THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

December 2015

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Sanctuary
Westminster Jazz Trio on December 12
Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.
Worship 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pre K-Grade 5
Adult Education 11:15 a.m.

November 28 & 29
First Sunday of Advent
Comfort Ye, My People
Sacrament of Baptism
Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
Reverend Trajan McGill
Confused by the Roaring

December 5 & 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?
9:30 a.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness
Malachi 3:1-4; Philippians 1:3-11
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Determining What is Best

December 12 & 13
Third Sunday of Advent
For Unto Us a Child is Born
Sacrament of Communion
Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:3-14, 18
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
What Then Shall We Do?

December 19 & 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Glory to God in the Highest
Luke 1:39-45; Luke 1:46-55
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer
Spirit Rejoicing

December 27
First Sunday after Christmas
1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Luke 2:41-52
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Growing in Wisdom

ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

PRAYER MINISTRY

This Advent we begin the third year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. As we enter into a new cycle of the Christian year, we begin a new cycle of praying for one another. Throughout the year, each member is remembered by their pastors who gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world. A letter is sent three weeks prior to the week members are being lifted up in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: November 29

Westminster members will continue the tradition of lighting the Advent candles during all three worship services. Our children will create Advent wreaths during Sunday school. The Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m. services will move into the Sanctuary. Advent Family Devotionals have been written by Reverend Dreitcer and are available at the Visitor Information Table.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS: THE BIBLE AND HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

Sundays, November 29, December 6, 13 and 20

Following musical presentations of Handel's *Messiah* in all three worship services each week, the Adult Education Forum will gather at 11:15 a.m. in the Third Floor Chapel to consider the biblical references and musical interpretation of this beloved oratorio. This Advent Series will be led by the pastors and Lyle VanDeventer.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 6, 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall

The celebration begins with the musical, "The Grumpy Sheep", presented by the Children's and Chorister Choirs, under the direction of Dale Rogers. Dinner, cookie decorating, and Christmas arts and crafts will follow. In lieu of a free-will offering for dinner, families are asked to bring Toys for Tots to share during this season of giving! Special thanks to Meridith Bryans and Mary Ray for coordinating dinner and activities.

WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Music for this service will be presented by the Westminster Choir and Dale Rogers, organist. Featured works in the program are a new setting of the ancient text *O Magnum Mysterium* by the American composer, Mark Miller, the *Song of Mary* by the English composer, Richard Shepherd, and *A Child is Born* by the contemporary Irish composer, Philip Stopford.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 a.m.

The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity. Don't miss this great Westminster tradition! The children will process through the Sanctuary in costume during the final hymn and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the charge and benediction.

From the Pastor by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

"One generation shall laud your works to another." Psalm 145:4a

Dear Friends,

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 375 members and friends gathered for worship.

The bagpipers brought us back to our Scottish roots, and our guest preacher, Dr. Laird Stuart, reminded us of God's majesty and sovereignty as we celebrated Christ the King on the final Sunday of the year.

As we begin the Christian calendar anew with Advent, let us prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child. Sometimes it is difficult to conceive how it is that the Sovereign One who created the ends of the earth would join us in our humanity and embrace us in a love beyond our understanding. Music from Handel's *Messiah* will nourish our spirits this Advent as we contemplate the wonder of our faith, the gift of our children, and the story that never grows old.

Music Notes by Dale Rogers

Messiah by Handel will be presented by the Springfield Choral Society on Saturday, November 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Westminster Choir members Adam Miller, **Eleanor VanDeventer**, and **Lyle VanDeventer** will be soloists for this performance.

Brown Bag Concert at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, December 2, at 12:15 p.m. features Dale Rogers, organist, with Diane Dietz and Jody Kienzler. This is a part of their series of free, lunchtime Advent concerts.

The Westminster Children's Choir meets Tuesdays at 4:45 p.m. They sing in worship and at the Advent Celebration on December 6.

The Westminster Choristers sing carols for residents at the Illinois Presbyterian Home (2005 W Lawrence Ave) on Wednesday, December 9. Meet there at 4:30 p.m. and please pick up your child at 5:30 p.m.

The Westminster Choir and friends will again go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 5, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra. The Choir Christmas dinner will follow the Christmas Vespers on December 13.

Christmas Music and Decoration Funds

Members and friends of Westminster are invited to make a suggested donation of $20 to Westminster's music and/or decoration funds. **Donations which require wording for the bulletin insert need to be received by Monday, December 7.** Please note the fund in the memo of your check. Thank you for your generosity!

Westminster at Four: Over 100 people attended the organ recital featuring Dr. John Sherer of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Pictured from left to right are Dale Rogers, John Sherer and Robert Dial, who built Westminster's organ in 2003.

Family Ministry by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

College Student Care Packages

We will be sending packages at the start of the spring semester to counter the post-holiday blues! **Please send updated college student addresses** to hdreitcer@wpcspi.org by Sunday, December 20!

Young Adult Bible Study

On December 14 and 21, at 6:00 p.m., young adults are invited to Rev. Dreitcer's home for our continuing Bible study on the Gospel of Mark.

Youth Calendar

Sunday, December 6

11:30 a.m. Contact Ministries Shop: Join us for a pizza lunch at church before we head out to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution! **5:00 p.m. Advent Celebration:** In lieu of Youth Group, join us for the Advent Celebration!

Sunday, December 13

11:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal: The Confirmation Class and youth participants in the Children's Christmas Eve service will gather after worship for a rehearsal. **6:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group:** Senior High will gather for a pizza dinner and fellowship from 6:00-7:30 p.m. ***There will be no Junior High Youth Group and no Youth Dinner.***

Sunday, December 20

11:15 a.m. Full Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal: Everyone involved in the Children's Christmas Eve Service will gather after worship for a rehearsal. **3:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols Rehearsal:** Our senior class will gather in the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. **5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party:** The Junior and Senior High are invited to Rev. Dreitcer's home from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a holiday potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

The 2016 Mission Fundraisers

A huge thank you to Becky and Vallery Huston for another fabulous **St. Andrew's Mission Fundraiser!** We raised $1,686.

Westminster Notecards featuring Bob Fox's photographs will be sold on Sundays, December 6 and 13 to raise funds for the 2016 Youth Mission (5 cards for $10). Support the Mission and replenish your stationery! This is a great hostess gift or stocking filler!

Children Update by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

Presbyterian Play Date begins **Thursday, December 3, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.** in the Nursery and will meet each week. All are welcome!

Bridges! Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the 45 kits we assembled for Gifts of the Heart. Children also viewed a video on a day in the life of a refugee child and wrote a letter to children in these difficult circumstances. **Wednesday, December 2,** Bridges meets to talk about Aslan from Narnia. **Wednesday, December 9** Bridges and Choristers are going to the Illinois Presbyterian Home (2005 W Lawrence Ave) to sing carols and visit with the residents. Meet there at 4:30 p.m. We look forward to reaching out to the community together!

Children's Christmas Eve Service: This year, children are invited to participate in tableaus during the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as *roaming sheep, shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader.* **All children are invited to arrive at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive costume and instructions.**

Parish Life News by Rev. Trajan McGill

Fellowship at Westminster

Parents' Fellowship Group: All Parents Are Invited To A Potluck On Saturday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. at Jen and Marc DeJong's house for dinner and a night away from the kids. Please bring a side dish or dessert and white elephant gift to exchange.

Theology on Tap (ages 21 – 40) meets Monday, December 7, 5:30 p.m. at Rev. Dreitcer's home. Please bring a white elephant gift.

Presbyterian Men's Fellowship meets Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 a.m. Richard Leary will provide a presentation on his trip to Cuba, with Keith Hamilton leading a devotional.

Knit 2 Purl 4 continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. On December 15, we will have lunch and knitting at the Sangamo Club.

Presbyterian Women gathers at the Illinois Presbyterian Home on Friday, December 4. Lunch will be at noon and a self-guided viewing of the Christmas trees will follow the program. Chair of the Day is Pat Shafer.

Ruth and Naomi Circle meets Wednesday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Caroline Mitchell. We will discuss Chapter IV of *A Hidden Wholeness*, by Parker J. Palmer.

Elizabeth Circle Annual Christmas Fellowship Dinner will be on Monday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall. Cost is $11.00 per person - payable that evening. Guests are welcome. Please call Judi Mier at 726-6872 or Pat McKenzie at 494-9258 for reservations before December 4. Special music by Seraphim. Menu includes teriyaki chicken, salad, vegetable, dessert and drinks.

Lydia Circle will have their Annual Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8, at 11:30 a.m. in Parish Hall.

Page Turners Book Study will combine their November and December meetings on December 9 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sangamo Club for lunch and discussion of *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson.

Congregational Care at Westminster

Home Communion is available the Second Sunday of each month. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to take part in the Lord's Supper, please contact the Church Office.

Service of Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, December 6, 9:30 a.m. in Parish Hall

This simple service, which comes out of the Iona Community, gathers people for prayer and music on the first Sunday of each month and is led by our pastors and accompanist, Karen Kraft.

Westminster News

Sacrament of Baptism: Angela and Kevin Simonson present their daughter, Olivia Grace, for baptism on Sunday, November 29. Her grandparents are **Mary Caroline and David Mitchell.**

In Memoriam: Dennis Wilson died November 18. The prayers of the congregation are extended to his wife, **Kate**, his daughters; **Wendy Oakes** and **Sally Szudy** and their families. A memorial service will be held December 12 at 3:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Congratulations: Dr. Kevin Dorsey was honored for 14 years as Dean and Provost of SIU School of Medicine on November 13.

Thank You: …to Westminster for a marvelous location for our AAUW Used Book Sale, with a special thanks to the custodial staff.
–Sally Cadigan and Leah Duling, Co-Chairs

Mission and Community Service

Helping Hands Nov. meal provided by Andrea Rediger Klein.

Adopt-a-Street clean-up provided by Peter Kieffer & Brad Steller.

St. John's Breadline Sunday raised $446.00. Thank you!

Give -a- Meal -a- Month December Menu: ***Canned Tuna, Shells and Cheese, Peaches, Mixed Vegetables.*** Thank you to those who place these items in the baskets in the West Narthex.

Senior Sack Lunch program is preparing and delivering meals to seniors through Daily Bread in light of the budget crisis. The Westminster Endowment Fund provided $500 through December.

Advent Opportunities to Give

Knit 2 Purl 4 delivered 9 bags to Kumler Neighborhood Ministries in November. The Contact Ministries Mitten Tree will be up on Sunday, November 29. Place your hats, mittens and scarfs on the tree next to the elevator by Sunday, December 13.

Adopt A Family: We will work with Contact Ministries again this year. Tags for gifts will be on the Christmas tree outside the Church Office. Please return your gift (wrapped or unwrapped), ***with tag attached***, to the church no later than Sunday, December 12. For further info, contact Kay Smith at 691-9401.

Toys for Tots: There is a Toys for Tots box in the West Narthex. You are welcome to place unwrapped gifts for children of all ages in it. They will be distributed by the Toys for Tots organization.

Contact Ministries Distribution will be hosted by Westminster on Wednesday, December 16. This year, recipients were asked to pre-register. Sign-up sheets with duties and job descriptions will be available on Sunday, December 6.

New Addresses

Uldine Beck, Centennial Pointe, 3440 Hedley Rd, 5B, 62711
Sue & Bill Donels, 13 Turnberry, 62704
Mary Ann Johnson, 50 Alder Knob, Petersburg, IL 62675
Bonnie Millard, Wyndcrest, 4817 Oak Hill Rd, Rochester, IL 62563
Cathy Saling & Robert Cordier; 2561 Cherry Rd, 62704
Kate Wilson; 3511 Conifer Dr, Apt 57, 62711

To Concordia Village; 4101 W Iles Ave: **Mary Ann Armstrong**, Apt #3311; **Louise & Art Cragoe**, Apt #2210; **Patrick Noonan**, Apt #3227; **Logan Schlipf**, Apt #3103; **Jean & Bill Sherrick,** Apt #3102; **Dee & Cliff Tozer**; Apt #3207

Illinois Presbyterian Home News

The Fall Bazaar held on October 3 raised $2,818.19 for volunteer programs at the residence, including Christmas presents and parties for the residents and amenities for the facility. Many thanks to the Westminster volunteers who collectively put in hundreds of hours to make this event possible. – *Anne Haaker*

IPH Christmas Open House will be Sunday, December 6, 2 - 4 p.m. Come see our facility trimmed for the season, enjoy refreshments, listen to special music and meet the new Executive Director, Kathleen Cross, and new Marketing Director, Cathy Huffman. We also have some newly decorated areas, model rooms and exciting plans for the future to share. *–Marci Irvine, Vice President of the Board, Illinois Presbyterian Home*

Christmas Eve at Westminster
Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Service

The Confirmation Class of 2016 will read the Christmas story; Katie, Pat and Charlotte Moore will be our Holy Family, and the children will participate as shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs. Your child can arrive at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume and instructions or participate as a leader and attend one practice on Sunday, December 20, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

6:00-7:30 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Dinner

Hosted by the Board of Deacons

Don't miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, tossed salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are $17, children 6-12 are $11.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. Reservations and payment must be made no later than Thursday, December 17. Please send your payment and number attending to the Church Office. Reservation forms will be in the bulletins on November 29, and at sign-up tables.

7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors will read the Christmas Story in this 96th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, the bells of churches were silenced during the season of Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (Glory to God in the Highest) the bells were rung. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol. **So bring your silver bells, brass bells, jingle bells, and even cow bells to this service and be prepared to ring out in peals of joy!**

11:00 p.m. Candle Light Communion Service

The solemn, quiet joy of this lovely Candle Light Communion Service makes it a favorite for many and a meaningful way to welcome Christmas Day.

Stewardship Campaign Update

Generations of Generosity

Thank you to all who have made their 2016 pledge. As of Wednesday, November 25, we received 260 pledges and $788,379, 94% of our $841,590 goal. If you have not yet pledged and intend to do so, you may pledge online at www.wpcspi.org or complete a pledge card.

All 2015 Contributions need to be dated 2015 and received no later than noon on Monday, January 4, 2016 in order to be posted to the 2015 year. If you have questions, call Lisa Runkle at 522-4415 ext 11.

October Financial Report by Lisa Runkle

Income received in October continued to be below expectations. For the year, income is almost $37,750 under the budgeted amount. Expenses are less than $700 over budget, so October's net total is $38,436 expenses exceeding income. History indicates members and friends typically fulfill their pledges in December. Please call Lisa if you have questions.

2015 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	$ 773,406	$ 811,154	$ -37,748
Expenses	$-811,842	$-811,154	$ - 688
Net Total	$- 38,436	$ 0	

Let These Doors be a Way to Service

The Property Committee is delighted to announce that the north and south doors of the West Narthex have been replaced and refinished to match our Sanctuary doors. We are grateful to the Westminster Endowment which made this investment possible. The north doors are also accessible!

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Trajan I. McGill
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Hannah M. Dreitcer
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
hdreitcer@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill
Parish Associate for Children's Ministries
smcgill@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate
pastorboutelle@yahoo.com

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts
Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator
Deb.watts@live.com

Judy Ridinger, Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurses
jaridinger@att.net; ecarpenter@wpcspi.org

Abigail Cline, Katie Kirschbaum
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Kari Soria
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
westminstercoop@gmail.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Connie Brown
Church Administrative Assistant
cbrown@wpcspi.org

Liz Maxey
Administrative Assistant to the Pastors
lmaxey@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Head Custodian and Rental Properties Coordinator
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Roy Ahlers, Steve Council, Bill Hibbert
Custodians

January Reporter Deadline is December 27