

United Methodist Church of Savage

# The Messenger

SUMC....the place to be!

June/July 2009



**The United  
Methodist  
Church of  
Savage**

**Church:**

9050 Baltimore Street  
Savage, Maryland 20763

**Church Office:**

Faith & Ministry Center  
9032 Baltimore Street  
Savage, Maryland 20763

**Office Hours:**

Monday -Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Worship Times through June 28, 2009:**

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

**Worship Times beginning July 5, 2009:**

Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

**Church Contact Information**

Phone: (301) 725-7630

Fax: (301) 725-4986

sumc@iloveyoulord.com

**Website Address:**

<http://www.gbgn-umc.org/savageumc/>

**Pastor:**

Richard B. Craig/Douglas E. Fox

**Church Secretary:**

Sharon Brown

**Newsletter Editor:**

Pam Mullay

**Our mission statement:**

*Our purpose is to introduce people to Jesus Christ, to mature them as Christians, to teach and empower them for ministry in the church, and to support them as they do evangelism and mission in the world.*



As I weed through papers and books in the pastor's study I find reminder after reminder of the things we've done together these past five years. Minutes of meetings, programs, bulletins, pictures and children's message props have released a flood of memories. I'm also finding choir music that I have to walk back over to the choir room.

The things that impressed me most about this church upon arrival are still the things that impress me most as I prepare to leave—your program reaches out to and involves people of all ages. Your young people have a greater comfort level in their participation than any other church I've served.

I commented upon the above observations to Bob Vollmerhausen early on and asked what he thought explained them. He immediately suggested that it was the strength of the Sunday School that made it possible for the overall program to be so successful. I believed Bob was right then and still believe he had it right now.

I'd like to close this article with a suggestion and a request.

The suggestion is: Find a way to incorporate the murals in the Faith and Ministry Center and the church basement on the church website. The request is: Does someone have a good picture of the confirmation class we received into membership last year? Somehow, I did not receive one and I'd like to take one with me.

Peggy and I look forward to coming back to visit after you've had your first year with your new pastor. Thank you for all the blessings we have shared.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Craig

I'm looking forward to working among you as your pastor. My first Sunday service and sermon will be July 5 at 10:30 a.m. I'll preach on "Roles & Rules for Mission," from the Mark 6:1-13 lectionary reading. Jesus was "not recognized as a prophet among his hometown folks" because his role as a carpenter's son was too well known. Jesus then sent out the 12 and "gave them authority over the unclean spirits." The disciples were told to follow specific rules in their ministry for proclaiming salvation, anointing and curing.

Our new cooperative parish will change some of the "roles and rules" that we have been working with at both congregations. Please offer Christian patience in changing some of our well-worn roles and hold true to a clear vision for our Christian ministry as United Methodist churches.

"Thank you for all that you have done at Savage UMC" and for your kind preparation for me becoming your pastor. I am available through the church offices, my cell phone 410-294-2818 and my home 301-596-3214. My personal email is [umcmdcity@aol.com](mailto:umcmdcity@aol.com). I've asked Savage UMC to organize "get to know the new minister" meetings to be scheduled weekly in members' homes this summer. You're all invited to a Potluck Picnic Lunch on June 28 at 11:30 a.m. at Community UMC, 300 Brock Bridge Rd., Laurel, MD 20724.

I ask to be called "Douglas." I moved to Columbia, Md., when I became Community UMC's pastor in July 2007. I am single and have two grown sons. My son Neal and his wife Darline, also of Columbia, have two sons and a new baby expected July 5<sup>th</sup>. My other son, Joel, and his wife, Debbie, and her daughters live in Lancaster, Pa. I grew up in rural New York State's Finger Lake Region, the fourth of five children. I moved to the Baltimore area in 1984, from North Carolina. This is my 36<sup>th</sup> year serving as a United Methodist pastor.

Yours in Christ,  
Douglas E. Fox



**Annual Strawberry Festival**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2009**  
**GREAT FOOD, GAMES AND FUN!**

**11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

**Help is needed everywhere, inside and out!**

Plan on spending a portion of your day helping out the church for this annual fundraiser. The youth group will be running games and selling food outside, in addition to directing parking in the lot behind the Faith and Ministry Center. Inside the church, it will be buzzing with customers and help is needed serving, cleaning tables in between customers and selling bake sale items. Consider volunteering to help with the cleanup starting at 6 p.m. If you are busy on Saturday and cannot attend, consider dropping off an item for the bake sale. The doors will also be open on Friday, June 5, for those who can help with the prep work. As always, many hands make for a lighter load!



### **Dugout News...**

This season of softball in the Saturday night church league has exceeded all expectations. There have been many contributing factors.

First, the weather. We have not been rained out once this year. Second, there aren't any teams in the league stocked with bruno players that beat up on everyone. Third, fellowship, fellowship, fellowship. We've enjoyed playing with each other and getting to know the other teams. We've had some really fun games, joking around with the other players. Fourth, we have a nice age range of players, from teenagers to 40+ years. Fifth, we actually have a winning record of 9 wins and only 1 loss. And lastly, we have a dedicated coach, Randy Oxenrider. He keeps in touch with us through email and has to organize who's coming each week. He makes up all the lineups and does most of the umping, when he's not batting.

We've got some bum knees, pulled hamstrings, popped shoulders, and other ailments, but we always seem to keep each other going. We also appreciate our few fans each week. The Smiths, the Vollmerhausens (plus baby Noah) and the Harrelsons. There are still a few games left. Come see what fun you are missing!



*Nancy White*

### **Camp Hope...**

We have a great group of youth and adults attending Camp Hope this year. The youth attending are Sierra Brown, Allie Duchon, Holly Fieni, Michael Haugh, Devon Humburg, Caitlin Reese, Kimmie Stewart, Paige Stout, Ariel Wehland and Ricky Wise. Our dedicated adult counselors this year are: Rich Erdman, Fred Wehland and Cami Wise. There is still an opening for any SUMC adult looking for an inspiring time. The group will travel to Frostburg, Md. during the week of July 19 and will work on projects included painting, paneling, building stairs, front porch deck work and siding. The projects vary by the needs of the community each year.

To raise funds to send everyone to Camp Hope, the team is hosting a yard sale on the church grounds from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. Donations for the yard sale can be dropped off at the church from June 7 through Friday, June 12, and placed on the stage.

Tables can be reserved for \$15 per table. See Molly for table reservations.



*Molly Gordon*



## Junior (and Senior) Youth Group Happenings...

*The Junior Youth Group* has been busy over the past few months. In March, they hit it big (with the help of the Senior Youth Group) with the first Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.



With more than 133 people attending, it was a great community event, and we look forward to doing it next year! April found the group just having fun at Brunswick Lanes in Columbia. We had a small but fun group and enjoyed bowling and eating pizza!

May found us flying high at Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park in Elysburg, Pa. There were 13 people on the trip including myself, Jim



Mullay, Erin Holdridge and Toni Vollmerhausen as the brave chaperones. The youth group members included Holly and Sierra Brown, Ryan Carter, Devin Humburg, Tara Iraola, Kelly McCulley, Killian Mullay, Jesse Rocco and Megan Sliter. June will keep us busy with the Strawberry Festival. This is the first year the youth group will be selling refillable water bottles with a Strawberry Festival logo on them. We will also be running outdoor games including Pick-A-Pop, Duck Pond and Tattoos.

Our first meeting in the fall will be in the Faith and Ministry Center from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20. Students in grades 5 through 8 are invited to attend.

*Pam Mullay*

## Calendar of Picnic Events...

The Junior and Senior Youth Group end of year picnic will be held from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at the Faith and Ministry Center. The youth group will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. Everyone attending should bring a dish to share. Youth group families are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Pam Mullay by June 10 if you will be attending.

June 21 will be the last day Pastor Craig will preach at our church. In appreciation for his contributions to our church, we will be holding a luncheon after the service. Please bring a dish to share.

The Community Cooperative Parish  
(**Community United Methodist Church**  
+ **Savage United Methodist Church**)  
Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 28 directly after our service at Community United Methodist Church, 300 Brock Bridge Rd., Laurel. Please bring a dish to share and come out and share fellowship with the members of CUMC.



## Cooperative Parish Vacation Bible School

6-8 p.m., August 2-7

Community UMC, 300 Brock Bridge Rd.,  
Laurel, MD 20724 301-725-4918

Wanted: Extreme adventurers ready to trek to the E.D.G.E.—experiencing and discovering God everywhere! Children ages 4 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Would you like to spend a whole week this summer camping on the edge, complete with extreme adventures, exciting challenges, great music, and hours of fun?

Sign up for a Vacation Bible School leadership role and join in an incredible week of adventure and growing in God's love at Camp E.D.G.E.: EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE! We are looking forward to having a great time.

**Current Needs:** We desperately need butcher paper (green, brown, dark blue, light blue, black & white). If anyone can donate any butcher paper or if you are interested in helping out with Vacation Bible School, please contact Kimberly at 443-742-5493.



## Sunday School News ...

Did you know that Adult Sunday School classes are held every Sunday before the church service? Led by Jim Tolliver, Adult Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. and runs through 9:40 a.m. Beginning July 6, the time will change from 9:30-10:10 a.m.

Middle and High School Sunday School will end on Sunday, June 14. The elementary school classes will continue to be held throughout the summer. As always, please remember the Sunday school teachers when we hold communion.

We are in **need** of a preschool Sunday School teacher to help out John and Sheri Vollmerhausen. If you are interested in working with children from preschool through first grade, please contact Jim Tolliver. Remember that children are the future of our church!



## Why I like SUMC ...

I like SUMC because when you are in fifth grade you get to be in youth group. When you are in youth group, you work to earn money for the church. I think it is the most fun because we all get to help out with the Strawberry Festival.

One special person I will not forget is Pastor Craig. He is so nice and caring. I just know we all are going to miss him a lot. He is one of the people who makes SUMC fun.

I also think it's fun because the youth group, along with the Senior Youth Group, go on trips like we just did. We went to Knoebel's Grove in Elysburg, Pa. We all got to go on fun rides, buy souvenirs and eat some good food. That was an awesome trip!

Lastly, I like SUMC because it is a fun church. I am so glad my family goes to this church, and I hope that this church stays forever.

*Killian Mullan*

## Where are they now?

Outside of my full-time job, I work on the camera crew for the Bowie Baysox. My friend and fellow film school graduate, Umar Shakir, and I started a production company, BroShak Studios ([www.broshakstudios.com](http://www.broshakstudios.com)).

Currently we shoot and produce wedding videos and are hoping to get into advertising and some other production avenues. I also do freelance work ([www.timbrosius.com](http://www.timbrosius.com)) outside of those jobs, which includes video production, animation, illustration, web design and graphic design for really whatever it is my clients need. In my scant spare time I enjoy illustrating, making movies, watching movies (zombie movies, of course, have a special place in my heart), practicing special effects, and collaborating with my long time buddy Kevin Oxenrider to produce a nature documentary series.

I love to tell stories and currently have five scripts I am working on with the intent of bringing to production as shorts. I also enjoy being really active and play tennis, football, volleyball, lift weights, run (very fast), all while training for the Marine Corps Marathon coming up this October. Oh yeah, and nobody in the world can beat me in Wii Sports Tennis. I have never lost. Yes, that is an open challenge.

Tim Brosius



**Tim Brosius**

2008 Graduate of University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Major in Film/Video Animation, Minor in Art History  
Lead Production Specialist, VueCare Media

### *My favorite SUMC memory:*

Spaghetti Dinner probably about 10 years ago or more. Here's how it happened...

*INTERIOR - SUMC, SOCIAL HALL - EVENING, PRESENT-* The room is tactlessly decorated with a tropical theme. Wearing their most vibrant Hawaiian shirts and tropical flower leis, the audience quietly awaits the opening of the stage curtains.

The mood is *QUEUE THE MUSIC - KOKOMO BY THE BEACH BOYS* The curtains open to reveal lovely hula dancers gracefully moving to the music. Then, abruptly and without warning as the song reaches the chorus, the youth group counselor men push their way to the front of the stage wearing hopefully more than just the grass skirts and coconut bras that are visible to the audience.

A chorus of laughter, awe, and shock erupts from the audience as this scene becomes engrained in a poor child's mind. *THE END*

(But seriously, that was hilarious. Good times!)



Change is always a struggle. It takes a while to get used to change. The first time my family and I came to our church was on Christmas Eve. After the service, Pastor Craig introduced himself and asked our names. He welcomed us and said he hoped to see us again. Two weeks later, we attended the Sunday service. In the narthex when we were shaking hands with Pastor Craig, he remembered all of our names and was happy to see us in church. After that we started attending church regularly. It took us a while to get used to the change in our schedules by adding "church" to our weekly lives, but eventually we did.

Over the years we have become more involved with the church and there have been moments of great joy and great hardship in our lives. Through it all, Pastor Craig and our church family have been there for us.

Pastor Craig has made us laugh and cry in his sermons. His children's messages have inspired us to look towards our youth as the future of our church and inspired my husband and I to take over the junior youth group. It will be hard for me personally to see someone else take over his role in our church. I know that many of you have gone through pastoral changes in the past so this is not a major change for you. But for me, this is my first pastoral change and I believe that Pastor Craig has set the bar very high.

I look forward to welcoming Pastor Fox to our church and I welcome the changes that will take place in our church over the coming year. I hope our church handles all of the changes with grace and looks to God for any help we may need with the dealing with the changes.

God bless!

*Pam Mulla*

## Bring the world in! Host an exchange student next year!

PAX-Program of Academic Exchange ([www.pax.org](http://www.pax.org)), is currently seeking families interested in hosting an international student for the upcoming academic year. Students are chosen to participate in the program based on their academic ability, maturity level and English skills. They also come with monthly spending money, health insurance and an active coordinator.

Host families play an important role in exposing the students to firsthand knowledge of concepts, such as volunteerism and community action. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, and do not need to have children in the local high school. For more information, please contact Nicole Hark at 803-479-0275 or [nicolemodeen@gmail.com](mailto:nicolemodeen@gmail.com).



## Lay Ministry News

In early May, I completed an advanced lay speaking course given by the Annapolis District of the Baltimore Washington Conference (BWC). With completion of this

course, I am now a certified lay speaker within the BWC.

Additionally, just a few weeks ago, Shawn Vollmerhausen and I completed the third of four modules (each six weeks long) on the path to becoming Certified Lay Ministers within the BWC.

We have one more module to complete in the early fall. This will be followed by an interview with the District Board of Ordained Ministry. Assuming both are completed successfully, we should be certified as lay ministers before the end of the year.

Jim Tolliver



**DON'T TAKE A  
VACATION  
FROM CHURCH**

While on vacation this summer, don't forget to mail in your offerings. With all of the improvements the church is working on, each offering is needed and greatly appreciated.

Also while on vacation, if you attend another Methodist church, please bring back a copy of their church bulletin. It is always interesting to see what other churches are doing, and it may give us some new ideas for fundraising and other church events.



A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Joy Kennedy Horton for all of her hard work over the years with the newsletter. We appreciate her dedication to the church.



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savageumc/](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/savageumc/)



Do you have an idea for something new to do in the church? Do you want to volunteer to take over and start up Vacation Bible School or be part of a committee?

We need everyone's help if our church is going to grow and prosper. Please consider what you can do and how much time you can devote to our church. Please contact a member of the administrative council with any new ideas or for more information about volunteering within the church.

## BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY...

**Here is how EVERYONE** can help out, in addition to volunteering time to this local outreach project:

On the first Sunday of each month, bring in a non-perishable food or personal item.

Donate \$2.00 each month to help seniors in need.



The Nurture and Growth Committee collects for the food pantry the first Sunday of every month.

## Work Wednesdays...

Over the next few months, we will doing more repairs and a thorough cleaning of the church both inside and out.

Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. we will conduct a work day to help get through the long list of things that need to be taken care of throughout the church. Consider volunteering your services to help out.

Contact Dennis Brown at [browndw@verizon.net](mailto:browndw@verizon.net) for more information.



The **deadline** for the August/September newsletter is July 15. Send anything you want included (announcements, photos, etc.) to [pam.mullay@verizon.net](mailto:pam.mullay@verizon.net). Moving forward, we are trying to reduce the amount of copying in conjunction with the newsletter. Email me if you want your newsletter emailed to you.