

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

**May 2016**

### WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

**Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall**  
*Westminster Jazz Trio on May 15 & 29*  
**Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.**  
**Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall**  
**& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary**  
**Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pre K-Grade 5**  
**Adult Education 11:15 a.m.**

**April 30 & May 1**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
*9:30 a.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness in the Chancel of the Sanctuary*  
*Genesis 50:15-21*

Reverend Trajan McGill preaching  
The Children's Musical

**May 7 & 8**

**Third Grade Bible Presentation**  
**Sacrament of Communion**  
*Acts 16:19-40*

Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
The Gift of Privilege

**May 14 & 15**

**Day of Pentecost**  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
*Acts 2:1-21*

Reverend Hannah Dreitcer  
In Our Own Languages

**May 22**

**Trinity and Founders' Sunday**  
**One Service of Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**

*Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Romans 5:1-5*  
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
Unbroken Circle

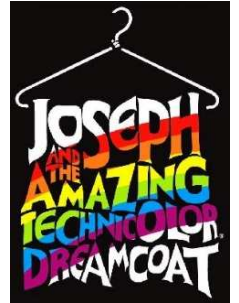
**May 28 & 29**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
*1 Kings 18:20-39, Luke 7:1-10*  
Reverend Trajan McGill  
Set Under Authority

### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

**SUNDAY, MAY 1, DURING 8:30 AND 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

On Sunday, May 1, the Westminster Choristers will present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at both services. Choristers are Emily Brower, Finley DuBois, Will Hovey, Evan Klein, Mia Marcy, Julia Musgrave, Aiden Musick, and Olivia Simonsion. Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, this uplifting, clever, and enduring musical tells the story of Joseph and his brothers, a story of betrayal and forgiveness. For decades, each class of the Westminster Choristers have presented Joseph. In this production, Rev. Dreitcer is assisting in the choreography and movement.



### THIRD GRADERS RECEIVE BIBLES

**SUNDAY, MAY 8, DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

Children in the third grade will receive their personalized Bibles on Mother's Day, May 8, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Sue Cull, Valerie Leonatti, and Lynn McMenamin have been preparing the children for this milestone event on their faith journey. Each child will receive a NRSV Spark Bible with their name engraved on the cover. This gift from Westminster is made possible through the Westminster Endowment Fund. It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures will become a guiding light for our children:

Matthew A. Hibbert  
Julia Lynn Musgrave  
Larson Andrew Nester  
Alina Grace Vogler

Evan Mitchell Rediger Klein  
Branden Michael McHenry  
Norah Grace Alice Oberholtzer  
Nola Kay Sommer

### CONFIRMANDS COMMISSIONED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

**SUNDAY, MAY 15, DURING 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP**

The Class of 2016 will be recognized and commissioned on Sunday, May 15, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time of celebration and a milestone on the faith journeys of our youth:

James Andrew Borland, Jr.  
Benjamin Higgins Brower  
Samuel Higgins Brower  
Rosa Irene Cole  
Ella Marie Kurmann  
Jack William Milliman  
Jocelyn Victoria Nester  
Amalia Mercedes Fratianni-Schneider  
Michael Mackenzie Shepherd  
Elijah Larry Vogler



Row One: Rev. Dreitcer, Eli, Amalia, Mack, Ella, Jack  
Row Two: Ben, Sam, Jocelyn, Rosa, Drew

Each youth will receive the Harper Collins NRSV Study Bible. This gift from Westminster is made possible through the Westminster Endowment Fund. A reception in their honor will be hosted by the Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons in Parish Hall following worship.

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

Dear Friends,

The weekend of April 15-17 Peter and I visited our son Paul, who is participating in a Hope College Political Science Honors Semester, in Washington, D.C. It was fortuitous to be in our nation's capital during the celebration of Emancipation Day on April 16 (which, by the way, is why taxes were extended to Monday, April 18, this year.) Government offices were closed on Friday and folks from around the country gathered on Saturday to commemorate this significant event in our country's history.

We worshipped at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday and brought greetings from Westminster. We were warmly welcomed and felt a close connection because of the shared history of both congregations with President Abraham Lincoln. We sat a few rows behind Lincoln's pew and learned that the President worshipped there regularly during his time in Washington, D.C. and had a close relationship with the Reverend Dr. Phineas D. Gurley, who presided at their son William Lincoln's funeral in the White House's East Room on February 20, 1862 and who was at the President's side when he died on April 14, 1865. "I like Gurley," said President Lincoln of his pastor, "He don't preach politics. I get enough of that through the week, and when I go to church, I like to hear the gospel." President Lincoln also attended a Thursday morning prayer group in Dr. Gurley's Study. This room has been recreated by the congregation and displays an early handwritten draft of a letter to Congress regarding the Emancipation.

On Founders' Sunday, May 22, Westminster marks the one-year anniversary of the Albert Hale Circle named in honor of the Reverend Hale, our pastor from 1839-1866. Reverend Hale is remembered as a friend to the poor and sorrowing, a preacher of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a friend and counselor to the Martyr President. He laid the cornerstone for the legacy of faith that is ours at Westminster. Thanks be to God for the joy and privilege of being a part of this rich history!

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** will be presenting movements of the Festival Benedicite of the contemporary Irish composer, Phillip Stopford in May. This is a delightful setting of the Benedicite, a canticle that amplifies the words of Psalm 148. The end of the choir season will again be crowned with a festive brunch on Sunday, June 5 at the home and garden of Dr. Glen and Jeanne Pittman.

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE SUMMER** is needed. I am now scheduling singers, ensembles, and instrumentalists for the coming Saturdays and Sundays in June, July and August. If you have music that you would like to share with the congregation and enrich our worship life together, please contact me at the church or track me down at coffee hour.

**WESTMINSTER GOES TO VIENNA AND PRAGUE** A group of 20 Westminster members and friends going to two great European capitals in June will meet at the home of Jay and Carole Kennerly for a third session in preparation for the trip. Our first session in the fall was about food and wine, the second session was in the winter and was a musicale by members of the group, and this final session will be about history, culture and currency.



**WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS**  
before singing  
for the annual Youth Sunday

## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

### ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH MAY SCHEDULE:

- May 1 – Confirmation Prep topic: "Is the Bible True?"  
Confirmation Class topic: "Is the Bible True?"
- May 8 – MOTHER'S DAY: No Youth Group
- May 15 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: No Youth Group
- May 22 – 4-6pm: Potluck Picnic in Washington Park

### ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH MAY SCHEDULE:

- May 1 – Theme "In the End"
- May 8 – MOTHER'S DAY: No Youth Group
- May 15 – CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: No Youth Group
- May 22 – 4-6pm: Potluck Picnic in Washington Park

**A YOUTH GROUP POTLUCK PICNIC** will finish off our program year

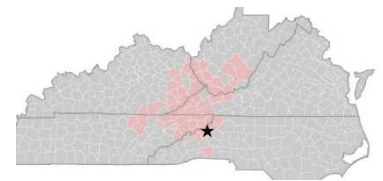


on Sunday, May 22 from 4-6 pm in Washington Park. All junior and senior high youth and their families are invited. Bring a dish to share, outdoor games,

and a friend! Meet us at the picnic tables by the playground.

## THE 2016 YOUTH MISSION

**LOCATION ANNOUNCED!** We will be serving homes in Avery County, North Carolina during our July 23-30 trip this summer, and will be staying at Cranberry Middle School in Elk Park.



Our overnight stay on July 23 will be at St. Joseph the Carpenter Episcopal Church in Knoxville, TN. St. Joseph's priest, the Rev. Paige Buchholz, is Rev. Dreitcer's aunt! We look forward to worshipping with our host congregation on Sunday, July 24.

At the April 17 Team Meeting, youth, adult leaders, and parents participated in "Mountain Month," a simulation game meant to help the



team experience and discuss feelings and responses to poverty. While much fun was had, the game also sparked thoughtful conversation.

**ADULTS OF WPC!** Have you ever wanted to repair homes, or join our youth on a profound spiritual journey, or dance in the chancel on Return Sunday? We have spaces open for adult participants on the 2016 Mission! Contact Rev. Dreitcer for more information.

**THE CAR WASH/BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER** is Sunday, June 19!

## BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY IS JUNE 5

On Baccalaureate Sunday, June 5, we recognize our graduating high school seniors during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship. All Westminster graduates (high school, college and graduate school) will be listed in the June Newsletter. Please contact Connie Brown ([cbrown@wpcspi.org](mailto:cbrown@wpcspi.org)) with information.

**YOUTH SUNDAY** on April 17 (and Youth Saturday on April 16!) was an incredible success. Our senior preachers, Jake Freer, Lizzy Olmsted, and Jack Sherrick, offered moving meditations, and Matthew Knox, Holling Kniffin, Stella Cole, Amalia Schneider, Emma Shafer, and Annie Sherrick provided gorgeous music for our worship services. Many thanks to all the youth who read and served as ushers, and thanks upon thanks to Dale Rogers for his work with our musicians!

**THE CONFIRMATION DINNER** celebrating our confirmands was a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and good food! Many thanks to the Membership Committee for a delicious meal and beautiful tables.



Above: Mentors Dave Leonatti and Joe Fierstos battle it out during the game "Evolution".



Left: Confirmands, mentors, and families play games before dinner.

Right: Members and friends of Membership Committee who made this possible: Pete VanGieson, Mary Ray, Dr. Peg DiFonso, Krista Steller, Pat and Al Hymans. Not pictured is Chair: Jeanne VanGieson.



Left: Mentor Marty Sumner with Confirmand Rosa Cole.

Other mentors are Meggan Bird, Dr. Marc DeJong, Joe Fierstos, Randy Germeraad, Tom Klein, Dr. Judy Knox, Dave Leonatti, Mary Ray, and Jeanne VanGieson.



## WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



The Annual Kids Stuff Sale on April 9 was a big success – We raised \$900! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, and a huge thank you to Elizabeth Watson for all her time and energy in making the plant sale possible.

Registration is open for the three-day, four-day, and five-day classes for 2016-2017! Email [westminstercoop@gmail.com](mailto:westminstercoop@gmail.com) for more information.

New families are invited to a Welcome Meeting on Wednesday, May 18, from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library.

## CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday school starts on May 29! All of our children will gather in the Second Floor Classroom to learn stories from the New Testament using the SparkHouse curriculum *Holy Moly*. Thank you to our summer teachers: Sandy Bellatti, Cathy Brower, Sue Cull, Tempa Dunn, Sara Eldridge, Paul Kieffer, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti, Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill, Leigh Milward, and Mary Caroline Mitchell.

### BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

Children (Grades 3-5) meet each Wednesday from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Our last session is May 18 and we are inviting all the current second graders to join us for a Shadow Night to get a sneak peek of the program they can join next year!



### PRESBYTERIAN PLAY DATE

Parents, grandparents and young children conclude our weekly gatherings on Thursday, May 5. During the summer we will meet about once a month for a fun event! Join us at Henson Robinson Zoo on Thursday, May 26, at 10:00 a.m. Contact Rev. Sarah at 630-222-0225 with any questions. All are welcome!



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: IGO GREEN SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 13-17

Our 2016 VBS theme is "iGo Green." Join us as we teach the biblical foundation for taking care of creation. We will learn that "going green" entails much more than just making good choices about the environment. Children will learn the biblical concepts that drive the whole idea of creation care for Christians.

God has given us a beautiful, creative, life-filled world. During VBS, children will be challenged...

- 1.) to look at their world in a different way.
- 2.) to think about the effect their actions make on the environment.
- 3.) to consider how their actions reflect their love for God and others.
- 4.) to take steps of action to make changes in their lives.

Registration forms were mailed home last month and can be returned to the Church Office. Registration is also available online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

Members and friends can be a part of VBS by donating the following items:

*small empty milk or juice cartons, magazines that have animals, assorted colors of clean and dry plastic bags from supermarkets, empty Pringles cans, plastic milk cartons, empty oatmeal containers.*



## NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED AND RECOGNIZED

SUNDAY, APRIL 24



**Meg and James Kontio**

Meg joined Westminster by Reaffirmation of Faith. She works at Springfield High School. Meg and Jim have twin children, Collin and Claire, who are in college and “fur” children, two dogs and a cat. Meg enjoys raising her children, traveling, paper arts, cooking, and entertaining. Jim

joined Westminster by Letter of Transfer from First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He is the embryology laboratory supervisor and senior embryologist at SIU School of Medicine. Jim is devoted to his faith, his family, and his work. He loves singing and all types of music. He also enjoys working on projects around the house, working on cars, cooking, and entertaining.

*Their sponsors are Jeanne and Pete VanGieson.*



**Suzann and Thomas Spada**

Suzie and Tom joined Westminster by Letter of Transfer from Rochester United Methodist Church. They have been married for 24 years. Suzie works for the Illinois Department of Revenue. She enjoys reading, baking, volunteering at the VFW

Auxiliary, and spending time with her step-grandchildren. Tom is retired from the Illinois Department of Revenue. He is a member and the treasurer of the Springfield Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). He is involved in the north ender VFW Post 10302. Tom enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.

*Their sponsors are Ellen and Rance Carpenter.*



**Myra Victoria (Vicki) Lock** joined Westminster by Reaffirmation of Faith. She retired in 2011 from the University of Missouri – St. Louis as Executive Secretary for the Associate Provost in Academic Affairs. Vicki has three older sisters: Linda, Judith, and Patricia. She is interested in mission and community service. Vicki loves music, literature, and theater.

*Vicki's sponsor is: Lynne Cleverdon.*



**Brad William Milliman** joined Westminster by Profession of Faith. He is self-employed as a General Contractor. Brad is married to Kate Baker Milliman. They have three children: Jack, Luke, and Elle. Brad enjoys many sports, including golfing, skiing, and running. Much of his free time is spent with his family and his children's many activities.

*Brad's sponsor is Travis Vogler.*

## CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY

### ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT ON FRIDAY, JUNE 17

The Third Annual All-Church Cookout to welcome new members will be Friday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Kieffers'. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee.

The congregation is invited! Please RSVP (online or Sunday mornings) soon and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish or dessert.



New members will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along and boat rides.

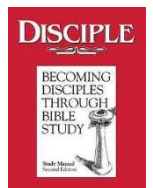
## ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE

### ADULT ED FORUM EXPLORES ROMANS

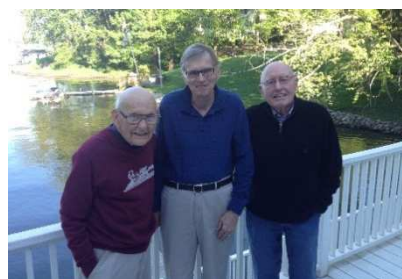
The Adult Ed Forum gathers in the Ziegler Library at 11:15 a.m. on Sundays through May 15 in a short-term Disciple Bible Study. Join us as we explore the theology of Paul's letter to the Romans.

### DISCIPLE POTLUCK AND COMMUNION

Disciple I (led by Rev. Trajan McGill on Tuesdays) and Disciple II (led by Dr. Kieffer on Thursdays) will culminate their 2015-2016 journey this month. On Tuesday, May 24, Disciple I will gather at Mary Caroline and David Mitchell's home and on Thursday, May 26, Disciple II will gather at Kathy and Randy Germeraad's home.



Both classes will celebrate of the Sacrament of Communion at their final gathering. Between the two classes, 37 members and friends have participated and will be recognized on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 5, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



*Wilbur Wright, Alan Wallace and Ted Proud at 2015 potluck.*

## WESTMINSTER SACRED CONCERT

AN UPLIFTING AFTERNOON OF MUSIC IN A LOVELY SETTING.



The Westminster Choir, under the leadership of Dale T. Rogers, gave their all in a worshipful sacred concert at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi on April 17. The concert included music of Viennese composers, Haydn, Beethoven and Mozart, featured Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano, and Jay Kennerly, tenor, and was accompanied by Dee Dee Gain, organist, and the Heritage String Quartet. It was a splendid afternoon of music suited for the glorious sanctuary of the convent church.



## THE LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD

APRIL 29 – MAY 7



The Liturgical Arts Festival again celebrates the artistic quest of the human spirit towards the divine in a series of exhibits and concerts beginning April 29. Details of each concert can be found on our website at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).

The American Guild of Organists will present a member's recital on **Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. at Central Baptist**. Dale Rogers will play two liturgical chant based pieces by Marcel Dupré and accompany

Krista Steller as she plays *Gabriel's Oboe* by Ennio Morricone.

On **Saturday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. at Central Baptist**, the Springfield Choral Society will present the monumental Bach B-minor Mass. Three of the soloists; Eleanor VanDeventer, Adam Miller and Lyle VanDeventer, are members of the Westminster Choir.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

HOSTS SIXTH TEA AT WESTMINSTER

The members of the Springfield branch of the American Association of University Women thank Westminster for the use of Parish Hall and kitchen for our Afternoon Tea on April 23. More than \$8,000 was raised for scholarships and fellowships for women locally and nationally.



We were pleased that Dr. Kieffer, Hannah, and Sarah could attend our special event, and we hope you enjoyed it. In addition, I want you to know how helpful your staff members were to me and the other women involved, especially Connie, Gary, Roy, Steve, Mike, and Bill.

-Becky Stirrett, Tea Coordinator of the AAUW Springfield Branch

Above: Julia Musgrave

Left: Dr. Kieffer, Susan Shea, Sandy Hockenyos and Sue Cull



## MEMORIAL GARDEN

HIGHLIGHTED MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Our Memorial Garden is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those interred within its wall. The wall contains secure niches for cremated remains. Paved paths and benches offer opportunity for private meditation. A traditional Celtic cross, donated by Mary Alice Davis in memory of her husband, depicts the post resurrection appearances of Christ when he appeared in the garden.



On Sunday, May 29, Dr. Andrew Sherrick will present a Ministry Moment on behalf of the Memorial Garden Committee: *Bill Donels; Chair, Chris Elzea, Richard Herndon, Dr. Glen Pittman, Dr. Andrew Sherrick and Lionel Stirrett*. Memorial Garden brochures will also be included in the bulletin insert.

Persons desiring to reserve space in the garden are invited to complete an application form. The cost of an individual inurnment is \$750 for a member and \$1,500 for a non-member.

In an effort to help preserve historic information about those inurned in our garden, the Memorial Garden Committee is initiating the addition of a webpage to the Westminster Presbyterian Church website with pertinent information about those inurned in the garden. It is the belief of the Committee that making this information available on



Westminster's website will preserve your loved one's memory for generations to come and may also be used for genealogy research.

## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

### FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

**PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP** meets on Sundays in the Third Floor Tower Room following the 10:00 a.m. service in May. We will discuss devotion and worship. The next social gathering is the:

**ADULT PICNIC TO DANENBERGER FAMILY VINEYARDS ON SUNDAY, MAY 22, FROM 2:45 TO 5:00 P.M.** Parents will enjoy wine tasting and food by the local chef. Child care will be provided at the church. Meet at the church at 2:45 p.m. to carpool together. Contact Rev. Sarah Iloff McGill with any questions and RSVP to [lmaxe@wpcspi.org](mailto:lmaxe@wpcspi.org).

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** (ages 21 – 40) gathers on Monday, May 2, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.). This group is led by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer.

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE; ALL AGES WELCOME)** Join us Friday, May 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Narthex for a potluck dinner and a program: "The Renovation of Edwards Place or When Lincoln Visited Here Did He Notice the Window Treatments?" Presenter: Susan Day, owner of Exciting Windows by Susan Day.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4** continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meets Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. Breakfast will be coordinated by Wells Langbehn, devotions will be led by Jay Kennerly, and David Fowler, Executive Director of Computer Banc, will offer the program.

**PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY** will meet May 25 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee.

**"HOLY ROLLER BOWLING NIGHT"** – Approximately 40 Westminster members gathered for a night of family fun at the bowling alley on April 16. Thanks to those who joined us, and especially to those on the Congregational Fellowship Committee, chaired by Becky Huston, who made this event a success!



### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS** will be held Sunday, May 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the Chancel. This simple service gathers people for prayer and music and is led by our pastors and accompanist, Karen Kraft. Prayer cards are in the pew pockets and at the Visitors' Table.



**HOME COMMUNION** – When we find ourselves unable to attend church services in person, whether temporarily or permanently, we do not cease to be a part of the body of Christ! For this reason we seek to ensure the fellowship and sacrament of the church are always extended to every member. Many of our elders and deacons make regular visits to members, bringing with them the bread, the cup, and the friendship of the church. Eleven members received the sacrament delivered by five teams of elders and deacons in April. These visits are valued by those making them and by those receiving them. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to take part in the Lord's Supper with the church when we celebrate it on the second Sunday of each month, please contact Connie Brown, Church Administrative Assistant. If you have been ordained as a deacon or elder, and you sense a call to get to know our members and help keep people connected to their church, please contact the Rev. Trajan McGill.


**BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** has moved to the third Sunday of each month.

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MAY MENU:** *Chicken and Dumplings, Chocolate Pudding, Pineapple Chunks, & Green Beans.* Thank you to those who place items in the West Narthex baskets for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

**HELPING HANDS** – Thanks to Judy and Fred Prillaman for preparing and delivering the April 8 meal.

**WHEELCHAIR RAMP CONSTRUCTION** – Habitat for Humanity continues to build wheelchair ramps for Springfield residents and is always looking for help. Special thanks to Mike Sundquist and Pete VanGieson for their recent participation in this project. Work is ongoing, with volunteers needed for partial work days most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in May, and full work days on Fridays and Saturdays. Please contact Rev. Trajan McGill if you are able to help and would like to be kept up-to-date with the work schedule.

**DISASTER RELIEF** – The  **PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE** mobilizing aid for victims of recent earthquakes in Ecuador and Japan. Our denominational agency, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, is working in conjunction with the ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance to set up both immediate and long-term aid and presence in the affected areas. If you wish to make a special offering to support this need, WPC will gladly forward your donation to provide for this valuable work.

**MISSION, SERVICE, AND WESTMINSTER** – Thanks to the open hands and hearts of the many members of this church who have been giving generously to our endowment in the name of expanding our mission work, we have been able this year to significantly boost the annual funds designated for this purpose. Your Mission and Community Service Committees last month conducted an extended planning meeting for the purpose of kicking off the process of discerning how to responsibly engage in our mission work as we go forward. These committees are tackling matters both strategic and practical, taking up such questions as: *How do we let God's call to our specific congregation and its members guide our work? How do we make sure we are guided by an informed understanding of the real needs of the community? How do we practically manage and make decisions about mission and service projects in a manner which is effective, efficient, and stewards our resources wisely?* Stay tuned for further updates as we engage the whole congregation in our shared call to mission in the name of Christ.

### MISSION, SERVICE, AND THE PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS –



We are not the only church seeking always to improve and grow our work in the mission field. Several dinner events recently took place at churches throughout the Presbytery with the intent of making connections between area churches. Westminster hosted one such gathering on April 18, seeing people from a number of area churches coming together, helpfully sharing questions, thoughts, stories, hopes and ideas from the missional experience of each of our churches.

### EARTH FRIENDLY TIP:

Hate those pesky weeds in the sidewalk cracks that keep coming back? Don't like to pour hot water from strained pasta down old drain pipes? Pour that same water on those weeds. They will wither and be gone! *From Westminster's Earth Care Team: Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair, Amy Ballinger-Cole, Tim Kluge, and Brad Steller.*



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON** is Friday, May 6, at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen chair is Mary Ray. Chair of the day is Nancy Canady. Please make your reservation by Wednesday, May 4, at 522-4415. Our program will be "Young Children and Worship" by the Reverend Sarah Iloff McGill, Parish Associate for Children's Ministries.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet Wednesday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of our hostess, Stephanie Moore. We will discuss Chapter IX; *On Laughter and Silence: Not-So-Strange Bedfellows*.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will hold their annual spring dinner on Wednesday, May 11, at 5:45 p.m. at the Springfield Motor Boat Club. Call Judi Mier for reservations at 726-6872 on or before May 4. Guests are welcome.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet Tuesday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. at the church. Our hostess, Leah Duling, will lead our program Lesson 7, *Reconciling Paul*.

### LAYETTES ITEMS FOR KUMLER MINISTRIES



#### APRIL COLLECTION

Thank you to all who joined the women of Westminster in donating layette items during the month of April. A special thank you to the Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission Team who donated 36, increasing our total to 155! These layettes will be brought to the Church Women United Friendship Day on Thursday, May 5, 1:00 p.m. at Second Timothy Baptist Church. All layette items will be donated to Kumler Ministries.

### PW SPONSORS BLANKET + SUNDAYS DURING MONTH OF MAY

PW and Springfield's Church Women United will sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Service partners with local communities to identify needs and to access the resources to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: *blankets, tents, and food* in the wake of a disaster; *Tools and seeds* for refugees returning home to replant their fields; *Wells* for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens; *Literacy training and microcredit* for women struggling to realize their potential. During May, checks may be placed in offering plates (Payable to: Westminster/Memo: Blankets+) or donations may be attached to the Church World Service Blanket in the West Narthex on Sundays.

### MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund has \$24,884 income above expenses through the end of March. Expenses are over budget largely because of a repair to the sewer line, while income is above budget to date by \$32,080.

2016 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 276,334	\$ 244,254	\$ 32,080
Expenses	\$-251,450	\$-244,254	\$- 7,196
Net	\$ 24,884	\$ 0	

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### IN MEMORIAM

**Donna J. Starkey** died on April 3 in Normal, IL. Condolences are extended to her ten nieces and nephews and their families.

**Joyce S. Washburn** died on April 3. Condolences are extended to her husband, Richard "Dick," their children, Valerie (Dave) Leonatti and Michael (Viviana) Washburn, and their granddaughters, Alena and Lauren Leonatti.

**Timothy F. Moore** died on April 4. Condolences are extended to his wife, Kathy Moore.

**Bette Scott Figueria** died on April 5. Condolences are extended to her daughter, Lisa Wentworth.

**Earl W. "Wally" Henderson, Jr.** died on April 18. Condolences are extended to his wife, Brynn, his children, Earl W. Henderson III, Timothy Henderson, Rebecca LaForce, Katherine Henderson, and Brynn's children, Christopher Bender and Brynn Bender.

### SYMPATHY TO

Rosalee Preckwinkle, Lynda and George Preckwinkle, and Lucy and John Stafford on the death of their brother-in-law and uncle, William "Bill" Miller, on Wednesday, March 30.

Mary Barringer on the death of her brother, John R. Payne, on April 7 in Tampa, Florida.

Elsie and Bob Fox on the death of his sister, Rose Sparkman, on April 10 in Pekin, Illinois.

Andrea and Kelvin Owens on the death of his grandfather, Jim Owens, who died in April.

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Webster E. Bay celebrates 97 on May 2.

Marjorie A. Newton celebrates 95 on May 10.

Theresa M. Davison celebrates 91 on May 21.

Edwin R. Davison celebrates 91 on May 31.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Cathy Schwartz and John Shafer on the birth of their grandson, Leo Michael DeMarco. He is also the nephew of Emma Shafer and great grandson of Pat Shafer.

Linda Dillard on the birth of twin grandchildren, Eloise Linda and James Edward Dillard, on April 4. Their parents are Dr. James N. B. and Christina Dillard of East Rockaway, New York.

### THANK YOU TO

Bob Fox for the relief carving of the Last Supper in the West Narthex and to Todd Scanlan of Woodhaven Woodworks, (3112 Normandy Road, Springfield Illinois) who glued up this blank of 1 3/4" Oak and donated it to Westminster.

### NEW ADDRESS

Marty Sumner is moving to St. Louis to be near her daughter, Mary. Marty's temporary address is 119 E. Monroe Avenue, Apartment 300, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122. We are delighted for Marty in this new chapter of her life, will miss her greatly, and look forward to seeing her in Springfield on many visits home!

## FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 22 JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION OF "HALE AND DALE"

**ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M. FOLLOWED BY BRUNCH IN PARISH HALL**

Westminster will celebrate Founders' Sunday on May 22 as we give thanks for the vision and fortitude of the thirty charter members who gathered on May 26, 1835 to begin the 181 year journey of which each one of us has had the privilege to participate. Last May on the 180<sup>th</sup> Founders' Sunday, we dedicated the **BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH** Anniversary Endowment Campaign and established the **ALBERT HALE CIRCLE** in honor of Rev. Albert Hale whose spirit shaped the heart of this abolitionist congregation.

The goal to grow Westminster's Endowment from \$1.9 to \$5 million by 2020 is possible because of the generosity of this congregation. To date, 226 families became members of the Albert Hale Circle through gifts, pledges or including Westminster in their planned giving. We have received \$802,405 toward pledges of \$1,609,450. Additionally, we have received gifts of \$92,426. We are \$1.4 million from our \$5 million goal. This does not include planned gifts. Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee will take the opportunity to thank those who have given and to invite those who would like to join. Since we established the Albert Hale Circle last May, 19 families have been added to the Circle. Those who make a gift or pledge by Sunday, May 15, will be included in the Albert Hale Circle that will be published in the bulletin on May 22 and in the June Reporter. Randy Germeraad, Support and Endowment Committee Chair, will provide a ministry moment on Founders' Sunday. Other members of the committee include Diane Rutledge, Dale Smith, Lucy Preckwinkle Stafford, Jeff Wilday and Todd Wise, with Steve Arbuthnot serving as Treasurer.



### CELEBRATING DALE THOMAS ROGERS 30 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Along with highlighting the Legacy of Faith made possible through members' generosity, we will celebrate one of Westminster's legends, Dale Thomas Rogers! Dale joined the staff on May 1, 1986. Members of the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Dick Moy included Dr. Roland Cull, Randy Germeraad, Jeanne Pittman, Mary Anne Singleton, Joe Eby, Keith Beatty, Madeline Thompson and Alice Payne. Dale has enriched our lives and nourished our spirits through the gift of music and the arts for three decades. He has nurtured the songs within our children with skill and compassion and established Westminster as a leader in the music community of Springfield. All are welcome to join the festivities on Founders'

Sunday as we honor our respected and beloved Dale! We are grateful to the committee planning Dale's celebration: Sue Cull, Kathy and Randy Germeraad, Dr. Michael and Kathie Nenaber, Dr. Glenn and Jeanne Pittman. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THE BEAUTIFUL BRUNCH PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF WESTMINSTER. SIGN UP IN THE WEST NARTHEX, ONLINE AT WPCSPI.ORG OR BY CALLING LIZ MAXEY AT THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
A GARDEN PARTY  
AT THE HOME OF CAROLYN BERNING  
10 BEACHVIEW LANE  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 9:30 – 11:30 A.M.  
RSVP AT [WWW.WPCSPI.ORG](http://WWW.WPCSPI.ORG)



### Westminster Staff

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**Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert, Michael Long**  
*Custodians*

*June Reporter Deadline is  
May 22*