

## **The Story of Amelia Community Church**

The dream of ACC was born in the hearts of the spiritual leaders of Amelia.

It started in the summer of 2005. Dr. Hamacher had recently accepted the position of Executive Director of Middle District Baptist Association, a network of 41 Southern Baptist churches in this area of Virginia. In his conversations with two of the Amelia pastors, they independently suggested to him that a different type of church in Amelia was needed. In the private ministerial meetings and church discussions that ensued, it was prayerfully agreed to explore beginning a contemporary church whose focus would be ministry to people who do not relate to traditional approaches to Christian worship and fellowship. A church for the unchurched with the goal of guiding them to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

With the enthusiastic encouragement of Mark Jordan, Ironbridge's pastor, a group of dedicated people from this mission-minded church in Chesterfield accepted the call of God to join with others from Amelia to begin this new work. Under the leadership of New Journey's pastor, Darrell Boggs, these people began to plan and pray about what God would have this church to be. The strong financial support from Virginia Baptists, Iron Bridge Baptist Church, Powhatan Community Church, Mt. Hope Baptist Church, Sandy Creek Baptist Church, and Middle District provided the economic hope that the dream for this church could become a reality.

God was at work from the very first days of contacting people in the Amelia community about the new church. Barry Wisner, a layman from Ironbridge who did most of the leg work that goes on behind the scenes, discovered God was mightily at work preparing the way. As he went about his administrative tasks and shared his passion for the new church, it became abundantly clear that many of the people were hungry for a different type of church to begin - a church for all people.

While the organizing was going on in the early weeks of 2008, the search for the right pastor was under way. In the middle of February, contact with Tommy Adams was another example of God at work. Upon meeting Tommy, everyone immediately knew he was the right man. His genuinely friendly and authentic personality, his previous experience in church planting in a multi-racial setting in Miami, his lack of any religious upbringing, and his strong ability to connect and communicate with those who are searching for God, his ability to teach those who want to grow to be more like Jesus – all these traits were strong evidences that the right pastor had been found to lead this unique church.

Last but not least in the ongoing story of God at work in ACC, is the Amelia County Jr. Olympics. Barry Wisner brought the idea to the Amelia Community county leaders and immediately they adopted the ministry. This community ministry is meant to be a visual demonstration to the whole area that Amelia Community Church wants to be a true resource to the community and to minister to all areas of our lives.