



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

March, 2014

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

*Saturday 5:30 p.m.-Parish Hall*  
*Sunday 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.-Sanctuary*  
*Sunday Nursery 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon*  
*Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Pre-K*  
*10:15 a.m. K- Grade 8*  
*Sunday Adult Study*  
*11:15 a.m. – 12 noon*

### March 1 & 2

Transfiguration Sunday  
*Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 17:1-9*  
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer  
"Reassuring Touch"

### March 8

Elder Sue Sawers preaching

### March 9

Frist Sunday in Lent - Communion Sunday  
*Genesis 2:15-17, Matthew 4:1-11*  
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer  
"Voices Along the Way"

### March 15 & 16

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
*John 3:1-17, Ps. 121*  
Rev Julie Wells Blythe  
"Faith in the Darkness"

### March 23

*Third Sunday in Lent- Sacrament of Baptism*  
*Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42*  
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer  
"The Road Less Traveled"

### March 29

Rev. Julie Wells Blythe preaching

### March 30

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
*Psalm 23; John 9:1-41*  
YOUTH SUNDAY

## "GLORY TO GOD" PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL PROMOTION INTRODUCED MARCH 1 & 2

The new Presbyterian hymnal became available in the fall of 2013 following years of work by the Presbyterian Hymnal Committee. The volume has 850 hymns, psalms and spiritual songs covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres. Traditional hymns, African American/Gospel hymns, older hymns never included in a Presbyterian Hymnal (*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, Softly and Tenderly*), global music and contemporary praise songs are represented in the new book.

At their February meeting, the Session approved a new hymnal promotional. Members are invited to donate \$25 per hymnal. With each hymnal, members can dedicate the book in memory or in celebration of loved ones or events that will be noted on the bookplate in the hymnal.

The week of March 10, a letter to the congregation with a response card enclosure will be mailed and response cards will also be available in the pews throughout the Seasons of Lent and Easter.

### THE SEASON OF LENT

#### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

6:00 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall  
7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

*We begin our Lenten Journey with a simple soup and salad dinner prepared by Pat Hymans and served by the WPC Staff followed by a Worship Service of Communion and Imposition of Ashes.*

#### LENTEN SERIES: "JOURNEYS OF THE HEART"

#### THURSDAYS, MARCH 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3, 10

6:00 p.m. Simple Dinner in Parish Hall  
6:30-7:15 p.m. Presentation in Parish Hall

*Join us as members share their cross cultural experiences celebrating and serving God's diverse children. Each evening's entrée will provide a taste of the country's culinary traditions.*

**March 13:** Mary Caroline Mitchell (Cambodia and Vietnam)

**March 20:** Dr. Peter Kieffer (Dominican Republic)

**March 27:** Beth Bellatti (Peru)

**April 3:** Sarah Blythe (Ghana)

**April 10:** Carole Kennerly (Northern Ireland)

*A free-will offering will be received at the Lenten dinners for the PC (USA) "One Great Hour of Sharing" collection.*

Please sign up for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Series so we know how many to serve. You may sign up on at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) or email Liz Maxey ([administrativeassistant@wpcspi.org](mailto:administrativeassistant@wpcspi.org)).

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

Ash Wednesday begins the season of lent--the forty days we prepare for Holy Week, representing the forty days that Christ spent fasting and praying in the wilderness. The season of lent is a time for Christians to reflect on our humanity, the limitations that are a part of life and the God who joined us on this journey.

Last summer as we embarked on a bicycle journey across Missouri to celebrate the genesis of Paul's life journey as a young adult after his high school graduation, we presented him a small Swiss Army knife explaining the symbolism of each of the seven tools:

1) *The screwdriver suggests life is not fair and we all get "screwed" from time to time.*

2) *The nail file reminds us to "file" things away in an organized life.*

3) *The toothpick suggests the importance of good personal hygiene.*

4) *Tweezers remind us to pay particular attention to the small things in life.*

5) *The key ring suggests the key to a joyful life is faith.*

6) *The knife blade, which cuts deeply, reminds us to reach for the profound.*

And the tool that took on the greatest meaning as we were confronted by flood waters, which engulfed the Katy Trail and forced us to abandon our adventure on the third day.

7) *The scissors, which remind us to know when to cut things off. Sometimes you just have to "let it go!"*

As we journey through lent, celebrating the opportunities and accepting the limitations that are a part of life, may we journey with insight, courage and hope.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** rehearses Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. We are working on a broad spectrum of music for the upcoming services, for the season of Lent and for the Liturgical Arts Festival program on May 4.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (GRADES 3-6)** rehearse on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m.

**WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (K-Grade 2)** rehearse are on Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m.

**CHURCH MICE**, our musical experience for infants through age four, meets each Saturday morning at 11 a.m. through Saturday, April 12. Follow the pathway of cheese!

## GO FOR BAROQUE, MARCH 21

A concert of treasures from the Baroque era will be presented by Dale Rogers, Organist; Krista Steller, Oboe; Diane Dietz and Jody Kienzler, sopranos on Friday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church. An offering will be taken with proceeds to the Springfield Food Pantry.

## EASTER MUSIC/DECORATIONS FUND

Each year members and friends have the opportunity to provide palms, lilies, and sanctuary decorations, as well as special music during Holy Week. The list of donors and those whom they are remembering with their gift are printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The suggested donation is \$18. Please make checks payable to WPC, indicating in the memo which fund your gift will support. The deadline for bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, April 13.

## CHILDREN'S NEWS by Rev. Julie Wells Blythe

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES

Children will receive their Fish boxes and calendar guide for giving on the First Sunday of Lent, March 9 as we continue the great Westminster tradition of remembering those in need of disaster assistance around the world.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is June 16 - 20, 2014 for children ages three through grade five. Registration forms will be available at [wpcspi.org](http://wpcspi.org) beginning April 1.

## YOUTH NEWS by Annie Peterson

### CONFIRMATION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights during March include a Swim Party at the Kieffer's Sunday, March 23, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. and visiting a Mosque during the week of March 30. More details to come.

### YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

March 2, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Jr. & Sr. High will meet at Westminster for dinner and then carpool to the APL.

March 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Jr. & Sr. High will have dinner and a fun filled game night!

March 16, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Jr. & Sr. High will have dinner and practice their parts for Youth Sunday.

March 23, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: SURPRISE NIGHT!

March 30, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.: Jr. & Sr. High will lead worship at Youth Sunday. We will not meet in the evening. Following Worship, those attending Mission Trip will lead the Bistro on Walnut Fundraiser in Parish Hall, which will last till 1:30 p.m.

### MISSION TRIP FLAP JACK FUNDRAISER, MARCH 8

The Westminster Mission Trip Youth will host a "Flap Jack Fundraiser, Saturday March 8, from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the Applebee's located at 3335 Veterans Parkway. Tickets cost \$5 for 3 pancakes, 2 slices of bacon, and unlimited beverages (including coffee and juice) and can be purchased in the West Narthex on Sundays, from one of your favorite youth or stopping by the church office. Our youth will seat you, take your orders, serve your meals, and clean up. So, tips are also encouraged! Four dollars from each ticket will go to support the Mission Trip to Brighton, Tennessee.

### YOUTH SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Youth Sunday is Sunday, March 30! Come and worship as our youth lead both the 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. worship services. Our young people will lead in the liturgy, provide the meditations and share musical gifts as we gather during for worship during Lent on our journey with Christ.

### BISTRO ON WALNUT FUNDRAISER, MARCH 30

Following worship on Youth Sunday, March 30, the congregation is invited to Parish Hall for a light lunch served by our youth and some entertaining and fun music including selections from the American songbook presented by The Walnuts. There will be a small entry fee, and desserts will be available for a donation. Payment will be accepted at the door.

## YOUNG ADULT GET TOGETHER, MARCH 7

Young Adults are invited to 'Come, renew their strength' on Friday, March 7, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Kieffer's. Wine and wings will be served overlooking Lake Springfield. RSVP: Text 312-545-2805 or email [bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org).

## ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

"LAWS OF THE HEART" BOOK STUDY, led by Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Blythe meets Sundays in March (except March 30) at 11:15 a.m. in the Church Library. Join us for a six week discussion of the book The Ten Commandments by Joan Chittister.

PAGE-TURNERS BOOK GROUP will meet Wednesday, March 26 at 9:30 a.m. on in the Library to discuss *The Boy in the Suitcase* by Lena Kaaberbot and Agnet Friis.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) Join us Friday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for pot luck dinner and members of Springfield International Folk Dancers will join us and share Scottish Country dances.

## PW CIRCLE MEETINGS

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON, MARCH 7

All Westminster women are invited to attend a luncheon and program Friday, March 7, 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. Charlyn Fargo Ware, co-owner of Springfield's new fair trade store, 'Simply Fair,' will share its origins in ministry and details of how items from around the world are selected; she will bring items for sale for an international shopping opportunity. (Please call the Church Office by Wednesday, March 5, to make a reservation—522-4415.)



### PW HOSTS CWU WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

On Friday, March 7 at 1:30 p.m. following the PW lunch and program, adjourn to our sanctuary where Westminster PW will host the Springfield-wide 2014 Church Women United World Day of Prayer Service *Streams in the Desert*. WDP begins at the first sunrise in the Pacific region of the globe and, following the Earth's orbit, will spread all around the world. This year, the women of the WDP Committee of Egypt invite us into a time of worship with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert." With these words as backdrop, we are invited to learn about Egypt's history and rich cultural diversity. A young Egyptian woman shares her experiences in Tahrir Square—where she has found hope in dry places.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, March 10 in the second floor classroom at 5:00 p.m. Jeanne VanGieson will be our leader for our Bible Study *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*: Chapter 2.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, March 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Helen Evenson, who will also give devotions. Renee Housel will lead our study of *General Epistles*, Lesson 6.

THE KNITTERS are knitting every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room for fellowship and ongoing knitting projects.

## MISSION AT WESTMINSTER

### GIRL RISING DOCUMENTARY, MARCH 9 AND 11

Come, be inspired and realize the power of girls as Agents of Change! Springfield Dining for Women Chapters are partnering with the Friends of Brookens Library at UIS to host a screening of a new documentary film **Girl Rising**, in celebration of International Women's Day on Sunday, March 9 and to raise awareness about the power of educating a woman. The film will be shown Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 p.m. at Douglas Ave. United Methodist Church, 501 S. Douglas, Springfield and Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Brookens Auditorium in Brookens Library, University of Illinois Springfield.

### WESTMINSTER HOSTS COMPASS EVERY TUESDAY

Each Tuesday afternoon Westminster welcomes at-risk children from Graham Elementary School in the Compass Program, a weekly, after-school, neighborhood-based outreach. We partner with Central Baptist Church to provide homework help, life skills and hot meals. Thanks to Annie Peterson, staff liaison, and members Nancy Canady, Camille Degner, Helen Evenson, Art Crego, George Johnson, Judy Meir, Andrea Rediger-Klein, Terry Wells who provide leadership.

### EQUAL EXCHANGE AND FAIR TRADE – MARCH 9

The second Sunday of the month fair trade products, such as coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks, are sold following worship in the West Narthex. The purpose of this ministry is to encourage economically just and environmentally sound products through partnerships with small independent producers. Stop by March 9. Thanks to Stephanie Bess for coordinating this ministry.

### BIKE AND BUILD – JULY 7 & 8, 2014

Once again Westminster will host bicyclists who pedal across the United States and support affordable housing groups, such as Habitat for Humanity. The dates of July 7 and 8 were approved by Session in February.

### Give-a-Meal-a-Month March Menu

Beef Ravioli, Peas  
Peaches, Pudding Mix  
Optional: Dry Milk or Dry Cereal  
Soap, Laundry, or Dish Detergent

*Thank you to those who bring their GMAM bags and place them in the shopping cart in the West Narthex.*

*These meals are delivered to Central Illinois Food Bank. 425 pounds of food were donated by Westminster in March-November 2013.*

*Special thanks to Kevin Proctor who delivers our donations to the food bank.*

### COMMUNITY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Westminster hosts community grief support group on Thursday, March 6 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Library. This ten-week grief support series is offered during the difficult times that follow the death of a loved one. Facilitator Margie Wheelhouse is a Licensed Professional Counselor, and member of Westminster.

## NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to **Mark Hansen and Debra Marines** on the birth of their granddaughter, Layla Marie Backus, who was born February 1 in Pekin, IL to Jessica & Kevin Backus.

Congratulations to **Pat and Al Hymans** on the birth of their grandson, Levi Judah Hatcher who was born February 2 in Ashville, NC to Allyson and Judah Hatcher.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Genevieve Connie Farrow** died on January 30. Our sympathy to her sister, **Marguerite Hughes**. The memorial service will be Saturday, April 12 at 2:00 p.m.

**Dorothy W. Davidson** died on February 12.

**Kenneth W. Davis** died on February 14. Our sympathy to his daughter, **Kathy Stittsworth**, and his granddaughter, **Abby Davis Cline**.

## SYMPATHY TO

**Steve Arbuthnot** on the death of his mother, Marie Arbuthnot, on February 14 in Wood River, Illinois.

**Robyn E. Newton** on the death of her brother, Bob Bock, on February 12 in Minneapolis, MN.

## THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

The youth collected \$639.48 on February 1 and 2 for **Souper Bowl of Caring**. All proceeds will go to the Central Illinois Food Bank

**Youth Mission Trip Trivia Night** raised a record \$3,355.38. Thank you to Todd Knox and Dave Leonatti who created the Trivia and gave all of us a night to remember, and to Mary Ray, Karen Dillon, and the Romack Family who donated and prepared the dinner.

-Annie Peterson

## NEW WEBSITE TO LAUNCH MARCH

Check it out at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)!

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS

Life-Touch has been contracted again and photos are scheduled for May 13-17 and May 20-24, 2014. MARK YOUR CALENDAR, gather your family members and don't miss this opportunity for a family portrait!



### WELCOME LIZ MAXEY

Liz Maxey begins as Part-Time Administrative Assistant March 1, 2014. She will work Tuesday-Friday and has been working with us full-time since December 1, 2013 through the Alice Campbell Staffing Agency. Liz is a 2013 graduate of the University of Illinois with a B.A. in Sociology. Volunteers are being recruited to answer the phones on Mondays and Tuesday morning.

## JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT BY LISA RUNKLE

Additional pledges received in January make the total \$8,725 above the goal for 2014 pledge income. For the Operating Fund, the month of January has traditionally shown higher income than expenses and January 2014 was no exception with a \$25,000 surplus for the month. Our expenses were \$1,200 over budget because of repairs to the heating system and other building maintenance expenses.

January 2014	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 104,260	\$ 77,871	\$ 26,389
Expenses	\$ -79,133	\$ - 77,871	\$ - 1,262
Net	\$ 25,127	\$ 0	

## Westminster Staff

### The Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer

*Pastor/Head of Staff*

[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

### The Reverend Julie Wells Blythe

*Interim Associate Pastor*

[jblythe@wpcspi.org](mailto:jblythe@wpcspi.org)

### The Reverend Gerald Boutelle

*Parish Associate*

[pastorboutelle@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorboutelle@yahoo.com)

### Dale T. Rogers

*Director of Music and the Arts*

[drogers@wpcspi.org](mailto:drogers@wpcspi.org)

### Deb Watts

*Saturday Worship Pianist and*

*Music Coordinator*

[Deb.watts@live.com](mailto:Deb.watts@live.com)

### Annie Peterson

*Director of Youth Ministries*

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### Lucas Carpenter

*Program Assistant for Youth*

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### Whitney Beck

*Program Assistant for Children*

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### Abigail Cline, Kelly Bassett

*Nursery Staff*

### Noel Scott, Kari Soria

*Cooperative Preschool Teachers*

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### Judy Ridinger

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### Lisa Runkle

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### Connie Brown

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### Liz Maxey

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### Gary Warnick

*Head Custodian*

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### Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert

*Custodians*

### Russ Nagel

*Rental Properties Coordinator*