



Ginter Park United Methodist Church

The Messenger

July/August Newsletter



If you must make a choice about what activity at Church you would like to attend over the next two months, in addition to worship services, I would strongly recommend our gathering on Sunday, July 15th, 2018 in the Social Hall at about 12:15 p.m.

In addition to taking care of the usual business of our Finance and Church Council Meetings at that time, we are also planning to make decisions following the completion of the Ginter Park UMC 2018 programming surveys. In this article, I want to highlight the most favorable choices you indicated for some of the questions offered. Owing to space constraints, I will not mention the narrative sections here. Please also note that I am not the official translator and compiler of the surveys. That is not my skill.

For *Focus of Ministry*, the top priority is children and youth ministry followed closely by adult ministry.

Expanding upon the *Children and Youth* section, top interests in order of popularity were: -

- Youth group for middle and high school
- Community service and mission work opportunities
- Bible study/Sunday school/Confirmation class

Under the children and youth *Music* program section, you chose: -

- Children and/or Youth choir
- Plays and musicals
- Hand-bells (color-coded or real ones)

For children and youth *Community Service and Mission*, your preference was: -

- In-town Shalom Farms, visiting the homebound, etc.

For Adults in *General Programming*, you prioritized: -

- Guest speakers (scholars, community leaders)
- Educational and Spiritual growth opportunities
- Special dinners

Adult Education and Spiritual Growth elections were: -

- Support groups (grief and loss, care-giver support, parents, end of life issues, etc.)
- Bible studies

Moving on to *Avenues of Outreach*: -

- New billboard, possible digital
- Put ads and/or feature articles in local newspapers
- Deliver information to both sides of the church

Ways to Welcome New Members: -

- First time visitor recognition
- Follow up all visitors with a personal note
- Name tags for members and visitors

Finally, regarding *What kind of Church do we hope to become in the next 100 years*, a clear majority opted for a “Programs and Activities” church with 100 – 250 members.

Perhaps this article will aid in our discussions on July 15th.

In Christ,

Dennis

G.E.M.S. and Friends

G.E.M.S. and Friends would like to share some of our upcoming events. Remember, if you are not a member of G.E.M.S. you are invited to join us for any of our activities, so if you see a program that sounds interesting, please feel free to join us.

July 17 at 12:00 P.M.

In July Rev. Joseph Frazier will be joining us for lunch and to share information about his Stepping Stones Career Training School. We will begin with lunch followed by Rev. Frazier's presentation and a brief meeting.

August 1st at 9:45 A.M.

In August we will travel to the Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg for lunch/dinner and to enjoy a production of *A Chorus Line*. Watch the church bulletin for more details.

September 18 at 12:00 P.M.

In September we will stay closer to home. We will travel all the way to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to enjoy the beautiful displays and we will also have an opportunity to visit the Butterfly exhibit. Check the Church bulletin for details. We will either eat lunch at the church before going to Lewis Ginter or we might eat at a café in Lewis Ginter.

October 16 at 12:00 P.M.

In October we will meet at the church for lunch and a time of doing arts and crafts to make some decorations for the upcoming holiday seasons.

November & December

We will have a combined November/December meeting. We are currently working on the possibility of a two day trip to Lancaster, PA. the week after Thanksgiving. The trip would include visits at the Bird In Hand Farmer's market, the Kettle Kitchen Village, a fantastic show at Sight and Sound Theater (the show is JESUS), and a three hour tour of the Amish country including stops and a wonderful presentation by a guide from the Mennonite Information Center to help gain insights to the Amish.

For further information please contact Beth or Roy Quist, 804-266-3461 or the Church Office (804)262-8651.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Donation and/or distribution of toiletries and baby products through the food pantry. These are additional items that are not regularly distributed at this time.

*The Commodity Supplemental Food Program

(CSFP) is for needy seniors. This program would be in addition to the food currently provided by the food pantry. If a person qualifies for the CSFP, it is conceivable that he/she could receive both the CSFP and the food provided by the food pantry. The CSFP requirements are more stringent than those for the food pantry and the record keeping and distribution would be separate. Therefore, we need an additional administrator(s) if we elect to offer this program. There is no cost involved either to the church or to the recipient. If someone is interested in administering the CSFP program, Horace Ford will be glad to work with him/her/them to get it established. Storage space could be provided in the food pantry.

*Volunteers needed to help with the Bon Secours Care-A-Van.

KID'S SUNDAY FUN DAY EVENT

On Sunday, July 8th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., all children 4 years and older are invited to the Church for pizza and games! Please let Grace Durrett know if you plan on attending so we know how much pizza to get!

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

We now are providing ride assistance for both worship services. Please contact the church office for more information (804) 262-8651.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Our condolences to the friends and family of Frank DuPriest who passed away on June 18, 2018. Our prayers are with Michelle Ludlow (client of Mary Liz Kehoe), Judy Wilkinson, Jane Whitlow, Heather James (Kidney Transplant), Lauren James (Kidney Donor), Ed Walton (Joyce Roberts' son), Cindy White, Ron Davis, Jennifer Maitland, Isabelle Brown, Michelle Stoll.

**BIRTHDAYS:
July & August**

JULY

- 1 Ryan Douthat
Noah Martin
- 2 Leslie Colbert
- 6 Joyce Roberts
- 8 Nancy Langford
- 9 Brian Durrett
Joyce Forcke
- 11 Geme Kane
- 12 Leo Colbert
- 13 Ashley Vronek
- 14 Jean Pleasants
Chris Otto
Hyland Terranova
- 19 Madi Terranova
- 27 Vonda Crane
- 28 James Johnson
Jasmine Johnson
- 30 Michael Riddick



AUGUST

- 3 Claude Cheely
- 5 Barbara King
John Thompson
- 6 Mary Frances Dirks
- 7 Megan Colletti
- 8 Harper O'Meara
- 10 Roger Mathis
- 11 River Bronson
- 13 Verna Raup
- 14 Juliet Fleming
- 17 Marlene Otto
- 18 Margaret Levarity
Gwendolyn Jane DeBardeleben
- 19 Beau Turner
- 20 Judy Wilkinson
Matthew Wilkinson
- 21 Gerald Roberts
- 22 Tori Inge
- 26 Earl Ford
- 23 Josh Carlton
- 28 Jessica Wells



**THOSE SERVING OUR CHURCH IN
JULY & AUGUST**

Crucifers

Acolytes

July

- | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Jacob Durrett | Jacob & Jonas Fleming |
| | Flag Bearers: | Eli Durrett & Micah Kinney |
| 8 | Jacob Durrett | Eli Durrett |
| 15 | Lee Walker | Micah Kinney |
| 22 | DJ Turner | Kayleigh Douthat |
| | | Katherine Kinney |
| 29 | DJ Turner | Eli Durrett |

August

- | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------------|
| 5 | Lee Walker | Jacob & Jonas Felming |
| 12 | Jacob Durrett | Eli Durrett |
| 19 | Lee Walker | Micah Kinney |
| 26 | DJ Turner | Kayleigh Douthat |

USHERS

JULY

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Captain: | Jeff Roberts |
| Altarperson: | Claude Cheely |
| Team: | Emilie & Andrew Gibson
Shannon & Chris Kontopanos |

AUGUST

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Captain: | Robert Burns |
| Altarperson: | Floyd Davis |
| Team: | Chuck Turner, Lee Walker |

ALTAR GUILD

JULY

- 9:30 – Allison Douthat
- 11:00 – Jean Taylor, Shannon Kontopanos,
Callie Robinson

AUGUST

- 9:30 - Allison Douthat
- 11:00 – Laura Roberts, Susan Hiers

Each Sunday, the flowers are given in honor of or in memory of our loved ones. If you would like to place flowers on the altar to recognize someone or some event, please contact Jean Taylor (308-8815). Would you like to join our Altar Guild? We would like to have you in one of our groups. Please call Jean Taylor.

**FINANCE & CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING**

The next meeting for Finance & Church Council will be July 15th in the Social Hall following the 11 a.m. service.

Monthly FOOD PANTRY Report

Your Ginter Park Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continues to serve those in need of food and clothing. During the month of May, we provided food to 412 households including 132 children. We currently have a good supply of USDA food; however, we can use donations of canned tuna as well as non-food items such as deodorant, tooth brushes and tooth paste, school supplies, diapers and baby food, disposable razors, feminine products and facial tissue. Our supply of paper grocery bags with handles is getting low. We need both paper grocery bags and plastic bags. Your donations of any of these items may be left outside of the food pantry (Burchette Room) on the ground floor of the Educational Building. Also, we are seeking one or more volunteers to oversee an extension of the food pantry ministry to needy seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) as well as volunteers to help with the Bon Secours Care-A-Van. The Care-A-Van is at our church on the first and second Monday morning of each month and serves those who are without health insurance.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes for 2018 are available in the Narthex, outside the church office, or in the Social Hall. We are recycling old ones. (They do not have the correct date but are still usable.) You can cross out the date if you wish when you use them. When you take a box, please sign them out with your name and the number on the envelopes. Thanks.

ACOLYTES



We have an active acolyte program for the traditional service and always welcome new acolytes. Acolytes are usually children and teens who are tall enough to reach the candles on the altar. Adults and older teens often serve as crucifer. At present, some of our acolyte robes are in need of minor repairs and washing. If you can help by taking or repairing a couple of robes at a time, please contact Horace Ford at 746-0381 or horaceford@live.com.

NURSERY STAFF

We are pleased to announce our fabulous Nursery Staff!! Each Sunday, two of the following team will be available to make your child feel right at home in our nursery: Liz Turner, Dale Lipke and Ella Kinney who is available to assist when one of the nursery staff is unable to be there. The nursery is for children from birth through age 4. If you have a child older than 4, please have them attend Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. and/or Children's Church at 11:00 A.M. If you have any questions please contact Anne Durrett in the Church Office. **Please remember that a well child is a child with:** no fever in the past 24 hours, no runny nose (except those who are teething or have allergies and the fluid is clear), no diarrhea in the last 24 hours (no more than 5 loose stools in 24 hours), no cough or cold, no crusted, matted eyes, no unusual rashes.



COMMUNITY YARD SALE DATES

If you missed our June Yard Sale, you have *another opportunity* to sell or buy! Come participate in our July 7th and/or September 1st Yard Sales. Selling spots are only \$10 each! Vendors, please call 262-8651. I hope to have a Farmer's Market here soon.

We look forward to seeing you there. Come out and support GPUMC! Tell your friends, neighbors, and everyone you meet.

Now's a good time to clear your attic and garage! Nothing to sell? ***Come and buy!*** Please spread the word. If you can help with this, please contact Mary Swing at the Church (262-8651).

A heart felt "Thank You" to all of you who volunteered to help with our April, May and June Yard Sales. You helped to make them successful.

Saturday, July 7 th	8 A.M. – 1 P.M.
Saturday, September 1 st	8 A.M. – 1 P.M.

(No Rain Dates)

100th ANNIVERSARY NOTECARDS AND ENVELOPES:

Full color picture notecards with envelopes and blank interiors for your personal notes or message are available. Each packet is 10 notecards with envelopes tied with a green ribbon will be \$10/packet.



NEW MINISTRY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

[New Ministry for Our Church Family –](#)

Ministering to our members by serving as a hub for job opportunities, items for sale, etc. **Our Church Family Community Board** will appear on our website, in our Bulletins, and Newsletters. Please contact Mary Swing at the church office (804-262-8651) to place something on our Church Family Community Board, questions, etc. For example: Looking for a job? Seeking to hire? Have something to sell? Want to buy?

Rules do apply: We are a church, and therefore we reserve the right to accept or deny anything for the Church Family Community Board. Also, you alone are responsible for all screening, background searches, interviewing, verifications, etc. for any job position, employee hire, item bought or sold, etc., that appears on our Church Family Community Board.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY COMMUNITY BOARD

1. Invitation to apply for the part-time Christian Children's Program Director position.
2. Pocketbooks for sale: 7 in various colors, brown, navy blue, (1) 2-tone beige/cream, white. In very good condition.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
GPUMC UMW....Please Mark Your Calendars

July 27-29 - VA Conference Mission Encounter - 4H Camp at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration by July 15th : vaumc.org/mission-encounter. (If unable to attend this 3-day event, there will be a mini-mission encounter September 8th (TBA).

Saturday, August 18th - District UMW Trip to SHALOM FARMS

Looking Ahead:

Tuesday, September 4th - UMW meeting at 10:00am followed by program and lunch.

Tuesday, September 11th - UMW Cookie/Tea at The Hermitage.

September 14-15th - VA Conference UMW Young Women's Event, Camp Overlook, Keezletown, VA.

Saturday, September 22nd - District UMW Annual Meeting - Lakeside UMC (GPUMW helping with food and volunteers).

Sunday, September 23rd - Annual Chickahomony Pow Wow, 1-4PM.

September 27-28 - 2nd On The Road Again in Mission Express to the Eastern Shore (TBA)

The Ginter Park United Methodist Women would like to say "THANKS" to all of you who participated:

-in our Candle Burning Ceremony in Memory/Honor of Loved Ones in May resulting in \$355.35 being sent to worldwide missions;

-in donating 11 Health and 14 School Kits, 91 individual kits items and \$51.00 being sent to June Virginia Conference; and

-in collecting cancelled stamps which have also been delivered to this year's June Virginia Conference. To date in 2018, not counting what has been collected at this year's conference, \$700 has already been sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Conference on Relief) for 2018. Please continue to collect cancelled stamps and place in receptacle next to UMW bulletin board.

Love and Peace,

Judy

**CHURCH PICNIC
PLUS, FISHING FUN
AUGUST 19th**



Once again we are going to 3 Lakes Park where we were last year. Everyone come join us for fellowship, food, and fun at our Summer Picnic on Sunday, August 19, at 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., located

at 3 Lakes Park, Shelter #2, 400 Sausiluta Drive, Henrico, VA, 23227. Maps available.

Enjoy a Summer cookout supper with our church providing hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, sodas and water.

If your name begins with:

A -M Please bring a dessert

N-Z Please bring a side-dish

Volunteers needed to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs and help with the picnic.

Please contact Mary Swing to help and/or information, etc. Rides are available to the Park per request. For your own comfort you may want to bring your own lawn chair.

For our youth and others who like to fish (catch and release), our Shelter #2 is located near the Fishing Pier and Lakeshore. Worms will be provided.

Fishing License Required for all 16 years or older. You may purchase your Fishing License from the website of the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Our Church Family: Member Profiles

Welcome to our new feature: “Our Church Family: Member Profiles”.

In order to get to know each other better, enrich our relationships within our Church Family, and draw us closer together and to God, each month some of our members will be featured. Mary Swing, Chair of Congregational Care will get in touch with each of you for your biographical details.

Our Featured Member: July



Congratulations to Anita Ramaiya, who became an American Citizen on May 16, 2018!

Accompanied by her adult daughter Emma Taylor, Anita was sworn in at 9:00

A.M. and received her Citizenship Certificate on that God-ordained morning in the Immigration Building on East Broad Street here in Richmond. Her journey to American Citizenship began when she left Liberia, West Africa where she was born and grew up. She was “a young adult in her early 20s with her ‘Green Card’ who traveled to the U.S. which she entered on August 10, 1983, and settled in California for 25 years.” Anita said, “Then God relocated me to Richmond in 2011.” God led her to us, and she became a member of Ginter Park UMC on January 14, 2018. In Liberia, Anita grew up with her parents, three brothers, and two sisters. Now Anita is the only sister her brothers have. Both parents and her two sisters have passed away. She is the mother of four adult children, all of whom were also born in Liberia. The oldest is Emma, 44, whose

husband is Reverend Dr. Patrick Taylor, Pastor at Fountain Baptist Church on Paul Street in Richmond, Virginia. They have three children. Her second child is a son, Abdullah Konneh, 34, who is married. He lives in Philadelphia with his family and has two children. Her son Josh, 26, is single, and lives in Illinois where he is a Pharmacy student. Bridget, 24, is her youngest daughter who is a Criminology and Justice student at Virginia Union University. She wants to study Criminal Law. Anita is very proud of her children and grandchildren.

“The most important part is I am a Christian,” said Anita, when I was interviewing her for this Member Profile. A Psychologist by profession, she has a B.S. in Psychology, and a Master’s in Psychology. “Currently,” Anita said, “I am a qualified mental health professional specializing in working with children.” She “is limited to this until such time as she becomes a Licensed Clinical Psychologist.” Until then she may not independently diagnose and treat clients. Anita explained, “Upon becoming a Licensed Clinical Psychologist I will no longer be limiting the potential that God has planned for me.” She is very open about and focused on her relationship with God. Anita is a person of open and strong faith.

Anita has to do this in Virginia because she lives in Richmond. “I begin a 3-year on-line program on October 30, 2018, at the University of the Rockies in Denver, Colorado to earn a Psychology Doctorate (Psy D) Degree in order to be a Licensed Clinical Psychologist.”, she continued. She explained that the state of Virginia requires 1500 hours of practicum after the Psy D degree in order to become Licensed, for which Anita will take the State Board Examination to become a Clinical Psychologist. Both the State of Virginia and

the Doctorate Program have lists of qualified Licensed Clinical Psychologists from which Anita will select her supervisor. This must be done in order to fulfil the criteria from her Program and Virginia.

After she “earns her Doctorate in Psychology, she plan to become a global humanitarian worker working with children, to go out into the world wherever God sends me.,” she said, “I feel God has led me to do this.”

Anita had once thought about going back home to Liberia after earning her Psy D and traveling from there. However, “that was not in God’s plan for me,” she said. Anita said that she was “like Jonah, trying to escape God’s plan for her in the belly of the fish by not getting her citizenship and by returning to Liberia. “And like Jonah, “God refused to let her change his plans!” Anita said, “The plan was literally laid out for me by God in detail that ‘she was going to travel the world to do God’s work. God said ‘that’s My plan for you.’ “

Therefore, to fulfil God’s purpose for her life: Anita left Liberia; became an American Citizen last month; in October begins a 3-year Doctorate Program; then will travel the world for God. All of this is with God’s blessing and support. As this woman of open and strong faith said at the beginning: The most important part is that she is a Christian.



**Our Featured Member:
August**

Sarah Lynn Croll said, “There are only two states I’ve never been in: Alaska and Hawaii.” A native of

Richmond, Virginia, Sarah Lynn began traveling shortly after she was born. Her travels began with her journey home from the Richmond hospital where she was born to go to her parents’ home in Mobjack, Virginia. She explained that the Gloucester Bridge had not been built yet. It was quicker and easier to come to Richmond than go to a hospital in Norfolk. She is used to traveling because her family moved constantly throughout her childhood. “My father was a UM pastor. We lived in many different places and were members of many churches,” Sarah Lynn recalled.

“I’m a Preacher’s Kid—a Jack of all Trades is what I call myself,” Sarah Lynn continued with a smile. “My father was Reverend Mr. Donald E. Croll and my mother was Charlotte Croll. I have one older brother, Charles, who is single, one older married sister Anita, and one younger married brother, Marty, and his children and grandchildren.” She enjoys being “Aunt to her nephews, great nephews, and great niece.”

Her faith journey and relationship with God is best illustrated by what happened when Sarah Lynn was 8 years old. “I asked my father to let me join the Church because I *wanted* to join the Church.” she said. “I turned 8 in November and received a book about John Wesley that Christmas which I read *many* times. I was in a regular Confirmation Class the following spring which my Daddy taught. When I was in Confirmation Class, I was the youngest at 8 years old, but Daddy would not let me

answer all the questions because he wanted the older children (12-14 years old) to participate in that way. I was confirmed and first joined God’s Church, the United Methodist Church, at the age of 8. When I was 14, I wanted to go to General Conference as a Youth Representative but my father thought I was too young to be one even though I attended every Annual Conference anyway.” Sarah Lynn became a person of strong faith at an early age.

“My mother and father became involved with the church (Ginter Park) in 1973 when he retired. They liked it and the people here and stayed. He was a well-known Adult Sunday School Class teacher here.” Sarah Lynn said. She was in Ferrum Junior College at the time, and then went to California to go to Photography School, and then went to work. “My work was as a Traveling Family and Children’s Portrait Photographer covered states from South Carolina to Canada for 32 years,” she fondly remembered.

Of course she visited her parents here and attended GPUMC with them. She became active with our Church in 1998 “because of an accident at work; took two years off. My mother, Betty Loving, and Clay Secor got me involved with this Church and its ministries. Basically I stayed because it was my parents’ Church.”

Currently living in Richmond, Sarah Lynn is active in and past president of the United Methodist Women (UMW), drives in the UMW District “On the Road Again” Ministry, and helped with their yard sales. She also serves as a GPUMC Representative at the Annual Conferences, and since 1998 has driven the Church bus.

“My dad passed away in 2004. I moved back home in 2006 and lived with my mother as companion and family, and really

became active in this Church,” she said. There were a few difficult times. In 2007, Sarah Lynn had cancer. During the 9 years that Sarah Lynn lived at home, she continued working as a Portrait Photographer at Walmart’s Portrait Studio in Mechanicsville. “It was the best 9 years of my life because I got to know my mother better. I wished it could have been longer,” she continued. “My life changed a lot after Mother died. For 9 years I was happy here. Then travel became different.”

Sarah Lynn still loves to travel and said “that it used to have wings on my ankles but then they were cut off. Then I constantly looked to see if they were re-growing, but they don’t re-grow as fast as they used to. Now I have to think about traveling and planning for it; before it was automatic and just happened.”

“Mother and I had so many plans but never got to them. God had a better plan. I don’t know His plans for me, but I know what God planned for her,” she stated. Sarah Lynn, a cancer survivor, said that “God kicked me back because He was not ready for me yet.” Sarah Lynn remains a person of strong faith.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Thank you so much to everyone who has given. Our Capital Campaign Fund, or 100th Anniversary Fund as it is also known, is continuing because we have undertaken to complete the repair of our church organ. We have already had some work done on the organ console, but still need repairs to the Great Chamber: \$23,435; the Choir Chamber: \$19,592 and the Swell Chamber: \$33,320 for a total of \$76,347. Please continue your support as you contribute to this Fund. Thank you for your amazing

generosity thus far. To date, we have raised \$168,114.98 on our way to \$300,000.

\$108,690 was spent on the furnace replacement and heating control system leaving \$76,347 for the organ. In addition, we would like to put in a ramp outside the Side Door, which will cost \$15,000. Other major projects are also being planned.

CRUCIFER AND ACOYLTES NEEDED

We are in need of additional crucifers and acolytes for the 11 AM Sunday service. A crucifer may be a teen or adult who is capable of carrying the processional cross. An acolyte can be a child or teen who is tall enough to light the candles on the altar. If you know of someone who may be interested in serving in either capacity, please contact the church office or Horace Ford. We will arrange a brief training session for any new crucifer or acolyte.

VBS THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School for both the children and the adult classes a success! It was a great week to be SHIPWRECKED together! A special thank you goes out to Vonda Crane for her long distance leadership and support in making this event happen!

7th ANNUAL ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It was a blessed Spirit-filled time. Thank you to everyone who came and made it a wonderful success. We enjoyed our time together as we prayed, explored the Gospel of Mark, experienced Christian Fellowship, wrote heartfelt notes to our beloved homebound Church members, and had delicious refreshments. A special note of appreciation is extended to our leaders for

their dedicated Christian service. Mark your calendars to come celebrate the 8th Annual Adult VBS in 2019!