



The Messenger

P.O. Box 1088 / 6930 Cold Harbor Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Starzer, Pastor
The Rev. Shannon Hendricks, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Sandy Shaner, Associate Pastor

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September 2021

Fairfield's Day of Prayer is Almost Here!

Please don't forget to set aside some time to pray for our church as we begin to fully reopen this month. Our Day of Prayer for Fairfield is September 1. If you haven't had an opportunity to sign up yet, please do so this Sunday, or contact Donna Carson in the church office or Vicky Brady at 804-938-1770 to sign up for a specific time. Even if you don't commit to praying during a specific time that day, please try to take some time to pray. Here are some suggestions of things to pray about that day:

- Pray for our church. Pray that it will continue to thrive as a community of faith, always seeking to do God's will as we minister to the community, the world, and each other, so that others will know God's love.
- Pray for yourself. As God to lead you in areas in which you can be involved in Worship+2 - participating in a worship service +1 opportunity for discipleship and spiritual growth and one opportunity for Ministry and service to others in the church and in the greater community.

As you pray, consider how God is leading you into your Worship+2. Here are some of the Discipleship and Ministry opportunities that are offered at Fairfield:

- Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School classes
- Sunday evening Youth Group
- Children's monthly activities
- Small Group Bible studies

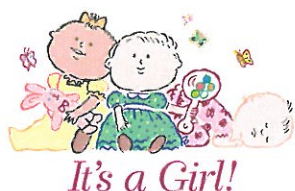
- The Joyful Readers Circle
- The Fellowship Circle
- Single Adult Monthly luncheons
- Music Ministry - Choir, handbells, Praise Band
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Worship Service Usher
- Youth and Adult Mission trips
- Churchwide Mission projects
- MCEF (Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions)
- Children's Clothes Swaps & clothing drives
- Food drives
- Thanksgiving Baskets
- Children's Nursery Workers
- Assistance with Children and Youth Sunday School classes
- Assistance with Children's Message during the worship service
- Assistance with Facilities Management projects
- Assistance with leading any of the Sunday School classes and/or small group activities.

Please pray for all of these very important ministries of our church and how God might be leading you to participate or serve.

Thank you for participating in this Day of Prayer! We are looking forward to the great things that God will be doing in our lives, and in the work of the church, starting this month and throughout the year!

Vicky Brady
Elder, Adult Discipleship

Member News



Congratulations to **Allen & Kathy Boyle** on the birth of their daughter Lillian Jean, who was born on July 29. Both mother and daughter are doing well!

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers: **Angela Blue's** nieces, **Jack Briel**, **Beverly Burts**, **Myra Compton**, **Marcia Cramer**, **Reggie Crump**, **Jeff & Becky Cumins'** son **Doug**, **Jack Mitchell**, **Murrell & Joyce Nuckols**, **Calvin and Barbara Pearson**, **Betty Pittman**, **Gene Rosen's** niece, **Tracy**, **Bob Stevens**, **Buford Wade**, **Marge Wantz'** husband **Ned**, **Jack Ward**, **Deborah Wood's** friend **Courtney**, **Rick Wood's** mother **Elgie**, and all those who serve as missionaries abroad and those who serve our nation.

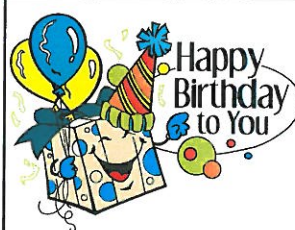
Please remember our members who are unable to get to church due to illness or limited mobility: **Evelyn Bailey**, **Ann Barlow**, **Nita Dunkum**, **Ruth Gatewood**, **Laverne Longest**, **Myrtle Muire**, **Nancy Norment**, **Murrell & Joyce Nuckols**, **Virginia Phipps**, **Helen Rigsby**, **Larry Rigsby**, **Faye Sandridge**, **Louise Setchel**, **Sheila Shaw**, and **Bootsie Stevens**.

Our Covenant Woods friends: **Margaret Barlow**, **Marie Blatt**, **Elizabeth Davis**, **Walt & Jan Fadeley**, **Nancy & Ivy Gallihugh**, **Mary Gayton**, **Bill & Phyllis Kerns**, **Doris McCalla**, **Glenn & Gerry Miller**, **Jack & Jo Mitchell**, **Calvin & Barbara Pearson**, **Rick & Diane Richardson**, **Bob Stevens**, **Libby Taylor**, **Billy and Nancy Walls**.

(Please update Pastor Steve or the church office as often as possible if you wish to keep your name or your loved one's name on this list.)

Church Directory Changes:

Wyatt, Morgan, Elliana & Alexander Wills
8826 Dispatch Station Court
Quinton, VA 23141



Happy 100th Birthday Ruth Gatewood!

On September 5th, another one of our members, **Ruth Wood Gatewood**, turns 100 years old! Ruth joined Fairfield on October 28, 1934 and has been a faithful member since!

If you get a chance, send Ruth a birthday card for her special day. Her address is: 4408 Chickahominy Avenue, Richmond, VA 23222.

Ruth, we wish you a very Happy Birthday and we hope you continue to have many more!



Heading to College

If you have a college student/students in your family for the 2021-2022 academic year, please help us keep in touch with them by sending the requested information below to the church office (secretary@fairfieldpcusa.org).

Student's name & complete address
Name of college/educational facility
Email address
Phone/cell phone

Freshman/sophomore/junior/senior/etc.

This information is also helpful to the Joyful Readers Circle when they send out care packages to our college students!

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

Laura Arnette	September 3
Sawyer Harding	September 3
Ruth Gatewood	September 5
Karen Hastings	September 6
Courtney Kulkarni	September 6
Melanie Rubeck	September 6
Gerry Miller	September 7
Brian Croy	September 8
Thomas Cunningham	September 8
Kim Boehme	September 9
Tom Lake	September 9
Charles Warren	September 9
Austin Wilson	September 9
Megan Leigh	September 10
Wyatt Schneck	September 10
Tanner Franklin	September 11
Alissa Helfrich	September 11
Chris Palicia	September 12
Emily Helfrich	September 14
McKenzie Marker	September 14
Madison Stevens	September 15
Kylee Smith	September 17
Scott Stevens	September 17
Julie Sutton	September 17
Debbie Atkins	September 20
Kelly Daugherty	September 20
Bettina Tanner	September 20
Henry Atkinson	September 22
Sandra Brewster	September 23
Matt Joyce	September 23
Dawn Williamson	September 23
Mary Beth Adams	September 24
Marie Maida	September 24
Aaron Marker	September 24
Joan Sprinkle	September 24
Angela Blue	September 28
Heather Lowery	September 28
Tracy Pope	September 30

SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

Charles & Pamela Walsh	September 2
John & Suzanne Weeks	September 2
Jeff & Angela Blue	September 3
Dave & Myra Compton	September 3
Pat & Linda Daugherty	September 4
Justin & Katelyn Weis	September 7
Charles & Bonnie Warren	September 9
Merrill & Karen Hastings	September 12
Mike & Myra Moore	September 14
Keith & Dana Franklin	September 19
Cameron & Erica Hutchison	September 19
Edward & Maurine Wolfgang	September 20
Buck & Barbara Smith	September 22
Billy & Sue Putze	September 26
Jack & Jo Mitchell	September 27

Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 6*
- Patriot Day, *September 11*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 12*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15 - Oct. 15*
- First day of autumn, *September 22*



Welcome Back Dinner

As we try to get back into the swing of things, the Deacons would like to invite everyone to a welcome back dinner in the Melton Pavilion on Sunday, **September 19** starting at 4:30pm. There will be pork barbeque, sides, hamburgers and hot dogs. All food will be served by volunteers with proper safety. Look for an insert in the bulletins or on the table in the Family Center narthex to RSVP. You can also call the church office (730-7164) to reserve your spot! Please RSVP by September 12. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it!

Jessica Ingerman

Thank
You

The volunteers who filled in for me during my vacation were awesome! Many thanks to Nancy Gallihugh, Beth Young, Patty Gulliver and Janet Chelette!

Donna



The Fairfield Ringers (handbells) resume practices on Wednesday, September 15 from 7:00-8:00pm. We practice in the sanctuary. At this time everyone is asked to wear a mask during practice.

The Bells play at the 11am service once a month. We could use a few more ringers. No prior playing experience is needed but being able to read music notation is necessary. If you are curious or interested in playing bells, please contact Celeste Underdown at 779-2934, text or call (804) 929-3107, or send Celeste an email at underc78@gmail.com.



Choir practices will resume on Thursday, September 16 from 7:00-8:00pm. This is a change in day and time as the Praise Band has changed its practice time from Thursday to Wednesday. The Choir helps to lead congregational singing every Sunday at the 11am service. The Choir is always looking for singers. You do not have to know how to read music notation to sing in the Choir. We will be wearing masks at the present time and will also practice social distancing in the Choir loft. Please use the same contact information above if you would like to sing in the choir. We would love to have you!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is welcoming anyone who loves to knit or would like to learn to knit to join them on Wednesday, **September 1**, 10:00am in the Barlow Parlor.

Anna Barrowclough



The Joyful Readers Circle will meet in person on **September 14** in the Heritage Hall at 7:00pm. We will review the book "This Tender Land" by

William Kent Kruger. Our circle always welcomes new members and if you would like to try us out, come meet with us on Tuesday, September 14th!



SINGLES FELLOWSHIP

Let's Go to Lunch!

It's time for the Super Singles to get together again! Do you know what a Super Single is? It's a group of single, divorced, widowed individuals who get together once a month to eat lunch and enjoy each other's company.

It's been a while and we are anxious to get back to our luncheons! So, on **Sunday, September 26**, right after the 11:00am service, we will go to the Outback Steakhouse (near Walmart on 360). As always, we will need a count of how many will be joining us.

We invite more singles to join us! It's a great group and we have fun together.

Call Melanie Rubeck (730-5994) by Friday, September 24 to let her know you will be joining the group so she can get a reservation.

The Union Class has decided to hold off starting Sunday School until October. At that time they will make a decision whether to start meeting in person based on the current COVID conditions.



"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118 v. 24)

As I write this newsletter article the long hot days of summer are coming to an end. I hope everyone has had a nice relaxing summer and found ways to stay cool. I have spent some time over the summer straightening and better organizing the church library. Thank you John Longest for the great cleaning and dusting the library underwent not long ago.

We have taken in several donations over the summer and they are greatly appreciated. Look for When I'm Praising God, Hope For The Troubled Heart and You Are Never Alone. We also have a nice selection of fiction titles for your reading pleasure. In the Children's Library you will find God Never Leaves Me, God Provides For Me and Jesus Loves The Little Children.

May we always strive to rejoice in these days that the Lord has made.

Elizabeth Covington

September Nursery Schedule for 8:45am Service

Sept. 5 Donna Hohman & Angela Schwartz
Sept. 12 Anne Young & Abbey Glass
Sept. 19 Allison Letourneau & Marge Wantz
Sept. 26 Nikki Glass & Abbey Glass



Our first **children's Fall Sunday School class** (3yrs-5th grade) will begin on **Sunday, September 12th**. We will be requiring masks for the children. Please feel free to contact Angela Blue with any questions or concerns: angela@fairfieldpcusa.org

The Children's Committee has reached out to Amy Price, the School Counselor at Battlefield Elementary to **"adopt" a family in need this year**. The family that has been chosen have three boys: 1st grade, 4th grade and 7th grade. She is requesting Walmart Gift Cards because she feels as though they will be able to get the most "bang for their buck" there and will be able to shop for what they need themselves. If you would like to contribute a Walmart gift card (and maybe even a few school supplies ie pencils, highlighters, paper etc) to add to it, it would be greatly appreciated! You may bring the items/gift cards in during church office hours or leave them in Angela Blue's box. We plan to help this family out around the holidays as well, so stay tuned! Thank you all so much for your help blessing this family!

The Committee is planning on a **Children's Clothing Swap** the week of October 3rd! Please contact Angela Blue if you would like to volunteer to help.

Drop off days:

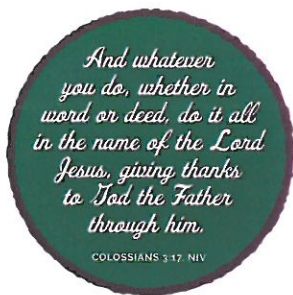
- Tuesday (October 5th) and Thursday (October 7th) evenings from 6-8:00pm
- Friday (October 8th) morning from 9:00am-11:00am
- SWAP day will be on Saturday, October 9th from 8:00-10:00am for ticket holders and 10:00-11:00am for all non ticket holders.

Laboring for the Lord

For many people, the pandemic redefined work, with more employees logging hours from a home office - or kitchen table. Boundaries between job and personal life blurred, as did any sense of being "off duty."

Most of us prefer clear divisions between our tasks and time. While such separations may help with scheduling, they are artificial human constructs. "Whatever your task," says Colossians 3:23 (NRSV, emphasis added) - whether in public or private, family or job, spiritual or worldly activities - "put yourselves into it as done for the Lord." Verse 17 tells us to "do everything" in Jesus' name, "giving thanks to God the Father through him."

That means even work and worship interlock. As Rick Warren writes, "Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of his presence."



Concert by the John Marshall Alumni Band September 11th

MCEF invites you to enjoy an evening of big-band music at Walnut Grove Baptist Church (7046 Cold Harbor Road). The concert will be held on Saturday, **September 11 at 7:00pm**. This is a "food & Fund Raiser" concert for MCEF Pantry and the admission is \$2.00 plus one nonperishable (canned or boxed) food item per person. Come and enjoy the popular and patriotic music by the John Marshall Alumni Band and support your local ministries.



MCEF is so grateful for the generosity of all the churches who support our mission. We were able to serve 13 households and their 33 children with clothing and school supplies at the Back-To-School event in August. These children ranged in age from preschool to college age. To see kids with a new back pack (if they wanted one) and most of the supplies on their school's list for their grade was a joy for volunteers who helped with the event. Every child got a week's worth of new underwear and new socks and picked clothing that they liked. All this was made possible by our churches. Thank you for all you do here at Fairfield!

Current Needs for the Food Pantry:

pork & beans/baked beans
pinto beans
stuffing
pancake mix
applesauce
pineapple
ketchup
mayonnaise
pancake syrup
larger soup (18.5 ounces)

Currently we are accepting fall clothing for all the closets. Due to space available, the following guideline is currently being used for clothing donations: Spring clothes February 1 - April 1; Summer Clothes April 1 - August 1; Fall clothes August 1 - October 1; Winter clothes October 1 - February 1.

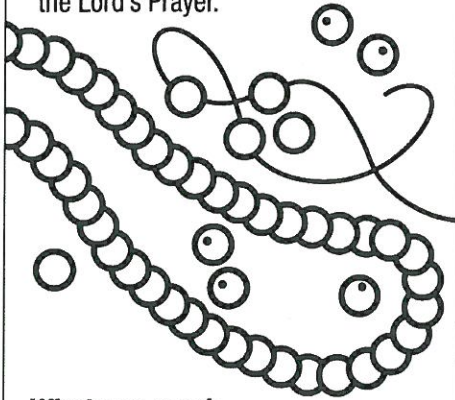
All donations are accepted the first and third Sunday of each month from 2 - 3:30pm.

Nancy Gallihugh

Under-Age Thinking...

Prayer bracelet

Make this craft to help you remember the Lord's Prayer.



What you need:

- Elastic string (12 inches)
- Colored beads (see below)
- Clear nail polish

What you do:

1. Knot the string at one end. Add beads in this order: blue, white, gold, green, yellow, red, black, orange
2. Tie the ends so the bracelet fits your wrist. Place a dot of nail polish to secure the knot. Trim excess string.
3. As you pray, use the bead colors as reminders of Jesus' words (see Matthew 6:9-13):

- **blue** = the Father
- **white** = God's holiness
- **gold** = God's kingdom
- **green** = the earth
- **yellow** = wheat (bread)
- **red** = Christ's blood (forgiveness)
- **black** = temptation
- **orange** = God's power to deliver

PUZZLE



Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

Youth Group News

Sept. 12 Sunday School begins! 9:45am
Ice Cream Social, 4:30pm

Sept. 19 Welcome Back Dinner for
whole congregation, 4:30pm
Melton Pavilion

Sept. 26 Youth Group, 4:30pm



Youth Group is open to all Middle School and High School students. Come join us!

Serving the Lord by Serving His People - Youth Mission Trip 2021

At the end of June, Fairfield sent nineteen youth and adults on a service mission to Altoona, Pennsylvania. This year was a year like no other mission trip. The biggest change - we were missing our fearless leader, Mitzi Marker, and we did not have a youth pastor on the trip. Not to mention we were dealing with the ongoing pandemic. With the absence of two key players, several adults stepped up to serve as chaperones: Mandy Harding, Chuck Patterson, Sam Patterson (our junior chaperone), Alec Powell (Fairfield's intern), Nicole Hillard (Mitzi's recruit), and me (Amy Atkinson). As always, our youth team was amazing and consisted of the following:

Henry Atkinson
Samantha Beverly
Jordan Bridger
McKenzie Marker
Matt Palmgren
Lucas Settle
Ryleigh Steveson

Meredith Atkinson
Lauren Bowman
Corinne Harding
Zoe Marker
Beth Patterson
Mason Settle

Due to COVID, 95% of our service projects this year were outdoors with only one assignment indoors (cleaning windows). We had four different homes that we assisted in a trailer park, one rural home, one home in town, and we worked one day at a thrift store. Mostly, we served widowed women who needed assistance with outdoor projects including painting, yardwork, and landscaping. You would be so proud of our young people! And even though Mitzi was not physically with us, she truly was with us. Anytime we needed anything (and I mean anything), we found it in Mitzi's magical tote!

During the day, we worked hard, but in the evening we attended chapel and worshiped our Lord. Teameffort provided praise music and the message each night. The Fairfield team would then return to camp and hold our devotion. I could see each one of the young people growing closer to Christ.

This trip could not have been possible without the support of the congregation and deacons, individual sponsorship, and prayers. We are so grateful tht your generosity made this possible.

Amy M. Atkinson

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM CONNECT Women's Ministry (HH)	30 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations	31	1 DAY OF PRAYER 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (Barlow Parlor) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	2 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	3	4 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
5 MCEF Collection Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary)	6 Labor Day Office Closed 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	7 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM Personnel Team (#26)	8 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	9 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	10	11 Patriot Day 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH) 7:00 PM MCEF Fundraiser (Walnut Grove Bap. Church)
12 National Grandparents Day Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Youth Group Ice Cream Social 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM CONNECT Women's Ministry (HH)	13 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	14 7:00 PM Joyful Readers Circle (Heritage Hall)	15 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	16 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Hanover Towne Garden Club (HH) 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scout Committee Meeting (#20)	17	18 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
19 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 4:30 PM Welcome Back Dinner (Pavilion) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM CONNECT Women's Ministry (HH)	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	21 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Heritage Hall)	22 First Day of Autumn 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	23 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	24	25 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)
26 Worship on-line with us at www.fairfieldpcusa.org 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Contemporary Worship Service (Family Center) 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship (sanctuary) 12:30 PM Super Singles (Outback Steakhouse) 4:30 PM Youth Group (Family Center) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM CONNECT Women's Ministry (HH)	27 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Classical Conversations 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall)	28	29 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Pilates Class (Heritage Hall) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fairfield Ringers (sanctuary) 8:00 PM Praise Band Practice (FC)	30 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM C.A.P. (Family Center) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice (sanctuary) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (Heritage Hall)	1	2 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Beginnings Church (HH)



The Guild of Covenant Woods, a not for profit Continuing Care Retirement Community in Mechanicsville, with a 138 year old caretaking tradition (first at the Richmond

Home for Ladies and now at Covenant Woods) is seeking to expand their membership with women interested in making a difference in the lives of area retirees. They will meet on September 13 at 10:30 for their first meeting and then the first Monday of each month from October to June. Please contact Jean Wright, Vice President of The Guild at (804) 513-9690 or jeanwright1973@gmail.com. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have and will share additional information about the Guild.



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Return Service Requested

