



# WEST WINDS

Peabody, Massachusetts

September 2017

## REMEMBERING THE REFORMATION, THE 500 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

This fall October 31, 2017 will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> year when a German monk, Martin Luther, placed his 95 statements or protests as an invitation to public debate regarding the abuses he observed regarding the Catholic Church. The Protestant Reformation was not centered on only one man although Luther's actions are most noteworthy. God's Spirit was bringing reform to the Church from many places. In England there was John Wycliffe and John Tyndale, along with John Hus in Bohemia. There was Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin in Switzerland and John Knox in Scotland. They all joined with Luther moved by God, and cried out for reforms in the Catholic Church.

Some of the issues they faced were the following: excessive wealth and power of the Catholic Church, the selling of indulgences to reduce one's time in Purgatory, is the final authority for one's faith and practice in the Bible or the Catholic Church, how a person is justified or made right before a Holy God, the relationship between faith and works, the merit of Christ's obedience or the merit found in the sacramental system of the Catholic Church, the translation of the Bible into the common man's language so he or she could read it, and other matters.

Over time these cries of the Protestant Reformation became crystallized into what historians called the '*Five Solas*' (meaning alone in Latin) of the Reformation. They are commonly known as: *Scripture Alone, Christ Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, and To the Glory of God Alone*. The meaning and implications of these statements have shaped the Protestant Church and its theology and practice to this day. The Protestant Reformation was massive paradigm shift in the authority and nature of the Church, the role of Holy Scripture, and how a Christian understands and lives out his or her faith. What many of us believe today theologically was formed by the Protestant Reformation.

Many today in the Evangelical Church no longer think that the Protestant Reformation really matters. There is a strong push for ecclesiastical unity without honest doctrinal discussion of key differences. Some question the authority and sufficiency of the Bible to address sexual and moral issues in their desire to redefine marriage and family. The definition of the Gospel and how sinners are reconciled with a Holy and Righteous God is blurred and murky in many churches. The drive for the Evangelical Church's relevance with the culture have made 'pragmatism and expediency' more important than what the Bible teaches. These are valid concerns in our day.

Right now as much as 500 years ago the Evangelical Church could use another reform restoring the key doctrines articulated during the Protestant Reformation. The basic spiritual needs and questions of humanity are only found in the Scriptures alone, Christ alone, Grace alone, Faith alone and to the Glory of God alone. Our reason, our feelings, and our experience, can never be raised above and over what the Scriptures clearly teach. If we do this we will find ourselves living in the world of 'everything is relative' not standing on the sure ground of The Absolute Truth of Scripture.

Let us 'hold fast' to the ***Five Solas*** of the Protestant Reformation even if this means standing against the rushing current of the present Evangelical Church.

I love you,  
Pastor Rick

## FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS

Sunday, September 10, begins our change to the Fall Schedule with the **Worship Service starting at 10:30 am**. This service will be our monthly Communion Service.

**The start of Sunday School for children, youth and adults has been postponed** and will begin on **September 24**. This postponement is due to the need for more volunteers to complete our teaching team for this coming year. This will give us additional time to secure a full teaching staff and hold a Sunday School Orientation Meeting with all staff as well.

The volunteer needs for Sunday School are listed below.

Our Fellowship Coffee Gathering will also be postponed until Sunday, September 24.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL: ADULT CLASSES BEGINS SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 FROM 9-10 AM

#### Remembering the Reformation's 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Location:** Lyons Hall

**Teachers:** Pastor Rick McDonnell & Dr. Grace Lee

**Course Description:** In honor of the 500 year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation this course will trace the state of the Church before the Reformation, the key reformers, and explain the five tenets (cries) of the Protestant Reformation. We will then make the argument that a modern reformation is need today in the Evangelical Church. We will take the same five cries of the Reformation and make application to the Evangelical Church today. The format will consist of lecture, discussion and small group work.

#### Spiritual Mothering, Being a Titus 2 Woman

**Class Location:** Upper Room

**Teachers:** Women of West Church

**Course Description:** This class will be using Susan Hunt's book, *Spiritual Mothering, the Titus 2 Model for Women Mentoring Women*. We will read and discuss the holy privilege and sacred responsibility we have as older women teaching, nurturing and encouraging younger women. We will encourage one another to reach out with practical suggestions on developing these life-giving relationships with the women the Lord puts in our lives.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL: CHILDREN & YOUTH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 FROM 9-10 AM

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*1 Timothy 3:16 ESV*

The Sunday School Ministry exists to glorify God as we partner with parents as together we train and disciple children in the wisdom and knowledge of God's character and His gracious plan of salvation through the study of the Bible.

**REGISTRATION:** Registration in underway and will continue on September 10, 17 and 24. Parents please stop by the lower narthex to complete a registration form for your child(ren) (nursery – grade 8) to attend Sunday School.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDS:** Currently several volunteers are still needed in classes for grades 1-8. Training, curriculum and teaching materials are available for all Sunday School volunteers. Current needs are:

- 2 co-teachers for Grades 1 and 2
- 1 co-teacher for Grades 3 and 4
- 1 co-teacher for Grades 5 and 6.

**INFORMATION:** For additional information about the Sunday School Ministry or to volunteer please speak with the Sunday School Coordinator.

It's time to get excited about the start of  
a new year of Pioneer Girls!

## PIONEER GIRLS NEWS

**Our Registration and Opening Night is on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm.** Parents are invited to accompany their Pioneer Girls into Lyons Hall to fill out registration forms, pay the \$10 registration fee, and meet their daughters' leaders. Then the girls will enjoy a full club meeting and parents can return at 8:30 pm to pick them up.

Currently, we are still in need of more women to serve with us. It's important that we fill the open positions before Opening Night, so if you feel God moving you to be a part of Pioneer Girls, please talk to us to see if one of our needs fits the talents God has given you.

We look forward to seeing you and your Pioneer Girl on Wednesday, September 27!

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE

Christian Service Brigade (CSB) is a Christ-centered ministry of fun and fellowship for boys ages 6 through 18. Wednesday night meetings generally consist of games, crafts, special projects, and Bible-based stories. CSB provides an opportunity for men to build friendships with boys while helping them grow in Christian maturity.

The program is divided into three age groups: Tree Climbers is for Dads and their sons, ages 6 and 7 in grades 1 – 2; Stockade is for boys ages 8 to 11 in grades 3-6; and Battalion is for boys ages 12 to 18 in grades 7-12.

Registration will be held on Sunday, September 17 before and after the Worship Service in the lower narthex. The first meetings for all three groups will be on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 pm.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is for women of any age who want to study God's Word. Time is also set aside for sharing prayer requests and praying together. We have been studying the book of Genesis verse by verse from Creation through the patriarchs and have now come to the life story of Joseph. We will begin this year's study in Genesis 38.

Women's Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, **September 13 at 9:15 am** in the Upper Room. Refreshments are served and childcare is available as needed. For additional information please contact the office.

## GIRLS' GROWTH GROUP

Girls' Growth Group (GGG) is a group of young (grades 9-12) and older women who come together on Wednesday evenings to learn of God through His Word and to share our joys and cares, supporting each other in prayer. The group will begin to meet on September 27 at the Roy's home. For more information please contact the office.

## HOME FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

### Growing Closer, Going Deeper

Looking for a way to get to know members of the West Church family? Consider joining a Home Fellowship Groups which meet twice a month in a host home. HFGs consist of 8-12 people of all ages gathering for fellowship, prayer and a Biblically-based study. To connect with a HFG near you or for more information, contact:

Pastor Rick McDonnell

978-535-4112

[wc4rick@westchurchpeabody.org](mailto:wc4rick@westchurchpeabody.org)

## YOUNG AT HEART EVENT

If you are a Young at Heart member and would like to enjoy a cruise down the Essex River, then come on Friday, September 15 at 3:00 pm. You must respond quickly because the maximum number the boat will hold is 40. The tickets will be \$15, and the cruise lasts 1 & ½ hours. What a fun way to end the summer or start the fall. Come cruise with us. Sign-up sheets will be available in lower Narthex.

## CHURCH PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 17, 2017



### ***Plan now to attend our Annual Church Picnic and Bring A Friend!***

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be served at 12:30 pm following the Worship Service.

\$4 per adult and \$12 per family.

Please pay when you sign up.

If your last name begins with the following letters, please bring:

- A-M – a Salad for 10 – 12 people
- N-Z – a Dessert for 10 – 12 people

The Sign-Up Table will be in the lower narthex on Sunday, September 10.

DO PLAN to come to the picnic for fellowship, fun, and food! PLEASE BRING your lawn chairs and/or blankets. There will be games to play and plenty of time to relax and fellowship in the shade.

## GREETERS MINISTRY

If you would like to volunteer to welcome all to the Worship Service with a warm and friendly personal greeting then consider joining the Greeting/Welcome Center Ministry. For additional information please contact the office.

## HAVEN FROM HUNGER

Due to the Labor Day falling on September 4 the West Church team will not be serving a meal at Haven from Hunger in September. The next ministry date will be **Monday, October 2.**

## FLOWERS

If you would like to have flowers in the chancel on a Sunday to celebrate an occasion that is special to you, please sign the Flower Chart on the bulletin board across from the office. Many Sundays are still available in 2017. The cost of each arrangement is \$35, which may be included in your offering envelope or pew envelope and designate “flowers” under the heading “Other.”

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR GHANA

We will be collecting supplies from now through the end of September for the Greater Heights International School in Tamale, Ghana. The school was started by our own missionaries, Dan and Dianne (Parsons) Dzokotoe, in 2011. Their distinctly Christian school now has almost 1,500 students, many from Muslim families. Many of the supplies they need are not available in Ghana. You can use the supply list available in the lower office to purchase items; or you can donate money towards the purchase and shipment of supplies by writing Ghana Supplies in the memo section of your check and placing it in the collection plate on Sunday. To learn more about the school go to: [www.ghisghana.org](http://www.ghisghana.org)

## SECRETARY’S FALL OFFICE HOURS

Kelly Sawyer’s office hours this fall will be:

- Monday: 9 am – 2 pm
- Tuesday: 8 am – 1 pm
- Wednesday – Friday: 9 am – 2 pm

## **PULPIT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

First of all, it is with great pleasure that the Pulpit Committee welcomes Diane Haywood to the team. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and administrative skills having run a family business for several decades. Plus, we appreciate her wit and energy that she has brought to the team.

It's hard to believe that Pastor Ralph Wetherington retired a year ago. Since then the Pulpit Committee has been working hard to ensure we've dotted our 'i's and crossed our 't's preparing a three-phased application process to select our next Senior Pastor. Very soon, once we've jumped the last couple hurdles, we'll be releasing the job description to various locations, including seminaries, Christian organizations, and to our website. Once we've posted to the website, we ask that if you know of potential applicants that you direct them to our webpage. Applicants will find information and directions on how to submit their application materials on that page.

Phase I of the process is designed to compare the applicants against the stated qualifications in the job description, and ensure that they agree with our Statement of Faith. Applicants will be required to submit an application, questionnaire, résumé and letters of reference. Phase II is designed to allow the Pulpit Committee and the applicants to get to know each other through written and verbal communication. The applicants will be asked to submit additional information, including sermons to be reviewed, and will go through an interview process. Phase III is designed to narrow down the selected applicants by conducting face-to-face interviews and applicants will be requested to submit to a background check, and provide additional sermons, and potentially additional references. This phase is designed to culminate in a candidate visit and possible selection.

The Pulpit Committee has been earnestly praying for wisdom and discernment as we enter into this new phase of the process. We ask that you please pray for us, that the Lord would be guiding our every step, and leading us in every decision. Prayer is so important that we encourage you to follow the leading of the Deacons and come together in communal prayer on Thursday evenings.

### **Please pray that:**

1. The Pulpit Committee would be attuned to the Spirit's leading.
2. The Pulpit Committee would have discernment while engaging with applicants.
3. The Lord would continue to keep West Church unified in purpose and committed to the Lord in everything during this time.
4. The Lord would be preparing the heart and mind of the next pastor to serve at West Church.
5. The Lord would be preparing the hearts and minds of the church to receive the next pastor with open arms.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
for the Pulpit Committee

## **OPEN PRAYER TIMES THURSDAYS FROM 5-8 PM**

The Board of Deacons are setting aside Thursday evenings from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm for those who would like to come into the sanctuary and pray for our church, the Intentional Interim Pastor Search, and the Senior Pastor Search. This is an informal time and people may come and go at anytime during those hours. Let us seek God's will!

## **PARENTING CLASS STARTING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017 EFFECTIVE PARENTING IN A DEFECTIVE WORLD**

On Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:30pm, in the Upper Room, Pastor Rick McDonnell will facilitate, the video series by Chip Ingram, *Effective Parenting in a Defective World*. With penetrating truth and sincere honesty, Chip Ingram shares life lessons from his personal experience of raising four children. He describes his failures and the challenges of teenage rebellion. And he teaches the principles for successful parenting as revealed through God's Word. The purpose of this class is to edify and encourage parents and grandparents.

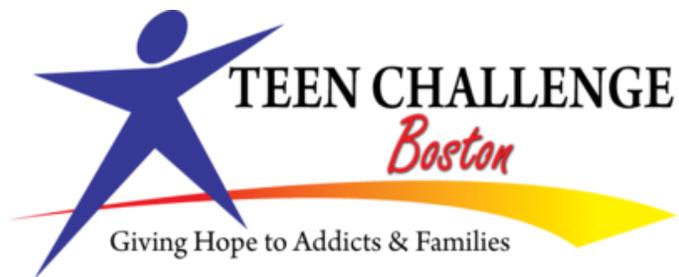
**MISSIONS CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 15-22, 2017**



*"Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust...I will proclaim and tell of your wondrous deeds, yet they are more than can be told."  
Psalm 40:4a-5b*

The annual Missions Conference at West Church highlights what God is doing through our missionary family from around the world. This year, the conference will also include reports from local organizations supported by our Mission's budget. As the conference theme suggests, each report from the "field" will include testimonies of TRUST in God to meet needs, grant strength, protect, open doors of opportunity, and more. Prayerfully consider inviting a friend to join you for this exciting week!

A full conference schedule will be included in October's West Winds and available online.



**MISSIONS CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENT  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017 AT 7:00 PM**

The Teen Challenge Boston men's choir will be sharing songs of **HOPE** and testimonies of **FREEDOM** from addiction by the **HEALING** power of Christ during this evening program. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to come to this special concert.

**WEST CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT  
NOVEMBER 3-5, 2017**

*Learning from the Past, Living for the Future  
"But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!" ~ Job 2:9 (ESV)*

This year we are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive women's retreat and there is still room for you! Brookwoods Conference Center is located in the heart of the New England Lakes Region at the southern end of Lake Winnepesaukee. The beautiful surroundings are the perfect place to take a weekend away and join with other women in reflection on God and His Word.

We are pleased to welcome Diane Averill as our speaker again this year. God's grace and tender mercy is seen in the lives of many individuals in both the Old and New Testaments. People like Ruth, Hosea, Jonah, and Peter, are like us perhaps in more ways than we realize. They also experienced a number of the same challenges we face today. As Diane opens God's Word to us we will see how He met them in their circumstances, and He meets us in ours as well.

The total cost of the retreat is \$135 which includes a non-refundable deposit of \$30. Registration forms are available on bulletin board across from the church office, on the website, as well as at the registration table in the lower narthex following the worship service. To register, please complete a registration form and submit it to a committee member with the deposit. Balances will be due beginning October 1.



## **MAN CAMP: BECAUSE MEN DON'T RETREAT NOVEMBER 10-12, 2017**



A group from West Church is going together to Man Camp at Berea in Hebron, NH. From friendly competition on the field, to adventure on our high ropes course, to a cup of coffee and board games by the fire, there's something for everyone at Man Camp.

With compelling teaching and worship – and plenty of hearty food – it's an opportunity to get away and spend a weekend relaxing and building your spiritual foundation in community with other men from New England.

To learn more about the weekend and the speakers for Man Camp visit:

[www.berea.org/mancamp/](http://www.berea.org/mancamp/).

For more information or to register contact the office.

## **GUATEMALA MISSIONS TRIP FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 4, 2018**

A West Church team will travel to Concepción, Guatemala where Abigail Sawyer de Morales is the Field Director. This is one of three sites where Partners in Development (PID) ministers in the local villages. The mission of PID is to help the extreme poor attain independence and whole life improvement. To learn more about Partners in Development, go to [pidonline.org](http://pidonline.org)

The team typically ministers through construction, medical help, and a children's program. High school students through adults are welcome to join the team. If you have questions or are interested in joining the Guatemala team for the mission trip in February, contact the church office.

## **WEST CHURCH ONLINE**

The West Church website contains helpful information including an events calendar, ministry information, and audio files of sermons. This resource is helpful when you are unable to join us on a Sunday morning or if you would like to listen to a sermon again or share it with a friend or family member.

Sermons can also be downloaded using iTunes. Search for West Church Peabody Podcast to download the weekly sermons on your device to listen on your commute, run or walk around your neighborhood.



In addition West Church has a page on Facebook. This is a place to post information about upcoming events or ministry information. If you are on Facebook check out the West Church Peabody page.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Missions Conference: October 15-22
- Women's Retreat: November 3-5
- Man Camp: November 10-12
- Communion Sunday: November 19
- Pen, Pie and Prayer: November 12
- Thanksgiving Service: November 19

## SEPTEMBER 2017 WEST WINDS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
8:30 am Prayer 9:30 am Worship Service *Punch on the Mall	<b>LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>			5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Open Prayer Time Sanctuary		7:30pm Marriage Builders Teal's Home
<b>10 COMMUNION</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS</b> 8:30 am Prayer 9:00 am <del>Sunday School</del> POSTPONED→9/24 10:30 am Worship Service	7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room	7:30pm •Board of Deacons •Board of Trustees	9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm PG Leaders' Meeting Upper Room 7:30 pm CSB Leaders' Meeting Library	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Open Prayer Time Sanctuary	3:00 pm Young at Heart River Cruise	Morning Picnic Prep Kitchen
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
8:30am Prayer 9:00 am <del>Sunday School</del> POSTPONED→9/24 10:30am Worship *All Church Picnic*	7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room	7:30 pm Board of Deacons Upper Room	9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm •CSB: <b>ALL 3 Groups</b> •CE Committee: Office	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Open Prayer Time Sanctuary 7:00pm Missions Committee Meeting Upper Room		6:00pm SALT Lyons Hall and Upper Room
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
8:30am Prayer 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship *Worship Team Rehearsal  7:00pm Prayer Watch	7:30 pm Pulpit Search Committee Upper Room	7:00pm Community Outreach Upper Room	9:15 am Women's Bible Study Upper Room 7:00 pm •PG Registration: Lyons Hall •CSB: Stockade & Battalion •Girls' Growth Group: Roy's Home	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Open Prayer Time Sanctuary		

→ PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS WILL BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 24 ←