



Ginter Park United Methodist Church

The Messenger

September/October 2019

In my newsletter article for July/August 2019 I asked you to identify a mission or ministry active here at Ginter Park UMC which you think qualifies as being described as our *“heartbeat”*. The people who responded said that they thought our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet is what defines us in ministry at this time. There is no doubt that this ministry makes a significant impact upon the lives of some of the people living around the church. We are located in what is described as a *“Food Desert”* for those who do not have transportation to grocery stores. Shalom Farms does a first-class ministry in supplying produce to the needy.

My research tells me that our Food Pantry began 47 years ago in the small room opposite the kitchen (where the organ blower is located). Zeke and Jean Taylor were long time organizers and supporters of this program. It has grown significantly since then and now operates mainly out of the former Burchette classroom. The Choir Room is used for intake purposes. We are blessed to have volunteers to assist in this ministry from our own congregation and from River Road UMC. There are clients who also volunteer regularly. Our Food Pantry and Clothes Closet (the latter is now housed in the former Food Pantry Room next to the Burchette classroom) are open weekly on Wednesdays from 10 am to 12 noon and food has been given to over 9,000 clients in past years. We also are on the USDA monthly donation program.

We are blessed this year to have been awarded two generous grants for our Food Pantry and Clothes closet. The Virginia Conference Common Table gave us \$8,000 and the Richmond District Board of Missions awarded us \$3,000. In addition, we receive regular donations from members and various other individuals. Our Clothes Closet benefits from the generous gifts of many people who donate used clothing, linen, and kitchen utensils for our clients. Our janitor, Bonnie Evans, has taken the Clothes Closet ministry *“under her wing”* and does a superb job of sorting, cleaning and arranging the clothing, etc. for distribution. Bonnie also takes charge of providing refreshments to our clients each week.

Strong paper bags with handles are in great demand for the Food Pantry. We need them to prepack items in preparation for our clients on Wednesdays. Sometimes we must double bag the items because they are heavy.

As a testimony to the broad range of individuals our Food Pantry has helped, I went to A.C. Moore Arts & Crafts early last year to arrange for the mounting and framing of David Lewis' print of our sanctuary that we would give as a gift to Bessie Womer and family in memory of Bob. The gentleman who served me in the framing department told me he knew our church and had been a client of our Food Pantry when he was going through tough times. He then proceeded to share that same story with some of his colleagues nearby and told how grateful he is for our mission. You never know who you are helping in this ministry.

Please continue to support this work and keep it in your prayers.

In Christ,

Dennis

GEMS

On September 19th, Patti Dean from Life Net Health will speak with us about organ donation. This is a very important subject for everyone. On October 17 GEMS regular program will feature a presentation by staff and The Beechwell Adult Day program. The center provides help for caregivers so they can get breaks for running errands or just to get a break. Please spread the word and bring your friends. Everyone is invited to join us for any of our programs. It is helpful to have an idea of how many plan to attend so we have enough food. You can make a reservation by calling Beth or Roy Quist at (804)266-3164 or the Church Office at (804)262-8651.

UMW

The United Methodist Women will meet Thursday, Sept. 12 for our re-organization meeting at 12:00 noon. Bring a sandwich, desert will be provided. We urge all women in the church to attend this meeting whether you've been a member of UMW before or are just interested in helping us find ways to reach more women for this worthwhile and interesting program. Remember all women members of the United Methodist Church are automatically members of UMW whether you choose to attend or not. If you have questions, please call Beth Quist (804)226-3164. Hope to see you Sept. 12.

NURSERY STAFF

We are pleased to announce our fabulous Nursery Staff! Each Sunday, the following team will be available to make your child feel right at home in our nursery:

Liz Turner

Dale Lipke

Ella Kinney, substitute

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./Children's Church at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service to ensure the safety of our youngest ones. If you have any questions please contact our Anne Durrett in the Church Office.



Zahra and Mahdi

About two years ago Ginter Park UMC began helping the refugee brother and sister, Zahra (23 years) and Mahdi (16 years) Hussain Ali, settle down into their new country and home. We bought Zahra a car so that she could work and earn money to support herself and her brother and provide other assistance.

Zahra would like to improve her English so that she may earn a degree one day. She wrote an entrance exam at Reynolds Community College and qualified at the Intermediary level. Through our Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we are supporting Zahra with a six credit ESL class on writing and grammar. This cost \$1,000.00. If you would like to contribute towards this mission effort, please make checks out to "Ginter Park UMC" and mark them "Pastor's Discretionary Fund". You may either mail them to us or place them in the offering plate on a Sunday. I am hopeful that we might continue with such sponsorship as Zahra undertakes further English courses.

I have helped Zahra by completing FAFSA forms on her behalf so that once she has her green card she will qualify for student aid.

Recently we completed a fund raiser to replace Zahra's original vehicle which had to be scrapped. Thank you for your wonderful generosity!

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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 Laura Roberts. Would you like to join our Altar Guild? We would like to have you in one of our groups.

**Tai Chi for Arthritis class coming in
September on Thursdays at 10.30 –
11.30AM**

Taught by Lili Just Simons

There are many different forms of tai chi. Tai chi for arthritis was designed by Dr Lam with a team of medical and tai chi experts. Dr Lam is a medical doctor and tai chi teacher from Australia., It is easy to learn and safe. All high risk movements have been removed and replaced with ones that are more effective for health. The program is proven effective by medical studies and supported by arthritis foundation's worldwide. It can be practiced sitting as well as standing. Almost anyone, of any physical condition can begin and continue to progress regardless age.

Health benefits of tai chi include:

Increased flexibility, muscle strength and fitness.
Less stress and more relaxation.
Improved immunity.
Lower cholesterol and blood pressure.
Better body posture.
Integration of body, mind and spirit.
Improved flow of life energy.
Just about all aspects of health.

Lili is a certified Tai Chi , Qigong and meditation instructor and a Shiatsu therapist. Over 30 years of experience.

She has taught Tai Chi, Shiatsu, meditation and Qigong here in the States and Europe.

Originally from Denmark, in her late 20'ties she came to the USA to continue her studies in Tai Chi and Shiatsu. Lili lived in SD for many years before she came to Richmond VA 15 years ago. She is currently in private practice in Richmond where she sees clients and teaching classes.

Lili and her husband enjoy living on the North Side in Ginter Park. Starting date will be announced. Anyone from the congregation can participate for free. The class is simple seated exercises that promotes better sleep and helps to cool the body down in this heat.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sept 8th, during both worship services, we will observe Christian Education Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpacks. This is a chance for prayers to be given to all educators and students as they embark on a new school year.

THOSE SERVING IN OUR CHURCH

September & October

Ushers

September

Captain: Willie Herbert

Altarperson: Robert Burns Team: Conway Kehoe, Lee Walker

October

Captain: Jeff Roberts

Altarperson: Shannon Kontopanos

Team: Emilie Gibson, Andrew Gibson

Altar Guild

9:30 A.M. – Allison Douthat

11:00 A.M. –Laura Roberts, Alane Herbert, Callie Robinson

**Projects/Tasks needed to be
undertaken at Ginter Park UMC**

- Install Side Door handicap ramp access
- Power wash Bell Tower
- Beautify hallway from Side Door entrance to steps leading to Office area
- Social Hall needs painting
- Sanctuary front doors need attention. They should have panic bars.
- Sanctuary Rose window and stained glass windows below it need protection
- Overhead projector in Social Hall will need replacing soon
- Repair metal handrail outside Side Door (no longer attached to concrete)



CELEBRATING “THE YEAR OF THE CHURCH FAMILY”

This is good news indeed! Brothers and Sisters – in Christ, we are focusing on and celebrating “The Year of the Church Family”. You and I, each and every one of us is a sister or brother to each other in the very special relationship as the family of believers in Christ’s blessed church here at GPUMC.

In John 15:12, Jesus commanded, “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

God wants and intends us to continue to come together to mutually and in Christian love nurture, enrich, minister to and with, encourage spiritual growth, support, and enjoy fellowship in various ways through our relationships within our Church Family of Christian believers. As we encourage each other to focus and celebrate us, Brothers and Sisters, we draw even closer to each other and to God in the safety and security of God’s steadfast loving care which God provides for us in our special GPUMC Family of Christian believers.

Our motto states, “As much for others, as for ourselves”. We will, with renewed understanding, focus and celebrate “as for ourselves” in keeping with Christ’s commandment. (Sisters and Brothers, do not be concerned. We will as usual continue to minister to and love our neighbors as ourselves in keeping with “As much for others.”)

Your Sister in-Christ,
Mary Swing
Chair of Congregational Care

FOOD PANTRY, CLOTHES CLOSET AND OTHER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Your Food Pantry and Clothes Closet continues to serve those in need in our community. We serve 60 to 70 family units each week. You can help these ministries in several ways.

- Paper Grocery Bags with handles – We can always use paper bags with handles. If you will bring your grocery bags to church (and collect them from friends and neighbors), it will help us to meet our needs without having to purchase them at a cost of 15-1/2 cents each. Kroger, Lidl and Trader Joe grocery stores provide paper bags with handles.
- Food – We appreciate your donations of nonperishable food items; however, please make sure the expiration dates are current. We especially need peanut butter, tuna and other canned vegetables.
- Fall Clothes – Our Clothes Closet could use some fall clothes for women, men and children so please consider donating some of your gently used clothing to our Clothes Closet.
- Please leave all donations outside of the Burchette Room on the first floor of the Educational Building.

CRUCIFER AND ACOLYTES

We have a couple of vacancies in our crucifer and acolyte program for the traditional service. Acolytes are usually children and teens who are tall enough to reach the candles on the altar. Crucifers are usually teens and adults who can carry the processional cross. If you have any interest in participating in this program, please contact Horace Ford or call the church office at 262-8651.



Spetember/October BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Charles McKinney
- 5 Garrette Lee, Floyd Davis
- 8 Chris Hiers, Erin McNeill
- 12 Ainsley Zirkle
- 17 Frankie Irons, Flo Martin, Anne Durrett
- 18 Brandy Cocke
- 20 Jacob Durrett
- 21 Doug Blake, Myrle Moore
- 22 Rev. Dennis Lipke, Daniele Kurze
- 23 Josh Carr

OCTOBER

- 3 Mary Liz Kehoe
- 4 Greg Sessions
- 6 Linda Wood, Robert Cerreta
- 9 Sue Hicks, Brian Wells
- 10 Amelia Bryan, Helen Ruth Aspaas, Jaden Rawlings
- 12 Mary Lou Vronek, Julianna Duke
- 13 Ella Kinney
- 16 Judy Gail Johnson
- 19 Crystal Riddick
- 20 Charles Fisher
- 21 Evan Taylor
- 22 Gary Taylor, Emery Bray, Josh Hadley-Goggin
- 24 Robert Burns
- 25 Joseph Sample
- 26 August Dettbarn
- 27 Heather Blake
- 29 Sandra Turner
- 31 Mary Thompson

CONCERNS

Please pray for our Church Family members. We hold you in our thoughts and hearts. We are blessed because we as Christians have a very special hope, love, and assurance through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

ILLNESSES:

Michelle Debardelen, Jean Taylor, Cheryl Roberts, Joyce Roberts' son, Simeon Wait (Dennis and Dale's great nephew), Ed Roberts, Jim Gray, Londyn, Ted Hughes (Liz Turner's great Uncle) with brain cancer, Claude Cheely, Nik, Teddy Sears, Joyce Forcke, Frankie Irons, Shirley Overstreet, Judy Wilkinson, Jane Whitlow, Cindy White, Jennifer Maitland, Isabelle Brown, Barbara Jessup, Bishop Lewis, Richard (Ruth Plott's brother-in-law).

CELEBRATIONS IN 2019:

We recognize and celebrate the joys of important events in our lives in our Church Family at GPUMC. We do this in order to grow and enjoy closer relationships with each other and with God. *If you have any important events or know of any, please let Mary Swing or the Church Office know so that we may include it here.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We welcome and embrace with joy our adult Brothers and Sisters, and our infants and children, through each one's baptism in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

NEW MEMBERS: We are glad you are part of our Church Family. If you have not yet joined our church through either profession of faith or transfer, we would love to welcome you.

SAINTS: Celebrations of Life Everlasting: Our loved ones who now live and are part of the Great Cloud of Witnesses in their eternal Heavenly Home with God and each other.

WELCOME: Gary and Donna Taylor's new foster daughter, Jenesis.

All Are Welcome!

Ginter Park United Methodist Church in Richmond, Virginia celebrates that all persons are created in God's image and are of sacred worth. We extend hospitality and encourage participation of all, regardless of age, race or ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, educational background, church affiliation, and physical or mental ability. We invite all people to join us in our journey to God and the practice of greater love, understanding and respect towards each other.



CROP WALK

Join us for the 49th Annual Richmond CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 20, 2019. This family friendly event links the Richmond community together in solidarity with our neighbors all around the world who have to walk long distances daily for access to food and clean water. Funds raised from the walk will provide food and other resources for families in Richmond and around the world.

The walk will begin and end at : Ginter Park UMC, 1010 W. Laburnum Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227. Registration for walkers and teams will begin at 1:00pm and the 3.1 mile walk will begin at 2:00pm.

On Saturday, September 14th at 10am, we will host a pre-walk Team Captains' Rally at Ginter Park UMC. You and/or a representative can pick up FREE walk materials to promote the walk, learn about how walk funds benefit families in need and connect with members of CROP walk teams to share ideas.

This year, Church World Service celebrates the 50th anniversary of CROP Hunger Walks. We hope you will help us celebrate this milestone year. CWS distributes 75% of the money from the CROP Hunger Walk to global hunger education, disaster relief and self-help projects in more than 30 countries around the world. The remaining 25% of funds support local hunger fighting agencies in Richmond..

Link to walk Facebook page -
<https://www.facebook.com/RichmondCROPWalk/>

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.



PUMPKIN PATCH NOTICE

Pumpkin Patch Dayz!

The pumpkins are coming! Delivery day is Sunday, Oct. 6th, noon, at 1010 W. Laburnum Ave, on the corner of Laburnum & Seminary Aves. **Patch hours are 11am to 7pm, Monday thru Saturday; Sunday noon to 6pm!**

There's a terrific schedule of events!

Story time Fridays at 4: Oct. 11, 18 & 25, Bring the kids, *rain or shine*, for story time with the Richmond Fire Dept! Meet the firefighters & check out the truck! (free!)

Chili & Campfire Night, Oct. 12, 6:30pm. Cozy up to a bowl of chili and make s'mores & music around the campfire! (donations)

Movie Night in the Patch!: 6:30pm, come enjoy *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown* in the most sincere Pumpkin Patch around! Free, plus popcorn! (We'll have a double feature!) Kids can come in their warm PJ's & a blanket!

CROP Walk & Party! Oct. 20, starting at noon! Live music, bounce house, corn hole & more! Walk for a great cause! (See the CROP Walk article in this newsletter!)

Fun'n Games Day! Oct. 26, 11am to 2pm: Richmond Firefighters come for one last Story Time, fun games, pumpkin decorating, snacks'n more! Costume parade, too!

HALLOWEEN NIGHT: CLOSING PARTY! Candy, hot cider for adults, and a free coat to anyone who needs one! Come early!

To our beloved Home Bound membership: if you would like to have a pumpkin, please call the church office at 804-262-8651. Give us an idea of the size you'd enjoy. We will deliver it to you!

LECTORS NEEDED:

Please sign up on the calendar outside the church office to be a lector during the 11 a.m. worship service! Everything is provided for you and we would love to see new faces reading the scriptures.

8th ANNUAL ADULT

FALL BIBLE SCHOOL

“Timeless Relevance:

St. John and The Gospel of John”

The members of the Adult Bible School invite you to join us as Mary Swing continues to lead our class now from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Wednesdays, in the Scott-Walford Room at Church.

We continue to read and study the Scriptures, and their authors lives, especially their unique relevance to our lives.

- Exploration/Education
- Refreshments
- Fellowship
- Christian Ministry: We write cards to our beloved homebound members of our Church Family.

To sign up or for questions, please call the Church Office at (804)262-8651.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Thank you for your support of our Food Pantry. We are now serving approximately 60 to 70 families each week. The federal/state program, under which we operate, allows us to serve each family only once each month. For the past few months, we have been receiving large deliveries of USDA food. We continue to need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. We also need canned tuna, soap bars and baby/toddler diapers. Donations may be left outside of the food pantry door (Burchette Room) on the first floor as you come in from the parking lot. We are also collecting new underwear and socks for children aged 5 and up to begin the new school year. These donations may be placed in the Children Supplies box outside of the Church Office. Volunteers are, of course, always welcome. Come and see what we are doing. The Food Pantry and clothes closet are open each Wednesday from 10 AM until Noon. The Food Pantry is grateful to Bert Terranova for the donation of a new upright freezer and to Sam Wilkinson for locating a used freezer. These acquisitions greatly expand the amount of frozen USDA food we can accept.

GPUMC COMMUNITY YARD SALES

Come out and support our Church!

On Saturday, September 7th from 8 A.M. – 1 P.M., we are hosting our Community Yard Sale in our parking lot (NO RAIN DATES). Volunteers are needed, so please consider joining us to help make it another successful season.

Vendors please call 262-8651. Only \$10 to rent each “Selling Spot” to sell your items.

Now is the time to clear your attic and garage. Help spread the word! Tell your friends, neighbors, and everyone you meet. Come buy or sell. Help is needed before, during, and after our Community Yard Sale. Please contact Mary Swing at the church (262-8651).

Saturday, Sept. 7 8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 5 8 A.M. – 1 P.M.

CHURCH PICNIC PLUS, FISHING FUN

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

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 Fall Picnic, September 22, 4:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M., located at 3 Lakes Park, Shelter #2, 400 Sausiluta Drive, Henrico, VA, 23227. Maps available.

Enjoy an early Fall cookout supper with our Church providing hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, sodas and water. At a special time during the Picnic we will celebrate our Pastor Lipke’s Birthday!

If your name begins with:

A – M Please bring a dessert

N – Z Please bring a side-dish

Volunteers are 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.

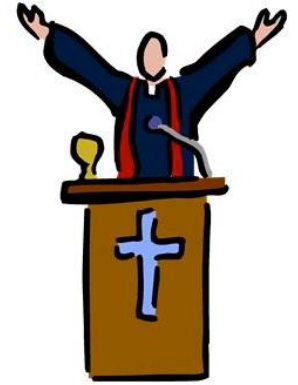
***“Teachings for Enthusiastic Followers of Jesus” a twelve-week sermon series
for Ginter Park UMC.***



September 8th Luke 14:25-33 *“The Price of Loyalty”*
September 15th Luke 15:1-10 *“The Joy of Finding”*
September 22nd Luke 16:1-13 *“A Crooked Manager”*
September 29th Luke 16:19-31 *“Open Your Eyes”*

October 6th Luke 17:5-10 *“Faith and Life”*
October 13th Luke 17:11-19 *“Show Gratitude”*
October 20th Luke 18:1-8 *“Persistent Prayer”*
October 27th Luke 18:9-14 *“Pride is Deadly”*

November 3rd Luke 19:1-10 *“Small and Rich”*
November 10th Luke 20:27-38 *“A Great Answer”*
November 17th Luke 21:5-19 *“Trouble Ahead”*
November 24th Luke 23:33-43 *“Skull Hill”*



With God’s help Pastor Lipke proposes to preach these sermons as we approach
Advent 2019. We look forward to seeing you each week.

It's Pumpkin Patch Season!
HELP RAISE THE ROOF!
The shelter-raising is Saturday, Oct. 5, at 10am! We'll also
be laying out pallets to hold
all the pumpkins!
We especially need trucks to transport the pallets!
Pumpkins arrive on Sunday, October 6, at noon!
WE NEED YOU!!
All hands on deck as we unload the truck! We'll have a
pizza lunch and knock out the job
in no time!
SALES VOLUNTEERS!
Sales hours are from 11am to 7pm, Mon-Sat; Sun.
from noon to 6, every day until Oct. 31st
Please contact Liz to sign up for a shift at
either lizrennturner@gmail.com OR
call 356-7203 & leave a message!
NO LIFTING; PICK YOUR OWN HOURS!

**Training available! Anyone can be a
volunteer! This is a terrific mission to
our community, so join the fun!**

