

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

April, 2014

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Saturday 5:30 p.m. - Parish Hall
Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sunday Nursery 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Pre-K
10:15 a.m. K- Grade 8
Sunday Adult Study 11:15 a.m.

April 5 & 6

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"Necessary Losses"

April 12 & 13

Palm Sunday - Communion Sunday
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Mark 11:1-11
Rev Julie Wells Blythe
"Before the Parade Passes By"

April 19 & 20

Easter Sunday
John 20:1-18
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"The Fullness of an Empty Tomb"

April 26 & 27

Confirmation Sunday
John 20:19-31
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"Remember Who You Are"

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

8:30 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

During the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service the Sunday School children (three-year olds through grade eight) will lead us in the processional with palms and presentation of the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering. *Easter Egg Hunt for our younger children follows worship in Parish Hall.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 17

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The meditation "A Decisive Night" will be presented by Dr. Kieffer. Westminster Choir will sing *Cross-Cry* and *In the Silence of this Moment*. The communion Service will end with the solemn stripping of the church.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday worship will be centered on the reading of the Passion according to John with music by The Walnuts and masterpieces of art depicting the events of the last hours of Jesus' life.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:30 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

On Easter Sunday, the Westminster Choir will sing *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* and the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's oratorio *Messiah* with members of the Millikin Brass. The Chancel will be filled with the massive cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster,

Confirmation Sunday, April 27

Class of 2014 Recognized and Commissioned

At the April meeting of the Session, fifteen young people will be received into the membership of this congregation, They will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, April 27, during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship:

Abigail Barris Fierstos
Reaney Lee Gaines
Holling D. Kniffin
Barrett Benjamin Kurmann
Julia Lauren Lakin
Lauren Louise Marines
Jenna Milward

Austin Scott Robbs
Emma Marie Shafer
Anne MacKenzie Sherrick
Chad Douglas Sims
Corey Douglas Sims
Adam J. Vasconcelles
Sarah Barrett Wagner

This is a time of celebration as well as a milestone on the faith journeys of these young people. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship.

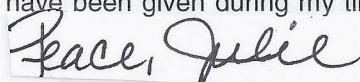
FROM THE INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR THE REV. JULIE WELLS BLYTHE

Dear Westminster Members

It is with mixed feelings that I have submitted my resignation as Interim Associate Pastor effective June 30, 2014. It has been a great honor to be able to serve Westminster for the last two years when the need was so great. As a child of this congregation, much of my life has been spent within these walls. I was married here, baptized both of our children here, was ordained an elder and finally was ordained a Minister of Word and Sacrament in our beautiful sanctuary. The fact that I was available when Westminster needed someone quickly who would support and love this congregation through a difficult transitional period is one of those amazing examples of God's surprising timing.

That being said, I have served as Interim Associate Pastor for two years now. I feel that I have done my best for this congregation. You are now no longer in need of the kind of unique type of service and perspective that I provide and it is time for me to move on. This position was never meant to be one where I would stay, nor has it ever been my goal to serve as an Associate Pastor here at Westminster. I truly did this as a favor to the congregation and it is one that I did willingly and with great love and care. However, serving your home congregation takes a personal toll that you cannot understand unless you have walked in my shoes. In the past two years I have buried too many people whom I have loved deeply and whose funerals I would have preferred to attend as a mourner and not as the presiding minister. This is just one of the many personal costs involved in serving your home church. When home becomes work the question arises, "where is home?"

Dr. Kieffer has been incredibly gracious and has welcomed me to continue to call Westminster my home church. I pray God's blessings upon you as you move forward in your lives and faith together in this place. Thank you for all of the love and support I have been given during my time as one of your pastors.



YOUTH NEWS by Annie Peterson

FLAP JACK FUNDRAISER GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you to the 187 members and friends who attended the Flap Jack Fundraiser. Over \$1,600 was raised toward the Youth Mission Trip to Brighten, TN. In light of this additional fundraiser, we will not do Servant Days this spring. Senior High will enjoy movie night Sunday, April 6.

CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Confirmands will meet from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. on April 13th to finish writing their Statement of Faith and Statement of Confirmation. The following Wednesday, April 16, the Confirmands will attend the Session Meeting to discuss their process with the Elders at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be April 27 at 10:00 a.m.; all are invited to worship and a reception in Parish Hall.

NO YOUTH GROUP ON EASTER SUNDAY

There will be no Jr. or Sr. High Youth Group on Easter Sunday, April 20. Celebrate the Resurrection Joy with your families. Youth Group will resume the next Sunday, April 27 at its normal time, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. We are working on a broad spectrum of music for the upcoming services for the season of Lent and for the Liturgical Arts Festival program on May 4. On Sunday, April 6, the choir will be joined with 'cellist, Tommy Negro in the anthems *He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word* and *Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs*.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (GRADES 3-6) rehearse on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. Our efforts are now focused on The Rock Slinger's Greatest Hit, a musical telling of the story of David and Goliath, which will be presented at the single service held on Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars and plan to be present for the lively and clever presentation by our young singers.

WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (K-Grade 2) rehearses on Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m. and will sing at the 10 a.m. service on Palm Sunday, April 13. Members of the Children's Choir will also be a part of the procession of palms on that same Sunday.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants through age four, meets each Saturday morning at 11 a.m. through Saturday, April 12. Follow the pathway of cheese!

EASTER MUSIC/DECORATIONS FUND

Each year members and friends provide palms, lilies, and sanctuary decorations, as well as special music during Holy Week. The list of donors and those whom they are remembering with their gift are printed in the Easter bulletin. The suggested donation is \$18. Please make checks payable to WPC, indicating in the memo which fund your gift will support. The deadline for bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, April 13. On Saturday, April 19, members of the Worship, Music and Arts committee will assemble the massive cross of lilies, which has been a cherished tradition at Westminster for decades.

GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL FUND

Thank you to all who have contributed toward the new hymnal. As of March 25, we have received \$7,000 toward our \$11,000 goal. Please consider a gift by May 15 so we can dedicate the hymnals on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. Pledge cards are available on line at www.wpcspi.org.

CHILDREN'S NEWS by Whitney Beck

PALM PROCESSION AND OGHs DEDICATION

On Palm Sunday, April 13, Children (Three years old through Grade 8) meet in Parish Hall at 9:45 a.m. for the Procession of the Palms and OGHs dedication..

THE EASTER EGG HUNT will follow the 10:00 service on Palm Sunday. Children (birth through grade 5) gather in Parish Hall immediately following Sunday School. In anticipation of the empty grave, the traditional Easter egg symbolized the resurrection.

2014 VBS THEME IS MISSION POSSIBLE! Mark your summer calendars for June 16 – 20. Children ages three through grade five will not want to miss this creative collaboration written by Lynn McMenamin. Registration forms will be available online at wpcspi.org.

"WINE, WINGS AND A PRAYER" APRIL 4

Young Adults (age 21 – 32) are invited to 'Come, renew their strength' on Friday, April 4, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Kieffer's. Wine and wings will be served overlooking Lake Springfield. RSVP: Text 312-545-2805 or email bkieffer@wpcspi.org.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

A New Member Class will be offered on Sundays, April 27 and May 4, for our friends and visitors. The class will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting Westminster and would like to learn more about the church, its mission and future is invited to attend. The class will be led by Dr. Kieffer. New members will be received on Sunday, May 11, and will be welcomed by the congregation at the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY Join Lyle VanDeventer on Sundays, April 27, May 4, 11 and 25 at 11:15 a.m. in the Church Library for this four-week class exploring Judaism.

LENTEN SERIES: "JOURNEYS OF THE HEART"

Join Sarah Blythe on Thursday, April 3 and Carole Kennerly on Thursday, April 10 as they share their cross cultural experiences in Ghana and Northern Ireland. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall with a simple dinner. Each evening's entrée reflects the country's culinary traditions. Please sign up at wpcspi.org.

ZIEGLER LIBRARY NEWS

New on the cart: *Goldenland After Dark* by Chandler Klang Smith. On the children's cart: *I am Mr. Ellie Pooh*, *The Sweetest Story Bible*, and *The Velveteen Rabbit*.

PAGE-TURNERS BOOK GROUP will meet Wednesday, April 23 at 9:30 a.m. on in the Library to discuss *A Cup of Tea A Novel of 1917* by Amy Epheron.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) will meet Friday, April 25 (note date change) at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for pot luck dinner and program by Gary Vitale, local author, about his new book *Untold Rainbows, Personal Recollections*.

BOARD OF DEACONS

BLOOD DRIVE ON SUNDAY, MAY 4 -The Community Service Committee will host a blood drive on Sunday, May 4. Sign up in the West Narthex on Sundays in April or on-line at wpcspi.org. Any questions can be directed to Lucas Carpenter 217-891-5891 or icarp2@hotmail.com. Thank you and remember "Your donation can save a life!"

Give-a-Meal-a-Month April Menu

Corned Beef, Carrots,
Peaches, Baked Beans
Optional: Dry Milk or Dry Cereal
Soap, Laundry, or Dish Detergent

Thank you to those who bring their donations and place them in the shopping cart in the West Narthex. These meals are delivered to Central Illinois Food Bank.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON All Westminster women are invited to attend a luncheon and program Friday, April 4, 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. Shana Stine, KMO Founder and Director for 3 Springfield COMPASS sites will present our program: Kenyan Mission Orphanage (Jump for Joel)". (Please call the Church Office by Wednesday, April 2, to make a reservation at 522-4415.)



LAYETTES FOR KUMLER NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES Church Women United (CWU) will hold May Friendship Day on Tuesday, May 6, at First United Methodist Church this year. This is the celebration to which we take our layette items for Kumler Neighborhood Ministries. Watch for the Layette Collection Box in the West Narthex this April. New and gently used items are welcome.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, April 14 in the second floor classroom at 5:00 p.m. Norma Adams-Johnson will be our leader for our Bible Study *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Chapter 3*.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Phyllis Lowrey. Mina Bentsen will give devotions. Helen Evenson will lead our study of *General Epistles, Lesson 7*.

THE KNITTERS are knitting every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room for fellowship and knitting projects.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Brian and **Natasha Tasson Meyer** presented their daughter, Rome Jolie Meyer, for baptism on Sunday, March 23.

IN MEMORIAM

Dorothy Lorene Osborn died on January 17 at age 103. Memorial services for **Genevieve Connie Farrow** will be held on April 12, at 2:00 p.m. in our sanctuary

SYMPATHY TO

Gail Olson on the death of her mother on February 15.

Doris Ray on the death of her brother, Harley Lowrey, on February 18.

Joanne Roderick on the death of her son, The Right Reverend Keith Roderick on March 11.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT BY LISA RUNKLE

We have now exceeded our 2014 pledge goal by \$10,625. Combining the Operating Fund activity for January and February, we have a surplus of \$4,711. Building repairs along with our quarterly property insurance premium contributed to our expenses running over budget by \$5,778 while income in the same period is \$10,489 above the budget. In April, donors can expect to receive contribution statements for the first quarter of 2014.

Operations	YTD Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 166,547	\$ 156,058	\$ 10,489
Expenses	\$- 161,836	\$-156,058	\$ - 5,778
Net	\$ 4,711	\$ 0	

FROM THE PASTOR - THE REV. DR. BLYTHE DENHAM KIEFFER

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
...to give you a future full of hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

It is with deep respect and appreciation that the Session received Reverend Julie Wells Blythe's resignation in March. How grateful we are for Julie's capable and loving leadership during a time of transition at Westminster. Julie will continue to be a part of the Westminster family as she pursues the plans God has for her future!

Along with receiving Julie's resignation this week, the Session learned that Annie Peterson's last day with us as Director of Youth Ministries will be Confirmation Sunday, April 27. Annie graciously accepted this position last summer with the understanding that it was temporary. She received an invitation to serve as the Director of Youth Ministries at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Munster. How grateful we are for the strength and poise with which Annie has led our youth during this time of transition. We wish Annie "Godspeed" in the future God has planned for her and we will honor Annie on Confirmation Sunday.

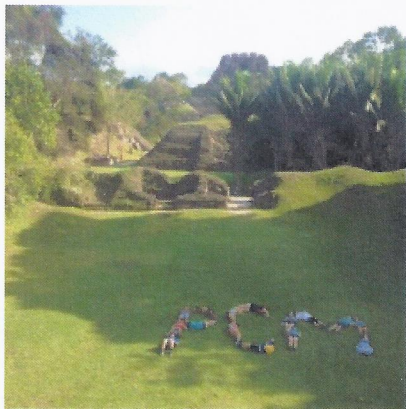
As we move into Westminster's future, we do so with hope in the plans God has for us. In light of this news, the Session directed the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to widen their search to nominate two Associate Pastors, the Associate Pastor for Parish Life and the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry. Additionally, **the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 6 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship to elect two additional APNC members, which will be presented by the Nominating Committee.**

As we continue our Lenten journey toward Holy Week, we are grateful for the God who is our companion, the God who brings life out of death and the God who gives us a future, full of hope.

Godspeed, Blythe

SUPPORT AND ENDOWMENT UPDATE

THANK YOU FROM NATALIE KNOX: Thank you so much for the \$500 from Mission Endowment towards my mission trip to Belize March 8 - 15, 2014! We worked in partnership with Pathlight, a Christian organization dedicated to promoting education and providing



scholarships to students who show aptitude for education. Due to the poor infrastructure, education beyond the sixth grade is nearly impossible for most families. 40% of Belizeans are unemployed, and minimum wage is about \$1.25 an hour. I met Salema who will become the first Pathlight scholar college graduate this May. As part of our work, we constructed a basketball court for Armenia Government School, which houses 300 students from preschool to

sixth grade. Along with the manual labor, I made several new friends, notably Eliza, Juan, and Mateo. Seeing how joyous the children were, even though I saw their shantytowns firsthand, helped me put my own life in perspective. These children made a lasting impression on my life, deepening my faith and gratitude. Thank you for your generous support, which made this experience possible!

God Bless, Natalie Knox

CELEBRATING THE FUTURE OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND

In anticipation of the twenty year milestone of the Support and Endowment Fund in 2015, the committee is hosting receptions to lay the ground work for an anniversary promotion. Invitations will be going out in the next three months. We look forward to this opportunity to build our future together.

Randy Germeraad, Chair

Westminster Staff

The Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
Pastor/Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Julie Wells Blythe
Interim Associate Pastor
jblythe@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald Boutelle
Parish Associate
pastorboutelle@yahoo.com

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts
Saturday Worship Pianist and
Music Coordinator
Deb.watts@live.com

Annie Peterson
Director of Youth Ministries
apeterson@wpcspi.org

Lucas Carpenter
Program Assistant for Youth
lcarp2@hotmail.com

Whitney Beck
Program Assistant for Children
children@wpcspi.org

Abigail Cline, Kelly Bassett
Nursery Staff

Noel Scott, Kari Soria
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
westminstercoop@gmail.com

Judy Ridinger
Parish Nurse
jaridinger@att.net

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Connie Brown
Church Administrative Assistant
cbrown@wpcspi.org

Liz Maxey
Part-Time Administrative Assistant
administrativeassistant@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Head Custodian
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert
Custodians

Russ Nagel
Rental Properties Coordinator