Pre-Fourth of July Church Picnic

June 28 from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the New Quarter Park in Queens Lake. Fried chicken and drinks provided, bring your favorite picnic side dish to share, and after dinner gather 'round the campfire for singing!
Dear WUMC friends, as I write this, Memorial Day is just around the corner. Our thoughts turn to those who have given their lives for our country and those who serve in the military. As most of you know, I serve as a military Chaplain with the National Guard. Some of you have asked about that ministry from time to time. I'd like to share with you an article that I wrote for the Virginia Advocate last year. Hopefully, this will give you some insights into my ministry with our soldiers. Blessings. Jim Driscoll

Chaplains often can offer ministry in unlikely places

By Col. Jim Driscoll

In mid-December a couple of years ago, I was at the Pentagon for one of my monthly duty days as the Reserve Chaplain there. It was the beginning of Hanukkah and the Jewish community at the Pentagon was having a celebration in our chapel. Since we did not have a rabbi on staff, we contracted a local rabbi to come in and provide a weekly prayer service for the Jewish personnel in the Pentagon. Rabbi Bash, who led the prayer gathering, was putting together that day's Hanukkah service.

I helped him to get things set up. I thought it might be interesting to sit in on the service and observe. But Rabbi Bash had other ideas. He asked me to participate in the service and offer one of the prayers. I was honored to do so and, wearing a yarmulke [skullcap], offered a Hanukkah prayer. It was very humbling and holy.

When the service was over, we adjourned across the hall to feast on the kosher food that had been provided for a reception.

As a military chapel, the Pentagon Chapel is utilized by all denominations and religions. On that particular day, our chapel was scheduled for a Friday afternoon Islamic service at 2 p.m., as Friday is the Muslim Holy Day. The Islamic folks began to arrive for their service just as the Jewish folks were beginning their feast across the hall from the chapel. Somewhere, somehow, the invitation came and gathered at the table and joined in the feast. It was a holy moment. I don't think I've ever seen anything like it in my life.

There we were, a United Methodist preacher, a Jewish rabbi, a group of observant Jews, and a congregation of faithful Muslims, gathered at table — in the Pentagon of all places — breaking bread, having fellowship and being God's children together.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see that kind of a gathering in the church or a synagogue or a mosque? I told a Virginia Conference colleague of this experience and she said, “There is the Kingdom of God.”

Military ministry is like that. Chaplains have opportunities to offer grace, share in worship and experience God's Kingdom in unlikely places. It may be in chapel at the Pentagon, a Communion table on a battlefield, or a hospital ward filled with injured soldiers.

The Army commissions chaplains to: “Nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the dead.” My experience at the Pentagon was certainly one of nurturing the living. Sometimes we are called up to do the other parts as well. I stood by an Arlington Cemetery graveside and committed the spirit of a 52-year-old sergeant into God's hands, and his body to its final resting place. He had been killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. In the midst of the pain and tragedy of war, chaplains are called to care for families, comfort grieving friends, and carry the grace and hope of God into places of pain and loss.

I am currently the state chaplain with the District of Columbia National Guard. In that capacity I encounter men and women of all ages, races, and religious backgrounds. For some of them, who do not have a local church, I am the only pastor they know. I work with them three to four days per month doing everything from funerals and weddings, to prayer breakfasts, and hospital visitation. Serving as a chaplain enriches my life and my overall ministry in the local congregation. After over 25 years of chaplaincy, I would do it all over again. The opportunity to share grace around a table with persons of diverse races and religions is a blessing I cherish. I am not sure if there are many places other than the chaplaincy where I could share in such a rich ministry.

I invite our Virginia Conference clergy to consider National Guard or Reserve chaplaincy and would be glad to discuss this ministry with any who are interested.

- Col. Jim Driscoll is state chaplain for the District of Columbia National Guard.
A host of generous individuals contributed to the success of the American Boychoir concert in May. It would take an entire Messenger to thank them all by name, so, I gratefully acknowledge the dedicated Task Force chairpersons and their numerous faithful committee members: Donna and Bill Herman, Publicity (and so much more!); Jean and Tim Bodine and Barbara Monteith, Pre-concert meal; Sandy van Leliveld, Housing; Ruth Mathew, Ticket Sales; Barbara Thomassen, Reception; The W.U.M.C. Redcoats, Ushers; David Coppinger and Troop 103 Boy Scouts, Greeters; All who either donated toward expenses or purchased tickets made it possible for this event to net $1,800 for the Marcia Koller Bowman Pipe Organ Fund. Thank you!

A sincere “thank you” goes to the choristers of the Canticles of Praise and Wesley Choirs who so capably represented our church in the concert, to their parents who supported them in this undertaking and to Elisabeth Deaton, Lou Pulley and Alice Real, accompanists.

Sincerely,

Cindy Freeman

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The Memorial Garden

A Consecration Ceremony was held April 26 in the Memorial Garden. Jim Driscoll, Senior Pastor and Mike Meloy, Congregational Care Minister, led the service. The Memorial Garden Committee presented the garden and acknowledgments were given by Ann Brown-Hailey, Chairperson of the Memorial Garden Committee. The Memorial Garden was given by Judy and Gordon Angles in memory of their son, Kevin Angles.

May this garden be a holy place, a peaceful place, a place of healing and hope.
Our next Moms’ Lunch gatherings will be on Tuesday, June 2 at 11:30 a.m. We welcome all moms of children ages infant through elementary school to join us for a time of fellowship and occasional special presentations. Childcare is always provided. Please bring $5.00 for lunch. Contact Cindy Banek for more information (229-1771 x258).

Our new Young Adult Sunday School class meets Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Rm.101. If you are post-high school, college-aged or twenty-something, then this class is for you! If you are just home for the summer or live here year ‘round, then this class is for you, too! We are very thrilled to announce that our senior pastor, Rev. Jim Driscoll and his wife, Katheryn, are the class facilitators through the summer. This class will be ongoing throughout the year, so come and join when you can! Contact Cindy Banek (229-1771 x258).

We NEED You!!

We are providing our Sunday School teachers with a well-needed break, so we need adults of all ages to help in our children’s Sunday School classes this summer. Lessons are provided. Sign-up sheets are posted next to Room 207 (Education wing). Thanks!

Crocodile Dock Vacation Bible School: July 6 – 10 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We welcome all children, ages 3 yrs. (potty trained) - rising 6th grade. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Registration forms are located at the Welcome Desk by the church office. We also need many volunteers. We can’t do this without YOU, and our children are counting on your help! Contact Cindy Banek for more information (229-1771 x258).

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Our 2nd Annual Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch for teachers of children and youth will be held on Sunday, June 14 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. All children and youth and their families are invited to this special time to honor these remarkable volunteers in our Christian Education ministry. If you would like to provide food for our brunch, please contact Cindy Banek (229-1771 x258).

Comfy pajamas and a good book to read. What could be a better combination! Local Outreach will be collecting NEW children’s pajamas to pair with a book (provided by Williamsburg Area Reading Council) for local children that are involved with Foster Care and Child Protective Services. Get creative and hold a pajama collection party, or let your child pick a pair out that they would like to see a less fortunate child enjoy. Place the pajamas in the marked bin in the church closet on Sunday. Thank you for helping make this a success!

Friday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. the Green Initiative will be showing the movie Arctic Tale. This movie for the whole family is a real-life adventure about two arctic creatures, Nanu, the polar bear cub and Seela, the walrus pup. Armed only with their natural instincts and mothers' guidance, these inspiring animals experience countless trials in a beautiful icebound world that is rapidly melting beneath them. This is a National Geographic production.

The United Methodist Men will meet Saturday, June 6, at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The program will feature President Taylor Reveley of W&M. All men of the Church are cordially invited! RSVP to Dick Spaulding (565-6252) by Monday, June 1.
From the Youth Ministry Office

In the 2008 Disney film *Bolt*, a canine TV star by the same name believes his on-screen adventures are real and, somewhat predictably, hilarity and life-lessons ensue. Along the way, Bolt meets a domesticated hamster named Rhino (*pause for comedic effect*) who shares Bolt’s inability to separate reality from what he sees on “the magic box.” As Rhino joins Bolt’s cross-country journey home, his excitement boils over and he chants, “Let it begin, let it begin!” Well, as June arrives and spring turns to summer in the world of Youth Ministry, we move closer to our own cross-country journeys which are sure to be packed with hilarity and life-lessons of their own. And so, in solidarity with Rhino-the-hamster, we join his chorus: Let it begin!

Although Confirmation on May 31 put the official wraps on our weekly “Regular Season” events, the YM Summer Calendar is still chock-full of other events. Already on the books are graduation celebrations, concerts at Busch Gardens, exam-week “Study & Sanity Breaks” and mission trip-preparation events. Please join us on Father’s Day, June 21, as we Commission our Middle School Missions Team moments before they head off to Jeremiah Project (JP) in Winchester, VA. Early July brings the Independence Day Fireworks in CW and the July 5th Commissioning of our High School Missions Team in advance of their July 11 departure to Service Over Self (SOS) in Memphis, TN. We also hope to add other fun-stuff throughout the summer months, like baseball games, mini-golf and pool parties as schedules permit.

Keep all the YM Summer Events straight by subscribing to our weekly email newsletter (email tquery@williamasburgumc.org to subscribe), by becoming a Fan of our Facebook Page (search Facebook.com for “WUMC Youth Ministry”) or by checking our “Blog” (visit www.StayInTheLoop.wordpress.com). You can even “subscribe” to blog updates with RSS feeds on your Google or Yahoo! homepage. If you’re wondering what any of this means, ask a student…I’m sure they can help clear it up, and you might even make a new friend out of the deal! Have a great summer!

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**Father’s Day at the Crossroads Table**

At the Crossroads Table on June 21, celebrate Father’s Day with some delicious cookies for your father, grandfather or any other man who has been like a father to you! Children’s Ministry is providing home-baked cookies to honor the men in our lives. Donations for the cookies will benefit the Salvation Army.
Dear Congregation,

Thank you so much for your support of the Music Ministries and of my endeavors among you these past 11 years! I have truly been blessed to have been called to God’s work in this place. You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as I move to my new calling—to help my parents. Thank you for the beautiful reception, the love offering and the delightful music box. I have many fond memories to carry with me. Bless you all as you do God’s work in the church, community and world.

In Christ,
Carol

What is School of Christian Mission? It is a yearly opportunity to learn about being partners in God's global mission and to grow spiritually through study, worship, and Christian fellowship. Anyone who has a passion for mission should definitely be there!!!

**Where**  
Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, Blackstone

**When**  
July 24-26 OR July 27-30

**Topics of Study**  
The Beauty and Courage of Sudan; Food and Faith; Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival

**Who Should Attend**  
men, women, youth (13-18), children (6-12), clergy and laity

**For more info**  
brochures are on the UMW bulletin board or call Debbie Lewis (253-0626)
In Remembrance ...

Margaret Gerth, who died (sister of Martha Coakley)
Zig Volskis, who died May 2 (brother of Astrida Bishop)
Lionel Taylor, whose father died May 6
  (Lionel is one of our Divine Janitorial staff)
Geraldine Spangler, who died May 8 (mother of Cindy Weber)

Our Condolences to the family of…

Local Outreach - Summer Food Drive

The Local Outreach Committee would like to ask for your help in replenishing the shelves of our community food banks! We need **canned fruits, vegetables, pasta, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, tuna and other canned meats**. Please bring **as often as you are able** and each week we will deliver it to the following agencies:

**June 1 to Sunday June 7** – **LINK** of Hampton Roads collaborates closely with other service agencies to provide supportive services through the Emergency Service Center, which includes providing household goods and furniture, cars, clothing, gas, bus tickets, food and sometimes assistance with a room for the night.

**June 8 to Sunday June 14** – **Salvation Army** – With the increased cost of food and fuel, the number of families in need is growing. If the pantry is empty, many of their clients go without eating regularly.

**June 15 to Sunday June 21** – **FISH** – Bring in your donations to FISH this week to help keep the shelves stocked for local community members.

**June 22 to Sunday June 30** – **From His Hand** serves the residents of Highland Park. Members of WUMC prepare and serve approximately 50 lunches for neighborhood children and adults once a month. In this way, we have built a strong relationship with the people of Highland Park, sharing God's love and grace.
Exploring The Church's Endowment History

An informational forum will be presented on Sunday, June 21 during the Sunday School hour 9:30-10:30 a.m. A history, and documents explaining the Endowments will be presented, along with the missions of each of the four existing designated funds. In addition we will offer reviews of members legal and tax work to help you identify opportunities of which you may take advantage. This forum will be hosted by Bruce Jackson, Chair of The Endowment Committee; Bill Chatfield, Chair of The Finance Committee and Bob Spencer, Esq.

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. Articles submitted to *The Messenger* can be emailed to jhunley@williamsburgumc.org