

The Messenger

April 2011

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 17 - Worship at 8:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 21 - Worship at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 22 - Tenebrae service at 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service - 6:30 a.m.

Traditional Worship - 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

(Sunday School will not be held Easter Sunday)

Childcare is available for all services except Easter Sunrise



Understanding Our Budget

by Senior Pastor Bill Jones

In this column last month I began a brief description of the section of our church budget we United Methodists refer to as "apportionments" or Conference Askings. Apportionments support the connectional work of Christ's ministry in our denomination both locally and globally. The following descriptions continue the interpretation of our apportionments.

Retiree, Disabled and Widowed Fund: Provides funding for the unfunded portion of the pension plan for ministers' service years prior to the implementation of the Ministerial Pension Plan and Comprehensive Protection Plan on January 1, 1982 in addition to medical benefits for retired and disabled ministers and widows or widowers.

Conference Health Plan: Provides medical benefits for active clergy and direct billings to churches for the clergy share of the plan.

District Superintendents Fund: Provides for salaries, pensions, supplemental medical benefits, travel, workers compensation and continuing education for the district superintendents of the Virginia Conference.

Conference Services Fund: Funds the variety of services provided for the local churches through such functions as the Conference Treasurer's Office, the Annual Conference Session, conference publications, computer services, and mortgage on conference center and telephone services.

Education Fund: Provides support to five Virginia Conference church-related colleges and universities and one preparatory school. The major portion of the funds is used for scholarship assistance for United Methodist students attending these schools.

Ministerial Education Fund: Helps recruit and train effective United Methodist ministers. Three-fourths goes to support our thirteen United Methodist theological schools and seminaries. The other one-fourth provides financial assistance for Virginia Conference students enrolled in seminaries and to assist active ministers with the costs of continuing education.



If you would like to submit an article for publication in the Messenger, the deadline for submittals is the 15th of the month. They can be submitted by e-mail to Lianne Koch at lkoch@williamsburgumc.org. If you have any questions, please e-mail Lianne or call 229-1771.

Thoughts from Allie



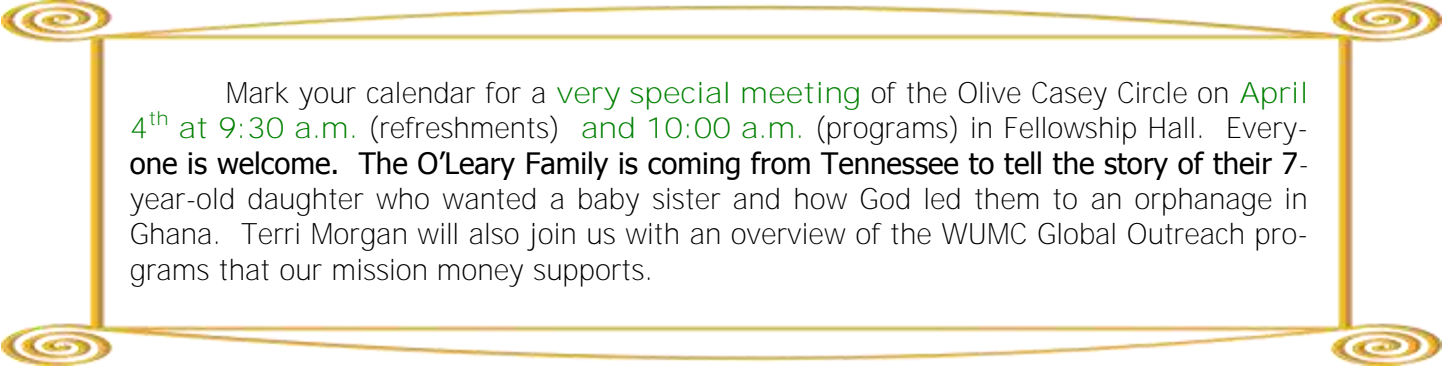
By the time you read this Lent will be about halfway over, which in my **experience means it's time to take another look at the spiritual disciplines we have** (maybe) chosen and have (maybe) given up on by now. So, I offer some mid-Lent reflections on discipline:

My first introduction to the concept of Lenten discipline came from my two Catholic aunts when I was young. They gave up sweets each Lent, so I thought I should, too, and I did. I started giving up sweets for Lent in the fifth grade. As I got older, I realized my main goal in doing so had less to do with spiritual preparation and more to do with getting really skinny by Easter. Not only was this never effective, but it was also missing the point. So I began to try some different things to get at the spiritual heart of Lent. One year was a Diet Coke fast, which still felt superficial. For two years in seminary, inspired by my pastor at the time, I gave up buying unnecessary things. Groceries and gas were OK, clothes and Chik-Fil-A milkshakes were not. That was a little closer. For the past few years I have been blogging during Lent, writing down one theological thought a day (when I am good) in hopes of learning to see my daily life more and more through God-colored glasses.

Whatever disciplines we have chosen, they should be things that respond to the invitation of the prophet Joel each Ash Wednesday: things that help us turn our hearts toward God.

When we turn our hearts toward God, we turn them also toward our neighbors. As a church, one way we observe Lent is through our special Lenten offering, which benefits three missions selected by our Local and Global Outreach committees. If you gave something up for Lent which saves you money, maybe you could use what you save in support of these organizations and projects, or in support of relief efforts in Japan, or both. Perhaps Lent can also be a time to be intentional about serving others in a more hands-on way, or a time to practice seeing people around us differently. Pay attention to people who would ordinarily be in the background of your life; imagine what their stories might be. Barbara Brown Taylor calls this **"practicing reverence" on people.**

At the beginning of Lent, we turn our hearts—**let's keep them turning, through Easter and beyond.**



Mark your calendar for a **very special meeting** of the Olive Casey Circle on **April 4th at 9:30 a.m.** (refreshments) **and 10:00 a.m.** (programs) in Fellowship Hall. **Everyone is welcome. The O'Leary Family is coming from Tennessee to tell the story of their 7-year-old daughter who wanted a baby sister and how God led them to an orphanage in Ghana. Terri Morgan will also join us with an overview of the WUMC Global Outreach programs that our mission money supports.**



Williamsburg United Methodist Women

April 2011 – UMW Circle Meetings

[Olive Casey Circle](#) – Monday, April 4th, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, speakers will be Terri Morgan, Chairman of Global Ministry Committee at WUMC & the O'Leary Family from Tennessee.

[Mary Lou Clarke/Heritage Circle](#) – Tuesday, April 5th, at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

[Jean Craig Circle](#) – Tuesday, April 5th, 1:30 p.m. in Chambrel Activities Room. The program will be "A Lenten Road Show."

[Susannah Wesley Circle](#) – Wednesday, April 6th, 10:00 a.m. in UMW Room 309. Guest will speak about the Islamic faith.

[Friendship Circle](#) – Monday, April 11th, 10:30 a.m. in UMW Room 309.

[Windsor Meade Circle](#) – Monday, April 11th, 10:30 a.m. in the Ballroom of Windsor Hall. The speaker will be the Chaplain at Sentara Williamsburg Hospital.

[Carol Scott Circle](#) – Tuesday, April 12th, at 1:00 p.m. in Church Den.

[Sisters in Faith Circle](#) – Tuesday, April 12th, 7:00 p.m. in UMW Room 309. Mary Jo Bennett will talk about the Lackey Clinic and her trip with the Hooks to Honduras.

[Williamsburg Landing Circle](#) – Tuesday, April 19th, 10:30 a.m., 2nd floor, Studio 200, Williamsburg Landing Building.

Important Dates to Remember

April 16th is WUMC Candle Burning, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

April 25th is Local UMW Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in Room 309



Continuing BAZAAR News . . .

Button, Button, Who's Got the Buttons

At the UMW Bazaar this November 5th we will have a Silent Auction. One of the items to be auctioned will be a container full of buttons. A glass container has been placed in the area outside the main office on the desk, and we would like everyone to contribute buttons! You may have buttons from an old dress, shirt, trousers, coat, jacket, etc. Before you throw away any items of clothing, remove the buttons, bring them to church, and put the buttons in our container. Remember, even one will add up! Thank you. **Questions?** Call Ruth Simpson (229-2070).

Also, the Mary Lou Clarke/Heritage Circle will chair the Attic Treasures Booth and they are suggesting the donation of the following items:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Platters | <input type="radio"/> Pretty Bowls | <input type="radio"/> Dishes |
| <input type="radio"/> Serving Pieces | <input type="radio"/> Silver | <input type="radio"/> Crystal |
| <input type="radio"/> China Pieces | <input type="radio"/> Nice Lamps | <input type="radio"/> Decorative Bowls |
| <input type="radio"/> Tea Cups | <input type="radio"/> Paintings | <input type="radio"/> Objects d'Art |
| <input type="radio"/> Collectibles | <input type="radio"/> Fine Linens & Lace | <input type="radio"/> Dresser Sets |
| <input type="radio"/> Vintage Table Decorations | | |

If you have questions about the Attic Treasures donations, please call Dorothy Voorhis (258-0729) or Betty Nicholls (645-2193).



UMW Candle Burning Service

The United Methodist Women will hold their annual **Candle Burning Service on April 16 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. The purpose of this service is to honor or memorialize persons who have been a special "light" in your life and to raise funds for missions of the United Methodist Church around the world. These donations will go to long-term projects like women's hospitals, schools in foreign lands, and to more recently established ministries in war-ravaged countries.

We invite you to be a part of our service of remembering/honoring someone in your life. There will be posters and forms around the church for you to complete and place in the "Candle Burning Box" in the church office. Also, you may come by the Crossroads Table on April 10 in the church atrium at which you may complete the forms and make your donation. For each 60¢ donated the candle will burn for one (1) second.

Everyone is invited to participate in this service of remembering and honoring those special in our lives.



Library News

New books continue to arrive in our church library. Among our latest additions is a complete set of commentaries on the New Testament by renowned scholar, Tom Wright. These readable commentaries, suitable for the beginner as well as the more experienced student, provide invaluable background detail and a wealth of information to help the reader better understand each passage. They promise to be an excellent resource for facilitators of class studies and your personal Bible study. You'll find them in the Resource Room.

For the children, a favorite reptile returns in *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth* with another lesson in caring for one another and our world. Our thanks to Anne Beckley for her gift of this book. Another new children's book you'll want to check out is *All God's Critics*. Here you'll meet a wonderful menagerie of animals, joyfully singing their hearts out as they share the message..."all have a place in God's choir."

Now a special note for grandparents...if you haven't visited the children's room in our library, you are in for a treat. Bright and cheerful with, thanks to Bud and Marylyn Voorhess, adorable, stuffed animals peeking down from the shelves and a big, stuffed bear who just loves hugs, it is a wonderful place to bring visiting grandchildren for a story hour or to check out books if they are staying for awhile.

"When you read to a child, when you put a book in a child's hands, you are bringing that child news of the infinitely varied nature of life. You are an awakener."—Paula Fox



We Did It!! The Pew Cleaning Project!!

Church Trustee Kay Hollandsworth organized a group of 25 willing and able volunteers to refurbish the dark wood portion of our sanctuary pews. First the wood was thoroughly cleaned (54 man hours), and then the wood was polished for protection and appearance (25 man hours). Obviously, this was very labor-intensive work, and we all thank Kay and her crew of volunteers for their diligence and dedication. The results certainly speak for themselves!

From the Trustee's Corner . . .

The trustees have been extremely active the first quarter of 2011:

1. Parking Lot Lighting

We have replaced all outdoor parking lot fixtures and added brighter, more efficient lighting. This will add much greater security for our members and guests during evening hours and should eliminate approximately \$800.00 per year in electrical costs.



2. Atrium Roof Repair



The necessary work to stop "on going" leaks in the atrium has been completed. The DeShazio Roofing Company, recommended by our roofing consultant Jim Talley, performed this work.

3. Our Parsonage

We have replaced the microwave oven in our parsonage and are currently in the process of acquiring bids for replacement of the roof and windows. This work may be completed in 2011 if adequate funding can be arranged.

4. Sanctuary Windows

We have completed touch up painting and re-caulking of the windows in the sanctuary. This work was done by the Bone Painting Company.



5. Sale of Church Bus

We have sold our 15 passenger mini-bus to CarMax for the price of \$5,500.00. The bus was rarely used and cost our church many dollars on maintenance costs and insurance.



Dear Church Friends,

The care and concern that you expressed through your calls, cards, and prayers during my recent medical experience touched me deeply. The surgery went well and we were pleased that the suspicious nodule in my lung was benign. I continue to be blessed by God's goodness and the Christian love and support of the WUMC family.

With thanks,
Connie Watson





Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who have passed away during the last few months:

Grace Bell Robert Holcombe
Pat Caplice Bill Hinson
Evelyn Hailey Marty Kline

Ken Mair's Mother

SHAWL MINISTRY

APRIL 11 - in the Atrium, 2:00 p.m.

Everyone welcome! Enjoy the fellowship as we knit shawls with love and prayer for friends who could use a little extra of both. Thank you so much, too, to those who have knitted at home and brought their shawls in to the church. You are much appreciated!!

Questions? Please call Nancy Brown, (564-3047).

Attention all Families – Mark Your Calendars for these Exciting Upcoming and Family-Friendly Events:

For information about any of these Family Events, please contact Cindy Banek, 229-1771, ext. 258.



Saturday, April 23: Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch

from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for children ages birth through 5th grade.

Please bring one dozen (12) filled plastic eggs per child participating and place them in the designated collection bin in the atrium by April 17.

Eggs may be filled with wrapped candy and stickers – no small toys, please.



Monday, May 16: 2nd
Annual Mother-Daughter
Banquet :
"One Magical Night"
from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.



Monday through Friday, June 27 – July 1:
Vacation Bible School!
Panda Mania: "Where God is Wild about You!"
9:00 am to noon
Registration begins on Palm Sunday, April 17



And New for Our Church. . . .Helping Hands

A Virginia Conference Children's Mission Event will be held in four locations around the Conference this summer, and Williamsburg UMC is proud to be one of those locations on **Monday, July 25 – Tuesday, July 26.**

This event offers rising 4th through 6th graders a hands-on opportunity to do mission work. Kids from all over the Conference join together as one "United" Methodist church making a difference in the community.

The cost is only \$36 per person. This will include a T-shirt, meals and snacks, and overnight stay. Registration will begin on May 1. Contact Cindy Banek at the church for further information.

reNEW Youth Ministry in April!

From *reNEW Youth Ministry*

Learn more about these and other events as you stay in-the-loop with Youth Ministry at WUMC! Receive the recently reformatted, almost-weekly *reNEWSletter* by visiting the *reNEWSletter* page (under College & Youth) on the Church Website, www.WilliamsburgUMC.org. You can also "Like" us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WUMCYouth.

SOLD OUT: TEAMEffort High School Mission Trip. For the first time in recent memory, we've *completely filled* our pre-registration spots with 20 youth and 5 adults currently signed up for mission to families in the Appalachian communities of southeast TN, southwest NC and northern GA. If you are an adult female and are interested in experiencing Youth Mission by attending and participating in *either* the TEAMEffort High School trip *or* the Jeremiah Project Middle School trip, we want to hear from you! Please contact Rev. Query at the church to learn more!

Lent continues through April, **ending (obviously) with Easter.** We hope that you'll consider rising early and greeting the Risen Son with the rising sun at the **Easter Sunrise Service!** Youth will play a significant role in the Sunrise Service; and all are welcome!

There will be **NO UMYF (Youth Group) events** on Sunday, April 3 (Spring Break) or April 24 (Easter). Wide Open Wednesday events on April 6 are also canceled (Spring Break). However, toward the end of April, watch for word about The Third Annual "Earth Day Movie Outing" to see the DisneyNature film *African Cats*. Date and Time to be announced.

Reserve Mother's Day (May 8) for the return of our delicious Cinnamon Knots!

Youth and Adults from reNEW YM will be up all night (May 7) baking more than 200-dozen "knots" for our Annual Cinnamon Knot Bake-In! Be sure to pick up a few dozen (they freeze well!) in the Atrium while supplies last. Still only \$5/dozen, with all proceeds benefitting Youth Missions.

reNEW Youth Ministry:

Nurturing, Empowering and Welcoming the youth of Williamsburg UMC and beyond.



Summer Music Camp 2011

Our community's ecumenical Summer Music Camp for children who have completed grades 1-7 will be held here at WUMC the week of July 11-15 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. Each morning will include devotions, choir, music/arts, crafts and refreshments. The camp will conclude with a Vespers Service on Fri. July 15 at 7:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$45. Brochures are available at the church or can be downloaded from the church website.



For further information or to volunteer contact Sarah Bland, Camp Coordinator at musiccamp@williamsburgumc.org, or 229-6381.

50's Plus Luncheon

Our monthly **50's Plus** luncheon group will meet on Wednesday, April 13 at 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 information about our **50's Plus** group, contact Cindy Banek at 229-1771.



What Exactly is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is *lay caring ministry*. Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends who can offer a listening ear to help others through the tough times in life. Stephen Ministers are trained and supervised in their ministry. If you are going through a tough time and could use a caring friend, contact one of the pastors (Bill Jones, Allie Rosner, or Mike Meloy) at the church office (229-1771) and they will help you decide whether or not Stephen Ministry would be a good choice for you.

A "Thank You" from the Early Childhood Music School Board:



The **Sweetheart Banquet** was a huge success, providing an enjoyable, affordable evening for the eighty-two participants and raising \$574 for the school's programs. Another \$212 was raised (through tips) to benefit the church's youth mission trips. Under the supervision of Todd Query, the young people who served the meal did an outstanding job! The ECMS board gratefully acknowledges its banquet committee: Amanda Schmidt, Cathie Allport, Marilyn Casey, Jennifer Damian and Amanda Gada for many hours of work before, during and after the event. The Board also wishes to thank Bill Hamner for donating the cost of child care, Cathie and Braxton Allport who provided the appetizers and the talented ECMS faculty for providing stellar entertainment.

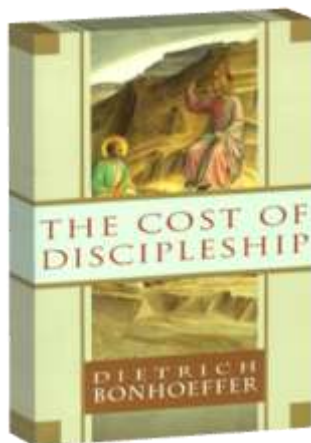
Book Review: Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels

We are all familiar with the Gospels of the New Testament as Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But what are the Gnostic Gospels? Discovered in 1945 in an Egyptian cave, these sacred books are the writings of one of the earliest Christian sects. In this book, Elaine Pagels, a linguist with fluency in the first century Biblical languages, digs into the genesis of the Gnostic Gospels as well as the central beliefs of this varied group of original theologians.

How does the studying of these ancient writings contribute to an understanding of early Christians and the church? Discussing some of the controversies such as the resurrection of Christ, "one God, one bishop" politics, and God as Father or God as Mother, Elaine makes it clear that much disagreement between the Gnostics and the orthodox Christians marked the beginning of the Christian Church and its body of beliefs.

Reading this book will help you to articulate your own faith as well as to understand the events leading up to the establishment of the catholic Church, its creeds, and our Christian heritage.

(The Gnostic Gospels was read and discussed by the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group lead by Rev. Marvin Willard. See below for information on our new study beginning soon.)



Wednesday Morning Study Group

The Wednesday morning study group lead by Rev. Marvin Willard will begin to meet again on May 4 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in room 352. We will be reading and discussing, "The Cost of Discipleship," by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In this book, one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century illuminates the relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus. Drawing on the Sermon on the Mount, Bonhoeffer examines our call to discipleship: "What does Jesus say to us? What is his will for us today?" You are invited to join us in the study of this classic writing. Books are available from the church office for \$10.00. Contact Cindy Banek (229-1771 x258) for further information.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Global Outreach Beneficiaries for Upcoming Lenten Offering

1. **One Great Hour of Sharing:** One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering that makes the love of Christ real for individuals and communities around the world who suffer the effects of disaster, conflict, or severe economic hardship, and for those who serve them through gifts of money and time.
2. **The Agape Heifer Project in Karabagh, Armenia,** provides self-sustaining income for war-impooverished refugees. The first calf must be given to another family. Our denomination is the only non-governmental organization working in this disputed region of Armenia.
3. **Carolina Honduras Health Foundation** renders free medical, dental, and optometric services to the poor and needy in the Limón area of Honduras. It also offers health education regarding disease prevention, sanitation, and nutrition, and advances Honduras' standards of health care.