



COFM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Winter Shelter Schedule

November 10-17:

St. Bede Catholic Church

November 17-24:

*Williamsburg United Methodist
Church*

November 24-December 1:

*New Town United Methodist
Church*

December 1-8:

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

December 8-15:

*Grace Covenant Presbyterian
Church*

December 15-22:

CrossWalk Community Church

December 22-29:

Chickahominy Baptist Church

December 29-January 5:

Williamsburg Christian Church

January 5-12:

St. Bede Catholic Church

January 12-19:

*Williamsburg United Methodist
Church*

January 19-26:

St. John Baptist Church

January 26 – February 2:

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

February 2-9:

Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

February 9-16

Walnut Hills Baptist Church

February 16-23:

*Williamsburg Unitarian
Universalists*

February 23-March 2:

Williamsburg Community Chapel

March 2-9:

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

March 9-16:

Smith Memorial Baptist Church

COFM Elects Board of Directors

On July 25, 2013 the newly elected Board of Directors held their first Board Meeting to plan for the 2013-14 Emergency Shelter Season. This diverse Board represents faith based congregations and community professionals.

The Directors are Co-Presidents, Kathy Banfield and Renee Collins, Saint Bede Catholic Church; Vice President, Christopher James, Saint Martin's Episcopal Church; Director of Operations, Bill Johnson, Walnut Hills Baptist Church; Treasurer, Stephanie Turner, New Town United Methodist Church; Secretary, Ashley Willis, Williamsburg Community Chapel; Director and Ambassador of Community Relations, Pastor Corwin Hammond, Chickahominy Baptist Church; Director of Partnerships and Facilities, Lizzie Hollerith, Bruton Parish Church; and Director of Social Services, Roy Gerardi, Director of City of Williamsburg Department of Human Services. Board members will serve staggered terms of two-four years. The culmination of a Board of Directors from many faith groups is a dream realized.

COFM was established in August 2012 because of a dire need to provide assistance for homeless individuals

and families in the Williamsburg area. Initially conceived by the Homeless Ministry at Saint Bede Catholic Church, the faith community in the Williamsburg area quickly came together to actively support the Mission.

From its inception, the goal of COFM was to include participation from the faith-based congregations in the Williamsburg area and that is why the name *Community of Faith Mission* was chosen. We are pleased that this objective has been met and over 25 congregations are participating in the program. It is a true community effort.

Community of Faith Mission became incorporated in June and filed for 501(c)(3) non-profit status in July.

Save the Date!

Training will be at Saint Bede Parish Center at 6pm on Thursday, October 30. See article on page 2 for details.



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped this summer preparing for the coming season.



COFM would like to thank Dan C. Gasink, Attorney, Johnson Gasink and Baxter, and Katie D'Addio, Intern, William & Mary Law School for donating their time and effort in the filing of our 501(c)(3) and other legal documents.

Training for Host and Shelter Partners

Training for all Host and Shelter Partners will be held on Thursday, October 30, at 6pm at *St. Bede Parish Center. (10 Harrison Avenue)* Please send your Key Leaders to this meeting.

At last year's training, congregations sent about 6-8 Key Leaders from Host Sites and about 2-3 leaders from Shelter Partners. Attendance is very important. Our new check-in procedures and guidelines for the

upcoming season will be covered. Please make sure to RSVP your COFM contact by October 15 with the number of attendees.

If you have any further questions regarding training, please contact Renee Collins, reneecvt@cox.net or Kathy Banfield, kathybanfield.cofm@gmail.com

As a reminder parking is limited.

Shelter Season Grows 50%

It's official! COFM has reached its goal of offering 18 weeks of Winter Emergency Shelter. In the first year of operation, the shelter provided 12 weeks of winter shelter to those in need. In the second year we are happy to report that all 18 weeks, an increase of 50%, from November 10 through March 16, 2014, are filled. We are blessed to add three new Host Site churches. Welcome to Grace Covenant Presbyterian, CrossWalk Church and Smith

Memorial Baptist Church. Also welcome to our new Shelter Partners, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Christian Life Center.

We continue to meet with area congregations and are currently awaiting word from those that have expressed an interest in being a Shelter Partner.

Go to the website www.cofm.info to check for updates.

Shelter Partners Play Key Role

Shelter Partners play an integral role in the COFM organization. Shelter Partners work side by side with Host Sites during shelter weeks by providing volunteers, food and/or financial assistance. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Shelter Partners who have committed to the 2013-14 season.

King of Glory Lutheran, Williamsburg Baptist, Saint Olaf Catholic, First Baptist, Temple Beth El, Stonehouse Presbyterian, Saint Stephens Lutheran, Hickory Neck Episcopal, Christian Life Center, New Zion and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

COFM continues to meet with potential new Shelter Partners. If your congregation is interested in learning more about how you can become a Shelter Partner, please visit our website at www.cofm.info.

Bus Pass Donations Needed

Often congregations and individuals ask us how they can help. This year with a 50% increase in the number of shelter weeks offered we anticipate bus passes to be our greatest expense. More than 50% of our shelter guests last year did not have transportation. The daily bus passes offered our guests the use of WATA transportation for the day and made it easier for them

to get to and from each Host Shelter site. Our guests were most appreciative of these passes.

In addition to bus passes, we are setting up a capital reserve fund to replace required operational shelter supplies.

Donations are greatly appreciated. Congregations, businesses, and organizations wishing to make a tax

deductible donation to help offset shelter operating costs may send checks payable to Community of Faith Mission, P.O.Box 6357, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Questions on donations can be sent to the attention of Chris James, at www.cofm.info.



COFM Board of Directors

Ashley Willis, Chris James, Lizzie Hollerith, Bill Johnson, Renee Collins, Pastor Corwin Hammond, Kathy Banfield, Stephanie Turner, and Roy Gerardi

Quarterly Newsletter First Edition!

We have added a newsletter to improve communications and to help spread the word about the Community of Faith Mission to members in the community. We hope to distribute the newsletter quarterly or more often if needed. We will also continue to keep the lines of communications open with all participating congregations through Key Leaders by email throughout the year. We ask that you please remember to check email and your prompt reply is always appreciated.

The Board of COFM is looking forward to working closely with each of you in addressing this critical community issue.

Additional information or to contact COFM please visit www.cofm.info