

# WEST END CIRCUIT RIDER



## West End United Methodist Church

Portsmouth, Virginia

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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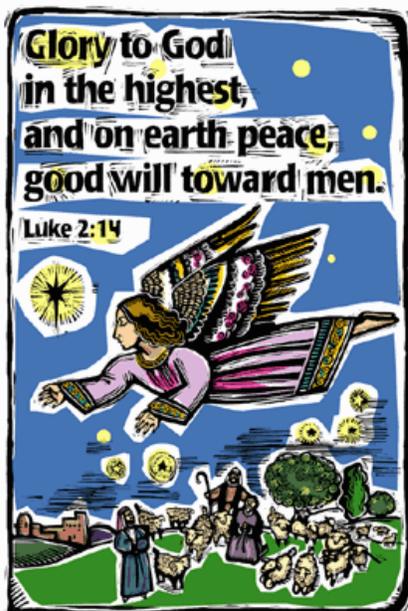
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The Church Council of West End United  
Methodist Church publishes the  
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Editor: Susan Cohen [queenbeez@cox.net]



## All Saints Day

Sunday, November 5, 2017

On this **Day of the Saints**, we honored 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.*

*Judith Gail Sasser*

*Richard Dignard*

*Frederick Baird, Jr.*



## Cars for Christ & Country to Participate in Christmas Celebration

West End's car group, **Cars for Christ & Country**, will participate in the worship service on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. This will not be a traditional service but will have many Christmas carols and the retelling of the Christmas story as found in scripture. Afterwards everyone will be invited to a Christmas feast – turkey, ham, vegetables, and desserts. Reservations will be required so as to have enough food for all. There will be no charge but donations will be accepted.

We will need a lot of help preparing food for this meal. We especially will need some volunteers to roast turkeys, which Leon will purchase, and help preparing vegetables, salads and desserts. Vernna Everett will be in charge of the food this time so everyone should contact her. See Leon Jackson for more information.



## New Year's Eve Celebration!

So, what are you doing **New Year's Eve**? Staying at home enjoying your own company or going out? Why not join other Church Family members and enjoy the evening together. Our own Susan Heely is in charge of the Scottish Walk which is held in downtown Portsmouth on **Sunday, December 31**. It starts at 4:30 PM, so if you would like to meet at the Church at 3:45 and go downtown for the walk, meet me. If not join us at Church at 7:00 pm (or after the walk) for an evening of good food, fun and fellowship. We will enjoy games and maybe a football game. I would like everyone to bring along their favorite finger food to share. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us and what food you will be bringing for the evening. If you decide at the last minute to come, just show up as I am sure there will be enough goodies for everyone. RSVP to Nancy Clark, 393-6876 or gran12@cox.net

# Message From Our Pastor

By the time you read this message, the Thanksgiving holiday will be over and thoughts turn to the Christmas season. I've been thinking about this a lot lately. In the month of November, we talk a lot about "**giving thanks**", but in the month of December, as we celebrate Christmas, we "**give gifts**". I would like to think that we give because we remember the words found in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that [God] gave ....", but somehow I don't think that's the reason. Some say that, as Christians, we give gifts because we read in scripture that the "wise men" gave gifts to the young Jesus - **maybe**, but somehow I don't think that even that is the reason why we are in a **gift giving** mood in the month of December. Contrary to popular belief, the majority of the people around the world are **not** Christians and yet many decorate Christmas trees and have presents under the tree. Starting right after the Thanksgiving meal has been eaten, retail owners encourage us to begin shopping for the "perfect" gift for "someone you love". We buy gifts for strangers, by way of "Angel Trees" or our "Manger of Love" and who hasn't put some coins or paper money in one of those Salvation Army buckets that we see everywhere. Yes, November is the time of **Thanksgiving** and December is the time for **giving** money and presents.

Have you ever thought that we, Christians especially, limit ourselves when we put so much effort into the last two months of the year? How about giving thanks to God all year round for all of God's blessings given to us? What about saying "thank you" to family and friends, even to strangers, for some act of kindness that you've been given. Have you ever considered that, whenever and wherever and to whomever you can, that you don't just **say** thanks with your words but **show** thanks with your actions? In this season of giving, consider giving to others your time - it won't hurt to take the time out of your busy schedule to visit the sick, clothe the naked, visit those who are in prison or volunteer in the church or some agency to help somebody. Have you thought about giving, year round, the gift of your knowledge and expertise on something? There are so many young people who are in need of a mentor; boys and girls who could benefit from your being involved in a big brother/big sister program, for example. Ever considered combining the two and becoming a foster parent? Finally, it doesn't hurt, but will always help, to give the gift of love all year long. Think about it, what a wonderful way to **give thanks to God, through Jesus Christ** but by **giving your gift of time, knowledge and love** to family, friends and strangers alike. After all, to do so would be a wonderful way to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of your life.

I gift thanks to all of you for being who you are and for serving God through West End UMC in the way that you do. As we make our proverbial way into a new year, I pledge to give to you, West End family, the best that I can give as pastor, as God, through Jesus Christ, gives me grace. A new year means new possibilities, if we would just allow God to lead and guide us along the way. God is not through with West End; you are still the "**hands and feet and mouthpieces for Jesus**". Things may not always go the way that you want in 2018, but trust that God's will for you is to "new things" and encounter new people for the cause of Christ.

Finally, let me say something about Gail Sasser. Gail served West End UMC as secretary/administrator for twenty-something

years. I was her direct supervisor for over five of those years and through the years, we became friends. Her illness and subsequent death has had a profound effect on me, I feel like there is a "hole" in my heart. I give thanks to God for allowing me to be with her when she died, what a blessing, albeit a shock for all of us in that hospital room. I will truly miss her. West End will eventually have a new church administrator, and I will hold forever the memory of my friend.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!*  
- Pastor Lynda



## 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...

**December 17** is cereal/oatmeal

**January 21** is peanut butter and jelly

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.



## Christmas Choir Notes

**The Chancel Choir** is practicing each week with Christmas in mind. They will present their "Celebration of Christmas" on Sunday, December 17 during the 11:00 morning worship service. But it will not be the same without our beloved basses.

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.

# The Wesley Class

The **Wesley Class** is getting excited about their upcoming holiday schedule. Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3, at the Pirates Cove Restaurant.

Our Class sponsors the Manger of Love which will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>, to assist the Wesley Center in bringing Christmas to those children in need. Please join us in filling the manger with toys, clothing, including hats, scarves and gloves in all sizes, non-perishable food, books and puzzles. This is such a loving and worthy project for this season, please give generously. If you wish to give a monetary donation, please mark accordingly and place in the offering or give to Joyce Geluz or Nancy Clark.

Please join us and change your life, every Sunday morning from 9:45 to 10:45 AM. Our class is located in the Dill Chapel – ask anyone you see, they will point you in the right direction.

# The Asbury Class

The **Asbury Class** is taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to be placed on the altar for the Christmas Season. Cost is \$12.00 per pot and deadline to order is Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Order slips are in bulletin or below. For more info, see Susan Cohen or Missy Rapp.

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.



Add to the beauty of our sanctuary at Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia in honor and/or in memory of loved ones. Poinsettias may be purchased at a cost of \$12.00 each – checks made out to "Francis Asbury Class". The deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 10. Complete this form and place in box in narthex, give to any Asbury Class member, or mail it to church office [1800 Rodman Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23707].

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_



**Camp Christmas**

**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.

## Our Partnership With Westhaven Elementary School

West End has received a request from **Westhaven Elementary School** to provide volunteers to assist with their Book Fair on Monday, December 4 and Tuesday, December 5. The assignment involves only serving as a monitor in the library. If you would be willing to fill one of these time slots listed below, please contact Georgia Garrison at 484-0108 or leave a message at the church office. The times are as follows:

<u>Monday, December 4</u>	<u>Tuesday, December 5</u>
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you are unable to volunteer for two hours but would be willing to volunteer for an hour, please contact Georgia or the church as well. Arrangements can be made to share the time slot with someone. Thanks for your help with this project.

## Elizabeth River District Training Event

All of West End's elected and appointed church leaders are strongly encouraged to attend the **Elizabeth River District Training Day Event** on Saturday, **January 20, 2018** from 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM. Location this year is New Creation (Aldersgate) UMC on Bruce Road. There are many classes (12) to choose from. There is no cost unless you want a lunch for \$12.00. Brochures with all the details are located in the church office or you can go online to [www.ElizabethRiverDistrict.org](http://www.ElizabethRiverDistrict.org).



The **United Methodist Women** had its annual World Thank Dinner on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The program, given by Connie Lane and Ruth Gilmore, was entitled "Sharing Food and Fellowship" which was appropriate after the wonderful meal that was served to them of salad, spaghetti and bread and lots of yummy desserts.

The executive committee met on October 25<sup>th</sup> and changes to the UMW bylaws were made. A motion was made by Ruth Gilmore at the general meeting to accept the changes to the bylaws that were made by the executive committee. The changes were approved and passed. If you have any questions about the changes see Nancy Clark.

The Operation Santa Claus gathering will be held at Third Baptist church on December the 1<sup>st</sup>. All the toys that were bought by the Circles and the Wesley Class will be blessed and then distributed by Portsmouth Social Services to the boys and girls for whom they were intended.

On December the 9<sup>th</sup> the Advent breakfast will be held at Covenant UMC.

There will be an Executive Committee/Finance Committee meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM.

The district UMW prayer breakfast will be held at New Creation/Aldersgate UMC on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

**THE  
CHRISTMAS TREE**  
I KNOW WHO I AM

- I am God's child. (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend. (John 15:15)
- I am united with the Lord. (1 Cor. 6:17)
- I am bought with a price. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
- I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
- I am the salt & light of the earth. (Matt. 5:13-14)
- I am a member of the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27)
- I am free forever from condemnation. (Rom. 8: 1-2)
- I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant. (Phil. 3:20)
- I am free from any charge against me. (Rom. 8:31 -34)
- I am a minister of reconciliation for God. (2 Cor.5:17-21)
- I have access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 2:18)
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. (Eph. 2:6)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God. (Rom.8:35-39)
- I am established, anointed, sealed by God. (2 Cor.1:21- 22)
- I am assured all things work together for good. (Rom. 8: 28)
- I have been chosen & appointed to bear fruit. (John 15:16)
- I belong to God
- And that is who He says I am. How about you?

**"The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you  
and give you peace..."**  
Numbers 6:24-26

## Why Should We Give?

When considering our giving, there are several questions we need to ask ourselves. Are we giving for the right reasons? Are we giving to keep the lights on or to advance God's word? Are we looking inward or outward? Are we giving for mortar or missions? Are we giving out of a feeling of begrudged obligation or out of gratitude?

There are several reasons people don't like to give to the church. Some may feel they need to spend the money on themselves and their families. Some may have disagreements with church leaders over how the money is spent. Perhaps some fear the future – not knowing if they will have enough. For all the reasons we may have for not being a faithful steward, the Bible gives us reasons why we should.

So why should we give? We give financially to God because He has given us everything. When we give to God through the church, we are expressing our love to Him. We should give to expand his Son's church. When we give financially to God, we will become rich in many ways, but especially spiritually. **God gives to us so that we are able to give yet some more.**

Every possession we have is through God. He provides for us so that we can use His resources to bring Him glory and expand His kingdom. God deserves and expects us to give Him first before anything else. He expects us to give cheerfully and regularly and in accordance with our income. Prayerfully consider these principals when determining your gifts to God through the church.

*- Adapted from umcsgiving.org, "Why Should We Give?"*



## Joys, Thanks, & News

To our church family and friends,

We want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards and remembrances following the sudden death of Rick. Always remember how much he loved West End, singing in the choir, working with the youth and being an active part of the life and ministry of his church.

In Christian Love, Joyce Dignard and Family

To the members of West End:

Thank you for the goodie box. We really enjoyed it.

© Sarah Goldblatt Davis & her family

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and emails after my recent surgery. It really meant a lot to hear from each of you!

- Ron McCants

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



# Opportunities:

- 1 Fri. Camp Christmas 6-8 PM
- 2 Sat. Liturgical Dance practice\* – 1:00 PM  
[\*=every Saturday]
- 3 Sun. Camp Christmas 2-5 PM  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
Sunday School - Adults\* – 9:45 AM  
Sunday School - Children\* – 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM  
[\*=every Sunday]  
Wesley Class Christmas Party @ Pirate's Cove – 5:30 PM
- 4 Mon. Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM  
WE Praise practice\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Monday]
- 5 Tues. Circle of Friends – 6:00 PM
- 6 Wed. Men's Bible Study\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Wednesday]
- 7 Thurs. Choir Practice\* – 7:30 PM  
[\*=every Thursday except 28<sup>th</sup>]
- 10 Sun. **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Cars for Christ & Country for Worship**  
**World Hunger Offering Received**  
Ballet Troupe will perform
- 13 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 12:30 PM  
Circle of Grace – 6:30 PM
- 17 Sun. **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Food Pantry Sunday**  
"Celebration of Christmas" – 11:00 AM
- 24 Sun. **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Christmas Eve**  
**No Sunday School**  
Worship at 10:00 AM  
**Missionary Support Offering Received**  
"WE Praise" @ worship  
Candlelight Service – 8:00 PM
- 25 Mon. **Christmas Day**
- 25-28 office closed for holidays
- 27 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 28 Thurs. Serve breakfast at Oasis – 6:00 AM
- 31 Sun. New Year's Eve Celebration – 7:00 PM



# January Opportunities:

- 1 Mon. New Year's Day – office closed  
Trustees Meet – 7:00 PM  
WE Praise practice\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Monday]
- 3 Wed. Men's Bible Study\* – 7:00 PM  
[\*=every Wednesday]
- 4 Thurs. Choir Practice\* – 7:30 PM  
[\*=every Thursday]
- 6 Sat. Liturgical Dance practice\* – 1:00 PM  
[\*=every Saturday]
- 7 Sun. Sunday School - Adults\* – 9:45 AM  
Sunday School - Children\* – 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion – 11:00 AM  
[\*=every Sunday]
- 9 Tues. Ministry Teams Meet – 7:00 PM
- 14 Sun. **World Hunger Offering Received**
- 15 Mon. office closed
- 16 Tues. Church Council Meets – 7:00 PM
- 17 Wed. Circle of Ruth – 1:30 PM  
Circle of Grace – 7:00 PM
- 20 Sat. Elizabeth River District Training
- 21 Sun. Food Pantry Sunday  
Newsletter Deadline for February
- 24 Wed. Meals on Wheels – 10:30 AM
- 25 Thurs. Oasis Breakfast – 6:00 AM  
UMW General Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 28 Sun. UMM breakfast meeting – 8:00 AM  
**Missionary Support Offering Received**  
"WE Praise" @ worship

## December & January Celebrations

### Birthdays for December:

- 3 – Roger Everett
- 5 – Lila Cox
- 8 – Rick Volz
- 15 – Sam Evans
- 18 – Missy Rapp
- 21 – Joyce Dignard
- 27 – Nancy Wynne
- 30 – Tamera Barnett

### Birthdays for January:

- 1 – Allison Edwards
- 4 – Annie Laurie Jackson
- 15 – Tom Boettcher
- 15 – Kathy Geluz
- 19 – Todd Howard
- 19 – Lynda Moore
- 28 – Viola Higgins
- 29 – Bob Higgins

### Anniversary for December:

- 20 – Richard & Kelly Brown – 1992

### Anniversary for January:

- 17 – Terry & Robert Tynes

\*\*The next **newsletter deadline** is **Sunday, January 21**. At this time all news for **February** 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.