



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ JUNE 2015

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Mayor Beers, the entire Council, and the Town Clerk were in attendance at the Town Council Meeting on May 11, 2015. The meeting started with the Mayor swearing in new Council Member Dia Costello and returning Council Member Nancy Long.

Glen Echo Park Report

Aaron LaRocca, representing Glen Echo Park and the Clara Barton House, reported on recent developments.

The 30-day public comment period for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Clara Barton Rehabilitation Project has closed. Four comments were received and substantive comments will be answered in the final EA. The EA process closes when the "Finding of No Significant Impact" is signed by the Park Service Regional Director. The Clara Barton House is currently scheduled to close in July and the Park Service is working

with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office to define roles and responsibilities for managing archaeological resources as the project moves forward.

The Glen Echo Park current management agreement between the Park Service and Montgomery County is set to expire in 2017. The parties have started efforts to establish a new agreement which will also involve the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture and a meeting is scheduled for late May. A public comment period for this agreement is being considered and Ms. Long stated that such a period is "essential."

Town Business

The Mayor and town attorney attended the May 6th variance hearing for the new shed at 6100 Princeton Avenue. The Town didn't take an official position due to the short notice about the meeting. Despite some admonishment from the Montgomery County Board of Appeals during the hearing, the variance was approved. The Mayor did mention that the process seems to have changed recently, which made it difficult to coordinate a formal response. In the past, a building permit approval was required before a vari-

ance could be applied for. Now, a variance can be requested without a building permit. The town attorney is drafting a letter to send to the County Council to formally protest this recent change. (For more details, see page 2.)

Parking Woes

In what seems to be an annual rite of spring, parking and traffic problems caused by Glen Echo Park events was a major topic of conversation. Family Day occurred May 2 for the opening of the carousel and its 95th season at the park. Unfortunately, a car parked on Oxford Road



Dia Costello is sworn-in by Mayor Beers.

THE ECHO

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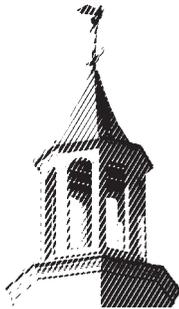
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Next Deadline: June 20, 2015

Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed.

Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Town Council Meeting: June 8, 2015, 8 PM

blocked a resident's driveway and prevented a load of mulch from being delivered. With the Washington Folk Festival event coming on May 30 and 31, the Council discussed several possibilities to improve the situation.

To start, the Mayor requested that the Park Service be more vigilant enforcing parking regulations during park events. Mr. LaRocca clarified that U.S. Park Police is responsible for enforcement, not the park interpretative and maintenance staff that typically handles park events. The U.S. Park Police are not necessarily stationed at the park during events because of their many other responsibilities. The Mayor and the Council then discussed the possibility of hiring additional Montgomery County police to enforce parking during events. Unfortunately, it's not clear if Montgomery County police can enforce

parking regulations, because the Town does not currently have post county compliant no parking signs.

Another approach to improve parking matters is to re-stripe driveways and curbs throughout town to more clearly delineate no parking areas. Council Member Stiglitz agreed to discuss with the County's parking bureau whether striped driveways would be enforced by County Police. Mayor Beers requested someone tackle the striping task, and Stacey Malmgren volunteered to get it done.

Finally, the potential for the Town to issue its own tickets was raised. The Mayor confirmed that the Town has the ability to write municipal infractions. In the past, the Town has used this approach with some success, as in most were paid and very few were contested.

—BILL VINCENT

PERMISSION TO BUILD

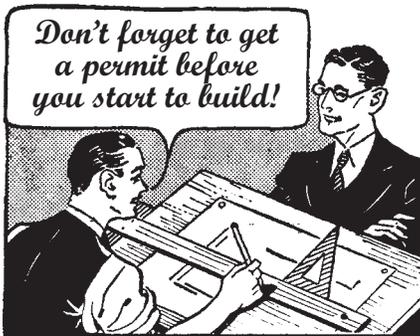
Montgomery County's Board of Appeals (BOA) met on May 6 to consider a request from the Kogelniks of 6100 Princeton Avenue for a variance from setback requirements for their already-constructed shed. The new shed does not meet the setback requirement of 5 feet from the rear and side lot lines although Robin Kogelnik

argued that the current shed, with a footprint of 6' by 10', is shorter than the 10' by 20' garage it replaced. In determining the merit of variance requests, the BOA looks for any adverse impact, the adequacy of the plan, and any extraordinary conditions. The latter test was found to have been met because so many sheds (aka "accessory structures") in

EASY BEING GREEN

Glen Echo are nonconforming, constituting an "historical pattern." (Years ago, the setback requirement was only 2 feet.)

However, the BOA Chair introduced tension into the proceedings by reminding his colleagues that the regulations also require that deviations from mandated setbacks be made out of necessity rather than being "self imposed" or for the home owner's convenience.



At that point, the Board left the room for a break, leaving the outcome in doubt. However, on their return, they voted unanimously to approve the variance. One member explained his vote by saying the deviation was not deliberately made to circumvent the rules, as evidenced by the newly constructed house being in conformance.

Mayor Debbie Beers and town attorney Norman Knopf addressed the BOA, not to oppose the Kogelnik's request but to raise concerns about the process by which the Town is informed by the County of town-related proceedings. Mayor Beers objected to

the insufficient time given to the Town to consider such cases, in view of the fact that the Town Council meets only once a month. (The County instituted a new process that consolidates two steps—building permit and variance—but, in so doing, the notification time is shortened.) More pre-notice is needed so the Town Council can decide whether to approve or disapprove the variance request. However, the BOA suggested that the Town address its procedural concerns to the County Council, the proper body for redress.

To build an accessory structure (sheds, decks, etc.),

one needs to obtain a county building permit (followed by obtaining a Town building permit). The county building permit regulations can be found at permitting-services.montgomerycountymd.gov. Another consideration for building a structure is conformance with the county's setback requirements; refer to montgomerycountymd.gov/BOA/Variance.html for an overview of that process. (Though not "accessory structures," fences and retaining walls most likely also require permits. Information on that process also can be found at the permitting services website.)

—GLORIA LEVIN

In my first column, I wrote about how our town contracts for "single-stream" recycling, which is different from the "dual stream" system used by the rest of Montgomery County. With single stream, we put all items into one container for one truck pickup, instead of separating paper products from everything else. The main reasons for using single stream are to save money on pickups and to encourage recycling by making the process easier for residents by not requiring the separation of items into two containers.

The downside is that mixing everything together makes it harder to re-separate items at the recycling drop-off facility. They use screens and fans and shakers and magnets, etc., to try to get like materials together. All the items that can't be successfully separated out (into groups like paper, plastic, glass, or metal) are referred to as the "residuals," and that material ends up going to landfills after all. So, I thought it would be helpful to have some tips about how you can put the right items in the right condition into your recycling bin to maximize useful material and minimize the residuals going to the dump.

■ No plastic bags.

Specifically, this means do not put your recyclables

into garbage bags, like you do your trash, and don't put loose plastic bags of any type into your bin. Plastic bags are the biggest problem at recycling facilities, because the bags get wrapped up and tangled with other items and make it difficult for the sorting machinery to separate things by weight or size or magnets, etc. Also, plastic bags themselves often jam the equipment and lead to shutdowns. When the recycling truck first drops its load at a facility, workers may not have time to open bags, so your bag full of recyclable items may be thrown to the side right away, with the whole bag going to the landfill! And even if the workers at the facility are able to grab and rip open the bags when they arrive, it takes extra time, and then the bags themselves end up going to the landfill. So please, save your plastic bags separately to be reused or to occasionally bring to a grocery store, which usually has collection bins for them.

■ **No liquids and food waste.** As best as you can, put only dry and empty items in your bin, since wet, organic materials can create a mess at the sorting facility and make it harder to cleanly separate materials, leading to more gooeey "residual" material. For this reason, do not

include greasy pizza boxes, paper towels with food on them, or soiled tissues.

■ **No shredded paper.** These pieces are too small to be separated out, so they just mess up the sorting process by coating other recyclables with pieces of wet paper, and can also gum up the sorting machinery.

■ **Separate lids from containers.** A container and a lid that are different materials cannot be easily separated by sorting machinery when they are screwed together. Plus, when bottles with caps are compacted, they can explode and be hazardous to workers. Also, please note that most plastic caps are not made of recyclable material, so unless you know the caps are okay for recycling, best to just throw them away in the regular trash.

■ **No scrap metal.** It can damage the recycling equipment.

■ **No hazardous or bio-hazardous materials.** Don't recycle car batteries or regular batteries, anti-freeze, pesticide containers, paint, syringes, sanitary items, diapers, etc.

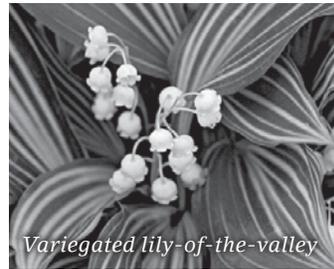
Thank you all for doing your part to make recycling more efficient. A better recycling process means more and higher quality reuseable materials that can be sold for new uses and fewer "residuals" ending up in landfills. That helps us all in the big picture. —MICKIE SIMPSON

HOLLY IN THE IVY

Gardening in the shade provides a huge opportunity to create stunning spaces with plants arranged for contrasting texture, foliage, color, and flowers. Using purple foliage can be a strategic way to get the contrast and color variation that will help create a rich and varied tapestry. For dark foliage, I suggest **Hillside Black Beauty Bugbane** (*Actaea simplex 'Hillside Black Beauty'*), a selection of one of our native woodland plants. The deep purple, almost black, foliage is dramatic through the summer in full to partial shade. It likes a bit of gentle morning sun with a moist site and can grow up to four feet when in bloom. The spikes of cream-colored flowers in late summer have been described as "luminous wands" floating in the late afternoon light offering an incredible sweet, fruity, delightful fragrance.

For contrast, the variegated **Lily-of-the-Valley** (*Convallaria majalis 'Albostriata'*) has striking, longitudinally golden/white striped leaves. The pendent, bell shaped flowers are beautifully scented. The plant is easy to grow in shade and it may revert to green leaves. If it does, just cut back the green leaves so that the variegated leaves will thrive. It is a low-growing plant, only

about 10 to 12 inches tall. Since the plant is poisonous, gardens used by children should avoid it. Lily-of-the-valley flowers are known in France as muguet and



Variegated lily-of-the-valley

are the source of excellent perfume. Flowers were also used in the wedding bouquet of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) is incredibly beautiful in a shade garden due to its dainty bright green fronds, almost black, shiny stems, and leaves in a graceful fan-like pattern. The delicate, light, airy texture makes it well suited to planting next to plants with broad leaves to achieve foliage contrast. Plants grow approximately one to two feet tall and wide. A native plant of the moist forests of Eastern North America, it prefers a rich, loose soil.

A low-growing, compact, clump-forming plant for shade is the **Sugar and Spice Foam Flower** (*Tiarella 'Sugar and Spice'*). The scalloped leaves are topped with long-lasting frosted pink blooms that are slightly fragrant. Leaves have central

veins with cinnamon-ma-
roon coloring making them quite exquisite. Plants only get 6 to 12 inches tall and wide, with blooms appearing in April or May. Cutting back the old flowers will help improve the foliage through long seasons since the plants are semi-evergreen.

Hellebores have been the rage among gardeners for a number of years. Many people agree that the best of all is Penny's Pink (*Helleborus x 'Penny's Pink'*). The stunning new leaves in spring have pinkish veined centers amid marbled silvery green leaves. The three-inch rosy pink flowers have beautiful yellow stamens on burgundy stems.



Maidenhair fern

Plants grow in solid clumps around 20 inches wide and getting up to 14 inches tall. I found plants at a recent sale at the American Horticultural Society and was thrilled to add them into a dry part of my shade garden. The plants brought the entire area to life because of their stunning foliage.

Since there are so many plant choices these days, I selected five of my favorite shade plants for your consideration in hopes that it will make it easier when you go plant shopping. —HOLLY SHIMIZU

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Every January, while my attention remains firmly focused on snow days, winter outerwear, and braising, organized parents begin diligently making summer camp plans. For the rest of us, last-minute options are the way to go. Happily, there is a bounty of options for kids of all ages right in (or near) our neighborhood. Here are a few to consider—at last check, all had space available.

Glen Echo Park is the obvious choice for young Glen Echoans. Camp options span many creative and artistic pursuits, including Irish dancing, vocal and instrumental music, studio art, and theater performance. If you're having a hard time choosing, ask some older neighbor kids—chances are they've been to camp at the park more than once.

The new Glen Echo Aquarium will occupy the old Discovery Creek space at the Stables. It won't be

fully operational until the fall but it is open on weekends now, and will offer several weeks of summer camps. The half-day camps for ages 4 to 6 and 9 to 13 focus on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, with exploration in Minnehaha Creek and live handling of marine animals. More information is at gepaquarium.org.

The Church of the Redeemer offers a secular summer music camp the week of July 27 for kids ages 7 to 14 from the parish and the local community. Kids sing, play percussion instruments, and spend time outside each day. More information is at redeembethesda.org/music/summer-music-camp/.

In the heat of summer, any camp that promises lots of cool water sounds great. Paddlestroke SUP offers stand-up paddleboard camps for kids ages 11 to 17 and meets near Old Anglers

Inn. Though the whitewater paddleboarding photo on the website may be intimidating (and terrifying to parents), the camp promises to be beginner-friendly. More information is at paddlestrokesup.com.

Calleva is like sleepaway camp, but at home. Best of all, the camp bus departs

night campout. For older kids and teens, Calleva leads intense weeks of kayaking, mountain biking, and sailing in far-flung locales (even a week of summer skiing in Chile, for those so inclined). You can search for available weeks (alas, many are already full) at calleva.org.

If you just need occasional

activities during the summer, the Clara Barton Community Center operates a drop-in program between June 22 and July 31 for ages 5 to 12. The program is a great deal—\$365 for 8 AM to 6 PM

daily for six weeks!—and promises “crafts, sports, drama, special events, games and activities [to] provide sparkle to your child's leisure hours.” Details at recweb.montgomerycountymd.gov; search for summer fun centers. —ANGELA HIRSCH, TheEchoActive@gmail.com



Paddlestroke SUP (standing up paddleboarding) for kids

from Glen Echo Park! And the bus ride is part of the fun, with silly camp songs and friendly competitions along the way. The camp offers a huge range of outdoor activities like kayaking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and canoeing. Most weeks include a one-

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THE DISH



I have a long history of trying to sidestep salads. Fancy salad mixes seem somehow more fit for the rabbit food section at the pet shop. I have nightmares about radicchio. I do, however, enjoy both iceberg and romaine lettuce, the lowliest in the salad chain. They have a sweetness absent in the others. Mark Bittman wrote a piece several years ago in *The New York Times* about using these two, the “loser lettuces,” during the winter months. His descriptions of lettuce soup and braised romaine got me brainstorming possibilities.

Now during the big grilling season, I always throw a couple of romaine hearts on the barbecue after my meats. Cut them in half lengthwise and drizzle them with olive oil and dust them with salt and pepper. Herbs or spices are totally unnecessary. They cook for a couple of minutes per side, so that the outer leaves are just scorched. The interior is sweet and tender, and the best part? It freaking tastes like meat.

The trick of **meaty greens** has become a passion of mine. Here are two other ideas for the leaf-phobic: First, serve chili (or any type of meat stew really) over salad greens. This is my number one diner order. Second, this enchanting and simple honey bacon dressing. You can dice and fry bacon to start, reserving the bacon for salad-topper, or you can dip into your jar of bacon fat from flavorful days of yore. In a small frying pan, add to the sizzling bacon fat some honey, balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper. Stir and pour over your salad. That's what I call lettuce well done! —EMILY PARSONS



NEW TO TOWN

A week after her arrival in Glen Echo, Leslie Anderson attended the April Ladies Night. There, she regaled a group of us with a recounting of her run-in with armed robbers ten years ago in a shopping mall parking lot. Confronted by four armed robbers, with a gun held to her cheek, she was infuriated that her new Coach bag was taken. Despite wearing three-inch heels (and being the mother of three small children), she ran after the teenage thieves, attempting to break the window of their get-away car with her shoe. Using the license plate number that Leslie had memorized, the police were able to arrest the miscreants. All four were sentenced to long prison terms. Although the police lectured her to NEVER repeat the heroics, she proclaims she would do it again in a heartbeat so as to prevent a recurrence for other women. Don't mess with Leslie!

She is the divorced mother of three children, two of whom (Brandon, age 16, and Danielle, age 15) live in Glen Echo and attend Whitman High School. The oldest, Matthew, a Whitman graduate, is a college freshman at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Leslie grew up in Potomac, graduated from Churchill High School and the University of Maryland (BS in international relations), and attended graduate

school at George Washington University (politics). After working for ten years, she married and left her sales career to raise her children, living near Piney Meeting House Road in Potomac. Her marriage ended after 17 years, and she and her children rented a house in the River Falls area of Potomac.



Two years later, she searched for another house rental. A runner since college, Leslie loves running on the C&O Canal so she looked around this area. She fell in love with the newly renovated 6000 Bryn Mawr house and with the quaintness of Glen Echo, so signed a lease for 18 months, when the owners are due to return from their international posting in Kenya.

A self-taught accountant, Leslie works for a management firm located in Silver Spring that owns 31 Popeyes franchises. Since her work involves preparing financial reports and spreadsheets, she is able to work from home about half time.

The younger two children are active. Brandon is a whiz (continued on page 8)

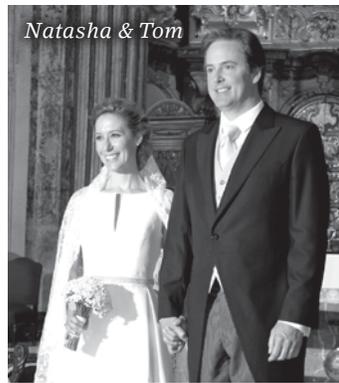
(continued from page 7)

at videography, with his own Youtube channel and many followers for his blog that critiques roller coasters (brandonblog). His learner's permit in hand, he'd like an adult in town to accompany him as he gains practice behind the wheel. Since the age of five, Danielle has competed on gymnastic dance teams in the Mid-Atlantic region, appearing in front of audiences in the thousands. Her team recently took second place in an event at the University of Maryland. She is ready to try out other sports and is available to babysit. The older brother, Matthew, graduated Whitman as an Advanced Placement Scholar, having received a score of five on at least five AP tests. He was awarded an almost full scholarship, is fluent in Mandarin, and was inducted into UCSB's honor society as a freshman. He is aiming for a career as an entrepreneur with business interests in China. He'll be working for Price Waterhouse in California this summer but will visit the new house in Glen Echo and join the family for a vacation soon.

Leslie plans to buy a small house in the area, when the rental term ends. She needs to stay near her mother, who is being cared for at a local Alzheimer facility. Her father is a semi-retired attorney and businessman, currently a bronze sculptor in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. —GLORIA LEVIN

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The election results are in! **Nancy Long** is serving another term, her 12th, and **Dia Costello** has joined the Town Council. 109 Glen Echoans voted in person this year and 5 submitted votes via absentee ballot. Dia Costello got 69 votes; Nancy Long got 57; Renny Springuel got 46; and Mark McCaffrey got 44. Thanks to all who voted and to the election judges Andy Malmgren, Joci Khalifa, Jim McGunnigle, and Susan Grigsby.



Natasha & Tom

Happy news! **Natasha Schmidt** and **Thomas Ward** of 6004 Bryn Mawr Avenue were married on April 25 in Sevilla, Spain. Many congratulations!

.....

Please welcome Glen Echo's newest newcomer! **Alice Parsons Amdur** was born on Saturday May 23 to *Echo* editor Emily Parsons and Thom Amdur of 6001 Bryn Mawr Avenue.

.....

Plans for **Glen Echo's summer picnic** are in the works. Save the date: July 12.

Howard, our dependable UPS man, reports that he delivered **free trees from Pepco** to more than a dozen houses in Glen Echo one

at the Irish Inn along with author **Alice McDermott**, her husband, and another couple. Reports say they had the shepherd's pie.

.....

If you are 55 or over, retired, or planning to retire



day in May. The program is part of a partnership between Pepco and the Arbor Day Foundation that provides 1,500 free trees to Maryland and DC customers. Thanks to a post about this on the Town listserv, Glen Echo probably got more than its fair share!

.....

On May 20, actor **Alan Alda** and his wife dined

soon, **Senior Leadership Montgomery** (SLM) is a terrific opportunity to learn about and engage with our County and to network with terrific people. You will connect with many organizations and volunteer opportunities that you might choose to pursue in the future. The program is eight months long, with fascinating field trips held



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37 Wellesley Circle

one Wednesday a month, 9:30 to 3:30, September to April (not January). Townies Gloria Levin and Phyllis Daen are active SLM graduates, participating in a number of social, volunteer, and educational programs created for alumni of the various Leadership Montgomery programs. Applications for the next class are due June 5. Details at leadershipmontgomerymd.org; examples of prior year programs are included. Gloria Levin (301-320-

5068) is happy to answer questions and sing the praises of SLM.

Real Estate Report

The new Tom Manion-designed home at 37 Wellesley Circle went on the market at the start of May. The list price is \$1,769,000, and the property has five bedrooms and six and a half bathrooms over 4,500 square feet. But you probably already knew all this, because nearly the whole neighborhood turned out for the first open house.

**THEY SAY
IT'S YOUR
BIRTHDAY!**

	June 12 Salome Castro, 14
	June 23 Renz Johnson, 13

Send your children's names and birth dates (up to age 14) to TheEchoEditor@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, AT 8 PM

Ladies night

HOLLY SHIMIZU HOSTING	301-229-3011 6101 BRYN MAWR
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GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

FSGW English Country Dance
Wednesdays, **June 3, 10, 17, 24** 8-10:30 PM
free to town residents



Glen Echo Park Activities

Dentzel Carousel \$1.25 a ride
May-August: Weds.-Fri. 10 AM-2 PM; Sat.-Sun. 12-6 PM
September: Sat.-Sun. 12-6 PM
(Carousel also open during concerts and other events.)

Free Summer Concerts

Thursdays, June 18-August 27, 7:30 PM in the Bumper Car Pavilion
June 18 Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner
June 25 David Sager's Pie in the Sky Jazz Band
July 2 Flutes on the Brink
July 9 QuinTango
July 16 Lilt, traditional Irish dance music
July 23 Only Lonesome, bluegrass
July 30 Seth Kibel Quartet
August 6 Trio Caliente, flamenco, pop, and Brazilian jazz
August 13 Terraplane, classic rock and blues
August 20 Quiles & Cloud, modern acoustic duo
August 27 U.S. Air Force Strings

Free Art Walk in the Park First Fridays, May-Sept., 6-8 PM, open studios, artist demonstrations, and refreshments

New Aquarium, open summer weekends from 9 AM-5 PM

Family Jazz Day, Sunday, July 19, 3-7 PM in the bumper car pavilion

The Puppet Co.

www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

Cinderella, May 7-June 21

Snow White and the 7 Dwarves, June 25-August 9

Tiny Tots, select Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 10AM

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THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

■ SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Adult Forum and Bible Study	9:15 a.m.
Nursery Care	10:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist	10:30 a.m.
Church School for All Ages	10:30 a.m.

■ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

First Monday of the month (October – June), 7:30 p.m.
Contemplative Service in the Style of Taizé

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer

Wednesday, 12 noon
Holy Eucharist

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