



NEWSLETTER



WESTVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 496

Mathews, VA 23109

Rev. Timothy C. Dice, minister

Mary Dodson Dice, editor

Pastor's Ponderings

Notes from the man behind the pulpit

Rev. Timothy C. Dice, BA, MDiv

Minister

BIBS AND BAR-BE-CUE!

Sunday, June 20, was a significant day in the life of Westville Christian Church. It was the first time in more than a year (not since the Chili Supper in March 2020) that we gathered for a congregational meal. It was our All Church Picnic held at the Almond home in Cobbs Creek. We had a wide variety of foods to choose from and hot-off-the-grill meats to dress up with condiments. Sheldon Adkins arrived (with his beautiful girlfriend), and he served as our grillmaster. Many folks went down to the beach for a stroll. Others sat around and enjoyed conversation and the pleasure of each other's company. Social distancing took a back seat that day. And several diners were sporting bibs, a gift to the men from the Dices on the occasion of Father's Day. (The ladies received floral bouquets back on Mother's Day.) The accompanying pictures reflect our day together!



Greg Washeleski and David Freeman



Diana Swenson and David and Sue Freeman

THE BLESSING OF BEAUTY

Many of our worshippers (including our chair of the board) have commented on the beautiful flower arrangements that have blessed our sanctuary over the past several weeks and months. That is a volunteer ministry provided by Marion and Naomi Sutton. They have even agreed to provide flowers for

special dedications. There is a calendar on top of the piano in the sanctuary for anyone who would like to request flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Just fill in the date-square of your choice on the calendar. Many of the flowers in these arrangements are home-grown in the Sutton's own garden. We are so blessed to have these gardeners in our congregation. Be sure to thank them when you see them next.

CWF

Always offering service locally and globally

The CWF completed 29 hygiene kits for Church World Service in June. The kits consisted of a small towel, a washcloth, a toothbrush, ten Band-Aids, nail clippers, soap, and a comb. They were taken to Hampton Christian Church for pick up.

We also donated \$1520 to the Heifer Project for three water supplies, two goats, two flocks of ducks, and two flocks of chickens.

The group will meet again in September to plan our yard sale for the first Saturday in October.



Congratulations to the 2021 scholarship winners pictured above! Jackson Putt was awarded the Nellie Callis Scholarship, and Brittany Ottarson will receive the Mary Green Scholarship.

Disciples Men

The backbone of the church

The men have not met over the past year due to COVID; however, they hope to meet for breakfast in August on the second Saturday. We will miss having our loyal member, John Nelson, with us. We will make calls to verify the time and place as the date approaches.

Newsletter Bloopers: Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

Chairperson Chimes

Behind every church board is a dedicated chairperson

Frankie Edmondson

Chair of the Board

HAPPY SUMMER

May the Lord bless you through this season. We had a wonderful picnic at Mary Beth Almond's house. Greg Washeleski made delicious smoked pork BBQ. Sheldon Adkins cooked hot dogs and hamburgers. Everyone else provided sides. It was a great time for all. We will meet again at Mary Beth's for the Sunday School picnic on September 9.

There will be no board meetings or CWF meetings until September.

We are getting back to the norm for our church. Hopefully, Tuesday night dinners will be back this fall. Our minister worked so hard to keep his congregation having sermons through this pandemic. So far, no one in the congregation has had the virus.

Prayers have continued for all our congregation in this difficult time. We continue to pray for Fleta and all she has been through. Mo Staton and many more have needed our prayers. Continue to read the prayer list and pray for everyone.

Thank you, Mary Dice, for doing our newsletter and keeping us informed.

In Christian Love,
Your Chairman, Frankie



Pastor's Postscripts

TRIBUTE DAY

We have special days of remembrance frequently on our national calendar. We remember Veterans with special observances in May and November. We remember the Founders of our nation on the Fourth of July. We remember the birthdays of Lincoln, Washington, and Martin Luther King. We honor and remember workers on Labor Day. We remember the discovery of the Americas on Columbus Day. We commemorate St. Valentine and St. Patrick with their special days. We remember Jesus on Easter and

Christmas. We pause to give thanks in the spirit of the Pilgrims on Thanksgiving Day.

Within the last year, there were three of our members who passed away: Scotty Hunley, Velma Foster, and John Nelson. Although there was a memorial service for Scotty, the COVID situation last July limited it to family members only. And pandemic restrictions and various factors combined to prevent gatherings for Velma and John. I mentioned a few weeks back that we ought to have a time to pay tribute to those we have lost. I asked for people to write down things they wanted to say, remembrances they wanted to share about Scotty, Velma and John – tributes to the lives they led. All three of them were important parts of our church – from way back and in more recent years, as well. The ladies of CWF did have a time of remembrance for Velma at one of their meetings, but not everyone got to participate in that. What we write and share about these three will be a blessing to their extended family here in the church. We have chosen **August 22** for what we are calling **Tribute Day**. We will meet after church in our Fellowship Hall for a potluck salad luncheon, followed by our time of tributes. If you cannot attend, please feel free to send a written note that can be read at this event. If you so designate, your note will be passed along to the families.

PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACHED

Back in May (Pentecost Sunday), I preached a message titled "Make It Personal." The sermon discussed several kinds of evangelism. Evangelism can be defined as the sharing of the gospel message to people who don't know about or don't believe in Jesus Christ as a personal savior. Our Regional Minister (Bill Spangler-Dunning) defined it for us in a recent email: "Evangelism is simply the excitement that flows from God THROUGH us when we really believe that we have to tell the world about the inclusive, love-based, all-are-welcome message that we (as Disciples) see in the life of Jesus Christ." The best way to spread the word of the Lord is to evangelize. Each of us must define an evangelism style or method that we are comfortable with. You probably won't get to be a Pulpit Evangelist. And many are not comfortable with door-to-door or street evangelism.

But we each can be effective with Personal Evangelism. This takes place in the neighborhood, the workplace, even in the home. A devout Christian demonstrates his/her faith in everyday actions. It doesn't matter if it's showing your work ethic, helping a neighbor with a tough project, or being a loving father, son, mother or daughter; it all radiates toward the people around you and is a positive reflection. Your words and your actions command respect and attention from others. As a simple follower, your personal lifestyle can bear the message. "Actions do speak louder than words," so people will accept Jesus Christ as Savior if they have a good, consistent example of Christian behavior in front of them (you). Evangelize with a service example and let people know that Jesus is the example you're following!

You can also do the work of evangelism by sharing your creativity and/or your artistry (visual, musical or whatever). Perhaps you are skilled in ways of the internet. Soon, we will have our web site revised and up-to-date. You can tell people about it and send them there to see for themselves (Westvilledisciples.com or westvilledisciples.org). By far the most effective means of evangelism is Personal Evangelism. Your personal evangelistic style should focus on how your relationship with Christ uplifts and helps you in life. Avoid tying your message to any personality (including your pastor). He or she can be helpful, inspiring, and encouraging, but should not be the reason for your attachment to the church. Instead, describe how the functions and activities of the church help you with your spiritual life. Comment on how the spirit of the congregation accepts and encourages you. That's how you "Make It Personal."

Sunday School Sightings

Bible Café and what do you say?

We have been glad to reconvene with our Sunday morning's coffee, snacks, and study, after a pause for COVID. Our lessons are always filled with lively discussions, made more lively by the various viewpoints brought to the table. One Sunday, we had a good discussion about how Jesus communicated with every level of people from all walks of life and it brought to mind a presentation I used to do about behavior styles—how to most effectively communicate with people with styles different from your own. So the following Sunday we had that session as our Sunday school lesson. It was great fun and we figured out that our small group brought each of the four different behavior styles to the table, which makes for a perfect team! Hopefully, it helped our communication skills, as well. We would love to have you bring your behavior style to Sunday school!

Editor-reals

Elucidation and other ostentatious words

Mary Dodson Dice

Newsletter Editor

Olympic Fever Sweeps the Nation!

To varying degrees, the country is following a little thing in Tokyo called the Summer Olympic Games. I can remember watching the Olympics with my family from a very young age. For Tim and me, it is important in a very special way. As choral singers in southern California, we were invited to perform with the Olympic Honor Choir in the opening ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles. We were also able to view a number of competitions. Calling the event memorable and indescribable comes nowhere near the reality of it. We truly felt it was an honor to be a part of it. That feeling has not abated, and every two years (pandemic aside), we are glued to our television, swelled with the same pride we felt back then.

This time, it seems one topic is eclipsing all others. A young woman withdrew from competition, citing concern for her mental health. Fortunately, she has received much support and encouragement for this decision. Predictably, she has also received criticism and admonishment.

Simone Biles has already proven herself to be the gymnastics GOAT (greatest of all time) by being the most decorated Olympic gymnast in *history*. She earned that title because she was the best each time she competed under a given set of circumstances and because she knew what she was doing. Because she knew during competition that she was not at her best to a point that she could endanger herself, it was sensible to step away. Losing a sense of space while flipping and turning midair at a very fast pace is dangerous, and she knew it. Gymnasts call that sense the "twisties."

Simone focused her energies on her own well being and brought an important issue to the forefront, one that Naomi Osaka, a tennis player, had also done just a few weeks before. No one knows the pressures elite athletes face except other elite athletes. I am reminded of one of my favorite memes: "**Always be kind to others. You never know what they are going through.**" These women are brave to face their demons every day and to know which battles to let the demons win.

Depression and anxiety are thieves. They rob us of our thoughts, our comfort, our security. The episodes they create cause us to attend activities, including church, more – *or less* – often. We are uplifted by the presence of others, or we find comfort in solitude. Either is okay because we know better than anyone what we need to do to heal.

Matthew 19:26 tells us that **with God, all things are possible** and Romans 8:38-39 assures that **You are loved beyond all measure**. This is true even if we are experiencing the "twisties" and have to drop out of one of our normal daily events. At Westville, we are teammates. We look out for each other. In the arms of each other – in person or in spirit – we heal and thrive.

Good and Faithful Servants through the End of the Year

ELDERS

<u>August</u>	Mary Dice and Frankie Edmondson
<u>September</u>	Gary Edmondson and David Freeman
<u>October</u>	Mary Beth Almond and Frankie Edmondson
<u>November</u>	Mary Dice and Gary Edmondson
<u>December</u>	Frankie Edmondson and David Freeman
<u>January</u>	Mary Dice and Frankie Edmondson

Assignments for communion preparation and counting will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday School office. We request that Deacons continue collecting empty cups and left over bulletins.

Put Another Candle on your Birthday Cake

August

28 Heather Criner

September

2 Anne Long
11 Mary Frances Hunley
13 Spencer Hodges
13 Chelsea Jones
14 Danny Hunley
27 Justin Todd
Mike James

October

2 Stacy Dewitt
9 Maurine Frank
16 Timothy Dice
17 Helen Shackelford
30 Greg Washeleski

November

1 Tammy Cantrell
2 Sue Freeman
5 Cady Dice
6 Roy Hearn
10 Mary Beth Almond
15 William Scott Hunley
25 Fleta Hunley
25 Stephanie Sutton

December

12 Karyn Austin
12 Jeremy Dice
13 Naomi Sutton
30 Mo Staton
