



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

January 2020

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
Adult Ed Forum 11:15 a.m. – 12 noon
Junior High Youth 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Senior High Youth 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.*

January 5

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Isaiah 60:1-6, John 1:1-9 (10-18)

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Another Beginning

January 12

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

COMMISSIONING OF KENYA MISSION TEAM

Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 10:28-43

The Rev. Christian K. Choi

Let It Be

January 19

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

The Rev. Trajan I. McGill

Of the World

January 26

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

All the Light We Cannot See

KENYA MISSION TRIP

JANUARY 14-30, 2020



On Sunday, January 12 during the 10:00 a.m. worship service we will commission our Kenya Mission Team who travel to Kenya January 14-30, 2020. Led by Rev. Christian Choi, members include Dr. Jane Arbuthnot, Jen and Dr. Marc DeJong, Tara Fritsch, Bob Fox, Harold Hale, Mary and Charlie King, Drs. Todd and Judy Knox, Kevin Milward and Mary Ray.

In preparation for faithful cross-cultural ministry and because mission begins at home, in December the team participated in a local community service cleaning the public areas of the Brighter Tomorrow Sober Living House in December.

This is Westminster's first full-scale international mission trip as we partner with the Outreach Foundation to fund, construct, and dedicate a church and classrooms for the Presbyterian Church of Kenya. \$15,000 from WPC's Mission and Benevolence Endowment Fund is making this possible along with the dedication and generosity of the team members. Special thanks to the anonymous member who donated \$10,000 in scholarship funds and to all who contributed the gifts the team will bring such as Bibles, banners, a communion set, school supplies, soccer balls, and reading glasses. Additionally, pocket crosses cut from Westminster pews by Bob Fox will be presented to our Kenya friends. During the week of January 5, members are invited to carry the crosses as they pray for those whose lives will be enriched through this mission.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ANNUAL MEETING

8:30 – 9:45 A.M. EGG-TASTIC BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Members are invited to an incredible English breakfast served by youth attending the 2020 Youth Appalachia Mission Trip to West Virginia. Come support the Mission and be well-nourished for the work of the church at the Annual Meeting following worship!

10:00 A.M. ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP

11:00 – 11:30 A.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

*Sermon manuscripts are located in the West
Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org.*

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

It's a Beautiful Day in Bethlehem...

We welcomed 610 in worship on Christmas Eve. Each service was meaningful and had its own unique character. The festive Christmas dinner hosted by the Board of Deacons served 170.

This year's Christmas Eve meditation reflected on the life and ministry of the Rev. Mr. Fred Rogers. In 2018, on the 50th anniversary of the classic PBS children's television show "Mister Roger's Neighborhood," a new documentary was released rekindling interest in the legacy of the Presbyterian minister who created the show. In February 2019, friends from Westminster gathered for an Adult Education Forum on Fred Rogers led by my husband. In May 2019 on Founders' Sunday, the Strategic Planning Committee introduced the "Steadfast Neighbor Endeavor" with drawings of the site and landscape plan along with goals for the neighborhood mission component. The Walnuts, directed by our own Mr. Rogers, sang "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."

On Thanksgiving weekend after seeing the American film inspired by Tom Junod's 1998 Esquire article "Can You Say...Hero?" I knew Mr. Rogers would be a part of the Christmas Eve meditation. As we gathered to contemplate the wonder and mystery of the God who would join us in our humanity and become one of us in the birth of a child, it seemed to me that reflecting on a man who became the incarnation of God's love in a lifetime of ministering to millions of young children might shed some light on the meaning of this beautiful day in our faith story. Without mentioning God's name, Mr. Rogers shared the love of God with both the child in front of the TV and the child within each of us. Christmas is a time for children, and the One whose birth we celebrate taught us to become like children.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT WESTMINSTER

We hold the children of Westminster in high esteem and are grateful for the leadership of our **Director for Children's Ministry, Karen Sherrick**. Karen recently began



the process of becoming a Certified Christian Educator and will attend her first class this month at the 2020 APCE (Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators) Annual Conference in Little Rock, AR. This year's theme is "Getting Outside the Box." Karen and the Rev. Christian Choi are a dynamic team in Children's Ministry and appreciate the direction and oversight of the Family Ministry Committee. With great joy we anticipate the inspiration and creativity Karen will bring home to us as we seek to explore ministry outside the box and in our neighborhood!

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Thank you for your faithfulness and financial support for the work and mission of Westminster. November ended with income exceeding expenses by \$4,756. December is showing strong income, so we anticipate so we anticipate income equal to the level budgeted.

2019 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 936,256	\$ 949,804	\$-13,548
Expenses	\$-931,500	\$-949,804	\$-18,304
Net Total	\$ 4,756	\$ 0	

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS will resume rehearsals in the new year on Wednesday, January 8 at 4:45 p.m. The project for the coming months is the preparation of music for the Ash Wednesday service and the musical on Sunday, May 3, 2020.

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR will sing *See, Amid the Winter Snow* on Sunday, January 5 for the 10:00 a.m. service. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 9 at 7:30 p.m. Assistance is needed to clear out last semester's music in the choir folders, load music for the spring and put the music away on Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. If you are able to help, let me know.

CHURCH MICE, our musical experience for infants through age four will begin its new year on Saturday, January 11 at 11 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR, our choir for Kindergartners through second grade will begin rehearsals in February.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS TAKE DOWN will be Tuesday, January 7 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Many thanks to those who assisted in decorating the church. We have enjoyed these adornments through the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany day. Come help store things away for another year.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM PRESENTS:



THE EARLY CHURCH COUNCILS

Sundays, January 5, 12, 19

11:15 a.m. in the Second Floor Classroom

This course will explore the ecumenical church councils which were held between 325 and 787 CE and discuss the theological issues that spurred the councils as well as the major personalities who spoke at them. The class will be led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz. Aaron is a professor of history at Lincoln Land Community College.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND 20TH CENTURY MUSIC

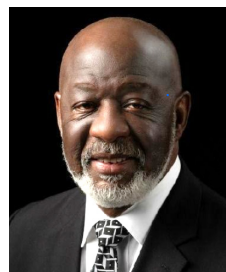
Sundays, January 26, February 9, 16, 23

During the 20th century, emerging technologies permitted musicians Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Jimi Hendrix and Bob Marley to develop new genres of Jazz, Rock and Reggae that would transform the music industry and lead this march of the civil rights movement. Dr. Peter Kieffer will lead the class.

WPC 2020 PLATINUM SPONSOR

MLK BREAKFAST ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20

The 45th Annual MLK Breakfast will be held Monday, January 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Wyndham Hotel (7th & Adams). Dr. Wesley G. Robinson-McNeese, Executive Director for Diversity Initiatives for the Southern Illinois University systems, will be the Keynote Speaker.



WPC is a Platinum Sponsor again in 2020, donating \$1,500 (\$1,000 from the Scholarship Endowment Fund and \$500 from the Peace and Global Witness Fund). It is meaningful for us to have a presence at this community celebration in light of our rich history as advocates for racial justice and equality. If you would like to join the pastors and attend, please contact Haofang Chuang at hchuang@wpcspi.org.

2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN GOAL MET



As of Friday, December 27 we have received **259 pledges totaling of \$823,919**. This is **100%** of our \$822,000 goal. *Special thanks to the 2020 Stewardship Committee led by Dr. William Wright.*

FAMILY MINISTRY by Rev. Christian K. Choi

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE:

4:00 PM: Confirmation / Confirmation Prep
 5:00 PM: Youth Group Worship (Junior & Senior High)
 5:30 PM: Youth Group Dinner (Junior & Senior High)
 6:00 PM: Senior High Bible Study & Fellowship

Date	Confirm. Prep	Confirmation	Sr. High
Jan. 5	Winter Break, no PM Youth Group		
Jan. 12	Session 11: Judges	Session 5: Who is your Savior? (Make-up)	How Do I know What God Wants Me To Do?
Jan. 19	Session 12: Ruth	Session 7: What does it mean to show Christ's love?	Is War a Violation of "Thou Shall Not Kill"? We Have a Loving God, So Why Is There Hate?
Jan. 26	Session 13 King Saul	Will you devote yourself to the Church's teachings?	Is It OK to Pray for More Money?

The Youth Contact Ministries Shopping adventure on December 8 was a joyous way to share Christ's love with other teenagers. A successful Spud Bake and the generosity of WPC members provided \$1500 to purchase Christmas gifts for teens.



The Youth Christmas Party was cancelled due to a snow storm.

EGGTASTIC BREAKFAST MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

All youth attending the 2020 Mission Trip are expected to work the fourth annual Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, February 2. **Plan to arrive by 8:00 a.m. and work through the morning!** 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!

ASP 2020 YOUTH MISSION MEETINGS

WPC's Fifth ASP mission trip is July 25 – August 1. This year's destination is Kanawha County, WV where we will repair homes and build relationships. It is not too late to join us! Please complete a letter of intent and return it to Rev. Choi with the \$50 deposit.



FUTURE MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISERS AND DATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2020: Eggastic Breakfast Fundraiser @ 8:00 a.m.

Due: ASP Volunteer Form, \$100 payment #2

MARCH 22, 2020: Trivia Night Fundraiser @ 5:00 p.m.

APRIL 18, 2020: Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's

MAY 17, 2020: Car Wash & Bake Sale Fundraiser @ 8:15 a.m.

Due: \$100 payment #3

JULY 25 – AUGUST 1, 2020: ASP MISSION TRIP WEEK!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

CAROLING AT CONCORDIA VILLAGE

Bridges Children, led by Dale Rogers, sang carols at Concordia Village on December 11. They also passed out Christmas tree ornaments for our church members who reside at Concordia. Afterwards, children and their parents enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate to wrap up the sharing of Joy.



BRIDGES JANUARY SCHEDULE

Bridges Midweek Fellowship for children in grades 3-5 meets Wednesdays from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. prior to Choristers. This year's theme is "Loving God, Loving Neighbor".

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 –

We will continue to explore how we can be a good neighbor by discussing how to be a friend.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

What is gossip? What does the Bible say about gossip? How does gossip affect our friendships?

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

We will meet with our Advocates and explore how "whatever" is used in the Bible.

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 29

What are the Fruits of the Spirit? Define Love. Who is Love?

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Children and youth (K-Grade 12) will gather Wednesday, February 12, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Temple B'rith Sholom 104 South 4th Street). We will join friends from other faith communities to build friendships, learn about one another and share fellowship over a meal. This year's theme is "Being a Good Neighbor?" If your child needs transportation, please email Karen Sherrick at ksherrick@wpcspi.org.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS

WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL NEWS



It's been a wonderful December in the preschool! Our families shared a holiday tradition, and we so enjoyed the variety and creativity of their wonderful ideas! We read different versions of the story of the

gingerbread man, baked gingerbread cookies, and hunted for the cookies. Our family holiday party was a festive evening of holiday crafts and cookie decorating. We will be on winter break until school resumes on January 3rd.

Applications for the 2019-2020 school year will be available to current/alumni and church members in January. Applications will be available on our website and on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the preschool. Applications are due January 31st (along with the \$40 application fee). Families will be notified of their placements by February 15th, after which the general public will be invited to apply.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8



On Sunday, December 8 our 10:00 a.m. worship began with a recognition of and thank you to Pat Hymans for the gifts of hospitality she has shared so generously through the years. This January, Pat's role becomes official as she joins Westminster's staff with the title "Hospitality Coordinator."

The Westminster Choristers and Children's Choir, directed by Dale Rogers, led us in a musical presentation of the "Hanging of the Greens." Dale's choir assistants are Sue Cull and Pat Roller.

Following worship over 100 members and friends gathered in Parish Hall for the Advent Celebration which included the singing of carols, the creating of ornaments, the decorating of cookies, and a delicious, festive brunch.

The Compass for Kids Christmas Party was held Tuesday, December 17 in Parish Hall. We are grateful for Westminster's team of leaders who invest in these children's lives.



COMPASS FOR KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17



ADVENT RITUALS



The traditions of Advent Candle Lighting, exceptional music, and the delightful Christmas Eve Children's Service are alive and well at Westminster.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER 5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Trajan McGill

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Mission & Community Service Committee thanks Westminster for your generosity this Advent and Christmas! **THANK YOU** to all who:



DONATED MITTENS which were shared with community members at the WPC-hosted Contact Ministries Christmas Distribution on December 11. WPC knitters continue to create and deliver hand-made items throughout the community. This Advent, K2P4 lovingly supplied bags of knitted goods to Kumler Outreach Ministries and M.E.R.C.Y., filled much of the Mitten Tree for 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. Over **250 mittens** were knitted and/or donated.

WESTMINSTER YOUTH WHO PURCHASED GIFTS for young people in our community. Twenty youth members gathered last Sunday following the Advent Celebration and spent \$1,500 in funds raised by them for that purpose. These gifts were distributed at the Contact Ministries Christmas Distribution.

PARTICIPATED IN THE CONTACT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION on Wednesday, December 11. Several members from Westminster volunteered their time in the effort. We welcomed approximately 400 families from the community who walked through our doors to receive gifts and food. This is our 28th year hosting this community event.



DONATED ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFTS for the nine families living in transitional housing at Contact Ministries. Special thanks to Kathy Germeraad for overseeing this service effort in 2019, and to Randy Germeraad, Bob Leffler, Brad Milliman, Diane Rutledge and Kay Smith for putting in substantial work of coordination and labor to bring it to fruition. Over **300 gifts** were delivered on Monday, December 16.

DONATED TO THE NEEDS NAMED ON THE KENYA GIVING TREE. We've reached our goal for donated items needed on the 2020 Kenya Mission Trip. Westminster will provide additional gifts which the team will purchase in Kenya. Please remember to keep in your prayers the mission trip members and the men, women and children we will serve.

TOYS FOR TOTS Thanks to those who responded so generously to this children's program of the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The box was filled numerous times during the month of December.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING This special offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 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 December 2019 was **\$3,094.**

HELPING HANDS MONTHLY MEAL

WPC provides dinner for the Helping Hands homeless shelter on the second Friday of each month. The dinner on January 10 is being provided by Leigh Milward, Mary Ray, and Cathy Schwartz. Thanks to the Bryans and Swanson families, who provided the December meal. We still need ministry partners to provide the meal in February!

GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JANUARY MENU – Canned Spaghetti and Meatballs or Pasta/Sauce. Canned Veggies & Fruit in 100% juice/water, and Instant Pudding or Jello. **Items in High Demand:** *feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 & 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.

FAITH COALITION LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Faith Coalition for the Common Good provides training for those who seek to lead and organize community efforts. Elder Anna Koeppel attended a week-long National Leadership Training in the summer of 2019. We are grateful for Anna's leadership and commitment to community service!

2019 MISSION ENDOWMENT GIVING

Many thanks to all who have given to the WPC Support & Endowment Fund. This provides significant financial support to mission beyond our annual operating budget. Below are the projects and agencies supported with endowment fund grants. In 2019 we invested \$38,000 from the earnings of our mission endowments!

Program	Description	Funding
Medical Global Brigades	Ghana Mission Trip of Jenna Milward	\$ 300
Contact Ministries	Spring fundraiser sponsorship	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity	2019 Interfaith Build	\$ 7,500
Kemmerer Village	Equine therapy and summer projects for children in Kemmerer's residential program	\$ 2,000
James Project	Education and support to families fostering children	\$ 1,000
Faith Coalition for the Common Good	Annual dues & fall donation for this group dedicated to bringing faith communities together and seeking betterment of the region	\$ 2,620
Outreach Foundation	Funding for the Kenya mission trip and construction of a church and classrooms	\$ 15,000
Brighter Tomorrow Sober Living House	Housing, life improvement, and skills development for men recovering from addictions	\$ 3,580
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Hurricane Dorian Relief	\$ 5,000
Matthew Project	Children of Abraham Service Project: Summer Swim Bags	\$ 626
Total		\$ 38,626

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER



HOME COMMUNION – Thank you to the elders and deacons who brought home communion to seven members on Sunday, December 15. If you are unable to attend worship (whether temporarily or on an ongoing basis) and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt. The Lord's Supper will next be celebrated on Sunday, January 12.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 4

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION

TUESDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

We welcome our knitters back from the holiday break as we resume weekly sessions at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Our brown bag lunch will be held on January 14 at noon. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-544-8657.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In December, Sharon Reynolds passed the baton of Moderator leadership to Sue Sawers. The Moderator term is two-years. Thank you to both women for their leadership. The Presbyterian Women luncheon will not meet in January and will resume on **Friday, February 7** noon in Parish Hall.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m.** in Second Floor Classroom. Lynn McMenemy will lead the discussion of Chapter 4 "God with Us When We Seek God" in the *2018-2019 PW Horizons Bible Study: God's Promise – I Am with You* by Sutherlin. For Information, call Eleanor VanDeventer at 217-341-4032.

LYDIA CIRCLE will meet **Tuesday, January 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the church library. Sharon Turner will give devotions and Carolyn Beatty will teach Lesson 4 "Words of Love; Honor the Life-givers" from the Bible study *Love Carved in Stone: A fresh look at the Ten Commandments*.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will resume on **Wednesday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Christy Pound (100 Pinehurst.) and lead the discussion on The Debate, #4 and Wisdom Stories and The Beast, #5, and Resistance Stories in *Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. If you would like info, call Meg Kontio at 217-670-2052.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9



Presbyterian Men will meet **Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 a.m.** for a breakfast gathering. Dennis Lawley, retired Meteorologist, will speak on Climate Change. Rich Canady will provide devotions and Bob Leffler will provide breakfast. Please RSVP online or by calling the church office.

LIBRARY NEWS

Check out the Library's cart of books in the West Narthex following the 10:00 a.m. service, which has children and adult books available for check out. You may return any book you borrow to the cart as well.

The Library Committee welcomes book donations for adult, older children, and pre-teen/teen fiction books. Please place in the Church Office. Many books have been checked-out for several years. If some of these books are found, please return them to the church. *Sharon Turner, Chair*



EARTH CARE NEWS

JANUARY EARTH CARE TIP: In hot water with the utility bills? We can save money and energy with how we heat and use hot water. Lowering the temperature to 120 degrees is better for the bank account and safer for the kids. A hot water heater blanket conserves energy (especially in a cold basement or garage). Low-flow shower heads get the job done with less water. Time for replacement or upgrade? Tankless water heaters last longer and recoup their higher cost within a few years. *Dr. Peter Kieffer, Chair*



WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Judith & Ted Flickinger celebrate 55 years on January 2.

Roy Baker celebrates 94 years on January 4.

Renee Housel celebrates 94 years on January 4.

John Jaech celebrates 91 years on January 20.

WEDDINGS

Matthew Wilday and Anne Fanella were united in marriage on Saturday, December 21 at Assumption Church in Chicago. Matthew's parents are Marty and Jeff Wilday.

NEW ARRIVAL

Lane Robert Baier was born on December 5. Lane's parents are Kelsey and Jeremy Baier, his sister is Thea, and proud grandparents are Jeanne and Pete VanGieson.

Benjamin Arthur Berkowitz was born on December 12. Benji's parents are Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz and his proud big sisters are Sadie and Junie Berkowitz.

Amelia Kathryn Moore was born on December 17. Amelia's parents are Katie and Pat Moore, her proud brother and sister are Ned and Charlotte.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Marty and Jeff Wilday on the death of Marty's brother, and to John and Matthew Wilday on the death of their uncle, Andrew Clements, on November 28 in Cornish, MA.

NEW ADDRESS

Steven and Dr. Julia Arbuthnot, 146 Cram Road, Sanbornton, NH 03269

George Johnson, River Birch, 4102 Cockrell Lane, Springfield, IL 62711

Jeanne Pittman, 30 Turnberry, Springfield, IL 62704

CONGRATULATIONS TO

The Rev. Dr. David K. Massey, Pastor of Plantation Presbyterian Church, who has been elected to serve as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

THANK YOU, WESTMINSTER

Thank you from the Miss Illinois Scholarship Organization and Ariel Beverly, Miss Illinois 2019 for hosting the Miss Illinois Send Off Party. *Susan R. Shea*

Thank you for your support of my Boy Scout's popcorn sales. Through your generosity, I was able to sell the most popcorn in my troop! I hope you enjoyed your popcorn and got it to last for more than just a day! In Christ, Will Hovey

CHURCH OFFICER RETREAT

On Saturday, January 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, Elders and Deacons will gather for the Annual Church Officer Retreat.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 9

Session and Deacon Committee 2019 reports are due Thursday, January 9, 2020. Please submit your reports to Jennie Alt jalt@wpcpi.org. These reports are included in the 2019 Annual Report for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on February 2, 2020. Copies will be available at the meeting.

CHURCH OFFICES HOURS

Church Offices will be closed January 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

ANNUAL MEETING

NEW OFFICER ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 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 13, 2019. Their bios can be found on the church website (www.wpcspi.org) in Church Leadership.



SESSION

Carol Bloemer, Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold, Adam Ekstedt, Judy Ridinger, John Stafford, Carolyn Swanson, Pete VanGieson, Bill Ward and Youth Elder, Avery Pound

BOARD OF DEACONS

Rich Canady, Bud Green, Alyssa Haaker, Rachael Hickman, Becky McDonald, Julie Pittman McDonough, Mike Sundquist, Brinton Wilkey and Youth Deacon. Grace Batterman

THANK YOU TO CHURCH OFFICERS CLASS OF 2019

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

SESSION: Suzanne Borland, Cathy Brower, Mal Hildebrand, Carole Kennerly, Anna Koeppel, Jim Kontio, Kelvin Owens, Marilyn Rigney and Youth Elder, Drew Borland.

BOARD OF DEACONS: Alexander Chipman, Charlie King, Meg Kontio, Brand Milliman, Kevin Simonson, Suzie Spada, Cheryl White, Kate Wilson and Youth Deacon, Ella Kurmann.

WESTMINSTER STITCHERY GUILD

During the Children's Sermon on December 15, **Deanna Funk** was introduced by Rev. Choi and thanked for her ministry leading the Westminster Stitchery Guild who created the cushions for the "Elder" stalls in the Chancel.

The first meetings of the Stitchery Guild were on January 20 and 21, 1983, in which members of the congregation were invited to join. The two designs picked were floral and Christian symbols. The natural flower designs were based on the seasons of the year, which represent the seasons of the Church and the seasons in each life. God's smallest creatures were included on the cushions to show every little thing is important: moth, butterfly, worm, centipede, ladybug, dragonfly, cat, beetle, bee, spider, Church mouse, and a praying mantis.



The reverse side of the cushions are Christian symbols stitched in a quatrefoil echoing the design of the wood carvings throughout the church. Thank you to the entire guild. Among them were *Sandy Bellatti, Charlaire Barker, Rachel Brown, Linda Chronister, Dee Dee Gain, Sharon Gilmour, Vivian Keithley, Jeanne Pittman, Sue Sackett, Mary Anne Singleton, and Sharon Zook.*

Church offices will be closed on January 1 in observance of New Year's Day and Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

January Reporter deadline is Sunday, January 26.

Reporter folding and mailing will be on Wednesday, January 29.

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 Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

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

Karen Sherrick
Director for Children's Ministry
ksherrick@wpcspi.org

Victoria Hollinshead, Kimberly Hollinshead, Jaymie Hale Ngoupa
Nursery Workers

Emily Rowley, Amy Bonansinga
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
westminstercoop@gmail.com

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hymans
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alnpat@yahoo.com

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Haofang Chuang
Administrative Assistant
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Krista Steller
Webmaster

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

Terry Gietl, Bill Hibbert, Eddie Hubbard, Steve Stapleton
Part-time Custodians