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The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Made for This

Every afternoon it would happen. We would greet the children for Vacation Bible School, the volunteers would get to work, kids would start having fun, and then angelic voices would start floating through the church, singing:

“SHOUT IT OUT! Without a doubt: I was born for this, built for a purpose!”

VBS is always full of earworms, songs that stick in your head and heart for weeks – months or years if you have little ones in the backseat doing the motions. But this year more than any other, the songs of Bible School carried the story of God’s purpose for our lives. *(continued on page 6)*

Grandparents Camp at West River

“Grandparents Camp?” That’s a new one! And just interesting enough to encourage Bob and Suzanne Wimbrow to sign up with four of their grandchildren – Jillian, April, Danielle, and Adam.

The six of them were at West River Center, one of our Baltimore-Washington camps, located in Churchton, right on the water. They spent Monday morning through Friday after lunch with other grandparents and their grandchildren doing a multitude of fun activities. They were able to sleep all in one big 6-person room in the camp’s retreat center right on the grounds, and eat together in the beautiful dining hall (which served really good food, said all the kids)!

The highlight for the kids was the many fun activities planned for them – canoes, paddleboard for the older kids, banana boat, giant swing, climbing wall, hiking trails, crafts, music, swimming, Bible study, and worship. April, going into 4th grade, said archery was her favorite. She really liked being together as a family. Danielle, going into 6th grade, favored the banana boat and the campfires. She enjoyed being with her grandparents and cousins, and meeting lots of new people.

Bob and Suzanne had nothing but praise for the program. They cited an excellent team of leaders. The highlight for them was spending quality time with the grandkids and doing fun things together. Every day before breakfast and lunch they enjoyed “WRECK” – West River Energy Check – which included singing,

games and grace. One day a guest artist led a workshop on “team painting” that Bob thought was really good. Watching the joy on the kids’ faces as they tried and succeeded at new things was very special for Suzanne. And the fellowship with other grandparents was a bonus.

Adam, going into 3rd grade, loved the activities, especially canoeing, archery, and the banana boat. He enjoyed the huge snapping turtles behind the nature center. “They are huge! It was cool!” Jillian, going into 6th grade, agreed the activities were the best. She especially enjoyed the paddle boating!

The Grandparents camp is offered every summer. For a glimpse of all the programs offered at West River Center, go to: www.bwccampsandretreats.com, and click on “Summer Programs.”



Scholarship Winners

Each year we award young people who have served our church well and plan to continue giving back with scholarships from the Lee Ferrell Scholarship Fund, started in 2002. We are happy to congratulate **Noah Young** and **Delanie Colborne** this year!

Noah graduated this spring from Severna Park High School. He has been active in both UMYF and ASP since he joined the church five years ago, serving as President his senior year. More recently, Noah joined the TBD Praise team, playing bass guitar. He plans to attend Salisbury University this fall and enter the Perdue School of Business. He says, "The most important thing that this church has given me is the drive to continue to grow in my faith."

Delanie just completed her freshman year at Salisbury in the Psychology department. She has been extremely active here at SPUMC, teaching Sunday School, doing child care, and being a lay reader. She was an officer and active participant in UMYF, and served with ASP for 5 summers. Delanie's main goal is to help people, so she hopes to go into the field of counseling, maybe even within the church.

We are very proud of our young adults and continue to pray for them as they grow in their faith find ways to put that faith into action.

Fellowship Clubs

Our Fellowship Clubs begin a new season with a Kick-Off Dinner on **Sunday, September 17**, in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Clubs are small groups of adults who meet monthly from October through May, plus a Christmas Party in December and a Picnic in June. The clubs are simply social gatherings of 8-10 adults who meet in each other's homes for an evening meal or a Sunday brunch after church. Hosts provide the main course with others bringing side dishes. Groups can also meet in restaurants if desired. Young, middle-aged, or young-at-heart – all are welcome to enjoy food, fun, and fellowship. For more information contact Dixie Catlett. dixiecatdc@gmail.com

UMYF News

Sunday, August 6, 7pm: Annual "Pig Trough" Night, plus games.

Sunday, August 13, 8, 9:30, 11am: ASP Worship. **7pm:** Summer MYF

Sunday, August 20, 7pm: Water Games

Sunday, August 27, 7pm: Summer MYF, **8:30pm** "Movie After Dark"

Sunday, September 3, 7pm: Summer MYF with (hopefully) the Snowball truck

Sunday, September 10, 7pm: Fall Kick-Off! *Super Sundae Sunday*, grades 7-12

Made for This

YAG @ Food Truck Tuesday

Come out to Earleigh Heights Fire Department around 6pm on **August 8** for Food Truck Tuesdays! Message Carissa if you need to find the group once you arrive. Check out the Food Truck Tuesdays Facebook page to find out what will be on site that day.

facebook.com/H2FoodTruckTuesdays

Moms Connect Group

August 12: Michelle's Pool

September 7: Fall Kick Off Potluck

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**. Stay tuned for more ways to get connected through texting in church!



See You In The Garden Wednesday?

Our 3rd and final M&M&M Worship service will take place on Wednesday, **August 9 at 7pm** in the Memorial Garden. Join us for an evening of relaxed worship where we switch things up a bit: Chris Dillard will be sharing the message and Rev. Ron & Rev. Carissa leading the music. Hope you can come!

Never Alone

Never Alone, a support group for cancer patients, caregivers, and recovered patients, meets Tuesday evening, August 22, in the parlor. The support group helps meet the many needs facing cancer patients and their families. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Doris Vose. doris346@me.com

MYF (Youth) Game Night



Made for This (continued)

I was reminded of this on a certain Wednesday morning in July, as I spent a week living in a log cabin on the river with 24 middle schoolers at West River Center. Between canoe trips and swim time, we were spending time in Bible Study and Worship each day exploring what Luke and Acts have to teach us about following Jesus and being the community called “church.” And even though I’ve heard the story a thousand times, it rang true like never before as we read it together. Maybe you’ve heard it before:

Once upon a time, there was a man who was sure of his life’s purpose. This man defended the law of God with everything he had, incarcerating anyone who broke God’s law. This man’s name was Saul.

One day, on his way to Damascus, Saul heard a loud voice from heaven – the voice of Jesus. Jesus said to him, “Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do.”

What would you have done?

For Saul, the answer was clear after three days of blindness and a healing touch from Ananias. Where he once traveled among the nations persecuting Christians, he now traveled among the nations preaching none but “Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). For Saul, an encounter with Jesus transformed the purpose he had been so sure of.

Do you ever wonder about God’s purpose for your life?

A theologian named Frederick Buechner once said that we can all discover God’s purpose for our lives when we look at where our “deep gladness” and “the world’s deep hunger” meet. Easy to say, but hard to discern, this pearl of wisdom can guide a lifetime of Christian vocation.

But on that Wednesday morning, as we read this ancient story, 24 young people opened up like never before. Drawn out by God’s love for them, they shared the deep gladness of their lives: adventure, discovery, family, friendship, and food. Drawn in by their compassion for the world, they named those deep hungers that they saw in the world: cancer, racism, homelessness, and human rights. And slowly, God’s purpose for these young people began to emerge.

You might not be a camper at West River or a crew member at VBS, but the same truth holds whether you’re 8 or 88: God has a purpose for your life. God has made you to serve. And God delights when you find joy in serving where the world hungers deeply for peace and justice.

So what are you waiting for? You were made for this! May you find the energy of 100 VBS kids as you live into God’s purpose for your life. And may you, too, “shout it out!” For without a doubt – you were made for this, built for a purpose.

-Rev. Carissa

Midyear Financial Snapshot

At the end of the first six months of 2017, we find ourselves in a small net surplus position for the year. When we subtract out the \$37,200 we received for our successful "Mind the Gap" appeal back in February (which erased our entire 2016 deficit and then some), we have received a total income of \$615,746 against total expenses of \$604,676 which puts us \$11,070 in the black.

The good news is we have improved our relative cash position by nearly \$50K (when we add in our MTG receipts) from a beginning deficit (money we have borrowed from ourselves internally) of \$71,903 to \$23,621.

The somewhat concerning news is that our regular operating budget giving is down by about \$39,100 over this same period (about \$6,500/month). This has been offset in large measure by the fact that we are no longer paying down debt on the retired church mortgage which is why we are not in a deficit position for 2017. Our hope is that our second half of the year giving will reverse

this trend and that we will continue to strengthen our financial base for ministry. We thank you for your ongoing support of our church and encourage you to stay current and generous in your giving.

Are There Any Drones Out There?

We're interested in getting some aerial shots of the church and surrounding area and wonder if we have anyone in the congregation with a drone/camera that might be willing to help us. If you might be willing to help us out, please contact Communications Director, Ryan Hennesy.

rhennesy@severnaparkumc.org



ALL Luncheon

Join Adults Loving Life at 12noon on Tuesday, August 22, for our annual indoor picnic with delicious food from Mission BBQ and entertainment by Leon Umberger, accordionist. Don your red, white, and blue and be part of our patriotic theme.



SPAN Needs

Serving People Across Neighborhoods especially needs cans of fruit. Donations will be appreciated and distributed immediately. Thank you for your generosity.

VBS 2017

During VBS 2017, 300+ kids filled the church to experience God, our Maker, first hand. Through science experiments, Bible story, song and dance, snack, and crafts they learned that God made them for a purpose. They collected hundreds of items for Backpack Buddies. Out 100+ volunteers did an amazing job sharing Christ's love with each and every child that came. I would especially like to thank those that volunteered for both weeks: Anna & Drew Trull, Sue Spath, Betty Spangler, Marlena Summers, Ava Meadows, Leslie Kelley, Maddy Koul, Julie & Keith Benjamin, and Blake Bierdeman. It was a joyous two weeks! You can experience some of the joy yourselves! VBS CDs are on sale for just a few weeks for \$5 each in the front office and children's ministry office. See you at VBS 2018!



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