



*Williamsburg
Presbyterian
Church*

A Primer

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A Message from Pastor John

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church is an active, vibrant congregation with many opportunities for service and fellowship. Like many churches, however, many of the activities happen behind the scenes. This Primer will help you open the doors and get involved in the life of this congregation.

Stanley Ott describes a transformational church as one where “the people embrace ministry as lifestyle: the use of spiritual gifts and a servant heart inside and outside the church. This means service within the congregation plus the understanding that all have been ‘sent’ in all humility to do ministry in every place and at all times.”

(Twelve Dynamic Shifts for Transforming Your Church, p.16)

I hope you will use your spiritual gifts and embrace the ministry at WPC. I am convinced you will find it a spiritually uplifting and meaningful expression of your faith in Jesus Christ.

John E. Morgan
Pastor/Head of Staff

*Come! Join us as we grow in faith together!
By saying "Come unto me" Jesus invited all people into
the household of faith.
There is a place for you here.*

Sunday Mornings

Worship

9:30 and 11:00 am

All are welcome to our traditional worship service. God speaks to us through Bible readings, preaching and music; the congregation responds in profession, prayer and praise. Children are welcome at all worship services and we also provide parents with the option of nursery and toddler child care.

Church School

9:30 - 10:30 am

From 9:30-10:30am, adults, youth and children are challenged, guided, and supported as they grow to understand God's word through study and fellowship in classes designed to guide them along in their faith journey.

Adult church school typically meets year round while children's church school is aligned with the public school system calendar. The children's church school year begins the first Sunday after Labor Day with our "Rally Day" celebration and ends the last Sunday in May.

Each Sunday, children from Kindergarten -- 5th grade meet during a special "gathering time". Class members are welcomed with a Morning Song, followed by a preview of the lesson through activities and prayer before heading to their classes. Confirmation and Youth are divided by grades, while adults can choose from several class options.

Fellowship

10:30 - 11:00 am

At 10:30am, adults enjoy a time of gathering between services in Stevenson Hall (our fellowship hall) to share coffee and refreshments in the company of happy worshipers.

Children's Worship

Children are always welcome in our worship services. Parents have the option to use nursery and toddler childcare during both Sunday morning services. Christian Education, below, describes more detail about childcare.

During the school year, our 11:00am worship service includes a "Sharing Faith with Children" followed by "Wee Worship." Wee Worship provides children with the opportunity for their own special worship and learning experience. After the Sharing Faith with Children portion of the sanctuary worship service, children ages three through 2nd grade leave with the Wee Worship Leader to go to the church library. There the children engage in prayer, singing, and hearing a story from Scripture. Wee Worship leaders receive special training and share leadership responsibilities as a team.

This special service occurs at the 9:30 and 11:00am worship services during the summer, and during the school year only at the 11:00am service. In the summer, there is no church school, so we have a "Sharing Faith with Children" time followed by "Wee Worship" at both services.

Worship Intercession

Prayer is a cornerstone of our faith. WPC has an active prayer chain with twelve church members who regularly pray for members of the congregation and beyond who are 'in need'. Prayer request forms are in the Fellowship Registers and the Welcome Center. The forms can be put in the offering plate or can be dropped into a well-marked wooden box in the Welcome Center. All prayer requests are treated in a confidential and prayerful manner.

Sunday Morning Service Opportunities

Help us to provide an atmosphere of caring to both members and visitors. Everyone should feel "at home" at WPC.

Opportunities include:

Worship Ushers who serve our congregation on a rotating basis.

Volunteer Liturgists who highlight congregational news and participate in the liturgy during the worship service.

Volunteers Audio/Visual Support team members provide audio/visual support for worship services and special events.

Wee Worship helpers provide joyful leadership to our youngest members as they participate in age appropriate worship in the church library.

Coffee Fellowship volunteers help with this congregational fellowship between morning worship services.

If you are unable to be with us in person for worship, try:

Radio Worship – Sunday worship is broadcast live at 11:00am on WMBG Radio AM 740.

Internet Worship: Sunday worship streams live at 9:30am on www.mywpc.org and at www.wmbgradio.com.

The **Sunday Worship Bulletin** is available on our website, usually several days before Sunday worship.

Sermons are available on our church website a couple of days after the worship service.

Christian Education

WPC Christian education is active throughout the church year and available to all ages.

Children's Education

Children's church school runs from the first Sunday after Labor Day (Rally Day) through the last Sunday in May.

Infants -- Room 131 Toddlers – Room 125	3's & 4's – Room 123
Grades 4 & 5 – Room 204	Kindergarten – Room 209-211
Mid-Hi – Room 227	Grades 1 & 2 -- Room 214
Confirmation Class -- Room 216-218	Grade 3 – Room 207
Senior High – Room 222	Adult Classes – See below

9:00am-12:15pm -- Infants and Toddlers -- One of the first impressions that young families gain of a new church may be in the church nursery. At WPC, infants and toddlers receive loving and nurturing care in the Infant and Toddler Rooms. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available for ALL Sunday worship services, and for many other events occurring in our church throughout the year. Our Director of Child Care leads a highly qualified staff of child caregivers, along with church member volunteers, who provide a warm welcome for infants and young children – and their parents. The Nursery is staffed primarily by students from The College of William and Mary. All staff members are background checked (as are all volunteers over the age of 18), and are Pediatric CPR and First Aid certified. Our nursery also uses an optional pager system, where parents can

be contacted silently during Church School or Worship Services if necessary.

9:30am-10:30pm -- 3's & 4's Class -- Across the hall from the Nursery and Toddler Rooms, these busy children explore Bible stories in a combination of listening, wondering, and singing. Teachers help to stimulate and socialize this age child by encouraging sharing, music appreciation, and beginning "art projects." If they become agitated or unwell, parents will be notified by cell phone message.

9:30-10:30am Child and Youth Sunday School Hour -- During the Christian Education hour, children and youth are challenged, guided, and supported as they grow to understand God's word and the Christian life and faith.

9:30-10:30am Kindergarten through 5th grade -- Class members are welcomed into "Gather Together Time: Morning Song" where they preview each Sunday's lesson through activities, music and prayer before heading to their classes.

9:30-10:30am Youth Church School -- classes are divided by grades. (See table above for classroom locations.)

Confirmation

Deacons prepare young people (typically 8th graders) for deeper, active church membership. They meet weekly during the school year and cover the principles of faith, the points of doctrine, the liturgy of worship, church structure, and life of service to God. Confirmands are encouraged to become active in other areas of church activities. The deacons lead the classes using a 32-week curriculum with the guidance of the pastoral team and participate in a confirmation retreat at which the young people prepare a statement of faith.

Adult Education -- Sunday 9:30-10:30am

Alpha Class (Room 011) is led by a team of teachers who emphasize discussion and participation. We try to explore each text by looking first at what it would have meant to those for whom it was originally written, and then we try to see how it applies to our daily lives as 21st century Christians.

Fellowship Class (Room 009) is composed of all age groups, from college on up, both singles and doubles. The mission of the Fellowship Class is to grow in our understanding of the Bible; to grow in relationship to Jesus Christ and to one another; to grow as committed disciples following closely the teachings of Jesus. The class format and style of teaching is one of part lecture, one part discussion.

Faith and Issues (Room 255) engages in lively discussion concerning issues of faith and God's impact on everyday life. Contemporary issues, the impact of history, and various topics of interest to the class encourage active, participative discussion, different perspectives, and continued learning about our faith. This class also selects a book for a series of discussions several times during the year.

The Thoughtful Christian (Room 010) is a lively discussion based class that uses a curriculum from the Thoughtful Christian which includes short-term sessions covering biblical questions, topical interests and societal concerns for living a Christian Life in today's world.

Mid Week Adult Education

Disciple Bible Study is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. It focuses on the disciple as learner, believer, follower, proclaimer, and servant while providing the fellowship of a small group for study, prayer, preparation, support and servanthood. DISCIPLE aims

at transformation, not just information. DISCIPLE calls on persons to be challenged by God's Word.

Take a step deeper into living the Christian life through Bible study. Get to know others as you learn together in a Sunday morning or weekday night class.

Men's Bible & Bacon Breakfast is held every second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00am with a home cooked bacon and egg breakfast followed by Bible study.

Vacation Bible School

For one week every summer, our youngest church members enjoy a dynamic, fun-filled week of music, arts and crafts, snacks, recreation, science, bible storytelling, and community service! Many church members and community volunteers make this a week that our children do not forget. You do NOT need to have children attending VBS to volunteer. ALL church members are welcome and encouraged to spend some time with our fun and energetic kids.

Campus Ministry

Westminster Fellowship (WesFel) is our William and Mary campus ministry. They meet Wednesdays at 4:30pm for a time of food, fun, Bible study and service projects. The college bell ringers, called the Westminster Ringers, are an accomplished group performing in worship several times a year. Many students choose to participate in the Second Families program to get to know WPC families better.

Fellowship -- Serving -- Learning

Realize your passion.
Join as a volunteer or perhaps even as a leader.

WPC has a wide variety of ways for you to connect and enjoy fellowship with other members, offer your talents and service, and grow in your faith journey. Opportunities are available to every age. For example,

Second Families is an opportunity to provide fellowship, food, and friendship to W&M students unable to return home on a regular basis.

Caregiver Support Group is an opportunity to gather with those who are providing care to a loved one to share your knowledge and to receive support from the group.

Church School often seeks teachers and superintendents for children ages Kindergarten through 12th grade. Teachers serve in teams, sharing leadership responsibilities. Superintendents monitor the halls and provide additional help to the teachers when necessary.

Facility Maintenance is a team to help with facility improvements, painting, general construction, carpentry, and landscaping and beautification.

FISH collects non-perishable food pantry goods on the third Sunday of the month. You may leave your contributions in Stevenson Hall. Contributions are transported to those in need.

From His Hand is the Canteen ministry (with Grove Christian Outreach Center) and the Family Inn Ministry. Volunteers help

cooking and delivering a hot meal on the first Friday of every month to homeless people temporarily housed at The Family Inn.

Habitat for Humanity/Peninsula Housing Partnerships is a group of volunteers help to refurbish and/or build homes. Event dates vary and are publicized as they are received.

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a program with two meeting times. The evening MOPS group meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:30pm and the morning group meets the third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30am. Programs include activities and speakers to assist moms. MOPS includes MOPPETS where children of MOPS Moms receive care in a warm, safe, fun-filled environment as they are engaged in an age-appropriate curriculum in which they discover how much God loves them.

Nursery care involves teaching, playing, reading, leading small groups, serving snacks and just enjoying this fun age group.

Presbyterian Men's Breakfasts typically meets on the first Saturday of the month, October through May. Call the church office to reserve your seat to enjoy fellowship and grow together.

Presbyterian Women study the Bible and enjoy fellowship with other women of the church.

PYF (Presbyterian Youth Fellowship) meets Sunday from 5:30-7:30; Mid-Hi (6th -- 8th grades) in room 220 and Senior High (grades 9th – 12th grades) room 222. There are games, food, music and, of course, fun and fellowship. PYF strives to provide a safe haven from adolescent stresses by offering a place where youth can just be themselves.

PYF "Make a Dinner" is the opportunity for you to provide a shared meal at PYF. You could provide one meal one time, or

multiple times. Meal providers receive \$2 from each student to help defray meal cost.

PYF Mid-Hi Overnight “Lock-Ins” for 6th – 8th grades are opportunities to grow in faith through fun, food and sleeplessness.

PYF Senior High Weekend Retreats for 9th – 12th grades are fun opportunities focusing on relationships with one another and with God through conversation, games and worship.

PYF Summer Mission Trips are for 9th -- 12th grades and their adult leaders. Youth learn more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in our world today. Each summer, Montreat, North Carolina hosts the Montreat Youth Conferences.

Montreat Youth Conference is for those who have completed 6th – 8th grades. Each year youth from across the southeast come together in Harrisonburg, Virginia to make friendships that last a lifetime at the Massanetta Springs Middle School Youth Conferences.

Salvation Army support offers you a way to help, whether it's the Teddy Bear Tea, Apple Tree school donations, or Angel Tree Christmas donations.

Stop Hunger Now is a multi-generational rewarding experience for anyone of any age to package and send food around the world to people suffering from severe hunger. The assembly line process combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix including 21 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packages.

Teaching will satisfy your passion to help others learn and grow. There is a place to apply your gift all through the week.

W&M WesFel Dinners prepare a home-cooked meal to be enjoyed by the W&M students at their WesFel gatherings.

WPC Women's Book Club meets monthly in the church library.

Music

Music, like all sacred art, is a powerful tool able to assist us as we work to express our thanks and praise in both our communal worship and private devotion. Several music programs open to both children and adults.

Carol Choir is open to children in K through 2nd grade. This choir rehearses Thursday 4:30-5:15pm. The Carol Choir offers very young children a first encounter with organized music making. The emphasis is on simple rhythmic and melodic exercises that they can learn and enjoy.

Junior Choir and Joy Ringers is open to children in 3rd -- 5th grades; the choir rehearses Thursday 4:30-6:00pm. The Junior Choir and Joy Ringers introduce elementary school age children to the fundamentals of music. The Choir participates in worship several times a year.

The Chancel Choir is open to adults of all ages; the choir rehearses Wednesday 7:30-9:00pm.

Genesis Ringers is a hand bell program open to all adults with rehearsals Wednesday 6:30-7:30pm. This beginner's bell choir is a safe and fun environment in which to refresh your musical knowledge.

Sanctuary Ringers is a hand bell program open to experienced ringers with rehearsals Tuesday 3:00-4:30pm. This is an intermediate level bell choir. Some ringing experience and music literacy is preferred.

Westminster Ringers is a hand bell program open to college age ringers with rehearsals Thursday 7:30-9:00pm. This is an intermediate to advanced level bell choir. Some ringing experience and music literacy is preferred.

Who We Are and What We Do

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) consists of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. These documents enumerate the role of faithful Presbyterians who lift up one another in prayer, mutual concern and active support. They proclaim the Good News in word and deed taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation.

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed,
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation,
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support,
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life,
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents,
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church,
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others,
- living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life,
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment,

- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and
- reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful."

The Christian year is shaped by the life of Christ. In keeping the Sundays, festivals and seasons of the liturgical calendar, we seek to live Christ-shaped lives, marking His time by the measure of His grace and patterning our days after His faithfulness and love.

Our History

Our WPC past is an important part of our present church.

In the 18th Century, colonists in Williamsburg were restricted to the religious practices of the Church of England. However, in 1765, 17 men petitioned the courts to worship with their families in the Presbyterian manner. They received permission on June 17, 1765, to meet in a home behind the Raleigh Tavern. The replica of the meeting house stands today behind the Capitol.

As the number of Presbyterians grew, some people worshipped near the York River. By June of 1860, worshippers received a commission from the Hanover Presbytery to formally organize the Williamsburg and York River Presbyterian Church.

The Williamsburg congregation purchased a lot for \$100 on the Palace Green from the College of William and Mary to build a church. Those people worshipping at the York River built a church that remains today on the property of Camp Peary.

When the Palace Green property was sold in 1930, a new church was built on our current site. By 1932, the Norfolk Presbytery united both churches into one house of worship, the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. By 2004, we built a larger sanctuary on the same property, because of our commitment to the Westminster Fellowship of the college. The current sanctuary was completed in 2006.

See a brief history of the Presbyterian Church in Virginia at <http://images.acswebnetworks.com/1/2067/PEVABriefHistorytill2007.pdf>

Our past continues to inform our ministry today and tomorrow.

The Church Body and Our Leadership

Our Mission is to gather in the name of Jesus Christ to worship God and by the power of the Holy Spirit do God's work in the world.

Our members are the lifeblood of WPC. Our called and elected leadership includes the pastors, members of Session and the Board of Deacons as well as the respective ministries and diaconate committees they lead.

Ministers

Our ministers are teaching elders or ministers of the Word and Sacrament. They may serve in a variety of roles. As preachers and teachers of the Word, they preach and teach the faith of the church, so that the people are shaped by the pattern of the gospel and strengthened for witness and service. When they serve at font and table, they interpret the mysteries of grace and lift the people's vision toward the hope of God's new creation. When they serve as pastors, they support the people in the disciplines of the faith amid the struggles of daily life. Ministers are a Presbytery resource selected by the congregation and called to service in our church.

Session

Eighteen elders and the three called pastors make up Session which is responsible for church governance and spiritual leadership. The Head of Staff (the Senior Pastor) acts as Session Moderator. The Clerk of Session (an elder) is responsible for basic administration of Session. Session receives new church

members, provides for the worship and sacraments of the church, oversees pastoral care and educational programs, challenges church members about responsible Christian stewardship of money, time, and talents, establishes the church's budget, and leads the congregation to discover what God is doing in the world and what God wants the church to be doing.

Elders serve a three-year term on Session and are responsible for the spiritual well-being and overall governance of the congregation. The congregation elects and ordains elders to discern and measure its fidelity to the word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Elders exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of the congregation during a three-year term of active service. To maintain continuity among the eighteen elders, our congregation elects six new elders each year.

WPC Session consists of the following six permanent ministries. Elders lead Session Ministries which are composed of both elders and volunteer church members.

The Administration Ministry develops the tools for effective human resource management, supports the ministries of WPC in their efforts to identify, develop and retain superior staff equipped to nourish and sustain a vital, growing faith community. The ministry purposefully leads and facilitates the communication of long-range strategies, developed through active participation with all our church family to further the Great Ends of the Church.

The Christian Education ministry responds to Jesus' challenge to encourage the teaching of God's Word; to foster an atmosphere in which people of all ages can study the Scriptures and explore what it means to bear a Christian identity.

The Christian Outreach Ministry identifies opportunities to develop programs where our resources of time, talent and treasures of may be used effectively.

The Facilities Ministry demonstrates good stewardship of the church resources as it tends to the maintenance, repair and renovation of the church building and property.

The Resources Ministry develops financial policies and budget proposals that reflect our congregation's theological beliefs and support our church's ministries.

The Worship Ministry creates Services that are welcoming to all of God's children, both members and guests. This ministry assists in the sacrament of Communion and also provides support for other services of worship at WPC.

Board of Deacons

Deacons provide pastoral care for members of the Church. In many respects, the Deacons are the "connective tissue" of the church, comforting, supporting and caring for the congregation through its nine Diaconate Missions and its Deacon on Call program.

A Deacon serves as the **Deacon on Call** for the congregation each week. This is done on a rotating basis, a responsibility that gives the pastors, the office staff and all Family Deacons and Mission Chairs a single point of contact so each can help provide appropriate care, support, sympathy or witness.

Each Deacon is assigned specific church members and families to serve as their "**Family Deacon.**" The Family Deacon provides a channel of communication between families and clergy, church staff and the congregation. Communication includes information such as church activities and the needs or concerns of each family.

The Diaconate consists of nine permanent missions whose work is carried out by deacons and volunteer church members.

The Celebrations and Concerns Mission reaches out through notes and cards to WPC members who may be hospitalized or homebound. This mission coordinates the WPC Prayer Chain which regularly prays for members of the congregation and beyond who are in need. Concerns are shared with God for as long as the Lord leads. The Mission also celebrates happy times such as births and baptisms and welcomes new WPC members, and extends sympathy on the death of a loved one.

The Christian Fellowship Mission provides social opportunities for Church members to gather and become better acquainted. Several examples include the weekly Coffee Hour between services, the New Members Receptions, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Annual Church Picnic. The Christian Fellowship Mission is comprised of Deacons and WPC volunteers and also coordinates volunteers to bake cookies and other food for special events.

Confirmation Mission deacons prepare young people for deeper, active church membership through study and related activities. Deacons teach and coordinate this important work in partnership with the Director of Educational Ministries and the Christian Education Committee.

The Family Deacon Mission assists and supports each Family Deacon with training and education as they minister to their individual families. Recently this mission introduced a periodic Extended Communion Service to WPC members who are either home-bound or facility-bound.

The Memorial and Funeral Services Mission helps to coordinate all facets of the Service to provide a memorable Service at WPC. In conjunction with the Church staff and the Funeral home staff, each family is supported throughout. Prior

to the service, all available Deacons and the Elders gather; entering together they represent the entire congregation at the Service.

The Memorial and Funeral Services Reception Mission provides a reception including punch and cookies in the Stevenson Hall (Fellowship Hall) following a Service. They may also coordinate with a caterer or a WPC Circle. They frequently ask for assistance from their list of willing volunteers.

The Flower Sharing Mission rearranges Sunday's chancel flowers, after Sunday worship, into smaller containers and coordinates delivery to WPC members who are ill or confined to hospitals, nursing homes or at home. This mission provides meaningful and caring contact with those members who need support during difficult times.

The Public Relations and Communication Mission keeps the church informed of Deacon sponsored programs and activities, and it maintains the Deacon wall of pictures in Stevenson Hall so that members can see their Family Deacon. In addition, the periodic publication of the church's Pictorial Directory falls within this mission.

The Membership Mission includes the "New Member Orientation" which welcomes new members to WPC and introduces them to our church family. There is an emphasis on building friendships while learning about WPC ministries, missions and other programs of the church. New member classes are held three times during the year.

The Mission works with the "Fellowship Register Team" to review the Sanctuary Fellowship Registers, keep track of attendance and inform the Pastors about requests for membership information.

WPC Financial Stewardship

WPC has approximately 1,300 members and an annual operating budget of over \$1,100,000.

Planning for the future of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church is a key component in ensuring that your life-changing experiences can be shared with generations to come. **The Endowment Fund** was created to provide a way for members to make a tax deductible gift to Williamsburg Presbyterian Church with the income being available annually to support outreach and benevolent opportunities or for a specific purpose as designated by the donor. One can make a gift now in honor or memory of a loved one, celebrating someone's birthday, anniversary, graduation, or birth of a child or through a bequest under their will, designating the church as a beneficiary of their IRA or life insurance. Gifts to the Endowment Fund may not be used for general operating expenses.

Two men were marooned on an Island. One man paced back and forth worried and scared while the other man sat back and was sunning himself. The first man said to the second man, "Aren't you afraid we are about to die?"
"No," said the second man, "I make \$100,000 a month and tithed faithfully to my church every week.
My Pastor will find me."

Facilities Use Policies

Facility Use Requests

We are the overseers of God's house and we welcome all people who wish to enter into his covenants, do his work, or provide for his people. To use the WPC facility for a purpose consistent with these tenets, please complete and submit a Facility Use Request form that is available in the Church office or the church website under ABOUT US/FORMS.

Upon receipt of a completed request form, WPC will determine:

1. Whether its Facilities Use Policy permits use for the proposed event by the requesting organization,
2. Whether the requested date(s) is available, and
3. Whether any special requests can be accommodated.

A request for use of WPC facilities has not been approved until it has been agreed to and signed by both the requesting person or organization, and WPC.

Please call the church office or use the church website to initiate a request for the following facility uses:

Weddings

WPC welcomes couples desiring to be married at our church, who have a family relationship with our church, and covenant to enter into a Christian marriage relationship. The wedding ceremony is a Christian worship service. The church has prepared a policy, available in the church office, to help those wishing to be married in our church to make their wedding experience one of fond memories.

Memorial and Funeral Services

The Session has established criteria for memorial and funeral services held in the church. These criteria are principles that seek to preserve the sanctity of worship and celebration of the gift of life of the deceased. The church website has more information about the Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of the Life of a loved one at WPC.

Columbarium

WPC established a columbarium where its members and their loved ones may have their lives memorialized, and their cremated remains housed and safeguarded in a dedicated space in the church. The WPC Columbarium is an assembly of niches designed to house urns containing a deceased person's cremated remains. The Columbarium is located on the lower level next to room LL049 beneath the church Narthex. The Columbarium can be reached easily via the Narthex staircase or the elevator.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does ‘Presbyterian’ mean? Presbyterian is a method of church governance* typified by the rule of assemblies of presbyters, or elders. A body of elected elders called Session governs our church. A higher assembly of elders known as the presbytery governs groups of local churches. Presbyteries are grouped into a synod, and presbyteries, along with synods nationwide often join in a general assembly.

Authority in Presbyterian polity flows both from the top down and from the bottom up. Higher assemblies exercise limited but important authority over individual congregations. For example, only presbytery can ordain ministers, install pastors, and start up, close, and approve relocating a congregation. All church officers are called by God and elected by the congregation. In Presbyterian Church governance, leaders follow the servant leadership model of Christ.

What do Presbyterians believe? Presbyterian beliefs are found in the Book of Confessions and the Statements of Faith. Among these belief statements are the Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith. The creeds and confessions reflect the history of God’s people.

What are the Great Ends of the Church? The great ends of the Church are:

- the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;

* For more on the different forms of church governance see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecclesiastical_polity

- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness; and
- the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.*

What do we believe about Baptism? In the sacrament of Baptism, the individual is welcomed into the church and into the community of those who accept God's love. The congregation's ongoing responsibility is to support the Christian life of the baptized individual, thus they become part of the greater community of members who put their faith and trust in Jesus.

What do we believe about Communion? In the sacrament of Communion, which is often called The Lord's Supper, we recall the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and believe that He is truly with us in love and in power as we take the bread and the cup in faith and trust.

What are Elders and Deacons? The congregation elects and ordains both women and men to serve three-year terms of active service as an elder or a deacon. Elders are responsible for the spiritual well being and overall governance of the congregation. Deacons are responsible for care and support of members of the congregation.

What is Session? The Session is the governing body of the congregation like a corporate board of directors.

What is the Presbyterian Church USA? The Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) is a nationwide denomination with more than two million members.

* <http://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/5/15/being-reformed-study-great-ends/>

By the Way

There are multiple ways to stay in touch with what is happening at WPC. First, consider the **WPC website at www.mywpc.org**.

Also, consult:

- The **Sunday Worship Bulletin** insert.
- The **Weekly e-Newsletter** and the monthly **Kirk Courier**, available by signing up on-line at www.mywpc.org. The Kirk Courier is also available through the mail.
- Williamsburg Presbyterian Church on **Facebook**.

WPC members often are notified of church-wide events, deaths and memorial services via e-mail. If you would like to receive e-mail notices, you must register by visiting the WPC website (www.mywpc.org) and follow these steps:

- At the top of the webpage, scroll the curser over the CONNECTING button to view the drop down menu.
- Click on WPC NEWS (takes you to a new page).
- Scroll down to the very bottom of the page to see WPC NEWS, WPC E-KIRK and E-NEWSLETTER. Fill in your email address, first name and last name in the required fields.
- Click SUBSCRIBE NOW. You will receive an e-mail acknowledgement. When you receive the acknowledgement e-mail, click on the link within the email to confirm your subscription. That's all it takes!

For your privacy protection, this must be done by you. You must add it to our WPC e-mail server list yourself using this subscription procedure. Contact the Church Office (757-229-4235) if you need assistance.

My Notes