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The Octagon

Severna Park United Methodist Church News

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The re-creation picture we took on August 30 is on the back page of the Octagon! Flip it over to compare.

Back to the Future

I was with Rev. Lee at a recent gathering of colleagues from churches all over the Baltimore-Washington Conference – the Board of Ordained Ministry which we both serve on – and when we came to a time of sharing joys and concerns, I was given a wonderful dose of perspective. After people had a chance to invite us to pray for family members, other clergy, and critical situations in their communities, Rev. Al Hammer from Foundry UMC in Washington, DC lifted up the fact that their congregation

was getting ready to celebrate 200 years in ministry. Another voice chimed in that their church was marking their centennial and then yet another colleague told us her church had a 146th anniversary coming up later this fall.

I was about to say out loud that at Severna Park UMC we were getting ready to have our own Big Five-O blowout weekend, but in that context, it sort of felt like we were such “Johnny Come Latelys.”

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Calling All Cooks

Kindness Kitchen provides a home-cooked meal to church families recovering from a hospital stay, welcoming a new baby, or otherwise in need of a prepared meal in their home.

As a Thank You to all who have cooked and served in this ministry, and as an invitation to all whom might wish to participate, we shall have a catered luncheon on Tuesday, September 15 at 12:00 noon in Room 301 at the church. At that time we shall review procedures of how the Kindness Kitchen ministry works, share some recipe ideas and even some experiences that enriched our lives by participating in this ministry.

Please RSVP to Lou Kamm (410-647-5914) if you are planning to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!



UMC Missionary Plaque

A UMC Missionary Plaque was given to Stephanie Weiss by the Baltimore-Washington Conference when Gerry, her husband, passed away. Stephanie wanted us to put it somewhere in the Memorial Garden and that has now been accomplished. Gerry and Stephanie served SPUMC from 1980 to 1988.

Many thanks to Bill Reth who made the base to attach the plaque and set the post. Also a big thank you to Bill Cloughley for drilling mounting holes into the back of the plaque so that it could be permanently mounted to the base.

The plaque is located on the right side of the main Garden path heading directly to the main seating area and just across the fire road.



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 chicken and prime rib plated dinner at 6pm (as of printing, there are still a few of the \$15 tickets left!) followed by an open-to-all program in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30pm.

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 to purchase dinner tickets. Make plans now to be part of our Big Five-0 weekend. severnaparkumc.org/big50



SPUMC Softball

One of the best kept secrets in our church may be our co-ed softball team. We have been playing in a friendly, slow-pitch league with many other churches in our area for about 10 years. The team re-formed in 2005 under the leadership of George Mohr.

"I felt this was a great way to get more involved with the church, and it offered me a chance to meet fellow Christian athletes (from other churches), as well as stay in the game," said George.

Good competition, Christian fellowship, developing new friends and relationships are only some of the

rewards of playing on a church team. The league is very friendly and fun; if one team is a player or two shy, the other team loans them some players. "I like the people," said Lori Sexton. "It's fun being part of something unique."

More players are always welcome. Watch for announcements and sign-ups next spring!



Our Volunteers in Mission team joyfully served with Costa Rica Mission Projects August 8-15. They will be sharing their witness with us in worship on September 13. See pictures and learn more about their week at facebook.com/severneparkUMC

Back to the Future

Continued from page 1

Now don't get me wrong: I am very excited for our Anniversary weekend coming up on September 26-27. It has been really fun over the last six months or so to relive significant milestones and stories from our church's rich half-century history in testimonies, pictures, music, and displays. But I couldn't help but wonder what it will take from us as a congregation – and from those who will come generations after us – to reach our 100th, or 146th or 200th year as a community of faith.

At this same meeting we spent a little time talking about the impending retirement wave that is about to hit our Annual Conference. Over the next ten years, it is projected that more than half our clergy will be retiring. The average age of those leading our 600 churches in the BWC is 53. Young clergy – those under the age of 35 like Rev. Nicole – are in perilously short supply and the age of our leadership very much mirrors the age of our membership. There was not a sense of doom and gloom in the room, as much as an awareness that unless we continue to cultivate a culture of call among younger generations – the vocational call to ministry whether it be ordained or lay – we will be closing

churches rather than celebrating milestone anniversaries.

The takeaway for me was not a revelation of something new but more a reinforcement of something I have always felt and known. The church is always in need of renewing itself as it moves into the future toward which God is calling us. If we only live in the past and don't invest in young disciples, don't find fresh and faithful ways of being the church, don't engage risky and innovative approaches to reaching out to serve our communities, then our days are numbered. I also came away more hopeful than ever about our future here at SPUMC. Because while we have had an amazing run over the last fifty years as a congregation with lots to celebrate, I can't help but think that our best and most exciting days are still ahead of us. It's my sincere hope that you will be on hand to join us for our Big Five-O celebration weekend. But let's not linger too long in the revelry: we've got the next fifty years to be dreaming of/planning for/living faithfully into right on the horizon.

—Rev. Ron Foster
Ron@SevernaParkUMC.org

It's My Pleasure

The phrase “Shhh...it's a surprise!” will always make me smile after my wonderful 40th Year Celebration on August

16. My sincere thanks go out to you all; your kind words, generous gifts, and wonderful tributes were deeply appreciated. From the affirmation and a little stand up comedy by UMYF alumni, laying on of hands by the youth, and thoughtful words from both my own mentor and an MYF officer... it was a special day that I shall always remember. Special thanks to my dear friends who provided a fantastic reception after each service, and to those who travelled a distance to be here.

I would thank you individually for your cards and notes, but Nicole won't let me have them until I actually do go on vacation. Then I will read and cherish them as I relax at the beach.

When I say “It's my pleasure” to serve you here at SPUMC, it is the absolute truth. To serve God in a place where people are so committed and faithful, alongside people so creative and funny... how could it be anything but a pleasure? As I said that morning in worship, I just thank God for giving me the gifts He did, especially the ability to love and teach youth.

Again, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

—Rev. Lee Ferrell

Ron Shippee Named Man of the Year

The SPUMC chapter of the United Methodist Men annually presents the Bob Sutton Man-of-the-Year Award to a man of our congregation who exemplifies the UMM's goal of "helping men grow in Christ, so others may know Christ." This year's recipient is Ron Shippee. Ron has realized this goal through service to our congregation and to the greater community.

Ron's activities include:

- Extensive work in rehabilitating the Wilkens Avenue house
- Leadership in planning and consensus building for a sustainable commitment to "Living Well on Wilkens"
- Set up and cooking for the annual Fall Festival
- Cooking for Winter Relief
- and the men's Saturday breakfasts
- Serving on the Board of Trustees
- Ushering at 11am
- Hauling furniture and working faithfully at the Garage Sales
- Helping with the fall

pumpkin sales
– Using his carpentry skills to do repair work on SPUMC facilities

"I've never served alongside someone quite like Ron," said Pastor Nicole. "I often tell people that he must not take time to eat or sleep because he seems to accomplish more in one day than most people can in one week. I'm grateful that he has used his energy, tireless drive, and compassionate spirit to serve those who are most vulnerable in our communities. Ron is transforming lives in Christ's name and it's an honor to work with him."

Our thanks to Ron for bringing his energy and God-given skill to the mission of this church.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl ministry will be having Prayer shawls and lap robes blessed on Sunday, September 20. If you have a finished shawl or lap robe please put it in the Prayer Shawl ministry basket in Fellowship Hall or the large Prayer Shawl basket in the closet off the narthex. Anyone interested in making a Prayer Shawl or lap robe may use their own patterns or get a pattern from the Welcome desk. If you have questions, call Cindy Rafferty at 410-647-8453.

Mission Trip to Pennsylvania

A mission group is forming to go to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. The team will leave on the morning of Thursday, October 8 and return on Saturday, October 10. The cost is \$30. This is a great mission trip for first-time participants or those who can't commit for a whole week. We will be putting together kits which will be sent to areas in need around the world. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Martha Hollidge. mhollidge@verizon.net





WORKERS NEEDED

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – SATURDAY OCTOBER 3
SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FREE LUNCH & DINNER

FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP ON ANY OF THE
SETUP DAYS



DONATIONS NEEDED

- clothing
- shoes
- housewares & linens
- books
- jewelry
- antiques
- sporting goods
- electronics
- outdoor items
- holiday decorations
- children's items



TAX DEDUCTION RECEIPTS

Bring your list of donation items and we'll give
you a tax deduction receipt!



ITEMS WE CAN'T ACCEPT

We can't accept: large appliances, mattresses,
carpet pieces, newspapers, magazines, furniture
in poor condition, old large TVs, entertainment
centers, or any recalled items



DROP OFF TIMES

Wednesday, September 30, after 5pm
Thursday, October 1, 8am-8pm
Friday, October 2, 8am-2pm



CONTACTS

For large item pickup, call Mel: 410.703.6372
For Questions, call Gwyn: 410.647.7349

Winter Relief

The Winter Relief ministry was first approved by the Mission committee in 2011. The ministry is offered in coalition with Arundel House of Hope (AHOH). Our church is one of approximately fifty local churches working with AHOH that will provide shelter and spiritual support for a week to homeless men and women from October to April.

Our church was first used as a Winter Relief site in February 2012. We have served as a temporary home five different weeks and are scheduled for Winter Relief during the weeks of **November 9-16, 2015** and **February 15-22, 2016**. We offer a place to sleep, three meals a day, showers, laundry, warm fellowship and most importantly the love of God to about 40 men and women. We have also been able to expand our program each time and are now able to offer dental services, barber services, sewing repairs, and fill the clothing needs of our guests. Our guests have been entertained by several musical groups, a magician, and have attended a job networking session in our church.

During this ministry we have over 175 volunteers from our church involved each week and put in over 1200 hours to make the Winter Relief week a success. But Winter Relief goes way beyond this. I think it was summed up perfectly by one of our

guests who stated "Your church is more than a church, it has become our home." Other guests told us how they were shunned and judged by many people, but our church volunteers and members treated them warmly, respectfully, and accepted them for who they were and the situation they were in.

Our volunteers served them with their hands, feet, hearts, and time, but most importantly they loved them as Jesus would have loved them. This is truly what Winter Relief is all about. Not only were the guests blessed in many ways, but our entire church was blessed.

By Carolyn Heim

Summer Thanks

Thank you to all those who helped make our summer a wonderful experience for our kids. Thank you to those who donated Legos, especially The Bishops, Dills, Seamans, Vain-Callahans, and Lands. We had a great amount to build the Bible stories each week and look forward to continue using them in ministry. Be sure to check out our more recent builds on the Welcome Desk.

Thank you to our summer Sunday school teachers who were greatly flexible with large groups of kids in unfamiliar rooms.

Finally, thank you to Charlotte and Carla Rader

who made the large Lego blocks that decorated the sanctuary and Martha Hollidge who decorated the Lego themed bulletin board.

With all your help, we've had a wonderful summer with the children.

—Erica Benjamin

Restocking SPAN

In early fall SPAN'S shelves need restocking with staples. Please consider donating any of these basics: cereal, jelly, pancake mix, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, boxed potatoes, canned meat, mixed vegetables, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste or other toiletries.

Nursery School Substitutes

Do you love children? Are you interested in a rewarding part-time position? The SPUMC Nursery School is hiring substitutes for the current school year. If you'd like to find out more, or to obtain an application packet, please contact Heidi Taflan, the director. 410.987.8339 or spumcns@gmail.com



UMYF

The fall opener for United Methodist Youth Fellowship is Sunday, September 13, 7-8:30pm. We will start with introductions, skits, information, and an all-you-can-eat Ice cream sundae bar. Youth in grades 7-12 are welcome; bring your friends!

UMYF will continue to meet every Sunday night at 7pm, for games, contests, discussions, programs, devotions and fun. UMYF is a safe place where youth can completely be themselves, meet some amazing people, and grow both in their faith and self esteem.

Hope to see you there!

Bible Study Fellowship

Our church will be hosting Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) discussion groups for women, on Thursday mornings, beginning September 17. During the 2015-16 year, we will be studying the book of Revelation. For information about Welcome classes, please contact Ann. annchaffee@verizon.net

Social Media Volunteers

Ryan Hennesy, our Communications Director is looking for a couple of people to help with

the management and maintenance of the church's new social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram.

If you have any interest in helping SPUMC tell our story through fun and creative venues on the internet, please email Ryan.

And be sure to follow us! Our screen name on both Twitter and Instagram is **@sparkUMC**

Ryan@severnaparkumc.org

