

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

FEBRUARY 2015

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall

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.

January 31 & February 1

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

A Refreshing Change

February 7 & 8

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Sacrament of Communion

Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

Trajan McGill

February 14 & 15

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Unbroken

February 21 & 22

1st Sunday in Lent

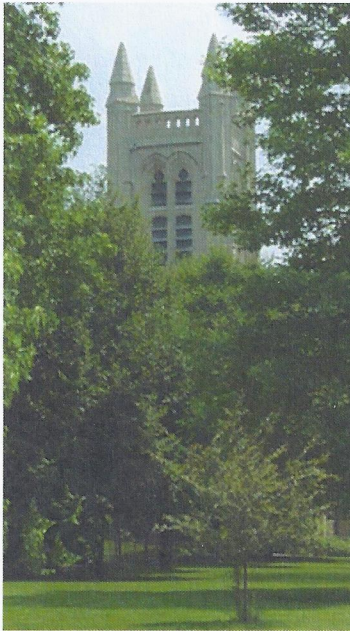
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

Sticks and Stones

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH

20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Endowment Fund, we are introducing the 2015 Endowment Anniversary Campaign. Our goal is to grow Westminster's Endowment from \$1.9 to \$5 million by 2020.

This goal is rooted in the firm belief that a larger principal will strengthen the mission of Westminster and address our ongoing capital and building needs in a planned and orderly manner.

Members and friends are invited to make a **five-year pledge or other planned gifts** that would be above and beyond giving to the annual Stewardship Campaign. Those who invest in Westminster's Endowment Fund will become a part of the **Albert Hale Circle**. We will celebrate the commitments we have received in this ongoing campaign on Dedication Sunday, May 17.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Lonnie H. Lee and his wife, Barbara, to worship and to a picnic on our front lawn. Dr. and Mrs. Lee have remembered Westminster's Endowment in their estate planning and he is excited to be a spokesperson for this campaign.

The Endowment Committee: Randy Germeraad, Chair; Steve Arbuthnot, Bill Lienemann, Diane Rutledge, Dale Smith, Jeff Wilday

WE WELCOME THE MCGILL FAMILY THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Trajan McGill begins his journey with Westminster as *Associate Pastor for Parish Life* this Sunday, February 1. Trajan, a graduate of Harvard College and Princeton Theological Seminary, will be ordained and installed on Sunday, March 22, 2015.

Sarah McGill, who served as Associate Pastor at Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church in Oak Park, Illinois from 2010 – 2015, will be joining our staff as a part-time Parish Associate for Children's Ministries. Sarah is a graduate of Augustana College and Princeton Theological Seminary. We are excited about the gifts and experience Sarah brings. We welcome Trajan, Sarah and Scott with great joy.



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

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses....let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. -Hebrews 12:1

The 179th Annual Meeting of Westminster was a great opportunity to look back at 2014 and what we have accomplished together. The pace of our first year has been fast and will secure a strong finish. However, be assured that although the perseverance will continue, this pace will be adjusted with strategy and thoughtfulness in the race that is set before us.

Highlights in 2014 include: *NEW* (1) website (2) ACS Technologies computer program for membership and financial records (3) "Glory to God" hymnals (4) John 15 carpeting and church office redesign (5) Church Pictorial Directory (6) "Seasons of the Spirit" Sunday school curriculum (7) expanded confirmation program (8) Young Adult Fellowship (Wine, Wings and a Prayer) (9) Men's Fellowship (10) Ruth and Naomi Circle (11) Disciple Bible Study (12) Prayer Ministry (13) introduction to anniversary endowment campaign (14) logo recycle bags and cups and (15) TWO NEW associate pastors: Hannah Dreitcer and Trajan McGill

We conclude 2014 financially strong with \$54,182 income over expenses. This amount was returned to the Equity Fund Balance given by Alice Stewart Payne in 2007. The fund now surpasses the original gift with a balance of \$151,678. Additionally, the market value of the Support and Endowment Fund grew from \$1.7 to \$1.9 million.

We are poised for an exciting 2015 with a complete pastoral staff supported by a generous congregation ...*let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us!*

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR has an interesting and varied folder of music for the current semester ranging from Bernstein to Bach and the young Irish composer Philip Stopford to Dolly Parton.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS are working on anthems for the spring semester and on the musical tale of Jonah and the Whale to be presented on April 19. Rehearsals are at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, February 3 at 5:00 p.m. This choir, for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will sing at a 10 a.m. service in March.

CHURCH MICE continues its Saturday morning sessions at 11:00 a.m. Follow the pathway of cheese!

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, the music during Holy Communion will be provided by David Tell, playing his Native American flutes. Also on that Sunday, the music will include two selections from Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*, a piece written for the opening of Lincoln Center in New York. Adam Miller will be the tenor soloist.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED: MUSIC FOR TWO SOPRANOS AND ORGAN will be presented by sopranos Diane Dietz and Jody Kienzler and Dale Rogers, organist on Friday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Music by the usual guys: Mozart and Purcell, but with delightful selections from the musicals "Mame" and "Wicked."

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

CHILDREN UPDATE

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES - Sunday School children will receive their Fish boxes and calendar guide for giving on the first Sunday of Lent, February 22, as we continue the great Westminster tradition of remembering those in need of disaster assistance around the world.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 11 UPDATE: Weekly meetings for our new Cub troop will begin in September! Our scoutmaster, Andy Whiting, and our parent leader, Neil Bassett, will host events for our boys, including kindergarteners, in early spring to develop energy and excitement.

SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held June 15 - 19, 2015. Thank you to Lynn McMenamin who will be our director again this year!

YOUTH UPDATE

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is this Sunday, February 1. Support those in need by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA). All donations will serve the hungry of Springfield.

SUPER BOWL PARTY AT THE KNOX HOME! Jr. & Sr. High are invited to bring their families to watch the Super Bowl at the Knox home (2004 Maryknoll Place) on February 1, at 5:00 p.m. Bring a snack or side dish to share.

ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

February 1 – Super Bowl

February 8 – *Confirmation Prep:* Who is Jesus?
Confirmation Class: What is Prayer?

February 13 (Friday) – *Confirmation Class field trip to Temple B'Rith Sholom at 5:30pm*

February 15 – *Confirmation Prep:* March to Jerusalem
Confirmation Class: Abrahamic Faiths

February 22 – *Confirmation Prep:* Signs of New World
Confirmation Class: The Hebrew Bible

ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

This semester the theme for the Road to Damascus is "People of the Word and Way." We will focus on the book at the heart of our faith and what it means to live a Christian life.

February 1 – Super Bowl

February 8 – Gospel of Mark

February 15 – Trivia Night

February 22 – Entering Lent

March 1 – Gospel of Matthew

TRIVIA NIGHT IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15!

Each February the members of Westminster have an opportunity to support our youth at the Trivia Night Mission Trip Fundraiser hosted by Triviamaster Todd Knox!

Tickets are \$10. Find your favorite youth or sign up in the West Narthex to reserve your spot!

Dinner will be available at 5:00 p.m. for \$5.
The questions begin at 5:30 p.m.

Your support helps the youth travel to Green Bay, WI for their 2015 Karen Dillon Mission Trip.

**ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:
"EXPLORING SALVATION"
SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15**

On Sunday, February 1, the Adult Education Forum will introduce a three-week course entitled "Exploring Salvation." Led by Lyle VanDeventer, this course will explore salvation through biblical references, our Protestant tradition, and different ways to be saved.

**"THE LIFE AND THEOLOGY OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER"
BEGINNING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

On Sunday, February 22, the Adult Education Forum will introduce a six-week course on the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, including a video series and a focused look at the Declaration of Barmen. This journey through Lent will be led by the pastoral staff.

FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP YOUNGER ADULT FELLOWSHIP (age 21 – 40) meets the First Monday of February at Arlington's from 5:30-7:00 p.m.! Join us as we continue Martin Luther's tradition of talking theology, life, and whatever else is on our minds at a local restaurant. In this joint endeavor with First Presbyterian Church, the first round of appetizers is our treat!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, February 12, 7:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Men will enjoy breakfast coordinated by Harry Bentsen, a devotional by Marc Anderson and a short program on "Modern Scandinavian Church Design" by John Shafer. RSVP to Liz Maxey or 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 will meet Friday, February 6, at 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. The program will be "Kemmerer Village: 100 Years and Counting" and our speaker will be Mike Havera, Executive Director since 1985. Chair of the Day is Sharon Turner, Kitchen Chair is Kelly Bassett. RSVP by calling the church at 522-4415.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ellen Carpenter to discuss chapters 6 & 7 "Respect & Recognition" of Joan Chittister's book: *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, February 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for fellowship and our program begins at 5:30 p.m. Kathy Fogal will lead our Bible Study *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*; Chapter 7-The Better Part.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, February 17, at 9:30 a.m. in the Library at the Church. Our hostess will be Pat Hibbert. Leah Duling will give devotions and Sharon Turner will lead our program Lesson 4, *Exodus*.

PAGE-TURNERS will meet in the Ziegler Library on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., for discussion of *Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. New members are welcome to join the group. For more information contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins at 622-8657.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2014 MISSION GIVING AT WESTMINSTER totaled \$129,332. This is 15% of the 2014 operating budget!

HELPING HANDS meal in January was prepared by Amy and Abbie Xanders, Julie James, Janie Bahlow, and Pat Picchi.

K2 P4 MISSION knits weekly at 12:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom January through November. On the second Tuesday of each month we plan to meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch prior to knitting. Knitters are welcome to join in our mission work. Please contact Sue Cull (529-2354) or Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins (622-8657) for more information.

THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

THE 2014 CROP COMMUNITY WALK raised \$18,608.05! We are grateful for all those in the Westminster family who walked and pledged. This is our best CROP walk ever! Food pantries receiving donations from this endeavor are Grace Lutheran food pantry, First Presbyterian food pantry and Kumler Neighborhood Ministries, each in the total amount of \$1,550.05. - **Krista Steller and Becky Martin**

St. John's Breadline received \$28,484.32 in donations on their 29th annual fundraiser held November 22-23, 2014 and wrote a letter of appreciation for the \$600 we contributed to this community program.

Central Illinois Foodbank expressed appreciation to Westminster for the 1,046 pounds of food donated in the 2014 calendar year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Betsy Gain and Mike Barker who were united in marriage at Westminster on December 31, 2014. WPC parent is **Dee Dee Gain**.

Ted and Judy Flickinger, who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 2, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

Sue Strand died January 13. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her husband, **Carl**, and their son, **Jeffrey**.

GODSPEED TO

Dr. Marty Paludan, who is moving to Dallas, Texas to be near family. Her new address is 15250 Prestonwood Blvd. Apt. 315, Dallas, TX 75248. We shall miss Marty and are grateful for her leadership at Westminster over the years.

NEW RELATIONSHIP

DYNAMIC BEHAVIORAL SERVICES, INC is now located in Westminster's Third Floor Classroom. Owned and operated by Dana and Andrew Affrunti, DBS provides services for children with autism and developmental disabilities that integrate quality behavioral instruction, parent training and social skills development.

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT

On Saturday, February 7, members of the Session and Board of Deacons will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Parish Hall for worship, team building and brain storming.

CHURCH OFFICES will be closed February 16, in observance of President's Day.

THE SEASON OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
6:00 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We begin our Lenten Journey with a simple soup and salad dinner served by the WPC Staff followed by a worship service including Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and a meditation by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer.

LENTEN SERIES: "THE GOSPEL OF MARK"
THE REVEREND MICHAEL KARUNAS
MONDAYS, MARCH 2, 9 AND 16
6:00 p.m. Simple Dinner
6:30 p.m. Presentation

Join us as Rev. Michael Karunas, Pastor of Central Christian Church in Decatur, offers oratory presentations of the gospel and leads us in reflections on the themes of Mark. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall with a simple soup and salad dinner.

A free-will offering will be received at the Lenten dinners for the PC (USA) "One Great Hour of Sharing" collection.

Please sign up for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Series so we know how many to serve. You may sign up at wpcspi.org or email Liz Maxey (lmmaxey@wpcspi.org).

2014 YEAR-END FINANCIAL Report by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a positive net balance of \$54,182. We received a significant increase of nearly \$80,000 more in pledge giving in 2014 over 2013.

2014 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 933,570	\$ 936,347	\$ - 2,777
Expenses	\$-879,388	\$-936,347	\$ -56,959
Deficit	\$ 54,182	\$ 0	

We are projecting a balanced budget for 2015 with the total income of \$973,385. The 2015 stewardship campaign was a success again this year increasing our total amount pledged from \$775,897 in 2014 to \$806,722, and receiving pledges from 28 new or newly committed members.

PER CAPITA

This year Westminster will pay \$28 per member as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to support the work of our denomination in the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. Your special per capita contribution of \$28 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH February Menu

Chicken Noodle Soup, Peanut Butter, Soda Crackers, Applesauce
Thank you to those who bring their donations and place them in the baskets in the West Narthex.

Westminster Staff

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The Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
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The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill
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**Roy Ahlers, Steve Council,
Bill Hibbert**
Custodians

THE NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE IS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22