



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

JANUARY 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 3 & 4

*2nd Sunday after Christmas Day
Ordination & Installation Sunday*

John 1:1-18

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
The Conviction of Things Not Seen

January 10 & 11

Baptism of the Lord

Sacrament of Communion

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Mark 1:4-11

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

River of Life

January 17 & 18

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 Sam 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

The Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

Widespread Visions

January 25

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, Mark 1:14-20

Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

A Change of Heart

One Service of Worship

*Annual Meeting of the Congregation
and All Church Potluck*

NEW OFFICERS ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

On Sunday, January 4, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and/or installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on November 9, 2014:



SESSION CLASS OF 2017

Craig Batterman, Harry Bentsen, Joseph Harrison, Mark Ranck, Betsy Ruklick, Julie Robbs, Susan Shea, Kay Smith; Elizabeth Olmsted (Youth)

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2017

Adam Ekstedt, Becky Huston, Peter Kieffer, Wells Langbehn, Valerie Leonatti, Al Manson, Brad Steller, Travis Vogler; Jake Freer (Youth)
Rick Duffy (Class of 2016)

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2014

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully during a time of transition and new beginnings.

SESSION: Marc Anderson, Gale Fixmer, Janice Gambach, Richard Herndon, Pam Innis, Tom Owen, Linda Ranck, Mary Gail Romack

BOARD OF DEACONS: Cathy Brower, Amanda Kurmann, Stacey Lochbaum, Nichole Magalis, Beverly Morey, Tim Olmsted, S. Lee Romack II, Sarah Zervas; Christian Lochbaum (Youth)

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: A PORTRAIT OF PAUL SUNDAYS, JANUARY 4, 11 AND 18

On Sunday, January 4, the Adult Education Forum will introduce a three-week course entitled "A Portrait of Paul." Led by the Reverend John Glosser, this course will explore Paul's ministry, theology and personal history. Participants will focus on a variety of New Testament texts including the Book of Acts, 2 Corinthians and Galatians.

John is a native of Decatur, Illinois and a retired minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He joined Westminster in November 2013. A graduate of Millikin University and Princeton Theological Seminary, John served congregations in Indiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Virginia.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The annual meeting of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

ALL CHURCH POT LUCK IN PARISH HALL

Members are invited to an All Church Pot Luck at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in Parish Hall. Please bring a dish to share. The main course will be provided.

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

...to equip the saints for ministry in the building up of the body of Christ. *Ephesians 4:12*

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

On Sunday, January 25, the Support and Endowment Committee will introduce the 2015 Endowment Anniversary Campaign. The goal is to grow Westminster's Endowment from \$1.7 to \$5 million by 2020 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Endowment.

This goal is rooted in the firm belief that a larger principal will strengthen the intentional mission of Westminster and will address our ongoing capital and building needs in a planned and orderly manner. In 2014 the committee laid the groundwork at receptions. I am grateful for the vision and leadership of the committee chaired by Randy Germeraad. Also serving are Steve Arbuthnot, Treasurer, Bill Lienemann, Diane Rutledge, Dale Smith and Jeff Wilday.

A RICH TRADITION OF PARISH ASSOCIATES

The Book of Order allows for ordained clergy to serve congregations on a part-time basis as Parish Associates. We have been blessed with the REV. JERRY BOUTELLE in this capacity. Jerry has agreed to continue to serve as *Parish Associate* in 2015.

At the December meeting, Session also approved a recommendation from Personnel to invite the REV. SARAH ILIFF MCGILL to serve as *Parish Associate for Children's Ministries*. Sarah will work 15 hours a week beginning February 1, 2015. We are excited to welcome Sarah and will introduce her to you in a more formal way in the February Reporter.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR The choir will sing *Star in the East* on Sunday, January 4, and resume their Thursday 7:30 p.m. rehearsal schedule on January 8. Lyle VanDeventer will be the soloist on Sunday, December 28, so that the choir might enjoy a Christmas break.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS with THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR sang with verve and gusto at the Advent Celebration. Bravo to all our young singers. Choristers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 14, at 4:45 p.m.

CHURCH MICE will resume its Saturday morning sessions on January 10, at 11:00 a.m.

THE WALNUTS will rehearse on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. in the new year in preparation for a **WALNUTS COFFEE HOUSE** fundraiser.

THANKS TO ALL of the choirs who have so splendidly enriched our worship and our preparation for the Christmas season. You are a great treasure of this congregation! Many thanks to all who have assisted in putting up Christmas decorations and contributed to the Christmas decoration fund. The church has been beautifully adorned for the season by your contributions of time and talents.

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

CHILDREN UPDATE

ADVENT CELEBRATION was a delightful evening. See photo and thank you on page 4.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 11'S first meeting is Wednesday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Classroom. Led by Scoutmaster Andy Whiting and Neil Bassett, this Cub Scout group is for all boys in first through fifth grade. Bring your friends!

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

SENIOR HIGH ANNUAL LOCK IN will be from January 3, at 6:00 p.m. – January 4 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship! Sleeping is optional. **Please e-mail hdreitcer@wpcspi.org by December 31, to reserve your spot;** if we do not have 8 RSVPs we will postpone the lock-in until a date when more youth can participate.

ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

- January 4** – No Youth Group
- January 11** – *Confirmation Prep: Review*
Confirmation Class: Sacred Time
- January 18** – Joint Group Day of Service
- January 25** – *Confirmation Prep: Who is Jesus?*
Confirmation Class: Polity in Action

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.

- January 4** – No Youth Group
- January 11** – Remember Your Baptism
- January 18** – Joint Group Day of Service
- January 25** – Finding and Being Found

THE 2015 KAREN DILLON MISSION TRIP

ADULT SPONSORS will meet Sunday, January 11, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library as we prepare for our adventure to Green Bay, WI. All participants need to have their **SECOND PAYMENT** in by January 25!

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER! This Annual Mission Trip Fundraiser created by Todd Knox will be Sunday, February 15. Tickets are \$10. Starting January 18, find your favorite youth or sign up in the West Narthex to reserve your spot!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Sunday, February 2. 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.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Friday, December 19, we have received a total of \$801,451. This is 98% toward our goal of \$814,840. We are so close! If you have not yet pledged, please do so at wpcspi.org.

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

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

THEOLOGY ON TAP YOUNGER ADULT FELLOWSHIP (age 21 – 40) will not meet in January. Join us the First Monday of February at Arlington's from 5:30-7:00 p.m.! 2015 brings a new look to our Young Adult Fellowship. We will meet at a local bar each month for drinks, food, conversation, and fellowship; working our way alphabetically through Springfield's bars. The first round of drinks and group appetizers are on us!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, January 8, 7:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Men will enjoy breakfast coordinated by Brad Steller, a devotional by Peter Kieffer and a short program on "Beef: Fact and Fiction" by David Jenkins. 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 not meet in January. Join us again 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. Please make a reservation by February 4, at 522-4415.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rev. Hannah Dreitcer to discuss chapter five "Independence" of Joan Chittister's book: *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, January 12, at 5:30 p.m. for a Celebration Party in the Second Floor Classroom. Please bring finger foods to share.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Library at the church. Our hostess will be Gloria St. Lawrence. Sharon Turner will give devotions and Nancy Canady will lead our program Lesson 4, *Exodus*.

PAGE-TURNERS BOOK GROUP will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28, in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Still Life*, the first of the Chief Inspector Armand Gamache mysteries, written by Louise Penney. We welcome new members. Please contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins.

K2 P4 MISSION will resume knitting weekly beginning Tuesday, January 6, at 12:30 p.m. 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 the group in our mission work. Thanks to all who have and continue to contribute to the purchased, (not knitted) glove collection for Graham school. This past year in the spring collection we donated 143 pair and this fall an additional 115 pair! Please contact Sue Cull (529-2354) or Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins (622-8657) for more information.

LIBRARY NOTES

There are recent copies of several magazines on the top left shelf of the library cart. They are available to take home on the "honor system". Please enjoy and return in a timely manner. They are *Horizons*, *Presbyterians Today*, *Outlook*, and *The Christian Century*. Older issues are in the magazine rack of the Ziegler Library. Remember that books on display are also available for check out. We would like to say "thank you" to various anonymous book donors. We appreciate your donations, and only you know who you are!

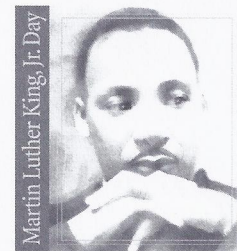
NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 11 AND 18

We are excited to offer a New Members class on Sundays, January 11 and 18 for our friends and visitors. The class will be held at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting Westminster and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and future is invited to attend. The class will be led by Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Dreitcer. New members will be received on Sunday, January 25, and will be welcomed by the congregation at the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST

On Monday, January 19, 7:30 a.m. the Annual MLK Breakfast will be held at the Hilton. The Mission Committee will host a table again this year.



It is symbolic and meaningful for Westminster to have a presence at this community celebration especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to attend, please contact Liz Maxey.

IN MEMORIAM

George Lewis Bock died on December 2. Our prayers and sympathy are extended to his family and friends.

Sandra "Sue" Chandler died on December 10. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her children, **Michael & Lesley**, as well as her friends.

SYMPATHY TO

Karen Springer on the loss of her mother, Mary L. Link, who died December 9, in Auburn, Illinois.

THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

I wanted to extend my personal thanks for Westminster's recent contribution to Blackburn College. We are proud to embrace our Presbyterian heritage and values which we see in our students' lives. *Dr. John Comerford, President*

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

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. The complete pastoral staff will be present as our new Associate Pastor for Parish Life, Trajan McGill, begins on February 1, 2015.

ANNUAL REPORTS FROM SESSION AND DEACON COMMITTEE CHAIRS are due in the Church Office by Friday, January 9, 2015. Please submit your reports by email to Connie Brown at cbrown@wpcspi.org. These reports will be included in Westminster's Annual Report and printed for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25, 2015. Copies will be available at the meeting.

CHURCH OFFICES will be open until noon on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day. They will also be closed January 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

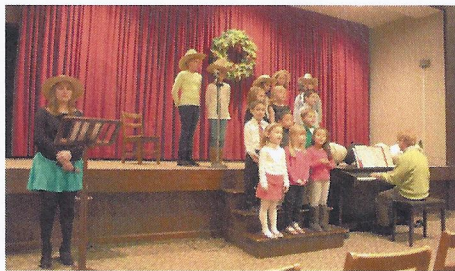
MISSION AND DEACON COMMUNITY SERVICE THANK YOU



THANK YOU WESTMINSTER for your generosity this Advent Season. We continued the tradition, which began in 1992, of hosting CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION on December 17. Over 850 families from the community walked through our doors to receive food, gifts and personal hygiene items. Our youth raised \$1,175 to purchase 152 Christmas gifts for teens and over 300 mittens, scarves and hats were donated for the give-a-way (thank you Elizabeth Circle). Additionally we "adopted" nine Contact Ministries' families and purchased over 100 gifts for these mothers and their children. WPC also donated 55 toys to TOYS FOR

TOTS. Thank you to Kay Smith, Carolyn Proctor, Diane Rutledge, and Amy Xanders for the December HELPING HANDS meal.

ADVENT CELEBRATION GREAT SUCCESS!

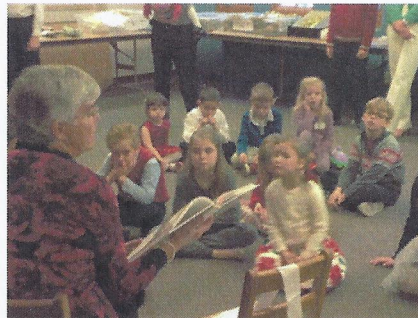


Over 100 gathered Sunday, December 7, for the musical "The Drowsy Shepherd" presented by Westminster Choristers and Children's Choir and directed by Dale Rogers. A delicious dinner followed which was lovingly prepared by Becky and Vallery Huston. A great big thank you also goes

to Leigh Milward, organizer of all the crafts, decorated cookies and activities that followed dinner. Our youth participated in the evening as well, creating a delightful multi-generational gathering and a night to remember. Check out the slide show at wpcspi.org.

NATIVITY STORY

Sue Cull doing her magic as she shares the Nativity Story with Sunday School children on December 21. The children processed into the Chancel for the closing hymn and benediction. Check out the slide show at wpcspi.org.



NOVEMBER FINANCIAL Report by Lisa Runkle

Expenses continue to be under budget while contribution income is on track with our usual pattern. We ended November with a \$14,560 surplus, and since we receive a large portion of income in December, we anticipate a surplus going into the new year. We are projecting a balanced budget for 2015 with the total income of \$983,385.

ALL 2014 DONATIONS MUST be dated 2014 and received in the Church Office by 12:00 noon on Friday, January 2, 2015,

Operations	YTD Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 811,878	\$ 858,318	\$-46,440
Expenses	\$ -797,318	\$ -858,318	\$ 61,000
Net	\$ 14,560	\$ 0	

in order to be posted to the 2014 year. DONATIONS OF STOCK for Westminster can be accepted at Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., 3400 Hedley Road, Springfield, IL 62711. The phone number is 217-726-5862. Please contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, before delivering any stock donations to our brokerage firm.

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
jaridinger@att.net

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, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert
Custodians

Give-a-Meal-a-Month January Menu

Spaghetti and meatballs,

Green beans, pears, Lime Jell-O

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

THE NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 25