

# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

December 2019

## 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*

December 1

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44  
Rev. Trajan I. McGill  
*Being Ready*

December 8

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### MUSICAL PRESENTATION AT 10:00 A.M.

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13  
Reverend Christian K. Choi  
*Peace through the Root of Hope*

December 15

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT COMMUNION

Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Desert in Blossom*

December 22

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25  
Reverend Trajan I. McGill  
*Do Not Be Afraid*

December 29

### One Service at 10:00 a.m.

#### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 63:7-9; Hebrews 2:10-18  
Reverend Christian K. Choi  
*Recounting our Blessings*

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT WESTMINSTER

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 1

8:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL AND 10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

**THE ADVENT WREATH** - We begin the season of Advent, the time of waiting and preparing with the lighting of the Advent Wreath by new members.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 8

8:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL AND 10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

**ADVENT CELEBRATION** – 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary and 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall

The morning includes a special musical presentation of the “Hanging of the Greens” by Westminster Choristers (Grades 3-5) and the Children’s Choir (Grades K-2) during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. **A reception in Parish Hall** will follow and includes a festive brunch, the singing of Christmas Carols, creating of ornaments and the decorating of Christmas cookies.

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 15

8:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL AND 10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** will be celebrated the third Sunday this month at both worship services as we continue our Advent journey.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 22

8:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL AND 10:00 A.M. IN SANCTUARY

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT** - The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull and Meridith Bryan’s leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the benediction.

**WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS - 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

The program features choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir, the Walnuts and the St. Andrew’s Sisters. Ann Collins will join the St. Andrew’s Sisters as a fiddler in a rousing Early American carol.

### CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

**5:00 P.M. CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

A short service filled with spontaneity and delight! The children will act out the Christmas story as the Confirmation Class of 2020 reads, and we will sing many favorite Christmas hymns.

**6:00 P.M. FESTIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER IN PARISH HALL**

Enjoy 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 age 5 and under are at no charge. RSVP and make payment online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org) no later than Monday, December 16. Reservation forms will be in bulletins on December 1, 8 and 15.

**7:30 P.M. WESTMINSTER’S 100<sup>TH</sup> CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

The Westminster Choir will provide music and our high school seniors will read the Christmas Story in this 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. Bring your bells to ring in the Festival of Christmas.

**11:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

The solemn, joy of this service is a meaningful way to welcome Christmas Day. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation and Rev. McGill will provide special music.

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS: DECEMBER 29

ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

We will gather for one service as we continue the celebration of Christmas.

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

Dear Friends,

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 280 members and friends gathered for worship. The bagpipers brought us back to our Scottish roots and the children's sermon featured the Highland Fling danced by Financial Administrator, Lisa Runkle, and Taryn Barnett. The Scripture readings challenged us to rethink God's understanding of power and the paradox of the crucifixion and the King who saves others by not saving himself.

As we begin the Christian calendar anew, we enter this Holy Season with hope and expectation. The staff joins me in wishing you a joyous Advent and a meaningful Christmas. Sometimes it is difficult to conceive how it is that the One who created the ends of the earth would join us in our humanity and embrace us in a love beyond our understanding. Music will nourish our spirits as we contemplate the wonder of our faith, the gift of our children, and the story that never grows old.

**This Advent we begin the seventh year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster.** Throughout the year, each member of our congregation is uplifted in prayer by their pastors. It is an honor and privilege to share in the discipline of this spiritual practice on your behalf.

Earlier this year I was interviewed at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library for their *People of Faith* History project. For those who might be interested, the interview was recently posted on their Oral History website [oralhistory.illinois.gov](http://oralhistory.illinois.gov).

## 2020 STEWARDSHIP CHAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Tuesday, November 26 we have received **235 pledges totaling of \$763,247**. This is **93%** toward our \$822,000 goal. If you have not pledged and intend to, please do so ASAP.

*2020 Stewardship Committee: Dr. William Wright (Chair), Nichole Magalis (Vice Chair), Norma Adams-Johnson, Dr. Jane Arbuthnot, Rick Duffy, Keith Hamilton, Tim Kluge, Linda Shaefer, Mike Sundquist, Pete VanGieson*



## OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Contribution income is under budget, but we anticipate receiving a large number of year-end donations. Since expenses are also under budget, we ended October with a positive net total of \$231. We will send contribution statements to those with a pledge balance for your convenience.

2019 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 847,107	\$ 863,458	\$-16,351
Expenses	\$-846,876	\$-863,458	\$-16,582
Net Total	\$ 231	\$ 0	

## YEAR-END 2019 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 2019 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 2019 tax year are dated 2019 and received no later than noon Thursday, January 2, 2020.**

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (Kindergarten - Grade 2) meet each Tuesday from 4:45 until 5:30 p.m. On Sunday, December 8, the Children's Choir will join **THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** in the *Hanging of the Greens* during the 10:00 a.m. worship, which explains the meaning of the various decorations that we use in the church: the wreath, the garlands, the Advent wreath, and the tree. Songs and carols by the choirs are interspersed in between the readings of this festive event.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** and friends will go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 7, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra.

December rehearsals are Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19. On Christmas Eve, the choir will meet at 6:45 p.m. for final preparations for the 7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols.



*Pictured is the choir on Halloween before sending a video "Happy Birthday" for choir member Jayne Cates.*

**WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS** will be on Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m. This beautiful culmination of the Advent season features choral music and carols sung by the Westminster Choir, the Walnuts and the St. Andrew's Sisters. Ann Collins will join the St. Andrew's Sisters as a fiddler in a rousing Early American carol. The Choir Christmas dinner will be in Parish Hall following the Christmas Vespers.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUNDS** Members and friends are invited to make a donation of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund and \$25 to support Westminster's decoration fund. Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication for the poinsettias by December 9. **This is a great opportunity to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one.**

## ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:

### THE EARLY CHURCH COUNCILS

**Sundays, January 5, 12, 19  
11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom**

This course will explore the first seven ecumenical church councils which were held between 325 and 787 CE and discuss the theological issues that spurred the councils as well as the major personalities who spoke at them. The class will be led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. Aaron is a professor of history at Lincoln Land Community College.



### CIVIL RIGHTS AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MUSIC

**Sundays, January 26, February 9, 16, 23**

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, emerging technologies permitted musicians Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Jimi Hendrix and Bob Marley to develop new genres of Jazz, Rock and Reggae that would transform the music industry and lead this march of the civil rights movement. The class will be led by Dr. Peter Kieffer.



## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

**NO SUNDAY EVENING YOUTH GATHERINGS IN DECEMBER!**

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

**11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration:** Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth are invited to Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday brunch, and caroling!

**12:00 noon Contact Ministries Christmas Shopping:** Following the Advent Celebration, join us to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution! Permission slips can be found at [www.wpcspi.org/ygmonthly](http://www.wpcspi.org/ygmonthly).

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

**11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Prep Participants and the Confirmation Class Readers will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service.

#### 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party

The Senior and Junior High are invited to the Pounds' home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a Christmas potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a \$10 white elephant gift.

- Jr. High: Side Dish • Sr. High: Main Dish
- Ministry Partner: Chips and Drinks

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

**11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmands and Confirmation Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Prep Participants and the Confirmation Class Readers will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal of reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service. The children will join us for this second run through.

**11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seniors rehearse for the 100<sup>th</sup> Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)** Our senior class will gather in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. to review readings and move to the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

**4:00 p.m. Confirmation and Confirmation Prep Participants meet for Christmas Eve Service (Second Floor Classroom)**

Junior High Youth will lead the children in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service. Please arrive by 4:00 p.m. and gather in the Second Floor Classroom.

#### 7:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

High school seniors will lead the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. **Bring your bells to ring for the final hymn!**

### ASP 2020 YOUTH MISSION MEETINGS

WPC's Fifth ASP mission trip is coming up. This year's destination is Kanawha County, WV. It is not too late to join us! Please complete a letter of intent and return it to Rev. Choi with the \$50 deposit.



### FUTURE MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS AND DATES

**DECEMBER 15, 2019:** Youth Group Christmas Party at the Pounds'.

**Due: WPC paperwork, \$100 payment #1**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2020:** Eggstastic Breakfast Fundraiser @ 8:00 a.m.

**Due: ASP Volunteer Form, \$100 payment #2**

**MARCH 22, 2020:** Trivia Night Fundraiser @ 5:00 p.m.

**APRIL 18, 2020:** Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's

**MAY 17, 2020:** Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser @ 8:15 a.m.

**Due: \$100 payment #3**

**JULY 25 – AUGUST 1, 2020: ASP MISSION TRIP WEEK!**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

### BRIDGES THEME: LOVING GOD, LOVING NEIGHBOR

Our Bridges midweek fellowship was visited by Mary Jo Jenkins on November 13. We learned how our Knit2Purl4 Mission uses their knitting talent to be loving neighbors to the youth of our church and the community. We measured our own yarn and the knitters made each one of us our own prayer square.



### BRIDGES SING AT CONCORDIA

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

On Wednesday, December 11, Bridges children will bring greetings and sing carols for our friends at Concordia. WPC members will also receive gift bags with ornaments created at the Advent Celebration. We will also enjoy some homemade cocoa by Dale Rogers.

### BRIDGES DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, December 4 – Choristers 4:00-5:30

Wednesday, December 11 – Sing at Concordia 4:45-5:45

Wednesdays, December 18, 25 and January 1 – No Fellowship

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

All our children are invited to participate in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the confirmands read the Christmas story. Children will be shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated junior high leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs.

Children are invited to a walk-through rehearsal on Sunday, December 22 at 11:15 a.m. All children are invited and encouraged to arrive on December 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom, where they will receive a costume and be given instructions.

Please complete and return the postcard included in the advent mailing to Karen Sherrick no later than Sunday, December 15 to let us know if your children are joining us and their preferred parts. We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating this Holy Season! If you have questions, contact Karen Sherrick ([ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)).

### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

Every year the children act out "Stone Soup" for their families at WCP's annual Friendship Feast on November 21. Everyone learns the benefit of sharing and caring about others. Over 150 attended. We are so thankful for the wonderful way WPC cares for our preschool and shares your wonderful facilities, staff, and love with us. We are so very thankful for you!





## WESTMINSTER HOSTS CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP



On Wednesday, November 6 Westminster hosted Children of Abraham. The 2019-2020 theme “Being a Good Neighbor” was thoughtfully presented through a video presentation/discussion of “The Good Samaritan Law” with corresponding stories from each of the faith traditions by Rev. Choi and Rabbi Marks, a craft created by Mrs. Sherrick, and games led by Mary Ray, Ben and Sam Brower. Pat Hymans, assisted by Peg DiFonso, provided the vegetarian meal.

## 2019 Bay Weekend Welcomed the Rev. Dr. Clint McCann



The Bay Weekend began with a welcome reception at the home of Karen and Andy Sherrick, hosted by the Adult Education Committee. On Sunday Dr. McCann preached, presided at our communion table, and presented a thoughtful class on peacemaking from the Psalms. The day culminated with a delicious meal prepared by Pat Hymans and her team. Seventy-five attended the class and meal.





## KENYA MISSION TRIP TEAM MINISTRY MOMENT



The Kenya Mission Team, led by Rev. Choi, invited the congregation to support them by purchasing gifts for their January 14-30, 2020 trip during a ministry moment on Sunday, November 17. Pictured from left to right: Mary Ray, Tara Fritsch, Jane Arbuthnot, Jen and Marc DeJong, Rev. Choi, Bob Fox, Kevin Milward, Todd and Judy Knox, Mary and Charlie King. Not pictured: Harold Hale

## CONCORDIA LUNCH FOLLOWING COMMUNION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21



Members who reside at Concordia joined the pastoral staff and Dale Rogers for lunch following a Communion Service.

## ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24



Financial Administrator Lisa Runkle and Taryn Barnett dance the Highland Fling during the Children's Sermon on St. Andrew's Sunday. Pipers pictured are Steve Scaife, Richard Priller, Chris Barnett (Taryn's father) and Tom Ogilvy.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**ADOPT A FAMILY:** Christmas gifts for the 9 families who live in the upstairs shelter are being provided. There are tags on one of the Christmas trees in the West Narthex (near the volunteer desk) corresponding to needs and wishes of children and mothers housed in the Contact Ministries shelter. Please take tags and return them with gifts to the church **by Sunday, December 15**. Gifts should be unwrapped—each mother will wrap her own children's presents, and volunteers will wrap the presents for each mother. Kathy Germeraad and Kay Smith are coordinating this effort.



**TOYS FOR TOTS** box is in the West Narthex **until Dec. 22**. Place unwrapped gifts in it for children of any age. This is a program of the Marine Corps Reserve.

**THE MITTEN TREE** for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please donate **by Tuesday, December 10**, so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!

**CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION** will be hosted by Westminster on **Wednesday, December 11**. Recipients were asked to pre-register. If you can volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

**KENYA MISSION TREE** stands in the West Narthex next to the Sanctuary entrance. Tags represent needed gifts and supplies for the Kenya mission team to take with them. Please take a tag and offer something to those we are serving overseas.



**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

**PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** was collected in October and November. This fund "enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world," with 25% remaining local. This year WPC's giving totaled **\$920**. Thank you.

**ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE SUNDAY** raised **\$554**. Thank you for supporting St. John's Breadline in providing daily, hot, nutritious meals to hungry people in Springfield. This effort gives people in times of need the opportunity to spend more of their time seeking jobs and education instead of food.

**GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH DECEMBER MENU** - Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola/nutri-grain/breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap*

## KENYA MISSION TRIP FAST APPROACHING

On November 6, the Kenya Mission Team (pictured on page 5) and the Mission and Community Service Committee met with Stu Ross, the Outreach Foundation consultant from Kenya. Stu shared details on our now-fast-approaching cross-cultural ministry project where we will build a church and classrooms through a **\$15,000 donation** from the Mission Endowment. Please keep the team and our friends in Kenya in your prayers.

## HELPING HANDS MONTHLY MEAL

WPC provides dinner for the Helping Hands homeless shelter on the second Friday of each month. The dinner in December is being provided by the **Bryans and Swanson families**. Thanks to Nancy and Rebecca Huston, who provided the November meal. Our next unfilled slot is in February, and then ministry partners are needed for the rest of 2020 from April through December.

## COMPASS FOR KIDS SERVES 20 STUDENTS

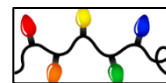
Compass, the Tuesday after-school program hosted by Westminster in partnership with Central Baptist, continues to grow as the 2019-20 school year progresses. 20 Graham Elementary students are now enrolled, ranging from kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.



## EARTH CARE NEWS AND TIP

### CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING

Last year's Christmas tree lights don't work? If simply replacing a bulb or fuse doesn't solve the problem, reclaim valuable copper, plastic, and glass by recycling them (without bags or boxes) in the top bin at the southwest corner of Westminster's West Narthex. Consider purchasing more efficient LED lights!



With cold weather already here, let us remember to winterize for optimal energy efficiency and comfort. Consider a programmable thermostat with lower temperatures while asleep or not home. Door sweeps and weather strippings help fill the gaps which bring as much cold as a two-inch hole in a door. For a drafty chimney, consider an insulated Flueblocker.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** – If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Please note the Lord's Supper will be shared on the third Sunday of the month in December (**December 15**) rather than the second Sunday as usual.



**FLU AND SHINGLES SHOTS** – Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter is coordinating. **The second vaccination date is December 1**. Please speak to Ellen or call the church office to sign up and get insurance information submitted prior to that date.

## WESTMINSTER PRAYER CIRCLE

If you have joys, concerns, hopes, or needs you would like included in the prayers of the Westminster community, please complete one of the prayer cards in the pews, speak to a pastor, or call the church office, so your prayer requests can be shared with the prayer circle.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

Thanks to all knitters who provided items for the Contact Ministries Mitten Tree! We will continue to knit at our usual time on December 3 and 10 with no brown bag lunch this month. Immediately after knitting, we will break for holiday festivities at Illini Country Club on December 17. Reservations and payment are due in advance. We will resume our weekly sessions on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-544-8657.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW LUNCHEON** will meet **Friday, December 6** at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair is Pat Hymans and Chair of the Day is Gloria St. Lawrence. The installation of officers will occur, and music provided by the Sangamon Woodwind Consort.



**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Stephanie Moore (9 Pine Tree Dr.) and lead the discussion of *The Walls and War Stories* in *Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. If you would like info, call Meg Kontio at 217-670-2052.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet **Monday, December 2nd at 5:30 p.m.** for their Christmas Dinner in Parish Hall for a Christmas Fellowship Dinner. Music will be provided by the Sangamon Woodwind Consort.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, December 17 at 12:00 p.m.** in Parish Hall for a Christmas Salad Luncheon.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN



Presbyterian Men will meet **Thursday, December 12 at 7:00 a.m.** for a breakfast gathering. Elizabeth Bazan, Assistant Curator of Education at The Illinois State Museum, will provide a "Behind the Scenes Look at Exhibits &

Programs of the ISM". Scott Day will provide devotions and Rich Canady will provide breakfast.

### DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

DMA will resume in March 2020. Thank you for another great year! See you in March!

### LIBRARY NEWS

Do you know we have a large collection of non-fiction books? The Library Committee has added several new books to both libraries. Some of the recent additions to our culture and history books in the Ziegler Library include: *The Life of Greece, Caesar and Christ, The Age of Faith, and Our Oriental Heritage.*



Check out the Library's cart of books in the West Narthex following the 10:00 a.m. service, which has children and adult books available for check out.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Louise Cragoe celebrates 95 years on December 5.

Betty Smith celebrates 90 years December 8.

Dorothy Wire celebrates 90 years on December 11.

Edith Irwin celebrates 96 years on December 14.

Betty Denham celebrates 93 years on December 19.

George Johnson celebrates 95 years on December 20.

### SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Stan Travelstead on the death of his wife, and to Jeremy Travelstead and Lindsay Fazio on the death of their mother, Anna Travelstead on October 30.

Robyn and Christie Hovey on the death of Robyn's father, and to Will Hovey on the death of his grandfather, William Dale Hovey, on November 1.

Ada and Steve Cobourn on the death of Ada's sister, Lucy Colbert on November 15 in St. Louis.

### NEW ADDRESS

Dr. and Mrs. Alan and Marty Stutz, 4101 West Iles Avenue, Apartment 3212. Springfield. 62711

### THANK YOU TO

Mary and Bill Schnirring, Kathy and Randy Germeraad and Carolyn and Dan Dungan for the gift of new LED lights throughout our Sanctuary.

Westminster members who assisted in decorating our church for Advent and Christmas under the direction of Dale Rogers, Director of Music and the Arts.

Tara Fritsch and her family for the donation of the Christmas Tree from the Festival of Trees which will be placed in Parish Hall during the month of December.

### THANK YOU, WESTMINSTER

Thank you so much for your continued kindness to Contact Ministries. Your annual support of **\$8,500** is significant. These funds allow us to continue to have open doors and to fulfill our mission of meeting basic needs while impacting lives for Christ. We are also grateful to the women from Elizabeth Circle who volunteer each month. *Cindy Drum, Board & Staff*

Thank you so much for your continued kindness to Helping Hands. Your support of **\$4,000** annually is of great inspiration to all of us here. We are also grateful for the members who prepare a meal each month on the Second Friday. *Erica Smith, Director of Shelter and Support Services*

Thank you all so very much for your generous contribution of **\$1,000** to the James Project. What an encouragement it is to all of us to have you as a partner in our ministry. We are blessed. Gratefully, *Jan Williams for the James Project Board & Staff*

### ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

#### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Christmas Open House is Sunday, December 8, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stop by and see the Christmas décor, ornament sale, live entertainment, and take a tour (2005 W. Lawrence). We are grateful for the loving care of so many Presbyterian Women who make this such a delightful and successful day.





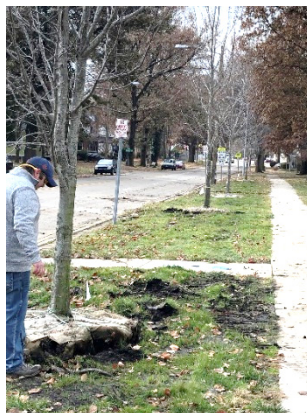
## STEADFAST NEIGHBOR UPDATE

**LANDSCAPE AND HARDSCAPE TASK FORCES:** The four Red Pointe Maple trees were planted along Edwards Street in November to complete the landscape plan on the southside of the building designed by Bill Donels and installed by Green View. Additionally, the Memorial Garden Committee added brick trim to complement the Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan.

The Strategic Planning Committee approved the preliminary architectural drawings of the east entrance and west terrace presented by John Shafer. The 517 and 519 S. Walnut apartments will be vacated by the end of December. The final drawings of the parking lot completed by Vasconcelles Engineering will be submitted to the City of Springfield mid-January.

**THE MISSION TASK FORCE** is preparing a letter to be sent to neighbors in the Spring which includes opportunities for matching grants and to sign up for the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week July 13-17, 2020.

The timeline remains steadfast: We will secure a loan and seek bids in the new year and initiate construction in June of 2020.



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Thanks to the new lighting in Westminster's Sanctuary (a gift of the Schnirring, Germeraad and Dungan families.) The Worship, Music and Arts Committee gathered on November 16 to do some deep cleaning in the Chancel in preparation for the Advent and Christmas decorations and the new year.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, one and all!

## PAT HYMANS JOINS STAFF AS HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

We are delighted to welcome Pat Hymans as a part-time Hospitality Coordinator beginning January of 2020. Pat is a Certified Food Handler and has been sharing her expertise in large and small group catering with the Westminster family for many years.

In November, the Personnel Committee approved inviting Pat to join the staff. Her role as Hospitality Coordinator will be to create an efficient kitchen environment complying with regulations and that reflects the hospitality of Westminster to the congregation and community, and to be a resource for those utilizing the kitchen.

Pat will be recognized for her gift of hospitality she has shared so generously at the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 8.



**Church offices will be closed at noon Tuesday, December 24,  
Wednesday, Christmas Day, at noon Tuesday, December 31,  
and Wednesday, New Year's Day.**

## 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 Christian K. Choi**  
*Associate Pastor for Family Ministry*  
cchoi@wpcspi.org

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
*Parish Associate*

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

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

**Karen Sherrick**  
*Director for Children's Ministry*  
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

**Victoria Hollinshead,  
Kimberly Hollinshead  
Jaymie Hale Ngoupa**  
*Nursery Workers*

**Emily Rowley, Amy Bonansinga**  
*Cooperative Preschool Teachers*  
westminstercoop@gmail.com

**Ellen Carpenter**  
*Parish Nurse*  
ranell@comcast.net

**Lisa Runkle**  
*Financial Administrator*  
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

**Jennie Alt**  
*Church Administrative Assistant*  
jalt@wpcspi.org

**Haofang Chuang**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
hchuang@wpcspi.org

**Krista Steller**  
*Webmaster*

**Gary Warnick**  
*Building and Property Manager*  
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert, Eddie  
Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**  
*Part-time Custodians*

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