

# SAINT PAUL'S VOICE May & June 2025

Volume 8, Number 3

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# "From the Pastor"

My wife loves to shop at craft stores. Her favorite by far is Hobby Lobby. Fortunately, there are two within travel distance to us. There is one located in Owings Mills, MD and the other in Hanover, PA. Hobby Lobby is one of those kinds of places for her that can instantly reduce stress by just walking the isles, listening to instrumental music, peering over the vast number of products that are assembled by themes. Everything seems to be structured in an orderly fashion for the customer to have the best possible shopping experience. I will admit it wasn't my favorite place to visit the first several times she asked me to go, and begrudgingly I went, but over time it's really grown on me, and I can now begin to see why this place is so significant to her.

There are times now when I will offer to take her just so I can share that same experience that she has. I enjoy the music, the décor, walking the isles, and I share that little bit of peace that comes over you when you are there. It reminds me a lot of going to church and stepping out of the busyness of this world and into a place of safety and peace.

On a recent trip to Hobby Lobby, I purchased two items that were very meaningful to me. I found my favorite bible verse printed on a large frame. I knew God was reminding me of that which I struggle with in my life, confidence. In large and bold letters, it says "Be Strong and courageous, do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you, wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). The other purchase was a small sign made from all letters that spells the word grateful. Both items are daily reminders for me in this walk of faith with Christ that I need both courage and gratitude in my life.

I pray that St. Paul's continues to be a place of peace, healing and restoration for each of you as it is for me, and it becomes that for those that are seeking a place like this in their lives but are apprehensive about church and or religion. I pray that even if some don't physically come, they experience the grace, mercy and peace of God through each one of you. We are the church together. God works through us all in our daily lives. I am so grateful to and for each of you. May God continue to bless you in your walk with the Lord and grant you courage and gratitude to sustain you in your faith journey. May God's peace be yours in Christ. Amen

Grateful, Vicar Don Helfer





# **Church News**



# **Church Services**

Church Services are held on Sundays at 9am. Please join us for Worship Services online on YouTube Sunday mornings.



# **Sunday School For All Ages**

Childern will be attending Sunday School during the worship.

Come out and join us!



# **Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The prayer ministry team will meet on May 8<sup>th</sup> and June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.



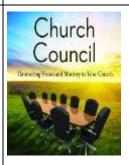
# Flea Market, 8:00am

Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>. Spaces still available. Registration forms are online at: stpaulsupperco.org/flea market/



# Children of God (CoG) Youth Group

Come join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday evening each month at Immanuel Church. Come join us on May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> for food, fun and fellowship.



# **Council Meetings**

The upcoming council meetings are May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Please give any topics for discussion to a Council member before these dates.



### **Parish Book Club**

May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to join us!



Thank You Veterans!
May 26<sup>th</sup>



Happy Mother's Day May 11th



Happy Father's Day
June 15th

# Worshiping Together



# Please Join Us....

### **In-Person Worship**

9:00am in the Sanctuary

### **Live & Recorded Worship Videos**

St Paul's YouTube
St. Paul's webpage
St. Paul's Facebook page

### **Sunday School**

Held during the service - after the children's message

# Those in Need of Prayer

### Members:

Maidie Brown, Vivian Chenoweth, Carolyn Eichler, Carliana Folfas, Shriver Foster, Andy Geldmacher, Hannah Hilgartner, Denise Holtz, Glenys Hunt, Nadine McGee, Bob & Gerri Martin, Jennifer Monroe, Michael Armacost, Pat Graff and Sherry Graff Zour, Gracie Grabowski, Carol Lewis, Kim Knight, Mary Caine, and all homebound members.



### Family & Friends:

Alicia Minor, Ms. Heather, Ashlee Kopp, Andrea & Cotey Kopp, Jerry & Jan Herfurth, Linda Nunan & family, Debb Webb, Bernie and Chris Harmon, Holly Hudson, Brandi Bubczyk, Rosemary Johnson, Rick Schaefer, Nancy Rose, Ed Burnham, Teri Geppi, Carol Kahlert, Geraldine Lewis, Todd Smith, Thad Martin, Carol Miller, Melinda Chernesky, Lisa Elway, Alex Strawbridge, Torie & Robert Osborne, Pat Gauthier, Jim and Dana Hoyt, Tom Manning, Linda Bassler, Tod Reuschling, Mallory Martin, Jack Stone, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

**PRAYER**: Gracious God, the strength of the weak and comfort of all who suffer, hear pleas for help for all who reach out in need. Especially I pray on behalf of those I lift up for your life-giving strength and comforting grace. In the name of Jesus, my Lord.

# Lent & Maundy Thursday

During Lent we had fellowship at soup supper around the parish.

Our supper was held upstairs.





The altar stripped on Maundy Thursday.



# Palm Sunday Memories



For Palm Sunday, Vicar Don, assisted Jed the donkey, in telling the story of the ride into Jerusalem.

# Welcome Back Deacon Vicar Don Helfer!



On Sunday, April 13th, we welcome back Deacon Don as Vicar Don to our Parish. He will serve as the "Campus Vicar" to St. Paul while he begins his journey through seminary to become ordained.

His new title comes with his new role as a seminarian. We welcome him back to the ministerial team.

# Celebrations!

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 9 Michael Armacost
- 11 Tom Lewis
- 15 Joseph Geldmacher

### **MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

8 Tim & Maidie Brown 29 Jed & Colleen Geldmacher



### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- 9 Owen Howard
- 9 Tim McGee
- 12 Leon Fleming
- 12 Steve Howard
- 15 Ray Grabowski
- 20 Bob Knight
- 23 Thomas Battillo
- 23 Emily Niles

### **JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 Michael & Beth Armacost
- 6 Kimberly & John Kelly, Jr.
- 12 Ray & Suzi Lyons

# Resurrection Parish Book Club

<u>Date</u>	Book	Host	Location	<u>Time</u>
May 12th	The Personal Librarian - Marie Benedict	Sandy & Mary	St. Paul's	6:30pm
June 16th	Lessons in Chemistry - Bonnie Garmus	Jamie & Vicki	NC Library	6:30pm
July 14th	Where the Jessamine Grows - Donna Everh	art		
August 11th	Apples Never Fall - Liane Moriarty	PA	RISH	
September 8th	Book Woman's Daughter - Kim Richardson	Ba	ob Club	_
October 13th	The Air Raid Book Club - Annie Lyons	200	and and	20
November 10th	Our Woman in Moscow - Beatriz Williams			
December 8th	The Lioness - Chris Bohjalian			

# Parish Update - Joint Worship Service

At the last Parish Council, we discussed and decided when there is a fifth Sunday in a month, the Parish will hold a joint service.

The first one will be June 29th as a joint worship at St Abrahams pavilion at 10 am with a potluck to follow. **This will be the only worship service for that Sunday.** Pr Amanda will be presiding.

Offering collected in a church's envelope will go back to that church. Loose offering will go to Carroll Lutheran School.

# Mario's Thank You!!

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the St Paul's Youth by dining at Mario's Italian Restaurant! We raised over \$1,200!















A special THANK YOU to those from our St Paul's family who helped to make it happen!

We could not do it without all of you!!

# St Paul's Flea Market



# Celebrating 20 years!

Our flea market is celebrating its' 20th year! We started with 7 vendors and now have 88! It's become a favorite community event and this year has started off with a big bang! All 88 spaces sold in April and only a few left in May!! After browsing our vendor booths stop by our grill and enjoy a tasty lunch.

Save the date of every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday May through October and join us for the fun! Hope to see you soon!

May 17 \* June 21 \* July 19 \* August 16\* September 20 \* October 18

Time: 8 AM – 2 PM

If you'd like to be a vendor (space is limited, so hurry!):

Cost: \$ 25.00 Lawn space, Pavilion space \$30.00

No Rain Date - Non-Refundable - Non Transferable

To reserve a space, please complete our application and return it with your payment to:
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
15773 Dover Rd
Upperco, MD 21155

Attn: Flea Market

Download the application: <u>2025 Flea Market Application</u> or send an email to: fleamarket@stpaulsupperco.org and we'll mail it to you.

# Outreach

Outreach has been busy! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us make these community outreach projects successful!

Easter bags & baskets for the residents of Autumn Lake Nursing Home and our shut-ins were assembled and delivered. Thank you to all who helped with this project.

We have purchased items for Lutheran Disaster Relief and will be assembling those shortly.

Please continue to save your cancelled stamps for the Cross Keys Village and your eyeglasses and sunglasses for the Lions Club. Donation containers are in the Narthex.



# Mario Playing Pickleball

This is what Mario does when 'his restaurant' at St Pauls isn't open. Come join us – All are welcome!

Saturdays, 9 to 11am
Jaycee Park (Uniontown Rd and Johann Drive Westminster)

Contact Bob & Ellen Lichtfuss if you want to be added to the pickleball chat group ... or for updates ... or if you have questions at 443-534-4498.



# **Alpha Pregnancy Donations**



Alpha Pregnancy in Reisterstown will once again hold a "baby bottle" promotion supporting the Sanctity of Human Rights.

On Mother's Day, May 11th, Outreach will be offering baby bottles to be filled with cash/check donations. These contributions help provide food, clothing, baby products and gear, along with guidance counseling to underprivileged young women in our community.

If you would like to participate in this program, please pick up a baby bottle and fill it as you like. They will be collected on Father's Day, June 15th. Any questions, please see Suzi. Thanks!

# Strawberry Festival Potluck

Jerusalem will hold a Strawberry Festival Potluck on Sunday, June 8th, 12:30-2 pm.

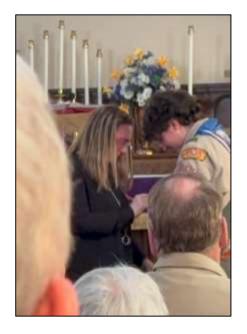
All parish churches are invited to attend!



# **Celebrating Christopher**

Christopher Geldmacher's Eagle Scout Ceremony on March 8th.







Christopher cleaned-up and re-mulched the playground and garden beds at St Paul's for his Easgle Scout project.

Thanks & Congratulations Christopher!

# Celebrating Ava

Ava Grabowski participating in a dance competition on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.







# **DE-MD Synod Young Adults**



Our group started gathering in Lent and now have a GroupMe to connect and announce future events, including a book club.

Pass this QR code on to Young Adults (18-30s) in your congregation looking to be connected (or use this link).

# Mar-Lu-Ridge Family Worship Days

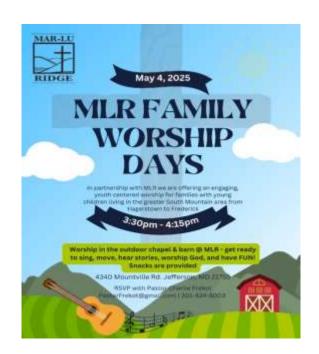
Family Worship Days (Preschool-5th grade) Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-4:15pm

Get ready to sing, move, hear stories, worship God, and have FUN!

Snacks are provided.

Mar-Lu-Ridge Outdoor Chapel and Barn (BEFORE you go up the hill to camp) 4340 Mountville Rd.
Jefferson, MD 21755

Questions or to RSVP: Pastor Charlie Frekot at 301-834-8003 PastorFrekot@gmail.com



# Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp



Invite your youth (and families!) to sign up for summer camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge!

Registration is open now for children and youth and there are Family Camp weekends, too!

INCLUDING: Confirmation Camp, July 20-25 for ages 11-14.

Contact Mar-Lu-Ridge for more information: mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org

# Carroll Lutheran School



Thursday, May 1st

FROM 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

# **OPEN HOUSE &**Family Fun Night

# **COME TAKE A TOUR OF CLS!**

For interested families: Childcare will be provided during the tour by staff and trained volunteers.

### JOIN IN THE FUN!

Scholastic Book Fair • Snacks Moon Bounce • Gaga Ball Pit School Tours • Art/Crafts Games, & so much more

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

1738 Old Taneytown Road, Westminster 410-848-1050 • www.clsedu.org

RSVP to: development@clsedu.org



# Parish Youth Events

# Children of God (CoG)

On the 2nd Friday of each month, our youth gather for a meal & fun activity together at 6:30pm at Immanuel.

Questions? Please contact Rachel at rachel.murphy@hotmail.com.



# The Resurrection Youtherans Youth Group (7th - 12th graders)

<u>Parents and Youth:</u> Keep an eye out for a poll in your email and please respond so we know what you like to do - that will help us organize our next event!

If you don't get a poll or would just like to let Vicar Don or Pr Amanda know what you would like to do, please reach out to them! They would love to hear from you!!

ksigfarmer Dyahoo.com

pastor.amanda.mccafferyagmail.com

# Save the Date - VBS



Walk-ins accepted but pre-registration is appreciated!

# Council Meeting Highlights

### **Highlights from the February Council Meeting**

#### Reports:

### Pastor Amanda's Report:

#### Worship:

- Presided over 3 regular Sunday worship services
  - I was sick on January 12th & St. Paul's Service was lay led.
  - January 19th was cancelled due to weather
  - Folk Service cancelled due to weather

#### Attended:

- One Council Meeting St. Paul's
- Joint Council Meeting
- Led Christian Ed Meeting
- CoG January Youth Group
- Stephen Ministers Meeting
- St. Paul's Annual Planning Meeting
- Immanuel's Country Breakfast
- Parish Book Club
- Synod Shared Ministry Meeting
- Meeting with Synod Staff
- Global Refuge Webinar
- January Confirmation postponed due to weather
- Weekly Wednesday morning Synod Pericope study
- Ministerial Staff Meetings as needed
- Numerous phone calls, texts, and emails

### Looking ahead:

- Parish Newsletters are back on a regular monthly schedule. Will soon be transitioning to weekly eblasts of a few announcements and bi-monthly newsletters per bishop recommendations
- Parish Book Club has begun and off to a great start.
- Planning a fundraiser for the spring iteration of College Care Packages in March. In April, we will be collecting items for the care packages. They will be sent out the week of Easter so that they arrive by May.
- Youtherans is back on the schedule.
- Parish bible study has been planned.

As we continue in this time of transition, a lot of things are still unknown. But trusting that the Spirit is at work, we push forward knowing that the Church has stood through greater trials. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work alongside Pastor Dot and incredibly saddened that our Parish will be losing such a loving and caring leader. I thank God for her ministry here knowing she walked with many folks through life changing events in her time here. I hold her in prayer through her transition into Interim ministry with St. Benjamins and trust that the Spirit is guiding her still into ministry and service with wonderful people who will be blessed by her presence.

Blessings, Pastor Amanda

### President's Report, Mr. Fleming Reported

- Edward Jones five CDs renewed at 4.2 for 1 year
- SHA project Dover & RT. 30
  - Offering the church for the land being used for the road work- 274 sf x \$2.35 = \$643.90 and 379 st ft x \$1.03 = \$390.37

MOTION: to have Leon sign the paperwork with the State Highway Administration to move forward with the RT 30. project and receive the funds by Ms. Caine. Seconded by Ms. Lyons. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report, Ms. Mountcastle Reported:

- Edward Jones statement has not yet been received
- Received the January BGE bill for \$1,063 which is about double the amount of prior months

### Committee Reports

#### Parish Council, Ms. Caine Reported:

- Next meeting on 2/19, the Bishop will not be at this meeting
- Will bring up questions and comments from the Special Congregational Meeting

- Parish Worship and Music Meeting Discussion:
  - Shrove Tuesday at St. Paul's
  - St. Paul's will have an Ash Wednesday Service
  - Lenten Soup Suppers- will rotate between the churches
  - Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's
  - Three different services for Good Friday, not at St. Paul's
  - Sundays and Seasons subscription-looking into a getting a parish subscription
- Idea being brought up at the parish council meeting: having a joint parish service during the fifth Sunday of the month (four times a year)

#### Outreach, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- Maidie and I delivered a shopping bag full of cancelled stamps to Cross Keys Village. We got a little tour and information on their group.
- We'll again be operating the food grill at every flea market as our sole fundraiser. Need volunteers.

#### Flea Market, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- Our 2025 application has been emailed to previous vendors. (see attached) I've asked Lori to update our website with the new dates and info. Emailed Sandy and Rachel the new app and info. so they can start advertising.
- Our letter to BJ's has been submitted requesting gift cards each month.
- Our contract with ASAP has been approved with an increase.
  - Standard Unit \$95 (last year \$90)
  - Handicapped Unit \$175 (last year \$150)
- Delivery will be made on April 18th. Units cleaned each Wednesday. They want us to provide a trash can. I contacted two
  other port-a-pot companies; neither came close to the prices we're currently paying.

### Property, Mr. Knight Reported:

- Gathering prices for electric for shed, painting inside of church upstairs, refinishing floor in basement,& price for chair lift.
  - \$1,750 (\$2,000 to cover addition supplies and motion sensor lights) was the quote for the electric and a light for the park shed
  - Obtaining quotes for painting the church, so far \$21,000 and \$24,000 but looking to get two more prices
  - Chair Lift is about 35-40 years old and no company will maintain the lift because of its age. The companies are recommending replacing the lift
  - Refinishing basement floor- contacting the company that refinished the floors last time (about 10 years ago)

#### Old Business

Piano was fixed and tuned- \$250

### **New Business**

Sponsoring an amount for CLS BINGO

MOTION: to donate \$100 towards CLS for their BINGO in honor of our 4th Grade Friends in Faith class from the church special events fund by Ms. Baber and seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Highlights from the March Council Meeting**

#### Reports:

Pastor Amanda's Report:

#### Worship:

- Presided over 4 regular Sunday worship services
- February 9th was cancelled due to weather
- Folk Service cancelled due to weather
- Preached and presided at Immanuel's Saturday Worship

#### Attended:

- One Council Meeting St. Paul's
- One Council Dinner/Meeting Jerusalem
- Joint Council Meeting
- Led Christian Ed Meeting
- Parish Book Club
- Synod Shared Ministry Cohort Meeting
- Led Bible Study (One session was cancelled due to weather, but one was held)
- Parish Worship and Music Meeting
- Westminster Conference Meeting
- Taught Confirmation
- Attended required LGBTQIA2S+, Boundaries, and Racial Justice trainings through United Lutheran Seminary
- Attended Pastor Dot's Farewell
- Multiple staff meetings to work through transferring information
- Weekly Wednesday morning Synod Pericope study
- Numerous phone calls, texts, and emails

#### Looking ahead:

- Newsletters are on hold for time being, but will be sending out weekly announcements via email.
- Midweek Lenten services have been planned.
- Second session of our bible study is rescheduled due to participant schedules
- Trivia Night scheduled for April for College care packages
- Bishop is coming March 19th to meet with us and tell us the "Plan"
- It has been announced to the Joint Council that Pastor Cannie Miller will be coming on to be Campus Pastor for St. Peter's and St. Abrahams.
- Looking to create a home visitation team in each congregation to help assist in Pastoral Visitations
- A family in the community is looking for a Lutheran church in the area for a funeral- will use St. Paul's for the funeral

During this transition, I'm the only pastor handling day to day items and trying to make sure things are not falling through the cracks. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you find that something needs attention. I'm thankful for the grace that has been extended thus far. Some days it feels like I've been here 10 years, and others I'm reminded that I'm still very new and there is much I still don't know about the parish. I'm excited to continue on our journey together though.

Blessings, Pastor Amanda

### Treasurer's Report, Ms. Mountcastle Reported:

- · Presented the balance sheets to the council
- A question was brought up about the five CD's that came due and were rolled over last month, the documents are showing only three CD's

### Committee Reports

### Parish Council, Ms. Caine Reported:

- Pastor Amanda is going to set up a joint Sundays and Seasons membership for the parish
- Parish Secretary- job is still opening, the parish is looking for someone who is not a current member of the parish
- Pastor Norma will be staying on as the parish president
- Canceled the media subscription
- Parish meeting with the Bishop on March 19 following Lent Dinner Church and there will be a Zoom link for the meeting

### Outreach, Ms. Lyons Reported:

 We will be assembling Easter bags & baskets for the residents of Autumn Lake and our shut-ins. These will be delivered on Palm Sunday directly following services. Youth are encouraged to help.

- For April 19th, the Grill Gang will be:
  - Leon/Ray grill
  - Madison Cashier
  - Jen Wrapper
  - o Bob Drinks
  - Susan Ice/Runner

### Flea Market, Ms. Lyons Reported:

- 2/3 full for April already Cut-off to accept April apps is April 10th due to vacation plans. So far, deposits total \$7,975.00
- Our contract with ASAP has been approved with an increase.
  - Standard Unit \$95 (last year \$90)
  - Handicapped Unit \$175 (last year \$150)
- Delivery will be made on April 18th. Units cleaned each Wednesday. They want us to provide a trash can.

### Property, Mr. Knight Reported:

- Update on SHA project- Mr. Fleming signed the agreement but SHA has now requested more information. An idea was brought up about adding a light to the intersection instead of the blinking caution light.
- · Possible elevator instead of a chair lift replacement- will look into costs

#### **New Business**

Sundays and Seasons Membership cancellation- significantly less and the cost would come from the parish budget







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9am – Worship & Sunday School Healing Service Food Collection Invite a Friend				Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9am – Worship 2nd Offering - Vacation Bible School				Prayer Ministry Meeting 7:00pm	Children of God (CoG) Youth Group - 6:30pm	Jerusalem Folk Service – 5:00pm
Father's Day 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9am – Worship & Sunday School	Parish Book Club - discussing Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus	Council Meeting - 7:00pm		Resurrection Parish Grief Support Group at Immanuel - 12:30pm		Flea Market 8:00am – 2:00pm  Community Breakfast @ Immanuel
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9am – Worship & Sunday School						Immanuel - Short Traditional Service at 5pm
29	30					
10am – Joint worship at St Abrahams pavilion with a potluck to follow		·				

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

15773 Dover Road Hanover Pike & Dover Road Upperco, Maryland 21155

www.StPaulsUpperco.org

410-239-3456

Pastors:
Vicar Don Helfer
Pr. Amanda McCaffery

Office: office@stpaulsupperco.org

Council Directory				
PRESIDENT	Leon Fleming			
VICE PRESIDENT	Mary Caine			
SECRETARY	Madison Baber			
TREASURER	Kelly Mountcastle			
MEMBER	Wade Hilgartner			
MEMBER	Carol Lewis			
MEMBER	Suzi Lyons			
MEMBER	Bob Knight			
MEMBER	Colleen Geldmacher			



Council Committee	e Representatives
CEMETERY	Maddie Brown
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Madison Baber
EVANGELISM/ FELLOWSHIP	Colleen Geldmacher
FINANCE	Kelly Mountcastle
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Charles Baber
FLEA MARKET	Suzi Lyons
HISTORIANS	Carol Lewis
HOSPITALITY	Leon Fleming
MUSIC & WORSHIP	Mary Caine
OUTREACH	Suzi Lyons
PARK	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
PARISH COUNCIL	Mary Caine Sandy Baber
PROPERTY	Bob Knight Wade Hilgartner
SHEPHERDS	Laura Grabowski
STEWARDSHIP	Mary Caine Carol Lewis Pastor Dot
YOUTH/CHRISTIAN ED	Madison Baber