

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December 2016

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.
Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sunday School for Pre-K – Grade 5
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Adult Education & Children's Activities
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon

December 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Sages and Sprouts

December 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Isaiah 35:1-10, Matthew 11:2-11
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Beyond Sorrow

December 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Isaiah 7:10-16, Matthew 1:18-23
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
God Is With Us

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.
Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
Light of all People

January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY
ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23
Reverend Trajan McGill
Not What We Expect

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

Advent Family Devotionals written by Rev. Dreitcer are at the Visitor Information Tables. Each Sunday, Westminster's new members light the Advent candles during both worship services.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 4, 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall



This year, the Advent Celebration is moving to the morning and will follow the 10:00 a.m. service of worship which will include the musical presentation of "Three Men on Camelback" by the Children's and Chorister Choirs, directed by Dale Rogers. The entire congregation is invited to gather in Parish Hall with the children and their families following worship to sing carols, led by Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer and to enjoy refreshments. During the gathering children will create Advent wreaths, Christmas ornaments, and decorate cookies. Families are invited to bring **Toys for Tots** to share during this season of giving! Special thanks to Mary Ray and Meridith Bryans for coordinating the reception and activities.

WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Music for this service will be presented by the Westminster Choir, the Walnuts, the St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, organist and Dee Dee Gain, accompanist. Featured works for the program will include *See Amid the Winter Snow* in a setting by Dan Forrest, *Infant Holy*, *Infant Lowly* by Gerre Hancock, the spiritual *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, a carol written for Queen Elizabeth's 80th Birthday by John Rutter and much more.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS

Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations and/or music funds. Donations which require wording for the December 11 bulletin need to be received no later than Monday, December 5. Please note the fund in the memo of your check. Thank you for your generosity!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. Don't miss this great Westminster tradition! The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the charge and benediction.



FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...

One of the gifts I received for my birthday this year is a sterling silver bracelet with the first verse of "Amazing Grace" inscribed on it. What makes the bracelet especially interesting is that it is a Möbius strip. Discovered by the German mathematician August Möbius in 1858, the Möbius strip is a surface with only one side and one boundary and has the mathematical property of being non-orientable, with unique and mysterious perspectives. An example of a Möbius strip is a circle with a half-twist, creating a continuous loop, like the bracelet I received.

Dr. Parker Palmer, Educator and Quaker, refers to the Möbius strip in his book entitled *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey toward an Undivided Life*. He contends that the choices we make and the way we live our lives reflect the core of who we are. Because the outside and inside surface is the same on a Möbius strip, there is no place to hide our true self! Dr. Palmer encourages people of faith to honor their spiritual lives and to nourish the core of their being, their inner light, their soul, the true self, whatever one wants to call this dimension of our being. We do this within community through prayer, self-reflection, accountability, attentiveness, mission, service, and acts of kindness.

My husband Peter, the scientist and mathematician in the family, was the first to point out the Möbius strip design within the bracelet and what a powerful metaphor this is for the beloved hymn "Amazing Grace," a highlight of St. Andrew's Sunday presented with bagpipes and drums. As one reads the lyrics along the bracelet, one is mysteriously and profoundly brought back time and time again to Amazing Grace. As we begin again this joyous season of Advent, let us never stop looking for the unexpected and amazing grace within our lives.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE MORE THAN ENOUGH

As of Tuesday, November 29, we have received 249 pledges for a total of \$784,713. This is 86% of anticipated pledges and 96% toward our dollar amount goal. To date, 54 members have increased their pledge by \$500 or more. Thank you to all those who have pledged and who plan to. **Please make your pledge by Sunday, December 11.**



OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Our donations for the month were higher than in recent months. Contribution statements were mailed in early October. Thank you to all those who responded by sending a donation. At the end of October, expenses were under budget by \$10,734, but the net total is \$31,566 expenses exceeding income.

2016 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 771,878	\$ 814,178	\$ -42,300
Expenses	\$-803,444	\$-814,178	\$ -10,734
Net	\$ -31,566	\$ 0	

YEAR-END 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2016 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. Be sure any donations for the 2016 tax year are dated 2016 and received no later than noon on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR and Choristers join forces when they sing in worship and at the Advent Celebration on December 4. Members of these groups should meet in the Chancel that morning at 9:25 a.m. to rehearse *Three Men on Camelback*.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS sing carols for residents at Concordia on Wednesday, December 14. Meet at Concordia at 4:30 p.m. and please pick up your child at 5:30 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR and friends will again go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 3, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra. December rehearsals are on Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15 & 22 and Saturday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m. The Choir Christmas dinner will be in Parish Hall following the Christmas Vespers on December 11.

St. Andrew's Sisters will rehearse on Thursday, December 1 and 8 at 6:45 p.m. to prepare *Sweet Was the Song* of Andrew Carter.

WESTMINSTER COOP PRESCHOOL FRIENDSHIP FEST



On Thursday, November 17 Dale Rogers led the children of our Preschool in a series of songs of thanksgiving, songs about cooking and songs about food using percussion instruments from the Church Mice program.

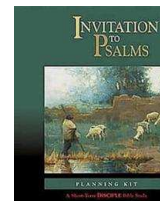
CHURCH MICE will not meet during December. Sessions will

resume on Saturday, January 14 at 11 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS: Invitation to the Psalms December 11 and 18

During Advent the Adult Education Forum will explore the rich diversity of the psalter, led by Lyle VanDeventer. This study invites us to engage the Psalms at the deepest levels of our hearts, where God's faithfulness confronts the most challenging aspects of our lives.



Women Reshape America January 8, 15, 22

During January the Adult Education Forum will present "Women Reshape America." Suzanne Borland, J.D. will review Fred Streibigh's book *Equal* and outline the fascinating story of how women reshaped America's legal system in the last 50 years.

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP December 11 and 18

Parents meet on Sunday mornings, from 11:15 a.m.-12 noon in the Tower Room for camaraderie, support and discussion of the book, *I Wonder – Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible* by Elizabeth Caldwell. The group is led by Dr. Marc and Jen DeJong. **The DeJong's will host a Parent's Christmas Potluck (child free) on Saturday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

DISCIPLE AND COVENANT BIBLE STUDY Take break last two weeks of December

Disciple Bible Study, led by Rev. Trajan McGill, meets each Tuesday in a study of Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts. Disciple will not meet December 20 and 27.

Covenant Bible Study, led by Dr. Kieffer, meets each Thursday in a study of "covenant." Covenant will not meet December 22 and 29.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

YOUTH UPDATE



On Sunday, November 20, youth grades 6-12 and their parents were invited into Parish Hall for a time of prayer and contemplative silence as we begin the Advent journey. Along with walking the labyrinth in the middle of the room, youth

and their parents had the opportunity to rest at a number of prayer stations, where they could pray with color, remember their baptisms, receive an anointing and blessing, meditate on their brokenness and their gifts, pray the questions of Christ, or simply light candles and rest in God's presence.

YOUTH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration: Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, everyone is invited into Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday refreshments, and caroling! Youth are encouraged to assist at the different stations. **Please bring a new toy to be donated to Toys for Tots!**

1:00 a.m. Contact Ministries Shop: After Advent Celebration, join us for a pizza lunch at church before we head out to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

11:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal: The Confirmation Class and youth participants in the Children's Christmas Eve service will gather in the Sanctuary after worship for a rehearsal.

4:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group

Confirmation Prep: Parables – Matthew 13; Luke 13, 15, 17

Confirmation: The Trinity – Jesus

5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner (Third Floor)

6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group (Third Floor): God's Kingdom

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:15 a.m. Full Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal: Everyone involved in the Children's Christmas Eve Service will gather after worship for a rehearsal.

3:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: Our senior class will gather in the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party: The Junior and Senior High are invited to the Kurmann home from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a holiday potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship: Everyone is invited to come worship the Christ Child in a family-friendly morning service full of Christmas carols! Youth Group will NOT meet on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

THE 2017 MISSION: APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

The Mission Agreement packet and the \$50 deposit are due Sunday, December 18.

The youth will return to Appalachia July 1-8 where we will be working to repair homes and to build relationships in Tennessee. Check out asphome.org for more details!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SENIOR HIGH LOCK-IN

Saturday, January 7, the Senior High will gather at church at 6:00 p.m. for our annual lock-in, with dinner, games, conversation, and worship.

CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

Bridges children and their advocates met one another on October 26. Each pair created *ofrendas*, a traditional element of the holiday *Día de los Muertos*, to remember and



celebrate deceased loved ones, sharing stories and memories as they worked. At the end of their time together the children and advocates gathered in Westminster's Memorial Garden to pray for the departed saints of their families and the church.

During November we celebrated the ways we praise God with music! Dale Rogers taught us about Westminster's bell, and gave a hands-on lesson in handbells on November 2. The next week, we welcomed elder Steve Scaife, who gave a presentation on the bagpipes, and Lisa Runkle, who gave a class on Scottish dancing!



in lunch & communion on October 27.

On Wednesday, December 14, Bridges children will visit our members at Concordia for carols & cocoa! Pictured here are Westminster members who live at Concordia and who shared

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:

All children are invited to participate in tableaus during the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the Confirmands read the Christmas story! Children will participate as shepherds, angels, and magi. Children ages three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs. **Please arrive at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom,** where children will receive a costume and be given instructions.



HIGHLIGHTS AT WESTMINSTER

HARVEST FEST

Sunday, October 30



On Sunday, October 30 Westminster welcomed over 100 (45 children) members and friends from the community at the annual Harvest Fest. Following a delicious meal (prepared by Pat Hymans and Kelly Bassett) and costume parade, children enjoyed the amazing maze (created by Al Hymans), stories in the Library (told by Sue Baker), crafts organized by Betsy Ruklick and Claire Bess), and science experiments conducted by Krista and Brad Steller.

The evening culminated with Trunk or Treat in the Westminster Parking lot hosted by the Board of Deacons. Fifteen cars participated in full costume and lots of great treats and surprises. Special thanks to Becky Huston, Chair of the Congregational Fellowship Committee, for this addition and to the Rev. Sarah Iloff McGill for her oversight and leadership.

McGill Family Update

This was the Sunday before Sarah and Trajan welcomed their daughter into the world a month earlier than anticipated. All is well! Sarah will be on maternity leave through December 2016. Valerie Leonatti is serving as Children's Ministries Coordinator during her absence.

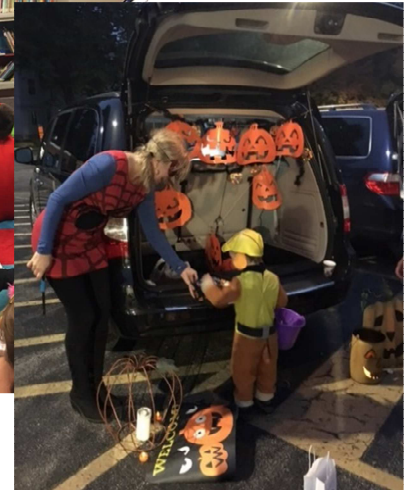
CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

Wednesday, November 16

On Wednesday, November 16 over 70 children and their parents gathered at the mosque as our children, their parents, and some youth volunteers joined members of the Islamic Society of Springfield and Grace Methodist Church for a journey of friendship and service. After games, activities, and a shared story about the extraordinary power of ordinary deeds of kindness,

the children packed 40 Thanksgiving care packages for children hospitalized at St. John's. The children then ate a pizza dinner in small groups, and enjoyed conversation about what they are grateful for. We concluded the evening by singing "Father Abraham."

Our next gathering will be at Grace Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 25. It's not too late to become a part of this meaningful journey for our children!



SATURDAY WORSHIP MARKS TRANSITION

October 29

Forty members and friends gathered for a Cheese and Cider Reception following worship on Saturday, October 29. The Westminster Jazz Trio did not disappoint with festive music while friends enjoyed a variety of hors d'oeuvres and cider.

We are grateful for the following members of the Saturday worship team who hosted this event. *Bill Deemer, Ann Collins, Barb Dirksen, Judy and Fred Prillaman, Mary Ray, Nancy and Bill Simpson, Diane Rutledge, Sally Godbey, Sabrina Holmes, Linda and Bill Schlosser, Mary Alice Davis, and Marlene Rinehart.*

Saturday worship has moved to a spring, summer, fall schedule and will resume on Saturday, April 29. This is a unique and enriching worship experience which nurtures friendships as well as our faith and celebrates communion weekly.



ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY

November 20



Over 350 members and friends gathered on November 20 as Westminster continued the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music.

The Little Entry was the opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers, drummers and the pastors, youth entered with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed liturgy and the cross to highlight the centrality of the cross within our faith on Christ the King Sunday.

This year we were delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism as we welcomed our youngest members into the life of our congregation: Grayson Bonn, Rosalind Huff, Roscoe Ekstedt and Brice Knuedler.

Clayton Kurmann, Kate Bryans and Maria DeJong represented the children of Westminster in presenting *The Rhyme Bible* to each family. Parents also received a copy of the book *Children Praying: Why and How to Pray with Your Children* by Joan Bel Geddes as they begin this spiritual journey with their children. Krista Steller and Pat Wheat served as assisting elders.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HELPING HANDS The November meal was provided by Sarah Zervas. December will be provided by Emma Shafer and Cathy Schwartz.

ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE SUNDAY raised \$385.00. Thank you!

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH DECEMBER MENU: *Canned Tuna, Shells and Cheese, Peaches, Mixed Vegetables.* Thank you to those who place these items in the baskets in the West Narthex.

UNICEF OFFERING was collected in October and totaled \$202.07. Thank you to members of PW, DMA and families at Harvest Fest who contributed.

ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ADOPT A FAMILY: Gifts for 9 families will be provided in collaboration with Contact Ministries. Please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the West Narthex and return gifts to the church **before Sunday, December 11. Do not wrap presents this year.** The mothers of each family will wrap their children's presents and volunteers will wrap the presents for each mother. Contact Kay Smith (691-9401) with questions.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts for children of all ages in it. This outreach is sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve.

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is located in the West Narthex. Please make donations by Wednesday, December 14. In addition to children's items, adult men and women's gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!



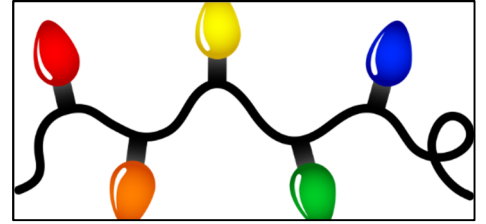
KNIT 2 PURL 4 continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. A reminder to those who knit at home that hats, scarves and mittens are needed for the Mitten Tree. We also need items for Washington Street Mission, Kumler Neighborhood Ministries and M.E.R.C.Y.

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will be hosted by Westminster on Wednesday, December 14. Recipients were asked to pre-register. Sign-up sheets with duties and job descriptions will be available on Sunday, December 4.

EARTH CARE NEWS

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING

The WPC Earth Care Team will provide the opportunity to recycle the valuable copper in Christmas lights this Advent. Please place your nonworking lights (without any other packaging material) in the labeled bin located in the kitchen by Sunday, January 8.



THANK YOU to all who participated in the Annual Springfield Household Hazardous Waste Collection last month at the fairgrounds.

COMPASS FOR KIDS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM



Westminster continues to host the Compass after-school program for at-risk children attending Graham Elementary School, providing educational advancement, fun, and a nutritional dinner. The Graham site here at Westminster has just welcomed a new site director, Amy Anderson!

Thanks to those volunteers from WPC and from our partner Central Baptist who enthusiastically keep this program running every week for our area children!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PRESBYTERIAN BUILD



The Mission and Community Service Committees have approved Westminster joining in as one of the lead churches in the effort to build a house with Habitat for Humanity in 2017 sponsored entirely by area Presbyterian Churches. \$10,000 was approved from Endowment Mission Funds, and the church is also applying for a Presbytery grant to supplement this with \$1,000 in additional funding. Be on the lookout as we seek to put together a strong team of volunteers to take on the wide variety of work that will be involved!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION If you are unable to attend worship on December 11 and would like to take part in Communion, please contact Connie Brown. Eleven members received the sacrament on November 13 by five teams of elders and deacons. Many thanks to those who participate in bringing the Lord's Supper.

POINSETTIA DELIVERIES: The Board of Deacons will be delivering Christmas poinsettias to members who lost loved ones in 2016 and to members of the Westminster family who reside in Illinois Presbyterian Home and Lewis Memorial Christian Home. Flowers will be delivered beginning Sunday, December 11.

THE SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS will not meet in December or January. We will join together again in this short, intimate service on the first Sunday in February.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 -6:30 p.m.

On Sunday, December 4, young adults (age 21-40ish) are invited to Rev. Hannah's house from 5:00-6:30 p.m. for fellowship and a holiday potluck. RSVP to Rev. Hannah at hdreitcer@wpcspi.org and to get the address!

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 8, 7:00 a.m.

On Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 a.m. Men will enjoy breakfast provided by Fred Prillaman, a short devotion led by George Johnson, and a program on agricultural conservation coordinated by Dale Hedrick and presented by Walt Lynn.

At the November gathering Bob Wire presented the fascinating story of Victoria Murden McClure, the first woman and the first American to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean, which she did in 1999. She was also the first woman and first American to ski to the geographic South Pole solo. On June 1, 2010, she became the president of Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky.



WESTMINSTER PARENTS CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Saturday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

All Westminster parents are invited to gather, child-free, at the DeJong home (1955 South Illini Road.) for a Christmas potluck. Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW LUNCHEON is Friday, December 2, at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Pat Hymans.



Chair of the Day is Agnes Harmon. Our program will be Springfield High School Jazz Band under the direction of Kelly Goldberg. Please RSVP at your Circle meeting or by

contacting Connie Brown at the church.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE met Wednesday, November 30 (note date change for December's meeting), at Stephanie Moore's home (9 Pine Tree Drive 62704) to discuss Chapter 4 and 5 – Tamar and Potiphar's Wife from *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will have their annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner on Monday, December 5 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. All women are invited to this festive meal (roast beef or salmon). Entertainment will also be provided. Please RSVP to Pat McKenzie (494-9258) or Judi Mier (726-6872) by November 30.

LYDIA CIRCLE will have their Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall at the church. Our hostess will be Barbara Dirksen.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS

Daehler Emelia McGill, daughter of the Reverend Sarah Iloff McGill and the Reverend Trajan McGill, on November 1. Daehler's older brother is Scott Wilberforce McGill.

Willow Ryder Thomas, daughter of Meaghan and Mike Thomas, on November 1 in Chesapeake, VA. Karen Kraft is her grandmother.

Verity Saoirse Germeraad, daughter of Colleen and Scott Germeraad, on November 25. Verity's older brother and sister are Declan and Merrin. Her grandparents are Kathy & Randy Germeraad, and great-grandparents are Mary and Bill Schnirring.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Mary and Daniel Bonn presented their son Grayson Pierce. Grayson's sister is Addison and his grandmother is Sandy Bonn.

Jessica and Josh Huff presented their daughter Rosalind Lucille. Rosalind's brother is Rowan Maurice and her grandparents are Pat and Phil Wheat.

Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt presented their son Roscoe Thomas. Roscoe's brother is August Joseph.

Lizzie and Joe Knoedler presented their son Brice Bradford. Brice's grandparents are Krista and Brad Steller.

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Louise M. Cragoe celebrates 92 on December 5.

Edith Irwin celebrates 93 on December 14.

George Johnson celebrates 92 on December 20.

Earl Ray celebrates 93 on December 24.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Elsie and Bob Fox will celebrate 55 years on December 23.

SYMPATHY TO

Elizabeth & Jim Livingston, Kelso Brent & Sadie Ballantyne, Ryan & Stacey Woodward on the death of their grandmother, Helen A. Ballantyne on November 3.

Anna Koeppel on the death of her grandmother, Nancy Koeppel, on November 17 in Washington, IL.

Jessica and Josh Huff on the death of Josh's father, Robert Huff on November 19 in Springfield.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)



DMA will take a winter break during December, January, and February.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class of 2017 will read the Christmas story; Abigail and Kevin Cline and daughter Kayleigh will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs. Your child can arrive at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume and instructions or participate as a leader and attend practice on Sunday, December 18, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Don't miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$17, children 6-12 are \$11.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. **Reservations and payment must be made no later than Monday, December 19.** Please send your payment and number attending to the Church Office. Reservation forms will be in the bulletins on December 4 and 11, and at sign-up tables.

7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors will read the Christmas Story in this 97th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the Highest) the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

**SO BRING YOUR SILVER BELLS, BRASS BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS, AND EVEN COW BELLS
TO THIS SERVICE AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!**

NO 11:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE THIS YEAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS DAY CAROL SERVICE

The Westminster family will gather for a joyful celebration of Christmas Day. Worship will include a brief meditation, the singing of favorite Christmas carols, and special music presented by Sally Wilson Szudy, soprano soloist. Childcare will be provided; however, Sunday School will not be held.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

10:00 A.M. NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

On New Year's Day, we will gather for one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. and partake in the Sacrament of Communion by intinction. Childcare will be provided and a combined Sunday School class presents "Jesus in the Temple."

PRAYER MINISTRY

This Advent we began the fourth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. As we enter into a new cycle of the Christian year, we begin a new cycle of praying for one another. Throughout the year, each member is remembered by their pastors who gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world. A letter is sent three weeks prior to the week members are being lifted up in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

Church offices will close at noon on Friday, December 23 and will be closed Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Hannah M. Dreitcer
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
hdreitcer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill
Parish Associate for Children's Ministries
smcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. 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

Judy Ridinger, Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurses
jaridinger@att.net

Katie Kirschbaum, Whitney Spearie
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Kari Soria
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
westminstercoop@gmail.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Connie Brown
Church Administrative Assistant
cbrown@wpcspi.org

Stephanie S. Moore
Administrative Assistant to the Pastors
smoore@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
*Head Custodian and
Rental Properties Coordinator*
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert,
Charles Robertson**
Custodians

**January Reporter Deadline is
Sunday, December 25**