A Time of New Beginnings!!

Sunday School Kick-Off
Sunday, September 13
9:30 – 10:30 am
Children’s Sunday School Classes, Youth Classes, Adult Sunday School Classes
(Classrooms listed in the pull out section.)

Celebrate our Christian Educators
on
Christian Education Sunday
September 20
Join us for both services where our teachers and leaders in Christian Education will be recognized and dedicated.
We’ll have brunch in the Atrium between services!

Music Ministry Opportunities
Registration NOW in the Atrium.
Richard Sowers (229-1771 x107), Cindy Freeman (229-1771 x108) or Tom Marshall (229-8064) or (713-0584).

Join our New Studies
David Hindman will lead a Special Sunday School Class: Israel-Palestine Study. A 30 week Christian Believers class (begins Sept. 9) will be facilitated by Rev. Vince Sutlive and Charlotte McCarther, and a 34 week Disciple I class facilitated by Cindy Banek begins Sept. 29. Read more about our studies in the pull-out section and on our website: www.williamsburgumc.org
Return to Routine

For many, the arrival of September brings a certain level of disorientation. Even as the memories of vacations, visits, or simply “vegging” out remain fresh in our minds, visions of backpacks and books dance in our heads. As the hot and humid days of summer linger on, the cool, colorful days of autumn seem only weeks away. And though we’ve enjoyed our annual opportunity to get away from the frantic pace of life, we’re ready to get back on a regular schedule. Like it or not, most of us are creatures of habit, and we’re ready for a return to routine.

If you’re anything like me, your routine revolves around things to do and people to see, with a smattering of eating and sleeping. With each passing day, I watch as my calendar fills up little by little with appointments and obligations. No doubt your routine includes commitments to your work, to your friends, to your family, and to yourself.

Let us not forget to include God in our routine this Fall. With so much going on in our lives, it’s easy to run out of the time and energy needed to sustain a committed relationship with God. As the earliest Methodists knew well, a healthy spiritual life is best attained through disciplined spiritual practices. They knew the power and presence of God was most readily experienced through a regular routine of prayer and Bible study, not to mention weekly communion, fasting, and frequent visits to the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned. For them, a routine filled with these things (and more!) was an essential means of giving and receiving God’s grace.

As we begin this September together at WUMC, I invite you to add God to your routine in some new or renewed way. Invite God into your life outside your regular attendance of Sunday worship services. If you’re skipping Sunday School, start going. If you going to Sunday School, come to the Senior Pastor’s Study on Wednesday nights (or join some other weekday study). If you have young children, make sure they’re involved in one of the many children’s activities at the church. And if you’re already nurturing your faith with prayer and study, why not start transforming our world by serving?

May God’s grace and peace be with you this month as you return to your routine.

Marc Rickabaugh
Associate Pastor

Deadline for submissions to The Messenger is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted should be typed (Times New Roman 12 pt. font) 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
You’re Invited!

Saturday, October 17, 2 – 5 PM
Fellowship Hall
$10.00 suggested donation per adult
(TO BENEFIT THE SCHOOL’S PROGRAMS)

Children admitted FREE!

Come one! Come all! Help the Early Childhood Music School celebrate twenty years of excellence in education at Williamsburg United Methodist Church!

Free rhythm instrument for the first 25 children
Entertainment by faculty, students and alumni
Clowns & Magician
Silent Auction & “Books for Bucks” Sale
Music activities for the whole family
Free Hotdog supper & ice cream
Lots of FUN for all ages!

Information: Cindy Freeman, 229-1771 or cfreeman@williamsburgumc.org

The Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden is a place for meditation and contemplation as well as a site for placement of cremains (human ashes). Two different placement options are available: placement in a niche in the columbarium or interment in the ground in a biodegradable container.

The prices for placement in the Memorial Garden remain the same as last year:

- $3500 companion niche in the columbarium (2 urns)
- $3000 individual niche in the columbarium (1 urn)
- $500 per individual for interment in the ground

For those interested in a payment plan for purchasing a placement, you may wish to consider a membership in the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union. Applications for the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union are available on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Chancel doors or at any Memorial Garden information session.

The Memorial Garden Committee will be hosting the Crossroad Table Sunday, September 13 and Sunday, October 25. A purchase and information session will be held September 15 at 10 a.m. in Room 259. Watch the bulletin for future session dates.
It's the season of change...new classes, new activities and soon new colors in nature and a new location for our church library. Yes, the library is moving across the hall into the old education offices and soon we'll begin packing up the collection so some shelving can be relocated. For your convenience, the reference section, UMW collection and a display of our books on the Middle East for your perusal in conjunction with Bishop Chacour's visit will remain accessible for the duration of the process and space set aside to facilitate the checking out and returning of these resources. A selection of new adult and children's books will also be obtainable for as long as possible.

Your library staff is excited about this move and the opportunity this more adequate space provides to create a truly serviceable library for all ages and needs. We are grateful to the Trustees for their support in making this space available and to all those who are donating resources, time and labor to help accomplish this move with minimal expense to the church. A few more painters are needed. The exact time frame for painting is uncertain at this point, however we are looking at late September to sometime in October. If you can help, please e-mail bchat@cox.net or call (564-9296) Lou Chatfield. Thank you in advance for your help and your patience as we make this transition.

As announced in the bulletin several weeks ago, Courtney and Dan Randall (Covenant Missionaries in Latvia) welcomed a new baby daughter, Ceara Louise Randall. Recently on his Blog, I was able to find some of his real feelings of being in a strange place and starting a new experience such as becoming parents.

He said:

*Not quite sure how to start this one...This summer I am experiencing that process of being broken-and I hope it is for the process of rebuilding and renewal... I hope. It’s never fun, but in God’s way and time it is always good. Part of it comes from being apart from my wife and (new) daughter; from not being able to communicate fully (with the Latvian people) and the ensuing misunderstandings; from trying to forge a new way and meeting resistance because it is not the old way; and because I still have much learning and growing to do...I am trying to learn, yet I think I may only do so in retrospect-which makes the present breaking down super hard. “But I know that my Redeemer lives...” I will not be abandoned. I will not be left in pieces. In that truth of God’s faithfulness I can hope.*

In his blog he lists some long term prayer concerns we can put on our prayer lists:

1. **Language** - we have learned some basics, yet we need patience and time to practice what we have learned. Some days are just plain hard for the people of Latvia - both Latvian and Russian - who long for hope, peace, and meaning in life yet dismiss Church and God as anachronistic. For the Church that, unfortunately, at times gives people a good reason to think Church and God are anachronistic. For the United Methodist Church in Latvia (LAMB) - that her members would have vision and hope, and that they would know God's love and presence in deep, tangible ways.

2. Keep them in your prayers!
Sunday School Kick-Off
Sunday, September 13
9:30 – 10:30 am

Children’s Sunday School Classes
2- and 3-year-olds: Room 202
4-year-olds and Pre-K: Room 207
Kindergarten: Room 201
First Grade: Room 306
Second and Third Grades: Room 302
Fourth and Fifth Grades: Room 301

Youth Classes
Confirmation (6th grade): Room 158
Middle School: Room 161
Senior High: Room 160

Adult Sunday School
Adult Bible Study Class: Room 174 (Study: “James, Faith that Works”)
Aldersgate: Wesley Hall (Various speakers and topics)
Bishop McKendree: Room 101 (Various speakers and topics)
Family Ties: Room 309 (Study: “The Pilgrim’s Progress” led by Rev. Rickabaugh)
Fellowship Class: Room 103 (Study: International Uniform Lesson Series)
Pathfinders: Temporary parlor (Study: Christian Parenting)
Searchers Class: Room 171 (Attending Israel-Palestine Study)
Young Adult/College Class: Room 101 (Attending Israel-Palestine Study)
Special Needs Class: Room 104 (Study: “Access” curriculum)

Special Sunday School Class: Israel-Palestine Study
Rev. David Hindman will lead this study of the current situation in Israel and Palestine during the Sunday School hour from 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall (new location). This is a 6-week study from August 30 – October 4. A resource book is available for purchase. This course is offered in preparation for the visit to Williamsburg on September 24 of Elias Chacour, Melkite Archbishop of Galilee. To register for this course, call the church office (229-1771).

Christian Education Sunday – September 20
This is the Sunday set aside each year for the celebration of Christian Education ministry in our church. During both worship services, our third graders will be receiving their Bibles, and our teachers and leaders in Christian Education will be recognized and dedicated. Please note, if you have a third grader who has not received a letter in the mail regarding his/her Bible, please contact Cindy Banek (229-1771 x258).

Christian Believer begins Wednesday, September 9 from 9:00 – 11:30 am
This is a 30-week study focusing on the classical teachings of the Christian faith. Our facilitators are Rev. Vince Sutlive and Charlotte McCarter. To register for this class call the Church office (229-1771).
Music Ministry Opportunities

Join us each week as we have fun and minister to others through music. Registration is August 23 – September 6 in the Atrium. Questions? Call Richard Sowers (229-1771 x107), Cindy Freeman (229-1771 x108) or Tom Marshall (229-8064) or (713-0584).

For Adults

Sanctuary Choir: Rehearses Thursdays, 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. Sings at the 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services (your choice) and presents major works twice a year as well as outreach concerts in care facilities. Childcare is available. **Start-up date: August 20**  Director: Richard Sowers

Covenant Ringers (Adult/College-age): Rehearses Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. This choir plays in worship monthly, in concert one or two times a year, participates in occasional outreach projects and handbell festivals. Childcare is available. **Start-up date: TBA**  Director: TBA

Sine Nomine Ringers: Rehearses Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. This is a daytime choir of beginning/intermediate level handbell ringers. Childcare is available. **Start-up date: September 8**  Director: Richard Sowers

Williamsburg Ringers (College-age): Rehearses Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. These advanced ringers play regularly in worship, present concerts and make tours, ringing six octaves of bells. **Start-up date: August 26**  Director: Tom Marshall

Orchestra: Instrumentalists of intermediate to advanced ability rehearse 3 Mondays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. prior to playing quarterly in worship. **Start-up date: September 14**  Director: Richard Sowers

For Youth (Grades 6 - 12)

Canticles of Praise Choir: Rehearses Sundays, 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. The Canticles sing exciting music in worship, and enjoy weekly fellowship with refreshments. **Start-up date: September 13**  Director: Cindy Freeman

Bells of Praise Handbell Choir: Rehearses Wednesdays, 6:00 to 6:55 p.m. Beginner/intermediate level ringers play in worship monthly, participate in a fall festival and the Christmas and spring concerts. Commitment and faithful attendance are essential. **Start-up date: September 16**  Director: Tom Marshall

Orchestra: Instrumentalists of intermediate to advanced ability rehearse 3 Mondays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. prior to playing quarterly in worship. **Start-up date: September 14**  Director: Richard Sowers

For Children  Bring Mom and Dad to the 1st rehearsal for a brief parents’ meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Carol Choir (Grades K, 1 & 2): Rehearses Thursdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Sings in worship monthly and joins the Wesley Choir for a musical and the Christmas Eve family service. **Start-up date: September 10**  Director: Cindy Freeman

Wesley Choir (Grades 3, 4 & 5): Rehearses Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Sings monthly for worship, participates in the Christmas Eve family service and performs a musical. **Start-up date: September 10** Director: Cindy Freeman

Joyful Noise Ringers Handbell Choir (Grades 3, 4 & 5): Rehearses Thursdays, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Regular weekly attendance is a must since each ringer has an assigned position. **Start-up date: September 10**  Director: TBA

Genesis Ringers Chime Choir (Grades K, 1 & 2): Rehearses Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. Much parental support is needed as children learn ringing techniques and musicianship. **Start-up date: September 10**  Director: Sherry Frazier
**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE YOUTH MINISTRY**

In the world of Youth Ministry, September feels more like a “new year” than January. The truth is that this month brings lots of excitement into the lower-level of the addition. Like what? I’m glad you asked!!

Coming this fall:

**Welcome Sixth Graders!** From the newest members of Youth Group to the 2009-10 Confirmation Class, 6th Grade is an important year…and we’re glad to have you on board!

**Kickoff Potluck Cookout** for all 6th-12th grade students! September 13 in the Church Parking Lot. We’ll provide games, beverages and the “main course” (burgers, hot dogs & condiments), you provide the rest: last names beginning with A-L bring a “side dish” (e.g. fruit, veggies, baked beans, chips-n-dip) last names M-Z bring a “dessert” (e.g. cookies, brownies) to share.

**New Program Offerings!**

*Reel to Real* (Middle School) and *Reel Faith* (High School) are part movie night, part pizza party and part group discussion. More info and kickoff dates to come.

Issue-based and special-interest discussion groups. Short-term gatherings designed to address questions and issues of interest to students. Day(s)/time TBA.

**Other Returning Offerings!**

*Weekly UMYF Gatherings.* Usual Sunday Schedule finds all 6th-12th Grade Youth meeting at 5:30 p.m. for Snack Supper in Room 174, followed by separate Youth Group gatherings for 6th - 8th Grade and 9th - 12th Grade.

*Basic Guitar “Jam”* in the Youth Center. Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. beginning September 16

Keep up with all UMYF happenings by tracking us online! Become a fan of the “WUMC Youth Ministry” Facebook Page and check our Blog page weekly at www.StayInTheLoop.wordpress.com Links to both pages appear on the “Youth Home” Page at www.WilliamsburgUMC.org
Opportunities For Ministry

The Wesley Foundation invites Williamsburg Church folks to attend one or both occasions on Sept. 24, when Archbishop Elias Chacour will address the topic of peace and reconciliation from a faith perspective. The Archbishop has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and has received the World Methodist Peace Prize and Japan's Niwano Peace Prize. He is the author of Blood Brothers and We Belong to the Land.

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Wesley Foundation, Lunch provided for $10. First person account of the Israel-Palestine conflict, with proposals for how conflict can be addressed faithfully in the Middle East as well as here at home. Checks for lunch (payable to "Wesley Foundation") should be mailed no later than Sept. 21 to Wesley Foundation, 526 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

8:00 p.m.: Andrews Hall 101 at W&M (back side of Phi Beta Kappa Hall). Free public address by Archbishop Chacour on "Faith, Peace and Reconciliation"

If you plan to go to one or both events, please go to www.doodle.com/pv8iz7bhdq5d9ef to indicate which event(s) you will attend. Questions? Contact the Wesley Foundation at (229-6832 or dmhind@wm.edu)

The Senior Pastor’s Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be studying the Epistles, beginning with the book of Galatians. No pre-registration is required.

Our monthly 50’s Plus luncheon group will resume its meetings on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Our 50 Plus group is open to any one 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 fun, food and fellowship!

Our next Moms’ Lunch will be on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at noon. We will discuss plans for the upcoming year. All moms of children ages infant through 5th grade are invited to join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship. Childcare is provided by the church free of charge. Just bring $5.00 per family for lunch for moms and children. If you could like to be a part of our Moms’ Lunch group, please call Cindy Banek (229-1771).

The Green Initiative wants to thank you for your contributions to the recycling bins. For those of you who don't know, we are collecting sneakers, batteries, eye glasses and wire coat hangers in the bins in the closet between the parking lot door and the atrium. Also in the kitchen there is a bin for plastics with numbers 3-7 & 1s & 2s with no necks. Thanks!

Enjoy knitting? Come join our Shawl Ministry Get-togethers! We meet once a quarter: good fellowship for a good cause. Questions? Call Nancy Brown (564-3047)

Our Congratulations to…

Richard and Carol Prosl, whose grand daughter, Caitlyn Jane Arnold was born August 2.
Richard and Jackie Gordon, whose grandson, Richard Blaine Satterfield was born August 7.
Dianne Colton, whose grandson, Matthew Houston Caldwell was born August 11.

Our Condolences to the families of...

Lillian Evans, who died July 20, (sister-in-law of Charlotte Copley).
Lucille Vitamvas, who died July 20.
Millicent Brown, who died August 7, (wife of Charles).
Robert (Bob) Blake, who died August 8, (husband of Dixie).
Lucille Smith, who died August 9, (mother of Jim Smith).
Kenneth Hugh, who died August 17, (father of Beverly Tressler).
Jeff Miller, who died August 23, (husband of Susan).
From the Stewardship Committee

As we lead up to the start of our annual stewardship program, let’s not lose sight of why we are doing this. On so many levels, it is a marvelous opportunity for each of us to grow spiritually and, by so doing, help to grow God’s ministries in our congregation and community. The goal of Christian stewardship, which is different from the goal of secular fund-raising, is the faithful management of all that God gives us. Let each one of us focus on why we think that God is calling to give, not simply on what the Church needs.

Thank you!

LAY SPEAKING MINISTRIES
Basic and Advanced Training Classes
SEPTEMBER 25 & 26 at NEWTOWN UMC, WILLIAMSBURG

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend one of the classes being offered. If you have taken Lay Speaking classes previously, then you know how rewarding they are. If this is your first time, then we welcome you to all the possibilities that can come as you grow and use the gifts that God has given you.

Please review the information about Lay Speaking Ministries on the Peninsula District website www.gbgm-umc.org/pendist/index.htm. We have provided the registration form for this next training event at the District website, so do not delay in printing it out and sending it in now. Below are the current courses being offered and summaries of the books being used may be read at Cokesbury www.cokesbury.com

**Basic Course:** Instructor is Barbara Freeman, CLS, Tabernacle UMC, Poquoson. Book to be used: “Lay Speaking Ministries” by Sandy Zeigler Jackson with Brian Jackson.

**Advanced Course:** Instructor is Rev. Norman Tippens, Pastor, Wallace Memorial UMC. Book to be used: “Each One A Minister” by William J. Carter. Also this book: “Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts”, by William J. Carter. This course is a guide for those wishing to identify and use spiritual gifts. *(You must have taken basic course to be eligible for advanced course)*

If you have any questions concerning this ministry of the laity, please contact the Peninsula District Office (757-596-3476). We look forward to welcoming you at this event and to all the possibilities that can come as you grow and use the gifts that God has given you.

MINISTRY TO THE MILITARY SURVEY

Williamsburg UMC is developing a program of ministry to member to the military and their families. As a first step, we are attempting to identify veterans, active-duty military, National Guard and Reservists. *Please place this form in the offering plate or in the church office.* If you have questions, contact Vince Sutlive (253-0754 or vhsutl@wm.edu). Thank you!

I am a veteran/active duty military:

Name:__________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
Phone:__________________________________________

I served/am serving in the ___ Army ___ Navy ___ Marines ___ Air Force ___ Coast Guard ___ WACS ___ WAVES ___ Reservist ___ National Guard

___ I am interested in participating in WUMC’s Military Ministry.
Williamsburg UMC will host a voting precinct for the Berkeley District during 2010 and 2011. This two year probationary period will allow five elections to be held in our Fellowship Hall.

Election dates to remember are as follows:

- **May 4, 2010** - municipal elections
- **June 14, 2010** - prim. for VA Senate & House of Delegates
- **November 8, 2011** - gen. for VA Senate & House of Delegates

The Berkeley District projected voter count in the reconfigured precinct will be 3850. In continued support of the mission of this church to Welcome, Nurture, and Transform, the Trustees have reversed an earlier decision, and have now authorized the voting precinct.

At our meeting on August 13, the City Manager Jack Tuttle and members of the Electoral Board made a presentation to our Board.

We are convinced this decision will serve us well, and will strengthen our relationship with the City and community.