

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
[www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)

**January 2018**

### 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 Forum  
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon

**January 7**

#### **EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

#### **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

*Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12*

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Significant Journey*

**January 14**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

#### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*Psalm 139; John 1:43-51*

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Wither Shall I Go?*

**January 21**

#### **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*Jonah 3:1-5; 10- 4:1 Mark 1:14-20*

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Turning Around*

**January 28**

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

#### **ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Mark 1:21-28*

Rev. Trajan I. McGill  
*What Have You to Do With Us?*

### NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

On Sunday, January 7, 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 October 8, 2017. On Friday, January 26 their bios can be found on the church website ([www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org)) in Church Leadership.



#### **SESSION CLASS OF 2020**

Rance Carpenter, Linda Chronister, Kathy Germeraad, Nichole Magalis, Brad Steller, Marty Stutz, Mark Vasconcelles, Dr. Will Wright, Matthew Knox (youth),  
(Class of 2019) Jim Kontio

#### **BOARD OF DEACONS CLASS OF 2020**

Robert Bradford, Steve Cobourn, Dr. Virginia Dolan, Rachel Vivian Gordon, Jacob Hill, Dr. Michael Nenaber, Maribeth Norton, Roe Stone, Emma Batterman (youth),  
(Class of 2018) Fiona Irvin

#### **THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2017**

We are grateful to the following elders and deacons who have served our congregation faithfully:

**SESSION:** Dr. Craig Batterman, Joseph Harrison, Dr. Glen Pittman, Julie Robbs, Betsy Ruklick, Dr. Susan Shea, Kay Smith, Brad Swanson  
(Class of 2018) The late William Simpson

**BOARD OF DEACONS:** Adam Ekstedt, Becky Huston, Dr. Peter Kieffer, Wells Langbehn, Valerie Leonatti, Al Manson, Brad Steller, Travis Vogler  
(Class of 2018) Dr. Valery Huston

## ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

### **YOUTH EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER IN PARISH HALL**

**8:30 – 9:45 A.M.**

Members are invited to enjoy an incredible English breakfast served by youth attending the 2018 Youth Appalachia Mission Trip to West Virginia. Special thanks to Valery and Becky Huston for their oversight of the meal.

#### **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.

*Simeon took Jesus in his arms...saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation... Luke 2:28-29*

Each year during Christmas we find ourselves on the threshold of a new year. Throughout Luke's telling of the birth of Christ, he contrasts the old and the new. John, the forerunner, is born to Elizabeth who is beyond the childbearing years. Jesus, the Messiah, is born to a young girl before her time. Both are miraculous births and both women understand the symbolism within the story they have the privilege to play a part.

We get a glimpse of the world into which the Christ child was born: the relationships within his family and faith community. These relationships are both trustworthy and tenacious and play an important role providing guidance on his faith journey. There is something lovely about the meeting between Simeon and the Christ Child in the temple ...something beautiful about the tenderness; the way aged Simeon, the frailties of his years drape over baby Jesus, cradling the infant in his arms, holding the hope of the ages, the yearning of a lifetime. He speaks tenderly to Mary of the glory and the pain that will be a part of her son's journey on behalf of all humanity; a pain that will break her heart.

As we move into the New Year and reflect on Jesus' birth, we give thanks for the relationships within our faith community which are both trustworthy and tenacious and which nurture the identity and strengthen the faith of our children and youth.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is grateful for the relationships within our faith community which are both trustworthy and tenacious and which strengthen the faith of our children and youth. They are also mindful of the importance of their work in nominating a resilient and competent Associate Pastor for Family Ministry as we grow together and nurture intergenerational relationships among us. They have covenanted together to pray the Shema Prayer found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and invite members to join them.

The committee met November 14, December 5 and 19. Susan Day was elected their chair. Christy Pound and Karen Sherrick agreed to serve as vice-chair/secretary. The committee completed the Ministry Information Form thanks to Bill Ward's journalistic expertise and selected competencies for the position. They met with Jen DeJong, Vice-President of Innovation for Ministry Architects, for a consultation and will make a presentation at the Church Officers Retreat on January 6. The goal is to be online and recruiting by the end of January.

On Saturday, January 6 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 a report from the APNC as we begin another year of leadership together.

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 3 at 9:30 a.m. The process generally takes a couple of hours.



**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** (singers in grades 3-5) will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, January 9 at 4:45 p.m. following the Bridges program. We will celebrate the New Year with some new music.

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

Westminster's Operating Fund ended the year with a positive net balance. The preliminary year-end shows income exceeding expenses by just over \$6,000. Both income and expenses were less than budgeted with expenses being under budget by a greater margin.

2017 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 969,907	\$ 984,874	\$ - 14,967
Expenses	\$-963,889	\$-984,874	\$ - 20,985
Net	\$ 6,018	\$ 0	

As of Tuesday, January 2, we are so close to our goal! We have received 263 pledges for a total of \$823,302. This is 99% of our goal of \$828,080. If you have not yet pledged we hope you will be a part of the generous spirit at Westminster. You may call the office, complete a pledge card or pledge online at [www.wpcspi.org](http://www.wpcspi.org).



**2018 Stewardship Committee:** *Christie Hovey, chair, Cara Barnett, Grady Chronister, Brian Cozadd, Joe Fierstos, Anne Haaker, Dick Herndon, Christy Pound, Sharon Reynolds, Steve Scaife, and Betsy Shepherd*



## YOUTH UPDATES by Natalie Knox

**THE WPC YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** was a great success! Junior high and senior high youth met at the DeJong home for food, fellowship, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.



### SENIOR HIGH ANNUAL LOCK IN Saturday, January 6, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a church-wide scavenger hunt, midnight vespers, food, and fellowship! This is a great opportunity to bring friends interested in joining the 2018 Mission Trip! We will conclude Sunday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m. following the 10:00 a.m. worship as we support our youth elder Matthew Knox and youth deacon Emma Batterman who will be ordained and installed. We will not meet for youth group Sunday night.

### ANNUAL MEETING BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 FROM 8:30 – 9:45 A.M.



Join us for the second annual Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, January 28, from 8:30 – 9:45 a.m. in Parish Hall! The Mission participants will prepare and serve a delicious English 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 7-14 where we will be working to repair homes and to build relationships in Tennessee.



### SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH:

**Emma Shafer** has accepted a position with Appalachia Service Project for the summer of 2018! She will join their summer staff, which will involve running a 10-week summer program for high schoolers and adult volunteers. Additionally, Emma participated in training for Faith Coalition for the Common Good and wrote an article for the SJR (December 24, 2017), highlighting the role Westminster has played on her faith journey. We are so proud of Emma and are thankful for God's direction in her life!



### WPC YOUNG ADULTS MEET SUNDAY, JANUARY 28



Young Adults ages 18-29 are invited to brunch at Obed and Isaac's (500 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street) after church on the last Sunday of each month. We will meet next on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> following the Annual Meeting!

### JANUARY YOUTH SCHEDULE

Jan 6: Senior High Lock In 6 pm – 11 am  
Jan 7: No Junior/Senior High Youth Group – Holy Rest  
Jan 14: Junior High 4-6 pm; Senior High 5:30-7:30 pm  
Jan 21: Junior High 4-6 pm; Senior High 5:30-7:30 pm  
Jan 28: Mission Fundraiser 8 am- 9:45; Junior High 4-6 pm; Senior High 5:30-7:30.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

### A NOTE FROM THE REVEREND SARAH ILIFF MCGILL

Dear Friends,

My last day serving Westminster as Parish Associate for Children's Ministries will be Sunday, January 28. My reason for leaving is connected strongly to a calling to be at home with my children full time. I also have a few other ministry opportunities on the horizon. I am grateful to the excellent staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church and the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Blythe Denham Kieffer.

I have been grateful for the past three years as a staff member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. The people of this congregation are full of God's grace and love. It has been a privilege to support this community and I look forward to being a part of the community as mom to Scott and Daehler and wife of the Rev. Trajan McGill.

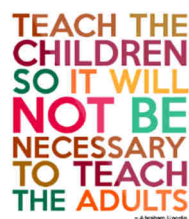
### BRIDGES MIDWEEK FELLOWSHIP RESUMES TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 TO EXPLORE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*God calls us to serve one another using our spiritual gifts. How do we discover those gifts? Does it really matter if we can name our spiritual gifts? How can knowing about spiritual gifts help us?*

On Tuesday, January 9, Bridges children in grades 3-5 continue the 2017-2018 theme of "Being a Thoughtful Christian." During the month of January, we will explore what a spiritual gift is and what spiritual gifts we believe we have received from God. On Tuesday, January 30, we will welcome our advocates as we continue the conversation and learn what spiritual gifts they have received.



### CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 4:30 -6:00 P.M.



On Wednesday, January 24, children in Kindergarten - Grades 6 are invited to Temple Israel for our third gathering as we explore the meaning of trees within Hebrew Scripture and the tradition of planting trees. These quarterly gatherings foster interfaith fellowship and

understanding as we build friendships with children from the Muslim, Jewish and African American communities. 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).



### WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



**EARLY REGISTRATION FOR CHURCH FAMILIES**  
Registration is open for the three-day, four-day, and five-day classes for 2018-2019! Email [westminstercoop@gmail.com](mailto:westminstercoop@gmail.com) for more information.



## ADVENT CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

On Sunday, December 3, the Children's Choir and Choristers presented a musical "Hanging of the Greens" during the 10:00 a.m. worship. Over 100 members then joined families in Parish Hall to enjoy refreshments, sing Christmas Carols, create Advent wreaths/ornaments and decorate cookies.



## BRIDGES CHILDREN SING CAROLS AT CONCORDIA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12



## FOUR ACCOMPANISTS PLAY CAROLS AS STAFF SINGS AT CHRISTMAS PARTY ON DECEMBER 8





## CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER

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

150 members and friends gathered at 5:00 p.m. to hear the Christmas Story read by members of the 2018 Confirmation Class: Jessica Borland, Maddie Kruger and Sam Magalis as the children created tableaus under the direction of Natalie Knox and the Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill. Jaymie, Maxime and Elodin Ngoupa portrayed the Holy Family and special music was presented by Olivia Simonson.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

165 members and friends gathered at 6:00 p.m. for the festive and delicious dinner hosted by the Board of Deacons. Special thanks to Moderator Becky Huston for another fabulous Christmas Eve dinner.



### 98<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Almost 400 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 Zayne Ireland, Matthew Tungett, Sarah Wagner and juniors Emma Batterman and Matthew Knox. 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.



### THE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

Forty members and friends welcomed Christmas Day together in the solemn, quiet joy of the Candlelight Communion Service. Special thanks to Sally Wilson Szudy who presented special music.



## 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 members provided **180 gifts for nine families** in difficult circumstances. These gifts were distributed by Contact Ministries. Special 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. The total received in 2017 was **\$3,055.50**.

**CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION:** On Wednesday, December 13, 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. **ADDITIONALLY, OUR YOUTH RAISED \$1,032** and purchased and donated numerous Christmas gifts for teens.

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION:** Westminster knitters continue to create and deliver hand-made items throughout the community, and the Advent season saw many such gifts. K2P4 lovingly supplied bags of knitted goods to Kumler Outreach Ministries and M.E.R.C.Y., filled much of the Mitten Tree, whose items went to Contact Ministries, and purchased gloves for Graham Elementary School and Kumler. Thanks to all other WPC members who contributed to the Mitten Tree as well.



The K2P4 group will resume their weekly gatherings on Tuesday, January 9, with a brown bag lunch at noon and knitting to follow. Anyone with any level of knitting experience or none at all is invited to come and take part!

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** Thanks to those who responded so generously to this children's program of the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



### EARTH CARE NEWS



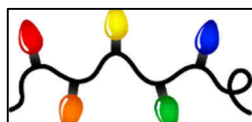
Thank you to all who are responding to this effort to preserve God's creation by bringing your ink, batteries and Christmas tree lights to the **RECYCLING CORNER** in the West Narthex near the Church Officer mailboxes.

#### BATTERY RECYCLING

We began recycling in late November and are getting a great response. Place batteries in the marked bin.

#### CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING

Please place your nonworking lights (without any other packaging material) in the labeled bin no later than Sunday, January 14.



**Earth Care Team:** Peter Kieffer, Chair, Keith Hamilton, Tim Kluge, Lynn McMenamin, Mary Beth Norton, Brad Steller.

### ONGOING MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**COMPASS FOR KIDS** resumes from its Christmas break on Tuesday, January 9.

**HELPING HANDS** The December meal was provided by Brad Swanson's family. January will be provided by Cathy Schwartz. We still have meal dates available for 2018: February – July, November, and December.

### 2017 MISSION ENDOWMENT GIVING

Many thanks to all of the Westminster community who have given to the WPC Support & Endowment fund. This fund provides a significant source of our financial support beyond our annual operating budget and denominational offerings to mission and community service projects in Springfield and worldwide. Below are the efforts supported in this way by Westminster in 2017. This list comes not only from your donations but also from your ideas—if you have any service projects or organizations that are near and dear to your heart, Mission and Community Service Committee members are always interested in hearing from you!

Program	Description	Funding
Contact Ministries	Wide-ranging work on behalf of needy persons in Springfield	\$ 720.00
Westminster Coop Preschool	Scholarship fund	\$ 2,240.00
Children of Abraham	Multi-faith fellowship event	\$ 1,225.91
Kemmerer Village	Equine therapy and summer projects for children in Kemmerer's residential program	\$ 2,000.00
Salvation Army Adult Rehab Center	Purchase of evidence-based curriculum for adults seeking to break free of addiction and poor life choices	\$ 1,294.00
H.I.S. Home Haitian Orphanage	Sponsorship of annual bike ride fundraiser, toward housing homeless children	\$ 500.00
IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Economic Assistance for Victims, and Virtual Legal Clinic offering free attorney assistance to people in domestic violence situations	\$ 4,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	Home Renovation (in addition to \$10,000 from 2016 supporting this year's Presbyterian Build)	\$ 5,000.00
IL State Dental Society Foundation	Mission of Mercy: An upcoming large-scale, walk-in dental clinic event in Springfield	\$ 1,000.00
IL Presbyterian Home	To address infrastructure needs	\$ 10,000.00
Compass for Kids	2017-2018 after-school and summer program funding	\$ 2,500.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Hurricane relief (in addition to over \$12,000 given by members)	\$ 7,500.00
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	Annual dues for this org. dedicated to bringing faith communities together and organizing for the betterment of the region	\$ 900.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 38,879.91</b>

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

**NEW MEAL MINISTRY** – The Congregational Care Committee is looking to start up a ministry of care for people in situations (e.g., just home from the hospital) who could be supported with a few meals delivered to their homes. If you would be interested in helping, please talk to the Rev. Trajan McGill, and check out the opportunity listed on the next page to help kick this off by taking part in the "Let's Make Dinner" event on Friday, January 26!

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION** gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Knitting will resume on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, and the monthly brown bag lunch will be on Tuesday, January 10.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW LUNCHEON** will not meet in January. Join us Friday, February 2 at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair will be Dr. Peg DiFonso and Chair of the Day will be Nancy Scott. The 2018 Officers will be installed. Please make your reservations to the church office by February 1.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet **Monday, January 8th at 5:30 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom for our annual post-holiday hors d'oeuvre party. We will be studying Chapter 8 in the Horizons Bible Study *Who is Jesus?* Judy Ridinger will lead our program "According to Mark."

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets **Wednesday, January 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Dr. Kieffer (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). We will discuss Chapter 4 "*The Power of Sex*" of *Imperfect Control: Our Lifelong Struggles with Power and Surrender* by Judith Viorst.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, January 16 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Church Library. Deb Coontz will be the hostess and Leah Duling will present the devotional. We will study Lesson 3: Mark of the PW Horizon Bible Study *Who is Jesus?* By Judy Yates Siker.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN

**MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet **Thursday, January 11, at 7:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Dr. Richard Leary will provide a program on his trip to Peru. David Mitchell will lead a devotion, and Brad Swanson will provide the breakfast. Please RSVP to Stephanie at [smoore@wpcspi.org](mailto:smoore@wpcspi.org).

## "LET'S MAKE DINNER"

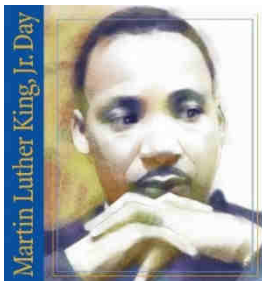
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26  
5:30 UNTIL 8:00 P.M.**

Members of WPC are invited to an evening at "Let's Make Dinner" (2943 W. White Oaks Drive) hosted by Ruth and Naomi. Come for a couple of hours as we enjoy fellowship, wine, appetizers, and share the gift of hospitality by making casseroles for our Congregational Care Committee's Meal Ministry. The cost for the evening is \$10.00.

Share an evening with good friends as we begin a new season of hospitality in our life together. Please RSVP (no regrets) to Stephanie Moore at [smoore@wpcspi.org](mailto:smoore@wpcspi.org). There will also be a sign-up sheet on Sunday mornings in the East Narthex.

## THE ANNUAL MLK BREAKFAST MONDAY, JANUARY 15

The Annual MLK Breakfast will be Monday, January 15, 7:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Hotel (7<sup>th</sup> & Adams). W.J. Michael Cody 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](mailto:smoore@wpcspi.org)



## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Renee Housel celebrates 90 on January 4.

Roy Baker celebrates 92 years on January 4.

### IN MEMORIAM

Earl Ray, Jr. died on November 26, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his family, Deb & Dave Coontz and their son Drew.

Carl J. Strand died on December 9, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his daughter-in-law, Pamela Strand and grandchildren, Jack, Gretchen, and Nate.

Cynthia Wilson died December 22, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, Joshua Wilson and Jessica Wilson.

Barbara Greening died December 26, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her children, William Greening and Pamela Cox and their families.

A memorial service giving thanks for Clifton Tozer will be held Saturday, January 6, 2:00 p.m. at Concordia Village.

### SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Sandy and Jon Hockenys on the death of Sandy's brother, Dr. John Greenleaf on November 3 in California.

Betsy Dye on the death of her father Norman Swift on November 26 in Western Springs, Illinois.

Anneliese and Joe Fierstos on the death of her father and to Nate and Abby on the death of their grandfather, Gerald Barris on November 27.

Deb and Skip Turnbull on the death of their sister in law, Alice Schmittler on November 29.

Cathy and Bill Allen on the death of Bill's mother and to Kylie Allen and Mark Allen on the death of their grandmother, Delores Allen on December 11 in St. Louis.

Drs. Craig Batterman and Tanya DeSanto on the death of Craig's dad and to Emma, Grace and Sam Batterman on the death of their grandfather, James Edward Batterman on December 19.

Marci and Bill Irvine on the death of Marci's brother, Fredric C. Volzke on December 22 in Sioux Falls, SD.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Spencer Moore Chipman who completed his first Ironman on November 4 in Panama City Beach, Florida. His time was 12:12:56 and he placed in the top quarter overall.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for all you continually do for and with Contact Ministries. Merry Christmas! We look forward to our continued partnership in 2018. – *The Staff & Board of Contact Ministries*

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 12

Session and Deacon Committee 2017 reports are due Friday, January 12, 2018. Please submit your reports to at [Jennie Alt jalt@wpcspi.org](mailto:jalt@wpcspi.org). These reports are included in the 2017 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 28, 2018. Copies will be available at the meeting.

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**



## ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:

### AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN

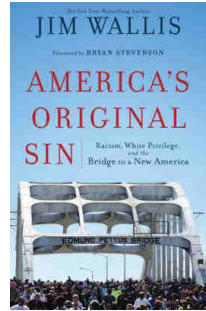
SUNDAYS, JANUARY 5, 12, 19

In January, Becky Martin will lead us in a discussion of Jim Wallace's book America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America as we continue the important conversation about the deep roots of America's racism and explore our responsibility for white privilege.



Becky Martin teaches English at Lanphier High School. She has been teaching 25 years, the last eleven at Lanphier. She received her Bachelor's degree in English from Illinois State University and earned a Master's in English and a Master's in History from UIS. She is an active participant in Faith Coalition for the Common Good serving on their Education Committee and participating in their monthly Sacred Conversations at St. Cabrini Catholic Church. Becky has served as an Elder, a Deacon, a youth leader and currently serves on the Membership

Committee and sings in the Westminster Choir.



### THE REVEREND SARAH ILIFF MCGILL RETIRES AS PARISH ASSOCIATE

Sunday, January 28 will be the last Sunday the Reverend Sarah Iliff McGill will serve as WPC's Associate Pastor for Children's Ministries, a position Sarah has held since Trajan joined our staff as Associate Pastor for Parish Life in February 2014. It has been an honor to have Sarah enrich our staff with her warmth and many gifts. We respect her sense of call to be at home full time with their children. Sarah will remain active in the life of our congregation as Scott and Daehler's mom and Trajan's wife.

We will recognize Sarah during worship on Sunday, January 28 and provide an opportunity to express our appreciation.



### DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY POSITION OPENING

WPC is now accepting applications for the position of Director for Children's Ministry. This is a part-time position (10-20 hours per week) with the oversight of children's ministry (ages Pre-K to Grade 5). Responsibilities include coordinating Sunday School, Bridges Midweek Fellowship, Vacation Bible School, and special activities including Harvest Fest, Advent Celebration and the Easter Egg Hunt. This person will also maintain the Christian Education Resource Room and work closely with the Cut and Copy Team.

Job description and applications are available in the Church Office for those interested in this opportunity. Applications accepted through January 21.

#### GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JANUARY MENU

Canned Spaghetti & Meatballs,

Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water. Instant pudding or Jell-O

**Additional Items in High Demand:** feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

*Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex  
for the Central Illinois Foodbank.*

**February Reporter Deadline is Tuesday, January 28.**

### 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 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 Elliott**

*Saturday Worship Pianist and*

*Music Coordinator*

deb.watts@live.com

**Natalie A. Knox**

*Interim Director for Youth*

nknox@wpcspi.org

**Judy Ridinger, Ellen Carpenter**

*Parish Nurses*

jaridinger@att.net

ranell@comcast.net

**Abigail Cline, Lizzy Olmsted**

*Nursery Workers*

**Emily Rowley, Kari Soria**

*Cooperative Preschool Teachers*

westminstercoop@gmail.com

**Lisa Runkle**

*Financial Administrator*

lrunkle@wpcspi.org

**Jennie Alt**

*Church Administrative Assistant*

jalt@wpcspi.org

**Stephanie S. Moore**

*Administrative Assistant to the Pastors*

smoore@wpcspi.org

**Gary Warnick**

*Head Custodian and*

*Rental Properties Coordinator*

gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**Roy Ahlers, Steve Council,**

**Bill Hibbert, Charles Robertson**

*Custodians*

**Church offices will close Monday,  
January 15 in observance of  
Martin Luther King Day.**