

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

### February 2019

### SUNDAY WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

#### *Sunday Schedule:*

*Nursery 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon*

*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 Ed Forum  
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon*

*Confirmation & Confirmation Prep  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

*Senior High Youth  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.*

### February 3

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

*1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30*

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Still More Excellent Way*

### February 10

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

#### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11*

Rev. Christian K. Choi  
*A Survivor's Tale*

### February 17

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26*

Rev. Trajan I. McGill  
*When Relief Comes*

### February 24

#### **SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38*

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Be Not Grieved nor Angry*

### A REPORT FROM THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

An exciting new project is in the works at WPC! Massie Massie & Associates presented a Landscaping and Site Plan to Session in September, 2018. Following the presentation, Session empowered the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to review this plan and submit a revised proposal at their April 2019 meeting. The SPC is in the early stages of developing plans for four major renovations on our property: (1) parking lot expansion and improvement, (2) East Sanctuary Entry renovation, (3) West Terrace facelift outside of Parish Hall, and (4) landscape upgrades.



Preliminary discussions have revolved around the potential removal of the nearest rental property at 522 S. Glenwood, allowing for increased parking capacity. At the East Entry, we are considering adding a terrace and renovating the entry steps. The West Terrace would get an update with a new support wall and landscaping. The trees and landscaping around the grounds will be updated, with a budget for long-term maintenance.

The SPC will also develop a mission component to the project that would benefit our surrounding neighbors. Funding for the project, while not yet Session-approved, would likely come from the interest on our Endowment Fund, which has recently met its \$5 million goal.



The SPC is being assisted by two task forces made up of church members with experience and expertise in specific areas. Questions or comments can be directed to any of the individuals listed below.

#### Strategic Planning Committee:

Todd Knox (chair), Susan Day, Sally Godbey, Keith Hamilton, Beth

Kincaid, Kelvin Owens, Karl Pound, Cheryl White, Todd Wise, Dr. Kieffer (staff liaison)

Hardscape Task Force: Linda Chronister, Randy Germeraad, Mal Hildebrand, Gregg Humphrey, Mark Vasconcelles, Gary Warnick (staff liaison)

Landscape Task Force: Susan Day, Bill Donels, Peter Kieffer, Andy Sherrick, Marty Sumner, Dale Rogers (staff liaison)

Additionally, the SPC, Hardscape and Landscape Task Forces will make a preliminary presentation to the congregation on Sunday, March 24 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall and on Tuesday, March 26, at 5:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. If approved by Session in April, landscape work is slated to begin Fall 2019, with the hardscape projects to follow in Spring 2020.

*Todd Knox, Chair of SPC*

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

*"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."  
1 Corinthians 12:27*

What a joy it was to gather as the Westminster family this past Sunday to support our youth in mission by partaking in a delicious English Breakfast, to honor philanthropic member Betty Smith for her gift to our endowment, and to recognize the work of so many faithful members "doing their part" in the 2018 Annual Report.

I preached on Paul's metaphor of the church as the "body of Christ" which is one of the most memorable of his teachings. Underneath the amusing imagery of talking feet and self-deprecating ears is the profound statement of unity that is the essence of the church: *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

In his book, Generation to Generation; Family Process in Church and Synagogue, Rabbi Edwin Friedman suggests the family systems model is a useful tool for understanding and encouraging a healthy unity within the church. The Family Systems model speaks to the importance of "differentiation" within the members of a family or congregation. Rabbi Friedman defines differentiation as "the capacity to be an 'I' while remaining connected to the 'we.'"

To be self-differentiated is to maintain a clarity about one's principles and vision even in the midst of differing views. A self-differentiated person can feel compassion for another's suffering without becoming responsible for it and can rejoice when another receives honor without feeling negated by their recognition or success.

In a church where individuality and closeness are well balanced, and self-differentiation is honored, the eyes, ears, hands, and feet can do their part and maintain their own identities, vision, and loyalty in the unity of Christ. We all seek to be self-differentiated, and I am grateful for the healthy unity within this body of Christ.

## 2018 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a positive net balance. The 2018 year-end has income exceeding expenses by \$18,519. Both income and expenses were less than budgeted with expenses being under budget by a greater margin.

2018 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 1,030,960	\$ 1,032,610	\$ -1,650
Expenses	\$-1,012,440	\$-1,032,610	\$ -20,170
Net Total	\$ 18,519	\$ 0	

## 2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2019 Stewardship Campaign reached 98.3% of its goal receiving 263 pledges totaling \$821,313. This included pledges from 15 new or newly committed families. In January, the Session adopted the 2019 budget totaling \$1,036,150.

**PER CAPITA:** This year Westminster will pay \$35 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 \$35 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

**BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN** gifts received toward pledges in 2018 totaled \$167,795, and 2018 non-pledge gifts were \$2,425,489. Toward the total pledges of \$1,624,950, we have received \$1,426,912 since the beginning of the campaign. Total campaign non-pledge gifts are \$2,532,875.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** has reverted back to the old pattern of this musical group being for students in third through fifth grades. Choristers rehearses at 4:45 p.m. following the Bridges program. The project for the coming months is the preparation of music for the Ash Wednesday service and the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** is to be commended for their perseverance during the past snowy and cold weeks for both the regular rehearsals, services and installation service. Many thanks to Sandy Bellatti, Carolyn Berning, Leah Duling, Pat McNutt, Jeanne Pittman, and Linda Shaefer for their help in clearing out the choir folders from the fall semester and readying them for new music for the spring. Rehearsals of the choir are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.



**CHURCH MICE**, our musical experience for infants through age four, have had a difficult starting up for the season due to brutal weather that seems to be coming on the weekends. However, Church Mice started on Saturday, January 26 at 11:00 a.m. and meet weekly through April 13.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR**, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade, will begin weekly rehearsals on Tuesday, February 12 at 4:45 p.m. This choir will be a part of the celebrations on Palm Sunday.

## ORGAN RECITAL

On Sunday, March 3, I will play an organ recital at St. John's Episcopal Church in Decatur at 3:00 p.m. The church is located at 130 Eldorado Street in Decatur.

## ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:

### DISCOVER ISLAM

**SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24 AND MARCH 3**

In February the Adult Ed Forum will study Islam. Dr. Aaron Berkowitz will outline the core beliefs and explore the misconceptions of this faith. Aaron is a new member. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago and is a professor of history at Lincoln Land Community College. The class meets Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

**SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 10 AND 17 AT 11:15 A.M.**



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, February 10 and 17, 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, February 24, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Library.

## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

### THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Support the hungry in Springfield 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).



### YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3 AT 5:00 P.M. HOSTED BY THE POUNDS

Join us **Sunday, February 3** at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Christy & Karl Pound as we enjoy sports and fellowship. The gathering will officially end following halftime. Bring a friend and a side dish to share. There are no classes this week for the youth.



### CONFIRMANDS AND MENTORS VISIT TEMPLE B'RITH SHOLOM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 5:00 P.M.

On **Friday, February 8**, at 5:00 p.m. eighth graders, their parents and mentors will gather at Westminster

for their visit to the Temple B'rith Sholom in Springfield. Service begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following in their fellowship hall. RSVP to Rev. Choi by Sunday, February 3. Thank you to Meridith Bryans, Tara Fritsch, Charlie King, Todd Knox, Dave Leonatti, Becky Martin, and the Rev. Sarah McGill, for serving as mentors to our confirmands this year.

### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE BEGINNING FEBRUARY 10:

Starting Sunday, February 10, youth group will meet at the church for their weekly gatherings. Junior High youth (Confirmation & Confirmation Prep) meets on Sundays, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. for study, worship, fellowship, and dinner. Senior High youth meet on Sundays, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., for worship, fellowship/dinner, and Bible study.

Date	Confirmation Prep	Confirmation	Sr. High
Feb. 10	Session 29 New Promise	Session 9 Church's Fellowship	Session 2 Choosing to make a difference
Feb. 17	Session 30 Death-to-Life	Session 10 Breaking of Bread	Session 3 Living in obedience to God's laws
Feb. 24	Session 31 The Church	Session 11 Are You Ready to Cross Over?	Session 4 Loving the unlovable

### 2019 YOUTH MISSION MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

It is not too late to join us this July as we head out to Virginia for our annual mission trip. All Team Meeting on **Sunday, February 17th from 11:15 a.m. – noon** in the Youth Room for team building and talk more about Appalachia. **Second payment is due on and the last day to sign-up is February 17.**



### WPC YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults ages 18 and up are invited to brunch at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street) on Sunday, February 24, following worship.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

### BRIDGES UPDATE!

Bridges Midweek Fellowship for children in grades 3-5 meets Wednesdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. prior to Choristers. On January 23, Bridges children met with their advocates, learning about the church chancel and the transfiguration window. Thank you to advocates:



Gale Fixmer, Sandy & Jon Hockenyoos, Camille & Tom Massey, Marilyn Rigney, Carolyn & Brad Swanson, and Sharon Turner.

During February, Bridges children will continue the 2018-

2019 theme "Who Am I?" We will decorate cookies baked by Pat Hymans for the Helping Hands meal on February 8, explore prayer, and prepare for the Ash Wednesday Communion Service.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Sunday school teachers and youth assistants will meet Sunday, February 10 at 11:15a.m. in the third floor classroom for a mid-year meeting to review curriculum for spring semester, prepare for Lent, and share our vision together.

### PREPARING FOR LENT THE SEASON OF PRAYER

**Lenten Devotional Booklets** will be mailed to each family the week of February 24 in preparation for Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. The booklets will contain lectionary readings and prayers for daily reflection.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Calendars** will also be included in the mailing. The Fish boxes will be distributed on Sunday, March 3. 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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 6:** Families are invited to dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a family centered worship service at 6:30 p.m.

### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

We would love to have you join us for our annual Trivia Night and Silent Auction on **Saturday, February 9th** in the Parish Hall. As our biggest fundraiser of the year, this night is very important to our school and keeping tuition at a reasonable cost. **Doors open at 5 p.m., trivia begins at 6 p.m.,** and free childcare is available by registering with [mattdberry@gmail.com](mailto:mattdberry@gmail.com). With yummy food, a 90s theme, great trivia, and numerous items to purchase at the silent auction, it's a fun way to spend a winter evening with friends. Hope you can join us!



## YOUTH WINTER LOCK IN - JANUARY 5-6, 2019



## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

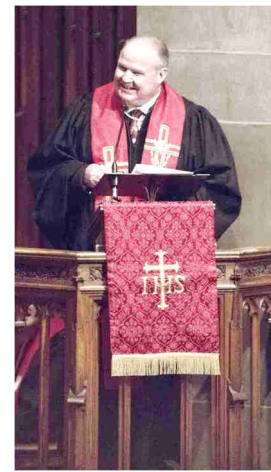
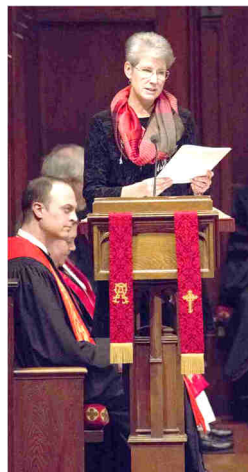


Thirty youth and seven adults enjoyed the Winter Lock-In which included a trip to St. Louis this year.

Following breakfast, the youth attending the 2019 mission trip joined Rev. Choi on the Chancel to invite members to the Egg-Tastic Breakfast Fundraiser on January 27.

The 10:00 a.m. worship included the Service of Ordination and Installation for new church officers.

## THE REV. CHRISTIAN CHOI'S INSTALLATION



“The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength” was the title of the sermon preached at Rev. Choi’s installation by his colleague, the Rev. Dr. Pat Sheahan, from Fresno, CA. Over 120 members and guest gathered for worship and joined in a delicious dinner reception prepared by Pat and Al Hymans and friends.



## EGG-TASTIC FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST AND RECOGNITION OF BETTY SMITH



Thank you to all who enjoyed the English Breakfast in support of the 2019 Youth Mission Trip. Prepared by Becky and Vallery Huston and their team and served by the youth attending the mission, we raised \$1,570.

Thank you to Mary Jo and David Jenkins who donated additional \$500 worth of sausage. We still have pork sausage available for those who would like to purchase in support of our youth.

Surrounded by her sons Dale, Christopher, and Andrew, Betty Smith was recognized on Sunday, January 27 for her Cornerstone Gift of \$2.4 million to Westminster’s Endowment Fund. Endowment Committee Chair Randy Germeraad thanked Betty who joins 240 members in gifts and pledges through the Legacy of Faith Campaign. At the end of 2018, market value of our Endowment was just below \$6 million.



## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HELPING HANDS** – The January meal was provided by Carolyn and Brad Swanson. February will be provided by Mary Ray, Leigh Milward, and Cathy Schwartz. WPC is



responsible for providing meals to the Helping Hands shelter on the second Friday of each month. Please consider volunteering to provide one of these meals. May through December slots are still open.

**WPC MEMBER MISSION TO GHANA** – Thanks to all those who brought in supplies for the upcoming medical mission trip of WPC member Jenna Milward, who will be taking them to Ghana in March. WPC members contributed a great collection of items: 96 toothbrushes, 75 packs of dental floss, 51 tubes of toothpaste, 165 soaps, 35 shampoos, 5 boxes of Ziploc bags, a package of lunch bags, 25 pairs of prescription or reading glasses, and 14 pairs of sunglasses!

### CONTACT MINISTRIES PROM

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Each year Contact Ministries holds this major fund-raising event featuring dinner, dancing, and an auction. This year it will be held at the Illini Country Club at 6:00 p.m. on February 15. If you are interested in purchasing tickets to the event and being a part of a Westminster Table, contact Dr. Kieffer or Joe Fierstos, both of whom serve on their Board of Directors. Westminster is one of the founding congregations of this faith-based organization, and we support them through our mission giving and H.E.A.L. Fund, as well as hosting their Christmas Distribution each year in December.



#### DANCING WITH THE STARZ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23



This annual fund-raiser for the Springfield Art Association will be Saturday, February 23, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre. In 2018, Rev. Trajan McGill danced in the event. This year, Meredith and Jim Bryans will represent Westminster, sponsored by Marty Sumner. Members are invited to attend (\$65 per person). At <https://www.springfieldart.org/dwts.html> you may also vote online for Meredith and Jim. RSVP by February 26 to be seated at a Westminster table and will once again feature a dancer from the Westminster family.

### FEBRUARY EARTH CARE TIP



Recently oceanographers discovered a discarded plastic bag on the deepest floor of the Pacific! To reduce the trillions of single-use plastic bags in the world, California outlawed them in 2016 and Illinois is considering legislation to limit their use. We can show our love for creation by reusing Westminster's shopping bags or by recycling plastic bags at the grocery.

Thank you to everyone responding to the effort to preserve God's creation by bringing your ink, batteries, and Christmas tree lights to the **RECYCLING CORNER** in the West Narthex.

### FAIR TRADE AT WESTMINSTER

The Presbyterian Coffee project was initiated by Equal Exchange in the Spring of 2001 and launched at WPC that fall by Andrea Butler and Lynn Miller. Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, olive oil and a variety of nuts are available for sale the third Sunday of the month after worship services. These sales benefit local farmers and workers who work and employ workers in environmentally sustainable, economically equitable ways, and profits are used for missions and service of the church. February will have two such sales.



- **Sunday, February 10:** A special sale just in time to stock up on chocolate for Valentine's Day, or to eat some of your favorite treat before Lent begins! Seven different kinds of full-sized chocolate bars from milk to very dark are available as well as chocolate chips. Dark and milk chocolate minis, hot cocoa mix, and baking cocoa will also be available.
- **Sunday, February 17:** The full line of coffee, tea, chocolate and fair foods will be available as usual.

A "Square" device is now available allowing for credit / debit-type purchases, as well as cash and checks. Enjoy coffee (and chocolate) with a conscience!

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN 2019** – The Sangamon County Habitat for Humanity affiliate will be proceeding with an interfaith build project this year, bringing together worshipping communities of several faiths to sponsor and build a house. Please watch for more info soon about how to get involved in creating both affordable housing and better relationships across religious lines at the same time.

**MISSION PLANNING RETREAT** – The Mission and Community Service Committee will be holding an afternoon mini-retreat on Sunday, February 10, to build excitement and develop goals and plans for mission work of Westminster in 2019 and beyond. Keep an eye out for new things to come! As always, if you have a project dear to your heart that you believe Westminster could be involved in, please talk to Carole Kennerly, committee chairperson, or to Rev. Trajan McGill.

**GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH FEBRUARY MENU** Canned Soups with Pop Tops, Peanut Butter, Boxed Crackers, Applesauce. 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.

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HEALTH FAIR – SUNDAY, MARCH 10** will see the return of our biennial health fair, coordinated by Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter and featuring activities, instruction, health screenings, and a great deal of useful information promoting better health. Please watch for more details and plan on attending this event in Parish Hall following worship that Sunday.



**HOME COMMUNION** - Our next Communion Sunday is February 10. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive the sacrament at home, please contact the church office. Many thanks to those who visit members with the Lord's Supper. If you are an Elder or Deacon (currently or formerly serving) and you would enjoy calling on other members in this way, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOM

K2P4 Mission gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will meet for a brown bag lunch in the kitchen at 12:00 p.m. and knit at 1:00 p.m. on February 12.

This year, our Lenten worship will focus on the theme of prayer. K2P4-produced prayer pocket squares will be featured prominently in Ash Wednesday worship and will be provided to worshippers. Many thanks to those whose work is producing these and other items for the community!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### PW LUNCHEON

Join with us Friday, February 1 at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Leah Duling and Chair of the Day will be Nancy Scott. The 2019 Officers will be installed. Kaitlyn Keen, Board President of the Elizabeth Ann Seton Society will present a program about pregnant mothers, their children, and what services are provided.



**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet on **Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Suzie Spada (2128 N. 23rd., Spfld.) and lead the discussion of Chapter 21-28 in *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. If you would like info, call Meg Kontio at 330-472-4135.



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet **Monday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m.** in Second Floor Classroom. Lynne O'Shea will lead the discussion on Chapter 6 "Just Desserts." If you would like information, call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, February 19 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Pat Hymans will host and lead devotions. Deb Coontz will lead the discussion on Lesson 5 "God With Us: When We're Powerless." If you would like information, call Nancy Scott at 217-891-3902.

## ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME



Cake donations are needed for the Presbyterian Home's monthly Birthday Celebration. If you would like to be part of this & help out, please contact Nancy Canady 546-8469.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN



Presbyterian Men will meet **Thursday, February 14 at 7:00 a.m.** for a breakfast gathering. Photographer Bob Fox will be sharing stories and pictures from a winter photography tour of Yellowstone he made several years ago, and Brad Swanson will be providing breakfast. Come share in good food and great fellowship!

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)** will resume in March 2019.

**MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO RSVP FOR EVENTS ON THE FELLOWSHIP WEBPAGE AT WPCSPI.ORG.**

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Margie Dobson celebrates her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday February 16.  
Rev. John & Carol Stahlman celebrate 62 years on February 2.

### NEW ARRIVAL

Nora Mary Simhauser was born on January 8 to Caitlin and Mark Simhauser. Her grandparents are Carolyn and Dan Dungan, and her great-grandparents are Mary and Bill Schnirring.

### IN MEMORIAM

Terry Wells died on January 5 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children Steve Wells, Mike Wells and the Rev. Julie Wells Blythe, her son-in-law Bob Blythe and their children Brian and Sarah Blythe. A celebration of life will be held on February 2 at 11:00 a.m., with a visitation starting at 9:45 in the sanctuary. A luncheon will follow the service.

Delilah Felber died on January 7 at Lewis Memorial. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her family and friends.

Joan Wheatley died January 9, 2019 in Lake Zurich, Illinois. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her son, Ray Wheatley and daughter Cindy Cee and their families.

Glenda Warren died on January 16 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Grant (Claudia) Warren, Laura (Roger) Barge, and Niles Warren and their families. A celebration of life will be held on February 23 at 2:00 p.m., with a visitation starting at 1:00 p.m. A luncheon will follow the service.

### SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Westminster's Financial Administrator Lisa Runkle, her husband Ken and their children Natalie and Joseph on the death of Ken's father, Victor Wayne Runkle, on January 18 in Springfield.

### THANK YOU

The nine Contact Ministries shelter families, who received gifts from Westminster, sent thank you cards for your generosity. These will be displayed in the West Narthex.

Dear WPC – Without the support of donors like you we would not be able to continue serving those in Springfield and surrounding areas. Thank you for donating and allowing us to serve through our Emergency and Transitional shelters. We strive to meet basic needs with Christ's love and compassion. *Cindy Drum, Board & Staff*

Thank you so much for selecting our garden program to be the recipient of grant funding. We truly appreciate your support! Please feel free to stop by and check out our progress this Spring and Summer as we continue our "Garden at the Club" programs. Yours in service, *Tiffany Mathis, Director of Development & Community Relations with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois*

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program is thankful for the generous gift of \$5,290 from Westminster's congregation. *The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus, Director of PDA.*

## **KENYA MISSION TRIP MEETING** **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 11:15 A.M.**



January 2020 Mission Trip to Kenya -- WPC has been invited to partner with the Outreach Foundation, which constructs church buildings throughout East Africa. In September, we held a meeting for members wishing to hear about this opportunity, and there was significant interest—enough that the Mission and Community Service Committee has decided to move forward with assembling a team and funding and planning a trip! This would be a roughly 2-week trip, taking place in the second half of January 2020. It would most likely include:

- Finishing construction of a building for the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.
- Taking part in the first worship service in the new building and helping dedicate it with the local congregation.
- Building school classrooms and spending time with the schoolchildren.
- Visiting with area people, learning about local history and culture, and seeing how God is present far from Springfield, IL, at work in the church worldwide.
- Several days of safari.

If this sounds intriguing to you, plan on attend the informational meeting on Sunday, February 24 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall following Sunday worship. No commitment will be expected at this time. We will discuss some details about what to expect and offer questions and a timeline to help you discern whether this trip is right for you. If you might be interested but are unable to attend this meeting, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill to be included in ongoing communications about our plans.

## **SAFETY TEAM MEETING** **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 9:15 A.M.**

The Safety Team will meet Sunday, February 10, 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. Last year a group of interested members gathered to formulate a plan for security during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The Safety Team is led by retired FBI agent John Stafford and began serving on Sunday mornings in June.

The Safety Team's mission statement is to support a safe and secure environment for worship where all are welcome. The team's primary role is to maintain a heightened awareness of potential risks on church property, immediately before, during, and after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sundays, and to take appropriate steps to minimize the risk to the congregation. The team is also prepared to respond to severe weather, fire, and medical emergencies.

Currently 21 members serve on the Safety Team and rotate on Sunday mornings. Utilizing two-way radios and security cameras, the team communicates with one another, ushers, and staff responsible for our children to assure a welcoming and safe environment for those gathered for worship. If you are interested in joining the team, contact John Stafford.

## **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**

**THEME: A SEASON OF PRAYER**

**5:45 P.M. DINNER IN PARISH HALL**

**6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY**

We begin our Lenten Journey with dinner followed by a family centered worship service including Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and a meditation by Rev. Choi. Children from the Bridges Fellowship will serve as worship leaders. This year pocket prayer squares created by K2P4 Mission will be distributed to members as a reminder that the season of lent is a time of prayer in preparation for Holy Week.

**LENTEN GIVING:** The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed. A **Lenten Coat Drive** will collect coats in the West Narthex. These coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday and then they will be donated to Contact Ministries.

## **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*  
pastorboutelle@yahoo.com

**Dale T. Rogers**  
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**March Reporter deadline is**  
**Sunday, February 24.**  
**Reporter folding and mailing will be**  
**Wednesday, February 27**