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The St Marker

"Bible Fed and Spirit Led"

A Family and Community Church Here to Serve For Kingdom Excellence

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Vision
Transform Our Lives
Revitalize Our Faith
Influence Our Community

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"God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well." ..Voltaire

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BWC Mission U Conference July 26 - 28



The Baltimore-Washington Conference hosted its annual educational conference Mission U at the Bethesda Marriott, Bethesda, MD. There were 224 attendees which included 46 youth, myself, Yvonne Pellham, and Pat Hamilton. We represented St. Mark United Methodist Women (UMW). The 2 ½ day conference included several activities for spiritual growth such as prayer, worship, fellowship, transformational learning centers, plenaries and mission studies. This year's spiritual growth plenary theme was "Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship."

Pat attended the "Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission" class which highlighted various contributions by women from 1869 to the present who made changes in the world and their communities. These struggles were overwhelming as women had no initial power. Each heroine was willing to stand up for something. The organizations had a variety of names before what we today call UMW. The theme was "I am in you, you are in me and we are in God". The study referenced Acts 2: 22-24 which embodies UMW's purpose. The take-away from that study is that UMW Women are "Persistent and Strong".

I attended the "What About Our Money" class which dealt with our relationship with money and raised awareness of economic disparities. We explored how random life events have an impact on economic status. The class touched on the need for a living wage for all. We viewed a short video called "The Story of Stuff," which talked about excessive consumerism and its impact on the environment and society. We were encouraged to complete our money autobiography using the tool found at faithandmoneynetwork.org as a final personal growth assignment.

The mission project this year was to support the non-profit organization called The Neighborhood Well, founded by two dynamic young ladies ages 29 and 30. It seeks to meet the immediate needs of the homeless in the DC area. The St. Mark donations of toiletries and other items contributed to over 300 blessing bags that were assembled by the youth in attendance. In a Facebook post, the founder said that when she asked the youth "why do we go out in the streets to serve others?" *"One youth yelled out "Because someone has been praying to God and God has sent us to answer their prayers!! See they understand that God is a hearer of prayers, and there is a connection from one to another. We need EVERYONE to play their part."* Your contributions do make a difference, not just in the lives of the homeless, but to our youth as well.

The founders asked for our prayers and support as they develop their first major initiative to provide a mobile shower program to those who do not have access to a shelter or do not feel safe at their local shower station. For more information go to the following: <https://theneighborhoodwell.org/>

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The St. Mark UMW wish to thank everyone who donated to the Mission U project.

by Yvonne Pellham

St Mark Community "Shred It" Day



On Saturday August 10th The United Methodist Men of St Mark hosted Community "Shred It" Day. It was a day where you could eat, shop and have papers shredded all at the same time. There were a variety of vendors from whom you could purchase jewelry, books, laundry supplies, t-shirts, pampered chef, (kitchen items), candy, jams and jellies, candles, fall wreaths for your door and even.....sweet potato pie. A representative from the Department of Health was there to provide you with information on certain health issues with the focus on STD Awareness. A representative from the Alzheimer Associations provided information on Alzheimer and other related health issues. Our very own Nikki Martin, gladly provided you with vital information as a Business Consultant. It was a good day to clean out your closet as the United Methodist Women were on hand to receive items of clothing to be donated to those in need. If you were hungry there was a food truck that sold a variety of sandwiches to include gyros, and Philly cheesesteaks. If you wanted something cool and creamy there was an ice cream truck to fill that need. If you needed help in lifting all those heavy bags/boxes of papers you brought to shred there were very strong men to help with that. Flexing their muscles were George Martin, Tyrone Hall and Don Washington. We even had political muscle on the scene. Paying us a visit were Maryland State Senator Pamela Beidle, Delegates, Michael Rodgers and Mark Chang. All in all it was a very good day.

by H.E. Brown



Community Pantry Day #3

On Saturday August 20, 2019, St Mark was once again the host for Community Pantry Day (CPD). It was the third time this year. Prior CPD's were held on February 5 and June 19. For the third time a call went out for volunteers and they did not disappoint. They came not to linger and gawk but to work. Unfortunately there was a minor delay in preparation as the first truck broke down and a second was sent to the rescue. Around 11am the truck finally arrived. The volunteers worked very hard as they moved with the speed of lightening and successfully unloaded the truck, sorted and bagged all the food in time for the 1pm opening. They proved that success is connected with action and to succeed you must keep moving. As the famous hairstylist Vidal Sassoon once said, "The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary."...Amen to that!

Visitors were directed to the various food stations and received assistance as needed. They had their choice of food items such as yams, carrots (of many colors), watermelon, water, various meat products and prepared meals.

Once again we must thank our coordinators Ramona Burnett and Diana Taylor, members of the Luther O. Hebron Food Bank and SHARE program, the Maryland Food Bank, the AACO Maryland Partnership for Children, Youth & Families and the many volunteers who unselfishly donated their time and energy. And the good news iswe get to do it all over again. In November 2019 St Mark will host a 4th CPD. If you have yet to volunteer this will be your opportunity to do so. So come on out and have a feel good moment. Stay tuned for details.

by Hillary E. Brown



St Mark UMW Gospel Spirit Cruise/Shopping Trip August 24



It was a beautiful sun shinning day. A great day for sailing and so we did, from Washington, DC down the Potomac river along the shores of Virginia. We dined on great food, feasting on an all you can eat buffet, and listened to great Gospel music, all aboard the Spirit of Washington cruise ship. Some of us ventured out and toured the observation deck which had the best view. For those who like to play games there was giant

jenga, table top shuffleboard, foosball and a miniature golf putting green. For those who just wanted leisure time, you could sit back relax, let the wind blow through your hair and enjoy the view.

After the cruise we traveled to the Tanger Outlet Mall in Oxon Hill, Md for shopping. Some shopped a little, some shopped a lot and some just sat on a bench and people watched. Upon returning to our bus we were greeted with much needed cool bottles of water. As we traveled back to St Mark we snacked on assorted candies and cookies compliments of the St Mark United Methodist Women. It was a most enjoyable day.

by Hillary E. Brown



Grandparents Day September 07



It was a day to celebrate and honor grandparents. The theme was Mardi Gras. The fellowship hall was very colorful. There with masks, beads and tablecloths of green, purple and gold. Typical Mardi Gras colors.

The order of the day was to dine together, fellowship together, relax and just have fun. Everyone was given a booklet that had a variety of games inside. Games that made you put your thinking cap on. A great way to exercise your brain. The booklet also contained stories, poems, wise sayings and scriptures. Logan Watson was the first winner of the day when she unscrambled two columns of words where the words in one column was just the opposite (by definition) of the words in the other column. And who doesn't love to play bingo. This was by far the loudest and most excitable game of the day. The winners were Dale Parker, Geraldine Hebron, Regina

Hawkins and Sylvia Jones. However, on this day everybody was a winner. Inside each booklet were various pages that declared "You're a Winner". Those particular pages had a different scripture written on it rendering a different prize to each individual. A great big thank you to Hostess Mary Dailey for putting it all together and to her work-a-bees, Karen Eldridge, Cindy Sewell, Wanda Spriggs, Makayla Dailey and Jasmine Dailey.

by Mary Dailey & H. E. Brown



Girl Scouts Pay Homage to Capital Gazette Journalist



The Silver Award is the second highest given by the Girl Scouts. The award gives the cadettes a chance to show their leadership, organizational skills and dedication to improving their community. On September 22, 2019, Girl Scout Troop #2638, proved that they had all the qualifications to earn such an award. Members, Riley Dove, Malani Martin, Jodi Penn, Kala Stewart, and Maya Whitney, under the leadership of troop leaders Rhonda Dove and Kimberly Jenkins along with professional quilter Joan Gaither, developed on their own a year-long Take Action Project in the form of a quilt. The quilt entitled "Freedom To Tell Our Stories" memorializes five Capital Gazette journalists who were killed in a mass shooting in Annapolis, MD., on June 28, 2018. Honored were Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Wendi Winters. Each quilt block has a picture of the fallen journalist along with pictures of items to represent something about each of their personalities. Mr. Rick Hutzell, Editor of the Capital Gazette accepted the quilt with great appreciation and thanked the troop for honoring the journalist in such a magnificent way. He asked permission to have the quilt accompany him to Washington, D.C. to present arguments to the National Capital Advisory Commission for the construction of a national memorial to honor fallen journalist. Recognition was also given to others who supported and provided their expertise (quilting, graphic designing and art) to bring this amazing project to fruition. **CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!!**

by Adrian Thompson

Youth and Young Adults Fall Festival and Sunday Worship

Saturday September 28 was a slightly hot humid day with an occasional breeze blowing through. There were activities for all ages to enjoy. There was bingo, water balloons, darts, mini golf, mini pool table, fishing for ducks, face painting and other games to enjoy. You could eat hotdogs, hamburgers, popcorn, chips and cotton candy and wash it all down with a cold soda or water. Kids were free to be who they were meant to bekids. There were lots of smiles and laughter as they ran from one game to another with excitement, trying to get it all in before the day ended. The Youth and Young Adults thought of everything one could enjoy for a fun filled day.



On Sunday September 29, the Youth and Young Adults followed the Fall Festival with a worship service. Guest Speaker Min. Nila Curry's very inspiring message was

themed "If Hell or High Water". The youth entered the sanctuary uniformly dressed in blue t-shirts that read "My Favorite Ghost is The Holy Ghost." God's Glory Praise Dancers, Natayia Riley, Tramia Johnson and Olisha Blake gave a very strong and inspiring mime performance that stirred the emotions of the congregation. There were feelings of joy, happiness and even tears flowed as the ladies danced to Tasha Cobbs' "Gratefully Broken." For all their hard work with youth activities gifts were presented to Tyon White and Natayia Riley. Hats off to our young people and all volunteers for a well planned weekend.

by H.E. Brown