

**DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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 DAMASCUS, MD 20872  
 Phone: 301-253-0022  
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 Website: [www.DamascusUMC.org](http://www.DamascusUMC.org)

# THE BEACON

## FEBRUARY 2016



*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**

### **SPECIAL REPORT:**

Preserving the Future  
 Campaign Page 24

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Dear Friends,

Christmas is now in the past. Decorations are put away and trees taken away. Winter is fully entrenched. The next big Christian festival day is Easter. It is a nice thought because Easter means spring. At Eastertime the days will be noticeably longer and warmer. Daffodils and crocuses will be offering color and beauty. The birds will be out singing and sunning. Rabbits will be hopping around giving out eggs. Easter, named after the pagan goddess of spring, means spring.

But wait! Easter this year is March 27. This is after the spring equinox so, technically, it is spring. But March doesn't feel much like spring to me. I blame it on the moon. This is because Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. If the moon waited a little longer to be full, we could at least make it into early April. (I have decided that for a retirement project in the future I want to start an international petition campaign to make Easter the second Sunday of April every year.)

Well, what all of this means is that Ash Wednesday is February 10, yes, less than two weeks away, and Lent begins that day. We will begin the holy season by burning palms at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. The ashes will be used at our services of ashes and communion on Ash Wednesday. Lenten studies are being offered on the way of discipleship. (They are at multiple times so by all means find a time that is good for you and sign up.) Our worship theme will be "The Crooked Path." The idea is that we are all trying to walk a pathway to God but for countless reasons the path has twists and turns. We will consider those twists from the perspectives of different biblical characters from Jesus to Peter to Judas. There will be Wednesday evening programs and, of course, we will have many holy week experiences. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities offered so that you may have a spiritually meaningful Lent and Easter.

The earliest Christians did not call themselves Christians. They called themselves the followers of the Way. As you prepare yourself for this rapidly approaching Lenten season, pray about what is meant by the Way. What does it mean to follow the Way? Jesus said, "I am the way." What did he mean by that? Think about the path you are following on the way to God and about the twists and turns you have encountered. Then, walk the path with your sisters and brothers in our faith community. Begin with pancakes the night before. (Pancakes are a traditional Shrove Tuesday meal because they "stick to your ribs" in preparation for Ash Wednesday, which is a "fasting" day.)

Then come on Wednesday to receive the mark of ashes, thy symbol of our mortality and repentance. Take the bread and cup as the reminders that we are spared mortality by the saving death and resurrection of Christ. Study God's Word. Worship. Pray. Ultimately, celebrate the resurrection on Easter Day.

Information about the many programs and activities can be found throughout this newsletter. Of course, you can always get the most current information on our website, [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org). The Thrift Shop and Welcoming Wednesday Dinners follow the Montgomery County School cancellation policy in case of inclement weather. If schools are closed, they are closed. All other openings or closings will be posted on our website as soon as a decision has been made and on our phone answering system.

Peace,

David



Our Lenten journey is upon us and we will be exploring  
“The Crooked Path” as our Lenten theme.

As believers, we are all walking the pathway of discipleship, a pathway to God, a pathway to salvation; however, that path is rarely a straight line. In truth our journey is one with twists and turns, gradation, and other challenges. It can be too easy to get lost, turned around or even just plain too tired to take the next step. We are not the only ones who feel this way or have this experience. Throughout Lent we will share with you stories from scripture about people who experience their own “Crooked Path” moments. Through their stories that are often “yes, but” kind of stories we will explore and discover hope in the ways we find to stay on the path, get back on it, or to simply keep walking. Don't miss out this Lent as we journey “The Crooked Path.”

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE  
WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE  
WEBSITE HOME PAGE  
([www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org))  
AND  
OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE  
UP TO DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS AND  
CANCELLATIONS AS SOON AS THE  
DECISIONS ARE MADE,**





2016

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 9

5:00 - 6:30 pm - DUMC Dining Hall

Cost for dinner is: \$6.00 per person

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 10

- 6:15 am: Service of Ashes, followed by a light breakfast  
12:00 noon: Service of Ashes  
7:00 pm: Service of Ashes and Communion with Chancel Choir participating

Small Group Lenten Bible Studies

*A Disciple's Heart* by James Harnish

Classes will begin the week of February 15

EXCEPT for the Friday class which begins on Friday, February 12.

Wednesdays at 10:30 am with Pastor David

Mondays at 8:00 pm with Pastor Amanda

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm with Pastor David

Fridays at 11:00 am with Pastor Amanda (Class begins Feb. 12)

Sundays at 9:30 am with Pastor David

Books cost \$16. Sign up on DUMC's website ([www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org))  
under Community Life/Small Groups or contact Pastor Amanda.

**If you need a book purchased, please sign-up by February 5.**

Morning Communion

Starting Wednesday, February 17 at 6:35 am for six consecutive Wednesdays.

A quick mid-week refocusing for the Lenten Journey.

Join Pastor Amanda and Tom Baldrige each week for a time of  
prayer, devotion, and communion.

We will be done by 6:55 each week with a light breakfast to follow.

*Stop by on your way to school or work!*

Fireside Chats Return!

Starting Wednesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm

in the Dining Hall for five consecutive Wednesdays.

A disciple's journey is not a straight path, but one of twists, turns, road blocks and even pot holes.

Join us each week to hear from a congregant about their disciple's path and how they have navigated the journey.

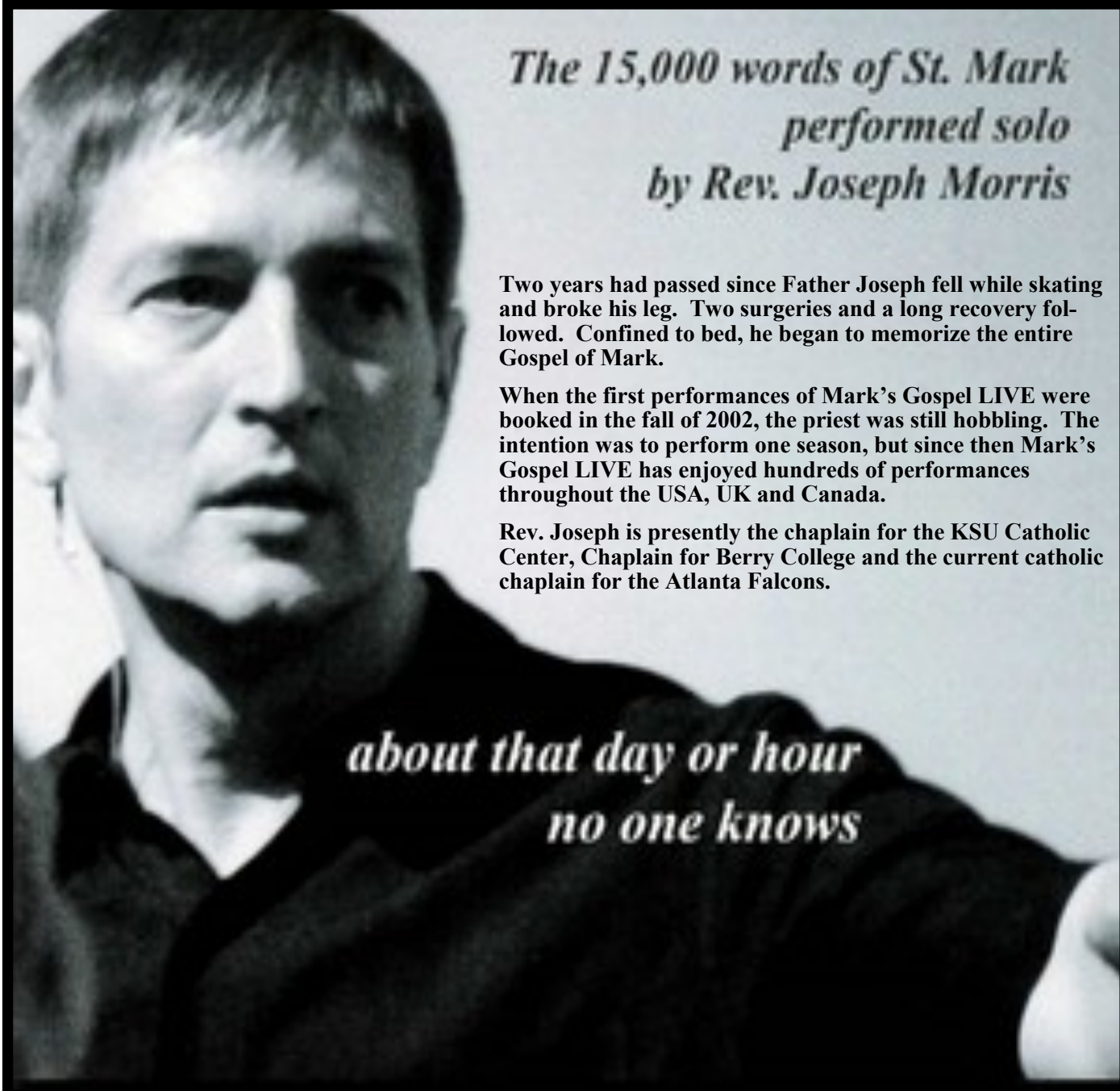
The Praise Artisans Guild presents our *Lenten Hallway Display*,  
"Paths" for your contemplation and enjoyment.

Please wander through the Great Hall hallway and  
think about the paths you have taken in your life's journey to Christ.  
Many thanks to all who have contributed photos from their collections.

# Mark's Gospel LIVE

Friday, February 19 @ 7:00 pm  
And Saturday, February 20 @ 4:30 pm

St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
25100 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD



*The 15,000 words of St. Mark  
performed solo  
by Rev. Joseph Morris*

Two years had passed since Father Joseph fell while skating and broke his leg. Two surgeries and a long recovery followed. Confined to bed, he began to memorize the entire Gospel of Mark.

When the first performances of Mark's Gospel LIVE were booked in the fall of 2002, the priest was still hobbling. The intention was to perform one season, but since then Mark's Gospel LIVE has enjoyed hundreds of performances throughout the USA, UK and Canada.

Rev. Joseph is presently the chaplain for the KSU Catholic Center, Chaplain for Berry College and the current catholic chaplain for the Atlanta Falcons.

*about that day or hour  
no one knows*

**ADMISSION: FREE-WILL OFFERING**

For more information contact St. Anne's  
at [saintannesdamascus.net](http://saintannesdamascus.net) or 301-253-2130

## Giving to Others during Lent - 2016 Sunday School Mission Project

Instead of "giving up" something for Lent, once again this year we are encouraging our Sunday School classes to "give to others" by bringing in food items to help needy families in our area. We want to help stock the shelves of Damascus Help in preparation for spring and summer needs.

**We would like our students to do extra tasks or chores to earn money towards the food donations they will give each week. Then, it would be great if the children could help select their favorite foods to buy and donate to Damascus Help.**

You can donate food items too! All basic, non-perishable foods with valid expiration dates are welcome. **Please join us in "giving to others" during Lent.**

For the children, each week of Lent will have a special focus for donations based on the current needs\* of Damascus Help's food pantry.

- February 14 - **GRAPE** jelly (no peanut butter, thanks!),  
canned fruit
- February 21 - Baby diapers (size 4 needed most!)
- February 28 - Hot or Cold Cereal
- March 6 - Bars of soap, individually wrapped,  
toilet paper
- March 13 - Canned meat, canned tuna, mixed vegetables
- March 20 - Tea bags, laundry soap



Damascus Help always welcomes gift cards to Weis, Safeway or Walmart.

***\*(They currently have plenty of soup, peanut butter, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, and green beans)***

**Thank you and God bless you!**



## Young at Heart Winter Celebration

The Young at Heart Group will be going to the  
**The GrillMarx Restaurant**  
12011 Snowden Farm Parkway (in the new Clarksburg Village Center)  
on **Thursday, February 18 at 11:30 A.M. for a Winter Luncheon.**  
(Snow date: Thursday, February 25)

**We will each order individually off the menu and have separate checks.**  
**Menu prices range from \$10 to \$25.** Major credit cards accepted.  
Reservations can be made with Jane Webb at 301-253-0022 or 240-620-6920.  
Deadline for reservations is Monday, February 15, 2016.  
**Please come and enjoy the fellowship!**



United  
Methodist  
Women  
Faith · Hope · Love in Action

### Damascus United Methodist Women News February, 2016

#### UMWomen Circle Dates

**Susanna Wesley / Esther JOY Circle**  
Monday, February 8 at 10:00 am  
in the Dining Hall

**WWJD Circle Meeting**  
Thursday, February 18 @ 7:30 pm  
Location: TBD

#### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

**Sunday, Feb. 7:** Superbowl Bar-B-Que Lunches available. (See article on page #18 of this Beacon).  
**MUST BE ORDERED IN ADVANCE!**

**Sunday, Feb. 21:** Women's Sunday. Women serve at both services (8:15 & 11) and install officers.

**Thursday, March 10:** Executive Board Meeting at 1:00 pm in the Church Annex/Office. All officers should attend.

### **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, Marcia Hofman, Kathy Jones, Gloria Maready, Kim Ferguson, Gabrielle Hulcher, Lora Maynard, Nancy Counts, Eunice Rush and Jacque Janss 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 Marcia Hofman at 301-253-2960 or email her at [marciahofman67](mailto:marciahofman67) to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!

## Christian Formation (cont'd)



**Pleasant Plains Preschool**  
a ministry of Damascus United Methodist Church  
[pleasant.plains@verizon.net](mailto:pleasant.plains@verizon.net)  
301-253-9798



Registration for the 2016-2017 school year has begun. We would love to have your little one join us! We offer classes for ages 2-5. Each class has a biweekly music lesson with Polly Edmonds-Baldrige and a weekly chapel service in the Sanctuary. Please contact Cora Horst, school director, at 301-253-9798 or [pleasant.plains@verizon.net](mailto:pleasant.plains@verizon.net) for more information or to schedule a tour. A list of classes and tuition can be found on the church website: [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org) (at top of home page, click on Preschool tab). Thank you to Pastor Amanda for all of your hard work on our NEW website!!

## Men's Night Out for February

The Men of DUMC (and male friends, family & neighbors) are invited for a Men's Night Out on **Monday, February 29** at Outback Steak house, 12609 Wisteria Drive, Germantown, MD (301-353-9499).

Also, be sure and mark your calendar for the **Annual Men's Retreat for April 29-30, 2016** at Hallowood Retreat Center, 7300 Banner Road, Co-mus, MD.

We **WILL NOT** have a Men's Breakfast in the month of February.

## Join the YOUNG AT HEART and "CHERISH THE LADIES"

Reserve your seat NOW for the **Sunday, April 3**, 3:00 pm performance by "Cherish the Ladies" at the Majestic Theatre in Gettysburg. "Literally the most successful and sought-after Irish-American group in Celtic music." Now celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, hear firsthand why *The Washington Post* dubbed them a "thoroughly engaging performance brimming with spirit and soul."



The  
line

us know if you are interested in attending this performance **is February 28**. The cost will be \$30.00. We will plan on carpooling, so let me know if you will need a ride or can drive, and if you can drive, how many you can take. This activity is open to any member of the church, their friends and family.

Please call or email Jacque Janss at 301-620-7276 or [janssjac@comcast.net](mailto:janssjac@comcast.net). You may also notify Bob Newlin at 301-620-8926 or [bobnewlin@comcast.net](mailto:bobnewlin@comcast.net) by February 28.

**\*If you are one of those who were snowed out of the YAH's trip to see "The Church Basement Ladies," automatically you will be on the list to go to this make-up performance and will be contacted individually.** If you are not able to attend this performance, we may be able to sell your ticket. This would be the only way that money can be refunded. Please contact Jacque if you have any questions.

dead-  
to let



## Registration for Learning about Communion Classes Lent 2016

Children in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and their parents, are invited to join our **Learning About Communion Classes** to be held during Lent this year. The classes comprise five one-hour sessions, and both the child and his/her parent attend each session. This year our classes are planned for **Sunday Mornings during the 11am service**, and will be led by Susan James and Cathy Scarbrough. The classes will be held in the Dining Hall.

**Four Sunday mornings: Feb. 14, Feb. 21, March 6 and March 13  
11am to 12 noon in the Dining Hall,  
and our final session is Friday, March 18, 2016, 7:00 - 7:45 pm,  
a special communion service with Pastor Amanda!**

**Classes are limited to 10 families, so be sure to register early!** A commitment to attend all five sessions is important, and will help to make the experience more meaningful to your child.

We will have lots of fun learning about communion, making commemorative banners, and even making our own bread that will be used in our final session when we celebrate communion on the altar.

Complete the attached registration form and turn it in to the church office or mail directly to Cathy Scarbrough at 20656 Anndyke Way, Germantown, MD 20874. Any questions? Please call Cathy at (301) 972-6844 or email her at [tom.scarbrough@verizon.net](mailto:tom.scarbrough@verizon.net).

At the first session, a fee of \$10 per student is requested to help offset the costs of materials.

=====  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

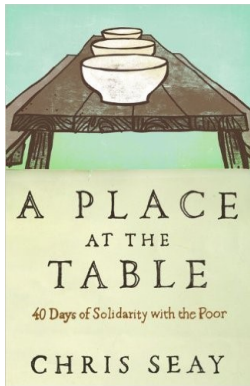
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Any food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_





New Study with Pastor  
Amanda

## “A Place at the Table: 40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor”

When manna and quail fell from heaven to feed the faithful wanderers in the

desert, they were told, take only what you need and no more. It was a journey to a promised land and a challenge to truly trust in God to provide. How often have we read statistics about clean water, hunger and poverty in our world? The numbers are overwhelming and almost unreal, leaving many of us in a place of not knowing how to respond. Here is a chance to change that! Join Pastor Amanda throughout Lent, to explore dietary habits, portions, and fasting that will help us explore the reality of “taking only what we need” and the spiritual journey of trusting in God.

**Monday, February 1** in the Annex Conference Room from 7 pm - 8 pm. Consider and plan. This class will be centered on exploring our Lenten goal and taking steps to plan for Lent.

**Each Monday Feb 8 – March 28** in the Annex Conference Room from 7 pm - 8 pm Bible Study and reflection on our Lenten Journey together and the daily devotions from the book.

## **SAVE THE DATE --**

### **2016 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](http://www.PotomacParkRetreat.org)

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

## ***Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry*** **Monday, February 15 @ 12:30 / 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, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, [jlm.jan3@verizon.net](mailto:jlm.jan3@verizon.net) 301-482-1122.

**NOW . . .**

**We are expanding the prayer shawl ministry to include *Prayer Squares!***

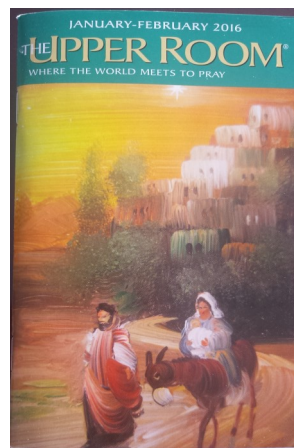
These small pocket squares are knitted or crocheted with the same loving intention as a prayer shawl. They can be carried in a pocket or purse as a reminder of God's warmth and care. They are much smaller and quicker to make, so we are looking forward to this opportunity to share God's love and comfort with many more people. If anyone is interested in making squares with us, please contact Cathy Heinbaugh for easy patterns and guidelines. We are excited about this opportunity to share our gifts with more people in our congregation and community.



## **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!

# LADIES' NIGHT OUT

**WHEN:**  
**Tuesday, February 23 @ 6 pm**

**WHERE:**  
**Ledo's Pizza @ 6 pm**  
**9805 Main Street**  
**Damascus, MD 20872**

**RSVP by February 21**

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

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

**MONDAY,**  
**March 14**  
**Isabella's @ 6 pm**  
**44 North Market Street**  
**Frederick, MD 21701**  
**RSVP by March 12**

**THURSDAY,**  
**April 21**  
**Longhorn Steakhouse @ 6 pm**  
**20017 Century Blvd.**  
**Germantown, MD 20874**  
**RSVP by April 19**

**TUESDAY,**  
**May 10**  
**Mt. Airy Inn @ 6 pm**  
**1401 S. Main Street**  
**Mt. Airy, MD 21771**  
**RSVP by May 8**

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



## Interested in joining a Sunday morning Welcome Team?

Have you observed the Welcome Team members on duty at each service? Have you thought that you would like to be a part of one of the teams? If so, please read the brief summary of the various roles and complete the form at the bottom. (There is a greater need for **team members at our 11:00 services.**)

Welcome Team members (greeters, ushers and host) are asked to arrive 30 minutes before and stay 10 minutes after the service.

**Greeter** - greet people as they arrive and exit the service

**Host** - stand at the Welcome Station to answer questions, provide informational brochures, and distribute welcome gifts to guests

**Usher** - distribute bulletins, collect offering, and 'dismiss' pews during communion

Place the completed bottom half of your form at the Welcome Station OR leave it at the church office. Thank you! Questions? Contact Robin Cooney at 301-882-4165 or [robin-scooney@gmail.com](mailto:robin-scooney@gmail.com).

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### I want to join a Sunday morning Welcome Team!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(This contact information will be shared with all Welcome Team volunteers.)

I am committing to join a Welcome Team as: \_\_\_\_\_ Greeter,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Host, and/or  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Usher

Service Time: \_\_\_\_\_ 8:15 am \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 am (10:15 summer)

I am committing to join a Welcome Team: \_\_\_\_\_ one Sunday a month  
 \_\_\_\_\_ two Sundays a month

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS— 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

February 2016

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

## CALENDAR

*Friends relaxing  
after a long night of  
ice skating.*



The cold month of January is behind us, and we certainly had an inspiring month of fellowship and fun. All I can say is thank you for everyone that participated in all the activities. We had a lot of fun ice skating and celebrating everyone's birthday at the Birthday Bash. We also enjoyed looking at what Jesus's life might have been like when he was a teenager, like each one of us. Sometimes we forget that Jesus grew up just like we did and had to deal with a lot of the same stuff we deal with, good or bad. God willing and the snow stopped, we all had a great Youth Retreat.

The month of February is shaping up to be full of fun with Super Bowl parties and the start of Lent with our annual Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday - all in the same month. We will also have a great time with friends at the church reflecting on the Youth Retreat and looking ahead to the Choir Tour. We will start off our Lenten season with a Wednesday morning communion and breakfast. We will also continue to have our Wednesday morning devotional time and communion during Lent. If you do not get my FUN weekly emails, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

- Tom

## Choir Mission Tour

Tour is coming up soon. This year we are going to Michigan. Plans are shaping up nicely. The tour dates are from June 22 to June 29, with the homecoming concert on June 30. If you have any friends, family or contacts in Michigan that might want to host us, please let Polly or Tom Baldrige know as soon as possible. We are also getting a list of names together that will be going on the trip. If you are planning on going please, tell Polly or Tom. Tour interest meeting is Sunday, February 21 - see calendar!

### 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

### Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 6:35 am Morning Lent devotional and breakfast
- 5:45 pm Dinner with our church community
- 7:00 pm Youth Bells

**Each Saturday night:** Church Basketball - Check the bulletins for times and locations of each game.

### Sunday, February 7:

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal - Youth Chapel
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers - Choir Room
- 6:00-9:00 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Super Bowl Parties**  
**Middle School - Host - Cappeluti**  
**High School - Host - Bratburd**

### Tuesday, February 9: *Shrove Tuesday*

- 5:00-6:30 pm Pancake Supper

### Wednesday, February 10: *Ash Wednesday*

- 6:35 am Communion and breakfast
- 7:00 pm Evening Service

### Sunday, February 14:

- 4:00 pm UMYFO meeting - Annex
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers - Choir Room

**NO EVENING YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

***Happy Valentine's Day !***

### Wednesday, February 17:

- 6:35 am Morning lent devotional and breakfast

### Sunday, February 21:

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal - Youth Chapel
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers - Choir Room
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner: **TBD**
- 6:30- 8:00 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Youth Retreat follow-up conversation and choir tour meeting**

### Wednesday, February 24:

- 6:35 am Morning lent devotional and breakfast

### Sunday, February 28:

- 3:00 pm Organ Recital: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Concert
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers - Choir Room
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner: Works
- 6:30- 8:30 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Movie Night**

# Worship Arts News and Events

February 2016

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts |

240-750-8287 | redheaders@verizon.net

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Concert and Evensong.....

## Broadway Review

Sunday, February 28

3:00 pm in Sanctuary



Broadway-bound high school students will share favorite musical theater selections from *Wicked*, *Finding Neverland*, *Newsies*, *Rent*, *Cinderella*, *Into the Woods*, and *Camelot*, accompanied by Katherine Williams. Performers will include voice students of Polly Baldrige.

*The Women's Evensong originally scheduled for February 28 will be shared on Palm Sunday, March 20, at 7 pm.*

### Lenten Hallway Display: YOUR PHOTOS NEEDED

The Praise Artisans Guild is preparing for the 2016 Lenten Hallway Display and is asking for your photos - any photo of a "path" will work. This can be interpreted many ways, from an actual outdoor walking/hiking/biking path to a hallway or corridor, staircase, roller-coaster, train track or even a bobsled run! Please send us anything that might be seen as a path. If you have the physical photo already printed and are willing to share, we would love to have that to save printing costs OR email your photo file to Connie Ross at [connie@tedrossconsulting.com](mailto:connie@tedrossconsulting.com) for printing. This display will go up the week of February 7th so we need to ask for a quick turnaround. Thank you for sharing and enhancing our display with your personal photos! PAG Chair, Connie Ross 301-633-9504.

### Looking Ahead to Spring Programs...

- Vienne C# Mass to be shared Sunday, April 24, at 8:15 and 11 am services – join Chancel Choir to present this special work!
- *Story-tellin' Man* Musical to be shared Sunday, May 1, at 8:15 and 11 am services – all children invited to participate!!
- Charles Wesley Singers Summer Tour to Michigan – rehearsals begin after Easter. Interest meeting Sunday, February 21, at 6:30 pm.

### WORSHIP ARTS ENSEMBLES\*

*Join for the winter and/or spring term.  
New members always welcome!*

#### WEDNESDAYS

**4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus**

Puppet Troupe for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**4:30 pm Cherubs**

Vocal Choir for 4 ½ years to 1<sup>st</sup> grade

**5:00 pm Choristers**

Vocal Choir for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**5:00 pm Puppets, Inc**

Puppet Troupe for Middle Schoolers

**6:30 pm Inspiration Ringers**

Handbell Choir for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**7:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir**

Handbell Choir for Middle and High School

**7:00 pm Men's Choir**

Vocal Choir for changed voices of all ages

**7:00 pm Women's Ensemble**

Vocal Choir for female voices of all ages

**7:30 pm Chancel Choir**

Mixed voice choir for changed voices

#### SUNDAYS

**3:30 pm Youth Praise Band**

Band meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month

**5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers**

Vocal Choir for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up

#### MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy**

Advanced handbell ensemble

### Music Filing Assistance Needed

Anyone who is willing to learn about filing orchestra music and able to spend a few hours working in the annex should please, please contact Polly Baldrige.

The Living Christmas Tree orchestra music and other filing needs to be completed this winter!!

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Chair:** Carol Yocum, [carolyocum@msn.com](mailto:carolyocum@msn.com)  
301-829-4822/301-788-6446

**Between Cultures:** Shared ministry with people of Nicaragua. Kathy Jones, 301-580-4591 or [kathyjones@mris.com](mailto:kathyjones@mris.com).

**Blood Drives:** Red Cross Blood Mobile collections. Cathy Heinbaugh, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:DH20872@aol.com).

**Earth Angels:** Short term assistance, i.e. yard work, transportation. Kim Briglia, call/text: 240-731-9296 or [kim.briglia@marriott.com](mailto:kim.briglia@marriott.com).

**Earth Stewards:** Adopt-a-highway environmental program. Jeff Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or [heinbjc@comcast.net](mailto:heinbjc@comcast.net).

**Faith Connections:** Healthy Choice Program, community ministries. Debbie Tomlinson, 301-482-0522 or [debtom3@msn.com](mailto:debtom3@msn.com); Holiday baskets, Jane Webb, 301-253-0022 or [great.jane@verizon.net](mailto:great.jane@verizon.net).

**Habitat for Humanity:** Summer home building in Western Maryland--youth involvement. Anita Duvall, 240-485-7650 or [anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ncounts@verizon.net) or 301-253-6284; Debbie Stone, 301-253-6536 or [dafstone@aol.com](mailto:dafstone@aol.com).

**Meals on Wheels:** Drivers for delivering meals to homebound. Pam Rust, 301-414-5447 or [pamela.rust@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net); Jan Mullinix, 301-482-1122 or [jmullinix74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullinix74@yahoo.com).

**Medicine Pill Bottles for Malawi:** Leave containers w/ labels removed in the Narthex box. Nancy Nickerson, 301-253-6669 or [nannickerson@verizon.net](mailto:nannickerson@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](mailto:nminekime@yahoo.com) & [cminekime@verizon.net](mailto:cminekime@verizon.net) or 301-414-0098.

**Travel Toiletries for Homeless Women @ the Montgomery Ave. Center.** Red basket in the Narthex. Wanda Mianite, [wmianite@verizon.net](mailto:wmianite@verizon.net), 301-972-1876.

Hello friends,

Our 2016 started off on a great note with a visit from Susquehanna University's Theta Chi Fraternity and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority, led by Derek Klahre and accompanied by Claudia Klahre! The group spent time doing service work at the Little Bluebird home, visited La Danta and helped to fix up their playground, spent time in Granada, and met with sweatshop union organizer Damarys Mesa, among many other activities. We are grateful to the group for their hard work, and to Derek for leading and organizing it.

On January 28, we delivered another installment of emergency food aid to help them through the continued drought situation, thanks to the fundraising efforts of DUMC. The church community in La Danta has expressed their deep gratitude, saying "thank you for your great kindness and love for us." They send blessings and hugs for all at DUMC.

If you would like to participate in this summer's missions trip to Nicaragua, from July 24 to the 31, please contact Kathy Jones ([kathyjones@mris.com](mailto:kathyjones@mris.com)) or Mike Wahl ([wahlm50@msn.com](mailto:wahlm50@msn.com)) for more information. **Please note that dates have changed to a week later than originally planned to accommodate more DUMC members.**

In solidarity,

Amanda Jones Dominguez,  
on behalf of Between Cultures

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## Between Cultures Mission Fundraiser

For the monthly donut fundraiser we will be in the Narthex selling a variety of fresh and delicious Krispy Kreme donuts on Sunday February 7. Every penny raised goes to support the Between Cultures mission team and the amazing work they do in Nicaragua on behalf of the poor. You can purchase a dozen donuts (\$8), 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, to Sunday school, to a social event, or to work on Monday morning.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Hello friends & neighbors,

Urbana High School is currently doing a fundraiser to raise money for this years **Safe and Sane after Graduation Party** for the class of 2016.

We are looking for donations of gently used shoes to be donated - that's it! We will get paid for every pound of shoes we collect and the shoes will go to underdeveloped countries where people need them 😊.

There is a box for collection @ Urbana HS in the front office and I will also place a collection box on my front porch. I am also happy to pick up from you - just give me a call. Thank you in advance for your help!



Vicki Senires (301-651-6300)  
12102 Ashcroft Terrace, Monrovia, MD

## Health & Wholeness

### 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](mailto:kim.briglia@marriott.com)  
call/text: 240-731-9296

### CALLING ALL WALKERS!!!

Enjoy the fun of fellowship while  
Getting in some exercise!  
Join us for some invigorating walking  
(usually between 2-4 miles).

If you want to continue or renew your walking habit  
or start a new one with another members' from  
DUMC, call or email Lynn Gruner at  
301-253-5017 / [grunerly@verizon.net](mailto:grunerly@verizon.net)



## Stewardship/Finance

### New Year's Greetings from your Finance Committee!

We have good news and bad news. The Good News is that we successfully concluded 2015, having lived within our budget and meeting all of our obligations!!! That does not mean that we did everything we wanted to do, because we will never be able to do everything we want in order to further God's Kingdom on earth. Over and above the budget, our congregation raised additional funding for the following programs in 2015:

- ▶ Beans & Rice program -- over \$400.00
- ▶ Between Cultures mission in Nicaragua -- over \$3,600.00
- ▶ Ethiopian Medicine Box project -- over \$4,400.00
- ▶ World Communion -- over \$200.00
- ▶ Preserving the Future campaign -- over \$186,000

We should all be proud of these and many other extra efforts that we as a congregation made happen in 2015. As for the Bad News, if you have followed the news, you know that 2016 has started off with unprecedented volatility in stock markets, commodity markets, and economies around the world. We all pray that stability and growth will return soon. At the end of this year we have faith that we will be able to tell you that we met our goals and exceeded our obligations. In closing let me say that there's an old saying that is incorrectly attributed to an ancient Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times," and 2016 has certainly gotten off to an interesting start.

Sincerely,

David A. Rust, Chairman

### 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.

### DONATIONS OF STOCK

Did you know that you can donate shares of securities to your church? Donating appreciated stock is a great way to give, while avoiding paying capital gains tax incurred when selling shares. Please contact our church bookkeeper, Debbie Benson, in the church office at 301-253-0022 ext. 106, and she will give you more information and provide you with a form to use.



### 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](http://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.



## Announcements



### Disney Cruise Meeting set for Sunday, February 21 at 12:15 pm

If you have any interest in the Disney cruise planned for folks associated with DUMC and their friends and relatives, you will want to participate in an informational meeting to be held in the Church Annex following the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, February 21. **Some new options are being considered that may make the trip more attractive and possibly more affordable.** The group as a whole will make the decision on whether to adjust plans previously made. The trip, sponsored by the Young at Heart organization, is set for early December of 2016. Those who already have reservations will be contacted before February 21 to get their views. If you have questions before the meeting, contact Nancy Nickerson at [nanickerson@verizon.net](mailto:nanickerson@verizon.net) or Kelly Bratburd at [kellyb@beourguestvacations.com](mailto:kellyb@beourguestvacations.com).



### Fleece Fabric or Fleece Blankets Needed

We are in need of donations for this year's Vacation Bible School. Older children will be creating fleece blankets for youth at the Board of Child Care in Baltimore. We need multiple sets of 2 ½ yards and 60" wide pieces of fleece fabric to be woven together by the VBS children. The fabric should be in colors that teenagers might like.

Or, we would like donations of new 90" x 60" (twin size) fleece blankets that you might be able to buy at an after-winter sale. Our younger VBS children will create cards to go with the store-bought blankets.

Please email Cathy Scarbrough at [tom.scarbrough@verizon.net](mailto:tom.scarbrough@verizon.net) if you have any questions or suggestions. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you!

### Faith Connections needs volunteers . . . .

to answer the help-line phone calls 2-3 days per month. This ministry provides assistance and referrals to families in need in our Damascus- Clarksburg community.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in need in your own local community. **For more information please call Debbie Tomlinson, Faith Connections Program Director at 301-512-5130 or [Debbie@Faith-Connections.org](mailto:Debbie@Faith-Connections.org).**

**Faith Connections provides emergency service to families in crisis situations and works in advocacy to support efforts to empower the individual family toward self-reliance. Faith Connections is a collaboration of the churches in the Damascus-Clarksburg area.**



### Going to buy something on Amazon.com?



**Don't forget to go through the DUMC link located at the bottom of the home page on the DUMC website ([damascusumc.org](http://damascusumc.org))**

**The Youth Program here at DUMC gets a contribution for all purchases made through this link, with no additional cost to you!**

## Announcements (cont'd)

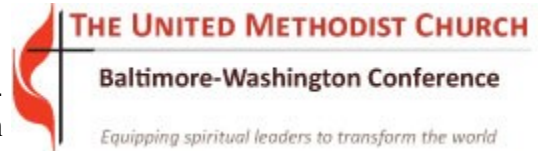
### Important Cemetery Information



Christmas displays will be removed from our Cemetery beginning Ash Wednesday (Feb. 10). Those made of permanent material will be placed at the end of their row under the arborvitae trees where you may recover them. Any display remaining by Easter will be donation to the Thrift Shop.



### **Baltimore-Washington Conference College Scholarship Program for Fall 2016**



The Baltimore-Washington Conference will once again be offering college scholarships for the Fall 2016 semester. **Students can apply January 4 – March 1, 2016 through an online application system.** Scholarships are available to students attending or enrolling in accredited colleges and universities in the United States.

Students must be an active member of a church for at least one year and be attending (or will attend) an accredited college or university within the United States full-time. Students will need to provide their official transcript (high school or college) and contact information for two church references (pastor and another member of the church). In addition, the student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

For additional information and to apply, visit [www.bwcumc.org/finance/scholarships](http://www.bwcumc.org/finance/scholarships). Please contact Cheryl Cook at [ccook@bwcumc.org](mailto:ccook@bwcumc.org) or 410-309-3446 with questions.

Peace,

**Cheryl Cook**

Associate Director, Young Adult and Campus Ministry  
The United Methodist Church / Baltimore-Washington Conference



### SUPER BOWL BAR-B-QUE

Once again the United Methodist Women's famous Super Bowl bar-b-que will be offered February 7, 2016.

**Pre-orders due TODAY !! JANURY 31, 2016.  
Only pre-orders will be honored.**



Lunch will include one quart of homemade Beef bar-b-que, one pint of homemade coleslaw, eight sandwich rolls, and a bag of chips—enough to feed four to eight!!! All this delicious lunch for the fabulous price \$25.00. Please use the order below and make checks out to **DUMWomen**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lunches \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up after 8:15 service \_\_\_\_\_ after 11:00 service \_\_\_\_\_

Orders can be given to Joy Schwab, Pennie Adams, Esther Samakouris or dropped off in the church office. ENJOY ---

**Announcements (cont'd)**



**WANTED: Hospitality Helpers**

As the Heavenly Hosts committee and church staff continue to examine ways to extend hospitality to new guests and regular members at DUMC, we would like to extend the Welcome Team concept beyond Sunday mornings. It is our goal to have HOSPITALITY HELPERS (greeters and "welcomers") at as many church-sponsored events as possible . . . 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday concerts, special services, seasonal programs, etc.

HOSPITALITY HELPERS will greet people as they arrive, distribute programs if they are available, answer questions, and guide guests to restrooms/nursery as needed. **Please consider taking on this role.** If you choose to do so, simply complete the form below and your name will be added to the 'pool' of Hospitality Helpers. Church office staff will make email/phone contacts for the events, as the needs arise. There is no expectation that you will always be available - simply respond yes or no when the email/phone contact is made.

Place the completed bottom half of this form at the Welcome Station OR leave it at the church office. Thank you! Questions? Contact the church office or Robin Cooney (301-882-4165 or [robinscooney@gmail.com](mailto:robinscooney@gmail.com)).



I want to join the 'pool' of Hospitality Helpers!

**Please add my name to the list of Hospitality Helpers. I will respond to requests for help-ers and, when I am available, I will serve in that role greeting and welcoming attendees at church-sponsored events.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(This contact information may be shared.)

## 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!**

**February 3: Rosemary Chicken, Pasta, Vegetable, Green Salad, Dessert**

**February 10: (Ash Wednesday): Assorted Hearty Soups, Hot Bread, Fruit Salad, Dessert**

**February 17: Meatloaf with gravy, Baked Potatoes and Green Beans, Salad and Dessert.**

**February 24: Lasagna, Broccoli, Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert**

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](mailto:gabriellehulcher@gmail.com).

\*NOTE – Menus subject to change.

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### NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS' MEMORY BOOKS



DUMC Family,

Every year, we like to present each High School senior from DUMC with a special binder on Senior Sunday (May/June 2016). These binders can contain photos, favorite memories, scripture, encouraging words or any other creative pages for your special senior. Pages should be 8x11 inches and delivered to Wendy Hembrough or Tom Baldrige by May 8, 2016 in order to be included in the binders.

Please feel free to contact family, friends, mentors, teachers, scout leaders, etc. to submit pages for a binder. We are hoping our seniors will find these binders as a source of inspiration and comfort throughout the upcoming new chapters of their lives! Thanks in advance for helping us create these special gifts for our graduating seniors. This year's seniors are:

Logan Abernethy  
Jenna Bacon  
John Billig  
Madison Bowe  
Kyle Boyer  
Claire Dobrzanski  
Chris Gaylord  
Cameron Horst  
Rose Hulcher  
Quil Kiback  
Ian Kinnaman  
Bethany Maczka  
Jessi Marshall  
Austin Mollard

Riley Murray  
Kelsey Najaka  
Keith Packard  
Gabe Russell  
Cody Sander  
Corbin Sander  
Teddy Schlee  
Marci Senires  
Lucas Sicard  
Jack Stull  
Rachel Taylor  
Micah Tsoi  
Patrick Walker  
Marin Williams

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Sign Up for Flowers on the New Calendar !



Flowers, as signs of life and beauty, have traditionally been offered to the glory of God to adorn the Sanctuary.

The 2016 Flower Calendar is now hanging in the Narthex, in the back of the church. As you come to church, don't forget to stop and sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Please indicate: name, phone number, and whether you are picking up your flowers after church. The earlier you put in for your special dates, the better! You may order the flowers yourself from the local florist Beall's at 301-253-2840.

Any and all questions will be gladly answered by Linda Stastny in the church office.

## Update on the Malawi Medicine Bottle Program

**POSTED: DECEMBER 20, 2015:** AFTER REACHING MORE THAN 1 MILLION PILL CONTAINERS THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED. The Malawi Project Board of Directors has turned its attention to (1) famine relief, (2) getting medical supplies, including 30 kidney dialysis machines, to Malawi as well as another shipment of over 500 wheelchairs and, (3) gaining the funds from contributors to build a new birthing center south of the capital city of Lilongwe. Thank you for your support of the pill container program and please continue with us on future projects.

We here at DUMC  
supplied over 600 bottles.  
We should be proud of  
ourselves !!!

Thanks to all who participated.



## Thank You's

### A Hearty Thank You!

The Harwood House Thrift Shop would like to give a BIG thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to help remove the carpet from our showroom floor. At last count 37 volunteers came, which made short work of a big job. Not only did they come for the removal and clean-up but returned the next day to help move shelves and racks for refinishing the floor. Words cannot express how appreciative we are for all the help!

A special thank you to Lisa Marshall for her help and direction! She never fails to come when called, and she always goes above and beyond what's needed! We would also like to thank Baxter Floors for refinishing the showroom floors at cost as a service to the community. Not only did they do a wonderful job but saved us a tremendous amount of money!

*Again, our hearts are full for all the support  
we received, thank you so much!  
Please come by and see how our  
showroom sparkles!!*

### Thank you for your support of the 2015 Holiday Giving Project!

Faith Connections provides coordination and distribution of meals and Christmas gifts to needy families in the greater Damascus-Clarksburg area.

Each year approximately 300 families in the up-county area are assisted with additional help from local churches, businesses, various organizations, and individuals. This includes approximately 1,300 volunteer hours with an estimated \$65,000 in food and gifts to our neighbors in need.

**For our part, Damascus UMC was able to support 26 families for Christmas, 2016. Besides providing either gift cards or food for a Christmas dinner, we also gave multiple gifts for ALL children, and most of the adults too! We provided for 85 children and 44 adults total, including 6 families with single parents. THIS IS AMAZING !!**

Thanks to everyone who participated in this program for your care, your time, and the love you shared during the holiday season. Peace to you all and blessings in the coming year !!!

Jane Webb, DUMC Representative

## Office Information

### PASTORS:

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

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

### STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldrige,  
Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
cell: 240-750-8287 / [redheaders@verizon.net](mailto:redheaders@verizon.net)

Tom Baldrige,  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
cell: 301-802-4775 / [redheaders@verizon.net](mailto:redheaders@verizon.net)

Jane Webb, Office Manager  
ext. #101 / [great.jane@verizon.net](mailto:great.jane@verizon.net)

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator  
ext. #102 / [damascus.umc@verizon.net](mailto:damascus.umc@verizon.net)

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager  
cell: 301-253-5241 / [lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net](mailto:lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net)

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper  
ext. #106 / [dumc\\_finance@verizon.net](mailto:dumc_finance@verizon.net)

## IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING  
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION  
IN THE MARCH, 2016 BEACON WILL BE  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**  
(For Beacon to publish on February 28).

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

## 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 !!!!!



dreamstime.com

The Office will be closed on  
**Monday, February 15, 2016** for  
**President's Day** and will  
re-open **Tuesday, February 16**  
at **9:00 am**.

## Administrative Meetings for February, 2016



- Feb. 3 Office Staff Meeting  
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 4 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**
  - ▶ Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall/back**
  - ▶ Missions Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall/Stage Side**
  - ▶ Finance Committee to follow  
in the **Sacristy**
  - ▶ Christian Formation Meeting to  
Follow in the **Library**
- Feb. 11 SPPRC Meeting  
**7:00 pm** in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 14 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex
- Feb. 17 **Technology** Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Feb. 25 Administrative Board Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

## 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](mailto:david.cooney@verizon.net)



**Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104**  
office: 301-253-0022  
[amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net](mailto: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), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **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), **Marianne Goldup** (Jane Webb's step-mom suffering from a fall at home), **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), **Nancy Nickerson** (recovering from neck surgery), **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**, **Pam Compton**, **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Lauren Dunham**, **JP Feuillet**, **Kathy Geehreg**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Marilyn Kinsey** (melanoma), **Dave Lingrell**, **Tanner Matney**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew), **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).

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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](mailto:Damascus.umc@verizon.net) or call (301)253-0022.

# *Preserving the Future Capital Campaign*

## **Trustees' Report to the Congregation**

The Trustees are pleased to report the completion of a number of high priority capital projects, made possible by the generous donations of members and friends of Damascus United Methodist Church (DUMC) to the *Preserving the Future Capital Campaign*. To date, the *Campaign*, which was launched on October 1, 2014, has raised \$186,540.82 in addition to a carryover balance of \$91,607.22 for a total of \$278,148.04 (see related budget article).

In 2014, the Trustees created the *Five-Year Capital Project Plan* to be used as the basis for prioritizing projects. After lengthy discussion, the following areas were identified as most in need of immediate repair/upgrades: 1) replacing the men's and women's restrooms in the Youth Chapel including upgrading portions of the electrical and HVAC system in the rest of the building; 2) clean-up and repair of the church steeple; 3) repair of the foundation wall at Harwood House (Thrift Shop); 4) repairs to the Rental Property; and 5) identifying a consultant to review and make recommendations on improvements to the Sanctuary. Items 1-4 have now been completed and the Trustees are working with the Pastors to bring in a church consultant to suggest ways to spruce up our sanctuary.

Several other projects have also been completed including asphalt repairs to the church driveways and parking areas and foundation work around the Youth Chapel. Work is now underway to replace all the above ground windows in the Annex (Church Office) and drawings and cost estimates have been prepared for the installation of an ADA-compliant ramp to the Annex pending final approval by the Trustees. The following narrative describes the work that has been completed or is underway.

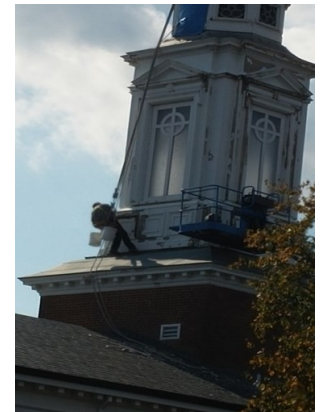
### **Lift up Your Eyes to the Steeple**

Our church steeple is a focal point of the church, a witness to the neighborhood, and an architectural design intended to lift one's eye's upwards, as towards Heaven. Unfortunately, the church steeple had been neglected due to its precarious location and this engineering treasure fell into disarray.

Thanks to our *Preserving the Future Capital Campaign*, DUMC was able to complete the much needed repairs to our guiding light.



A block and tackle pulley system and crane allowed the steeplejack (Val from Steeples Plus) complete access to the church steeple. Sometimes he would strap ladders or install a temporary harness to act as a work platform. He was more than just a master rigger; he was proficient in all of the various repairs needed for steeple restoration. This included the repair and installation of several types of roofs, carpentry, trim, sheet metal work, painting, etc. Val offered a hands-on, up-close approach that other tradesmen could never duplicate, permitting him to provide a CD of inspection prior to repairs. This CD is available for review in the church office.



Our steeple is part of the skyline of Damascus. It is a beautiful beacon meant to bring people to Jesus. We are being good stewards by preserving this treasure. The final cost of the completed project was \$44,800.

### **Isaiah 60:4**

Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
They all gather together, they come to you;  
Your sons shall come from afar,  
And your daughters shall be carried on the hip.



## *Preserving the Future Capital Campaign* (cont'd)

### **Hardwood House (Thrift Shop)**

The first year of the church's *Five-Year Capital Project Plan* for Harwood House called for the repair of a cracked stairwell wall on the outside of the building. What should have been a fairly cut-and-dry repair job turned into a major excavation project.

Once the stairwell wall was excavated, it was found to NOT have any concrete footers (support foundation) under it.

The underground work involved digging back to the building's foundation where holes in the foundation were found.

Further inspection determined that the foundation walls were "false walls"- the concrete blocks went down into the ground a couple of courses and again, there were NO support footers under the false wall.



The gap between the false wall and the buildings main foundation measured about 18 inches, enough to provide condo living facilities for a family of groundhogs whose presence around the foundation further weakened the integrity of the support area.

It was quickly decided that the entire area had to be excavated and properly reconstructed. One item of good news was that a crack in the foundation that was initially thought to be structural and possibly require a lot of money to fix, was found to be part of the false wall issue and was corrected less expensively with the permanent foundation wall.

The ground outside of the building was excavated for better water flow and grass seed was sown and was growing well in late November, early December!

A lot of debris including tree limbs, stumps, and rocks were hauled off.

The final cost of the completed project was \$21,450.

Many thanks to the Harwood House Thrift Shop for paying \$10,725 which brought the cost to Campaign funds down to \$10,725.

Many hands make for an easier job and there was no lack for help with this project.



### **Rental House**

In 2015 the DUMC Rental House was a management challenge, but after the departure of our former tenant last July, the Trustees approved and monitored some desperately needed cleaning and repairs to the property. Among these were extensive chimney work, including cleaning and pargeting the smoke chamber and sealing the flashing, crowns, and lintel. We also replaced the main circuit breakers, scraped and painted the back porch as required for our Montgomery County lead testing compliance, replaced the master bedroom carpet, installed 11 window blinds, power washed the exterior, cleaned the gutters, trimmed shrubs, removed junk such as an old trampoline and swing set, and cleaned the entire interior. Currently, we are addressing some basement repairs. Our new tenants have occupied the house since mid-November, so we are again receiving rental income from the property. The costs for the repairs were \$11,013.59, not including the work on the basement.

## *Preserving the Future Capital Campaign* (cont'd)

### **Youth Chapel**

As reported in the September Beacon, this project included replacing the men's and women's restrooms, upgrading the electrical system, and replacing two HVAC units. For those of you who never dared to enter these restrooms, the ceilings were leaking and falling down, the pipes leaked, the floors were damaged, and the entire space was moldy and water-logged. In addition, the ceilings and walls of the hallway were repaired and painted, the bulkhead above the coat rack was removed and rebuilt, and all doors and trim in the hallways were painted. The facilities have been totally remodeled into clean, sleek, modern, and attractive spaces. The total cost of the project was \$82,153. An additional \$3,924 was spent on grading and waterproofing the outside wall of the Youth Chapel.

Before

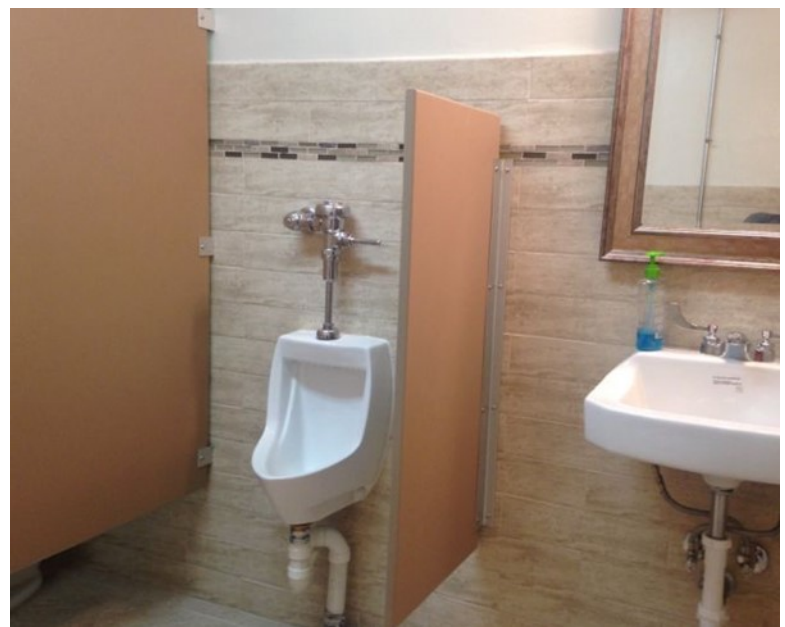


After



Before

After



*Preserving the Future Capital Campaign* (cont'd)

**Projects Underway**

**Annex Window Replacement**

We are currently in the process of replacing three fixed picture windows and 25 double-hung vent windows in the Annex. The work is expected to be completed in January 2016 at a cost of \$14,690.



**An-**

**nex ADA Ramp**

Pending final approval by the Trustees, a new ADA ramp with railings is being considered for installation to the front entrance of the Annex.



As funds continue to come in, the Trustees will be identifying and completing additional projects. Your continued support of the *Preserving the Future Campaign* is making this work possible. We are indeed blessed to have the Congregation's support to restore and improve our facilities for our use and the critical mission work of welcoming others into our House of Worship for the glory of God. Keep your eyes open for ongoing improvements.

*Preserving the Future Capital Campaign* (cont'd)

**Preserving the Future Income and Expense Statement**

**Income**

Funds Raised 10/1/14-1/10/16:	\$186,540.82
Carryover Balance:	\$91,607.22
Interest:	<u>\$277.09</u>

**Total Income: \$278,425.13**

**Expenses**

Youth Chapel	\$86,657.00
Steeple	\$44,800.00
Harwood House	\$10,725.00
Rental House	\$11,013.59
CFC exterior lighting	\$2,112.00
Asphalt	\$1,500.00
Annex windows	\$14,690.00
Moveable walls (CFC/YC)	\$1,440.00
Misc.	\$536.01
5% Mission Projects (Malaria, TBD)	<u>\$9,112.96</u>

**Total Expenses \$182,586.56**

**Amount Currently Available: \$95,838.57**