June worship and preaching

June 3 - Rev. James McSavaney
This will be James’ last Sunday at Grace. He will preach and celebrate communion at both services. A farewell reception will be held following the 10:00 a.m. service

June 10 - Rev. Nancy Webb
As part of the yearlong 150th anniversary celebration, former ministers at Grace have been invited to serve as guest preachers. On this Sunday we welcome Rev. Nancy Webb, retired, who served at Grace between 2005-2012.

June 17 - Rev. Amy McCullough

June 24 - Rev. Amy McCullough

Rev. McSavaney bids “Peace with with you”

As your Associate Pastor for the past four years, every word I have had the privilege to share with you has been an honor, which has only grown as I have gotten to know and love the members of this congregation. With a sadness I cannot shake, I have spent the past few months saying goodbye to you, and I anticipate leading you in worship for the last time on Sunday, June 3rd, followed by a time of gathering together to share food and warm wishes as I anticipate serving at Arnolia United Methodist Church in Parkville, MD, and we all look ahead to what next might come our way.

I am writing this article in time for the publication of this month’s Grace Notes newsletter, which means that I can only hope that on May 30th, the Clergy Session of the 2018 Annual Conference of the Baltimore-Washington Conference voted by at least a ¾ majority to affirm the February decision of the Board of Ordained Ministry to recommend me for ordination as an Elder, a pastor in full connection in the United Methodist Church.

When you read this article, God willing, all of those recommended will have been affirmed, and I will have been one of thirteen ordinands to be entrusted with responsibility, symbolized in a red stole that will be placed on my shoulders by our Bishop, LaTrelle Easterling. With me will stand my sponsors – Rev. Donna Claycomb Sokol, the pastor who presided over my wedding to my wife, Amy, and Rev. Nancy Webb, who baptized my son, Walker, the day after his first birthday.

The past four years I have spent at Grace Church have been formative – a combination of nourishing, challenging, surprising, and affirming experiences – often occurring all at once over the course of a week. You have witnessed me grow into the person God is still making me to be, and I have seen signs of God’s work and presence in the world through you, especially: Your resolve to care, your dedication to serve, and your willingness to forgive.

I cannot thank you enough for what encouragement you have shown me, and I pray I will honor you with my service, wherever I find myself on a Sunday morning. As I said to you the first Sunday I had the privilege of preaching to you:

Peace be with you. --Rev. James McSavaney
Trustees implement Emergency Action Plan

This past March, the Trustees of Grace adopted a new emergency action plan (EAP) for the church and all who use the building. The purpose of an EAP is to provide a basis process for responding to such events as a severe storm, fire, medical emergency, robbery, intruder or other threat. Our EAP includes a clear chain of command during an emergency, a set of instructions for several potential scenarios, and an evacuation plan should the building need to be evacuated. This detailed EAP is available for anyone to review through the church office. The EAP has been carefully crafted over several revisions, and been vetted and approved by the Fire Marshall.

* * *

The Trustees want to communicate several key points of the EAP with the entire community. They are as follows:

The church staff, church leaders, outside groups, and Grace’s ushers are receiving the EAP and being trained in their roles in an emergency.

Every interior room and exterior door has received a number which corresponds with a new site map, so that evacuation routes are clearly drawn and emergency personnel can quickly locate any affected area on the property. A site map, with the evacuation route indicated, has been placed in each room.

Should there ever be a need for a group to “shelter in place” at the church, a safe space has been designed on the basement level of the church. An emergency kit, including a radio, first aid, food and water supplies, has been placed in the sheltering place.

A “Knox box” has been mounted on the church’s exterior walls, which enables emergency personnel a means to access the building.

A system for communication between ushers, musicians and ministers during worship, and between ministers, staff and teachers in our children’s and youth classes has been created. A point person between the congregation and the nursery staff has also been identified.

Should the building need to be evacuated, the designated space for gathering is the upper parking lot, with the playground to be used for children. In the case of an evacuation, all children in Sunday School classes or the nursery will be brought out to the playground by their teachers and volunteers. Parents/guardians will meet children in the upper parking lot.

AED (automated external defibrillator) machines have been placed on each floor of Grace’s building. They can be found directly across from the elevator on each level. A list of staff and members who have been trained and authorized to use the AEDs is maintained in the church office.

Plans are in process for the ushers to practice for an evacuation of the sanctuary. A fire drill for the entire congregation is planned for later in the year, following a Sunday worship service.

* * *

The EAP was created to ensure the safety and well-being of all who enter Grace’s facilities. We hope hearing of the EAP increases the sense of safety for those who come to Grace looking for worship, faith development, and community. We further hope the EAP enables us as a community to increase our hospitality to those who use the building and seek a place of sanctuary and welcome here. If you have any questions about the EAP, feel free to speak with Rev. McCullough. The full EAP is available in the church office.

Seven days without church makes one weak.

“Pedal for Pediatrics”

At last count, Director Barbara Blair reports that Grace Preschool had raised $7903.00 for Pediatric Oncology Research at Johns Hopkins. The children in the Threes, Fours and Kindergarten classes participated in the trike ride on a wet Friday, April 27 on the church parking. The students had a blast as they rode the tracks and ignored the drizzling rain.

Donations were received from the children, parents, relatives and friends - and from teachers and a few church members for this worthy cause.
SUMMER CHOIR
Beginning June 3 and continuing through the month of July, the Chancel Choir will continue to sing in worship. The choir will not rehearse on Thursday evenings during the summer months but will rehearse at 9:15 a.m. in the choir room before the service. If you are interested in singing with the choir (without having to commit to a Thursday night rehearsal!), please plan to join us any Sunday morning in June or July. All are welcome!!

A huge Thank You to the Sunday School, Youth, Handbell and Chancel Choirs
A sincere thank you and congratulations to all of the singers and players in our children, youth, handbell and adult choirs for their participation in choir throughout this past year! Their countless hours of preparation and rehearsing are truly appreciated by all who have heard them in worship. A heartfelt and sincere thank you also to their directors, Mairin Srygley - Sunday School Choir, Robert Cantrell - Youth Choir; Kathie Metz - Handbell Choir! You are gems to us all!

CALL FOR PERFORMERS!!
Concert in Fellowship Hall
Sunday July 22 at 1:00 p.m.
As part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we have decided to present a concert focusing on the theme of “SOCIAL JUSTICE” that will highlight current outreach initiatives as well as new directions that we as a church will be embarking upon. The concert will also serve to empower us to do more individually and as a community to be more active and supportive to those around us who are on the fringes of society.

The format of this concert will be much like the Variety Show that we presented last year. Presented in Fellowship Hall, it will consist of individuals, small groups and large presenting songs, poems, speeches, presentations and other dimensions around the theme of social justice. We hope this will be an intergenerational event where anyone of any age can participate.

Following worship that Sunday, we will have a luncheon in Fellowship Hall along with another “service day” similar to the successful one we held on April 8th.

Social Justice encompasses many areas of concern: civil and human rights, LGBTQ rights and protection, economic justice, environmental issues, health and wholeness, women and children, and many other issues. If you need suggestions for songs to sing or other ideas to present, please let me know and we can brainstorm together. Please reach out to me, Chris Schroeder, if you are interested in participating! 410-433-6650, ext 106 or chris@graceunitedmethodist.org.

MUSIC AT GRACE presents
4th Annual PATRIOTIC CONCERT
SUNDAY, JULY 1
3:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir leading congregational singing accompanied by brass, timpani and organ.
Wear your red, white and blue and celebrate America’s birthday with us.

Have you noticed the 150th Anniversary Banners now displayed on poles at the corner of Charles Street and Northern Parkway? They shout to the world that Grace Church has been in ministry in Baltimore for the past 150 years! Alleluia!!
Gala – Auction a huge success!

Our 11\textsuperscript{th} annual Grace Gala exceeded its goal for raising funding to our Weekend Backpack program. Thanks to the food preparers, servers, auctioneers, ticket designers, flower arrangers, the auction donors, the bidders, the buyers, the cashier, the attenders, and everyone connected in any way to the success of the evening, we were able to raise \textdollar11,700!
Happy Birthday

to those of our church family celebrating in June:
1 Karen White
2 Ed Caster, Erica Underland
3 Duncan Barnes, Holland Barnes, Bob Gayler, James Thorne, Angie Wasylak
5 Tom Gordon, Laura Headley
6 Piper A’Hern, Jackson Davis, Drew Landgren
7 Anna Mae Frederick, Lani Sinfield
8 Annette Beachler, Christen Bradley
9 Lynne A’Hern
10 John Thorne
12 Genevieve Schuh
13 Jeanne Achuff, Grace Hayes, James Topper
14 Lorraine K. Foley, David Haile, Richard Hall, Thomas Lynn
15 Kitty Allen
17 Hailey Benson-Williams
19 Susan Hennighausen, James Pflaum, Chelsea White
21 Joyce McKissick, Kwesi Turkson, Carl Weber
22 Susan Schumacher
23 Chelsea Doak
24 Emma Draper
26 Diane Chambers, Maggie McGrath, Lois Wellener, Marie Yeh
27 Corey Schmidt
28 Sharon King, David Klindienst
29 Judson Arnold, Sarah Guth
30 Robert Murray

On May 13, 2018 we welcomed Kent Grasso and Casey Humbyrd into membership. Their daughters, Julia Helen and Eleanor Rose, were also baptized in the service that morning.

Within the Family at Grace

WEDDINGS
Kacey Mullan and Philip Thomas
May 12, 2018

Katie Schumacher and Bryce Arens
May 5, 2018

CONFIRMATION

James Topper, Jack Grandsire and Jeremy Hickey, after the Sacrament of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation were received into membership on Sunday, April 22. We are proud of these young men and congratulate them on this milestone achievement on their faith journey.

Short-term study groups are being offered in June and July this summer. Along with its slower pace, summer is a great time to engage in conversations that matter and deepen one’s faith.

During June, beginning June 5, a group will form to continue the Lenten conversation about race. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. and utilize a video series created by the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race. The video tackles such subjects as the United States’ continued struggle on race relations, recognizing and responding to white privilege, and engaging in fruitful dialogue across racial divides.

Our July group will be a Bible Study, meeting Thursday mornings.

Childcare is available for both groups, as needed.
On Saturday, June 16, members from the Baltimore United Methodist Reconciling Congregations will once again march as a group within the Faith Communities of Baltimore delegation. Last year, there were 20 members from five United Methodist Churches, and we were part of the Faith Communities of Baltimore group of 300 members representing 27 congregations. What an exciting time it was to be part of such a large group of congregations that support the LGBTQ community.

The Grace Reconciling Committee members invite you to come out and march in the parade. The parade will start at 1:00 p.m. at 33rd and Charles Streets and continue south on Charles to 23rd Street. Those participating in the parade are asked to be in place by 12:30 p.m. We will have rainbow flags and beads to pass out to those watching the parade.

On Sunday, June 17, the Pride Festival moves to Druid Hill Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Baltimore Reconciling Congregations will have table space for handing out our congregation information within the Faith Community of Baltimore tents. Come on out for a few hours in the park. There are many displays, crafts, food and entertainment for the entire family. If you can volunteer for an hour or so at our display table, that would be most helpful.

You are encouraged to participate in the activities of Pride Weekend and show your support for the LGBTQ community. If you have any questions contact George Kahl at the church office 410-433-6650. George is the contact person between Grace and the Faith Communities of Baltimore. We look forward to seeing you at Baltimore Pride.

---

**Flowers for Fathers**

*Remember your Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Uncle and special friends*

I/We wish to purchase ______ flower(s) ($2.00 each) to be placed in the Chancel for Father’s Day, June 17, 2018.

Proceeds will benefit our Vacation Bible School.

All orders must be placed by Monday, June 11

IN HONOR OF

________________________________________

IN MEMORY OF

________________________________________

PURCHASED BY

________________________________________

ENVELOPE NO: ________________________ TOTAL: ___________________________
SPECIAL GIFTS
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts to the Fellowship Hall Renovation Campaign in memory of Chris McCullough and Amy McCullough’s fathers Gwen Wayson John Workman by Maureen and Jack Danz

Thanks to our Reading Partners

The school year has come to an end for the Grace Church tutors working through Reading Partners. This program is so rewarding for the volunteers and the students. The students are always happy to welcome their volunteer teachers.

This year we would like to thank the following who offered time for teaching: alphabetically, Maureen and Jack Danz, Debbie English, Dick Frank, Amanda Graham, Wilma Starkey, Holly Troyer and Diane Van Scriver.

Grace Church has been supporting Reading Partners for three years and hopefully will continue through the 2018-2019 school year. Consider joining us in September.

Maureen Danz

A note of thanks
Marilyn Workman and family extend our deepest thanks for the prayers and concern shared during John’s illness and death. From the prayer shawl which he used and felt wrapped in love, the numerous cards he showed off to visitors, the ministers’ visitations, he knew that Grace Church and its members cared for him.

Following his passing, your continued care for me has been heartwarming and uplifting.

Thanks for all of your support during this difficult time.

Peace to you my friends,

Marilyn Workman

These are architectural renderings of proposed designs for Grace Church to be built here on the corner of Charles Street at Belvedere Ave. The top one is dated 1929 and was rejected because of the Depression and cost. The one just below is from 1946. It, too, was not accepted. The sketch at the bottom from 1948 was ultimately the one chosen and constructed, ready for worship in 1951.
Social Justice Committee: refugee support project?

Grace’s Mission Outreach Committee, together with the newly formed Social Justice Committee, arranged for an informational meeting with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to explore options on how Grace could become more involved in providing refugee support - especially for refugee families in the Baltimore area. The meeting was held on March 11 at Grace and was attended by more than 20 Grace members and guests.

We had very active discussions that extended beyond the regular presentation time; there was strong interest in supporting the IRC “Family Mentorship” program where a group of church members commits to supporting a refugee family for at least six months as it gets settled in the Baltimore area. The focus of the activities would be to assist with English proficiency, socialization and community integration.

As the next step, we have scheduled a Family Mentor Training with the IRC on May 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the church during which congregation members are matched with refugees who have recently arrived here to help with their adjustment to a new country. Some of the ways we could help might include taking them grocery shopping, get an ID at the MVA, get a library card and how to use the library, how to use public transportation, share culture and cooking. Training is required for participation in this ministry. They would very much like to invite anyone interested to join them that evening. Should you want more information, please speak with Rev. McCullough or Thomas Gaeng.

Need wi-fi at church?
Grace has installed additional wi-fi sources for those who would like access while in the church facilities. Here is the list of wi-fi networks available to you.

- netgear80: gracechurch5407
- graceguest: graceum1951
- gracefh: sound&lights
- Grace Sanctuary: lifthighthecross
- Grace Parlor: @coffebreak

Sitting pretty!
Have you noticed the newly upholstered chair in the Family Room next to the Sacristy? With thanks to Cynthia MacKinnon of Revitalized Upholstery, the chair has gone from threadbare to luxurious velvet! Cynthia came to us highly recommended when our Altar cloths were in need of very precise alterations. She corrected our issues and worked around the liturgical calendar. When it was time for the chair to be renewed, Cynthia was our first choice to call upon. We highly recommend her, so if you would like to contact her, call 410-292-6388, and tell her you are from Grace Church!

BOOK CLUB
The book for the June 11 meeting of the Grace Book Club is Jessica Shattuck’s The Women in the Castle. This gathering is a special one in that the members will be having a covered dish dinner before the discussion. They are also collecting gently-used books and new toys to share with the children, toddler to age 18, at the Govans playground this summer.

For July, they will be reading Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate. They meet at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

JUNE 25-29
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
$50 per child  Ages 3-10
*extra charge for extended day
For information or to volunteer, contact Trisha Wetzelberger, 410-433-6650 or trisha@graceunitedmethodist.org
GEDCO writes on “building caring and compassionate communities”

I want to thank you for your incredible role in changing the lives of GEDCO’s residents and clients throughout the past year. Your unwavering devotion to our organization’s mission and programs, which include Homeless and Supportive Services, Senior Services, Community Services, and Real Estate Development, continues to be a major driving force in GEDCO’s success. Last year GEDCO provided permanent housing and supportive services to more than 530 of our neighbors in need. From April 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, GEDCO’s Community Services division accomplished the following:

- Responded to 3,357 requests for food assistance, helping 2,439 individuals
- Prevented utility turnoffs and restored power for 523 households
- Prevented 97 evictions
- Provided prescription medication assistance to 95 households
- Prepared resumes for 166 job-seeking clients, thus helping 143 individuals procure employment

GEDCO was able to generate these impressive results largely due to the unrestricted financial donations from individuals like YOU. . . .

Monday, June 18 through Friday, August 24
Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Friday
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.