

# **Old Trinity Church's Good Neighbor Project Presents: The Southwest Dorchester County World Café**

## Old Trinity Church's Good Neighbor Project

The southwest part of Dorchester County is endowed with churches, fire departments and post offices that help connect neighbors. In addition, the libraries, schools and sheriff's office in the region also endeavor to reach out and support people in the community. However, many other regional services do not reach this rural area, and while people in the community value self-sufficiency, there are services to which all are entitled.

Through its Good Neighbor Project, Old Trinity seeks to discover:

- how to increase awareness of available services and resources in the community
- how to increase awareness of peoples' needs
- how to make more connections between services and needs

That is, the Good Neighbor Project seeks to discover how we can be good neighbors to one another in good times and in bad.

To help accomplish these goals Old Trinity will serve as the lead sponsor of a "World Café" for southwest Dorchester County. This event will bring together community and agency representatives to brainstorm how they can be mutually supportive of community needs. The World Café will be held on an evening in April 2012 and be open to the entire community. It will include a meal, a festive atmosphere, and a chance for the community to come together, not in response to a crisis, but as a way to establish and strengthen relationships as attendees speak openly and listen carefully to each other.

## The Southwest Dorchester County World Café

In general, a World Café is a meeting model that gives communities an opportunity to connect diverse perspectives with the goal of finding common themes from which to work. Though it is a simple process, it is a highly researched approach. Rather than solving problems, World Café stakeholders focus on identifying important ideas that will move them toward a common vision and from which they can take action. A World Café can be followed by a more in-depth conference that uses the themes and issues that emerge from World Café to solidify a vision and develop a plan of action.

Jennifer Hicks will help guide the process of organizing and conducting the World Café for southwest Dorchester County. Jennifer is familiar with the diverse populations of the Eastern Shore and is the founder of Sustainable Delmarva, a community-based project that seeks to strengthen the ability of Delmarva's communities to do well and to build regional visions for sustainability. For more information visit [www.sustainabledelmarva.net](http://www.sustainabledelmarva.net).

## **A WORLD CAFÉ IS...**

### ***Community-driven!***

A World Café is planned by a diverse group of 15 - 20 community stakeholders.

### ***Versatile!***

A World Café can host a group as small as 20 people to over 200 people.

### ***Conversation-based!***

A World Café event runs three sessions of 20-minute conversations with everyone sitting at small café-style tables or in conversation clusters. Conversations are generated from 3 specially-selected questions that act as “levers” to encourage in-depth and productive dialogue.

### ***Dynamic!***

Participants get up and move to a different table for the next conversation with new people.

### ***Participant-led!***

The participants manage the evening. One person at each table serves as a table host and takes notes, ensures everyone speaks and encourages members to build off each other’s ideas. In addition, each table is asked to present a summary of their discussions to the whole group.

## **A WORLD CAFÉ IS NOT...**

- A strategic planning session
- A problem-solving process
- An event with predictable outcomes
- An event with keynote speakers
  - “Owned” by a few

## **A World Café is an Exercise in...**

- Focusing on what matters
- Connecting ideas to develop deeper insights
  - Speaking from the heart
- Building relationships and trust among community members
  - Listening to each other

### **For more information, please contact:**

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