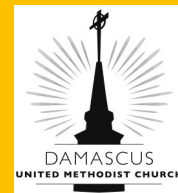


DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
9700 NEW CHURCH STREET
DAMASCUS, MD 20872
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E-MAIL: OFFICE@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG
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THE BEACON

SEPTEMBER 2016



CLERGY AND STAFF:

David Cooney, Senior Pastor

Amanda McMurtrey
Associate Pastor /
Christian Formation

Polly Edmonds Baldrige
Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Nick Works
Director of Youth Ministry

Cora Horst
Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

Jane Webb
Office Manager

Linda Stastny
Office Administrator

Stephen Kalnoske
Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

Debbie Benson / Bookkeeper

Lisa Marshall / Property Manager

Tyrone (TJ) Budd, Jr. /
Weekday AM Custodian

Julio Pedraza /
Weeknight & Sunday AM Custodian

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

About Our People	15
Announcements	13
Christian Formation	3
Hospitality	8
Missions & Outreach	11
Office Information	16
Stewardship/Finance	7
Worship Arts	10
Youth Fellowship	9

Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples

Grace and Peace,

This has been a big year for “Conference Work” in the United Methodist Church so I thought this might be a good time to give some basic information about our structure, for those who may be unfamiliar with it, and to report on some of the happenings.

To begin, our denomination is organized in tiers of conferences. If you think of our secular political organization of neighborhood, town, county, state, and country, with each government level having particular rights and responsibilities, then you can understand the Conference system.

The basic unit is the local church, or what we call the Charge Conference. For us, this is Damascus UMC. Once each year and at specially called sessions, the officers of the Church meet to make official decisions related to property, finance, membership, and approval of candidates for certified lay ministry and certification for those wanting to be local pastors or ordained clergy. Each Charge Conference is overseen by an appointed pastor.

Churches within the same vicinity are then grouped into a District Conference. The District provides resourcing to the local church and the chance for shared ministry. The District is administered by a District Superintendent. Damascus is part of the Central Maryland District. Rev. J. W. Park is the superintendent.

All local churches also belong to an Annual Conference, a wider geographical region overseen by a bishop. The bishop appoints clergy to serve as pastors in the local churches and the Annual Conference provides training, resourcing, and participation in larger-scoped ministry. We belong to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. All clergy attend Conference. Each church also sends a lay delegate for every clergy person. Retired clergy and many at-large lay delegates are also voting members.

Jurisdictional Conference is the next level up. This body meets once every four years and does work such as setting boundaries for Annual Conferences, determining episcopal areas, and electing and appointing bishops. Each Annual Conference elects an equal number of lay and clergy delegates to participate in the Jurisdictional Conference. We belong to the Northeast Jurisdiction.

Finally, the General Conference serves as the ruling body of the Church. Also comprised of lay and clergy delegates elected by Annual Conferences, it too meets once every four years and sets church law. Bishops preside over the General Conference but, while the Conference is essentially our “congress,” there is no president. Only the body speaks for the denomination. (We do have a “Supreme Court” known as the Judicial Council, elected by General Conference to interpret questions of church law.)

⇒⇒⇒⇒



Both the Jurisdictional and General Conferences met in 2016. News from the Jurisdictional Conference is that we have a new bishop. Marcus Matthews retired this year. Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, newly elected and consecrated, has been appointed to succeed him. She begins her assignment on September 1. Bishop Easterling is the first woman to serve as bishop of this Annual Conference, so it is a bit of a historic appointment.

The biggest news from General Conference is the continued debate over issues of human sexuality. These are issues that have threatened to divide our denomination and continue to do so. Here is a little background.

The United Methodist Church was officially formed in 1968, when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged. When the Social Principles were agreed upon human sexuality, specifically homosexuality, was not addressed. When discussed at General Conference in 1972 the statement was added to the Social Principles that homosexuality was considered “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

In 1984 a church law passed that homosexual persons could not be ordained and then in 1996 made it a chargeable offense for clergy to participate in same-gender marriages.

Over the last thirty years, there has been growing opposition to these positions to the point that this year's General Conference considered over 100 pieces of legislation related to sexual orientation. These ranged from the call for the elimination of all discriminatory language in church law to legislation mandating penalties against clergy convicted of officiating same-gender marriages and removal of clergy who disagreed with the present position.

Ultimately the bishops submitted a proposal that narrowly passed. The proposal deferred all legislation related to human sexuality, established a commission to include persons from every region and theological perspective to examine every paragraph of church law regarding human sexuality. When the commission's work is done, a special session of General Conference is to be called to consider the recommendations. If no way forward can be found, a plan of separation will be considered.

This is clearly a moment of crisis and opportunity for our denomination. It is not the first time we have been through it. In the 1820's the Methodist Episcopal Church split over the role (or even existence) of bishops. The Methodist Protestant Church was formed. At the same time many African-American Methodists left the denomination, tired of being second class church members, and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1848 the Methodist Episcopal Church divided into the M.E. Church and M.E. Church south, over the issue of race and slavery. The M.E., M.E. south, and MP churches all merged again in 1938 to become the Methodist Church. Then, in 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren from whom they had always been separated primarily because of language (English and German). This chapter may become part of that history merging, dividing, and merging again. It may also lead to irreparable separation or we may find a way forward that makes room for differing positions. Whatever the outcome, we are heading for a decision point.

We have some, but little influence over the direction this takes. As individuals or as a church, we can add our petitions to the thousands of others. We all can certainly pray. We can write to delegates. Before we enter an international dialogue, though, we might want to figure out how to have a local dialogue. All of our churches, ours included, have multiple viewpoints within the congregation. Because beliefs and feelings about this and other issues are so strong, conversation is difficult. How can we honestly talk about our differences and still love each other and work with each other? This is what many in our church and other churches are asking.

To help with this, Amanda and I will be leading some conversations this fall and spring around this and other issues. The first conversation will be strictly about how we can have good, safe, respectful, and graceful conversation with each other about hot-button topics. Then we will practice what we learn as we explore together what we believe, what we think, and why. These conversations are not designed to lead to any decisions or to lift up a particular point of view. They are designed to help us talk about difficult topics in Christian ways. Watch for upcoming announcements and, if this is something for you, join the circle.

- David



Wonderful Wednesdays have gotten Wonderfuller!

Our Wonderful Wednesday dinners begin again on September 14. This is a great time to enjoy a meal with old and new friends and have the chance to grow in faith. What else happens on Wednesday? Well, of course, we have choir rehearsals (see the worship arts section for choirs and rehearsal times), puppets, and now three small group-learning-experiences.

Those newer to Damascus or who just want to know more about the church are invited to **Meet Me At the Trailhead**, an eight-week exploration of discipleship and Damascus led by our lay leader Don Hecht (see article below). There is more about this elsewhere in the Beacon. For those who have been asking for a longer, more in-depth exploration of Scripture, David and Amanda will be team teaching The Story, a thirty-one week edited reading and study of the Bible in an understandable, come-alive format. While one of the pastors leads The Story, the other will lead a short-term Bible study. This is for those who cannot commit for the longer periods but are able to be part of a four to eight-week group learning about a particular section of Scripture. The first short-term study will be on the Minor Prophets and last for seven weeks. (David will also cover this material in the Pastor's Class on Sunday mornings at 9:45). All three of these offerings will begin on Wednesday, September 14.

More information can be found on our website and you can sign up for any of them online. Dinner, music-puppets; exploring God's Word . . . Wednesdays are truly wonderful indeed!



What does it mean to be a Christian? What does it mean to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ? Who is John Wesley, anyway? How do I learn more about DUMC?

On Wednesday, September 14, we will begin an 8-week Small Group Study called **Meet Me at the Trailhead: Mapping my Discipleship Path**. It is for anyone new to Damascus United Methodist Church or anyone who is looking to find out more about themselves, their peers, DUMC, and Discipleship. You need not be a member of DUMC to join us.

Meet Me at the Trailhead: Mapping My Discipleship Path provides an excellent way for young adults and adults to make new friends, share in fellowship, build and strengthen their relationship with Christ, learn about Methodism and DUMC, and hopefully, start mapping your own discipleship path, or perhaps you might be able to help others find their path.

We will use James Harnish's book, *A Disciples Path*, to help frame our conversation. We'll meet for about 1 ½ hours on Wednesday nights (at 7pm) from September 14 through November 2. We'll meet in the church library (in the basement under the Sanctuary).

Not sure you want to go it alone? Bring a friend along! The more, the merrier.

Worried about childcare? We've got you covered! Just let me know if you have a child or children who need to be kept occupied during our group time so we have enough hands on deck.

If you have any questions about the group, please contact me via email at don.hecht@avendra.com or by cell phone 240-381-3108, or text.



***Come join some Young at Heart
for a day trip to Brookside Gardens***

Thursday, September 15, come join fellow members and friends for a tour of Brookside Gardens, an award-winning 50-acre public display garden situated within Wheaton Regional Park in Montgomery County, MD. Included in the gardens are several distinct areas: Aquatic Garden, Azalea Garden, Butterfly Garden, Children's Garden, Rose Garden, Japanese Style Garden, Trial Garden, Rain Garden and the Woodland Walk. The Formal Gardens areas include a Perennial Garden, Yew Garden, the Maple Terrace, and Fragrance Garden.

Brookside Gardens also feature two conservatories for year-round enjoyment. A horticultural reference library is located in the airy Visitors Center. Admission to the gardens is free, but the cost to tour Butterfly Exhibit is \$9 per person (rsvp required).



We will gather in the church at 11 am to depart for lunch at the Stained Glass Pub on Layhill Road in Silver Spring (near Wheaton). Following lunch we will head over to the Gardens, arriving at 1:00 pm. If you'd like to join this trip, please contact Sharon Walton at 301-253-4860 sharonwalton99@gmail.com to RSVP.

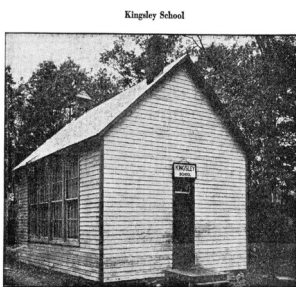


Men's Night Out for September

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

**Monday, September 19, 2016
at 6:00 pm at Mt. Airy Tavern
1001 Twin Arch Road
Mt. Airy - (301) 829-3212**

Young at Heart Event for October



Our very own Bernardine has arranged for a special Tour of the Kingsley School house located in Little Bennett Park on Clarksburg Road. The tour will also feature a guest speaker who will give us some of the background and history

of the House. Van transportation to the school house will be provided, and we will be planning to gather for a lunch after the tour.

Contact person: Bernardine Beall / 301-253-2014.



What: Women's Half-Day Retreat

Theme: *The Calm Before the Storm*

When: Saturday, November 12

Time: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Where: DUMC Great Hall

**All members of the church,
family, friends and neighbors
are invited to join us !!!!!**

LADIES' NIGHT OUT

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

Mangia E. Bevi @ 6 pm

**8927 Fingerboard Road,
Frederick, MD 21704 (Urbana)**

RSVP by Sept. 27

THERE WILL BE NO

Ladies' Night Out in October

MONDAY, NOV. 14, 2016,

Red Robin @ 6 pm

20001 Century Blvd, Germantown, MD 20872

RSVP by Nov. 12

CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA

AMANDA.MCMURTREY@DAMASCUSUMC.ORG

Call 301-253-0022 or Text 970-231-5123



September United Methodist Women News

Susanna JOY Circle will meet in the church Dining Hall
at 10:00 am on Monday, September 12.

Bring your text "The Church & People with Disabilities" ideas, and completed Surveys.
ACTION from the study will be decided at the DUMWomen's General Meeting, October 5, 2016.

Bonus Survey Question: Have you seen this symbol in the Narthex?



WWJD Circle will meet on Thursday, September 15
at 7:30 pm in the Great Hall, stage side.

Kathy and Stan Jones will present a video and program
about E. Stanley Jones, who was Stan's great uncle.

E. Stanley was a missionary, theologian, and
author of many inspirational books.

This program is open to all interested persons.

Mark your calendar as you won't want to miss this program!

NOVEMBER YOUNG AT HEART ACTIVITY:

Away in the Basement:

A Church Basement Ladies Christmas

Weinberg Center – Sunday, November 20 at 2:00 pm

Out of the basement shall come good tidings, great humor, and sheer joy! Travel back to rural Minnesota, 1959, where the four church basement ladies are called upon to save the Sunday school Christmas pageant from disaster. A holiday adventure inspired by the bestselling novel "Growing Up Lutheran," this heartwarming hilarious musical is sure to leave you smiling.

Tickets are \$30. A limited number of seats have been reserved. Please call Jane Webb 301-253-0022 / 240-620-6920 to reserve a seat. **YOU MUST RSVP BY November 1st.** Payment will be due in the church office by the same date.

AN INVITATION to OUR CONGREGATION

YOUR TALENTS ARE NEEDED !!!!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016
BAZAAR and HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW**

sponsored by
DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We will have our bake sale, advent calendars, kids fun table, Christmas items, nuts, country store, and a NEW handmade wooden cut-out ornament and more. We are inviting all of our very talented craft people to make an item for us to sell!! Needlework, small wood furniture, other woodworking items, ceramics, home decorative items, flower arrangements or decorative wreaths, artwork, framed pictures, homemade candies and fudge, homemade jams, jellies and pickles, and other items that are handcrafted by your talent. Your name will be included with each item you donate so everyone will know who the talented artist is !!!

This is an all community event and we want to show our outreach to all those in Damascus and beyond. God-given talents need to be shared by all!!

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!!!

All proceeds from our United Methodist Women's fundraiser go to supporting women, youth, and children. We donate to our vacation bible school, youth trip scholarships, puppet ministry, women's 3-day retreat, and Steven Ministries, just to name a few. Without your support we will not be able to contribute to our church ministries or to UMW's national and world ministries.

PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP---BE CREATIVE---HAVE SOME FUN!!!!!!

Contact Pennie Adams at pennie217@yahoo.com or 301-831-7517. Let me know what you will be contributing, and I'll be glad to answer any questions you might have.

We need YOUR SUPPORT to make this a real SUCCESS. Thank YOU!

Your sisters in Christ,
Pennie Adams
Esther Samakouris
Co-Presidents, Damascus United Methodist Women

*Be sure to come November 5 and shop for
unique and creative Christmas gifts !!!*

****SEE YOU THEN****

Stewardship/Finance

Greetings from your Finance Committee!

We are nine months into this year's budget and we are hopefully nearing the end of the dreaded SUMMER SLUMP!!! Having the single service in July and August created the delightful impression of a large and enthusiastic congregation each Sunday morning. But each Sunday a sizeable number of our members were away on vacation and our weekly contributions reflected their absence. Summer tends to be a difficult time for our church budget. **During the Summer we were NOT able to stay current on all the elements in our budget!**



The Finance Committee will therefore proclaim each Sunday in September as CATCH-UP SUNDAY.

Please be faithful and diligent over the next several weeks in bringing your contributions up to date. This will help us get caught up on the unpaid obligations we have incurred over the summer.

In the future please consider E-GIVING. If you are comfortable with the process of electronic transactions, please see the information on E-GIVING in this Beacon (page #8) and on our website.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help in two areas:

Counters who count and deposit the weekly contributions after the 11:00 a.m. service each week. You would serve about once every two months.

Financial Assistant who enters data each Tuesday morning. Once you learn the system, the task takes only a few minutes (10-20 minutes). You would serve about once every second or third week. For questions or to volunteer, contact Dave Rust at 301-414-5447.

Factoid #3 – Susanna Wesley, the “Mother of Methodism,” was a strong and independent woman. She was the last of 25 children; her father, The Reverend Dr. Samuel Annesley, was a “dissenter,” a member of a denomination that was not part of the official Church of England (Anglican Communion). At 13 she stopped attending her father's church and joined the Church of England and at 19 she married The Reverend Samuel Wesley and had 19 children (9 died as infants). She was a clergyman's wife with all its duties. In her spare time she wrote commentaries on the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed. Many of her commentaries were lost when their rectory burned to the ground (see factoid #2*), but many survived and were captured in a book entitled Susanna Wesley, The Complete Writings by Charles Wallace.

Have a blessed autumn and please “catch-up” ASAP.

Sincerely, David A. Rust, Chairman

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***The Factoids in the Finance Committee Report are there in the hope that they will encourage more people to read the report. Since the September Report cites Factoid #2, we are reprinting it here for your convenience.**

Factoid #2 - The Reverend Samuel Wesley (1662-1735), the father of John and Charles Wesley, was an Anglican Priest (Church of England). On February 9, 1709, the rectory of his Church was destroyed by fire. Six-year-old John Wesley was the last family member rescued from the fire just before the roof collapsed. If you turn to Hymn #293, you will see the words for the only Samuel Wesley hymn in our hymnal which survived that fire. (reprint from June Beacon)

Stewardship/Finance (cont'd)

E-GIVING

Do you E-Give? E-giving is a wonderful way to support your church home without worrying about making up for vacations and snow days. There are many ways to sign up and also to change your E-giving amount:

1. Fill out the form included in the Beacon and return it to the church office.
2. Go to <http://www.damascusumc.org/> and click on the "E-Giving" link at the bottom of the home page, and fill out the request.
3. Call our church bookkeeper, Debbie Benson, in the church office at 301-253-0022 ext. 106.

Any questions? Call the church office.

DONATIONS OF STOCK

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



Hospitality

Hospitality Alert

Over the past year, as you have arrived at church for Sunday morning worship, you have been greeted by Welcome Teams. At this time, we want to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to the many people (numbering around 100) who make those teams happen. Don't hesitate to extend your own thanks to these folks on any Sunday morning.



With the start of September, we officially begin year #2 with our Welcome Teams. They now run quite smoothly, with different team members taking on the roles of greeter, usher and Welcome Station host each week. These volunteers work together to intentionally accomplish two goals:

- 1) To extend hospitality to newcomers, and
- 2) To help newcomers become connected.

BUT . . . You do not have to be on a welcome team to share this hospitality. We would ask that everyone in our church community be intentional about saying hello to people they do not know. Engage in small talk – research shows that it means a lot to newcomers. Entice guests to return by providing a simple next step for them . . . Invite them to attend your Sunday School class. . . Offer to take them down the hall to Connections Cafe. . . Suggest that they join you at the Welcoming Wednesday dinner. If you do meet guests, we would encourage you to at least walk the persons back to the Welcome Station where they can receive a welcome bag and share some contact information.

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

The Heavenly Hosts Committee

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!

DUMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP FALL SCHEDULE

Youth Chapel

Sundays @ 9:30 am

Breakfast/Music/Classes by age

September Youth Fellowship

Sunday nights @ 6:00pm

Includes Dinner and an Activity

Sunday 9/4

No youth (Labor Day weekend)

Sunday 9/11

Bible Study, write letters to troops, games

Sunday 9/18

Scavenger Hunt

Sunday 9/25

No formal activity b/c lock-in; 4th Sunday concert

October Youth Fellowship

Sunday nights @ 6:00pm

Sunday 10/2

Shadowlands Laser Tag (No school Oct 3)

Sunday 10/9

Cookies/Care Packs College Students; Devotional

Sunday 10/16

Game Night; Devotional

Sunday 10/23

Ice Cream Olympics

Sunday 10/30

**Trunk or Treat 4pm; Halloween Costume Party
6pm**

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

**9/16: High-tech
game night**

9/23: Lock-in

**10/7: Low-tech
game night**

**10/14: Cookout
and bonfire**

**10/28: Combo
games; Pizza night**

Youth Praise Band

Sundays @ 3:30 pm

**1st & 3rd weeks
of the month**

Youth Bell Choir

Sundays @ 4 pm

**Sundays @ 4 pm in the
Great Hall**

Charles Wesley

Singers Practice

**Sundays @ 5 pm
in the Choir Room**

Youth Puppets

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

UMYFO Meeting

**September 18 @
4:30 pm in the
Annex/Church Office**

Confirmation Retreat

**Friday, Sept. 9 -
Saturday, Sept. 10**

Worship Arts News and Events

Sept. 2016

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

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

WORSHIP ARTS ENSEMBLES: There is a place for you!

After a slower pace this summer, Worship Arts Ministries ensembles will be in full swing again this fall, beginning after Labor Day. Join in for a short or long term. Contact Polly Baldrige for more information.

In addition to sharing in worship, several other highlights are planned for the year for our ensembles.

- Young Artist concert and Broadway Bound concert
- A concert of Vaughan Williams' works with Damascus UMC's Chancel Choir and Calvary UMC (Frederick) Choir
- Christmas children's musical *Prime Time Christmas*
- Living Christmas Tree Concerts featuring John Rutter's *Wind In the Willow* based on the book by Kenneth Grahame
- Women's Chamber Ensemble sharing Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*
- Spring Ring concert featuring all DUMC handbell choirs
- Charles Wesley Singers Summer Youth Mission Tour to New England

WEDNESDAYS

- 4:00 pm **Colorful Hands of Jesus** Great Hall Stage Side /Resumes Sept. 7
Puppet troupe for elementary students 2nd grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Jamie Bautista
- 4:30 pm **Cherubs** Great Hall Back Half/Resumes Sept. 7 (Sept. – Nov.; February – April)
Choir for children 4 ½ years olds to 1st grade led by Katherine Williams and student directors
- 5:00 pm **Youth Puppets** Great Hall /Resumes Sept. 7
Puppets/drama for 6th grade and up led by Cathy Scarbrough & Jamie Bautista
- 5:00 pm **Choristers** Choir Room/Resumes Sept. 7
Choir for children 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldrige (with Mary Nieter and Diane Fry)
- 6:30 pm **Inspiration Ringers** Stage/Resumes Sept. 14 (September – November; February – April)
Handbells for students 2nd to 5th grade led by Polly Baldrige
- 7:00 pm **Men's Choir** Choir Room/Resumes September 28
For all male changed voices, directed by Curt Shiflett with Kathryn Smith, piano
- 7:00 pm **Group Vocal Instruction for Treble Voices** Great Hall Back Half /Only December & January
Singing technique session with Polly Baldrige will also include working on music for Women's Choir
- 7:30 pm **Chancel Choir** Choir Room /Resumes Sept. 7
SATB choir for worship /special concerts led by Polly Baldrige with Stephen Kalnoske, accompanist

SUNDAYS

- 3:30 pm **Youth Praise Band** 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month; Resumes Sunday morning sharing on Sept. 11
All instruments and vocals needed for this student led group facilitated by Polly and Tom Baldrige
- 4:00 pm **Youth Handbell Choir** Stage/Resumes Sept. 11
Handbells for youth 6th to 12th grades led by Tom Baldrige
- 5:00 pm **Charles Wesley Singers** Choir Room/Resumes Sept. 11
SATB choir for 6th to 12th grades and up led by Polly Baldrige with accompanists Stephen Kalnoske and Katherine Williams!

MONDAYS – potential rehearsal day change

- 7:30 pm **Ring of Joy** Stage/Resumes Sept. 12
Adult 5-octave handbell ensemble led by Polly Baldrige

4th Sunday Concert and Evensong Series announces ... Young Artist Concert

September 25 at 7 pm

Featuring talent from
Damascus United Methodist
Church and community

Praise Artisans Guild
NEW LEADERSHIP NEEDED!
Fall Kick-Off Meeting
Wednesday, September 21
6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Sacristy

PAG prepares and creates sacred art to enhance worship and life at DUMC. New guild members are always welcome.

Connie Ross, Chair
connie@tedrossconsulting.com

Come Join Us!!

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES DUE TO RECENT FLOODS

**WOULD YOU WANT TO PUT TOGETHER A
CLEANING BUCKET OR HEALTH KIT?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VIM VOLUNTEER WHEN
THE CALL FOR SUCH HELP COMES?**

CALL CAROL YOCUM @ [301-788-6446](tel:301-788-6446) or carolyocum@msn.com

Ellicott City is still reeling with efforts to recover after flood waters swept through its historic Main Street area July 30. In addition, [crisis has struck Louisiana](#) and Texas with flooding.

There are two primary ways that any local church can help in these situations. The first is to contribute to the [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) (UMCOR) to support the full-time personnel, supplies, and equipment needed for the disaster response and setting up the long-term rebuilding plan. Dollars may not seem as "glamorous" as baby formula, shovels or bottles of water, but it is much easier to transport and apply as needed. The other primary help is preparing [Relief Kits](#) such as [Cleaning Buckets](#) or [Health Kits](#) for distribution.

UMCOR has warehouses across the country stocked with Relief Kits and other supplies ready for the next truck headed to an area of immediate need. As these kits are currently being sent to Ellicott City and Louisiana, the shelves will need to be restocked for the next disaster. Putting together Relief Kits can be done by a family or small group or as a larger church effort. For details about specific immediate needs and instructions for Relief Kits see <http://missioncentral.org/how-can-i-help/donate-items/>

In the BWC we have three 'mini-hubs' which collect flood buckets and transport them up to the main storage facility called Mission Central in Pennsylvania. These mini-hubs are in Maryland at Bentley Springs UMC in Parkton, Liberty Grove UMC in Burtonsville, and St Matthews UMC in Bowie. For more information about these hubs see <http://missioncentral.org/hubs/>. The BWC Mission Center in Fulton is not currently collecting donations.

While the Volunteer in Mission teams have not yet been called in, there are opportunities to serve with secular groups. Learn more at the Glen Mar UMC website at glenmarumc.org/flood_relief. **We'll be sharing more information about VIM opportunities in Ellicott City and Louisiana and Texas as soon as they become available. We pray you'll join us in sending funds or creating cleaning buckets and health kits.**

As we read in Romans 15:13, we claim the prayer: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Amen.

Focus Nicaragua

Last fall the Missions Committee made a strategic decision to support Dr. Belinda Forbes, a General Board missionary with the UMC. She has served for 25 years as a missionary dentist in Nicaragua on a team of professional doctors, social workers, agronomists, disaster people, etc. This means that as a congregation we are focusing on ministry in Nicaragua with support for Between Cultures, the community of LaDanta, and Nan McCurdy who has been working for the last year in the Western Jurisdiction with young people coming alone from Central America; previously she and her husband, Manuel, served in Nicaragua also. Monday evening, August 15, Dr. Belinda, gave a wonderful presentation of her work and shared something of her family--her physician husband and two teenage daughters. Included on the Mission page of the Beacon is a gift from Belinda which we will use as a communion cloth for the bread in coming months. More information will follow.



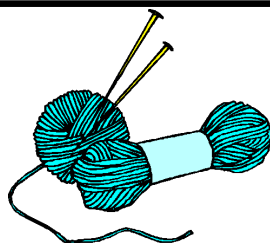
MISSIONS AND OUTREACH (cont'd)

Nicaragua Mission Trip January 2 - January 9, 2017

We are happy to announce the dates for our next mission trip To Nicaragua. If you are interested in joining the delegation, please come to our first meeting in early October (date and time to be determined) to learn more about the trip.

You can also contact Kathy Jones
kathyjonesrgpm@gmail.com 301-580-4591 or
Mike Wahl wahlm50@msn.com 240-876-7081.

***Come join the Prayer
Shawl Ministry***
**Monday, September 19
at 12:30 pm
Church Office**



Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, or Cathy Heinbaugh, cheinbaugh@comcast.net, 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, jmullinix74@yahoo.com, 301-482-1122.



Healing Service

Our monthly Healing Service
will be held
**Sunday, September 18, 2016
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).

STEPHEN MINISTRY



What Do Stephen Ministers Do? **Ever Thought about Becoming a Stephen Minister?**

Damascus United Methodist Church will be training another class of Stephen Ministers from September 15, 2016 – February 20, 2017. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry.

Do It All in Jesus' Name

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others—listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

It's a Match

Matching is an important part of what Stephen Ministry is all about. Those who are interested in serving are matched with the best job for them. Those who need care are matched with the best caregiver for them. Find out whether Stephen Ministry is a match for you by contacting Jan Mullinix at 301.482.1122 or by emailing her at jmullinix74@yahoo.com. *You may also talk with anyone else in our Stephen Ministry or fill out an application on line at damascusumc.org.*

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



Worship Times Change **Next Week**

Next Sunday, September 4, 2016, will we return to our Fall/Winter season worship schedule.

Sunday Worship Services will be at 8:15 and 11:00 am until Summer, 2017.

Additionally, our Connections Café will return to it's fall/winter time of 9:30 am, in the back half of the Great Hall.

The Connection's Café

DUMC's Coffee Hour

Held Sunday mornings between services.

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



Reminder: We always welcome more hands to assist, even if it is just **an hour here and there on any given Sunday**. We would also be grateful for food donations like baked goods and fresh fruit. Just stop in and speak with either Marcia Hofman or Gloria Maready to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!

Welcoming Wednesday Dinners will begin again on September 14, 2016 Mark Your Calendar!



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

September 14: Farmers market pasta with sausage, salad & dessert

September 21: King Ranch Chicken Bake, salad & dessert

September 28: Pot roast with mashed potatoes & roast carrots, salad & dessert

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

***NOTE** – Menus are subject to change.

Announcements (cont'd)

Our Sermons are Online !



Missed a sermon, or want to hear it again? Want to share it with friends or family? Sunday morning sermons are recorded and posted to the church web page and the church Facebook page by Dan James. Thank you, Dan! Links can be found on the church web page and Facebook page.

To access the audio recordings of the sermons on the church web site, go to <http://www.damascusumc.org/>. On the web page, go to **Community Life** and then click on **SERMONS**. Click on LISTEN to start playing the recording or click on DOWNLOAD to download the audio file to your computer. Clicking on GUIDE will bring up the printed version.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure or DUMC Audio/Visual in general, please contact Ron Adams at radams@fred.net or 301-471-3194.



Pictured above is a wedding photo of Ruby & Bob Bellison, taken on June 6, 1953, in the old Sanctuary (currently the sales room of the Thrift Shop). I am collecting photos of any weddings that were taken in our "old" church and would like to borrow, copy & return the originals to you, to include in this collection.

So far, there are only black & white photos of weddings that would have taken place up until 1961, when they would have then be taken in our present day Sanctuary. I am hoping to find some photos in color also.

If you have any photos you can share with me, **please contact Gary Richard at 301-253-2287** and become part of our History collection!

Equipping the Saints Fall 2016 Discipleship Academy

November 5 & 6, 2016 - Baltimore Washington Conference Center

Classes will be offered in both the Basic Lay Servants Role and the Advanced Lay Servant Role. Topics to include Basic Lay Servant, Accountable Discipleship, From Your Heart to Theirs: Delivering an Effective Sermon, and Transforming Evangelism. Also, a variety of free classes; Media in Ministry Workshop, Trustees Training & UM Polity Workshop. For more information visit our website at www.damascusumc.org.



Your Connection to Care

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



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



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

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

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Pray for those who have recently lost loved ones: family of **Stella Allison**; **Susan Leathery** with the loss of her mother **Harriet Leathery**; the **Brad & Helen West** family with the loss of **Pam Compton** and Brad's mom, **Lydia LaFond**; and the family of **Ron & Pennie Adams** with the loss of Pennie's niece, **Erin Kirk**.

Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery: **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Catherine Cramer**, (Randy Anderson's sister with pregnancy complications), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Casey and Brandi Berry** (under treatment for chronic Lyme disease), **Helen Boyer**, **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **Ann Cochran**, **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Joyce Dooley** (Carol Taylor's mom), **Pat Duvall**, **Linda Evans**, **Larry Froeberg** (Karen Taylor's father recovering from complications from back surgery), **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Diane Fry** (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), **Marianne Goldup**, **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **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** (recovering from neck/back surgery), **Neal Pardini** (leg vascular problems), **Carole Sacco** (Gina Wilson's sister-in-law) liver disease and candidate for a transplant, **Jane Snapp** (recuperating from a broken shoulder), **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus) and **Roy Wood** (Kim Briglia's brother-in-law) in rehab after a serious car accident.

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**, **JP Feuillet**, **Kathy Geehreg**, **Dawn Helton** (Marge Taylor's daughter), **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Leroy** (friend of the Malley's going thru kidney cancer treatment), **Dave Lingrell**, **Hazel MacKenzie** (radiation treatments), **Tanner Matney**, **Christopher Matovich** (Gerry Pardini's nephew) **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Greg Sacco** (Gina Wilson's brother), and **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle).

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

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

Office Information

**The Office will be closed
on Monday, September 5
in observance of Labor Day.**



**We will reopen Tuesday,
September 6 at 9:00 am.**

PLEASE NOTE:

*All are new e-mail addresses
effective immediately.*

Main office: 301-253-0022



PASTORS:

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

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

STAFF:

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Minister of Music & Worship Arts
cell: 240-750-8287 / polly.baldrige@damascusumc.org

Nick Works,
Director of Youth
cell: 240-751-6695 / nick.works@damascusumc.org

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

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

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

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper
ext. #106 / debbie.benson@damascusumc.org

Administrative Meetings For September, 2016

- Sept. 1 First Thursday Ministries Meeting
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**
► Trustees Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall/back**
► Finance Meeting to follow
in the **Great Hall/Stage Side**
- Sept. 7 Office Staff Meeting
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Sept. 8 Missions Meeting
7:30 pm in the Annex/CR
- Sept. 12 Lay Leadership Committee
7:00 pm in the annex/CR
- Sept. 15 SPPRC Meeting
7:30 pm in the Annex/CR
- Sept. 18 UMYFO Meeting
4:30 pm in the Annex/CR
- Sept. 21 Technology Committee Meeting
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Sept. 27 Lay Leadership Committee
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- TBD Administrative Board Meeting
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back

Going to buy something on Amazon.com?



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

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