



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

July 2018

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m. Parish Hall
Featuring the Westminster Jazz Trio

Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.
Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School
for Pre-K – Grade 2
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

June 30 & July 1

COMMISSION MISSION TRIP
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Mark 5:21-43
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Endings and Beginnings

July 7 & 8

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
2 Samuel 5:1-10; Mark 6:1-13
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Strength and Weakness

Saturday, July 14
Elder Sue Sawers, CRE
Preaching

Sunday, July 15
MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION
Rev. Trajan I. McGill
To the Place I Belong

July 21 & 22
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Mark 6:14-29
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Dance of Change

July 28 & 29
2 Samuel 11:1-15; John 6:1-21
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Beyond Accountability

THE 2018 YOUTH MISSION: JULY 7-14 THEME: CALLED TO ACTION (ISAIAH 6:8)

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

On Sunday, July 1, twenty-four youth will be commissioned during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. They join adult sponsors Nathaniel Brower, Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Jen DeJong, Tara Fritsch, Tami Ireland, Anna Koeppel, Amanda Kurmann, Dave Leonatti and Mary Ray led by Rev. Trajan McGill (Associate Pastor for Parish Life) on a mission to Nicholas County, West Virginia sponsored by the Appalachia Service Project. They will be staying at St. Luke's United Methodist Church and going out into the county each day to do the work of home repair.



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|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sofia Baptist | Taylor Guard | Ross Lockbaum |
| Emma Batterman | Jaiana Ireland | Samantha Magalis |
| Grace Batterman | Zayne Ireland | Natalie Miller |
| Drew Borland | Katie Kruger | Dominic Morgan |
| Jessica Borland | Maddie Kruger | Avery Pound |
| Ben Brower | Barrett Kurmann | Allison Scott |
| Sam Brower | Clayton Kurmann | Mack Shepherd |
| Kenny Guard | Ella Kurmann | Jack Zerfas |

This is our third adventure with ASP. Our theme is *Called to Action* (Isaiah 6:8). Throughout the week, crews of 5 youth and two adults will be assigned a painting, drywall, roofing, or construction project on a specific home. Our youth will partner with youth groups from two other churches. The WPC youth are grateful for the congregation's continued support and prayers and look forward to **leading worship at both services on Sunday, July 15.**

CAR WASH AND BAKE SALE RAISE \$1,513



MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS: Many, many thanks to everyone who supported the 2018 Youth Mission through our fundraisers! We could not do it without you. To date, we have raised a total of **\$12,681** thanks to the collaboration and teamwork of our youth, their parents and sponsors and this generous congregation: *Egg-tastic Annual Meeting Breakfast* (January), \$1,950, *Trivia Night and Silent Auction* (March), \$6,190. *Applebee's Pancake Breakfast* (April), \$1,367, *The Car Wash/Bake Sale Fundraiser* (June), \$1,513, and *additional donations* of \$1,661.

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

Then he said, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10



Dear Friends,

June was a month of celebrating milestones, enjoying fellowship, welcoming new members, teaching Vacation Bible School, feeding the homeless, and reuniting with Presbyterians from across the country at the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis. Thank you for the privilege of representing Westminster at these national events. As our 1.3 million-member denomination gathered to renew the vision of kingdom building in the 21st century, the collaboration, respect, and due process was inspiring and hopeful. For news on the actions taken, go to www.pcus.org and click on News from GA223.

Perhaps the most fun I had in June was greeting the 70 VBS children at Bible Story Headquarters each morning as Mrs. Incredible (aka the flexible and multi-tasking Elastigirl). My counterpart, Dale Rogers (aka Superman) led the children in music each morning. Karen Sherrick inspired her "Hero Squad" of 48 youth and adult leaders with grace and strength. VBS is yet another example of how "the joy of the Lord" is Westminster's strength!

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

SUMMER CHOIR WILL SING SUNDAY, JULY 1 at the 10 a.m. service, with a rehearsal that morning at 9:30 a.m., **AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 5** at the 10:00 a.m. service with a rehearsal on Thursday, August 2 at 7:30 p.m. On the other summer Sundays, soloists and small ensembles will provide music.



the beloved Christmas Carol, Silent Night as it celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. This choir of singers in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade will rehearse on Wednesday afternoons at 4:45 p.m. following the Bridges program. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 12.

SING IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, JULY 14 AT 7:00 P.M. AT DOUGLAS PARK

Westminster is a sponsor for "Sing in the Park" on Saturday, July 14, 7:00 p.m. at Douglas Park. This event will feature the Sound Celebration Chorus and the Land of Lincoln Chorus. We are pleased to be sponsors of both of these local musical organizations. (Westminster singers in Sound Celebration Chorus are Sue Baker and Mary Gail Romack.) The concert will also include an old fashioned "ice cream social" beginning at 6:30 p.m. Those attending are encouraged to bring their own comfortable lawn chairs and to arrive early in order to get a decent parking spot.

YOUTH FEED HOMELESS WITH "TALENT GRANT"

At the end of 2017, Westminster, along with every other church in the Presbytery of Great Rivers, received from the Presbytery a \$200 "Talent Grant" (named for the "Parable of the Talents" found in Matthew and Luke), meant to be invested in the community somehow. The Mission Committee invited the youth to brainstorm how to utilize these funds. The group voted to provide a meal for the Helping Hands Shelter.

Thanks to leaders Bill Deemer and Sarah Zervas, and to the youth who prepared and delivered the meal on June 8: Drew Borland, Kenny Guard, Taylor Guard (not pictured), Ben, Sam and Emily Brower, and Jack Zervas took part.



THANK YOU NURSERY WORKERS ABBY AND LIZZY!

Abby Cline joined the nursery in July 2013 and Lizzy Olmsted in October 2017. They conclude their tenure with us this July. We are grateful for their thoughtful nurture of our youngest members and wish them well in their future endeavors.



Abby will continue her full-time position at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and, her favorite pastime, spending time with her husband Kevin and their daughter Kayleigh.



Lizzy has served in our nursery while taking classes as Lincoln Land Community College. She has been accepted into Parkland Community College in their Certified Veterinarian Technician Program. She will begin classes in Champaign, IL this fall.

Next month we will introduce our new Nursery Workers.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HERO CENTRAL

Thanks to our incredible leadership team of **48 youth and adults**, we welcomed **70 children** to VBS. (51 from the community). Each day our children were greeted by Captain Shield and Flame, the red panda, who encouraged them to *Do Good. Seek Peace. And Go After it!!* That message was then reinforced with games, music, crafts, and delicious snacks.

We gathered in Bible Story Headquarters and explored the heroes of biblical times.

MONDAY'S LESSON: GOD'S HEROES HAVE HEART!

Samuel Anoints David - 1 Samuel 16:1-12 - God saw the kind heart of David and knew he would lead with love and power.

TUESDAY'S LESSON: GOD'S HEROES HAVE COURAGE!

Abigail Saves the Day - 1 Samuel 25 - A brave woman named Abigail uses her courage to help others in need.

WEDNESDAY'S LESSON: GOD'S HEROES HAVE WISDOM!

Jesus Goes to the Temple - Luke 2:41-52 - Jesus answers the teachers' questions with an impressive level of wisdom and understanding and responds with questions of his own.

THURSDAY'S LESSON: GOD'S HEROES HAVE HOPE!

Beatitudes - Matthew 4:23-5:12 - We learn to be heroes by being humble and compassionate, by feeding those who are hungry, and by lifting up those who are hopeless.

FRIDAY'S LESSON: GOD'S HEROES HAVE POWER!

Pentecost - Acts 2:1-41 - The disciples receive an amazing power, a gift from the Holy Spirit. People heard and understood what they had to say and believed their message.

MISSION: Together we collected school supplies to help meet a need for Harvard Park Elementary in Springfield. These items include: disinfectant wipes, tissues, copy paper, baby wipes, dry erase markers, pencils, crayons, scissors, and notebooks. Thank you to the members who joined in this collection. *A final total will be in the August Reporter.*



**Presbyterian Women Garden Party
June 2 at Home of Pat Wheat**



**Westminster Choir Brunch
June 3 at Home of Jeanne and Glen Pittman**



**All Church Cookout
June 8 at the Home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer**



**Members Received and Recognized
Sunday, June 10**



Tyler Armstrong joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. He works for Kinney Contractors in Springfield as a concrete finisher. He comes from Eureka Church of the Nazarene in Eureka, IL. **Brandice Hull** joins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. She works for Memorial Medical Center as a radiologic technologist. Brandie and Tyler are engaged to be married at WPC on September 15, 2018. *Sponsors – Ellen and Rance Carpenter*



Rachael Hayes & Chris Hickman join us by Profession of Faith. Rachael works as a family law attorney in Springfield. Chris works as a case manager for DCFS to children in their care. Rachael & Chris are engaged to be married at WPC on September 28, 2019. *Sponsor – Dr. Peg DiFonso*

Kathy & Gary Brown are joining us by Reaffirmation of Faith. Kathy attended WPC as a child with her parents, Blanche & Frank Logan. Kathy is a retired elementary teacher and Gary is a retired attorney in the Springfield area. They have 2 children: Emily lives in the St. Louis area, and Tim lives in Lincoln. They are both enjoying retirement and spending their winters in the Florida Keys. *Sponsors - Marilyn & Jim Rigney*



Betty Denham is joining us by Letter of Transfer from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers, FL. She is the mother of Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer and recently moved to Springfield. As a retired church organist, Betty has a deep appreciation for the music at Westminster. *Sponsor – Dorothea Thrasher*



Jocelyn Taylor joins us by Profession of Faith. She grew up in WPC attending with her parents Cindy & AG Taylor, and grandmother Mary Ann Nation. She is an RN for SIU Medical School. Jocelyn is engaged to Kory Duckworth and they will be married at WPC on March 2, 2019. *Sponsor – Dr. Jane Arbuthnot*

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF SANGAMON COUNTY

THE 1000 WOMEN STRONG HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATION will be Thursday, June 28, 5:00 p.m., at 106 S. Glenwood Avenue. Dr. Kieffer and a group from Westminster will be meeting at the church at 4:45, parking here, and walking or carpooling to the house, which is only four blocks away. Come and join the celebration!



This house was made possible in part by the Westminster Endowment mission fund, which provided \$2,500 that was in turn matched by another donor, bringing in the final \$5,000 needed for the project. The bulk of the house was financed by numerous women throughout Springfield giving \$100 donations, including members of the WPC congregation. Thanks to the many women from the community who donated

funds and labor to build this latest Habitat for Humanity house, right here in the neighborhood of Westminster! Thanks also to Brad Milliman and Susan Day for their involvement with the project.

EARTH CARE TEAM NEWS



EARTH CARE TIP – Are you ready for the summer heat? Annual maintenance of your central air conditioner keeps it efficient and staves off costly repairs and replacement.

Judiciously running fans and shutting the curtains significantly reduce AC consumption. A programmable thermostat could lower energy costs up to 30% by giving your AC a rest while you are not at home.



Earth Care Team: Dr. Peter Kieffer, Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Tim Kluge, Lynn McMenamain, Maribeth Norton, and Brad Steller

READY FOR SUCCESS BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT - BACKPACKS NEEDED!

Contact Ministries will host this important event again this year, providing area children with needed school supplies, on Thursday, August 16, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Members are invited to purchase backpacks



for children in our community. **Last year we collected 142!** A basket is located in the West Narthex. Please purchase standard size backpacks in unisex colors.



MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERED JULY 30 – AUGUST 3 AND AUGUST 6-10!

For two weeks in August, Westminster will be helping Senior Services of Central Illinois deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Meals on Wheels program. We will need volunteers to take each of the delivery routes for those weeks.



Sign-up and info sheets will be out in between and after worship services. If you are interested and able to help make deliveries **JULY 30–AUG 3 AND/OR AUG 6-10**, please sign up in the West Narthex throughout the month of July.

CALLING ALL WESTMINSTER DAY LABORERS!

Last summer members picked sweet corn at the Hale Farm to donate to needy people in the region. Local food pantries, always in need of healthy, fresh vegetables, were the recipients of thousands of ears of corn picked by our members. We hope you will join us again this year when the corn is ripe! Keep an eye out in late July or early August for this event.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JULY MENU

Canned Spaghetti or Pasta Meal, Peas, Canned Fruit in Juice/Water, Rice Mixes or Instant Rice

Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **High-Demand Items:** *personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.*



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – If you are unable to attend worship on the second Sunday of the month, whether temporarily or on an ongoing basis, and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Ten members received the sacrament in May from four teams of elders and deacons. Many thanks to those who participate in bringing the Lord's Supper.



SECOND HELPINGS

“O taste and see that the Lord is good, happy are those who take refuge in God.”

-Psalm 34:8

If you know of someone sick, recently home from the hospital, with a recent life change, or who could otherwise use a visit with love in the form of a casserole; or if you would enjoy making and bringing a dinner or two to people on occasion, please contact the church office, or talk to Trajan McGill or Cathy Schwartz. More volunteers are also always welcome to help out those needing meals, rides, or other assistance.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

COME CELEBRATE MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS
SUNDAY, JULY 1 AT 11:00 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

The congregation is cordially invited to a reception following the 10:00 a.m. worship service this Sunday, July 1 in Parish Hall. Please join us as we celebrate June Flood's 97th birthday and Wilbur Wright's 104th birthday. No gifts please!



KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM

K2P4 gathers for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Knitters are also invited to meet for a brown bag lunch in the WPC kitchen on Tuesday, July 10. If you are unable to attend & would like to donate knitted items, please contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins for current needs at 217-544-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW collected **\$1,150** for Church World Service during Blankets Plus Sundays in May. Thank you to all who contributed. On June 2, over 60 women attended the annual **GARDEN PARTY** at the Pat Wheat's lake home with the Ruth and Naomi serving as hostesses. On June 8, PW hosted the Church Women Annual Luncheon with 80 attending.

PW CHURCH-WIDE GATHERING will be **August 2-5** in Louisville, KY. Lynne Cleverdon, Judy Ridinger and Sue Sawers will represent Westminster at the event.



PW LUNCHEON resumes on September 8 with Mary Ray as the Kitchen Chair and Lynne O'Shea as Chair of the Day. **ELIZABETH CIRCLE** resumes on September 10 with Mary King leading the lesson. If you would like information on this group, call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032. **LYDIA CIRCLE** resumes on September 18 with Sharon Turner as the hostess and leading devotions. Carolyn Beatty will provide the program. If you would like information on this group, call Nancy Scott at 217-891-3902. **RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** resumes on October 3 with Suzie Spada as the hostess. If you would like information on this group, call Stephanie Moore at 217-522-4415.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S COOKOUT

This year's Presbyterian Men's Cookout will take place at a new venue in September. Details to follow! Their monthly breakfasts resume on Thursday, September 13.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

FRIDAY, JULY 20 – 6:30 P.M. POTLUCK & 7:00 P.M. PROGRAM



We welcome Curtis Mann, Sangamon Valley Collection Manager and City Historian from the Lincoln Library, who will present a program on the "Springfield Bicentennial 1818 – 2018". Please join us to celebrate 200 years of Springfield! If you are unable to attend the potluck and fellowship, come for the program.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Ben Foster celebrates 91 years on July 3.

Wilbur Wright celebrates 104 years on July 5.

Darline Nebel-Gietl celebrates 95 years on July 17.

Camille and Ted Proud celebrate 55 years on July 27.

NEW ARRIVAL

Chloe Jean & Reese Marie were born on May 29 to Nikki & Matt Massey. Chloe and Reese's older sister is Taylor and their proud grandparents are Camille and Tom Massey.

IN MEMORIAM

Claire Priller died June 22 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband, Richard Priller.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Mary Ann Armstrong on the death of her husband, Edward H. Armstrong on May 21 in Springfield, IL.

Christy and Karl Pound, on the death of Karl's father, and to Avery and Bryce Pound on the death of their grandfather, Dr. Larry Pound, on June 4 in Homosassa, FL.

The Priller family on the death of Claire's brother, Scott Chalmers on June 9 in Ozark, MO.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Bill Donels and Peter Kieffer who serve on the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council. In May, the American League of Bicyclists awarded Springfield the Bronze Level of the Bicycle Friendly Community certification.

Stephanie Dunn who received a B.S. in athletic training from the University of Illinois at Springfield with plans to take prerequisites for medical school.

Benjamin Trapp, who received a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Wisconsin.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for everything PW did to make the Church Women United annual luncheon a success! *"The Ladies of Westminster were awesome hostesses, the room and tables and music were perfect, food was great as usual!"* That is a wonderful summary, and the PW and WPC staff deserve the credit for memorable hospitality.



Thank you again, and again!
Blessings, Lynne Cleverdon

Ann Collins plays the piano for the CWU luncheon.

Pat Hymans & Nancy Canady served lunch for over 80 women.

WESTMINSTER ARCHIVES

As you clean, sort, and/or downsize your homes, please share any church papers/documents with us. These items may be taken to the office with a note stating the items are for the archives. Thank you!
-Sue Cull and Carol Bloemer

INFORMATION UPDATES NEEDED such as cell phone, email, addresses, name changes, etc. If your children have moved, married, or have gone off to college, we would love to have their correct information to keep in touch. Please send to Jennie Alt via email jalt@wpcspi.com or call 522-4415

Baccalaureate Sunday, June 3



Adam Vasconcelles, Matthew Tungett, Sarah Wagner, Abigail Fierstos, Barrett Kurmann and Zayne Ireland joined us on Baccalaureate Sunday for a time of celebration and recognition.

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Please be sure to continue to send your offering in support of Christ's work at Westminster through the summer months. Our income for the first 5 months of the year is above budget by \$49,830. Pledges paid in full early in the year give our income a head start. Year-to-date expenses are under budget by \$13,345. The net total is \$63,175 income above expenses at the end of May.

2018 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 480,084	\$ 430,254	\$ 49,830
Expenses	\$-416,909	\$-430,254	\$-13,345
Net Total	\$ 63,175	\$ 0	

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2018 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2021)

ELDER (CLASS OF 2021)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2021)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2021)

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Cathy Brower, at cahbrower@gmail.com or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete by August 12, 2018. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2018. *Nominating Committee members: Cathy Brower (Chair), Adam Ekstedt, Mary Jo Jenkins, Jay Kennerly, Matthew Knox, Lynn McMenamin and Stephanie Moore.*

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
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
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Dale T. Rogers
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Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
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Karen Sherrick
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Abigail Cline, Lizzy Olmsted
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Ellen Carpenter
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Lisa Runkle
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Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
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Stephanie S. Moore
Administrative Assistant to the Pastors
smoore@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Webmaster

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

Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert, Charles Robertson
Part-time Custodians

August Reporter Deadline is Sunday, July 29