



The MESSENGER

A Publication of Williamsburg United Methodist Church
500 JAMESTOWN ROAD • WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

January 2009

Peninsula District UMC Brings You A Day for Fruitful Dialogue

Saturday, January 17, 2009
9:00 a.m. - Noon Williamsburg UMC



Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* will be with us to share his thoughts on

- Radical Hospitality
- Passionate Worship
- Intentional Faith Development
- Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- and Extravagant Generosity

Who should attend?

You!

All clergy and laity are invited to attend.

Questions? Contact the District Office (596-3476).

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. ~ Matthew 2:9-11



When the Light Goes On

There is perhaps little else in our world as exciting or exhilarating as a moment of inspiration. A moment when you see something in a new or different way for the first time. Or a moment when you finally understand something you missed the first 100 times. One of those moments that are often sudden and unexpected when you say, “A-Ha!” and a light goes on in your head.

Moments like these can be quite valuable. Over the years many people have made a lot of money off their “bright ideas.” Thomas A. Edison is an excellent example. He literally brought light into the world’s darkness. Surely it’s no coincidence that we now depict moments of discovery and insight by putting a light bulb over a cartoon character’s head. Thomas Edison knew the value of seeing the light.

No doubt the magi who saw the light of the star over Bethlehem felt the same way. They had seen this star at its rising, and they understood that it would lead them to the child who was born the King of the Jews. But when they saw the star stop over the place where the child was, God’s word says, “They were overwhelmed with joy.” Only moments later, they experienced an epiphany, an “A-Ha!” moment. The magi suddenly realized for the first time who the Christ child really was – the Son of God. In response to this divine revelation, they worshipped Him, they gave Him gifts, and they let whole world know that Jesus Emmanuel is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

The same should be true for all who have seen the Light of World. It is our calling, as those who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to reveal the light of His love to the world.

As we begin a new calendar year together, let us celebrate the season of Epiphany by preparing our hearts for moments of divine inspiration in the coming year. Let us pray for moments in which we can see more clearly who God really is. Let us also pray for opportunities to share the Christ child with others, through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Who knows? By the power of the Holy Spirit, maybe one of us will be there when the Light goes on.

Marc Rickabaugh
Associate Pastor

Buon giorno, my friends!

We are getting settled here in Italy. We are scheduled to take some language classes, but in the meantime we are listening to tapes and practicing. There are a lot of Italians that work here on the base in Gricignano. Most of them speak pretty good English, and they are very patient and kind to people like me! This is the base where Jerry works and where we moved into an apartment. It sure isn’t like home yet, but I am sure it will be okay in time. Grazie! for the love offering. I really appreciate it so much. I was able to buy a new camera, and I am hoping to buy a webcam soon. I really miss all of your smiling faces and my work at the church. If you are traveling this way, please get in touch with me – what a treat it would be! Take care.

Love,
Deborah Peters

PSC 808 Box 64, FPO, AE 09618 deborah.l.peters@gmail.com

In The Light of Angels

*Williamsburg United Methodist Women's Retreat
January 30 - February 1, 2009*

The Weekend Package includes: In-depth study and reflection; Sisterhood; Fostering community; Sharing; Women's only sleep-over; Laughter, tears, music, games; and Plenty of good food and fun!

This year we will offer an all-inclusive, one price weekend package.

Please join us on this spiritual journey as we study *Angels*.

Register today! Space is limited.

For additional information
contact Gwen Hinton at (757) 259-0318.

The Soulens received this email (below) from Gita Mednis, Pastor, District Superintendent, and founder of Hope Center in Riga Latvia. Remember a VIM team visited there in 2006 and helped refurbish "Hope Center" as a home for these young mothers and their babies. Another example of WUMC in mission!

Hello Dear Friends,

We just had a visit from the Faithful Men's choir and the secretary of the Samaritan Hands. She told me that Williamsburg UMC has just made a generous donation to the Hope Center. On behalf of all of us we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God is so very good and faithful. Just as we were running out of money and praying that God would help us keep our doors open, we heard of your gift.

God continues to reveal to us just how important this ministry is to these young mothers. The Center experienced its first infant death last week. The baby was 24 days old. The mother and baby came to us straight from the hospital. They arrived Friday afternoon and the baby died Sunday night. The young mother has no parents to help her deal with this terrible situation. We became her family, we took care of all of the arrangements, got a cemetery plot, bought a casket, arranged for the funeral, and the girls of the Hope Center made a memorial meal. The paperwork and arrangements were a lot to deal with, but all week I kept thanking God that He had sent this young mother to us so we could help her during this very difficult time. She is penniless and alone. How would she have been able to handle all of this on top of her grief and depression? God provides.

Again please express our deep thanks to your congregation,

Many, many blessings,

Gita

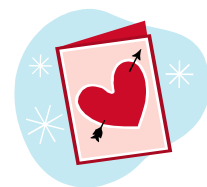
VALENTINE BENEFIT LUNCHEON AT CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL

(2500 Richmond Road, Williamsburg)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 at 11:30 AM

Tickets are \$15.00 each and must be purchased by 2/8/09

Proceeds will Benefit the Respite Care Center of Williamsburg UMC



Congregational Dinners



Announcing – Congregational Dinners are Returning, and You Are Invited to Join “Friends Enjoying Eating Together!” Come to our congregational dinners to be held on the third Tuesday of each month, with the first taking place on **Tuesday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m.** Our meals will be prepared by William & Mary Catering with the menu to be announced. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 10 years old. (A special children’s meal will be available.) **Deadline to register with the church office (229-1771) for the first dinner is January 5.**

New Women’s Bible Study



Beloved Disciple by Beth Moore, is a women’s Bible study beginning Thursday, January 15 from 5:30 – 7:15 pm, led by Nancy Rickabaugh. This is a 10 week study on the life and ministry of John. This study is specifically scheduled to coincide with the children’s choir and handbell rehearsals on Thursday evening. All women of the church are invited to participate, especially those who have children in the music programs. The church will also provide childcare for the children as needed. Register by calling the church office (229-1771).

Our **Moms’ Lunch** gatherings in January will be on Tuesdays, January 6 and 20 at Noon in Rm. 174. We welcome all moms of children ages infant through elementary school for an informal time of conversation and fellowship. This is a great way to meet other moms in the church and in the community! Childcare is always provided. Please bring \$5.00 for lunch. Contact Cindy Banek for further information (229-1771 x258).

Our **50’s Plus** luncheon group will meet on Wednesday, January 14 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. This group is open to anyone age 50 plus, and we enthusiastically welcome all new members! We only ask that you bring a small donation for the chicken (provided) and a side dish or dessert to share with the group. We look forward to seeing you for this special time of food and fellowship!



SHAWL MINISTRY MEETING, January 19, 2:00 p.m. - Rm. 171. We encourage anyone interested to come knit with us...or crochet. We have fun, and it's a good cause. This time Rev. Mike Meloy will be our guest. Please call Nancy Brown (564-3047) with any questions.

From the Trustees

Correction: The Trustees wish to thank Mr. Bill MOHN (not Mower) for donating his time and labor installing the cushions in the Chapel.

Green Initiative

Information on savings from using Compact Florescent Light Bulbs (CFLs). An article published by Dominion Power states that as of Nov. 21, over 2,269,627 CFLs have been sold. This equates to: 81,743 cars off the road for 1 year; 486,001 ton CO2 life cycle air pollution reduction; 633,225,933kWh life cycle energy savings; and \$151,321,195 life cycle savings.

CFLs are better!



The Church Staff wishes to thank the
Williamsburg United Methodist Church
Parishioners for their generous
Christmas love offering.

THANK YOU!!

Compared to standard bulbs, CFLs: use about 25% less energy; last about 10 times longer; give off bright, pleasant light; are available in many shapes and sizes; Save about \$54 in total costs over the life-time of each CFL.

For more information, including how to handle and dispose of broken CFLs go to the ENERGY STAR web site or contact Carolyn Spencer (741-2091).

From Grounds Support

Thank you for the gracious donations of plants for the church!

- Hope Ankeney gave 14 Boxwoods (Joe lovingly grew these bushes from cuttings for the church.) Some are in the front bed and others are behind the chapel.
- Dee and Al Albright gave 6 gardenias and the labor to replenish some bushes in front.
- Ada Lou and Ken Turner donated and planted a red maple in the front.

For more information call Joan Kelley (229-1626) or e-mail jekelley@cox.net

From the Youth Ministry Office:

Heartfelt greetings for a blessed New Year! I'd like to take just a moment to express my gratitude to everyone for a tremendous 2008—I can't wait to dig in to 2009!

The Youth Ministry is proud to announce the return of the **Annual Super Bowl Chili Sale!** For three successive Sundays, beginning on January 11, representatives will be at a table in the Atrium, ready to accept your order for our critically acclaimed *Meat & Bean* and *Lentil-based Vegetarian* chili. Both recipes will be delivered ready to heat-and-eat, on Super Bowl Sunday, February 1. Limited additional quantities will be available; Order yours early to guarantee availability! Still only \$10 per quart!

There's still nothing like youth ministry! This month, a group of adult youth leaders will be beginning what promises to be an ongoing, multi-level discussion based on Mark Oestreicher's new book, *Youth Ministry 3.0*. If you're interested in participating and helping chart the future of Youth Ministry at WUMC, please contact Todd Query, Youth Minister, at the church office for more information.

Stay "in the loop" when it comes to what's going on in the Youth Ministry Area. Point your internet browser to www.StayInTheLoop.wordpress.com where you'll find regularly updated posts including weekly event calendars, Mission Trip information, a password-protected Parents' Page and details on Youth Ministry fundraisers like Ugly Mug Coffee!

UMW Circle Meetings

Patriots Colony Circle – Friday, January 2 at 10:30 p.m., First Floor Conference Rm., Patriots Colony.
Program: Study of Women of the Bible.

Olive Casey Circle – Monday, January 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 309.

Mary Lou Clarke/Heritage Circle – Tuesday, January 6 at 9:45 in Room 309.
Program: “Time” by Linda Rhodes and Nancy Parsons.

Jean Craig Circle – Tuesday, January 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chambrel Activities Room.
Program: Come and meet your District UMW Officers.

Amoroso/Ransone Circle – Wednesday, January 7 at 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Sweet Madeline’s Restaurant (Monticello Marketplace near Ukrop’s).

Susannah Wesley Circle – Saturday, January 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 309.

Friendship Circle – Monday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. in Rm. 309.

Carol Scott Circle – Tuesday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
Program: Evelyn Lee, Trip to China.

Sisters in Faith Circle – Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 in Rm. 309.

Williamsburg Landing Circle – Tuesday, January 20 at 10:30 a.m., Third Floor Parlor, Wburg Landing.

Thank you for all the cards, notes, phone calls and other kindnesses you extended to me when I had my surgery. I am at home now recovering and looking forward to coming back to church as soon as I am able. It is a blessing to be part of our church’s family.

Gloria Lang

Thank you for the outpouring of love and caring extended to me and my family on the death of my daughter, Jan Dannecker. The many cards, phone calls and especially the prayers sustained me more than you could ever know. How blessed I am to be a part of such a caring community of faith.

*Your sister in Christ,
Ellie Gillen*

Our Congratulations to...

John and Janet Veith on the November 28 birth of their twins, Paul Preston and Dori Adele.
Linda Upshaw on the November 25 birth of her grandson Henry James Upshaw.

Our Condolences to the families of...

Janet Louise Dannecker, who died November 21 (daughter of Ellie Gillen).
Frank W. Bacskay, Sr., who died November 23 (father of Frank Bacskay, Jr.).
Richard H. Viancour, Jr., who died November 30 (father of Rick Viancour).
Raymond Busch, who died December 9 (brother of June Zimmer).
Mona Blanks, who died December 10 (a client of Respite Care).
Gilbert Keene, who died December 16.

Donations were given in Memory of:

Linda Friend Adams: Vera and Frances Knight, Mr. and Mrs. David Riggs

Mona P. Blanks: Mrs. Lisa Zelinsky

John Newton Daniel: Vera and Frances Knight

Janet Louise Dannecker: Fran McKnight

Floyd Doyle: Mr. and Mrs. Bud Voorhess

Edward Ewen: The Fellowship Sunday School Class

Chick Goshman: Ms. Donna McKenzie

Bruce Harding: Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Martin

Alton Moore Hedgepeth: Mr. and Mrs. Jigger Si-
rois, Mr. and Mrs. Al Golding, Mr. and Mrs. Philip
Flanigan, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Clark, Elaine Zimmer-
man, Vera and Frances Knight

Patricia White Hindman: Mr. and Mrs. Hugh
Crawford, The Mary Lou Clark Heritage Circle

Ralph E. Johnston: Mrs. Mary E. Smith, Mr. and
Mrs. Bud Voorhess

Jeanne Sheridan Kinnamon: Rebecca Peebles, Vera
and Frances Knight

Louis Luedtke: The Fellowship Sunday School
Class, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Murphy, Charles and
Joann Maslin, Mr. and Mrs. Al Golding, Gladys
Baxter, Barbara Van Wormer, Vera and Frances
Knight, Lona Keller

Thelma "Ginny" McKeag: Mr. and Mrs. Eugene
Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grant, Mr. and Mrs.
Lawrence Langston, Alison Graves and Michael
Markowitz, Jamestown Council of Republican
Women, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Ward, Mr. and Mrs.
Randolph Mason, Mr. and Mrs. James Boatright,
Kathryn Goulding, The Aldersgate Sunday School
Class, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Boggs

Betty Baird Parkany: Rev. Marvin Willard, The
Susannah Wesley Circle

Martha Connolly Priest: Rebecca Peebles

Howard L. Setzer: Pat DeHaven

Anne Hart Worstell: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Spaulding,
The Aldersgate Sunday School Class, Mr. and Mrs.
Sam Fletcher, Jeanine Marshall and Michael Simer-
lein, Mr. and Mrs. George Dahlgren, Mr. and Mrs.
Jack Gabig, Deborah Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mas-
sengill, Barbara Heimlicher, Mr. and Mrs. Alan
Koch, Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGurik, Mr. and Mrs.
John Webster, Joe, Janet and Allison Drabek, Mr.
and Mrs. Richard Reynolds, The Micro Tour, Irene
Sadler, Ann Boehm, Mal Leininger, Mr. and Mrs.
Ed Kelley, Judith Gossett, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stilson,
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Fass, Barbara Lawson, Pat
Keiser, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Durboraw, Rev.
Marvin Willard, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Simpson, Mr.
and Mrs. Glen Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks,
Jo Ann Hinckley, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Daniel, The
Olive Casey Circle, Dorothy rooks, Mr. and Mrs.
Larry Mitchell, Antique Adventures, The Buck Fam-
ily, Mary Radoye, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Swiggett,
Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCulloch, Mr. and Mrs. Richard
Darcey, Pat DeHaven, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Waters,
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Angles, Jeanne McGee, John
and Frankie and rich and Shirley Latham,
Jamestown Council of Republican Women, Mr. and
Mrs. Otis Copley, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carlson,
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Conner, Mr. and Mrs. Corne-
lius Delorenzo, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Boggs, Mr.
and Mrs. Dale McHenry, The J.W. Shinholser Fam-
ily, Mr. and Mrs. Laughton Cockrell, Jr., Mr. and
Mrs. Ray Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Kramer Weissen-
born, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Freise, Mr. and Mrs.
Hayden Silver, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Pressly McCance,
Jr., Hazel Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henderson,
Mr. John Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hecker,
Sallie Young, Grace Colwell

David R. Ziskind: Nelson Funeral Home

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From the Music Ministry

January is a great time to join a choir! There are many opportunities to worship God through music this Winter and Spring, including a community concert of Messiah, parts I & II, and a joint concert for the children and youth with the world-renowned American Boy Choir! Here are the start up dates:

Sunday, Jan. 4 at 4:15 p.m.:	Canticles of Praise (gr. 6 - 12)
Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 6:00 p.m.:	Bells of Praise (gr. 6 - 12)
Thursday Jan. 8 at 5:15 p.m.:	Carol Choir (gr. K - 2)
	Joyful Noise Ringers (gr. 3 - 5)
6:15 p.m.:	Wesley Choir (gr. 3 - 5)
	Genesis Ringers (gr. K - 2)
7:15 p.m.:	Sanctuary Choir (college and adult)
Tuesday Jan. 13, 11:00 a.m.:	Sine Nomine Ringers (adult)
7:30 p.m.:	Covenant Ringers (adult)
Wednesday Jan. 28 at 7:00 p.m.:	Williamsburg Ringers (college-age)

For more information contact Carol Hunter (229-1771 x107)

The Music Ministries of the church wish to thank all the members who helped with our worship services, concerts, musicals and outreach activities during December. We especially thank the parents of youth and children who lent their support in so many ways.



Deadline for submissions to *The Messenger* is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted should be typed or neatly printed, limited to a half page in length and are subject to editing for our space requirements. Articles submitted to *The Messenger* can be emailed to jhunley@williamsburgumc.org