

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

December 2018

### SUNDAY WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

*Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.  
Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall  
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
Sunday School for Pre-K – Grade 5  
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Confirmation & Adult Ed Forum  
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon*

December 2

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**CHORISTER MUSICAL AT 10:00 A.M.**  
**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**  
*Jeremiah 33:14-16; I Thess. 3:9-13*  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Night and Day*

December 9

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**COMMUNION**  
*Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6*  
Reverend Trajan I. McGill  
*All Flesh Shall See the Salvation*

December 16

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
*Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18*  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Filled with Expectation*

December 23

**One Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**BAPTISM**  
*Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-45*  
Reverend Christian K. Choi  
preaching

December 30

**One Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**  
*1 Samuel 2:18-20; Luke 2:41-52*  
Reverend Trajan I. McGill  
*To Grow in Stature and Wisdom*

### ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

Advent Family Devotionals have been mailed to families and are available in the West Narthex. Each Sunday, Westminster's new members light the Advent candles during both worship services.

### ADVENT CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 2, 11:15 a.m. Fellowship in Parish Hall**

The Advent Celebration will follow the 10:00 a.m. service of worship which will include the musical presentation of "Silent Night, Holy Night" by the Westminster's Choristers (Grades K-5), directed by Dale Rogers.



The entire congregation is invited to gather in Parish Hall with the children and their families following worship, to sing carols led by Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer, and to enjoy refreshments. During the gathering children will create Advent wreaths, Christmas ornaments, and decorate cookies. Families are invited to bring **Toys for Tots** to share during this season of giving!

### WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS

**Sunday, December 9, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



Music for this service will be presented by the Westminster Choir, the Walnuts, the St. Andrew's Sisters, Krista Steller, and Dale Rogers, organist.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the writing of the carol Silent Night, Holy Night, a collaboration of the pastor and organist of St. Nicholas's Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Pastor Joseph Mohr wrote the text and Franz Gruber composed the music with a guitar accompaniment to fill in for the broken down organ on Christmas Eve, 1818. Our concert will include a new setting of the music for choir, oboe and organ by the Irish composer, Philip Stopford. In addition to seasonal carols and music.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

**Sunday, December 23, One Service of Worship at 10:00 a.m.**

The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull and Meridith Bryan's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity in the Second Floor Classroom.

The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume, and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the charge and benediction. Don't miss this great Westminster tradition!



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

*One who rules over people justly is like the light of morning...  
II Samuel 23:3a*

Dear Friends,

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 290 members and friends gathered for worship. The bagpipers brought us back to our Scottish roots, the children we welcomed in the Sacrament of Baptism reminded us of who we are, and Scripture beckoned us to the words Jesus shared with Pilot in the early morning, words which shed light on the truth about who God is and Christ's role as the just king.

As we begin the Christian calendar anew, we enter this Holy Season with hope and expectation. The staff joins me in wishing you a joyous Advent and a meaningful Christmas. Sometimes it is difficult to conceive how it is that the One who created the ends of the earth would join us in our humanity and embrace us in a love beyond our understanding. Music will nourish our spirits as we contemplate the wonder of our faith, the gift of our children, and the story that never grows old.

This Advent we begin the sixth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. Throughout the year, each member of our congregation is remembered in prayer by their pastors. It is an honor and privilege to share in the discipline of this spiritual practice on your behalf. Rev. McGill and I look forward to welcoming Rev. Choi as we gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world. A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week members are remembered in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

### THANK YOU JEN DEJONG



The Westminster community is grateful to Jen DeJong who has served as Transitional Director for Youth (5-10 hours per week) since August as the APNC concluded their work.

We are thankful for Jen's expertise in youth ministry, her initiative, her warm welcome, and her attention to details. Jen continues her professional

work as Vice-President for Connections with Ministry Architects and will share her gift as a volunteer with our youth. Besides serving as Transitional Director, Jen and Marc hosted the Senior High Youth Group in their home most Sunday evenings this fall. We will recognize Jen on Sunday, December 16 during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

### ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

#### SILENT NIGHT AND OTHER CAROLS

Sundays, December 9 and 16

On the 200th anniversary of Silent Night, this beloved carol and others will be performed and explored. Join gifted musician couples Katie and Pat Moore on December 9 and Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer on December 16 at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

### WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20

Fred Rogers, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, brought the good news into the homes of millions of Americans for decades. Learn more about his brilliant, subversive ministry from, pediatrician Dr. Peter Kieffer.



## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS lead us in the musical presentation of *Silent Night, Holy Night* during the 10:00 a.m. worship on December 2. Children should meet in the Chancel that morning at 9:25 a.m. to rehearse.



THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR and friends will again go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 1, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra. December rehearsals are Thursdays, December 6, 13 & 20. The Choir Christmas dinner will be in Parish Hall following the Christmas Vespers on December 9.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUND** Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations funds, which includes the poinsettias. Donations of \$25 or more to the Special Music Fund are accepted at this time and through the year. Please submit your donation with your desired wording and dedication for the poinsettias by December 10. **This is a great opportunity to make a donation in honor or in memory of a loved one.**

**CHURCH MICE** will not meet during December. Sessions resume on Saturday, January 12 at 11 a.m.

### OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithfulness and support of the ministry of Westminster! At the end of October, income is above our budget and expenses are below budget. Our net total is \$42,445 income over expenses.

2018 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 866,453	\$ 860,508	\$ 5,945
Expenses	\$-824,008	\$-860,508	\$-36,500
Net Total	\$ 42,445	\$ 0	

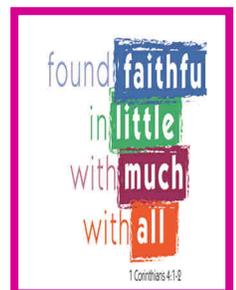
### YEAR-END 2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2018 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2018 tax year are dated 2018 and received no later than noon Wednesday, January 2, 2019.**

### 2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Tuesday, November 27, we have received **243** pledges for a total of **\$780,923**. This is **93%** toward our dollar amount goal. If you have not made a pledge and intend to, please do so asap!

*2019 Committee: Steve Scaife, Chair, Bill Deemer, Anne Haaker, Nichole Magalis, Becky Martin, David Mitchell, Mary Ray, Julie Robbs, Krista Steller, Lynn McMenamain, and Dr. Will Wright*



## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS by Jen DeJong

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

**11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration:** Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth are invited to Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday brunch, and caroling!

**12:00 noon Contact Ministries Shop:** Following the Advent Celebration, join us to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

**11:15 a.m. Confirmation Prep & Confirmation meet regularly followed by lunch with Rev. Choi** Parents, youth volunteers, and mentors are invited to stay for a lunch with Rev. Choi as we welcome him to our pastoral staff.

**5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth (Youth Room) "Meet and Greet" Rev. Choi** We will enjoy dinner, games, and fellowship and hear about his hopes and dreams for our faith journey together.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

**11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmation Prep and Confirmation Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Prep Participants and the Confirmation Class Readers will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service. There will be no Confirmation Prep and Confirmation Classes this Sunday.

### 5:00 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party

The Senior and Junior High are invited to the DeJong home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a Christmas potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

**11:15 a.m. – 12 noon Confirmation Prep and Confirmation Christmas Eve Rehearsal (Sanctuary)** The Confirmation Prep Participants and the Confirmation Class Readers will gather after worship for a brief rehearsal reading their scripts for the Children's Christmas Eve Service. The children will join us for this second run through.

**11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. H. S. Seniors rehearse for the Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)** Our senior class will gather in the Youth Room at 11:15 a.m. to review readings and move to the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

**4:45 p.m. Confirmation and Confirmation Prep Participants meet for Christmas Eve Service (Second Floor Classroom)**

Junior High Youth will lead the children in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service. Please arrive by 4:45 p.m. and gather in the Second Floor Classroom.

### 7:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

High school seniors will lead the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Bring your bells to ring for the final hymn!

**Confirmation Prep, Confirmation, and Youth Group will not meet December 23 and 30.**

We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating this Holy Season! If you have questions, contact Jen DeJong ([jdejong@wpcspi.org](mailto:jdejong@wpcspi.org)).

## WPC YOUNG ADULTS

WPC Young Adults (ages 18-29) met on Sunday, November 25, at Obed and Isaac's. We will take a break in December and will resume on January 27, 2019.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

### BRIDGES SING AT CONCORDIA

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

On Wednesday, December 12, Bridges children will bring greetings and sing carols for our friends at Concordia. WPC members will also receive gift bags with ornaments created at the Advent Celebration. We will also enjoy some homemade cocoa by Dale Rogers.



#### BRIDGES DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, December 5 – Regular Fellowship

Wednesday, December 12 – Sing at Concordia

Wednesday, December 19 – Regular Fellowship

Wednesdays, December 26 and January 2 – No Fellowship

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 4:45 P.M.

All our children are invited to participate in the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the confirmands read the Christmas story. Children will be shepherds, angels, and magi under the direction of a designated junior high leader. Children ages three and under are invited to be freely roaming lambs.

**Children are invited to a walk through rehearsal on Sunday,**

**December 23 at**

**11:15 a.m.** All

children are

invited and

encouraged to

arrive on

December 24 at

4:45 p.m. in the

Second Floor

Classroom,

where they will

receive a



costume and be given instructions if they missed the rehearsal on December 23.

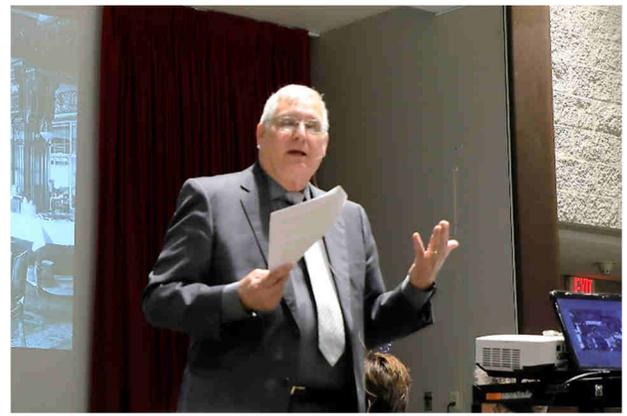
**Please complete and return the postcard included in the advent mailing to Karen Sherrick no later than Sunday, December 16** to let us know if your children are joining us and their preferred parts. We hope you and your family will join us in celebrating this Holy Season! If you have questions, contact Karen Sherrick ([ksherrick@wpcspi.org](mailto:ksherrick@wpcspi.org)).

## WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

WCP gathered for their annual Friendship Feast on November 16. We enjoyed a delicious lunch including "Stone Soup," which the children presented prior to the feast. This beautiful story of coming together and finding happiness in helping each other fits well with our co-op philosophy. It also reflects the wonderful way Westminster Presbyterian Church helps and supports us. We are so thankful for you! In December, each co-op family will share their holiday traditions. The children (and the adults!) love hearing all of the neat and different traditions.



## BAY WEEKEND WELCOMES DR. TOM SCHWARTZ November 3-4



The 2018 Bay Weekend began Saturday, November 3 with a lovely reception at Karen and Andy Sherrick's home. Hosted by the Adult Education Committee, over 40 gathered to greet Dr. Schwartz and to hear an introduction to the presentation the next day. On Sunday, November 4 over 100 members gathered in Parish Hall following worship for a thoughtful and interesting presentation on Herbert Hoover's humanitarian efforts during World War I. We then shared a delicious meal prepared by Pat Hymans and her gifted team. It was Westminster's gracious hospitality at our best!



## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM Wednesday, November 14



Westminster Children and Youth gathered at the Springfield Mosque with friends from other faiths. Continuing the theme "Things We Share," we brought donations for the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. A presentation to the children about calligraphy introduced them to Aramaic writing. They then had the opportunity to write their names in calligraphy on leaves. The youth created a craft with a peace theme.

Our next **Children of Abraham** gathering will be Wednesday, January 30, 4:30 p.m. at the Grace United Methodist Church.

**COMPASS THANKSGIVING GATHERING**  
 Tuesday, November 20



Compass children enjoy traditional Thanksgiving meal prepared by Westminster team!

**CHRISMON AND CHRISTMAS DECORATORS**  
 Thank you very much!



Row 1: Tim and Priscilla Kluge, Carolyn Berning, Carol Bloemer, Sue Cull, Dale Rogers, Jeanne Pittman, and Pat Roller  
 On ladders: Jim Kontio, Marc Anderson, and Carolyn Dungan

**ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY**  
 November 25



Westminster welcomed Luke McNutt and Brady Rockwood in the Sacrament of Baptism on St. Andrew's Sunday. Luke and Brady are Pat McNutt's grandsons. Carson Rockwood is Brady's older brother and Luke's cousin.

St. Andrew's Pipes and Drums includes Westminster's Chris Barnett, Richard Priller and Steve Scaife.



## ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**ADOPT A FAMILY:** Gifts for 9 families are being provided in collaboration with Contact Ministries. There are tags on one of the Christmas trees in the West Narthex (near the volunteer desk) corresponding to needs and wishes of children and mothers housed in their shelter. Please take tags and return gifts and tags to the church **by Sunday, December 9.** Please leave them unwrapped—the mothers from each family will wrap their children's presents, and volunteers will wrap the presents for each mother. Brad Milliman and Kay Smith are coordinating this effort.



**TOYS FOR TOTS** box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts for children of all ages in it. This outreach is sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve.

**THE MITTEN TREE** for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. Please donate by Tuesday, December 11, so items can be included in the Contact Ministries distribution. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!

**CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION** will be hosted here on Wednesday, December 12. Recipients were asked to pre-register. If you are able to volunteer at this event, please call Contact Ministries at (217) 753-3939.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial/ethnic students. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

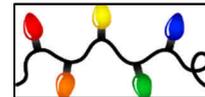
**KENYA MISSION MOVING FORWARD** – Following a good show of interest from the congregation, the Mission & Community Service Committees have allocated \$5,000 from the 2018 Mission Endowment Fund toward this project. Westminster anticipates collaborating with the Outreach Foundation to fund and help construct a church building for the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. A team from WPC expects to be traveling to Kenya in January 2020 to help finish the building project and develop connections with our brothers and sisters in the worldwide church. If you have interest in being a part of the Kenya team, contact Trajan McGill to learn more.

**NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE** – The Mission Committee of the Session and the Community Service Committees of the Board of Deacons, having worked very closely together for several years, are formally merging into a single Mission and Community Service Committee with both Elder and Deacon membership. There are also several positions on this committee for WPC members not currently serving as church officers. If mission and service are close to your heart, consider serving with this group of people dedicated to encouraging, developing, and coordinating the mission efforts of this church. Contact Trajan McGill for more info.

## EARTH CARE NEWS

### CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING

Last year's Christmas tree lights don't work? If simply replacing a bulb or fuse doesn't solve the problem, reclaim valuable copper, plastic, and glass by recycling them (without bags or boxes) in the top bin at the southwest corner of Westminster's West Narthex. Next time, consider purchasing more efficient and long-lasting LED lights!



**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** – In 2017, WPC partnered with central IL Presbyterian churches to build a home. WPC was a major financial sponsor and provided numerous volunteers. One bonus feature of Habitat building projects is that when fundraising for a home exceeds the amount needed to build that particular house, additional funds sponsor international Habitat projects in developing nations. This was one of the goals of those coordinating our 2017 build, and we are happy to report the project not only resulted in affordable housing for a family here, but also in a now-completed new home for a family in Bangladesh. Please pray for Bidhan, a small business owner who lost his legs several years ago, and his family, who have struggled over the years but now have a decent home with wheelchair access.



In 2019, numerous Springfield worshipping communities will be joining together with Habitat for an Interfaith Build.

**HELPING HANDS** – WPC provides dinner for the Helping Hands homeless shelter on the second Friday of each month. Thanks to **Dr. Judy Knox**, who provided the November meal. The dinner in December is being provided by **Judy Ridinger** and **Sue Sawers**. Please consider offering a meal yourself—we have openings in February, March, and May through December of 2019. Some put together meals as individuals, and others enjoy doing it together as a family or a small team of friends. If you are uncertain what is involved, the church office would be happy to provide details.

**ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE SUNDAY** raised \$454.00. Thank you!

**UNICEF OFFERING** was collected in October and totaled \$271.24. Thank you to all who contributed.

**GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH DECEMBER MENU** - Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola/nutri-grain/breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.*

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

### WESTMINSTER PRAYER CIRCLE

If you have joys, concerns, hopes, or needs you would like included in the prayers of the Westminster community, please complete one of the prayer cards in the pews, speak to a pastor, or call the church office, so your prayer requests can be shared with the prayer circle.

**HOME COMMUNION** - Our next Communion Sunday is December 9. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive the sacrament at home, please contact the church office. Many thanks to those who visit members with the Lord's Supper. If you are an Elder or Deacon (currently or formerly serving) and you would enjoy calling on other members in this way, please contact Rev. Trajan McGill.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE SECOND FLOOR CLASSROOM

K2P4 Mission gathers every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters will not meet for a brown bag lunch on December 11, but will meet to knit at 1:00 p.m. On December 18, knitters will meet off-site from 11:30-2:00, please contact Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins for reservations at 217-544-8657. Knitting will resume on January 8 after a brown bag lunch in the kitchen at 12 noon.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW LUNCHEON** will meet **Friday, December 7 at noon** in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair is Pat Hymans. The Chair of the Day is Pat McNutt. The program is "Ensemble of Harps" by The Harpestry.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet **Monday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m.** in Parish Hall for a Christmas Fellowship Dinner.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** will meet **Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Stephanie Moore (9 Pine Tree Dr., Spfld.) and lead the discussion of Chapter 15-21 in *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. If you would like information, call Stephanie Moore at 217-522-4415.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, December 18 at 11:30 a.m.** in Parish Hall for a Christmas Salad Luncheon. Deb Coontz will host and lead devotions.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Presbyterian Men will meet **Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 a.m.** for a breakfast gathering. David Mitchell will give a presentation on "The Surprising Stories Behind our Christmas Carols". Rich Canady will lead devotions, and Pete VanGieson will provide the food.

### DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

Thank you all for a wonderful year of fellowship and to musician Ed Gelbach who bid us farewell to 2018 with delightful traveling music. Our meetings resume in March 2019.



### ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

Christmas Open House is Sunday, December 2, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Stop by and see the Christmas Decorations and exciting changes (2005 W. Lawrence). We are grateful for the loving care of so many Presbyterian Women who make this such a delightful and successful day.



### PROPERTY UPDATE

The lights in Westminster's Sanctuary were re-lamped in November by Gary Warnick, with a team of volunteers including Marc Anderson, Mal Hildebrand, Dale Huston, Bob Leffler, Kevin Proctor, Brad Swanson, Brad Steller, and the keen eye of Dale Rogers.

At the November Personnel meeting, the committee approved a title change for Gary Warnick to Property and Grounds Manager. This better reflects the scope of the work Gary oversees. We are grateful for his expertise, oversight, and attention to details.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Louise Cragoe celebrates 94 years on December 5.

Edith Irwin celebrates 95 years on December 14.

George Johnson celebrates 94 years on December 20.

Sue & Bill Donels celebrates 55 years on December 28.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sarah and Richard Rockwood presented their son, Brady Joseph for baptism on November 25.

Milli and John McNutt presented their son, Luke Aarav for baptism on November 25.

### SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Roger Fenstermaker on the death of his wife, Rose Fenstermaker on October 31.

Carolyn & Kevin Proctor on the death of his brother-in-law, Mark Skube in Edmund, OK.

Mary and Morley Peura, on the death of her father, Bernie Quigley on November 24 in Springfield, IL.

The Rev. Kay Daniel on the death of her husband, the Rev. David Daniel on November 17 in a car accident. Rev. Daniel was the Pastor of Rock Creek Presbyterian Church in Tallula,

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Grace Batterman, Mia Marcy, and Amelia Tungett, who will dance in the Nutcracker Ballet December 8-9 at UIS.

Bob Leffler, who will host an art show "Brilliantly Natural" at the David Strawn Art Gallery in Jacksonville from January 12-27, 2019. The open house is Saturday, January 12 at 8 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Bob will have more than 80 photographs of brilliantly colored outdoor sights.

### THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

Thank you so much for your sponsorship of \$2,500 for our Contact Ministries Fall Fundraiser. It was a huge success with over 1,100 in attendance and over \$30,000 raised for our women and children's shelter. These funds allow us to continue to have open doors and to fulfill our mission of meeting basic needs while impacting lives for Christ. *Cindy Drum, Board & Staff*

Thank you so much for your continued kindness to Helping Hands. Your support of \$4,000 annually is of great inspiration to all of us here. *Erica Smith, Director of Shelter and Support Services*

Thank you all so very much for your generous contribution of \$2,500 to the James Project 5<sup>th</sup> House Fund. We have recently found a good house for our purpose, and will close on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Your gift will be used for our down payment and is so appreciated! The smaller the mortgage, the happier we are!! What an encouragement it is to all of us to have you as a partner in our ministry. We are blessed. Gratefully, *Jan Williams for the James Project Board & Staff*

Thank you for supporting the work of Youth First in Los Angeles, CA with your contribution of \$1,000. Your generosity helps impact the lives of inner city kids with the love of Christ. Blessings, *Dawn Finch, Executive Director*

Thank you for choosing to partner with Midwest Mission Distribution Center in ministry. Your gift of flood buckets will be a blessing in their time of need. You are a Blessing, *Chantel Corrie, Executive Director. (The Children of Abraham put together 30 flood buckets on Earth Day in April as their final service project. Westminster's Endowment made this gift possible.)*

**WE WELCOME THE CHOI FAMILY  
THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**

The Reverend Christian Choi begins his journey with Westminster this Sunday, December 2 as *Associate Pastor for Family Ministry*. We welcome Christian, Sophia, and Diana to our faith community and anticipate with great joy the birth of son in February 2019.

The Choi's new address is 338 Snider Lane, Chatham, IL 62629. Christian's cell number is (630) 432-7804 and Sophia's cell number is (630) 432-7806.



**CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER**

**5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

The Confirmation Class of 2019 will read the Christmas story and the children will participate as shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Children, ages three and under, will be freely roaming lambs. **Participating children are invited to a rehearsal on Sunday, December 23 at 11:15 a.m. in the Chancel and need to arrive December 24 at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume.**

**6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**

**HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Do not miss this special event that includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$17, children 6-12 are \$11.50 and children ages 5 and under are no charge. Please go to our website or send your payment and number attending to the church. **Reservations and payment required no later than Monday, December 17.** Sign-up forms will be in the December 2, 9, 16 bulletins & 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 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, church bells did not ring during Advent; however, on Christmas at the singing of the angel's song "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells rang out. 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. The Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation and Sally Wilson Szudy, soprano soloist, will present special music.

**Church offices will be closed after noon Monday, December 24,  
all day Tuesday, Christmas Day, after noon Monday, December 31,  
and all day Tuesday, New Year's Day.**

**January Reporter deadline is Sunday, December 30  
Reporter folding and mailing will be Thursday, January 3**

**Westminster Staff**

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