



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Transitions

We're in the midst of some major transitions at SPUMC. We are preparing to say goodbye to our well-loved pastor, Rev. Nicole and her family as they head to Charleston, South Carolina where Brian will begin his new job in Cardiology later this summer. Her Farewell Weekend will be June 24-26. On Friday night (June 24), we will have a **Cookout and Roast** for Nicole and a more formal celebration of her ministry during **Sunday worship**

on June 26 where you'll get to hear Rev. Nicole preach her last sermon. You'll want to be on hand on both days and you'll be getting more details in the coming weeks on how you can be part of the celebration. Contact Sandy O'Donnell if you'd be willing to help out in some way. Thanks.

ksod@comcast.net

Go to the back page of the Octagon to learn more about how things are progressing with our Music Director search and the possible sale of the parsonage.

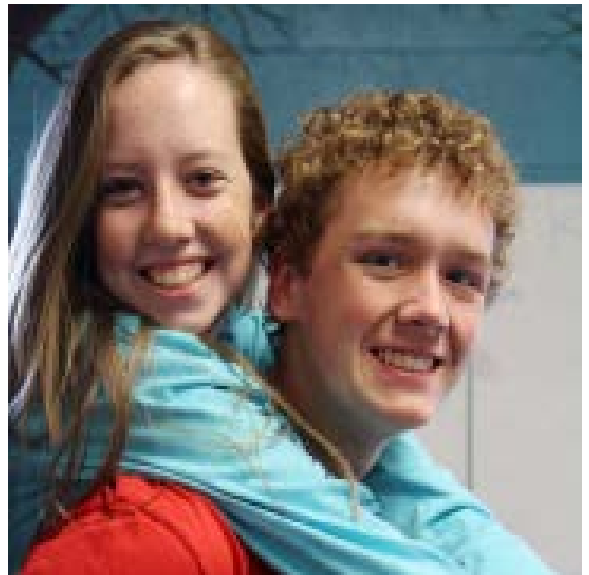


The combined children's and adult choirs sang a stirring rendition of "Draw the Circle Wide" and it was the highlight of worship on May 1st as we wrapped up our Warm Hearts & Wide Hearts series.

Transitions

Sr. High Youth Retreat

What a great weekend our Senior High Youth, Rev. Lee and her great team of counselors shared at Camp Hashawha in Westminster, MD April 15-17! Survivor challenges, crazy games, creative skits, great discussions and memorable, sacred moments were all in abundance.



Staff Day Away

The SPUMC spent a day away at West River Campgrounds for team building, transition planning, and calendaring. Many thanks to Todd Popham (we know him as the SPRC Chair – in “real life” he does professional coaching) for guiding the staff through several assessments and leading a great conversation on what makes for effective collaboration. One of the extra treats of the day was that our incoming pastor, Carissa Surber, was able to join us for lunch and the afternoon planning session. Plus we got a chance to see firsthand the extensive work that Ray Guhse, Roger MacWilliams, Bob Wimbrow, Carl Seaman, Dave Chaffee, & Mel Merritt have been doing over the last month to help renovate a cabin for the summer staff. Great job, guys!



Transitions

SPAN Garden Helpers

The first round of vegetables are planted in the SPAN gardens. We've installed the irrigation system. We now need to tend the garden!

We're asking families to choose a week to tend the garden. For the majority of time, this will simply mean weeding, harvesting, and generally taking care of the garden. It should only require one visit to the garden per week. To keep this simple, we're asking you to sign up for your week online. You may sign up for multiple weeks. Please share this link with friends. The more the merrier! severnaparkumc.org/spangarden

SPAN Garden Origin

After spending time in prayer, discernment, and outreach the call to start a Community Garden was heard. We spoke with the executive director of SPAN, Maria Denardo to ascertain need. The need is real. Most of the food supplied by SPAN is canned, packaged, and processed food. They receive fresh produce on Mondays from Victoria's Fancy Foods. Whatever they receive is gone the same day.

We reached out to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Baltimore. They have maintained community gardens there for years. They have agreed to help guide the project. We reached out to MD Sunrise Farms in Odenton. They have supplied contacts, information,

and resources. We met with the folks serving through Service and Outreach at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

At the same time, Peter Jensen a member of the OSLC Youth Group, was looking to complete a service project for his Eagle Scout badge. Turns out, he was looking to do something like a garden!

The plans were formalized. Peter built the Community Garden with direction and permission from the OSLC Property Committee and Church Council. The Service and Outreach Ministry will reach out to the congregation and community to be the hands and feet of the project. Lois Wilson, who is currently serving on Church Council spoke to her husband Fred about the project. Fred has agreed to manage the garden.

Spring is here! We need YOUR help! We need "hands and feet." If you are interested in helping let us know. We'd LOVE your help.

Serving the poor, Loving our neighbors, and Helping others do the same. Discipleship. All we need is YOU!





Church Softball

Did you know SPUMC had a softball team? We DO and are looking for some more players! Our team is part of the Greater Severna Park Church Softball League. Games are on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 or 3:30 at Cypress Creek Park or Elvaton Park. You don't have to commit to every game to play! Please contact Lori Sexton for more information. mlsexton@verizon.net



Summer Sunday School

We would love your help this summer in our children's summer Sunday school program. Each week we need 8 teachers to ensure our children have a wonderful Sunday school class. This is a great chance for those who may be interested in teaching, who may have taught long ago, and for parents to teach so our regular teachers have a break. All volunteers must complete our safe sanctuary forms. Sign up with Erica. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



United Methodist Men

Join us at 7:30am on Saturday, May 15 for our our monthly breakfast and a special program by Richard Ponder on "What Can Bible Scholars Tell Us?"

Your Money at Work

A few weeks ago the exterior of the Sanctuary was pressure washed and painted to make it look like new again! Be sure to say thanks to Dave McKinney and his team for all the hard work.

Transitions

VBS Volunteers Needed

Week of July 11: One preschool crew leader

Week of July 18: One preschool crew leader and one elementary crew leader.

Preschool helpers for both weeks.



United Methodist Youth Fellowship Upcoming Schedule

UMYF for 7-12 graders has a full schedule right on through May. Here is a preview of what's coming:

Sunday, May 15, 7pm:

“Meet the Freshman” and “Senior Share Night.” 8:40pm Final ICUs.

Sunday, May 22, 5pm:

End-of-the-Year Banquet! Dinner served by alumni followed by awards, presentations, thank-yous, and a powerpoint show of this year's activities. Tie required for guys; nice dresses for girls. \$12 tickets at the door.

Sunday, May 29, 7pm:

Beginning of “Summer MYF,” nights of fun (mostly outdoor) activities; sports, hanging out, food, etc.

Coffee House Save the Date

The Spring Coffee House is upon us! Please come join your SPUMC community of musician's for a casual evening of music, coffee, and fellowship. Feel free to bring a dessert to share. Child care will be provided. If you are interested in sharing your talents please contact Tracy Emmersen. emmersen97@gmail.com

When: May 14, 2016

Time: 6:30pm–8pm

Where: Fellowship Hall, SPUMC

Double Transplant Brings New Life

Rob Haufe had been battling liver and kidney problems for years but it was in the last 6 months that his symptoms had become acute and he found himself on the transplant list for both. Just weeks ago, he got the call he had been hoping and praying for and on April 19th was the recipient of a double organ transplant at Johns Hopkins Hospital. After two weeks of recovery and rehab in the hospital, he is now back home with his wife, Tobi and two children, Katelyn (12) and Robbie (9) and gaining strength every day. He wants to thank the whole congregation for your prayers over these many months and the staff for all the support and visits. The accompanying picture shows Rob at the entrance to the old hospital under the arms of the towering “Divine Healer” statue of Christ that has comforted patients and families since 1896. We celebrate with you, Rob!



VIM Team Leader Training

SPUMC has been blessed for years with a small, dedicated group of team/co-team leads that have allowed VIM to plan and execute a vast variety of local, national, and international of service experiences. As we prepare for the 2016 mission season, now is the time to train-up the next generation in leading/co-leading VIM experiences. If you possess an enthusiastic, caring, positive attitude, are flexible, patient and have a sense of humor, we need YOU! Worry not that you would be “out

there” by yourself. VIM team members take responsibility for various aspects of an experience (i.e., worship, food, transportation, etc.). Everyone working as a team!! We are fortunate to be able to offer VIM Team Leader training on Saturday, May 14th from 9:00-noon at our very own church. The session will be led by Eldon Baldwin, the Annapolis South Region Coordinator. To express an interest in joining this dynamic group of individuals and/or to participate in the VIM Team Leader training, please email VIM@severnaparkumc.org



Parsonage for Sale?

After months of careful study and open conversation involving multiple committees and key church leaders, the Church Council approved a motion to sell the church parsonage this past Monday. The matter will now go to a Church Conference with our District Superintendent that has been set for Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30pm and the congregation will be given a chance to affirm or alter this proposal. Church Leaders from Trustees or SPRC will be at an Information Table in the Hallway (on your way to the Memorial Garden) to address questions or concerns and listen to your feedback. Stop by!

Music Director Search

The Music Director Search Team has been really busy over the last month, sifting through close to a hundred resumes and narrowing the field down to seven finalists at this point. We're gathering more information from our applicants and moving to the interview stage now. Once we've identified our final 2-3 candidates, we'll have them in to audition with our choirs and worship bands. Our hope is to have our new Music Director in place by July some time. Please keep this important work in your prayers!

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