

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

May, 2014

WORSHIP CALENDAR

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

May 3 & 4

Third Sunday of Easter
Psalm 116:1-14, Luke 24:13-35
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"Serendipity"

May 10 & 11

Communion Sunday
New Member Recognition
Psalm 131 Romans 5:1-5
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"Composing a Life"

May 17

No Saturday Worship

May 18

(no 8:30 a.m. service)
Fifth Sunday of Easter
1 Samuel 17
Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
"A Story of Wit and Courage"
Chorister Musical

May 24 & 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter
John 14:15-21
Rev. Julie Wells Blythe
"If God is for Us"

THE ROCK SLINGER'S GREATEST HIT PRESENTED BY THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (GRADES 3-6) SUNDAY, MAY 18

On Sunday, May 18 during **one service of worship at 10:00 a.m.** the Westminster Choristers will present "The Rock Slinger's Greatest Hit." Written by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote, this uplifting and creative musical tells the story of David and Goliath, a story of courage and wit which is a part of our faith tradition and recorded in I Samuel 17. We are grateful to Dale Rogers and our children for bringing God's word to us in this lively and clever presentation.



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING CHILDREN'S MUSICAL SUNDAY, MAY 18 10:00 A.M. ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP 11:15 A.M. PICNIC BEGINS ON FRONT LAWN



Please join us for the **All-Church Picnic** to be held on Westminster's front lawn **following one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 18.** Hosted by the Session Membership Committee and Congregational Fellowship Committee of the Board of Deacons, the picnic will feature food, fellowship and games for both the young and the young at heart. This year's menu includes fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans and ice cream sundaes. There will be a free will offering. **RSVP in the West Narthex on May 4 and 11, on our website at wpcspi.org or by contacting Connie Brown.**

VBS CANSTRUCTION

MISSION POSSIBLE WITH YOUR HELP!!

Members and friends are invited to join our VBS children in bringing canned goods to support the Central Illinois Food Bank. This is one of their mission projects and will be combined with a creative project of building a city of cans along the south wall of Parish Hall the week of VBS. We need hundreds of cans to create the city (directed by Al Hyman). This VBS mission project will complement the Give-a-Meal-a-Month mission, coordinated by the Board of Deacons. Please bring several cans from the May menu (see below) to the All-Church Picnic...and continue to bring cans throughout May and June.

Give-a-Meal-a-Month May Menu

Chicken and Dumplings
Chocolate Pudding
Pineapple Chunks
Green Beans

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

FROM THE PASTOR THE REV. DR. BLYTHE DENHAM KIEFFER

"to build up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12b

Dear Friends,

April marks the completion of my seventh month as your pastor! I continue to be grateful for the call you have graciously extended to me, and I am confident that God has brought us together to *build up the body of Christ*. What a delightful and meaningful way it was to mark this seventh month with Holy Week, Easter Sunday and welcoming fourteen young adults into our membership on Confirmation Sunday.

As we continue our journey during a time of transition in a year of new beginnings, I marvel at all the ways God is providing for us. How fortunate it was for Annie Peterson to lead our youth during this past year and lay the groundwork for a new confirmation program and how fortuitous it is for Lucas Carpenter to join us as Interim Director for Youth Ministries.

Leading us forward on this journey, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to work diligently. In April Session and Presbytery approved the Ministry Information Forms describing the roles of our two new pastors. On Friday, April 25, Westminster's Ministry Information Forms were posted on the Church Leadership Connection website of the Presbyterian Church (USA). *Our search has officially begun!*

The committee agreed that Kelly Bassett, Jim Dolan, Dee Dee Duffy, Scott Hibbert and Jack Sherrick will review PIFs for Family Ministry; and Mary Alice Davis, Sue Scaife, Bill Simpson and Marty Sumner will review PIFs for Parish Life. The entire committee will interview all recommended candidates. Chair Dave Leonatti will give a report this Sunday, May 4 during the Ministry Moment. Please keep the committee and potential candidates in your prayers as we continue *to build up the body of Christ* at Westminster.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

The Liturgical Arts FESTIVAL OF SPRINGFIELD begins Saturday, May 4. I have had the privilege of serving as Program Chair to this event and highly recommend it to you.

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

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (GRADES 3-6) rehearse on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. Our efforts are now focused on The Rock Slinger's Greatest Hit, a musical telling of the story of David and Goliath, which will be presented at the single service held on Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m.

GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL FUND GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to all who contributed toward the new hymnal. During April we surpassed our \$11,000 goal. The books have arrived and work will soon begin on the personalized book plates. The new red hymnals will be dedicated on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A New Member Class meets this Sunday, May 4, at 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. New members will be received on Sunday, May 11, and will be welcomed by the congregation at the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

"CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY"

A COOK OUT TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS will be held Friday, June 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kieffers (26 Island Bay Lane). THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED! Please RSVP (on-line or Sunday mornings) and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish or dessert. New members will be our guests. The evening will include entertainment by The Walnuts and boat rides.

ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

"WINE, WINGS AND A PRAYER" Young Adults (age 21 – 32) are invited to *'Come, renew their strength'* on Friday, May 2, 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.

SUNDAY ADULT STUDY Join Lyle VanDeventer on Sundays, May 4, 11 and 25 at 11:15 a.m. in the Church Library for this four-week class exploring Judaism.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) will meet Friday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for a pot luck dinner and program by Bud Bartlett "Who Was That, Again?" (a historic look at voice recordings).

NEW MEN'S FELLOWSHIP FORMING IN FALL 2014

Mark Ranck has agreed to coordinate a new Men's Fellowship. Interested men are invited to a brainstorming session on Sunday, May 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the Library.

PAGE-TURNERS BOOK GROUP will meet Wednesday, May 28 at 9:30 a.m. on in the Library to discuss *The Optimist's Daughter* by Eudora Welty.

KNIT 2, PURL 4 MISSION meets every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room for fellowship and knitting projects. *These women are amazing...love the new name!*

BOARD OF DEACONS

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR YOUR FAMILY PORTRAIT -The professional photography sessions for the new Pictorial Directory are May 13 - 16 and May 20 -24. Sign up following worship or online at wpcspi.org. If you need assistance, call Connie Brown (217) 522-4415. We hope you will participate.

BLOOD DRIVE ON SUNDAY, MAY 4 -The Community Service Committee will host a blood drive on Sunday, May 4. Stop by the Registration Table. Thank you and remember "Your donation can save a life!"

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY – Members of Westminster provide a meal for 45 men the Second Friday of each month. Thank you to those who have provided the meal this year: Pat Hymans (February), Elaine Hoff (March), Karen Dillon, Lynn Miller and Mary Ray (April) and Tim Olmsted (May). If you would like join in this meaningful ministry, the months of September and December are still available. Contact Sarah Zervas of the Community Service Committee at sarah_zervas@comcast.net.

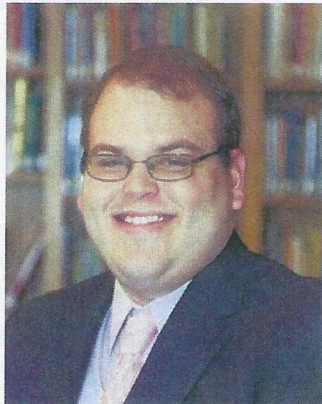
WELCOME CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2014



Front row from left to right: Adam Vasconcelles, Chad Sims, Sarah Wagner, Lauren Marines. Reaney Gaines, Abby Fierstos, Holling Kniffin, Cory Sims
Back row from left to right: Annie Peterson, Annie Sherrick, Julia Lakin, Jenna Milward, Emma Shafer, Barrett Kurmann, Austin Robbs. Dr. Kieffer

INTERIM DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES

We welcome Lucas Carpenter as Interim Director for Youth Ministries beginning May 1, 2014 working 25 -30 hours a week. Lucas has been program assistant for youth ministries since August 2013. He previously served as a volunteer adviser to the youth programs for two years. Lucas received a Bachelor's degree in business administration in from the University of Illinois, Springfield in December 2013. Lucas continues to work at Bank of Springfield two days a week. This past year Lucas also volunteered coaching 6th grade basketball at Rochester Intermediate School. Lucas has attended Westminster since he was a young child. He was baptized and confirmed here.



JUNIOR HIGH AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 4

LOOKING BACKWARD AND LOOKING FORWARD

Junior and Senior High meet together from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. for a look at this past year, what was exciting and what was just O.K....also join in brainstorming for summer activities and next Fall....We will enjoy a great dinner and look at VBS and ways we can be helpful and get the word out to the neighborhood!

Sunday, May 11

NO YOUTH GROUP

Be good to your mom!

SUNDAY, MAY 18

END OF THE YEAR BARBEQUE SEND-OFF AND SENIOR NIGHT

Junior and Senior High gather together from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. to enjoy a delicious barbeque thanks to our grill guys (Todd Knox and Dave Leonatti) and to wish our seniors "Godspeed" as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

SUNDAY, MAY 25

NO YOUTH GROUP

Honor those who served our country and gave their lives.



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

If you or a member of your family is graduating from college or graduate school, please contact Connie Brown. We would like to include your accomplishments in *The June Reporter*.

PW CIRCLE MEETINGS & MISSIONS

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON All Westminster women are invited to attend a luncheon and program Friday, May 2, 12:00 noon in Parish Hall. Crystal Shoger Corley, Coordinator and Rabbit "Wrangler" will present our program "Rescue Rabbit Ranch" (Special "Therapy" Visits). (Please call the Church Office by Wednesday, April 30, to make a reservation at 522-4415.)



ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, May 12 at 5:30 p.m. for their Fellowship Dinner at Engrained Brewing Company. Please call Judi Mier at 716-6872 or Pat McKenzie at 494-9258 by Thursday evening, May 8 to make your reservation. Call Judy Ridinger at 546-9165 if you are interested in carpooling from the church.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Carolyn Beatty. Leah Duling will give devotions and will lead our study of *General Epistles*, Lessons 8 & 9.

BLANKET + SUNDAYS – MAY 4, 11, 18, 25: *YOU'RE THE PLUS IN BLANKETS+!*

Westminster's Presbyterian Women and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday). Blankets+ has been a mission opportunity for all ages for over 60 years. Congregations and groups across the U.S. have helped people in need around the world, including the U.S. Church World Service works in partnership with local communities to identify needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- **Blankets, tents, food** and other emergency supplies 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.

LAYETTES FOR KUMLER NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES Church Women United (CWU) will hold May Friendship Day on Tuesday, May 6, at First United Methodist Church this year. This is the celebration to which we take our layette items for Kumler Neighborhood Ministries. Help us fill the Layette Collection Box in the West Narthex by Sunday, May 4. New and gently used items are welcome.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will hold its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Tuesday, June 10, noon, at Union Baptist Church, 1405 E. Monroe. Those interested in attending, please send Lynne Cleverdon an email at mary.cleverdon@gmail.com or call 525-2070.

FAIR HILLS RESIDENCE OF ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

The annual Spring Luncheon and Card Party will be held on Wednesday, May 14 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. To help that day or to purchase tickets for this fundraiser, please call Cheryl White at 787-2095. We will be having our Fall Bazaar on October 4 and donations (no clothing please) may be brought to the Residence at the corner of Chatham and Lawrence at any time.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 27 Abigail Barris Fierstos and Jenna Louise Milward received the Sacrament of Baptism.

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Hollis died on March 31. A memorial service is planned for a later date. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to **Nancy Huston** and **Ken Hollis** on the death of their brother.

Joseph C. Dawkins died on April 10. His memorial service was at Westminster on April 19. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to **Betty Dawkins** on the death of her husband.

SYMPATHY TO

...**Linda Cisco and David Haaker** on the death of their step-mother, Nancy Haaker who died April 6.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

...Deron and Haley Lee on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Ruby Lee on March 25th. Grandparents are Barbara and Dr. Lonnie H. Lee.

...Rachael Marie King and Dillon Robert Fox of Kingman, AZ on their marriage April 12. WPC parent is **Charlie King**.

...Dr. Douglas B. White, son of **Cheryl & Neville White**, as the newly endowed chair of Ethics in Critical Care Medicine from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine on April 28.

THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

To the **Walnuts** for a terrific concert, **Pat Hymans** for a great lunch and the congregation for donating \$900 to the Youth Mission Trip at the Bistro on Walnut Fundraiser on April 30. -Lucas Carpenter, *Interim Director for Youth*

Contact Ministries thanks **Susan Day** and Exciting Windows for the beautiful shades for the windows in their new Emergency Shelter.

In memory of **Earl Roland**, Contact Ministries thanks him and Roland Machinery Company for their commitment and support.

From Contact Ministries, **Westminster** is thanked and awarded a plaque for being one of the founding churches as well as continuing to be invested in this mission and vision year after year.

CHILDREN'S NEWS BY WHITNEY BECK

VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL AT
WESTMINSTER

MONDAY– FRIDAY
JUNE 16 JUNE 20
9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
Ages 3 to 5th Grade



Kids Serving the Earth and Its People

Children ages three through grade five will not want to miss this creative collaboration written by Lynn McMenemy. Any child in our Springfield community is invited. Bring your friends to enjoy the Bible stories, arts and crafts, music, games, delicious snacks and “**Canstruction**” as we build a city of cans together. Lessons will focus on how all of us can do God’s work. We can care for God’s creation and each other. We will discover ways we can help those in need and be a good friend. Collections will be made for community and world mission.

We will celebrate with the congregation by sharing our stories, songs, and art work on Sunday, June 22 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service followed by a reception in Parish Hall. Register online at wpcspi.org or on Sunday mornings at the Registration table.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT BY LISA RUNKLE

We received strong support for our special offerings. Donations for Peacemaking totaled \$1,975 and for One Great Hour of Sharing total \$4,639 so far. The first quarter income to the Operating Fund exceeded last year by more than \$25,000 for the same period. We are expecting to continue strong income through the summer months, so be sure to mail in your contributions if you are going to be away. Feel free to contact Lisa Runkle if you have any questions regarding your contribution statement for the first quarter of 2014 sent out in mid-April.

Operations	YTD Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 275,234	\$ 234,087	\$ 41,147
Expenses	\$- 236,840	\$-234,087	\$ - 2,753
Net	\$ 38,394	\$ 0	

REACHING FOR OUR PER CAPITA GOAL

We want to thank each of the 167 members who have given Per Capita donations. We have received over 66% of our \$7,000 goal already. We need only 83 more Per Capita donations of \$28 to reach our goal. 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. Please make your Per Capita contribution of \$28 for each confirmed member in your household to help offset this cost in Westminster’s budget.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH AT WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*...to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:12*

In anticipation of the twenty year milestone of the Support and Endowment Fund in 2015, the Support and Endowment Committee is hosting receptions throughout the summer to lay the ground work for an anniversary campaign. We look forward to this opportunity to build our future together.
Randy Germeraad, Chair

THE NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, MAY 25!

Westminster Staff

The Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer
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bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Julie Wells Blythe
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jblythe@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald Boutelle
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Gary Warnick
Head Custodian
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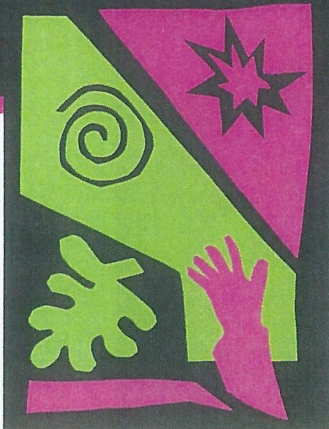
Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert
Custodians

Russ Nagel
Rental Properties Coordinator

Liturgical Arts Festival of Springfield

PRESENTS OUR 20TH YEAR FESTIVAL

May 3-7, 2014



Come Creative Spirit...

... an event that shares the artistic quest of the human spirit toward the divine.

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.
Hands-on Creative Workshop
Elizabeth Marcy, Visual Artist
Music Room
Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut Street

Saturday, May 3, 4:30 p.m.
Liturgical and Sacred Art Exhibit
Opening and Reception
Springfield Art Association
700 N. 4th Street

Sunday, May 4, 4:00 p.m.
Westminster Choir, Capital Chamber Singers, Members of the Millikin Brass
Dale T. Rogers, Director
St. Francis of Assisi Church
4875 Laverna Road

Sunday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.
Sacred and Spiritual Selections
Robin Austin, Carillonneur
Rees Memorial Carillon

Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.
Evening of Sacred Jazz
Jane Hartman and Friends
First Christian Church
700 S. 6th Street

Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.
African-American Spirituals & Songs
The Heritage Ensemble of Peoria
First Presbyterian Church
321 S. 7th Street

Wednesday, May 7, 5:00 p.m.
Objects of Devotion
Many Faith Traditions' Exhibit
West Narthex
Westminster Presbyterian Church
533 S. Walnut Street

Wednesday, May 7, 5:00 p.m.
Award winning DVD's:
Architecture, Four Calls,
Through Emily's Eyes
Library
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.
Multi-Faith Celebration in Music and Sacred Word
Closing Reception
Westminster Presbyterian Church

www.lafspringfield.org

Admission is free to all events.

The Festival is supported by our sponsors and patrons. Please join us for this multi-faith festival of the arts.