

LORD, what do You want to do through me to accomplish Your will in our church?

January High Spire

Towson United Methodist Church

◆ Newsletter ◆ January 2015 ◆

Volume 56, Issue 1

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you TUMC congregation for filling and contributing 235 Shoeboxes and for the extra donations that help in shipping these gifts. Knowing this may be the only Christmas Gift each child will receive, must touch our religious hearts to know that each shoebox represents an opportunity to tell boys and girls about the **Greatest Gift—Jesus Christ.**

Each Gift brings joy, hope, and smiles to a child whose life has been haunted by poverty, disaster, diseases, or war. Pictured here... BWI-Marshall Airport 12/10/14, loading 60,000 Christmas Shoeboxes onto a Kalitta Air 747 cargo plane (which included our 235) headed to children from Iraq and Syria (Yazids) who have escaped brutal attacks and now live in Dahuk, Erbil, & Mt. Sinjar.

Thank you,
John & Nancy Ross

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00** A Celebration of the Birth of Christ, a family service, includes the skit "A Shepherd's Tale." Children will be invited to sit around the "campfire" to hear the story.
Music by the Carol Choir & Genesis Bells
- 7:00** Earth Rejoices!
Music by the Alleluia Singers & Celebration Ringers
- 10:30** Earth Rejoices!
Cantata by the Chancel Choir
Candlelight Service at 11:00

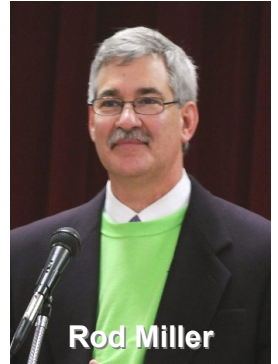


Pastor's Letter

Sunday Morning Discernment

We are in the midst of discerning the way ahead for our Worship, Christian Education, and Fellowship on Sunday mornings. I would like to take this space to offer some perspectives and thoughts for our discernment process.

While we sometimes characterize the 9:00 AM Impact Service as contemporary and our 11:00 AM worship service as traditional, these words can be misleading. While the early service can be described as “more relaxed,” “a little more conversational,” “includes some newer music,” and these shifts are important, there is much taking place in both worship services now which have made them more focused on connecting with people today.



In the past few years, we have begun using the projector and screen in worship at both worship services for words to songs and hymns and pictures related to the service, short video presentations, and other worship related visuals. Recent improvements to the sound system benefit both worship services including the addition of new microphones, a new digital sound board, and an upgraded hearing-assist system. We have intentionally included more lay participation in both worship services through faith sharing and witnessing. Lay persons have also been offering community prayers and we have had some experience with drama especially at the 9:00 AM worship service. The way worship is offered today has been evolving and we can anticipate that worship will continue to evolve.



January Calendar of Events

- Dec. 28** Sunday after Christmas Day
Lessons and Carols
One service at 10:00a
- Jan. 4** Services at 9 & 11, see p. 8
Christian Ed. at 10:00a
- Jan. 6** Choirs begin returning for
rehearsals, see p. 7
- Jan. 11** Services at 9 & 11, see p. 8
Christian Ed. at 10:00a
- Jan. 15** Women's Retreat registration
deadline, p. 9
- Jan. 18** Services at 9 & 11, see p. 8
Christian Ed. at 10:00a
- Jan. 25** Services at 9 & 11, see p. 8
10:00a or 12noon — stay to
hear the results of survey
- Jan. 25** Guest Speaker, 2:00p
Dr. Philip Wogaman, p. 10
- Jan. 31** Emergency Food Pantry, p. 11

By discussing our Sunday Morning schedule and the potential for an adjustment, we have the opportunity to express what makes worship meaningful for us individually and collectively and to discuss and pray about what might be right for us now and in the future.

Christian Education has also evolved at TUMC. Children experience “Kids In the Disciple Zone” during the 9:00 AM hour followed by Sunday School. Our Confirmation and youth classes meet after the early worship service as does “Christian Connections,” our adult classes. Two new adult classes were added this year to our slate of ongoing classes which leads us to the question — What classes or groups might we want to offer if our Sunday morning schedule is to shift?

Time for fellowship on Sunday morning has also been important at TUMC. Our coffee fellowship now takes place in the parlor at 10:00 AM, between the worship services. Providing an opportunity to meet and greet friends, guests, and new attendees is another important aspect of what happens on Sunday mornings. We will want our Sunday morning schedule to be sure to include time for fellowship and connecting.

Included in this January issue of the *High Spire* is a Sunday morning schedule survey (see pages 3-5). I encourage you to fill it out online or in the paper form provided and return it to the church office by January 14. The Sunday Morning Planning Team wants to hear from you! On Sunday, January 25 after each worship service (9:00 & 11:00), there will be a time to hear and give feedback to a proposed way forward. The discussion will take place in the sanctuary at 10:00 and at noon.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we discern together what God would have us do.

In Christ,
Pastor Rod

**Adjusting our Sunday Morning Schedule
at Towson United Methodist Church**

S U R V E Y

Dear Congregation,

On Saturday, November 15, 2014, over 30 individuals attended an open planning meeting of the Church Council, which included a discussion on adjusting the Sunday morning schedule. Everyone at the meeting had an opportunity to submit positive and negative thoughts on making any changes. Following the meeting, a smaller group called the Sunday Morning Planning Team was formed. The Team began gathering your thoughts and has created this survey. We want everyone to take the survey in order that we can best determine what changes should or should not be made. Please take the time to fill it out ONLINE or in PAPER form. We want to hear from everyone (older children, youth, and adults).

To take this survey ONLINE, go to the church's webpage www.towsonumc.org and scroll to the bottom of the page where you'll see an icon labeled "SURVEY."

Please encourage everyone in your household to participate and send in their own survey. Your feedback is important to our church. When taking online, finish the survey and restart for each participant.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

The Sunday Morning Planning Team:

*Alicia Corson, John Dahne, Carole Dean, Margot Gerding, Erin Giudice, Rod Miller,
Susan Naeny, Margery Schammel, Carolyn Schnur, Trish Turlington, and Helen Wagner*

Sunday Morning Worship

1. Which Sunday morning worship service do you currently attend? (choose one)

- ☐ 9:00 regularly
- ☐ 9:00 occasionally
- ☐ 11:00 regularly
- ☐ 11:00 occasionally
- ☐ Both 9:00 & 11:00
- ☐ I have not been attending

Sunday Morning Christian Education

2. Do you attend Sunday Morning Christian Education classes? Which group of classes do you / your family attend? (choose as many as apply)

- ☐ Cribbery (nursery) / Preschool
- ☐ School age classes
- ☐ Adult classes
- ☐ I do not attend

What would make your Sunday morning experience more meaningful?

3. What makes or would make your Sunday morning Worship Experience more meaningful?

What would make your Sunday morning experience more meaningful? continued

4. What makes or would make your Sunday morning Christian Education Experience more meaningful?

5. What makes or would make your Sunday morning Fellowship Experience more meaningful?

Music & Worship

6. How do you see Music as part of your worship experience? What type of music do you prefer?

Adjusting the Sunday Morning Schedule

7. Thought from the planning meeting, from emails and the suggestion box, from Sunday morning classes, and from those who have been interviewed have been reviewed by the Sunday Morning Planning Team.

What if the Sunday morning schedule
was adjusted to look like this at Towson United Methodist Church?

8:15	Chapel Service
8:45 - 10:15	Coffee & Fellowship
9:00 - 10:00	Christian Connections for adults & Sunday school for children and youth
10:15	Worship Service
	Children and Worship (ages 4-6)
10:45	K.I.D.Z. Kids in the Disciple Zone (ages 7-11 after excused from the worship service)
	(8:50 - 11:30 Childcare in the cribbery for infants to 3s)

Please give us your response:

I strongly don't support

☐

I don't support

☐

I don't care

☐

I support

☐

I strongly support

☐

Please share your thoughts:

Prayerfully Consider

8. What do you believe God is calling us to do with our Sunday morning schedule?

Anything Else?

9. Is there any other valuable information you would like to share about our current and proposed Sunday morning schedule?

Thank you for participating in this survey.

This survey is being made available to the congregation of Towson United Methodist Church beginning December 15, 2014 by email and to those who prefer mail on December 18, 2014 through our January newsletter *High Spire*. You can also pick up a paper copy in the church lobby at the Information table.

The last day the survey will be open for responses is January 14, 2015.

The congregation will hear the results of this survey following both the 9:00 & 11:00 Worship Service, January 25, 2015.

You may mail your responses to this survey to:

The Sunday Morning Planning Team
Towson United Methodist Church
501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286

Thank you, again, for participating in this important survey.

Thank You!

Dear Friends in Christ:

*Thank you for your generous donation of 70 completed **School Kits**. It is wonderful that you have someone who is able to make the bags! What a gift!*

As we connect "God's resources with human need," we are truly blessed to be a part of this vital mission ministry.

Again, thank you.

*Janet Denbow,
Executive Committee Member,
Mission Central Hub
@ Bentley Springs
Parkton, MD 21120*

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for all the cards and messages I received during my surgery and recuperation. Your prayers were so uplifting and an enormous source of encouragement to me, and to Mary, too! Blessing to all. —Joe Chatterton

*You brought in 100 **Thanksgiving Baskets!** 52 were given to families who come to our Emergency Food Pantry, 16 were given to the families on our Angel Tree this Christmas, and 32 were taken to the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) and distributed to families before the Thanksgiving.*

Toy Drive

Thanks to the many children and adults who contributed toys for Homestead United Methodist Church. The 135 toys graced our altar in December and then were delivered to the city church for their community parties. The ladies of Homestead wanted me to tell our congregation how much they appreciate our toys each year. — Pat Totzauer



TOWSON YOUTH

**It's a new year!
We have lots of fun and fellowship
planned for 2015!!**

The fun activity for January is
Earth Treks/ Ice Skating.
Please contact a youth leader for details and a
permission form.

January youth group meetings will be
Sunday evenings, 6-8 PM
with supper included.
We will meet this month with the Epworth
UMC youth group to learn about the mission
trip to the **Bahamas** - exact Sunday TBD in
consultation with Epworth's youth.

Sunday morning classes (10-10:45 AM) include:
Middle School - Room 216
Confirmation - Fellowship Hall
High School - Room 317

*Instead of making a resolution to improve
yourself this New Year, how about making a
resolution to do something to improve the
lives of those around you? How could you
improve the life of someone in your English or
Math class? How could you improve the lives
of one person in your home? How could you
improve the life of one person at church?
Write it down, make a realistic plan with
realistic deadlines for small steps toward
your goal.*

***Make the world a more loving
place in 2015 !!***



GLORY TO THE SPOTLESS LAMB

I will worship Jesus my Savior,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
I will praise His great name forever,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Glorify His holy name,
our God from age to age to age the same,
Till all creation praises His name, singing
Glory to the Lamb! Jesus, spotless Lamb.

This the song resounding through Heaven,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Cleansed, redeemed, renewed and forgiven,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Let my every power employ,
forever in my Lord rejoice,
Repeat again His sounding joy, singing
Glory to the Lamb! Jesus, spotless Lamb.

Shout for joy, ye dazzled creation,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Sparkling auroras, come dance your elation,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Through the universe it plays,
God's symphony of time and space,
Son-showered with His boundless grace, singing
Glory to the Lamb! Jesus, spotless Lamb.

When I'm arrayed with His bright streaming glory,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Eternally I will praise and adore Him,
Glory to the spotless Lamb!
Jesus Christ has flooded my soul,
His precious blood has rendered me whole,
My endless joy His name to extol, singing
Glory to the Lamb! Jesus, spotless Lamb.

from LITTLE BLOND CHILD, © 2014, by Joyce Keedy

These are the words to the Offertory anthem sung by the
choir on Nov. 23, 2014, at the 11 A.M. worship service.
I wrote this song (both words and music) for our Chancel
Choir here at Towson United Methodist Church. Both words
and music appear in my new book, *Little Blond Child*, which is
now available through me, should anyone be interested.

Music Notes



Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

I hope everyone has had and is having a wonderful Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

And speaking of "New Year," it's a great time to join a choir! If it's a singing choir, just show up. If it's a bell choir, I need to hear from you ahead of time so I can arrange the music properly. But please, do let me know as soon as you can before hand bell rehearsals begin again.

Here's the New Year schedule:

Sunday, January 4 – Chancel Choir (adult singers) begins singing again at the 11:00 AM worship service

Tuesday, January 6 – Carol Choir (grades 2-5) begin rehearsals (but we'll have a bit of a party this first night) – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 7 – Chancel Choir rehearsals resume – 7:30 PM

Sunday, January 11 – 2 choirs resume rehearsals: Celebration Ringers (music readers for bells) at 4:00 PM and Alleluia Singers (mid-high and high school choir) at 5:00 PM

Tuesday, January 13 – Genesis Bells (beginning, non-music reading bells) resume rehearsals – 6:45 PM

Wednesday, January 14 – Tower Chimes (advanced bells) resume rehearsals – 6:30 PM

Sunday, January 25 – Joyful Noise (high school to adult singers) sings at the 9:00 AM Impact service. We practice before the service at 8:30 AM.

All rehearsals are in the Music Room — top of the stairs from the main entrance.

My contact info:

E-Mail: MusicDirector@TowsonUMC.org
Office Phone: 410-823-6519

Blessings to you for a wonderful 2015!

Doug

Deacon's Letter

Hello,

My grandmother was born in January. I remember her telling me that it was a terrible time to have a birthday, so cold and dark. I replied that I was sure her birth made January a time of celebration for her family and that certainly her presence through the years had brightened many people's lives. The look she gave me meant that she thought I was being a smart aleck, but I meant it. How she felt about her birthday depended on how she viewed it: a celebration of her unique addition to the world or a dreary day in a dreary month.

Our perspective can color how we approach most of what happens in our lives. I have heard more than one person say that they welcome new things because that is a sign of life and growth. I have also heard more than one person say that they like things to stay the way they are. Not all new things are good, but neither are all "things the way they are." Life is a mix of the wonderful and the not so wonderful, often at the same time. How do we approach our lives? Do we embrace the wonderful parts and focus on the bright and good of the day? Or, do we blind ourselves to the wonderful by focusing on the difficult or dreary parts?

It can be hard to let go of the plans and hopes we have to embrace what actually comes. It can also be hard to move away from what has been a valuable and meaningful part of our lives to embrace the new that has become part of our lives. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by how much has changed in our lives and we feel that we can't bear one thing more. God has promised to be with us in all things and in all places. God's plans for us are for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God's future is full of hope.

My grandmother was a surprise baby for her family. Her next oldest sibling was twelve years older than she was. I'm sure that her parents thought they had moved past that part of their lives when she arrived one cold January day. Yet, from all the stories I have heard, she was dearly loved and cherished from the day she was born.

Let's move forward to embrace all that God offers us this day and for all of 2015 to come. May God grant us the grace to focus on the wonderful parts of our lives!

Margery



Margery Schammel

Christian Education

EDUCATION WORK AREA

We **WELCOME** the Education Work Area members for 2015:

Carolyn Schnur – Chair

At Large Members:

Jo Miller, Anne Sleeman, Mike & Erin Giudice, Susan Killian

Cribbery Ministry Group — Lissa O'Donnell, Coordinator

Preschool/Elementary Ministry Group

Leslie Wagner, Coordinator

Susan Mealey, Heather Skopak, Erin Giudice, Jennifer Houk,

Noel Vandermer, and Carolyn Schnur

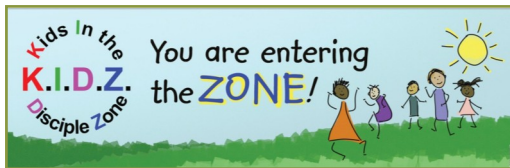
Youth Ministry – Margery Schammel

Christian Connections – Kevin Gralley

In the Educational Ministry, we are blessed to have so many wonderful persons working with our children, youth, & adults. We look ahead to setting new goals, working toward expanding existing programs, and generating new ideas. We **THANK YOU** and we look forward to a great 2015.

ADVENT CELEBRATION — December 6th — Thank You!

The third floor was a buzz with activity as the sanctuary was being adorned with decorations. “Special” thanks to the Preschool/Elementary Ministry group for coordinating the children’s activities, for all those that participated, to those that contributed the decorations for the Gingerbread Nativities, to David and Nancy Haile for taking pictures of the children dressed in nativity costumes, to Karen Morris for running the games, to Carol Miller for helping the children decorate bags for the Board of Child Care, and to Roy Bopst for cutting out the wooden Christmas trees that became our picture frames. “Special” thanks also to all those that helped coordinate the decorations and those that did the decorating and for the choirs for sharing their Christmas music with us at the dedication service.



**Children's Penny/
Coin Collection
continues...**

Saving Change to Make Change – Imagine No Malaria

The coins in the jar will be counted by the end of December so that the children can share their total coins collected as of December 2014. Let's begin filling the 3rd floor jar for 2015. Save those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

Thank you for your support!

Scripture Readings in Worship The Lectionary

In January and February, we will be using the Common Lectionary in Sunday morning worship services. The Common Lectionary is a three-year cycle of scripture readings which was developed by an ecumenical consultation of Biblical scholars and denominational representatives from the United States and Canada for use by many of the mainline denominations. Some of the denominations which use the Common Lectionary include the Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Roman Catholic Church, and the United Methodist Church. The Common Lectionary contains four recommended scripture readings for each Sunday in the year. These readings usually include an Old Testament Reading, a New Testament Reading, a Gospel Reading, and a reading from one of the Psalms. There is often a theme which links the scripture passages to one other. Margery and Rod sometimes preach from the Common Lectionary and at other times the scripture readings are chosen for a particular sermon series. We will have the added experience of hearing lectionary scriptures read from our new pew Bibles in 2015 (see p. 10) .

Lectionary Readings for January

January 4

Epiphany Sunday

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

January 11

Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1: 1-5 Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11 Psalm 29

January 18

1 Samuel 3: 1-10 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20
John 1: 43-51 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

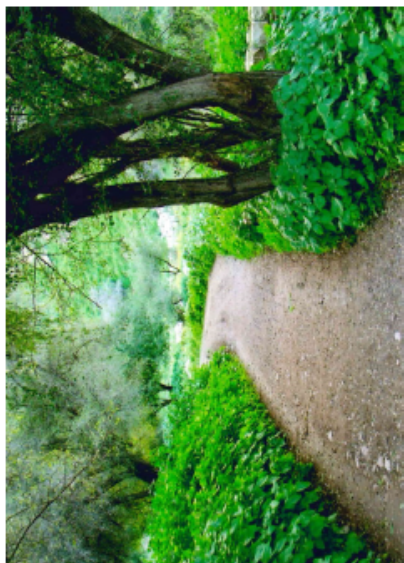
January 25

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31
Mark 1: 14 - 20 Psalm 62: 5-12

Walk with Jesus...

All my LIFE

Registration Women's Retreat April 24 - 26, 2015



Join us for a wonderful weekend getaway for women of all ages at the Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD. The weekend retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Come for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning.

2015 Retreat Design Team
(website: www.pearlstonecenter.org)



Women's Retreat Registration Form

Place this completed form in the Women's Retreat mailbox in the main church office.
Forms may also be mailed to:
Towson UMC, Women's Retreat, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286.
Checks should be made out to Towson UMC. Deadline for registration is 1/15/2015

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone _____

Includes lodging (2 Queen Beds/Private Bath per room), 5 meals, and other workshop/retreat expenses.

Registration

- ☐ First payment of \$110 is due January 15. ☐ \$210.00 (total fee)
☐ Final payment of \$100 is due on March 15. ☐ I would like a complimentary "Gift for You" card.

- ☐ Optional donation to retreat scholarship fund. Please include a separate check for this donation. Thank You. ☐ I would like to apply for funds from the scholarship fund

Volunteer

- ☐ I would like to volunteer at this year's retreat

Transportation

- ☐ I will need a ride to the retreat ☐ I can provide a ride



Soup and Serenity for Women

Journaling is a rewarding opportunity to engage God in our thoughts and prayers. Participants are encouraged to dress casually and enjoy warm soup, bread and fellowship as we learn simple-to-use journaling methods. The sessions will provide time to practice journal starters and discover what works for you. Liz Neal, Towson United Methodist Church member, will lead the session. Journals will be provided!

When: Saturday, February 28, 2015

Who: Women: Ages high school youth through adult

Time: 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Parlor

Fee: \$5.00 to cover cost of journal and materials

Please register by emailing Liz Neal at lizneal52@comcast.net or call 410-584-8292, after 7pm.



GUEST SPEAKER

REV. DR. PHILIP WOGAMAN

**Sunday, January 25, 2015 — 2:00 PM
in our Church Sanctuary**



Dr. Wogaman will share his experiences and speak to us about
Reconciling (and Accepting) Methodists
who support the full inclusion of LGBT persons
in the life and ministry of the Methodist Church.

NATURALLY, THERE ARE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS about taking this step:

- What is the Scriptural basis to support it?
- What would the effect of becoming a reconciling church be on our congregation?
- Would we lose members?
- Will we gain members?

We understand these are serious questions.

- Dr. Wogaman served as dean at Wesley Seminary where he was also Professor of Christian Ethics for over 25 years.
- He also served as Senior Pastor at Foundry UMC during the time that they were going through the process of becoming a reconciling congregation.
- He is uniquely positioned to speak to - and discuss with us - all of our questions and concerns.

Dr. Wogaman hopes to encourage a dialogue on all of these issues — please come with your questions.

Come with your doubts.

He was once on the other side of this issue; therefore, brings an understanding of the concerns some of us may have.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH — all are encouraged to attend.

BEARERS OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

You are invited to come and participate in our gathering for contemplative prayer which we are calling **Attentional Prayer** every Tuesday night at 6:00 PM in the chapel.

Would You Like Individual Prayer Sunday Mornings?

Meet a member of the congregation in the back corner of the sanctuary after worship Sunday morning if you would like someone to be in prayer with you.

UPPER ROOM devotionals are available in regular and large print. You can find them on the credenza under the pictures of the church's stained glass windows in the main lobby.

Aurora's Prayer Rose Garden

Aurora's Prayer Rose Garden is located on the west side of the church, facing the afternoon sun. A perfect place to gather your thoughts, read, write something in your journal, or take pictures.

TOWSON PRAYS ONLINE

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

Prayers and thoughts written by friends at church!

Make this a "favorite" and join us in prayer.

**Would you like to write a prayer for our prayer blog
once a month?**

Please consider this blessed opportunity!

Contact Rev. Margery Schammel at
mschammel@towsonumc.org

**You are invited to join our
Wednesday morning Bible Study class.**

We meet in rooms 214-216

from 10:30-11:30 each Wednesday.

Our format is simple. We use the Scripture selection(s) from the previous Sunday for our lesson, beginning and ending with prayer. We welcome anyone who would like to join with us, whether or not you are able to attend every week, less frequently, or just whenever you can be with us. We look forward to seeing you.

Missions & Outreach

JANUARY COMMUNION / MISSION OFFERING

January 4

Church World Services Blankets+

When heavy rains brought deadly flooding to Colorado in fall 2013, thousands of families were evacuated, their homes damaged or destroyed, roads and bridges torn up. CWS sent blankets and other emergency supplies to several Colorado communities to help survivors deal with the disaster and begin the task of recovery.

Blankets are sent to homeless shelters and warming stations during dangerously cold weather like the arctic blast of January 2014 that hit the Midwest.

Yes, Church World Services and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) are partners, which means 100% of your donation will be given to the blanket program. \$250 can provide warm blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado.

Thank you for considering a donation to this simple way to give relief. **Mission Offering checks in January** need to be made payable to "Towson United Methodist Church" and on the memo line indicate "**Blankets.**" Bring to church and place in the offering plate or you may mail it to our church's Business Office.



OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Our EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY is open ONCE a month assisting the Baltimore County community the last Saturday of the month from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Next time we will be open is JANUARY 31.

Here is the **list of packaged & canned food** needed. Bring your Food Pantry contributions to the church lobby and place in one of the marked Sharing Bins.

Chunky Soups
Beef Stew
Peanut Butter (creamy, please)
Spaghetti Sauce (canned, no glass, please)
Spaghetti Noodles
Canned Fruit (any)
Canned Chili
10oz Soups
Boxed Crackers
Canned Ravioli



Clothes for Women at the House of Ruth

During the month of
January...



the Hospitality Committee will be collecting dress pants, tops/blouses, and black/brown shoes for the women at the House of Ruth. When the ladies are seeking employment, they need to dress appropriately. Your donations will go a long way to help them make a good impression and are greatly appreciated.

Please place the items in the designated container in **Sharing Bins** in the foyer.

Thank you, *Hospitality Ministries Committee—Susan Naeny, Chair*



DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT HIGH SPIRE

**FEBRUARY 2015 issue is due
Tuesday, January 13, 2015**

All articles need to be on time and either in the marked folder outside Room 315

— OR — you may e-mail to Cathy Anderson at communications@towsonumc.org. Thank you!

Photos taken by Steve Houk, our unofficial, official volunteer photographer at TUMC activities, may be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/94929393@N05/

HAMPTON LANE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Every year the children perform a Christmas concert and a Spring Concert. We are very proud of our children who performed for their family and friends on Friday, December 12th.



We were also very excited and proud to perform a special concert for the TUMC Women's group on Tuesday morning, December 16 at 11:00 AM. The children had a great time, especially when Santa came for a visit and gave the children each a candy cane.

This year our theme was "Our Favorite Things" based on responses from the children. Our music teacher, Miss Jamie, asked the children what their favorite things about the Holidays were, and then created a song list from their answers. She even created a few arrangements.

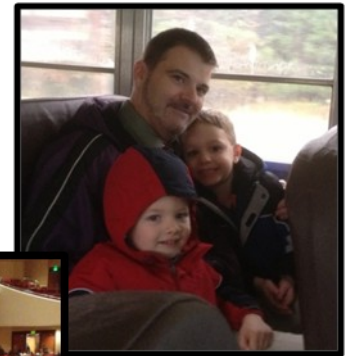


The children worked very hard practicing the songs and the motions that go along with them for weeks leading up to the concert. They had fun creating the artwork for the beautiful backdrop.

FOOD DRIVE

Holiday
FOOD DRIVE

The Hampton Lane families are collecting items to contribute to the TUMC Food Pantry. We are collecting items over the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are excited about contributing to a church program, while teaching our children the importance of helping and giving, especially to those less fortunate than us.



BSO CONCERT

On Wednesday, December 3, 2014 the Three's Class and the Pre-K Class took a field trip to the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore. We enjoyed a musical storytelling of "The Nutcracker."



BSO

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286 . 410-823-6511 . 410-823-8916 Fax

Office hours are Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

www.towsonumc.org / towsonprays.blogspot.com



MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop

Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Superintendent, Baltimore Metropolitan District

Earl Smith & Carole Dean, TUMC's Church Lay Leaders

Rev. Dr. Roderick J. Miller, Lead Pastor

rmiller@towsonumc.org; 410-823-3640 (church); 410-465-2335 (home)

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor
 mschammel@towsonumc.org; 410-823-2485

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music
 MusicDirector@towsonumc.org; 410-823-6519

Jeannine Neuen, Director of Christian Education
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Cathy Anderson, Communications/Staff Liaison to Missions
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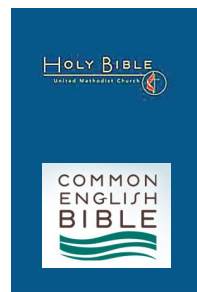
Kim Ayres, Business Manager
 kayres@towsonumc.org; 410-823-3693

Loren Todd, Building Superintendent
Bob Ashby, Assistant
 ltodd@towsonumc.org; 410-823-2153

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 cdcdirector@towsonumc.org

A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church
 Child Care with an approved preschool
 www.hamptonlanecdc.org



\$10.00 each

We are replacing the Bibles in our Sanctuary's Pew Racks!

It's time to update! Our pastors have chosen a fresh translation to touch your heart and mind. It's the CEB or Common English Bible that was copyright in 2011.

Please consider donating a NEW Pew Bible IN HONOR or IN LOVING MEMORY of a friend or family member. A label will be placed inside your donated Bible with the wording of your choice. We have holiday cards specifically created to let your loved one know a Bible has been donated in their honor. Please let us know when ordering.

SEND THIS SLIP WITH YOUR DONATION TO:

TOWSON UM CHURCH/NEW PEW BIBLES, 501 HAMPTON LANE, TOWSON, MD 21286

YOUR NAME _____

(circle) In honor / in loving memory of _____

(circle) In honor / in loving memory of _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ **@ \$10 each** (use additional paper for more orders)

On Sunday, December 28 at the close of the 10:00 worship service, in order to make room for our new pew Bibles, you, the congregation, will carry our current red pew Bibles out of the sanctuary and place them on tables in the Narthex. At this point, those who wish to take home the red Bible that was dedicated to your loved one in the 1970's, may take it. The red Bibles will remain in the Narthex through January. After that, they will be given to folks who come to our Emergency Food Pantry.

If you cannot get to church between Dec. 28 & Jan. 25 and want to pick up your memorial Bible, please call the church office (410-823-6511). Thank you!