

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street Springfield, Illinois 62704 217-522-4415 www.wpcspi.org

January 2016

WORSHIP& EDUCATION CALENDAR

Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m. Parish Hall Westminster Jazz Trio on January 2 and 16 Sunday Schedule: Nursery 8:30 a.m. Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall & 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pre K-Grade 5 Adult Education 11:15 a.m.

January 2 & 3
2nd Sunday after Christmas Day
Epiphany Sunday
9:30 a.m. Service of Healing and Wholeness
Matthew 2:1-12
Reverend Trajan McGill
Coming from Afar

January 9 & 10 Baptism of the Lord Sacrament of Communion Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:14-17, 21-22 Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer The Voice of God

January 16 & 17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Psalm 36:5-10, John 2:1-12 Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer An Extravagant Gift

January 23 & 24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Luke 4:14-21 Reverend Hannah Dreitcer Standing Up

January 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany I Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-35 Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer A Still More Excellent Way One Service of Worship

New Officer Ordination and Installation Sunday, January 3

On Sunday, January 3, our newly elected Church Officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:00 a.m. service of worship. The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on November 8, 2015. Their bios can be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) in Church Leadership.



SESSION CLASS OF 2018

Dr. Marc DeJong, Dr. Peg DiFonso, Joe Fierstos, Tim Grunder, Christie Hovey, Julie James, Dr. Judy Knox, Steve Scaife; Jenna Milward (youth)
Dr. Glen Pittman. Brad Swanson – (Class of 2017)

DI. Gleff Filliflaff, Diau Swaffsoff – (Class of 201

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2018

William Dove, Scott Hibbert, Dr. Vallery Huston, David Jenkins, Tim Kluge, Stephanie Moore, Lynne O'Shea; Emma Shafer (youth)

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2015

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully during a time of transition and new beginnings.

SESSION: Rich Canady, Ann Collins, Sally Godbey, Tom Klein, Mary Ray, Dr. Andy Sherrick, Bob Stuart, Eleanor VanDeventer, Elizabeth Olmsted (youth)

BOARD OF DEACONS: Cathy Brower, Alexander Chipman, Deb Coontz, Martha Irvine, Priscilla Kluge, Kathy Moore, Krista Steller, Michael Sundquist, Jake Freer (youth)

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: THE TENT OF ABRAHAM SUNDAYS, JANUARY 10, 17, 24

On Sunday, January 10, the Adult Education Forum will introduce a three-week course entitled "The Tent of Abraham," as we explore the

stories of Abraham within Jewish, Muslim and Christian sacred texts.



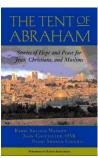
We welcome Rabbi Barry Marks of Temple Israel and Dr. Maryam Mostoufi of the Springfield Islamic community, who will join Dr. Kieffer in leading this discussion as we weave



together a more unified whole in our understanding of the patriarch at the heart of all three faiths.

The text for the course, <u>The Tent of Abraham, Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, includes essays written by Joan Chittister, OSB; Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Rabbi Arthur Waskow, with a foreword by Karen Armstrong.</u>

This book is available in the Church Office or the West Narthex on Sundays for the discounted cost of \$15.00. Rabbi Marks and Dr. Mostoufi are inviting members from their faith communities to join us. Therefore, we will gather each Sunday in Parish Hall at 11:15 a.m. We hope you can join us for this timely and important conversation.



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

His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years... Luke 2: 51b-52a

Christmas Eve at Westminster was a holy and joyous occasion as we

delighted in our children acting out the story of Jesus' birth, enjoyed a delicious meal hosted by the Board of Deacons, bathed in the light of candles, lessons and carols, and partook in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Each service had its own character and



we welcomed over 800 men, women and children in worship.

The First Sunday after Christmas Day our lectionary reading was Luke, chapter 2, where we discover twelve year old Jesus sitting in the temple with the teachers, listening and asking questions. Luke is the only gospel writer that gives us a glimpse into the faith development of Jesus' young life and for this we are indebted. We learn from Luke that Jesus' childhood revolved around his home, temple and synagogue. Every significant milestone on Jesus' faith journey was in continuity with Judaism. Jesus did not come into his own without the relationships which influenced him growing up.

What is true for Jesus is true for each of us. Children growing up in the life of Westminster celebrate milestones on their faith journey. The rituals around baptism, the third grade Bible presentation, and confirmation mark transitions in their faith development as our children increase in wisdom and in years. These milestones mark the stages in James Fowler's Faith Development. We learn who we are and to whom we belong in the context of our relationships with our family, friends and faith community.

As we move into the New Year and reflect on Jesus' birth and childhood together, may we take this opportunity to treasure and give thanks for the people who have shaped our lives, nurturing our identity as God's children. May we keep our minds and hearts open to what God would have us do in this time and place as people who are reformed and always reforming... and may we each continue to grow in wisdom and in years.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR The choir will sing When Jesus Was Born by John Stainer on Sunday, January 3, and resume their Thursday 7:30 p.m. rehearsal schedule on January 7.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS with THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR sang with verve and gusto at the Advent Celebration. Bravo to all our young singers. Choristers will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 13, at 4:45 p.m. following Bridges. Children's Choir will begin rehearsals for the spring season on Tuesday, February 2, at 4:45 p.m.

CHURCH MICE will resume its Saturday morning sessions on January 16, at 11:00 a.m.

THANKS TO ALL of the choirs who have so splendidly enriched our worship and our preparation for the Christmas season. You are a great treasure of this congregation! Many thanks to the over 20 individuals who have assisted in putting up Christmas decorations and all who contributed to the Christmas decoration fund. The church has been beautifully adorned for the season by your contributions of time and talents. The Christmas decorations will be taken down at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6.

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES

We will be sending packages at the start of the spring semester to counter the post-holiday blues! Please send updated college student addresses to Imaxey@wpcspi.org by Sunday, January 10!

YOUTH CALENDAR

SENIOR HIGH ANNUAL LOCK IN will be Saturday, January 2, at 6:00 p.m. – Sunday, January 3, at 11:00 a.m. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship! Sleeping is optional. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion together and our time will conclude with worship at 10:00 a.m. as we support our newly ordained and installed youth elder and deacon, Jenna Milward and Emma Shafer.

ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

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

January 3 – No Youth Group

January 10 – Confirmation Prep: Exodus

Confirmation Class: The Trinity

January 17 – Confirmation Prep: Commands Confirmation Class: Sacred Time

January 24 – Confirmation Prep: Wandering

Confirmation Class: What is Prayer?

January 31 – Confirmation Prep: Promised Land Confirmation Class: Polity in Action

ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

Senior High meet Sundays, 5:30-7:00 p.m. for dinner and program. This semester in Road to Damascus we continue to explore beginnings, of the Church, ourselves, and our faith.

January 3 – No Youth Group

January 10 - Holy Rest

January 17 - New Beginnings

January 24 - Made in Our Image

January 31 - The Christian Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING Sunday, February 7. Support those in need 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). All donations will serve the hungry of Springfield.

THE 2016 MISSION TRIP UPDATE

WESTMINSTER FUNDRAISERS We sold 36 notecards featuring Bob Fox's photographs of Westminster in December, and will sell the cards again in the spring. Mark your calendars for our next Fundraiser: **TRIVIA NIGHT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13!**

FIRST MISSION TRIP PAYMENT of \$125 is due on February 28.

CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP resumes on January 10, 11:15 a.m. in the Ziegler library. Together, parents are looking at the principles from the book *Sticky Faith* by Dr. Karen E. Powell.

PRESBYTERIAN PLAY DATE resumes Thursday, January 7, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Nursery and will meet each week. All are welcome!

SECOND AND THIRD GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL The second graders will join the third grade classroom in the Children's Library on January, 10. The combined class will be learning Bible skills with the Sparkhouse curriculum *Journey through the Bible*.

BRIDGES resumes **Wednesday**, **January 13**, **4:00 – 4:45 p.m**. in the youth room. We will be exploring the biblical themes in Harry Potter.

SAVE THE DATE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held June 13 - 17, 2016. Let Rev. Sarah or Rev. Hannah know if you want to be a part of the 2015 VBS volunteer staff.

THE 2016 BAY WEEKEND PRESENTS:

Storytelling: Remembering What Matters

"YAKKING" WITH MARK YACONELLI FEBRUARY 5 -7

Westminster Presbyterian Church will host an intergenerational retreat for those who would like to learn more about themselves, broaden their sense of community and deepen their relationship with God. Using a variety of storytelling, creative and contemplative practices, participants are invited to explore the dynamics of their own history in order to renew their sense of self and calling. We welcome Mark Yaconelli to lead us on this journey. Mark is renowned for his ability to connect people with depth and humor, and has led spiritual retreats in the US and the UK for over fifteen years. He brings a collection of gifts as a spiritual director, contemplative teacher and storyteller to create a safe place where people can identify and respond to what matters within.

Bay Weekend Schedule:

Friday, February 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The weekend begins with a reception to meet Mark at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer. Join us in a casual setting to share exceptional conversation, food, drink and music.

Saturday, February 6, 12 noon – 4:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. What Matters for Adults

This morning session for adults offers room for personal reflection and exploration, as well as a chance to learn how to be "church" with young people.

11:45 a.m. Worship

12:15 p.m. Lunch (\$10.00 per participant)

12:45 p.m. Community Building

Sunday, February 7, 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Worship in Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Intergenerational Education Forum

12 noon Potluck Lunch

1:30 p.m. Keynote: "Remembering What Matters" 2:30 p.m. Storytelling from Generation to Generation

3:30 p.m. What Matters for Youth

This afternoon session for youth offers an opportunity for young people to explore their own stories and inner lives along with how they can bring their gifts and selves to the work of the church.



Mark Yaconelli is a writer, speaker, retreat leader, spiritual director, community activist, youth worker, disco dancer, husband, and father. He holds an MA in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union and a Graduate Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

He is the founder and executive director of <u>The Hearth: Real Stories by Regular Folks</u>, a registered non-profit that assists cities and service-based agencies in producing personal storytelling events. Mark was also the co-founder and program director for the <u>Center for Engaged Compassion</u> and the co-founder and director from 1996-2006 of the Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project at San Francisco Theological Seminary, which sought to test the integration of contemplative practices within youth ministry programs.

Mark is the author of The Alchemy of Grace (IVP 2016), Wonder, Fear, and Longing (Zondervan 2009), Downtime (Zondervan 2008), Growing Souls (2007 Zondervan), and Contemplative Youth Ministry (2006 Youth Specialties).

The Bay Weekend was established in 1974 by the family of Frances and Ed Bay with the formation of the Frances M. Bay Lay Education Fund. This fund has provided the Westminster congregation and community with educational weekends for over 40 years. We are grateful to the Bay Family whose generosity and legacy have nourished our faith for more than four decades, and for the Westminster Endowment Fund which has also contributed to these endeavors.

Advent and Christmas Eve at Westminster

MISSION AND DEACON COMMUNITY SERVICE THANK YOU

THANK YOU WESTMINSTER for your generosity this Advent Season. We continued the tradition, which began in 1992, of hosting the CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION on December 16. Over 450 families from the community walked through our doors to receive food, gifts and personal hygiene items. Our youth raised \$1,025 to purchase 138 Christmas gifts for teens and over 250 mittens, scarves and hats were donated for the distribution (special thanks to Elizabeth Circle). Additionally, we "adopted" nine Contact Ministries' families and purchased over 100 gifts. WPC also donated 69 toys to Toys for Tots.

ADVENT CELEBRATION ON DECEMBER 6 GREAT SUCCESS!





Over 100 gathered Sunday afternoon for the musical, "The Grumpy Sheep", presented by the Westminster Choristers and Children's Choir, directed by Dale Rogers. A delicious dinner followed which was lovingly prepared by Mary Ray and friends. A great big thank you also goes to Meridith Bryans, organizer of all the crafts, decorated cookies and activities that followed dinner. It was a delightful multigenerational gathering and a night to remember!





CHILDREN GATHER IN CHANCEL ON DECEMBER 20 FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT LED BY SUE CULL



96TH ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Westminster Choir, directed by Dale Rogers, provided choral music and our high school seniors read the Christmas Story in this rich service dating back to 1920.



Special thanks to seniors James Bond, Jake Freer, Elizabeth Olmsted, Jack Sherrick and Cressa Wagner who led us in a spectacular candle lighting service.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

FELLOWSHIP AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP (ages 21 – 40) will not meet in January. Join us February 1, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6th St.). This gathering is led by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP meets Thursday, January 14, at 7:00 a.m. Tom Owen will provide a presentation on the Chamber of Commerce. Rich Canady will coordinate breakfast and Jay Kennerly will give the devotional.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 continues to gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON will not meet in January. Join us Friday, February 5 at noon in Parish Hall. The program will be "The Story of Contact Ministries" by Cindy Drum, Executive Director. Kitchen chair Sharon Turner. Chair of the



day is Lynn McMenamin. Please make your reservation by February 5 at 522-4415.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will not meet in January. Join us February 3 when we will discuss Chapter V; Preparing for the Journey: Creating Circles of Trust.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will have their traditional New Year get-together on January 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd floor classroom. Our program will be Birthing Waters-Creation and our leader is Lynne O'Shea.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet January 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library. Sharon Turner will lead our program of Chapter 4, *Paul*. Mina Bentsen will give devotions.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK STUDY will meet January 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION is available the Second Sunday of each month. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to take part in the Lord's Supper, please contact Connie Brown, Church Administrative Assistant. Sixteen members received the sacrament delivered by 9 teams of Elders and Deacons on December 13.

POINSETTIAS DELIVERY The Board of Deacons delivered poinsettias on Sunday, December 13. Members who lost loved ones in 2015 or who live in assisted living were the recipients of these lovely flowers made possible through the Decorations Fund.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

SENIOR SACK LUNCHES - Members have been assembling and delivering Friday lunches to senior citizens who qualify for food assistance that has been cut due to the state budget crisis. Thanks to Sandy Bellatti, Mary Caroline Mitchell, and the Mission and Community Service Committees for their leadership, and to all those who have volunteered to help: Ann Collins, Judith Pensoneau-Feurer, Dee Dee Gain, Ann & Keith Hamilton, Wanda Keil, Ginny Lee, Naomi Lynn, David Mitchell, Pat Roller, Susan Shea, Bette Jo Smith, Karen Springer, Sharon Turner, and Roberta Volkmann.

HELPING HANDS December meal prepared by Carolyn Proctor, Dr. Diane Rutledge, & Kay Smith.

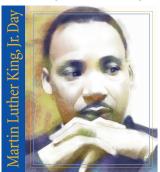
GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH JANUARY MENU: Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, pears, lime Jell-O. Thank you to those who place these items in the baskets in the West Narthex.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 17 AND 24

Friends and visitors are invited to a New Members class on Sundays, January 17 and 24, 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 s invited to attend. The class will be led by the pastors. New members will be received and welcomed at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 31.

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BREAKFAST



On Monday, January 18, 7:30 a.m. the Annual MLK Breakfast will be held at the Wyndham Hotel (7th & Adams). Westminster will host a table again this year. It is symbolic and meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration especially in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to attend, please contact Liz Maxey.

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

On Saturday, January 9, members of the Session and Board of Deacons will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in Parish Hall for worship, team building and brain storming.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 15

Session and Deacon Committee 2015 reports are due in the Church Office by Friday, January 15, 2016. Please submit your reports by email to Connie Brown at cbrown@wpcspi.org. These reports will be included in the 2015 Annual Report and printed for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 31, 2016. Copies will be available at the meeting.

CHURCH OFFICES will be open until noon on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day. They will also be closed January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM

Rebecca Wilkin died on December 16. Prayers of the congregation are extended to her husband, **Charles**, and their family.

SYMPATHY TO

Dr. Peter Kieffer on the death of his Godfather, Robert Reid, Sr., who died in Kansas City on December 15.

Dr. Virginia Dolan and Paul MacDonna on the death of their father, the Rev. Dr. David MacDonna, on December 21.

CONGRATULATIONS

To **Mina and Harry Bentsen** on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary December 31.

NEW ADDRESS – Frances Mathewson-Black; 1706 E. Amber Lane #100, Urbana, IL 61802

THANK YOU

To part-time custodian **Steve Council**, who retired in December. Steve has worked with us since August 25, 2011. We welcome Michael Long as the newest member of our custodial staff.

To nursery worker **Abigail Cline**, who retires this month. Abby has been serving since 2012 and is a child of Westminster. If you know a qualified person interested in working with the youngest members of our church family, applications are available from the Reverend Sarah lliff McGill or in the Church Office.

SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 9:30 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

This simple service, which comes out of the Iona Community, gathers people for prayer and music on the first Sunday of each month and is led by our pastors and accompanist, Karen Kraft. Prayer cards are also available in the pew pockets and at the Visitors' Table.



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE



GENERATIONS OF GENEROSITY

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

Thank you to all who have made their 2016 pledge. As of Tuesday, December 29, we have received 266 pledges of our 290 goal, and \$799,965, 96.6% of our \$828,590 goal. If you have not yet pledged and intend to, please pledge online at www.wpcspi.org or complete a pledge card before January 4. 2016.

Your Stewardship Committee: George Preckwinkle; Chair, Dr. Craig Batterman, Meridith Bryans, Grady Chronister, Susan Dove, Christie Hovey, Marty Sumner and Bob Wire

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

STOCK DONATIONS TO WESTMINSTER – Please contact Lisa Runkle, Financial Administrator, before delivering any stock donations to our brokerage firm.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithfulness and financial support for the work and mission of Westminster. We ended November with expenses exceeding income by \$49,318. We are receiving more income in December as is our usual pattern. We are trusting that these year-end donations will bring the amount of income up to the level budgeted. The expenses are over-budget currently largely because of repairs to the building and sewer work.

2015 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 851,205	\$ 892,270	\$ -41,065
Expenses	\$-900,523	\$-892,270	\$ - 8,253
Net Total	\$- 49,318	\$ 0	

We are projecting a balanced budget for 2016 with the total income of \$984,294.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The annual meeting of the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 31, in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

ALL CHURCH POT LUCK IN PARISH HALL

Members are invited to an All Church Pot Luck in Parish Hall at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Please bring a dish to share. The main course will be provided.

Westminster Staff

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

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

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

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

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

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

drogers@wpcspi.org

Deb Watts

Saturday Worship Pianist and Music Coordinator

Deb.watts@live.com

Judy Ridinger, Ellen Carpenter

Parish Nurses
iaridinger@att.net; ecarpenter@wpcspi.org

Abigail Cline, Katie Kirschbaum Nursery Workers

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

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
Irunkle@wpcspi.org

Liz Maxev

Connie Brown Church Administrative Assistant

cbrown@wpcspi.org

Administrative Assistant to the Pastors Imaxey@wpcspi.org

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

Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert, Michael Long Custodians

FEBRUARY REPORTER DEADLINE IS

JANUARY 24