

As of Winter 2014, the following Home Fellowship Groups are in operation:

- **Group A, John Tyler Hwy.** Meets Thursdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m. beginning **Feb. 6**. Point of Contact: **Sue Ducibella, 259-9965, ducibes@gmail.com.**
- **Group B, Ford's Colony.** Meets Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m., beginning **Mar. 2**. Point of Contact: **Roger Hoopengardner, 903-4246, roghoop@aol.com.**
- **Group C, York County.** Meets Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m., starting **Feb. 16**. Point of Contact: **Alice-Marie Schwenkler, 220-2560, amschwenkler@gmail.com.**
- **Group D, New Town.** Meets Wednesdays, beginning **Mar. 19**. Point of Contact: **Len Scharf, 345-6401, Irscharf34@yahoo.com**
- **Group E, Kingsmill/City of Williamsburg.** Meets Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., starting on **Feb. 6**. Point of Contact: **Gayle Mapp, 784-5984, gaylej1960@yahoo.com**

The next group of hosts and facilitators will be trained during the Summer or Fall of 2014 and another set of groups is expected to be launched in Fall 2014.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Williamsburg, VA

Web: [www.stmartinswmbg.org](http://www.stmartinswmbg.org)

Email: [rector@stmartinswmbg.org](mailto:rector@stmartinswmbg.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stmartinswmbg](http://www.facebook.com/stmartinswmbg)

Twitter: @stmartinswmbg

Small enough to welcome you and  
big enough to make a difference

# Home Fellowship Groups ...

a safe place  
where individuals meet  
together regularly,  
support each other's  
growth in Christ,  
and are connected in  
Christian  
community  
through the ups  
and downs  
of life



In the Fall of 2013, two groups of leaders were trained in the Home Fellowship Group approach. In February – March of 2014, we are expanding to five groups. St. Martin's will continue to train new leaders and expand until everyone who wishes be involved in a group has one. The vestry's hope is that, eventually, St. Martin's will be rooted in neighborhood "outposts" all over Williamsburg, James City County and York so that our lived faith reaches beyond the walls of church.

Undertaking an effort like this is just common sense for a church of our size that wishes to support its members' spiritual growth. It helps people build caring relationships with each other, even among people in their own neighborhood! Home Fellowship Groups also become a place through which pastoral care needs can be met and outreach ministry be enjoyed.

The primary intention of the Home Fellowship Groups is to offer these benefits to members; however, we also hope that groups will feel free to invite neighbors who are on a spiritual journey but may not be affiliated with St. Martin's.

At each session, the group follows the format of:

- Opening prayer
- Check-in
- Study / sharing
- Prayer requests
- Closing prayer
- (P.S. there are often yummy treats involved!)

#### What Home Fellowship Group *is*

- Individuals who are willing to grow individually and together
- People who yearn for an assurance of Christ's caring for them in their daily lives
- Folks who let others share appropriately, without cross-talk, advice-giving or judgment.
- A balance of prayer, personal sharing and Christian study (often the Bible but sometimes a devotional or contemporary Christian thinker).
- A non-threatening environment
- Coordinated and resourced by Rev'd Shirley
- Initially, groups will meet weekly for six weeks, and then members can decide whether to continue. You may move between groups.
- Each group has a host, facilitator, and a point of contact.
- Each group has 8-12 people to enable a good group dynamic and an opportunity for all to share.

#### What Home Fellowship Group *is not*

- A self-help group
- A counseling or therapy session
- A Bible study (only), even though study is a component of every session
- A mentoring group

#### What do I do if I'm interested in a Home Fellowship Group?

- Look at the list of groups and find one that meets on a day/time that works for your schedule.
- Call or email the point of contact for the group and find out if there's room in the group.
- If there is room, go! If there's not, try another group. If you can't find a group that still has openings, contact Rev'd Shirley so that she can know of growth needs.