



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

July 2022

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 2

July 3

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST STEADFAST NEIGHBOR PRESENTATION

Psalm 30; 2 Kings 5:1-14

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Silence is Not Spoken Here

July 10

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Amos 7:7-17; Luke 10:25-37

The Rev. Blythe D. Kieffer
A Plumline Question

July 17

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION

Genesis 18:1-10a; Luke 10:38-42

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Messenger of the Gospel

July 24

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 18:20-33; Colossians 2:6-15

The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Dare to Live Spirit-FULL

July 31

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hosea 11:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
As One Who Lifts Infants

THE 2022 YOUTH MISSION: JULY 10-16 THEME: FOLLOW ME

On Sunday, July 10, thirteen youth will be commissioned during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The week of July 10-16, they join adult mentors **Suzanne Borland, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Amanda Kurmann, and Mary Ray** led by **Rev. Christian Choi** (Associate Pastor for Parish Life) on a mission to Madisonville, KY.



Braden Barton
Jessica Borland
Emily Brower
Aerwyna Eastvold
Kristianna Eastvold

Jeffery Elms
Luke Elston
JT First
Clayton Kurmann

Carter Magalis
Samantha Magalis
Bryce Pound
Matthew Scott

We will work with Hopkins County Emergency Management Agency and Long-Term Recovery Committee to assist in the rebuilding effort in Bremen, Barnsley, or Dawson Springs, KY, three cities which experienced devastation from the December 2021 tornado that swept through western Kentucky. Our home camp will be the First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville, KY, and we look forward to visiting the PCUSA national office and Louisville Slugger Museum in Louisville.

The WPC youth are grateful for the congregation’s continued support and prayers and look forward to **leading worship on Sunday, July 17.**

Many, many thanks to everyone who supported the 2022 Youth Mission through our fundraisers and the Pentecost Offering! We could not do it without you. This year the youth raised **\$2,885 at the Eggstastic Breakfast, \$2,725 at the Trivia Night, \$3,356.08 from the Rising Up Suffrage Play, and \$1,270.25 during the Car Wash and Bake Sale.** The youth received **\$150 from the Pentecost Offering.** These total **\$10,386.33** thanks to the collaboration and teamwork of our youth, their parents, adult mentors, and this generous congregation.

FATHER’S DAY CAR WASH AND BAKE SALE FUNDRAISERS



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

Dear Friends:

The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in Louisville, KY for the first hybrid gathering during June. Committees met in-person at the newly renovated Presbyterian Church Center (100 Witherspoon Street) in preparation for the on-line plenary July 5-9. The commissioners elected two accomplished women of color as Co-Moderators. The Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, of Hispanic descent, serves as the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, of African American descent, serves as Pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.



As part of my responsibilities serving on the Committee of the Office of the General Assembly, I was in Louisville June 20 - 24 assisting with committee work. I had the privilege to meet many commissioners and witness our denomination at its best.



On the same day the Supreme Court took away a woman's right to choose in several states, the Health, Safety and Benefits Committee twice voted on items that reaffirm the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s stand on choice and reproductive justice.

Pictured above are the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, and the Deputy Stated Clerk, Mr. Kerry Rice. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the largest Reformed denomination in the United States. Westminster is one of the largest congregations in our denomination. Go to ga-pcusa.org to follow GA news.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

SUNDAY, JULY 10

New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on July 10 following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m. We welcome:



Georgina Hudspeth by Letter of Transfer from St. James Episcopal Church in LaGrange, TX. Her sponsor: Kathy Moore

Ann Nelson by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsor: Brownie Anderson

Glenna Kniss by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian church in Springfield, IL. Her sponsors: Dr. Roy Wehrle and Vonnie Hinesley

Dr. Vena Long by Letter of Transfer from United Church of Christ in Columbia, MO. Her sponsor: Dr. Mike Nenaber

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

The income for the first five months of 2022 is more than \$58,000 above the budgeted amount for the same time period. Pledges paid in full early in the year gives our income a head start. Expenses are over budget by \$7,086, so we ended May with a net total of \$51,464 income exceeding expenses. In early July, we will send statements in the mail reflecting the first and second quarter contributions.

2022 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 485,124	\$ 426,574	\$ 58,550
Expenses	\$-433,660	\$- 426,574	\$ - 7,086
Net Total	\$ 51,464	\$ 0	

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

SUMMER CHOIR

The Westminster Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room to prepare for the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, July 17. In August, the Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, August 11 at 7:30 p.m. to prepare for Sunday, August 14. If you have contemplated joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try. The regular season of the choir will begin on Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. and hold its annual retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 10. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for the choir.

Special Music for July will be Joseph Runkle, trumpet on July 3; Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano on July 10; the Westminster Summer Choir on July 17; Arlene Cooney, soprano and Katy & Pat Moore, flute and euphonium on July 24; and Julie Blythe, mezzo soprano on July 31.

SOUND CELEBRATION AND LAND OF LINCOLN CHORUS' CONCERT SATURDAY, JULY 16 FROM 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. AT DUNCAN PARK

Join the Sound Celebration Chorus and Land of Lincoln Chorus for an outdoor concert held at Duncan Park (formerly Douglas Park) on Saturday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs, drinks, snacks, and enjoy an hour of fun and upbeat acapella music. You may see a couple Westminster members!

ADULT ED FORUM PRESENTS:

PRAIRIE RECONSTRUCTION AND THE SHERRICK FARM SUNDAYS, JULY 31 AND AUGUST 7

Come, hear the story of how the 108-acre Sherrick Farm has been restored to a landscape that has all but disappeared in the Prairie State of Illinois. Learn about the prairie reconstruction which Dr. Andrew Sherrick has orchestrated over the last 20 years and visit the Sherrick Farm to view the natural beauty of the flowers, grasses and plants.



On Sunday, July 31 at 11:15 a.m. Dr. Sherrick will share his story through a PowerPoint Presentation in the 2nd Floor Classroom.



On Sunday, August 7 at 11:15 a.m. we will carpool to the Sherrick Farm in an unincorporated area between Pleasant Plains and Springfield. Mark

your calendar and plan to join us for this delightful adventure together.

APOSTLES READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

The Apostles Read Library Book Group will meet Tuesday, July 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library. The July book is *The Family Roe: An American Story* by Joshua Prager. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



This group meets on the Fourth Tuesday of each month. The August book is *Invisible Child: Poverty Survival & Hope in an American City* by Andrea Elliot. The September book is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi-Coates.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to our incredible leadership team of **22 youth and adults**, we welcomed **37 children** to VBS. Our theme for this year was **Water All Around the World**. We learned about the ways in which access to clean water (or lack of access!) affects the lives of children in many parts of the world. We also learned about the ministry of **Living Waters for the World**, the water purification project that provides safe water for many people in places where the water supplies are contaminated. Each day, we looked at a Bible story that told of God's use of water and heard stories of children in other countries who struggle to have clean water each day.

MONDAY'S LESSON:

God Sends Water to Hagar and Ishmael---Genesis 21

TUESDAY'S LESSON:

Jesus Washes the Feet of his Disciples---John 13:1-5

WEDNESDAY'S LESSON:

The Baptism of Jesus---Matthew 3:13-17

THURSDAY'S LESSON

The Woman at the Well—John 4:5-42

FRIDAY'S LESSON

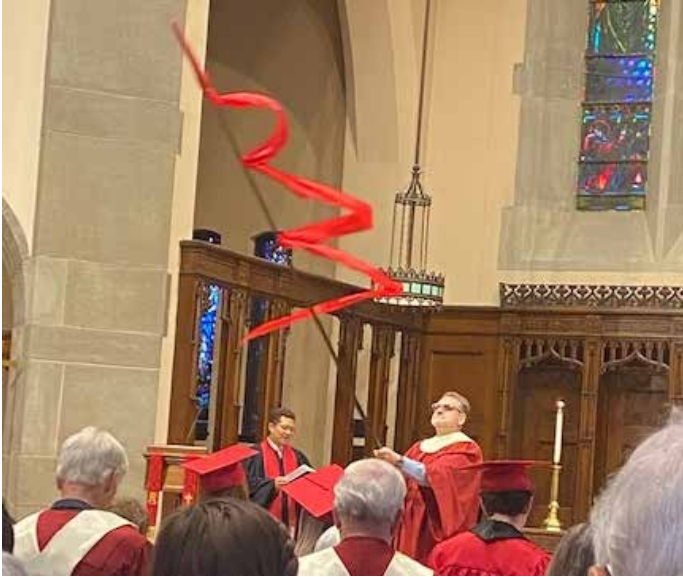
Resurrected Jesus Appears to disciples by the Sea---John 21:1-4

MISSION: **Living Waters for the World** is the mission project of the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (USA). Believing Jesus Christ to be living water for our bodies and our souls, we are called to serve people of the world who need safe drinking water. **Living Waters for the World** provides training and equipment to establish water purification systems throughout the world, in partnership with the communities in need of safe water. Part of the process is also to conduct educational programs with the people who will be using the water. These partnerships usually take place in places where no safe water is available, or where safe water is too expensive for the poor to buy. And the need grows larger each year! So, it's very important for people in the US, including our children, to learn about this mission and how to participate in it.

Thank you to the members who joined in this collection. It's not too late to give. A final total will be in the August Reporter.



Pentecost and Baccalaureate Sunday, June 5, 2022



Pentecost was a spirit-filled day at Westminster which included Jim Kontio carrying the traditional flame in the processional of our high school graduates on their Baccalaureate weekend. Members read scripture in five languages (French, German, Hindi, Korean, and Spanish) and did not disappoint.

June was also a month to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism as we welcomed Theodore Eldon "Teddy" Ekstedt on June 5 and Everard Lamstedt Carlson-Eastvold on June 26 into the faith community.

Sacrament of Baptism, Sunday, June 5, 2022



Sacrament of Baptism, Sunday, June 26, 2022

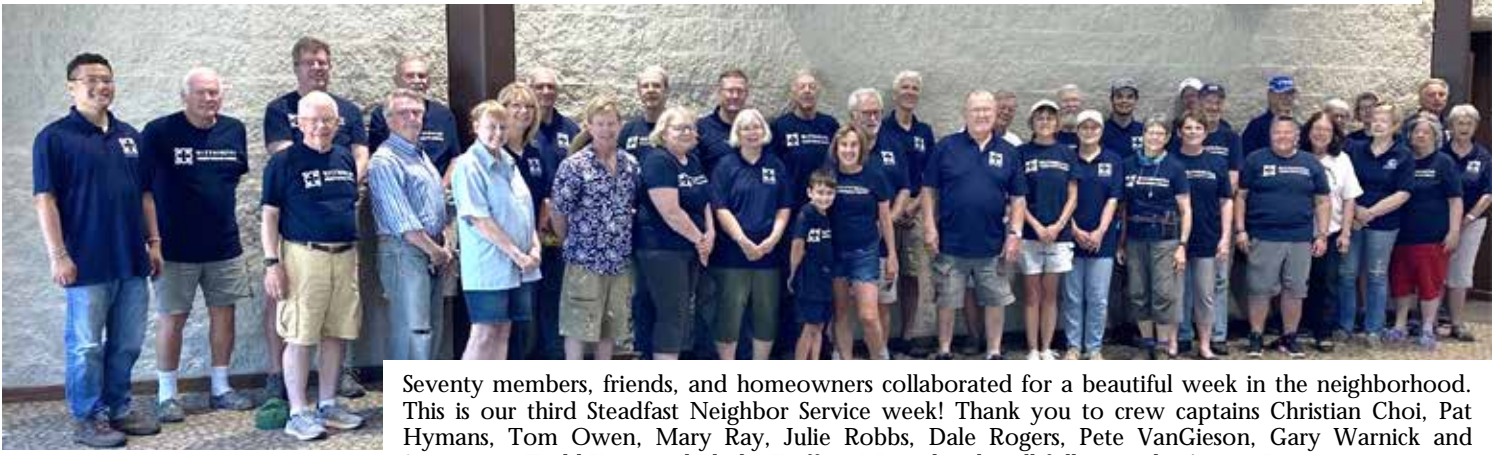


All Church Cookout Friday, June 17



The Membership Committee welcomed 90 members at the All-Church Cookout hosted by the Kieffers. Thanks to the Beattys, Days, and Foxes who provided boat rides, DeeDee Gain and Lyle Vandeventer who led the group singing "Consider Yourself Part of the Family," and all who brought delicious dishes, as we celebrated new members and honored milestone members,

Steadfast Neighbor Service Week – June 27 to July 1, 2022



Seventy members, friends, and homeowners collaborated for a beautiful week in the neighborhood. This is our third Steadfast Neighbor Service week! Thank you to crew captains Christian Choi, Pat Hymans, Tom Owen, Mary Ray, Julie Robbs, Dale Rogers, Pete VanGieson, Gary Warnick and Supervisors Todd Knox and Blythe Kieffer. More details will follow in the August Reporter.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HELPING HANDS AND COOLING CENTER MONTHLY MEALS

Thank you to Melanie Humphrey and Krista Steller for the Helping Hands meal on June 10. Jeanne Pittman and Julie McDonough will provide the July 8 meal. **We are in need of ministry partners October 14, November 11, and December 9.** Please contact Jennie Alt with any questions.

The Hunger Action Team prepared a monthly meal for the Springfield Cooling Center on **Wednesday, June 22**. The next meal will be on **Wednesday, July 27**. Please contact Krista Steller ksteller@wpcspi.org to participate.

DAILY BREAD MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES



SAVE THE DATE - JULY 18 - 22 AND JULY 25 - 29!

Westminster is collaborating with Senior Services of Central Illinois by delivering food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program.

There will be 1-4 routes on each day and will take 45 minutes to an hour for each route. You will find the online sign-up on our website, which will have an attachment of information on who, what, and where you would need to go.

LITTLE PANTRY THANK YOU

Thank you to the devoted ministry partners who regularly stock and clean Westminster's Little Pantry located at Graham Elementary School daily. **Ministry Partners are needed to join the team of dedicated members as we enter the summer months.** Please contact Jeanne or Pete VanGieson at 217-652-1310, and they will arrange for you to be mentored.

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JULY MENU Canned spaghetti or pasta meal, canned fruit in juice or water, rice bagged or boxed, vegetables, toilet paper, dry cereal, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap (laundry and dish detergent.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.



JULY EARTH CARE TIP

When days heat up this summer, consider adding fans rather than turning on more AC. Ceiling, box, and table-top fans circulate air, help our bodies dissipate heat, and provide more comfort with less air-conditioning. In doing so, that cool breeze directed towards your bed or favorite chair will save precious resources and energy bills. A fan on the patio or deck not only cools us but also keeps away flying mosquitos without insecticide. **Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair**

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION– Thank you to the elders and deacons who brought **ten members** home communion on June 12. If you would like to receive Communion at home on July 10, please contact Jennie Alt.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be available from Marilyn Rigney on the first Sunday of the month, July 3.

2022 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

The Historic Westside Neighborhood Association will host the 2022 National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 2, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** at Westminster. Please RSVP by leaving a voicemail to Carrie Becker at 217-725-7719.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers every **Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The brown bag lunch will resume on July 12 at noon. Beverages and a dessert will be provided. Members and friends that are not in the group are always welcome to come check out what we do. You can also knit from home and be a part of the group. Questions – call Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) will meet **Friday, July 15 with a 6:30 p.m. potluck and a 7:15 p.m. program.** Joe Crain will provide the program "Behind the Scenes of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library." Please bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP with our weekly email link, website, or by emailing or calling the church office.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY

Sheila & Daniel Blodgett celebrate 50 years on June 23.
Dr. Alan & Mrs. Marty Stutz celebrate 62 years on July 2.
Ben Foster celebrates 95 years on July 3.
Dick Washburn celebrates 90 years on July 13.
Dr. Tom & Mrs. Judy Lewis celebrate 61 years on July 23.
Roger Fenstermaker celebrates 90 years on July 24.

NEW ARRIVAL

Dayana Rose Afeseh was born to Mervice Alah Abung and Donatus Afeseh on June 8. Dayana's big sister is Myra, and her proud uncle is Edison Zohfonyi.

IN MEMORIAM

Roberta Diane Ross died on May 26, 2022. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her brother Dr. Randy (wife Karan) Ross.

John R. Dunn died on May 30, 2022. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Sandy, and his children, Michael Dunn, Alicia (Tom) Haggerty, Charlie (Shannon) Dunn, and Ashley (Chris) Barham and their families.

Lionel S. Stirrett died June 21, 2022. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Becky, her their children Cindy (Todd) Drake, Doug (Laura) Stirrett and grandchildren Ashley, Lindsay, and Jack Drake, Ainsley and Connor Stirrett. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 16 at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary with a lunch reception following in Parish Hall.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Christie and Robyn Hovey on the death of her aunt and to Will Hovey on the death of his great-aunt, Helen Kay Jahn June 12, 2022, in Champaign, IL.

Lynne and Paul O'Shea on the death of Paul's brother, David "Bud" O'Shea June 24, 2022.

CORRECTION

Dr. Daniel O'Keefe completed his Fellowship in Infectious Disease (Internal Medicine) at SIU School of Medicine.

NEW ADDRESS

Kelly Robertson, Ben and Lucy Bassett, 1717 W. Jackson St, Springfield, IL 62702 (as of July 13).

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Tim Kluge, made a strategic offer in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity on the abandoned property at 626 S. Glenwood. The journey began in August 2020 when members of the Steadfast Neighbor Service Week noticed the abandoned home. We researched its owner and after the necessary process, the City of Springfield acquired the property and put it up for a bid this Spring.



Following an inspection and testing for asbestos which came back negative (thank you Dave Leonatti) and within the guidelines provided by Session that (1) Habitat purchase the property and (2) demolition cost not exceed \$30,000, the application was submitted on May 31, 2022 by Colleen Stone, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity with a bid of \$34.

The bid of \$34 is a symbolic number and was suggested by Dr. Kieffer. In Jeremiah 32:9 Jeremiah purchased the field of Anathoth from his cousin Hanamel for seventeen shekels of silver (\$34 in today's currency). Although the land was worthless, Jeremiah bought it to honor the covenant within his family. Westminster is investing in this property to honor the covenant of community within our neighborhood.

The City of Springfield accepted the offer which will go to City Council for final approval. The city agreed to cover the cost of demolishing the rear building and Jaren Industries has confirmed a \$26,000 demolition cost for the front building. We anticipate with joy a Presbyterian Habitat Build on this lot tentatively in 2024.

Thank you to the Strategic Planning Committee: Tim Kluge, Chair, Pat Hildebrand-Culler, Dr. Todd Knox, Meg Kontio, Valerie Leonatti, Jim Rigney, Dr. Susan Shea, Carolyn Swanson, Mark Vasconcelles, Brinton Wilkey, Property Committee members: Mal Hildebrand, Dave Leonatti, and Gary Warnick, Property and Building Manager for their leadership.

CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries as we collect backpacks to be distributed at their Ready for Success Back to School Event on Wednesday, August 17, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 14. Around 250 school-aged children will receive a new backpack from Contact Ministries and a new pair of Payless Shoe Source shoes from Share the Spirit! Last year, we collected 195 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.



NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2022 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2025)

ELDER (CLASS OF 2025)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2023)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2025)

Nominations may be completed online at wpcspi.org or by emailing the committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer at ehuitt@yahoo.com. Please complete by August 14, 2022. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 10, 2022.

2022 Nominating Committee: Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Carolyn Swanson, Mary King, Bill Deemer, Deb Coontz, Alan Stutz, and Julie Sundquist

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts Elliott
Saturday Worship Pianist and
Music Coordinator
deb.watts@live.com

Karen H. Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Leigh Milward
Nursery Coordinator

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley
Cooperative Preschool Teacher
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Ellen Carpenter
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ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
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Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
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Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert,
Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

*Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, August 3rd.*