

WEST END CIRCUIT RIDER



West End United Methodist Church

Portsmouth, Virginia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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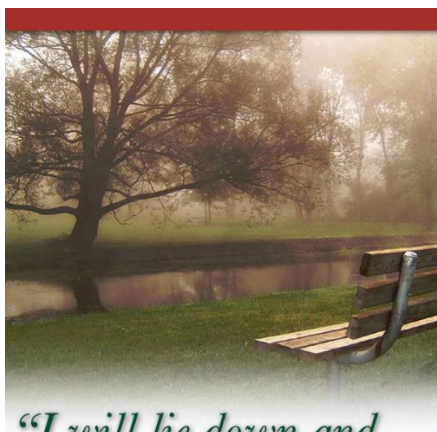
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The Church Council of West End United
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Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]



*"I will lie down and
sleep in peace, for you
alone, O LORD, make
me dwell in safety."*

Psalm 4:8, NIV



"Prayer is where the action is." -John Wesley

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all
kinds of prayers and requests."* -Ephesians 6:18a

The gospel records tell us that Jesus was a praying man. His disciples even asked Him to teach them "how to pray". The Apostle Paul also encouraged those first century Christians to pray "without ceasing". Prayer is central to the life of those who love the Lord; it gives us an opportunity not just to talk to God, but more importantly for God to talk to us. Both Bishops Cho and Lewis have encouraged churches in the Virginia Conference to commit to spending time in prayer, both individually and as a church body. I grew up, as many of you have, going to Wednesday (or some other designated day) Prayer meetings. At these meetings or services an hour was spent on praying, giving testimonials and singing those old hymns of the church. There are United Methodist Churches around the world whose members devote themselves to evening prayer services (see pages 878 and 879 of the *United Methodist Hymnal*).

Beginning **September 10th, at 3:30 PM**, I will be leading an afternoon **prayer service** that is open to all – members, neighbors, family and friends alike. The services will be informal and will not be limited to any particular liturgy or order; the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us. If you come, plan to meet Jesus, He'll be waiting for you and me.

-Pastor Lynda

Let's Join the Fun on Bus to Pennsylvania

Our **Trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania** is coming up at the end of November. We still need four more people, so please think about it and let Nancy Clark know if you want to join the fun. The cost is \$385.00 a person with two people in a room; it is a little less with more in one room. If you are interested the whole amount would be due by September 26th. It is going to be a fun trip and is really a very good deal.

Vacation Bible School had Us Experiencing the Life of Ancient Rome

At **VBS** our families encountered Paul and Brutus, also the underground church, and learned that God's love is a gift, it changes us, is always with us, saves us, and is worth sharing.

We averaged 30 children over the week and everyone had a great time. The children were rooting for Brutus (Paul's prison guard) to change his ways and by the last night he did – he became a Christian. The kids were thrilled and greeted him with cheers, claps, high fives, and hugs. The message truly hit home – God's love is wonderful and can create miracles.

A big "THANK YOU" to all involved in VBS – the kitchen crew, the crafts coordinator, the music team, the recreation leaders, the drama teams, family leaders, marketplace team – such a great group of helpers who made this year's VBS so successful!

Message From Our Pastor

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
- 1 Corinthians 12: 12, 27

As some of you know, I am a genealogy buff. Ever since I was a little girl, talking to my great-grandmother, "Grandma Early, or sitting around listening to my grandmother and her siblings tell "family stories", I have been fascinated with my family history. I heard those stories, including about slavery, before Alex Haley wrote his book, **Roots**, and before there were web sites like Ancestry.com, Family Search, etc. Knowing my oral family history has made it so much easier to do research on those sites as well as make countless visits, through the years, to the Virginia State Library, the Virginia Historical Society and various County courthouses throughout the State. One of the "cool" things about taking the Ancestry DNA test has been discovering, not only my geographical heritage, but finding out who shares the same DNA with me. I am learning that I am linked, biologically, to persons of many cultures and ethnicities with whom I will never meet and, in most instances, will never know the extent of our family connections.

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthian church, particularly the verses above, reminds me of the importance of family connections. The verses I referenced were part of Paul's discussion about Spiritual Gifts and it was interesting how he used the human body to illustrate his point about the purpose and use of these gifts. Here, and in other chapters and letters, Paul reminds the early Christian church **and** us that we are members of the body of Christ with different roles and functions. When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, God adopts us and we then become brothers and sisters with Christ, with God as our divine parent. Our Christian siblings don't look the same; think the same; act the same or even like the same thing and that is no different from our own families. What binds us together as the body of Christ is God's love for each and every one of us. What holds us together as a Christian family is our desire to do and be what is pleasing to God.

I thank God for you all, my West End UMC family. August 20, 2017 is a date I will never forget as your pastor, for two reasons. First of all I thank God that on this date we received two new members of our family, in the persons of Leigh Ann and Chay Bell and to them I say, "Welcome to the family". I also thank God for those who come whenever they can to worship with us at West End. You are a part of our extended family and you mean so much to us. I pray that one day our family size will again increase, as God gives us grace. The second reason why this day was special to me, and I dare say to others as well, was our fellowship after the worship service. We had lunch to celebrate birthdays, past, present and future and yet this was more than having a meal together. I saw and felt the coming together of a family. We were not just worshippers, but true brothers and sisters in Christ. I can't speak for anyone else, but I understood what the apostle Paul was talking about when he spoke of being one in the body of Christ as we ate together, laughed together and learned more about each other. I couldn't help but think of the psalmist's words – "Oh how good and how pleasant it is when [brothers and sisters] dwell together in unity."

Continued in following column...

While we felt good being in fellowship with each other on a Sunday afternoon, let us not forget that families are not always laughing and enjoying the fellowship. Sometimes family members disagree on something; sometimes tears are shed; sometimes we say something that may hurt another's feelings, that's just a part of being in a family. A church family is no different, so I caution all of us not to idealize what it means to be a part of a church family. The good news is that when the disagreements come, when tear drops fall, when somebody's words hurt, we have a divine parent and a Savior who "sticks closer to us than a brother" who helps us get through those moments. We are called to love our brothers and sisters as Jesus Christ loves us. Love, Christian love, will keep us together.

- Pastor Lynda



Visioning and Planning Retreat *"Growing into Our Future with G.R.A.C.E."*

There will be a **Visioning and Planning Retreat** on Saturday, September 23rd in our Social Hall from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. This is a time for any and all members of West End, not just Council and Ministry Team members, to come together and help form a vision for our church.

UMCOR School Kits to VA Conference

Many thanks to members of our congregation for their generous support of the **UMCOR School Kit** program. Through the collection of the designated supplies since our last United Methodist Annual Conference, West End has prepared 107 school kits which were turned in this year at the Annual Conference in Hampton on June 16th. We are now collecting items again as stores in our area begin to have sales on the needed supplies for back to school time. The items are collected in the narthex of our sanctuary. Items can contain no advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols. Only the following items can be placed in the kits:

- Blunt scissors (no plastic scissors)
- Single subject spiral notebooks, top bound white paper (8 ½ X 11), loose leaf paper (no more than 150 sheets per pack), NO hard back composition books.
- Hand held pencil sharpener (must be 1 ½ inches long)
- Ruler, hard or flexible
- Unsharpened pencils (*6 in each kit)
- 2 ½" eraser
- 24 count box of crayons

These items are placed in cloth bags provided by the United Methodist Women. Only the items listed above can be placed in the bags. However, if other items are collected, they will be donated to Westhaven School for use by their students.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

It is time to invite **the Choir** back after their summer break! New folders are awaiting you thanks to Peggie Gower and Rick Dignard. It was a blessing to hear the various special music over the summer --- from solos to duets to recordings to praise. What a joy to have such talent – truly gifts from God.

Choir Rehearsals will be Thursday nights in the choir room, near the church office, beginning August 31st. Rehearsal starts at 7:30 PM, and generally last one hour. All are welcome to come and be a part of this group. No auditions are required. New members will receive their own robes, a new folder, and music. They will first sing during the Sunday, September 3rd worship service. For more information: Contact Susan Heely at susanheely@gmail.com or 757-650-3052.

"Discerning the Voice of God" to Begin in September

A new seven-week **Bible study** is set to begin on Thursday, September 21st at 10:00 AM and will continue through Thursday, November 2nd. The study is by Priscilla Shirer, *The New Revised and Updated Discerning the Voice of God*. The cost of the book is \$13 and can be found at Lifeway Christian Book Store (white book with gold lettering). If you can't get there to get your book ask Ruthie Gilmore and she'll get it for you. This study has wonderful videos to enhance the study. Contact Ruthie Gilmore if you have questions, want to join the fun, or need a book.



Daily Devotion Publication Available in Narthex

The September/October 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 fall. Many will truly touch your heart in special ways. Small print booklets are 75¢ and large print booklets will be \$1.25.



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...

September 17 is canned meats (such as tuna, salmon, stew, Spam, spaghetti-o's, beef-a-roni, etc.)

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.

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. Their next performance should be Sunday, October 29th. This is such an inspiring ministry at West End. Plan to join us on that day.

Only 2 more car events for 2017...



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

When: The Second Monday – **September 11th** – 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 Plans for 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 car show will be on September 11th and we will be serving hamburgers, baked beans, chips, watermelon, cantaloupe and desserts. If you want to provide any of these items please let Nancy Clark know.



You are invited to join the **United Methodist Women** here at West End. We have three Circles that meet September thru June — we take July and August off. The Circle of Friends meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm., they meet in member's homes. The Circle of Ruth meets on the second Wednesday at 1:30 pm in the Social Hall and the Circle of Grace meets at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall on the second Wednesday. Our Unit usually has five General Meetings starting in September when all the Circles come together for a program and to take care of business. Our September meeting this year will be on the 27th at 7:00 pm. We plan on selling Plantation Peanuts this fall as a fund raiser. I hope to have the information out to the Circle for this sale by your September meeting.

Our Unit is a part of the Elizabeth River District and as part of that district we pay them a District AMD Fund of \$2.25 per person. Our current membership number is 40. Because we pay the District on the number we have on our rolls, if you are interested in being a member of our United Methodist Women we need you to let us know and join a Circle. All are invited and encouraged to join us. We enjoy wonderful fellowship with each other at our monthly meetings.

Our District Annual Meeting is on September 23rd and will be at Great Bridge UMC, reservations for lunch will need to be made by September 19th to 362-8157.

Our Nominations committee consisting of Kelly Brown as Chairman, Joyce Geluz, Beverly Collins, Tricia Bright and Lisa Boettcher will be working soon to set up our Officers for the 2018 Year. Please consider taking a position if asked, everyone is needed to make our unit run well.

Again I emphasize if you would like to become a member let us know and pick a Circle. - Nancy Clark, President, West End UMW



FREE MOVIE
& free popcorn & drink
for our community
3rd Saturday of each month
Saturday, September 16
2:00 PM

See Sue Williams to volunteer to help out.

Electronic Donations Increase Ease of Giving

Fewer people today are using cash and checks for their financial transactions. As a result, churches have new options to expand their giving opportunities. This is not about credit-card giving which could lead members into debt.

Here are seven reasons why West End has chosen to offer Electronic Giving options:

1. Giving is a biblical mandate.

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ means giving of one's self faithfully and regularly. Churches need a variety of ways to let this happen.

2. Checks are becoming outdated.

Some people don't even carry checkbooks, and cash in the offering plate is no longer tax-deductible without documentation. We do not want to limit people's options when technology grants so many other options such as debit cards and smartphone apps to transfer funds.

3. Sunday attendance is lower than total membership.

Those missing a Sunday service may also miss out on giving. Some members may account for this during the next service and give more, but statistics prove otherwise for the vast majority.

4. Some church attendees don't attend worship.

Think about the people serving in the nursery or who choose only to attend a weekly small group. We lose their contributions when we limit their options.

5. Online giving is here to stay.

Why should West End not embrace technology when it can aid our members in their financial planning and provide an easy way to give and meet their stewardship commitments?

6. Online giving can easily promote and account for special offerings.

People like to contribute to ministries, missions and special offerings. Electronic giving can easily account for where your money is going.

7. Economic conditions force us to rethink giving opportunities.

West End needs to offer people more options to be extravagant givers. If people must work on Sunday, we need to provide a way that is convenient.

Electronic giving is only an alternative means for your giving efforts. If online giving does not work for you, don't stop what you are currently doing to give through our church in support of God's kingdom building. West End wants to give our people options to contribute to God's work in any form they wish.

To sign up for electronic giving simply follow these easy steps:

- Visit the church website at www.weumc-pva.org
- Click on the Donate button (top right)
- Click on the Create Profile button
- Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions

Happy Birthday Luncheon for All

Our **Birthday Luncheon** on August 20th was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful table decorations and the good food. We also enjoyed learning a little bit about our fellow church members. Thank you to all who decorated tables and those who joined us for lunch. We plan on doing something again maybe at Christmas so keep your ears open for more information.



We are Recycling Clean, Dry, Empty Plastic Bags

West End is continuing a special **recycling program**. If we are successful we will receive a bench made from our recycled efforts. This bench can be placed at the corner of Rodman and Greenway Court for our neighbors who stand there waiting for their school bus each day.

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.



Church Women United Prepares for Human Rights Celebration

Church Women United will hold its **Human Rights Celebration** entitled "**Kindling New Fires of Hope**" on Friday, September 1st at 10:30 AM. The site is St. James Episcopal Church at 928 Effingham Street in Portsmouth. The will begin with fellowship and refreshments and then begin the program at 11:00 AM. The special guest and speaker will be the recipient of the Human Rights Award, Dr. Darlene Sparks Washington – the Executive Director of Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless (PVH).

The PVH has many needs at this time and here are a few ways you could help...

- Zip-lock Bags – XL size and large sizes for storing blankets and other large items – can be found at Lowe's (XL 4-Pack = \$6.48)
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Toiletries – deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, shaving items, etc.
- Men's and Women's undergarments
- Cash donations – to be used to purchase bus passes for PVH clients

If you can attend, please bring something to help out. If you can't attend, you can give any items to Georgia Garrison before the event.

Blessing of the Animals at West End

West End is excited to announce a **Blessing of the Animals** event on Saturday, October 7th from 12:00-4:00 PM in our church parking lot area. The seven area SPCAs will be sponsoring this fun event. Bring your pets to be blessed anytime during the afternoon. There will be entertainment as well. More info to come.

The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class'** next event will be boxing up boxes for our troops and college students. This will take place in October. 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 September:

- 11 – Michael Bright
- 15 – Beverly Collins
- 15 – Robert Tynes
- 16 – Pam Shaffer
- 20 – Genia Mullen
- 22 – Terry Tynes
- 25 – Julia Maye
- 26 – June Garrison
- 30 – Steve Rapp

Anniversaries for September:

- 16 – Lisa & Todd Howard – 1995

****The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, September 17.** At this time all news for October 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.

Our Stewardship Corner:

According to the Camber Collective "Money for Good" report, about 95% of people in the United States feel strongly enough about giving that they donate to some form of charity. Most people really do believe that their giving makes a difference. That's good news for the church.

People give for a variety of reasons. Some people believe that giving is a responsibility or a way to "pay it forward" out of gratitude for their blessings. Others believe it is a way to connect to their community. For many, charitable giving is an act that has grown from family, community or religious values. Obviously, empathy and compassion for others plays a part in the decision.

Most importantly, our giving through the church should be framed as a lifetime of worship before the Lord. We, as Christians, should be motivated to give for spiritual reasons and the blessings that come as a result. Our giving should be the joyful experience it was meant to be. We are called to offer our very best and first fruits to the Lord. Think on these things.

Two Ongoing Monthly Volunteer Opportunities for You:

- **Meals on Wheels** will be delivered on Wednesday, September 27. To volunteer, please see Ginny Collins.
- **Oasis Ministries Breakfast** will be prepared and served on Thursday, September 28. 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.

Humor Corner:

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages.

Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it.

What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found", the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear".



- 1 Fri. Church Women United – 10:30 AM
- 2 Sat. NO Liturgical Dance practice today
- 3 Sun. Sunday School - Adults* – 9:45 AM
Sunday School - Children* – 11:00 AM
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM
[*=every Sunday]
- 4 Mon. Labor Day – office closed
- 5 Tues. Circle of Friends meet – 7:00 PM
- 6 Wed. Men's Bible Study* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Wednesday]
Wesley Class Meeting – 6:30 PM
- 7 Thurs. Choir Practice* – 7:30 PM
[*=every Thursday]
- 9 Sat. Liturgical Dance practice*
[*=every Saturday]
- 10 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
Prayer Service – 3:30 PM
- 11 Mon. Cars for Christ & Country – 4:30 PM
Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM
WE Praise practice* – 7:00 PM
[*=every Monday]
- 12 Tues. Ministry Team Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 13 Wed. Circle of Ruth meet – 1:30 PM
Circle of Grace meet – 7:00 PM
- 16 Sat. Free Movie Matinee – 2:00 PM
- 17 Sun. **Food Pantry Sunday** – canned meats
Newsletter Deadline for October news
- 19 Tues. Church Council Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 21 Thurs. Discerning the Voice of God* – 10:00 AM
[*=every Thursday]
- 23 Sat. Visioning and Planning Retreat – Social Hall – 10 AM – 3 PM
- 24 Sun. UMM breakfast and meeting – 8:00 AM
Missionary Support Offering Received
"WE Praise" @ worship
- 26 Tues. Final payment due for PA trip
- 27 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
UMW General Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 28 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM



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

Cars for Christ

Monday, July 10

(August 14 was cancelled due to weather)

Joins us for our next event on September 11



Some of our many cars on exhibit



Exhibitors



Exhibitors



Exhibitors



Exhibitors

Ballet Troop

Sunday, July 30



Ballerinas

Vacation Bible School

July 30 – August 3



Welcome to our New Members

Sunday, August 20



Pastor Lynda, Leigh Ann & Chay Bell