



Westover Reflections - May 2024



Farewell Westover,

Let me begin with a sincere word of thankfulness to the many of you who worked with me and made my time here unforgettable. I write this letter as a formal farewell to every one of you. It is never easy to write a letter like this one. My heart swells with a mixture of emotions – gratitude, hopefulness, nostalgia, and sadness.

Though I was only at Westover a short time, this church has been special for me and my family. The memories we've created here, the bonds we've formed, and the spiritual growth we've experienced together have left an indelible mark on my life.

I am deeply thankful for the privilege of serving as your Pastor for the past two years. It hasn't always been easy, but I have felt honored to serve this church body for a season. We have celebrated victories, weathered storms, and witnessed countless moments of grace and transformation.

As I prepare to go to Soapstone United Methodist Church and join the ministry team there, I carry with me the many lessons from Westover. Though I may be physically departing from this congregation, please know that you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Whenever a pastor leaves an appointment, it is natural to reflect on what has been done in their time at that church. I took some time to reflect on some of the seeds we've planted together. We worked on the physical appearance of the church in places like the parking lot and the administrative offices. We redefined the organizational structure of the church, with new leaders and a new committee structure. We reached out to the community with the community campfire. We reinstated some old Westover staples, like the fish fry, the BBQ, the Yard Sale, the Easter egg hunt, VBS, and working with other churches. We found ways to connect to some of the homebound members with traveling communion. We had bible studies, revitalized an online worship experience, and more. I am excited to see what fruit blossoms from these activities and to bear witness to what new seeds are planted in the years to come.

At one of my first council meetings here, I explained that sometimes I can be too abrupt, or too honest. I offer a sincere apology to anyone who may have felt that I was too direct with them. In that sense of honesty, however, I must acknowledge the challenges we faced together. We saw the end of the Westover fair-booth tradition. We stumbled through hard conversations about disaffiliation. We lost good friends, some to death, others to choices they made. I was not able to serve everyone as Pastor, but I have loved all of you with a pastor's heart.

I urge you to remain steadfast in your commitment to love one another, serve your community, and spread the message of hope and compassion. Know that I am rooting for all of you.

In closing, I am so thankful to each of you for the love, friendship, and memories we've shared. Please keep me in your prayers and know that you will always be in mine.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Damion T. Quaye Sr.



Craft Circle

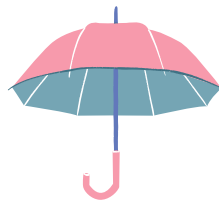
Craft circle will not meet “officially” on May 4 but we hope that those who usually come to Circle will show up on the 4th to help with any clean up that needs to be done after the BBQ from the day before. We have a very special plan for June’s craft circle, so watch the June newsletter for more Craft Circle news!

Westover will be hosting a VBS weekend Friday, July 12 to Saturday, July 13. Cokesbury’s theme for this year is “Camp Firelight,” so we are going to be camping out on the church grounds! (We’ll move inside if the weather doesn’t cooperate.) How can you help? Volunteer to be a leader for Bible lesson, crafts, music or games; camp out with us; help prepare meals and snacks. Most importantly, help us recruit children and pray for us. There are so many ways to help, and we need **everyone!** Please mark your calendar and prayerfully consider how you are willing to serve to make this a great experience for the children. Please contact Sharron Gibson at 919-614-0467 or sharron.gibson9194@gmail.com with questions and to volunteer.



Movie Night

Movie night is Friday, May 17 at 7:00 PM. Our movie this month is *Mary Poppins*. As usual, there will be fellowship, snacks and door prizes in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to come and want to carpool, please contact Kent or Sharron Gibson. We’ll be happy to pick you up!



Adult Sunday School Class

We will NOT meet on Sunday, May 5, but will start back up on May 12 with our study of the Gospel of John, Chapter 3 will be our focus on the 12th. Join us! 10:00 on Sunday mornings, Builder’s Classroom, Education Building.



Class of 2024

Congratulations to our graduate!

Trinity Quaye graduates from high school on May 16. We wish Trinity the best of luck as she moves on to her next adventure at Duke University.

All are invited to a graduation celebration brunch on Saturday, May 18th at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP to Chandra Quaye at 301-661-5135.



TIME TO Celebrate



Happy May Birthday to:

- 1 Kimberly Holder
- 1 Anna Sargent
- 5 Camryn Watkins Lucas
- 10 Laura Brooks
- 10 Travis Allen
- 13 Janet Giannattasio
- 14 Ruth Miller
- 17 Deena Poole Scott
- 20 Y'Duy Ksor
- 20 Treu Ksor
- 21 Alma Foley
- 22 Jennifer Price
- 25 Sandra Johnson-Leu
- 27 BJ Decoeur
- 31 James Carter



Yard Sale Update

A HUGE Thank you to all who helped with the yard sale. Our profit was approximately \$1,300! Those who donated items were so generous, that we were able to share unsold items with Gift to Thrift and Garner Area Ministries. These groups will use the items as they continue their good work.

A special "thank you" to Jennifer Proffit. Your hard work is so appreciated!



BBQ



The United Methodist Men are hosting a BBQ on Friday, May 3. Please join us for lunch or dinner, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM and 4:00 PM-7:00 PM. Plates include pork barbeque, cole slaw, potato salad, hushpuppies, dessert and drink. Tickets are available from Les Watkins or you may pay at the door. Plates are \$12 each. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Les or Kent Gibson, or just show up on Friday. It will be a great day of food and fellowship!