



INTERFAITH FOCUS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE ARLINGTON INTERFAITH COUNCIL

"FROM CREED TO DEED"

www.arlingtonva-interfaith-council.org

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2006
WESTOVER BAPTIST CHURCH
1125 NORTH PATRICK HENRY DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205
REFRESHMENTS AT 7:15 P.M. MEETING AT 7:30 P.M

JANUARY 2006

Westover Baptist Church was founded on Sunday, July 3, 1940 when Dr. Perry Mitchell and a group of Baptists first met in the newly constructed Swanson Junior High School. Dr. Mitchell had held a vision for a church in the Westover area for some time, and on this date, his dream became reality.

It was shortly thereafter that the present site of the church on a plat of land of three and one-half acres was purchased at a cost of \$4,500. The church was formally established in a service on August 12, 1940 at which time Dr. Mitchell was elected Pastor of the congregation.

Ground was broken on May 11, 1941 for the first sanctuary, now named Mitchell Chapel. That building was completed and dedicated on March 1, 1942. The cost of the chapel, the Sunday School unit and a parsonage located on Ivanhoe Street was \$102,000.

In November, 1942, Dr. Mitchell resigned the Pastorate to become a Navy chaplain in support of the war effort. Rev. Barker Hardison was called to replace Dr. Mitchell just a few months later.

On April 30, 1945, Boy Scout Troop 162 was chartered here. The troop and Cub Scout Pack 162 are still integral parts of the church.

In 1955 the church voted to build a new, larger sanctuary to accommodate the increasing enrollment of members. The ground breaking ceremony was held on Oct. 7th, 1956 and the Opening Day Service was conducted on July 20, 1958. The sanctuary contains beautiful stained glass windows from Russell Church Studios located in Mount Airy, N.C.



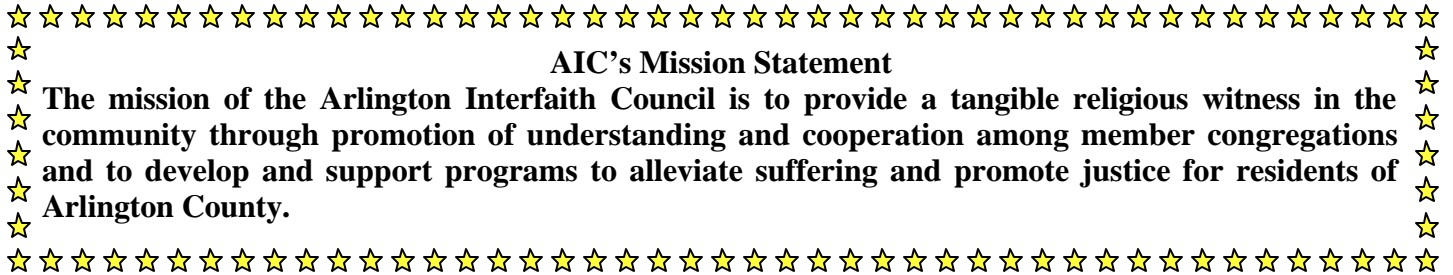
In January 1968, the stained glass window was installed over the Baptistry. The window was also created by Russell Church Studios. In 1972, Westover established a Preschool and Parents Day Out program which has continued throughout the years to serve the Westover community. Today, the Preschool/Parents Day Out program serves over 175 children between the ages of two and four.

In 1978, the mortgage for the new sanctuary was paid off. Also in 1978, a 43 rank organ was built and installed by the Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. The organ was the largest in northern Virginia at that time, and is still one of the largest in the metropolitan D.C. area.

A Hispanic congregation began worshipping in the chapel in 1979. That congregation is still very active and very much part of the church. The theme for the church this past year has been: "Our Church: Alive and Well." Westover continues to flourish in doing God's work. May it ever be thus.

Westover Church provides meeting facilities for Boy Scouts, Alcoholic Anonymous, Senior Citizens club, Overeaters Anonymous, Hospice, Doorways and many other civic and community agencies. They participate in Meals on Wheels.

DIRECTIONS: From Glebe Road, take Washington Boulevard West. Go one mile to 2nd light and turn left on Patrick Henry Drive. The church is on the left and the parking lot entrance is just past the building. We will be meeting in Hardison Hall which is entered from the parking lot.



AIC's Mission Statement

The mission of the Arlington Interfaith Council is to provide a tangible religious witness in the community through promotion of understanding and cooperation among member congregations and to develop and support programs to alleviate suffering and promote justice for residents of Arlington County.

2006 AIC OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- President, Rob Warne
Vice President for Programs, Edd Nolen
Vice President for Community Cooperation and Coordination, Fred Jones
Vice President for Communications and Publicity, Judy Wolff
Secretary, Carole Compton
Treasurer, Anita Nolen
Immediate Past President, Ellen Bartlett

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Budget and Finance, Vacant
Communication & Publicity, Judy Wolff
Shelter and Housing, Gene Betit & Ellen Bartlett
Food Programs, Fred Jones
Membership, Gilmer Terry
Registration, Gay Mount
Website, Peter Wages

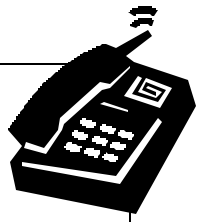
REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

Ginnie Apperson, Jane Burr, Nancy Cude, John Depauw, Uzma Farooq, Jim Malcolm, Gay Mount, Lora Rinker, Ann Rudd, Judy Sibert, Andres Tobar, Philip S. Traina

LIAISON CONTACTS WITH HELPING HANDS AGENCIES

- * AACH Sarena Bonora
* AFAC Nancy Cude
* AMEN Charles Klein
* Arlington Free Clinic Paula Potts
* A-SPAN Beronica Salas
* BORROMEO Housing Jane Hammett
* BRAVO Kristin Carbone
* Culpepper Garden Sharon Sundial
* DOORWAYS Kathy Doxsee, Jennifer Greenfield
* FISH Elizabeth Duvall
* Habitat for Humanity Joanne Hansinger
* Meals on Wheels Rachel Meissner
* NOVAM Nathan Monell
* OAR, Arlington Bruce Griffin
* RPC Shelter Sam Ulm
* RSVP Brynna Cox
* The Reading Connection Carol Arnold

IMPORTANT! PHONE NUMBER CHANGE



The Board has decided to drop the AIC answering service at the end of the year as a way to save money. Instead of phoning, you are invited to use our internet service:

contactus@arlington-interfaith-council.org

or call or email any of the officers or committee chairs listed in the AIC directory.

AIC President Rob Warne's phone number and email are:

Phone: 703-528-8782

Email: robwarne@prodigy.net.

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THE AIC NEWSLETTER

published by the Arlington Interfaith Council, P.O. Box 5161, Arlington, VA 22205

www.arlingtonva-interfaith-council.org

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Please submit articles, notes, suggestions for the FEBRUARY Newsletter by JANUARY 20

January Meeting to focus on services for homeless people

The January program will be presented by **Kathy Doxsee**, Program Director for **Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington**. Kathy has been working in homeless services since 1996. She joined Samaritan Ministry as Program Director in July, 2005 after working for two years as Director of the Emergency Shelter at Doorways for Women and Families (formerly TACTS) in Arlington VA. Since 1999, Kathy has been Outreach Minister at Bethel UCC in Arlington, VA, where she coordinates volunteer and charitable activities. She has also served as an AIC representative for both Doorways and Bethel.

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington (SMGW), created in 1986 by 12 Episcopal churches in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, is a community partnership bringing together homeless people and others in need in Greater Washington, with support and volunteers from over 40 churches, in a joint effort to improve the lives of everybody involved. They pursue this goal by promoting awareness of community needs, fostering partnerships at all levels, breaking down barriers imposed by poverty, and developing participants' abilities to help themselves to better lives.

SMGW's basic approach to providing assistance is called *Next Steps*, a unique self-help program that promotes change, dignity and self-reliance in people who are in need. This involves Samaritan Ministry caseworkers meeting with program participants to set personal goals, and then breaking them down so that they can be pursued one step at a time. SMGW now provides services at three locations in the Washington area, including Arlington, VA. SMGW is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from Partner Parishes. There are no religious requirements for program participation.

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry Works With Arlington County Jail To change Lives.

At our November meeting, **Phil Traina**, an ordained Deacon and Chairman of the President's Council of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, talked of his work with full-time Chaplain Dr. Earl Karl. He spoke about the Arlington Chapter of the Ministry, which has been operating in Northern Virginia for over 40 years with the support of local churches.

Mission: To change the criminal behavior of incarcerated men and women and return them to society as family-oriented, productive, tax-paying citizens. The Ministry fulfills its mission by providing dedicated chaplains, Bible classes, worship services and counseling to *interested* inmates. There is no coercion. The Ministry is non-denominational and provides chaplains of non-Christian faiths when requested.

Results: Nationally, the Ministry has helped 700,000 individuals commit to Christ, held more than 292,000 worship services, 565,600 Bible classes, and counseled more than 1,620,000 individuals. Most importantly, it has dramatically lowered the recidivism rate from a national average of 60% to 20% for those who complete the program-- a real benefit to society and taxpayers. The Ministry also helps reduce crime by assisting individuals through gang elimination programs and by providing support groups for those in jail and after release.

Support: How AIC Members can help:

- ◇ Request that the Ministry be placed on your congregation's prayer-list.
- ◇ Invite the Ministry to your congregation to learn about its programs, how to volunteer, how it helps juveniles, etc.
- ◇ Support Arlington Sheriff, Beth Arthur, at her annual Open House & Breakfast and the annual volunteer banquet.

Phil Traina's contact information is: cell: 703-314-0535; email: PSTRAINA@cox.net.

Dr. Earl Karl, Chaplain, Arlington County Detention Center, is at 703-228-4518.

**AIC's Annual Breakfast with the Arlington County Board will take place on
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH at 9:00 am**

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Arlington County Board member, Chris Zimmerman, will be the featured speaker. Please mark your calendars and encourage pastors and any other interested member of your congregation to attend. Further details will be available in the February Focus.

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is looking for more than 150 new volunteer tutors to help area adults learn to speak, understand, read, and write English. Currently on a waiting list to be matched with tutors, these adult students are eager to improve their English literacy skills by working one-to-one with a trained volunteer.

Each tutor is trained, matched with a student and encouraged to meet weekly for an hour and a half to help the student improve his or her English skills. No teaching or foreign language skills are required. A \$35 training fee covers the cost of books, materials, and instruction. All **tutor training workshops** take place at the **James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in Falls Church**, but the tutoring will take place in a library or community center in the tutor's neighborhood. Students and tutors are matched based on geographic proximity to make the weekly sessions as convenient as possible.

The next English literacy tutor training workshop will be held in January.

WHAT: ESL Tutor Training Workshop
WHEN: Three consecutive Saturdays
January 14, 21, and 28 from 9:30-3:30
For more information, visit www.lcnv.org, or call 703-237-0866.

"Celebrating Women of Faith"

Join us on Sunday, March 26th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of inspiration, joy and music. Mark your calendars for that date when women of faith will come together to share, pray and unite. Sponsored by AIC and the Washington Chapter of the Muslim Women's Coalition. Details will be in the next Focus.

DOORWAYS is looking for volunteers:

- ◇ **Spring Event Organizing Committee.** – Do you like planning special events? Help plan Doorways' Champagne Tea at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City on March 12, 2006. Email Kgoldstein@doorwaysva.org to be added to the list for future meeting details.
- ◇ Needed – Do you enjoy interacting with kids of all ages and are at least 19 years old? Assist in providing childcare during weekly Domestic Violence support group meetings held on Wednesdays, Thursday parenting classes, and other monthly events. To sign up, email kdesai@doorwaysva.org

For more information on the above call 703-522-8858 or visit www.doorwaysva.org

BEGIN the New Year right! The Arlington County Volunteer Office urges all to visit their website to check out their new internet-based **Donations Hotlink**. Just go to

www.co.arlingtonva.gov/volunteer

And click on the "Donations" link to review non-monetary donation needs posted by local charitable agencies, or to register your own items that you would like to contribute to a nonprofit organization (furniture, computers, other electronic equipment, office space etc.). It's easy to do and fits the spirit of giving of the new year. If you so request, you will also receive a tax-exempt gift statement that you can use on your tax return.

In addition to their donations link, there are many ideas for volunteering your time and talent in the community.

If you don't have a internet access, please call 703-237-0866.

**Arlington Interfaith Council Minutes
November 21, 2005**

Community United Methodist Church

The meeting was called to order by President Rob Warne at 7:38 p.m.

WELCOME: Since the pastor of Community UMC, Rev. Carl Ripley, was at another meeting and unable to give the welcome, member **Joan Gilmore** filled in and told us a little about the church, started in 1923, and currently housing a largely aging congregation.

Guests and new representatives were introduced and welcomed, including: **Ernie Moore**, on the ministerial staff at Lomax AME Zion Church; **Cecilia Michelotti**, new representative from NOVA Community, and **Yasmin Burns**, attending with Uzma Farooq. **We also welcomed the new AMEN Director, Edie McRee Bowles, and the new OAR director, Gail Arnall.**

MINUTES of October 17, 2005, were approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Anita Nolen presented the Treasurer's Report, including the **2005 Budget Report** [total expenditures of \$8,469.46 represent 94.1% of the budgeted amount, with a balance on hand of \$5,808.95 as of Nov. 21], and the **proposed 2006 Budget** [projecting \$9,150 in income and the same in expenses/grants to Helping Hands], which was **approved** as proposed.

PROGRAM. Edd Nolen introduced **Phil Traina**, AIC at-large representative, who first donned his Lion's Club cap and explained that the money collected through the Lion's Club fruit sales is distributed to needy groups. To encourage us to buy the fruit, Phil brought two boxes of samples to give away! Then he introduced the real topic of the program, the **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry**, which works alongside our own AIC Helping Hand, OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration). [**See program notes elsewhere in the newsletter.**] Since this ministry depends heavily on donations from churches, Phil can make arrangements for a tour by any of our congregations, and maybe even lunch! Rob Warne commented that he took the tour and left with several impressions: the jail is well run and gives a sense of responsibility to inmates, the staff is excellent, and the role of the Good News Ministry is significant. Phil also asked that we place the Good News Ministry on our church prayer lists, and to discuss having him visit each church to work with an outreach person. There is also a need for graders for the Bible study project at the detention center.

In addition to Phil's presentation, OAR Director Gail Arnall spoke of 42 different activities OAR has for inmates and its work with those coming out. It forms relationships inside and then helps them when they leave. Unfortunately, OAR then loses touch with the ones it has helped, and it wants to explore starting a business or buying an existing business to employ ex-inmates. OAR also does a Christmas Angel program for children of inmates and 25 Thanksgiving baskets for their families.

REMARKS:

- AIC At-Large Representative Ann Rudd presented a minimum wage resolution from Sue Capers of the VA Coalition for Homeless and gave out petitions to be signed in support of the resolution, with the intent to present it to the 2006 Virginia General Assembly. While Congress turned down a national raise, DC and seventeen states have raised the minimum wage, but in Virginia it remains at \$5.15. The resolution proposes a graduated raise over several years, to \$6, then \$7, then to \$8. [This will still be far less than the Living Wage that only a few jurisdictions have enacted.]
- Ann Rudd and AIC VP for Community Cooperation Fred Jones announced the 2nd Annual AIC-Sponsored Christmas Dinner for the Homeless, again at Central UMC, and gave out flyers listing details and needs. Volunteers are needed Dec. 24 to set up and on Dec. 25 to serve the dinner.
- New AMEN Director Edie McRae Bowles spoke about her current work with AMEN, beginning in June, and that AMEN is now listed in the Catalog for Philanthropy. 1700 people were helped last

Year with emergency needs and 300 by the furniture bank. They usually have about 40-50 standing referrals and need help there especially, plus there has been an influx by Hurricane Katrina evacuees. AMEN especially needs help at the Furniture Bank (at Westover Baptist Church) on Tuesdays and every other Saturday.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The following slate of officers was elected by unanimous vote:

President.....	Rob Warne
Vice President for Program.....	Edd Nolen
Vice President for Community Cooperation.....	Fred Jones
Vice President for Communication.....	Judy Wolff
Secretary.....	Carole Compton
Treasurer	Anita Nolen

The following slate of At Large Representatives was elected by unanimous vote:

Ginnie Apperson	Uzma Farooq	Ann Rudd
Jane Burr	Jim Malcolm	Judy Sibert
Nancy Cude	Gay Mount	Andres Tobar
John DePauw	Lora Rinker	Phil Traina

Though committee chairs are appointed rather than elected, AIC moved to accept the slate presented:

Budget and Finance: Vacant	Membership: Gilmer Terry
Communications & Publicity: Judy Wolff	Registration: Gay Mount
Shelter & Housing: Ellen Bartlett, Gene Betit	Website: Peter Wages
Food Programs: Fred Jones (seeking a replacement!)	

AIC PRIORITIES FOR 2006: President Warne spoke of AIC's focus in the next year:

- Continue to support Affordable Housing and Living Wage initiatives.
- Strengthen our own membership, especially through visiting congregations which have been delinquent, which he and several others have been doing.
- Bring in more diversity, including ethnic congregations.
- Focus on our Helping Hands by being a voice for them and encouraging volunteers.
- Build a bridge to the interfaith community and emphasize our commonalities
- Additional priorities are to participate in the County's Katrina initiative and to take on sponsorship next year of a community-wide Thanksgiving service.
- Bob Bayer suggested that we add state advocacy to the list, not just County.

REPORTS:

Programs: Edd Nolen -- In **January**, an update on the County's Katrina Task Force and the role congregations will be asked to assume. **The February program** will be our annual County Board/AIC Breakfast on **Saturday, February 11, at 9 a.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church.**

Community Cooperation: Fred Jones

- Culpepper Garden application as a Helping Hand: A creation originally of AIC member congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Culpepper Garden, a senior/assisted living home for low-income seniors, has completed all of the necessary application steps to be a Helping Hand and Fred recommended their adoption as such. The motion was seconded and approved. Erica Wood, the liaison attending instead of Sharon Sundial, thanked us for the vote and explained that Culpepper Garden has 276 units, 73 of which are assisted living (HUD subsidized) and all the others independent affordable housing units.
- The Katrina Task Force Report has been delivered to the County Board and they're exploring how to act on it. When it does, we'll notify churches of how to participate (projected as the January program).

- Connie Francis told Fred that adoptions of evacuees by Arlington churches have been wonderful.
- The CROP Walk total is currently more than \$26,000 and Fred thinks it will be over \$30,000 by the time all money is in. (Last year's total was \$33,000, including a special \$5,000 donation from the Crocker Family.)
- Fred, with Peter's help, has developed a new AIC representatives list serve through the AIC web-site; he expects to do separate ones for pastors/staffs and Helping Hands agencies.

Communication and Publicity: Judy Wolff

- There will not be a December newsletter and January's will be abbreviated since it will have to be done during the holidays (deadline = December 16)
- **Needed: Two people to help with mailing** (pickup from SOC, fold/put in envelopes/take to post office = several hours one afternoon a month, plus an **email editor** for the emails that come in = about three hours a month.
- On a Saturday in March, there will be a Women of Faith gathering, co-sponsored by AIC and the Muslim Women's Organization and open to the general public, with about a two-hour program. More information will be in the January newsletter. A church to host it is needed!

Membership: Gil Terry recognized outgoing Registration Director **Don Hall** for the work he's done for AIC since 1995, and Rob presented Don with Korean vases. **Thank you, Don!**

Website: Peter Wages spoke of setting up the email list and why it needed several tests.

Affordable Housing: Ellen Bartlett gave out the County Affordable Housing Site Plan Compromise and also a flyer advertising BRAVO's December 15 fund-raising dinner at the Santa Fe; Bill Bozman had flyers for the AHS December 3 Affordable Housing Forum

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Bob Bayer:** Mt. Olivet is taking a team down to Bay St. Louis, MS, in about two weeks and would welcome teams from other churches.
- **Gene Betit:** Thanksgiving Interfaith Light Meal at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.

CLOSING PRAYER: Given by Joanne Hansinger of Habitat for Humanity and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Bartlett in the absence of secretary Carole Compton

NEXT MEETINGS: JANUARY 16, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive – next general AIC meeting. [January 2, 2006, 7 p.m. – AIC Board Meeting at First Church of Christ, Scientist].

AIC Attendance on November 21, 2005

Arlington Presbyterian Church	Dudley Sadler
Cathederal of St. Thomas More	James R. Campbell
Clarendon United Methodist Church	Susan Prokop
Community Church of God	Dale Dawson, Pricilla Haskins
First Church of Christ Science	Judy Wolff
First Baptist church of Clarendon	Ellen Bartlett
Little Falls Presbyterian Church	Kelly Pulsifer
Lomax AME Zion Church	Ernie T. Moore
Macedonia Baptist Church	Rochelle Allen
Mount Olivet United Methodist Church	Bob Bayer
NOVA Catholic Community	Cecelia Michelotti
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic church	Peggy Bergin-Hubbell
Our Lay Queen of Peace Catholic Church	Gene Betit, Anita Malone
Resurrection Lutheran Church	Anita Nolen, Edd Nolen
Rock Springs Congregational UCC	William Bozman
St. Agnes Catholic Church	Kathryn Brown
St. Ann Catholic Church	Monica Shumann
St. George's Episcopal Church	Gilmer Terry
St Peter's Episcopal Church	Rob Warne
Trinity Episcopal Church	Elizabeth Duvall, Fred Jones
Unitarian/Universalist Church of Arlington	Paul Blackburn
At-Large	Don Hall, Gay Mount, Ann Rudd, Phil Traina
AMEN	Charles Klein, Edie McRee Bowels
Culpepper Gardens	Erica Wood
Habitat for Humanity	Joanne Hansinger
Muslim Women's Coalition	Uzma Farooq, Yasim Burns
OAR, Arlington	Bruce Griffin, Gail Arnall