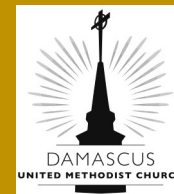


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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THE BEACON

NOVEMBER 2017



Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

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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Dear Congregation,

At our 2017 Church Conference I submitted the annual Pastor's Report. I offer it as my Beacon article this month for your consideration.

David

PASTOR'S REPORT - Church Conference October 14, 2017

I want to begin by saying that the church is well. We approved a forty thousand dollar deficit budget this year expecting that our income would not match our expenses. We have, however, stayed ahead of our expenses and we have every reason to now believe that we will end the year with a surplus instead of a deficit. Our Preserving the Future Campaign winds down at the end of this year. We have been able to complete several major repairs and improvements on all of our facilities without incurring any debt. The refreshing of the sanctuary is the latest of these projects and should be completed by the end of this month. Our new administrative system is operating well, making us more efficient. We have been able to have a full complement of our traditional programming from music to VBS to studies to missions to social activities. We have much for which to be thankful.

To say that we are well, though, is not to say that there are no concerns. There are. They mostly fall into the category of future concerns, but that only means that we need to be alert and proactive now.

The first concern is that our Sunday morning attendance is tracking at a 10% decline. We have just come through our lowest season so the end of the year statistics may show a smaller decline. Still, this is not satisfactory and it is something on which to keep a close eye. Attendance is one of the major indicators of church health.

The challenge is that attendance in churches generally is rapidly dropping. A ten percent drop is actually a smaller drop than the average. Consultants tell us that churches staying close to even are considered to be doing well. The reasons are many. Substantially more choices for activity on a Sunday attract those who would otherwise choose church. The percentage of young adults who are not connecting with church in any way is rapidly rising so there are fewer and fewer to replace participants lost to death, illness, moving, or inactivity. We are experiencing that here. Our number of new members is fairly good only because of confirmation classes. We have very few new adult members. When we combine the trend of few new adults staying and

the trend of fewer regulars attending, the result is gradual decline. We have to renew our efforts to invite people to our church, welcome them when they come, and assimilate them into the body so that they will stay. This is becoming more challenging every year. We are trying to buck the trend. We are blessed, though, to have the people, resources, and facilities to be successful if we are focused and diligent.

Another area of concern is a smaller Sunday School. The number of youth participating remains quite good. We are not, however, attracting young families in any real numbers. Consequently, we have fewer children. Our elementary ministry is important in its own right. It is also the primary feeder program for youth ministry and ultimately adult participation. Sometimes communities age through a generational cycle meaning that churches have first a strong elementary program, then a strong youth program, maybe even a young adult program. As parents become empty nesters, they often move out. Then young families move in and the cycle begins again. Consequently, children and youth ministries rarely graph on a straight or upward line. The line rises and falls. We may be heading for a fall. It would behoove us to look carefully at our ministries for young families and for children. What do we need to change? What do we need to add? Some good discussions are already happening around this topic. More needs to happen.

There has long been a desire for a solid, vibrant young adult ministry. Some minor attempts have been made to get this started, but as pastors and congregation we have not committed fully to making this happen. We have some obstacles we can do nothing about. I outlined them in detail in my three-year strategy report. There are some things, however, that we can do, but it will require capable leadership and some changes in the ways we do things. We have to ask ourselves if we want young adult ministry enough to make changes. What are we willing to do? There are no easy answers or quick fix solutions to this, but nothing will change if we are not intentional about it.

As is true in our nation, politics, racial and ethnic challenges, and the LGBTQ questions our denomination is wrestling with, have brought uneasiness to our churches. These are not comfortable topics and can be explosive and divisive. We tried to help some with this by offering “tea talks” on some of the hot button topics. Still, feelings are strong on all sides and these issues have the potential to cause great division. I know you are all working hard to maintain friendships and unity. I also know it is challenging. I sometimes feel exhausted from choosing my words carefully so as not to use charged language or to signal any disrespect for the positions of others. This reality is not going to get better any time soon, so it is incumbent on us to keep finding ways to embrace each other, paying attention to that which is common and unites us instead of to that which divides us. The church is the best place to keep the balance.

These are some of the challenges before us. This is not an exhaustive list, and more could be said about each. My point is that we cannot think that all is well today and be complacent. These and other issues can sneak up on us and sap our vitality. We want the balance of celebrating our strengths and being honest about our weaknesses. We then can put our energy into the places needed and assure that we remain a strong and relevant church in our community.

I want to end by saying that the church is well. Pray for the Spirit to give us the power and the wisdom to keep it that way.



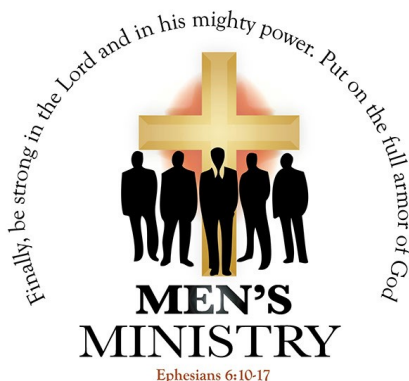
Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, November 23 at 9:30 am

Damascus UMC has a longstanding tradition of beginning Thanksgiving Day with a time of worship to offer gratitude back to God for our many blessings. Highlights of the morning include the altar beautifully dressed for the day and singing of the anthem *All Good Gifts* by all present and alumni members of the Chancel Choir and Charles Wesley Singers youth choir. We will share a homily, and hot cider and gingersnaps will be served during an informal time of fellowship following the service.

Spiritual Formation

Men's Night Out for November



The Men of DUMC
(and male friends, family & neighbors)
are invited for a Men's Night Out on
Monday, November 13, 2017
at 6:30 pm at Mt. Airy Inn,
1401 S. Main Street
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
Phone: 301-829-1400

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

November United Methodist Women News

The **Susanna JOY** Circle will meet on
Monday, November 13 at 10:00 am
in the Dining Hall.

Planning food & gifts for Christmas family.
We will complete our Bible Study on Covenants
with their fulfillment by Jesus.
Please read Chapter 6. Bring textbook & Bible.

~~~~~

The **WWJD Circle** will meet on  
**Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 pm**  
in the Great Hall

Come join in the fun as we "Paint with Kitty". Yes, our own, very talented, Kitty McNaughton-Ayers is going to share her talent with us as we paint our own canvases under her instruction.

As supplies will be needed for this activity, you'll need to email or call Marcia Hofman, [marciahofman67@gmail.com](mailto:marciahofman67@gmail.com) or [301-253-2960](tel:301-253-2960), to reserve your spot. Make your reservation by November 9. Please bring \$12 to cover the cost of supplies. Refreshments will be offered with lots of laughing and great conversation, as well.

Mark your calendar and don't forget to call or email. If you don't particularly want to paint, feel free to come and kibitz. Our circle is open to any church woman. Join us!!!

## NEXT LADIES' NIGHTS OUT

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

**When: Thursday, Nov. 9**

**Where: Mama Angela (Mt. Airy)**  
**5 Ridgeside Ct.**  
**Mt. Airy, MD 21771**

**Time: 6:00 pm**  
**Please RSVP by Nov. 5**

**When: Wednesday, Jan. 17**

**Where: Grillmarx**  
**12011 Snowden Farm Pkwy.**  
**Clarksburg, MD 20871**

**Time: 6:00 pm**

**RSVP CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE**  
**AT EITHER 301-253-0022 OR OFFICE @DAMASCUSUMC.ORG**

**TO**



## Turn Over A New Leaf

Don't FALL apart this  
season! Get your spirit up  
and AUTUMN with your  
sister's in Christ!

## Fall Women's Retreat

Saturday, Nov 11  
From 9:30 am to 3pm  
**Peach Orchard Christian  
Retreat Center**  
*(30 mins. from church)*

15712 Peach Orchard Rd.  
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)

# ***Women's Fall Retreat Registration***

**WHEN:** Saturday, Nov. 11, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

**WHERE:** Peach Orchard Christian Retreat Center

15712 Peach Orchard Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905

www.peachorchardretreat.com

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

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

Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Please check meal selection below:**

**- All meals will include chip variety, fruit and dessert**

Chic-fil-a Regular Chicken Sandwich (fried)

Chic-fil-a Nuggets (8 count)

Chic-fil-a Grilled Wrap – additional \$3

Transportation: ☐ I can drive (# of passengers I can transport \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ I will need a ride

**\$20 Registration Fee is attached.**

**\$20 Registration Fee paid on DUMC app.**

**Make checks payable to DUMW (Damascus United Methodist Women)**

**Deadline for registration is Saturday, Nov. 4.**

## Children in Foster Care 2017 Sunday School Mission Project

This year the Sunday School classes will be collecting donations for the United Methodist Board of Child Care in Baltimore, MD. The foster care children need **new** clothes and toiletry items. We hope to collect as many items as possible during the months of October and November.

Please send in as many as you can of the following items:

**NEW** clothes for **young men** in sizes **Youth Large, Youth XL, Adult Small** and **Adult Medium**.

Jeans

Sweat Pants

Hoodies

Sweatshirts

Fall jackets

Casual shirts

Athletic Socks

Boxer Briefs

Tennis shoes, sizes 6½

to 9; **7½ is needed most**



**Full size** toiletry items:

Bars of soap or liquid body wash

Shampoo

Combs

Washcloths

Hand lotion

Toothbrushes

Toothpaste

Deodorant

Chapstick

Packets of tissues



The Sunday School classes will be making **birthday cards** for the children too!

Financial donations are also appreciated. Checks should be made payable to DUMC with "Board of Child Care" in the memo line.

**Thank you and God bless you!**



# Worship Arts News and Events

November 2017

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

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

## PAST AND PRESENT CHARLES WESLEY SINGERS – Impromptu Reunion

All past and present CWS are invited to sing Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass* on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 8:15 am and 11 am services. This is Thanksgiving Sunday and also Christ the King Sunday. If you want to refresh a little, come to rehearse on Sundays between 5 and 6 pm before the event.

## CHILDREN'S MUSICAL and JOURNEY TO NAZARETH

All children in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to participate in the production of *The Legend of the Christmas King* on Sunday, December 10, at 5:30 pm. Rehearsals are Wednesday from 5 to 6 pm in the Music Room. Immediately following the musical, there will be an interactive Journey to Nazareth where children and adults can experience the sights and sounds of Nazareth in the days before Jesus' birth. Volunteers are always needed to make these events come together – contact Polly Baldridge for more details.

## CHARLES WESLEY SINGERS FALL ONE-DAY TOUR & SUMMER TOUR

The Charles Wesley Singers are traveling to Mineral, VA, on Sunday, Nov. 12, to share a 2 pm concert of Ray's *Gospel Mass* and other anthems at Mineral Baptist Church. The youth bell choir also will be sharing in the event.

Planning for the CWS summer youth mission trip to California also has started. Anyone with connections is invited to share names and contact information with Polly Baldridge.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Praise Artisans Guild is gearing up for adorning our building for the Advent and Christmas season. Volunteers will assemble on Saturday, December 2, from 9 am to 12 noon to dress the sanctuary and hallways for the season.

## WEDNESDAYS

4:15 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall/Stage Side (snacks served – 45 minute)  
Puppet troupe for elem. students 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall/Back Half (30-minute session)  
Choir for children 4 ½ years old to 1<sup>st</sup> grade led by Lydia Turner-Little

5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall (45-minute session)  
Puppets/drama for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Nalynn Ryder

5:00 pm **Choristers** Choir Room (60-minute session)  
Choir for children 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)

6:00 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Great Hall/Stage (30-minute session)  
Handbells for students 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by Polly Baldridge

7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Great Hall/Stage  
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano

7:00 pm **Women's Ensemble** Great Hall/Back Half  
Singing technique session with Polly Baldridge includes working on music for Women's Choir

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Choir Room (90-minute session)  
SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldridge with Stephen Kalnoske, accom.  
8:15 pm Preparing for All Saints Concert on Nov. 5 at Calvary UMC, Fred.

## SUNDAYS

3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month  
All instruments and vocals needed for this student-led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldridge

4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Great Hall/Stage  
Handbells for youth 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades led by Tom Baldridge

5:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room  
SATB choir for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up led by Polly Baldridge with accompanist Stephen Kalnoske



A combined choir will share Handel's *Messiah* at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 24, as we observe the last week of Advent. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4, 8, and 10:30 pm that night.

All singers are invited to participate and can attend rehearsals in November and December to prepare for this special event. Rehearsal dates:

- Saturday, Nov. 4 @ 9:30 am (stay to enjoy DUMC Ham/Oyster Dinner and Bazaar)
- Wednesdays, beginning 11/8 @ 8:15 pm (with Chancel Choir)
- Sundays, beginning 11/19 @ 5:30 pm (with Charles Wesley Singers)
- Dress rehearsal: Saturday, Dec. 23 @ 11 am

# DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FALL SCHEDULE

**Youth Sunday School**  
**Youth Chapel - Sundays @ 9:30 am**  
Breakfast/Music/Classes by age

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## **November Youth Fellowship** **Sunday nights @ 6:00 pm**

Includes Dinner and an Activity

**Sunday 11/5**  
**Rockin' Jump Trampolines, Gaithersburg**

**Sunday 11/12**  
**CWS Mini-Tour, Mineral, Virginia**  
(Depart DUMC approx. 8 am)

**Sunday 11/19**  
**Canned Food Scavenger Hunt**

**Sunday 11/26**  
**Christ the King Sunday** (youth to lead worship)  
**No Youth Dinner or Evening Youth Activity**  
Happy Thanksgiving Weekend !!

## **December Youth Fellowship** **Sunday nights @ 6:00pm**

Includes Dinner and an Activity

**Sunday 12/3**  
**Cookie Exchange**

**Sunday 12/10**  
**No Youth Dinner**  
5:30 pm: **Children's Musical & Journey to Nazareth**

**Saturday 12/16**  
**Youth Progressive Dinner**

**Sunday 12/17**  
**Live Nativity**

**Sunday 12/24**  
**Merry Christmas**  
**No Youth Dinner or Activity**

**5TH QUARTER EVENTS**  
**FRIDAY NIGHT**  
**AFTER DHS FOOTBALL**  
**GAMES, UNTIL 11:30 PM**

**11/3: Pizza/Movie Combo**  
**Night in the Annex**  
**(church office)**

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

**Youth Bell Choir**  
**Sundays @ 4 pm**  
**in the Great Hall**

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

**Youth Puppets**  
**Wednesdays @ 5 pm**  
**in the Great Hall**

**UMYFO Meeting**  
**Nov. 5 at 4:00 pm in the**  
**Annex/Church Office**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT**  
**January 19 - 21, 2018**

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**For questions or**  
**more information,**  
**contact Pastor Nick at**  
**[nick.works@damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)**  
**or 240-751-6695.**



# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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

## FALL/WINTER OPPORTUNITIES TO BE IN MISSION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

- FALL Work Saturday, Nov. 11, at Laytonsville Safe Haven for women: contact Doug Marshall if you want to participate
- Trunk or Treat sponsored by the Youth Group, Oct. 29, 4-5 pm (Church Dining Hall)
- Holiday Giving Program: Food for the Community Thanksgiving Day meal, Nov. 23, at Redeemer Lutheran and Christmas food/grocery gift cards and gifts for families sponsored by Faith Connections coordinated by Hazel Strahorn (See article, page #10 of this Beacon)
- Volunteering at Harwood House which serves the community and whose proceeds support nearly 30 other helping organizations
- Christmas cards to our missionaries in Nicaragua/friends in Kenya: collection box available Thanksgiving weekend & beyond, in the Narthex (see names in Pray List on page # 11)
- Holiday season (Thanksgiving & Advent/Christmas) Change for Change jars for a special gift for United Methodist Committee on Relief—for hurricane and fire victims
- DUMC Variety show with concession proceeds to support Neema Kenya Mission (see article page #20 of this Beacon)
- DAY OF SERVICE @ DUMC in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., January 15, 2018
- Between Cultures trip to Nicaragua January 27 through February 4, 2018

## A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN MISSION @ DUMC: **CHANGE FOR CHANGE**

All who choose to participate will pick a container to put in daily change or small bills at home beginning on Thanksgiving Day as a way to give God thanks and then through the Advent Season to honor Jesus' birthday. On Sundays, Dec. 31 through January 14, the change/checks/small bills will be received in worship (please attach your name to your donation) and will be used for victims served through UMCOR who must rebuild their lives following hurricanes and fires. Our **Change for Change** gifts will help us remember that God can **Change** the world and **Change** a tragedy into a moment of God's grace and love as we give small amounts to help others during the holidays.

## From Dr. Belinda Forbes (dentist) serving in Nicaragua

Thank you so much for being in touch. We are all fine and engaged in many different ways in ministry. Thank you for your concern about Nate. There were certain areas of the country that were hard-hit and there is some local response being carried out. Each disaster is significant, but they seem to be happening one after another! Our prayers and efforts continue for victims of Irma and Maria, and now for the awful fires in California.



I send my greetings to the Damascus UMC and thank you for your congregation's witness.

Grace and peace,  
Belinda

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

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

*Would you like to be a part of fun,  
fellowship and reaching out with the love of Jesus  
to friends in need on Thanksgiving Day?*

This year Redeemer Lutheran Church is hosting Thanksgiving at their church from 1-3 pm and they need our help! Redeemer has asked DUMC to provide the following:

- 6 pumpkin pies (homemade or store bought, no nuts, serves 8-10)
- 4 apple pies (homemade or store bought, no nuts, serves 8-10)
- 3 pecan pies (homemade or store bought, serves 8-10)
- 6 dozen cookies (homemade or store bought, no nuts)
- 10 turkeys (cooked and carved, 10-14 lbs.)
- 6 green bean casseroles (serves 10-12)

Please contact Cora Horst, 301-364-6428 (text or call), or email [cora1214@verizon.net](mailto:cora1214@verizon.net) if you are able to contribute any of the above items or would like to help serve on Thanksgiving Day. You can contribute \$\$\$ also if you would prefer that we shop for you! In addition to providing food for this Thanksgiving meal, DUMC will also be a sponsor for local families in need at Christmas. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, contact Hazel Strahorn, 301-414-5450 or [hazelstrahorn@verizon.net](mailto:hazelstrahorn@verizon.net).

## Nicaragua Missions Update

Memo and I enjoyed our visit to the U.S. in September and we felt very blessed to have so many in attendance for Sophia's baptism at DUMC. Here in Nicaragua the rainy season has been especially strong. Hurricane Nate caused flooding in much of the country and 17 Nicaraguans were killed during the storm and its aftermath, including 3 public health care workers. Fortunately in La Danta their crops were not washed away, and they are expecting a good harvest in November. Our church leadership workshops with members of La Danta and Dulce Nombre de Jesus are off to a good start with activities about speaking in public and learning their church's histories.

There will be a delegation traveling to Nicaragua Jan 27 to Feb 4, 2018 from DUMC. They will be visiting La Danta and two orphanages, and working on small projects together with these communities. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kathy Jones at [301-580-4591](tel:301-580-4591) or [kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com](mailto:kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com)

## Thank You's

- ♦ September 19, Pastor Amanda dropped off **50 hygiene kits and 45 cleaning buckets** at Liberty Grove UMC for hurricane relief through UMCOR. Thanks to all who contributed and packed the kits!
- ♦ The October Damascus **Crop Walk made over \$10,000** for CROP!! Thanks to all DUMC youth and adults who walked so that others might eat. 25% of that amount will be donated to Damascus HELP to feed households locally. Good job!!
- ♦ Our DUMC congregation has received a **Thank You from the Virginia Conference for the September VIM work** done in Virginia Beach on homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew last October.

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

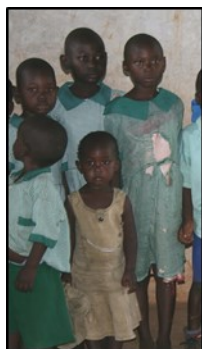
Carol Yocum, Chairperson  
carolyocum@msn.com / 301-788-6446

## Neema Kenya Mission Update: Ndere Orphans School

The Ndere School was established in 1996 to help orphaned and at-risk pre-school children in rural Gem, Kenya. When we visited the school in January 2017, we observed two critical needs. Due to a lack of funding, the school had discontinued providing mid-day meals and at times did not even have enough maize to make porridge for breakfast. We committed to funding two meals per day for the children, and began providing maize and beans for that purpose in June 2017.



The second priority was safety concerns presented by the latrine, with potential for dire consequences due to structural deterioration. We have worked with our Kenya partners and together have built a strong, secure and durable latrine for the children.



Though less urgent, we also saw the children wearing uniforms that were in some cases no more than shredded fabric. For many of these children, the school uniform—passed down year after year—is their only item of clothing. With the assistance of our Kenyan friends, we have been able to provide new school uniforms for 37 pre-school children.



When the children returned for the new school term in late August 2017, they came back to two nutritious meals a day, a safe and sanitary latrine, and fresh uniforms. These were small steps for the newly established Neema Kenya Mission, but steps we hope will be a significant investment in these children, their families and the Ndere community.

**Thank you** for your generous support of Neema Kenya Mission. For more information on how to become involved with this mission, please contact Jackie Perry ([jackiedalr@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiedalr@yahoo.com)) or Wellington Otieno ([wasongaw@yahoo.com](mailto:wasongaw@yahoo.com)).

**NOTE:** Please see article on page #19 of this Beacon for info on the next Neema Grace Charity fundraising opportunity.

### Please continue to pray for:

- ◆ People in Texas/Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other Caribbean Islands, and Nicaragua who are all recovering from hurricane damage and loss of life.
- ◆ Fire victims in California.
- ◆ Our missionaries in Nicaragua: Drs. Belinda Forbes & husband, Dr. Gerardo Gutiérrez; Amanda Jones-Dominguez & Memo Dominguez; the school children at Ndere Orphans School, Gem, Kenya; and Nan McCurdy & Miguel Mairena in the Western Jurisdiction.

***The monthly Healing Service is moving to the beautiful  
and renovated Boyer Chapel !***

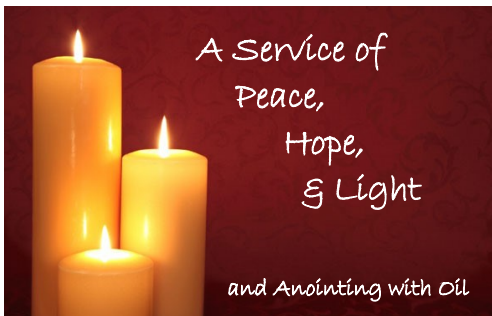
This service is a time for sharing Holy Communion, laying on of hands, and anointing with oil (James 5:14-16a). All are invited and you may come to ask for healing for others.



**Please join us beginning on Sunday, November 19, at 7:00 PM.  
The Healing Service is normally held on the third Sunday of each month.**

The Chapel is located at the entryway to the DUMC cemetery. Parking is available between the chapel and the Thrift Shop.

***Thank You to the Boyer Family for making this move possible !!!***



DUMC's Stephen Ministry invites  
you to share with us on  
**Sunday, December 4**  
**at 3:00 pm**  
**DUMC Sanctuary**

DUMC's Stephen Ministry welcomes you to the seventh annual Service of Peace, Hope, and Light. This is a service where we gently encourage and invite you to come with your hurts, your pains, your losses, your angers, and your fears. This special, intimate service is created to shed love and light on you and on those challenges in your life that are troubling.

As we embark upon this holiday season, consider attending.  
Light a candle for a person/situation and receive healing anointing with oil.

✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕ ✕

**SNACK AND CHAT WITH PASTOR DAVID**

(before the service)

**2 - 2:45 pm in the Great Hall**

Join us before the service for a special informal discussion. Light refreshments will be served. Pastor David will be leading us in a discussion about the types of challenges people face during the holiday season.

You are welcome to attend one or both events:  
the Snack and Chat and/or the Service.

**For any questions please call 301-253-0022.**

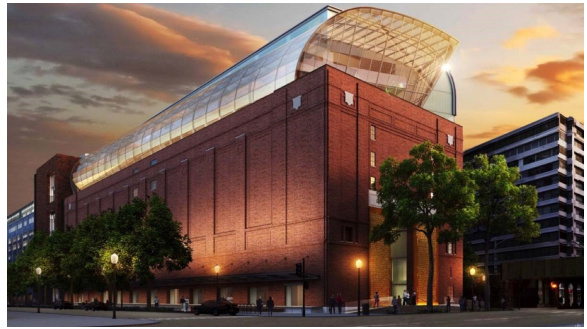
**NOTE: The monthly healing service FOR DECEMBER will be combined with the Service of Peace, Hope, and Light .**



## Young at Heart Activities

***Our next Young at Heart trip will be to . . .***

**the newly opened  
Museum of the Bible,  
Washington, DC. on  
Wednesday, November 29**



Please come and join us on an early morning trip to this newly opened Museum! We will carpool from the church parking lot to drive to the Metro. **We will leave at 6:45 am sharp** from church. The metro stop is right at the museum! Cost will be \$12 for the museum, cost for the round trip metro is \$9.85, or \$6.00 with a senior metro card (**must purchase in advance**) and cost for metro parking, \$5.20 (shared by individuals in each car). Total cost should be about \$25/per person without a senior metro card.

Here are some of the things we will enjoy at the museum. We will do **The Hebrew Bible Walk-through at 9:15 am (45 minutes)**. Come, experience the saga of a family told through time, generations, and covenants. Immerse yourself in this impressionistic telling of the Hebrew narrative, starting with a perfect beginning tragically interrupted by the chaos of man's rebellion against his creator and onward through one family's subsequent journey.

We will experience the **New Testament Theater at 11:45 am**, viewing an **8 Minute Film** in which Jesus' disciples recount the story of how a community, connected by faith in Jesus, began and spread, first from the Jews and then to the Gentiles. Their growth was fueled by a belief that God is leading people, from all ethnicities, home through Jesus, whom he raised from the dead to rule as king.

Between the two activities, there will be free time to explore the museum on your own and enjoy the gift shop. We will depart the museum at 12:30 pm to return via metro to the Shady Grove metro and then drive back to the church.

**We have a confirmed reservation for 20 people to see this brand new Museum  
and our group will enter the museum before the general public.**

Make a reservation with Sandra Malley at 240-745-2283 or [Sandra.malley@LNF.com](mailto:Sandra.malley@LNF.com). Please sign up as soon as possible. Reservations will end when we are full or on 11/12/17, whichever comes first. You can give your museum admission fee (\$12) to the church office, made payable to DUMC. No payments can be accepted after 11/12/17. Hope to see you on this trip!



## ***The Annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner Event is Back !!!!!***

**Friday, December 8 at 6:30 pm**

The annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner and Program will be held this year in the Church Dining Hall. If you want to get in the Christmas spirit a little early, this is the place to be! We'll have a few performers of Christmas music and perhaps a few special stories, Santa is likely to appear, there'll be some caroling by all, and who knows what else we'll think of in the coming weeks. Come and join us for a special dinner and some wonderful fun and fellowship.

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

The cost is \$20 to be paid at the door. Reservations are required by Sunday, December 3, so we can get an accurate count for the preparers in advance. You can make your reservation with either Bob Newlin, 301/631-6840 or [bobnewlin@comcast.net](mailto:bobnewlin@comcast.net) OR Jane Webb, 301/253-0022 or [jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org).

*Greetings from your Finance Committee!*

### **BEING INTENTIONAL WITH GOD'S TIME, EARTH'S RESOURCES, & OUR MONEY**

*"Honor the Lord with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops;  
then your barns will be filled to overflowing,  
and your vats will brim over with new wine."*

*Proverbs 3: 9-10*

You recently received a letter initiating our 2018-2019 Stewardship Campaign. Among other things, the letter listed a number of wonderful programs, activities, and ministries that are made possible by your faithful giving. These programs make DUMC a vibrant religious presence in this community serving the members of our congregation and people beyond our walls. This campaign is not just focused on funding our church budget. The purpose of our church is to guide each of us along a path of growing and strengthening our relationship with God. Our Stewardship Campaign is aimed at making each and every one of us more devoted followers of Jesus Christ through:

- Regular, disciplined reading and study of the Bible.
- Regular prayer, in times when things are going well for us and during times when we are facing serious challenges in our lives.
- Regular attendance at our worship services so that we can learn from the teachings of our pastors, the singing of hymns, and the blessings imparted by our corporate prayers.
- Regular planned, intentional, and thoughtful giving as encouraged in the passage from Proverbs printed above.

Why do we do these disciplines? NOT because we are required! We do them because we are blessed by them. We do them as an act of faith, confidence, and trust in God.

Shortly after Pastor Cooney arrived at DUMC, he began to ask the lay leaders to think more strategically about the future of the church. Working with him, the Trustees developed the Preserving the Future Capital Campaign which is working to ensure that our physical facilities are properly repaired and maintained for the future. We are now all enjoying the beauty of our newly refurbished sanctuary. As we begin working on the 2018 church budget, the Finance Committee intends to ask the various leaders of the ministries, programs and activities that are funded through the budget to develop new initiatives to address some of the following problems now facing our church:

- A slow but steady decline in attendance at our Sunday morning worship services.
- Our failure to attract young families with children to our elementary Sunday School classes.
- Not attracting and retaining enough new members to compensate for losses due to death, illness, moving, and inactivity.
- Attract additional youth and young adults to our programs because it's a critical time in their lives to learn about the love of God.

The Finance Committee is asking you to seriously consider making a two-year commitment during this Stewardship Campaign. We are hoping to move beyond just maintaining our current programs and to fund new initiatives that will begin to address the weaknesses listed above. That will require the assurance of additional future funding so that any new activities can be sustained long enough see if they bear fruit. Throughout October our pastors led us in sermons related to the "re" words: remember, refresh, reply, revere, and reform, where we heard how God is active in our lives and how we can respond. Faithful, intentional giving is one of those responses and part of our responsibility as stewards of God's resources. We hope these sermons helped excite and inform each of you and draw you ever closer to the Lord.

Blessings on each of you,

David A. Rust, Chairman

*Factoid #5 – John Wesley believed strongly that he had to spread the gospel personally, so he rode an estimated 250,000 miles on horseback. Ten trips around the world. When asked if he would consider walking, he replied "Nay". (Honestly, I got this from an official UM website.)*



### Many Ways to Give to DUMC

Damascus United Methodist Church wants you to be able to give in the ways most convenient to you. Consider what best fits your needs.

1. You can bring your check/cash to services on Sunday and put your offering in the collection plate. (Personalized envelopes are available to assure your gift is credited to you).
2. You can set up with your bank to send the church a bank draft for the frequency and amount you determine.
3. You can download the church smart device application and go to the option to digitally give to the church. The instructions to set this up is intuitive once on that portion of the church app.
4. You can text giving to the church. This can be set up by texting the word GIVE to the phone number (240) 428-6258. Once you do this you will get a response on how to set this up for future giving. Once set up you can then text OPTIONS to that phone number, and it will give you the various options for how much and to which fund that offering should be credited.
5. You can call the church office bookkeeping department and set up e-Giving using a credit card. This can be done either monthly or twice a month based on your needs. Your credit card account will be charged the amount and frequency you determine.
6. You can call the church office bookkeeping department and set up e-Giving using your bank ACH (automated clearing house). This can be done on a monthly or every two-week period based on the amount and frequency you determine.
7. You can donate stock. This is a win-win situation for you and the church. You bypass paying the capital gain tax if the stock value has grown. Below are the instructions on how to donate stock to the church:

### STOCK DONATION INSTRUCTIONS

Step one is to email Tracy Brown with the Mid-Atlantic United Methodist Foundation at [tracybrown@midatlanticfoundation.org](mailto:tracybrown@midatlanticfoundation.org). Inform her about the stock and number of shares you are donating, along with the contact information of your stock broker. She will forward instructions to your broker.

When the transfer is made the shares are sold immediately. The gift value is determined by the mean value of the stock per share on the day of sale. It takes three business days for the trade to settle and then a check will be sent to Damascus United Methodist Church for the amount of the proceeds. Tracy will e-mail you the details of the sale for your tax records. The net value of the check sent to DUMC will be put on your annual offering statement.

Problems do arise when donors forget to contact Tracy before the stock is transferred. If she is not contacted the shares come in without a name or church attached to them. If they cannot identify the donor or the intention of the donation, the stock will either be declined or it will be sold and the proceeds will sit in their clearing account until someone claims them.

For any of these ways to make your offering you can call the bookkeeping office or e-mail [steve.malley@damascusumc.org](mailto:steve.malley@damascusumc.org) for help setting any of these options up.

## Announcements

### *Hardwood House Thrift Shop*



Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the Thrift Shop has many items to help decorate your home and table for the holiday! Soon after comes CHRISTMAS!! So, don't forget our Holiday Open House!

November 5, right after the 11:00 worship service, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm. (see our ad, page #19)

Additionally, we have been trying different ways to extend our hours. For November and December we will be open the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. So, if you haven't been able to make it during our regular hours of operation, now you'll have additional time in the evening to shop!!

Mark your Calendar:

November 5<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Open House

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Extended hours, open until 7:00pm

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Closed, Thanksgiving Day

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Extended hours, open until 7:00pm

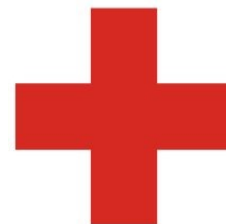
Don't forget to check our Facebook page for special sales and Hardwood House happenings! As always, thank you to those (volunteers, customers, church and community) who continue to make this mission a success! We are able to help so many because of your support!



Damascus HELP is looking for additional volunteers! There are many opportunities that will fit your schedule. The commitment is one day a month and it is usually your choice. We need volunteers to answer the phone from home (call forwarding system), deliver food to clients, sort food in the pantry, take clients to appointments, furniture pick-up and delivery, and pick up food contributions from business and organizations and deliver it to the pantry. If you have the spirit and time, please contact Damascus HELP at [dh20872@aol.com](mailto:dh20872@aol.com), [www.damascushelp.org](http://www.damascushelp.org) or call 301-253-4100. Thank you.

### **GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE**

The DUMC Blood Drive is  
**Thursday, November 9, from 1:00 - 6:30 pm**  
in the church Dining Hall



Our fourth 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](http://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](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net) if you are able to help. Thank you for helping us save lives ! !**

## Announcements (cont'd)

### Welcoming Wednesday Dinners are Back !!!

This year, dinners will be held once a month at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

**November 8** : Ham, Baked Macaroni and Cheese, Vegetable, Salad, & Dessert

Other Welcoming Wednesday Dinner dates are:

**2017:** Dec. 6

**2018:** Jan. 3 / Feb. 7 / March 7 / Apr. 4 / May 2 / Jun. 6

The **Welcoming Wednesday Dinners** are available in the Church Dining Hall. We serve at 6:00 pm.

The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12.

This a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!

**NOTE:** Dinners have been reduced to once a month because we have fewer helpers this year so far. If you can HELP OUT occasionally, please contact Kenny Sue Robertson (301-253-5305) or Lora Maynard (301-461-0850). We would love to have you !!!



### Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Monday, November 20**

**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](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, [jmullinix74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullinix74@yahoo.com), 301-482-1122.

### Some App's You Can Use !!!

If you have a QR scanner on your smart device, please feel free to use these tools:



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS PREVIOUS  
ISSUES OF THE BEACON



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO LISTEN TO  
SERMONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED  
OR JUST WANT TO LISTEN AGAIN



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE  
DUMC WEBSITE

## Announcements (cont'd)

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! TO COUNT THE OFFERING**

**WHEN?** – After the 11:00 am Service

**HOW OFTEN?** – About once every 8 weeks

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?** – About 2 hours

**DO YOU WORK ALONE?** – No, you will have a partner

**TRAINING?** –Of Course! We will show you the ropes

**WHO TO CONTACT** – David Rust – darust@comcast.net or 301-414-5447



### **Time to order your Habitat Christmas Wreaths! !**

Garrett County Habitat-for-Humanity Christmas wreaths are perfect for holiday decorating and gift giving. The cost is \$30 per wreath.

If you wish to send a wreath to someone living out of town, shipping is available for an extra \$17 per wreath. In addition, your wreath will contain a gift card with your name. To order your Habitat wreath, contact Lisa Marshall, 301-253-5241, or see her in the Narthex after the Sunday Services. Be sure to order your wreath (s) before they are all gone !!!!!

### **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](http://www.damascusumc.org).

**REMEMBER...  
SATURDAY NIGHT (NOV. 4)  
TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ONE HOUR**



DAY-

LIGHT

**SAVINGS TIME ENDS  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017**



***Please remember to use  
Amazon **SMILE**  
when you do your shopping on Amazon !***

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





**CHRISTMAS**  
**AT**  
**Harwood House Thrift Shop**



**Open House**  
**Sunday, November 5**  
**Noon - 3:00 pm**

Christmas ornaments, collectibles, decorations, wreaths, garlands,  
trees, clothing, many new toys, gifts and much, much more.

Enjoy some refreshments while you shop!

*All at great prices, and your purchases support over 25 local charities!*



**Evans Homes and Gardens**

Tom Evans | (301) 253 - 9224 | [tom@evanshomesandgardens.com](mailto:tom@evanshomesandgardens.com)

**Saturday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Christmas Tree Sale &**  
**PIG ROAST**

*TIME: 12pm-6pm*

*Supporting*  
**Neema Grace Charity\***

\* Mission organized  
by DUMC members to support an  
orphanage in Kenya, Africa.



## Announcements (cont'd)



# DUMC VARIETY SHOW

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

7:00 P.M.

HOSTED BY THE SPICE GIRLS!



Calling all youth, college kids, young adults, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, Sunday School classes, Confirmation classes, and anyone willing to have some fun!

Dust off your dancing shoes, pull out your musical instruments, practice your favorite songs and get ready to participate in our variety show! No talent necessary!

The show will be held on the stage in the Great Hall.

Refreshments (drinks, finger food, popcorn, etc.) will be sold by the OMG Sunday School class, with all proceeds being donated to the Neema Kenya Mission.\*

Invite your family members for an evening of fun and entertainment!

To sign up, please contact Sue Constantinides at 301-253-6591 or email at [suehcon@yahoo.com](mailto:suehcon@yahoo.com). She needs the name of your act and a description.

There will be a run-through rehearsal the day before on Thursday, January 11.

Drop by anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 pm to practice.

Let Sue know if you need an accompanist or special arrangements for your act.

This will be the best show ever! Don't miss it!



in Kenya, Africa.

\*A Mission organized by members to support an or-



DUMC  
phanage



Dear DUMC Family,

Words cannot express our gratitude for the gracious and loving support you provided our family as we prepared for and celebrated the life of our husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Sherwood Duvall. God provided a beautiful day while the Pastors, Music Minister, office staff, luncheon volunteers, audio-visual support, and many others, through God's grace, provided the rest. God's love truly radiates through you.

Peace and Blessings,  
The Hazel Duvall and  
Mac & Sherry Lloyd Families



## Office Info

### PLEASE NOTE:

Main office: 301-253-0022

### PASTORS:

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

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

### STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldrige,  
Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
cell: 240-750-8287 / [polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org](mailto:polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org)

Stephen Kalnoske, Organist  
cell: 240-832-2112  
[stephenkarnoske@gmail.com](mailto:stephenkarnoske@gmail.com)

Nick Works,  
Director of Youth  
cell: 240-751-6695 / [nick.works@damascusumc.org](mailto:nick.works@damascusumc.org)

Jane Webb, Office Manager  
ext. #101 / [jane.webb@damascusumc.org](mailto:jane.webb@damascusumc.org)

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator  
ext. #102 / [office@damascusumc.org](mailto:office@damascusumc.org)

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager  
cell: 301-253-5241 /  
[lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org](mailto:lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org)

Steve Malley, Bookkeeper  
ext. #106 / [steve.malley@damascusumc.org](mailto:steve.malley@damascusumc.org)

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The Church Office will be closed on both  
**Thursday, November 23**  
and **Friday, November 24.**

The office will re-open at 9:00 am  
on **Monday, November 27.**



## Administrative Meetings For November 2017

- Nov. 1 Staff Meeting  
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Nov. 2 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **DH - 1/4 area**  
Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall - stage side**  
Children's Ministry Meeting to  
follow in the **Sacristy**  
Missions Meeting to  
follow in the **Great Hall - back side**
- Nov. 5 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Nov. 30 Administrative Board Meeting  
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 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.

## **IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE**

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

(For Beacon to publish on Sunday, Nov. 26).

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

## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Marylyn Anderson** (diagnosed with myasthenia gravis), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Bob Braden**, **Barry Bratburd** (recovering from hip replacement surgery), **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), **Pat Duvall**, **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), **Nancy Nickerson**, **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 Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), and **Bill Walcott**.

**Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer** including **Carol Ackeman** (Mary Nieter's sister with terminal cancer), **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), **Ethel Frear**, **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) **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle) 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), **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](http://www.umc.org), click on "pray" in the green box. Your request will be e-mailed to the Prayer Center within 24 hours and sent out to Upper Room Covenant Prayer Groups as well. More than 30,000 prayer requests are received each month.

### 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



**Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104**  
office: 301-253-0022

ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL DUMW

# Bazaar & Dinner!

JOIN US FOR:

Ham and Oyster Dinner  
Handmade Crafts  
Baked Goodies  
Crafty Vendors  
And more!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

BAZAAR: 11AM UNTIL 5PM

DINNER: 12PM UNTIL ???

DINNER: \$15 FOR ADULTS OR TAKE-OUT,  
\$5 FOR CHILDREN (4-8 YEARS OLD)

**Damascus United  
Methodist Church**

9700 NEW CHURCH STREET, DAMASCUS