



Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists

Newsletter

May 2005

11 A.M. SUNDAY SERVICES

MAY 1 – THE CELEBRATION OF BELTANE

Beltane is a traditional Celtic, pre-Christian celebration of the coming of Spring, also known and celebrated as May Day, which will be held outdoors (weather permitting) between the Fahs and Parker Houses. This highly festive celebration for people of all ages includes dancing, a maypole, singing joyous songs, and planting “wishes” for the coming growing season. Please wear bright colors, bring flowers and shoes that allow for dancing/walking in the grass.



MAY 8 - SALAAM

We invite you to share in a brief journey to Islamic culture with William and Mary senior Banan Malkawi and The W&M Middle Eastern Music Ensemble, under the direction of Professor Anne Rasmussen. Ms. Malkawi, majoring in linguistics and Middle Eastern Studies, is president of the Middle Eastern Cultural Association and interfaith representative of the Muslim Student's Association at the College, established to offer students and the community at large a better understanding of the Muslim faith and practices and to correct common misunderstandings of the religion, as viewed through popular media. The Choir will also sing.

MAY 15 - EXPAND YOUR WORLD

Worship Committee Service

What do you get when you get a huge group of UUs in the same place? Find out as we share some of the great times we've had at SUUSI, and tell you about other wonderful nearby fellowship opportunities. Come join us in an exploration of the larger UU world! Tie-dye and drum circles are BIG at SUUSI so if you can, please wear something tie-dyed and bring a drum or other percussion instrument. The choir will sing.

MAY 22 - SOR JUANA INES DE LA CRUZ

Rev. Shirley Ranck

A 17th-century Mexican nun and distinguished poet. What can we learn from her story?
Congregational Meeting at 12:30, see details below.

MAY 29 - CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY

Rev. Shirley Ranck

Remembering and honoring the dead; expressing our hopes for peace.



ANNOUNCING THE WUU ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

MAY 22, 12:30 PM, IN THE SANCTUARY

Our annual meeting will provide the opportunity to hear year-end reports from our minister, president and finance chair; to consider several amendments to our Bylaws; to review the annual budget; and to vote on nominees for expiring Board and other leadership positions. The Nominating Committee will present a proposed slate of candidates and there will be opportunity for nomination from the floor of any member who has so consented. Watch for a special mailing to voting members in early May with the formal call to meeting, agenda, text of proposed resolutions, the slate of nominees and brief statements from the candidates. This information will be available for others in the congregation at Sunday services later in May. [A reminder – a voting member is at least 18, has signed the membership book at least 30 days prior to the meeting, and has made a financial pledge for the current year (04-05).] The Board strongly encourages all members to attend this important congregational meeting. A light lunch at nominal cost will be available.



SHIRLEY'S CAULDRON

Every year Unitarian Universalists from all over the continent, and sometimes a few from beyond this continent, gather to celebrate and affirm their liberal religious values. The gathering is called General Assembly and it opens with a colorful celebration in which banners from hundreds of congregations are

carried into a great hall as triumphant music is played. The banners remain on display during the entire long weekend.

This year General Assembly will be held in Ft. Worth, Texas, June 23 - 27. The weekend is a marvelous potpourri of experiences: worship services of all kinds, famous lecturers, workshops on a bewildering array of topics, huge displays of books and religious education materials, and arts and crafts and jewelry, meetings and parties sponsored by all the organizations within the UU Association, and of course the great plenary sessions each morning where resolutions on many social issues are submitted, argued over, amended, and voted upon. The process is very impressive; UUs care deeply about the stands we take before the world.

Each year at General Assembly there is a special worship service, which everyone attends, called "The Service of the Living Tradition." New ministers are welcomed into Preliminary Fellowship, some ministers receive Final Fellowship, and ministers who have died are memorialized. With 4000 or more people attending, it is a moving celebration of ongoing liberal religious leadership. I am very proud to be part of that leadership and I wish all of you could be there with me.

If you would like to be there, either as an official delegate or simply as a participating UU, please speak to me or call the church office about the details of registration. I encourage you to try it. You'll like it!

- Blessed be! *Shirley*



A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The greater Williamsburg area has much poverty. The FISH clothing bank clothed 1,948 people last year, providing 5,654

outfits to those in need. We, the WUUs, have committed ourselves to sort and size clothes at the FISH clothing bank each Tuesday during the month of May from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. No special skills are required. 3-4 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. Those interested please sign up in the lobby of the church on Sunday. Hanni F. Sherman has the sign up sheet and her contact information is in the WUU directory.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

You probably have already seen on page one the announcement of our Annual Congregational Meeting. I urge all members and friends to plan on attending. It will be important for all to participate in the democratic process of our religious society. I know that many WUUs have been actively "making it happen" by attending meetings, asking questions, openly expressing their views and ideas and generally recognizing that the governing Board cannot operate in isolation. Believe me, I appreciate hearing constructive input about WUU affairs, and I believe the rest of the Board does also.

However, I sometimes have an uneasy feeling that there are more than a few WUUs that are not engaged in WUU life and in the decisions that affect our future. Some do not take the time to read the Newsletter, for example, to see the variety of our WUU activities and Board actions. Some may feel that "They" are in control and their views wouldn't be heard. Others can't seem to find the time to volunteer for committee work or special events.

Unfortunately, some "vote with their pledge", because something disappoints them. These attitudes and approaches are not only counterproductive, in that they add nothing to the progress of our community, but they are actually damaging to our mission and our future. Being a liberal religious presence in this town requires the commitment and support of our shared values by all our members.

Please don't misunderstand – I am heartened by most of what I see going on. Many WUUs are engaged and involved. I admire and appreciate the energy and devotion shown by so many to move us in the right direction. But with increased support from every quarter in time, money and thought, there would be no limit to what WUU could become! And that includes showing up for the Annual Congregational Meeting!

As always, your questions and comments are welcome, in person or at president@wuu.org.

- Take care of each other, *Roger Baldwin*

WUU CLASSIFIEDS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR A MONTH

Need someone to assemble the newsletter for June. Otherwise it won't be published until June 3. It's easy and fun. I do it in Word, but you can do what you want and even give it your own look for that month. If you're interested in giving this a try, contact me – training available.

newsletter@wuu.org

Mary/Meé

- the happy editor





WILLIAMSBURG WALKS THE TALK – MAY 21ST

Many of you will remember last spring's walk-a-thon, Williamsburg Walks the Talk, held to fundraise for the transitional program at the Peninsula Regional Jail. Our 2nd annual walk will be May 21st at

10 am. This community group, formed as the result of an All Together Study Circle Action Item, includes 3 WUU members--Patty Kipps, John Greenman and Jessica O'Brien. Last year's Walk raised over \$3000 for Colonial Community Corrections' PAPIS program: a wonderful accomplishment, thanks to you all. In addition, the Walk's championing of the need for public transportation to and from the Jail for released inmates and visitors contributed to the County deciding to extend the public bus route to the Jail! This success was even more wonderful!

Our committee, Williamsburg Walks the Talk, recently began a new initiative: a mentorship program to work with inmates who are nearing their release date. We help them plan for their release and then continue meeting with them after they leave the jail to facilitate their re-integration into life in our community. Interested in joining us in this voluntary program? Please e-mail me for more information.

This is our invitation to you to join us this year for the Walk from the Jail on Merrimac Trail to Tam O'Shanter Rd. where the bus route used to end. This annual walk symbolizes the road released inmates must travel to find their way back into our community as productive citizens. We will gather at 9:30 at the Jail to hand in donation sheets, and begin walking at 10. E-mail me for a donation sheet to record the donations you have received for Williamsburg Walks the Talk. Just like last year, checks should be payable to All Together. Looking forward to seeing you on May 21st! Jessica O'Brien socialaction@wuu.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

New WUU members who've joined since December 2004 are invited to a New Member Breakfast in the Multi-Purpose room of the sanctuary on Sunday, June 19, from 9:30-10:30am before the service. There will be a special welcome during the service as well. Come and enjoy meeting members of the Board of Directors, a light breakfast, and the camaraderie of fellow new members. Please R.S.V.P. your attendance to membership@wuu.org or to the membership committee member who will contact new members.



WUU YARD SALE

It's spring! Time to plan for the annual WUU Yard Sale! The dates are Friday, June 3rd, 6 to 8 pm; and Saturday, June 4th, 8 to 11 am. As you do your spring cleaning, please consider donating GENTLY USED ITEMS. This year we are asking that you NOT donate ADULT CLOTHING. This will save us from having to rent extra tables and garment racks. Children's clothing is OK. Also, we will not be picking up large or heavy furniture or appliances this year. We cannot dispose of such things if they do not sell. We're counting on U & U to participate, as this a major fundraiser for our community. There will be sign-up sheets in the foyer starting Sunday, April 24th. Come on out and help us with this fun project - volunteers get first pick!



MOTIONS OF THE BOARD/ACTIONS TAKEN April 18, 2005

Adoption of the Personnel Budget for 2005-2006 (drafted & submitted to the Board by the Personnel Committee)

MOVED: That the Board adopt the '05-'06 Personnel Budget, effective July 1, 2005, with adjusted staff salaries bringing WUU into alignment with UUA fair compensation guidelines.

Moved: Franz Gross Seconded: Jessica O'Brien
Approved.

Affirmation of Shirley Ranck as continuing interim minister.

ACTION: Based on the formal vote of the Congregation, the Board hereby states its intent to offer the Rev. Dr. Shirley Ranck the position of interim minister for the year 2005-2006. The Board further supports the 3% cost-of-living salary increase for the minister, recommended by the Personnel Committee, effective Sept., 2005.

Moved: Roger Baldwin Seconded: Dave Banks
Approved unanimously.

Approval of interim minister evaluation.

MOTION: That the Board accepts the report on the "Mid-Term Evaluation of Interim Ministry," (3/21/2005), as prepared by the Transition Team (Ruth Fraser, Fred Gilbertson and David Wilcox).

Moved: Mike Gaus Seconded: Bill Whiteside
Approved.

Proposed Directory policy

ACTION: That the Board accept the "Proposal for Directory Production and Distribution," as submitted by Jacqui Winther, Community Cluster Chair. This proposal states that "in the spirit of Unitarian Universalist inclusiveness, all those listed on the WUU mailing list will be included in the congregational directory. Voting members will be designated by an asterisk(*) next to their name."

**UUA OFFICE OF YOUNG ADULT AND
CAMPUS MINISTRY
UU ALUMNI NETWORK**



*Help Support UU Campus Ministry
at YOU'RE Alma Mater!*

Be a part of the UU Campus Ministry movement by developing relationships with students where you went to school. We're looking for alumni as mentors, advisors to UU Campus Ministry groups, and financial supporters of campus ministry efforts. It's easy to sign up – visit the Alumni Network web page at www.uua.org/ya-cm/campus/alumninetwork.html or call the UUA Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry at 617-948-4273.



July 17 - 23, 2005

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA

Explore nature, make new friends and renew connections, and remember sweet summer days of years past. Whether this is your first SUUSI or your 20th, there is much on which you can reminisce when we all gather for fun, relaxation, reveling and renewal. Whether your idea of a good time is hiking the steepest trail, tubing down the river, learning something new about yourself or the world, dancing all night, or singing along with Cabaret talent, SUUSI is the place to be this summer. Come to SUUSI for all that is restful and rewarding...a week of intentional community and the gift of friendship - new and renewed. SUUSI is UU summer camp for singles, couples and the whole family, with special programs for youth and teens. Learn more by visiting suusi.org and come to the SUUSI service at WUU on May 15.



**GROCERY
SHOPPING BONUS
FOR WUU**

Ukrops will be sending out your Golden Gift in May. To credit

Certificates your certificates to WUU, simply give the certificate to Dave Banks.

At Farm Fresh save your receipts and turn them into Dave Banks. Receipts dated through May 27 are valid. If you shop at Food Lion, please register your MVP card on line so WUU will get credit for your purchases.

Goodbye

There will be a good-bye gathering for George and Jan Parrish on May 8th immediately following the service. They are moving to Colorado to be near their son. Anyone who is interested in helping out should contact Jessica O'Brien.

EVENING WITH FRIENDS AT WUU

For the 2nd year in a row, WUU will be the host of the spring fundraising event of the Williamsburg Aids Network (WAN), Saturday May 21, 2005.

A number of different households will host dinners where guests will be asked to donate toward the financial well being of WAN, and after the separate dinner parties, most of the various guests will gather in the WUU sanctuary for a celebration of the good will of those present with champagne and desserts and a jazz band for entertainment.

If anyone from the church would like to join the action by hosting a dinner and gathering at the church for the celebration, please call the WAN office at 220-4606 very soon. And if anyone would like to donate your time to the setup or cleanup crews on the 21st (bless you, Jessica, the only such volunteer last year), please call WAN. In either case, ask for Becky. Or call Fred (253-2633).

Fred Gilbertson, WUU member and WAN Board Chair

**UU VACATION OPPORTUNITIES
UU WINE COUNTRY EXCURSIONS**

The UUs of Napa, California invite you to a unique opportunity to enjoy two of America's most scenic valleys, Napa and Sonoma. Locally savvy UU guides will drive you to selected wineries, historic sites and mountain trails with breathtaking views. You will stay in UU homes for good conversation, good breakfasts and warm hospitality. Our offer is limited to June, July and August. Our fees are well below market rate and all proceeds benefit our Fellowship. Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 twilson9@sbcglobal.net.

CAPE COD BED AND BREAKFAST

Come to beautiful Cape Cod! Stay in private UU homes close to beaches, historical places, golf courses, bicycle trails and all proceeds benefit the church. Members provide Bed & Breakfast facilities over a wide area of picturesque Cape Cod year round. RATES: \$80 per night, single or double occupancy. Reservations one week in advance preferred. Contact Unitarian Church of Barnstable, (508) 362-6381 Mon-Fri. 9 am to noon or anytime at www.barnstableuu.org or write to buu@barnstableuu.org or P.O. Box 285, Barnstable, MA 02630. Please include name, phone number, E-mail, best time to call, preferred location on Cape Cod, and your interests.



On April 3rd we welcomed four new members.

Chennie Chen moved to Williamsburg in June 2004 to start a new position as an intern architect. Chennie likes to travel, read and collect silver. She found out about our church through the Internet and liked what she saw after attending her first service.

Amy Hunt moved to Williamsburg in December of 2004. Amy is currently employed by Peninsula Cancer Institute as a massage therapist. She also has her own private massage therapy business. She loves nature, long strolls on the beach, hiking, kayaking. Getting involved in community outreach programs is one of her special interests. Amy needed a place that did not already have all the answers and support for her own unique path as well as the freedom to truly be each other-vice-versa.



Georgia "Ann" and David Tetrault have been long-time residents of Williamsburg. Having lived here since 1960, Ann is a Pediatrician practicing under her maiden name, Prescott. David came to Williamsburg in 1973 and retired as an Episcopal Priest a short time ago. They both enjoy reading, cooking and traveling. They have two grown daughters. Looking for an open, accepting environment brought them to the Williamsburg UUs. A couple of facts not listed on the information card: David plays the accordion (played in the Tabernacle Band) and is a Circus Chaplain.

We are delighted that each of you found a spiritual home with us and we will look forward to getting to know you.
- *Bev Baldwin* – Membership Committee

MSC REFLECTIONS

A sincere thank you to the congregation for re-electing the Ministerial Search Committee and giving us the opportunity to complete our unfinished mission. We the committee - Diane Abdo, David Doersch, Vicki Hall, Gayle Henion, Debra Hill, Jim Kent and Jane Reilly - appreciate your vote of confidence. As we faced this challenging time, your words of support encouraged us.

We followed up our announcement to the congregation with a 45 minute conference phone call to Rev. John Weston, UUA Settlement Director. John reviewed our situation, answered our questions, gave us some excellent advice, suggested that the committee did everything "right" but these things do happen and how we might want to approach the search for a second year. While admiring our desire to stay on, John heartily recommended that our committee take a few months off completely and come back in summer refreshed, with renewed enthusiasm and vigor, and begin our search energized once more. The timetable is such that ministers are not actively in search over the summer with online applications. So we are heeding John's suggestion to renew our family commitments and become regular congregants for a few months. We held a final MSC meeting to bring closure to the year.

In the meantime, we ask the congregation to also be alert to outstanding ministers, possible recommendations. We know many have longtime UU connections, or travel to various churches over the summer, or attend SUSSI, GA or Starr Island. We are always open to suggestions and ministers can contact us at msc@wuu.org. Our online applications will open again this fall. The committee is taking a more proactive position this time.

Although much of the preparation for ministerial search has been accomplished, we will be tweaking the congregational record and the profile book with updated information. In the fall we hope to offer potlucks as cottage meetings to get more input from the congregation. As always, the MSC members are available to talk and listen at any time.

It has truly been an honor to serve this congregation as your Ministerial Search Committee as each of us is dedicated to accomplishing our goal in bringing the right match to WUU. We are now listening to UUA and taking a break. We hope you have a spiritual and peaceful summer and we will be back in newsletter form in a few months.

- *The Ministerial Search Committee*

CHALICE GAZING: NOTES FROM THE DRE - MAY 2005

By the time you read this, Religious Education for 2004-05 will be nearly over. Astonishing! We don't have any chance to pause and catch our breath, though; the exciting summer program being brought to life by Kim Scholpp and Jennifer Olson is in the process of coming forth. (Look for an article about it elsewhere in this newsletter.) Also, we have started our kick-off to sign teachers up for next year, and we need your participation. Look for the large chart beside the RE table in the narthex, and choose the session and age group you prefer. Hurry, though, while there are still plenty of choices.

Although energy is high around our Harry Potter summer program and recruiting for next year, I approach May with sadness and deep gratitude. Donna Stanford, RE committee chair for the past two years, and RE guru for who knows how long before that, will retire at the end of this year. When I first arrived as WUU's new DRE, it was Donna who guided and encouraged me, who gracefully received billions of e-mails from me (still does), who provided me with absolutely reliable support when it came to details, schedules, calendars, and any document generated by the computer. Without Donna, my job would have been so much more difficult. She has not only helped me stay organized, she has lifted my heart when I've gotten discouraged, and she has been a strong-hearted ally and a dear companion. I'm deeply sorry to have to say good-bye to her as the RE diva, but I'm relieved that I don't have to say good-bye to her literally. She has promised that we can still have lunch together, and I have promised not to talk too much RE when we do that. LET US ALL THANK DONNA STANFORD, my cherished friend.

- Blessings, Donna, and blessings to you all, Sara

WUU CAMPFIRE SOCIAL!

Please join us Saturday, June 11, at 7 p.m. for an evening of stories, songs, and snacks on the lawn next to the Church! All the "fixins" for S'mores will be provided! Please bring your own chair/blanket, ghost stories/tall tales, and drinks. Guitars (and their players) welcome!!



HOGWARTS COMES TO WUU

Attention Witches and Wizards! Beginning June 12, you will be invited to come to Hogwarts, get sorted into houses, learn Quidditch, eat strange delicacies and...FACE 4 CHALLENGES!

You and your parents will receive letters by Muggle Post with more valuable information, coming soon.

Middle school and YRUU, you will receive letters also. We need prefects, and we hope you will help. (It's possible that some dementers may need to show up once in a while, too.)

If you are wondering what Harry Potter has to do with Unitarian Universalism, you might be surprised. This summer's RE Source will tell about what our Witches and Wizards are doing on Sunday mornings, and how it relates to the principles of Unitarian Universalism. For example, in a lesson about transfiguration, we will talk about the fact that things are not always what they seem, and emphasize the inherent worth and dignity of every person. In a lesson about caring for monsters, we will explore the interdependent web and see that all creatures have a place in it. In a lesson about defense against the dark arts, we will find out about where people find hope, and what we can do to be agents of hope. Watch the Source for more information throughout the summer.

We hope you'll help by signing up to provide snacks throughout the summer. Hogwarts recipes will be appearing in the Source, so you may want to try making frog spawn, cockroach clusters, or butter beer. In fact, after you've made them for RE, you'll probably want to save the recipes for your next party or cook-out. Get ready! Watch the Muggle Post! Come on June 12! Remember, we'll be starting at 10 a.m.

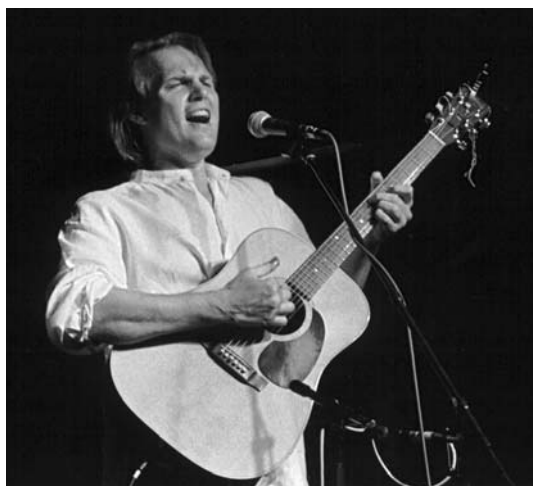
UU SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) can be a lifeline for someone who is far away from home and from her/his church community. Unitarian Universalists stationed overseas in the military often find they benefit greatly from being members of the CLF. The CLF provides an email list for UUs who are in the military, and offers the support of a UU military chaplain. If you know someone active in the military who could benefit from some UU sustenance and support, please tell them about the UUMIL list serve, which can be subscribed to at <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uumil>.

UUA RECEIVES AWARD

The Religious Coalition for Freedom to Marry (RCFM) honored the Unitarian Universalist Association with its Peace and Justice Award for "outstanding leadership in helping gay and lesbian couples attain and preserve their civil right to marry." The award, presented by Rabbi Devon Lerner, Co-chair of the RCFM, was accepted by the Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association in a luncheon and ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

The Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry is a seven-year-old organization with 600 clergy and congregations as members. More than 4,000 same-sex couples have wed in Massachusetts since such marriages became legal in May.



Live Off Five! Presents Greg Greenway

Come out and celebrate on Memorial Day weekend with one man tour-de-force Greg Greenway. Greg will perform at WUU on Saturday, May 28th at 7:30 p.m.

A graduate of William and Mary, this Richmond native draws inspiration from blues, rock, gospel, and even world music. Audiences across the country are drawn in by his humanity and his passionate performances.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for the 7:30 performance.

Suggested donation is \$10.

Coffee and baked goodies will be available for purchase before the concert and during intermission.

Live Off Five! will offer regular performances throughout the year, including local, regional, and national touring acts with a variety of styles. Watch for future announcements about the latest musicians to hit WUU.

For more information about the concert series, please contact Sherri Powers or Natalie Miller-Moore. For more information about Greg Greenway, check out www.greggreenway.com. See you on May 28th!!

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT FOR NEW COLLECTION

The UUA's Young Adult and Campus Ministry office is looking for writers for a new meditation, poetry and essay collection by and for young adults and youth bridging into young adulthood. Poems, meditations and short essays suitable for use in worship services can address transitions, spirituality, justice, community, relationships, and/or friendship.

We intend this to be a collection suitable for welcoming new young adults who have just "crossed the bridge" from being youth as well as for older young adults and congregations seeking to include young adult voices in their worship.

In keeping with our commitment to becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural Association of Congregations, we encourage submissions from those whose identities often marginalize them in our society (including, but not limited to, people of color, Latino/Latina/Hispanic people, bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people, women, those who are differently-abled, and those from oppressed socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds).

The submittal deadline is July 15, 2005. Information and forms are at www.uua.org/ya-cm/yacm/forms or contact the UUA Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Attention: Manual Submissions, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

Significant Events Calendar

- May
- 1 Tuesdays in May – Fish Clothing Sort
 - 1 Congregational Conversation Workshop #3:
“The Eternal Now” Session 1: 9-10:30 am; Session 2: 7-8:30 pm
 - 5 Conversation, Workshop 3: Session 3:10-11:30 am
 - 8 Goodbye for George and Jan Parrish immediately following the service.
 - 16 May Board Meeting
 - 20 June Newsletter deadline
 - 21 Williamsburg Walks the Talk
 - 22 FISH Sunday
 - Annual Congregational Meeting – after Sunday service
 - 28 “Live off Five” concert – Greg Greenway
- June
- 3-4 Yard Sale
 - 5 R.E. Recognition Sunday
 - 12 Volunteer Recognition Sunday
 - 19 New Member Breakfast & Recognition Service

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