



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

March 2024

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. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5 and
Grade 6 -7 Confirmation
11:15 a.m. Grade 8 Confirmation
and Adult Ed Forum
5:00 p.m. Sr. High Youth Group

March 3

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

John 2:13-22; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
From Revelation to Realization

March 10

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 3:10-16
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Light and Cross

March 17

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Light and Heart

March 24

PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah, 50:4-9a; Mark 11:1-11
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
The Way of Light

March 31

EASTER SUNDAY

John 20:1-18
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Daybreak



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children’s Choir will sing, and the Westminster Choir will sing “Sing For Joy” of Handel and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.”

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ART DISPLAY

March 24 - 31 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ’s entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster’s Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE, MARCH 28

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing “I Wonder Why,” “See Now the Lamb of God,” and “An Offering.” This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the “Adagio for Strings” of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus,” “This is the Day the Lord Hath Made,” “Easter Rejoicing” and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.



DEACONS BRING LILIES to members who are shut-in and who have lost loved ones since Christmas as we find comfort and strength in our Risen Lord.

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

As we journey toward Holy Week this year with grateful hearts for the faithfulness of our covenant-making God, let us find inspiration in the words of the Reverend Phillips Brooks, nineteenth century American Episcopal Bishop:

Do not pray for easy lives,
pray to be stronger people.
Do not pray for tasks to equal your powers,
pray for powers to equal your tasks.
Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,
you shall be a miracle.
Every day you shall wonder at yourself,
at the richness of life that has come to you
by the grace of God.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY

RENOVATION OF 518 S. GLENWOOD

WEEKS OF MARCH 4, 11, 18



The Strategic Planning and Property Committees approved a timeline for renovating 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Session designated \$30,000 from the Steadfast Neighbor budget to invest in the home. Income from the sale of the house will repay the Support and Endowment Loan. A team has gathered the weeks of February 19 and 26 and will continue the first three weeks of March. Thanks to Rich Canady, Jim Dolan, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Jim McDonough, Lynn McMenamain, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Mike Sundquist, Pete VanGieson. Those who would like to join the team in March may register at SignUpGenius.



MATCHING GRANT AND SERVICE WEEK COMMUNICATION

WEEK OF MARCH 11

The Strategic Planning Committee and Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force continue to address the mandate to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood within the decade. These investments include matching grants, service week projects, the Little Pantry at Graham Elementary School, 2023 Habitat Build, and 518 S. Glenwood Renovation.

This year the committee leadership decided to expand our boundaries to include additional homes on South State Street, between W. Lawrence Ave. and W. Governor St. Letters with application forms for Matching Grants and Service Week Projects will be mailed to neighbors the week of March 11. Applications are due April 15. Thank you to task force members who are diligently working ahead of the service week: Keith Hamilton, Tim Kluge, Bob Leffler, Tom Owen, Julie Robbs, Dr. Diane Rutledge, Pete VanGieson, and chair Dr. Todd Knox.

SERVICE WEEK: JUNE 17 – 21, 2024

The dates for this year's neighborhood outreach are **June 17 – June 21**. Once again, we will assist with exterior repair and improvement projects. Please consider joining us for one or more days of the third week of June as we spread goodwill in the neighborhood! If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at hardknox1@mac.com.



MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room with regular work on anthems and special music for Sundays through Pentecost and beyond. Special emphasis is on music for Holy Week and Easter Day.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearses at 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday. They are working on music for their part in the Palm Sunday procession and service.

CHURCH MICE, a musical experience for infants through age four meets each Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. We will meet each Saturday into April except for the Saturday prior to Easter, March 30.

ST. ANDREW'S SISTERS meets each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julie Blythe.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

ROOTED IN FAITH

SUNDAYS, MARCH 3, 10, 17

While most of us love trees, they are still easy to take for granted. This three-part course will explore the spiritual symbolism of trees in the Bible and Christian tradition, the roles of the native trees with which God blessed Illinois, and the ways in which trees offer solutions to social justice issues relating to public health and climate change.

Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, the daughter of a botanist mother and a forester father, Katie teaches writing in the Capital Scholars Honors Program at the University of Illinois Springfield. She and her family are currently finalizing plans to build a writer's cabin among the pines of Northern Michigan.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, APRIL 7 AND 14

This adult education forum meets Sundays, March 24, April 7 and 14 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Join Lyle VanDeventer in an in-depth look at the book of Psalms—the prayer-book of the synagogue and the church. We are invited to approach God with the same honesty and intensity as the ancient Psalmists. The video presenter is Dr. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Wesley Theological Seminary.

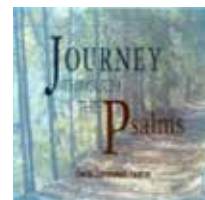
Lyle is an elder currently serving on the Adult Education and Strategic Planning Committees, has taught adult ed classes at WPC for about 20 years. and sings in the Westminster Choir. He has been an active instrumental/vocal musician and conductor in the Springfield area since 1982. Lyle met his wife Eleanor in choir and their blended family includes five children, four of whom are living. They have five grandchildren living in great vacation spots all over the US. Lyle has worked for IL Department of Human Services managing statewide programs serving persons with severe disabilities since 1982. Additionally, Lyle is an adjunct professor at Lincoln Land Community College where he teaches medical terminology.

DR. KIEFFER'S DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study meets Thursdays, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. We continue the Short-term Disciple Studies: **Invitation to John during the month of March** and will not meet on March 28. Please join us in the sanctuary for our Maundy Thursday service.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, March 26 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Absolution: A Novel by Alice McDermott. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11. We raised \$1,370 to help end food insecurity in Sangamon County!



JR. HIGH CONFIRMATION MARCH SCHEDULE

GRADES 6-7 CONFIRMATION PREP meets during worship (10:15 – 11:00 a.m.) on Sundays, March 3 (Daniel) and March 17 (Rebuilding). Thank you to ministry partners Cara Barnett, Meridith Bryans, and Joe Fierstos who teach with Mary Ray.

GRADE 8 CONFIRMATION meets following worship (11:15 a.m. – 12 noon) on Sundays, March 3 (The Counter-Reformation and Presbyterians in America) and March 17 (Presbyterian Polity and Creeds). **Mentors are invited to attend class** with their confirmand: Will Affrunti/Dave Leonatti, Juliet Boutelle/Rev. Jerry Boutelle, Juliana Eastvold/Val Leonatti, and Ned Moore/Joe Fierstos.

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP MARCH SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 - Senior High will meet from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. for games, dinner, and Bible Study led by Mary Ray.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 - GOD'S GIFT OF SEXUALITY CURRICULUM will be presented from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. in an extended gathering. Blythe and Peter Kieffer (who taught the sexuality curriculum together at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church together) will lead the class.

Youth group meals will be prepared by Mary Ray (March 3) and Christie and Robyn Hovey (March 10). Thank you to ministry partners Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy who serve with Mary Ray.

2024 YOUTH MISSION TEAM MEETING

Sunday, March 17, 11:15 a.m.

WPC Mission Team Meeting is Sunday, March 17 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Additional details about this summer's mission (June 15-22) to St. Charles Presbyterian Church Camp Rhino in New Orleans, LA will be shared as well as information on upcoming fundraisers. It will also be an opportunity to collect paperwork and payments.



FUTURE MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS AND DATES

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Trivia Night Fundraiser in Parish Hall @ 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser @ 9:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

FAMILY MATTERS MOVIE NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Our March Family Matters event for families with young children (ages birth through Grade 5) will be Saturday, March 16, 5:30-6:30 PM in the Third Floor Chapel. Come join us for a movie night – we will have a kid friendly movie playing in the Third Floor Chapel, and parents can meet for a brief lesson and socialize in the Third Floor Tower Room. Please bring a snack to share!

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 Families are invited to donate coats for both children and adults to benefit those in need. Please bring coats to the designated basket in the West Narthex.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, AT 9:45 A.M., all children and youth are invited to meet in Parish Hall, where we will prepare to lead the processional with palms and present the children's One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes.



EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 AFTER THE 10:00 A.M. SERVICE,



families with children (birth – 5th grade) are invited to Parish Hall for an Easter egg hunt.

SAVE THE DATE!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 3-7, 2024

CAMP FIRELIGHT

Monday – Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God's love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world and share the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL

February is such a sweet month in the preschool! We had a new family project where everyone watched how excited they are to bring valentines for all their friends. A highlight of the month was having Aaron Berkowitz come and talk to us about Abraham Lincoln. Coleman and Mary Moore made the most amazing mail truck for the dramatic play center, and you can imagine how many important deliveries have been made using that truck! It's been a preschool favorite!

General registration for the 2024-25 school year is now open through the end of March. Please spread the word and let any interested families know we will be having an Open House in the classroom on Thursday, March 21st, from 6:00-7:30. Families can meet board members and tour the classroom with their child. - **Emily Rowley, Director**

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER AND WORSHIP FEBRUARY 14

Westminster began the Season of Lent with a delicious steak and chicken fajita dinner prepared by Pat Hymans (including Valentine cupcakes). Over eighty members gathered around tables with centerpieces (including heart shaped bird feeders) created by the Bridges children.

Following dinner, over 120 members and friends gathered in the sanctuary for the Ash Wednesday Worship Service with liturgy and special music presented by our Bridges children and Children's Choir.



CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM – FEBRUARY 21



FAMILY MATTERS GYMNASTICS OUTING – FEBRUARY 24





REFUGEE MINISTRY EXCITING NEWS

REFUGEE FAMILY TO ARRIVE IN APRIL -The Refugee Subcommittee of Mission and Community Service continues to work with Exodus World Services. The survey for our preferences in family size, language, and country was completed on Friday, February 16. We were matched with a Spanish speaking family with 2 kids on February 27, which we enthusiastically accepted. We are delighted that the family will be residing at 522 S. Glenwood, which is the church's rental property.



LENTEN REFUGEE HOUSEWARMING

In anticipation of our refugee family arriving in April, we invite members to join the Mission and Community Service Committee in preparing their new home at 522 S. Glenwood. Household items are listed on SignUpGenius as well as at a table in the West Narthex following worship on March 3, 10 and 17. Members are also welcome to make a financial contribution to help Westminster prepare a warm, hearty home for the refugee family to start anew by writing a check to Westminster with Refugee on the memo line or via online under special mission donations with a memo for refugee ministry.

FURNISHING 522 S. GLENWOOD

Additionally, those with gently used furniture may send photos to Krista Steller and Jeanne VanGieson at kbsteller@gmail.com or jeannesvg@yahoo.com, so we can make selections that will suit the needs of our family and are appropriate for their home. We are also meeting with Wooden It Be Lovely for items to furnish the home.

WORKDAY SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Everyone is invited to join the members of the Housing and Basic Necessities Sub-team in a workday on Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 522 S. Glenwood for spring cleaning and adding welcoming touches. Tasks include cleaning and moving household items.

THANK YOU to the co-chairs of Refugee Ministry Committee, Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel, and to the Housing and Basic Necessities Sub Committee which is chaired by Krista Steller and Jeanne VanGieson and includes Melanie Green, Anne Haaker, Vonnie Hinesley, Elaine Hoff, Mary Jo Jenkins, Judy Knox, Katy Maeda, Coleman Moore,

HUNGER ACTION TEAM

Westminster prepares two meals each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Street) which is the old Juvenile Justice Facility off Dirksen Parkway. On 2nd Fridays, Westminster provides 56 bagged meals and on 4th Wednesdays we provide the same number of hot meals to assist those who are seeking shelter. Thank you to Kathy Bacon, Sarah Reich, Pat Hymans, Sue Sawers, Krista Steller, Jeanne VanGieson for preparing the meals in February.

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH MARCH MENU

Canned Ravioli, Canned Veggies, 100% Juice Canned or Boxed, feminine hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, toothpaste. (No baby food, please.) Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex and to the group of ministry partners who delivers them to the Central Illinois Foodbank.

FAIR TRADE SUNDAY, MARCH 17



On Sunday, March 17, following worship, Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, tea, olive oil, nuts and other items will be sold in the West Narthex to support just, environmentally sound products and small producers. Becky Martin and Jeanne VanGieson oversee this ministry.

MARCH EARTH CARE TIP

This month Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold will explore the tree imagery of scripture during our Adult Education Forum, just in time for us to consider a spring planting. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, stabilize soil, and shade our homes. Pine trees provide year-round privacy and home-grown mulch. Holly trees brighten the winter season. Deciduous trees provide summer shade and fall color while permitting the warmth of summer sun. Native trees survive the best and restore the natural beauty of our prairie heartland.



- Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We are receiving donations toward this multi-denominational annual collection throughout Lent. This ecumenical, special offering goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and self-development of people throughout the world.



If you would like to receive a fish box, please contact Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The monthly brown bag lunch will be held on March 12 with drinks provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.



NEW BEGINNINGS BRUNCH on Saturday, February 3 welcomed over 40 women for a delicious assortment of pastries and an inspiring presentation on C.S. Lewis by Carole Kennerly and Brownie Anderson.



PW LUNCHEON is Friday, March 1 at 12 noon in Parish Hall. Peggy Dyson, Executive Director of The Educational Center for the Visually Impaired, who will speak on who they serve, how they serve, and what the community can do to help. Pat Hymans is the Chair of the Day and Nancy Canady is the Kitchen Chair.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Rigney (3801 Indian Lands Ln, 62711). Christy Pound will lead the devotional by Dietrich Bonhoeffer entitled, "Christ in Community" (pp. 271-277) from the book, Devotional Classics.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets on Monday, March 11, 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Sue Sawers will lead Lesson 7 & 8 "An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus and Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on Tuesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Betsy Ruklick will host and will lead Lesson 6 "A Person with a Physical Disability" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Dr. Richard Leary will speak on "Mary Magdalene: A Tower of Faith." This is a classic story of a woman wronged. David Jenkins will provide breakfast and Rev. Choi will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on March 10, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the three teams of elders and deacons who made visits to eight members on Sunday, February 11. If you are an Elder or Deacon (currently or formerly serving) and you would enjoy serving other members in this ministry, please contact Rev. Christian Choi.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, March 3 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

SECOND HELPINGS MEAL MINISTRY

Westminster's meal ministry, initiated in winter of 2018, hopes to reach people just home from the hospital or in other situations where a meal would be appreciated. If you know of someone who could use a casserole, or if you'd enjoy occasionally making and bringing a dinner to someone, please contact Hospitality Coordinator Pat Hymans or Parish Nurse Ellen Carpenter.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MELESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Rich Canady celebrate 65 years on March 13

Judy & Dale Huston celebrate 61 years on March 15.

Pat Picchi celebrates 98 years on March 20.

Elsie Unglaub celebrates 98 years on March 23.

NEW ARRIVAL

Jason Carter Afeseh was born to Mervice Alah Abung and Donatus Afeseh on February 10 in Springfield. Jason's proud sisters are Myra and Dayana, and proud aunt and uncle are Kelly and Edison Zohfonyi.

IN MEMORIAM

Donna Mae Foster died on November 12, 2023 and Francis Ben Foster died on January 13, 2024 in Lincoln, IL. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to their sons Kim Foster, Craig Foster, and their families.

Linda Nelson Dillard died on February 8 in Long Island, New York. A service celebrating her life will be held at a later time. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Christine (husband Bill) Kloubec, Dr. James (wife Christina) Dillard, John (wife Gabriella) Dillard, and grandchildren Vincent Kloubec, Grace, Ella, and James Dillard, Henry and Phillip Dillard.

Betty J. Dawkins died February 25 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Joe Dawkins, and Susan (husband Grant) Russel and grandchildren Peter and Franklin Russel. A service honoring her life will be held at Westminster on Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. with a visitation in the West Narthex at 1:00 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Will Hovey on receiving *The Land of Lincoln Eagle Scout Scholarship* at the Class of 2023 Eagle Scout Recognition dinner.

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

With strong giving early in the year, Westminster's Operating Fund ended the month of January with income above and expenses below our monthly budgeted amounts. Total income exceeded expenses by \$43,095.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 119,838	\$ 93,571	\$ 26,267
Expenses	\$- 76,743	\$- 93,571	\$ 16,828
Net Total	\$ 43,095	\$ 0	

PER CAPITA: This year Westminster will pay \$37.25 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 \$37.25 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

THE EASTER MUSIC FUND needs your generous consideration as it provides for the Millikin Brass Quartet on Easter Day as well as other musical offerings through the season.

THE EASTER DECORATIONS FUND provides for the palms and lilies for Holy Week and Easter. A suggested donation is \$25. For both of these giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks to WPC with the appropriate designations. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Palm Sunday, March 24.

PORTRAITS OF PEACE CONCERT SUNDAY, MARCH 17 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

Portraits of Peace is a program featuring both music and drama celebrating the lives of civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and the Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian. Dr. Sharon J. Willis of Atlanta, Georgia, a composer, playwright, and actress will be joined with organist, Linda Andrews, tenor, Alfonzo Cooper, Jr., and pianist, Gayle Cooper for *Portraits of Peace*.

Portraits of Rosa Parks is a one-woman, one-act play written and acted by Sharon J. Willis, and a song cycle dedicated to the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian, also written by Sharon Willis will be included in this varied program.

Many know the name Rosa Parks, but C.T. Vivian is less known. C.T. Vivian grew up in Macomb and went to Western Illinois University. On February 5, 1965, Dr. Vivian led a group of black citizens to the courthouse in Selma, Alabama to register them to vote. His actions and brutal treatment by Sheriff Clark was filmed and was a part of the news coverage from Selma that day. Over the years, Vivian organized freedom rides and sit-ins across the country during this turbulent period. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. referred to Vivian as the "greatest preacher to ever live."



Linda Andrews, who is on the music faculty at Western Illinois University, was organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Macomb for 27 years, and has been and will be Westminster's substitute organist, contacted Sharon Willis about her compositions. This conversation resulted in the commission of a song cycle for Organ and Tenor. *Portraits of Peace* premiered in Macomb last fall. Linda Andrews will be joined by fellow WIU faculty member Dr. Alfonzo Cooper, Jr., tenor and Gayle Cooper, pianist.

Sharon J. Willis, composer and historical re-enactor performs *Portraits of Rosa Parks*, a narrative of stories beginning with her arrest in 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama. Willis, through her characterization of Rosa Parks unfolds stories that shaped the activism of this courageous woman, including her work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Willis has performed *Portraits of Rosa Parks* throughout the greater Atlanta area and is pleased to present it in Springfield. Dr. Willis is a prolific composer, having penned 16 operatic works, authored nine plays, written nine books, and several Afrocentric narratives. Dr. Willis served as Music Department Chair for Clark Atlanta and Morris Brown College before retiring.

While Dr. Willis is in Springfield, she will give a presentation on Saturday, March 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, co-sponsors of this collaboration.

Following the 4:00 p.m. event on Sunday, March 17, there will be a reception in Westminster's West Narthex where you may greet our guest artists.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, MARCH 3 AND 10 AT 9:00 A.M.



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, March 3 and 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be recognized at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 17, following a Special Session meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth
zkarmar.mr@gmail.com

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry
berkowitz@wpcspi.org

Katie L. Moore
Director for Children's Music
kkilduski@gmail.com

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jalt@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians

Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, April 3