

# WEST END & BROAD STREET CIRCUIT RIDER



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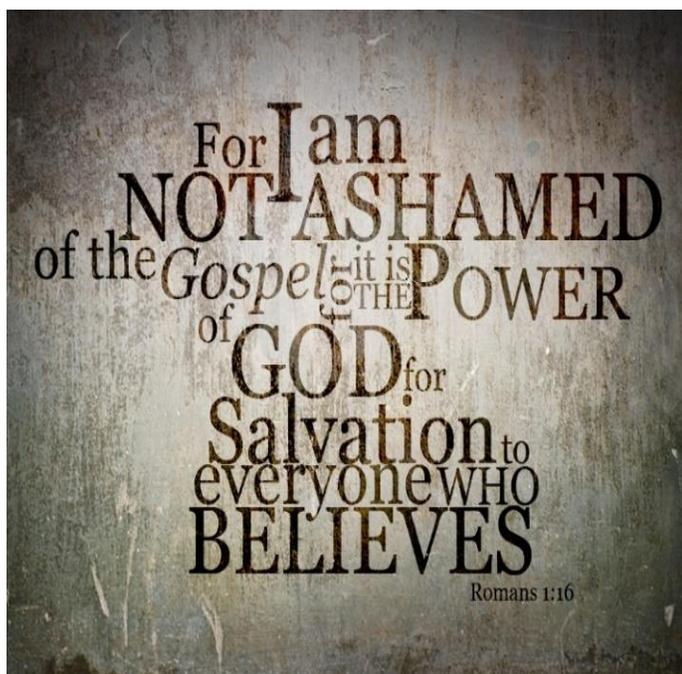
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## Message From Pastor Fred

<sup>1</sup>When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua: <sup>2</sup>"Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup>and command them, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.'" <sup>4</sup>Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. <sup>5</sup>Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup>so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' <sup>7</sup>then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever."

My friends, we are getting ready to go on an exciting journey with God as we join together as one church. In our passage above, Joshua tells all the 12 tribes to take up one stone a piece as a remembrance of who God is in the history of Israel. He told them to tell this story over and over again so they may know the covenant of the Lord has been fulfilled. My friends, as we move forward this spring and summer to new opportunities and new relationships may we take up our stones from both our churches God has provided and remember all the great things God has done as a memorial forever. But not just a memorial but a time of spiritual reflection of the awesomeness of God who continues to lead us to new places.

In this scripture, God has already made a covenant with Joshua and Israel that they would be a great nation as long as they kept the faith. The people of Israel obeyed God and recognized his presence as they told stories of their faith to their children. These stories helped the children of Israel to always remember who it was that provided salvation from Egypt and safe passage through the Jordan into the Promised Land. My friends, as we journey forward God has made a covenant with all of us that if we have faith we can move mountains. We too have faith stories and stones that we take with us wherever we go. God is with us in this merger and I know that change is difficult, but with God all things are possible and brand new. Let us take our stones God has given us and share our stories together as we move forward in our faith as a new faith community crossing new roads of opportunities in this neighborhood and beyond.

*God bless. - Pastor Fred*



### Receive Newsletter in Electronic Form

This **church newsletter** has been sent out as an **email attachment** for the last 5 years. This was our way of cutting down on expense (postage) and cutting down on waste (paper & ink).

If you would share your email with us we could add you to the email list. Send an email to Susan Cohen at [queenbeez@cox.net](mailto:queenbeez@cox.net). If you do not have an email account you can retrieve your copy in the narthex by the entrance door. This is your newsletter and we want you to receive your copy in the way that's best for you.

## Stewardship Corner -submitted by Georgia Garrison-

### Birds, Bees, Flowers, and Faith By the Rev. Mark Price

When the weather turns warmer and the grass grows greener, it's easier to understand the promise of new life and renewed hope that Christians proclaim as "Easter people." As we celebrate the Easter season, **the 50 days after the Resurrection**, we see reminders all around us. So be sure to keep an eye out on your next spring stroll.

#### Birds-

The robin, a very common bird in the U.S., has a red breast and a legend to explain it. Seems that once a gray robin flew to Christ's crown of thorns to draw out a thorn, and when it did, a drop of Christ's blood fell on its breast, leaving a stain forevermore.

#### Bees-

It takes lots of buzzing bees to spread the pollen and make flowers grow. The honey these creatures create is a biblical symbol of God's favor. The Torah agrees, for it describes God's promised land again and again as "flowing with milk and honey."

#### Flowers-

Long considered a symbol of hope and new life, the daffodil is one of the blooms most often connected to the Resurrection. Tradition says that giving a gift of daffodils will ensure happiness for the receiver—but always give a bunch: a single bloom signals doom.

The flowering shrub known as the forsythia is what I call the Easter tree, because when its spidery branches are moving with the wind, they seem to be arms waving in praise of the season. According to tradition, forsythia means anticipation—an appropriate companion word for Resurrection.

It is said the dogwood tree used to grow straight and tall, but after it was used as a crucifix for Christ, God made it short and twisted with a thin trunk so it could never be used as a cross again. The dogwood bloom has four parts, each with a rusty red color on the end and a small hole, a reminder of where the nails were driven into the cross. The center stamens look like the crown of thorns.

#### Wesley's Words:

*I believe in my heart that faith in Jesus Christ can and will lead us beyond an exclusive concern for the well-being of other human beings, to a broader concern for the well-being of the birds in our backyards, the fish in our rivers, and every living creature on the face of the earth.*

—John Wesley



### Sunday Evening Worship Services Continue by Telephone

Pastor Lynda continues to lead **Sunday Evening Worship Services by telephone**. The call in series begins at 4:00 PM. To be a part of this series, call the **FREE Conference Call number 563-999-1087 and upon request put in the code 312193#**. You will then be asked to state your name. Call in before 4:00 so you'll be in place when the study begins. This can be on a land line or a cell phone, it doesn't matter. You can have friends and neighbors join us also. Such a new and exciting method to worship together!



## Food Pantry is Greatly Used

West End's Food Pantry is open on Thursdays 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Thank You to all who continue to donate items for our "**Food Pantry Sunday**", the third Sunday of every month. The item being asked for on **May 20 is cereal/oatmeal**.

We are asking each person who reads this to bring an item and place it in the altar basket or put a donation in the plate on the rail that day.

Your donations are a blessing. You don't have to wait until Food Pantry Sunday to bring donations to church. When you go food shopping for yourself, throw a few extra things in your cart and bring them to church on any Sunday. Cash donations are also accepted to purchase additional items as well.



## Choir Notes

The **Chancel Choir** would welcome all to come join in. New members will receive a robe (that has just been professionally cleaned), a new music folder, and, of course, music. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 PM. For more information: Contact Susan Heely at [susanheely@gmail.com](mailto:susanheely@gmail.com) or 757-650-3052.

## Do You Know of a Graduate?

We would like the names and info for anyone who has **graduated** since May 2017 or is in the **military**. Get this info into the church office ASAP.

For current photos & news updates check us at  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth](https://www.facebook.com/WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth)



## Daily Devotions

The May/June issue of **The Upper Room** daily devotional booklet is located in our narthex. Don't forget to get your copy! If you have not been using **The Upper Room**, why not try reading the wonderful devotions this spring. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.

\*\*The next **newsletter deadline** is **Sunday, May 20**. At this time all news for **June** will be due.

You can e-mail your articles to [queenbeez@cox.net](mailto:queenbeez@cox.net), give them to Susan Cohen (editor), or put them in the Communication mailbox in the Dill Chapel hallway.



The **United Methodist Women** celebrated UMW Day at West End on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. On this day the entire service was conducted by the women of our UMW. The music was led by WE Praise. Everyone did an outstanding job. A big THANK YOU to Georgia Garrison for coordinating the day and Ruth Gilmore for bringing us the message. As is tradition on this day, someone in our membership was recognized for outstanding service to West End. This year's recipient of the Special Mission Recognition Pin was Mark Goldman. Congratulations and well deserved!

Circle members met on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and assembled seventy-three school kits. They hope to have twenty-seven more finished. These will be boxed up and taken to Conference in June for UMCOR.

The UMW General Meeting was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The program was the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial brought to us by the Circle of Grace.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Mother's Day bulletin sponsored by the Circle of Grace. If you haven't submitted names, the deadline is April 29<sup>th</sup>. Please consider honoring a woman you admire by placing her name in the bulletin. The donation is \$1.00 per name. The Circle of Friends will now ask for your help in preparing the Father's Day bulletin. Inserts will be running in the weekly bulletins soon and will be available in the narthex. Deadline will be June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Also get your orders in for Auto Bell Car Wash gift cards.** They will be \$20.00 each and you can use them any way you want, either the \$5.00 drive thru or for the whole inside, outside and maybe your tip. The cards do not expire and we will make a very good profit. Please see any member of the UWM to order yours. The deadline for ordering and paying for your cards is May 9<sup>th</sup>. They have to be paid for when they are picked up. They should be back to you no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. They make great Father's Day gifts, or Graduation gifts or just a thank you for a special friend. Rada cutlery can be ordered from any member of the Circle of Ruth.

If you are not a member of the **UWM we welcome you to join us.** The Circle of Friends meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in Social Hall; they are meeting every other month and their next meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Circle of Ruth meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 PM and the Circle of Grace meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 PM; both of these meetings are in the Social Hall. We would love to have you join us.

Upcoming Events:

Next General Meeting – Wed, June 20 – 7:00 PM

## The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class** welcomes Laura Jernigan and Debbie Morton from Broad Street to their class. They would love to have others come to learn and fellowship together. Their classroom is located in the Chapel – go through front doors and take door on left.

The class continues their Max Lucado study entitled "In the Grip of Grace". All are welcome to join in this discussion class. Their class is located through the double doors in the front of the Chapel building. They begin at 10:00 AM. The lessons and thought provoking questions are sent out as an email attachment each week. Contact Sidney Goldblatt if you would like to be put on the list to receive this. You don't have to be a member to attend this stimulating series. We've always got a seat on the couch for you.

## The Wesley Class

The **Wesley Class** met on April 4, 2018 for covered-dish supper and business meeting. Joyce Geluz and Ruth Gilmore were the hostesses. They had spaghetti with all the members bringing their own special dishes. Julia Maye had the devotional program.

Our class is sponsoring a luncheon on May 6<sup>th</sup> directly after the church service. It is one of the class' spring fund raisers. Please come one and all; have a delicious lunch for just a love donation.

They are very excited to welcome all the wonderful folks from Broad Street and hope you will join them each Sunday morning from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 AM. Their class is located in the Dill Chapel – ask anyone you see, they will point you in the right direction.

Circle of Grace is sponsoring the Mother's Day Bulletin so please check with Nancy Clark if you want to place someone in the bulletin because time is running out.

Summer fun is on the way!! Their class picnic on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM will be hosted by Leigh Anne and Bear Bell. Janice Melton will have the devotional program. They are having an indoor picnic with all the fixing, so please come. Games to play along with a wonderful Christian fellowship evening.



## Church Women United of Portsmouth

### May Friendship Day

Friday, May 4, 2018

6:00 PM\* – Dinner and Celebration – Cost \$10.00  
Whitaker Educational Building of Zion Baptist Church  
528 Green Street  
Portsmouth, VA 23704

The topic is "Children and Poverty" and the speaker will be Delrose Morgan, a teacher

at Park View Elementary School in Portsmouth  
**Reservations are to be called in by April 27<sup>th</sup>**

(757) 543-3241, (757) 548-3182  
or (757) 484-0108

***\*Invite your friends who cannot attend day meetings***

**CWU Forum: Thursday, August 9, 2018**  
at 10:30 AM @ St. Andrew's United Methodist Church



# Spring Has Sprung

## Opportunities:

- 1 Tues. Circle of Friends – 6:30 PM
- 2 Wed. Men’s Bible Study\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Wednesday]
- 3 Thurs. Choir Practice\* – 7:30 PM  
[\*=every Thursday]
- 5 Sat. Ballet Dance practice\* – 1:00 PM  
Children’s Community Choir\* – 2:00 PM  
[\*=every Saturday]
- 6 Sun. Sunday School - Adults\* – 9:45 AM  
Sunday School - Children\* – 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM  
After Church Lunch – 12:00 PM  
Conference Call Worship\* – 4:00 PM  
[\*=every Sunday]
- 7 Mon. Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM  
WE Praise practice\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Monday]
- 8 Tues. Ministry Team Meets – 7:00 PM
- 9 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM  
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 13 Sun. Mother’s Day  
**World Hunger Offering Received**
- 15 Tues. Church Council Meets – 7:00 PM
- 20 Sun. **Day of Pentecost** – wear RED!  
“WE Praise” @ worship  
**Food Pantry Sunday**  
Newsletter Deadline for June
- 23 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 24 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM
- 27 Sun. Men’s Fellowship breakfast – 8:00 AM  
**Missionary Support Offering Received**
- 28 Mon. Memorial Day

### Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, May 23. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursday, May 24. If you would could help with this, please see Iverson Garrison.

### Other Opportunities:

- The **2018 Altar Flower calendar** is in the narthex for anyone who would like to honor or memorialize someone with flowers on a particular Sunday morning during the year. If you have questions, please call the church office for assistance.
- There is a **2018 Liturgist calendar** in the narthex for anyone who would like to help with the liturgy during a particular worship service during the year. If you have questions, please see William or Ginger Collins, our Liturgist Coordinators.



### Joys, Thanks, & News

Blessings to Gabriel Matthew Becerra who was baptized on Sunday, April 8, 2018. (son of Michelle & Joe Becerra, grandson of Tricia & Harvey Bright, great grandson of Lila Cox)

Juanita Frances Cox Creason Spivey (2<sup>nd</sup> wife of George Spivey) passed away on Friday, April 13, 2018 with service and burial on Sunday, April 15 in Bear Creek, NC.

<http://smithbucknerfh.com/tribute/details/12105/Juanita-Spivey/obituary.html#tribute-start>



## Life Celebrations

### **Birthdays for May:**

- 6- Norman Collins
- 15 – Georgia Freeman
- 16 – Harvey Bright
- 16 – Kay Volz
- 22 – Dale Matthews
- 25 – Gracie Collins
- 28 – Nick Brown

### **Anniversary for May:**

- 28 – Missy & Steve Rapp – 1994
- 28 – Heather & Mark Anderson