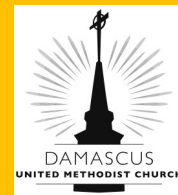


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
Phone: 301-253-0022
E-mail: Damascus.UMC@verizon.net
Website: www.DamascusUMC.org

THE BEACON

OCTOBER 2015



CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Christian Formation

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Ben Constantinides
Artist-In-Residence

Tom Baldrige
Director of Youth &
Young Adult Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Debbie Benson / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Carlton Addison / Building Services

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

About Our People	19
Announcements	14
Christian Formation	3
Health & Wholeness	13
Hospitality	8
Missions & Outreach	11
Office Information	18
Stewardship/Finance	14
Worship Arts News & Events	10
Youth Ministry	9

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disci-

Grace and Peace,

Each Sunday we begin the service by reciting our mission statement which ends by saying that we are dedicated to making disciples. It matches in words and spirit the mission statement of our denomination: to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We recite the statement with great enthusiasm, but I wonder if we ever stop to wonder exactly what that means. What goes into making a disciple? What makes one a disciple? How do we even know if we have made a disciple? These are questions without obvious answers. Some might say that being a disciple is strictly faith based, that is, those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord are disciples. Others might say that being a disciple requires more than that. For instance, a disciple worships regularly and/or prays regularly and/or engages in outreach and/or studies the Bible. We probably each have our own ideas about what makes one a disciple and, in truth, we may not agree at all about what that is.

It is not essential that we all agree on all of the finer points of discipleship. It is important, however, that we have some common understandings about what discipleship looks like. If we do not know what a disciple is, we cannot really be about the business of making disciples. Where would we start? How would we know if we have, indeed, made a disciple?

Over the next months, in a variety of ways, formal and informal, we will be talking about this as we try to give meaning to our mission. I encourage you to begin thinking and praying about it now. How do you know a disciple when you see one? Is it what a person believes? Is it how a person acts? Is it someone engaged with the spiritual disciplines? Is it someone who knows the scriptures and how to pray? Is it the person who just exemplifies for you what it is to be Christian? It may be any of these things or some combination or something else. I am not trying to answer for you. I want to know from you: how do you know a disciple when you see one? Once we can agree on some common answers, we can be more intentional about our mission of making disciples.

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday. This is a day when Christians of different denominations and locations come to the Lord's table. It is one time when we can easily imagine millions of other Christians, worldwide, coming to the table with us, joining us together as one body through the body and blood of Christ. In a time when the world is fractured in more ways than we count, it is a powerful vision of God's intention for the world – a place of harmony, peace, and grace.

⇒⇒⇒

Also in October Amanda and I will each wrestle with one of the difficult passages in scripture, chosen because they make us squirm and scratch our heads. The last Sunday is Heritage Sunday. You will hear some special stories about this church from those who have been part of it for eighty and ninety years. You will not want to miss it.

Members of our Lay Leadership Development Committee are now calling persons to invite them to serve in a variety of ways. If you are called, please carefully consider responding with a yes. It is alright to say no if it is not for you at this time. Remember, though, that you are being called because in prayer and discernment these persons have identified you as having the gifts and graces needed for the task. It is not about filling spaces. It is about an invitation to serve in a particular way as part of discipleship.

God bless you.
David

This Month in Worship

You don't want to miss worship in October!!



We begin the month with a celebration of World Communion Sunday; a chance to join with millions of United Methodists around the world at the communion table. Don't miss a chance to take communion with breads from around the world or to consider the true meaning of communing together at the Lord's Table.

Then Amanda and David offer a two-week sermon series designed to challenge the best of preachers. They have each chosen a Bible passage that is difficult to comprehend or hard to accept as the word of God. Don't miss them wrestling with these texts. We close the month with an opportunity to witness the memories, stories, and hopes of several members of DUMC. Four spirit-filled worship experiences await you!

Oct. 4 – World Communion Sunday

Oct. 11 – Difficult Passages Sermon Series

Oct. 18 – Difficult Passages Sermon Series

Oct. 25 – Heritage Sunday



October is Mental Health Awareness Month

An issue which has and continues to touch many of our daily lives. If we don't have a family member who is ill, we all seem to know of someone who needs help.

Please take a moment to look at the flyer (p. 20) we have inserted as the last page of this Beacon, for the community event that not only DUMC, but five other local churches, along with county, state, and local health care professionals have planned for our community.

THE DONUTS ARE BACK !!

Our donut fundraiser is back and on October 4 we will be in the narthex selling a variety of Krispy Kreme donuts. All funds raised go to support our Between Cultures mission team and the outstanding work they do in Nicaragua on behalf of the poor and in the interest of working towards a more just world. You can purchase a single donut, a half dozen, a dozen, or a truckload. All the donuts are delicious and made fresh the same morning. Consider taking a dozen home with you, or to Sunday school, or to a social event, or to work Monday morning. Your friends, family, and co-workers will sing your praises!

Helping Children in Ethiopia



You might know our long-time DUMC member, Kolash Belete. She comes from central Ethiopia, and she has a sister who lives there. Kolash and her sister are starting a small school for impoverished children in the area of Sidoma, Ethiopia. Many children do not have enough food to eat or a school to attend.

For this year's Sunday School Mission Project, we are asking you to help raise money for the small school. Children in our congregation will be doing a variety of chores so that they can experience giving of themselves to help others. We would appreciate your help in arranging for chores for the children to do in order to earn money to donate. It would be great if some adults would be willing to match whatever amount is raised by a

Sunday School class!

The need is great and all donations are appreciated! Checks may be made out to DUMC with "Ethiopia" in the memo line. Thank you and God bless you!

Love, Cathy Scarbrough (301) 972-6844

United Methodist Men News

For the month of October the Men's Group will kick off the new season on **Saturday, October 3** with a men's group **FAMILY** barbecue and campfire, With hayrides, horse shoes and games, smores, etc.

We will meet at the home of Ted Ross, 7901 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, **and begin at 3:00 pm.** Please RSVP with the dish or food item you bring and head count by October 1 to Ted@tedrossconsulting.com or 301-704-7992.



NOTE: The UM Men's Group meets the first Saturday of every month for a time of worship, communion, fellowship, and breakfast, normally at the main church building.

FROM THERE TO HERE

HOLY BIBLE

Rev. Cooney will be teaching "From There to Here" on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm beginning September 30. The content is about how the church formed following the resurrection and ascension of Christ and then grew and changed over the centuries, ultimately leading to the United Methodist Church being here in this day and age.

No reading or preparation is necessary. We will meet in the conference room in the Annex. Wednesday evening not good for you? The same class is being taught in the Music Room on Sunday mornings between services.

Christian Formation (cont'd)



Pleasant Plains Preschool

a ministry of Damascus United Methodist Church

Director, Cora Horst

301-253-9798

pleasant.plains@verizon.net



Pleasant Plains Preschool welcomed 47 families to a new school year this September. The children have been very busy catching up with old friends, making new friends and learning the routines of their new classroom. This week we had our first chapel services in the sanctuary. The children learned that there are lots of different Bibles. Some have pictures and some are really heavy, but the message in them is the same: LOVE! Together we sang this song, "Love, love, love, that's what it's all about. God loves us, we love each other, mother, father, sister, brother. Everybody sing and SHOUT! That's what it's all about." Can you guess the preschoolers' favorite part? I think I can still hear them shouting.

The preschool teachers would like to send a hug out to the ladies of the WWJD Circle to thank them for the delicious homemade applesauce. Some of our classes will make applesauce later this month but yours is the best! Thank you also to those of you who reached out to share something with our preschoolers. PPP is the only preschool with the support of our awesome congregation and that makes us really special. If you have a talent, hobby or job that you would be willing to share with us, please let me know. I guarantee you will feel the love from the preschoolers if you spend time with us.

The Connections Café

DUMC's Coffee Hour

Held Sunday mornings between services.

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



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

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



GLORIOUS FOOD AND HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR & BAZAAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015 DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST



ADULTS: \$12 / CHILD (3-8): \$6

SOUP & SANDWICH in the Dining Hall

12:00 NOON TIL ????
EAT IN ONLY



Soups:

Maryland Crab
Vegetable
Turkey Noodle
Broccoli Cheese

Sandwiches:

Roasted Turkey Sliders
Fried Oyster Sliders
Ham Sliders
Egg Salad
Hot Dogs

BAZAAR in the Great Hall

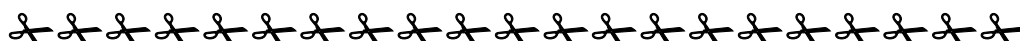
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Bake Table
Christmas Table
Country Store
Crafts
Kiddie Kornor
Used Books
Handmade Furniture
Fine Arts
Nuts



We will also have soft-serve Ice Cream Cups for sale in the Dining Hall; \$1 each.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO TURKEY OYSTER DINNER IN NOVEMBER, 2015



PRE-ORDER FOR NUTS

Once again we will have various nuts available for sale at our Bazaar on Saturday, October 24, 2015. As usual we will have a limited number of our nut varieties. In order to be sure that you get exactly the nuts that you want, we are accepting pre-orders BEFORE THE Bazaar when our nuts are delivered. We can hold them for you for pick-up.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

_____ pecan halves \$8.75

_____ almonds \$5.75

_____ cashews salted \$7.75

_____ pistachios (white) \$7.75

_____ English walnuts \$7.75

_____ praline pecans (12 oz) \$6.00

_____ mixed nuts \$7.50 (pecans, cashews, brazils, almonds, hazelnuts)

Order Total: _____

Leave order blank in the church office in the UMWomen's box or give to Pennie Adams / Joy Schwab / Esther Samakouris with check if so desired. All checks should be made payable to DUMWomen.

Calling ALL Ladies!

What is The Women of Faith Conference? It is a gathering of women (teens to mature adults) for spiritual fellowship. There will be inspirational speakers discussing stories of life and God's love in it. Come to laugh, to cry, and to know that you are loved!



The Women of Faith Conference is in Fairfax, Virginia on Friday, January 15, 7:00 — 9:00 pm and Saturday, January 16, 9:00 am — 5:00 pm. The tickets are \$82.95 for the event (both days included). **Tickets will be ordered on October 16** and we must have full payment to insure your order. Recommended hotels can be found on the website: www.womenoffaith.com.

Please make checks payable to: Cathy Burkhardt and mail to 24500 Welsh Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20882.

If you have any questions or concerns please email Cathy at cmburkhardt@verizon.net.

YOU ARE NEEDED !!! YOU ARE NEEDED !!! YOU ARE NEEDED !!!

YOU ARE REALLY NEEDED !!!

Saturday, October 24th Damascus United Methodist Women are offering you an exceptional opportunity to participate in a churchwide service project----**"OUR GLORIOUS FOOD and EXPANDED HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR and BAZAAR."** The proceeds will go to many of our church groups as well as national and world UMW missions.

This year we are trying something different from our traditional Turkey-Oyster Dinner. We are offering a **gourmet** Soup and Sandwich lunch. This will be a less intensive undertaking for all of us. BUT we still need **YOUR HELP**.

We will need your help Tuesday, October 20, thru Friday, October 23, to prepare the food...just an hour of your time would be greatly appreciated (more time if you would like!!!). We need people in the kitchen and in the dining hall on Saturday, not to wait tables but to "monitor" serving tables, not as intense as waiting tables.

We are asking our **talented crafters** (are you one of them?) to donate one or more of your amazing creations for our wonderful Holiday Craft Fair and Bazaar.

This year, we'll add the sale of **good condition used** books. **DONATIONS** are gladly **ACCEPTED**.

We are also asking for your **delicious baked goods** for our Bake Table.

We will have all our traditional items for sale: Advent calendars, Country Store, "Nuts" (not the helpers!), hand-made knitting and crochet items, handmade jewelry, and other goodies. Of course we will have our **CHRISTMAS SHOP**.

We CANNOT have a successful event without your HELP. WE NEED YOU!!!! Yes YOU!!!

Please prayerfully consider offering your help. Contact Pennie Adams, pennie217@yahoo.com, Joy Schwab, 301-253-3294, Esther Samakouri, 301-253-3773, Kenny Sue Robertson, 301-253-5405, Cell# 301-471-7298, charrobe@verizon.com.

**We will be sitting by the phone
(or the computer) anxiously awaiting your call!!!!!!!!!!!!**

LADIES NIGHT OUT

WHEN:

Thursday, Oct. 15 @ 6 pm

WHERE:

**Bonefish Grill
82 Market Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
RSVP by Oct. 13**

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

FUTURE EVENTS

**TUESDAY,
November 17**

**Agrodolce @ 6 pm
21030-J Frederick Road
Germantown, MD 20876
RSVP by November 15**

**MONDAY,
December 7**

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

**THURSDAY,
January 21**

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

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

Christian Formation / Women's Ministry (cont'd)

Relax, Everything's Under Control

A Women's Half-Day Retreat

Sat. Oct. 10 - 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Join Pastor Amanda for conversations, prayers, Bible study, and more, all about dealing and coping with stress!

Please RSVP by Monday, Oct. 5 to Pastor Amanda (amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net or 301-253-0022) if you plan to attend. All women 6th grade and older are invited to attend. This event is FREE!!



Damascus United Methodist Women

Susanna Wesley / Esther JOY Circle

Monday, October 12 at 10:00 am
in the **GREAT HALL***

WWJD Circle Meeting

Thursday, October 15 at 7:30 pm
Location TBD

***NOTE: Room change**

Special Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, October 8: UMWomen General Meeting in church Dining Hall. Hosts for refreshments & program: Susanna Wesley & Esther JOY.

Saturday, October 24: UMW Conference Meeting at the Conference Center, Fulton, MD

Saturday, October 31: UMW Annual District Meeting @ 1:00 pm at the Conference Center, Fulton, MD.

Special Activity: Saturday, October 24, 2015: Soup, Sandwiches & Bazaar (see flyer, page #5).

Hospitality

Have you seen the new Welcome Station?

Each Sunday in September, the newly-formed Welcome Teams have been on duty at the worship services – these teams will continue throughout the year. The “host” member of each team is located at the Welcome Station, an “information center” created by Clyde Curtis and Bob Gladhill. **Welcome Team members and all other worshippers** are asked to guide church guests to the Welcome Station to receive a welcome gift bag, have questions answered, and perhaps provide some personal contact information. Please take advantage of this new resource. Introduce yourself to unfamiliar persons seated near you in worship. If you find that they are visiting for the first time or are recently new to DUMC, please invite them to walk to the Welcome Station with you. This is an easy first step to extending hospitality and helping newcomers become connected. Give it a try!

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)



- The Heavenly Hosts Committee

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

October 2015

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

CALENDAR

The Youth Year is off to a Great Start !!!



High School youth together at 5th Quarter!!!

September was soooooo fun and exciting with the Youth Praise Band and CW Singers re-suming rehearsals and all the great youth events. The 5th Quarters have been a great Friday activity, and we had over 60 youth

come out for our first youth event at Rockin' Jump. I did not know we could all bounce so well.

October is going to be full of adventure and meaning as we continue to have our 5th Quarters after DHS football games, begin our "Reflection Time With Friends" (RTWF) and have our annual Bonfire at the Ross's. You might ask what is "RTWF" going to be all about? You will need to come to the youth activities in October to find out. Any special instructions for preparing for youth events will be shared before the events or in the weekly youth email. If you do not get the weekly youth email, please send me your email address. Parent drivers, meal preparers, and volunteers are always needed. As we know, Youth Ministry is a ministry of the whole church, to be supported by the entire community, and will only be as strong as the youth, families, and church community that make it a priority.

REMINDER:

Sunday Youth Dinners: \$4
Sunday Morning Breakfasts: \$3

Wednesday Schedule

5:00 pm Youth Puppet Troupe – Great Hall (stage side)
5:45 pm Wonderful Wednesday Dinners
7:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir – Great Hall stage

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Sunday Evening Schedule

3:30 pm Youth Praise Band practice (1st and 3rd Sundays)
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers
6:00 pm Youth Dinner
6:30 pm Youth Fellowship Activity

Friday, October 2:

9:00 -11:30pm **Homecoming 5th Quarter** – We will gather at the church after the Damascus football game for an incredible ice cream sundae bar and hot chocolate.

Sunday, October 4:

3:30 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner in Dining Hall: Need Someone
6:30 - 8:00pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Scavenger Hunt V2.0**

Sunday, October 11:

4:00 pm UMYFO meeting - Annex
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner in Dining Hall: Steve Kalnoske
6:30 - 8:30pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Outside games and fun near the Pavilion.**

Sunday, October 18:

3:30 pm Youth Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal – Choir Room
6:00 - 8:30pm Dinner and Youth Fellowship Activity: **Destination Known – Bonfire, dinner, and s'mores at the Ross's house.**

Friday, October 23:

9:00 -11:30pm **5th Quarter** – We will gather at the **Annex** after the Damascus football game to hang out and watch a movie and eat pizza, chips, soda, candy, and gum.

Sunday, October 25:

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers Rehearsal – Choir Room
6:00 pm Youth Dinner in Dining Hall: **Martinho**
6:30 pm Reflection time with friend (RTWF)
7:00 – 8:00pm Halloween organ concert played by the great STEVE in the Sanctuary. Bring a scary mask. We will have candy and fog machines.

Worship Arts News and Events

October 2015 Polly Edmonds Baldridge, Minister of Music and Worship Arts | 240-750-8287 | redheaders@verizon.net
Stephen Kalnoske, Organist | 240-832-2112 | stephenkarnoske@gmail.com

* 4th Sunday Concert and Evensong.....

All Hallows Organ Recital

Featuring Stephen Kalnoske

Sunday, October 25, 2015 @ 7 pm



Put on your Halloween costumes and come hear Steve play spooky and magical organ favorites, including a piece entirely for feet, *Phantom of the Opera*, and some of our own featured singers! After the concert, refreshments will be served and seasonal crafts available for purchase.

**Look for the concert and evensong brochure and the worship arts ensemble schedule in the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.*

Looking ahead.....plans underway.....

ADVENT WORKSHOP

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES

November 22, 2016, at 3 pm in Great Hall

New plans are underway for this favorite time of crafting and preparation for Christmas, intended for all ages. Make a wreath, make Christmas-carol-themed ornaments, write a Christmas card to military service members, share and hear open mic Christmas carols, and visit with Santa Claus. There will also be an opportunity to do something to help others – more information TBD! Contact Deborah Bowe at 301-529-9247 for more information or to help. Bring cookies to share if you are able. Hot chocolate provided. This event is co-sponsored by Fellowship Ministries and Worship Arts Ministries.

WORSHIP ARTS ENSEMBLES*

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

WEDNESDAYS

4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus (Great Hall)
Puppet Troupe for 2nd – 5th grades

4:30 pm Cherubs (Great Hall)
Vocal Choir for 4 ½ years – 1st grade

5:00 pm Choristers (Music Room)
Vocal Choir for 2nd – 5th grades

5:00 pm Youth Puppets (Great Hall)
Puppet Troupe for Middle Schoolers & up

6:30 pm Inspiration Ringers (Great Hall)
Handbell Choirs for 2nd – 5th grades

7:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir (Great Hall)
Handbell Choirs for 6th – 12th grades

7:00 pm Men's Choir (Music Room)
Vocal Choir for changed voices of all ages

7:00 pm Women's Ensemble (Great Hall)
Vocal Choir for female voices of all ages

7:30 pm Chancel Choir (Music Room)
Mixed voice choir for changed voices

SUNDAYS

3:30 pm Youth Praise Band (Youth Chapel)
Band meets 1st and 3rd Sundays of month

3:30 pm Adult Praise Band - Tentative
Band might meet 2nd and 4th Sundays of month – leadership needed!

5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers (Music Room)
Vocal Choir for 6th – 12th grades and up

MONDAYS

7:30 pm Ring of Joy (Great Hall)
Advanced Handbell ensemble

PRAISE ARTISANS GUILD

If you feel called to create and help adorn our worship space and building during the seasons of the church year, please contact Connie Ross, PAG Chair,
at 301-633-9504.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The DUMC Blood Drive is
Monday, October 12 from 1:00 - 6:30 pm
in the church Dining Hall



The rescheduling for our “second” annual Blood Drive of the year is about to take place for 2015. *We’d like to thank everyone who signed up in September and apologize for the last-minute cancellation. This October drive will be an opportunity to reschedule life-giving donations.* So please check your calendars and **sign up**. It will be open for on-line scheduling later today. While walk-ins are always welcome, those with appointments will have less waiting time.

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 ! !

Volunteers Needed

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



“Shampoos for the Center” Help Women in Need

The Damascus United Methodist Women (DUMW) have an outreach program to help women at the Montgomery Avenue Women’s Center in Rockville. As you travel for work and pleasure throughout the year, why not bring home those small unused bottles of shampoos and conditioners from your trip and place them in the specially marked “red” basket in the Narthex. The toiletries will be provided to women in need at this walk-in day shelter. 11
DUMW contact: Wanda Miente at 301-972-1876.



Volunteer Needs

FAITH CONNECTIONS HELP LINE
(serve from your home)

Serves with team to answer helpline phone calls—2 days per month. Provides assistance and referrals to families facing financial issues.

Healthy Choice’s Children’s Program
(need childcare assistance)

Tuesdays 9:15 am - 12:00 pm; meets at Damascus United Methodist church for 2 eight-week sessions during the school year. Mentoring ministry for single moms who want to break the cycle of poverty in their families.

One, twice or whatever your schedule allows (contact Debbie Tomlinson: 301-512-5130).

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



One of Our
Church Missions
at DUMC,

MEALS ON WHEELS,

needs a driver to deliver meals
ONCE A MONTH – the 4th Thursday of every month.

The delivery run takes about 2 to 3 hours
beginning at 9:45 A.M.

You will need a vehicle large enough to
carry 8 large Igloo containers.

Who will answer the call?

For more information call Pam Rust at 301-414-5447.

Mark your Calendar!

The **45th Annual CROP Walk** for Damascus will take place Sunday, October 11, starting at Damascus Regional Park at 1:30 pm. More info to follow in the future.

Volunteers are always welcome to become Officer of the Day, food drivers, transportation drivers and be a part of a furniture-delivery team. Pantry pick-up volunteers are also needed. Be sure to share our needs with your neighbors, friends, and other organizations that you are associated with.

HELP's Furniture Committee needs: a clothes dryer, dining/kitchen tables and chairs, dressers, clean beds and frames, night stands, end tables, lamps, vacuums, microwaves, and clean sofas and chairs. Call or email us at info below.

Please contact Damascus HELP at 301-253-4100 or email dh20872@aol.com or www.damascushelp.org for additional information.



PROGRAM CONTACTS

Between Cultures: Shared ministry with people of Nicaragua. Kathy Jones, 301-580-4591.

Blood Drives: Semi-annual Red Cross collections. Cathy Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742.

Damascus HELP: Provides food, shelter, and other necessities. 301-253-4100, DH20872@aol.com.

Earth Angels: Short-term assistance i.e. transportation, yard work. Claudia Klahre, 301-414-0440 or Kim Briglia, 240-731-9296.

Earth Stewards: Adopt-a-highway environmental program. Jeff Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742.

Faith Connections: Holiday baskets, Healthy Choice Program, community ministries. Debbie Tomlinson, 301-482-0522.

Habitat for Humanity: Summer Home building in Western Maryland – youth involvement. Anita Duvall, 240-485-7650.

Harwood House: Thrift Shop – Tue. workday – open Thurs – Saturday 11:00 am–3:00 pm. Call 301-253-0025.

Meals on Wheels – Drivers for County Program of meals for home bound. Pam Rust, 301-414-5447 or pamela.rust@comcast.net.

Pleasant Plains Preschool– Pre-K classes for 2, 3 & 4 year olds - with chapel. Cora Horst, 301-253-9798.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - shawls and lap robes for those needing a tangible sign of God's love. Cathy Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742.

Volunteers in Mission – various national and international relief and rebuilding projects with worship and children's Bible school experiences. Vern Schinski, vschinski5@verizon.net.

Mission Committee Chairperson:
Vern Schinski vschinski5@verizon.net .



The DUMC Stephen Ministry is delighted to announce that Ted Ross has completed Stephen Leader training.

He will be commissioned as DUMC's newest Stephen Leader on Sunday, October 11, at both services.

CONGRATULATIONS TED!!!



CALLING ALL WALKERS!!!

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

**If you want to continue or renew your walking habit
or start a new one with other members from DUMC,
call or email Lynn Gruner.
301-253-5017/ grunerly@verizon.net.**

Healing Service

Our monthly Healing Service will be held
**Sunday, October 18, 2015, 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).



Earth Angels!

Did you know that DUMC has 25 Earth Angels?

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

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

Provide transportation to appointments, pick up prescriptions, drop off baked goods, make a meal, do yard work, help with household chores, shop for groceries and other needs, call to check in on your welfare, or make a caring visit. Simply contact either Claudia Klahre or Kim Briglia to let them know of your needs. If you would like to **SERVE** as an Earth Angel, Claudia/Kim can help you get started. You volunteer for what works for you on a short-term basis. The level of time and commitment is up to you. Come join the band and love your neighbors by lending them a hand in their time of need.

ck1klahre@aol.com

call/txt: 301-351-0163

kim.briglia@marriott.com

call/text: 240-731-9296

Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry

Friday, October 16 @ 3:30 pm in the Church Office

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



Stewardship/Finance

DONATIONS OF STOCK

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

Announcements

October is Pastor Appreciation month ! !
Help show your appreciation for our pastors, David and Amanda.

You may want to write a note to one or both of them to thank them for all that they do for our faith community. You can mail your note yourself or leave your card in the basket located in the Narthex or the basket on a table in the Connections Café. If you prefer using your computer, you can email a note to

Marciahofman67@gmail.com Your note will be printed and added to the baskets.

The Staff-Pastor Relations Committee will host a special reception in the Great Hall between church services (about 9:30) on **Sunday, October 25**. All the collected notes will be presented to them at that time. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us for this special tribute.

We have much to be thankful for here at DUMC!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A DUTY OFFICER ? ?

What's a Duty Officer? You may have seen the listing of Duty Officers from time to time in the Beacon. If you are interested in helping keep the program going, contact Bob Newlin at 301/620-8926 or bobnewlin@comcast.net.

Here's what it's all about. In 1997, we felt a need for someone in addition to the pastors and the church office staff to make some contact with members who were sick or had other difficulties. The persons on duty, called the Duty Officers, would coordinate with others and see that somebody was making contact or would do it on their own. As time went by, the primary job of the Duty Officer became sending notes on appropriate cards.

To this day, after about 20 years, we still have 24 people (some have dropped and not been replaced) assigned who each take half of a month to send cards and notes.

The primary source of information is the bulletin listings "About Our People." Call Bob if you are interested in helping.

Announcements (cont'd)

Like to work with PC's, Networks & Servers?

Want to Help your Church by using your Technical Knowledge & Skills?

The Computer Committee is looking for one or two good people with the technical support skills to occasionally help with a variety of computer and network problems, installations, upgrades, etc. in our client server network environment. The work is typically only a few hours a month on an "as needed" and "as your schedule permits" basis, however if you are available during church office hours that would be extremely helpful.



We can't pay you, but feeling good about yourself, and knowing you are contributing in a very real way to your Church is beyond measure. You don't have to join the committee or attend meetings but we would warmly welcome you if you choose to do so.

If you have the necessary skills and are in High School, Retired, or somewhere in between we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Jane Webb at 201-253-0022, ext. #101. Jane will put you in touch with Jim Kelly or Pat Sweeney (our primary technical guys) to learn more about how you can use your skills in service to your Church. Also, if you know of someone who may be interested in helping us out and perhaps hasn't read this notice, please let Jane know so we can contact them.



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 \$15 per wreath. In addition, your wreath will contain a gift card with your name. To order your Habitat wreath, contact Mike Ferguson, 301-275-8689, or see him in the Narthex after the Sunday Services. Be sure to order your wreath(s) before they are all gone !!!!!

KnowledgePoints®
Affordable Tutoring Proven Results

Knowledge Points Update

The tutoring center now has yet another "scholarship student." As stated before, we have never turned a student away. But, this is putting a strain on the staff. At this point, we are starting to "work for free" until the funds grow.

If anyone feels led to donate toward the scholarship fund, it would be greatly appreciated. Our mail box is in the church office.

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)

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners Mark Your Calendar!

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



October 7: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, salad, applesauce, French bread, ice cream sundaes.

October 14: Sausage-Seafood Stew w/rice, broccoli, Cheddar Bay Biscuits, spinach salad, apple cake.

October 21: Baked ham, baked macaroni & cheese, maple-glazed squash, salad, apple cake

October 28: Breakfast for Dinner—all your favorite brunch items!

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



ATTENTION ALL DUMC CRUISERS!

Young at Heart is cruising again! ANYONE and EVERYONE is welcome to join in on this trip! Traveling alone? We may have a roommate for you.

Date: December 3-10, 2016 – A Very MerryTime cruise sailing!

Ship: Disney *Fantasy*

Itinerary: Eastern Caribbean, including Tortola, St. Thomas, and
Disney's Castaway Cay

What's included: Shipboard accommodations, dining, entertainment, character experiences and select on-board activities.

What's extra: Gratuities, shore excursions, souvenirs (including photos), adult and specialty beverages, adults-only restaurants.

The rates vary greatly depending on the type of accommodations desired, so please contact Kelly Reed Bratburd at **855-99-GUEST x109** or kellyb@beourguestvacations.com for pricing and availability info.



Announcements (cont'd)

Remaining Young at Heart Activities for 2015

Nov. TBD Olney Big Band, Olney, MD.

Dec. 11 Annual Holiday Dinner, to be held in the DUMC Dining Hall.

All adults associated with the church and their friends/and relatives are invited & welcome to all Young at Heart events.

For more information, contact either Bob Newlin (301-620-8926) or Jacque Janss (301-620-7276). **PLEASE NOTE: Activities subject to change.**

Thank You's

To my DUMC family,

Many thanks for your thoughtful prayers, cards, and phone calls. I greatly appreciate your caring thoughtfulness and encouragement.

Dear Church family,

I want to thank the ministers and the congregation for your prayers and support though my recent hospitalization. Your many cards and well wishes helped keep my spirits up during this difficult time. My recovery is slow. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Thank you again.

- Pat Duvall

Administrative Meetings for October, 2015

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 1 | First Thursday Ministries Meeting
7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
▶ Trustees Meeting to follow
in the Great Hall/back
▶ Missions Meeting to follow
in the Great Hall/Stage Side
▶ Finance Committee to follow
in the Sacristy |
| Oct. 6 | Lay Leadership Committee
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR |
| Oct. 7 | Office Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR |
| Oct. 8 | SPPRC Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR |
| Oct. 11 | UMYFO Meeting
4:00 pm in the Annex |
| Oct. 19 | Damascus HELP Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/basement |
| Oct. 21 | Computer Committee Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR |
| Oct. 22 | Administrative Board Meeting
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/ back |

Thank You for Christmas Cards !

The Advent Calendars made from your donated cards may be found at the UMWomen's Holiday Craft Fair & Bazaar, or you can contact Bernardine Beall at 301-253-2014 to get one!

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 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.



Office Information

PASTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

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

Ben Constantinides,
Artist-In-Residence
Cell: 240-205-9903 / bencon09@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

Going to buy something on Amazon.com?

Don't forget to go through the DUMC link
located on the DUMC website
(damascusumd.org)

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

amazon.com

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 !!!!!

IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
IN THE NOVEMBER, 2015 BEACON WILL BE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
(For Beacon to publish on October 25)

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

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

Youth Fundraiser Ink Jet Cartridges Keep Bringing them in!

Did you know that used toner/inkjet cartridges create over 18 million pounds of non-biodegradable waste in the U.S. each year? With this in mind, the DUMC youth are continuing to collect cartridges to recycle. This long-term project will allow us to raise funds for the Youth Activities, while keeping our environment in mind. Please deposit any used inkjet, fax, or laser cartridges in the collection box located in the narthex or the church office. Note: **WE ARE UNABLE TO RECYCLE EPSON PRODUCTS OR XEROX DRUMS.** This also supports the church's mission "Serve God, Save the Planet" by eliminating waste through recycling. Thank you for your support.

The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room
which is kept in the pew hymnal racks in our Sanctuary.
Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors.
This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!

About Our People

Your Connection to Care

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



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



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

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

Pray for the family and friends of Ruth Baxter who passed away from leukemia on Friday, September 18. A memorialservice for her was held at DUMC on Thursday, September 24, at 7:00 pm.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: Pennie Adams (recovering from her Cochlear implant), **Becky Burgee** (Myra Bacon's mother having tests & procedures), **Shannon Barr** (recovering from broken leg), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Allen Baughman** (Byron's dad recovering from multiple medical issues), **Ann Cochran** (hospitalized with pneumonia), **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Joyce Dooley** (Carol Taylor's mom), **Pat Duvall** (recovering from surgery), **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Diane Fry** (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), **Marilyn Kinsey** (recovering from surgery), **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **Bobbye Kudzma** (recovering from broken hip), **Nancy Lacy** (recovering from a stroke), **Miel Linthicum**, **Lauren Lloyd** (Jan Mullinix's daughter with health issues), **Daniel Lorenzo** (Angie Thompson's brother with heart failure), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella** (recovering from back surgery), **Roberta Mullinix** (Larry's mom in declining health), **Nancy Nickerson** (recovering from shoulder surgery), **Desiré Oberlies** (relative of Pam Compton recovering from surgery & stroke), **Neal Pardini** (recovering from a vascular procedure), **Sue Pratt** (Amy Bilello's mom), **David Rust** (recovering from ankle surgery), **Carolyn Snapp**, **Jane Snapp** (recovering from surgery), **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus) and **June Watkins Woodall** (recovering from a broken leg).

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

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

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

MENTALLY AWARE: TOGETHER WE STAND

***You are not alone! Your loved one is not alone!
If you or a loved one has ever struggled with stress,
depression, substance abuse, aging parents, youth
and teen stresses, this program is for you!***

Key note speaker: Dr. Thomas Barrett,

**Associate Vice President of Operations of Behavioral Health at
Shady Grove Hospital**

Attend a program on First Aid for Mental Health

OCTOBER 21, 2015—7:00pm-8:45pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

Damascus High School (Auditorium), 25921 Ridge Rd., Damascus, MD 20872

Program Co-Sponsored by:



Congregation Or Chadash, Damascus, MD



Damascus United Methodist Church, Damascus, MD



Greedridge Baptist Church, Boyds, MD



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Damascus, MD



St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Damascus, MD



St. Paul's Catholic Church, Damascus, MD



Mental Health Association (MHA)



Montgomery County Police Department



Shady Grove Adventist Behavioral Health

