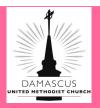
DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 9700 New Church Street DAMASCUS, MD 20872

PHONE: 301-253-0022

E-MAIL: OFFICE @ DAMASCUSUMC.ORG WEBSITE: www.DamascusUMC.org

THE BEACON MAY 2017



CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey Associate Pastor / Children's Ministry

Polly Edmonds Baldridge 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. / Weekday AM Custodian

Julio Pedraza / Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

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Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

Greetings and Happy Easter Season,

We have just completed a Lenten journey and a glorious Easter celebration. I am so grateful to all who work behind the scenes to provide meaningful experiences for the congregation. Our Praise Artisan's Guild under the guidance of Connie Ross decorated our sanctuary. For Holy Week alone, this means four different set ups. Each Wednesday night church members shared stories about their "holy lands" following great meals provided by our kitchen teams and aided with sound and recording by our technical helpers. Our services included drama requiring persons to play parts, costuming, light and sound. Our choirs were at every service providing exceptional music. Children led our palm procession. Service stewards made sure we had the necessary elements for communion. First-year confirmands provided an Easter sunrise drama. Breakfast was provided afterward by more helpers. Seventeen confirmands became full members of the church at a moving service following an outstanding dinner provided for the confirmands and their families and served by last year's confirmation class. Dozens of people worked for hours making sure we had a meaningful season, and I am thankful to all.

May is going to be a great month with worship experiences you will not want to miss. The children will start us off leading us in a Children's Sabbath on May 7. The women take the reins on the 14th lifting up the church mothers in an interesting and meaningful way. Our Mission Team will lead on the 21st reminding us of the importance of outreach and including a virtual visit from one of our missionaries. May 28 is Senior Sunday and our graduates will guide us as we honor them. A Memorial Day picnic and service will follow.

We continue to make repairs and improvements connected to our five-year plan made possible by the Preserving the Future Campaign. The next large and visible project is the refreshing and refurbishing of the sanctuary. Planning and pricing are still underway but get ready this summer for some fresh paint and carpet and other sprucing up. The Trustees are also always looking for additional volunteers for cutting grass and yardwork over this season. The grounds always looks beautiful at our church and it is because several dedicated workers ride the mowers and tend the gardens. If this is something you can do periodically, be sure to speak with Jane Clarke. She would be happy to put you into the rotation.

Upcoming trips include the annual Youth Mission Choir Tour going this year to New England, our annual Habitat for Humanity work week in Western Maryland and, new

Pastor's Article (cont'd)

this year, a Volunteer in Mission trip to the Virginia Beach area to help with continued recovery from Hurricane Matthew. Details about these can be found throughout the Beacon.

Vacation Bible School is also not too far in the distance and registration has started. So be thinking about how you might like to help.

Throughout Epiphany and Lent our theme focused on geography. We made the point that where Jesus was tells us something about what was happening because place is important. This is the first time for both Amanda and me to interpret Scripture from the lens of place. We found it very interesting and hope you did as well. When I think of all that happens at this church, the idea of place resonates with me. It is at this place that so much ministry happens. It is not a coincidence that it happens at Damascus UMC. I urge you to be here, where it is happening.

Christ is Risen,

David

Greetings,

For the health and well-being of its pastors, the United Methodist Church recommends that a pastor takes renewal leave every 6 - 9 years. It is a time away from full-time ministry to refresh one's spirit. As I am coming to the end of my 7th year in ministry, I have decided to take my renewal leave this summer from June 3 to July 15. It is a great gift to me to have this time, and I look forward to coming back with a refreshed spirit to rejoin our ministry at DUMC!

Pastor Amanda

Missions Fundraiser

DUMC's Annual Flower & Plant Sale begins Saturday, May 6, 2017



Hours: Saturdays & Sundays, 9 am - 5 pm Weekdays, 6 pm - 9 pm

The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers for the flower and plant sale. We still need help watering and selling the plants thru May 20. This is a very successful fundraiser for the mission programs in the church so please prayerfully consider volunteering.

Please contact Kathy Jones at 301-580-4591 or kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for youth to earn credit to use when they go on mission trips.

P.S. We could also use help on Friday, May 5, at 8:00 am to unloaded the flowers/plants when they are delivered.

Harwood House Thrift Shop News!



Don't forget Mother's Day in May!! Harwood House has many items (cards, candles,

gifts, flower arrangements, etc.) for the special ladies in your life! Come and see what we have to offer!

Also, don't forget that Harwood House has a Facebook page! Search for "Harwood House Thrift Shop" to find. Just "like" our page and get all the news about sales, closings, and special events!

Men's Night Out for MAY

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

Monday, May 22, 2017 at 6:00 pm at Outback Steak House 12609 Wisteria Drive Germantown, MD Phone: 301-353-9499

RSVP to Ted Ross at 301-704-7992. Please plan to join us!!!!



Calling all Heros!!

Save these dates for VBS 2017, July 24 - 28!

Don't miss this exciting chance to discover your strength in God.
Any adults or youth willing to volunteer can contact Pastor Amanda at amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org or 301-253-0022.
YOUTH HELPER Registration Forms are on Page #23 of this Beacon.

NOTE: VBS Registration form for CHILDREN is on Page #21 of this Beacon.



March United Methodist Women News

Susanna JOY Circle will meet Monday, May 8, in the church Dining Hall at 10:00 am Continuing Bible Study of Covenants; bring text and Bible.

The **WWJD Circle** will gather on **Saturday, May 20** to go to Gypsy's Tea Room in Westminster, MD. Our reservation is for 1:00 pm so we will need to leave by 12:15 pm from Damascus. We will carpool from the church parking lot for those that would like a ride. This is a very lovely tea room and we will also have salad or soup. The cost will be about \$25. Please send an email to marciahofman67@gmail.com or call Marcia at 301-253-2960 if you'd like to go. This women's circle is open to all interested women so put this date on your calendar and plan to join us!

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

When: THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

Where: Ledo's

9805 Ridge Road.

Damascus, MD

Time: 6:00 pm

Please RSVP by May 9

When: WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

Where: The Vintage Restaurant

8 W. Main Street

New Market, MD 21774

Time: 6:00 pm

Please RSVP by July 17

Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship · Fun · Sisterhood · Everyone Invited Contact Pastor Amanda / Amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org Call 301-253-0022 or Text 970-231-5123

ATTENTION ALL MEN! ANNUAL SPRING MEN'S RETREAT

HALLOWOOD RETREAT CENTER, COMUS, MARYLAND FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 9 & 10, 2017



Mark your Calendar and Sign Up now!!!

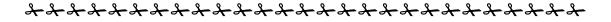
Join us at the Hallowood Retreat Center in Comus, Maryland, for a day apart for fellowship and spiritual growth.

Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men
Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992

We will be gathering at the church at 5:00 pm on Friday, June 9 and having dinner at the Hallowood Retreat Center. Staying overnight in rooms for two (private rooms available for \$15 extra), we will have both breakfast and lunch on Saturday. We will end about 4:30 pm.

The cost is \$135 for room, meals, towels & bedding including sheets, blankets, and pillows. Please complete the registration form below and turn it in to the church office no later than May 26, 2017.

Sponsored by Damascus United Methodist Men For more Info Contact: Ted Ross, Chair, at 301-704-7992.



Make checks payable to DUMC with notation: Men's Retreat

Spiritual Formation (cont'd)



YOUNG-AT-HEART OUTING:

"SPRING IN THE VILLAGE / ART AT THE FURNACE"

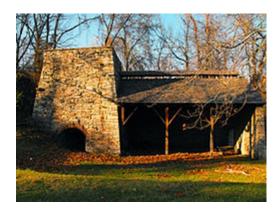
SUNDAY, MAY 7 @ 1 - 5 pm

Celebrate spring by enjoying an afternoon outside in the traditional atmosphere of a historic village at the Catoctin Iron Furnace, located on the grounds of Cunningham Falls State Park, south of Thurmont. Enjoy tours, blacksmith and artist demonstra-

tions, juried Maryland arts, handmade crafts, flowers, heirloom plants, herbs, a gardener's yard sale, beekeeping display and honey products, music, baked goods, and food! Hot lunch items will be available for purchase. The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society will also have it's historic cottages open for public tour, along with vendors and local wines from Springfield Manor. Stroll the village at your leisure and visit what interests you the most! A portion of the proceeds from the festival benefits the restoration of the historic structures on the property. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Catoctin Furnace is a Frederick County Landmark. Admission to the festival is free. Parking and shuttle service available at the Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area.

Those who wish to carpool can meet right after church in the parking lot at 12:30. You may purchase lunch in the village. Call Sue Constantinides to RSVP: (Home) 301-253-6591 / (Cell) 301-651-1178/ Email sueh-con@yahoo.com or instant message on Facebook.

History Nugget: When hematite ore was discovered in the Catoctin Mountains in the 1770's, the Catoctin Furnace was constructed to produce pig iron. It is reported that during the Revolutionary War, cannons and cannonballs were cast at this furnace for George Washington's Army and 100 tons of shells were used at Yorktown. Iron made at the Catoctin Furnace was also used to make machinery for the invention of the steamboat, metal plates for the Civil War Vessel Monitor and the manufacture of car wheels. The Furnace was blown out for the last time in February 1903. The Catoctin Furnace is a remnant of a thriving iron industry. It remains a stark reality to the life and death of a part of history eliminated by technological advances and the economics of business. Come experience this piece of living history for yourself!



Catoctin



Iron Fur-

nace

12525-12625 Catoctin Furnace Rd. Thurmont, MD 21788

Spiritual Formation (cont'd)

Young at Heart going to the Mountaintop



The Tea Room at Gambrill State Park on the ridge of the Catoctin Mountains will be the site of a Young at Heart picnic/cookout on Wednesday, June 28. If you haven't been there you'll be awestruck by the beautiful views of the Frederick and Middletown valleys and the South Mountain area to the west. The Tea Room is a lodge-like structure that has been a popular feature of the Park for over 75 years, hosting weddings, family reunions, business meetings and other special events.

The Young at Heart fellowship group is open to all adults associated with DUMC and their friends and relatives. We'll do the cooking and all you'll have to do is take in the surrounding beauty outside

and inside the Tea Room, which was constructed from native stone by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid 1930s. It is also wheelchair accessible.

We've already rented the Tea Room for that date, and as we get a better feel for the number attending, we'll provide precise information on the cost. We hope to do it for \$10 or \$12 per person. Carpools will be formed in the Church Parking lot at 3:00 p.m. It'll be about a 45-minute trip from Damascus. At that time of the year, the Park closes at 7:00 p.m. Those wishing to come a little later because of work schedules are welcome to do so. **RESERVATIONS must be made by Sunday, June 18**. For planning purposes, we'd appreciate hearing sooner if you can do it.

We will be looking for drivers to carpool, and help with set-up, serving and clean-up duties. To make your reservations to attend and/or volunteer, contact Jane Webb @ jane.webb@damascusumc.org or 240-620-6920 or 301-253-0022.



GOD is the cure-giver.

For that difficult time, we're here.

A problem shared is a problem halved.

A shoulder to lean on.

A hand to help.

A light for the darkness.

Spiritual Growth!

We serve.

A message of love.

Prayers for concerns.

Compassionate listening!

Messages from your DUMC STEPHEN MINISTRY at twice monthly supervision/continuing education:



Worship Arts News and Events

April 2017

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts 240-750-8287 | polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

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



Worship Arts Ensemble Recognition Ceremony Wednesday, May 3, 2017 Great Hall @ 5 pm

All children who have participated in the Cherubs, Choristers, Inspiration Ringers, and Colorful Hands of Jesus are invited to a special time of recognition when the church will honor them by giving pins for each ensemble in which they have shared this year. A cross with ribbon is given to each child that is participating for the first time, upon which all the pins may be fastened.

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus Great Hall/Stage Side

Final Rehearsal on May 3, 2017. Pizza party on May 10 @ 4:00 pm

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall/Back Half Final Rehearsal on May 3, 2017. 4:30 pm

5:00 pm Youth Puppets Great Hall

Final Rehearsal on May 3, 2017. Pizza party on May 10 @ 4:00 pm

5:00 pm **Choristers** Music Room

Final Rehearsal on May 3, 2017. Pizza party on May 10 @ 4:00 pm

Inspiration Ringers Stage (September – February – April)

No Rehearsals in May. Pizza party on May 10 @ 4:00 pm

7:00 pm Men's Choir Music Room

For all tenor and basses, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

Final rehearsal is May 17.

7:00 pm Women's Choir Great Hall

Finished for the year.

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Music Room

Final Rehearsal is May 31.

SUNDAYS

3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month; Shares each Sunday @ 9:30 am No rehearsals in May or during Summer, 2017.

4:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir

Finished for the year.

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Music Room

SATB choir for 6th thru 12th grades and up led by Polly Baldridge with accompanists Stephen Kalnoske. Final rehearsal is June 4, but tour rehearsals continue into June.

MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Stage No rehearsals in May or during Summer, 2017.



Nev

England 2017: Charles Wesley Singers Summer Youth Mission Tour

Homecoming Concert is Wednesday, June 28, at 7 pm in Sanctuary.

Mark your calendars for this important night in the life of our church!

Music includes favorite anthems from the year and Mendelssohn's Hear My Prayer and a series of songs based on the text of Isaiah 55 including Ho, Everyone Who Thirsteth and This Is My Word.

Torie Brooks In Recital

Saturday, May 6, 3 pm in Sanctuary Damascus UMC

To celebrate the culmination of her senior year and vocal studies, soprano Torie Brooks will share a program of classical and musical theater selections assisted by Katherine Williams, piano;
Stephen Kalnoske, organ;

Stephen Kalnoske, organ; Sydney Fennington, soprano; and Nina Sinai, soprano.



4th Sunday Concert and Evensong Series 2016-2017 presents...



A LOVE EVERLASTING

CHURCH CIRCLE SINGERS

Brian J. Isaac, Artistic Director Stephen Kalnoske, Accompanist

Featuring the Church Circle Young Singers

Sunday, May 28, 2017

3:00 pm in Sanctuary

Tickets: Adults \$15; Students \$5

Churchcirclesingers.org or at the door

"A Love Everlasting features works by Bairstow, Britten, Clements, Mendelssohn, Palestrina, Rheinberger, Todd, and even some modern pop tunes by the likes of Ben Folds and the Pentatonix. We'll be doing a bit of vocal jazz as well – George and Ira Gerschwin's A Foggy Day – arranged for SSAA ensemble by our very own Lena Seikaly."

Brian J. Isaac

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Youth Chapel Sundays @ 9:30 am Breakfast/Music/Classes by age

May 2017 - Youth Fellowship Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm

Includes Dinner and an Activity

Sunday 5/7

Destination UnKnown

Sunday 5/14

Happy Mother's Day! No Youth Activity

Sunday 5/21

Party in the Park - Youth will travel to Seneca Creek State Park for Picnic & Disc Golf

Sunday 5/28

Senior Sunday - No Youth Activity

NOTE: The Youth Summer Schedule will be listed in the June Beacon.

It's Almost Here! The Charles Wesley Singers will depart for their New England Tour on Tuesday, June 20.

Of course, we have to rehearse before you leave! Here's our rehearsal schedule thru May.

Sunday, April 30 Regular CWS rehearsal from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 3
 6:30 to 7:30 pm

• Sunday, May 7 Regular CWS rehearsal from 5:00 to 6:00 pm

• Wednesday, May 10 5:00 to 6:00 pm and 6:30 to 7:30 pm (dinner from 6 to 6:30)

• Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day – no rehearsal

• Wednesday, May 17 5:00 to 6:00 pm and 6:30 to 7:30 pm (dinner from 6 to 6:30)

• Sunday, May 21 4:00 to 5:00 pm (regular CWS rehearsal from 5:00 to 6:00 pm)

• Wednesday, May 24 5:00 to 6:00 pm and 6:30 to 7:30 pm (dinner from 6 to 6:30)

• Sunday, May 28 4:00 to 5:00 pm (regular CWS rehearsal from 5:00 to 6:00 pm)

Youth Praise Band Sundays @ 3:30 pm 1st & 3rd weeks of the month

Youth Bell Choir Sundays @ 4 pm on the Stage

Charles Wesley Singers Practice Sundays @ 5 pm in the Music Room

*See tour rehearsal schedule below.

Youth Puppets Wednesdays @ 5 pm in the Great Hall

The next UMYFO meeting will be on Sunday, May 7
@ 4:00 pm. Be sure to attend as we will be finalizing the plans for our Summer Ministry.

New England Search . . .

Charles Wesley Singers are traveling to

New England on tour from June 20 to 27, 2017.

If you have any
family and friends
in New England who might host
our choir, please be in contact
with Polly to share
suggestions and names.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

Mission Projects Done at DUMC for Lent

The OMG Sunday School collected items for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless. We were able to donate both the "Kitchen Supplies" and "Household Items" Welcome Home Kits, which Liz Elliott will drop at the MCCH office the week after Easter.

Heather Bacon made cookies and rice krispy treats, which were sold. Enough money was raised to purchase 10 Welcome Home Mini Kits for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

Bernardine Beall volunteered many hours reconciling the 2016 accounts for Damascus HELP, Inc. Each category on the IRS 990 Form for Non-profits must be determined and be in agreement with the accounts. It is with satisfying joy during the year to prepare the checks for prescriptions, electricity, fuel, water, rent, fresh veggies and meats. Bernardine considers the work to be the hands of Jesus in this time and place.

Harriet and Bob Gladhill contributed snacks to Rock the House and gave money to support a mission trip to Haiti.

The Sunday School classes collected food and toiletry items for Damascus Help during the 6 weeks of Lent. We greatly appreciate the generous donations we received.

Carol Yocum shopped and delivered household goods to 4 young adults in the Baltimore region aged out of foster care during Lent. Dennis Yocum spent 4 days in the Cumberland Maximum Security Prison on a Kairos retreat for 25 inmates. It was the 3rd retreat in that prison and there is now a Christian community of over 50 members.

The Earth Stewards had the Adopt-A-Road cleanup in March. Six DUMC volunteers picked up trash along a 1.5 mile stretch of Woodfield Road from Bethesda Church Rd. to Rt. 27. The 6 volunteers were Doug Marshall, Carol Martin, Steve Naugle, Vicki Young and Cathy and Jeff Heinbaugh.

On April 8, Doug (led the project) and Lisa Marshall, Steve Leslie, Paul Lewis, Steve Naugle, Carol Martin, Amy Springirth, Noah Lenker, and Dave Custer worked at the Laytonsville Safe House. They:

- Painted the living room and entry way to house
- Refurbished the raised planter boxes used as vegetable garden
- Replaced deer exclusion fencing around raised gardens
- Weeded, mulched and edged the front flower garden
- Trimmed tree in front yard
- Cut up and removed fallen tree from back yard



A Helping Hand

The **Board of Harwood House** generously helps with scholarships for mission trips. They now have an **application form for requesting funds** (form is on the DUMC website under "**Get involved, Missions**, then scroll down the page till you see the **Thrift Shop area**, look for **Supplemental Funding Request Form**"). Because the Board meets every other month, they ask that any requests be made 8 weeks in advance of any trip. Thanks!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Thanks from Rock the House After School program

The congregation of DUMC responded generously to the snack request for the after-school program offered to elementary school students who live in the Damascus Gardens Apartments. Approximately 25 children come to Rock the House 3 days a week for homework help, fellowship and a snack. The snack box is full for the rest of the school year! Thank you so much for your kind donations.

Volunteer In Mission trip to Virginia Beach is on for September 3-9, 2017:

Work will be done on Monday through Friday. The team will be doing repairs sustained in Hurricane Matthew in the summer of 2016. We will be housed in a church. Virginia Beach flood recovery tasks usually include replacing drywall, flooring, and tile and painting. We will be raising some funds to help with the cost of materials for repairs. Those interested in exploring being a part of the team, will meet for the first time on May 18 @ 7:00 pm.

The Baltimore Christian (founded by UM's now an ecumenical service) Workcamp

Each year over 40 homes are repaired throughout Baltimore County during the third week in July and at other times throughout the year. Homes are suggested by the County Department of Social Services or Department of Health, food banks, churches, personal referrals, etc.; sites are then prioritized. The number of sites on which work is performed in any year depends on the number of volunteers, their expertise, the magnitude of each project, the weather, and BCCW's finances. (In 2017, the week will be July 16 - 21, our 34th year.) There is a kick-off dinner on Sunday evening at Hunt's UMC, the host church. Each work day starts with breakfast prepared by members from a local church at the host church, the volunteers then prepare their own bagged lunches, volunteers go out to sites, with dinner that evening at local churches. All types of work (e.g., ramps, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, roofing, interior and exterior painting, caulking, inside and outside clean-up) are performed by workers of all ages. Sleeping accommodations at the host church can be available only for supervised large groups traveling from out of the region. Individuals must have their own medical/health insurance to participate.

Anyone over 16 and willing to work may register; under 16 requires adult supervision. Fee is \$25 per week, or \$6 per day. Church groups are asked to donate at least \$100 for building materials. (In addition, there are planning meetings held throughout the year at Hunt's Memorial UMC.)

Come and worship May 21 as the Mission and Outreach team leads morning worship.

Meet our newest missionary from Nicaragua, Dr. Belinda Forbes, a dentist sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and supported with DUMC contributions. She has worked with rural, isolated communities for 25 years. She and her husband (physician) have a daughter in high school and a daughter in college.

April highlights from Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena

We traveled to visit churches in Hawaii in February and March to thank them for supporting missionaries or to ask them to consider supporting missionaries. We preached and presented in churches in the California-Pacific Conference where we live when we are not traveling outside the state. In April we will be on a five-week journey to share with United Methodists in Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Northern California.

As part of the Cal-Pac Disaster Response Task Force, we helped host 120 United Methodists at the Western Jurisdiction Disaster Academy, March 10 to 13. We learned how to better respond after a disaster, whether as early responders for mucking out a water-logged home or to be part of a recovery team or to be a team leader – and much more. Along with showing God's love, it can be a way to invite people into discipleship for the transformation of the world.

We were invited to be part of preparation this month here in Cal-Pac for people who want to be volunteer missionaries. This wonderful training was designed and facilitated by Global Ministries staff, Una Jones and Kathy Smith. With an age range from 19 to 72, the volunteers will be serving from 2 months to 2 years both inside and outside the US. Let us know if you are interested in serving as a volunteer and we will send you the information.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

Neema Kenya Mission

When members of the OMG Adult Sunday School Class joined the Otieno family on a visit to their home country, we could never have imagined how this experience would enrich and transform our lives. Their families, extended families, churches and villages taught us the real meaning of "Karibu" (Swahili for "Welcome"). We were welcomed with song, dance, feasts, gifts and prayer.

God's grace was abundant. Which is why, when we came back from our adven-



The "Sylvia Library" at Ndere Orphanage

ture, we felt called to pursue a mission relationship . . . and call it "Neema" (Swahili for "Grace"). We have much to learn from our Kenyan brothers and sisters, who live their Christian faith in very tangible ways, in service to others. Those who know the Otienos are probably not surprised, for they have shown us through their example the true heart of mission.

In the months ahead we will share more about our Kenya journey and introduce you to some of the amazing people we met along the way. We will also tell you about the wonderful work being done by our Kenya friends at the Ndere Orphanage and the Joint Partners Medical Clinic. We think you will be as humbled and inspired as we are!



Tunza Joint Partners Medical Clinic Musasa



Wasonga Family and St. Stephens Anglican Church choir

Habitat for Humanity Help Build a House This Summer



Join us as we travel once again to Garrett County, MD to help build houses for low- income people in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity. This is an unforgettable experience to work alongside future homeowners for one week, and then to return the following year to see them working in their yard or their children playing on the porch of a home that you helped build!

Our trip will be July 16 through July 21 with a MANDATORY pre-trip meeting on June 14 at 7 pm in the Annex/Office conference room. Anyone 14 or older is welcome to join us although 14 and 15 year olds may not be able to fully participate in all aspects of construction. The trip is \$75 for DUMC members and \$125 for others. Look for applications on the church website under missions. For more information, please contact Anita Duvall by cell/text at 240-485-7650 or by email at anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov.

Thank You's

From Mary Richard's Family

We would like to thank everyone who helped put together and prepare the celebration luncheon following our mom's service. Everything was delicious and included many of mom's favorites! We are simply grateful for special people like you.

With love and thanks,

Wayne and Ginger King & family Lloyd and Donna Richards & family

Dear Church Family,

I just wanted to say how much I appreciated all the help, love, and support that was shown to my father and family during the memorial service and luncheon given for my step-mother's funeral (Marianne Goldup). After years of helping plan and prepare for other services, it was truly different to be on the receiving end. I was able to see how meaningful it is to other families that have had services here at DUMC. No wonder they are so grateful!

Additionally I'd like to say thanks for all the cards and messages both myself and my Dad received. All your prayers and words of comfort were greatly appreciated.

Gratefully,

Jane Webb



Announcements

Damascus Heritage Society Museum Last Chance to see this collection!!

For only three more weeks you have the chance to see this special collection, before it will be removed and packed away. Come see this view of the past by Gary Richards, a sample of the way life used to be, what we used in our daily lives that no longer exists.

Gary has been saving history since he was a child. We have all heard that one man's trash is another man's treasure. This old adage fits Gary to a tee. Gary considers himself a collector, not a hoarder, and, in fact, he has even written a brief paper on how he feels about collecting. He has organized his exhibit into "themes" such as church, Christmas, the Peter Pan Restaurant, and Railroads & Canning Factories. Uh-oh... As some of you know, Gary has even restored a train caboose, including track, signals, and street lights, but sadly this will not be part of the exhibit as it is bigger than our building and not easily transported.



NOTE: The museum is located behind the Senior Center @ the Damascus Library. The museum is open Wednesdays & Saturdays noon to 4:00 pm.

Announcements (cont'd)

Hospice Caring, Inc. New Volunteer Training in Silver Spring

Hospice Caring, Inc. is looking for new volunteers to take part in their upcoming training sessions on May 9, 10 and 11! They are looking for passionate individuals interested in volunteering as hospice caregivers (their primary need) and facilitators for both adult and children's bereavement groups. The training sessions, led by community professionals, cover topics such as communication, active listening, understanding grief, cultural competency and self-care. Newly trained Hospice Caring caregiver volunteers will provide companionship, home assistance and transportation to patients in need. Volunteer facilitators will assist in leading adult bereavement support groups, children's school-based Goof Grief clubs and Health Classes.

Training will take place from 8:30 am to 4 pm during the three-day period in Silver Spring (at LifeMatters, 8757 Georgia Ave. #600, Silver Spring, MD 20910). To register for training, please contact Penny Gladhill at penny@hospicecaring.org or 301-990-8904. For more information see the attached flyer or visit www.HospiceCaring.org.

ATTN: College Age Girls

I am beyond excited to start a college age girls Bible study this summer! When high school ends, we all travel down different paths to find our future career and our calling. As we go forward with our lives, it is important for us as young adults to follow the Lords plan as we follow our life dreams. This past fall I moved to Lexington, Kentucky to follow my career aspirations. Although I moved away from my family, my friends and my church, there



was never once where I felt alone because it was evident that the Lord was with me and leading me to where I need to be. I am a member of a campus ministry called Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) which has helped me live my college life in Christ. I have become a Ministry leader for this campus fellowship. This summer we will come together as young ladies to grow in love for the Lord and connect in his love and grace. I would ask for the DUMC community to pray for this Bible study as we explore college life Christ. The Lord is a good Father and He is worthy of all of our praise!

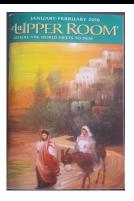
Starting date: May 21, will continue each Sunday though the summer.

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: 7401 Damascus Rd

Contact information: Text me at (301)788-1041

Hanna Adkins



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!

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The DUMC Blood Drive is

Thursday, May 18, from 1:00 - 6:30 pm

in the church Dining Hall

Our second Blood Drive of the year is about to take place for 2017. So please check your calendars and **sign up.** Walk-ins may not be able to fit into the schedule so we strongly recommend making appointments. The shortest waiting times tend to be for those with appointments between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.



Please call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: Damascus UMC MD to schedule your life-saving donation!

Thank you to all who have participated in the blood drives at DUMC in the past. We have a terrific community of donors and volunteers!

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare for the blood drive. Please contact Cathy Heinbaugh 301-253-0742 or cheinbaugh@comcast.net if you are able to help. Thank you for helping us save lives!!

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry Monday, May 15

at 12:30 pm (Church Office)

Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort.



The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, or Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@ yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.

Save the date!

The annual Craft Bazaar will be held on **Saturday**, **November 4**, alongside the Ham and Oyster dinner.

We need YOU to make it a success! We will happily accept crafts of any kind!

If you haven't donated in the past because of a concern, please reach out to us! This year, we are encouraging crafters to set their own minimum price that we won't go below. Also remember that materials used in your crafts are tax deductible! More information will be forthcoming. Questions? Contact Mandy Sellers at mandysellers@outlook.com.

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.



Reminder: We always 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 and speak with either Marcia Hofman or Gloria Maready to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!

Announcements (cont'd)

Come to a Garden Party!

Join your fellow DUMC members for a garden clean-up and mulch day on Saturday, May 13 from 9 AM to 5 PM! Mulch and wheelbarrow will be provided. Please bring appropriate tools for weeding, edging, and mulching. If you have adopted a bed in the past, you can tend that one first. If not, let's start with the beds in the front of the church. We will start with some donuts and then break for a pizza lunch. Please bring your own gloves.

Please contact Jane Clarke for more information at <u>jiclarke57@gmail.com</u> or 406-599-1591 (cell). A little rain will not cancel this. In case of torrential rain and thunderstorms, we will do it on May 20. DUMC can look like this with your help!



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 28). These binders can contain photos, favorite memories, Scripture, encouraging words or any other creative pages for your special senior. Pages (hard copy only please) should be 8-1/2"x11 inches and delivered to Wendy Hembrough by May 8, 2017, 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 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:

Julia Bratburd
Torie Brooks
Ashley Corbin
Lauren Dallas
Caitlyn Dennie
Megan Dunham
Clark Farley

Sydney Fennington Katherine Hanlon Cecelia Hembrough Christina Hernandez Sean Keaner Sheridan Maxwell Olivia Renauer

Prayer Requests

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

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

All requests will be kept confidential.

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

Announcements (cont'd)

All-Church Picnic and Memorial Day Observance

On Sunday, May 28 we will have our Annual All-Church Picnic immediately following the 11 am service. This is a potluck picnic so we are asking everyone to bring a dish to share. After we have had a chance to eat and socialize, we will have a Memorial Day Observance, remembering and honoring those who have given their lives in service to our country. David and Amanda will share thoughts, scripture, and prayer. All will have a chance to participate in the singing of patriotic songs.

This is an event for all ages! Bring a favorite dish to put out. Eat. Visit with friends. Meet new friends. Honor those who have given the highest sacrifice. Paper products and beverages will be provided. The picnic and observance will take place in the pavilion.



Healing Service

Our monthly Healing Service will be held Sunday, May 21, 2017 in the Church Parlor.

All who have healing needs and prayer requests for others are invited to come for this time of Eucharist (Holy Communion), laying on of hands, and anointing with oil (James 5:14-15).

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners for May

The *Welcoming Wednesday Dinners* are 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!

May 3: Greek chicken stew, green beans, salad, dessert

May 10: Lasagne verde, broccoli, italian bread, salad, dessert

May 17: Beef teriyaki, rice, Stir fried vegetable, salad, dessert

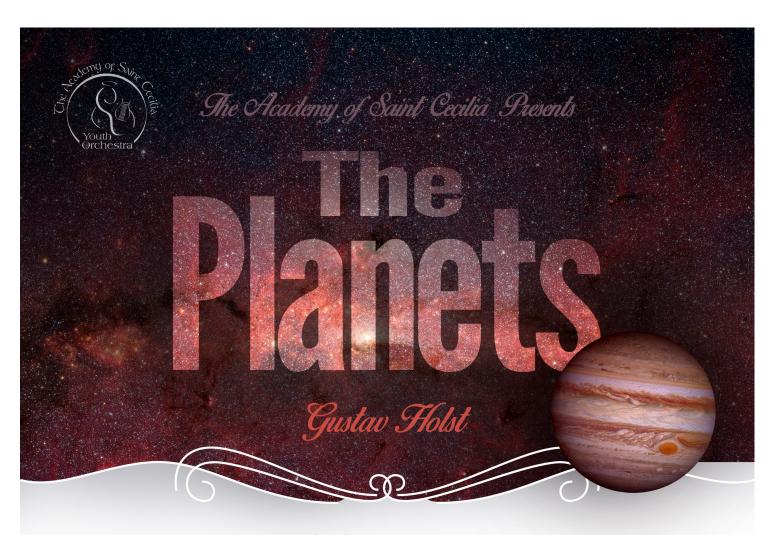
May 24:* Chicken on the grill, broccoli saute, potato salad, green jacket salad, strawberry poke cake



*NOTE: This will be the last meal of the year so that our kitchen volunteers can take a break over the summer

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 and baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email gabriellehulcher@gmail.com.

*NOTE – Menus are subject to change.



Thursday, May 4, 6:30 pm Great Hall, Damascus United Methodist Church, 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD Beginning Band, Prep Orchestra and Symphonic Band

Friday, May 5, 7:30 pm Pathways Baptist Church (First), 200 W Diamond Ave, Gaithersburg, MD Prep Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Youth Orchestra

Saturday, May 6, 7:30 pm Damascus High School Auditorium, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus, MD Flute Choir, Symphonic Band, Youth Orchestra

Sunday, May 7, 3:00 pm Weinberg Center for the Arts, 20 West Patrick Street, Frederick, MD Flute Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and Senior Solos

A cknowled gement s:



ASCYO acknowledges the generous support of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Government.

Announcements (cont'd)

Remaining Young at Heart Activities - 2017

Sunday, May 7 12 - 4 p.m.

Catoctin Furnace Spring Arts & Crafts Festival.

Food, live music, demonstrations, heirloom plants, tours, Damascus. baked goods and handmade arts & crafts. See article on page #5 of this Beacon.

Contact person: Sue Constantinides/ 301-253-6591

Sunday, August 20

Picnic & Swimming at the home of Bill & Lora Maynard,

Contact persons: Lora & Bill Maynard / 301-461-0850.

Sue Constantinides: 301-253-6591.

Monday, June 12

Tour of **Brookside Gardens and** Wings of Fancy Butterfly House, Wheaton. Lunch afterwards nearby.



Contact Sharon Walton / 301-253-4860.

SEPTEMBER

Pontoon Ride at Blackhills Park in Clarksburg with dinner to follow. More info to come.

Contact person:

Kathy Celli / 301-253-9652



OCTOBER

"Steam into History," 1860'S replica steam locomotive Civil War train ride, New Freedom, PA.

Contact person: Sandra Malley / 301-518-2220

Wednesday, June 28:

Potluck Lunch and Fellowship at the Tea Room, Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD. See article page #6.

Contact person: Jane Webb / 240-620-6920

NOVEMBER



Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC. A 430,000 sq. ft. museum that invites all people to engage in the Bible. Scheduled for completion this fall, grand opening is advertised for November,

2017! Contact person: Sandra

JULY

Frederick Keys Baseball Game. Date TBD.

Contact person:

Mike Springirth / 240-832-2404

Thursday, August 10

Annapolis Bay Cruise 11:00–3:00 \$45



Cruise the Chesapeake Bay, see historic lighthouses and hear tales of smuggling and piracy on the Chesapeake Bay. Time afterward to explore historic Annapolis.

Contact person: Sue Con-

stantinides / 301-651-1178.





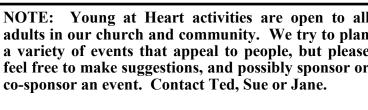
NOTE: Young at Heart activities are open to all adults in our church and community. We try to plan a variety of events that appeal to people, but please feel free to make suggestions, and possibly sponsor or



Traditional Young at Heart Christmas Dinner & Party, held at DUMC, Dining Room.

Coordinator/Contact person needed for this event to take **place.** Call Ted, Sue or Jane to volunteer.

Sight and Sound Theater's *Miracle of Christmas*. Ronks. PA. **Contact person:** Sue Constantinides / 301-651-1178.



Office Information

PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

PASTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

cell: 240-750-8287 / polly.baldridge@damascusumc.org

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist cell: 240-832-2112 stephenkalnoske@gmail.com

Nick Works, Director of Youth

cell: 240-751-6695 / nick.works@damascusumc.org

Jane Webb, Office Manager ext. #101 / jane.webb@damascusumc.org

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator ext. #102 / office@damascusumc.org

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager cell: 301-253-5241 / lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper ext. #106 / steve.malley@damascusumc.org サササササササ

Administrative Meetings For May 2017

May 3 Office Staff Meeting 10:00 am in the Annex/CR

May 4 First Thursday Ministries Meeting 7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**Trustees Meeting to follow in the **Great Hall/back**Children's Ministry Meeting to follow in the **Sacristy**Missions Committee Meeting to follow in the **Great Hall/kitchen side**

May 7 UMYFO Meeting 4:00 pm in the Annex/CR

May 17 Technology Committee Meeting 7:00 pm in the Annex

May 25 Administrative Board Meeting 7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JUNE BEACON WILL BE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, May 28).

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND

ALL ARTICLES BY THIS

DATE AT THE LATEST.

Thank You!

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!

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)

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





If yes, where?

VBS Registration Form

(Pre-K (age 4) through 6th Grade

July 24 - 28, 2017 / 9:00 am - 12:15 pm

(Please fill out one form for each FAMILY, and return it to the church office: DUMC, Attn: VBS, 9700 New Church Street, Damascus, MD 20872)

Suggested Donation: \$30/per child

21

Name	Grade entering	T-shirt size:	Y (S/M/L)	
Name				
Name				
Name				
Parent(s) / Guardian(s)				
Address:				
E-mail:				
Phone Numbers: Home				
Home Church				
Allergies: (please indicate which childing VBS, and peanut-related items will not for you to send in a snack each day for you	ot be bought. However, if your child	d has severe food alle	ergies, it wo	ould be best
In case of emergency, I give permission for	for Shady Grove Hospital to treat (pl	lease list names if mo	ore than one	e child):
For any accident or injury that occurs wh	ile attending Vacation Bible School	•		
Name of Doctor	Phone Nu	mber		
Emergency Contacts:				
	Phone Nur			
Name	Phone Nur	mber		
Dismissal Information - Name(s) of per	son(s) who may pick up this child fr	om VBS:		
Person #1	Person #2			
Parent/Guardian Signature		Date		
	Other Info (For Church Use Onl	y)		
Hero Group	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Are parents/guardians/family members h	elping with VBS Hero Central?			

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@damascusumc.org



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

They can also help connect you to a

Stephen Minister.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for Ethel Frear whose daughter, Cindy Lee Frear, passed away on Saturday, April 15 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: Pennie Adams (Cochlear implant), Marylyn Anderson (recently diagnosed with myasthenia gravis; prayers only, please no calls or visits), Benjamin Bautista (developmental concerns), David Bellefleur (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), Mary Burton (heart issues), Linne Carrier, Ann Cochran, Don Cosman, Annabelle Crane (Cheryl Minekime's aunt with medical issues), Susan Crane (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), Anita Duvall, Pat Duvall, Lynn Engel (recovering tracheal surgery), Larry Froeberg (Karen Taylor's father recovering from complications from back surgery), April Fry (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), Miel Linthicum, Jeanette Long, 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), Larry Mullinix (recovering from brain surgery), Neal Pardini (leg vascular problems), Carole Sacco (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law with liver disease and candidate for a transplant), Jerry Smith (step-son to Joyce Patrick and brother to Sharon Warfield with undetermined medical issues), Dorothy Stull (at home under hospice care), Karen Taylor (recovering from a broken collarbone), Karen Turner (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), Bill Walcott and Matthew Works (Nick's brother with spine tumors).

Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer including Patty Benson (Doug's wife), Ann Boyer (Kevin's mom), Sue Bradley, Steve Capkovits (Ruth Harward's cousin), Karen Caroscio (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), Linne Carrier, Mickey Cochran, Natalie Cosman (Don & Rita's granddaughter), Tammy Lee Cosman (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), Lauren Dunham, JP Feuillet, Dawn Helton (Marge Taylor's daughter), Rick Henderson (Ken's brother), Willa Kackley (Judy Benedict's aunt), Jan LaDuke (Julie Kinnaman's cousin), Leroy (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), Dave Lingrell, Christopher Matovich (Gerry Pardini's nephew) Frances Richards (Rev. Beth Richards' sister) and Tim Sanner (Dan Krotz's uncle).

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).



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.

Damascus United Methodist Church VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

2017 VBS -- Form for Youth Helpers

(Please fill out a form for each youth helper and return to the Resource Room or the Church Office)

Return this form no later than June 25, 2017

Name	T-Shirt Adult Size S M L XL
Grade Entering	(Please circle one)
Address	
Email Address	
Allergies or other concerns	
In case of an emergency, I give per-	sion for Shady Grove Hospital to treat (name of youth) accident or injury that occurs while attending Vacation Bible School.
Name of Doctor Emergency Contact	Telephone #Telephone#
Name of Doctor Emergency Contact As a youth helper for VBS, I under I must attend the mandatory tr I must complete the Safe Sanct I will be a role model for the ch I will fulfill my duties as descrit I will act appropriately at all to	Telephone #
Name of Doctor Emergency Contact As a youth helper for VBS, I unde I must attend the mandatory tr I must complete the Safe Sance I will be a role model for the cl I will fulfill my duties as descrit I will act appropriately at all to I will call the adult leader, with who	Telephone #
Name of Doctor Emergency Contact As a youth helper for VBS, I unde I must attend the mandatory tr I must complete the Safe Sance I will be a role model for the cl I will fulfill my duties as descrit I will act appropriately at all the I will call the adult leader, with who	Telephone #

(Also remember to complete the Safe Sanctuary Covenant Form, which must be turned in with this application.)

Any questions? Please call the church office at 301-253-0022 or email amanda.mcmurtrey@damascusumc.org