



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

August 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. Parish Hall
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Summer Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
Pre K-Grade 5

August 1 & 2

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Psalm 78; John 6:24-35
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Bread of Angels

August 8 & 9

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Communion
1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43, Luke 18:9-14
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Setting Ourselves Apart

August 15 & 16

12th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, John 6:51-58
Reverend Trajan McGill
Making the Most of the Time

August 22 & 23

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18, John 6:56-69
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
To Whom Can We Go?

August 30

Commotion Sunday
One Service of Worship
10:00 a.m.

Proverbs 9:1-6, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Kitchen Table Wisdom

2015 KAREN DILLON MISSION TRIP



On Sunday, July 19, twenty-six youth, seven adults and Rev. Hannah Dreitcer led worship following their mission experience to Green Bay, WI. It was an uplifting experience as they affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ, their respect for one another and their commitment to serve others. The youth expressed their gratitude to the congregation for prayers and financial support. Five fundraisers in 2014-2015 raised \$9,550.

COMMOTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Join your Westminster family for Commotion Sunday on August 30! **No Saturday worship or Sunday 8:30 a.m. service this weekend.** We will celebrate One Service of Worship Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. followed by a brunch reception and ministry displays in Parish Hall as we begin the new year together. This Sunday provides an opportunity for members and friends to sign up for Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission and Service!

Commotion Sunday got its name because it describes the enormous energy and excitement aroused by God's Spirit within this congregation. Don't miss this new beginning at Westminster!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS COMMOTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

On Sunday, August 30, children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to the 10:00 a.m. service of worship to receive a blessing as they begin their journey in another school year of learning and growing.



THANK YOU WESTMINSTER FOR THE 132 BACKPACKS



which were delivered to Contact Ministries on Monday, July 20. Our goal of 100 backpacks was surpassed thanks to the generosity of so many! These will be distributed to children within our community at the *Ready 4 Success Back to School Give-Away* hosted by *Contact Ministries* on August 1.

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

*Quality is never an accident;
it is always the result of intelligent effort. John Ruskin*

Dear Friends,

As we continue this journey together, I am grateful for the rhythm of work and rest which renews our bodies and spirits, and gives meaning to each of our lives. Along with worship retreats, travel, and time at the water, summer is an important season to organize and plan.

The 2016 budget planning began with a deep sense of gratitude for this congregation's generosity in the 2015 Anniversary Endowment Campaign. The Westminster Endowment's value is \$2.1 million and with the pledges committed through 2020, our value is projected to be \$3.6 million. The Endowment Committee is meeting with financial advisors from the Presbyterian Foundation in August to review our portfolio and investment proposals. The administrative costs of the campaign totaled \$3,660, which is 0.2% of the \$1.7 million we raised. This is worth noting and is a testimony to the intelligent effort of the committee!

With the endowment emphasis on mission and building maintenance, it is our intent to utilize this resource as we prepare the 2016 budget. We are also delighted to begin 2016 with a complete and competent staff, and we are mindful that the personnel expenses will reflect this.

The Budget Committee members have received their budget information and will meet Wednesday, August 5, to recommend the 2016 Operating Expenses to Session. The proposed budget will be presented to Session August 26 and approved at their September 16 meeting.

It is a joy and privilege to lead a congregation and colleagues who value quality and who work together with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER SUMMER CHOIR, a choir for singers of all ages, will rehearse August 13 at 7:30 p.m. in preparation for the 10:00 a.m. service on August 16.

We are grateful to all who have enhanced Westminster's worship with their contributions of special music through the summer: Stella Cole, Ann Collins, Kathy Fogal, Carmel Fratianni, Jay Kennerly, Greg Knox, Adam Miller, Amalia and Miranda Schneider, Emma Shafer, Krista Steller, Eleanor VanDeventer, Lyle VanDeventer, the Mission Trip troupe, and the Summer Choir.

Mark your calendars for the start-up dates for rehearsals of Westminster's musical groups!

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR regular season will resume on Thursday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m., with the Annual Choir Retreat being held from 1:30 until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12.

A Festive Choir Brunch to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Beth Bellatti and Tad Allen will be held at the Villas at Pine Creek Club House on August 30 at 12:30 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (singers in grades 3-6) resumes on Wednesday, September 9, at 5:00 p.m.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (K – 2nd grade) resumes its sessions on Tuesday, October 6, at 4:45 p.m.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will begin its Saturday morning sessions on September 12 at 11:00 a.m.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

ADULT EDUCATION

PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY gathers Wednesday, August 26, 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Have you or someone you know read *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger? Join us for this interesting discussion.

TWO DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES begin the second week of September and are led by pastors. Reverend Trajan McGill will teach Disciple I on Tuesdays and Dr. Kieffer will teach Disciple II on Thursdays, from 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. Schedules for both studies are online with the opportunity to sign up.

COLLEGE-AGE & YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY welcomed seven each Wednesday during July. Thank you to Judy Knox for providing goodies to keep us fresh during our discussion of Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited!*

YOUTH UPDATE

THE ANNUAL KICK OFF SWIM PARTY for incoming Junior and Senior High Youth is scheduled for Sunday, August 30, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Ellisons'. Please bring a towel and snack! Friends are always welcome and encouraged. The Ellison home is located at 1905 Hidden Mill Drive.

ROAD TO EMMAUS JUNIOR HIGH JOURNEY TO ST. LOUIS
On Thursday, August 20, our 2015 Confirmation Class will have one last get-together before officially joining Senior High. Our rising freshmen will travel to St. Louis with Rev. Dreitcer and other adult chaperones to visit City Museum, eat lunch, and take a circus class at Bumbershoot Aerial Arts to celebrate their hard work in Confirmation this past year!

CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah McGill

THANK YOU SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

This summer our children Pre-K through Grade 5 learned about characters in the Bible through the Holy Moly curriculum. Special thanks to Andrew and Dana Affrunti, Chelsea Ekstedt, Sally Godbey, Gerry Hale, Paul Kieffer, Judy Knox, Lynn McMenamin, Leigh Milward, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Amber Robbs, Mary Gail Romack, Betsy Ruklick, Karen Sherrick, and Danielle Zervas, who taught our children.

REGISTER FOR FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL ON COMMOTION SUNDAY

Parents are encouraged to register their children for Fall Sunday school on or before Commotion Sunday, August 30. The following classes begin Sunday, September 13:

Pre-K – Grade 2: Young Children and Worship Experience
Grade 3: Third Grade Enrichment is an overview of the Bible that each child will receive as a gift from their WPC family.
Grade 4-5: Connect is a new curriculum by Spark House that explores how the Bible Stories fit together.

BRIDGES THEME: "STORIES THAT HELP US GROW"

Students in Grades 3-6 are invited to a new experience on Wednesdays beginning September 9, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. This midweek fellowship, led by Reverends Hannah Dreitcer and Sarah McGill, will bridge friendships among our children and across generations. It will also include community service opportunities. The 2015-2016 theme we have selected is "Stories that Help Us Grow." Along with exploring biblical stories, we will reflect on well-known classics such as Harry Potter and Narnia. This afterschool program will precede Westminster Choristers which meets from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

WESTMINSTER COOP PRESCHOOL

Emily Rowley joins Kari Soria on the WCP staff. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8, with an enrollment of 31.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP (ages 21 – 40) meets Monday, August 3, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6th Street). Rev. Sarah McGill will lead the group this month.

DMA (Don't Mention Age; All Ages Welcome) – Join us Friday, August 21, at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for a potluck dinner and program by Rev. Philip Rodrick entitled "Share Christmas: Mission Work in Ecuador."

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP had a great time at their farm cookout with over 30 men of all ages attending. Thanks to the Hales for hosting the event! Monthly breakfast gatherings resume Thursday, September 10, at 7:00 a.m. Please see Keith Hamilton or Rev. Trajan McGill for more information.

BOARD OF DEACONS INTRODUCES GOLF SCRAMBLE Sunday, September 13, 2:00 p.m. at Pasfield Golf Course. Make friends with a golfer and sign up on Commotion Sunday for an afternoon of fellowship, frolic and fun.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN resumes in September with opportunities to build friendships and grow in our faith. Along with **PW LUNCHEONS** on the First Friday at noon, **ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets the Second Monday at 5:30 p.m., **LYDIA CIRCLE** meets the Third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and **RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. beginning in October. **PW** will also host another **WESTMINSTER WOMEN SALAD SUPPER** on Tuesday, September 30, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Parish Hall.



MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AT WESTMINSTER
K2 P4 MISSION knits weekly at 12:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. **Thirty-five scarfs and hats** were presented to the residents of Green Bay, WI by our youth thanks to these prolific knitters.

BIKE AND BUILD was a great success! It was a joy to host 31 young people on their bicycle journey across America. They spent their sixth work day between cycling on Wednesday with Habitat building and painting wheelchair ramps. Fifteen members joined them for dinner on July 7.

HELPING HANDS meal for the Second Friday in July was prepared and served by Janie Bahlow and Judy Ridinger. The new Helping Hands address is 1023 E Washington St.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY is building affordable wheelchair ramps in the area. On July 25, **10 people** from Westminster joined in and finished off a ramp that added wheelchair access to the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. Thanks to those who helped out! If interested in joining us for future volunteer days, contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP – Thank you to those who donated 8 soccer balls and several jump ropes for Westminster member Jen DeJong to bring on her journey to Kenya and Uganda in July for Ministry Architects.

FAIR TRADE UPDATE! The beautiful wooden cabinets in the West Narthex were originally created by Dr. Bill Sherrick from WPC sanctuary pew ends and were recently redesigned and refinished by Bob Fox to add storage for Fair Trade items. We are grateful for this labor of love!

ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME is collecting furniture for their auction in September. If you have furniture you would like to donate, call the facility number 546-5622.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Although donations received during the month of June were down, the year income is still above the budget by more than \$10,000. Expenses are over budget by only \$4,775. We are maintaining a positive net total of \$6,009 income above expenses. Contribution statements will be mailed out in early August reflecting giving through July.

2015 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 497,476	\$ 486,692	\$ 10,784
Expenses	\$-491,467	\$-486,692	\$ -4,775
Net Total	\$ 6,009	\$ 0	

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED ON JULY 26

Katie and Pat Moore; Katie by Letter of Transfer from University United Methodist of Peoria, IL and Pat by Letter of Transfer from St. John's Episcopal Church of Decatur, IL. Their children are Ned and Charlotte.

Judith Pensoneau-Feurer by Re-affirmation of Faith.

Lisa and Todd Wise and their confirmed adult children, Eric and Morgan, by Letter of Transfer from Chatham Presbyterian Church of Chatham, IL.

WEDDINGS

Lt. Col. Matthew Brown and Monica Molina were married on July 4 in Abilene, TX. WPC parents are **Rachel and David Brown;** and grandmother is **Uldine Beck.**

BIRTHS

Katie and Pat Moore welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Anne, who was born June 30.

Claudia and Jason **Andre** welcomed their triplets: Lily Ann, Ezekiel Alexander, and Penelope Michelle, who were born July 2 in Centreville, Virginia.

Andrea & Jason Jordan welcomed their son Abraham Earl Jordan, who was born July 4. Proud grandparents are **Sue and Steve Scaife.**

Abby Dunn welcomed Asa Joseph Isaac Dunn, who was born July 16. His grandmother is **Tempa Dunn.**

Kimberly and **Dr. Timothy Sullivan** welcomed their daughter, Hannah Rose, who was born July 24 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Her proud grandparents are **Dr. Jill and Dowd Sullivan.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Judy and Fred Prillaman who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 26.

Jean and Bill Sherrick who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June, not their 65th.

Juliana Verticchio Levy, the granddaughter of a very proud **Jane Barry,** who graduated from Washington University School of Medicine. She will be specializing in Women's Health Care at Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis.

IN MEMORIAM

Esther Miller died on July 25. The prayers of the congregation are extended to her husband, William, her sister, Rosalie Preckwinkle and her nephew and nieces, Lynda and George Preckwinkle and Lucy Preckwinkle. A memorial service will be held on Friday, August 14, 12:00 p.m. at Bisch Funeral Home.

SYMPATHY TO

Ruth Schmitt and her family on the death of her husband, Emmett A. Schmitt, on June 29.

INTRODUCING YOUNG CHILDREN AND WORSHIP WORKSHOP FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, AUGUST 21-22



The Young Children and Worship workshop is for parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, and anyone in the congregation interested in learning more about the Bible themselves and how to teach the Bible to children! The training is Friday 5:30-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. We will have lunch together on Saturday. Child care is provided to those attending. **Friday night the**

children will have a pizza and movie party while the adults gather.

YCW is a spiritual formation approach that presents a joyful way for children to worship God. The leader of the program, the Rev. Olivia Stewart, has been teaching this program for years. She graduated from Hope College with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education, and from Princeton Theological Seminary with a Master's in Divinity.

YCW invites children and adults to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials. **Sign up at wpcspi.org or call Liz Maxey.**

THE ELAINE RYDER CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Thank you to Nancy Canady, Carolyn Dungan, and Valerie Leonatti for helping paint the Children's Library. We are excited about the new look and the new ways our children will utilize this important resource under the leadership of our friendly librarians, Valerie Leonatti and Leigh Milward in the fall. The Children's Library is named for Elaine Ryder who was instrumental in creating this space for our children.



YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 FROM 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 30, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a Swim Party at the Kieffers' (26 Island Bay Lane) as we kick off the school year together. Come, enjoy some fun and learn about the exciting opportunities we have planned for our families as we begin a new season at Westminster! Please bring a towel and snack to share!

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM EXPLORES "FAITH AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT"

The Adult Education Forum will kick off the 2015-2016 program year on Sunday, September 13, with a three-week course entitled "Faith and Moral Development." This class will review Jean Piaget's respected theory of intellectual development and the role it plays in faith and moral development. A more complete understanding of human development enhances our ability to be effective parents and advocates for the children and youth of our faith community. The class will be team taught by Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Blythe Kieffer.

INTRODUCING SUNDAY MORNING PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP

This Fall, WPC is introducing a Parents' Fellowship Group, which will meet on Sunday mornings from 11:15 a.m.-12 noon to provide an opportunity for camaraderie, support and study on the parenting journey. The class will begin Sunday, October 4, following the September Adult Education Forum.

SEPTEMBER REPORTER DEADLINE IS AUGUST 22!

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GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH AUGUST MENU

Beef Stew, Applesauce, Vanilla Pudding Mix, Green Beans

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