and future needs and goals for UOA with Reverend Stephen Chege, Director and Co-founder of UOA, and celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UOA. As part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we presented UOA with a plaque commemorating the first 10 years of this very special place and recognizing the contribution of Westminster member Henri Rush (1937-2014) to the founding and growth of UOA. Since our return, funds from Westminster along with a donation from the Rotary Club have been secured to install a new water system at the Orphanage which will provide running water to the kitchen and bathrooms when completed in 2017.

### **EAST AFRICA MISSIONS**

In 2016, Westminster continued to provide scholarship funds to support a seminary student at Justo Mwale Theological College in Lusaka, Zambia. Our scholarship student, Mr. Andrew Chipeta, is a member of the Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Zambia and will soon finish his degree. His first post-graduate posting is associated with Chasefu Theological College, another small seminary in Zambia which Westminster has supported for many years, including in 2016. This seminary operates on a shoestring budget and our funds go a long way to support their operating costs, primarily food for the students.

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 2016 about Justo Mwale, Chasefu, and her work in Africa. The International Mission Committee hopes to arrange a visit to Westminster by Nancy Collins in 2017 when she is stateside.

## **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 2016, 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 funds through CCH for Hurricane Matthew relief in Haiti in 2016.
- In 2016, Westminster participated in the annual Bread for the World Offering of Letters and provided financial support for this 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 2016, our high school youth led VBS at the Spirit Lake Reservation in North Dakota. Our middle school youth ventured to Exmore, VA to glean crops and learn about hunger at Harvest of Hope with the Society of St. Andrew.

## 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 20 extended Communion visits to members on Communion Sundays, in addition to 72 visits to deliver Sunday flowers.
- Meals Team volunteers, coordinated by Deacon Abby Cruikshank, provided meals to 15 families with new babies.
  - The Card Ministry, under the creative leadership of Deacon Amy Stenlund and Nancy Pitcher, made and sent more than 160 cards, including get-well cards, 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 7 memorial/funeral services, and coordinated receptions following most of those services.
  - A team of dedicated volunteer bus drivers, coordinated by Don Smyles, 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.
  - Our annual “Coffee with the Pastors” was held at both Goodwin Houses. Two afternoon gatherings with Larry were held at members’ homes at Goodwin House Alexandria in the summer. In December, Larry met for lunch with our members at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads.
  - 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 2016, 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**

Compared to the banner accomplishment of the Blomberg Courtyard last year, 2016 was a year of many smaller but significant improvements to our facility, as well as rapid responses to some minor emergencies.

Our biggest project was to build an office space for the new associate pastor, along with some new bookshelves, carpet and paint for our professional staff. Other improvements included new ceiling projectors and sound system improvements in the Sanctuary and the Haverkamp Room; a new water fountain and TV cart for the youth; an added zone to the Courtyard watering system to cover grass out to Cameron Mills Rd.; repairs to the sidewalk alongside the Sanctuary on the Monticello side; and a new bike rack for our two-wheeling members (purchased and to be available soon).

We also replaced stolen downspouts, repaired window wells, replaced kitchen plumbing and dealt with failed pipes in the chapel that caused some damage but to which we responded quickly, cleaning up

the mess, isolating the problem and restoring the use of this important space in a timely fashion. Most of the credit for dealing skillfully with our minor fiascoes is due our Facilities Manager, Jim Buchanan. Jim provides day to day oversight of our Church facility, and his efforts should be noted.

We are beginning to look at a Project to enhance and improve the entry to Fellowship Hall (from the parking lot) and have hired an architect to design a more welcoming and more attractive stair and entry, which for many visitors is their first view of our Church. Please stay tuned. B&G remains committed to providing support and responsiveness to keep our beloved church doors open.

## **DIGITAL MINISTRIES**

The Digital Ministries committee started 2016 by looking to audit the web and social media offerings of the church and assess any needs. The committee prepared a survey which was sent to congregation members and visitors. The response from the congregation was great and many great insights were gained. As a result of this survey, the committee decided that a re-vamp of the church website in order. The rest of 2016 was spent gathering requirements, interviewing and selecting vendors and working with the website developer to mold the shape and feel of the new site. We are excited to show the congregation the fruits of the labor in early 2017!

## **NOMINATING**

The 2016 Nominating Committee presented slates of elders and deacons for the Congregation's consideration as church officers, as well as members to serve on the next Nominating Committee and as Trustee. The Nominating Committee also presented a slate of members to serve on the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The committee would like to thank those who volunteered and those who considered volunteering.

## 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 pastor and other members of the staff. At Westminster, the Personnel Committee oversees 17 Church staff that includes full-time, part-time, and volunteer employees. Actions taken by the Committee in 2016 include the following:

- Amey Upton was approved as Director of Adult Education in January.
- In February, the committee led the congregation in the process to establish a new Associate Pastor position and to call elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC).
- Jean Coyle was approved as a Parish Associate in March.
- Caitlin Dallas Buehler resigned as Youth Program Coordinator in March in anticipation of the church adding a fourth pastor.
- Casey FitzGerald took maternity leave in the spring and welcomed her third child, Andrew.
- Jill Ewell retired from her volunteer position of Pastoral Care Associate in May.
- Molly Roden became the Interim Director of Children's Music in June.
- The Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Policy was drafted and approved by Session in July.
- Ed Johnson was hired as a part-time sexton in August.
- Carolyn Carmack resigned as the Liturgical Coordinator in September, though she remains the Financial Assistant.
- Patrick Hunnicutt's Sabbatical Leave was approved, to begin January 2, 2017 and end April 4, 2017.

## FINANCIAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Westminster continues to be strong financially thanks to the commitment and support of our members. The church has good cash balances and strong revenue from pledges, offerings, and contributions. Our 2016 yearly income exceeded our yearly expenses, primarily due to a 99.5 percent pledge collection rate and staff expenditures being lower than budgeted.

The Westminster Foundation, which invests and oversees funds established through special gifts and bequests, ended the year with a balance of \$2.2 million. These funds support every area of the church's program and mission. Income from the cell phone companies with antennas in our steeple continued to add to the Foundation Reserve funds, which were used in 2016 for elevator repairs, a Capital Reserve study (resulting in a 20-year plan for maintaining the church's buildings and grounds), special musicians for our Palm Sunday and Requiem services, local mission projects, technology for our new digital ministries, and support for retreats.

In 2014, the church approved a plan to redesign the courtyard in memory of Karen Blomberg and install a new accessible door next to the Chapel. The project, which was completed in 2015, was funded by accumulated cell phone revenue and a loan from the Foundation, which was paid in full in 2016.

### 2016 Year-End Finances

#### Operating Funds:

Pledges	\$1,777,297
Non-Pledge and Special Offerings	\$ 195,307
Other Income	<u>\$ 50,762</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,023,366</b>
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,905,078</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 118,288</b>

#### Westminster Foundation:

<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$2,200,290</b>
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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

1,007 total members as of 12/31/16.

- 57 new or reactivated members (includes 7 confirmands)
- 13 member deaths
- 45 other losses (transfers to other churches, removed, etc.)
- 28 child and infant baptisms, 3 adult baptisms
- 20 births or adoptions in member families

# OFFICERS, BOARDS & STAFF 2016

## SESSION

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

### Class of 2016

Chris Bagley  
Anne-Marie Berens  
Rebecca Buckner  
Steve Cloud  
Marcy Crisler  
Randy Davis  
Kristin Eagan  
Yvonne Folkerts  
Charlie Keeth  
Chris Matthews  
Pete Vanden Bosch

### 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  
Marilyn Eckert  
Tom French  
Kathy Harkness  
Anne Marks  
Elizabeth Martineau  
Lara Sayer  
David Ware  
Rob Winn

## DIACONATE

Janet Hawkins, Moderator | Norman Speicher, Vice Moderator  
Eileen Jinks, Staff Liaison

### Class of 2016

Louise Anderson  
Abby Cruikshank  
Tim Foley  
Janet Hawkins  
Margaret Hirsch  
Cindy Shaw  
Cindy Smith  
Don Smyles  
Joe Torpey  
Nedra Trahant

### 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  
Meredith Taylor  
Nancy Todd  
Erskine Wells

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Steve Cloud (Chair), Adrienne Griffin (Vice Chair)  
Louise Anderson (Deacon Representative)  
Frank Fraser, Michael Lempke, Joan McCulla, Mara Winn

## **TRUSTEES**

Melissa McClellan (Class of 2016)  
Mike McAdoo (Class of 2017)  
John Runyan (Class of 2019)

## **FOUNDATION BOARD**

<b>Class of 2016</b>	<b>Class of 2017</b>	<b>Class of 2018</b>
Morgan Johnson	Carl Chidlow	Laurie Blackburn
Mark Pollock	Spencer Dickerson	Judy Harper
Chris Van Horne	Lanny Griffith	Bill Keeth
John Woods	Rob Winn	Julie Taylor

## **STAFF**

Larry Hayward, Pastor  
Patrick Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor  
Casey FitzGerald, Associate Pastor  
Paul Stetsenko, Director of Music Ministries  
Nancy Bea, Business Administrator  
Jim Buchanan, Facilities Manager  
Carolyn Burke, Preschool Director  
Tara Cain, Executive Assistant  
Carolyn Carmack, Financial Assistant  
Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry and Seniors Activities  
Nancy Hall Berens, Dir. of Congregational Life, Singles, and Women  
Eileen Jinks, Pastoral Care Coordinator  
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

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2701 CAMERON MILLS ROAD  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302**

**WWW.WPC-ALEX.ORG  
703-549-4766**

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