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# THE PATHFINDER

A Publication of West Haven Presbyterian Church for our Members and Friends in Christ  
Issue 21

September 2022

**We are growing in grace one neighbor at a time.**



## **A Message from Your Pastor.**

Dear West Haven,

With summer coming to a close, we start back with our regular schedule on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school time will be 9:30am for the foreseeable future. This is so Betty Jones can teach full lessons from “The Shack” by William P. Young. But all this got me thinking about Sunday School and how it came about. So, I did some digging and this is what I found.[\[1\]](#)

The Sunday School movement began in 1780 with English philanthropist Robert Raikes in Gloucester. He is credited with starting Sunday School as a means of teaching working children how to read and write using the Bible as the textbook. Raikes chose Sunday because it was the only day of the week these factory working children had off. Let’s remember that this was during the industrial revolution of England. Where it was common for poor families to have their children work in factories for up to 12 hours a day 6 days a week. This reality created an illiterate, uneducated and almost hopeless

generation of children. Children who were ill equipped to rise out of poverty or even function normally in society.

The first classes began at 10am with teaching and then a break for lunch. Class would return around 1 in the afternoon. After reading lesson there would be church service and a final lesson around 5:30pm. Because Raikes only had one day a week to teach these children, he makes it count by making Sunday School an all-day affair. It did not take long for Sunday School to gain traction. By 1785 some 250,000 children across England were participating in a type of Sunday School.

Sunday School taught children the Lord's Prayer and Catechisms (a teaching tool used by the church that consists of a list of questions and answers meant to be memorized). This exposed theology and worship traditions to burgeoning believers.

Sunday School eventually spread out of England. In Sweden Sunday School's were started in the 1850's. In Finland they started in 1807. And in the United States one of the first Sunday Schools began in 1740 but did not really get off the ground until 1790 with Samuel Slater in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

The Sunday School movement had a far-reaching impact in both Europe and America. It helped influence school policy and instruct youths in the principals of Christianity for hundreds of years. You can participate in this legacy at West Haven starting September 11<sup>th</sup>!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Rev. Tyler Williams

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[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday\\_school#United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday_school#United_States)  
<https://research.lifeway.com/2018/07/17/sunday-school/>  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sunday-school>  
<https://digital.library.mcgill.ca/sunday/hist1.htm>  
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/when-did-sunday-schools-start.html>

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## A Prayer For Students

Eternal God,  
your wisdom is greater than our minds can attain,  
and your truth confounds our learning.  
To those who study, give curiosity, imagination,  
and patience enough to wait and work for insight.  
Help them to doubt with courage,  
but to hold all their doubts  
in the larger faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of the covenant:  
you give love without return,  
and lavish gifts without looking for gain.  
Watch over our working life  
so that those who buy or sell, get or lend,  
may live justly and show mercy  
and walk in your ways.  
May profits be fair and contracts kept.  
In our dealings with each other  
may we display true charity;  
through Jesus Christ,  
who has loved us with mercy. Amen.

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## Finance and Personnel

Pledges as of date :  
\$65,403.00 (YTD Actual)  
\$55,498.33 (YTD Budget)

I would like to start with my deepest expression of gratitude. Thank you all for being so welcoming and encouraging to not only me, but my girls this summer as they helped fold bulletins, and keep the office lively! Thank you. I am reducing my hours to administrative duties for the foreseeable future. This is with the intent of Tyler and Session finding a replacement for me. I am grateful for the chance to get to serve with you here at West Haven, and am encouraged by the Kingdom building you all are doing. Thank you again,  
Liz Baker



Kick Off Sunday is Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>! Sunday School 9:30am Worship 11am  
Sunday School is starting back up at 9:30am and Betty Jones will lead the class in reading "The Shack" by William P. Young. If you do not have a copy of this book, please contact Betty Jones!

Worship on the Grounds Sun. Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> with Smithfield BBQ Lunch. \$10 per person, \$5 for children under 10. Please have money in by September 18.

Blankets for Ukraine in September! Winter is coming and West Haven is donating to Church World Service and their mission to bring blankets to those in need in Ukraine. A blanket is \$10, every dollar counts. Please mark or designate your gifts CWS/ Blankets, thank you!

Love offering for October! In light of the flooding and damage in Kentucky West Haven is collecting a love offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance all month long. Please mark or designate your gifts PDA or Love Offering, thank you!

Hanging of the Greens Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> during worship. Come decorate the church during worship Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>! Reading Scripture, singing carols and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas!

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## **Around the Church**

It's Sunday school time again. Come join the adult class as we begin our year studying the Shack. There will be a study guide, a video, a few extra books, and Betty Jones will be helping us through this book. We will begin the class on September 11th at 9:30 am. All are invited and we hope you will join us. There will be some coffee and muffins. We are continuing to explore a class for the younger children. More to come.

## **A Word of Thanks**

John and I would like to thank you for everything you did to help make our special day even more special. The tea given by the ladies was wonderful. Rusty did a fantastic job on the invitations and was able to fulfill a last minute request for printed napkins. We have had countless compliments on Sheryl's music and Tyler's ceremony. But most of all, we want to thank you for your love and support through our unexpected relationship. We could not ask for a better family.

Love,  
Nan and John Stratton



If you feel led to help with worship in this way, please sign up on the list in on the bulletin board.

### **A Music Note**

Welcome back Ringers and Singers!

Fall rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 7 in the choir room. Handbells will meet at 6:30, followed by choir at 7:30. New music is waiting for you - see you soon!



## Gatekeepers 2022

### **Gatekeepers Workcamp 2022**

Gatekeepers was always about helping homeowners, who did not have the physical or financial means to repair their homes. All of that changed in 2020, when we could not go into people's homes due to COVID. The theme for 2020, was "Let Your Light Shine", and fortunately, Rev. Elizabeth Edwards, the Coordinator for Gatekeepers had the vision, to keep the mission going by having crews help out organizations in our community. Things were definitely different that year and the next, with all outside work, masks, half days, and no group gatherings for devotions at Lakeside Baptist Church in the mornings, or lunch at Church of the Good Shepherd. Still, the mission of Gatekeepers continued to shine, and perhaps our community became more aware of this mission.

This year Gatekeepers returned to helping homeowners. Brad and I were co-crew leaders, and we were so surprised when we saw the address of the home that was assigned to us. It was the house we lived in 30 years ago! Elizabeth had no idea we had lived there, and out of 6 crews, this house was assigned to us.

Our home on Wellington Court in Rocky Mount was always a special place. We were excited to move in, in July of 1983, a few months after we got married at WHPC in April 1983. Both of our sons were born while we lived there, and we had their nursery in this house. Brad and his Dad built a big deck 35 years ago with wrap around bench seating, and his Dad built a custom made swing for the deck. In 1992, we moved to our current home.

The deck is still standing, but was in need of repair. In addition to repairing and improving

support for the deck, the deck was sealed, the house was power washed, the house trim was repaired and painted, and lots and lots of yard work was completed.

One of the prayers for the devotions during the week was the Prayer of Saint Francis. This prayer was sung at our wedding. I took the liberty to modify the words to represent us as a couple for our wedding, so the first line was changed from “Make me a channel of your peace”, to “Make us a channel of your peace”, and so on throughout the song. I had the prayer framed and printed in calligraphy. The Prayer of Saint Francis, that hangs in our home today, use to hang in the home we worked on, at Wellington Court.

I also shared pictures of our sons playing on the deck, and in their baby pool, with the homeowner and our crew. Assisting us during the week on our crew were adults and youth from Lakeside Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, World Tabernacle Church, Church of the Good Shepherd, and from West Haven, Cameron Privott and Andrew Williams. Brad and I have a lot of good memories from our home on Wellington Court, and now we have even more.

Elaine Weisner







All enjoyed eating ice cream and fixings on August 28 at the ice cream social! John Etheridge who served in the mission field in Ghana for 2 years entertained us with his story of being called to serve and what he learned from it.



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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

When our circle met in August, we decided we had enjoyed sharing a light meal and fellowship during the summer, and will continue to meet at 12:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. We will start the meeting with a light meal, followed by our Bible study and a short business meeting.

This year we are studying *What my Grandmothers Taught Me*. We all learned about our family history and the people who contributed to that history through the stories shared by our grandmothers and other family members. This study is about various women in the history of Jesus and what part they played in the life of Jesus. This should be an interesting and enlightening study.

First Presbyterian PW were gracious and donated their books (the books are last year's PW study books), so we have no cost for our books this year. Since we didn't have to purchase books, we asked that our

women donate a few dollars which was used to buy school supplies for Peacemakers.

Our circle meeting is open to all women. You are welcome to join us! The Presbyterian Women have only one circle at the present time. A circle meeting consists of a chance to enjoy a meal prepared by a member, learn and be part of an interesting Bible study, participate in a mission project and most of all have a fun time of fellowship with a group of Christian women. Don't miss this opportunity to nourish your soul!



**At the stated session meeting on August 23, the following business was conducted:**

- Peggy Griffin presented overview of the July Presbytery Meeting
- Approved Bible Study for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday's at 2:00
- Catherine Flye reported that school supplies were delivered to Peacemakers Freedom School
- Approved Hanging of the Greens worship service for December 4
- Approved video service for January 1
- Approved love offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help flood victims in Kentucky
- Approved Worship on the Grounds worship service for September 25
- Approved \$500 donation to Church World Service to purchase blankets for Ukraine and give congregation opportunity to donate as well
- Approved Sunday School kick-off for September 11th at 9:30
- Approved Betty Jones as Sunday School teacher for 2022-2023
- Approved Ice Cream Social for August 28th at 5:30; John Etheredge from 1st Presbyterian will be sharing mission experience



SUMMER MISSION PROJECT  
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR PEACEMAKERS  
FREEDOM SCHOOL RESULTS!

Glue sticks= 46	Colored Pencil Sets=13
Glue Bottles= 28	Scissors=6
Loose Leaf Paper Packs=25	Pencil Bags=4
Crayon Packs=19	Rulers= 4
Index Card Packs=19	Pen/Highlighter Set =3
Marker Sets=17	Staplers=3
Notebooks=16	Construction Paper Pads=2
Tissue Boxes =16	Classroom Set of Paints =2
Folders=10	Small Set of Paints=1
Sticky Note Pads=9	Lunch Bag Pack=1
	Desktop Hole Punch=1

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !!!



**Worship on the Grounds:**

Fall is upon us, y'all! Let's get into the beauty of the season with Worship on the Grounds on September 25th. We will have lunch from Smithfield Barbecue. Adults are \$10 per plate, and children (10 and under) \$5.

Hope you can make it!

**SEPTEMBER LOVE OFFERING**

Blankets for Ukraine through Church World Service, if you would like to donate, please

mark your donation as "Blankets" or "Church World Service." This will also be a part of our global witness offering September 18.

### **OCTOBER LOVE OFFERING**

We will be taking a love offering for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance during the month of October to help the flood victims in Kentucky.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

There will be a tea party/bridal shower on October 23rd in honor of Taryn Reed. She is the future bride of Tyler Williams, our beloved pastor.

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## Prayer Requests

Ron Bruce                  Rusty Ewing                  Bob Deyton  
Preston Smith              Mike Toler

## Home Bound Members

Guildaroy Baker, Audrey Clark, Ralph Webb

### Mealttime Prayer:

For health and strength and daily food,  
we praise your name, O Lord. Amen.

God of grace,  
sustain our bodies with this food,  
our hearts with true friendship,

and our souls with your truth,  
for Christ's sake. Amen.

Lord Jesus, be our holy guest,  
our morning joy, our evening rest;  
and with our daily bread impart  
your love and peace to every heart. Amen.

## Recipe!

### EASY 4-INGREDIENT PUMPKIN BEER BREAD

3 cups self-rising flour

3 TB sugar

12 oz. of Pumpkin Ale or beer of your choice (room temperature)

3 TB melted butter

1. Preheat oven to 375 deg. Lightly grease 9x5 loaf pan
2. Mix flour, sugar and beer until fairly smooth
3. Pour batter into prepared pan, smoothing top a bit
4. Drizzle butter over batter
5. Bake 45-50 minutes until toothpick inserted about 1/2 inch in top comes out clean or with few moist crumbs
6. Remove from oven. Let stand 5 minutes in pan. Turn out onto wire rack to cool
7. To keep bread moist, slice when ready to use.
8. Store in airtight container

NOTE: Recipe called for pumpkin ale but any beer or stout is okay to use just be sure it's room temperature for best rising and baking.

*This recipe super easy and very good. I made it and served Christmas to family and didn't have any left to store. Peggy Griffin*