



# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

### February 2017

### 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.  
Adult Education & Children's Activities  
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon*

### February 5

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
*Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20*  
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer  
*Like the Dawn*

### February 12

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**  
*Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 5:21-37*  
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Walking in God's Ways*

### February 19

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
*Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Matthew 5:38-48*  
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Surprised by Joy*

### February 26

**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**  
*Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9*  
Reverend Trajan McGill  
*Up a High Mountain*

### SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE (+ ACTION)

*Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairers of the breach, the restorers of the streets in which to dwell.*  
*Isaiah 58:12*

As a member of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good, Westminster will participate in the Sacred Conversations on Race (+ ACTION). Sacred Conversations was designed to support congregations as they broach the difficult, but necessary conversations centered on racial tensions. Central Baptist, First Presbyterian and Lural Methodist are among the churches joining in this conversation. The schedule is as follows:

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 4:00 – 6:30 P.M. AT CENTRAL BAPTIST**

Opening Session: All congregations convene to worship and reflect.

**SUNDAYS, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, 11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

Members of Westminster who choose to be a part of this conversation will meet each Sunday in March following the 10:00 a.m. worship service with trained facilitators.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 4:00 – 6:30 P.M. AT WESTMINSTER**

Closing Session: All congregations convene to worship, reflect, and plan action.

With a community in need of understanding, healing, and great systemic change, the conversations must begin. As they occur, it is our hope that better informed and more self-aware people will begin to understand the plight of others, have their stories heard, and work together to unite our community.

### ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

**5:45 P.M. SIMPLE DINNER IN PARISH HALL**

**6:30 P.M. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY**

We begin our Lenten Journey with a simple soup and salad dinner followed by a family centered worship service including Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and a meditation by Dr. Kieffer. Children from the Bridges Fellowship will serve as worship leaders.

**LENTEN GIVING: The One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering will be received during Lent. This is an opportunity to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and empower the poor and oppressed. **Lenten Coat Drive** will be collected in the West Narthex and these coats will line the center pews of our Sanctuary on Palm Sunday.

### Bay Weekend Retreat Sabbath Keeping and Holy Time April 1-2, 2017

We welcome the Reverend MaryAnn McKibben Dana, Presbyterian Pastor, host of the Blue Room blog, and author of *Sabbath in the Suburbs: A Family's Experiment with Holy Time*, who will lead us in a retreat on Sabbath-keeping and holy time.

Weekend events include a reception on Saturday evening, morning worship, Adult Ed Forum and an extended event on Sunday afternoon for children, youth and adults. Mark your calendar and look for details to unfold.

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

Once again members of Westminster attended the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast hosted by the Frontiers International Springfield Club (whose primary focus is mentoring young people). This year Westminster included an ad in the program which included ways we have aspired to justice since 1835. The following historical events were shared. In 1837 thirteen of our thirty founding members signed Elijah Lovejoy's Call for an Anti-Slavery Convention in upper Alton, Illinois.

In 1848, Westminster (then Second Presbyterian) was a racially integrated church as Elizabeth and Jamieson Jenkins were received into membership. Jamieson was a neighbor of the Lincolns and a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

In our effort to continue today and encourage others to join us, we highlighted the **Children of Abraham** Interfaith Fellowship for children in Grades 1-6 and the **Sacred Conversations on Race**. How grateful I am for these opportunities within our faith community. Our children were mesmerized by Kathryn Harris' portrayal of Harriet Tubman last week at Grace United Methodist Church.

Books on Harriet Tubman can be found in our children's library. The rich history of our abolitionist church is recorded by our archivists. Sadly, Westminster's first archivist, Kathie Nenaber, died May 30, 2016. We are grateful for her diligent work and vital spirit and we welcome **Carol Bloemer** who will join Sue Cull in this meaningful and important work. Additionally we are delighted that **Sharon Turner** has agreed to serve as Westminster's librarian overseeing both the adult and children's collections. Sue Cull and Kate Wilson will assist her in the momentous task ahead.

May we continue to work together to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

## CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



The Personnel Committee is pleased to introduce Jennie Alt who brings a breadth of experience as our new Church Administrative Assistant.

She has over 16 years of experience as an office professional, with a specialty in customer service. Prior to this, Jennie taught preschool and served as

Director of SPARC Adventure Academy in Springfield. Jennie is proficient in Microsoft Office Programs, Microsoft Outlook, QuickBooks and Excel. Jennie received a B.A. in Business Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University and graduated Cum Laude.

Jennie sings in the choir at Central Baptist Church where she and her husband John belong. She has served on many committees and as their Children's Coordinator for several years. They have two sons Isaac (age 10) and Ethan (age 7).

## STAFF TRANSITIONS

### NURSERY

We are grateful to Katie Kirshbaum who has worked in our nursery while completing her degree at UIS. Abigail Cline returns to the nursery staff! Abby is a life-long WPC member joins Whitney Spearie in caring for our youngest members.

### CUSTODIAN

Steve Council retired at the beginning of 2016. Over this past year he has helped out from time to time. To our delight, Steve has decided to return to staff as a part-time custodian.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (singers in Kindergarten - Grade 2) will sing on Palm Sunday, April 9. Rehearsals begin again on Tuesday, February 7 from 4:45 until 5:30 p.m. This training choir is a positive musical experience for early readers.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** (singers in grades 3-6) rehearse on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. following Bridges. The Choristers will sing on Sunday, February 26 at the 10 a.m. service, and participate with Bridges children as liturgists and singers for the Ash Wednesday service on March 1.

**CHURCH MICE** (infants through age 4) gather on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in the second floor classroom. This early childhood development music focuses on food songs this term.

**WESTMINSTER CHOIR** rehearses each Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

**THE WALNUTS** will sing **The Abolition of Slavery**, a piece from a set of Five Days that Changed the World by Bob Chilcott at the 10:00 a.m. service on Lincoln's Birthday, February 12.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### The Hope College Choir

Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.



We are thrilled to host this 40-voice choir from Holland, Michigan. Dr. Kieffer is an alum of Hope College. During the choir's time in Springfield, we will serve the choir dinner along with our Compass students. **Following the concert, we need overnight housing for forty students.** If you are able to host two or more students for the night and feed them breakfast prior to their departure, please contact Dale at 217 522-4415.

### Dale Rogers, Organist in Recital

Sunday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Our own Dale Rogers will present a program not to be missed.

### Illinois Symphony Piano Quartet

Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss this "Around the Town Concert" presented by members of the Illinois Symphony playing violin, viola, violoncello and piano.

### John Sherer, Organist in Recital

Sunday, April 23 at 4:00 p.m.

John Sherer of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago will present a program based on music from the time of the Titanic, music heard on the Titanic, and music inspired by and dedicated to the memory of those lost on the Titanic

### A Sacred Concert by the Westminster Choir

Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Westminster Choir will present a Sacred Concert at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception celebrating the new organ at the Cathedral.

## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

### YOUTH UPDATE

**THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** is Sunday, February 5! Support the hungry in Springfield by placing your donation in the large soup pots held by our youth following worship. This is a program organized by the youth of the PC(USA).



**YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY** Join us Sunday, February 5 from 5:00 p.m. until the end of the halftime show in the Youth Room for a Super Bowl Party! Bring a friend and dish to share.

**SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE** Westminster is excited and honored to participate in Faith Coalition for the Common Good's 2017 Sacred Conversations on Race. The opening session on Sunday, February 26 from 4:00-6:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church is an opportunity for all congregations involved to come together to worship and reflect. Our youth are invited and encouraged to be a part of this incredible opportunity! The youth group will attend the opening session together.

### ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

Junior High youth meet Sundays, 4:00– 6:00 p.m. for study, fellowship, and dinner.

February 5 – Super Bowl Party and Potluck

February 10 (Saturday) – Confirmation Field Trip to Temple B'rith Shalom

February 12 – Confirmation Prep: "New Promises"  
Confirmation Class: "Abrahamic Faiths"

February 19 – Confirmation Prep: "Death to Life"  
Confirmation Class: "The Bible"

February 26 – 4-6:30pm Sacred Conversations on Race  
Central Baptist Church

**CONFIRMATION FIELD TRIP** Confirmands and their mentors will visit Temple B'rith Shalom for worship and dinner on Friday, February 10. We will meet at WPC at 5:00 p.m. and carpool to the 5:30 p.m. worship. Following dinner, we will meet with Rabbi Datz to learn more and have our questions answered, and then carpool back to WPC.

### ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

Senior High youth meet Sundays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, and an exploration of how we can use our gifts to address poverty.

February 5 – Super Bowl Party and Potluck

February 12 – "Gifts and Needs"

February 19 – "Who's Got the Power?"

February 26 – 4-6:30pm Sacred Conversations on Race  
Central Baptist Church

### 2017 YOUTH MISSION

It's not too late to sign up to join us in Tennessee July 1-8, 2017! Contact Rev. Hannah at [hdreitcer@wpcspi.org](mailto:hdreitcer@wpcspi.org).

**ALL TEAM MEETING** on Sunday, February 12 from 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Join us for team building and a chance to learn more about Appalachia! Participants will receive their Trivia Night tickets to sell at this meeting.



**TRIVIA NIGHT/SILENT AUCTION** is Sunday, March 12. Tickets will go on sale during February! Look for youth selling tickets in the West Narthex on Sundays February 19, 26 and March 5.

## CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

### BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP

During February Bridges children in grades 3-5 continue the 2016-2017 theme "Pray and Play" as we explore ways to share the good news with our hands. We will decorate cookies for the Helping Hands meal this month with Pat Hymans and Mary Ray. We will also explore prayer and prepare to lead liturgy for the Ash Wednesday Communion Service.

### CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2:00 -4:00 P.M.**

On Sunday, March 5, children in Grades 1-6 are invited to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum for our final gathering. These quarterly gatherings foster interfaith fellowship and understanding as we build friendships with children from The Islamic Society of Greater Springfield and Grace Methodist Church. This final gathering will include activities to build friendships, lunch, and the packing of kits to send to refugee children recently arrived in the USA. Parents are invited to attend, and Westminster youth are encouraged to serve as helpers for the children. Sign up with Stephanie Moore at [smoore@wpcspi.org](mailto:smoore@wpcspi.org).

**TEACH THE CHILDREN SO IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY TO TEACH THE ADULTS**  
-Abraham Lincoln

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS MEET SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5** at 11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to review curriculum for spring semester and prepare for Lent and Holy Week.

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE IN WEST NARTHEX SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12.** If your girl scout would like to join friends to sell cookies that day please contact the Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill at [smcgill@wpcspi.org](mailto:smcgill@wpcspi.org).

**GRADE 2-3 SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT.** Sunday school teachers Sue Cull, Dr. Marc DeJong and Nichole Magalis are planning a special project during the month of February with a focus on the Beatitudes. Parents and friends are invited to view the project at the end of class on Sunday, February 12.

### PREPARING FOR LENT

**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BAGS** will be mailed to each family this month. They contain discussion starters for daily reflection, devotionals, and the One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. Throughout Lent, children are invited to fill their fish boxes with donations as we remember those in need and support Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hunger and disaster assistance programs.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 1:** Families are invited to dinner at 5:45 p.m. and a family centered worship service at 6:30 p.m.

### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS

#### TRIVIA NIGHT AND AUCTION

**Saturday, February 18, 6:00 p.m. in Parish Hall**

Doors at Westminster open at 5:00, trivia play starts at 6:00. Come test your superhero knowledge! \$10/ person or \$100/ table of 10. We will have baked goods, popcorn and soft drinks for sale, and food may be brought in. Because we are gathering in Westminster's Parish Hall, no alcohol is allowed. Childcare will be provided Sign up on line at [www.westminster-preschool.org](http://www.westminster-preschool.org).



## CHURCH OFFICERS RETREAT SATURDAY, JANUARY 7



Elders, Deacons and staff gathered for a morning of worship, community building and reflecting on the characteristics of faith communities which nurture mature faith.



We also spent time within committees to review Westminster's Working Manual, reflecting on milestones in 2016 and looking ahead to mile markers in 2017.

## CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM VISIT HISTORIC CHURCH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26



Dale Rogers and the Choristers listen to Harriet Tubman (portrayed by Kathryn Harris) tell the Children of Abraham all about her life and work as a conductor on the Underground Railroad during our visit to Grace United Methodist Church.



Finley DuBois, Olivia Simonson (left), Luke Milliman, Sloan Bird, Macklin Metzger, and Maria DeJong (above) sit with new friends from the Islamic Society. We will all be gathering for our final Children of Abraham event on Sunday, March 5 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, during which we play games, eat lunch, and pack care packages for recently arrived refugee children living in Chicago.

**CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CONNIE BROWN  
RECOGNIZED SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017**



It was a joy to recognize and thank Connie Brown for 15 years of exceptional and kind service. Connie is pictured with her husband Jan and daughters Valerie and Katrina.

**2017 YOUTH EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29**

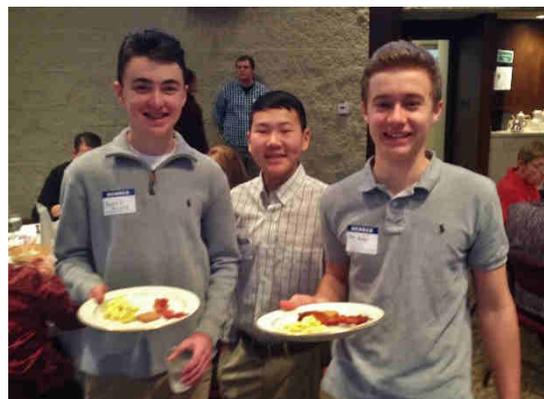
We kicked off our Mission fundraising with a spectacular and delicious breakfast the day of WPC's Annual Meeting! Becky and Vallery Huston, assisted by Mary Ray spent hours preparing an incredible English breakfast, complete with eggs from the Vogler family's backyard hens. Krista Steller, Todd Knox, Travis Vogler, and Leigh Milward (below) all helped out in the kitchen and kept things running smoothly.



The youth, including Avery Pound, Mack Shepherd, and Jack Zerfas (right center), waited tables with a smile and poured tea from teapots donated for the day by Priscilla Kluge.



The basket weave motif on the pewter bowl presented to Connie symbolizes her ability to weave together a myriad of responsibilities into a loving, creative and effective pattern.



Thanks to the hard work of all involved and the generous support of the congregation, we raised \$1453!

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH FEBRUARY MENU:** *Chicken Noodle Soup, Peanut Butter, Soda Crackers, & Applesauce.* Thank you to those who place these items in the baskets in the West Narthex.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** – The Steering Committee of the 2017 Presbyterian Build has had its first meeting, and planning for this collaborative home-building project of numerous area Presbyterian Churches is underway! Deacon Brad Milliman represented Westminster at this gathering. Many volunteers will be needed for both planning and construction work. Be on the lookout for further updates and invitations to join. Please consider taking part in this opportunity to offer affordable housing in the community. Construction will begin in April.



**HELPING HANDS** – Thanks to Dr. Andrea Rediger Klein for providing the January meal. The February meal will be prepared with the help of the children of the Bridges Midweek Fellowship and delivered to the the shelter by Pat Hyman and Mary Ray.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4** continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Their next brown-bag lunch will be February 12. In January the group presented the Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill with a newly knitted blanket as a thoughtful gift for use for Daehler Emelia McGill, Sarah and Trajan's newest family member. This was a collaborative project, in which each member of the group knitted a section, with beautiful results!



**THANK-YOU FROM CONTACT MINISTRIES:** Westminster Presbyterian Church in January was named by Contact Ministries as the "Supporting Church of the Month" for hosting their Christmas Give-Away on December 14. Here is an excerpt from their newsletter. "On behalf of those we serve, we would like to send out a special thank you to Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer and all of the staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church for all that goes into hosting this event—using the facilities, staff, time and energy! Thank you for ALL of your support of Contact Ministries for so many years."

## EARTH CARE NEWS

### CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING SUCCESS!

Thanks to the environmental stewardship of WPC members, we recycled 110 pounds of nonworking Christmas lights through Spectrum eCycle Solutions in St. Louis, thereby saving precious copper and diverting garbage from area landfills.



### REUSE / RECYCLING / DISPOSAL GUIDE

The City of Springfield has a wonderful guide to reusing, recycling, and disposing of hazardous waste entitled *Room to Room Guide to Reuse and Recycling Options*. For future reference regarding eco-friendly alternatives to the trash can, members can visit the web address below (type it all on one line!) or pick up a printed guide in the West Narthex.

[www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/Documents/RoomtoRoomGuide1016.pdf](http://www.springfield.il.us/Departments/PublicWorks/Documents/RoomtoRoomGuide1016.pdf)

### EMAIL OPTION FOR MONTHLY REPORTER

If you would like to receive the monthly Reporter by email rather than in hard-copy form, contact Jennie Alt at [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). *The Reporter* is emailed to members the same day it is taken to the U.S. Post Office.

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

**DANCING WITH THE STARZ** – This annual fund-raiser for the Springfield Art Association Collective Gallery is Saturday, February 11 and will once again feature a dancer from the Westminster family. Rev. Dreitcer danced in 2014. This year Marty Sumner will step onto the dance floor. Come out and support the Springfield Art Association by casting your vote for Marty Sumner #209. Tickets for the evening are \$60. Contact Stephanie Moore at the church office if you are interested in being a part of a Westminster table and/or cast your vote at <http://springfieldart.org/dwts.html>

**CONTACT MINISTRIES PROM** – Contact Ministries, a faith-based organization supported by Westminster in offering wide-ranging services to Springfield-area persons in need, is having its annual "Prom" on February 17 at the Illini Country Club. Each year Contact Ministries holds this major fund-raising event featuring dinner, dancing, and an auction. Last year many Westminster members attended, and we again intend to fill a Westminster table. The expected cost will be \$60 per person for this event.

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** If you are unable to attend worship on February 12 and would like to receive Communion, please contact Jennie Alt [jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org) at the church office. Twelve members received the sacrament on December 11 by six teams of elders and deacons. Many thanks to those who participate in bringing the Lord's Supper.

**THE SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS** is taking a break. Watch for its occasional return. Thanks to Karen Kraft for serving as accompanist for this meaningful, intimate service over the past year.

**HEALTH FAIR – SUNDAY, MARCH 19** will see the return of our biannual health fair, coordinated by Parish Nurses Ellen Carpenter and Judy Ridinger, and featuring activities, instruction, health screenings, and a great deal of useful information promoting better health. Please watch for more details and plan on attending this event in Parish Hall following worship that Sunday.



## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

**Sunday, February 5, 12:00-1:30 p.m.**

On Sunday, February 5, young adults (age 21-40ish) will gather at American Harvest from 12:00-1:30 p.m. for fellowship, conversation, and brunch. Appetizers are on the church. RSVP to Hannah at [hdreitcer@wpcspi.org](mailto:hdreitcer@wpcspi.org)!

### PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP

**Super Bowl Party Sunday, February 5, 5:00 p.m.**

All parents with their children (Birth – Grade 5) are invited to a Super Bowl party at Marc and Jen DeJongs' house (1955 S. Illini Rd). Bring a dish to share and RSVP to Jen at [jen@ymarchitects.com](mailto:jen@ymarchitects.com). **Discussions continue on Sundays, February 12, 19, 26, 11:15 a.m. in the Tower Room.** Parents meet on Sunday mornings, from 11:15 a.m.-12 noon for camaraderie, support and discussion. The group is led by Dr. Marc and Jen DeJong and Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill.

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 a.m.**

On Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 a.m., Westminster men will gather for breakfast provided by Jim Borland, a devotion led by Al Hymans, and a program coordinated by Harold Hale.

### WESTMINSTER GATHERING AT CONCORDIA

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 11:30 A.M.**

Members and friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, February 23, at 11:30 a.m. with the pastors and the director of music and the arts for lunch and communion.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW LUNCHEON** will meet Friday, February 3 at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Peg DiFonso and Chair of the Day will be Nancy Canady. The program will be "Game Changing Life Moments" presented by Stephanie Moore. Please make your reservations by February 1 with your Circle or by calling the church office at 217-522-4415. (Note the next luncheon is on March 3.)



**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets Wednesday, February 1 at Rev. Hannah Dreitcer's home to discuss Chapter VII – Jezebel from *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex. The circle will not meet Wednesday, March 1 and attend the Ash Wednesday worship service together.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet Monday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Second Floor Classroom. Mary King will lead our program "According to Matthew."

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet February 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the church in the Library. Leah Duling will give devotions. We will study of Lesson 5, *Come to the Waters*.

## ADULT EDUCATION FORUM

### WOMEN RESHAPE AMERICA FEBRUARY 5 AND 12

On Sunday, February 5, at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall, Suzanne Borland JD will continue her interesting presentation of Fred Strebeigh's book *Equal* which outlines the fascinating story of how women reshaped America's legal system in the last 50 years. We extended the course to four weeks!



## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Dorothea L. Callaway celebrates 103 years on February 3.

Clif Tozer celebrates 92 years on February 5.

Margie Dobson celebrates 96 years on February 16.

Bonnie Millard celebrates 90 years on February 20.

### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Laurie & Cress Maddox celebrate 50 years on January 21.

Kay & Jerry Smith celebrate 45 years on February 12.

### NEW ARRIVAL

Dr. Theo and Mrs. Jaymie Ngoupa welcomed their daughter, Elodie Grace on January 2. Elodie's older sister is Sophie, her older brother is Maxime and proud grandparents are Gerry and Harold Hale.

### IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Cameron Olson died December 31. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Gail, and their children Chandra Roberts, Cameron, Jr., and Michael Olson.

Mary Ann Johnson died July 27, 2016 in Petersburg, IL

### SYMPATHY TO

Dr. Virginia Dolan and Jim Dolan on the death of Virginia's aunt Jean Cusack on December 28, 2016.

Norma Adams-Johnson on the death of her brother-in-law Marvin Johnson on January 21, 2017.

Gary Warnick on the death of his son Brian Warnick on December 28, 2016.

Cathy Schwartz, John Shafer, Emma Shafer, and all their family on the death of Cathy's mother and Emma's grandmother, Fran Schwartz on January 21, 2017.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

David Jenkins who exhibited three Black Angus Heifers in the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado this January. The heifers received second place.

Avery Pound who received took first place at Franklin Middle School in the Geography Bee.

Matthew Knox, who received first place in the 500 meter freestyle at the All City Swim Meet.

### NEW ADDRESSES

Nell & Jay VanSice to 4040 Kings Oak Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

### THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone at Westminster for the wonderful retirement "send-off" on January 22. Your warmth and kind words mean so much to me. Thank you as well to those that prepared and served such wonderful goodies! My years at Westminster have been very precious to me; it has been a privilege to work for you and with you.

*Connie Brown*

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20 in honor of Presidents' Day.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 19 AND 26 AT 11:15 A.M.



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, February 19 and 26, 11:15 a.m. in the Pastor's Study. Anyone who has been visiting and would like to learn more about the church, its mission, and becoming a member is invited. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 5, following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

### FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Westminster's Operating Fund ended 2016 with a \$12,006 deficit. A gift from the John Baird Trust, a parishioner of Dr. Kieffer's former church, of \$20,000 raised our income. Unexpected sewer repairs took the property budget over and administration expenses were higher than budgeted with additional communication expenses.

2016 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 974,661	\$ 977,014	\$ - 2,353
Expenses	\$-986,667	\$-977,014	\$ - 9,653
Deficit	\$ -12,006	\$ 0	

**MORE THAN ENOUGH:** The 2017 Stewardship Campaign reached 100.2% of its goal receiving 272 pledges totaling \$818,679. This included pledges from 22 new or newly committed members. In January, the Session adopted the 2017 budget totaling \$986,667.

**PER CAPITA INCREASES:** This year Westminster will pay \$32 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. Your special per capita contribution of \$32 for each confirmed member in your household will help to offset this cost in Westminster's budget.

**BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN** gifts received in 2016 totaled \$432,049. Of the total pledges of \$1,614,450, we have received \$977,569 since the beginning of the campaign. Total non-pledge gifts are \$89,329.

### FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 21,

THEME: "ALBERT AND ART"

The 2017 Founders' Sunday will highlight the Albert Hale Circle of the Westminster Endowment with the theme "Albert and Art." This founders' anniversary will be a celebration of visual arts as we invite members to share works in watercolor, pastels, oils, sculpture, class, pottery, etc. as a part of a fine arts exhibit in the reception following worship in Parish Hall. We will have a brief program to acknowledge the artists as well as a catalog of participants. Mark your calendar for this meaningful gathering.



### BELL TOWER

RINGS IN A NEW ERA OF COMMUNICATIONS

At their January meeting, the Session authorized the Property Committee to continue negotiations with Verizon Cellular Communication to finalize and execute a lease agreement. The lease includes space in the Bell Tower for the cellular antenna, the rental property garage for equipment and storage. It also allows for an easement beneath the parking lot. The lease agreement as presented will provide additional income to enrich the ministries of our faith community. Bob Stuart is providing legal advice and negotiating on Westminster's behalf.

### Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*  
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**March Reporter Deadline is  
Sunday, February 26**