



# The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

## Contents

- Summer Rhythms.....1
- Kindness Kitchen..... 2
- 50th Anniversary  
Weekend ..... 2
- Thailand Trek VBS.... 3
- 10 Reasons to Take a  
Fall Class..... 4
- Website Launch  
Update..... 5
- 50th Anniversary  
Celebration..... 5
- Prayer Shawls ..... 5
- Garage Sale Save The  
Date ..... 5
- VBS Photos..... 6
- LWOW Awarded  
\$20,000 Grant..... 7
- VIM Costa Rica ..... 7
- ALL July and August  
Events..... 8



## Summer Rhythms

This summer, without a move to a new church to complicate things (I celebrated my one year anniversary as one of your pastors on July 1st!), I felt like I was a bit more back into my typical summer rhythm of ministry. Last year, as I was learning the lay of the land here, I arrived too late to experience the wonders of ASP firsthand and I had more of a photographer/observer role when it came to VBS. This felt a bit odd on both fronts because for almost my entire ministry, summer has meant being fully

immersed in both workcamps with youth and VBS with younger children – and loving it all. This year, I was happy to get back to my summer “normal.”

At the end of June, I had the great privilege of going with our ASP team of 83 youth, college students, and adults to two different counties in eastern Kentucky for a week of serving, relationship building, basketball, ice-cream runs, and of course, the morning send-off dance.

*Continued on page 4*  
The Octagon: SPUMC News



## Kindness Kitchen

Kindness Kitchen is a caring ministry of SPUMC that provides a home-cooked meal to members of our church that are home-bound, or recovering from an illness or hospital stay. What a blessing to come home from surgery or delivering a new baby to receive a home-cooked meal delivered to your home with love.

A genuine Thank You is extended to all Kindness Kitchen cooks, and especially to Karen and Randy Baumbach, who have provided leadership for this ministry in recent years. Effective July 1, the Baumbachs stepped down from their leadership role. They have done an outstanding job and will be missed.

We are looking for a kind volunteer who might like to serve as coordinator of the Kindness Kitchen. And of course, new cooks are always welcome for this vitally important ministry. Please see Pastor Byron if you might be willing to serve Christ and our church family in this way.  
[BBrought@severnarkumc.org](mailto:BBrought@severnarkumc.org)



## 50th Anniversary Celebration

We are gearing up for our Big Five-0 Anniversary celebrations that will take place the last weekend of September. On Saturday, September 26 there will be a Dinner Party beginning with appetizers and mingling at 6pm followed by a chicken and prime rib catered meal and program in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm. The \$15 tickets go on sale beginning Sunday, August 16. You will be able to purchase them between services in Fellowship Hall or online.

Then on Sunday, September 27 at 8, 9:30, & 11am we'll celebrate and give thanks in a big way at our 50th Anniversary Worship Services, which feature special guests and great music. Beginning at 12noon there is a Festival & Cookout for the whole family, complete with face-painting, games, and much more.

Visit the website for more information on these events and make plans

now to be part of our Big Five-0 weekend.

### Be Part of Our Church Then & Now:

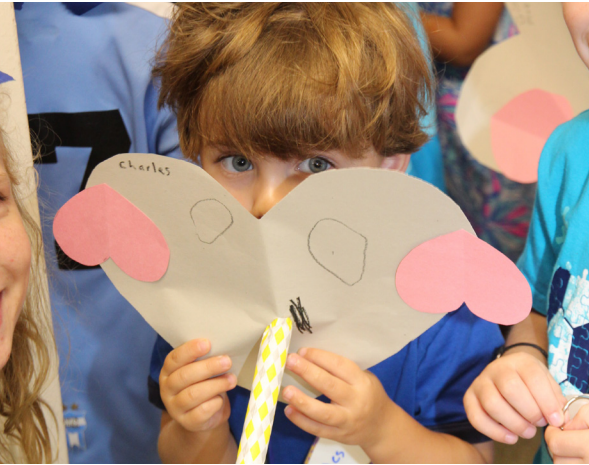
On Sunday, August 30 following the 11am service, we're taking a re-enactment group photo at 119 Benfield Road, the site of SPUMC's first worship service from August 8, 1965. Help us make new history as we connect with our past. The more the merrier!

### Club 1965 Needs You!

Help us honor the legacy of our past and wrap up our Faith in our Future Capital Campaign. We have the money in hand so far to pay for the HVAC work that will be completed by the end of this summer (Phases 1, 1a, 2, & 3 - 80% of the building) and now we're turning our focus to mortgage reduction. We are hoping to pay-off the parsonage mortgage in full by our Anniversary Weekend. Here's how you can join Club 1965:

- 1) Complete your current pledge;
- 2) Extend your pledge for a year;
- 3) Make a one-time gift of \$1965 or weekly or monthly gifts of \$19.65 over the next year
- 4) Make a cash or stock donation in any amount.

Many, many thanks to those who have already paid their pledges in full (or more) - that automatically puts you in Club 1965! Brochures are available at the Welcome Desk or online. [severnarkumc.org/1965](http://severnarkumc.org/1965)



## Thailand Trek: Vacation Bible School 2015

We welcomed 240 children and 90 volunteers for two wonderful weeks of Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School. The children were greeted by joyous teachers and learned exciting Bible lessons each day while singing, playing games, make crafts, and eating

snacks. They learned that God is real, God is love, God is forgiving, God is forever, and God is everywhere! Believe it! They learned that God's love extends well past Severna Park in to places like Thailand. They were a "God Sighting" to our community by collecting an abundance of food for Backpack Buddies. Each week concluded with a celebration worship service. Families came to hear what the kids had learned through



song and scripture. They also shared where they see God in their lives. We look forward to two weeks of VBS next summer!

*More photos on page 6!*





## Summer Rhythms

*Continued from page 1*

I loved getting to know both adults and youth – especially our college students (there were 17 of them along) – on a deeper level and hopefully it was mutual. There was a lot of sweat and laughter, hard work and faith formation happening side-by-side and it's always just plain fun for me to get a chance to be in the middle of that. Rev. Lee has done a fabulous job in making ASP an important part of the congregation's summer rhythm for the past 35 years and you can hear more about it on August 16th in worship.

And now we are just coming off (recovering from?) two back-to-back high-energy weeks of our Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School. I got to lead the opening and closing worship each day with the kids the first week and freely roam the whole VBS with my camera both weeks to capture holy moments for our daily photo boards, slideshows and Facebook posts for the families and participants. If you were in church either of the last two Sundays, you got a taste of the sheer joy and significant seeds of faith that were both in great abundance. Special thanks go to the ever calm, cool, and collected Erica Benjamin, our Children's Ministry Director, who made two

weeks with 120 children (each session) and makeshift classrooms run so smoothly.

I am so grateful to be part of a church that pours so much love, energy, and time into ministries with our children and youth all year round, but especially in these annual experiences that are “just” a regular part of the rhythm of summer. This weekend I'll head out for my first full-week VIM experience at SPUMC (about my 20th overall) to Costa Rica and can't wait for another “new” experience that will make me feel like I am right at home. You'll hear more about that in the coming weeks – and perhaps see a few pictures, too? – so keep checking the website and blog for updates.

Be God's,  
Rev. Ron  
[Ron@SevernaParkUMC.org](mailto:Ron@SevernaParkUMC.org)

### 10 Reasons to Take a Fall Class

10. The unique experience of fellowship with other class members. You can't find that just anywhere.

9. There is always more to learn. “A Christian never graduates!”

8. Personal growth is a very good thing... always.

7. “Everybody's doing it.”

6. It would be 2 hours of your week that could make a huge difference

in every other day of your life.

5. Our teachers are all faithful, wise, creative and genuine. Studying with them is a great opportunity you should not pass up.

4. The more time you spend at church, the more familiar you will be with where the restrooms are.

3. Even Jesus studied in the Temple. If HE saw the need, why not you?

2. We are offering a wide variety of topics, times, length of classes. Surely you can find something to fit your schedule.

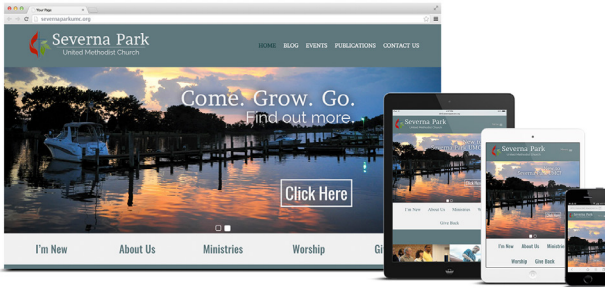
*And the number one reason to take a class at church this fall*

1. “Disciple” means learner. If we are always striving to be better disciples, we should be engaged in intentional learning and faith development.

Rev. Lee Ferrell  
[LFerrell@severnaparkumc.org](mailto:LFerrell@severnaparkumc.org)

*Keep an eye on the website, eNews, and Welcome Desk for the full Fall Class listing.*





## The New SevernaParkUMC.org

### Website Launch Update

We just wanted to follow up on the launch of the new website. Thank you so much for checking it out. We've received some great feedback! So many of you have let us know how much you love the new look. Thanks! A few of you have helped us notice some of the components of the website that need some tweaking to make it that much better. We're grateful for that, too. We've been hard at work making the website both useful and nice to look at.

Our next area of emphasis for the website is to get

the calendar of events completely copied over to the new site and up to date including locations for each event. We're also hoping to get a "Featured Events" page up and running soon, so it'll be easier to see the highlights of what's upcoming at SPUMC.

Thanks again for all your support during this transition. If you haven't yet taken a few moments to peruse the new site, please do! Then let us know how you like it and how we can make your experience with the site better.

Grace and Peace,  
Ryan Hennesy  
[Ryan@severnapakumc.org](mailto:Ryan@severnapakumc.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

## Garage Sale Save the Date

If you've been here for any significant amount of time, you're well aware of the semi-annual SPUMC Garage Sale. If you're new, you're in for a treat! The Fall Garage Sale will take place on October 3. We will accept drop-offs September 30 through October 2.



# Thailand Trek Vacation Bible School 2015 Photos



More VBS pics at [facebook.com/SevernaParkUMC](https://facebook.com/SevernaParkUMC)



# Stories from the EARLY CHURCH



August 9:  
Conversion of  
St. Paul

August 16:  
ASP Sunday

August 23:  
Peter's Vision

August 30:  
Healing at the  
Beautiful Gate

## August Sermon Series

### LWOW Awarded \$20,000 Grant

Living Well on Wilkens has been awarded its first grant! The Charles T. Bauer Foundation has selected LWOW to receive a \$20,000 grant in support of our ministry work on Wilkens Ave. As many of you know when LWOW was established one of our primary goals was to begin grant writing immediately. This hard work is paying off as we broaden our ministry support base. SPUMC's continued support and now the support of other organizations will enable us to reach more women caught in prostitution, addiction and homelessness on Wilkens Ave. The funds from this grant will go directly to keeping our day resource center open.

It will take a lot of continued support and prayers to grow LWOW so we ask that you would consider coming on board! You can join our ministry team by volunteering to work at the day center with our program manager, join our street outreach team, help us grant write, join our leadership team or donate money or supplies. We are currently in need of toilet paper, paper towels, frozen meals, a coffee maker, plastic organization bins and sodas and bottled water. Donations can be dropped off in the missions corner of the Fellowship Hall. To get involved email Cathie at [Livingwellonwilkens@gmail.com](mailto:Livingwellonwilkens@gmail.com)

### VIM Costa Rica

The 16-member Volunteers In Mission team left for Costa Rica on Saturday, August 8 where they will be in San Isidro del General helping Wil Bailey in constructing one or two buildings as part of a mission center. Teams are coming from all over the United States to help.

This is the fourth consecutive year that SPUMC has sent a team to Costa Rica. The group will be returning on Saturday, August 15. Please keep the VIM team in your prayers as they go out in faith to be God's hands in helping others.



## Adults Loving Life July and August Events

On July 28, Adults Loving Life (ALL) had a wonderful time cruising the Choptank River, eating lots of crabs, and soaking in a beautiful day on the water. Check out the SPUMC blog for more pictures! [severnaparkumc.org/blog](http://severnaparkumc.org/blog)

On August 25 at 12noon, ALL is hosting an Indoor Picnic highlighting the Crabtown Band, combining fellowship with a delicious, bug free indoor barbecue picnic. Sign-up in Fellowship Hall.



**Severna Park United Methodist Church**  
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