



Williamsburg  
Community Chapel  
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# BUILDING *the* CHURCH

Williamsburg Community Chapel

... YOU ALSO, LIKE LIVING STONES, ARE BEING  
BUILT INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE TO BE A HOLY  
PRIESTHOOD, OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES  
ACCEPTABLE TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,

1 Peter 2:5 NIV

## The Challenge

God has extended a challenge to the Williamsburg Community Chapel, and we believe that rising to it will have profound and far-reaching impact. In the last five years, God has continued to bless the Chapel by adding greatly to our numbers, so that today we are faced with a lack of space that is severely limiting ministry opportunities. We could choose what is comfortable and familiar by ignoring this opportunity to grow more disciples of Jesus Christ. But God is saying, "Move forward!" The harvest is plentiful in Williamsburg and around the world, so let us choose now to accept the responsibility of expanding our campus so that we may welcome and disciple *all* people whom the Lord sends us.

The Chapel Vision Statement is a touchstone which defines who we are:

*The Williamsburg Community Chapel is an interdenominational family of faith called to make disciples of Jesus Christ by:*

- Meeting people where they are on their spiritual journey,
- Getting people into God's Word and God's Word into people, and
- Preparing believers for works of service to foster unity and maturity in the Body of Christ.

Matt. 28:19-20, Eph. 4:12-13

## Beginnings And New Beginnings

With the conviction that God was leading them in a new direction, two College of William & Mary science professors and their wives sought to establish a fellowship centered on Christ and the essentials of the historic Christian faith. In 1976, they began the Williamsburg Community Chapel in a local home. But by the spring of 1977, the Chapel had grown beyond the home's capacity. God's solution was clear when—through miraculous circumstances—He provided ideal facilities at nearby Walsingham Academy.



## Amy Koser

*I grew up in a Christian home and went to church every Sunday. My family always talked to me about God but I wanted nothing to do with Him. Eight years ago, however, I went through a tough time and began to look toward heaven. Another five years passed before the Lord called my heart to Him and led me to the Chapel. I got into a Bible study and the Word. The turning point came when I joined a Small Group. Through scripture, tears, love, and a hunger to know the Lord, I began my personal relationship with Jesus. The Chapel's [2004] Year of Discipleship has challenged me to read my Bible and affirm my relationship with God. I have seen a change in who I am and how I want to live my life.*

A long period of steady spiritual and numerical growth followed after Dick Woodward became pastor in 1980. From the beginning, we sought to “meet people where they are,” “get the Word into people,” and “prepare believers for works of service.”

*Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the chief cornerstone...’?”*

Matthew 21:42 NASB

When the Chapel received an unexpected gift of property west of Williamsburg, God’s provision for the growing fellowship was again clear. Even though the location seemed too far out of town to be practical, the Chapel obeyed God’s leading to build a church facility on the donated property. The Chapel family, at that time about 300 strong, moved into our current building in 1989. Our growth since then indicates that God selected a

## Nancy Hathaway

*God led me to the Chapel in 1986 after bringing me to Himself in 1981 and saving me from an abusive marriage. The Chapel was small then and still meeting at Walsingham Academy. I realize now that it was God's provision for me as a young believer in a really tough time of life. Through the years, in the absence of any other support or family, the Chapel has become my family. I met my closest friends at the Chapel, and eventually even my husband. My Chapel family is the first place I go when I need prayer, support, and to share good news. A Chapel friend invited me on my first missions trip, which eventually led to my and Steve's adoption of three wonderful Ukrainian girls. Since then, God has used our Ukraine experience to bring many more Ukrainian orphans into loving homes in the States.*



strategic location. In 1990 Dick Woodward became pastor emeritus and Bill Warrick succeeded him as senior pastor. The two-story Education Wing was completed in 1999. God’s vision and strategy established the Chapel and caused it to flourish. Miracles are the mileposts on the road behind us, and we anticipate the miracles God will provide on the road ahead.

## Our Ministry Today

*today*

Christ is the cornerstone of our church. The Word of God is taught faithfully, and all of our preaching, teaching, and planning would be empty if not permeated and informed by Scripture. As one member remarked,

*“...when you attend this church you will move closer to Jesus Christ.”*

The Chapel's ministries stem from the life of Christ within individual believers and the corporate body. Our current ministries serve all age groups within and beyond the Chapel family. A few of the programs for adults are:

- A spirit-filled music ministry
- Small Group home Bible studies attended by approximately 600 people
- Weekday Bible studies for men and women
- Men's and women's monthly breakfasts
- Heart to Heart, a mentoring program for older and younger women
- Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS), a weekly outreach program to mothers in the community
- Regular activities for singles and seniors
- Two weekly community Bible breakfasts open to all men in the region
- Annual men's and women's weekend retreats
- Sunday Bible study classes for adults

*...the work is great; for the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.*

King David, I Chronicles 29:1, NASB

In recent years, one of the exciting ways God has blessed our commitment to getting "people into God's Word and God's Word into people" is through the annual Christmas Concert. The ministry of God's Word through music draws several thousand people every Christmas. In 2003, nearly 4,000 people attended "The Splendor of Christmas," presented four times to accommodate the demand.

We have always focused on teaching the next generation to honor the Lord. Hundreds of youth participate in middle school, high school, and college-level activities weekly, and children's Sunday School classrooms are filled to overflowing. Vacation Bible School draws over 300 children each summer, and 31 children and youth were baptized into new life in Christ on two "Baptism Sundays" in February 2004.



## Greg Duncan

*I have struggled with many personal issues for over 30 years. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1981, but my afflictions kept me from being all that God had called me to be.*

*The Chapel and its ministries, however, have introduced me to God's grace. I remember learning at a Men's Retreat that God's grace reaches the most unreachable people. I can find His grace in any situation. The Chapel has always met me where I've been on my spiritual journey. I have been able to surrender to God, realizing that I can't but He can.*




## Ann Orteig

*Soon after my daughter and I moved here from New York—feeling very displaced—Dick Woodward began teaching the Mini Bible College. That was our saving grace. I attended every session while my daughter did her homework in the back with the Woodward children. Although I'm a Catholic, I have attended the Chapel these 26 years.*

*Bill and Lindy Warrick were young Campus Crusade leaders back then and visited us often and helped me through my daughter's teenage years. They have been mighty friends along with many others I have met at the Chapel. One of the things I like most about the Chapel is the straight and true delivery of the Word. The emphasis is on knowing Christ rather than just knowing about Christ, and with that I am continually blessed. I am now working in the jail ministry and the prayer support at the church is like a solid rock.*

Since the Chapel's inception, its heart has always extended beyond Williamsburg, and our Missions Ministry has grown as the Chapel has grown. In response to Jesus' command to "make disciples of all nations," 13 Chapel missionaries were in the field by 1980. Today, approximately 50 Chapel-sponsored missionaries serve in Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, and the U.S., and this number increases each year. Each spring during Missions Month, we focus on what God is doing through these families and how we can help them.

The Chapel sponsors regular visits to and from our sister church in Bucha, Ukraine, and we have witnessed exciting growth in our sister church. We hope to engage in more such projects as our numbers grow.



*In the 1980s pastor Dick Woodward launched the Mini Bible College, a devotional survey of the Bible. This community Bible study evolved into an international program of broadcasting, conversions, and church building. In partnership with International Cooperating Ministries (ICM), the Mini Bible College has been translated into 24 languages, and can be heard in over 60 countries by more than 3 1/2 billion people. Over 60 of the 1,500+ churches built or under construction have been sponsored by the Chapel or Chapel families, and the Chapel makes regular gifts toward the ongoing costs of broadcasting.*

## The Master's Plan

*the plan*

Between 1999 and 2002 the Chapel grew from 750 to 1200 people, and now over 1400 attend two Sunday morning services in a worship room designed for only 750. Both services are crowded, and on many occasions the lack of space results in visitors leaving because no seat can be found for them. The Fireside Room is no longer available for coffee and fellowship because it must be used for additional worship room seating. The Education Wing is full and space is inadequate for nursery care. Our facilities are limiting our ability to fulfill God's vision for the Chapel family and newcomers. Our leadership has studied input from a church-wide survey, focus groups, and a planning and development task force, and confirms that we should expand on our present campus. Therefore, planning is underway for a new building, a new access road off Eagle Way in front of Jamestown High School, and additional parking. The building will consist of a new 1,500-seat sanctuary, nursery space, and classrooms and fellowship areas for all ages. Highly functional simplicity will characterize our new structure. It will be attractive and inviting and will blend with our present facility.

In addition to the new structure planned to meet today's need, the Elders are reviewing ideas for future expansion. They plan a space where our students would gather for teaching and fellowship, and additional space for Chapel Forum events, adult Sunday School classes, and Bible studies. The congregation will be kept informed as plans for these additional expansion phases move forward. A campaign prayer committee has been established. This committee will conduct regular open prayer meetings to lift every aspect of the expansion process to God for His guidance. This work is urgent. The sooner we expand our space, the sooner we can welcome all whom God sends to worship with us, to learn about Jesus, and to commit their lives to Him in preparation for works of service in His Kingdom. We want to cooperate with God to fulfill what He started on the land He provided. This is a God-sized job—only He can make it a reality.

## How We Can Help Build God's Church

We have established a campaign goal of \$11 million, based on architects' cost estimates. Those who love the Chapel and envision its potential within God's plan can be part of its future by giving willingly and sacrificially to the Building the Church campaign. King David uttered a heartfelt prayer of gratitude after he, followed by the leaders of the tribes of Israel, had given freely and wholeheartedly for the building of the temple in Jerusalem (*facing page*).

We can experience this reality firsthand, as we participate in the Building the Church campaign. Opportunities to see drawings and a video presentation of the new facility will be provided so that everyone will have a clear picture of what the expanded facilities will be like. Those who are ready to participate with their time and treasures may act now. All of us will be informed of developments regarding the campaign and ways we can give.

God has worked miracles through the multitudes that have preceded us at the Chapel. Now, we can build on the spiritual and physical foundations that they laid. God is building His Church one living stone at a time. By presenting our gifts with glad and generous hearts we can look forward to the day when we witness the completion of this Chapel campus and worship the Lord for what He has done in and through us.

BUT WHO AM I, AND WHO ARE MY PEOPLE,  
THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE AS GENEROUSLY  
AS THIS? EVERYTHING COMES FROM YOU,  
AND WE HAVE GIVEN YOU ONLY WHAT COMES FROM  
YOUR HAND...O LORD OUR GOD, AS FOR ALL THIS  
ABUNDANCE THAT WE HAVE PROVIDED FOR BUILDING  
YOU A TEMPLE FOR YOUR HOLY NAME,  
IT COMES FROM YOUR HAND,  
AND ALL OF IT BELONGS TO YOU.

I Chronicles 29:14,16. NIV