



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

February 2016

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall
Westminster Jazz Trio on February 20
Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.
Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pre K-Grade 5
Adult Education 11:15 a.m.

February 7

Bay Weekend

9:30 a.m. *Service of Healing and Wholeness*
Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36
Mark Yaconelli
Remembering What Matters

Ash Wednesday

February 10 (6:30 p.m.)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Reverend Trajan McGill
Yet Even Now

February 13 & 14

First Sunday in Lent

Behold the Lamb of God

Sacrament of Communion
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
Feast and Fasting

February 20 & 21

Second Sunday in Lent

He Trusted in God

Psalms 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1
Reverend Trajan McGill
Enemies

February 27 & 28

Third Sunday in Lent

He Was Despised

Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Thirsting

THE 2016 BAY WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 5-7

STORYTELLING: REMEMBERING WHAT MATTERS "YAKKING" WITH MARK YACONELLI

Westminster Presbyterian Church will host an intergenerational retreat for those who would like to learn more about themselves, broaden their sense of community and deepen their relationship with God. Using a variety of storytelling and creative and contemplative practices, participants are invited to explore the dynamics of their own history in order to renew their sense of self and calling. We welcome Mark Yaconelli to lead us on this journey. Mark is renowned for his ability to connect people with depth and humor, and has led spiritual retreats in the United States and in the United Kingdom for over 15 years. He brings a collection of gifts as a spiritual director, contemplative teacher and storyteller to create a safe place where people can identify and respond to what matters within.



Friday, February 5, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The weekend begins with a reception to meet Mark at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer.

Saturday, February 6, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday begins at 10:00 a.m. with a session for adults, 11:45 a.m. all gather for worship, 12:15 p.m. lunch (\$10 per participant), 12:45 p.m. Community Building, 1:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation, 2:30 p.m. Storytelling among participants, and a 3:30 p.m. session for youth.

Sunday, February 7, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mark will speak at both worship services and lead the 11:15 a.m. Education Forum. The weekend concludes with a potluck lunch

Pre-registration is required and forms are available in the West Narthex and online at wpcspi.org. Childcare available on Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



TELL ME A STORY:

19th Century Art Songs, Cabaret Songs from the 1930's and selections from Musical Theater

JR FRALICK, TENOR & BRUCE GIBBONS, PIANO

J.R. Fralick has appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony, the Russian Philharmonic & many orchestras in the US. Later this year he will sing the tenor role in Handel's Messiah in a tour of South Africa. He served on the faculty of Millikin University & now teaches at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory in Cleveland. JR continues the theme of storytelling using storytelling's best companion...music!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN PARISH HALL

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

THE CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT on Saturday, January 9 was a time of “getting to know one another” as elders and deacons gathered for a morning of worship, fellowship, community and team building. While Dale Rogers played “Getting to Know You” from the musical, The King



and I, we mingled. When the music stopped and a number was called, we gathered in small groups and answered questions such as “Who was your first love and how old were you?” or “Who influenced your faith journey growing up and

how? Pictured above are deacons, Adam Ekstedt, Al Manson, Elaine Hoff and Brad Steller.

Officers then gathered with colleagues to discuss Edward de Bono’s “Six Thinking Hats.” This simple, effective exercise helps people be more productive in committee work as they consider which hat they wear more often and why each hat is important. The hats are: white (facts), yellow (optimism), black (judgment), red (feelings and intuition), green (creativity and alternatives), blue (process and control) Pictured are youth Elder Jenna Milward and Deacon Emma Shafer sporting yellow hats. You go girls!



MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR has an interesting and varied folder of music for the current semester ranging from Russian Liturgical music to gospel music. In addition to the weekly services, the choir will sing a concert at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi on April 17.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS are working on anthems for the spring semester and on the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Rehearsals are at 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday following Bridges.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN’S CHOIR will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, February 16 at 4:45 p.m. This choir, for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade will sing at the Palm Sunday Service on March 20.

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



The picture to the left is a session that I did for the **Compass Program** where I introduced the students to the idea of sacred space, Gothic architecture, the piano and the highlight of the session...the pipe organ and how it works.

During the final two weekends of February,

hundreds of young pianists will be at Westminster as we again host the **Piano Festival** for the Federation of Piano Teachers.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitzer

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is this Sunday, February 7. Following worship, youth will collect donations in large soup pots. 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 7, at 5:00 p.m. Bring a snack or side dish to share and a friend!

ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

February 7 – Super Bowl Party

February 12 - (Friday) – Confirmation Class field trip to Temple B'Rith Sholom at 5:00 pm

February 14 – Confirmation Prep: Judges

Confirmation Class: Abrahamic Faiths

February 19 - (Friday) – Confirmation Class field trip to the Islamic Society of Springfield at 5:30 pm

February 21 – Confirmation Prep: Ruth

Confirmation Class: Reflection on Visits

February 28 – Confirmation Prep: King Saul

Confirmation Class: The Hebrew Bible

ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

February 7 – Super Bowl Party

February 14 – Beginning Lent

February 21 – The True Kirk: Scottish Beginnings

February 28– In Our Beginning: Family

TRIVIA NIGHT IS SUNDAY, MARCH 13!

FIRST MISSION TRIP PAYMENT of \$125 is due on February 28.

ADULTS OF WPC! Have you ever wanted to repair homes, or join our youth on a profound spiritual journey, or dance in the chancel on Return Sunday? We have spaces open for adult participants on the 2016 Mission! Contact Rev. Dreitzer for more information.

CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

BRIDGES (Grades 3-5) meets each Wednesday, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. We are exploring the biblical themes in Harry Potter and dressed as our favorite character on January 13. We look forward to providing worship leadership for the Ash Wednesday Service.



ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER AND SERVICE Families are invited on February 10 to dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a family centered worship service at 6:30 p.m.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES Throughout Lent, children are invited to fill their fish boxes with donations as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BAGS will be mailed to each family this year. They contain discussion starters for daily reflection and devotionals.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE Families are invited to donate coats for both children and adults to benefit those in need. Please bring coats to the designated boxes in the West Narthex.

PRESBYTERIAN PLAY DATE meets on Thursdays, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Nursery. All are welcome!

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP (ages 21 – 40) resumes its regular gatherings on Monday, February 1, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., at Casa Real (3100 W. White Oaks). This group is led by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, February 11, at 7:00 a.m. David Mitchell will provide a presentation on the church organ. Charlie King will coordinate breakfast, and Peter Kieffer will lead in devotions.

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP invites all parents with their children to a Super Bowl party at Marc and Jen DeJong's house (1955 S. Illini Rd) on February 7 at 5:00 p.m. Also, mark your calendars for a family outing to Ergadoozy, an indoor creative play center, on February 28, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON is Friday, February 5, at noon in Parish Hall. The program will be "The Story of Contact Ministries" by Cindy Drum, Executive Director. Kitchen chair is Sharon Turner. Chair of the day is Lynn McMenamin. Please make your reservation by Wednesday, February 3, at 522-4415.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet February 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of our hostess, Dr. Jane Arbuthnot. We will discuss Chapter V; Preparing for the Journey: Creating Circles of Trust

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet February 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor classroom. Our program will be Life-Giving Waters-Baptism and our leader is Pat Roller.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet February 16 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Mina Bentsen. Nancy Canady will lead our program of Lesson 5, *Reconciling Paul*. Leah Duling will give devotions.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY will meet February 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! FOR "HOLY ROLLER" BOWLING NIGHT

Join the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons on Saturday, April 16, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., at Strike 'N Spare Lanes (2660 W. Lawrence Ave.) for unlimited bowling. Cost is \$13.50 per person. Sign up forms will be available in the West Narthex and on line.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION is available the second Sunday of each month. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to take part in the Lord's Supper, please contact Connie Brown, Church Administrative Assistant. Eleven members received the sacrament delivered by 6 teams of Elders and Deacons on January 10.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING is moving to the third Sunday of each month, effective February 21.

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

Dr. Kieffer, Rev. McGill and Rev. Dreitcer will lead worship services every Thursday in February at 4:00 p.m. for the residents. They lead worship three months of the year and return in April and September.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SENIOR SACK LUNCHES – WPC members assemble and deliver



Friday lunches to senior citizens who qualify for state food assistance that has been cut from five days a week to four, due to the Illinois budget crisis. Eight volunteers are needed each Friday from now through

March 11 (when another funding source will allow Senior Services of Central Illinois to resume five-day delivery). If you are available between 10:00 and 11:45 a.m. on any of these Fridays to meet in the church kitchen and help put together or deliver these meals, please contact Sandy Bellatti at sbellati@aol.com or Mary Caroline Mitchell at marycarolinem@gmail.com to volunteer.

HELPING HANDS – January meal was prepared by Sally Godbey, Amy Xanders and Abigail Xanders. We are in need of volunteers for the months of July and August. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful community service opportunity, contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

FAIR TRADE MINISTRY

continues to be an important part of who we are at Westminster. Thanks to the leadership of Stephanie Bess and her daughter Claire we are in the top 5% of all congregations who order from Equal Exchange.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM

R. Dean Collins died on January 22. A private memorial service was held at Westminster on January 26. The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to his children, Susan Poludniak, Gregory Collins, Jeffery Collins, and their families.

SYMPATHY TO

Krista and Brad Steller on the death of Brad's sister, Sue Ellen Steller, on December 27 in Galesburg, IL.

Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt on the death of Adam's grandfather, Eldon Edward Ekstedt, on January 9, in Galesburg, IL.

Sue and Bill Donels on the death of Bill's brother, Robert (Bob) Donels, on January 9, in Des Moines, IA.

THANK YOU

The generosity of gifts and time shared by so many members is what makes Westminster such a classy place, reflecting the attention to detail and loving kindness of the God to whom we belong. An example of this is **Bill Deemer** pictured here polishing Westminster's lovely silver communion set on a Saturday morning in January. Thank you Bill!



THE SEASON OF LENT
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10
5:45 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall
6:30 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 family centered worship service including Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and a meditation by Rev. Trajan McGill. Children from the Bridges Fellowship will serve as worship leaders.

LENTEN ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:
THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S MESSIAH
Sundays, February 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20

Following musical presentations of Handel's *Messiah* in all three worship services each week during Lent, the Adult Education Forum will gather at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall to consider the biblical references and musical interpretation of this beloved oratorio. This Lenten Series will be led by the pastors and Lyle VanDeventer.

LENTEN GIVING

THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

LENTEN COAT DRIVE for both children and adults to benefit those in need will be a part of our journey again this year. Please bring coats to the designated boxes in the West Narthex. The coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday.

FINANCIAL Report by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended 2015 with a \$15,260 deficit. We made \$43,600 in repairs and capital improvements (some planned and some emergency needs). The list includes: sewer repairs - \$19,000, guttering and roof repairs - \$10,000, tuck pointing - \$8,600, and boiler and A/C repairs - \$6,000.

2015 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 960,864	\$ 973,385	\$ -12,521
Expenses	\$-976,124	\$-973,385	\$ - 2,739
Deficit	\$ -15,260	\$ 0	

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN gifts received in 2015 totaled \$577,036.52.

GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY: The 2016 Stewardship Campaign reached 98% of its goal receiving 271 pledges totaling \$811,470. This included pledges from 16 new or newly committed members. In January the Session adopted the 2016 budget totaling \$977,014.

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.

EASTER MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUND Each year members and friends provide palms, lilies, and Sanctuary decorations, as well as special music during Holy Week. The list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20. Please make checks payable to WPC. The deadline for bulletin wording is Palm Sunday.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT 9:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

This simple service gathers people for prayer and music and is led by our pastors and accompanist Matthew Knox. Prayer cards are available in the pew pockets and at the Visitors' Table.



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; ecarpenter@wpcspi.org

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

Liz Maxey
Administrative Assistant to the Pastors
lmaxey@wpcspi.org

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

Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert, Michael Long
Custodians

Church offices will be closed Monday, February 15, for President's Day.

March Reporter Deadline is February 21