



The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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A Rainy ASP Thursday

A rainy Thursday on the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). It means the crews working outside are slowed down or must stop altogether. The crews working inside must battle massive mud puddles, all the while trying not to carry mud into the homes on their work boots. The Thursday night picnic is in question, pending predicted thunderstorms.

Yet no one's mood is dampened. Lunches are packed with the same laughter and sloppiness

as always. Work vehicles are loaded with the day's supplies. The whole group gathers on the parking lot for the famous line dance they do before every work day. The IGA grocery store is attacked by teenagers seeking drinks and chips for lunch. Upon arriving at the homes, our volunteers are greeted by Appalachian families eager to continue their new relationships and watch the progress being made on their homes.

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Summer SPAN

Help *Serving People Across Neighborhoods!* During summer months major food drives almost disappear, but our neighbors still need food. Please consider placing any of the following in the SPAN basket in Fellowship Hall: beef stew, pancake mix, syrup, baked beans, jelly, mixed vegetables, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, spaghetti or rice. spanhelps.org



The New SevernaParkUMC.org

New Website Launch

We are excited to announce our newly designed website severnaparkumc.org. Our website's fresh new look, user-friendly navigation and search functionality are some of the features you will enjoy. The new site has several easy to use navigation menus with updated information about Severna Park United Methodist Church, our ministries, missions, and events. Over the past few months, we have been hard at work to make the website more informative, useful to

practitioners, and easy to navigate. The new design allows users to quickly find the contents thanks to its clean structure. We hope that you will enjoy browsing our new site and find new and useful information each time you log on. We will also be adding a blog in hopes of sharing stories of the things God is doing in and through SPUMC. Be sure to let people know!

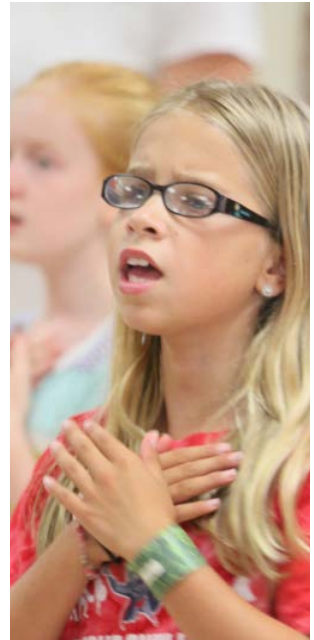




Thailand Trek: Take 2

Two weeks, that is! For two weeks this month (July 20-24 & July 27-31), kids will be immersed in the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Thailand while and learning more about God's amazing love for the whole world! SPUMC will be hosting Thailand Trek, a Vacation Bible School adventure for children ages 3 through

5th grade. With limited space due to the HVAC renovations throughout the Education Wing this summer, we still wanted to offer VBS to children in our church and community and not have to turn people away, hence the expansion from the normal one to two weeks of VBS. Right now 240 children are signed up to attend both sessions and registration is full. VBS Sunday celebrations will take place on July 26 at



9:30am and on Sunday, August 2 at 11am. If you've been on the sidelines but would still like to help out in some capacity, contact Children's Ministry Director, Erica Benjamin. ebenjamin@severnaparkumc.org



Clothes Closet

Thanks you for helping make the lives of many a little better through Clothes Closet. Since this clothing ministry began, over 1,000 items have been given out. For the past several months, gift card requests have been added. If you take a request card, please make every effort to return the items by the due date. The success of this ministry is because of your generosity.



Marlena and Alexis at Heaven's Kitchen.

Rainy ASP Thursday

Continued from page 1

The steady rain is not a deterrent to anyone, but rather serves as a reminder of the Master's plan. The region is so green and gorgeous, corn fields are growing ahead of schedule, and local gardens are sporting fresh fruits and vegetables. The inequality we see is certainly man-made and frustrating, but the spirit of life is very much an outcome of the Spirit of God flowing through all involved. It is a spirit of determination, of acceptance, of generosity in many forms.

The steady rain is a comforting reminder of the consistency and comfort of our loving God who has called us to be in this place at this time, and who has promised to equip us for every good work.

Rev. Lee Ferrell

Girl Scouts Help Heaven's Kitchen

During this past year, two Girl Scouts—Marlena Summers and Alexis Marsalek—chose Heaven's Kitchen as the venue for their Silver Award Project. Marlena and Alexis created a table just for the children who come with their families to Heaven's Kitchen for a hot meal and fellowship. Marlena and Alexis brought in crafts, books, markers and paper. They sat with the children, reading stories and helping them create pictures and crafts. They developed relationships with some of the kids who are regular attendees. Even more so, Marlena and Alexis showed their compassion for families who are struggling by offering the kids their time and attention.

are hopeful it will continue. To that end, they have created a bin of supplies that other families, Scout troops, Sunday school classes or individuals can bring to Heaven's Kitchen so the Kids' Table can keep going. Brochures with detailed information and other ways you can help are available in the Missions Corner in Fellowship Hall. Who knows, maybe this is where God is calling you!

heavenskitchen@severnaparkumc.org

Marlena and Alexis have completed the project but



ASP Volunteers rebuild a porch



50th Anniversary Celebration: Upcoming Dates

July 19 – Celebrating What Makes SPUMC Unique Today

August 9 – Celebrating 50 Years of Music

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 there will be a Celebration Picnic at the church.

Just Text Me!

I am seriously concerned for our youth and young adults who are so tightly attached to their phones. They need to have the phone in hand at ALL times: to check it when there's a lull in the action, to be on it even when the family is gathered, or in church, or in class. It makes me a little sad, and afraid for their future.

I get it. Texting, tweeting

Instagram are fun. I personally LOVE texting, and I don't know what I did before came our . We have a at Methodist Fellowship, Sunday School, and Confirmation that the phone stays away. The people you are with at the moment should get your full attention. This is how we learn basic interpersonal skills like making eye contact, listening, asking questions, learning more about the other—very vital social skills. What will our kids do in 15 years when they are out in the world and cannot carry on a reasonable conversation?

Let's set the example, and not be afraid to teach our kids that people count more than anything else. If you have any comments, just text me!

—Rev. Lee Ferrell
lferrell@severnaparkumc.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Want to serve God but feel you don't have the time? The Prayer Shawl Ministry has the answer! We are looking for knitters and crocheters to make prayer shawls and lap robes. We have patterns available, or feel free to use your own! Don't know how to knit or crochet? We can teach you! For information about sizes and colors, call Cindy Rafferty. 410.647.8453

HVAC Renovation

Phase 3 of our HVAC Renovation is moving along well. We are on schedule to be completed by the end of the summer! Thank you for your patience and support throughout this project. Your Capital Campaign dollars have been hard at work!

Finding Your Place at SPUMC

About once a quarter, we offer folks a chance to get to know our church better at our Connections Gatherings. The next one will take place on Sunday,

July 19 from 11:00am-Noon in the Church Parlor. Maybe you've been thinking about joining our congregation. Or perhaps you are new and just want to know how you can get more involved, what ministries and serving opportunities

most connect with your passions and your schedule. You're invited to come meet with Rev. Ron and see what SPUMC is all about. RSVP with Beth Frank our Office Manager or simply show up. Thanks. bfrank@severneparkumc.org

Appalachia Service Project 2015



More ASP pics at facebook.com/SevernaParkUMC



Jesus and the Kids

July Sermon Series

July 12: Feeding of the 5000

July 19: Jesus Lost in the Temple

July 26: Zaccheus

Wilkins Ave. God Moment

Have you ever felt God nudging you to change course and go in a different direction? One morning last week I was headed to Saint James UMC in Baltimore to learn about how they are serving their community. As I circled the church looking for parking I couldn't shake a gut feeling that I was supposed to be somewhere else at that moment. That "feeling" was confirmed when I found the road in front of the church under construction, every possible parking spot filled and orange cones blocking all of the alleys. I eventually decided to detour to Wilkins Ave. just a few blocks away, thinking I could at least stop by Living Well on

Wilkins and check on our ministry house for women caught in prostitution, addiction and homelessness. I pulled up to the house to see a woman knocking on the door looking for help. She was frail, shaking, and a bit disheveled.

Although the home wasn't yet open for the day I was able to let her inside where we sat for over an hour and talked. Her name was Chrissy; she's a mother and a wife and she battles drug addiction. Chrissy desperately wanted help and was ready to face her addiction and change her life. While we were there Chrissy ate, showered and received the resources she needed to get connected to the detox program at Bon Secours Hospital from Cathie Wildes, our program manager.

What a grace-filled moment it was for me to remember that at times God has other plans than what we have in pen on the calendar. What a blessing it was to see the Living Well on Wilkins Day Center being used for exactly that which our congregation dreamed. Please keep Chrissy and Living Well in your prayers and pay attention to those moments when God is calling you to turn aside and go another way. A longer version of this story and a place to share when God has called you in a different direction will be available next week on our new SPUMC blog at severnaparkumc.org

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Nicole
Nicole@severnaparkumc.org



Club 1965: Six Ways To Join

Severna Park UMC leadership would like to invite you to honor the bold and daring legacy of our founders by becoming part of Club 1965.

- 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 current 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.

Please help us honor the legacy of our founders and make more fruitful and effective ministry possible today!