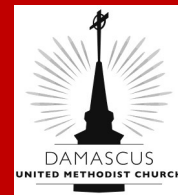


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
Phone: 301-253-0022
E-mail: Damascus.UMC@verizon.net
Website: www.DamascusUMC.org

THE BEACON

DECEMBER 2015



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Christian Formation

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Tom Baldrige
Director of Youth &
Young Adult Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Debbie Benson / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Carlton Addison / Building Services

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Grace and Peace,

We have just completed a sermon series called "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...." In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus began many of his parables by saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like....," then telling a story to help us to grasp what it is to truly live under the reign of God. Amanda and I, and then our youth, each took turns lifting up some of these parables.

Now we are beginning the season of Advent. It is a season during which we anticipate the kingdom of heaven on earth. We do not always think of it in that way. We think about the coming of a Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God. Keep thinking. What is it we want the Messiah to do? Usher in the reign of God, the kingdom of heaven so that God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We want forgiveness of our sins, the end of violence, the sick to be healed, the sorrowful to be comforted, and the dead to live again. When we pray, come Lord Jesus, come, we are asking for no less than all of that.

Terrorists indiscriminately killing in Paris, Beirut, Syria, and a host of other places; earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods ravaging the land; serious illness striking in every family; hundreds of thousands of children worldwide still going to bed hungry are some of the realities that push me back into the gospel to hear Jesus explaining what the kingdom of heaven is like. His explanation causes me to know that it is God's kingdom I want. I want to be part of the kingdom of heaven. I am so ready for Caesar to leave the palace and for the baby born in a barn behind a crowded inn to take his place. I am ready to sing, "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free." I am waiting to sing, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her king." Advent is that time for me. A time to focus on our most fervent prayer and hope. A time to prepare myself for God's coming, alert, with my head up. Christ is the only hope for the world. Advent helps me to remember that.

I hope you will join us often at church during this season. An Advent-Christmas brochure was mailed to you so that you can know all that is happening. Let this season be a time of spiritual renewal for you. Enliven your desire for the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

This is also a good time to review your commitment to and support of your church. Your gifts are our only income. Have you

contributed to your church this year? Have you contributed what you hoped or planned? Are you in a position to give an extra Christmas gift to the church? Are you keeping up with your “Preserving the Future” commitment? Disciplined giving is as much a part of a vibrant spiritual life as prayer, worship, service, and witness. Giving helps both the church and you.

The holy season of Advent has begun. Enter with us into this time of prayer and anticipation. O come, o come, Emmanuel.

- David

Activate Love. Transform Lives. Change the World.

God invites us to respond to the call to love our neighbors, whether next door or on the other side of the globe. As United Methodists, when we each give to one another, we turn that intangible love into tangible results. Together we can transform our communities and the world.

On UMC #Giving Tuesday, you have the opportunity to express God’s love in your way to the people and projects you care about most. Give a donation to support projects and missionaries working to eradicate hunger and poverty, or say a prayer and support projects and missionaries working to eradicate hunger and poverty, or say a prayer and support equipping Syrian children in play in a war-free zone. Give your time to a social justice organization that is advocating for the rights of domestic workers, or raise awareness and money for new churches.

**However you give,
you help to change the world.
Join other United Methodists
this year as we turn
our love into action -
give on Tuesday, December 1.**

**INCREASE YOUR IMPACT!**

When you donate through The Advance on Dec. 1, UMC #GivingTuesday, your gift could be matched up to \$1 million.*

ACTIVATE LOVE. TRANSFORM LIVES. CHANGE THE WORLD.

 www.umcmmission.org/give

Away In A Manger

JOURNEY BACK TO THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Advent and Christmas at
Damascus United Methodist Church



In Advent, we actively await the coming Messiah, our Savior, the one who brings God’s reign to earth. This year we will travel backward to the place and time where Jesus arrived into human history – the place and time where Salvation was born. Through the rich music and hymnody of our 2000 years of Christian tradition, we will retrace history, modern to ancient, and advance back to the manger. In the four weeks of Advent, we begin with contemporary music, then music of the Baroque and John Wesley eras, then Gregorian Chant and the Middle Ages, and finally to the first Christmas. Will you journey with us back to that first Christmas, where we all may find ourselves *Away In A Manger* with our Lord this season?

Advent and Christmas

Sunday, November 29, 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

Mary's Song-A World Upside Down

Youth Praise Band, Handbells and Choirs

WELCOMING WEDNESDAY

NIGHT DINNERS

will be served on **December 2, 9 and 16**. Special Advent Experience events will be held after each dinner: 6:30-7pm. Reflect on art through the ages and then create your own masterpiece. Appropriate for all ages.

Dec. 2 & 16 ~ Advent and Art

Dec. 9 ~ Children's Christmas Musical:

Radio Joy - Great Hall

Friday, December 4, 2015

THE ACADEMY OF ST. CECILIA YOUTH

ORCHESTRA ~ HOLIDAY CONCERT

7:30 pm ~ Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD

Saturday, December 5, 2015

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CHRISTMAS PARTY

BRUNCH & GENERAL MEETING

9:30 am ~ DUMC Dining Hall

Sunday, December 6, 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

The Angels' Song-A Message for

All People

Gloria by Vivaldi

Combined Choir and Orchestra

Torie Brooks and Katie Hecklinger, soloists

SERVICE OF PEACE, HOPE & LIGHT

5:30 pm ~ Dinner and Discussion

Topic: *Responding to Grief*

7:00 pm ~ Service

Holidays can be painful and challenging. Join us for a special worship designed for those who struggle with the holidays.

Led by the Stephen Ministers

THE ACADEMY OF ST. CECILIA YOUTH

ORCHESTRA ~ HOLIDAY CONCERT

4:30 pm ~ Northwest High School

Germantown, MD

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

THE ACADEMY OF ST. CECILIA YOUTH

ORCHESTRA ~ HOLIDAY CONCERT

6:30 pm ~ DUMC Sanctuary

Thursday, December 10, 2015

YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS PARTY

6:30 pm ~ Christmas Dinner & Entertainment -

\$20 per person

Saturday, December 12, 2015

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

9:00 am - 11:00 am ~ Great Hall

Sponsored by *Relay for Life*

\$5 per person; info call 301-642-2984.

Sunday, December 13, 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

The Animals' Song-Mystery and Majesty



LIVING NATIVITY PAGEANT

Gather in the courtyard to experience the first Christmas with actors and live animals.

Please feel free to
bring your own chair.

5:30 & 6:30 pm performances

Warm refreshments served following.

Saturday, December 19, 2015

YOUTH PROGRESSIVE DINNER

5:00 pm ~ All Middle School & High School youth are invited to this celebration night, traveling from home to home for different courses of the meal.

Meet on the church parking lot.

Sunday, December 20, 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 am & 11:00 am

Simeon's Song-Promise Fulfilled

Men's Choir and Inspiration Ringers

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM ~ 9:45 am ~ Sanctuary

Choristers and Colorful Hands of Jesus

Advent and Christmas



Thursday, December 24, 2015 **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

FAMILY SERVICE

4:00 pm

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord
in an interactive time of worship.
Children's choirs will share in the service.

SERVICES OF CAROLS & CANDLELIGHTING

8:00 pm ~ Charles Wesley Singers and
Brass Ensemble

10:30 pm ~ Chancel Choir and
Instrumentalists

Sunday, December 27, 2015

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY

8:15 am & 11:00 am services

College students and young adults
lead worship and share special music

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

6:00 pm ~ College students and young adults travel from
home to home for different courses of the meal.

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

7:00 pm Concert

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

7:00 pm Concert

Wassail Reception following each concert

Tickets: \$10/person

Tickets available at the

Office (301-253-0022) or at the door.

Child care available in nursery

Highlights



Saturday, December 12

Santa Claus Is Coming to Damascus!

Bring your family, friends and neighbors to have
Breakfast with Santa! Enjoy a continental breakfast –
pastries and bagels, coffee and juices, great children's holiday
crafts and SANTA! Kids - bring your lists ready to give to Santa.

The event will be held **Saturday, December 12 from 9 - 11 am**
HERE at DUMC. Tickets, sold at the door, are \$5 per person.
Children under 2 are free. Professional digital photos with Santa
are \$10 extra, you get unlimited use of your photo!

All proceeds from this event will benefit The American Cancer
Society Relay For Life of Damascus, which funds cancer research
and supports patients in our area.

You can also get some holiday shopping done at the event with
numerous vendors who will be offering some wonderful items that
will be available for purchase. Gift wrapping is available too!

Any questions? Want to help? Contact Mandy Sellers at 301-642-
2984 or mandysellers@outlook.com.



Sunday, December 13

Living Nativity Pageant

5:30 & 6:30 pm performances

Gather in the courtyard to experience
the first Christmas with actors and live
animals, as the youth lead this meaning-
ful re-creation of the manger scene. Seating is available on the
wall in the courtyard and audience members are invited to bring
lawn chairs to sit in the courtyard.

*This is a free event, but sustaining donations
may be made the night of the performance.*

Sunday, December 20

Sunday School Advent/Christmas

Program ~ 9:45 am ~ Sanctuary

We will be celebrating the last Sunday of Ad-
vent by involving the entire Sunday School
family in this assembly. Come and prepare
your hearts and minds for Christmas as the
children lead us to the stable. All are invited to
join us!



Living Christmas Tree Concerts

Tuesday, December 29 at 7 pm and

Sunday, December 30 at 7 pm

**SEE FULL PAGE FLYER AND ORDER
FORM ON PAGE #11 OF THIS BEACON.**

Christian Formation



Pleasant Plains Preschool

a ministry of Damascus United Methodist Church

Director, Cora Horst

301-253-9798

pleasant.plains@verizon.net

A big thank you goes out to **Pete and Jane Clarke** for bringing in their model trains and sharing them with the preschoolers.

The children and teachers loved learning about trains!

The Clarkes talked to me after rally day and generously volunteered to share their love of model trains.



What hobbies or talents do you have that could be shared??

The Connections Café

DUMC's Coffee Hour

Held Sunday mornings between services.

Come and enjoy a hot mug, a few nibbles, and relaxed fellowship. All are welcome.



**The Connections Café is
located in the back half
of the GREAT HALL.**

Joyfully, Pam Compton, Marcia Hofman, Kathy Jones, Gloria Maready, Kim Ferguson, and Gabrielle Hulcher have been using their gifts of hospitality to create this time of fellowship for our congregation. We would welcome more hands to assist, even if it is just **an hour here and there on any given Sunday**. We would also be grateful for food donations like baked goods and fresh fruit. Just stop in or call Pam Compton at 301-253-2958 or email her at Pamstiches@aol.com to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!

Christian Formation (cont'd)



Congratulations to our UM Men who joined together at Appleby's for their 1st Men's Night Out !

Damascus men gathered for dinner and a great time of food and fellowship was had by all.

The men also hosted a District Men's Prayer breakfast, gathering on a Saturday morning, November 21, with those in other churches on the Central Maryland District.

There are not scheduled activities in December. Please watch for the next Men's Night Out in January, 2016.



Thursday Evening, December 10 Annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner/Program 6:30 pm in the Dining Hall

The annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner and Program will be held in the Church Dining Hall on Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. Don't be confused by the date. We've always done it on Friday or Saturday, **but this year it's on Thursday.**

Young at Heart activities are always open to all adults associated with our church and to their friends and relatives. This dinner usually draws the largest crowd of all the Young at Heart events during the year.

If you want to get in the Christmas spirit a little early, this is the place to be. We'll have a few performers of Christmas music and perhaps a few special stories, Santa is likely to appear, there'll be some caroling by all, and who knows what else we'll think of in the next few days. Come and join us for a special dinner and some wonderful fun and fellowship. The cost is \$20 to be paid at the door. Reservations are required by Sunday, December 6, so we can get an accurate count for the preparers in advance. If you are contacted by a caller, you can make your reservation with him or her or contact Bob Newlin, 301/620-8926 or bobnewlin@comcast.net OR Jacque Janss, 301/620-7276 or janssjac@comcast.net. Hope to see you there.

Christian Formation / Women's Ministry



United
Methodist
Women
Faith Hope Love in Action

Damascus United Methodist Women News December, 2015

UMWomen Circle Dates

Susanna Wesley / Esther JOY Circle
Monday, December 14 at 10:00 am
in the **Dining Hall**
(Wrapping Christmas Presents)

WWJD Circle Meeting
To be determined

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES :

Saturday, Dec. 5: CHRISTMAS PARTY BRUNCH @ 10:00 in the Dining Hall. Bring a covered dish and a wrapped gift for Christmas at Asbury. General Meeting with Nominations Report & Budget for 2016. Esther JOY to set up, Susanna Wesley will do the program, and WWJD to clean up. **ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED. See flyer on page #7 of this Beacon for more information.**

Tuesday, Dec. 15: Lions Christmas Dinner, Dining Hall @ 6:45 pm. Volunteer help needed for set-up, kitchen & clean-up. Assorted desserts are also needed.

Wednesday, Dec. 16: ELF DAY AT ASBURY @ 9:45 am at Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD. Please come and help if you are able. For more info contact Tina Soule at 301-540-5943.

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Friday, December 18 @ 3:30 pm / Church Office

Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, Cathy Heinbaugh, heinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jlm.jan3@verizon.net 301-482-1122.



LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU.....

At the
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
HOSTED by DUMC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH are
cordially invited to join us for potluck brunch.
Devotions, music and a special program will be presented.
Business meeting to follow.

*This year we will be starting a new tradition --
we're asking everyone to bring a Christmas card
with a special message included.*

*You can sign the card or remain secret.
The cards will be collected in a basket when you come in.
As the meeting is ending the basket will be passed
around for everyone to take one.*

*Please join us Saturday December 5 at 9:30 am
in the Dining Hall.*

*Share a morning of food, fellowship,
and fun with your DUMC sisters!!*

LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU.....

SAVE THE DATE -- **2015 Spring Women's Retreat**

Friday, April 29 – leave at 5 pm for retreat
Saturday, April. 30, leave after supper for
home. Potomac Park Retreat & Conference
Center, Falling Waters, WV – less than an
hour's drive. Check the web site:
www.PotomacParkRetreat.org

Great accommodations and very affordable.
All meals provided, real bed (smile). Mark
your calendars now . . .

Prayer Requests

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any
prayer requests
on the prayer cards located in the pews.

Prayer cards should then be placed in the prayer box in
the Narthex.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at
www.damascusumc.org.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

WHEN:

Monday, Dec. 7 @ 6 pm

WHERE:

Mt. Airy Tavern @ 6 pm
1001 Twin Arch Road
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
RSVP by December 5

RSVP by December 5

**Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship · Fun ·
Sisterhood · Everyone Invited · New Event Each
Month**

FUTURE EVENTS

**THURSDAY,
January 21**

Bucca Di Beppo @ 6 pm
122 Kentlands Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
RSVP by January 19

**TUESDAY,
February 23**

Ledo's Pizza @ 6 pm
9805 Main Street
Damascus, MD 20872
RSVP by February 21

**MONDAY,
March 14**

Isabella's @ 6 pm
44 North Market Street
Frederick, MD 21701
RSVP by March 12

CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA
AMANDA.MCMURTREY
@VERIZON.NET
Call 301-253-0022 or
Text 970-231-5123

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS– 6th to 12th Grade

December 2015

Tom Baldrige, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net

The youth
bowling for
donations at the
Mt. Airy Lanes.



The month of December is always a wonderful time to spend with your family and our church community celebrating the season of Advent and the birth of our savior Jesus Christ at Christmas. We have a number of things planned for this month to help get the celebration started. I hope you can make some or all the events - starting with the cookie exchange, the Living Nativity and a wonderful progressive dinner for both the middle and high school youth. To continue the Christmas season we will have the Living Christmas Tree that will be held on December 29 and 30. I hope you have been getting my weekly emails. If not please let me know and give me your email address.

- Tom

Living Nativity – Dec. 14

Once again, we are excited to present the Christmas story in our annual Living Nativity. We will help others journey back in time to celebrate the glorious events surrounding Christ's birth. There will be two performances, at 5:30 and 6:30. Please contact Susan James at scjames111@aol.com or 301-641-2730 to sign up for a part. Help with AV details and serving hot chocolate is also needed.

LASAGNA – Fundraiser

Was a great Success!! Thanks for everyone's support in raising money for the Summer Youth Mission Tour! And now you know how to cook something good.

**Mark your Calendars –
Youth Retreat –
January 22 - 24, 2016**

CALENDAR

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 pm Welcome Wednesday Dinner

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:15 am Charles Wesley Singers lead in worship
9:30 am Youth Blend Café: Breakfast, Praise Band,
Breakout Group Discussion in Youth Chapel

Sunday, December 6:

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner: Need a dinner family
6:30 – 8:30 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Cookie Exchange and Movie. Bring homemade cookies to exchange.**

Saturday, December 12:

6:00 – 8:00 pm Living Nativity Rehearsal – Courtyard. Dress warmly

Sunday, December 13:

4:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
5:00 pm Youth Dinner: **Pizza Dinner**
5:30 pm Performances: Living Nativity
6:30 pm Performances: Living Nativity

Saturday, December 19:

5:00 – 10:00pm Middle and High School Progressive Dinners.
We will meet at the church and drive to youth homes for Appetizers, Soup & Salad, Main Course and finish up with Dessert.

Sunday, December 20:

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
College Students and Young Adults Invited to Prepare for Christmas
Eve 8 pm Service
6:00 pm Youth Dinner: **Bautista**
6:30 – 8:00 pm Youth Activity – Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Family Service
8:00 pm Candlelight Service – CWS sing at this Service
10:30 pm Candlelight Service – Chancel Choir sings

Sunday, December 27:

No youth activities
6:00 pm College Progressive Dinner

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 29 and 30:

7:00 pm Living Christmas Tree Performance. Come out and sing your favorite Christmas songs.

Saturday, January 2: Church Basketball starts

Games played every Saturday night - 3 teams / coed – contact Tom if you're interested in playing.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS— 6th to 12th Grade

December 2015

Tom Baldridge, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net



Looking Ahead to the Youth Progressive Dinner !!!!!

During the Christmas holidays, the Youth really look forward to traveling together from house to house to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, EAT, and have FUN! The courses enjoyed are appetizers, soup and salad, the main course, and don't forget DESSERT! We will meet this year on **Saturday, December 19**, at the church at 5:00 pm, organized by middle and high school, and begin our adventure. We will need drivers for this event. Drivers get to enjoy the food.

Youth Winter Retreat January 22 - 24, 2016

Mark your calendars for the 2016 Winter Retreat !!

We have starting planning the Winter Retreat and we are very enthusiastic about this year's retreat. You will be seeing many faces and friends (tall friends) from years past!

The weekend will be filled with many adventures including fellowship, games, fun, food and of course, the Variety Show! Look for more information within the next few weeks that will be mailed out to all the youth of the church.

Attention all 6th – 12th graders Basketball is BACK

Come one and come all to play basketball this winter starting the first Saturday of January and ending in March. DUMC will be playing other church teams in the area. This is a great way to spend your Saturday nights in fellowship with other youth in our community. We welcome players that have never played basketball before and players that have played for a long time. In order to understand how many teams we should have, we need to know if you are interested in playing for the 2016 winter season.

If you are interested in playing this year, please contact one of the following people to get on the team roster:

For the 6th, 7th and 8th grade team:
Tom Baldridge – 301-802-4775.

For the 9th and 10th grade team:
We need a Coach for this group!!

For the 11th and 12th grade team:
We need a Coach for this group!!

**Reminder: There will be NO
UMYFO Meeting in the month of December.**

COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT NEWS

December, 2015

Tom Baldridge, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net

December 27, 2015 is College /Young Adult Sunday

During this holiday season, we welcome back our college students and other young adults who have returned home to be with their families and friends for the holidays. It is also our pleasure to give them the opportunity to participate fully in Sunday worship services.

This year the date of College/Young Adult Sunday will be the final Sunday in December, on the 27.

We invite our young adults to share in the music, liturgy, and preaching at both services here at Damascus UMC.

If you are a young adult, or one who is home for winter break from college, or just visiting with the family during the holidays, we need your help leading this wonderful morning. Please contact Tom Baldridge at 301-802-4775 to sign up.

College - Young Adult Progressive Dinner

On Sunday, December 27 the college and young adults will be having their Christmas Progressive Dinner. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing everyone home from school and having this great time to get together. Any questions, or if you would like to provide one of the courses for the evening, contact Tom Baldridge: 301-802-4775



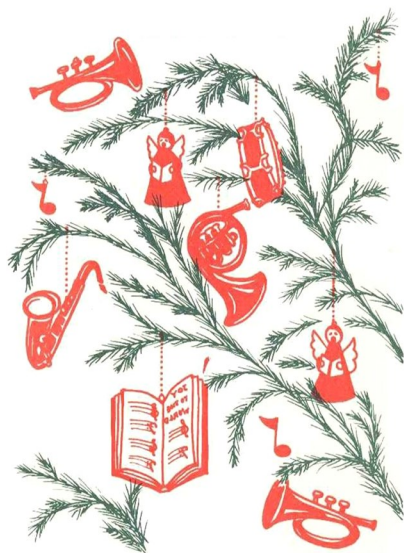
A Living Christmas Tree

An evening of carols with chorus and orchestra

Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at 7 pm

Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 7 pm

2015-2016: Put On A Garment of Praise






Crown your Christmas celebration with this magical evening of carols by candlelight, featuring 60-voice choir and symphonic orchestra. Music this year will include many arrangements of familiar carols by David Willcocks, the world-renowned British composer and director who passed away earlier this fall. Willcocks wrote music for the royal weddings in England and his carol settings have been shared by countless choirs. The audience will join in singing also. ***Child care will be available during the concert.*** A Wassail Reception in the Great Hall follows both concerts.

Come experience the true beauty, warmth and joy of the Christmas season.

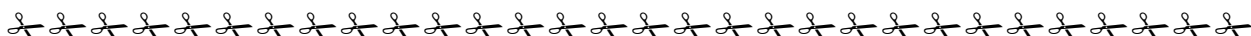
Make your reservations early for this special celebration !

Sponsorship Information

-  Gold ornaments - \$100 donations are "Benefactors," and will be given four concert tickets
-  Red ornaments - \$75 donations are "Patrons," three concert tickets
-  Green ornaments - \$50 donations are "Friends," two concert tickets

All checks should be made out to DUMC with "Living Christmas Tree" specified on the check and may be placed along with the tear-off below in the offering plates or given / sent to:

Damascus United Methodist Church, Attn: Jane Webb
9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD 20872



Name: _____

SPONSORSHIP:

I would like to be a performance sponsor for: _____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50

I would like my tickets for: Tuesday, Dec. 29 (7pm): _____ Wednesday, Dec. 30 (7pm): _____

GENERAL ORDER:

I would like to purchase concert tickets @ \$10 each for: Tues, Dec 29 (7pm) : _____ Wed, Dec. 30 (7pm): _____

Family concert tickets \$40 for 4 or more in same family. Tues, Dec 29 (7pm): _____ Wed, Dec. 30 (7pm): _____

Total : _____

Mail my tickets to: _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DINNER BEFORE THE TREE, AS OFFERED IN THE PAST, WILL BE REPLACED THIS YEAR BY THE WASSAIL RECEPTION FOLLOWING EACH CONCERT.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Holiday Giving Project, 2015

The Holiday Giving Project provides needy families with a Christmas/Holiday food and gifts. Through the Holiday Giving Project, we strive to reach out to needy families and share hope and encouragement in their time of need.

Families experience need for many different reasons. A job loss, an illness, or other challenges can quickly throw families into a financial crisis. During the holidays, we try to supplement the families' resources by providing food and gifts to brighten their holiday celebrations and to let them know that someone cares for them and their situation.

We rely heavily on the generosity of the community, businesses, civic organizations, and individuals to meet the needs of this project. We ask that you consider becoming a sponsor for a family(ies) or assist us through monetary contributions.

Focusing on Christmas. You can help out in one of two ways.

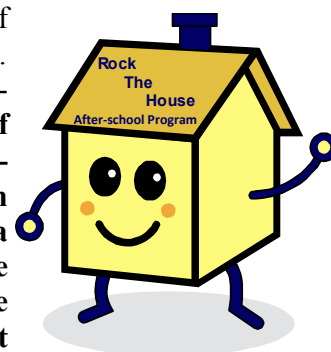
- 1) Adopt a family for (providing food and gifts);
- 2) Provide general monetary support in lieu of becoming a direct sponsor.

If you are interested in sponsoring a family for Christmas, or if you have questions, please feel free to contact,

Jane Webb at 240-620-6920 or great.jane@verizon.net

Will "YOU" Volunteer to Serve at the Damascus Gardens' After-School Program?

As brothers and sisters of Christ, we are told to "... love our neighbors as ourselves" (Matthew 22:39). **If you have a heart for sharing the love of Christ with young children and have a desire to make a positive impact on their lives, we invite you to volunteer at Rock the House After-school program which is sponsored by Faith Connections.**



The after-school program provides a safe and fun environment for children who struggle with realizing their talents and how much they are loved by God.

The Rock the House After-school Program serves elementary-aged children who reside at Damascus Gardens Apartments, located at 9829 Bethesda Church Road in Damascus, Maryland. The program is held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; it begins at 4:30pm and ends at 6:00pm. Volunteers range from high school students to adults. High school and college students have the opportunity to earn Student Service Learning ("SSL") credit.

Contact: Shawna Offenberger, After School Program Director at 240-678-9060 or shalynno86@gmail.com

Dear Crop Walk Supporters,

It is with great pleasure we report to the churches and groups that worked so diligently to provide 65 walkers and generous funds for the 2015 Crop Walk. A total of \$9,418 has been sent to Church World Service headquarters. Damascus HELP will receive 25% of the total. Also, thanks to the DECT security team, water and lunch providers, and Rock Hill for apples.

Clarksburg UMC	\$ 130.00	Montgomery UMC	2,415.00
Damascus UMC	4,510.00	Pleasant Grove UMC	176.00
Damascus HELP Board	30.00	Providence UMC	937.00
Hyattstown UMC	430.00	St. Paul UMC	\$ 220.00
Mt. View UMC	130.00	St. Paul's Catholic	150.00
Providence UMC	746.00	On Line Receipts	<u>290.00</u>
		Grand Total:	\$9,418.00

I join Helen Mahylis, Help Special Projects Chairman and her assistant Kay Orr, in thanking you for your generous support for the 45th Annual ! ! ! Damascus CROP Walk.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Between Cultures: Shared ministry with people of Nicaragua. Kathy Jones, 301-580-4591 or kathyjones@mris.com.

Blood Drives: Red Cross Blood Mobile collections. Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net or 301-253-0742.

Damascus HELP: Provides food, financial assistance, furniture, clothes, holiday needs, and other necessities: 301-253-4100 or DH20872@aol.com.

Earth Angels: Short term assistance, i.e. yard work, transportation. Claudia Klahre, ck1klahre@verizon.net or call/txt: 301-351-0163; Kim Briglia, call/text: 240-731-9296 or kim.briglia@marriott.com.

Earth Stewards: Adopt-a-highway environmental program. Jeff Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or heinbjc@comcast.net.

Faith Connections: Holiday Giving Project, Jane Webb, 301-253-0022 or great.jane@verizon.net; Healthy Choice Program, community ministries. Debbie Tomlinson, 301-482-0522 or debtom3@msn.com.

Habitat for Humanity: Summer home building in Western Maryland--youth involvement. Anita Duvall, 240-485-7650 or anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov.

Harwood House Thrift Shop: Work times—Tues. (8 am to 2 pm, plus evening) & Thurs. evening; Open: Thurs.—Sat, 11 am to 3 pm. Nancy Counts, ncounts@verizon.net or 301-253-6284; Debbie Stone, 301-253-6536 or dafstone@aol.com.

Meals on Wheels: Drivers for delivering meals to homebound. Pam Rust, 301-414-5447 or pamela.rust@comcast.net.

Pleasant Plains Preschool: Preschool classes & chapel for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. Cora Horst, Director, 301-253-9798 or pleasant.plains@verizon.net.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Shawls & lap robes given as a sign of God's love. Cathy Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or cheinbaugh@comcast.net; Jan Mullinix, 301-482-1122 or jmullinix74@yahoo.com.

Medicine Pill Bottles for Malawi: Leave containers w/ labels removed in the Narthex box. Nancy Nickerson, 301-253-6669 or nanickerson@verizon.net.

Hopi Volunteers in Mission: Annual week in July serving on the Arizona reservation. Sign up in April. Norm & Cheryl Minekime, nminekime@yahoo.com & cminekime@verizon.net or 301-414-0098.

Volunteers in Mission/Disaster Relief: National & international relief; rebuilding projects; worship & VBS for kids. Vern Schinski, vschinski5@verizon.net or 301-651-1224.



Damascus HELP, a local community nonprofit organization who helps those in crisis situations, is looking for committed volunteers. We are in need of Officers of the Day (answering the phone from home with a call forwarding system), transportation drivers (taking people to doctors' appointments or Social Service appointments, food drivers (taking food to clients), pantry pick up (picking up donated food and bringing it to the pantry), furniture delivery teams, and a financial caseworker who helps with contacting utility companies for our clients. For most of these opportunities your services are needed one or two days a month – it is up to you. Because of our insurance, only those over 18 are covered so school age children are not able to assist directly with the opportunities listed above. Please call Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100 or email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.



Asbury Elf Day is Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015

We will gather at 9:45 am at the Rosborough Hall. The year has just about flown by and we will have Christmas just around the corner. **We will collect gifts for Asbury residents on the following Sundays in November: Nov.15, 22, 29, & Dec. 6, 2015**, in a box in the Narthex of the church (back of the Sanctuary).

Help will be needed on Wed. Dec. 16, 2015, where gift bags will be filled and delivered to Wilson Health Care & others in Assisted Living. When you come to help, you become an ELF. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled as to content and gender. Some suggestions to give are: stamps, note cards, stuffed animals, knee-high socks, costume jewelry, puzzles, make-up, decorations for rooms, Kleenex, toothpaste & brushes, paperback books, hand lotion, soap, & anything else you may think of. **NO CANDLES, AND NO SHARP OBJECTS.**

To help out is a wonderful way to get into the Christmas spirit. Please bring your gifts on Sundays as noted and/or become an ELF on Wed. Dec. 16, 2015. Start the Christmas season off right.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Between Cultures: *Come Get to Know Us* **Sunday, December 13, after 11 am service** **in the Great Hall**

We at ***Between Cultures*** want to wish everyone at DUMC a happy Advent season and a very merry Christmas. Memo and I are looking forward to being at church on Sunday, December 13, and hope to see many of you following the 11 o'clock service. Whether you are already involved with the group, or are interested in learning more about what we do, we invite you to join us and share in a lunch of rice and beans.

In La Danta, the community was able to produce a small harvest in November in spite of the drought. The families think the corn and beans harvested will last them for about two months, so at the end of January *Between Cultures* will take out the food donation made possible by so many generous donors at DUMC. In our December meeting and this upcoming year, we will be talking about the effects of El Niño and the drought in La Danta, and alternative ways to confront the situation in the long term.

In November we took many members of the La Danta church community to Campuzano Springs to swim and relax, as a way of saying thank you to so many who faithfully participated in our Biblical workshops this year. It was an enjoyable day to take their minds off of the on-going drought situation.

In January, Derek Klahre will be bringing a group from Susquehanna University to visit Nicaragua and learn about different social justice movements. While they are here, they will spend time in La Danta, getting to know the families and helping to fix up the playground next to the church.

May we appreciate this Advent season with our family and friends, in the light and simplicity of Christ's birth,

Amanda Jones-Dominguez

Entre Culturas/Between Cultures

Between Cultures: Prayer Partners

Have you wanted to be more involved in our work in La Danta, but you know that traveling to Nicaragua isn't feasible for you? Here is way to develop a meaningful and interdependent relationship without ever leaving your home. How?

- 1) Ask for a prayer partner from Kathy Jones (kathyjones@mris.com). Be sure to say if it matters if you receive a man or woman, younger or older, etc.
- 2) Receive your prayer partner's name.
- 3) Write an email introducing yourself to: jones3aac@gmail.com (your email letter will be translated for you)
 - a) Who are you?
 - b) Do you have a family?
 - c) What are your prayer concerns?
 - d) What do you hope to gain from this relationship?
 - e) Request what you can be praying about for them and other questions that will help you get to know your partner.
 - f) If possible include a digital picture of yourself.
- 4) Wait patiently...receive a reply from you partner and your relationship has begun.
- 5) Repeat and be faithful to this relationship.

If you have questions talk with Pastor Amanda (301-254-0022, ext. #105 or Kathy Jones (301-580-4591).

Health & Wholeness



DUMC's Stephen Ministry invites You to share in
Peace, Hope, and Light this holiday season

Sunday, December 6
DUMC Dining Hall

Dinner & Discussion at 5:30 pm
Topic: Responding to Grief

Followed by

A Service of Peace, Hope, and Light at 7:00 pm

DUMC's Stephen Ministry welcomes you to the fifth annual Service of Peace, Hope, and Light. This is a service where we gently invite you to bring your hurts, your pains, your losses, your angers, and your fears. This special, intimate service is created to shed love and light on you and on those things in your life that are troubling you as we embark upon this holiday season.

RSVP's are requested for the casual dinner scheduled for 5:30 pm,
to help us better plan our meal. Please call 301-253-0022.

Healing Service

The Healing Service for the month of December has been replaced by
the **Service of Peace, Hope and Light** as shown in article above.

For questions regarding this service, please contact Jan Jaremko @ 301-253-6669.

Earth Angels!

Did you know that DUMC has 25 Earth Angels?

What a band! These angels are ready and willing to provide **TEMPORARY HELP** to DUMC members and folks in our community who are recovering from surgery or illness, navigating through a life transition or crisis, or grieving the loss of a loved one.

Here's what Earth Angels can do for you in your time of need:

Provide transportation to appointments, pick up prescriptions, drop off baked goods, make a meal, do yard work, help with household chores, shop for groceries and other needs, call to check in on your welfare, or make a caring visit. Simply contact Kim Briglia to let her know of your needs.

If you would like to **SERVE** as an Earth Angel, Kim can help you get started. You volunteer for what works for you on a short-term basis. The level of time and commitment is up to you. Come join the band and love your neighbors by lending them a hand in their time of need.

kim.briglia@marriott.com
call/text: 240-731-9296

Hospitality

The *Heavenly Hosts Committee*, DUMC's hospitality ministry, is continuing its efforts to build on the warm and friendly hospitality of our wonderful church community.



We have added a visitor parking space, and now have three parking spaces for the convenience of our church guests. Please join us in seeing that visitors use these spaces located between the two sanctuary entrances. We want to make those first visits to church as easy and comfortable as possible for our guests.

In addition, the pastor parking spaces were converted for use by our senior members who need quicker access to the sanctuary. Thanks to Pastor David and Pastor Amanda for the use of their parking spaces!

By extending a warm greeting to both regular members and guests, we can go a long way towards fulfilling our mission: "To be Devoted Servants...Drawn to Jesus...Dedicated to Making Disciples"!

Blessings,

Linne Carrier, on behalf of the *Heavenly Hosts Committee*

Announcements



Coming Soon!!!

New DUMC Website!!!

After many years of faithful service we are retiring our current website and unveiling a new website sometime in early to mid-December. Official transition dates will be announced in worship and via email when we have them. As with all transition there will be a time of adjustment and fine tuning. Please be patient during this process and feel free to offer constructive feedback and helpful insights! Contact Pastor Amanda, 301-253-0022 or amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net with any questions or concerns.

Christmas at Harwood House

**Harwood House Thrift Shop
will be closed**

**December 24, 25 & 26, 2015
and**

**December 31, 2015 and January 1, & 2, 2016
for the holidays.**

**No donations will be accepted
after December 22 until January 5.**

**The shop will reopen for
business Thursday, January 7, 2016.**

Damascus Volunteer Fire
Department
is bringing **Santa Claus** to
meet your children at:



**WEIS MARKET, December 7 & 8, 7-9 pm;
and**



**SAFEWAY, December 9 & 10, 7-9 pm
*Santa looks forward to meeting you
and your children!***

The Young at Heart Planning Session for 2016

Plans will be made on **Thursday, January 14, 2016**, at 2:30 p.m. for the Young at Heart monthly events to take place in 2016. Any adult with ideas and an interest in participating in the events is welcome to attend the session in the Annex Conference Room. If you can't be there but would like to make suggestions, call Bob Newlin, 301/620-8926, or Jacque Janss, 301/620-7276 before the meeting, if possible.

Our best attended events are luncheons and the annual Christmas dinner at the church dining hall as well as the Frederick Keys baseball game. We also attend theater events and take day trips to interesting sights in the area. We're always willing to expand upon these ideas if proposed events have the potential for drawing a good crowd.

Announcements (cont'd)



Welcoming Wednesday Dinners Mark Your Calendar!

The *Welcoming Wednesday Dinners* are now available in the Church Dining Hall. We serve from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12. This is a chance to connect with your church family mid-week. It is also a **great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!**

December 2: Roast Beef, baked potatoes, veggie stir fry, rolls, pineapple upside-down cake

December 9: Penne Pasta with 3 sauces, green beans, Caesar salad, garlic bread, oreo bars

December 16: Chicken Paprikash, egg noodles, broccoli, glazed carrots, gingerbread

December 23 & 30: NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Like to cook? Want to help this ministry? You can volunteer for only a few hours on Wednesdays. We need helpers for dishwashing, general preparation, cooking or baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email gabriellehulcher@gmail.com.

*Note – Menus subject to change.

Donuts Fundraiser

On the first Sunday of every month (December 6th) we will be in the narthex selling a variety of fresh and delicious Krispy Kreme donuts. All funds raised go to support our Between Cultures mission team and the outstanding work they do in Nicaragua on behalf of the poor and in the interest of building a more just world. You can purchase a dozen donuts (\$7), a half dozen (\$4), or just a single donut (\$1). All the donuts are delicious and made fresh the same morning. Consider taking a dozen home with you, or to Sunday school, or to a social event, or to work Monday morning.



Prayer Needs Listing Revised

Beginning in December we are going to have a weekly prayer list and an ongoing, long-term prayer list. The short-term prayer list will appear in the weekly bulletin and will highlight recent prayer requests. The long-term prayer list will appear in a special prayer section of the Beacon and will reflect those who need ongoing prayer.

Prayer lists are meant to be tools that enrich and focus our prayer life. Please consider removing the ongoing prayer list each month from the Beacon and keeping it wherever you have daily prayer, so that you don't forget those persons who are counting on our continued prayer. Then you can simply add the short term prayers each week. Praying for and with each other is an important and vital part of being the body together and we hope that these new, clearer prayer lists will enable you to focus your prayer life.



Thank You Decorators !!!

The Praise Artisans Guild would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to decorate the church for the Advent season. It was greatly appreciated!

Take down will be Sunday January 10, right after service and as always, many hands make for light work. Thank you again and Merry Christmas to all!



Stewardship/Finance

Greetings to all at this time of Advent! As we prepare for the coming of our Lord, we also prepare our minds and our hearts for the season of giving. Just as the colorful Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the child king, so do we give gifts to the ones we love and the less fortunate, as we celebrate the coming of Christ.

Our gifts mean so much to others. Gifts of prayers, presence, and caring are just as important as the tinsel tree or the pretty packages. Gifts of family gathered at the table sharing a lovingly-prepared meal, or gathering with our church family at the Living Christmas Tree concert remind us of how truly blessed we are.

And yet it is our financial gifts to our church which help to ensure that we each have a place to come together for praying, for worshiping, and for sharing our musical talents. It is our financial gifts that ensure our missionaries can continue with their work in La Danta and elsewhere. It is our financial gifts that provide our youth with leadership, and many programs to share while learning about and living the Christian life. It is our financial gifts which ensure that our Sunday school programs have needed materials. And it is our financial gifts which ensure that our buildings stay warm and dry to shelter us from the cold winter weather, as we gather for worship each week.

As we enter the season of giving, let us be grateful for all that we have and as generous as the Magi with our gifts to our beloved church.

- Susan Leathery

E-GIVING

Do you E-Give? E-giving is a wonderful way to support your church home without worrying about making up for vacations and snow days. There are many ways to sign up and also to change your E-giving amount:

1. Fill out the form included in the Beacon and return it to the church office.
 2. Go to <http://www.damascusumc.org/> and click on the "E-Giving" link at the bottom of the home page, and fill out the request.
 3. Call our church bookkeeper, Debbie Benson, in the church office at 301-253-0022 ext. 106.
- Any questions? Call the church office.

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2015 vs. 2014 Comparative Income & Expenses Jan - Oct 2015 Receipts & Expenses

Below is a condensed version of our January thru October 2015 financial information, comparing what we budgeted our finances to look like, versus what they actually were. As you can see, our income is somewhat behind where we anticipated that it would be, as of October 31, 2015. Cash flow is a bit tight, and accordingly some payments are also behind. While this is only a guide to how we are doing, we wanted to keep you informed.

	Jan - Oct 2015 <u>Budget</u>	Jan - Oct 2015 <u>Actual</u>
ESTIMATED vs. ACTUAL INCOME:	\$ 793,371.29	\$ 745,272.96
EXPENSES:		
Conference Apportionments	\$ 109,237.50	\$ 87,390.00
Salaries	\$ 476,869.03	\$ 453,328.86
Administrative & office expenses	\$ 40,122.11	\$ 36,739.17
Property maintenance	\$ 135,363.75	\$ 119,531.02
Ministries of the church	\$ 60,623.71	\$ 41,130.41
TOTAL EXPENSES:	<u>\$ 822,216.10</u>	<u>\$ 738,119.46</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS):	<u>\$ (28,844.81)</u>	<u>\$ 7,153.50</u>



Poinsettias for Christmas

The Damascus United Methodist Church is offering members of the congregation the opportunity to order poinsettias to help decorate our Sanctuary at Christmas time. Flowers may be placed in honor of OR in memory of loved ones. Each plant is \$12.00 and comes in a 6" pot with 5 – 7 blooms, in your choice of red or white. Please fill out the form below and include your payment when placing your order. **Checks should be made payable to DUMC.**

Completed forms and payments can be turned in to the church office or mailed to:

**Damascus United Methodist Church
Attn: Linda Stastny
9700 New Church Street
Damascus, MD 20872**



Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 13, 2015.



Poinsettia Order Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Poinsettias: _____ Red _____ White

Total Cost @ \$12.00 each _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Disposition of flowers (check one):

_____ I will pick up my flowers following the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Dec. 12.

_____ The flowers may be delivered to an “extra-special person.”

Office Information

PASTORS:

David S. Cooney, ext. #103
cell: 240-529-8887 / david.cooney@verizon.net

Amanda P. McMurtrey, ext. #104
cell: 970-231-5123 / amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net

STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldridge,
Minister of Music & Worship Arts
cell: 240-750-8287 / redheaders@verizon.net

Tom Baldridge,
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
cell: 301-802-4775 / redheaders@verizon.net

Jane Webb, Office Manager
ext. #101 / great.jane@verizon.net

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator
ext. #102 / damascus.umc@verizon.net

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager
cell: 301-253-5241 / lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / dumc_finance@verizon.net

Office Hours

The office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 6:00 p.m. On Friday, we open at 8:00 a.m., sometimes close for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally close for the day at 4:00 p.m. Additionally,

Pastor David is off on Fridays.

Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.

Jane Webb is off on Mondays.

Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

Please keep this in mind when waiting for a response to e-mail or phone messages. Thank you !!!!!

Did you know?

The Upper Room Living Prayer Center has a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers. When you call 1-800-251-2468, a person will answer the phone, receive your prayer request and pray with you. After your call, your prayer concern will be forwarded to one of 300 Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups located all over the world. On the Web, requests can be submitted by visiting www.umc.org, click on "pray" in the green box. Your request will be e-mailed to the Prayer Center within 24 hours and sent out to Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups as well. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month.

Prayer Requests

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any prayer requests on the prayer cards located in the pews. Prayer cards should then be placed in the prayer box in the Narthex.

All requests will be kept confidential.
Prayer requests may also be made on-line at www.damascusumc.org.

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE JANUARY, 2016 BEACON WILL BE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
(For Beacon to publish on December 27).

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND
ALL ARTICLES BY THIS
DATE AT THE LATEST.**

Articles for the monthly **Beacon** (the newsletter)
should be e-mailed directly to Jane Webb,
great.jane@verizon.net.

The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room which is kept in the pew hymnal racks in our Sanctuary.

Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors. This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!

About Our People

Your Connection to Care

When you are facing a difficulty, faith issue, or serious illness, your pastoral care team is here for you. Pastors David and Amanda are easy to reach and available to you. Their contact information is below:



David S. Cooney, ext. #103
cell: 240-529-8887
david.cooney@verizon.net



Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104
office: 301-253-0022
amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net

They can also help connect you to a Stephen Minister or an Earth Angel.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Catherine Cramer**, (Randy Anderson's sister with pregnancy complications), **Shannon Barr** (recovering from broken leg), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Ann Cochran**, **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Joyce Dooley** (Carol Taylor's mom), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Diane Fry** (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **Nancy Lacy** (recovering from a stroke), **Miel Linthicum**, **Lauren Lloyd** (Jan Mullinix's daughter with health issues), **Daniel Lorenzo** (Angie Thompson's brother with heart failure), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella** (recovering from back surgery), **Roberta Mullinix** (Larry's mom in declining health), **Neal Pardini** (recovering from a vascular procedure), **Sue Pratt** (Amy Bilello's mom), **Carolyn Snapp**, **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Amanda Uehara** (Lingrell's 12 yr. old granddaughter recovering from knee surgery), **Karen Wilhem** (Jan Mullinix's daughter with health problems) and **Dr. Authur Woodward, Jr.**, (Recovering at home from head injury).

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Mike Bowman** (Roz Bowman's son), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley**, **Steve Capkovits** (Ruth Harward's cousin), **Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Mickey Cochran**, **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Lauren Dunham**, **Kathy Geehrens**, **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Marilyn Kinsey** (melanoma), **Dave Lingrell**, **Tanner Matney**, **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Greg Sacco** (Gina Wilson's brother), **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle), and **Sharon Stern** (Sandra Malley's sister).

Continue to pray for all who serve in the military: The following are stationed in the United States: **John Clayton** – Army (Cathy Heinbaugh's brother), **Thomas LaMaster** – Navy (Ted & Esther Samakouris' grandson), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and **Kossi (Alfred) Setodji** –Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).

If you would like to add or remove a name to the About Our People section, please e-mail the church office Damascus.umc@verizon.net or call (301)253-0022.