



# THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

**MARCH 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.*

**February 28 & March 1**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Mark 8:31-38*

*The Reverend Hannah Dreitcer*

*Naming and Knowing*

**March 7 & 8**

*Celebration of the Gifts of Women*

*Sacrament of Communion*

*Exodus 20:1-17, John 2:13-22*

*Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer*

*Laws of the Heart*

**March 14 & 15**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent/New Members*

*Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21*

*Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer*

*The Paradox of the Cross*

**March 21 & 22**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

*Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 119:9-16,*

*Luke 10:25-37*

*Youth Sunday*

**March 28 & 29**

*Palm Sunday*

*Mark 11:1-11*

*The Reverend Trajan McGill*

*The Coming Kingdom*

**LENTEN SERIES PRESENTS: "THE GOSPEL OF MARK"**

**MONDAYS, MARCH 2, 9 AND 16**

**6:00 P.M. SIMPLE DINNER AND 6:30 P.M. PRESENTATION**

Join us as the Reverend Michael Karunas, Pastor of Central Christian Church in Decatur, offers oratory presentations of "The Gospel of Mark" and leads us in reflections on the themes. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall with a simple soup and salad dinner. Please sign up for the Lenten Series so we know how many to serve. You may sign up at wpcspi.org or email Liz Maxey ([lmmaxey@wpcspi.org](mailto:lmmaxey@wpcspi.org)). A free-will offering will be received at the Lenten dinners for the PC(USA) "One Great Hour of Sharing" collection.

**EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED:**

**MUSIC FOR TWO SOPRANOS AND ORGAN**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 7:00 P.M. IN SANCTUARY**

This musical program will be presented by Diane Dietz and Jody Kienzler, sopranos and Dale Rogers, organist on Friday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Music by the usual guys: Mozart and Mendelssohn, but with delightful "unexpected" selections from the musicals "Mame" and "Wicked."

**CONTINUING A GREAT TRADITION AT WESTMINSTER:  
YOUTH LEAD WORSHIP ON MARCH 21 AND 22**

This year our youth will lead all three worship services the weekend of March 21 and 22. Along with senior sermons presented by Reiley Duffy and Brooke Dunn, the junior and senior high will serve as liturgists and ushers. Special music to nourish our spirits will be offered by the Westminster Children's Choir and our talented youth, including, but not limited to: Stella Cole, Holling Kniffin, Matthew Knox and Emma Shafer.

*Following Trajan's March 10 appearance before the Presbytery  
of Great Rivers for final ordination examination and approval,  
if the way be clear:*

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS**

**CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO**

**THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE OF**

**TRAJAN ILIFF MCGILL**

**AS ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR PARISH LIFE**

**OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 4:00 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON**

**A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW IN PARISH HALL**

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

*Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit. 2 Kings 2:9b*

On Transfiguration Sunday I spoke about Louis Zamperini, the former Olympic track star whose inspiring story of human strength and resilience is told by Laura Hillenbrand in the book "Unbroken." Louie came home from World War II a hero, renowned for the strength of his human spirit, however he was not "unbroken." Louie found renewed strength and wholeness in his relationship with Christ and was empowered by God's spirit to forgive his oppressors and live a meaningful life. He has carried the torch at five Olympic Games during his 97 years. One of the ways he lived out his faith was through *Victory Boys Camp*, which he founded in 1954, to inspire wayward youth to get back on track by cultivating self-respect through accomplishment in athletics, survival skills, and wilderness experience.

Following Louie's death, my good friend Dawn Finch posted on her Facebook page that unbeknownst to her, the older gentleman who held her face in his hands and thanked her for her good work following a talk she presented at First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood was none other than Louie Zamperini. Dawn is the director of *Youth First*, an organization which seeks to impact the lives of at-risk urban teenagers in the Los Angeles area with the love of Jesus Christ.

Last month we introduced the **Building a Legacy of Faith Campaign** in an effort to increase mission and community outreach by growing Westminster's Endowment Fund from \$1.9 to \$5 million through 2020. Many of us have given generously to enrich our community! **Building a Legacy of Faith** provides a unique opportunity to be torchbearers in the unbroken legacy of faith at Westminster and a meaningful way to witness to our love for Christ and Christ's church. Since we introduced the campaign, we have received pledges and one time gifts totaling **\$721,120.80**. This is a wonderful beginning and a tribute to the strength of God's spirit in our midst.

My sermon "Unbroken" and information on the anniversary endowment campaign can be found at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR has an interesting and varied folder of music for the current semester ranging from Bernstein to Bach and the young Irish composer Philip Stopford to Dolly Parton.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS are working on anthems for the spring semester and on the musical tale of Jonah and the Whale to be presented on April 19. Rehearsals are at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets on Tuesdays, at 5:00 p.m. This choir, for K-Grade 2, will sing at the 10 a.m. service on Youth Sunday, March 22.

CHURCH MICE, for Infant-Pre-K continues its Saturday morning sessions at 11:00 a.m. Follow the cheese!

## EASTER MUSIC/DECORATIONS FUND

Each year members and friends provide palms, lilies, and Sanctuary decorations, as well as special music during Holy Week. The list of donors and those whom they are remembering 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 wording in the bulletin is Palm Sunday, March 29.

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

### YOUTH AT WESTMINSTER

THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING raised \$1200 for the Central Illinois Food Bank! Many thanks to all who donated.

TRIVIA NIGHT was a great success! We raised **\$4000** for the 2015 Karen Dillon Mission Trip! Many thanks to all who donated and played, to Todd Knox who created the questions, Dave Leonatti, who joined Todd as MC, and Mary Ray and Pat Hymans for the lovely dinner.

**2015 KAREN DILLON MISSION TRIP** - All Team Meeting will be Sunday, March 15 at 11:15 a.m. This meeting is mandatory! We will be finalizing our participant list and going over the schedule and important paperwork. The third and final payment of \$100 is due at the meeting. If you cannot attend, contact Rev. Dreitcer ASAP.

### ROAD TO DAMASCUS SENIOR 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.

**March 1** –The Gospel of Luke/Book of Acts

**March 8** –The Gospel of John

**March 15** –Preparing for Youth Sunday

**March 22**– **Youth Sunday:** No Senior High

### ROAD TO EMMAUS JUNIOR HIGH SCHEDULE:

On Friday, February 13, seven of our nine confirmands and many of their mentors worshiped with the congregation of Springfield's Reform Synagogue: Temple B'Rith Shalom. After worship, we ate dinner together, and concluded with time for questions with Rabbi Datz. It was a wonderful evening of worship, education, and interfaith relationships!

**March 1** – *Confirmation Prep:* Predicting the End  
*Confirmation Class:* The New Testament

**March 8** – *Confirmation Prep:* Entry into Jerusalem  
*Confirmation Class:* The Lord's Prayer

**March 15** – *Confirmation Prep:* Betrayal/Forgiveness  
*Confirmation Class:* The Apostle's Creed

**March 22** – *Confirmation Prep:* Crucifixion  
*Confirmation Class:* Communion (New Time: 3-4pm)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES by Rev. Sarah Illif McGill

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BOXES** – 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.

**LENTEN COAT DRIVE** – During Lent, families are invited to donate coats for both children and adults to benefit those in need. Please bring coats to the designated boxes in the West Narthex.

**PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL** will be on March 29. Our children will lead the procession and present their **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** fish boxes in the Chancel. This year the pews of our center aisle will be lined with the coats we are donating to the Springfield community.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** will be April 5. This year's Easter egg hunt will fall on Easter Sunday. Details to follow!

**SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** will be June 15 - 19, 2015. Our theme is "From the Jordan to Jerusalem: Following Jesus' Ministry." Registration opens April 1.

## ADULT EDUCATION

THE LIFE AND THEOLOGY OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER is the focus of the Adult Education Forum during the month of March. The pastors will lead this study on the life and theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, including a video series, Bonhoeffer as a youth minister and the Declaration of Barmen. Join Trajan McGill on March 1, Dr. Kieffer on March 8 and 15 and Rev. Dreitcer on March 22 and 29.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY continues to meet each Thursday in the Second Floor Classroom and is led by Dr. Kieffer.

PAGE-TURNERS will meet in the Ziegler Library on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., for discussion of *Identical* by Scott Turow. New members are welcome to join the group. For more information contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins at 622-8657.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW LUNCHEON will be on Friday, March 6, at 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair is Nancy Canady. CWU World Day of Prayer will meet at 1:30 p.m. at St. John A.M.E. at 1519 E. Capitol Ave. RSVP by calling the church at 522-4415.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jean Sherrick to discuss chapter 8 "Insight" of Joan Chittister's book: *The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life*.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, March 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for fellowship and our program begins at 5:30 p.m. Pat McKenzie will lead our Bible Study *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*; Chapter 8-Lessons from Lazarus.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, March 17, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Mina Bensen. Nancy Canady will give devotions and Helen Evenson will lead our program Lesson 6, *Exodus*.

## MARRIAGE

Lynn Miller and Lenora Wainhouse of Redmond, Washington, were united in marriage at Overlake Park Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, Washington.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt presented their son, August Joseph Ekstedt, for baptism on February 22.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

Linda & Grady Chronister celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 30.

Norma & Frank Johnson celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on February 3.

## IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn B. Mehan died on December 24, 2014, in Littleton, Colorado. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her family and friends.

Kathryn Culver died on February 9, 2015. Her funeral service was held at Westminster on February 13. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her family and friends.

Dr. Gershom Greening died on February 13, 2015 in Venice, Florida. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Barbara. There will be a memorial service at Westminster in April.

## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Trajan McGill

### FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP YOUNGER ADULT FELLOWSHIP (age 21 – 40) meets the First Monday of March (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) at the downtown Brickhouse from 5:30-7:00 p.m.! Join us as we continue Martin Luther's tradition of talking theology, life, and whatever else is on our minds at a local restaurant, led by the Rev. Hannah Dreitcer. In this joint endeavor with First Presbyterian Church, the first round of appetizers is on us!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, March 12, 7:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Men will enjoy breakfast coordinated by Dave Leonatti, a devotional by Randy Germeraad, and a short program on "Adventure Cycling" by Randy Germeraad. Questions, Call Mark Ranck at 483-2821.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) Join us Friday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for a pot luck dinner and program by Mark MacDonald entitled "An Evening with Mark McDonald and Illinois Stories."

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: Westminster will host a community grief support group on Fridays, March 6 through May 8, 2015. This ten-week series, facilitated by Margie Wheelhouse, a Westminster member and Licensed Professional Counselor, is offered as a way to help those who would like some guidance and fellowship during the difficult times that follow the death of a loved one.

FIFTH BIENNIAL HEALTH FAIR will be held on Sunday, April 12, in Parish Hall following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. Join us for this opportunity to honor the ministry of Parish Nurse Judy Ridinger and commission Ellen Carpenter who will join Judy in the ministry of care and educating members about good health practices.

NEW MEMBERS will be received by the Session and recognized during worship on Sunday, March 15.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29  
8:30 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

*During the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, the Sunday School children and youth (Pre-K – Grade 12) will lead us in the processional with palms and presentation of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, APRIL 2  
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3  
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5  
8:30 and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

*The Chancel will be filled with the massive cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.*

*Easter Egg Hunt for our younger children follows worship in Parish Hall.*



## MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER

### CONTACT MINISTRIES

Pictured (left to right) are: Sue Baker, Julie Sundquist, Lynne O'Shea, Camille Degner, and Lynn McMenamin, as they deliver 107 items to Contact Ministries on January 26. Thank you Elizabeth Circle for your thoughtful generosity.



**HELPING HANDS** meal the Second Friday in February was prepared by Elaine Hoff, Judy Knox and Susan Shea.

**K2 P4 MISSION** knits weekly at 12:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom January through November. 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 in our mission work. Please contact Sue Cull (529-2354) or Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins (622-8657) for more information.

### GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MARCH MENU;

Beef Ravioli, Peas, Peaches, Pudding Mix - *Thank you to those who bring their donations and place them in the baskets in the West Narthex.*

### JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

The month of January has traditionally shown higher income than expenses and January 2015 was no exception with nearly a \$49,000 surplus for the month. Our income was \$35,600 more than budgeted and expenses were \$13,300 less than budgeted.

2015 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$116,761	\$ 81,115	\$ 35,646
Expenses	\$ -67,797	\$-81,115	\$ 13,318
Net Total	\$ 48,964	\$ 0	

**THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

### PER CAPITA

This year Westminster will pay \$28 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 \$28 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

### WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS

On Transfiguration Sunday, February 22, Mia Marcy, Jessica Borland and Olivia Simonson presented special music at the 10:00 a.m. worship. Following their singing, Dale Rogers gave the Children's Sermon on the Transfiguration window above our Chancel.



## Westminster Staff

**The Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer**  
*Pastor/Head of Staff*  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**Trajan Iliff McGill**  
*Associate Pastor for Parish Life*  
[tmcgill@wpcspi.org](mailto:tmcgill@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Hannah Dreitcer**  
*Associate Pastor for Family Ministry*  
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**The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill**  
*Parish Associate for Children's Ministries*  
[smcgill@wpcspi.org](mailto:smcgill@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
*Parish Associate*  
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**Dale T. Rogers**  
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**Deb Watts**  
*Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator*  
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**Judy Ridinger**  
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**Abigail Cline**  
*Nursery Worker*

**Noel Scott, Kari Soria**  
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**Liz Maxey**  
*Administrative Assistant to the Pastors*  
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**Gary Warnick**  
*Head Custodian and Rental Properties Coordinator*  
[gwarnick@wpcspi.org](mailto:gwarnick@wpcspi.org)

**Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert**  
*Custodians*

THE NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE IS  
SUNDAY, MARCH 22