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Williamsburg
United Methodist Church
500 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Celebration Sunday November 13, 2011

One in Four Believers Are 'Christians in Name Only'

By Senior Pastor Bill Jones

Changing the Face of Christianity Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to reversing negative Christian stereotypes, has released the results of a quiz designed to determine how well Christians live the teachings of Jesus Christ. Through the quiz, the organization found that one in four self-proclaimed Christians admit that they do not live according to Christ's teachings. The anonymous assessment consisted of 10 multiple choice questions that returned a score to the participant at the end, which then indicated to that participant if he/she was 'Far from Christ,' a 'Worldly Christian,' 'A Good Christian,' or a 'Spiritually Mature Christian,' which was the highest rank possible. The responses, which were collected over a seven-month period from January 2011 to July 2011, indicated that 23.7 percent of Christians in the pool of over 2,000 questioned were classified as 'Worldly Christians' or Christians in name only, as defined by R. Brad White, the founder of Changing the Face of Christianity Inc. When posed with a real world situation which tests their faith, they tend to do what the rest of the world does, instead of living as Jesus instructs, White said about 'Worldly Christians.' To be clear, these aren't bad people. The score results suggest they think much more about themselves than they think about God and other people. Reading the Bible and praying aren't a common practice. These are people that you would probably be surprised to find are Christian, if it weren't for the cross around their neck. Christians living their faith is a sign of Christian maturity. If you took the Changing the Face of Christianity quiz what would your score be? Would you be counted among the one in four Worldly Christians? If so, what would it take to raise your score to the highest level, that of a 'Spiritually Mature Christian?'

Cary S. Miller has identified four "doors" that lead to spiritual maturity.

Door One: Commit to weekly participation in worship. We worship together because corporate worship provides a different experience than worshiping alone. There is strength in numbers. That one hour a week spent in worship is an hour that is solely focused on God, our relationship with God, and on the organization that exists to carry out God's work. The church should ask people to commit at least one hour a week to communal worship.

Door Two: Commit to weekly participation in spiritual development. Christianity, like all faiths, is taught not caught. We aren't born as Christians. Even those born into and reared in Christian environments must study what it means to be a Christian and practice the faith. People cannot grow in faith if they do not devote time to fostering that growth. To grow in your faith, consider, spending a minimum of one hour a week in personal spiritual development.

Door Three: Commit to giving time in service to others each week. If you want to know people's priorities, look first at their calendar and then at their checkbook. Our priorities are reflected in how we spend our time. You cannot truly be a good Christian (and a good steward of the resources with which God has blessed you) without giving of your time in service to others. Again, if you want to grow in your faith, consider giving a minimum of one hour a week in service to others.

Door Four: Commit to contributing financially to God's work through the church. All churches ask members and constituents to contribute financially. We all have received grace upon grace through Jesus Christ. Once again, to grow in your faith consider participating in our stewardship journey, *Reflecting Grace in Giving*, during this month, as we are challenged to give in proportion to what we have received.

If you want to be more than a *one in four* "Worldly Christian" you need to appraise your spiritual progress regularly, asking:



Am I participating in worship regularly?

Am I experiencing ongoing spiritual growth?

Am I putting faith into action through service to others?

Am I giving to the church financially in proportion to what I have received?

The mission and ministry of Williamsburg UMC exists to get people studying, serving, praying, praising, and enjoying their lives together. Join us each week in this exciting adventure of growing in faith.



That WUMC is a congregation whose members care for each other has been made abundantly clear again during my recent surgery and rehabilitation. We (Vince and I) are grateful for your prayers, prayer shawls, calls, cards, flowers, visits, and meals. After successful surgery, I am relearning to walk and write—and am grateful to God for care through it all. With love to each and all,

Joanne Sutlive

Thanksgiving Mission Morning -- Register Now

"Do you love me?" "Lord, you know that I love you." "Feed my sheep."

- John 21:17

Thanksgiving is fast upon us and our treasured traditions continue! For more than a dozen years our congregation has prepared turkey dinners on Thanksgiving morning and delivered them to folks in the community who might otherwise have no special meal on this day. This year we will prepare food for more than 400 hungry people, so we will need help with cooking, packaging and delivering the meals. In addition our church capitalizes on having many willing hands on Thanksgiving morning to work on other important outreach ministries. Among them are decorating Christmas stockings and creating printing primers for a small Methodist school on the Eastern Shore, assembling hygiene kits for the PORT homeless shelter, putting together birthing kits for UMCOR distribution around the world, making inspirational placemats for use in the Kairos Prison Ministry, and more.

To ensure that everyone who commits time to the Thanksgiving Morning Mission has a meaningful experience, we ask that you register by November 18 with Lianne in the Church Office (229-1771) or lkoch@williamsburgumc.org. We will need your name, phone number, and number of volunteers coming to help. You will receive a return call giving you a specific task and time to "report for duty."

Also we are distributing shopping lists after the worship services on November 6 & 13 requesting contributions of canned sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and money to purchase turkey, rolls, pies and fruit for the Thanksgiving dinners.

The Local Outreach Work Area

Thoughts from Allie

I've had running on the brain lately. That's because there are just two weeks till the
Richmond Marathon on November 12, and barring any training mishaps, I plan to be there running
it. For months now, I've been working with Steve Jones (yep, your former senior pastor) to get
together a group of Virginia United Methodist clergy and laity to run or walk the marathon, half
marathon, or 8K, all of which take place that day in Richmond. It's a way to promote wellness and
self-care throughout the conference.

For me, running has a lot to do with self-care. It's good for me both physically and mentally. I know that I'm a happier, more emotionally healthy person when I'm running often.

Running has also taught me a lot about spiritual discipline. Our Methodist heritage is big on spiritual discipline. That is, after all, how the Wesleys and their friends got the name "Methodist"—by being so methodical about their meeting, worship, studying Scriptures, taking communion, and visiting the poor, sick, and imprisoned. Members of the early Methodist societies were expected to "attend to the ordinances of God," meaning those same practices. The book that governs us as a church is called the *Book of Discipline*. "Discipline" is as Methodist a buzzword as there is.

But being disciplined isn't easy. This I know both from my spiritual life and my running life. It's so easy to hit the snooze button 17 more times instead of getting up to run before work. It's so easy to let the inevitable pressing concerns of the day take the place of devotional and prayer time. I'm guilty of both.

But I figured out a few years ago that when I'm training for a race, things change. Suddenly it's not so hard to be disciplined. I have a plan to stick to, instead of just deciding what I feel like on a particular day. The question becomes, as I read recently in an issue of the magazine *Runner's World*, not "will I run today?" but "when will I run today?" The goal is always in the back of my mind. And so I find that I don't press snooze quite so many times. I don't make as many excuses. I may let the day's engagements and pressing concerns determine the "when," but not the "if," so often. And the result is, ideally, both a finisher's medal and a healthier, happier life.

I've tried to take some of those lessons and apply them to my spiritual life. My Methodist theology professor in seminary once said that John Wesley lived so deeply in the scriptures that he naturally looked at all of life through the lens of scripture. And I decided that was my goal, too. It's a hard one to measure, but I know I'm making progress when I can be in the middle of a situation and think, "This reminds me of what Jesus said about...." A shorter-term goal may just be to read through a certain book of the Bible, perhaps with a question or theme in mind. I try to let those goals guide me to the question of "when," not "if."

Several biblical authors speak of the Christian life as a race, such as in 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." But you can't finish a long race without training for it. Spiritual disciplines—Bible study, communion, worship, prayer, works of mercy—that's our training. Those are the things that will get us across the finish line—maybe fast, maybe slow, but faith intact.

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those who have passed away during the month of October:



Homeless Initiative in Williamsburg

Williamsburg is not immune to the tragedy of homelessness. Many families find themselves living without a permanent address and many more are just one missed paycheck away from losing their shelter. It's difficult to give your best at work or at school when you don't know where you may be sleeping tonight. The Community Resource Center (CRC) is helping the homeless and those at risk by offering services to address financial, health, family, and employment needs. A coalition of churches in and around Williamsburg was formed to bring the faith community together to address the needs of the homeless locally. The support of this coalition is credited for being one of the main reasons for the CRC's success. Coalition member churches refer clients to CRC, provide volunteers to serve in reception or as Community Resource Assistant, conduct special drives to collect day-to-day items for clients, and offer financial support to the CRC. More than 15 churches are involved with this vital outreach and Williamsburg United Methodist Church has been an active partner in this coalition since its inception. There is much work yet to be done and it is vital that the entire faith community work together. The coalition's efforts would be more effective if channeled through a nonprofit corporation known as Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. The opportunity for Williamsburg United Methodist Church to be a founding member will come before Church Council after being approved by Local Outreach.

"Let me care for you."

Those words can bring a sigh of relief to people going through difficult times in life. A Stephen Minister is willing and able to care for you by listening and being there while you work through this tough time. If this is the kind of care for you, tell one of your pastors that you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister.



Williamsburg - Richmond Road

Lunch at the Williamsburg Outback Steakhouse on Richmond Road? That's right! Even though Outback normally serves dinner, they are donating a delicious Outback Special Sirloin or Grilled Chicken on the Barbie lunch on Wednesday, November 16 at noon in support of Leonarda's Home of Hope. Tickets are \$10 a person and will be on sale at the Crossroads Table on Sunday, October 30 as well as November 6. All ticket sales go directly to supporting Leonarda's Home of Hope and their work with orphans in Honduras. Please plan to bring your friends and join LHOH for lunch on November 16. For further information, call Ken Hook (234-0073) or Dick Bennett (229-2601).

Sunday School News

We are planning for a church wide Advent study written by Adam Hamilton entitled, "The Journey: Walking with the Road to Bethlehem." Several of our adult classes, as well as our youth and children, will be participating in the experience of journeying to Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and others all the while gaining insight into their own journey with Christ. This is a 5-week study beginning on November 20 in most classes. Check the bulletin for a list of participating adult classes.



Would You Like to Make an Advent Wreath?

Join the Family Ties Sunday School Class on Sunday, November 20 at 9:30 am in Room 309 for a time of food, fellowship and wreath-making! Everything

to make your wreath is provided by the church. Just bring garden clippers (if handy) to cut the greens. Everyone is welcome!

For information about Sunday School, contact Cindy Banek (229-1771).

Williamsburg United Methodist Women

November 2011 - UMW Circle Meetings

Olive Casey Circle - No meeting in November due to the church bazaar.

<u>Mary Lou Clarke/Heritage Circle</u> – Tuesday, November 1, at 9:45 a.m., Room 309, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The speaker will be Rick Jackson, Executive Director, Center for Excellence in Aging, William & Mary.

Jean Craig Circle - Tuesday, November 1, at 1:30 p.m., Chambrel Activities Room. Program will be about "Brooks Howell Retirement Community for United Methodist Missionaries."

Susannah Wesley Circle - Wednesday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 309.

Friendship Circle - Monday, November 7, 10:30 a.m. in Room 309.

<u>Carol Scott Circle</u> — Tuesday, November 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Den. Carolyn Buck will present the program.

<u>Sisters in Faith Circle</u> — Tuesday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 309. We will have a short business meeting to evaluate the bazaar luncheon and make notes for 2013. We will decorate World Thank Offering boxes to be used by members for the upcoming year.

Windsor Meade Circle - Monday, November 14, at 10:30 a.m. in Ballroom at Windsor Hall.

<u>Williamsburg Landing Circle</u> – Tuesday, November 15, 10:30 a.m., second floor, Studio 200, Williamsburg Landing Building.

Important Dates to Remember

Thursday, November 3, UMW Bazaar Set-Up Day
Friday, November 4, UMW Bazaar Set-Up Day
Saturday, November 5, UMW Bazaar, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday, November 18, UMW Banquet, gather at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Do you have an article for the Newsletter?

If you would like to submit an article for publication in the Messenger, the deadline for submittals is the 15th of the month. Articles submitted should be typed or neatly printed, limited to a 1/2 page in length and are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and content. 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).

Pumpkins in the Park

Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual Pumpkins in the Park event at Highland Park a huge success either by making cupcakes, helping with crafts and decorating pumpkins or helping serve lunch. By the end of the event, 35 children had decorated pumpkins, made a fall necklace and 72 children and adults had been fed a warm

nutritious lunch.
If you would like
to be involved in
future Highland
Park activities,
contact Robyn
Gohsman



Letter from Peragallo Pipe Organ Company

As Chair of the Organ installation Task Force, I received the following letter from John Peragallo, III concerning the installation of our new Pipe Organ. I think everyone in the church should hear what John has to say. Our committee and I all agree that working with the Peragallo Family was very rewarding in every respect. They were wonderful people to work with and did their job for us in ways for which we can never thank them enough. See if you don't agree.

Bud Voorhess



Four Generations of Dedicated Craftsmanship Since 1918

September 28, 2011

Bud Vorrhess, Chair Organ Installation Task Force Williamsburg United Methodist Church 500 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Dear Bud:

Let me take this opportunity to express to you our heartfelt thanks for all of your efforts and complete cooperation throughout every aspect of the organ project. You and your team have provided us the ideal environment to create a truly unique instrument for the good people of the Williamsburg United Methodist Church. It has been a pleasure sharing your friendship during the installation process of this new pipe organ.

You must be so proud of the entire WUMC community. We were completely overwhelmed by the attentiveness of the people to the pipe organ - from the moment we first met with the initial committee, to the warm reception during our many presentations, throughout the installation process and finally to the spirited celebration of the completed organ. Your sensitive welcoming demeanor was very much appreciated and exemplifies a total commitment to living the real message of the gospel – All are Welcome!

The dedication weekend was just fantastically conceived and executed. The instrument was perfectly showcased in its many diverse roles. The morning services featured the organ – accompanying the choir and soloists, providing the leadership for robust hymn singing and finally, bringing people to greater heights of spirituality and faith through Tom's superb organ selections.

Kimberley Marshall really played up a storm in the afternoon - showcasing the new instrument in all its glory! What a fantastic celebration! What truly great and giving people!

On behalf of the entire Peragallo family, we thank you for the trust, friendship and confidence you have extended to us and it is our sincere wish that this pipe organ—Opus 711—will enrich the musical life of the Williamsburg community for many years to come.

Sincere

John Peragallo III for the entire Peragallo Family and Staff

ReNEW Youth Ministry in november!

From reNEW Youth Ministry



Wow. What a whirlwind October was! A day at the State Fair, the Peninsula CROP Walk, and hosting the Annual Barbecue Supper and an Open House for the UMW...all in one month! It's a good thing we're not playing "one-upsmanship" because I'm not sure how we could possibly top October!

November will be full, though, as we have more special events on our calendar. Here's what's in store:

Saturday overnight, November 5: One Night Without a Home. According to sponsor agency, Avalon, 3.5 million Americans are homeless. This experience-based, educational program at the Jamestown 4H Center is open to 6th-12th grade youth, who spend one night sleeping outside to raise awareness of the homeless crisis. More details in the *reNEWsletter*. On Sunday, November 6, we will assist the Wesley Foundation Worship Team with an evening worship service at WUMC. Time & details TBA.

Friday, November 18: reNEW Youth serve at the UMW Fall Banquet. We work with a caterer to serve dinner, dessert, coffee and other beverages at the big annual UMW meeting. Just one more way reNEW Youth team up with ministries of WUMC! Contact Ronda Williams to volun-

teer!

Sunday, November 20: FISHfood Scavenger Hunt to benefit the FISH Food Pantry. Parent drivers needed! Contact Todd Query or Ronda Williams to volunteer.

Also in November, Todd will be in Atlanta for the National Youth Workers Convention, a multi-day educational and resource gathering of youthworkers from across Christendom. After the NYWC is a one-day Extended-Adolescence Symposium, exploring issues surrounding the ever-evolving period between childhood and adulthood.

Finally, we're looking for "boosters" to help provide a Snack Supper before one of our Sunday evening youth group gatherings. Contact Todd Query or Ruth Sharp for more information.

If you want to know more—about anything you see here—you have a couple options: Subscribe to the *re-NEWsletter* and/or check the Youth Calendar by clicking the appropriate links under "College and Youth" on the <u>Church Website</u>. Facebook users can also "Like" our <u>Group page</u> (search FB for "WUMC Youth").

reNEW Youth Ministry:

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

Each month Mike Meloy, Minister of Congregational Care, and Vikki DiToto of the Shepherd's Fold, administer communion once a month for the residents of Chambrel Senior Living. This is greatly appreciated because some residents, due to physical limitations, are not able to attend their own church.

Have you checked out our Website?

If you ever have a moment, stop by our website to see what's going on at our church. The address is www.williamsburgumc.org. Find out about all the ministries and other activities that you or your family may be interested in joining!! We have something for everyone!!

If you have any questions about something you see on our website, contact the church office (229-1771).

The Gift of Silence

By Linda Hansell

Living in such a busy, noisy world, what a gift it is to experience silence. Silence gives God the opening to speak to us in feelings, mind and soul. It makes us feel reverent which is our gift to God. Our silence can also open our hearts to beautiful strains of music that are like sounds of heaven. We so enjoy our times of silence along with the music, prayers and messages in our worship services. We are thankful for the reverence of

our sanctuary, our very small gift to God for the timeless, loving grace He gives us.

Mother's Day Out Fall 2011

MDO is having a healthy and happy fall. We have settled into playgroups and are learning names and routines. The toddlers and parents have made new friends. The children learn to take turns and follow directions. They build self-esteem in creating artwork and practicing self help skills. They learn to socialize with their peers through verbal communication, signing, compromise and negotiation. They learn to love and trust a diverse group of playmates and teachers.

We learn with toys that introduce colors, shapes, letters and numbers. We observe and talk about the weather and days of the week. We stimulate our imaginations through dramatic play and encourage problem solving through free and creative play. The toddlers develop their use of words during parallel play and their attempts at interactive play with the help of verbal coaching from the teachers. We read a lot of books, sing new songs, dance and play musical instruments.

Fundraiser Goals: Scholarships (there are currently two families on scholarship): Teacher Education/Workshops; Operating expenses and new Carpeting (10 years old)

Thank You: To the church members/volunteers who tackled the bamboo growing in and around the playground. This is an on-going yearly project. To MDO parents and grandparents for donating all supplies and volunteering your time on your scheduled "helper" day. To all who support and have supported Mothers Day Out for the last 28 years.

Blessings, The MDO Staff

Library News



The Thanksgiving season is upon us and in the

church library we find our blessing cup is overflowing. We give thanks to the Susannah Wesley Circle for their gift of four books: Philip Gulley's If the Church Were Christian and Brian McLaren's A New Kind of Christian, given in memory of Lynne Stevenson; and Searching for God Knows What by Donald Miller and This Child Will be Great, a UMW Reading Program selection by Ellen Sirleaf, in memory of Ada Lou Turner. Thanks also to Judi and Tom French for their gift of two delightful children's books, The Name Jar and How My Parents Learned to Eat, in honor of Také and Dick Spaulding on their 50th wedding anniversary. And to a generous, anonymous donor, we are grateful for the addition of two new wing chairs for your added comfort as you peruse our many new selections. Finally, we thank all who visit the library, check out books and further encourage and support our efforts to share the abundant blessings to be found between the pages of a book.

Blessings overflow in the children's room as well. Drop in soon and discover the secret of *The Memory Cupboard*, learn about *Saying Grace*, celebrate the season with *In November* or choose from one of the several retellings of the first Thanksgiving including the beautiful art in N.C. Wyeth's *Pilgrims* and the fun, alphabet book, *T is for Turkey*.

"To sit alone [or with a child] in the lamplight with a book spread out before you, and hold intimate converse with men [and women] of unseen generations—such is pleasure beyond compare."

— Kenko Yoshida



Daylight Saving
Time Ends
Sunday Nov. 6
At 2 a.m.

Shoes for Angels The WUMC congregation has always responded with generosity for The Salvation Army Angel Tree shoe collection. This year there will be a bin marked to collect these shoes through November. The Angel Tree program was created by the Salvation Army in 1979 for families needing help with clothing and toys for Christmas. Our participation will be to collect new shoes as gifts for children from infant to age 12. Youthful styles in adult sizes are needed for many 11 and 12 year old children. All sizes are appreciated! Thank you for making this needed donation so successful each year.



Mr. Jack Rascoe, Honorary Chairman

Respite nets over \$2100 from Carrabba's Fundraiser

The Respite Care Center (RCC) gratefully recognizes the generous donations, participation and effort put forth by countless volunteers to make this event such a success. To see so many supportive individuals, in one room, with a common cause, was very inspiring. 173 people attended the luncheon

on October 12. Many others who could not attend, gave donations to support RCC. A special thanks to Grace and Al Gunner for chairing this wonderful event.



Williamsburg Community Foundation Awards Grants to ECMS and Respite Care Center

The Williamsburg Community Foundation (WCF) honored both Early Childhood Music School (ECMS) and The Respite Care Center (RCC) with grant funding for special projects. Over 30 agencies applied for funding; however, only 14 were selected. "We are grateful for this support which will further our reach into the Williamsburg community," share Carolyn Yowell, RCC Executive Director and Cindy Freeman, ECMS Director.

RCC requested and was granted \$2100. These funds will help family caregivers attend monthly support group meetings in the morning, by providing complimentary respite care for their loved one down the hall. In addition, these funds will enable family caregivers to participate in the 2011 and 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's (scheduled October 29), by providing compli-

> mentary respite care during the Saturday event! For more information on the Walk, www.alz.org/walk or call 459-2405. Our Williamsburg community recognizes how this ministry, in this church, makes a difference in the lives of the participants and their families. For more information on the RCC weekday program or these additional support services, contact Carolyn (229-1771, ext 354).



Janet Dugas, RN, RCC Manager (left) and Carolyn Yowell, RCC Executive Director proudly accept \$2100 grant from WCF at the Award Luncheon held October 5 at the Williamsburg Lodge.

ECMS received a grant of \$5,000 for Project Outreach, its program of musicbased learning that serves Head Start, Bright Beginnings and CDR's First Steps preschoolers. This funding will allow expansion of services to additional classrooms for a total of 275 children who have been identified as "at-risk" of academic failure. Cindy Freeman says, "This funding is such a blessing! Not only can we reach more children, but we'll be able to provide weekly classes at some schools where everyother-week sessions were all that we could support."

The Williamsburg Community Foundation connects people who care with causes For more information, visit www.williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org or call (259-



Cindy Freeman, ECMS Director & Project Outreach Executive Director gratefully accepts \$5000 grant from WCF.

that matter...forever. 1660).



BETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Monthly Publication of Williamsburg United Methodist Church 500 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23185 Church Office (757-229-1771)

The Messenger

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First Sunday In December

Yes, that is traditionally the Grand Illumination. However, another traditional event occurs here at WUMC. Mark your calendars for December 4 when the Alternative Giving Fair will take place in Fellowship Hall. The Fair combines two important purposes: to encourage charitable giving as an alternative to our usual Christmas shopping frenzy, and to communicate the diversity of outreach programs supported by our church. This year's participants include:

Early Childhood Music School Chaka Market Bridge

FISH
Grove Outreach Center

Heifer Project Helping Children Worldwide Hope Center/Latvia

Jeremiah Project Lackey Free Clinic

Leonarda's Home of Hope

Link/Port

Philippines Mission

Red Bird Mission Respite Care

SERRV

Students for Stop Hunger Now at William and Mary

Wesley Community Service

William and Mary Campus Kitchens