



West Point UMC

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 1

“he who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.”


Philippians 1:6

November is a transition month. The harvest is either in or winding down. At the start of November there might still be some beautiful fall color on the trees but by the end of November it's pretty much all gone and winter is setting in. In the world of sports, the World Series is over; for both college and the pros, the football season is heading into the stretch drive and basketball is just getting started. For marketers and retailers, November represents a month where we blow by Halloween and Thanksgiving and prepare for the retail extravaganza that Christmas has become. All to say that some transitions are natural and expected; some transitions are worth looking forward to and participating in if you can; and some transitions are not so hot. One thing is for sure. Transitions are going to happen whether we like it or not. Another way to say that is that change happens whether we like it or not.

Here's a powerful truth I've learned in life: you can embrace change and by the very act of embracing it, you impact it in a positive way or you can get run over by it. You can manage those transitions that life has in store for you or you can simply drift in their currents. I've learned the hard way that the worst thing you can do is drift. You generally wind up where you don't want to be. Which brings us to another thing about the month of November; it's a month where we intentionally set aside a time to be thankful. As your pastor, I am profoundly grateful for the transitions we've made here at West Point UMC. In our time together, I've watched as you've transitioned from a pastor centered church — that's a church where the pastor is expected to do all the theological heavy lifting — to a laity led church. A laity led church is a church where the members and the church family take responsibility for the ministry that God gives them to do and do it along side and with the pastor. It takes a lot of courage to do that and I cannot begin to tell you how proud I am of all of you for making that transition. And here's a little not so secret secret; laity led churches are the vibrant and growing churches. All the research demonstrates that, that's not just me talking. And that's just one of many, many transitions that I am grateful for as your pastor. For those of you that remember, when Ronda and I came here in March of 2003, how many mission trips had happened at West Point over the previous years? How many ministries exterior to our church were taken responsibility for by us and embraced by our church? In most of those almost nine years we've been together, we've sent people on at least two mission trips beyond the boundaries of our community. Over the last two years we've supported the vital ministry of the Wesley Foundation to the tune of \$10,000! We've also supported Samaritan's Purse, Compassion International, Habitat for Humanity and the Giving Tree ministries to name just a few. In addition, we have three bible studies going at any given time. Sometimes we've had as many as

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November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Administrative Counsel mtg 7:00 PM</i>	2 Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beamers 4:30 PM</i> 708	3 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	4	5 708 Event: Wesley Foun- dation winter- ization project 8:00 @ WPUMC
6 Smorgasbord and Bazaar @ WPUMC 4:00 to 7:00 PM	7 <i>Vital Con- gregations meeting 7:00</i>	8 Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM	9 Morning bible study 9:00 AM United Method- ist Women 7:00 708	10 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	11	12
13 <i>Charge Confer- ence St. An- drews UMC 2:00 PM</i>	14	15 Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM	16 Morning bible study 9:00 AM <i>Little Beamers 4:30 PM</i> 708	17 <i>Disciple II 7:00 PM</i>	18	19
20	21	22 Beth Moore Bible Study 6:00 PM	23 No morning bible study No 708 <i>Thanksgiving Service Weaver Chapel UMC 7:00 PM</i>	24  HAPPY THANKSGIV- ING!	25	26
27	28	29 Advent Bible Study 7:00 PM	30 Morning bible study 9:00 AM 708			

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE
LESSONS

November 6

- 21st Sunday of Pentecost
- Communion
- Wesley Foundation
- Smorgasbord bazaar

Judges 4:1-10 & Judges 4:15-22. Pastor Jeff's sermon title will be "Nothing Personal"

November 13

- 22nd Sunday of Pentecost
- Charge Conference

The Wesley Foundation will lead us in worship and share their witness and ministry.

November 20

- Christ the King Sunday

Psalm 100 & Matthew 25:31-46. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "Who You Know".

November 27

- 1st Sunday of Advent

Mark 13:24-37 & Isaiah 64:1-9. Pastor Jeff's sermon will be "The Darkness Before the Dawn".

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JAY BLESSING	NOV 3
JEFF SMITH	NOV 4
ROY BILYEU	NOV 8
BOB KERBER	NOV 9
TOM KRUGER	
WENDY SUMNER	NOV 14
BOB VESTER	NOV 16
LEONARD FOUTS	NOV 19
LARRY PEARSON	NOV 20
JAY RITTER	NOV 22
RONDA SMITH	NOV 28
SARAH GOANS	NOV 29

Prayer Concerns

Matt Bowman, Jim Deckerd, Jody Fifer, Sharon Hughel, Trish Dowell, Bill House, Mary Lou Lawson, Bill Burns, John Patton, Patty Stettler, Florence Denny, Amy Richardson, Delaney Loveridge, Clayton & Thelma Whitehead, Carla Arth, Dale & Della Grimes, Elizabeth Matthews, Kenny Evans, Amy Richardson, Jake Ferrell, Clara Jackson, Doris Craig, Peggy Shaft, the Corwin family, Ashley Kemp, Nathan, Jessie and Lachlan Pugh (friends of Pastor Jeff & Ronda) Remington Tomlin, Michael and Sarah Williams on the loss of their infant son, Ed Keller,

The family and friends of John Haley on his recent passing.

All our men and women in uniform, particularly Cassie Leuck, John Macintosh, Rob Gaither, Joe Lambert, Jeremy Ritter, Nathan Marks, John Barton, Brad Synesael and especially those serving in harm's way.

Bible Verse of the Month

Psalm 119:32

I shall run in the paths of your commands for you have set my heart free.



"Know what would be fun, sister? A music video."

“he who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.”
Philippians 1:6

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six going at once. We are a church that knows a thing or two about transitions. And that’s not even the best part! This is a church that some transitions come about as a huge leap of faith! Purchasing 26 acres and paying it off in just two and a half years is one of those. But as huge as that leap of faith was, there was another that this congregation took that was even bigger. In January of 2008, after decades of sharing a pastor, West Point UMC took on the responsibility of supporting a full time pastor by becoming unyoked with a sister church. I am not sure that most of us fully realize that in many real ways, we are just a four year old church. What tremendous courage you’ve demonstrated my friends. This pastor is thankful for each and every one of you!

But the thing about transition points is that some of them are very, very tough. Some of them are exceedingly difficult or confusing. Life sometimes hands us some roadblocks. When it comes to the building project that God has given us for example, we’ve hit one of those roadblocks and there are days when it seems like we are lost. But each day brings a new ray of the sunshine of understanding and I am becoming increasingly clear on what we are supposed to build first. That first task has nothing to do with bricks and mortar. What we have to build first is us. And yes, that includes your pastor. I think God wants to see us develop more spiritually first even though we’ve come a long way. I sense that God wants us to go further down the road in terms of our personal spiritual development and in terms of our evangelism habits and practices in our community. I think God is saying to us in this delay; “your not quite ready yet but keep working on it. You’ll get there.” As the Apostle Paul says so beautifully in his letter to the Philippians: “He who began a good work in [us here at West Point UMC] will be faithful to complete it.

Blessings, Pastor Jeff

What is a progressive dinner?

This is a charming tradition in some circles whereby groups of people can enjoy each others company in the midst of the intimacy of a shared meal. “Okay” you might be thinking, “so what’s the big deal about that? That happens all the time.” Well a progressive dinner is a bit different in that it is a four course meal where each course is served in a different home. Another way to look at it is to say it’s a traveling dinner. Traditionally, the first course is in one home where appetizers are served. Then on to the next home/course where a salad is served. On again to the next course/home where the entre is the calling attraction. Finally, participants gather in the third home for dessert. Doesn’t that sound like fun?

I hope you thinks so because we are pleased to announce that **we will be having a progressive dinner on December 30th, (that’s the Friday after Christmas) this year at West Point UMC.** If you want to participate, decide if you want to open your home as a host for the salad, or the entre or maybe even for the appetizers or the desserts. If you don’t feel called to host an event but still want to participate, it’s still all good because we would ask you to provide either an appetizer or dessert for the hosts of those events.

This will be an incredible evening of fun, food and fellowship. Each person is responsible for the amount of food you consume and you must bring your own alka seltzer!

Announcements will be made as to the lineups in church at the November 9th worship service.

This Fall at West Point

Coming Sunday November 6th, the annual West Point UMC annual smorgasbord and Bazaar!

From 4:00 PM to 7:00PM you can sit down to that meal that will remind you of the Sunday dinners that mom and grandma used to make. *When you come to the smorgasbord, you aren't just eating a meal, you are reviving precious memories.* So come and enjoy the succulent roast beef, the scrumptious chicken and noodles, a mind blowing variety of salads and desserts. **Don't just come to dinner at West Point UMC. Come home.**

Get an early start on Christmas shopping. Check out the creativity and deals that our community artists and artisans have to offer at our bazaar.



Bible Studies Coming For Advent & Christmas:

November transitions us from fall to winter and from where we are now in the Christian year to the season of Advent. Advent is the season of preparation for the miracle of Christmas. We will offer an Advent study in our morning bible study class which meets on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. Our study will center on Adam Hamilton's The Journey beginning Nov. 16. All are welcome and we encourage you to join us on this amazing journey.

Women's Bible Study Concludes

Our journey with Paul concludes late this month. We will pursue another Beth Moore bible study after the first of the year.

Coming in November: Rick Warren's The Purpose of Christmas!

Tired of the commercialization of Christmas? Want to get a better handle on the real purpose of Christmas? Well prepare to join us as we dive into Rick Warren's latest bible study, The Purpose of Christmas, beginning November 29th. This three week bible study will meet for three successive Tuesdays beginning November 29th at 7:00 PM. We would love to see you there.

DISCIPLE II

DISCIPLE II IS ONE FOURTH OF THE WAY COMPLETED. WE CONTINUE TO MEET ON THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM AND LEAVE OURSELVES OPEN TO HEARING WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY TO US THROUGH THE BIBLE AND BE GUIDED INTO SERVICE IN THE WORLD BY THE SCRIPTURE AND OUR STUDY OF IT. PLEASE COME JOIN US!

November Birthdays

Kendyll Ritter	Nov 1
Melia Bilyeu	Nov 2
Lilly Bridges	Nov 15
Serena Anthrop	Nov 19



If we missed anybody, please accept our apologies and let Pastor Jeff know so we can update our records!

Little Beamers!!!

Little Beamers will meet this month on Wednesday November 2nd and Wednesday November 16th. The journey through the bible continues with entertaining videos, informative crafts and oh yeah, SNACKS!!! Come join us. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

As for you adults, we are always happily ready for any of you who would like to volunteer t help make this marvelous program go. See Pam Katter or Pastor Jeff



Hey Light House;

A big thanks to all of you who helped make our caramel apples project a big success. November will be every bit as full as last month. We will work with the youth at First United Methodist Church and the Wesley Foundation as they winterize homes for folks in need of assistance. We will meet at West Point UMC on Saturday, November 5 at 8:00 AM and go to Wesley to have breakfast with the Wesley students and then on to our assignments. We will be serving Jesus and having fun in the process. Check out our November schedule:

- November 2nd: Hanging Out
- November 5th: Wesley Winterization project.
- November 9th: Movie: To Save a Life
- November 16th: Finish Movie, To Save a Life and discussion questions
- November 23rd: No 708
- November 30th: The meaning of Advent

Looking forward to seeing you there and please, bring a friend.

Our Vision Statement

We envision the West Point United Methodist Church to be the focal point of our community and to be a welcoming church reaching out to everyone; offering all the opportunity to know and serve God; providing fellowship; offering spiritual leadership; and teaching the Word of God.

**For more information about West Point UMC, contact us at 765-572-2256, or
wpumc@tds.net or check out our webpage at
Www.westpointunitedmethodist.org**

Sunday School: 8:30 AM
Traditional Worship 9:30 AM

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