

# 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](http://www.weumc-pva.org)

[office@westendumc.hrcxmail.com](mailto:office@westendumc.hrcxmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/WestEndUnitedMethodistChurchPortsmouth](https://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]



October 2017 No. E-17-h

## CHARGE CONFERENCE



**Charge Conference for West End** will be held on Sunday afternoon at **3:00 PM on October 15<sup>th</sup>** at **St. Andrew's UMC**. The entire congregation is urged to attend and we encourage all church council leaders to be in attendance.



West End will have a **church-wide clean up and "fix up" day** on **Saturday, October 14** from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Lunch and beverages will be provide. We need everyone able to come and help out on that day.



Our **Trunk or Treat** will be held on **Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** from **6:00 pm until 7:00 pm**. We need your cars and candy. If you want to decorate your car that will be great! Also if you want to decorate yourself you can do that too. The evening will be lots of fun and you will enjoy yourself and seeing all the cute little critters, ghosts, witches, goblins, pumpkins, bugs and who knows what else.

Please see Lisa Boettcher to sign up your car. Also there will be a **collection box in the narthex for your candy gifts**. This is a great outreach to the community and everyone really enjoys the evening, so we hope you can be part of the fun.



## Choir Notes

**The Chancel Choir** is back in full swing. They have begun work for the Thanksgiving season 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](mailto:susanheely@gmail.com) or 757-650-3052.

## Message From

The past two months have seen, either in person or via various forms of media, what nature can do in the form of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Can you imagine what it must have been like to have been told that you have a limited amount of time to leave your home and evacuate ahead of what was billed as a dangerous hurricane? Can you imagine the emotions generated by those who chose to stay in their homes, even after being told that emergency responders won't answer your distress calls? Can you imagine how people felt when the storm was over and they were allowed to return to their homes only to find that all of their belongings were lost? Some folk, when they saw that their homes were spared or that they survived the storm, are probably suffering "survivor's guilt", knowing that so many others have experienced significant losses.

Whenever someone experiences any kind of loss, the question that is often raised is something like this – "where is God?" I asked that question when my cousin's four-year-old son was murdered over forty something years ago. I was so angry with God and I asked the question, "why". I know that someone reading this, has wondered where God was in his or her situation. I can't answer the "why", I just believe that God's grace and mercy is with us, even in those most difficult moments of our lives. I believe that God's grace and mercy is among the people affected by those hurricanes in the presence of first responders and good Samaritans who have been helping perfect strangers to make it through these rough and tough moments. God is present in the prayers of countless and nameless people for those who have experienced loss. I sense God's presence as I have heard the resolve of the people to start all over again, even if they don't even know where to begin.

No matter what your personal storm has been, or even what storm is forming in your future, I want you to know that God will never fail you nor forsake you. I believe Jesus when he said that he would be with us always, that means in any situation and in any circumstance. I truly believe, as a Christian, that the love of Jesus will sustain you and be ***the shelter that you need in the time of storm.*** Remember that God will indeed take care of you and will be with you; just hold on to that "mustard seed faith". Remember that the storms in your life don't last – ask Noah. The flood may have lasted for forty days, but it stopped and God was there to lead those on the ark to dry land. The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years, but God was with them the whole time and anointed Joshua to lead them into the Promised Land. Remember that those early followers of Jesus thought that they had lost Jesus forever to the cruelty of death on the cross, but after three days he rose again and his presence is with his followers even unto this very day. God is faithful and is not going anywhere, no matter what. You can always count on God to help prepare you for the storm, to protect you in the storm and give you everything you need to get back on your proverbial feet after the storm in your life has passed over.

God's presence during these past hurricanes has been made evident through United Methodists across this country and around the world. Because of people like you, flood buckets were prepared or monies given to purchase items for flood buckets so that we can be a ministry presence to those who experienced these horrific storms. On yesterday (of this writing), I happened to go to the Conference office in Glen Allen to drop off the flyer for the Blessing of the Animals and to pick

up something. As I approached the building, I spoke to persons who were helping pack some flood buckets into this huge truck. When I left the building, several people called my name and asked if I had time to help. While my plan had been to hurry up and get back to Portsmouth to prepare for our visioning retreat, I realized that I am a member of this United Methodist connection and that I needed to "do my part" to help. I noticed that the buckets had been stored in the Conference Chapel – it reminded me that God's work begins in the sanctuary and then God's people are to leave the sanctuary to do what they can to be a ministry presence to others. I was told that the original plea had been to collect 1,000 flood buckets and through the generosity of United Methodists across our Conference 3,000 buckets were collected, plus additional supplies. Where is God? God is wherever God's people come together to help. God is present in the persons who formed assembly lines to load up the truck. God is present in the persons like Rev. Frank Jennings in our District who would drive that truck to the distribution center in Virginia Beach, where the flood buckets would be taken to those affected by the hurricanes. I am a living witness to the sovereignty and omnipresence of God.

Footnote: While I was helping to stack flood buckets on carts and then either carrying the cart myself to the truck or have someone else to do it, I heard Rev. Jennings tell this man that I was the pastor of West End. The man introduced himself to me and told me that his parents were charter members of West End and that he was on the "cradle roll". Low and behold, he turned out to be Peggie and Annette's brother! He had someone to take our picture, which was good. It goes to show you that when we avail ourselves to do God's work, untold and unexpected blessings come our way.

*Be blessed,  
- Pastor Lynda*

## Visioning and Planning Retreat Covered Dish Lunch

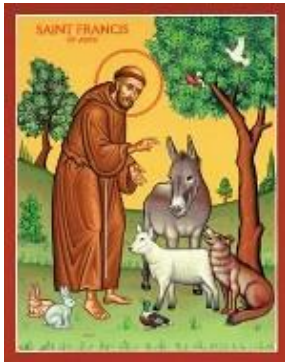
### *"Growing into Our Future with G.R.A.C.E."*

Ten members of our congregation met with Pastor Lynda on Saturday, September 23 to lay a foundation for the path that West End plans to take. After 5 hours, they came up with a mission statement, goals, and objectives.

These will be presented to the rest of the congregation at a **covered dish luncheon on Sunday, October 22** immediately after church. Make plans to come and hear all the details and see how you can be involved.

## Liturgical Dance Team

**West End's Dance Team** has weekly practice on Saturdays. They meet in the "karate room" on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays during the year. This is such an inspiring ministry at West End.



## Blessing of the Animals at West End

West End is excited to announce a **Blessing of the Animals** event on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 PM in our church parking lot area. The Portsmouth Human Society will be sponsoring this fun event. Bring your pets to be blessed anytime during the afternoon. There will be a blessing every hour on the hour. There will be entertainment, food vendors, pet sketch artist, a pet playground, and FREE pet adoption as well. Sounds exciting!



## "Operation Cookie"

**Operation Cookie** will take place on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. West End has at least eight boxes to prepare!!! The congregation is asked to bring homemade or store bought goodies [nabs, small packaged cookies, popcorn packages, candy bars, pens, highlighters, gum, candy...] to be sent to our college students and military troops, or money to help purchase items and pay for postage (which has gone up in recent years). The Asbury Class will box the goodies and see that they are delivered.

To make sure no one is left out, the **names and current mailing addresses** of West End members attending college or in the service are needed. Please contact the church office to supply this information.



## 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...

### **October 15 is soups**

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.

## Our last car event for 2017...



### Join the fun and fellowship of the West End United Methodist Church Cars for Christ & Country Fellowship

**When:** The Second Monday – **October 9<sup>th</sup>** – 4:30 PM till dusk

**Where:** West End United Methodist Church  
1800 Rodman Avenue, Portsmouth, VA  
[at the corner of Greenway Ct W. & Rodman Ave.]

**Why:** To enjoy a fellowship for lovers of Classic, Modified, Hot Rod and Cruiser automobiles and motorcycles

*Light Dinner, Fellowship, & Friendship  
will be provided for all participants!*

**For more info contact:** Leon Jackson (757) 277-5519 or  
Roger Everett (757) 729-3459

*Brought to you by your friends, enthusiasts & fellow car lovers at  
West End United Methodist Church*

## Meal Plan for October's Cars for Christ and Country

A "thank you" to everyone who has contributed items for the monthly **Cars for Christ dinners**. They have been a real success. Our next (and last for the year) car show will be on October 9<sup>th</sup> and we will be serving ham & bean soup, cornbread, and desserts. If you want to help out in any way please let Nancy Clark know.



The **United Methodist Women** met for their General Meeting on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Circle of Friends gave the program on Deaconesses & Home Missioners Serving Communities and also provided the refreshments. The new officers for 2018 were announced. They will be installed at the November meeting. The UMW is still collecting box tops and stamps and thanks everyone who helps with this project.

The District Annual Meeting was held Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Great Bridge UMC, and West End UMW received the Gold Living into Our Purpose Award.

The fall fundraiser of selling Plantation Peanuts will be coming out soon so think about who you want to buy nuts for this holiday season, especially yourself.

The next general meeting will be Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This will be the World Thank Dinner and will be a covered dish meal. The entire congregation is invited to attend.



## Family Movie Night

FREE MOVIE & POPCORN  
Friday, October 20  
7:00 PM  
Come see "A Dog's Purpose"



## 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 receive 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.

## The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class'** next event will be boxing up boxes for our troops and college students. This will take place October 15<sup>th</sup>. Just a heads up for those who want to help with this endeavor.

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.



### ***Birthdays for October:***

- 2 – Ray Wilson
- 3 – Joe Cohen
- 12 – Peggie Gower
- 20 – Latonya Barnett
- 21 – Donald Anderson
- 23 – Donna Goldman
- 25 – Sidney Goldblatt
- 30 – Beverly Heimbach
- 30 – Aaron Cohen
- 31 – Iverson Garrison

### ***Anniversaries for October:***

- 18 – Tom & Lisa Boettcher – 1986

### ***Our Stewardship Corner:***

#### **"Christian Stewardship"**

By Mary Jane Doerr

Christian Stewardship is first, recognizing that we have been blessed with many gifts from God. Second, it means returning those gifts with gratitude. It is not an option. The question is not "Are we stewards?" The question is "What kind of stewards are we?" For whether we acknowledge it or not – God has given us many gifts. As the many parables of Jesus tell us, the gifts are not the same. Our gifts are as unique as we are. In fact our gifts are what make us unique. Whether we are an artist, musician, laborer, professional, homemaker; whether we have wealth or struggle to make ends meet; whether we live in the USA or in a remote land. We are blessed by God with many gifts. And we have a need to give back. Throughout the Bible there are numerous references to tithing, giving of our first fruits or the right use of possessions.

An astonishing thing happens when those gifts are returned. We become co-workers with God! God works through us to build His kingdom. Our very act of returning a portion of our blessings becomes the work of the Lord. How could we pass up the invitation to become God's coworkers? Many people decide they can. Instead of using their gifts to build the kingdom of God, they use their gifts to build their kingdom of stuff. We are told that is the way to happiness – to have lots of stuff. But often all we get from our "stuff" is stuff we have to keep track of, care for, find a place for, keep clean. Not happiness.

Stewardship is the responsible use of the gifts we have been given. Prompted by faith and gratitude we share our time, talents and treasure. As followers of Jesus we can do nothing less. This year you are invited to give stewardship a try. Try a chance at true happiness. Become a better steward of God's gifts.



# October Opportunities:

- 1 Sun. Sunday School - Adults\* - 9:45 AM  
Sunday School - Children\* - 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion - 11:00 AM  
[\*=every Sunday]
- 2 Mon. Trustees Meet - 7:00 PM  
WE Praise practice\* - 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Monday]
- 3 Tues. Circle of Friends meet - 7:00 PM
- 4 Wed. Men's Bible Study\* - 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Wednesday]
- 6 Thurs. Discerning the Voice of God\* - 10:00 AM  
Choir Practice\* - 7:30 PM  
[\*=every Thursday]
- 7 Sat. Blessing of the Animals - 12:00-4:00 PM  
Liturgical Dance practice\* - 1:00 PM  
[\*=every Saturday]
- 8 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
- 9 Mon. Cars for Christ & Country - 4:30 PM
- 11 Wed. Circle of Ruth meet - 1:30 PM  
Circle of Grace meet - 7:00 PM
- 14 Sat. Church-wide Cleanup Day - 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
- 15 Sun. "WE Praise" @ worship  
**Food Pantry Sunday** - soups  
"Operation Cookie"  
Newsletter Deadline for **November** news  
**Charge Conference** @ St. Andrew's UMC  
- 3 PM
- 20 Fri. Family Movie Night - 7:00 PM - "A Dog's Purpose"
- 22 Sun. UMM breakfast and meeting - 8:00 AM  
**Missionary Support Offering Received**  
Planning Retreat Covered Dish Luncheon -  
immediately after church
- 25 Wed. Meals on Wheels - 10:30 AM
- 26 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis - 6:00 AM
- 31 Tues. **Trunk or Treat - 6:00-7:00 PM**



**\*\*The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, October 15.** At this time all news for **November** 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.

## Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, October 25. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursday, October 26. 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 place 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.

## Welcome To Our Newest Members at West End



Leigh Ann and Chay Bell

## Cars for Christ

Monday, September 11

Joins us for our next event on October 9



Some of our many cars on exhibit

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





Some of our many cars on exhibit

## Back to Church Coffee Time Sunday, September 17



Exhibitors



Exhibitors



Exhibitors



Exhibitors

## Planning & Visioning Retreat Saturday, September 23



Exhibitors