

# 2018 Annual Report



**Westminster**  

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**Presbyterian Church**

Dear Westminster Members and Friends,

It has been a good year for Westminster, for which I am grateful to God and thankful to you. A few of the highlights:

- We have fully lived into some new major staff responsibilities this year, as both Whitney Fautleroy and Ben Hutchens have been fully acclimated to their new positions at Westminster, as Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults (Whitney) and Director of Music Ministries (Ben), the church's ministry and presence in the community are reaping the benefits of their inspired leadership. In addition, the work of Cambria Van de Vaarst and Molly Roden enhance our music program greatly.
- Patrick Hunnicutt has had the full year in his new role with us as Associate Pastor for Mission and Pastoral Care, and Reverend Evangeline Taylor has joined our staff as Director of Seniors Pastoral Care and added warmth and spiritual presence to our Seniors.
- Lavinia Davis-Laux joined our staff in May as our new Director of Finance and Administration and is learning the many ropes of our church and guiding us with energy and enthusiasm (as well as effectiveness!).
- Patty Chamberlain is working well as our Director of Children's Ministry and our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is well into its search for our Associate Pastor of Christian Formation.
- In addition, the people who have worked here continue to make value contributions to our ministry: Nancy Hall Berens, Amey Upton, Jim Buchanan, Art Sauer, Tara Cain, Jessica Thurnes, Marvin Johnson, and Larry Johnson, as well as our Westminster Weekday Preschool Director, Carolyn Burke, and her wonderful staff, and the people (led by Barbara Rawlings) who care for our children during worship and other church activities.
- The church is doing well financially and a study completed this year of our financial structure and projections has proved fruitful in continuing to help us use the financial commitments of our members and friends to their wise and most effective use.
- We have had a very good year of receiving new members and continue to be a church to which people are drawn for exploring faith or strengthening faith long held.

I want to thank the leadership of countless officers – Session members, Deacons, Clerks of Session, Treasurers, Foundation Board members – as well as the hundreds of lay persons who serve in ways seen and unseen. Westminster is indeed a remarkable church, greater than the sum of our many parts, and each part is a wonderful human being, child of God, special in God’s sight and in our sight. Thank you for being who you are.

Larry R. Hayward, Pastor

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# FELLOWSHIP

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

This has been another very busy year for Congregational Life. There are separate group reports that describe the variety of activities that fall under the Committee jurisdiction and this section will just focus on some of the principal committee events and activities.

**Dessert and Dialogue:** Provided food and volunteer support for a very large event. Details of the event would be with Adult Education side of Christian Formation.

**Lenten Dinner Series (in conjunction with Christian Formation):** worked to secure catering and volunteers to help serve dinners. Working with partners to work on a broader attendance than “just the choir kids.”

**Palm Sunday Breakfast:** Another successful brunch for the congregation. Many components are potluck, but are heavily supplemented with pancakes (Shout out to Matt) and sausage (shout out to Frank).

**Church Wide Picnic:** The annual barbeque of hot dogs and hamburgers for the church. This year was quite a challenge – as it was pouring and we had a very high attendance. The amazing team rallied and put people in every nook and cranny downstairs in the church will making sure everyone stayed dry and was fed.

**Church wide Progressive dinner:** (in conjunction with Stewardship): Provided logistical, lights and sound, decorations, food and beverage coordination and supplementation. A new event for the committee this year. This event required 40 volunteers and simultaneous programming at seven sites. Participants were happy and enjoyed the program.

**Pageant Dinner (with Children’s Formation):** Provided food and supplemented Elizabeth Martineau’s amazing decorations.

**Boar’s Head (with Music Ministry):** a sneak peek into the 2019 accomplishments. Another great new event. A church wide dinner that had music and drama (from flaming desserts to knights). The committee was to partner on this new project.

Also, we were thrilled that we were able to replace a significant portion of the chairs (210 so far) for Fellowship Hall. Thank you to B&G and A&F for helping us bridge the gap!

Beyond events the committee worked to thoughtfully consider sending the motion to Session to expand the Cub Scout pack to include girl dens, supported each other in grief, family illnesses, job uncertainty and celebrated new jobs, successful health recovery and continued prayers of support for illness, family life and each other. These members are the quiet backbone of so many of the events throughout the church. And I know that there are potential new members out there. In the next year we are looking to coordinate more with the New Member and HOME committees to grow our merry band and take some of the pressure off of the current committee.

## **ADULTS**

### *Softball*

Another successful season with many new players. A bit of a “rebuilding year” standings-wise. However, I am always impressed with the integrity that the team plays with throughout the whole season. Sadly, other teams stack their players for the playoffs but WPC only uses the players that played all season.

### *Cross-rovers*

A new group that has formed that focuses on dinner and togetherness for the age group slotted between mid-thirties to fifties – married and single. I was able to join for the inaugural event. You can always tell that it is filling a gaps when the group has to keep adding spaces to accommodate everyone.

## **FAMILIES**

Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministries served children and their families with a large range of programs throughout 2018. The annual M&M Week, our music camp experience for elementary-aged children, was held in June. Children learned the story of "The Lost Boy, Jesus at the Temple."

The Palm Sunday Donkey Processional and Christmas Pageant continue to be a part of the lives of children and families. The Family Retreat was

held at the Claggett Center. Four Westminster members led a discussion on "Raising a Faithful Child in a Social Media World."

Families were supported through a family picnic, parent education opportunities, Milestones of Faith for children, book clubs for older elementary-aged children, and Family Mornings for preschoolers.

## **MEN OF WESTMINSTER**

Men of Westminster sponsors a hot breakfast throughout the year on the second Friday of the month. MOW also organizes and hosts an annual men's retreat in February at Hallwood Retreat and Conference Center in Frederick County, MD. During 2018, Men of Westminster hosted Fellowship Hour on Mother's Day.

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

The Westminster Roadsters participated in various outings and meals together during 2018. We had lunch out at Lena's restaurant and enjoyed a special Irish dinner in March before attending the talk by Jay Lombard, author of the all-church book read on his book "The Mind of God." We visited the Cezanne exhibit at the National Gallery of Art, the Tomb of Christ exhibit at National Geographic, the Air & Space museum on the National Mall, and went to hear the Westminster Choir and Ringers perform Christmas music in the Rotunda of the National Gallery.

Roadsters also continued attending monthly performances at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, and shared several "Lunch & Learn" programs during the year including a video on the life and civil rights work of Congressman John Lewis, a talk with participants in the youth mission trip to Haiti, "A Musical Journey Through the Church Year" with Director of Music Ministries Ben Hutchens, and a Getting-To-Know-You lunch with Evangeline Taylor, our new Director of Seniors' Pastoral Care.

## SINGLES – FLYING SOLO (50’S AND ABOVE)

Flying Solo Singles (50’s and above) grew together in faith, friendship, and love through many varied events throughout 2018 focusing on fellowship, service, and learning. We enjoyed monthly Dine-Outs and Potlucks, Roundtable discussions, quarterly Book Group discussions, our annual Fall Retreat, and several special events and mission projects.

Some highlights of 2018 include:

- Fall Retreat to Loyola on the Potomac with Patrick Hunnicutt as our retreat leader on the topic “Primed to See and Do: Visions of God for the People of God.” Throughout the weekend, we recalled and shared times in our lives when God seems to have revealed God’s divine presence to us and how that experience changed or impacted us.
- Roundtables on the art of making the perfect cup of coffee with WPC member and self-proclaimed coffee guru Matt Viser, and a time of “getting to know you” with Evangeline Taylor, Westminster’s new Director of Seniors’ Pastoral Care.
- Service projects included making sandwiches each month for the Bag Lunch program, decorating the Chrismon Tree in Johnson Parlor, and participating in the Holiday Sharing program at Christmas to provide gifts for a local needy family.
- Book Group met quarterly to read both fiction and non-fiction works and to explore issues of life and faith. In 2018 we discussed *The Red Tent*, *The Year of Living Biblically*, *Friedman’s Fables*, and *People of the Book*.
- Special events included an outing to the Philips Collection to see the Paul Klee exhibit and to tour the nearby historic Gillett mansion where one member works, a progressive “Drinks, Dinner, and Dessert” in Flying Solo members’ homes, and going to the National Gallery of Art to hear the Westminster Choir and Ringers perform Christmas music in the Rotunda. In 2018 WPC member Kay Sidahmed introduced the group to Christ-centered chair yoga to stretch body and soul. We always have fun at our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Day dinners, and of course, our Super Chili Bowl and Christmas parties! This year we also enjoyed Easter Sunday Dinner at one member’s home.

An important aspect to Flying Solo is the sense of community we share with church friends, reaching out to one another in Christian love and support as well as being an integral part of the entire church family.

## **WOMEN**

Women of all ages and stages of life are part of our women's ministry programs here at Westminster. There are many opportunities to connect with one another and to deepen our faith as women.

### **Circles and Bible Study:**

In 2018, our Women's Circles met monthly in small groups for Bible study, fellowship, and service projects. Each year, the Bible study program offers us opportunities for discussion of what scripture means in our daily lives. Circles also share joys and concerns with one another to foster fellowship and friendship. Our women also reach out to those in need through cards, prayers, and special offerings. Each year we collect the Thank and Birthday Offerings as well as the Least Coin Offering which support mission projects benefitting women and children in the U.S. and throughout the world.

In the 2017-18 program year, our circle Bible study was **"Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews"** where we explored the Biblical community in the Letter to the Hebrews as well as the importance of our own communities – of faith, of family, and of friends, with Christ as our foundation.

In the current 2018-19 program year, we are studying **"God's Promise: I Am With You."** From Genesis to the Gospels, God promises to be with us no matter where we are or what we are going through. This Bible study explores how God spoke to those in Biblical times and how God speaks to us even today, assuring us that God will never leave us.

In 2018, we were excited to add an additional daytime circle, called Lydia Circle. Lydia Circle and all our circles always welcome new members! Please contact Nancy Hall Berens, staff liaison ([NHallBerens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:NHallBerens@wpc-alex.org)); Janet Harris, PW moderator and Alison Griffin, PW vice moderator ([PW@wpc-alex.org](mailto:PW@wpc-alex.org)); or any of the circles below to find out more about which circle might be right for you to try:

**Elizabeth Circle** has been meeting for many years and continues to enjoy Bible study, praying together, participating in local and national PW activities, and supporting those in need.

Contact: [elizabethcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:elizabethcircle@wpc-alex.org)

**Mary Circle:** As Westminster's youngest circle, we hold our "book club"-style circle meetings at members' homes. We have women in their 20s to 40s, some with and some without children.

Contact: [marycircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:marycircle@wpc-alex.org).

**Ruth Circle** holds in-depth Bible study with timely discussions and prayer joys/concerns, and we experience the joy of giving to mission projects locally, nationally and internationally. We always leave rejoicing in God's presence and feeling we are truly sisters in Christ!

Contact: [ruthcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:ruthcircle@wpc-alex.org)

**Hannah Circle** joined together with the other circles to celebrate World Food Recognition Sunday during Fellowship Hour sharing snacks and information about the Blessings in a Backpack program, and collecting food donations. We also enjoy lively discussions of faith each month.

Contact: [hannahcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:hannahcircle@wpc-alex.org)

**Rachel Circle:** We enjoy being together and sharing our thoughts about life and our philosophies, while learning more about the Bible through our lessons each month. We support one another, as well as the mission programs of Presbyterian Women.

Contact: [rachelcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:rachelcircle@wpc-alex.org)

**Sarah Circle** is a multi-generational circle. Our 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 support local organizations and charities.

Contact: [sarahcircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:sarahcircle@wpc-alex.org)

**Lydia Circle** is Westminster's new daytime circle. We are excited to be growing our numbers as we dive into this year's Bible study and get involved in the mission and fellowship of Women's Ministry at WPC.

Contact: [lydiacircle@wpc-alex.org](mailto:lydiacircle@wpc-alex.org)

## **Additional Opportunities for Women at Westminster:**

**Women's Pillow Ministry:** organized by Nancy McIver, to make pillows and stuffed animals for children and heart patients at Alexandria Hospital.

**Women's Book Groups:** We want to thank Clara Beth Van de Water for faithfully and lovingly leading the Book Groups for 30 years, and we wish her well as she and Paul re-locate to Cape Cod. We will miss you and your thoughtful insights about the books we discuss.

**Shanghai Card Group:** coordinated by Anne Pickett, for an evening each month of fellowship and friendly competition!

## **Special 2018 Events:**

**Women's Retreat:** "Enjoying the Journey" was the theme of our 2018 retreat with the Rev. Lucy Dergarabedian as leader. We explored how our faith and friendships help us transform broken experiences into positive action.

**Spring Gathering:** Dr. Eileen Guenther, church musician and professor, presented a powerful talk on "Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals" with a special emphasis on the role of women during slavery.

**Fall Gathering:** Elizabeth Martineau and Nancy Hall Berens helped us celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA and 200 years of mission work and Bible study in the church. They presented highlights of the 2018 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women which they attended together in Louisville, KY in August.

## **Special Honor:**

In 2018 we recognized two of our women, Bea Hurt and Noemi Baldwin, for many years of special service to and involvement with PW and women's ministry at Westminster by presenting them with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women. We rejoice in our shared ministry with them and will miss them as they both relocate.

All women are invited to get involved and meet other women at Westminster as we grow together in Christ's love. Visit our page on the church website for more information and meetings times for the groups highlighted above: <https://wpc-alex.org/presbyterian-women>.

## **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. Young Adults also did an Advent Bible Study.

## **YOUTH**

Youth fellowship highlights include a middle school trip to Kings Dominion, a high school beach retreat, overnight lock-ins for middle school and high school youth, attendance at all-congregational events like the Progressive and numerous fellowship gatherings including our annual pancake breakfast. Youth are also invited once a year to a class dinner with their respective graduating class. 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 paid 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 a weekly Bible lesson 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, drama, 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 June.

## YOUTH

Middle school youth and their adult leaders continued to meet most Sunday mornings during the program year to explore faith and Scripture. About fifteen youth participated in Confirmation, culminating in many becoming members of WPC. All youth led the congregation in worship on Youth Sunday in May, when they designed the order of worship and led in song, prayer, scripture, the children's sermon, and preaching. This fall brought the return of high school Sunday school.

## ADULTS

During the winter/spring months of 2018 Adult Christian Formation offered a variety of classes that continued the fall 2017 theme of "Toward Fuller Faith & Service." Our four pillars of WPC Adult Christian Formation, which the committee uses to guide and determine our various adult classes, continue to be:

- Biblical Studies;
- Health/Wholeness;
- Current Affairs/Cultural; and,
- Spiritual Formation.

Sunday morning classes averaged over 35 people per Sunday, in the Winter/Spring of 2018, and there was a rise in new participants attending our programs.

From studying the *Book of Romans* to navigating laws for elder care; from learning about the dynamics of marriage to discovering the similarities and differences of Islam and Protestantism our adult formation Sunday morning classes challenged participants to question and hopefully deepen their thinking and faith. Dr. Larry Hayward and Rabbi Jack Moline taught about Christianity and Judaism; to take a look at the texts, contexts, and pretexts. This series was very well attended. The committee not only tries to bring back popular teachers but to also be on search for new teachers and topics and programs to challenge our faith and deepen our relationship with one another and with God. Professor Karen Stohr, one of our new teachers, brought an extensive understanding about contempt & mockery in our political culture, as well as the moral value of having faith in our fellow human beings. She talked about boundaries of civility and ways of expressing political disagreements hoping to lead us *towards fuller faith & service*.

A Wednesday evening Lenten program was offered to adults, in coordination with the Children's Lenten Program, in a continued effort to be collaborative with Children's Ministry. Reverend Dan Duggan, Chaplain of Goodwin House, had an average of 10 persons in his evening sessions looking at "Living Towards End of Life," "Ministry of Mutuality," "Men & Grief," and "Biblical Journaling."

In the early spring the Adult Christian Formation committee chooses the fall broad theme for the programming for the Fall 2018 which we use to develop and guide our curriculum for the coming year. "Embracing Transformation" was chosen.

The second annual Congregation-Wide Book Read invited people to read "The Mind of God: Neuroscience, Faith and Search for the Soul" by Dr. Jay Lombard. Ten members of the Adult Education Committee previewed over 9 books before selecting "The Mind of God." This year the book read discussion small groups were followed by an in person dialogue with the author. Dr. Lombard is a behavioral neurologist and co-founder of the Genomind Project. Over 50 Westminster members participated in small group discussions and for Dr. Lombard's presentation, the Haverkamp Room was packed.

Another small mental health group met in the spring to lend support to one another, to share resources, and to talk about what might continue to be offered in this area. Amey Upton, Director of Adult Formation, took a "leave of absence" from June – December 2018, but plans to continue to explore ways Westminster can provide information and support to those in our church who have an interest in the mental health area.

Kristin Bishop, Chair, Adult Formation, stepped up to coordinate the fall classes. Dr. Katherine Grieb led a lengthy Sunday morning series studying *The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles*. The Church Staff, Rev. Larry Hayward, Rev. Whitney Fautleroy, Rev. Patrick Hunnicutt, Director of Music Ben Hutchens, and Director of Children's ministry Patty Chamberlain talked about their visions for their ministries of the church.

The last series of 2018 Dr. James Muyskens, member of Westminster, President Emeritus of Queens College and former University Professor

of the Graduate Center, City University of New York, challenged Westminster adults to “Embrace Transformation: Then & Now.” Dr. Muyskens will step up as the new Chair of Adult Formation during the 2019-20 program year.

Thanks go to the committee and the congregation for the loyal support to the Adult Christian Formation programs and classes that helped us *embrace transformation* and have helped to lead us *toward fuller faith & service*.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music Committee coordinates with the church staff in all aspects of organized worship and represents the Session in these matters. Regular activities include: recruiting volunteers for and arranging logistics of the Lord's Supper; sanctuary and chapel care such as preparing flowers, audio support, ushering needs and more for all services; and involvement in strategic planning for worship at Westminster. These procedures require weekly assistance of a host of stalwart volunteer ushers, liturgical coordinators, and many others, for which we are grateful.

The committee also coordinates with the music ministry at Westminster. During 2018, Dr. Ben Hutchens welcomed a growing number of volunteer singers to the Westminster Choir and continues to direct Westminster Ringers, an advanced group of handbell ringers who play in worship six times annually. Additionally, a new series of *Westminster Presents* services and concerts on Friday evenings showcased the substantial gifts of Westminster's own musicians and provided a space for collaboration with guest musicians. Westminster's choral program for children and youth fosters confidence in singing and enhance musicianship for young choristers with an expanded Wednesday afternoon that incorporates basic music theory workbooks and Orff instruments into regular rehearsals.

This year, Westminster hired former music intern Cambria Van de Vaarst to a new position of Assistant Director of Music Ministries. In this role, Cambria assists in the preparation and conducting of all of Westminster's choirs, including the Celtic Cross Ringers, plays organ and

harp for services, and more. Additionally, a Pre-K music program began in earnest this fall under the direction of Associate for Children's Music Molly Roden.

**Additional items of interest this year:**

- The Westminster Youth ensemble and adult choir collaborated with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Burke, VA) in March to perform Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* during worship for both congregations. The collaboration was presented in celebration of what would be the composer's 100th birthday.
- Jessica Singerling was tapped to be Westminster's Wedding Coordinator and will aid those planning logistics for wedding rehearsals and services.
- Visiting organist Paul Fleckenstein improvised musical accompaniment to the classic film *The Phantom of the Opera* during Westminster's first *Silent Movie Night* in October. This event was part of the Westminster Presents series.
- Westminster's tradition of presenting special music for Remembrance Sunday continued in 2018 with the adult choir and Monticello Chamber Orchestra premiering a new orchestration of Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* for organ and chamber ensemble.
- The Worship and Music committee, in partnership with church staff and members of the congregation, developed a weekly Advent Devotional booklet and blog featuring content related to scripture, devotionals, music, mission and formation.
- Our Advent "Lessons and Carols" services this December included a Friday night event led by Dr. Hutchens and all our vocal and bell ensembles.
- In December, Westminster Ringers and Westminster Choir performed two 40-minute sets of advent and Christmas carols, including a singalong, in the Rotunda of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

# MISSION

Our local, national and international missions continue to be a vibrant facet of our Christian community. With our time, talent and resources, we supported a range of ministries, some new to us, and others deep with years of connection. We are so grateful for all of the ways this congregations shows its support of mission, and we encourage all who read this report to consider how they may want to become or continue to be personally connected with the people we serve locally, nationally and internationally. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Hunnicutt or our mission chairs ([localmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:localmission@wpc-alex.org); [nationalmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:nationalmission@wpc-alex.org); [internationalmission@wpc-alex.org](mailto:internationalmission@wpc-alex.org)).

## LOCAL MISSION

The local mission efforts are centered around five core areas: Children, Hunger, Education, Shelter, and Self-Sufficiency (CHESS). Seventeen different programs received support through the time, talents and budgeted monies of WPC.

**Children:** Support continued of the Child and Family Network Centers to continue providing preschool to low income families; volunteers hosted a winter holiday party to children in the classroom. During 2018 the relationship with George Mason Elementary School Tutoring Program shifted to reflect the changing needs of the community; a new “buddy” program is being developed to support children during school events and a relationship is being developed with Community Lodgings focused on their comprehensive tutoring program.

**Hunger:** Volunteers from the congregation continued to support food distribution efforts through the Adopt-A-Turkey program, ALIVE food pantry, the Meade Memorial bagged lunch program, Meals On Wheels delivery, and our monthly meal service at Carpenter’s Shelter.

**Education:** Support of education includes the Untouchables through the mentoring program, and Friends of Guesthouse supporting women post-incarceration

**Shelter:** Recognizing the importance of stable housing in well-being efforts to maintain and transition to stable housing were continued. Volunteers delivered furniture donations through ALIVE; made repairs to a house during Rebuilding Together Alexandria; and provided ongoing support to Carpenter’s Shelter. Additionally, programs

supporting residents returning home after incarceration such as, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) and Bridges to Independence received support to ensure stability and reduce recidivism.

**Self-Sufficiency:** Time, talent and monies were mobilized to support efforts that increase self-sufficiency and autonomy. These included: emergency assistance to the Alexandria City Social Worker's Client Support fund, Neighborhood Health's comprehensive services, legal support services through Just Neighbors, aging in place services for seniors through Senior Services and people in need packets for our most vulnerable neighbors.

The Local Mission Committee partnered with the National and International Mission Committees to host the Annual Alternative Giving Bazaar. The 2018 AGB hosted eighteen agencies in Fellowship Hall offering a variety of ways to support the mission of the agencies including, financial donations and purchasing wonderful goods. Thank you to all who shopped the AGB and supported the represented agencies. It is through the donations of time, talent, and allocated monies that Westminster has continued to ensure our most vulnerable neighbors have continued access to necessary services for stability and well-being.

### **WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY GRANT**

This marked the seventh year of the Westminster Community Grant Program. Local Mission granted \$25,899.95 to the following organizations:

- Alexandria Tutoring Consortium: \$3,000 books for the tutoring program
- Assistance League of Northern Virginia.: \$2,760 weekend food bags for children
- Carpenter's Shelter: \$2,000 supplies for the temporary shelter
- Child and Family Network Centers: \$5,000 classroom supplies
- Just Neighbors Ministry, \$1,850. Two new computers.
- Neighborhood Health: \$4,300. Therapeutic supplies
- Senior Services of Alexandria: \$3,150 meal delivery bags and iPads.
- United Community Ministries: \$3,839.95 new food pantry refrigerator.

## **NATIONAL MISSION**

In 2018, the National Mission Committee continued to cultivate our church's steadfast support of our three main projects—ministry and mission at the Bdecan Presbyterian Church and Cankdeska Cicana Community College on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota; housing rehabilitation in Appalachia through the Appalachia Service Project in West Virginia; and gleaning to combat regional hunger with the Healthy Harvest Food Bank and the Society of St. Andrew in Virginia. With our members' commitment of time, talents, and treasure, we continue to positively impact lives from North Dakota to West Virginia and beyond.

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

In 2018, Joe Obermeyer, Youth and Outreach Coordinator for the Bdecan Presbyterian Church, led a successful fundraising effort to secure a new storage unit that will house much-needed clothing items for the reservation, with our church providing the majority of the financial support. Joe also celebrated his five-year anniversary at the Bdecan church, with five Westminster members and Reverend Hunnicutt traveling to Spirit Lake to honor Joe and attend the anniversary festivities. Under Joe's care, the Bdecan church continues to support its members and the community through its weekly after-school children's ministry, Sunday services, monthly food pantry, and soon-to-open storage unit. As Joe looks to complete the process of becoming a certified lay pastor, our partnership with the Northern Plains Presbytery remains strong, as does the need for our support. In addition, Westminster continued to bolster tribal students at Spirit Lake's Cankdeska Cicana Community College. As part of the Spirit Lake trip, the Westminster team also visited the College, which included touring the grounds and meeting with program staff. With our church's generous financial contributions, ten more Bdecan Presbyterian Scholarships were awarded. The recipients share the common goals of providing for their families and giving back to their tribes and community. Our financial support plays a critical role in helping these students achieve their goals.

## **APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP)**

For Westminster's annual ASP mission trip, we returned to Guyan Valley, West Virginia. In November, nine Westminster members, two George Washington University graduate students, and Reverend Hunnicutt worked together in two teams to help make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families. The group also enjoyed dressing up and passing out candy for ASP's trunk-or-treat event for children in the community.

## **GLEANING TRIPS**

Good weather and good company make for easy gleaning—or collecting usable produce left behind when a field is harvested. Westminster members lucked out with a warm, but dry, Saturday morning in July to help glean over 4,600 pounds of corn at Chandler Farm in Montross, Virginia, with the Healthy Harvest Food Bank. Healthy Harvest Food Bank facilitates the gleaning of farms on Virginia's Northern Neck and distributes the produce to food banks in central Virginia. On a cooler Saturday in October, Westminster members, including a number of children (as young as age 2), helped glean apples at Marker-Miller Orchard in Winchester, Virginia, with the Society of St. Andrew. At least one truckload filled with over 300 bags of apples went to the DC area. The Society of St. Andrew is a national organization that coordinates a multi-state gleaning network and distributes 25-30 million pounds of gleaned produce to charities every year. Westminster also continued to provide financial support to the Society of St. Andrew and Healthy Harvest Food Bank in 2018.

## **CENTS-ABILITY**

Our quarterly Cents-Ability collections of loose change for hunger raised a total of \$1,021.88 in 2018. We used a significant portion of the amount raised (60%) 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 14 years, Westminster has supported the work of the United Orphanage and Academy (UOA) in Moi's Bridge, Kenya. There are currently ~50 children and youth living at the orphanage, ranging in age from 4 to 18. There are almost 150 students attending the Academy, which goes from primary school through 8th grade. In addition, living expenses and tuition are provided to UOA orphans attending college and university. It is our goal to give the children of the orphanage every chance to succeed in making the transition from youth to adult.

### **EAST AFRICA MISSIONS**

In 2018, Westminster continued to provide scholarship funds to support a seminary student at Justo Mwale Theological College in Lusaka, Zambia. This is the second year that Westminster has supported the studies of Rev. Goliath Munthali. In addition to its scholarship support at Justo Mwale, Westminster also provides financial support for Chasefu Theological College, which is a newer college in rural eastern Zambia. 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 2018 about Justo Mwale, Chasefu, and her work in Africa.

### **HAITIAN MISSIONS**

Westminster continues its long-standing support of Haitian missions through the Community Coalition for Haiti. In 2018, members of Westminster participated in two mission trips to Haiti coordinated by the Community Coalition for Haiti. Several adults participated in an all-call mission trip in May. The adult group provided support for medical mission work at local schools. In June, Westminster also sponsored a youth mission trip to Haiti. This was a wonderful hands-on mission opportunity for the youth and adults who attended.

## OTHER MISSION SUPPORT

- **MEXICO.** In 2018, Westminster continued its long relationship with Faith Ministry in Mexico, where we provided scholarships for two school-aged children in Reynosa: Eduardo Santiago, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student and Oswaldo Ramirez, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student.
- **CONGO.** Westminster continued to support the work of the Sheppard and Lapsley Presbyterian University of Congo (UPRECO) by contributing to salaries of their professors.

## 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 gleaning opportunities
- 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 2018, our high school youth traveled to Jacmel, Haiti, to do school construction and teach Vacation Bible School. Our middle school youth went to the Harrisonburg, VA to work with seniors and sort clothes for those in need.

## PASTORAL & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

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:

- The Deacons continued their ministries of care, including:
- Monthly extended communion and weekly flower deliveries to homebound members.
- Sent cards to members to honor experiences of loss and joy
- Prepared meals for families of newborn infants
- Provided a welcoming presence as greeters before worship
- Mentored four Deacon Youth Ambassadors, who partner with Deacons to extend communion, deliver flowers, and other Deacon duties.
- We welcomed Evangeline Taylor as our new Director of Seniors Pastoral Care, and hosted introductory coffee events at Goodwin House Alexandria and Bailey's Crossroads.
- The Compassion Guild, under the leadership of Carol Dickerson and Susan Griffith, provided support for memorial/funeral services, and coordinated receptions following most of those services.
- A team of dedicated volunteer bus drivers, coordinated by Louise Anderson, provided transportation every Sunday for residents of the Goodwin Houses and Washington House.
- The Member Response Team continued its work to assist members in need, providing gift cards, utility bills support, rent support and more.

## 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 2018, 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 a Fall New Member Brunch and recruited recently joined members to host three Coffee Hours.

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

2018 was an active year for B&G in its efforts to provide oversight for the maintenance of the Church's facilities and infrastructure to ensure the seamless execution of the Church's mission.

The most significant project for 2018 was the decision to implement the Committee's previously developed plans for the reconfiguration of the northeast entrance to Fellowship Hall, using funds generously donated by a former, longtime Westminster member. The design for the revised entrance addresses the Fellowship Hall doors, the approach to the building, fixes several issues with the mechanical room outside the Fellowship Hall kitchen, and will build a new set of stairs leading to the northeast entrance to the Sanctuary. To supervise and coordinate the project, the Committee created a subcommittee comprised of both Committee members and non-Committee members. The subcommittee met regularly and expects the project to be completed by the fall of 2019.

In addition, 2018 saw other Building & Grounds projects completed including: completed installation of a video surveillance system to allow for better security of the Church grounds and the preschool area; replacement of trees damaged over the past several months in storms and those facing Westminster Place; installing gravel of the lower parking lot to improve its durability and trafficability; the acquisition of a new oven for the Fellowship Hall Kitchen; and in coordination with the Congregational Life Committee the purchase of new chairs for Fellowship Hall activities.

As stewards of Westminster, the B&G committee continues to plan and budget for repairs and replacements for the Church complex using the Capital Maintenance Reserve Study which it commissioned, to look forward a couple of decades and to guide its future efforts.

## **NOMINATING**

Our efforts in the first quarter of 2018 were focused on forming an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, which we brought to the congregation in April. At a congregational meeting in June we presented two nominated youth elders to the membership for their approval. At a congregational meeting in October we presented the deacons and elders for the class of 2021 church officers. Additionally, the committee identified and presented new members to serve on the committee in 2019, and a church trustee. The committee wishes to thank all of those who considered or accepted nominations. The committee appreciates the blessing that is this active congregation whose members are so willing to serve.

## 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 pastors and other members of the staff, as well as to develop and revise personnel policies, job descriptions, and evaluation processes. At Westminster, the Personnel Committee oversees 19 Church staff that includes full-time, part-time, and volunteer employees.

Committee action in 2018 involved the following:

- In January, we asked the Nominating Committee to recommend members to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to search for a new Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. That search is ongoing.
- Our Program Assistant, Jessica Thurnes, took maternity leave in spring to welcome her first child.
- In May, after many years of service, Nancy Bea retired from her position as Director of Finance and Administration. We welcomed Lavinia Davis-Laux into this roll, and she was able to overlap with Nancy for a period of time in order to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Amey Upton, our Director of Adult Education, took a personal leave of absence for the second half of the year and has now returned.
- At the end of the summer, Rev. Evangeline Taylor joined the staff in the part-time position of Director of Seniors' Pastoral Care.
- We began the program year with a newly configured music staff under our Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Ben Hutchens. We hired Cambria Van de Vaarst into the new part-time position, Assistant Director of Music Ministries. Molly Roden began serving in a new volunteer staff position, Associate for Children's Music.
- In December, we contracted a new cleaning service to work alongside our sextons in maintaining the church facility.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship committee revamped a number of items in 2018 in an attempt to reach more members and increase pledges. The committee focused on a message of proportional giving—a path toward tithing—and was supported by a series of sermons around that topic. A more modernized brochure produced largely by Vice Chair Tim Shaw emphasized this message and provided members with charts about the number and size of pledges made at Westminster and a guide to help calculate pledge amounts, by percentage, at certain income levels. The brochure also featured more regular messaging around how WPC spends its budget. The committee presented 5 Minutes for Mission that spoke about proportional giving, in addition to other common refrains about where the church spends its money, and hosted two fellowship hours. In the latter part of the year, the committee's follow-up efforts with members were boosted by use of some new-to-WPC technology that helped with organizing contact information for members and sending out slightly more customized e-mails to members that had not yet pledged. The committee also did its regular follow-up phone calls, though it probably made fewer phone calls this year because of the success of the e-mail campaign.

As of Tuesday, January 28, 2019, WPC had recorded 385 pledges totaling just over \$1,840,000, with several more pledges expected in the next day before the final session meeting. Among those that increased their pledge, the average increase was just over 15% which (we think) represents a new high for average increases. The pledge campaign was also boosted by a strong number of new member pledges (30) and slightly fewer pledge decreases than in latter years. The lengthy government shutdown contributed to a slightly smaller number of overall pledges received as at least a handful of members indicated they would not pledge until the shutdown was resolved. In addition, a handful of members indicated they were moving or had moved towards the end of the year, increasing the number of "stopped" pledges a bit more than had been anticipated in the latter part of 2019. Overall, pledges grew by 3% over the prior year and we would expect that increase to rise as a few more pledges are collected in the next few weeks.

## **FINANCIAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

Westminster Presbyterian Church is in a strong financial position and is poised to remain so for the foreseeable future. The Administration and Finance Committee had a busy year with a focus on implementing the decisions of the Ad Hoc Task Force on Three-Year Financial Planning. Most significant, the Committee implemented a three-year budget planning process that seeks to intensely manage current year expenditures and revenues while carefully developing the following fiscal year budget coupled with making reasonable estimates for church financial needs in the third year of the cycle. The committee has also worked very closely with the Foundation to efficiently and effectively deploy church assets in support of the operating budget, while ensuring the wishes of donors as well as the interests of future generations are fully respected. These efforts, coupled with the continued generous support of members through pledges and plate offerings, gives confidence that the financial well-being of the church will be sustained in future years.

Realization of our 2018 pledge commitments was in line with historical averages, resulting in collection of 98.9% of promised contributions. Net income versus expenditures was positive. Mission expenditures were in line with budget, special offerings / benevolences exceeded budget expectations, thanks to the generosity of the congregation, and staff expenses were slightly below budget due to the timing of personnel onboarding. Church expenses and expenditures for buildings and grounds were in line with budget.

The Westminster Foundation also remains financially healthy and robust. The Foundation's value increased by 12% in 2018, reflecting the fact that gifts more than offset capital losses. The total value of the Foundation's seven funds at the end of December was \$3,737,488, a net increase of \$388,875 in 2018. Importantly, as a result of recommendations from the Ad Hoc Task Force on Three-Year Financial Planning and with the concurrence of Session, the Foundation will transfer \$91,586 into the operating budget of the church in 2019. Also, a regular framework for governing such transfers in the future was established.

Cell phone revenue, as per past practice, was allocated to certain Church Reserve accounts for capital maintenance and church program areas. The accumulated balance in these funds at the end of December was \$605,831. Reserve accounts were used to fund the Spirit Lake Mission Trip, a new Fellowship Hall oven, multiple retreats, new projectors, and musicians for various services and special events. The Capital and Maintenance Reserve Fund is in sound financial condition with a balance of \$463,146 and growing assets that will be available should the Church sustain a significant loss or breakdown in plant and equipment.

**2018 Year-End Finances**

Operating Income	\$2,081,413
Operating Carryover	8,848
Operating Expenses	(2,008,024)
Net Income (Expenses)	\$ 82,237

**Westminster Foundation**

Year-End Balance	\$3,737,488
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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

1,019 total members as of 12/31/18

- 50 new or reactivated members (includes 16 confirmands)
- 5 member deaths
- 41 other losses (transfers to other churches, removed, inactive)
- 16 child and infant baptisms
- 14 births in member families

# OFFICERS, BOARDS & STAFF 2018

## SESSION

Dr. Larry R. Hayward, Pastor | Patrick A. Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor  
Whitney K. Fauntleroy, Associate Pastor | Melissa McClellan, Clerk  
Debbie Wells, Vice Clerk | Dave Gunter, Vice Clerk  
Margaret Myers, Treasurer

### Class of 2018

Sue Aland  
Nathan Argust  
Kristen Bishop  
Marilyn Eckert  
Tom French  
Ben Kennedy  
Anne Marks  
Elizabeth Martineau  
David Ware  
Ansley West  
Rob Winn

### Class of 2019

Lauren Beyea  
Joy Cameron  
Nancy Griswold  
Katherine Gunter  
Sarah Hoffman  
Bill Keeth  
Melissa LoPresti  
Neil Sampson  
David Wilcox

### Class of 2020

Alex Bryant  
Jill Maguire  
Jill McClure  
Phil Kuhl  
Ted Pusey  
Candace Rush  
Jim Sample  
John Scruggs  
Melissa Sellevaag

## DIACONATE

Anne Ledyard, Vice Moderator | Kirstin O'Connor, Vice Moderator  
Patrick Hunnicutt, Staff Liaison

### Class of 2018

Linda Duncan  
Michael Duodu  
Nancy Harper  
Carol Keller  
Anne Ledyard  
Sheff Richey  
Bill Taylor  
Nancy Todd  
Barbara Watts  
Erskine Wells

### Class of 2019

Griffin Farris  
Martha Girard  
Gale Grindstaff  
Rhyan Hance  
Ruth Kane  
Hester Lawver  
Judi Morrel  
Kirstin O'Connor  
Don Smyles  
Chris Van Horne

### Class of 2020

Becca Bagley  
Bill Eckert  
Jim Ewalt  
Jim Helm  
Susan McAdoo  
John McArdle  
Chris Miles  
David Moser  
Anne Pickett  
Cindy Zimmerman

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Bill Keeth (Chair), Mary Filicetti (Vice Chair)

Gale Grindstaff (Deacon Representative)

Brian Folkerts, Madeline Ramsey, Rhett Skiles, Loren Wells

## **TRUSTEES**

John Runyan (Class of 2018)

Randy Davis (Class of 2019)

Mike McAdoo (Class of 2020)

## **FOUNDATION BOARD**

### **Class of 2018**

Laurie Blackburn

Judy Harper

Bill Keeth

Julie Taylor

### **Class of 2019**

Morgan Johnson

Mark Pollock

Chris Van Horne

John Woods

### **Class of 2020**

Margaret Myers

Spencer Dickerson

Lanny Griffith

Rob Winn



## **2018 STAFF**

Larry Hayward, Pastor  
Patrick Hunnicutt, Associate Pastor  
Whitney Fauntleroy, Associate Pastor  
Ben Hutchens, Director of Music Ministries

Jim Buchanan, Facilities Manager  
Carolyn Burke, Preschool Director  
Tara Cain, Executive Assistant  
Lavinia Davis-Laux, Director of Finance & Administration  
Patty Chamberlain, Director of Children's Ministry  
Nancy Hall Berens, Dir. of Congregational Life, Singles, and Women  
Marvin Johnson, Sexton  
Larry Johnson, Sexton  
Cindy McCeney, Financial Assistant  
Molly Roden, Children's Music Associate  
Art Sauer, Member Involvement Coordinator  
Evangeline Taylor, Director of Seniors Pastoral Care  
Jessica Thurnes, Program Assistant  
Amey Upton, Director of Adult Education  
Cambria Van de Vaarst, Assistant Director of Music Ministries

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**ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302**  
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