

FISH

The President's Message:

Visit
the FISH Website

<http://williamsburgfish.weebly.com/services.html>

The Pantry Report:

During the month of December, there were 347 requests for 854 recipients for a total of 12,810 meals. Persons fed was down 8% from December 2016.

In January there were 380 requests for 936 recipients for a total of 14,040 meals. Persons fed was up 7% from January, 2016.

Greetings,

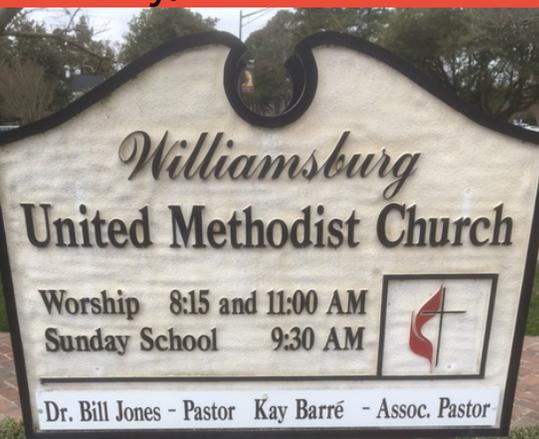
During the past year FISH has had opportunities to expand its role in the local community. As I have previously mentioned, FISH has provided volunteers and offered financial support to the monthly food distribution at United Way. We will continue this in the coming year.

At the January board meeting we voted to help supply food to the Williamsburg Community Kitchen. The service will offer lunch on Fridays at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church.

FISH has continued to expand its footprint in the community to help those in need. We have been blessed with donations and will continue to be good stewards as we serve those in need.

Bless you.

Gene Bruss, President



Reminders for Pantry Volunteers:

Clients who have been referred by Avalon, Colonial Corrections, a church, public or private social service agency (or any other group) **do not** need a second referral from CSRN.

Avalon clients who are in the shelter receive only clothing. They can return when they have housing for food and housewares. Clients in transitional or outreach programs can receive all we offer.

Please have donors complete in full the donation form in the donations book behind the desk. We want to acknowledge all donations and need name, address, and type of donation in order to send thank you letters.

We still have some problems with Farm Fresh and sometimes can't get all the cheese, toilet paper, and laundry detergent we order.

When you receive your newsletter every other month, also attached are calendars for two months, and an updated sub list.

Welcome and Farewell

Welcome to Barbara Collum
and Crystal Diggs.

Farewell to Mary Lou Connelly

Opportunity to Help FISH

Amazon makes a donation to FISH with each of your Amazon purchases when you participate in the AmazonSmile program. The link for participation is

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-152305>

Thank you for supporting this program. Donations are increasing.



Training Meeting

On Thursday, March 9, there will be a training meeting for pantry volunteers. There will be brief presentations by our president and coordinators. Also, our computer team will demonstrate the changes to the computer screen. All volunteers are invited, but each team should send at least one member, preferably the lead volunteer. It is an opportunity to clarify our procedures and for you to offer suggestions and ask questions. 9:30 for coffee and treats and at 10 the meeting begins.

Quick Response Team

These volunteers are willing to come, when they can, on short notice if one of your team has failed to show or you are especially busy.

Kathleen Anderson 345-6291

Jill Holroyd 903-7839

Facebook

The name for FISH's facebook page is Williamsburg FISH Inc. Volunteers and donors who use facebook are encouraged to "Like" our page.

The Messmer Community Service Center will be closed as follows:

Monday January 16th for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday February 20th for President's Day

Monday May 29th for Memorial Day

Tuesday July 4th for Independence Day

Monday September 4th for Labor Day

Monday October 9th for Columbus Day

Friday November 10th for Veterans Day

Thursday November 23rd & Friday November 24th for Thanksgiving

Monday December 25th for Christmas Day

Monday January 1st, 2018 for New Year Day

The Messmer Community Service Center will be closed due to Inclement Weather whenever Williamsburg/James City Public Schools are closed.

When there is a 1 hour or 2 hour delay in Williamsburg/James City Public Schools opening, the Messmer Community Service Center will open at its regular time.

Important Phone Numbers:

FISH Building: 757-220-9379

Volunteers – Martha Buell:

757-345-2646

Weather Related Closings:

757-220-4249

FISH FACTS

FISH clothed 1,479 children in 2016.

Shopping at the foodbank saved FISH over \$13,000 in 2016.

Donations

FISH is thankful for donations of money, food, clothing, and small housewares. The following are the food items that FISH recommends for donations:

- Spaghetti
- Canned Meat, Chicken and Tuna
- Cereals
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Saltine Crackers
- Applesauce and Canned Fruits
- Powdered Milk
- Beans (Great Northern and Baked)
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Grape Jelly
- Canned Soups
- Canned Vegetables



The Closet Report:



In December, 702 outfits were provided to 172 adults and 112 children. Housewares were provided to 50 households in December. In December the total number of requests was down 9% from December, 2015. In January 740 outfits were provided to 173 adults and 113 children. Housewares were provided to 46 households in January. The total number of requests in January was up 4% from January 2016.