



Westminster
Presbyterian Church

worship well



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the Chronicle

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From the Pastor's Study A Message From Rev. Dr. Larry Hayward **Shared Parenting**

Last summer, Maggie and I attended a panel discussion in Washington. One of the panelists arrived a bit late, and was introduced as being – as of twelve hours earlier – a “first time Father.” People applauded and mention was made that his wife had made a great sacrifice in allowing him to leave the hospital to participate in the panel, a thought that had occurred to me even before it was spoken in the introduction.

Two weeks ago, we attended a Bar Mitzvah at the American Friends of Lubavitch Center near DuPont Circle. There were about 150 people in attendance, crowded into the upper floor of a townhouse. I gave up the seat I originally found to an older man, and stood for the service, which lasted three hours.

The room was divided with men on one side, women on the other. The participants included many young families, so there were children and youth, including a few infants. For a while, fathers would hold their infants, and then meet their wives in a neutral area near where the room was divided, and the mothers would take their infants with them into the female side of the room. This went on several times, back and forth, dad to mom, mom to dad.

I soon noticed a young father standing next to me, holding his infant daughter. He was absorbed in his daughter's beauty and innocence, as one can only be absorbed by an infant, even as he was chanting from the prayer book which he held in his almost free other hand. A couple of times during the service, he met his wife in the neutral area, surrendered his daughter to her, but eventually received her back in his arms.

The young father turned out to be the panelist I had seen several months earlier.

Whatever fleeting thoughts I had about this father having abandoned his wife and newborn child for a speaking engagement faded before the sight of tenderness, beauty, and shared parenting that was before me.

We have moved in our society toward shared parenting, and while I am sure it is an uneven thing, it cannot help but be a good thing. Even in the tradition in which this Bar Mitzvah occurred, where men and women cannot share space for worship, the tradition creates space for shared parenting.

The parents of the boy having the Bar Mitzvah are divorced. But both parents were there, as were grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins from each side and the congregation as well, including the panelist and his wife and daughter held alternately in their arms.

In the bulletin, the mother wrote to her congregation:

This physical space is very important to us in my son's Jewish life. Thirteen years ago he had his bris (circumcision) here. It was followed by his pidyon haben – redemption of the first born son; upsherin – his first hair cutting at three years old, and today he will be called to the Torah for the first time for an Aliyah [a reading of the Torah].

She added: “Your love and support for my boys and me is truly everything.”

In our tradition as well, shared parenting involves the whole congregation. All of us. An infant passed from parent to parent, family member to family member, congregant to congregant. It is beautiful when it happens, and most necessary as well.

-Larry



We welcome to the Westminster nursery:

- **Connor Robert Douglas MacGregor**, son of Gordon & Caitlin MacGregor and little brother of Alasdair

Please remember in prayer the family and friends of:

- **Zander Wilke**, who died May 9, 2018
- **Ann Frutchey**, who died April 6, 2018
- **Alice Daniels**, who died April 2, 2018



Westminster Roadsters (Boomers and Beyond)

www.wpc-alex.org/roadsters

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

Please register for events with Nancy or with the church office.

Monday, May 21: “Cézanne Portraits” at the National Gallery of Art.

Catch the new Cézanne exhibit before it leaves for London and Paris! After the exhibit, we will eat lunch at one of the gallery cafés. Meet in the church parking lot at 9:45 am. We’ll return about 1:30 or 2:00 pm. Cost is \$2 for the bus plus lunch. Trip is currently full but call to get on the waiting list.

Friday, June 1 (date change): “The Nance” at Little Theatre of Alexandria.

It’s the 1930s New York, a time when it was easy to “play gay” but dangerous to be gay. This comedy will take you into the wild world of burlesque and musical vaudeville parodies, and tell the backstage story of Chauncey Miles “The Nance” and his fellow performers. Show starts at 8:00 PM; arrive between 7:30–7:45 to receive your ticket.

Monday, June 18: “Wings of Fancy” Butterfly & Caterpillar Exhibit at Brookside Gardens.

Come be surrounded by hundreds of brilliant live butterflies from North America, Costa Rica, Africa, and Asia soaring among colorful flowers looking for nectar and others of their kind. Learn about their amazing metamorphosis, the important role butterflies play in healthy ecosystems, and how to ensure these beautiful insects thrive in our own gardens. Meet in the church parking lot at 9 am. Cost is \$13 for bus and entrance ticket.

Monday, July 16: Lunch & Learn.

Participants in this year’s church mission trips to Haiti will tell us about their experiences and work in this beautiful country not so far from our own, but very different indeed. Learn about our friends in mission in Haiti, and the joys and challenges which they face. See the beautiful landscape and friendly people which our youth and adults will encounter in Haiti. 12:00 noon in the Haverkamp Room. \$10 for lunch.



Flying Solo Singles Ministry (50's and above)

Nancy Hall Berens, Director
nhallberens@wpc-alex.org
703-549-4766 ext. 121
www.wpc-alex.org/singles

Tuesday, May 22: Monthly Potluck

7:00 p.m. in the Johnson Parlor.

Join us for our monthly service project of making sandwiches for the Bag Lunch program then share potluck dinner together. Please bring a simple dish for supper.

Sunday, May 27: Flying Solo hosts Lemonade on the Lawn

After worship. Nancy Harper is organizing our effort this year.

Monday, June 11: Monthly Dine-Out

Enjoy a summer restaurant outing to Lost Dog Café with Flying Solo! 808 N. Henry Street, Alexandria (Route 1 in Upper Old Town). Meet at church at 7:00 pm to carpool or meet there at 7:15 pm.

Saturday, June 16: We embark on a progressive "Drinks, Dinner & Dessert!"

We will start at 5 pm with drinks at the home of Sharon Ksander, then move on to Live Oak on Commonwealth Ave for dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by dessert hosted by Judy Curtis and Jim Bradley at Jim's home. Stay tuned for addresses by email ... it's all in the same neighborhood!

July Book Group:

It's time to read the rest of "*Friedman's Fables*" by Rabbi Edwin H. Friedman. This year we will read the second half of the fables (p. 95 to the end). Rabbi Friedman has some unique insights into human nature and uses humor to help us better understand ourselves and others. Learn how new ideas and imagination can help us overcome barriers in ourselves and in our relationships. Watch for meeting details later.

Annual Fall Retreat – October 5-7, 2018 (Columbus Day Weekend)

Patrick Hunnicutt is looking forward to joining us on our fall retreat at Loyola on the Potomac, a Jesuit Retreat House on a bluff overlooking the Potomac River in Southern Maryland. Watch for more information coming soon... and mark your calendars now!

From the Personnel Committee:

The Session has approved the hiring of **Lavinia Davis-Laux**, effective May 21, to succeed our beloved Nancy Bea as Director of Finance and Administration. Lavinia comes to us with substantial non-profit and project management experience, and we know everyone will enjoy working with her in the coming years. Nancy Bea's last day in the office will be May 25th, and we will be recognizing her at the 11:00 service on May 20th as well as at Lemonade on the Lawn afterward.

Thank you to Stacy Danquah who has been filling in for Jessica Thurnes for the past couple months while Jessica was on maternity leave. We greatly appreciate all Stacy has done and wish her the best in her next endeavors. We welcome Jessica back to the office on May 15.

Your Foundation Dollars at Work

In April, the Westminster Foundation Board and Session approved use of Foundation funds from the National Mission Projects Reserve Fund to cover expenses for six people to visit Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Spirit Lake Reservation, North Dakota, July 12-16, 2018. While on the Spirit Lake Reservation, the WPC team will visit Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC). WPC has awarded 19 Bdecan Presbyterian Scholarships to CCCC students since 2016; the team will use the visit to assess the impact of those scholarships.

In May, the Westminster Foundation Board approved use of Foundation funds as follows:

- From Women's Programs, for the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering.
- From the Technology Reserve Fund, to purchase a new projector.

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.



Children and Families

www.wpc-alex.org/families

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry | pchamberlain@wpc-alex.org

Molly Roden, Director of Children's Music | mroden@wpc-alex.org

Music & More Week | Mornings, June 25-29 | *The Lost Boy*

M&M Week is our summer musical day camp experience for children who are currently enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Led by Molly Roden and Patty Chamberlain, this is a special week filled with singing, drama, storytelling, arts and crafts, snacks, recreation, games, and more! Many volunteers and parents also teach and assist. Information and registration form at wpc-alex.org/families.

Saturday in the Park

For parents and children under 5

June 16, July 14, 9-10:30 AM on the Preschool playground

Join other families with young children for donuts, coffee, and FUN. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents of young children.

Summer Kick-Off Picnic!

Sunday, June 3

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 Joy Cameron at CL@wpc-alex.org.



Church Picnic



Youth Matters

wpc-alex.org/youth

Whitney Fauntleroy

Wfauntleroy@wpc-alex.org

Taco Tuesdays

The program year for youth ministries at Westminster has come to a close, however all rising 6th graders through graduating seniors are invited to attend any of our Taco Tuesdays in July and August. Taco Tuesdays begin at 6:30pm. No need to RSVP.

- 7/3 - Los Tios
- 7/24- Taqueria Poblano
- 8/7 - Don Taco
- 8/21-District Taco
- 8/28- Los Toltecs

Morning Feedback

Whitney is looking for feedback about her first year working with youth at Westminster. Join her and possibly a member of the youth committee for breakfast on a few Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June from 7:45-9am.

- June 5-6 -Stomping Ground (Del Ray)
- June 11-12 -Best Buns (Shirlington)
- June 18-19- Junction Bakery and Bistro



The Young Adults of Westminster will be going outside this summer. We are changing locales this summer and enjoying the weather and the people watching.

- Faith on Tap- June 8 at Shooter McGee's
- Faith on Tap- July 10 at Portner Brewhouse
- Faith on Tap- August 14 at the Front Porch

We are also looking at some specific fellowship events this summer such as catching a soccer or baseball game or a quick day trip. If you are interested in getting on the young adult's list and staying up to date with events, contact Whitney.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women

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

Janet Harris, Moderator and Alison Griffin, Vice Moderator | PW@wpc-alex.org

Women's Circles:

Circles meet monthly for Bible study, friendship, and mission support. This spring we are finishing up our study of the *Letter to the Hebrews*. Watch for June meeting details for circles in the weekly Update or visit the Presbyterian Women's page on the church website: www.wpc-alex.org/presbywomen.



Book Groups

meet on the fourth Monday of the month to discuss interesting and thought-provoking book selections. The book for May/June discussion is "*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*" by Lisa See. It is a mother-daughter historical novel about growing tea in China and Chinese adoption into America. The meeting dates are Tuesday, May 29 at 11am and Monday, June 4 at 7:30pm. Discussions will be led by Clara Beth Van de Water. We will not meet again until September and have not chosen a book yet.

Pillow Ministry meets the first Wednesday of the month to make pillows and stuffed animals for heart patients and children at Alexandria Hospital.

Shanghai Card Group gathers on the third Monday of the month for some friendly competition and fellowship.

Connecting with Presbyterian Women on the regional and national levels:

Synod Summer Gathering: June 8-10 at Massanetta Springs

<https://www.pwmidatlanticsynod.net/>

Meet women from all around the mid-Atlantic region and get a sneak peek at next year's Bible Study, "God's Promise: I Am With You."

Church-wide Gathering: August 2-5 in Louisville, Kentucky

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/churchwide-gathering/

Meet sisters in Christ from around the country and the world at the triennial meeting of Presbyterian Women.

Men of Westminster

Contact: Dudley Schadeberg mow@wpc-alex.org
www.wpc-alex.org/menofw



Meet for Breakfast

Men's Breakfast

Meet Friday, June 8, 7-8:30 AM
in Fellowship Hall
For Congressman Fred Upton
RSVP Dudley Schadeberg at
mow@wpc-alex.org

Congressman Fred Upton will be the featured speaker at our June 8 Breakfast Meeting. He will comment on energy and commerce issues currently being considered by the U. S. House of Representatives, and share with us his thoughts on current topics of the day. This will be a rare opportunity to hear directly from a Member of Congress and to ask questions on matters of state in an informal and intimate setting.

Fred was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1986, and is currently the dean of the Michigan delegation, serving his 16th term representing the people of Michigan's 6th Congressional District – covering six counties in the southwestern portion of the state. He is a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, having just completed a six-year term as Chairman of that committee from 2011-2016. The Committee has jurisdiction over matters concerning energy, healthcare, the environment, telecommunications, commerce, manufacturing, and trade, as well as oversight and investigations. Bipartisan success has been a staple during his tenure in Congress. Fred is a moderate Republican and has long been a member of the Tuesday Group and the Republican Main Street Partnership.

Congressman Upton values our constitutional system of government checks and balances. He is focused on ensuring the federal government remains limited, transparent, and accountable. Fred strongly supports an “all of the above” energy strategy that says yes to energy and focuses on emerging clean energy technologies as well as traditional energy solutions that lower costs for families and businesses and help America become free from reliance on foreign oil. He supports the FCC's ruling under chairman Ajit Pai, which reversed the “Net Neutrality” rules previously instituted in 2015 to treat the internet as a public utility.

Fred is a native of Michigan, born in St. Joseph. He earned his B.A. in journalism from the University of Michigan. He served on the congressional staff of Congressman David Stockman (R-MI) from 1976 to 1980. He was in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under President Reagan from 1981 to 1985, when Stockman served as OMB Director. Fred is an ardent supporter of Michigan Wolverine athletics and an enthusiastic Chicago Cubs baseball fan. He and his wife Amey are longtime members of Westminster and live in Alexandria. Their two adult children, Meg and Stephen grew up attending Westminster.



Summer Hours

Starting Monday, June 11, the church office will be open 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM throughout the summer. We will return to regular hours after Labor Day.

Adult Faith Formation

www.wpc-alex.org/adult

Amey Upton, Director | aupton@wpc-alex.org

Reading and Learning the Old Testament led by Larry Hayward | Sundays, 4-6 PM
September 9, 2018-April 14, 2019 with holiday break

A guided reading of the Old Testament, exploring texts in detail and reflecting on how they impact our faith and life. Register with Jessica Thurnes at jthurnes@wpc-alex.org. Cost: \$20.

“Towards Fuller Faith & Service”

“Towards Fuller Faith & Service” comes full circle as we end this year’s program on Sunday, May 20 with our own Kathy Harkness helping us discern where God might be calling us, learning about how others have felt called, and how we might answer faithfully.

It is our hope that these programs and classes have led you “towards fuller faith & service”; that they have led you to discover more about your faith and catalyzed more questions about your beliefs. Our programming is based around four pillars (Biblical Studies, Health/Wholeness, Spiritual Formation & Current Events) to allow a broad framework to plan classes.

Over these past nine months we’ve studied a wide spectrum of subjects: from neuroscience to mental illness; from addiction to morality. We offered Presbyterian 101 and a series on spiritual portraits. We heard how to talk with children of color and learned about some new thoughts surrounding the field of nutrition. We studied the Book of Romans and examined ideas formed during the Protestant Reformation, as well as examined what our laws say about elder care and finances.

Teachers taught on the dynamics of marriage to the dynamics of text, pretext and context. Dr. Jay Lombard, author, wrote the 2018 Book Read choice, *“The Mind of God,”* and the Honorable John Lewis graced us with his formidable presence at the 3rd annual Dessert & Dialogue. We’re busy planning next year’s programs and are always open to hear your thoughts, ideas and feedback.

And remember, deep listening is an art that seems to be disappearing in the current technological age. We hope you’ll consider listening and attending some of the many programs and classes we’ll offer next fall as an opportunity, amid all the quick-fire communication and hectic world in which we live, to learn and grow with your Westminster community, undistracted on Sunday mornings or throughout the coming year. We guarantee the rewards are there for your taking!

Amey Upton, Kristen Bishop, and the Adult Education Team



WPC in Mission

wpc-alex.org/serve

Contact: Patrick Hunnicutt | phunnicutt@wpc-alex.org



Rebuilt and Always Rebuilding

Students of the Reformed faith of which Westminster is a part will know our oft-repeated motto, “Reformed and always reforming,” a declaration that we as the church and as individual members of it are continually being made new by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. On a recent April Saturday, a vibrant team of 17 WPC members and friends embodied that belief, as they helped “re-form” the home of a local couple, Juan and Hazel, as part of the Rebuilding Together Alexandria day of service. Thanks to the team’s efforts, the couple’s home now has safer entrance and exit ramps, a more functional shower, new gates, less leaky window wells and a far more colorful garden. In the process, the team members found themselves being re-formed as partners in God’s new creation.

If you missed the chance this year, look for us again next April, and you might also consider joining the October mission trip to West Virginia, where we will similarly live out our reformed faith by working on homes for low-income families through the ongoing work of the Appalachia Service Project.

Many thanks to Eric Weiss and Chris Miles for leading our efforts, and all who participated.



the Chronicle

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Contributors: Members, Friends, & Staff of Westminster
Dawn Campbell, Production Editor
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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 RodenInterim Director of Children's Music
Art SauerMembership Involvement Coordinator
Amey UptonDirector of Adult Education
Nancy BeaBusiness Administrator
Jim BuchananFacilities Manager
Cindy McCeneyFinancial Assistant
Tara CainExecutive Assistant
Jessica ThurnesProgram Assistant
Larry JohnsonSexton
Marvin JohnsonHead Sexton

Church Office: 703-549-4766 • Fax 703-548-1505

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Member Involvement News



Memorial Day is almost here and with it comes the beginning of summer. I hope everyone is planning to take a break and take a refreshing vacation. Even though things slow down over the summer, they don't stop. We still hold a worship service every Sunday at 10 am and still need ushers and communion servers (and preparers). Many of our mission programs also continue over the summer and replacements are needed for volunteers who are on vacation. Carpenter's Shelter, Bag Lunch, and Meals on Wheels, especially need additional volunteers over the summer as the clientele continues to need nutritious meals. This is a good time to "try out" one of these programs to see if you would like to become a more regular volunteer.

The Children's Education Program will be lining up volunteers for next year's programs. This is not just for parents, anyone who likes to work with children is invited to volunteer. In fact, it is good for both volunteers and students to have non-parents working with the children.

We still need a few more volunteers to cover the church office on Sunday mornings. Especially during the summer, we get many visitors. Sometimes they get lost and need help finding the church or they forget when the service starts. Having someone in the office who can help them out is a great outreach to potential new members and just a nice way to show what a welcoming congregation we are.

There are many things going on at Westminster throughout the year, even during the summer. Your help is always needed. If you are interested, don't hesitate to ask me or any member of the Session or Diaconate. We will gladly help you find your calling.

Yours in Christ,

Art Sauer
Coordinator, Member Involvement