

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

### August 2016

### WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

**Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall**  
*WESTMINSTER JAZZ TRIO ON AUG. 6 AND 20*  
**Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m.**  
**Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall**  
**& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary**  
**Summer Sunday School 10:15 a.m.**  
**Pre K-Grade 5**

### August 6 & 7

**SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS**  
**WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST.**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Hope in the Unseen*

### August 13 & 14

**Sacrament of Communion**  
Hebrews 11:29-21:2; Luke 12:49-56  
Reverend Trajan McGill  
*Set Before Us*

### August 20 & 21

Psalm 18:1, 10-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14  
Reverend Hannah Dreitcer  
*Place of Honor*

### August 28

**Commotion Sunday**  
**One Service of Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 13:10-17  
Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Unfolding and Unbending*

### COMMOTION SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

#### ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP AT 10:00 A.M.

Join your Westminster family for Commotion Sunday on August 28! **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, ministry displays and children's activities in Parish Hall as we begin the 2016-2017 year together.

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!



Commotion Sunday provides an opportunity for members and friends to sign up for opportunities in Education, Fellowship, Music, Mission and Service (many of which are listed in this Reporter!)

*Pictured above is Becky Huston promoting the Golf Scramble at the 2015 Commotion Sunday and to the left is Mary Jo Mattern-Jenkins introducing Nichole and Samantha Magalis to the knitting ministry at Westminster.*



### RECOGNITION OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

The 2016-2017 Educational Leadership Team will be commissioned during 10:00 a.m. worship.

Children and youth are invited to bring their school backpacks to receive a blessing as they begin the journey in another school year of learning and growing together.

*Pictured to the right is one of our visitors proudly wearing her backpack as she joins in the children's activities.*



### YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 FROM 2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

On Commotion Sunday, August 28, 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 Kieffer home (26 Island Bay Lane) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and snack to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

### ANNUAL YOUTH KICK OFF SWIM PARTY

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 FROM 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

On Commotion Sunday, August 28, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High Youth are invited to a swim party at the Knox Home (2004 Maryknoll Place) as we kick off a new year together. Please bring a towel and snack! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

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

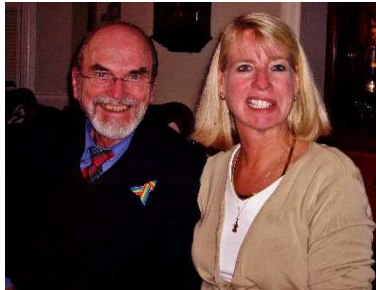
*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Romans 12:15*

A couple of weeks ago I preached on Mary and Martha and "The Gift of Hospitality." Taking my sister's advice about not putting down Martha, I highlighted the need to be neither too critical of Martha for her attention to details, nor Mary because she chose to sit at Jesus' feet. Both are necessary in the gift of hospitality. True hospitality is being sensitive to the needs of one's guests.

The week I preached that sermon I received word that the Reverend Dr. Jack Rogers died and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on a remarkable man and patriarch within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the way he enriched my life.

I had the privilege of sitting at his feet (a metaphor for discipleship) when I attended Fuller Theological Seminary (1978-1981) where he was Professor of Theology. His warmth, openness, vast knowledge and sincere faith made a lasting impression on me. As a young woman coming out of a denomination that did not ordain women, Dr. Rogers encouraged and empowered me in the call to ministry. Reading and discussing his book, *The Authority and Interpretation of the Bible: An Historical Approach* (with Donald McKim), my first year of seminary was life changing. When I was forced to miss the first semester of my second year due to the unexpected onset of shingles and Ramsey Hunt Syndrome which led to facial paralysis, I was astonished by his kindness when he wrote me a personal note offering his prayers and how much he missed "my smile."

Over the years, we stayed in touch. When he visited the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy in St. Louis where I served as a pastor, I had the



privilege of welcoming Jack into our home and serving him a meal, an honor for which I am truly grateful. Believe me when I say, Peter and I attended to the details of that evening with great joy and diligence!

Jack was the Moderator of the 213th General Assembly of the PC(U.S.A.) from 2001-2002

during a contentious time in our denomination over an amendment to remove ordination restrictions for persons within same gender relationships. Jack absorbed incredible hostility as an advocate for our gay brothers and sisters. His book, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*, was instrumental in framing sacred texts and ushering in greater empathy, acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ people in the life and leadership of the Church. For many people, this book was a spiritual game-changer of minds, hearts and relationships.

When the north and south united in 1983, Jack was on the committee which wrote *The Brief Statement of Faith* (a creed we affirm regularly in worship). Jack was also instrumental in the recent inclusion of the *Belhar Confession* (written in South Africa in response to apartheid.) I was honored to attend the 221th General Assembly in Detroit in 2014 and sit at the table with him when he received the Excellence in Theological Education Award for his contributions to theological education in the PC(U.S.A.).

When I applied to be your pastor, one of the letters of recommendation the PNC received was from Dr. Jack Rogers. His 2015 Christmas letter concluded with a personal message: "Blythe, your note has given me great encouragement and filled me with gratitude for the way you are carrying out your gracious ministry. Jack"

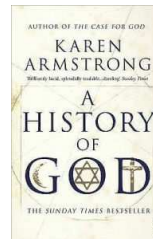
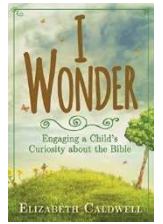
Thanks be to God, to whom we belong in life and in death, for the kind and hospitable life of the Rev. Dr. Jack Rogers.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP

**RESUMES SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT 11:15 A.M. IN TOWER ROOM**

Parents meet on Sunday mornings from 11:15 a.m.-12 noon for camaraderie, support and study on the parenting journey. They will explore the book *I Wonder – Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible* by Elizabeth Caldwell. The group is led by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill and Dr. Marc and Jen DeJong. Books available on Commotion Sunday.



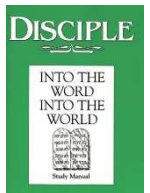
### ADULT EDUCATION FORUM SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 11, 18, 25 AT 11:15 A.M. IN THE LIBRARY

On the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11, Dr. Naomi Lynn, retired Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Springfield and Professor of Political Science, will lead a discussion of *The History of God* by Karen Armstrong on September 11, 18 and 25. Books available on Commotion Sunday.

### DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

#### BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Disciple Bible Study resumes the second week of September. All are invited to join Rev. Trajan McGill in this 32-week study of Genesis-Exodus and Luke-Acts. Having completed last year's Disciple course is not a requirement. This study includes daily reading and features theologians in DVD presentations. Books cost \$30 and will be available on Commotion Sunday.



### INTRODUCING COVENANT BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15



Dr. Kieffer will introduce the new "Covenant Bible Study" on Thursday evenings, beginning September 15, from 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. in the Second Floor

Classroom. Members are invited to join in an intelligent, thoughtful presentation of the concept of "covenant," which is woven throughout scripture and is at the heart of our reformed tradition. The 24-week study is divided into three-parts: *Creating the Covenant, Living the Covenant & Trusting the Covenant*. It includes daily reading, a video segment and meditation each week. Study books cost \$30 and will be available on Commotion Sunday.

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER SUMMER CHOIR** will meet on Thursday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room to prepare to sing during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 28, affectionately known as Commotion Sunday. The term "Commotion Sunday" can be traced back to Dr. Ziegler, pastor of Westminster from 1944-1969.

**SPECIAL MUSIC FOR AUGUST:** We are delighted to welcome players from the cast of *Godspell* (including Stella Cole) on August 7, Jay Kennerly on August 13 and 14, and Emma Shafer on August 21.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CHOIR PRACTICES AT WESTMINSTER.

**WESTMINSTER CHOIR** begins rehearsal Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 p.m. The Choir Retreat will be at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 10, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

**THE WALNUTS** resume rehearsal Monday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** (Grades 3-6) will begin Wednesday, September 7, at 4:45 p.m.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** (Kindergarten - Grade 2) will begin Tuesday, October 4, at 4:45 p.m.

## FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

Letters, emails and registration forms outlining the 2016-17 program year will be mailed in August to youth and their families. Please complete forms and return on or before Commotion Sunday, August 28. **Road to Emmaus, Youth Dinner and Road to Damascus begin Sunday, September 11:**

### ROAD TO EMMAUS 4:00 – 5:30 P.M. (THIRD FLOOR)

#### CONFIRMATION AND JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Confirmation is the process through which our young people affirm the vows made at their baptism and become active members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). At WPC, this journey is woven into fellowship time to build relationships.

**CONFIRMATION PREP (GRADES 6-7)** provides a solid grounding in the Bible, allowing for more expanded areas of study in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school. This year, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will study the New Testament through the curriculum *Echo the Story*, which offers creative responses and imaginative engagement with the biblical narratives. *Teachers: Anna Koepfel and Karen Sherrick*

**CONFIRMATION (GRADE 8)** focuses on Christian history, Presbyterian theology and polity and other religious traditions as the young people explore their individual lives of faith. Over the course of the year, students will visit other worshipping communities, build relationships with adult mentors, serve the community and write their own statements of faith. *Teachers: Rev. Hannah Dreitcer and guests.* Following class, all three grades come together for fellowship, fun and games in the Youth Room.

### YOUTH DINNER 5:30 - 6:00 P.M. (PARISH HALL)

Grades 6-12 gather for fellowship and dinner prepared by parents. *Parents, please sign up on Commotion Sunday or watch your email for the link to sign up!*

### ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. (YOUTH ROOM)

Youth in grades 9-12 gather weekly to navigate their faith journey, participate in Bible study, worship together and build relationships. Our theme this year is **"Who Is My Neighbor?"** We will spend the year examining, discovering and reflecting on the ways we are called to serve the world and how our faith is lived. The Senior High youth will also lead a worship service in the spring, with sermons by our seniors. This year, our 12<sup>th</sup> graders will begin to prepare their sermons during a senior retreat at the Sherricks' farm. Along with opportunities for community service throughout the year, our youth participate in an annual **MISSION TRIP** and host fundraisers to support their work. *Leaders: Rev. Hannah Dreitcer, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, and Jen DeJong.*

## WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



Orientation meeting for families is Wednesday, August 31, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Classroom Open House and Popsicles on the Playground will be Friday, September 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes begin Tuesday, September 6.

Our preschool was started over 40 years ago by families who wanted to be an integral part of their children's first school experience. We are the only privately operated preschool in the Springfield area that is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Kari Soria has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development and has been teaching young children for 8 years. She enjoys encouraging each child's creativity and sense of wonder.

Emily Rowley has a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and 5 years of teaching experience. She enjoys WCP's play-based atmosphere and its inspiration to young children.

## CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

### THANK YOU SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

This summer, our children in Pre-K through Grade 5 learned about stories from the New Testament through the *Holy Moly* curriculum. Special thanks to *Carolyn Beatty, Sandy Bellatti, Cathy Brower, Sue Cull, Tempa Dunn, Sara Eldridge, Paul Kieffer, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti, Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill, Leigh Milward, Mary Caroline Mitchell, and Emma Shafer*, who taught our children.

### MCGILLS HOST COOKOUT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

On Thursday, July 14, Sarah and Trajan McGill hosted the Sunday school teachers at their home for an appreciation cookout. We are grateful for the difference these adults make in the lives of our children through the gifts they share as Sunday school teachers.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ORIENTATION SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

**YOUNG CHILDREN AND WORSHIP TEAM LEADERS** (Pre-K through Grade 1) will meet Sunday, August 21, from 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for orientation and lunch. Leaders include: *Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill, Cara Barnett, Cathy Brower, Meridith Bryans, Tempa Dunn, Sara Eldridge, Gerry Hale, Valerie Leonatti, Leigh Milward; Musicians: Karen Kraft & Matthew Knox.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** (Grades 2-5) will meet Tuesday, August 23, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom for orientation and dinner. Teachers: *Sue Cull, Tom Klein, Priscilla Kluge, Anna Koepfel, Nichole Magalis, Lisa Metzger, Mary Ray.*

### FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 28 REGISTER ON COMMOTION SUNDAY

Flyers, emails and registration forms outlining opportunities for the 2016-17 program year will be sent to families. Parents are asked to register their children for fall Sunday school on or before Commotion Sunday, August 28. The following classes begin Sunday, August 28:

**Pre-K – Grade 1:** Young Children and Worship Experience.

**Grade 2 – 3:** *Whirl* by Spark House is a lectionary-centered curriculum. Children will dive into the Bible together and learn Bible basics that will prepare them to receive their own NRSV Bible as a gift from the congregation at the end of their third grade year.

**Grade 4 – 5:** *Whirl* by Spark House is a lectionary-centered curriculum that includes animated videos to set up the lesson and then dives deeper into the Bible.

### BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP (GRADES 3-5) 2016-2017 THEME: "PLAY AND PRAISE"



Children in Grades 3-5 are invited to Bridges on Wednesdays beginning September 7, from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. This fellowship bridges friendships among our children and across generations. It will also include mission projects. The 2016-2017 theme we have selected is "Play and Praise." Together we will learn about different ways to worship God with creative hands-on activities including cooking, art, drama and music. This after-school program will precede Westminster Choristers which meets from 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Leaders: *Revs. Hannah Dreitcer and Sarah Iliff McGill, Brad Steller*

## AVERY COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA



On Sunday, July 31, thirty youth, nine adults and Rev. Hannah Dreitcer led worship following their mission experience to Avery County, North Carolina. It was an uplifting experience as they affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ, their respect for one another and their commitment to serve others.

This incredible group of young people joined adult sponsors **Susan Day, Bill Deemer, Kyle Duffy, Anna Koeppel, Dave Leonatti, Becky Martin, Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, and John Shafer** led by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer on a mission sponsored by the Appalachia Service Project.



This was our first adventure with ASP. Our theme was “Handiwork: Created to Serve” based on Ephesians 2:10. Throughout the week, crews of six youth and two adults were assigned a home repair projects that consisted of drywall, roofing, or decking, or flooring for different homes.



Above: Adult leader Mary Ray with youth Emma Shafer, ready for the work day!



Above: Youths Gabi Huston and Zayne Ireland hold up part of the roof so Annie Sherrick can drill it into place.



Above: The adult leaders for Crew 3, Anna Koeppel and John Shafer, talk over their plans for the next day of work in the school cafeteria.

Below: High school graduates Lizzy Olmsted, Hugh McBarron, James Bond, Jack Sherrick, and Christian Lochbaum pose after leading us in a beautiful and thoughtful Sunday morning devotion in Knoxville.



Above: Two of our fearless adult leaders, Susan Day and Bill Deemer, hard at work building a deck for their homeowner (and teaching the secrets of power tools to the youth on their site!).



### THANK YOU WESTMINSTER

The WPC youth are grateful for the congregation’s continued support and prayers. Fundraisers (St. Andrew’s Sunday, Trivia Night, Car Wash/Bake Sale and Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast) earned \$10,000. The Mission Operating Budget also supported the youth’s mission with \$6,180 and the Endowment Fund provides \$3,000 annually.

## EARTH CARE CONGREGATION UPDATE



The Earth Care Team created the chart "Recycling Resources in Springfield" to assist members who are making a positive difference in the environment through the practice of recycling. This chart is also posted on the bulletin board in the West Narthex.

In the next few months, the Earth Care Team will compose a similar spreadsheet of local resources for proper disposal of environmentally hazardous materials (e.g., chemicals, paint, and medicines).

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact a member of the team: Dr. Peter Kieffer, Tim Kluge, Brad Steller, Amy Ballinger-Cole and Rev. Trajan McGill.

### Recycling Resources in Springfield

#### How Much Can We Recycle?

Item or Material	Recycle by:
Paper	Curbside with Waste Management, Lake Area, Republic, Illini
Chipboard Cardboard	Curbside with Waste Management, Lake Area, Republic, Illini
Corrugated Cardboard	Curbside with Waste Management, Republic, Illini or Drop-Off at Lake Area
Glass Bottles and Jars	Curbside with Waste Management, Lake Area, Republic, Illini
Plastic (except #6)	Curbside with Waste Management, Lake Area, Republic, Illini
Metal Cans	Curbside with Waste Management, Lake Area, Republic, Illini
Home Fixtures, Furniture & Materials	Drop-Off at Habitat for Humanity Re-Store
Electronics / Computers	Drop-Off at BLH Computers, Best Buy, Computer Banc
Rechargeable Batteries	Drop-Off at Batteries Plus, BLH Computers, or Lowe's
CFL Bulbs	Drop-Off at Lowe's or Springfield Electric
Clothes Hangers	Drop-Off at Prehop or Starcrest Cleaners
Ink Cartridges	Drop-Off at BLH Computers, Office Max, or Staples
Plastic Bags	Drop-Off at Lowe's or Schnucks
Steel & Other Metals	Drop-off at Mervis Industries, Springfield Iron and Steel

### PROPERTY UPDATE by Gary Warnick

**THE SANCTUARY STAINED GLASS PROTECTIVE COVERING PROJECT**, which was approved by the Property Committee in May, will be completed this August by Brooks Art Glass. The *Life of Christ* window (above the Choir loft) will have a protective cover for the first time. The faded protective glass on the side windows will be replaced and properly vented. All the old window coverings are being recycled. The Westminster Endowment is providing the funds to make this project possible!

The photo on the right provides a contrasting view of the before and after effects.

**THE TOWER ROOF AND THE ROOF OF THE EDUCATION WING NEAR THE ELEVATOR DOORS** will be replaced in September by Henson-Robinson Company. Third floor walls and ceiling tiles which have been damaged by previous water damage are being repaired, painted or replaced in preparation for the new program year.

**A NEW WASHER AND DRYER HAVE BEEN PURCHASED!** By doing this, we are able to clean tablecloths and no longer need to send them out to be cleaned. Doing this for 6 months will more than pay for the new appliances.



### WELCOME BROCHURE HIGHLIGHTS *LIFE OF CHRIST* WINDOW

The Welcome Brochure with the 2016-2017 program year will be available on Commotion Sunday. The brochure includes inserts offering introductory information about the history and architecture of WPC and outlining the church's ministries and activities in Children and Youth, Adult Education, Worship and Music, Mission and Community Service and Congregational Life. It features photos of the *Life of Christ* stained glass window located above the choir loft and contains a welcome letter from Dr. Kieffer. Look for the updated brochures in the pew pockets or at the Welcome Table.

## PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

### MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH AUGUST MENU:** *Beef Stew, Applesauce, Vanilla Pudding Mix, Green Beans.* Thank you to those who place items in the baskets located in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

**HELPING HANDS** - Thanks to Andrea Rediger Klein for the July 8 meal. Elaine Hoff will prepare the August 12 meal. Plan to sign up to serve a meal on Commotion Sunday.

### AUGUST MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERY!

Westminster will be helping Senior Services of Central Illinois deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Meals on Wheels program August 22 - 25 and August 29 - September 1. Thank you to Janie Bahlow, Mina Bentsen, Cathy Brower, Nancy and Rich Canady, Leah Duling, Sally Godbey, Scott Hibbert, Elaine Hoff, Nancy Huston, Julie James, Mary Ray, Karen Springer, Krista Steller, Mike Sundquist, Brad Swanson, Erika Trello, Richard Washburn, Sue and Jesse Werner, and Amy Xanders for volunteering to serve.



### THANK YOU WESTMINSTER FOR THE 170 BACKPACKS



which were delivered to Contact Ministries on Monday, August 1. *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 for Success Back to School Give-Away* hosted by Contact Ministries on August 9.

### MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION INFORMATIONAL MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

On Tuesday, August 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom Mark Harris will make a presentation on behalf of the Medical Benevolence Foundation which is a *Christ-centered organization dedicated to transforming individuals, communities and nations by building sustainable health ministries through long-lasting relationships with hospitals, nursing schools and clinics in developing countries.* Interested members and friends are invited.

**WESTMINSTER HIGHLIGHTED AS A FEATURED SPONSOR BY CONTACT MINISTRIES** in their May 2016 newsletter: "Westminster Presbyterian Church is one of the five founding churches of Contact Ministries and has generously supported us for the past 38 years! It is with their solid foundation that we have been able to provide services for the most vulnerable people in our community. The annual Christmas Give-Away is hosted at Westminster every year. The Elizabeth Circle Volunteers have been a blessing in the 'Basement Boutique' and at our 'Back to School' event. Westminster's own Head Pastor Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer has served as a Board Member for Contact Ministries since 2014 and joining her on the board in 2016 is Joe Fierstos."

### COMPASS FOR KIDS RESUMES IN OCTOBER

Previously a part of the Family Service Center, COMPASS is now launching as an independent nonprofit agency with offices located at Central Baptist Church, who partners with us in providing this after-school program. Consider becoming a part of the team who serves at-risk children attending Graham Elementary School. Sign up on Commotion Sunday.



### WESTMINSTER DAY LABORERS

Westminster members and staff picked sweet corn at the Hale Farm on Monday, August 1. WPC volunteers, Keith Beatty, Nancy and Rich Canady, Ann Collins, Gerry and Harold Hale, Keith Hamilton, Trajan McGill, Avery Pound, Bryce Pound, Bill Schlosser, Brad Swanson, Gary Warnick, Dick Washburn, and Nancy Wright, harvested the corn for delivery to local hunger agencies including St. John's Breadline.



### CHURCH WORLD SERVICE CROP WALK WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Members are invited to join the Springfield community in addressing hunger by funding both local food pantries and efforts to ensure adequate food worldwide. Sign up on Commotion Sunday to walk or sponsor a walker.



### CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

#### FIRST ANNUAL WIFFLE BALL TOURNAMENT GREAT SUCCESS!



Fun was had by all as 36 friends gathered for Westminster's First Annual Wiffle Ball Tournament on Sunday, July 10. Thanks to the Congregational Fellowship Committee, chaired by Becky Huston, for planning this intergenerational event.

*Pictured at left are Ruby and Evan Klein, Carter and Samantha Magalis.*

The "Celtics" beat the "Good Neighbors" 10 to 5 in a friendly game. Two players, Rick Duffy and Scott Hibbert, brought more experience than most—both played baseball at NCAA Division I colleges.

*Pictured at right are Scott Hibbert and his sons, Matthew and Dylan.*



### SECOND ANNUAL "SWINGING ON A PRAYER" GOLF SCRAMBLE, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 AT 2:00 P.M.



The Congregational Fellowship Committee will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual golf outing on Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m. It will be a four-person scramble and players of all skill levels are welcome. \$35.00 per player includes 9 holes of golf, snacks, drinks and dinner. Non-golfers are welcome for dinner at \$10.00 per person. Make friends with a golfer and sign up on Commotion Sunday for an afternoon of fellowship, frolic and fun.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** (ages 21 – 40) meets the first Monday of each month, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.). This group is led by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer and the first round of appetizers is on Westminster!

### PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SUMMER COOKOUT SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, AT 5:30 P.M.



Men of the congregation will gather for a summer cookout at the Hale Farm on Sunday, August 7, at 5:30 p.m. Those who want to carpool will meet in Westminster's parking lot at 4:45 p.m. Please RSVP to Liz Maxey at [imaxey@wpcspi.org](mailto:imaxey@wpcspi.org) and let her know whether you

will bring a side dish or dessert. Wives and friends of those attending will gather for their own fellowship at the Los Rancheros restaurant in Petersburg (and also gather at 4:45 p.m. to carpool.

**DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE; ALL AGES WELCOME)** Join us Friday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for a potluck dinner and a program: "Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary and Drone Use in Conservation." Presenter: Verna LaGessee, Sanctuary Director.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4** continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Among their many projects are knitting scarfs for our high school seniors and the families our youth serve on their mission trip.

**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, women are able to sign up for the following fellowship circles:



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** meets the second Monday at 5:30 p.m. and will study the Horizon's Bible Study: *Come to the Waters*.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and will study the Horizon's Bible Study: *Come to the Waters*.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (beginning in October) and will study *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex.

### WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER SALAD SUPPER TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 6:00 P.M. IN PARISH HALL

Enjoy an evening with your Westminster sisters and bring your favorite salad. The evening will include a reflection, musical presentation and an opportunity to sign up for prayer partners, as well as some delicious food and sharing of favorite recipes. Details will follow. Sign up at Commotion Sunday!

### PW RETREAT LED BY DR. KIEFFER SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

The theme of this year's PW retreat is **THE UNFORGIVING STREETS THAT TRIP US: LEARNING TO FORGIVE**. Dr. Kieffer will lead us as we explore forgiveness and its development in biblical faith and in our personal lives. We will talk about some of the myths around forgiveness, some of the unforgiving streets that trip us, and the importance of understanding forgiveness as a journey. We will gather at Rock Creek Presbyterian Church which is in a beautiful rural setting and offers historic grounds for conversation and meditation. Lunch will be prepared by their PW. Registration information will be available on Commotion Sunday.

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 18 & 25



Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members Class on Sundays, September 18 and 25, 9:15 – 9:45 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, October 9.

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### NEW ARRIVALS

Neville Jon Adams was born June 29 to Michelle and Jonathan Adams. His proud grandparents are Norma Adams-Johnson and Frank Johnson.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Mary Jane Dunn** died July 5 at St. John's Hospice. The condolences of the congregation are extended to her son, John Dunn, and family.

**Donald M. Bertram** died June 18 in Valley Park, MO. We have also been made aware that his beloved wife, **Mary Bertram**, died at an earlier time. The condolences of the congregation are extended to their children, Don, Ruth, Bob, and Jim, and their families.

### SYMPATHY TO

**Eric Schmidt** on the death of his brother, Phillip Schmidt, on June 30.

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Betty Cadwallader celebrates 91 on August 9.

Bernice Bay celebrates 90 on August 16.

### MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

Judy & Tom Lewis celebrated 55 years on July 23.

Marci & Bill Irvine celebrate 45 years on August 21.

### WEDDINGS

Barbara Henigbaum and Stanley Papp were married July 30 at Westminster.

### NEW ADDRESSES

Jim & Julie Nicholson; 508 Teal Dr, Chatham, IL 62629

Erin Schafer; 10251 McLaughlin Rd, Williamsville, IL 62693

Dr. Jennifer & Craig Schuermann; 2236 W Laurel, Springfield 62704

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**HOME COMMUNION** If you are unable to attend worship and would like to take part in the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of each month, please contact Connie Brown, Church Admin. Assistant. Seventeen members received the Sacrament delivered by six teams of elders and deacons on July 10.

### SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS RESUMES SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AT 9:30 A.M.

#### IN THE CHANCEL

This simple service gathers people for prayer and music and is led by our pastors and accompanist Karen Kraft. Prayer cards are available in the pew pockets and at the Visitors' Table.



### ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

Dr. Kieffer, Rev. McGill, and Rev. Dreitcer will lead worship services every Thursday in September at 4:00 p.m. for the residents. WPC's pastors lead worship in April and September annually.

## JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Through the month of June, income has slipped below the budget projection by \$3,658. With expenses over budget by \$2,863, we end the first six months of 2016 with expenses exceeding income by \$6,521.

2016 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 484,848	\$ 488,507	\$ -3,658
Expenses	\$ -491,370	\$ -488,507	\$ -2,863
Net	\$ -6,521	\$ 0	

## WESTMINSTER HOSTS PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Westminster and First Presbyterian Church are co-hosting the August Presbytery meeting. The morning session will be from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian and include continuing education courses. Participants will make their way over to Westminster for a 12 noon lunch followed by a meeting and worship. It is a privilege to welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ and share the gift of hospitality.

## WESTMINSTER HOSTS DR. AMY-JILL LEVINE THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, AT 7:00 P.M.

Westminster is honored to host Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, on Thursday, August 25, at 7:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. The Presbytery of Great Rivers is partnering with the Jewish Federation to bring Dr. Levine to Springfield.

Dr. Levine is a graduate of Smith College with a Ph.D. from Duke University. She is an expert in the Bible, Jewish and early Christian culture, and the study of Jesus in the light of his Jewish roots. Levine is an award-winning teacher who combines historical-critical rigor, literary-critical sensitivity, and a frequent dash of humor with a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist, and homophobic theologies.



## EMAIL OPTION FOR MONTHLY REPORTER



In an effort to be both fiscally responsible and environmentally friendly, the monthly Reporter will be made available in pdf form via email to those who choose it in this format. Beginning with the September issue, the Reporter will be emailed the same day it is brought to the U.S. Post Office. *Those who are interested in receiving the email version of the Reporter are invited to sign up at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org) or by emailing Connie Brown at [cbrown@wpcspi.org](mailto:cbrown@wpcspi.org).*

## PRAYER MINISTRY

*We do not cease to give thanks for you as we remember you in our prayers. Ephesians 1:16*

This September, Prayer Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church resumes. Throughout the year, each member of our congregation is remembered in prayer by the pastors. A letter is sent to members three weeks prior to the week they are being lifted up in prayer. We welcome prayer requests.

Dr. Angela Reed, author of *Quest for Spiritual Community*, talks about those who serve as “anchors” within faith communities by spending time in prayer. Your pastors consider it a privilege to gather weekly and to pray together on your behalf in the historic chancel of our beautiful Sanctuary.

## Westminster Staff

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff  
[bkieffer@wpcspi.org](mailto:bkieffer@wpcspi.org)

**The Reverend Trajan I. McGill**  
Associate Pastor for Parish Life  
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**The Reverend Hannah M. Dreitcer**  
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**The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill**  
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**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
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**Katie Kirschbaum, Whitney Spearie**  
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**Emily Rowley, Kari Soria**  
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**Gary Warnick**  
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**Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert,  
Charles Robertson**  
Custodians

September Reporter Deadline is  
Sunday, August 28