

# The Courier lite

April/May 2016

THE GATHERING at SCOTT MEMORIAL  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Challenges & Rewards: Mission to Bulgaria

*A team from TGASMUMC headed to Bulgaria April 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> to help build the ministry of the UMC church in Student Town, a region of the capital city. They also delivered supplies to Syrian refugees in Bulgaria.*

Our trip to Bulgaria was a challenging and rewarding experience. We are grateful for your prayers for the Darcy family as Don suffered a heart attack on Monday evening/ Tuesday morning. He spent over a week in the hospital and learned a lot about healthcare in developing countries. The team rallied around Melissa and their daughters and the whole team continued to pray for Don and visit him during the 30-minute visiting hour each day while we continued teaching English lessons in Student Town. We were not able to visit Macedonia for multiple reasons: 1.) we couldn't take teenagers across the border

without their parent present since Don was in the hospital and Melissa was arranging paperwork; 2.) the UMC in Macedonia was having annual conference and was not in town that day and 3.) The Macedonians thought we were CNN reporters and didn't want to let us in (they thought we were reporting on Macedonia's new tactic to control the refugees which is to bus them over their border to Serbia). So, we ended up delivering the supplies to the largest refugee camp in Bulgaria located in Haskovo. This camp can house up to 4,000 refugees and we delivered the supplies to Sadie who is a British woman running a school at the camp.

## Upcoming Events

- May 1 – “ON RAMP” Inquirer’s Class
- May 7 - UMW Spring Flea Market & Bake Sale
- May 7 - Worship on the Water
- May 14 - Confirmation Class
- June 19 – Moving to 2 services: 9:30 am & 11 am
- July 23 - Sunny Day 5K

She sent us the following email:

*Thank you so much for the wonderful shoes and other bits-n-bobs! Everything will be very useful, even the suitcases!! Sorry that the security was not very helpful! We had further problems with them the next day! Thank you so, so much for all of your efforts in getting the shoes etc to us! We really appreciate it and can not do what we do without support from kind people like you! Our Facebook group is:*

**Harmanli Refugee Camp Play School.**

*Please feel free to join the group - I update it regularly with photos etc!*

*Kind regards and best wishes,*

*Sadie Clasby*

*Harmanli Refugee Camp Play School*

We were able to spend some time talking to a friend of Sadie's who is a Syrian refugee. Footage of his interview will be shown in worship on May 1st so be sure to come for the videos and to hear testimonies from our team members. It was a rough week but we saw God move in countless ways through our ministry at student town, at the church, and with the refugees. Thank you for your support!

**“It was a rough week, but we saw God move in countless ways through our ministry. . .”**

Pastor Rachel, Andy Gilstrap, and Andrew Schwartz went on to Prague in the Czech Republic where they stayed with a missionary and learned more about Eastern European culture and ministry in the city. They continued to England where they have been following in the footsteps of John Wesley and learning more about the birth of Methodism and its rebirth in Europe today

*- Article by Pastor Rachel Gilmore*



Photo: The TGASMUMC missions team to Bulgaria. Front Row: Melissa Darcy, Breena Darcy, Tara Darcy, Rachel Gilmore, Vladi, Kang, Georgi, & Andy Gilstrap. Back row: Don Darcy, Eric Greaves, Sarah Branch, Andrew Schwartz, Tanya and Oleg.

**CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE SYRIAN CONFLICT ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING ILL, MALNOURISHED, ABUSED, OR EXPLOITED. MILLIONS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO QUIT SCHOOL.** - World Vision on the Syrian Refugee Crisis



Photo: Children at the Harmanli Refugee Camp Play School, a centre for play-based learning and play-therapy in which refugee children can relax, have fun and thrive.

## **“Gatherlings” Church growth in action!**

Time to celebrate! The Gathering at Scott Memorial is growing! Just within the last few months, the Gathering has been blessed with three additions to our church. These wonderful children, or “Gatherlings” as they are fondly referred are truly a blessing!

- Nathaniel Julian Aryee born Feb. 11, 2016
- Penelope Grace Thiele born March 21, 2016
- Kamren James Adams born March 29, 2016

We patiently await the coming of two more babies who should be arriving any day now. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates and how you can serve these children and their families.

# Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 1 @ 12 noon - 1 pm**

**ON RAMP - Inquirer's Class** in the Curry Fellowship Hall

New to TGASMUMC? Interested in becoming a member at the Gathering at Scott Memorial? Come for lunch & find out how you can get connected to others and the community. Childcare provided. **Please RSVP to [office@gatheratscott.com](mailto:office@gatheratscott.com)**. More info contact Andrew Schwartz, [Andrew@gatheratscott.com](mailto:Andrew@gatheratscott.com).

**Saturday, May 7 @ 9 am - 2 pm**

**UMW Spring Flea Market & Bake Sale** @ 409 First Colonial Rd.

The United Methodist Women will be collecting items for the flea market in Curry Hall starting Sunday May 1st after church. They will also be having a bake sale, so any baked goods would be much appreciated. Please bring donations to the church May 1 - 7 from 9 am - 11am.

**Saturday, May 7 @ 5 pm**

**Worship on the Water** @ Chicks Beach

(near Lynnhaven Fish House Restaurant, 2350 Starfish Rd. 23451)

Bring your own picnic dinner and meet us at the beach for an inspiring weeknight service. Come and see your brothers and sisters in Christ baptized in the bay at 5 pm.

**Saturday, May 14, 12 noon - 5 pm**

**Confirmation Class**

Confirmation classes are available for anyone ages 11+ to learn about the meaning of Christian faith; the history, teaching, and the United Methodist Church; and an explanation of the baptismal & membership vows. Class participants will have the opportunity to publicly profess their faith on Pentecost Sunday! Class lead by Pastor Rachel. Meeting in the youth room. For more info, please contact Tonya Barlow, [Tonya@gatheratscott.com](mailto:Tonya@gatheratscott.com) or Katie McGuire, [youth@gatheratscott.com](mailto:youth@gatheratscott.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Church Family

Ed & Lynn Allen  
Sandie Alsteen  
Dorothy Belille  
Bobbie Gresham  
Jill Moore  
Naomi Mitchell  
Cindy Sager  
Lennie Stokely  
Ryan Swindell  
Harriett VanBlarcom  
Bettie White  
Wilson Widgeon

### Friends & Relatives

Diane Berning  
Larry Caffee  
Patricia Childers  
Lonna Crouch  
Rose Dempsey  
Janet Deham  
Dwayne Einsphar  
Al Gregg  
Donald Hall  
John Hendriksen  
Malcom Simmons  
Eloise Patterson

### Missionaries

Ben & Jenny Reyes in Brazil  
Tom & Cindy Melvin in Africa,  
Kate & David O'Donnell  
Vladi & Nadia Todorov  
Georgi Boev

# Special notes:

## Coming Soon. . .

### 1st Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC Directory

In April we will print the first the Gathering at Scott Memorial UMC Directory. Please email or contact the church office with any updates to your directory entry including a photo. You can also submit your updated info by emailing the office@gatheratscott.com

### Download the TGASMUMC Church Directory app today!

Sync the latest directory photos & info.

[www.thegatheringatscottmemorialumc.com/church\\_directory](http://www.thegatheringatscottmemorialumc.com/church_directory)

### Summer Intern: Devon Blair

We are excited to announce that Devon Blair will be our intern this summer. Devon & Eric were active at The Gathering for a year before Devon left last fall for seminary. Devon will be helping out with various church ministries. The Blairs will be arriving on Memorial Day weekend. Help us welcome the Blairs as TGASMUMC's first intern!

### Sunday Service Times:

- 9:30 am (Experiential)
- 10:45 am (Experiential & Casual)
- 11 am (Traditional)

### Church office hours:

Mon. & Tues. 9 am - 3 pm

Thurs. 9:30 am - 3 pm

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757.428.3720

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The Gathering at Scott Memorial



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