

Contact



January 2016 Edition

Warwick United Church of Christ 10 Matoaka Lane Newport News, VA 23606

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Where ever you are on your journey, you are welcome here.



Pastor's Message

Warwick Wonderings

Next Sunday will begin our second year of being in relationship to each other. At this stage of my life, I want to use my time in ways that matter. As the old hymn goes, "I don't wanna live my life in vain."

So, as I reflected on what I could be doing with these days, and engaged in conversations with you to continue here, these were some of thoughts.

I believe a Warwick UCC can make a difference. I think it offers some unique light into a world that seems to have a lot of darkness.

Genuine respect for diversity. Diversity of age, diversity of economic status, diversity of beliefs, diversity of sexuality, diversity of race, diversity of beliefs about the same things. **Translation:** Your uniqueness will be honored here. **Implication:** Salvation – "sozo" - safety can happen here.

Willingness to seek knowledge. We don't think we know everything, but we are willing to learn. **Translation:** Openness to new ways of understanding and doing. **Implication:** Emerging, creative ideas can become reality without threatening anyone.

Commitment to caring. Warwick is about caring collaborations within our church family and with other organizations and congregations in our community. **Translation:** Collaboration, not competition. **Implication:** Endless possibilities for 'partners' in important areas of this community's life.

Centrality of Scripture and worship for spiritual formation. Spiritual formation increases our potential for social transformation in our homes, our community and the world. Though theologically and socially progressive, we are Christocentric, believing following Christ's teachings is a powerful thing. **Translation:** God is still speaking, Warwick is willing to listen. **Implication:** Hope for those who've never known this unconditional love and for all of our growth.

I've decided there's nowhere I'd rather be in the organized body of Christ at this time of my life. Whatever your reasons, I hope you'll decide the same thing.

Your Sister in Service,

Sallye

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Upcoming Sermons

January 3: "Stargazing"
January 10: "Waterworks"
January 17: "Regifting"
January 24: "Fill it up"
January 31: Hymn Sing

Called Congregational Meeting... Sunday Jan. 3rd

Reordering Our Life Together

On January 3rd, a continued ‘congregational’ meeting will be held to consider suspending parts of the constitution and trying a new way of ordering our life together. The intent of reordering our life together is quite simple: Increase the use of individual’s spiritual giftedness AND increase the efficiency of our time together and our effectiveness of being Christ’s servants.

Components

Instead of traditional committees, establish Caring Core Communities, not committees of responsibility. They could be: Spirituality and Worship, Missions or Outreach and Administration (Stewardship).

Within these three general areas, allow Core Areas of Cells of Service will emerge based on two things; your Callings (giftedness) OR Emergent Needs: So a Cell of Service might be Sanctuary Preparation or Membership Contact or 5th Sundays or Signage.

These Cells of Service will be fluid, and work til the task(s) are complete. For example, a ‘cell’ might form to guide the children’s ministry A ‘cell’ might emerge to research and determine how we might be in ministry with LGBT youth. A ‘cell’ might emerge to handle the sanctuary needs, or be sure we are always ready to greet those God sends our way.

You must listen to where God is leading you or where you want to give of yourself.

Overriding, all this is the Gathered Community or Congregation.

This reordering of our life together will encourage participation and creativity. But it will require our very best in communication, collaboration and celebration.

Come, ready to listen, ask questions, help us create a new way of doing “our life together.”

Upcoming Events

January 3rd	Sermon Title: “Stargazing”
January 3rd	Called Congregational Meeting, 12 noon
January 5th	Communion to Nursing Homes
January 7th	Book Club, 2 pm
January 10th	Sermon Title: “Waterworks”
January 17th	Sermon Title: “Regifting”
January 18th	Women’s Fellowship, 10 am
January 19th	Adult Supper Club, 6 pm, Tuscany Italian Restaurant
January 21st	Book Club, 2 pm
January 24th	Sermon Title: “Fill it up!”
January 31st	Hymn Sing





Moderator's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! Times does fly.

I was recently reflecting on what has been accomplished this past year, where our valleys have been as well as our high points. It was a difficult year in some ways but it was also a year of revitalization. I mentioned many of our accomplishments in the Contact's December edition and want to use this edition to pave the way for some of my/our goals for 2016.

At the December 13th Congregational Meeting we accepted the Interim Minister contract developed by the Search Committee for Rev. Sallye Hardy. We also voted and passed the 2016 church budget (copy in this edition). What we were not able to discuss was a proposal of changing the way WUCC governs itself.

A special Called Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 3rd following worship services. This meeting is being called specifically to review the proposed model mentioned above. There is an article in this edition (see page XX) giving some basic insight into the model. Sallye, Linda Manning and I researched several models, discussed how the model would look on an organizational chart, and how it would function compared to our current organizational structure of boards & committees. The model was presented to the Church Council where it received positive comments. *This is the first major goal of 2016 for WUCC.* Discussion will take place on January 3rd and a vote taken on whether or not to accept a trial period of this model.

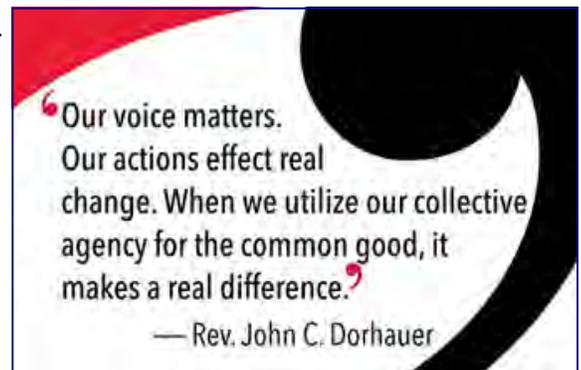
The second major goal of 2016 is to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan. This will be something new for WUCC and will be challenging, but vital to our growth. Since this is a Strategic Plan, I plan to have a draft plan ready by the end of January 2016 which will be developed through the year with a final plan ready for congregational review in early Fall.

The third major goal of 2016 is to develop a congregational handbook which will be distributed to members and attending non-members. This will be a professional looking bound handbook with information each congregant needs.

If anyone is willing and interested in working on the second or third goal, please let me know. I can put you right to work.

So once again it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Barbara J. Harvey, Moderator



Welcome



We welcome Rev. Robin Mansfield to our staff as our Associate for Children and Family Ministries. Robin most recently has served as the Director of Family Ministries at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Williamsburg. She is respected in the Potamac Association for her abilities with children, young adults and in the pulpit.

Robin will be living in the Newport News area, where her son and his family also reside. We are grateful Robin has agreed to bring her gifts into our life together.

Her position begins January 10th and is a fifteen hour a week position.

Financial Update as of December 19, 2015

Data provided by Terry Costello

INCOME	
Total Expected Income - 12 Months	\$77,200.00
Received - Year to Date	\$73,365.23 (as of 12/19/15) – excludes the \$7,500 grant for boiler
	\$ 3,834.77 less than budgeted for 2015
Pledged Income - 12 Months	\$61,000.00
Received - Year to Date	\$52,281.70 (as of 12/19/15)
	\$ 8,718.30 less than budgeted for 2015
EXPENSES	
Total Expected Expenses - 12 Months	\$86,730.00
Spent - Year to Date	\$83,075.51 (as of 12/19/15)
	\$ 3,654.49 less than expected for 2015
Amount sent to any outreach/mission work to date:	\$ 6,275.68* (\$5,017.60 went to THRIVE; \$3,781.00 was the citrus fruit fundraiser).
	*Pass thru – what we get we send out – not part of dedicated funds.
CURRENT FUNDS	
Checkbook Balance	\$16,363.52** (as of 12/19/15)
	** Includes \$7,500 CMA grant for boiler

Electronic Tithing

Tired of writing checks each week or month? Tired of forgetting your offering envelope at home? Why not try Electronic Tithing! With a very simple application you can elect to have your pledged funds automatically withdrawn from your account, or credit card, and delivered to WUCC!

Contact **Terry Costello** for a form and more information!

2016 Approved Budget ...

Incomes

Building Use	\$ 4,500.00	
Pledged Income	\$ 56,000.00	
Loose Collections	\$ 6,000.00	
Christian Education	\$ 300.00	
Flowers Reimbursement	\$ -	* See note 1 below
Special Gifts	\$ 4,300.00	
Special Projects	\$ 2,000.00	
Special Services	\$ 200.00	
Total	\$ 73,300.00	

Passthru

\$ - *See note 2 below

Expenses

Salaries	\$ 12,400.00	Music Director, Janitor
Consultant - ministerial services	\$ 22,975.00	Interim Minister
Consultant - administrative	\$ 3,025.00	Secretary
Consultant - web services	\$ 4,320.00	Communications Manager
W/C / Med&FICA	\$ 2,040.00	
Info Technology Charges	\$ 1,950.00	Website & livestreaming
Office Copier lease/service	\$ 2,320.00	
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,500.00	
Insurance	\$ 4,100.00	
Utilities	\$ 7,500.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 100.00	
OWCM	\$ 1,000.00	
EVA Apportionment	\$ 250.00	
Deacons Fund	\$ 250.00	
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 500.00	
Church Expenses	\$ 600.00	
Office Supplies	\$ 200.00	
Postage	\$ 49.00	
Janitorial Supplies	\$ 100.00	
Christian Education	\$ 150.00	
Nursery Attendant	\$ 1,560.00	
Children's Coordinator	\$ 11,700.00	
Music Ministry	\$ 200.00	
Guest Speakers	\$ 900.00	
Total	\$ 80,689.00	

TOTALS:

\$ 73,300.00 Budgeted Income
 \$ 80,689.00 Budgeted Expenses
\$ (7,479.00) Budget Deficit

NOTES:

- 1) WUCC will no longer order flowers. Any-one wishing to order flowers for the altar should contact and pay Pollards directly.
- 2) What WUCC collects is what is sent in to Southern Conference. Christmas Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need and Strengthening the Church offerings are included.

In the interest of saving space, several empty line items have been hidden from view. Full copies of the proposed budget will be available during the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 3rd after the 11 am service.

Old Fashioned Pounding..Update

Twice Blessed is the Harvest We Share

Thanks, Everyone, for bringing in enough food to fill 10 boxes to serve a large meal for 10 families! We even had some food items left over to donate to the Thrive food drive. A check for \$200 was also delivered to LINK to handle the cost of turkeys and other food stuff.

Sue Howell



Photos by
Brenda
Tagge

CNU Exam Week Snacks - Thanks!

During two hours of Exam Week at Christopher Newport University, Warwick UCC provided snacks to 272 students along with 150 SCANTRONS to be used during an exam. Many students expressed their thanks that we would think of them and would provide free items. One male student didn't want anything but he did want us to know that he appreciated seeing several churches doing this ministry without requesting anything from the students.

Snacks during Exam Week is a project of United Campus Ministries, at Christopher Newport University. The Board of UCM-CNU consists of representatives from local churches (currently: Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, and United Church of Christ) and CNU student leadership. This leadership is supported by the Board through the active relationship of the Campus Minister, Dr. Donna DeSarro-Raynal and CNU students, staff, and the University President.

Your donations to UCM-CNU helps to facilitate interfaith dialogue and collaboration with students in order to cultivate an environment that respects religious diversity. Sooooo, thanks for your generosity!! And thanks Gail Sears for sharing your time with Sue and Bill Howell at the Snack Table.

Sue Howell



Our Church Family...

Christmas Eve Service

Photos by Angela Harvey



Lighting the Candle
Photo by Lysie McIlhinney

Choir News

Choir Member Sings with the Virginia Choral Society

Photos by Sue Howell



Besides singing in our choir, Leslie Danneberger sings with the Virginia Choral Society. In December, Brenda Tagge, Jan Orr, and Sue Howell enjoyed hearing “Sounds of the Season” performed at First UCC on Todds Lane. On different days, local high schools (Warhill HS from Williamsburg, Menchville HS from Newport News, and Bayside HS from Virginia Beach) participated with the Virginia Choral Society. The Fitzgerald’s were represented when Menchville HS sang.



Coming Up! Hymn Sing on January 31, 2016

January 31st will be the first Sunday off under Sallye’s new Interim Minister Contract. Barbara Harvey has spoken with Rudy and it was agreed that we will do a Hymn Sing as opposed to having a fill in minister. If you have a favorite hymn, please tell Rudy **before January 15th** so he can organize the program and decide how many we can do. This service is a blast from the past! – Rev. Askew usually planned one of these per year and everyone enjoyed it.

Looking Back ...

Reflecting back on the year of 2015 with Warwick UCC, I have many great memories. My first memories are filled with the love of two children, Jordan and Charlotte, as we began to navigate the waters together to build the foundation of a Children’s Program. It was rocky to start. I had little experience and so did they! But the family of WUCC gave us a shot and over the course of the year we have learned what works and what doesn’t. Lots of grace and lots of love filled our classroom and little by little, others have joined us.

Over the course of the year we have engaged the community in new ways. In the Spring we had the first ever “Palm Sunday Celebration” complete with a petting zoo, pony rides, Easter egg hunt, music, food and lots and lots of fun. During the summer, we attended the Eastern Virginia Association Youth Retreat. Emme was a delight to all she came into contact with during the retreat. Also, during the summer we had two community family movie nights, Frozen and Big Hero 6! These movies offered a time of fellowship with children and youth from the community, as well as, church members and friends. The summer ended with a blowout “Back to School” party that included fun and games, and food, and did I mention fun?”

We ended the year focused on service and the making and distribution of “Blessing bags.” In this project each child built their own bag to keep in their parent’s car until they encountered someone who could benefit from the blessing. This was by far my favorite event that we planned and implemented throughout the year.

So to Charlotte, Jordan, Emme, Hunter, Zoe, Chloe, Dakota, Morgan, Stevie, Mimi, and Teagan, THANK YOU for opening your hearts to Mrs. Crystal and myself over this past year! Speaking of Mrs. Crystal, I could not have done this year without her faithfully assisting in the classroom, offering her musical talents, and driving so I could nap during our commutes, especially this last semester that I never seemed to have any-time to sleep unless I was riding!

Now, I know it is time to go. God has been faithful in the building of a children’s program, using Crystal and I in ways that we had not envisioned before. Crystal and I learned because we were faithful to the call of God (... and Barbara Harvey!). Our prayer as we go is that God continues to bless the children’s program and the church at Warwick UCC! We will miss you and love you forever! Please stay in touch!

God Bless 2016!
Kayla and Crystal Lennon

PACE's Holiday of Hope Project

Photos provided by PACE



The Holiday of Hope Project

Because of your participation, all of the gifts for our Holiday of Hope Christmas Project have now been gathered together as we prepare for our Holiday celebration this Friday December 18th, 2015. The aged poor will open their hearts as you have blessed them in the joy of gifting. Sometimes aging and the disease process that infirms and inflicts so many takes away independence, health, and a capacity for joy. Your act of kindness rekindles the light of joy and often manages to burn away the fog of sadness and seasonal despair that accompanies so many as they face the final chapter of their years. For this and for your other acts of charitable sacrifice and tenderheartedness for our poor aging community this past year, I share this wish from all the staff here at the Riverside Hampton PACE; that you have a **Blessed Merry Christmas!**

Chaplain Will Lowrance and all the Staff here at Riverside Hampton PACE

Reflections ...

The Gifts of Self

Those we know as magi brought gifts they could afford,
Being rich enough to follow stars and socialize with kings.
And those exotic offerings! Clearly they weren't chosen
To impress the ones they found when finally, finally
They made their way to Bethlehem!
But odd as their story insists on being,
Year after year they show up in pageants and carols,
Holding a place for the outsider, for us.
However many they were, we can be sure
It was no small thing to cross a sea of sand,
Even more amazing, to cross seas of suspicion.
And it was no small thing to kneel
In that place, finding the unexpected
Incomprehensible.
Transforming.
Irresistible.
No, it was no small thing that these magi found their way
Into a story filled with unlikely characters.
But what are we to take from this strange turn of plot?
What is the lesson here for any of us
Still struggling to cross our own deserts,
But with fewer resources and neither stars nor angels
Helping us on the way?
History has polished up the entire episode
And made our gifting traditions curious imitations
Of that first exchange.
But if we claim to honor this part of the story,
Maybe we need to remember, honestly remember that
The magi offered from their abundance
Rich gifts, treasures entirely out of place--
All things considered,
But they offered gladly what they had
For a glimpse at what might be.
And as I see it play in my own mind,
It wasn't the gold or frankincense or myrrh
That made the difference,
But their willingness to leave what served them well
In search of more.
Maybe that is why the story of these odd strangers
Speaks to me so personally,
And why the gifts I offer now,
Don't come from an abundance easily surrendered
But rather from the dust of a personal sojourn,
And the deepest self I came to know along the way.

Brenda Tagge 12.25.2015



Photos by Sue Howell

Coming together...

Book Club

The book club meets Jan. 7th at 2 in the multipurpose room to discuss Jodi Picoult's "Nineteen Minutes." We meet Jan. 21st to discuss Steven Dau's "The Book of Jonas."



Adult Supper Club



The Adult Supper Club meets at Tuscan Italian Ristorante on Jan. 19th at 6 p.m. All are welcome to join. Please add your name to the sign-up list posted on the hall bulletin board.

Adult Sunday School Class

Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion of scripture during this season of Epiphany as we welcome the events and people that mark turning points in our lives. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from 9:45 am to 10:30 am. Listed below is our focus for January.

January 3: Pilgrims to Sacred Places

To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the magi. (Matthew 2:1-12)

January 10: Named and Claimed

To know that we are God's beloved children. (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

January 17: Overflowing Love

To embrace God's abundant love and grace. (John 2:1-11)

January 24: Proclaiming Jubilee

To be inspired by Jesus' bold word about the ways of the Spirit. (Luke 4:14-21)

January 31: Ministry on the Edge

To discern the prophetic ways of God, which may not be our ways. (Luke 4:21-30)



Come join us even if is only once a month! It is informal but exciting as we share our thoughts in a safe and loving atmosphere.

WUCC is still looking for Wishmakers!

By Barbara Harvey

We had 1 wish filled this month. Barbara Harvey is donating a 2 drawer locking filing cabinet for the church office. Private files of the church will be stored here.

Wishes needing to be filled (donations and/or labor): *Please designate your donation to a specific wish.*

New blinds (*cost approximately \$30 per window*)

Sunday school room (*4 windows = \$120*)

Meals on Wheels room (*4 windows = \$120*)

Choir room (*4 windows = \$120*)

Church office (*2 windows = \$60*)

Kitchen (*2 windows = \$60*)

Pastor's office (*2 windows = \$60*)

Fellowship Hall (*10 windows = \$300*)

Ladies Room (*2 windows = \$60*)

Men's Room (*2 windows = \$60*)

If we get the donations for blinds, I'll get them installed

Volunteer to help Barbara clean up the storage closet and the "mailroom" (office outside of Pastor's office) – contact Barbara to set a date

Flooring for bathroom in middle classroom – the bathroom door cannot be closed (*\$100*)

Paint & labor (or donations) for the church office, children's Sunday school room and Meals on Wheels room
(*Approximately \$135 for paint for each room, labor NOT included*)

Labor – touch-ups in paint needed for the hallway

New door locks for the front sanctuary doors (*estimate needed*)

New sink in the ladies room (*\$210*)

New church phones (*Set of 3 = \$70*). The office phone does not hold its charge and wording/numbers have been rubbed off due to use.

Window Air Conditioners:

Choir Room (*\$500*)

Church Office (*\$380*)

Meals on Wheels Room (*\$500*)

Sunday School Room (*\$500*)

Nursery (*\$500*)

Multi-purpose Room (*2 x \$300 = \$600*)

Window Fund: We've recently replaced 2 "broken-in" windows but we have several more that are seriously cracked or have multiple "beebe shot" holes. We are creating a fund to begin replacing these.



All prices are approximates, and/or ranges. Actual costs may be less.

Please consider fulfilling a wish or combining your resources with another individual/family to make our wishes come true.