



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

July 2023

WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3

10:15 a.m. Summer Sunday School following Children's Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 3

July 2

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Youth Mission Team
Road to Selma

July 9

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Zechariah 9:9-12; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
The Rev. Christian K. Choi
Are We There Yet?

July 16

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 9:30-10:8
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Personal Accountability

July 23

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 28:10-19a; Matthew 11:3:24-30, 36-43
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
In God's Hands

July 30

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Genesis 29:15-28; Matthew 13:31-33, 46-52
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Rising to the Occasion

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

THE 2023 YOUTH MISSION TEAM LEADS WORSHIP SUNDAY, JULY 2

On Sunday, July 2, the 2023 youth mission team will lead worship and report on their **ROAD TO SELMA**. Twenty youth joined adult leaders Tad Allen, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Dave Leonatti, Nichole Magalis, Kevin Simonson and Interim Director for Youth, Mary Ray on a mission to Selma, Alabama, where they rebuilt homes following the January 2023 tornadoes and visited civil rights museums and monuments. Each participant read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. Youth participants include:



Braden Barton

Sam Batterman

Emily Brower

Maria DeJong

Aerwyna Eastvold

Kristianna Eastvold

Abigail Eldridge

Louisa Eldridge

Luke Elston

Caroline Haynor

Will Hovey

Liam Kiszely

Maria Lafrenz

James Maeda

Carter Magalis

Macklin Metzger

Sidney Miller

Bryce Pound

Matthew Scott

Sam Simonson

Many, many thanks to everyone who supported the 2023 Youth Mission through our fundraisers and the Pentecost Offering! We could not do it without you. This year the youth raised **\$2,023 at the Eggstastic Breakfast**, **\$6,422 at the Trivia Night**, and **\$2,082 during the Car Wash/Bake Sale**. The youth received **\$466 from the Pentecost Offering**. These total **\$10,993** thanks to the collaboration and teamwork of our youth, their parents, adult mentors, and this generous congregation.



CONTACT MINISTRIES BACKPACK COLLECTION THROUGH SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Once again WPC will partner in ministry with Contact Ministries through a backpack collection. This year's backpacks will be filled with school supplies and distributed to the children served by Contact Ministries and at a special vaccine event hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield in late August. We will collect backpacks through Sunday, August 13. Last year, we collected 190 backpacks! Please drop your donated backpacks in the basket located in the West Narthex.



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

On Sunday, July 9, Peter, Paul, and I will be in Stowe, VT for the 40th Anniversary Dedication Celebration of an interfaith chapel on Mt. Mansfield. Peter's father, William Kieffer, Jr., was instrumental in creating The Stowe Mountain Chapel. You may have seen the photo of this lovely chapel in my study.



In 1977, following the tragic death of Will's nine-year-old daughter, Mary Donnelly "Polly" Kieffer, who loved to climb and ski the mountain, the Kieffer family held a memorial service near where the Chapel now stands. This was the beginning of a collaboration between Will and the Rev. Marcus Hall, the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church.

The following explanation for creating the chapel is included in their brochure: "Throughout recorded history, mountains have been places where people have felt closer to God: Mountaintop experiences are recorded by those who received renewal and insight that became courage for all humanity. Amidst the challenges of ordinary life, a mountaintop journey provides a new perspective within the wonder, beauty, and mystery of God's creation. On the highest mountain in Vermont there is now a place where one may experience that closeness to God. So that everyone may feel at home in this chapel, symbols of any religion have been purposely omitted. The circular simplicity of this building in its natural setting speaks to the unity of God's creation and spirit."

I began visiting the chapel and leading worship services on the annual "Polly Walk" when I married Peter. The summer of 1992, I brought the youth mission team from the First United Presbyterian Church in Belleville to the chapel.

In 2019, I was invited to join the board and am currently serving as President. Those who are interested in learning more about this worship space and seeing some Kieffer family photos on Polly Walks may visit the website at stowemountainchapel.org.

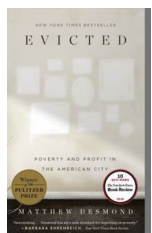
ADULT EDUCATION

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY

POTLUCK AND COMMUNION

THURSDAY, JULY 20

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study will gather Thursday, July 20, 6:00 p.m. for a potluck and communion at the Kieffer Home (26 Island Bay Lane, 62712). We will review and select our 2023-2024 curriculum as we begin the ninth year of our journey studying scripture together. Spouses are invited to the July 20 gathering. New members are always welcome.



APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, JULY 25

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, July 25 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Evicted by Matthew Desmond. (The group did not meet in June.) New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

SUMMER CHOIR

The Westminster Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, July 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room to prepare for the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, July 9. In August, the Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, August 3 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for Sunday, August 6. If you have contemplated joining the choir, this is a great time to give it a try. The regular season of the choir will begin on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m. and hold its annual retreat at Indian Point Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 9. Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates for the choir.

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR JULY will be Eleanor VanDeventer, soprano on July 2; the Westminster Summer Choir on July 9; The St. Andrew's Sisters on July 16; Lucy Yockey, bassoon and Linda Andrews, organ on July 23; and Amelia Tungett, soprano on July 30.

THE ANNUAL CHOIR BRUNCH, hosted by the Kontios, was June 4.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Karen Sherrick

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you to our incredible leadership team of **30 youth and adults**, we welcomed **32 children** to VBS. Our theme for this year was **Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God** based on our main verse for the week, Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread." This verse reminds us that everything we have comes from God—but it also calls us to turn to God in prayer for our daily needs. Because God loves and cares for us, we, in turn, can love and care for the rest of the world. We care for others because God first cared for us. In this way, the Church becomes the hands of God, ensuring that everyone's needs are met. Each session of our vacation Bible school focused on a different way God has met the needs of God's people and reminds us that God is still doing this today through us.

MONDAY'S LESSON:

God Provides Manna and Quail (Exodus 16)

TUESDAY'S LESSON:

Elijah, the Widow, and the Endless Oil (1Kings 17:8-16)

WEDNESDAY'S LESSON:

Daniel and Friends Eating the Good Stuff (Daniel 1)

THURSDAY'S LESSON

Jesus Feeds the 5,000 Plus (John 6:1-13)

FRIDAY'S LESSON

Jesus Cooks the Catch of the Day (John 21:1-17)

MISSION: The children who attended our vacation Bible school donated food to the Central Illinois Food Bank. The Central Illinois Food Bank is the primary source of food for numerous food pantries in the region. Westminster supports this organization's mission through give-a-meal-a-month, holding an ongoing collection for specific monthly food items. The children donated 44 cans of tuna, twenty boxes of tuna helper and 130 cans of fruit and vegetables to contribute to the June meal. Thank you to Ed Caupert and Jim Rigney for delivering our donations.

Additionally, the children decorated the bags for the Salvation Army Cooling Center monthly meals.

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Registrars: Pat Roller and Kathy Moore, **Photos:** Bob Fox

Assembly Leader: Karen Sherrick

Bible Story: Dr. Kieffer and Rev. Choi **Bible Drama Team:** Charlotte and William Affrunti, Abigail Eldridge, Sophia Loshe, Juliana and Aerwyna Eastvold

Art/Crafts: Pat McNutt **Games:** Jack Sherrick, Isaac Alt

Music: Katie Moore and Eleanor VanDeventer

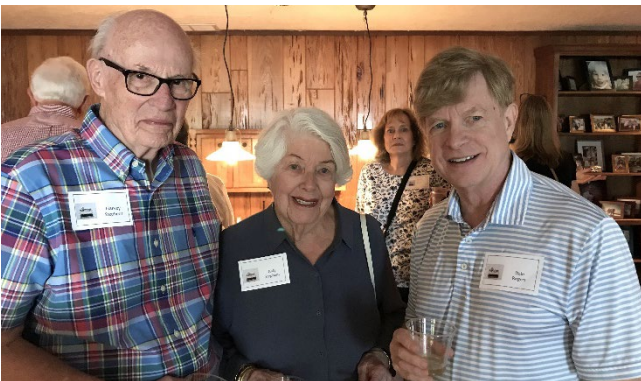
Snack: Pat Hymans, Melanie Green and Priscilla Kluge

Chef Masters: Pre-kindergarten-Grade 1: Julie Sundquist, Aaron Berkowitz, Kathy Bacon, Meridith and Kate Bryans, Maria Lafrenz, Grade 2: Camille Massey, Joe Fierstos

Grades 3-5: Val Leonatti and Julie Robbs



NINTH ANNUAL ALL CHURCH COOKOUT



Nearly ninety members and friends gathered at the Kieffers' for the ninth annual All Church Cookout (we missed 2020 because of the pandemic). Thank you to the Membership Committee and their spouses who host this gathering of fellowship, good food, boat rides, and a sing-along.

FOURTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE



Westminster partnered with seven neighbors to do work on their homes. Five crews (led by able captains Rev. Christian Choi, Tim Kluge, Julie Robbs, Pete VanGieson, and Gary Warnick) worked diligently and were all well-nourished with fabulous lunches served by Pat Hyman's Hospitality Team. Projects included power washing, painting and repairing porches, reconstructing a walkway, and replacing a cellar door. Additionally, our flower team created 30 flowerpots for participating neighbors since we began our Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach in 2020. We had fewer projects this year because of the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build. We continue to provide matching grants and stock our Little Pantry at Graham School daily. The plan is to invest \$450,000 in the neighborhood during this decade.



PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

HUNGER MINISTRIES AT WESTMINSTER

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERIES

JULY 10-14 AND JULY 17-21



Each summer, Westminster partners with Senior Services of Central IL to deliver food to eligible senior citizens as part of their Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program. **This year's dates are July 10-14 and 17-21**, There are a few openings for ministry partners to participate. This service of kindness is best done in pairs and the expected time commitment is about an hour to an hour-and-a-half, starting at 9:30 a.m. To sign up, click/use the QR code.



HELPING HANDS - Thank you to Cathy Allen and Nancy Canady who prepared the June 9 meal. The July 14 meal will be prepared by Melanie Green and Krista Steller. There are opportunities for members or groups to sign up from August to

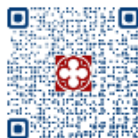


December. You can use/click our QR code to sign up or contact Jennie Alt for details.

SALVATION ARMY CENTER MONTHLY MEAL – Westminster Hunger Action Team members will prepare bagged meals for the Cooling Center on Wednesday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Krista Steller to participate.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR LITTLE PANTRY

When the school year ends, so do school meals. Although Graham Elementary is a year-around school, they are currently on summer break, from June 7 – July 19. Though there are programs such as Summer Food Service Program (SFP), it is during these summer days that the low-income families, especially kids, have a difficult time. Would you partner with us in this important ministry by stocking the little pantry with love and care? We have dates available in July. Please sign up using/clicking the QR code here or contact Jennie Alt for details.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH JULY MENU



Canned Spaghetti or Pasta Meal, Peas, Canned Fruit in Juice/Water, Rice Mixes or Instant Rice
High-Demand Items: personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, 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 (CIFB). Thank you to Ed Caupert, Jim Rigney, Mike Sundquist, and Bernie Wiseman for delivering the food to the CIFB.

EARTH CARE AT WESTMINSTER

JULY EARTH CARE TIP

Long hot sunny days give AC a workout! To give your air conditioner a break, program a setback thermostat to increase the temperature during times away from home. Run fans to keep cool at a slightly higher temperature. On cool mornings, turn off the AC and open the windows for a few hours to let in some cool air. During the day, pull down the shades to block the scorching sun. Hang clothes up to dry instead of warming the home with a dryer. Giving your AC a break will prolong its life, reduce your electricity bill, and help care for creation!



-Dr. Peter Kieffer, Earth Care Team Chair

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION – Thank you to the elders and deacons who visited 13 members on June 11. If you are unable to attend worship on Sunday, July 9 and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Jennie Alt.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on the **second Sunday of the month, July 9**, by our Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

SECOND HELPINGS MEAL MINISTRY

Congregational Care Committee and Second Helpings Meal ministry partners would love to provide a meal for anyone who could use a casserole. If you are recovering from a recent hospital stay or if you are dealing with an illness, and a premade meal would help, please contact either the Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter, Hospitality Coordinator, Pat Hymans, or Associate Pastor for Parish Life, Rev. Choi. This ministry is made possible by the generosity of this congregation.



The Steadfast Neighbor Service Week Ministry Partners made a presentation during worship on Sunday, June 25, Thanks to a great collaboration, it was another beautiful week in the neighborhood. Along with a report by Dr. Todd Knox who chairs the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Outreach Task Force, the team sang "Light the Fire."

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. A brown bag lunch will be held at noon on the second Tuesday, July 11. Beverages and dessert will be provided. You do not need to be a member or attend Westminster to join our group. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 AT 5:30 P.M.

DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet Friday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck and program at 6:15 p.m. Sergeants John Hensley, Sr. and John Hensley, Jr. from the Black Tiger Honor Guard will hold a flag folding ceremony, discuss the organization, and talk about a book being written about their organization. RSVP using the weekly email link, on the website, or by calling the church office.

WESTMINSTER HOSTS GRACE PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH SATURDAY, JULY 8

On Saturday, July 8, a youth mission trip team from Grace Presbyterian Church in Wichita, KS will stay overnight at Westminster on their way to Chicago to participate in Sunshine Gospel Ministries and their Bridge Builders program. This community trip is designed in a way to bring awareness and conversation to the many complexities people living in the inner city face on a daily basis. The youth and their leaders will join us in worship on Sunday, July 9.

LINDA AND BILL SCHLOSSER ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE – Please join Linda and Bill on Sunday, July 16 immediately following the worship service in Parish Hall to celebrate 60 years of marriage.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LINCOLN, IL INVITES THE CONGREGATION to join them for Dr. Adam Quine's tenth anniversary of ordination on Saturday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Dianna Butler Bass, an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality, will speak about faith, worship, and living a grounded and grateful life.

WESTMINSTER STAFF OPENINGS

DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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, Children of Abraham and special activities including Harvest Fest, Advent Celebration and the Easter Egg Hunt. This person will also maintain the Christian Education Resource Room.

NURSERY COORDINATOR

WPC is now accepting applications for the position of Nursery Coordinator. This is a part-time position (9:30 a.m. – 12 noon on Sunday mornings) with the oversight of the nursery. Responsibilities include supervising the nursery worker and collaborating with the Nursery Guild to provide dependable, safe, secure, and nurturing care to our youngest children (Birth – age 3) during worship on Sunday mornings and for a few special worship services throughout the year.

Job descriptions and applications are available on our website and in the Church Office. Applications accepted through August 15, 2023.

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Alan & Mrs. Marty Stutz celebrate 63 years on July 2.

Ben Foster celebrates 96 years on July 3.

Dick Washburn celebrates 91 years on July 13.

Dr. Tom & Mrs. Judy Lewis celebrate 62 years on July 23.

Roger Fenstermaker celebrates 91 years on July 24.

Camille & Ted Proud celebrate 60 years on July 27.

Matt Gilmour celebrates 90 years on July 31.

WEDDING

Danielle Zerfas and Ryan Beville will be united in marriage on Saturday, July 15 at Westminster. Danielle is the daughter of Sarah and Bob Zerfas.

NEW ARRIVAL

Davis Scott Durco was born June 16 in Dallas, TX. Davis' parents are Morgan and Scott Durco. His older sister is Madison and proud grandfather is Todd Wise.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Adrienne and Kyle Newman present their son, Hudson for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, July 16. Hudson is the grandson of former members, Linda and Mark Ranck,

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Donald William (Bill) Sherrick died on June 26, 2023. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his children Daniel (Mary Beijan) Sherrick, Laura Sherrick, Dr. Andy (Karen) Sherrick, son-in-law Ron Scanlon, and beloved grandchildren Sarah, Ben, Nicky, and Ruby Sherrick, Ali and Ethan Reichel, Jack and Annie Sherrick, Cassidy Apodaca, Sean and Jack Scanlan. A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 1, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. and a reception following in Parish Hall.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Georgina Hudspeth on the death of her uncle Eugene Bushey at age 98 on May 29 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Jennie Alt on the death of her step-mother, Colleen D Whitmer on May 29 in Hanna City, Illinois.

Jane Baudino on the death of her daughter, to Nichole and Matt Magalis on the death of Nichole's sister, and to Sam and Carter Magalis on the death of their aunt. Ginnie Sroka on June 2 in Peoria, Illinois.

NEW ADDRESS

Art Cochran, 2601 Montvale Blvd., Apt. 127, 62704

Gale Fixmer, 3319 Ginger Creek Dr., 62711

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed July 3 and 4.

MAY FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

The year-to-date income through May 2023 is much higher than 5 months of our annual budgeted income. Expenses are under budget by almost \$3,000, so we ended May with a net total of \$108,553 income exceeding expenses.

The quarterly contribution statements will be mailed in July.

2023 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 549,495	\$ 443,835	\$ 105,660
Expenses	\$-440,942	\$- 443,835	\$ 2,893
Net Total	\$ 108,553	\$ 0	

WESTMINSTER TO HOST A REFUGEE FAMILY

REFUGEE MINISTRY PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JULY 30 FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN PARISH HALL

Rachael Hickman and Jess Weitzel, co-chairs of the Refugee Subcommittee, will present a Ministry Moment during worship followed by an informational meeting on Sunday, July 30 at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. Come and learn about Westminster's vision to host a refugee family who will call Springfield their new home. Session approved the framework of this subcommittee's plan in May to work through Welcome Corps, a government program initiated this year, (www.welcomecorps.org).



Desserts and refreshments will be provided at this informational meeting as we learn more about Welcome Corps, the anticipated timeline, additional resources needed, and next steps towards hosting a refugee family.

WELCOMECORPS The Refugee Ministry Subcommittee is seeking ministry partners to help acclimate the refugee family to Springfield and living in the United States. The Betty Smith Mission Fund which focuses on international mission will provide monetary resources for this endeavor. Many hands make light work, and we expect no more than one hour of commitment per week as we collaborate in this exciting endeavor. Those interested in joining this subcommittee may to contact Rachael Hickman (rachael.hayes87@gmail.com), Jess Weitzel (jaweitzel@gmail.com) or Rev. Choi (cchoi@wpcspi.org).

KAREN SHERRICK RETIRES AS DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday, August 27 will be the last Sunday Karen Sherrick will serve as WPC's Director for Children's Ministry, a position Karen has held since February of 2018. We are beyond grateful for the experience, skill, initiative, organization, and warmth Karen has brought to this position which has enriched the lives of our children and their parents.

We will recognize Karen during worship on Sunday, August 27 and provide an opportunity to express our appreciation.



NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH OFFICERS

The 2023 Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

DEACON (CLASS OF 2026)

ELDER (CLASS OF 2026)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2024)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (CLASS OF 2026)

Nominations may be completed online at wpcspi.org or by emailing the committee chair, Eleanor VanDeventer at ehuitt@yahoo.com. Please complete by August 20, 2023. Nominees will be presented at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

2023 Nominating Committee: Eleanor VanDeventer (Chair), Mary King, Mike Nenaber, Brad Steller, Alan Stutz, and Julie Sundquist.

Westminster Staff

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

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life
cchoi@wpcspi.org

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts
drogers@wpcspi.org

Mary A. Ray
Interim Director for Youth
zkarmar.mr@gmail.com

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

Katie L. Moore
Director for Children's Music
kkilduski@gmail.com

Caroline Haynor
Nursery Worker

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Teachers
emily@westminster-preschool.org
keri@westminster-preschool.org

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse
ranell@comcast.net

Pat Hyman
Hospitality Coordinator
alnpat5@yahoo.com

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator
lrunkle@wpcspi.org

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant
jaltd@wpcspi.org

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator
ksteller@wpcspi.org

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager
gwarnick@wpcspi.org

**James Capler, Terry Gietl,
Bill Hibbert, Steve Stapleton**
Part-time Custodians

Reporter folding and mailing will be
Wednesday, August 2.