



July 2017

Volume 3, No. 7

# The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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## Grace in the Cricks & Hollers

It was Monday night of ASP and we had told the youth that we had a surprise for them before we would head out for ice cream later. So immediately after the evening program, we loaded into our vehicles and caravanned to a site about 2 miles away to catch the remaining

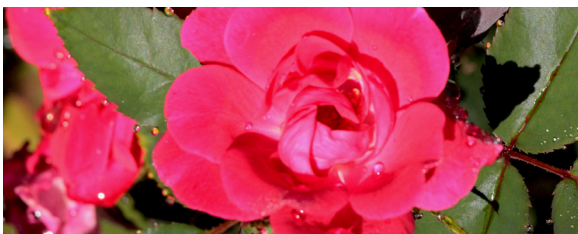
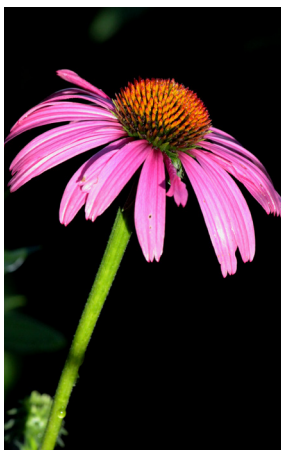
sliver of daylight. Where we had landed looked a whole lot like the creeks we had been driving and working by earlier that day; there was nothing particularly special or sacred about this little stretch of water. But as the group formed a semi-circle across the small bridge...

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## Calling All Gardeners

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is fresh on the roses...* So begins the well-loved hymn, "In the Garden," and it was on my mind as I snapped these early morning photos there on my way into work. What also was on my mind was gratitude for Lynnette Cloughley & Nancy Braks who spend untold hours keeping that island garden looking so beautiful throughout the year. They also do quite a bit of work in the Memorial Garden and they are looking for volunteers to assist them in this labor of love. If you love to get dirt underneath your fingernails, plant flowers, tend gardens and would be willing to help out for a few hours, please contact Lynnette.

[lynnettecloughley@gmail.com](mailto:lynnettecloughley@gmail.com)



## UMYF News

**Sunday, July 2:** UMYF will meet tonight, 7pm as usual for relaxed "summer MYF."

**Sunday, July 9:** Softball at Severna Park Middle. This is just for fun, everybody plays, non-competitive. Arrange your own rides to and from. (In the event of bad weather, we will be at church.)

\*\*\*Other special nights and events will be announced soon; watch the mail and the bulletin!\*\*\*

## The 3 Emmetts

Congrats to the "3 Emmetts" who took home the Father's Day mugs at the 9:30 service for longest and shortest tenured dads (band member Emmett, holding his 2 1/2 week old grandson, is the proud generational link between the two winners: his dad and his son!).



## SPUMC Man-of-the-Year

## Congratulations to Our Higher Ed. Grads!



Our sincere congratulations and best wishes to these 2017 graduates.

**Jacque Kirby:** Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Will attend the Advanced Standing Social Work program at University of Maryland, Baltimore in the fall.

**Dana Meyers:** Bachelor of Arts in Global China Studies from the New York University, Shanghai.

**Sam Phillips:** Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from East Carolina University. Now commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army.

**Nicole Provenza:** Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Brown University. Will continue at Brown to work on a PhD also in Biomedical Engineering.

**Tim Reardon:** Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from West Virginia University. Working full time as a software engineer with Raytheon.

**Justin Snyder:** Bachelor of Science in Finance and Government & Politics from the University of Maryland. Will attend American University/Washington College of Law.

\*\*\*We would like to honor other college and grad school graduates; send your information to Rev. Lee.  
[lferrell@severnaparkumc.com](mailto:lferrell@severnaparkumc.com)

“When he sees something that needs to be done, he does it.” That’s how one lay leader from SPUMC characterized **Ted Mathison**, this year’s recipient of the *Bob Sutton Man-of-the-Year Award*. In fact, everywhere you look in the life of SPUMC you seem to find Ted. Ted’s contributions have ranged from key leadership roles—Vice Chair of the Church Council, President of the Wilkens Avenue Board, President of the Severna Park Assistance Network (SPAN), author of SPUMC’s Safe Sanctuary policy, and leader of the 11am worship service usher team—to rolling up his sleeves and moving garage sale donations, putting out trash, and landscaping at the Wilkens Avenue house. In reciting this list of achievements I’ve probably missed many more. All were accomplished in the humble spirit of servant in Christ.

Let’s thank a man who has been a true father to the members of SPUMC:  
**Ted Mathison.**

## This Is Us Continues

Alongside our new mission statement—**Love. Serve. Follow.**—our church leadership has identified some core values that we seek to live by, sort of a word picture of the kind of community we want SPUMC to be. During the Sundays in July, we'll continue to take a look at what they are and who we hope to become as we live into them in our series called **This Is Us.**

**July 2:** Welcome Openly & Encourage Warmly

**July 9:** Teach Creatively

**July 16:** Listen Deeply & Speak Honestly

**July 23:** Forgive Completely

**July 30:** Walk Humbly

## YAG Summer Events

The young adults are doing some fun things this summer! Text YAG to (410) 983-3507 to receive text and/or email updates from the group. Here's what's coming up:

**Monday, July 3, 7pm:** Laser Tag at Castle Lasertag in Bowie. Cost: \$20  
RSVP by July 2.

**Sunday, July 16, 3:30pm:** Church Softball at Cypress Creek Park. Free!

**Tuesday, August 1, 6pm:** Food Truck Tuesday at Earleigh Heights Fire Co.  
RSVP by July 30.

**Saturday, August 19, 9am-6pm:** Zip Lining/White Water Tubing Trip to Harper's Ferry. Cost: \$50.  
Sign up by August 6.

Want to come? Have questions? Email Rev. Carissa for more info:  
[carissa@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:carissa@severnaparkumc.org)



## Moms Connect Group

**July 3, 9am:** BWI Aircraft Observation Playground

**July 14, 9am:** Watkins Regional Park-Wizard of Oz Playground

**July 28, 9:30am:** Patapsco State Park Hilton Area - Tire & Natural Playground

**August 5:** TBD

**August 12:** Michelle's Pool

**August 19:** TBD

**September 7:** Fall Kick Off Potluck

## Bathroom Makeovers

Thanks to painter supreme, Lorraine Zibreg, for helping complete the men's and women's bathroom makeovers in the Choir Room hallway. Take a look – you won't believe your eyes! Our Facilities Manager, Dave McKinney, has been working hard on behalf of the Trustees overseeing a facelift (new lighting, ceiling tiles, plumbing, fixtures, partitions, etc.) of that whole hallway and the hallway closest to the Sanctuary, as well. You will continue to notice changes and improvements throughout the summer.



## Text in Church

You may have heard us talking about our new “text in church” system. This is a new way of staying connected as a church family, and you'll be hearing even more throughout the summer! Through this system, you'll be able to connect with a pastor, receive text updates, and even give online.

- Text **WELCOME** to (410) 983-3507 if you're a guest at SPUMC
- Text **ASP** to (410) 983-3507 to receive a giving link to support the Appalachian Service Project
- Text **YAG** to (410) 983-3507 to stay in the loop on Young Adult Group activities
- Text **MOM** to (410) 983-3507 to stay in the loop on Moms Connect activities

Take a moment now (yes, right now!) to save this number in your phone: **(410) 983-3507**. And stay tuned for more ways to get connected through texting in church!

## M&M (and M) Worship

We held our first M & M & M worship service (**mid**week, **mon**thly in the **M**emorial Garden) last month and it was a lot of fun. Join us on the second Wednesday each month this summer at **7pm** for a time of relaxed outdoor worship. If you're away for the weekend and want a place to center yourself, or just want to commune with God and nature all at once, you are invited to come check it out. Our next service will be on Wednesday, **July 12** at **7pm**.



## Grace in the Cricks & Hollers

### Confirmation 2017



We pray God's blessing on all of our Confirmands who joined the church on Pentecost Sunday:

*Tia Bixler, Jacob Burfoot, Josie Dike, Brennan Dill, Kiefer Dill, Beverly Ellwood, Madison Gartside, Katelyn Haufe, Ben Howard, Madeline Koul, Annika Mitchell, Trent Muzik, Parker Sealey, Kylie Spath, Drew Trull, and Nick Wright.*

Congratulations on this significant faith milestone!

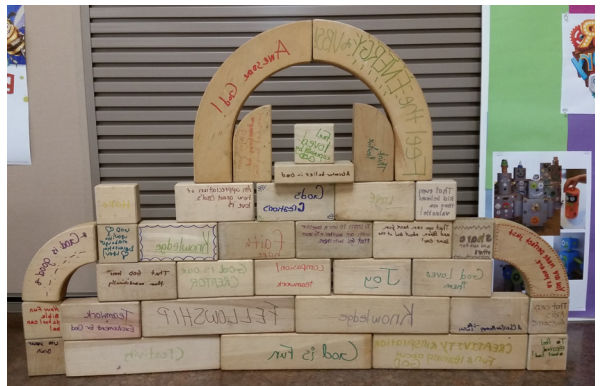


### Vacation Bible School



Pray for the 304 children registered to come to Maker Fun Factory VBS the weeks of **July 10** and **July 17**. The kids will learn about our maker God and how God has designed them for a purpose: *to be makers!* During training, we wrote our hopes for each child on blocks and built a "tower of hope." These are in fellowship hall. Stop by and take a look.

Also pray for the 111 volunteers that will make it all happen! And remember to join us for celebration worship July 16 at 9:30am and July 23 at 11am.



## Grace in the Cricks & Hollers (*continued*)

and on both banks, I explained to them that we were, in fact, on holy ground not all that different from the muddy waters of the Jordan River. We were about to baptize Steve Collier, one of our beloved adult leaders, and everyone burst into cheers and clapping.

Rev. Carissa read from Colossians 3 about “putting on love” as a new creation in Christ, Rev. Lee offered a heart-felt, tear-laced prayer of blessing, and Steve and I waded into the ankle-deep water. I asked him if he was willing to commit himself to love unconditionally, to serve others humbly and to follow in the way of Christ as faithfully as he could. In each case he responded with a smiling and determined, “Yes I will!” As he leaned forward, I scooped up handfuls of that holy water and doused his head in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

But we weren’t done yet; the best was still to come. I invited anyone who desired to join us in the creek. A gaggle of youth and adults bounded down the banks and we circled Steve in

a human ring of love. We sang “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true, with thanksgiving, I want to be a living sanctuary for you.” And we all meant it, perhaps like never before. Then one by one everyone expressed their thanks for Steve’s compassionate witness and prayed blessings as we laid hands on him. We topped off the night with a baptism celebration of Frosties and fries (and cell service!) at Wendy’s in the little town of Chapmanville. That was nice, but it paled in comparison to the taste of grace we had already been given on Little Harts Creek.

My guess is that Steve’s baptism was the highlight of the week for many—it was for me. But truth be told, there was grace flowing generously in the cricks and hollers all week long, in the dignity and warmth of the homeowners, in the sweat and the labor of our youth, in the deep love that was being lived and shared all around. Hope you’ll be with us on **August 13** for ASP Sunday and you’ll hear more about the amazing flow of grace in Lincoln County.

Still Drippin’ & Glowin’,  
Rev. Ron

## ALL Bus Trip

Join Adults Loving Life for a four-day adventure to the Finger Lakes region of New York which includes the Corning Museum of Glass, beautiful state parks, local wineries, scrumptious meals, and quality time with fellow Christians. Read details in the ALL calendar and trip packets located in Fellowship Hall. The registration deadline is **August 1**. Space is limited, so hurry! Contact Lou Kamm for more info.

[lkamm@severnarparkumc.org](mailto:lkamm@severnarparkumc.org)



## Thank You for Spreading God's Love

Over the past year, your generosity has allowed SPUMC to support MYF alum Maddie Clouser's ministry at the University of Maryland. Maddie has been working as an intern with Cru's Justice Coalition this year to raise awareness about human trafficking and modern-day slavery around the world. In addition to leading a breakout session at Winter Conference, Maddie's work this year has included mentoring college students and teaching them about the Christian faith. Meet Maddie in Fellowship Hall between services on July 16 and 23 to learn more about her work at UMD, and how God is leading her to Australia in 2018!



## Thanks to Our Mentors

A significant part of our Confirmation program are our mentors. These persons stay in touch with our confirmands throughout the five months of classes, and often beyond. They provide support, encouragement, prayer, friendship, and an occasional goodie bag. Studies show that youth who have solid mentors in their lives are often more successful and happier.

We would like to thank our team of mentors who served this year:

Ann Chaffee  
Dave McKinney  
Grace Atkinson  
Bradley Hogan  
Tommy Parker  
Heidi Taflan  
Martha Hollidge  
Casey Van Vliet

Elizabeth Bosanko  
Bella Hahn  
Maddy Finnerin  
Linda Muzik  
Logan Dill  
Erica Benjamin  
Noah Young



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