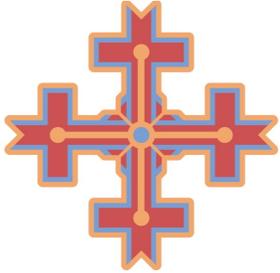


# WestEndNotes



WE HAVE THIS

HOPE

AS AN ANCHOR

FOR THE SOUL

FIRM  
AND  
SECURE.

HEBREWS 6:19

## THE YEAR OF THE PIVOT

I'm sure I'm not alone in reflecting at this mid-point of 2020 that this year has not gone as I expected. On the cusp of the new year the Elders and Deacons had a wonderfully rich retreat where hopes for the year were shared and we explored how we would live out our shared values. Our leaders left with a charge to evaluate the ways their mission teams embody our values. Two new Mission Teams were established: a Fellowship Team and a Congregational Care Team in order to help us expand our sense of community and care for one another.

While we were dreaming and planning, a microscopic pathogen was working its way around the globe. Little did we know then the challenges we would face, not just as a church, but all humankind. Plans were set aside or abandoned, schools closed, businesses were shuttered, and the church had to find new ways to connect outside of the sanctuary. When we had our first online worship service in March, I truly believed we would be back in the sanctuary in a couple of weeks, certainly by Easter. After we got through Easter, and I realized we were in this for the long haul; I shared some of my concerns and uncertainties and fears with my spouse, David. He wisely said: "Maggie, it's a pandemic, no one knows what to do." Indeed. It was a relief to hear that I did not have to solve it.

But we did have to pivot, to adapt. Our initial plans for 2020 were, out of necessity, put on hold. With my colleagues across the nation, I found myself learning how to edit videos and publish them online. It was a steep learning curve. And the staff rallied. "The Gathering Room @ WEPC" was born, and is a place where we can gather virtually since we cannot safely gather in person. Within a matter of two weeks after the shut-down, a new ministry for our Tutoring students began: Staples for Students, a weekly food drive of grocery basics to help our tutoring families. The support for this ministry has been spectacular and enthusiastic. How heartwarming to know that our generous congregation continues to serve our community. Our church leaders learned how to use ZOOM so that the nitty-gritty work of the church could continue.

Flexing our creative muscles, special events were planned for our high holy days. We decorated the church van and went on a Palm Sunday Parade, waving at our neighbors in Seven Lakes North and West. On Easter Sunday, we had a drive-through Flowering of the Cross, and we rejoiced to see one another's faces. On Pentecost, we had another drive through, planting pinwheels in the church yard as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's presence with us.

*Continued...*

No, as I pause now to reflect mid-year, this was not what I planned. I could not, in my wildest dreams, have imagined the events that would unfurl or the creativity and resilience that we would summon.

That resilience will serve us well as we adapt to another unexpected change. I, like you, was disappointed that our long-sought Associate Pastor, Todd Davidson, would be leaving us in an untimely manner. It feels as if we hardly got to know him as a friend and colleague. It was a tremendous thing we did, to extend a call to an Associate Pastor. It took faith, courage, and hope. With this loss, there is a danger that our sense of discouragement would overwhelm us, that we would abandon our hopes and God's vision for us, that we would become embittered. But I know better. I know that while we may feel sad, disappointed, and even anger, that we are made of tougher stuff still. God is steadfast and faithful. And we are resilient.

While this has been an unpredictable year, full of twists and turns, it has also taught us some valuable lessons. Among them: we are far more resilient and adaptable than we ever realized, we may never take for granted again the freedom to sing loudly a beloved hymn in the fellowship of believers, that regular worship provides rhythm to our days, and that the church is not nor ever has been a building – but a people.

We are only half-way through the year. We are not finished pivoting. It may feel like we are turned around and upside down some of the time. But as I look back over this year so far, I get the sense that God is in the shake up, loosening restraints of the past, making us a more nimble people who are more reliant on God's grace than ever.

**Friends, we are in this together.**



**Rev. Maggie F. Beamguard**



*This article can also printed in the 2020 Mid-Year report.*

## DEAR CONGREGATION OF WEPC,

I wanted to give you an update from the session related to our worship services. We still do not feel it is safe for us to return to in-person worship so we will continue to worship virtually via our YouTube services at this time. We will discuss next steps at our August session meeting.

We do have some exciting events coming up to try to be together called "Second Sunday." On the Second Sunday of the month we will have a outdoor gathering with a different theme and prayer service. For the first-ever Second Sunday you are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy at your car. We hope to see you at 6:00 PM August 9!

We are still in the process of setting up the Crawford Center for worship to provide social distancing and will let you know as soon as we think we can begin to meet again.

Thank you for your continued support of WEPC during this trying time.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions as we move forward in our preparations for safe worship services in the upcoming months.

YOURS,

JAYNE LEE, CLERK OF THE SESSION

910-690-0190



**Church Office**  
Visiting Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Give us a call at  
910.673.4341



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR TODD

As I prepare to preach and edit my final YouTube service and enter the last week of my time at West End, I want to say a few thank you's...

- Thank you to everyone who has texted, called, emailed, and even stopped by to wish us well. While my time here was not a long one, it was nonetheless a full one. I leave with many good memories.
- Thank you to Maggie, Martha, and Jennifer for their collegiality, humor, and friendship.
- Thank you to the Session - and the HR team in particular - for their compassionate handling of a situation that none of us had experience in.
- Thank you to the members of the APNC who called me to this place. Serving on such a group requires a commitment that others who have not cannot fully understand.

Thank you to everyone who has loved on Isaac and made his time in North Carolina one he will remember with fondness.

Lastly, I am reminded of Paul's opening words in his letter to the church at Philippi...

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me....For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best..."

As all of us face an undetermined future - in so many ways - please know again that I will be in prayer for all of you. Faith is so often taking the next step when we cannot see the end of the path or staircase. May we all listen for God's guidance as we journey.

**PEACE BE WITH YOU,  
PASTOR TODD**

## VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Compassion Camp was a new way of doing Vacation Bible School this summer! The event kicked off virtually on July 13th! If you are interested in participating in Compassion Camp, but were unable to in July, we are glad to share that the videos are still available on our YouTube channel [thegatherringroom@westendpres](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgatherringroom@westendpres) and you can contact the church office to have the daily emails sent to you. It's is easy, fun, educational and you can participate when it is convenient for your family.

We invite you to give Compassion Camp a try!

### MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER OF THE WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY!

## MONEEN BETHEA

Moneen was born and raised in Wisconsin. She has been married to Vernon for soon to be 61 years and she says they are still speaking! They have one daughter, Dr. Allison, who resides in Maryland.

From 1960-1993 Moneen worked as a court reporter in Milwaukee's legal community; 1994 to 2009 she worked in her own business where they ran the main sit-down dining room and sports lounge at Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee.

Moneen and Vernon built a home and retired to Seven Lakes West. She comes from generations of Presbyterians who served their church as ministers, missionaries, musicians and singers. Along the way she has also served as pianist, organist, choir member, choir director, singer, soloist, and she is still going.

Moneen says that she is looking forward to a joyful and rewarding worship experience at West End Presbyterian Church.

**WELCOME MONEEN!**



## SECOND SUNDAY

We are pleased to introduce a new program at West End Presbyterian Church called "Second Sunday." On the Second Sunday of the month we will have a physically-distanced gathering with a different theme and a brief evening prayer service. For the first-ever Second Sunday you are invited to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy at your car. Feel free to pop your trunk and bring some folding chairs. Dress is comfortable and casual. We hope to see you at 6:00 PM August 9!

Keep an eye out for information about future Second Sundays!  
Mark your calendar for September 13!

### *PRECAUTIONS FOR THIS EVENT:*

Please keep a safe, physical distance from other participants, stay home if you are feeling unwell, use of Crawford Center restroom permitted with use of a mask.



# BACKPACK BLESSING FEST

**WHO** All students (under 11 accompanied by a parent) and teachers

**WHAT** An Interactive, Physically-Distanced Back-To-School Event: art, games, photo booth, & more

**WHEN** August 9th from 5-6 PM

**WHERE** West End Presbyterian Church  
(various locations on campus)

**BRING** Extra School Supplies to Donate & Your Back-Pack or Learning Device



## BACKPACK BLESSING FEST

To mark the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year in a meaningful and faithful way, we invite all students and teachers to a Backpack Blessing Fest on August 9 from 5-6 PM.

Use a map to find our five different interactive, but physically distanced stations: chalkboard prayers, a community art project, a photobooth, a special hopscotch game, and end with a blessing of your backpack and or device on the church steps. Bring extra school supplies to donate. All the stations are designed to be no and low touch. We ask that children 10 and under be accompanied by a parent.

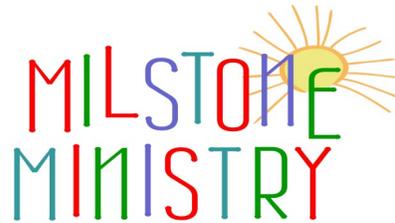
We hope you will stay for the Second Sunday program. This year is going to be very different, but we can make it special!

**PRECAUTIONS FOR THIS EVENT:** please wear a mask, keep a safe distance, and make liberal use of hand sanitizer, use of Crawford Center restroom permitted with use of a mask.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We invite church members to bring donations of book bags and school supplies that can be shared with students in our community. Some of the supplies will be kept here to assist those who seek help during the week at our church office and the remainder will be shared with community organizations.



On August 9, during the Second Sunday event, we will be recognizing

our rising sixth graders as they enter the milestone of Middle School. The move from elementary school to middle school is a momentous occasion. West End Presbyterian Church will honor this transition for all rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders by presenting them with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade milestone memento that will help them to always remember that they belong to God.

Another milestone celebration on this evening is the presentation of Bibles to Mary, Addie, Charlie, and Everett.

# STAPLES FOR STUDENTS

An Emergency Food Drive for West End Students

As members of West End Presbyterian Church, we pride ourselves on reaching out and helping others in time of need – in fact, it is one of our Core Values.

For several months, your Mission Committee has been coordinating “Staples for Students” to support our Tuesday Tutoring students and their families by supplying a weekly bag of food staples on behalf of our congregation. We have just completed our final distribution of food staples to 17 families this past Thursday evening.

On behalf of the Mission Committee I would like to express our gratitude for the exceptional support of this ministry by our congregation. Not a Thursday went by when we were not able to fill to overflowing a large grocery bag for our families. This effort was indeed a congregation-wide outreach, but without our own Anna Stephens’ involvement, communication and coordination with our Latino families would have been difficult. Thank you, Anna.

Equally deserving of our gratitude is Laura Pitts, who coordinates our Tuesday Tutoring program and was a familiar face on distribution Thursdays. Laura was the force behind our “Super Thursdays” such as the Thursday before the Fourth of July, where we provided hot dogs, buns, and a watermelon for each family. Other special offerings included a large bag of local sweet potatoes and 5 pound bags of masa flour for making tortillas, in addition to the regular package of food for that Thursday.

To all who served as meal packagers and deliverers on Thursdays, thanks for being the heart of Staples for Students. As we move forward, know that Anna continues to stay in regular contact with our families, and your Mission Committee will continue to discern opportunities to support our church and community.

John Wilson, Mission Committee

## West End Presbyterian Volunteers



~ lending a hand



~ caring for others



~ supporting our community





In an effort to care for all of our members, we invite you to share with us when you, a family member or a friend is facing an illness, hospitalization, death or major life transition.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list or update someone's condition, please secure their permission and notify us by contacting:

Rev. Maggie F. Beamguard  
843-822-1875  
maggie@westendpres.church

Martha Parker, Office Administrator  
910-673-4341  
martha@westendpres.church

You will find the prayer list attached to the weekly email or you may pick up a copy from the narthex or church office.



The Prayer Shawl Group continues to knit and pray as 5 shawls have been delivered since January. Also happy to report we've added 2 new members to our group along with one knitter who does not attend meetings but knits for our cause. Due to Covid19 our meetings have been curtailed. We have a delivery of 20 cancer caps and Necu caps to be delivered to our local hospital. Our reserve supply of shawls is adequate at this time.

## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR...



WEPC's Mission Team has been in contact with Darron from Rise Against Hunger. RAH is proposing a Team meal packing method where only a single team may work at a table and work over an extended period to fill packs and weigh and prep without a full event that we are accustomed to. We have decided to wait for in house Church services before we begin planning whatever type of event RAH may offer.

We invite you to visit [riseagainsthunger.org](http://riseagainsthunger.org) to learn more about how RAH is continuing their mission to end hunger during these unprecedented times of Covid 19.



The Christian Education committee is meeting and planning for the new school year. It may not look like school years in the past, but they are working hard to plan for upcoming events.

Watch for more information out soon about WEPC's afterschool program WOW and when registration will be available.

# CALLED TO Serve

In the Presbyterian Church we ordain men and women to specific forms of service. The ordained offices of the church go back to the days of Moses, when God ordained 70 elders to share the work of ministry (Numbers 11:16-17), and also to the first church in Jerusalem which ordained deacons to better serve the least of those in their community (Acts 6:1-6).

All are called to serve God in various ways with their gifts, and yet the church has set aside the offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament) to serve God's Church through particular functions. Ordination as an Elder or a Deacon is not an honor conferred, nor does it make one holier or wiser; but rather it is a confirmation of one's calling to use his or her gifts for God's church.

God is calling new Ruling Elders and Deacons to serve our congregation. The Church's **Nominating Committee** is responsible for placing nominees for the offices of Deacon and Elder before the congregation.

**Please consider the requirements below for Ruling Elder and Deacon and contact Mac Jones, cell 910-995-1745, [rmjones77@nc.rr.com](mailto:rmjones77@nc.rr.com) to recommend members to serve who have demonstrated strong faith, dedicated discipleship and a love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

## DEACONS

### ***THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE***

*"The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgement should be chosen for this office" (G-2.02).*

#### **Responsibilities of a Deacon:**

To minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith

#### **Other duties assigned by the session:**

- ◆ Attend monthly board meetings
- ◆ Serve on at least one ministry committee
- ◆ Participate in retreats and joint leadership meetings with the session
- ◆ Participate in officer training
- ◆ Serve as Deacon of the Month once a year, including responsibilities during worship
- ◆ Participate in the regular worship life and fellowship activities of the congregation, including special services and events
- ◆ Encourage generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources

## RULING ELDERS

### ***THE MINISTRY OF DISCERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE***

*"[C]ongregations should elect persons of wisdom and maturity of faith, having demonstrated skills in leadership and being compassionate in spirit. Ruling elders are so named not because they "lord it over" the congregation, but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life."(G-2.03)*

#### **Responsibilities of a Ruling Elder:**

- ◆ Serve faithfully as members of the session, the council of the local church
- ◆ Serve as commissioners when elected to higher church councils, including presbytery
- ◆ Provide for the worship, nurture and service of the people of God
- ◆ Assist in worship, serving as Elder of the Month
- ◆ Equip and renew the people of God for their mission in the world
- ◆ Serve on at least one ministry committee
- ◆ Participate in retreats, officer training and joint leadership meetings with the deacons
- ◆ Participate in the regular worship life and fellowship activities of the congregation, including special services and events
- ◆ Receive new members and review the roll of the active members annually
- ◆ Provide programs of nurture, education and fellowship
- ◆ Encourage generosity and faithful stewardship of personal and financial resources

**Contact: Mac Jones**

**cell 910-995-1745**

**[rmjones77@nc.rr.com](mailto:rmjones77@nc.rr.com)**

**by Friday, August 14**



AUGUST 02	HELEN KOEHNKE
AUGUST 04	RONALD SHEPARD
AUGUST 05	JEFF DOTSON
AUGUST 06	CHRISTINE DOTSON
AUGUST 09	CATHERINE LOTT
AUGUST 11	CLAIRE HIGH
AUGUST 13	SARAH REID
AUGUST 14	KATIE WYLIE
AUGUST 16	DAN SCOTT
AUGUST 17	ELLA MCBRIDE
AUGUST 21	NITA HARTLESS
AUGUST 22	DON MCCALLUM
AUGUST 23	ROGER BROOKE
	FRANK HAYES
	CHUCK WATKINS
AUGUST 24	BRAD THOMSON
AUGUST 26	VICTORIA THOMSON
AUGUST 28	MICHAEL MCCLOSKEY
	CHARLES RUST
AUGUST 29	WILLIAM SIMMONS

**WEPC ELDERS**  
CLASS OF 2020  
 HAROLD JONES  
 MAC JONES  
 SHANNON KITCHEN  
 LOUISE THOMAS

CLASS OF 2021  
 BILL EISEL  
 MAC CLARK  
 JAYNE LEE  
 CHARLIE CUNNINGHAM

CLASS OF 2022  
 JERRY ARNOLD  
 SHARON KUETHE  
 JUDY LAUT  
 JOHN WILSON

**WEPC DEACONS**  
CLASS OF 2020  
 JIM BERRY  
 JEANNE WILLIAMS  
 CATHERINE LOTT  
 VALERIE RYAN

CLASS OF 2021  
 KIM AUMAN  
 LOIS ANN EISEL  
 PHYLLIS RONDELLO  
 RON SHEPARD

CLASS OF 2022  
 AMANDA BROWN  
 JULIE JONES  
 DIANE MORETON  
 ROBERT PITTS



## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

**•EMAILS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE**

*(If you are not receiving emails from the church office, please give us a call and let us know.)*

**•OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:**

**WWW.WESTENDPRES.CHURCH**

*(Here you will find links in place - simply click and follow)*

**•WEPC'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

*(Like our page and follow us! Share our Worship link)*

**• JOIN OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

**"THE GATHERING ROOM AT WEPC"**



AUGUST 04	LOIS ANN & BILL EISEL
AUGUST 05	PATRICK & KATIE WYLIE
AUGUST 06	EDIE & JIM BARRETT
	JOYCE & DEAN CHARLES
AUGUST 08	JOANN & NORMAN DYSON
	CHERYL & RYAN FOX
AUGUST 15	CHRISTINE & JEFF DOTSON
AUGUST 16	EVELYN VEST-ARNOLD & JERRY ARNOLD
AUGUST 20	ALICE & KENT DROPPERS
	JAYNE & CHIP LEE
AUGUST 24	LINDA & RON DUNNING
	JILL & DENNIE MCLAUGHLIN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> YouTube Worship	<b>3</b> 10:00 Staff	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> YouTube Worship  “Second Sunday” Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>10</b> 10:00 Staff	<b>11</b> CE Zoom meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> YouTube Worship	<b>17</b> 10:00 Staff 6:00 Session <i>September Newsletter Deadline</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> YouTube Worship	<b>24</b> 10:00 Staff	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Youth Event to welcome new 6th graders!
<b>30</b> YouTube Worship	<b>31</b> 10:00 Staff					

# Scripture Cards

By  
**ChurchArtPro™**

## Instructions

Print and cut out the cards on light gray lines. Then you can do all sorts of things with the uplifting cards.

- Write a note on the back and give it to a neighbor or mail it to someone who is alone.
- Place the cards around your house so you can read and consider God's Word. Try to memorize the verses.
- Tape cards on nursing home windows (get permission first) or include them in care packages.
- Laminate the cards to make them last longer.

But you, O Lord,  
*are a God*  
merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love  
and *faithfulness.*

Psalm 86:15



... do not be anxious  
about anything,  
but in everything  
**by prayer** and  
supplication with  
thanksgiving let  
**your requests**  
be made  
known to God.

Philippians 4:6



When I am afraid  
*I put my*  
*trust in you.*

Psalm 56:3



**Be still,  
and know  
that I am  
God.**

Psalm 46:10





## West End Presbyterian Church

PO Box 13  
275 Knox Lane  
West End, NC 27376

Phone: 910-673-4341  
Website: [www.westendpres.church](http://www.westendpres.church)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**