

Chapel WEEKLY

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Ministry Sunday September 11, 2011



Take a next step on your path this morning:

ARE YOU NEW TO THE CHAPEL?

Encounter: Central Foyer

Visit the Newcomers' Corner and pick up a welcome bag and register for a First Encounter dinner.

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN A GROUP AND GET INTO THE WORD?

Embrace: Adult Education Wing (East Hallway)

Learn about the Connections Class or getting connected with a Small Group. Vine Life facilitators will also be available in each classroom to provide an orientation on the many classes being offered this session. See inside for more details...

WHAT GIFTS HAS GOD GIVEN YOU TO USE IN MINISTRY SERVICE?

Exercise: East Foyer

Discover your spiritual gifts and learn of ways to serve by visiting with a "Ministry Connector."

HOW CAN YOU SERVE OTHERS?

Engage: Central Foyer & West Foyer

Receive more information for engaging locally and globally. Register for the Chapel Membership Class at the Information Desk.

Annually in September, we celebrate Ministry Sunday to kick off new opportunities for moving forward in our spiritual journeys. This morning, we explore the common pathway for spiritual growth that Scripture reveals. The "4Es" are our way of describing that pathway:

ENCOUNTER Jesus Alive in This Community

EMBRACE Jesus and His Community

EXERCISE Faith in Jesus Alongside His Community

ENGAGE Jesus in His Mission to Grow His Community

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, opportunities from among those listed within this Weekly will help you take your own unique next steps along our common spiritual pathway. The following article explores one family's spiritual path.

Perspectives on the Journey: *Steve & Amy Stafford*

When Amy and Steve Stafford moved to Williamsburg 12 years ago, they were still reeling from personal financial disaster. Shortly after arriving—with a baby daughter (Jordan), reduced income, and mounting debt—they began to realize that God was supernaturally providing for their financial needs. Somehow, they were paying bills when the money just wasn't there. They also found themselves at the Chapel.

Steve and Amy began to **encounter** Jesus in a corporate setting in a way that brought new dimensions to their understanding of what spiritual journeys might look like. They participated in their first Bible study as a couple in a small group setting, studying godly financial responsibility with Crown Ministries. As they **embraced** Jesus' community of faith and got into God's Word, Steve and Amy were embraced right back, and God's Word got into them. God continued to nourish them through their small group and growing friendships with others they got to know at the Chapel. Before long, they found themselves serving as greeters—back in the days when the Chapel only had four doors. **Exercising** their faith seemed such a logical next step that serving came easily. Gradually, a personal, deepening relationship with Jesus came "off the page" and became a reality in their daily lives.

Today, they are more fully **engaging** with God's call and purpose for their lives than ever before. They consider it a privilege to serve as small group leaders themselves and train others to do the same.

Steve serves as an elder, drives on the Sunday Shuttle team, leads men's groups, and supports Amy any way he can as she engages in Jesus' mission in her own unique way...

Amy describes herself as hard-headed and stubborn, and she is more surprised than anyone when she reflects on the path down which God has taken her. As a trained recreational therapist, she was happily working as a personal trainer. Amy's first "shove" toward **engaging** in ministry came when a small group leader encouraged her to check out a video about Body and Soul, a ministry "where faith and fitness meet." Amy couldn't



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believe God would want her to leave a lucrative career with clients she loved, particularly as she and Steve were recovering from the brink of financial ruin. The video went on the shelf. Amy was comfortable serving God and building relationships within her professional circles, and she had very little interest in starting a new ministry. Finally, though, at the persistence of her small group leader, she reluctantly agreed to watch the video. The leader saw the energy and gifts God had given Amy and continued to encourage her until Amy took a step of faith and started Body and Soul at the Chapel. God brought women from the start, and as this ministry has grown, Amy found herself on an adventure beyond her wildest dreams.

Building relationships with women among several classes, leading the accompanying Bible study, choreographing routines, choosing faith-building music: Amy and the ministry were both thriving as she **engaged** right here in her little community of Williamsburg Community Chapel. But God had bigger ideas, and Amy now finds herself in a position to train other leaders, even internationally. She help these leaders develop small groups, grow as committed followers of Christ, and take God's presence further than she could possibly have imagined.

As Body and Soul has expanded internationally, Steve is Amy's biggest cheerleader and partner. Amy says, "This just wasn't our plan. Every time God nudges me to step out a little further, I fight the temptation to run, telling God 'You've got the wrong girl.'" But recognizing His "nudge"—which for Amy is more like a hailstorm coming from every direction), and being

willing to trust His plans, even when they make no sense, Amy has discovered that if she'll just cease striving, and cooperate, God can use her to make disciples of Jesus despite her fears and insecurities. Every new invitation to go a little further with God has provided Amy and Steve with a fresh **encounter** with Jesus. Their view of God keeps expanding as He enlarges their opportunities to serve Him. **Embracing** that experience and being willing to exercise the faith growing in them has transformed every aspect of their lives. "God is so far beyond all I can ask, or imagine, or dream. His provision and His Presence are a constant surprise and delight. I am so grateful for when I look back at all He's done and allowed me to be a part of. It's still pretty unbelievable."

Amy and Steve both are so grateful that they said "yes" when God first asked them to follow Him into uncharted territory on their

spiritual journeys. Though it still always feels risky, Amy says it's getting easier to recognize when God wants to nudge them further. As you read this, Amy and Steve are in Belize, looking into a possible ministry opportunity for Steve. And there are no Body and Soul groups there — yet. Engaging in ministry started for the Staffords with that first, somewhat fearful and reluctant 'yes.' Their story is still being written, but Amy and Steve are deeply grateful to God for the work He's begun in and through their lives and the life of the Chapel.

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Encounter

JESUS ALIVE IN THIS COMMUNITY

FIRST ENCOUNTER DINNERS

Fridays, Sept. 16 and Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.

New to the Chapel or want to learn more about our Church family? Join Chapel leadership for dinner in a relaxed atmosphere in homes and at the Chapel. Register online: www.wcchapel.org/registration.



Embrace

JESUS AND HIS COMMUNITY

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UP NIGHT

Monday, Sept. 12, 7-8 p.m., Student Ministries Worship Room

Meet the new group leaders and join the one that works best for you. If you can't attend, go online to see a list of available Small Groups: wcchapel.org/SmallGroups. Click "Looking for a Small Group?", then find a group you're interested in, and click "request info." Fill in the requested info and click "Send Request." The Small Group leader will contact you about your interest in joining that group.

CONNECTIONS CLASS

Sundays, Sept. 18 – Nov. 6, 10:45 a.m., Room 118

Facilitators: Pat and Mary Cummings, Greg and Elizabeth Duncan, and Margaret Bacon
If you are new to the Chapel or just want to get connected, join us for the Chapel-wide Small Group study, *The Kingdom of God*. This is a great way to have fellowship and open God's Word in a casual setting. **No pre-registration is required.**

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Embrace THESE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

WOMEN'S PRECEPTS UPON PRECEPTS BIBLE STUDY:

Knowing God's Covenant
Thursdays, beginning Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m.- Noon, Cost: \$28
Register online: www.wcchapel.org/registration. Jutta Hansen: 229-7152, chapel2@wcchapel.org



HIGH SCHOOL FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC
TONIGHT! Sunday, Sept. 11, 6:30-8 p.m., SM Worship Room

WOMEN'S OPEN DOOR BIBLE STUDY:

Faithful, Abundant and True
Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., or
Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 14, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$25. Childcare available during Wednesday sessions.
Register online at www.wcchapel.org/registration or on the first day of class. If you have any questions about the classes or how to register, call Carole Boyd (757-345-2266).

VINE LIFE CLASS PREVIEWS

THIS MORNING! 10:20-10:50 a.m., repeated 12:20-12:50 p.m.

(Coffee will be available in each room for participants.)

Meet class facilitators and hear a brief overview of class purpose, content, and format. Classes begin next Sunday, September 18. **Registration is available in preview rooms or online at www.wcchapel.org/registration. For a complete description of the following classes, see the Fall Ministry Guide or go online: www.wcchapel.org/vinelife.**

10:20-10:35 a.m. OR 12:20-12:35 p.m.

Room 118 – Connections Class

Room 120 – Mini Bible College

Room 122 – Preparing for Marriage

Room 128 – The Kingdom of God (Chapel-wide study)

Room 156 – Radical Truth: Jesus in the Gospels

10:35-10:40 a.m. OR 12:35-12:40 p.m.

Break – Move to preview second class option

10:40-10:50 a.m. OR 12:40-12:50 p.m.

Room 118 – Information about Small Groups

Room 120 – ACTS: The Church Spreads and Grows

Room 122 – Preparing for Marriage

Room 128 – The Kingdom of God (Chapel-wide study)

Room 156 – Enriching Your Marriage

Exercise

FAITH IN JESUS ALONGSIDE HIS COMMUNITY

MINISTRY CONNECTOR TEAM

Meet one-on-one with a Ministry Connector to explore where God is calling you to serve.
Contact Elizabeth Duncan 757-229-7152, eduncan@wcchapel.org

JOIN THE WELCOME TEAM

Sundays, Sept. 18, 9:30-10:30 a.m. or Sept. 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Room 214

Be part of a Sunday morning serving team that helps provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Register online at www.wcchapel.org/registration.

Contact Elizabeth Duncan 757-229-7152, eduncan@wcchapel.org

Engage

JESUS IN HIS MISSION TO GROW HIS COMMUNITY

CHAPEL MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Saturday, Sept. 24, 8:15 a.m. - noon, Room 211

Facilitators: Pastors and Staff
This class covers where we began, who we are, what we believe, and how we make disciples. Learn how you can commit to becoming part of the Chapel membership as one who engages Jesus in His mission to grow His community. Pre-registration is recommended.
Register online: www.wcchapel.org/registration.



Embrace THESE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

SAINTS ALIVE (SENIORS 60+) LUNCHEON: *Saints Serving Saints*
Wednesday, Sept. 14, noon - 1:30 p.m., Woodward Hall

No cost for lunch, but contributions are accepted. Register online: wcchapel.org/registration



SM 101 FOR PARENTS
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 7-8:30 p.m., Central Foyer.

An informational meeting for parents of 6th through 12th graders. Come hear more about the mission and vision of Student Ministries.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDWEEK
Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 14, 7-8:30 p.m.,

6th grade — Woodward Hall, 7th & 8th grade — SM Worship Room

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY: *The Gospel of John*
Thursdays, beginning Sept. 15, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Adult \$25, Children (6 weeks - 3rd graders): \$10. Colleen Robertson, CBS Coordinator: colrob51@gmail.com, 757-880-4114, <http://williamsburg.cbsclass.org>

STUDENT MINISTRIES WIFFLE BALL WORLD SERIES
Saturday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center.
Alexis Kincaid: 941-1241

Check out the Fall Ministry Guide or visit us online at www.wcchapel.org for more opportunities.



Engage (cont.)

ENGAGE in Jesus' Mission to Grow His Community: ICM

International Cooperating Ministries (ICM) grew out of a friendship between our Pastor Emeritus, Dick Woodward, and ICM's founder, Dois Rosser. God leveraged their friendship and Dick's Mini Bible College (MBC)—a devotional survey of the entire Bible—to begin a miraculous global work of sharing God's Word and nurturing believers. Today, the MBC is available in 26 languages to a potential audience of more than four billion people. In partnership with in-country ministry leaders in 58 countries, more than 3800 church buildings have been built or are under construction. ICM is the Chapel's flagship global ministry partner. This year, ICM celebrates 25 years of "nurturing believers and assisting church growth worldwide."

Last night, ICM hosted a gala event at the Ferguson Center to celebrate their silver anniversary. This morning, some of ICM's international ministry partners are our guests. Visit with these partners and ICM representatives in the Central Foyer today to learn more about ICM, MBC, and how to engage in this global ministry.

www.icm.org & www.minibiblecollege.org

Upcoming Events:

VIDEO SIMULCAST: *A WAKE-UP CALL FOR GOD'S PEOPLE* TONIGHT! Sunday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m., Ross Hall

The program includes teaching by Anne Graham Lotz and Joel Rosenberg, knit together with worship music led by Selah. The conference will consider the times in which we live and focus us on Jesus as our Hope for the future. There is no cost for this event.



FOOD AND FAMILY, I.N.C.

Friday, Sept. 30, 6:30-8 p.m.

Food in the Central Foyer at 6:30 p.m.

Program in the Worship Room at 7:15 p.m.

Cost: \$5/person or \$15 max/family

A great Friday night "family date" – A delicious hot meal – bring the whole family (Mom, you don't have to cook and the price is great!). Our Food Services team will cook up family-friendly food. Energetic music: some of those songs you and your kids loved from VBS! Worship, engaging drama, and an interactive message. Pre-register for the meal and nursery online at www.wcchapel.org/registration. Note: Preschoolers will be taken to Woodward Hall for the last 30 minutes of the program for their own special activities. Children in Grades 1-5 will remain in the Worship Room. Nursery for infants and toddlers will be provided, pre-registration required. PLEASE COME, and bring friends and families from the community with you! It'll be a great evening!



Coffee and pastries available
Sunday mornings

Open for breakfast and lunch
Tuesday - Friday | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Choose from a variety
of breakfast and lunch items
or enjoy a selection of gourmet
coffee drinks.

Call ahead for large groups or carry-out:

941-1226



Follow the Community Café
on Facebook

Resource Center

(located in East Foyer)

Hours:

Sundays, 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(beginning Sept. 14)

Fridays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
(on Story Truths days)

The Chapel's Resource Center provides a good selection of materials that you can borrow and purchase. Whether you are looking for a good read, searching for a wholesome family movie, looking for a gift, or choosing new material for your Small Group, we hope to see you soon!



Fridays, September 16 - December 2,
10:45 a.m. (excluding Nov. 25)

Calling all Preschoolers and their caregivers: Come join the excitement of a story time in which God's truth is shared with preschoolers in an energetic and nurturing environment. Bring your children and invite your friends for a meaningful time of learning and fun!