

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December, 2014

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Sunday Schedule:

Nursery 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Worship 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary

& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pre K-Grade 5

Adult Education Forum 11:15 a.m.

Jr. High Road to Emmaus 4:00 p.m.

Youth Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Sr. High Road to Damascus 6:00 p.m.

December 6 & 7

Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 30-31; Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

To Wait, To Hope, To Wonder

December 13 & 14

Third Sunday in Advent

Sacrament of Communion

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thess. 5:16-24

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Oaks of Righteousness

December 20 & 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Luke 1:46b-55; Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

How Can This Be?

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

at 5:00, 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.

December 27 & 28

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Luke 2:22-40

The Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

Holy and Joyful

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT is November 30. Westminster members will continue the tradition of lighting the Advent Candles during all three worship services. Our children will create Advent wreaths during Sunday School. The Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m. services will move into the Sanctuary. **Advent Family Devotionals** have been written by Reverend Dreitcer and are available at the Visitor Information Table.

ADVENT SERIES PRESENTS

Healthy Spirit, Healthy Mind: Exploring Peace, Joy, Love and Hope

Mondays, December 1 and 15, 6:15 p.m. in Parish Hall

Join Lyle VanDeventer and Jan Gambach, two mental health professionals, for a festive dessert and power point presentation as we explore ways to nurture our emotional and spiritual health on our journey through the season of Advent.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS

Isaiah: From Despair to Hope

Sundays, December 7, 14 and 21, 11:15 a.m. in the Library

Join Neil Bassett for an exploration of familiar and beloved passages from the Book of Isaiah during this season of anticipation, waiting and hope.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

The celebration begins with the musical "The Drowsy Shepherd" presented by the Children's and Chorister Choirs, under the direction of Dale Rogers. Dinner, cookie decorating, and Christmas arts and crafts will follow. Families are encouraged to bring **Toys for Tots** to share during this season of giving! Our youth will attend, and their "craft" will be packing care packages for our college students. Special thanks to Vallery and Becky Huston and Leigh Milward for making this festive evening possible.

WESTMINSTER CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Music for this service will be presented by the Westminster Choir, St. Andrew's Sisters and the Walnuts and will include seasonal music and carols in a broad variety of styles. Of special note will be a dance by Hannah during the singing of "Star in the East," an early American hymn tune. Music of Lloyd Webber (Andrew Lloyd Webber's father), W. A. Mozart, Ola Gjeilo, Bob Chilcot and John Rutter will be among the featured works.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Sunday, December 21, 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! This year, 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

Dear Friends,

This Thanksgiving my father would have been 90 years old. Peter, Paul and I will gather at my mother's home in Ft. Myers, Florida giving thanks for his life. We will also be thanking God for the amazing faith community of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

On behalf of the gifted and competent staff with whom I have the privilege to serve, thank you for your vote of confidence on Sunday by electing Trajan McGill to complete the pastoral team. We wish you a joyous Advent and a meaningful Christmas as we reflect and ponder how it is that the One who created the ends of the earth...the One who does not faint or grow weary would join us in our humanity by entering the world in the wonder and mystery of the Christ Child.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR and friends will again go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 6, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra.

Rehearsals for the Westminster Choir are Thursdays December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 13 at 9:30 a.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (K – 2nd grade) meets on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. This choir is preparing music for worship and for the Advent Celebration.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (singers in grades 3-6) are preparing music for the musical "The Drowsy Shepherd" for the Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 p.m. The Choristers will sing at the 10:00 a.m. service on December 7 and at the Presbyterian Home on December 10 prior to their dinner.

THE WESTMINSTER HANDBELL GUILD will rehearse on Wednesdays, December 3 and 10 to ring "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" on Sunday, December 14.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS by Rev. Hannah Dreiter

BOY SCOUT REGISTRATION MEETING will be Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will be registering interested boys ages 1st-5th grades and planning for our January start.

YOUTH GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH will gather on Sunday, **December 7** at 12 noon for a pizza lunch and Joint Group shopping for Contact Ministries' Christmas Distribution; We will attend the Advent Celebration at 5:00 p.m. and pack college student care packages.

JOINT GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY will be Sunday, **December 21** from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Hannah's house (814 West Edwards, Apt 2).

THE 2015 YOUTH MISSION TRIP has been named the **2015 Karen Dillon Mission** to honor the memory of one of our dearest and most beloved Mission Trippers. The first payment of \$100/participant is due **December 14!**

SENIOR HIGH mark your calendars for the **January 3rd-4th** Lock-In!

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WINE, WINGS AND A PRAYER YOUNGER ADULT FELLOWSHIP (age 21 – 40) meets Friday, December 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. for a special Christmas gathering at the Kieffers'. Please bring a "white elephant gift" to share. RSVP to Liz Maxey at lmaxey@wpcspi.org. The Younger Adult Fellowship will have a new look in 2015.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, December 11, 7:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Men will enjoy breakfast coordinated by Joe Fierstos, a devotional by Mark Ranck and a short program on "Preservation of an English Tutor Barn: A family preserves their heritage" by Bob Wire. RSVP to Liz Maxey. For more info, contact Mark Ranck at 483-2821.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) will take a break during December, January, & February.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON and program is Friday, December 5, 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. The program will be Christmas music by Seraphim Vocal Ensemble. Jodi Kienzler is the founder and coordinator. Chair of the day is Helen Evenson, Kitchen Chair is Pat Hymans. Please make a reservation by December 3, at 522-4415.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Stephanie Moore Chipman (9 Pine Tree Dr) to discuss chapter four "Aging" of Joan Chittister's book: *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m. for their Annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner. Special music is by The Walnuts. Please call Judi Mier at 726-6872 or Pat McKenzie at 494-9258 for reservations or cancellations before Friday, December 5. The cost is \$13 per person, payable that evening.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, December 9, at 11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall for their Holiday Salad Luncheon. Barbara Dirksen is our hostess and will also give devotions.

PAGE-TURNERS BOOK GROUP will combine their November and December meetings on December 10, with an off-site event. The book that will be discussed is *The Alto Wore Tweed* by Mark Schweizer. Contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins 544-8657 for more details.

KNIT 2, PURL 4 MISSION meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for fellowship and knitting. Don't forget scarves & mittens for the mitten tree!

90TH BIRTHDAY CAKE & ICE CREAM RECEPTION for **George Johnson** will be on December 21, in Parish Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUND

Members and friends of Westminster are invited to make a suggested donation of \$20 to support Westminster's decorations and/or music funds. Donations which require wording for the December 14 bulletin insert need to be received no later than Monday, December 8. Please note the fund you wish to contribute to in the memo of your check. Thank you for your generosity!

NEW ARRIVALS

Emily & Ryan Thomas welcomed their daughter, Raegan Christine on November 14. WPC grandparents are **Pamela & Doug Barringer**.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice L. McKibbin died on November 1, in South Carolina. A memorial service will be held on December 15, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her family and friends.

Doris M. Ray died on November 21. A memorial service was held on November 25, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to her children, Donna Matheis, Dale Colee, David Colee, **Mary Ray** and Patty Dressen and their families.

SYMPATHY TO

Ellen and Rance Carpenter on the loss of Ellen's sister, and to **Lucas Carpenter and Lindsay** and Calvin Young on the loss of their aunt, Carol Miller, who died October 31, 2014 in Macon, Missouri.

Sandy Bellatti on the loss of her mother and to **Beth Bellatti** on the loss of her grandmother, Reyth Scallings Smith who died November 1, in Maryville, Illinois.

John Cross on the loss of his mother, Ruth Cross, who died November 19, in Jacksonville, Illinois.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

...**Kelly Bassett** on the success of the play "Harvey" which she directed for Prairie Art Alliance.

THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

...for the \$226.39 UNICEF donation from DMA, Knit 2, Purl 4 Mission, and Page Turners

...Our Knit 2, Purl 4 knitters were most generous in response to the request for mittens and gloves for students of Graham Elementary! On just one day, seventy-five (75) pairs of mittens and gloves were delivered to the school. We will continue collecting during the cold months. Thank you for all you have done.*Sue Cull and Mary Jo Jenkins*

...for the \$7,000 raised, the five tables filled and the first place dancer, Rev. Hannah Dreitcer, all of whom made the Prairie Art Alliance's "Dancing with the Starz" such a great success and so much fun....*Katie Matteson, Exec. Director*

...to all who bought bread on November 23, we raised \$600 for the St. John's Breadline Ministry. *Sarah Zerfas and Stacey Lochbaum, Community Service Committee*

...to Mina Bentsen who is Westminster's Coordinator for St. John's Caregiver Interfaith Volunteer Services and to the following members who partake in this ministry of kindness: **Sandy Bellatti, Linda & Ed Caupert, Sue Chandler, Nancy Canady, Helen Evenson, Phyllis Lowrey, Keith Hamilton, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Betsy Ruklick, Linda Schlosser, Pat Shafer, Mike Sundquist, Brad Steller, and Sharon Zook.** ...*Nichole Magalis*

Congregational Care Committee

...to all who attended the first Youth Mission Fundraiser on St. Andrew's Sunday, to the youth who shared poetry and tall tales, and to Vallery Huston and Becky Huston who prepared the amazing food. We raised \$2010.

... *Rev. Hannah Dreitcer*

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

The Confirmation Class of 2015 will read the story; Lexi, Jesse and Aliyah Miech will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Children three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs.

Your children can either arrive at 4:45 p.m. to receive their costume and be given instructions with no rehearsal or participate as a leader and attend one practice on Sunday, December 21 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS 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, tossed salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies.

Adults are \$16, children 6-12 are \$11 and children age 5 and under are at no charge. Reservations and payment must be made no later than Monday, December 15. Please send your payment and number attending to the church office. Reservation forms will be in the bulletin November 30, 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 95th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will bring 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!**

11:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

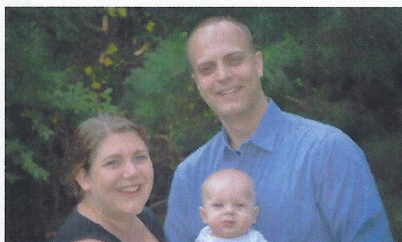
The solemn, quiet joy of this lovely Candle Light Communion Service makes it a favorite for many and a meaningful way to welcome Christmas Day. Rev. Dreitcer will bring the meditation.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 7, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Enjoy family-friendly activities, 13 Christmas trees, and holiday cookies and punch.

TRAJAN MCGILL ACCEPTS CALL BEGINS AT WESTMINSTER FEBRUARY 1

On Sunday, November 23, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the motion to elect Trajan McGill as Associate Pastor for Parish Life. Trajan begins his journey with Westminster on Sunday, February 1, 2015. We welcome Trajan, his wife Sarah and their son Scott and anticipate with great joy our partnership in ministry!



COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ADOPT A FAMILY We will work with Contact Ministries again this year. Tags for gifts will be on the Christmas tree outside the Church Office beginning November 24. Please return your gift (wrapped or unwrapped), **with tag attached**, to the church no later than Sunday, December 14. For further information contact Kay Smith at 691-9401.

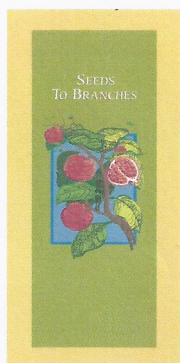
CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION Once again Westminster will host this event on Wednesday, December 17. You may sign up to volunteer on the 15th or 16th for set-up and on the 17th for the distribution. Sign-up sheets with duties and job descriptions will be available on Sunday, November 30, and December 7.

TOYS FOR TOTS There is a Toys for Tots box in the West Narthex. You are welcome to place unwrapped gifts for children of all ages in it. They will be distributed by the Toys for Tots organization.

KNIT 2, PURL 4 The Contact Ministries Mitten Tree will be up on Sunday, November 30. Any items for the tree must be donated no later than Sunday, December 14. If you put any of your knitted items on the tree, please let Sue Cull know the type of item and quantity. We will still need mittens and warm things for Kumler after the Contact Ministries Distribution. After Christmas we turn our attention to knitting matching hat/scarf combos for each client that our Mission Trippers will serve. We will also begin knitting for the April/May layette collection by Church Women United. Washington Street Mission continues to need winter things; scarves, hats, and coats.

HELPING HANDS – Dinner will be served on the Second Friday by Carolyn Proctor, Diane Rutledge and Kay Smith. Thank you to Pat and Al Hymans who provided the November meal.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The Stewardship Committee has begun contacting members who have not yet made a pledge commitment for 2015. As of Monday, November 24, we have received 279 pledges, 93% of our 300 pledge goal and \$769,631, 94% of our \$814,840.00 goal. If you have not yet pledged and intend to do so, you may pledge online at www.wpcspi.org or complete a pledge card.

Your Stewardship Committee: Tom Klein, Chair, George Preckwinkle; Vice Chair, Bill Donels, Bill Simpson, Jeff Wilday and Bob Wire.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL Report by Lisa Runkle

Contributions are increasing as members are fulfilling their pledges before the end of the year! October's net income was almost \$1,000,

Operations	YTD Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 743,524	\$ 780,289	\$-36,765
Expenses	\$ -727,800	\$ -780,289	\$ 52,489
Net	\$ 15,724	\$ 0	

and the year-to-date figures shown in the chart have income above expenses by more than \$15,000.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
hdreitcer@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

Abigail Cline
Nursery Worker

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

Judy Ridinger
Parish Nurse
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Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
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Connie Brown
Church Administrative Assistant
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Liz Maxey
Administrative Assistant to the Pastors
lmmaxey@wpcspi.org

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

Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert
Custodians

Give-a-Meal-a-Month December Menu

Canned Tuna,
Shells and Cheese,
Peaches,
Mixed Vegetables

Thank you to those who bring their donations and place them in the baskets in the West Narthex.

THE NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17