Down the brick road to our history

As part of our year-long celebration of Grace United Methodist Church’s 150th Anniversary, we decided to create a memento for each church family, a commemorative brick with a stenciled church steeple. Ed and Bonnie Caster spearheaded this project and were lucky enough to find a man online who happily made the stencil for us, paying great attention to detail. The bricks themselves came from a local supply company with a connection to our church’s original bricks from the 1951 construction. The bricks were made available to those who participated in the April 8 “Day of Service” and will be offered at other celebratory events this year. The Casters said “The hauling of 220 bricks and the hours of painting made handling them to members and friends worth the trouble.

Most all of the bricks were imperfect in one way or another, but once joined together, they build a very strong church!”

11th Annual Grace Gala & Auction

Plan to attend this year’s annual, festive and fun event! Will you be the highest bidder for some amazing items at this year’s auction? Feel free to dress up and join your friends for an evening of witty commentary and hors d'oeuvres, as well as both silent and live auctions.

The fun is for a good cause. All proceeds go towards our mission-outreach efforts, specifically our weekend backpack program, which by the end of this school year is expected to have given away 49,000 pounds of food since the effort began in 2016.

Be a part of something good for the city and good for your soul, and don’t miss your chance on some great seats at Camden Yards, handcrafted items, and so much more.

The 11th Annual Gala takes place in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, May 6, at 5:00 pm. Cocktail party attire. Tickets are available for purchase in advance at $20 each. Make it an event to be proud of! [Photo is of last year’s wonderful event]
An invitation to Ordination Service from Rev. McSavaney

With a mixture of disbelief and gratitude, I am excited to invite any who are interested to support me on Thursday, May 31, at 7 p.m., during the Service of Ordination at this year’s Annual Conference Session, which will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, located at 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

It is my understanding that the service is a long one, so my son Walker will not be in attendance. But it will be incredibly meaningful for me, as it signifies the Church’s confidence in me to serve God faithfully as a pastor. The high point of the evening comes when Bishop LaTrelle Easterling lays her hands on the ordinands and commands them to, in words both archaic and humbling, “take authority” to preach good news, administer the sacraments, and put to order the life of the faith community for service to God in the world. With me will stand my sponsors, Rev. Donna Claycomb Sokol, the pastor of the church of which I was a member before serving on church staffs myself, and Rev. Nancy Webb, who has been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration these past several years.

I am overjoyed at the thought of this moment, and I invite you to witness it, as the congregation which saw me grow so much these past four years. I cannot thank you enough, and I will never forget the love and trust you showed me.

Rev. James McSavaney

Preaching and Worship
May 6
RECONCILING SUNDAY
Rev. Roberta Scoville, guest preacher
May 13
Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
May 20
PENTECOST
Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
May 27
Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
June 3
COMMUNION
Rev. James McSavaney will lead the service

SPECIAL GIFTS
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts to
THE MUSIC FUND by
Judy and John Gillan
Diana Gause in memory of Charles “Bill” Klein
THE ORGAN FUND by
Whitney Simmons in memory of Ted Beach, Jr.
THE CONCERT FUND by
Bruce R. Eicher

Within the Family at Grace

Charlotte Benfer, Carolyn’s granddaughter, is a member of the Glenelg (Howard County) High School Dance Team. The team was named Grand Champion at the Mid-Atlantic Pom and Dance Association State Championship which was held in March on the University of Maryland College Park campus. Charlotte, who is a freshman at Glenelg, is one of 14 members on the team. This was the first time the Glenelg team swept all of their categories at the event, and their coach, Terry Newsome, said, “This will be an event for the entire dance team to remember forever.”

Marcia Gleckler proudly gathered with other family and friends on April 6 for her son Robert’s promotion to Colonel in the U.S. Army. The ceremony took place in historic Roosevelt Hall, home of the National War College at Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

Rotational Sunday School will celebrate its last day of the year at the June 3rd 10:00 a.m. service. All children and their parents are asked to join us in worship.

Summer Sunday School will begin the following week, June 10.

Children’s Summer Sunday starts in worship each Sunday for a Children’s Moment with the pastor and then the children gather as a large group for fun activities in the Art & Soul room.

Please consider volunteering to be extra hands one or more Sundays throughout the summer. Contact Trisha if you are interested.
Carnations for Mother’s Day

Remember your Mother, Grandmother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, and special friends by placing a carnation in the Chancel.
Proceeds will benefit Grace’s Vacation Bible School ministry.

I/We wish to purchase _____ carnations ($2.00 each) to be placed in the Chancel Mother’s Day, May 13, 2018

In Honor of

________________________________________________________________________________________

In Memory of

______________________________________________________________________________________

Purchased by

______________________________________________________________________________________

Total enclosed $ ________________   Envelope No. ____________________

All orders must be placed by Monday, May 7, 2018

MUSIC AT GRACE presents

20th Annual Marathon of French Organ Music

SUNDAY, MAY 20  2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Come and hear organ works from the great French repertoire played on the magnificent five manual Moeller pipe organ in our sanctuary! The organists, playing on the half-hour, will speak briefly about their selections before they perform. Come and go as your schedule permits. Hope to see you here!

2:00 p.m.  Mi Zhou
Peabody Conservatory Master’s degree student

2:30 p.m.  Jordan Prescott
Peabody Conservatory Master’s degree student

3:00 p.m.  William Wisnom
Peabody Conservatory Master’s degree graduate

3:30 p.m.  Katie El-Diwany
Organist, Old St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Baltimore

4:00 p.m.  Mary Hamlin-Spencer
Organist/Director of Music, Epiphany Episcopal Church, Timonium

4:30 p.m.  Daniel Aune
Director of Music/Organist, Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore
Organ Faculty, Peabody Conservatory; Dean, Baltimore Chapter AGO

5:00 p.m.  Chris Schroeder
Minister of Music/Organist, Grace United Methodist Church

5:30 p.m.  Bruce Eicher
Director of Music/Organist Emeritus, Grace United Methodist Church
Birthday Greetings
Heartiest congratulations to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in May.
1  Ashby Heath
2  Elizabeth D. White
3  Robert Graziosi
4  Robert McIntire
5  Laura Bowers, Garrett McGuire
6  Tanya Spedalere
7  Jack Bayne, Charles Chery-Hise, Addie McGuire, Mason Paul, Molly Thorne
8  Avery Heath, Isabella Zimmerman
9  David Doub, Elizabeth Madsen, Kristin Turner
10 Chayla Rowley, Nancy Seitz, Dorothy Shindle, Zachary Wyatt
11 Luke Friar, Chris Murray
12 Ella Berzins, Steve James, Ellyse Wiseman
13 Kevin Shaner
14 Charlotte Benfer, Christine Bowers, Chloe Canter, Lisa Greenhouse
15 Katie Schumacher, Marguerite Stucki
16 Daniel Hanley, Virginia Jeffrey, Lauren Simmons
17 Michelle Fields, George A. Kahl, Charles Maxwell
18 Clarke Bowers, Chris James, Kristen McGuire
19 Delight Scouten, Sue Williams
20 Megan Green
21 Ethan Hayes, Kathryn Mullan
22 Nancy Gibson, Neva Roth
23 Susan Baukhages, Alexander Gilmore
24 Katarrina Gause, Taren Weidner
25 Michael Paul, Whitney Paul
26 Meredith Bickham, Gwen Farrugia, Jeanne Gayler, Sandy Kick
27 Stephen Howe, Levi Plitt, Wilma Sutton
28 Stephen McIntire
29 Sean Casey, Carole Redline, Sue Rinker, Jeaneen Wingate, Elizabeth Winship

Like to read?
The Book Group invites those who enjoy reading and then joining with others to discuss the book to come on second Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. to the Parlor. The selection for next month is:
May 14 - Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane by Lisa See. This is a change from last month’s announcement.

Dr. Ann Kaiser Stearns to give workshop
On Saturday, May 12, Grace is pleased to present a half-day workshop addressing issues of aging and providing care to an aging loved one, led by Dr. Ann Kaiser Stearns.
Drawing from her newest book, Redefining Aging: A Caregiver’s Guide to Living Your Best Life, Dr. Stearns will speak about successful aging from two perspectives. For the first portion of the morning, she will help us identify and resist aging stereotypes, reduce risk factors for Alzheimers, and distinguish between normal aging and early signs of dementia. After a break, the second portion of the morning would look at the skills needed for caring for an aging loved one, including insights into the challenges of such care and how to develop needed problem-solving skills.
The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and is open to all. There is no charge. We hope you will join us.

LATE SUMMER WORSHIP
From August through Labor Day Sunday, we will have a single service of worship at 10:00 a.m.

If you or someone you know is graduating this spring, please let us know so that we might recognize this achievement in a future issue of Grace Notes. Be sure to give us the name, what school and degree, any special honors, and any plans for future education. Send the information to kitty.allen@verizon.net or to the Church Office. Our next deadline is May 10.
A day of service

SUNDAY, APRIL 8th

As we mark our 150th anniversary of Grace Church, we celebrate as a church in the City of Baltimore by serving others.

* We packaged bagged dinners for the Weinberg Housing & Shelter Center
* We assembled fleece blankets for Manna House and Healthcare for the Homeless
* We assembled toiletry bags for the Ronald McDonald House
* We packed school kits for UMCOR
* We made birthday cards for Moveable Feast Clients
* We filled backpacks for weekend meals as we do every Sunday

How wonderful to see so many children, youth and adults lend a hand to these ministries!
VBS Rolling River Rampage invites children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories will help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace! Wildlife Adventures will be a part of the VBS event. Each day a different animal will share in the Bible experiences. Children will have an up close and personal opportunity with some of God's amazing creatures!

DATES: June 25 - June 29. TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon AGES: 3 to 10.
Older children are encouraged to volunteer. Registration has begun.
Please return the registration form and payment of $50 per child to the church office.
Extended day is offered 12:00-4:00 for an additional cost. For information or to volunteer, please contact Trisha Wetzelberger at 410-433-6650 or trisha@graceunitedmethodist.org

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Vacation Theatre School
VTS is Here Again! Date August 20-24, Time 9:00-3:00.
Join us for a week of drama! Ages 5 and UP! Come join us! Throughout the week we will prepare to put on a play for Friday night! We will work on learning lines, painting and setting the stage, practicing with microphones, and everything that goes on behind the scenes to put on a play, all with time for theatre games!
Friday night, the play starts at 6:30pm. Children will stay all day to prepare!
There will be a potluck dinner before the play for families. Questions? Please contact Trisha Wetzelberger -- trisha@graceunitedmethodist.org or Samantha Southern -- samantha.southern@gmail.com

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There are still several active Grace members who previously were members of North Baltimore Methodist Protestant Church on the corner of Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road. This location was sold to the Church of the Brethren when we moved to our current location in 1951. It was sold again in 1987 to become North Baltimore Mennonite Church.
Book Club expanding love of books to others

The Grace Book Club is doing something new for next month. On June 11, they will have a covered dish supper before the book discussion. This will be a “fun time” to talk and enjoy each other’s company. They will also at this time be collecting books, art supplies and small toys for the children that Grace Church feeds for dinner during the summer at Govans playground.

The books should be good condition used books and new toys for children toddler to 18 years old (mostly elementary school age). Grace has been participating in this summer meal program for two years and it is very worthwhile. Maureen Danz suggests that when members are in Dollar Tree or Five & Below that they pick up a few things for the “grab box.”

SUNDAY, MAY 6th
8th Anniversary of our becoming a Reconciling Congregation
Rev. Dr. Roberta Scoville is our guest preacher

Roberta was the Associate Pastor at Grace 1986-1990.

Let’s give her a warm welcome as she returns to Grace