

# WUU news

Monthly Newsletter of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists



## May

### 2016

*Some Dates of Note*

**5.1**

Path to Membership

**5.5**

Navigators Monthly Meeting

**5.19**

Leadership Team Meeting

**5.20**

Yard Sale

**5.21**

Yard Sale

**5.30**

Office Closed  
(Memorial Day)

## Words from Rev. David A. Johnson, Interim Minister

### Interim Minister's Letter: "Closures and New Adventures"

As the academic year and church year draw to a close, I'm closing out some of the initiatives and focal points in my work with WUU during year one of interim ministry. These closures include:

**Opportunities for Adult Enrichment and Congregational Development:** WUU is very fortunate to be located amidst a rich array of community-based learning resources, including the superb courses offered by the Christopher Wren Association for Lifelong Learning, and the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT). I have organized and hosted workshops on topics that are not represented in these two venues and that are more specific to our relational life in our families and in congregations. We have completed the series on: Leading Change in Congregations; Listening to Experience; Fables; Process Theology; and Breakthrough Congregations. I anticipate hosting three workshops during 2016-2017.

**Transition Team: Drawing to a Close.** The Transition Team met with me this past week to bring closure to our work together. We reviewed what we have learned, and are continuing to notice, about WUU's cultural identity – and "the best of who we are" – in order to build upon this solid foundation for the years ahead. Three of our Team members will now be re-focusing upon their year-long service on the Ministerial Search Committee: Rachel Delbos, Fred Gilbertson, and Dave Wilcox. Our three other team members – Becca Delbos, Jane Ferguson, and Linda Lane Hamilton – are now free to resume other opportunities. I am deeply grateful to these six fine folks for serving as my eyes-and-ears, my early-alert radars, my triage specialists, and as the bearers of WUU's heritage. While ministry-transition will of course continue, our work as a Team has ended. My thanks to the six of you for bringing your dedication, skills, and wisdom.

Meanwhile, new opportunities are unfolding. These include: Southern UU Leadership Experience (SUULE). Our congregation will sponsor TEN representatives to participate in the intense six-day SUULE conference, to be held as a residential event on the campus of the College of William and Mary in late July. These ten dedicated leaders and upcoming leaders are: Pat Hoppe, Jane Reilly, Franz Gross, Les Solomon, John Whitley, Rachel Delbos, Stacy Bolling, Tamra Elim-Durden, Seth Merritt, and Stacey Felipe.



Continued on next page

## Interim Minister's Letter Continued

During early June, I will announce and lead a focused initiative to secure funds that will enable these fine folks to represent WUU at the SUULE conference in 2016. This is already a break-through initiative in our congregation's 27-year history. I trust that it will pave the way to our supporting financially, and sending, a delegation to SUULE conferences in future summers.

WUU Annual Report for 2015-2016: Now in preparation. Again for the first time, WUU is poised to compile a comprehensive Annual Report, this one covering the current church year – and fiscal year. I have learned that such reports serve many important purposes. Perhaps the most important of these is to bring clarity and focus to the work of volunteer teams, and to provide the resources for succession-planning, and the recruiting / training / support of future generations of volunteers – and eventually their nomination into leadership roles. Much progress is already in the works, thanks to the dedication of our Leadership Team, the Board, our President Lola Warren, our Program Assistant Ellyn Stephens, and the many who have already prepared and submitted a report for the current year. We anticipate completing and distributing this landmark publication on Friday May 20, two weeks prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday June 05.

Ministerial Search. The seven WUU members whom you recently elected to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee have been commissioned and will begin their work in earnest during their start-up retreat with Denise Rimes in early June. The first several months of their work – prior to their receiving the names and applications of ministers-in-search – will bring many opportunities for you to be in dialogue with the Committee. Please respond enthusiastically during the coming months – particularly July through November of this year – when the congregation's participation will be essential.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be serving you for our remaining time together, which will be through June 2017. All good wishes,

Rev. Dave Johnson

## Share the Plate



**FAITH**  
**IN ACTION**

The Share the Plate collection for May 8th will benefit Williamsburg Area Faith in Action, whose mission is to help seniors and adults with chronic illnesses or disabilities remain independent at home. Faith in Action is a national movement which brings together volunteers from many faiths and the larger community. The local organization fosters caring relationships between volunteers - including several WUUs - and care receivers. Individuals are provided with transportation, shopping, light housekeeping, yard work, or friendly visits, as needed. A representative from WAFIA will speak before the service. For a full description of services provided by WAFIA, please visit [www.wfia.org](http://www.wfia.org).

For more information about the Share the Plate Program, or to nominate a future recipient agency, please email [stp@wuu.org](mailto:stp@wuu.org).

## May Worship Schedule

**REMINDER: May 1 through Labor Day weekend we have one service at 10:00 am**

### May 1, 2016

**10:00 am**

**Rev. David Johnson**

**"May Day/Beltane Celebration "**

Come celebrate the ancient holidays of Beltane and May-Day. We will gather in the sanctuary for the first portion of the service. This will include a bridging ceremony for high schoolers making the transition into young adulthood, and awarding certificates to middle schoolers who have participated in "Our Whole Lives" (OWL). We will also have the opportunity for newcomers to sign our Membership Book – a tradition that we shall re-establish on the first Sunday of each month.

Then, with drumming leading the way, we will proceed outside (weather permitting) to the labyrinth behind Parker House for a Beltane and May-pole celebration, including the planting of a dogwood tree -- provided by Wayne Moyer. Come be part of the fun!

---

### May 8, 2016

**10:00 am**

**Rev. David Johnson**

**"Your Mother Was a Liberal!"**

"Liberalism is the supreme form of generosity -- the noblest cry that has ever resounded on this planet." Thus wrote the philosopher Jose Ortega y Gasset. On Mother's Day we'll re-claim the "L-word" at its best: As the encourager of the human heart.

Special music by our choir; Jamie Bartlett, music director.



### May 15, 2016

**10:00 am**

**Rev. David Johnson**

**"Connections That Matter "**

In a New Yorker essay on "The Cellular Church", Malcolm Gladwell observes:

*"When churches—in particular, the megachurches – began to adopt the cellular model, they found out the same thing. The small group was an extraordinary vehicle of commitment. It was personal and flexible. It cost nothing. It was convenient, and every worshipper was able to find a small group that precisely matched his or her interests. Today, at least forty million Americans are in a religiously based small group, and the growing ranks of small-group membership have caused a profound shift in the nature of the American religious experience."*

We will explore the implications of small-group ministry for WUU.

---

### May 22, 2016

**10:00 am**

**Rev. Dave Johnson**

**"Mick Jagger's Lament:**

**You Can't Always Get What You Want "**

As a kid I was baffled by prayer. It seemed like a selfish contrivance to try to get one's way – to tilt life's playing fields in a favored direction. Desires are essential to healthy living. But groveling, flattery, and bargaining with the Ultimate: that seems foolishly presumptuous and self-serving. Even so I wonder: Does prayer have any role in authentic, well-grounded living? Our choir will sing, for this final Sunday before taking a summer break.

---

### May 29, 2016

**10:00 am**

**Guest Speaker Helen Creighton**

**Topic TBA**

## Greetings From Your Board President

**It's May, It's May -- the Merry Month of May** -- according to King Arthur and Queen Guinevere in Camelot. And we shall be celebrating this month -- Beltane, Mother's Day, graduations, birthdays and anniversaries. Saying hello and saying goodbye.

How will the Board celebrate?

We begin by welcoming the new Board year (May 1 to April 30), with four new members of the Board and thanking those who have served as chairs of the Board committees and task forces: Michael Coirin (Alternative Income Sources), Jim Kent (Finance), Linda Lane-Hamilton and Allen Cooke (Stewardship), Dave Neiman (Governance), Jane Reilly (Personnel) and Les Solomon (Building our Future), and those who served on those committees and performed all the behind-the-scenes work toward fulfilling the WUU Mission.

This week the Board voted approval of the 2016-17 budget. Next month on June 5th, this budget will be presented to the congregation at an after-service congregational meeting.

The month will close with the Board, instead of holding its regular meeting, taking a day of retreat to set the primary objectives and goals for their year, elect new Board officers and make other Board assignments.

With the election of new officers, I will be stepping down from the role of president. What a journey it has been! I look at all that I have had the privilege of being a part of: celebrating our 25th anniversary, saying difficult goodbyes to office staff, education director and minister: Mary Ellen, Margaret and Jennifer, and then welcoming new people to new positions: Ellyn, Suzanne, Austen, and Dave; hiring an architect and contractor for the new building; being blown away by the results of the Capital Campaign, breaking ground, seeing the building come into being, and so much more. How I have enjoyed getting to know you better, being able to share and work with you in many ways, learning from you, and being allowed to lead where needed. I am truly honored and humbled. Thank you. Next month the new president will be introducing himself or herself to you.

Lola Warren



### Pathway to Membership

On Sunday May 1, from 11:15-1:30pm, we will be offering in the Fahs House part 1 of our Pathway to Membership series. This is a great way to learn more about our church and also to meet other new comers. Lunch will be served. For more information or to register please contact David Hamilton - [dfhamilton108@gmail.com](mailto:dfhamilton108@gmail.com).

## Do you know every WUU? Neither do I.

That's why we want to include a brief member biography in every newsletter.

Maybe you'll discover someone who shares your background, interests, or hobby. Maybe you'll learn something new about someone you already know. Or maybe you'll be moved to reach out to someone who needs to hear from you.

Please help us strengthen the WUU community by sharing your story. Together, we can weave a growing web of friendship, support, compassion, and love. Melissa Ackley, [ackleymw@gmail.com](mailto:ackleymw@gmail.com)



### Cultivate Present-Centered Attentiveness

Many of you probably know about how my brain became inflamed with encephalitis in the summer of 2012, leaving me to cope with epilepsy in my late 50s. Since that time, it's been quite a journey. I would not have gotten as far as I have, and perhaps would not even have the gift of life itself at this point, without the help of family, friends, and a slew of medical professionals. Words cannot fully express my gratitude.

In addition to seizures, the encephalitis has left me with a very poor memory, due to scar tissue on my hippocampus. On the one hand, this loss of memory troubles me greatly. What if it never goes away? At this point, that's a given. What if it gets worse? That's just as likely. On the other hand, however, I find this loss of memory to be quite interesting. Where does it come from? How does it feel? And what might be its positive effects, if any?

All of those questions are at once intriguing and imposing. I'll leave the question as to its origins for the doctors. I am the only one, however, who can answer the last two questions. How does it feel? Confusing,

Discouraging, Worrisome, Disorienting, and Troubling. What might be its positive side effects, if any? First and foremost: it has enhanced my present-centered attentiveness. Even though epilepsy has come upon me involuntarily and unhappily, and even though I wouldn't wish for this to come upon anyone, I view my increased attention in the present moment as a positive thing.

That attention has to do with both safety and spirituality. I have to pay more attention, for example, to "watching my step", both literally and figuratively. If I am not doing that, it's easy to trip and fall. If I am not paying attention to how I am talking and also to what I am saying, it's easy to misspeak, get confused and to move conversations in unhelpful directions.

That's part, but only part, of what I mean by the value of present-centered attentiveness. We can make that our goal. We can then work long and hard to set everything else aside in order to get to a place of being nowhere else, of being here and now, and we can still fall short. We can try to attend to this moment, because that's all anyone ever really has, and the moment can still escape us.

Continued on next page....

That's a strange aspect of attention. We are all "in" the present moment. Sure. But not necessarily "in" the moment. Not when it comes to our attention. Our bodies can be here, now – in the present moment – but our minds can be preoccupied with the past, engaged with the future, or otherwise distracted. Our minds can be, as they say, a "million miles away".

There are times when that's a good thing, at least in some sense of the word. At a funeral, for example, we want our mind to be preoccupied with the past; to think about all that has come before and all that was set to come. But funerals are singular occasions. Most of the time, we have to attend to the present moment as a conscious decision in order to receive such benefits as happiness, safety, productivity, engagement and creativity. Present-centered attentiveness is really that powerful.

So how do we do that? One approach is to learn and to practice present-centered, attending disciplines on a regular basis. Regardless of what works for you and how often you practice them, at least try to do so. No one does them perfectly. We all have our fits and starts. So don't worry about that. Just get started. Regardless of how regularly we do them, doing them at all nourishes the spirit. So let's do them and let's make the encouragement of doing them a strong part of our journey together here at WUU.

Another approach is to engage fully with those who are all around us. I love being with people who go deep into the realities of life; people who like to think, wonder, pray, hope, dream, laugh and cry in the present moment. People like those at WUU. Being with such people can help us attend to the present moment. And that's what makes me happy to be on a spiritual journey, right here, right now, with you.

### Do you have PARKER HOUSE income producing ideas?



The Alternative Income Task Force has been charged by the Board to identify and pursue new income sources as we move into our new facilities this Fall. PARKER HOUSE is an income source because it will no longer be needed for our programs. Some ideas for its use are renting to a non-profit organization {s}, renting to UU college students, providing housing for a grounds keeper/maintenance person, renting to another faith community.

Please let your voice be heard! What are your ideas? Also, do you know a non-profit that needs space?

Our objectives include:

- Fits with our mission and values,
- Generates fair market income, and
- Is non-residential *unless* related directly to our mission and values.

Please send your ideas to Michael Coirin at [michael1240@cox.net](mailto:michael1240@cox.net) or via mail to Michael at 211 Nottinghamshire, Williamsburg VA 23188. Deadline for ideas is 15 May.

## Civil Rights Leader Teaches Us how to Be Activists without Using Violence

Diane Nash, speaking at the William and Mary **Lemon Project** Spring Symposium last Saturday, explained that there are six steps to effecting **social change** employing "agapic energy" – love for one's fellow man. Agapic energy is a very relevant concept for UU's. Listen to what we WUU's who were present for her talk learned from Ms. Nash:

Nash was taught the philosophy of non-violence by James Lawson, who learned it studying Mohandas Gandhi while serving as a missionary in India, Nash coined the phrase, agapic energy, and employed it in the 1960s to spearhead several of the most successful civil rights campaigns in American history.

She recounted her efforts in the first successful strategy to integrate lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee; her alliance with the Freedom Riders, who desegregated interstate travel; her **co-founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)** and her co-ordination of the Selma Voting Rights Amendment, a precursor to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. "She has changed the course of history; she continues to change the course of history," commented a Ph.D. student in history at W&M, when introducing Nash.

Nash was just 22 when she took charge of the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins. At the time, African Americans could order lunch from certain establishments on a take-out basis only. Nash and her friends and followers targeted six restaurants and employed the following method of desegregating them: investigation, education, negotiation, demonstration, resistance, and prevention of reoccurrence.

During the investigation phase, Nash and her colleagues agreed on a specific objective and wrote it down. "You gather any information to you to accomplish the objective, and you identify exactly how the oppressed are participating in their oppression," she said.

Next came the education of the cause's followers on what was learned during the investigation, followed by negotiation.

"You make your opponent understand your objective," Nash said. "**You let them know that you respect them, but will not tolerate their behavior.**" In Nashville, one restaurant owner said he didn't serve Blacks at his counter because he was afraid he would lose his white business. So Nash arranged with local churches that, for three weeks, "sophisticated white ladies" would sit next to Blacks at the man's lunch counter. She knew, she said, that after three weeks, the media would report that peaceful desegregation was taking place.

Following the negotiation phase was demonstration, aiming to "show the public the purpose of your objective,"

The next step, resistance, was where "the oppressed withdrew their participation in the oppression," said Nash, adding that it could take many forms – work stoppages and refusal to pay taxes, among them.

The final step was to prevent the problem from reoccurring. "Often, young people are more vulnerable to a rollback of their civil rights," Nash said. Among the methods of minimizing that possibility are the creation of museums, educational foundations and documentary films that examine the problem and how it was solved. Using agapic energy is not easy, Nash cautioned. "Freedom is not something you do once and then you've got it. It's a struggle, and every generation faces its own challenges," she said.

"The Freedom Riders, for example, made many sacrifices, whether it was violence or time in jail."

Nash herself was jailed numerous times, once for 30 days despite the fact that she was four months pregnant.

Nash described the current climate in the country as "frightening," and decried that "often people read and talk about what should be done, but never actually do anything." Relying on government officials to improve matters doesn't work because one of America's problems is "government officials who will not govern," said Nash.

"The movement of the 1960s can be used in 2016," she said. "We now know that it works. We have an opportunity to move a step higher, to evolve to a higher stage. But American citizens have to take the country into their own hands."

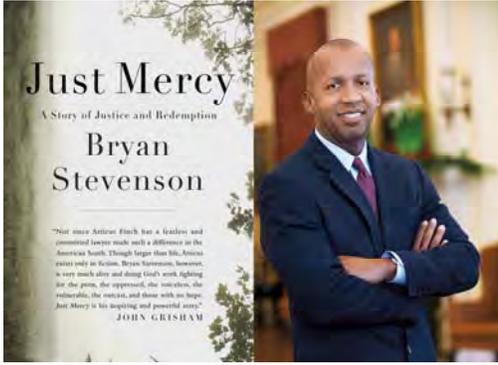
(Excerpted from an article published for the College of William and Mary by *Jim Ducibella* | **March 22, 2016**)



Diane Nash



Shana Haines, Diane Nash and Leah Glenn, Lemon Project co-chair



## UUA Common Read

Have you read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson? If not, there is still time to get a copy and read it before we discuss the book on May 27 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. This will be a two-session project with the second meeting set for June 10th. "Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system." <http://www.uua.org/re/adults/read>

Copies can be ordered from In Spirit, the UUA bookstore. Wayne Moyer

## WUU Stewardship campaign exceeds original goal

174 generous WUU members and friends have pledged \$313,197 towards next year's budget, exceeding the original goal of \$312,000. The campaign, begun on Valentine's Day, is officially completed, but we expect that additional pledges will be received from new members and other households that are still considering.

Our annual pledge campaign emphasized maintaining current contributions while our members complete their Capital Campaign donations. Yet our members increased their pledges by more than 6 percent—without being asked.

Our campaign also emphasized 100 percent participation. We received annual pledges from 13 additional households that were members or friends last year but had not pledged. Five of those new households are families with children in Religious Education, bringing to 22 the number of families now making annual financial commitments to WUU.

In addition, committee member Peter Mellette coordinated the "From-the-Heart" messages for worship services this year. These powerful short talks allowed us to know each other better and to hear how WUU has affected individual lives.

We are encouraged by the results of our canvass and hopeful that when our Capital Campaign period is completed next year we will see another increase in pledging.

### Stewardship Team

Allen Cooke and Linda Lane-Hamilton, co-chairs

Peter Mellette (past chairperson), Dave Banks (treasurer), Eva Burke (board representative), Nancy Carnegie, Martha Elim, Helen Hansen, Ben Puckett, Trena Tankersley, Rev. Dave Johnson, and Jim Kent and Les Solomon, canvass assistants. WUU Financial Assistant Suzanne Huddleston provided invaluable assistance in tracking pledges.



## WUU'S LAY PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM

In the spring of 2015 a steering committee began to review WUU's pastoral care resources – including paid staff and volunteer teams. Rev. Johnson joined these conversations as our interim minister in August. These conversations continued during a weekend workshop at WUU in February of 2016, which included the training of prospective volunteers.

Based on insights from these initiatives, we are here introducing a comprehensive range of services offered to WUU members and friends – either during major life transitions or during times of special needs. While some functions of pastoral care (e.g., rites of passage such as funerals) will remain the responsibility of the minister, lay volunteers will offer support by serving on two teams, each under the oversight of the minister: These teams are the “**Caring Ministry**” and “**Lay Pastoral Care Associates**”:

**Caring Ministry** volunteers function as WUU's “first responders” by offering short-term support in times of crisis. Examples include illness, hospitalization, giving birth, or grieving a loss. Usually this support includes sending cards, telephone check-ins, personal visits, and occasional meals. Some **Caring Ministry** volunteers (known as “Helping Hands”) may be available for one-time jobs, such as transportation for medical care, or small repairs. We are not able to offer extended driving services to ongoing events (e.g. a series of classes or treatments). We maintain an up-to-date contact list of community agencies that offer support services which are beyond our resources and capabilities.

**Lay Pastoral Care Associates** (LPCA's) are specially trained lay volunteers, working under the minister's supervision to offer more extended conversations amidst life transitions. The focus of these conversations will be largely determined by the congregant's needs. We offer a supportive, listening, and encouraging presence – grounded in our UU values and principles. Such visits are not therapy, treatment, or advice giving. If a congregant's situation seems to warrant the support of a licensed and credentialed specialist, we will refer the congregant to resources in the community. The extent and duration of these conversations will be mutually agreed upon by the congregant and the LPCA. The information disclosed will be taken and held in confidence. Only the Minister and the LPCA Coordinators (David Hopkinson and Jane Reilly) will know the names and focal issues of the congregants served.

### **How can I request Caring Ministry assistance or LPCA visits?**

WUU members and friends can request services directly from the **Caring Ministry**. If you or someone you know would welcome a card, a casserole, or a visit, please contact the Caring Ministry team by e-mail ([caringchair@wuu.org](mailto:caringchair@wuu.org)) or the WUU office ([office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)) Your request will be reviewed by the Minister, and forwarded to a member of the Caring Ministry team. You will receive an initial response within two days.

WUU members and friends can also request more extensive visits with one of our trained **Lay Pastoral Care Associates**. Please contact the Minister directly at [revdaj@aol.com](mailto:revdaj@aol.com), or 269-330-8495. After an initial conversation with you, the Minister will recommend the appropriate kind of pastoral support. The minister may offer his own pastoral care, or delegate initial visits to either the Caring Ministry, or to the preliminary efforts to the CM or to the Lay Pastoral Care Associates.

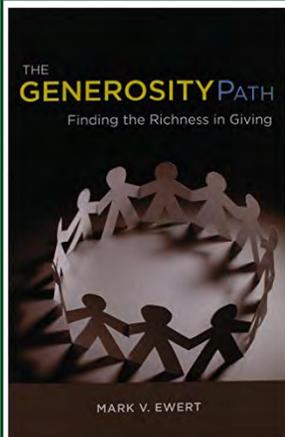
Rev. Dave Johnson, David Hopkinson, Jane Reilly

## Retirement of Jill Whitten



Jill Whitten has decided to retire after 12 years of service as the part-time paid coordinator of the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT). WALT is a public service project of WUU, founded by Roy Snyder in 2000. WALT serves about 400 people per year, and WALT generally runs a surplus for WUU. Jill is the second-longest-serving contract employee of WUU after Jamie Bartlett, and Jill has worked for the past four years without a raise. Jill graciously offered to mentor the next WALT coordinator for no fee in the fall of 2016. Please witness a public recognition of Jill at the start of the May 15 worship service.

In gratitude,  
John Hochella  
WALT chair



### The Giving Way

Are you looking for connection, meaning and purpose in your busy life? Take a brief respite to join other WUUs after the service on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> as we explore Mark Ewert's 2014 book "The Generosity Path" and discuss how learning to receive and give gifts to each other is a form of love. You should come away from the 2 hour post service discussion with the gift of a light lunch (and child care if needed) and a plan for your own personal philanthropy.

In Rev. Rebecca Parker's words, your gifts can be used to bless or curse the world. Choose to bless the world with your gifts and learn how you can be more intentional and community focused in your giving and receiving. Please let Ellyn Stephens ([office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org) or 757-220-6830) know if you plan to attend, your food restrictions, and your child care needs so we can plan accordingly. Reading the Ewert book (available on Amazon at [http://www.amazon.com/Generosity-Path-Finding-Richness-Giving/dp/1558967168/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1461816813&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Generosity+Path](http://www.amazon.com/Generosity-Path-Finding-Richness-Giving/dp/1558967168/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1461816813&sr=1-1&keywords=The+Generosity+Path) ) may be helpful, but it is not required to attend.

Peter Mellette, facilitator

Key: L = Lower Elementary; U = Upper Elementary; MS = Middle School

1-May-16	multigenerational - 1 service	May Day; ALL AGES WORSHIP TOGETHER
8-May-16	multigenerational - 1 service	Mother's Day, RE in Sanctuary
15-May-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Chalice Flannel Board; U: Chalice Making; MS: Congregation History
22-May-16	Children's Chapel	Children's Chapel; MS: Congregation History
29-May-16	RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: Helping Others; U: Beauty in Nature; MS: Congregation History
5-Jun-16	End of Semester Party; RE Program in Fahs and Parker	L: class party; U: class party; MS: class party

## Do you see what I see?

We have called upon volunteers help quite a bit in the last two months. Special thanks to:

- **Dave Neiman** and **Dave Wilcox** for their help in removing the remaining fence posts in the Fahs playground. **Franz Gross** fixed the temporary playground fence just a bit better and cleaned up the community garden supplies that were stored around Fahs.
- **Dave Neiman** and **Michael Luchs** found a few new muscles (and pains) taking the wooden sections of playground fence to the dumpster.
- **Steven Sharp** and **Fred Gilbertson** raked the lawns in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt and the first lawn mowing.
- **Dave Neiman, Fred Bergmann, Helen Hansen, and Allen Cooke** helped trim bushes around Parker and Fahs.
- The **Craig family** pitched in to remove and store the snowflakes in the Sanctuary before they melted.
- The **Craig family, Dave Neiman, and Richard Costello** helped clean out the rental storage unit. Thanks to **Jane Reilly** and **Fred Gilbertson** for offering their basement/garage for temporary storage of furniture and yard sale items. This saves nearly \$140 per month!
- Thanks to the **Willis** family for cleaning up around the little maple tree and Meditation Memorial Garden circle. And thanks to the **Banks** and **Bergmann** families for sharing some of the bushes in front of the nursery. As we prepare for new landscaping, they took the bushes back home
- Thanks to **Michael Coirin, Steve Savoie** and **Richard Costello** for helping to direct traffic for Easter Sunday. We actually had a few spaces left over!
- Thanks to **Franz Gross, Steven Sharp, Helen Hansen, Don Ackley, and Dave Neiman** for removing the remaining brick sidewalk, cleaning the sanctuary gutters, and repairing the Meditation Memorial Garden path.
- **Someone** filled in the Meditation Memorial Garden pond, cleaned off the MMG paths, and blew all the parking lots and sidewalks after the construction trucks tracked in a lot of dirt. If you want to use the new backpack leaf blower that we purchased for these jobs, see me because I think it will work just as well next month.
- We will have many more volunteer tasks in the next few months—needing both men and women. On behalf of all at WUU, thanks for your help and let me know if you want your name added to the volunteer list.

Les Solomon

Chair, Campus Improvement Team

[Les.solomon@gmail.com](mailto:Les.solomon@gmail.com)



## Finally....We have a slab and the walls went up!

### Building Our Future Construction Report

After the long wait for good weather, all of a sudden, it really looks like we are Building our Future! They poured the slab on the Ides of March, and the new building and rooms began to take shape. Now we are offering personal tours of the new space—see Roger Guernsey or me after the services. Two of the typical comments: “Finally, it is beginning to happen!” and “I can’t believe how big and beautiful it will be.”



One of the ways to follow the progress is to visit, however, from your computer. You can find photos of recent progress at our [WUU.ORG](http://WUU.ORG) website ABOUT US/FACILITIES/BUILDING OUR FUTURE/ WATCH US GROW! CONSTRUCTION PICTURES, on the Flickr site, or visit Facebook/WUU Families.

And other work has been completed around the campus:

- The new water main and gas lines are connected—we will have natural gas heat and new HVAC systems that are on the roof out of sight!
- The two big maple trees along Ironbound were removed in preparation for the walking/bicycle path along our property and base material is on the pathway.
- Most of the work needed for the retention pond is completed including a new spillway.
- Within the next 3 weeks, we will have new Bose speakers in the sanctuary, needed to provide for better acoustics.

Finally, some late-breaking news! Today (April 28), the Design Build Team received an update from our contractor, E. T. Gresham, on a reduction in contingency funds still needed. With this information and to keep the project on schedule, Roger Guernsey and his team approved two important items that were being withheld until funds were available:

- The wall in the current narthex, between the kitchen and library, with windows facing the patio will be pushed out as shown on the building plans for the Gathering Hall (\$21,000).
- An operable partition will be purchased and installed also as shown in the plans that will allow the large open space in the RE/SJ wing to be separated into two classrooms, or kept open for other WUU mission activities and functions. (\$9,627)

Your Design Build Team has been careful to build the spaces we need within the budget you approved. They will make other decisions about the remaining contingency as we are a bit closer to finishing the project.

Thank you for your patience. Construction is messy and parking space is limited. We will do our best to keep the campus clean and provide parking assistance (not valet) during this period.

Les Solomon  
Chair, Building our Future



## A Golden Opportunity to Join our Community Outreach

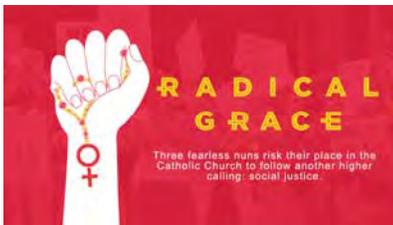


The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. We, the WUU's have committed to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothes closet each Tuesday during the month of May from 9:30 a.m.-3:00p.m. No special skills are required. 3 to 4 people (men and/or women) are needed each Tuesday in May. If you can help out only half a day, that can be arranged, too.

In 2015, 1999 adults and 1365 children were served with a total of 9108 outfits. The need is great and continues to grow. Please consider helping out—the fellowship is terrific!

Volunteers are still needed to fill one space on May 10 morning and/or afternoon, one space morning and/or afternoon May 17, three spaces morning May 24 and one space morning May 31. Just call or email Carol Sherman at 229-3344 or [cwsher@verizon.net](mailto:cwsher@verizon.net). Thanks in advance!

**SAVE THE DATES: Friday, June 17th**, the August Wilson play-reading group will offer a public reading and pot luck. Put this on your calendars, please!



### Social Justice Film night in June

Come have dinner together and view the recent film, **Radical Grace**, on **Friday, June 3rd at 6pm**. This excellent film is about the pushback of Catholic nuns who were censored by Church leaders for their involvement in Social Justice work. Dinner will be served—so your RSVPs are required. Please email Jessica O'Brien at [jessicaobrien100@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaobrien100@gmail.com) by Sunday, May 29th. We need to know who is coming so that we can feed you well! Jessica O'Brien and Helen Hansen



### SAVE THE DATE ... MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**37th Annual NAACP Life Membership Awards Banquet**  
**Sunday, May 15, 2016**  
**4:30 PM - Silent Auction**  
**5:30 PM - Dinner and Program**  
**Williamsburg Lodge & Conference Center**

Our theme, **"NAACP: A Legacy of Relevance...Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow"** will be brought to life through song, historical interpretation and multimedia presentations. This is one event you will not want to miss. Please note date is a Sunday, and the event begins late afternoon. Contact Jessica O'Brien with any questions [sichair@wuu.org](mailto:sichair@wuu.org).



### FISH (our local community's food & clothing pantry)

FISH has asked for baking goods: flour, sugar, cake mixes, any sort of baked goods mix such as Jiffy Cornbread mix.

The shelf was completely empty.



Please make sure packages are sealed and all "use by" dates are current Thank you all!



Are you Spring cleaning and saying what am I going to do with all of this stuff????

**DONATE YOUR TREASURES  
to the  
WUU ANNUAL YARD SALE!**

**Friday, May 20th 4:30-8:00pm**

**Saturday, May 21st 8:00-12 Noon**

**Donation Drop Off Times**

**Beginning Sunday, May 15th (after services) through**

**Friday, May 20th (no later than noon)**

**Best Selling Items**

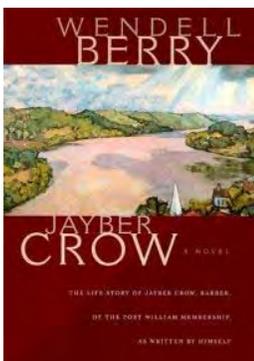
- Small Furniture Items
- Wicker Furniture
- Boutique Items
- Seasonal Decorations
- Children's Toys etc.

**NOT ACCEPTED**

- Clothing
- Gym Equipment
- Mattresses/Water Beds
- Refrigerators/Appliances
- Console TV's/Stereos
- Anything with Freon
- Knives
- Large Metal or Wooden Desks
- Cribs & Car Seats
- Paints/Fuels/Solvents
- Broken/Non-Working Items

**Lots of Volunteers Needed! Sign up  
online at [www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org) or at the  
Yard Sale table in the Narthex.  
We can't do it without you!**

**Pathfinders Book Group**



The group chooses a book that explores the author's spiritual journey or understanding of the human condition. Group members bring their lunch and we use the book as a springboard for what always turns out to be a spirited discussion of personal reactions.

Check The Spiral for our May meeting announcement. We will be discussing Jayber Crow by Wendell Berry. Come and join us –and bring a friend! We welcome new members and ideas for new books to read.

The School of Arts & Sciences presents Arts and Sciences Alive! with



# BLURRED LINES

Hip Hop Music as a Bridge Across the Racial Divide

Dr. Eileen O'Brien, Associate Professor of Sociology

The divide between those who are racially discriminated against and those who are racially privileged is vast. Yet, sometimes the dividing line can be blurred, especially through music as a shared cultural experience. Hip hop, as both a musical genre and a cultural movement, is uniquely poised to bridge that divide. Through interviews with those who are neither black nor white (Asian Americans) about their relationship with, and love for, hip hop culture, I explore the persistence of racial divides as well as the potential for coalitions and shared understandings via this music/culture

Saturday

MAY 7, 2016

1:00 p.m.

NEWPORT NEWS OFFICE ROOM 113

1 BAYPORT WAY, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA



SAINT LEO  
UNIVERSITY

For more information, contact Dr. Maureen Mathews, Assistant Professor of Psychology at [maureen.mathews@saintleo.edu](mailto:maureen.mathews@saintleo.edu)

©2016 Saint Leo University. All rights reserved. Saint Leo University is an Equal Opportunity Institution. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of Saint Leo University.



**WHEN:**  
Thursday, May 5th  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**WHERE:**  
**St. Martin's  
Episcopal Church**  
1333 Jamestown Rd  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

**COST:**  
**FREE!**

**Are you 60 or better? Stay informed and active!**

The Faith Community and Peninsula Agency on Aging's Williamsburg Resource Center are sponsoring an afternoon out. Bring your Williamsburg friends or come make new ones. Join us for a short presentation, snacks, and prizes.

### **May Topic:**

#### **Accessing the Williamsburg Regional Library's Digital Resources**

Learn about the library's extensive collection of digital resources, including e-books and downloadable magazines and music. Dwight Woodward of the WRL will demonstrate how to download an e-book to an iPad. Questions and answers to follow.

**Open to Williamsburg community residents 60 or better. Caregivers are welcome.**

*Join us for this fun event!*

Questions? Call:  
(757) 229-1111 ext.115



WILLIAMSBURG UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

3051 Ironbound Road  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 220-6830

[www.wuu.org](http://www.wuu.org) [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org)

Lola Warren, President

[president@wuu.org](mailto:president@wuu.org)

Rev. David Johnson, Interim Minister

[revdaj@aol.com](mailto:revdaj@aol.com)

Pat Hoppe, Newsletter Editor

**Office Hours**

The WUU office is open:

- ◆ 8am-1pm Monday - Friday

Rev. Dave Johnson has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday -Thursday

Austen Petersen, Director of RE, has office hours:

- ◆ Noon-3pm Monday - Thursday.

Sometimes these times change due to meetings, vacation, etc.  
Feel free to call first (757) 220-6830 to check our availability.

**CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!**

Looking for a way to acknowledge a friend or relative's special day? Why not make a contribution to the WUU Endowment Fund in their name? We will then send out a letter acknowledging that the WUU Endowment Fund has received a gift from you in the name of that special person. What a unique way to recognize an occasion! For a Memorial Gift Form, contact [Endowment@wuu.org](mailto:Endowment@wuu.org).

(To add your name and month to the birthday and anniversary list, contact Ellyn Stephens in the office at [office@wuu.org](mailto:office@wuu.org).)



**May Birthdays**

**May Anniversaries**

Roger and Merry Guernsey

Vicki and Jim Hall

Kerry and Peter Mellette

Ülkü Nouri and Grayson Williams

Ben and Beth Puckett

Tina Allen

Stacy Bolling

Cheryl Coirin

Pearl Coopridner

Nancy Coy

Fred Coy

Stacey Felipe

Elizabeth Friedrichs

Marjy Friedrichs

Carolyn Greathouse

Joelle Griffin-Russell

Paula Hougen

Vanessa Jones

Lucile Kossodo

Alfred McKenney

Beth Puckett

Dave Stanford

Donna Stanford

Leighton Thumm

Scott Varney

Elizabeth Wilkins

Barb Worthen