

THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

January 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

January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

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

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Reverend Trajan McGill

Not What We Expect

January 8

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:15-17

Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Another Beginning

January 15

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Psalms 40:1-11, John 1:29-42

Reverend Trajan McGill

Come and See

January 22

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Mending Nets

January 29

MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER 8:30 A.M.

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

Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

What the Lord Requires

NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

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

On Sunday, January 1, we will begin the New Year together at one 10:00 a.m. service of worship in the Sanctuary. The service will include a meditation by the Reverend Trajan McGill and communion by intinction. Childcare will be provided and Sunday School classes for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 will meet. Grades 4 and 5 remain in worship for the sacrament.



NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8



On Sunday, January 8, 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 6, 2016. Their bios can be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) in Church Leadership.

SESSION CLASS OF 2019

Cathy Brower, Brian Cozadd, Mal Hildebrand, Carole Kennerly, Anna Koeppel, Kelvin Owens, Marilyn Rigney, Dr. Jim Singleton, Barrett Kurmann (youth)

BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2019

Meg Kontio, Brad Milliman, Kevin Simonson, Suzie Spada, Cheryl White, Kate Wilson, Adam Vasconcelles (youth)

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2016

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

SESSION: Dale Huston, Charlie King, Karen Kraft, Ken Morey, Doug Nelson, George Preckwinkle, Debbie Turnbull, Jeanne VanGieson, Elizabeth Olmsted (youth)

BOARD OF DEACONS: Stephanie Bess, Rick Duffy, Elaine Hoff, Beth Kincaid, Sharon Manning, Camille Massey, Ted Proud, Allan Wallace, Emma Shafer (youth)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW THIS YEAR!!!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER IN PARISH HALL 8:30 – 9:45 A.M.

Members are invited to enjoy breakfast served by youth attending the 2017 Youth Appalachia Mission Trip to Tennessee.

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 in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service of worship.

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 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 gathered again on Christmas morn for an intimate Christmas Day Carol Service. Each service had its own character and we welcomed over 750 men, women and children in worship.



This Sunday our Young Children and Worship story is "Jesus in the Temple. 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.

LIGHTS REPLACED IN THE SANCTUARY

"LET THERE BE LIGHT!"



Head Custodian Gary Warnick replaced the lights in the Sanctuary in preparation for Advent and Christmas worship services. He was assisted by members Rich Canady, Kevin Proctor, part-time custodians Steve Council (not pictured), Bill Hibbert, and Dale Rogers. Thank you for the great team effort!!

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

Many thanks to all the singers in all our choirs who enriched the celebration of Advent and Christmas. Your generous gifts of time and talents, dedication and joy contributed immensely to this past glorious season. Thanks to all who assisted in putting up all our Christmas decorations. If you are able to help, take-down is on Wednesday, January 4 at 9:30 a.m. The process generally takes a couple of hours.



WESTMINSTER CHOIR resumes rehearsals on Thursday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. Make singing in the choir one of your New Year's resolution. We will be preparing music for the coming season, including Spirituals for Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend on January 15.

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS (singers in grades 3-6) will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 4 at 4:45 p.m. following the Bridges program. We will celebrate the New Year with some new music and share some hot chocolate.

CHURCH MICE (infants through age 4) will meet each week at 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays beginning January 14. This early childhood development music and activity program will have food songs as its focus this term.

WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR (singers in Kindergarten - Grade 2) will begin rehearsals again on Tuesday, February 7 at 4:45 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION AT WESTMINSTER

PARENTS' FELLOWSHIP GROUP

JANUARY 8, 15 AND 22

Parents meet on Sunday mornings, from 11:15 a.m.-12 noon in the Tower Room for camaraderie, support and discussion. The group is led by Dr. Marc and Jen DeJong and Rev. Sarah Iloff McGill.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: WOMEN RESHAPE AMERICA

JANUARY 8, 15 AND 22

On Sunday, January 8, at 11:15 a.m. in the Library, Suzanne Borland JD presents a three-week course summarizing Fred Strebeigh's book *Equal* which outlines the fascinating story of how women reshaped America's legal system in the last 50 years.

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

On Saturday, January 7, 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 review of the committee and organizational structure of Westminster as we begin another year of leadership together.

Bay Weekend Retreat April 1-2, 2017

Mark your calendar for April 1-2, 2017 as 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.



FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Hannah Dreitcer

YOUTH UPDATE

SENIOR HIGH ANNUAL LOCK IN will be Saturday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m. – Sunday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship! 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, Barrett Kurmann and Adam Vasconcelles.

ROAD TO DAMASCUS SR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

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

January 1 – No Youth Group

January 7 (Saturday) – Senior High Lock-In

January 8 – Holy Rest (No Youth Group)

January 15 – Helping Our Neighbors

January 22 – Gifts of Our Neighbors

January 29 – Annual Meeting Breakfast Fundraiser

No evening group

ANNUAL MEETING BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 FROM 8:30 – 9:45 A.M.

Join us for a brand new Mission fundraiser on Sunday, January 29, from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m. in Parish Hall! The Mission participants will prepare and serve a delicious breakfast before worship at 10:00 a.m. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of



the church at the Annual Meeting following worship! The youth will return to Appalachia **July 1-8** where we will be working to repair homes and to build relationships in Tennessee. Check out asphome.org for more details!



ROAD TO EMMAUS JR. HIGH SCHEDULE:

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

January 1 – No Youth Group

January 8 – *Confirmation Prep:* Kingdom Treasures
Confirmation Class: Baptism

January 15 – *Confirmation Prep:* Jesus' Encounters
Confirmation Class: The Book of Order
Teacher: Rev. Trajan McGill

January 22 – *Confirmation Prep:* Rising Tension
Confirmation Class: Communion

January 29 – *Confirmation Prep:* New Promise
Confirmation Class: Ministries of the Church

Guests: Elder Brad Swanson and Deacon Beth Kincaid

CONFIRMATION FIELD TRIP Confirmands and their mentors will visit Temple B'rith Shalom for worship and dinner on Friday, February 10.



donations will serve the hungry of Springfield.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday, February 5! 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

CHILDREN UPDATE by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

A NOTE FROM REV. SARAH

Dear Friends,

The past two months have been a very special time for my family as we welcomed Daehler Emelia into our lives on November 1. It was an extra special season to be around a newborn as we reflected on Jesus coming to the world as a baby. Daehler is my mother's maiden name and my maiden middle name. Dae, as we sometimes call her, is a very sweet baby, and big brother Scott delights in her! We look forward to introducing Daehler to the community at Westminster!

Thank you to Valerie Leonatti for helping during my maternity leave and to all the teachers and volunteers that help teach the children that they are loved by God. As I come back to work as Parish Associate for Children's Ministries on January 3, I want to let you know my hours have changed to Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

Thank you for helping us welcome Daehler with so many cards, gifts, and prayers!

BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

On Wednesday, January 4, Bridges children in grades 3-5 continue the 2016-2017 theme "Pray and Play" as we explore worship themes. During the month of January we will learn about the meaning of baptism and remember our own baptisms!



On Wednesday, January 11, we welcome our advocates to share stories of baptism. We will also share the stories of our names as we remember how in baptism we are claimed and known by God.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 4:00 -6:00 P.M.

On Wednesday, January 25, children in Grades 1-6 are invited to Grace Methodist Church for our third 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 month's gathering will include activities to build friendships, a tour of the building, the sharing of a vegetarian meal, and a focus on justice. Special guests like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, and Fredrick Douglas are rumored to appear! It is not too late to join us for this wonderful opportunity. 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

VBS 2017, "DIGGING FOR TREASURE: PARABLES REVEALED," will be June 12-16. This curriculum will lead us through an exploration of Jesus' parables.

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



EARLY REGISTRATION FOR CHURCH FAMILIES

Registration is open for the three-day, four-day, and five-day classes for 2017-2018! Email westminstercoop@gmail.com for more information.

ADVENT CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS



On Sunday, December 4, the Children's Choir and Choristers presented "Three Men on Camelback" during the 10:00 a.m. worship. Over 100 members then joined families in Parish Hall to enjoy refreshments, sing Christmas Carols and create Advent wreaths, ornaments and decorate cookies.



BRIDGES CHILDREN SING CAROLS AT CONCORDIA

On Wednesday, December 14 the Bridges children sang carols at Concordia under the direction of Dale Rogers. The children also presented our members who reside there with "The Field of Stars" and "Joseph's Coat" Christmas ornaments and a Christmas card.

Pictured on the far right is Edith Irwin with the children who sang "Happy Birthday" to her! December 14th was Edith's 93rd Birthday!



CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE

200 members and friends gathered at 5:00 p.m. to hear the Christmas Story read by the 2017 Confirmation

Class: Grace Batterman, Carter Formea, Kristina Hemberger and Avery Pound as the children created tableaux

under the direction of Rev. Dreitcer. Abby, Kevin, and Kayleigh Cline portrayed the Holy Family and special music was presented by Olivia Simonson. View more photos at wpcspi.org.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

130 members and friends gathered at 6:00 p.m. for the festive and delicious dinner hosted by the Board of Deacons. Special thanks are extended to the Congregational Fellowship Committee chaired by Becky Huston for another fabulous Christmas Eve dinner.



97TH ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Over 450 members and friends attended the 7:30 p.m. 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 Stella Cole, Alivia DuBois, Jenna Milward, Austin Robbs, Emma Shafer, Annie Sherrick, Chad Sims, and Corey Sims who led us in a spectacular candle lighting service under the direction of Rev. Dreitcer. Miranda Schneider was unable to attend.

The service concluded with the joyous ringing of bells as the congregation joins in singing "Angels We Have Heard on High" led by the enthusiastic Westminster Choir.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

THANK YOU! The Community Service and Mission Committees would like to thank the Westminster community for your generosity during this Advent and Christmas.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: WPC provided in the neighborhood of **200 gifts for nine families** in difficult circumstances. These gifts were distributed by Contact Ministries. Thanks to Kay Smith who coordinated this gift giving tradition again this year.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), received throughout December, is used to support Racial/Ethnic leadership development, schools and colleges and supply financial assistance to active and retired ministers having special circumstances of need. Total received to date in 2016 is **\$2,989.**

CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION: On Wednesday, December 14, Westminster hosted Contact Ministries' annual Christmas Distribution. Our church was filled with warmth and good cheer as **70 VOLUNTEERS** assisted in distributing toys, shoes, books, food and hygiene kits to over **400 FAMILIES.** We are honored to be a part of the generosity within our community. Among the volunteers that day were Ann Hamilton, Anne Haaker, Eleanor Leary, Kelvin Owens, Susan Shea, Karen Springer, John Stafford and Dr. Kieffer. **ADDITIONALLY, OUR YOUTH RAISED \$988** and purchased and donated numerous Christmas gifts for teens.



KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION: Westminster knitters offered a huge donation of hand-made items to multiple places—lovingly delivered by Sue Cull and Mary Jo Jenkins: **7 BAGS** for Kumler Outreach Ministries, **3 BAGS** for Washington Street Mission and **1 BAG** for M.E.R.C.Y., along with purchasing **1 BAG** of gloves for students at Graham Elementary



School! **Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission** will resume Tuesday, January 3, 2017 and brown bag lunch on Tuesday, January 10.

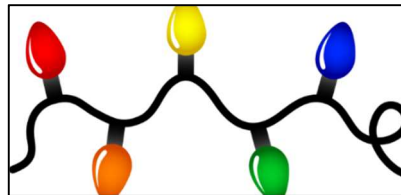
MITTEN TREE: Gloves, hats and scarves were collected for both children and adults. Thanks to K2P4 Mission, Elizabeth Circle, and all Westminster members who helped fill this tree; well **OVER 300 DONATIONS** which were given to Contact Ministries!



TOYS FOR TOTS: Thanks to those who responded generously; our collection box overflowed with gifts and was emptied three times! (We forgot to count them.)



ONGOING MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING!



The WPC Earth Care Team will provide the opportunity to recycle the valuable copper in Christmas lights this Advent. Please place your nonworking lights (without any other packaging material) in the labeled bin located in the kitchen by Sunday, January 8.

COMPASS FOR KIDS The Compass for Kids Tuesday after-school program resumes from its Christmas break on Tuesday, January 10.

FAITH COALITION FOR THE COMMON GOOD – The Westminster Mission and Community Service Committees are pleased to announce that Westminster will be joining as a member of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good. The Faith Coalition is a network of Springfield churches, faith groups and other institutions interested in joining forces to improve equality, economic conditions, and other features of life in Springfield. Besides making us a part of this valuable work, this will link us with other congregations taking part in **Sacred Conversations on Race** (see more below).

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE – Westminster will have the opportunity, beginning in February, to take part in a multi-congregational, multi-racial conversation with other area churches examining the role of race in culture and church and the role of our faith in understanding matters of race. This is especially timely, given the cultural moment and visibility of racial concerns in America today. Stay tuned for more details about how to participate.

MEDICAL MISSIONS – The Westminster Mission and Community Service Committees, in partnership with the Strategic Planning Committee, were able to provide **\$1,000 IN FUNDING FOR THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION AND \$1,000 FOR LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN MISSION**, both of which are organizations bringing important medical aid to parts of the world where large numbers of people lack consistent, affordable, quality medical care.

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.

HELPING HANDS Thanks to Emma Shafer and Cathy Schwartz for providing the December meal. The January meal will be provided by Dr. Andrea Rediger Klein.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION will not be delivered in January. If you are unable to attend worship on February 12 and would like to take part in Communion, please contact Connie Brown. 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 will not meet in January. We will join together again in this short, intimate service on the first Sunday in February. Thanks to Karen Kraft who serves as accompanist for this meaningful service.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Sunday, January 8, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

On Sunday, January 8, 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 Rev. Hannah at hdreitcer@wpcspi.org!

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, January 12, 7:00 a.m.

On Thursday, January 12, at 7:00 a.m., Westminster men will gather for fellowship, breakfast provided by Jerry Davis, and a short program offered by Richard Leary.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW LUNCHEON will not meet in January. Join us Friday, February 3 at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Peg DiFonso and Chair of the Day will be Nancy Canady. Please make your reservations by February 1 with your Circle or by calling the church office at 217-522-4415.



RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE meets Wednesday, January 4 at Dr. Kieffer's home (26 Island Bay Lane) to discuss Chapter VI – Delilah from *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Barbara J. Essex. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet Monday, January 9 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall for our annual post-holiday hors d'oeuvre party. We will begin our new Horizons Bible Study *Who is Jesus?* Lynn McMenamin will lead our program "According to Mark."

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet January 17 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of our hostess, Mina Bentsen who will also give devotions. Sharon Turner will lead our study of Lesson 4, *Come to the Waters*.

PW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

On Friday, December 2 over 30 women gathered to enjoy festive music presented by the Springfield High School Jazz Band. Matthew Knox and Joseph Runkle participated.



Following the presentation the women gathered in their circle for prayer. All women of the congregation are invited to be a part of PW.



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Roy A. Baker will celebrate 91 years on January 4.

WEDDING

Julie Pittman and Jim McDonough were united in marriage on December 30, 2016 in St. Louis, Missouri.

IN MEMORIAM

Jeffrey Strand died November 30 in Yardley, PA. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his father, Carl Strand, his wife, Pamela, their children Jack, Gretchen and Nathaniel.

Warren F. Bridgewater died December 12 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his children Laura Bridgewater, Diana King, Jim Bridgewater and their families.

James R. Thomas died on December 15 in Springfield. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Shirley, their sons Jason Thomas and Gavin Thomas, and their families.

Dr. Morris D. Cooper, Sr. died on December 18. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife Virginia, their sons Morris D. Cooper, Jr. and William B. Morris and their families.

IN SYMPATHY

The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to:

Jan and Jim Gambach on the death of Jim's mother, Lola Mae Gambach on December 9 in Quincy, Illinois.

Dr. Ivan Birrer and Betty Ritchie-Birrer on the death of Ivan's son, Ivan, Jr. (Van) on December 11 in Indiana.

NEW ADDRESSES

Kate Jamruk and Michael Morthland moved to 3041 S St Andrews Drive, Decatur, IL 62521-9140.

Charlaine Barker moved to 2250 Concordia Drive, Springfield 62711

Susanne Ripka moved to 4101 W Iles Avenue Apt 2228, 62711

Linda Janus moved to 1700 W Washington, Apt B502, 62702

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 13

Session and Deacon Committee 2016 reports are due Friday, January 13, 2017. Please submit your reports to Connie Brown at cbrown@wpcspi.org. These reports are included in the 2016 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 29, 2017. Copies will be available at the meeting.

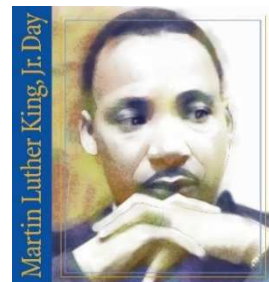
CHURCH OFFICES HOURS

Church Offices will be open until noon on December 30 and closed Monday, January 2. They will also be closed January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

MLK BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

On Monday, January 16, 7:30 a.m. the Annual MLK Breakfast will be held at the Wyndham Hotel (7th & Adams). Anna Braziel Jackson, will be the Keynote Speaker. 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 Stephanie Moore at smoore@wpcspi.org

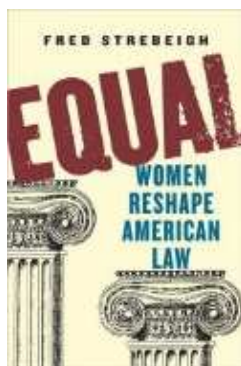


ADULT EDUCATION FORUM: WOMEN RESHAPE AMERICA SUNDAYS, JANUARY 8, 15, 22



On Sunday, January 8, at 11:15 a.m. the Adult Education Forum presents a three-week course entitled "Women Reshape America," as we explore Fred Strebeigh's book *Equal* which outlines the fascinating story of how women reshaped America's legal system in the last 50 years.

We welcome Suzanne Borland JD to teach this class. Suzanne received her law degree at University of Illinois College of Law. She served as Assistant Professor of Legal Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield from 1998-2016. She is currently a Continuing Legal Education Program



Planner at the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Suzanne is a past President of the Junior League of Springfield, an Elder at Westminster and the mother of Drew and Jessica who are both actively involved at Westminster.

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN MEETS GOAL MORE THAN ENOUGH

As of Wednesday, December 28, we have reached our goal! We received 271 pledges for a total of \$817,179. This is 93% of anticipated number of pledges (290) and just over 100% of our goal of \$817,148. To date, 55 members have increased their pledge by \$500 or more. Thank you to all those who pledged.

If you have not yet pledged we hope you will be a part of the generous spirit at Westminster. You may pledge online at www.wpcspi.org or complete a pledge card.

2017 Stewardship Committee:

George Preckwinkle, chair, Christie Hovey, vice-chair, Dr. Craig Batterman, Meridith Bryans, Grady Chronister, Dr. Todd Knox, Sharon Reynolds, Steve Scaife, and Robert Wire.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithfulness and financial support for the work and mission of Westminster. November ended with expenses exceeding income by \$37,298 even though expenses are under budget by \$6,417. We are receiving more income in December as is our usual pattern. Strong year-end donations will bring the amount of income up to the level budgeted.

2016 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 851,881	\$ 895,596	\$ -43,715
Expenses	\$ -889,179	\$ -895,596	\$ - 6,417
Net	\$ -37,298	\$ 0	

YEAR-END 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2016 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help.

**BE SURE ANY DONATIONS FOR THE 2016 TAX YEAR ARE DATED 2016
AND RECEIVED NO LATER THAN NOON ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017.**

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
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The Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill
Parish Associate for Children's Ministries
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate
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Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
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Music Coordinator
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Stephanie S. Moore
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Gary Warnick
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Rental Properties Coordinator
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Roy Ahlers, Bill Hibbert,
Charles Robertson**
Custodians

**February Reporter Deadline is
Sunday, January 22.**