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The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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Summer 2015 Sermon Series



Introducing "Club 1965"

As part of our ongoing "Big 5-0" celebration marking half a century as a church, I have found myself scouring lots of historical documents that tell the story of our early days as a congregation. I continue to be amazed—and humbled—by the boldness and deep faith of our early leaders and members who dreamed of and then helped to create a faithful Methodist (there was no "United" in our denominational name yet back in 1965) worshiping, witnessing, serving, and loving presence in Severna Park.

On the afternoon of July 4, 1965, Dr. Edgar Becket, the veteran pastor appointed to form this new congregation, met with a group of 12 people on the porch of the building that had been purchased by the Baltimore Conference Board of Missions on the corner of Benfield and Holland Roads. A month later they held their first worship service there on August 8 with 94 people in attendance. And by the middle of September, they had already started a second worship service and organized youth and women's groups.

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Communications Director Found

After a 6-week long search and interview process, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the addition of Ryan Hennesy to our SPUMC staff as our new full-time Director of Communications.

Ryan has been the Communications Director at a large Pentecostal church just south of Dallas for the past two years. He received his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary where he studied church communication and new media. Ryan met Julia, his wife, at Princeton where they fell in love spending late nights, he with coffee and she with tea, discussing the many differences between Pentecostal and Episcopalian theology. They have a four-month old daughter, Madeline, and two dogs, Copper and Penny. We are excited to have Ryan on staff with us here at SPUMC!

Ryan@SevernaParkUMC.org

Confirmation Celebration

At a joyful celebration, 19 youth made commitments of faith on Pentecost Sunday. The service was full of great music from the Middle High Youth & College Ensembles and the Sanctuary Choir and Rev. Ron's message "Soaring Words & Mortar Boards" challenged the Confirmands not to view their big day as a "graduation" but rather a launching pad into the Christian life.

Congratulations and welcome to: Mark Bredeck, Matt Bredeck, Becky Brittell, Mackenzie Burfoot, Rebecca DeVore, Chase Gruver, Julia Hoenscheid, Jessie Johns, Craig Johnson, Kevin Lee, Alex Miller, Michael Morrison, Jacob Nutter, Stephanie Schmidt, Jake

Shirey, Sam Shirey, Emma Single, Anna Trull, and Nick Zarrilli.



Revs. Lee and Nicole pray over confirmands.

Imagine No Malaria

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the generous Mother's Day offering for Imagine No Malaria. We collected \$7900, which brings our two year total to \$14,200. This outpouring of love compassion will impact lives in Africa. Let's eradicate this preventable disease.

Young Adult Group Schedule

The SPUMC Young Adult Group (YAG) is gearing up for summer! This summer we will gather for great conversation, good food and fellowship opportunities. Our next gathering is June 24 for a Chipotle Buffet at Leslie and Tom Dolsak's house in Severna Park. If you would like to be included on our summer event invites please email Nicole Nicole@severnaparkumc.org

Backpack Buddies

The last backpack packing for the 2014-15 school year was on May 26. Your donations enabled Backpack Buddies to send home filled backpacks *every week* of the school year for 20 children. Thanks to those who shopped, packed, instructed the children, or delivered the food to the school each week. We are grateful for all you do. Backpack Buddies will be back in August!

Introducing "Club 1965"

(continued from page 1)

Dr. Beckett remembers that in November they "did the daring thing and organized a Building Committee just a little after three months after we had our first meeting in the church. I can't begin to put into the words the courage of that little group, with almost no money, undertaking a building of nearly half a million dollars."

As we move toward our 50th Anniversary celebration and come to the end of our capital campaign, the church leaders invites you to honor the bold daring legacy of our founders by joining **Club 1965**.

Our 2013-2015 campaign was launched with three goals: HVAC replacement, mortgage reduction, and growing the Endowment Fund. We have already made great progress!

- HVAC phases I, IA, and II are complete. Phase III is underway and will be completed this summer.
- Church and parsonage mortgages have been reduced 26% (from over \$1 million to around \$700K) —assisted by individual designated giving
- Capital Reserve Fund (part of the Endowment Fund) has grown 8%

Our goal is to be able to pay off the remaining balance of the parsonage loan (\$135,000) by the Anniversary celebration weekend of September 26-27 and to make a significant

dent in the church mortgage (\$570,000) over the next 18 months. The pay down on debt will free up significant funds for mission and ministry. Right now our yearly combined mortgage payments total \$150,000. That's where **Club 1965** comes in and here's how you can join:

- If you are new to the congregation in the last couple of years or weren't in a financial position to support the campaign when it was launched you can **make a new pledge** payable over the next 1-2 years.
- If you have already been giving to the capital campaign, we urge you to **complete your pledge** by the end of the year (or better yet, by our big celebration on the last weekend in September). Many, many thanks to those who have already paid their pledges in full – that automatically puts you in **Club 1965!**
- Commit to make a **one-time gift of \$1965**
- Commit to make a **weekly or monthly gift of \$19.65** over the next year.
- Join other church leaders in **extending your current pledge** for an additional year.
- Make a **cash or stock donation in any amount** to support the campaign.

I hope you will join us in honoring the legacy of our faithful founders as we keep their vision for vital ministry alive in Severna Park in our own time. We have a lot to celebrate – then and now!

-Rev. Ron

Congratulations to this Year's Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL
Severn School
Trey Johnson

Mount St. Joseph
Drew Domshick

Chesapeake
Jacob Piersall

Severna Park
Andrew Avery
Lauren Johnson
Sydney Biuk
Evan Kiebler
Evan Bradley-Lewis
Josh Kirby
Amanda Brandeen
Katie Kobosko
Jordan Clair
S.J. Lewis
Alec Decker
Sean McTammany
Mitchell Dill
Connor Meyers
Kathryn Ellwood
Michelle Sherman
Sara Henke
Anna Taflan
Brian Huntley
Jessica Valvano
Kayla Johns
Gabby Walters

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
Northeastern University
Jillian Chaffee: B.S. in
Cultural Anthropology and
Linguistics

**University of Maryland,
Baltimore County**
Julia Ford: B.S. in Computer
Science



High Point University
Sara Foster: B.S. in Strategic
Communications

James Madison University
Caroline Johnson: B.S. in
Nursing.

Brown University
Nicole Provenza: B.S. in
Biomedical Engineering with
honors.

UNC-Chapel Hill
Matt Sherman: B.S. in
Business Administration and
BA in Economics

University of Charleston
Bethany Lawrence: AA in
Radiologic Science

ADVANCED DEGREES
**University of South
Carolina**
Katie Chaffee: Masters in
Social Work

**University of Maryland,
Baltimore County**
Joe Cloughley: M.S.
in Human-Centered
Computing

University of Bridgeport
Eric Cullen: Doctorate in
Chiropractic Care

**University of California,
San Diego**
Kelley Gallagher: Ph. D. in
Marine Biology



50th Anniversary Celebration: Upcoming Dates

June 28 – 50 Years of Fellowship & Small Groups

Reminisce with us as we recall the fun of fellowship activities through the years.

July 19 – SPUMC Today

September 26-27 – Anniversary Weekend

Saturday evening will be a celebration dinner.

Sunday a reception will follow the 9:30am service. After the 11am service will be a Celebration Picnic at the church.

50th Anniversary Ornaments

The custom ornaments replicating the original sanctuary are still available for purchase using a mail

order form available in the "Headlines" section of SevernaParkUMC.org or at the Welcome Desk.

The restriction of one ornament per household has been lifted! The 3D-printed ornaments are \$30. Proceeds will benefit the 50th anniversary celebration.

Jackie Harris Offers Thanks

Mitch and I thank you for the outpouring of prayers, hugs, kind words, cards, and loving support that was extended to us following the death of my mother, Elizabeth Owens, after a very long illness. We have truly been comforted and blessed by your kindness to us.

Love in Christ,
Jackie Harris

Groundbreaking ceremony at SPUMC, 1965



Thailand Trek VBS Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School this summer, especially a substitute crew leader for Tuesday, July 28. Helpers are needed for both weeks: July 20 or July 27, 1-4pm. VBS also needs Chinese lanterns and lots of card stock! Email Erica if you can help in any way. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry News

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet in June, July or August. Look for more information about the ministry starting back up in September!

Moms Connect

Moms Connect is a group for all moms that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in the Church Parlor at 6:30 p.m. Child care is provided.

Upcoming programs:

June 18 – Keeping Secrets
July 2 – No Meeting
July 16 – Family Mealtime

Contact Erica for more information, to RSVP, or to join the Moms Connect private Facebook group. EBenjamin@SevernaParkUMC.org



Building Faith

The next phase of our Capital Campaign HVAC work will have the Children's Wing under construction all summer. This a great opportunity to include our children in worship in more meaningful and intentional ways. June 7 through September 6 children Pre-kindergarten and older will begin worship with the rest of God's family through song, prayer, giving of gifts, and the proclamation of the Word.

Each week our services will focus on children in scripture or familiar Sunday School stories. Some of these traditional stories you may not have heard for years. Baby care will be provided at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 as usual. Toddler and young preschool Sunday School will still take place for the full worship hour at 9:30 and 11:00 in room 112. Pre-K and elementary children will begin in worship and move to room 302 before the sermon to imaginatively explore the scriptures with Legos. On Sundays when we are serving communion, children will remain in the service for the full hour.

Lay Leadership Development

The vitality of our church, and the Church as a whole, depends upon the faith, abilities and actions of all who work together for the glory of God. To remain a vibrant church we need volunteers to serve on church committees, and we invite you to join our leadership team.

Our church committees partner closely with our clergy and administrative team, working together to promote the SPUMC mission. As we follow Jesus we are called to grow spiritually through various means of grace, one of which is acts of service. Regardless of your leadership or technical experience, your voice is needed as we join together to meet our current and future challenges.

As we prepare for our Charge Conference (October 28, 2015) we will be looking to add three new members to the Trustees, Finance, and Staff Parish. These three committees are very involved with our building, financial, and human resource needs. You don't need to be an engineer, CPA, or HR Manager to serve on these committees. Information about each committee can be found on our website under "Committees & Leaders" in the "About Us" section on the Main Menu.

Please take a moment to investigate what each committee does and pray about how you will serve as part of our leadership team. Please contact Lynnette Cloughley at LCloughley@SevernaParkUMC.org or Todd Popham at Trustees@SevernaParkUMC.org if you have questions or are interested in joining a committee.



Adults Loving Life Summer Schedule

June 23 – *Joint Venture Quartet*

Join ALL as we listen to a musical quartet that serenades us through the afternoon—a wonderful patriotic tribute to America. Sport your red, white, and blue clothing.

July 28 – *Crab Feast Cruise*

Bring your appetite! There will be plenty of hot and spicy crabs, cool drinks, and the fellowship of friends both old and new to enjoy as we dine in the waterside atmosphere of the Suicide Bridge Restaurant. Sign up today!

August 25 – *Crabtown Band and Indoor Picnic*

Combine fellowship with a delicious bug-free indoor barbecue picnic. Mix in some live music and what do you have? A great afternoon!

September 21-26 – *Historic Southern Towns Tour*

Reserve your seats on our multi-day tour of Beauford, Savannah, and Charleston on a private tour bus. You'll enjoy a variety of experiences and cuisines as we explore the Southern United States. Contact Dawn for more details. DCullis@SevernaParkUMC.org

Living Well On Wilkens Open House



Living Well On Wilkens

The day center on Wilkens Avenue has been up and running for several weeks with Cathie Wildes at the helm. Living Well on Wilkens is a nonprofit organization that runs a resource center on Wilkens Avenue for women who are caught in prostitution, addiction, and homelessness. The center offers hot showers, warm meals, and support for getting into local rehab centers and housing. The home is open from 1-5 Monday-Friday for women who are most in need in the community. The LWOW team is working hard to broaden our volunteer and leadership base. We are looking for women who would like to volunteer for scheduled shifts Monday-Friday 1-5. This will help volunteers learn the ministry and also give an opportunity to serve women who are

greatly in need. Additionally, we need women with professional counseling backgrounds willing to host one time small group sessions on issues like anger, loss and grief. The LWOW board has identified three key growth goals for 2015 which include:

1. Applying for three funding grants
2. Adding one trustee from outside of SPUMC
3. Bringing in one new partner church.

Please keep this important ministry in your prayers and consider volunteering with us in Baltimore City. Anyone who is interested in volunteering or learning more can contact Rev. Nicole at Nicole@severnaparkumc.org or Jennifer Ford at dmfjkc@verizon.net



Bob Geissler “Retires” as Communications Volunteer

Have you ever visited the SPUMC website, read an issue of the Octagon newsletter, opened the eNews, or followed along from the screens in worship? If so, then you’ve been touched by Bob Geissler’s ministry at SPUMC. Nearly 10 years ago Bob was invited to a Communications meeting. He thought he would simply attend, offer a ministry of presence, and listen for where he might be of service. Bob left that meeting tasked with designing and launching a new church website, a job that morphed into chairing all Communications at SPUMC. After years

of faithful service Bob is “retiring” from his volunteer position at the church. Instead of spending hours behind a computer screen updating our online presence and publications Bob will now have more time to sail, enjoy his family, and discern what God is calling him to next! His dedication has greatly impacted our church and brought many of us into SPUMC. We are also grateful for Katherine Geissler’s faithful support of Bob in this consuming role. Please offer Bob and Katherine a warm word of thanks for all of their years of faithful service!

Nursery School has Fall Openings

Have you enrolled your 3- or 4-year-old in preschool for this fall? Don’t Wait! SPUMC’s Nursery School is accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. We offer half-day classes 2 days per week for 3-year-olds and 3 or 5 days per week for 4-year-olds. Our program has been recognized for excellence, and our dedicated staff and small classes, with a 6:1 student-teacher ratio, provide an enriching environment for children to develop spiritually, academically, and socially. Call or email Director Heidi Taflan to inquire about enrolling.
spumcns@gmail.com
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