

WEST END CIRCUIT RIDER



West End United Methodist Church

Portsmouth, Virginia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1800 RODMAN AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, VA 23707-4326
757-397-7815

Rev. Lynda D. Moore/Pastor
Gail Sasser/Administrative Assistant

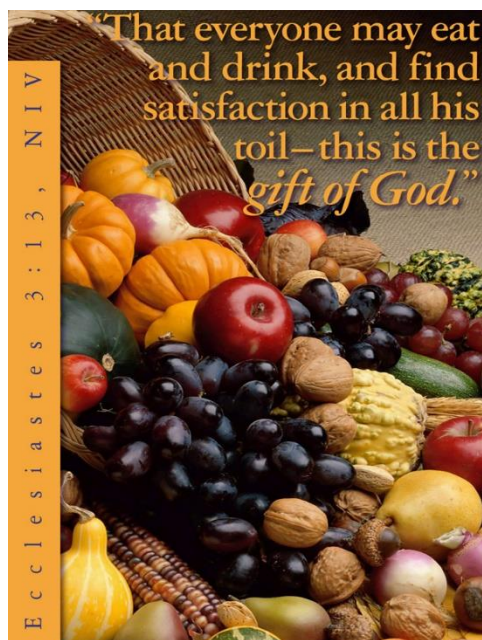
www.weumc-pva.org

office@westendumc.hrcxmail.com

www.facebook.com/WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth

The Church Council of West End United
Methodist Church publishes the
West End Circuit Rider.

Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]



November 2017

No. E-17-i

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 5, 2017

On this **Day of the Saints**, let us honor those who have hallowed this earth by their prayers and by the way they walked in the light of God.

Dorothy June Carson

Alma Cotton Ruth

Aileen Everett Peters

Adeline Marable Spence

Filie E. Nordan

Mary D. Wilson

David G. Forbes, Sr.



November 5 – **"Fall Back"** – It's that time when we turn our timepieces back one hour.



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...

November 19 is canned fruit or vegetables

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.



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

On Sunday, November 19 at 5:00 PM West End will worship together with **Praise and Thanksgiving**. This service is open to all and it is hoped you will join together to give God thanks "from whom all blessings flow".

Thanksgiving Message From Our Pastor

We are in the beginning of perhaps the busiest seasons of the year: Thanksgiving and Christmas. As of this writing it's still October and already stores have started their decorations for Christmas. What is interesting is that there is not a lot of displays yet reminding us about Thanksgiving. Besides birthdays and anniversaries and the like, November means Thanksgiving dinners, football, family gatherings, mission work, and unfortunately, late hurricanes. Mostly though, we think of Thanksgiving, the holiday, in November. I want to share some thoughts about "thanks -giving". Psalm 9:1 says, "I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart."

What that says to me is that the Lord is worthy of my thanks and praise and that any expressions of thanksgiving, be it verbal or in deed, is to be sincere, authentic and real. I am to give to the Lord my everything in response to all that the Lord has given to me. I want to share my list of thanks-giving and invite you to consider writing your own.

I give thanks for the Lord calling me into ministry and leading me to serve as pastor of West End. I will do my best to show my thanks by being the best pastor that the Lord would have be to be. I give thanks with my whole heart for my family. I still mourn the recent death of my cousin Dollie, but I give thanks that God lent her to us for whatever length of time she was a part of our lives. I give thanks for this coming reunion with most of my maternal grandmother's grandchildren and their children and grandchildren. I give thanks to the Lord for a father who loved me and a mother who made sure that holidays were special for my sister and me. I give thanks for family members who I may not see much but who are still a very important part of me.

I give thanks that those members and friends of this congregation, who are facing health challenges are being touched by the Lord who heals. I give thanks for members of this congregation who have volunteered to help in the office due to the unexpected hospitalization of our church administrator, Gail. I give thanks for community partners who share in ministry events with us.

I give thanks that we "survived" another Charge Conference, despite unexpected challenges. I give thanks to lay leaders who are currently serving in this church and for those who have been elected to serve in 2018. I give thanks to those who visit our church in worship, as the Lord leads them.

I give thanks with my whole heart to the people I have yet to meet, but whose paths will cross mine as the Lord wills it to be. I give thanks for new possibilities both in my ministry and in my personal life. I give thanks to the Lord for being able to experience the love and feel the presence of the Lord in my life. I give thanks for all of you. You are one of God's gifts to me.

*Happy Thanksgiving,
- Pastor Lynda*



Trip to Pennsylvania is Set

The bus trip to **Lancaster Pennsylvania** is set for November 28 – 30. Those that are going need to be in the church parking lot early as the bus will be leaving at 6:00 AM sharp. There are many shows, meals, stops, and shopping experiences planned for you. Dress comfortably for your many activities. The bus will bring you back to Portsmouth around 8:00 PM on Thursday night.



Daily Devotion Publication Available in Narthex

The November/December 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 holiday season. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.

CHARGE CONFERENCE



Charge Conference for West End was held on Sunday, October 15th at St. Andrew's UMC along with the following district churches: Broad Street, Community/St. Mark, Indiana, Monumental, and St. Andrew's. West End had 15 members in attendance. Along with individual testimonies, the business of the church was presided over by District Superintendent Rev. Wayne Snead. Afterwards refreshments were served in the Social Hall.



Choir Notes

The Chancel Choir is back in full swing. They have begun work for the upcoming holidays along with their weekly anthems. All are welcome to come join in. New members will receive a robe, 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 or 757-650-3052.

****The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, November 19.**
At this time all news for **December & January** will be due.
You can e-mail your articles to queenbeez@cox.net, give them to Susan Cohen (editor), or put them in the Communication mailbox in the Dill Chapel hallway.



Generosity -- The Seed

It's harvest time! Time to bring in the corn, pick the apples, cut the hay. It's wonderful to see the bountiful fruits of our arduous labors over the last six months. It's warming to take a deep breath and inhale the scents of the season – crisp apples (obviously with ample amounts of donuts and hot cider), pumpkin pie, fresh corn on the cob.

But wise people know that this is also planting time. Trees drop their seeds and nuts for new growth next spring. Landscapers recommend planting trees and bushes now instead of the spring. And most smart homeowners will plant or over-seed their lawns now in preparation for next year.

Have you ever thought about generosity as a seed? It's impossible to understand the concept if we believe that everything we have is ours because we earned it. Trying to convince ourselves that our riches, our talents or our achievements are due to our hard work and accomplishment only heads us down the wrong road. If we stubbornly put "us" in the equation at all, we're sadly mistaken because it just doesn't work.

God is the source of every seed and every good gift. It's He who infuses us with wisdom, adorns us with talents and amply provides us with resources and opportunities.

So why do we find it so hard to give Him the credit? How can it be so difficult to acknowledge that He is both the seed and the sower? Is it above our ego to admit that these gifts are given to us so that we can play a part in His plan?

Or is it because, if we acknowledge that He is the source of everything that we have and everything we are given, then it's to Him that we owe everything; nothing is ours, but by His goodness? As Shakespeare said "Aye, now there's the rub!"

We are called to be generous because He was (and continues to be) generous to us. We are called to love because He first loved us and sent us His son. We are called to be an active part of His plan because, upon giving us life, He made us a part of that plan.

With our time, we are called to teach a child, or join a mission team, or simply hold the hand of one of our saints on earth. With our talents, we are called to contribute to the planning and building of the new Jerusalem. And with our riches, we are called to support those who cannot support themselves and plant new seeds for the seasons to come.

And remember, Jesus said that if we are trustworthy in small things, then we will be trustworthy in large things. Just imagine what our seeds today will bring to harvest in years to come!

- The Virginia United Methodist Foundation

Blessing of the Animals at West End

West End had a wonderful day **Blessing the Animals** on Saturday, October 7th in our church parking lot area. The Portsmouth Human Society sponsored this fun event. Over a dozen pets came to be blessed. To help with the blessings we had Pastor Lynda, Rev. Sonja Oliver of St. Paul's UMC, and Rev. Frank Brockhausen of Broad Street UMC. Entertainment was provided by WE Praise and West End's Ballet Troop.

Leave West End a Bequest in Your Will

An excellent way for you to support West End UMC's mission is to leave the church a bequest in your will, living trust or with a codicil. One significant benefit of making a gift by bequest is that it allows you to continue to use the property you will leave to charity during your life. Another benefit is that you are able to leave a lasting legacy.

Types of Bequests:

There are a number of ways you can make a bequest.

Specific Bequest. A specific bequest involves making a gift of a specific asset such as real estate, a car, other property or a gift for a specific dollar amount.

Percentage Bequest. Another kind of specific bequest involves leaving a specific percentage of your overall estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 10% of your estate to the church.

Residual Bequest. A residual bequest is made from the balance of an estate after the will or trust has given away each of the specific bequests. A common residual bequest involves leaving a percentage of the residue of the estate to charity. For example, you may wish to leave 30% of the residue of your estate to the church.

Contingent Bequest. A contingent bequest is made to charity only if the purpose of the primary bequest cannot be met. For example, you could leave specific property, such as a vacation home, to a relative, but the bequest language could provide that if the relative is not alive at the time of your death, the vacation home will go to the church.

Bequest Benefits:

A bequest is generally a revocable gift, which means it can be changed or modified at any time. You can choose to designate that a bequest be used for a general or specific purpose so you have the peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended. Bequests are exempt from federal estate taxes. If you have a taxable estate, the estate tax charitable deduction may offset or eliminate estate taxes, resulting in a larger inheritance for your heirs. In order to make a bequest, you should speak with your attorney, who can help you include a bequest in your estate plan.

- Adapted from an Article from Virginia United Methodist Foundation

The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class** filled seven boxes for Operation Cookie --- three for military members and four for college students!!! Thank you to those who donated items and/or money for postage.

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 **United Methodist Women** last met on September 27th. The nominating committee has been busy filling positions for 2018. They are as follows: President - Nancy Clark, Vice President - Ruth Gilmore, Secretary - Nancy Wynn, Treasurer - Georgia Garrison, Spiritual Growth - Joyce Dignard, Education and Interpretation - Connie Lane, Social Action - Susan Cohen, Membership, Nurture and Outreach - Ruth Baker. Congratulations ladies and thank you for your service.

It is time to get your voices heard and nominate someone you would like to receive the Special Mission Recognition Pin. They do not have to be a UMW member. Nomination slips are available now. See any circle leader or Nancy Clark.

The District annual meeting was held on October 28th and several women attended. The UMW would like to welcome its newest member Leigh Ann Bell. Welcome Leigh Ann.

The fall fundraiser this year is Plantation Peanuts. See any member if you would like to place an order. These make great Christmas gifts for others as well as yourself.

The executive committee met on October 25th to discuss the coming year. The next general meeting is November 15th and this is the World Thank Dinner. It is covered dish and the entire congregation is invited to attend. The program will be presented by their Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation - Connie Lane and the installation of officers will be done by the Vice President - Ruth Gilmore.



We are Recycling Clean, Dry, Empty Plastic Bags

West End is continuing a special **recycling program**. You have done a great job so far and we will be receiving a bench made from our recycled efforts. This bench will be placed at the corner of Rodman and Greenway Court for our neighbors who stand there waiting for their school bus each day. Let's keep this project going.

What can be recycled?

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case overwrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziploc and other reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags

All plastic must be **CLEAN, DRY, and FREE** of food residue. Your plastic bags and wraps will become Earth-friendly composite decking and railing and such. There is a recycling box in our social hall for this project.

This project was presented to us by the Portsmouth Humane Society. They are always looking for volunteers. Training will be provided, just ask Pastor Lynda.



Friday, December 1 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 2 2:00-5:00 PM

Sunday, December 3 11:00 AM

4-year-olds to teens – free of charge

Free Time for the Parents

Fun Time for the Children

>dinner, crafts, music, storytelling, Bible lessons<

This Outreach Ministry needs volunteers to help with each station...mostly guiding the children around.

Also, if you would like to sponsor a child or more to help defray the cost, we are asking \$20 for each.

Contact Susan Cohen to offer your assistance.



Birthdays for November:

- 2 – Joyce Newton
- 2 – Shelby Lazarus
- 4 – Rick Dignard
- 8 – JoLynn Brown
- 11 – David Geluz
- 14 – Ruth Baker
- 17 – Susan Cohen
- 19 – Lisa Howard
- 21 – Susan Reid
- 25 – Richard Brown
- 28 – Tricia Bright

November Opportunities:

- 1 Wed. All Saints Day
Wesley Class Dinner/Meeting – 6:30 PM
Men's Bible Study* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Wednesday]
- 2 Thurs. Discerning the Voice of God* – 10:00 AM
Choir Practice* – 7:30 PM
[*=every Thursday]
- 4 Sat. Liturgical Dance practice* – 1:00 PM
[*=every Saturday]
- 5 Sun. Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
[*=every Sunday]
- All Saints Sunday**
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6 Mon. Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM
WE Praise practice* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday]
- 7 Tues. Circle of Friends meet @ Donna's – 7:00 PM
- 8 Wed. Circle of Ruth meet – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace meet – 7:00 PM
- 11 Sat. Veterans Day
- 12 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
- 14 Tues. Ministry Team Meets – 7:00 PM
- 15 Wed. UMW World Thank Dinner – 6:30 PM
- 19 Sun. **Food Pantry Sunday** – canned fruit or vegetables
Newsletter Deadline for **December & January** news
Thanksgiving Worship Service – 5:00 PM
- 21 Tues. Church Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 22 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 23 Thurs. Thanksgiving Day – office closed
Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM
- 26 Sun. UMM breakfast and meeting – 8:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
"WE Praise" @ worship



Liturgical Dance Team

West End's Dance Team has weekly practice on Saturdays. They meet in the "karate room" on the 2nd floor of the Education wing at 1:00 PM. The class is open to boys and girls ages of 3 years and up. Mrs. Ellen Clayton is the instructor. Anyone who would like more information or would like to register their child can contact the church office at 397-7815 (Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) and give their child's name, age, and phone number. They plan to perform on the 5th Sundays during the year. This is such an inspiring ministry at West End.

For current photos & news updates check us at
<https://www.facebook.com/WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth>

Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, November 22. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursday, November 23. If you would could help with this, please see Iverson Garrison.

Other Opportunities at West End:

The **nursery** is in need of a weekly assistant. There is a sign-up calendar in the narthex. Please choose a Sunday that you could help in this capacity.

The **2017 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 **2017 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.

UMW Program – Circle of Friends Wednesday, September 27



Tricia Bright, Sidney Goldblatt, Missy Rapp, Susan Cohen, Kelly Brown, Donna Goldman

Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 7



Reverends Sonja Oliver, Fred Brockhausen, & Lynda Moore



Terry Tynes & Beau



Ham & Bean Soup



Pastor Lynda, Mark Goldman & Scout

Emmaus Community Sings with WE Praise Sunday, October 15



Cars for Christ Monday, October 9



Some of our many cars on exhibit

A Visit from Lavon Snyder Sunday, October 15

