

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE BEACON

JANUARY 2019



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

CLERGY AND STAFF:

Kathryn Woodrow, Senior Pastor

**Sherwyn Benjamin (Pastor B)
Associate Pastor**

**Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts**

**Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry**

**Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool**

**Jane Webb
Office Manager**

**Linda Stastny
Office Administrator**

**Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts**

Steve Malley / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. / PM Custodian

Brittnay Tarpley / PM Custodian

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Happy New Year! The month of January is named for Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions who is often depicted as having two faces: one looking back, the other looking forward. January is a good time to look back at where we've been and to anticipate the future.



Looking back, I am so incredibly grateful for my first six months at DUMC as your Senior Pastor. I have been blessed by all of the people I have met in the church and the community, as well as the many experiences we have shared together and the relationships we are building. I look forward to continuing to build relationships and grow in faith together as "devoted servants, drawn to Christ, and dedicated to making disciples."

The Advent/Christmas season was such a special time at DUMC, and I marveled at the many different events that we shared---worship, parties, dinners, concerts, pageants and much more. So many people worked with passion to make these events special; they overflowed with joy and faith and touched the Damascus community as well as our members. As I greeted those who were arriving for the 5:30 production of the Living Nativity, one young boy (not a church member) greeted me with a big smile as he entered the courtyard and announced, "I've been here before!" To which I replied, "And we're so glad you're here again. Welcome back!" Clearly, DUMC is someplace special for this boy and his family. As we move into the new year and other important seasons of the Christian year (such as Lent, Easter, and Pentecost), I look forward to continuing to experience the many different traditions that make DUMC special, as well as creating new events and new memories together.

As we look into the future, not just as a local church but as a denomination, there are some important things ahead in the UMC that we need to keep before us. The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The General Conference is the top policy-making body of our denomination, comprised of equal numbers of laity and clergy from United Methodist Conferences around the world.

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The purpose of the special session is to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by the 2016 General Conference and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. Because this special session of General Conference has the potential to make major policy changes in our denomination, it is something of which we all should be aware. Please see page 3 of this Beacon for more information on the special session and on opportunities to gather at DUMC to learn more.

May God's grace, peace, and hope surround you in the New Year, and may you share God's love with others.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Kathryn

January Worship / Worship Services at 8:15 and 11:00 am

January 6, 2019: Epiphany

Epiphany, or The Epiphany of the Lord, occurs every year on January 6; we celebrate it in worship on the first Sunday of January. Epiphany is an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas. It is the Twelfth Day of Christmas and marks the end of the Christmas season. Today, we celebrate the coming of the wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child. Other themes for the day are the star of Bethlehem, light, and the coming of Christ to all people.



We will celebrate Holy Communion on this day and will receive a "star word" for 2019.

Scriptures: Isaiah 60: 1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-2

Sermon: "Star Light, Star Bright."

Pastor Kathryn preaching.

January 13, 2019: Baptism of the Lord

The Sunday after Epiphany is known as Baptism of the Lord Sunday. It is a day which celebrates Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River; it reminds all Christians of our one baptism in Jesus Christ. It is a perfect day for baptisms and for A Congregational Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Covenant—and we will do both! (Note: Reaffirmation of our baptism is *not* rebaptism. Water is used symbolically, in ways that remind us of our baptism and the pastor reminds the congregation to, "Remember your baptism and be thankful.")

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.

Sermon: Pastor Kathryn preaching.

January 20, 2019: Second Sunday after Epiphany; Human Relations Day



Human Relations Day is one the special Sundays in the United Methodist Church, when congregation are empowered and given the opportunity to collectively demonstrate our love and empathy for all humanity. It is the Sunday before the observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. On this Sunday we take up a special offering that benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers Program, community, advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sermon: "TBD." Pastor B preaching.

January 27, 2019: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Scriptures: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21.

Sermon: Pastor Kathryn preaching

Understanding “A Way Forward”

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC to be held February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The General Conference is the top policy-making body of our denomination, comprised of equal numbers of laity and clergy from United Methodist Conferences around the world. Twelve people, six clergy and six laity, from the Baltimore-Washington Conference (BWC) of which Damascus UMC will be in attendance.

The purpose of the special session is to receive and act on a report from the Commission on A Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by the 2016 General Conference and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. At the last meeting of the BWC, we adopted a covenant through which we committed, as laity and clergy, to have discussions with our congregations regarding the issues of the special session of General Conference and report on those discussions at our next Church Conference in Fall 2019.

While you are encouraged to read the entire report and review the many resources available, if you do nothing else, please read these three documents.

Bishop Easterling's Letter: "We can remain together—Why I support the One Church Plan": <http://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/a-word-from-the-bishop-we-can-remain-together-why-i-support-the-one-church-plan/>

Plans - At - A - Glance which provides a summary and side-by-side comparison of the One Church Plan and the other two which were not selected by a strong majority of the Council of Bishops:

http://78455c2ccb400d517780-dac10a94c714bbb9d8050040bb216432.r90.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/t/0e7959053_1539886991_threeplanssummarysheet.pdf

Finding Our Way Forward resolution passed at our 2018 Annual Conference Session: <http://www.bwcumc.org/resource-library/finding-our-way-forward-covenant/>

The above listed documents and much more information (including videos) can be found on the website of the Baltimore-Washington Conference; go to www.bwcumc.org and click on the Resources tab on the far right or go directly to: <http://www.bwcumc.org/resources/commission-on-a-way-forward/>. Should you wish to read the full 98-page report of the Commission on A Way Forward, go to: http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/news_and_statements/documents/Way_Foward_Report_-_Final_-_ENGLISH.pdf

You are invited to fast and pray for the General Conference, the UMC, and its members. See the article on **page 13** of this Beacon for details.

Here at Damascus UMC we will have two opportunities to gather to learn more about the work of the Commission on A Way Forward, its recommendations to the upcoming special session of General Conference, and possible implications of the special session for our denomination and local congregations. The same information will be covered at both meetings:

Sunday, January 13, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall

or

Monday, January 14, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kathryn and Pastor Benjamin

Men's Night Out for January

The Men of DUMC
(and male friends, family & neighbors)
are invited for a Men's Night Out on

Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 pm
Lou & Joes, 1024 Ridge Road (Route 27)
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
Phone: 301-831-5577

RSVP to Ted Ross by Sunday, January 13
at 301-704-7992



DUMC Men's Group — 2019 Schedule

- Jan. 15: Men's night out Lou & Joe's, Mt. Airy, MD (See details above)
- Feb. 4: Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, Gaithersburg, MD
- March 5: DUMC Men prepare and serve Shrove Tuesday dinner.
(Fat Tuesday - breakfast for dinner)
Fund raiser for men's ministries.
- April 8: Men's Night Out @ CarterQue Barbeque, Mt. Airy, MD
- May 18: Host District breakfast at DUMC
- May 23: Men's Night Out @ Lone Star, Germantown, MD
- June 7 & 8: Retreat Hallwood Retreat Center, Comus, MD
- July 15: Men's Night Out - Mt. Airy Inn, Mt Airy
- August : NO Men's Night Out
- Sept. 10 Men's Night Out @ Carrabbas, Germantown, MD
- Oct. 12 Annual Church Picnic @ Ted Ross' House, Gaithersburg, MD



October and November
Men's Mission Focused Project

NEXT LADIES' NIGHT OUT

**Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship ·
Fun · Sisterhood · Everyone Invited**

When: Thursday, January 10

**Where: Hornet's Nest
9876 Main Street,
Damascus, MD 2982**

Phone: 301-253-3707

Time: 6:00 pm

**Please RSVP by Monday, Jan. 7
to Hazel Strahorn at 443-553-9848**

Love One Another

Is one of the basic tenets of our Christian faith. Some of us have been discussing what this looks like as it relates to our church and our community. What does it look like for us to live this out as a church? Is our church reflective of Damascus and its new diversity? Are we serving all of our neighbors in our community?

If you are interested in this topic, please join us for a discussion **Saturday, January 12 @ 9:30 am at the Hornet's Nest.** For more information or questions, please contact Charlotte Kibak at chaphill1@earthlink.net or 301-956-6056.



Love one another.



The WWJD Circle will meet on
Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 pm
at the home of **Mary Walcek**

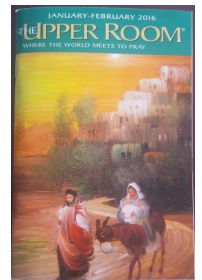
She lives just a few miles from the church at 24400 Kakae Drive, Damascus.

We will have an open book discussion; meaning that everyone can share a book that you especially enjoyed. If you'd like to join us, let Mary know at 301-253-3908 or email her at mlwaleck@gmail.com, just so she knows how many chairs to have in the room.

A lively books discussion is a great way to warm up a winter evening. Please join us !

The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy
of the Upper Room which are
located in the
**NARTHEX by the
WELCOME BOOTH.**



Better yet, take a couple of copies and share
with friends and neighbors !

This publication is a wonderful way to en-
courage daily scripture reading!

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 offering plate. All requests will be kept confidential.

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

January Youth Fellowship



Rock 2019

Ocean City Convention Center,
Ocean City, MD

February 8-10, 2019

**We still have
openings . . .**

Sign up now ! !

The Rock Retreat is open to all youth in grades 6th through 12th, as well as college students. You can invite your friends, too! There is plenty of room for all!

When: Friday, February 8

Time: 3:30 pm/Gather
3:45 pm/Depart

Return: Sunday, February 10
4:00/5:00 pm

The Retreat will cost \$125 per person and \$100 for each additional youth in a family (\$15 extra if you would like a long-sleeved t-shirt).

This will cover the cost of food, lodging, supplies, activities, and materials. Registration will begin this month (registration forms will be mailed before Dec. 1) and will continue through January 15, 2019. We request a \$50 deposit by Dec. 16. Scholarships are available; contact Nick Works at [240-751-6695](tel:240-751-6695) to make your request.

For questions or more info,
contact Pastor Nick at
nick.works@damascusumc.org
or 240-751-6695.

Sunday 1/6

4:00 pm: UMYFO Meeting (Annex)
4:00 pm: NO YOUTH HANDBELLS
5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal
6:00 pm: Annual Youth Birthday Bash

Sunday 1/13

4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal
6:00 pm: Youth Dinner and Devotional Time

Saturday 1/20

4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm: CWS Rehearsal
6:00 pm: NO YOUTH DINNER
6:00 pm: Youth Activity:
Shadowlands Laser Activity

Sunday 1/27

4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm: CWS Rehearsal
6:00 pm: Youth Dinner
6:30 pm: Youth Activity:
Blanket Making Activity

Sunday 2/3

4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal
6:00 pm: Super Bowl Party (Location TBD)

Sunday 2/10

Youth Return from ROCK Youth Retreat
No Rehearsals, Dinner or Activity

Sunday 2/17

5:00 pm: CWS rehearsal
6:00 pm: Youth Dinner & Devotional
Game Night

Sunday 2/24

4:00 pm: Youth Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm: CWS Rehearsal
6:00 pm: Youth Dinner
6:30 pm: Youth Activity:
Nerf War in Great Hall

Worship Arts News and Events

January, 2019

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com

IT'S A WRAP: **What A Great Advent/Christmas Season!**

A tremendous word of thanks is due to the countless people who made the Advent and Christmas season come alive at Damascus UMC. Volunteers said yes to costuming for plays and pageants, adorning the sanctuary, lighting and sound set up, set design, providing live animals, acting in the Live Nativity, playing instruments, spreading the word, singing, delivering poinsettias to home bound friends, selling tickets, serving as liturgists, setting up the sanctuary, puppet directing, providing refreshments – and the list goes on!

Thank you to all who shared their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness this season on behalf of our church family and community.

Polly Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship

NOTE: Photos from several events on next page for your enjoyment!

MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy**

Great Hall - Stage side / 75-minute session

Primarily adults, but open to all ages—medium/advanced handbell ensemble

WEDNESDAYS

4:30 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall - Stage Side / 30-minute session

Puppet troupe for elementary students 2nd grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Cherub Choir**

Great Hall - Back Half / 30-minute session

Choir (singing, games, movement) for children 4 ½ years old to 1st / 2nd grade led by Lydia Turner-Little and Stephanie Greer

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets**

Great Hall / 45-minute session

Puppets/drama for 6th grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Choristers**

Choir Room / 60-minute session

Choir (w/singing music and worship education) for children 2nd to 5th / 6th grade level by Polly Baldrige (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers**

Stage / 30-minute session

Handbells for students 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldrige

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir**

Choir Room / 90-minute session

SATB choir for 11 am worship— primarily adults, but open to all ages, led by Polly Baldrige with Stephen Kalnoske, accompanist

NOTE: Men's Choir and Women's Ensemble will both resume in February.

SUNDAYS

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Stage / 60-minute session

Handbells for youth 6th to 12th grades (medium/advanced handbell ensemble) led by Tom Baldrige

5:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room / 60-minute session

SATB choir for 6th to 12th grades and up led by Polly Baldrige with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske

Shares weekly @ 8:15 am worship service

Christmas Cleanup Time:

Saturday, January 12

@ 1:00 pm

For questions,

or to volunteer

contact: Connie Ross

301-663-9504

or

connieross7901@gmail.com

All are invited to assist in taking down and putting away Advent/Christmas decorations!

Worship Arts in January

Winter Break from

choir/ensemble

rehearsals

(Dec. 26 – Jan. 5)

Sunday Rehearsals

resume January 6, 2019

Wednesday Rehearsals
resume January 16, 2019

Worship Arts News and Events

January, 2019

Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts

240-750-8287 | polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com

IT'S A WRAP: **What A Great Advent/Christmas Season!** (cont'd)



The Volunteer
Reindeer
Children's Musical

Living Christmas Tree



Live Nativity



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

To the Community of DUMC,

We are beginning a fresh, new year with many possible ways to serve Jesus as we help others beyond our community of faith. Foot washing isn't a regular custom in our time, but Jesus saw the servant-hood footwashing represented, at the "heart" of being a follower. Serving others is a core value for Christian people. Where is God calling you to use your servant gifts to reach out into our community, our nation, and our world?

I believe that serving should bring joy to our lives and growth in faith. There may be aspects of serving others that are not fun, but overall serving others should be something that allows us to use skills and abilities to help others, seeing people's lives grow and change. Our business as followers of Jesus is the "people business." You can make a difference in the lives of others. You can leave a legacy of love and kindness and hope.

As Missions chair, I hope that if God is calling you to a particular area of serving people that you will share it with our Missions team. Our DUMC Mission Team is here to help everyone facilitate mission ministry. It can take many forms because there are many ways to "wash feet" and help others. Share your nudges from the Holy Spirit, the yearnings of your heart, the hopes and dreams that make you enthused as a follower of Jesus. We are ready to listen, help, and support!

Serving with you in the name of Jesus,

Carol Yocum

WINTER/SPRING OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

- **Volunteering at Harwood House** which serves the community and whose proceeds support nearly 30 other helping organizations
- **Change for Change** — Thanksgiving Day through the Season of Christmas (*January 5*)
- **Possible Kenya trip** Fall, 2019
- **Possible trip to Puebla, Mexico**, 2019
- **Habitat Work week for 2019**, July 14-19

Harwood House needs helpers shortly after the New Year

Harwood House has just purchased shelving from Rite Aid, and we are going to need help refurbishing our show room in early January. We had planned to do some painting but will now need to take down existing shelving and put up the new units. Contact Debbie Stone (301-253-6536) if you can help.

Pray for those who serve and share God's love

- 1) **Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez** and daughters Sofia & Julia currently in MD from Nicaragua (Between Cultures)
- 2) **Dr. Belinda Forbes & husband, Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez & daughters**, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary & dentist with Accion Medica Cristiana in Nicaragua, serving rural eastern villages
- 3) **Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena** serving in Puebla, Mexico, with Give Ye Them to Eat
- 4) **The primary school children at Ndere Orphans School, Gem, Kenya.**

Nicaragua Update

COFFEE AND DONUTS FUNDRAISERS for Nicaragua: Once a month on Sunday we will be in the Narthex selling Nicaraguan Coffee, from the Twin Engine Coffee Company, and also delicious Krispy Kreme Donuts to support the Between Cultures Mission Team. All funds raised will go to provide immediate basic food assistance (rice, beans, cooking oil) to our friends in La Danta, Nicaragua, who have endured two recent poor harvests and are now in need of some assistance to get them through to the next harvest. Coffee can also be ordered online from Twin Engine and shipped directly to your home. When ordering on line, just go to www.twinenginecoffee.com and be sure to apply the promo code CULTURE at checkout. Between Cultures will then automatically receive a portion of your purchase. Enjoy, and thank you for your support.

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

2019 Habitat Work trip

Our annual trip to Garrett County Habitat for Humanity will be July 14-19, 2019. More information will follow in the spring, but mark your calendars now. Put in requests for leave if needed.

The holiday season for *Change for Change*

For those who have saved change in a container from **Thanksgiving Day through January 5th** or for those who just want to make a one-time contribution to UMCOR and the disaster relief work that is ongoing bring those gifts to worship, January 6th, Epiphany Day. Gifts of change should be in a Ziplock bag with the totaled amount written on the front of the bag. Gifts will be dedicated to those who have suffered so much loss through disaster in 2018.

From the Neema Kenya Mission

Thank you to all who supported our recent fundraisers!



Beth Taylor and Pam Nehring held a “Cabi” fundraiser (see Beth, a Cabi Stylist, for more information on this beautiful women’s clothing line or to peruse the most recent catalog) which raised \$500 for Neema Mission!



The SERRV Fair Trade catalog and table sale was very successful. It was a win/win/win - a fun way to shop, support the Fair Trade initiative, and raise funds for the Neema Mission all at the same time! This is an ongoing opportunity . . . just use this URL: <https://www.serrv.org/?a=Neema> and shop away! A portion of the proceeds will automatically accrue to benefit Neema Kenya Mission. Thank you Gabrielle Hulcher for setting this up!



A big thanks to all for supporting the Christmas Trees for Kenya fundraiser at Evans Nursery on 12/1, and thank you Tom Evans for arranging this. Although the weather outside was frightful, the outreach opportunity was delightful!



We will have much more to say about the amounts raised, and how those funds will be used, in next month’s Beacon. We have exciting news on recent accomplishments we have shared with Joint Partners Medical Clinic and on the creative initiative we will be supporting, as a direct result of these fundraisers, to bring water to the clinic site with a rainwater harvesting system.

Asante Sana! (Swahili for Thank You Very Much!)

Full-sized toiletry donations are needed for the women at Laytonsville Safe Haven

Our destination for toiletries has changed! Safe Haven residents will be the recipients of any donations. Women live at Safe Haven for up to a year. Some of these women are veterans. All are using the time at Safe Haven to work on personal issues to be able to once again live independently.

Thank You

- To those adopted Damascus community families for Christmas—25 in all!
- To those who purchased food cards for the community families—more than 150 \$25 cards—outstanding!
- To Hazel Strahorn, Cora Horst, Kathy Leslie, and Gayle Conard for organizing the local Christmas effort.
- To those who helped at Harwood House with the new shelving and painting after New Years.
- To those who volunteer week-in and week-out at Harwood House.
- To those who sent Christmas greetings to our mission ministry people overseas.
- To those who have been saving since Thanksgiving for a major donation to UMCOR for relief work for those whose lives have been upended by hurricanes, fires, volcanos, tornados, floods and other natural disasters in 2018.
- To those who purchased SERRV gifts and Christmas trees from Evan’s Nursery both of which supported the Neema

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Carol Yocum, Chairperson
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

Damascus Help Report from December

Thanks to Damascus UMC ! In October, Damascus HELP made 57 food deliveries serving 211 people, helped six families with financial assistance, one family with household items, and gave 1 ride.

CROP WALK was on October 14, 2018 ,at Damascus Regional Park. A total of \$12,492 was raised to help fight hunger locally and worldwide of which 25% goes to Damascus HELP. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Volunteer News: Happy Holidays to all. Thank you for volunteering for Damascus HELP as our neighbors depend on you in their time of difficulty. This month we welcome Gina O'Neal as a food driver. We are continuing to look for additional volunteers so please ask your friends and neighbors to join our team. Opportunities include ODs, food drivers, pantry pick up helpers, and volunteers to be part of a furniture delivery team. Furniture delivery teams with their own trucks are in great demand as well as transportation drivers. For all volunteer opportunities, please contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100, or email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.

Holiday Giving Project 2018: Damascus HELP sponsored 1 family for Thanksgiving and will sponsor 14 families for Christmas. Kathy Thornett (301-253-6397) is leading the Damascus HELP sponsors.

Finance/Stewardship

Holiday Greetings from your Finance Committee

We hope that you and your family are having a blessed and Merry Christmas (remember that Christmas lasts 12 days through Epiphany) and that 2019 will be a very good year for you and your family.

We have good news to report on 2018. Our budget was \$991,200.00; we had expenditures of approximately \$990,000.00, leaving us with a small surplus going into the 2019 budget year. We want to thank our terrific congregation for responding with increased giving in 2018. Our Committee proposed and the Administrative Board approved a Budget for 2019 that projects spending of \$1,025,322.55, an increase of \$35,574.63 over the current year. We are confident that this budget will also be balanced based on the following three factors:

1. Our congregation's steady and generous giving over the last several years.
2. Our recent Stewardship Campaign which projects a healthy increase in giving in 2019.
3. The economic projections that the current strong performance of the U.S. economy will continue well into 2019 and specifically forecasts 2.7% growth, stable inflation, and a continuing decline in the unemployment.

We are especially pleased that this budget allows some growth in our critical ministries, programs, and activities so that we can further God's Kingdom on earth. We are pleased to include a copy of the 2019 Budget with this Committee Report in the Beacon.

On a personal note, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, I would like to thank the members of our congregation for your steadfast support over the past three years. Mac Lloyd, Rick Celli, and I will be completing our three year terms on the Finance Committee at the end of this year. Vicki Young, Dick Hardick, and Jim Cavanaugh look forward to serving with new colleagues and a new Chairperson in 2019.

Thank you once again for your generous and steadfast giving that enables Damascus UMC to serve our people, our community, and people in need around the world.

Sincerely,

David A. Rust, Chairman

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2019 DUMC BUDGET

Approved by the Administrative Board
Thursday, November 28, 2019

	2018	2019
	Budget	
001 - Income	\$ 991,200	\$ 1,025,323
EXPENSES		
010 - Conference	\$ 122,397	\$ 122,427
012 - Appointed Staff	\$ 219,987	\$ 213,141
015 - Church Staff	\$ 361,177	\$ 384,035
050 - Administrative	\$ 6,150	\$ 7,150
055 - Church Office	\$ 29,204	\$ 32,975
057 - Technology	\$ 16,000	\$ 24,100
060 - Building & Grounds	\$ 122,450	\$ 120,257
065 - Harwood House Thrift	\$ 16,753	\$ 23,685
070 - 9600 Main Street	\$ 19,313	\$ 23,795
080 - Woodfield Road	\$ (3,294)	\$ (3,832)
110 - Worship Ministry	\$ 4,635	\$ 5,215
120 - Music Ministry	\$ 21,700	\$ 22,200
130 - Christian Formation	\$ 12,700	\$ 9,175
132 - Family Ministries	\$ 900	\$ 900
134 - Youth	\$ 12,275	\$ 12,200
140 - Hospitality	\$ 500	\$ 500
150 - Caring Ministries	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,750
155 - Stewardship	\$ 400	\$ 400
170-New Ministries	\$ -	\$ -
180 - Missions	\$ 25,250	\$ 25,250
Total Expenses	\$ 989,748	\$ 1,025,323
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 1,452	\$ 0

Announcements



Through the special session of General Conference (see details on page #3 of this Beacon), all United Methodists are asked to:

FAST WEEKLY: Engage in a weekly Wesleyan 24-hour fast from Thursday after dinner to Friday mid-afternoon. Those who have health situations causing food fasts to be unadvisable might consider fasting from social media, emails or another daily activity.

PRAY DAILY: Pause and pray for our church's mission and way forward daily for four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 a.m. or p.m. in their own time zone OR at another time. This is because the Special Session of General Conference will be held February 23 through February 26, 2019.

PRAY SPECIFICALLY: Pray using a weekly prayer calendar that will be posted on the UMCPrays.org website through the end of February 2019. The calendar will list a unique cluster of names each week. The names will balance United States bishops and delegates with Central Conference bishops and delegates. It will also include General Secretaries, Commission on a Way Forward members, the Commission of the General Conference and the staff of the General Conference.



College Scholarships Available !

The Baltimore –Washington Conference awards a variety of college scholarships. The application process opens January 3, 2019 and closes March 7, 2019. To be considered for a scholarship. Students must complete the full online application, which includes uploading their current transcripts. In addition, the student must provide contact information for their pastor and one additional church reference. For full information go to www.bwcumc.org and enter “scholarships” in the search box.

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry **Monday, January 21 at 12:30 pm** **in the Annex (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, or Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.

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.

Announcements (cont'd)

The Wednesday Fellowship Dinner

For this year (2019), we, the Kitchen Committee, have decided we will return to a **ONCE A MONTH DINNER**, due to declining attendance and the weather getting a bit colder.

Therefore, the dinner on **January 2, 2019 HAS BEEN CANCELLED**.

Our first dinner of the new year will be January 16,

and will feature "A Family Affair." The Vanderham family — Peter, Liz, Gregory & Ben would like to share an old family favorite dinner, "Grandma Becker's Parkway Chili."

We, in the kitchen, are very excited to be starting the new year with a new flair . . . should there be other families that have favorite dinners they would like to share, please contact me at home 301-253-5405, cell 301-471-7298, or see me at church and we can work out the details.

*A menu will appear in each monthly Beacon and in the Sunday Bulletin.

We will continue the "pay as you can" policy. But, the suggested prices have increased to \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 and under. There is a family cap of \$25.00. Inflation is even causing difficulties for us.

As always, we can use extra hands to help in preparation, serving and clean-up. Many hands do make lighter work. We thank you for your past support and are looking forward to a year filled with fun, love and good fellowship. ***Menus are always subject to change.**

Wishing all a Healthy and Prosperous New Year from the DUMC Kitchen!



Hello Everyone,

This is Marlin, from the tutoring center. We have several students in need of Texas Instruments calculators, ie. The TI-82 or Ti-83, or Ti-84.

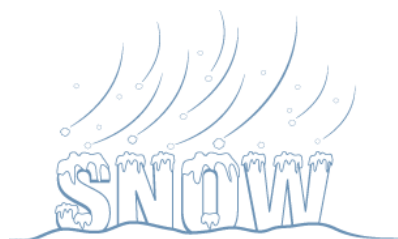
If you happen to have one of these in a drawer not being used, please consider donating it to the tutoring center. It can be dropped off at the church office. Thank you!

A Special Thank You

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our church family who showed us so much love, compassion, and support throughout Bill's illness and at the time of this passing.

Thank you all to those who worked very hard to make the memorial service and luncheon wonderful and memorable.

Yasuko Walcott & Family



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE
WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE
WEBSITE HOME PAGE and OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE
UP-TO-DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS
AND CANCELLATIONS
AS SOON AS DECISIONS ARE MADE.**

Office Info

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MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!

The Office will be closed on
Tuesday, January 1 for
New Years Day.

Administrative Meetings

January, 2018

- Jan. 3 First Thursday Ministries Meeting
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**
Trustees Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall - stage side**
Missions Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall - back**
- Jan. 6 UMYFO Meeting at
4:00 pm in the Church Annex
- Jan. 10 Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 16 Technology Committee meets at
7:00 pm in the Church Annex
- Jan. 24 Administrative Board Meeting at
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

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 early. Additionally,

Pastor Kathryn is off on Fridays.
Pastor B. is off on Mondays.
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.



IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE **FEBRUARY** BEACON
WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, January 16

(For Beacon to publish on **Sunday, January 28**).

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND ALL ARTICLES BY THIS DATE.

DATE AT THE LATEST.

Thank You !

About Our People

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations to Stephen & Megan Kalnoske on the birth of their son, Nathan Alexander, on December 5.

Pray for those who are mourning loved ones: **Keith & Mary Gene Martin and family** with the passing of Keith's mom, Shirley Martin, who lived in Georgia, on November 23; **Yasuko Walcott and family** with the passing of **Bill Walcott** on December 8; **Doug Goldup and Jane Webb** with the passing of Doug's sister, Jean Rogers, who lived in England, on December 10; the **Otieno family** with the recent passing of Gladys' mother, Norah Onyion, and Wellington's brother, Ben Okuom in Kenya; **Norm Minekime and family** with the passing of Norm's mother, Jane Velzy Minekime, who lived in New York on December 20; and **Annie Cochran and family** with the passing of **Mickey Cochran** on December 20 whose memorial service will be held here at DUMC on January 19.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Judy Benedict** (hand surgery), **Jessica Bowers** (Chris Adams' girlfriend), **Bob Braden**, **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Ann Cochran**, **Judy Dalrymple** (sister-in-law to Jackie Perry), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Debbie Hoar**, **Jim Maggio** (recovering from rotator cuff surgery), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella**, **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Jerry Smith** (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), **Dorothy Stull** (at home under hospice care), and **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus).

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley**, **Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Linne Carrier**, **Michael Donaldson** (liver tumor), **Ethel Frear** (under hospice care), **JP Feuillet**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Dave Lingrell**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle), **Kristen Smith** (Gina Wilson's niece), **Marie White** (Pat Duvall's sister-in-law), and **Matt Works** (Nick's brother).

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), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), and **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly).

Altar Flowers for 2019

A sign-up notebook to provide altar flowers for this year has been placed in the rack in the narthex next to the Welcome Station. The sooner you sign up for your special dates, the better!

You may order the flowers yourself from one of two local florists:

Blossoms and Basket at 301-829-8300

or Beall's at 301-253-2840

NOTE: Both florists charge a \$5 delivery fee to DUMC.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Stastny in the church office.

