

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT TUMC

- 8:15a *Chapel Communion Service*
8:45a Childcare all morning
8:45a Coffee & Fellowship
9:00a Sunday School ages 2-11
 Youth Classes
 Adult Classes
10:15a *Worshipping God Together*
 Children & Worship

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Nov. 1 All Saints Day
 Communion/Mission Offering:
 Emergency Food Pantry, p. 7
 Jeff Hoover, missionary appointed to
 D.R. of the Congo shares — p. 5
 Begin bringing in Thanksgiving Baskets — p. 8
 Collecting filled Christmas Shoeboxes — p. 9
- Nov. 6 Corn Maze for youth rescheduled — p. 5
- Nov. 7 Brunch & Learn, Food-4-Thought — p. 6
 Harbor City Chorus in Concert — p. 4
- Nov. 8 Sermon: *Receiving Grace*
 Collecting Thanksgiving Baskets & filled
 Christmas Shoeboxes — p. 8 & 9
- Nov. 14 Emergency Food Pantry is open, p. 7
- Nov. 15 Sermon: *Giving With Grace*
 Commitment Sunday — p. 13
 Early Bird payment due today for
 2016 Women's Retreat — p. 10
 Last Day to bring in your Shoeboxes — p. 9
- Nov. 17 Last Day to bring in your Thanksgiving
 Baskets — p. 8
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Sunday
 Angel Tree, pick your name — p. 9
- Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent — The YESES
 Hanging of the Greens,
 Advent activities for children — p. 2
- Dec. 1 Holiday Brass Concert — p. 4
 Delivery to Wounded Soldiers — p. 9
 Reservations due for Gingerbread House
 Workshop — p. 11

November HighSpire

The **MISSION** of Towson United Methodist Church is to **PLANT SEEDS** of Christian faith by equipping, training, supporting, & *freeing* people to LIVE their *faith* in the world.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

ADVENT CELEBRATION

November 29

SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Join the fellowship on Sunday, November 29, as we prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. This is a day for the entire church family.

Immediately following the 10:15 worship service, children are invited to participate in Advent activities in Fellowship Hall, while adults decorate the church for the season.

Childcare will be provided in the cribbery (Room 122) for children age 3 and younger.

Children (age 4 and older) and youth are invited to Fellowship Hall for food and a time to learn about Chrismons. We will make our own Chrismons for home and for decorating the Children's Tree on the third floor. We will end with seasonal activities and games.

Adults and youth who are decorating the church, stay in the Narthex (the room just before you walk into the Sanctuary) and Loren & Bob will bring out the

large bins of Christmas Decorations and the Christmas Trees.

NO experience is necessary!

Bring any leftover Thanksgiving food you would like to share and Christmas Cookies to Room 214-216, where the adults will snack after the decorating.



Items Needed for the Children's Advent Activities:

As part of our Advent celebration, the children are making Chrismon snacks and decorations.

We would appreciate any donations of Jumbo marshmallows and of any GOLD items the children could use to decorate their Chrismons, such as sequins, stick on gems, glitter, pipe cleaners, bric-a-brac, buttons. The decorating items must be **gold**.

Please put your donations in the basket on top of the Sharing Bins, which are in the main lobby of the church.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2015

Price for each plant: \$15.00

The men of Towson United Methodist Church have arranged for you to have a poinsettia in the Chancel area of our church during the Yuletide Season in honor or memory of a loved one. A complete listing of plant gifts will be available the Sunday before and at the Christmas Eve Services. If your order is received on or before **December 13, 2015**, your request will be listed.

Complete this form and mail to:
Towson United Methodist Church
501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286
Make your check payable to: TUMC

YOUR NAME _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

Circle your choice:

PLEASE SEND MY PLANTS TO A SHUT-IN YES NO

I WISH TO PICK UP MY PLANT AFTER
CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 PM SERVICE YES NO

Church Staff
and their responsibilities:

Rev. Rod Miller
Lead Pastor

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

- Preaching, worship, administration, pastoral visitation, visioning, and ministry development

Rev. Margery Schammel
Assistant Pastor

mschammel@towsonumc.org
410-823-2485

- Christian education for children, youth, and adults, and worship leadership

Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music and Organist

MusicDirector@towsonumc.org
410-823-6519

- Children, youth, and adult vocal choirs, handbell choirs, worship accompanist, and composer

Kim Ayres

Business Manager/ Receptionist

kayres@towsonumc.org
410-823-3693

- Financial and office administration and liaison to Finance and Trustees

Cathy Anderson

Director of Communications

communications@towsonumc.org
410-823-3689

- Graphic arts, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, webmaster, audio and visuals for worship, liaison to missions

Loren Todd

Building Maintenance
Supervisor

ltodd@towsonumc.org
410-823-2153

- Building cleaning, set up, minor repairs, liaison to Property and Maintenance

Bob Ashby

Maintenance Assistant

- Assists in building cleaning and set ups

Erin Rigley

Director, HL Child Dev. Center

cdcdirector@towsonumc.org
410-825-0008

Pastor's Letter

Servants in Service is Growing

An acorn idea called **Servants in Service** which was developed by a small task force and planted in the church through a sermon given by Mike Steer on September 13 has taken root and is developing sprouts of new life in our church. **Servants in Service** is a program designed to highlight specific ways for members and friends to serve God and the church today.



Rod Miller

I certainly do not know all of what goes on behind the scenes in the many ministries which support and emanate from TUMC. We have always had many dedicated members, generously supporting the church by their time, talents, and gifts. The new **Servants in Service** program is simply providing an open door and a clear path for serving God and the church by meeting identified needs in our church. Here are some examples of how people are responding through **Servants in Service**.

I am pleased to share that we now have 3 persons, and a substitute, who will be sharing time as receptionists in our church office. They will regularly come in on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm and Kim Ayres, our Business Manager, will continue to cover on Thursday and Friday.

We also have a number of people who have offered to communicate with our home-bound members with cards and calls. Some of these persons are homebound themselves! Some others are offering to visit members in their homes, hospitals, and rehab centers. Caring for our own who are unable to come to church is a big task at TUMC and we welcome anyone who would like to serve. Robin Smith is doing an excellent job of gathering information and organizing this ministry. She will be glad to include you in whatever way you are led to serve.

It will not be too much longer before we have a projector in the sanctuary again so that we can display words, videos, photos, and lyrics. At the same time, we have a pretty sophisticated sound board in the balcony booth. We need trained persons to work with Cathy Anderson, our Director of Communications, each week in the sound and video aspects of Sunday morning worship. It is a joy to share that along with our already trained ninth grader and adult, two fifth graders and a parent has stepped in to be trained to operate these systems. We are inspired by their willingness to serve.

Elsewhere in this issue of the *High Spire* (p. 12), you will see an article by Susan Killian about **Servants in Service**. She is the overall coordinator of the program and is the person to contact if you are interested in serving the church in some way. Take a look and then pray about how you might become involved. A big thanks to Susan for her own contribution as a servant in service!

In Christ,
Rod

Music Notes



Rev. Doug Hollida
Minister of Music

Now's the time to join the choir. In fact, ANY time is the time to join the choir!

Actually, 2 of our bell choirs are full, although we still could use some more folks in our advanced choir (music reading required but ringing experience not).

Anyone can join any of our 5 vocal choirs any time. Perhaps you are reluctant to make a full year commitment?

So why not join for the Christmas season?

We will be getting deeper into rehearsing our Christmas music very soon and we'd love to have you join us.

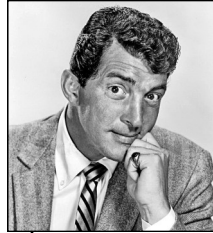
You can just show up, or contact me for more information. Check out our new music website at <http://towsonmusic.blogspot.com/> and choose which choir is best for you. Rehearsal days and times are listed on the blogspot.

Peace and blessings,
Doug
MusicDirector@towsonumc.org
410-823-6519

HARBOR CITY CHORUS — presents — **SUNSHINE: REDEEM THE SUMMER**

With special guests:
JUST SING and SUSQUEHANNA FLATS
November 7 — 7:30 PM

The Harbor City Barbershop Chorus (based in Towson, MD) will be presenting their annual show here at Towson U.M.C. in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, November 7, 2015 (7:30 PM)**. This production will feature a compilation of songs from the past that are easy listening and summer oriented. Featuring two quartets guaranteed to keep your toes tapping and



will bring a smile to your face. The EMCEE, Eric Richardson, is a "Dean Martin" tribute artist, who will be in full character bringing to life one of the original members of the RAT PACK complete with the signature (apple juice) martini. The program will be two hours in duration and tickets can be received in advance or held on a "Will Call" basis. Tickets for this production are \$15.00 per person. Contact Tim Prevatt, Show Chairman, at 410-744-6999 or Collectone@verizon.net or go to www.HCCRaffle.com and purchase online.



HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT

Tuesday, December 1 — 7:30 PM

at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Charles Street, Baltimore
The International Women's Brass Conference, Maryland Chapter, will present its Annual **HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT**. Our Chancel Choir will be one of the choirs singing. This concert showcases brass, bagpipes, and a sing-a-long.

Don't miss it!

Ginny Foster is the TUMC contact for tickets (\$20 per ticket) for the Holiday Brass Concert.

A new Christmas tradition here at TUMC ...

Music of the Season

Sunday, December 13 — 10:15 Worship Service

Join us for this special service as most of our 8 vocal and bell choirs present the sermon in song. Bring your friends—it is sure to be a festive and uplifting day!

Christian Education

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

8:15a **Chapel Communion Service** — Chapel
8:45a Childcare infants-3s (continuous)—Room 122
8:45a Coffee & Fellowship—Parlor
9:00a **Sunday School**

Preschool — Room 115-117
K—2nd grades — Room 311
3rd—5th grades — Room 312

Youth Classes

Middle High — Room 216
Confirmation — Fellowship Hall
High School — Room 317

Adult Classes

Christians Under Construction—Room 111
Young Parents Class — Room 114
Tower Class — Room 214
Women's Class — Room 212
Adult Bible Study — Hoffman Room 218
Short-term class "Gospel of Matthew"
Oct 18-Nov 8—Room 310

10:00a Joy Singers rehearsal, 4-6 yr olds —Room 314

10:15a **Worshipping God Together** — Sanctuary
Children & Worship, 4-6 yr olds — Room 314
K.I.D.Z., for 7-11 year olds, begin with your families in worship then when you are excused from the worship service go to **Room 310**

VOLUNTEER Help Needed:

We have a wonderfully full cribbery during our 10:15 worship service. We need additional volunteers to cuddle and care for our littlest ones on a rotating basis! Please contact Lissa O'Donnell to help: lko1783@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: January 31st will be a Rock-a thon fundraiser hosted by our children to raise funds for the warming oven in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Be prepared to sponsor a child, come and cheer our children on in their efforts, or both!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Joyce Keedy leads this adult prayer and Bible study class that begins and ends promptly 10:30-11:30 every Wednesday morning. Take an early lunch break from work and join the class.



November 1st

We will hear Jeff Hoover share with us his experiences as a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where he has been appointed since 1979.

Read more about Jeff at <http://www.umcmision.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/Hoover-Jeffrey>

Jeff Hoover will be sharing during the 9:00 Sunday School hour for adults in room 214-216 ... and at 11:30 he will be sharing his experiences in Africa and as a missionary to the youth in room 214-216 (youth meet in the Fellowship Hall for lunch, first).



FUN FRIDAY in November: Nov. 6th

We will be going to the Corn Maze at Beachmont, after a postponement because of rain! 7:30 – 9:30 PM
Cost is \$10.00. Contact Sally Savidge for details, ssavidge@comcast.net

November 15— 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM.

We will meet here at church for discussion groups.

November 22—11:30 AM-1:00 PM.

Mission is pending. Stay tuned for details.

November 29 — 11:30 AM

Advent Preparation Day. We stay after worship to help decorate the church and lead games with the children.

ROCK is ready for you!

Registration is now open for this YOUTH RETREAT at the Ocean City MD Convention Center, Feb. 5-7.

Keynote speaker: Brenda Salter McNeil

Worship Band: 7eventh Time Down

See Rev. Margery to sign-up now!!



Food for Thought: Brunch and Learn



There are approximately 3,000 children in Baltimore County Public Schools who are classified as homeless and in desperate need. There are 50,000 additional children whose poverty qualifies them for free and reduced meals (FARM) at school.

These food-insecure children often have learning difficulties, behavioral challenges, and reduced social resources for future success. In the face of this quiet tragedy, you can change the future for these children.

Food for Thought Baltimore County invites you to join us for a “Brunch & Learn” workshop highlighting a simple way for you and your organization to help improve the chances of a successful future for so many children, simply through providing supplemental weekend nourishment in backpacks.

When: November 7, 2015
10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Where: Church of the Holy Comforter
130 West Seminary Ave.
Lutherville, MD 21093

R.s.v.p.: monicambutta@gmail.com
by November 1
Please indicate number of guests

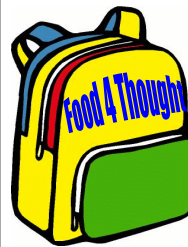
Deacon's Notes

In worship on October 11, you were given a backpack with a name of a child to pray for this year. At this child's baptism a covenant was made to pray for and nurture this child in their faith development. What a responsibility we have been given as Christians! Please keep this child's name in a special spot as a visual reminder and add this child and all children to your prayers each day.



Margery Schammel

Information about how and what to donate to **Food-4-Thought is on the Sharing Bins in the church lobby.** Please give generously so that children in our local schools will be able to take food home each weekend.



Here is a sampling of items that are needed each week. One of our Bins in the main lobby is prominently marked with this colorful book bag. Place your donations in this bin.

Nature Valley Granola Bars

Nature's Bakery Fig Bars

Single-serve cereals: Cheerios or Life

Apple & Eve fruit boxes (8-pack)

Tru Moo (shelf-stable) Milk — plain or chocolate

Tuna: flip-top cans or tuna & crackers kit

Hummus & crackers — single-serve kit

Macaroni & Cheese (flip-top can, already prepared)

Fruit, shelf-stable, flip-top, single serve 8 oz.

Pears, peaches, pineapple, mandarin oranges

Craisins or Raisins, single-serve

Crackers & Cheese, single-serve packs

Goldfish crackers, single-serve packs

What is RMN?

Reconciling Ministries Network mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our Church and world.

www.RMNNetwork.org

Visit the website. Join RMN to show your support.

Individually, you can make a difference.



Missions & Outreach

NOVEMBER COMMUNION / MISSION OFFERING **OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY**

**We are collecting Sunday, November 1
AND — throughout the month of November**

Our FOOD PANTRY needs your help!!!

Here, currently at TUMC, we are providing for about 85 local, needy households. On a one-morning-per-month basis, we open Fellowship Hall, staff it with TUMC volunteers, and give out free non-perishable food and free gently-used household items. We are honored to be serving the **Lord Jesus Christ** by helping to share our resources.

>>A very generous member of our congregation has offered to "match" any monetary donations that you make to the FOOD PANTRY throughout the entire month of November 2015.<<

Please make your check payable to: Towson UMC, and be sure to indicate, on the memo line, that it's for the Food Pantry. Don't forget to mail within the month of November 2015 so that your donation may be doubled.

Questions? Please contact Val Wehrle
cell 410-812-3932 or email valw4321@yahoo.com

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public

Saturday, November 14

9:00am to 10:30am

in Fellowship Hall

Please place canned food donations in the Sharing Bins marked for the EFP in the church lobby. Thank you.

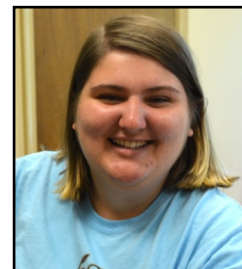
If you would like to volunteer to help or to make a home delivery, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792.



Our Senior Adult Council collects old eye glasses and old cell phones for reuse.

Bring your glasses & cell phones to the church office.

There is a basket inside for your donations.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ALLIE?

Allie Corson arrived in Los Angeles, CA Sept. 26 safe and sound. She survived the long flight, even though she doesn't like flying!

Feel free to write letters:

Allie Corson

Youth With A Mission

11141 Osborne Street

Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

Allie sent us a card. It reads, "Dear TUMC! I'm one week in and I'm already learning a lot and experiencing new things. I have class Monday-Friday and have homework. I'll have a new speaker and a new topic each week. I live with 13 other girls. God was watching over me because I only have one roommate. While some rooms are four girls. I plan to write a blog post every Sunday. Please keep me, my 13 'roommates', our 1 guy, and 7 leaders in your prayers. Thanks."

In her 10/16 blog (alliesgapyear.blogspot.com/) she wrote, "Hello! So last week I went on local outreach and met with women who are on the streets. This will be something I do every other Saturday morning. The days I don't go on local outreach I'll be praying for the group(s) who went out. I wish I could tell you more but unfortunately I can't. Once I get home I can talk more about my experience."

"So big news!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I found out where I'm going for outreach yesterday (Thursday). First my school was broken up into groups and we had to do a scavenger hunt. We collected envelopes during the scavenger, which contained letters and we had spell out the locations. The locations are Thailand/Cambodia and Costa Rica/Brazil. We then prayed about where we felt God was calling us and the leaders made the teams that way."

So where am I going...?

Costa Rica and Brazil!!!!"

TOY DRIVE

The Outreach Committee's annual toy drive will be held on **December 6 and December 13**. On those two Sundays, toys will be collected in the foyer for the children of the Homestead United Methodist Church on Gorsuch Avenue in Baltimore city. **These toys should be NEW and wrapped in Christmas paper.** On the outside of the wrapping, please indicate whether the toy is for a boy or girl and the approximate age of the intended recipient.



The Outreach group at Homestead Church has a Christmas party for their community every year, at which time the toys are distributed. If there are extra gifts, the committee takes them to homeless shelters so that those children will have a toy on Christmas morning, too.

Our church members have been very generous in their support of the Toy Drive in the past. Many of our children have brought a gift for a less fortunate boy or girl. If you want to bring an unwrapped toy, I will be glad to wrap it for you. Please contribute a toy to this most appreciative church community **before December 16**.

Thank you, Pat Totzauer 410 938-8699

Thanksgiving Baskets

You may begin bringing your donated Thanksgiving Baskets to the main lobby here at TUMC Sunday, November 1. We will be storing them on the altar.

The last day we can accept your Basket is **November 17**.

The reusable grocery bags are the best. Everything fits in 1 bag!

Try to get **YOUR THANKSGIVING BASKET** to church before Nov. 14, so we have enough for the families at our Emergency Food Pantry.



2015 ACTC THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Please include **ONLY** the following items in each basket:

- 1 can sweet potatoes/yams (23-29oz can)
- 2 cans meat/main dish (example: beef stew or chili-15-24oz cans)
- 1 large can fruit (20-30oz can)
- 4 cans vegetables (example: green beans, peas or corn-15oz cans)
- 1 cranberry sauce
- 2 pkg. macaroni & cheese
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 cake or brownie mix
- 1 bag or box of stuffing mix
- 1 lb. bag or box of rice

*** PLEASE DO NOT PUT MONEY OR GIFT CARDS IN BAGS.**

TIPS FOR PACKING:

Pack large cans on bottom & lighter items on top. If possible use a Reusable Grocery Bag /OR a double brown grocery bag inserted in double plastic bag. Mark bags as **COMPLETE** or **INCOMPLETE**(list what is missing).

OR

These Supermarkets will have pre-packed Thanksgiving Bags containing all the items on our list at their customer service desk **beginning November 1st**

Mars Supermarket – Ridgely and York in Timonium
Annette Gaydos, manager, 410-252-3311 — \$23.0

Giant Supermarket – York Road across from the Fairgrounds in Timonium, Kimberly Carr, manager, 410-308-3868 — \$23.00

ShopRite – Aylesbury Rd. in Timonium
Steve Starzynski, manager, 410-308-8700 — \$23.50

Giant Supermarket – York Rd. across from the Drumcastle Center
Larry or Sylvia, 410-377-2673 — \$23.00



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—SHOE BOX GIFT'S

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ.



**We will be
DISTRIBUTING EMPTY Christmas Shoe Boxes
with the labels, envelope, and list of possibilities**

Sundays, October 25, November 8 & 15

and

COLLECTING YOUR FILLED Christmas Shoe Boxes

Sundays, November 8 & 15

You may give to a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 years old. Items you can put in a shoe box are small school supplies, toys, hygiene items, hard candy, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hairclips, or toy jewelry. **NO** used or damaged items, please. Don't forget to add your \$7 shipping donation in the envelope provided (unless you choose to go online to give your \$7).

For more information, go to www.samaritanspurse.org.



<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/follow-your-box/>

Donate \$7 online and receive a tracking label. Attach the label to your shoebox, and Samaritan's Purse will track it and send an email to you about the country where your box will be delivered.

ANGEL TREE



This Christmas Season's **ANGEL TREE** program, Towson United Methodist Church will be partnering with John Wesley United Methodist Church in West Baltimore to sponsor twelve (12) needy families providing clothing, toys, gifts, and a food basket. We will also be including the nine (9) students and their families at Ridgely Middle School who we support through the "Food for Thought" program (see p. 6).

Look for the **ANGEL TREE Christmas tree** to be located in the Church lobby the **Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, November 22nd**, and choose an ANGEL/child's name from the tree.

The ANGEL will have a child's name, gender, gift requests, and sizes.

Return the wrapped and labeled gift by Sunday, December 13th.

A team of volunteers will deliver the gifts and food baskets the following Saturday.

For additional information or to help,

contact Carol Miller, carol.miller3@verizon.net or 410-733-4465.



**VEHICLES
FOR CHANGE**
***Changing lives with
donated cars.***

This is a non-profit organization that refurbishes and provides donated vehicles to low-wage families for employment purposes. VFC exists so worthy families can achieve financial and personal independence that comes from owning a vehicle. VFC changes lives in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia; awarding vehicles since 1999.

www.vehiclesforchange.org — 800-835-3821
or contact Fred Crider at dfcrider@comcast.net

SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

There are specific needs at this time of the year (and some things we are running very low on at the moment!) - so if at all possible, we would greatly appreciate it if you would ask your church members to focus on the following:

- ★ VISA/MasterCard gift cards
- ★ Open bottom/non-cinched sweat pants
- ★ Electric razors
- ★ Body lotion
- ★ 2-in-1 shampoo/conditioner
- ★ Travel-sized mouth wash & toothpaste

Thank you for all you and your congregants do to support our service men, women, and their families!

Place your donations in the Sharing Bin marked for WRNMMC in the main lobby.

Delivery is scheduled for December first.

SACRED ANCHORS

We are excited to share the theme for the 2016 Women's Retreat!
We hope that you have marked your calendars for March 4 - 6, 2016. A registration form is below.

Please notice the Early Bird payment option due on November 15.

Invite your friends to this wonderful weekend getaway for women. — *Design Team 2016*

Sacred Anchors



Registration Women's Retreat March 4 - 6, 2016

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 worship on Sunday. Come for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and learning.

2016 Retreat Design Team
(website: www.pearlstonecenter.org)

Women's Retreat Registration Form

Please enclose your completed form and payment in an envelope marked "Women's Retreat" and place in the slot in the main office door.

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 1/15/16

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Cell Phone _____

Includes lodging (2 Queen Beds/Private Bath per room), 4 meals, and other workshop/retreat expenses.

Registration

☐ Early Bird Payment due 11/15/15 \$215.00

☐ After 11/15/15 Payment is \$225.00
This payment is due by 1/15/16

☐ Optional donation to retreat scholarship fund. Please include a separate check for this donation. Thank You.

☐ I would like a complimentary "Gift for You" card.

☐ 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

PATHWAYS

PATHWAYS is up and running! Mary Wynne Eisenberg worked tirelessly through the summer to organize the students, tutors, background checks, transportation, and a snack coordinator so we could begin working with students on October 12th!

It is very exciting to have tutors returning from past years as well as new ones coming in to be with us this year. We have nearly enough tutors, but if you are interested we would love to have you! Some students are returning and we have new ones joining us also.

In mid-September Sharon Penhallegon took the reins as the Program Director and quickly organized the tutor orientation which included Margery Schammel's Safe Sanctuary training. Sharon has also been preparing all the materials for the weekly meetings. She is starting the year by acquainting the students with a behavior incentive program, and she will soon determine a theme for the weekly meeting with them.

Ken Klueh is working on the finances from his rehab "home"! Casey Schurman and I are sharing responsibilities of keeping the Board of Directors running. We MISS Stephanie Kimmons, but her diligent attention to the details of this program has made it possible to carry on.

As of now we have 13 students from the Baltimore City schools and 12 students from the Baltimore County schools. We are FULL!

Maria Springer is heading up a wonderful fundraiser for PATHWAYS again this year. We will decorate Gingerbread Houses on December 19th in the Fellowship Hall. Details will be coming out soon, but there will be a limit on how many we will be able to accommodate so please mark your calendars! We appreciate your support.

—Susan Killian

Pathways is seeking donations of candy to help with our Gingerbread House Fundraiser. We appreciate any support! We will have a box in the lobby starting November 1st to collect donations of the following items:

Mini Marshmallows	Small Gumdrops
M&M's	Round Butter Cookies
Frosted Mini Wheats	Fruit Loops
Mini Candy Canes	Jelly Beans
Smarties	Gummy Bears
Animal Crackers	Bell-shaped Gum Drops
Candy Corn	Twizzlers
Pretzel Sticks	Sprinkles
Vanilla Wafers	Dum Dum Lollipops
Star Brite	Candy Mints
Spearmint Leaves	Sour S'ghetti gummy candy

Gingerbread House Workshop!

Saturday, December 19
1:00—3:00 PM

Proceeds Benefit PATHWAYS tutoring
An educational mission project of TUMC



\$40.00 per child..... ages 5 and above with an adult

(\$30.00 is considered a donation for tax purposes)

Reservations* needed by December 1st
by calling ... Susan Killian at 410-238-4766

Reservations* confirmed upon receipt of check
payable to:

TUMC (PATHWAYS Workshop on memo line)

SPACE IS LIMITED!

I would like a reservation for ____ Ginger Bread Houses
at \$40 per child and adult.

Please remit reservation and check to:
Ms. Susan Killian, 350 Wye Road, Essex, MD 21221
before December 1st.

Names _____

Check total \$_____ Telephone_____

Servants in Service



How exciting to see YOUR response to the Servants in Service program of OUR church. YOU are praying for clarity of your passions/vocations/expertise, realizing where YOUR valuable gifts fit OUR needs, and stepping forward by sharing those gifts.

More than 20 people have actively "signed on" to act as receptionist in the office, work on bulletin boards, visit/call/write notes to our ill or shut in members, work on bulletins and A/V systems, teach short-term studies, etc!

Some of YOU have offered gifts which are not even on our original list ... and that creativity is welcome in identifying YOUR place in serving OUR community of faith. Some have filled out the tear-off from the brochure, some have called staff members, some have walked in and verbally offered service! It all works! Some are seen working in and around the building, but some are those unseen homebound or working from home serving others!

Please peruse the list below and keep it near as you seek to identify YOUR gifts and plan to step forward with YOUR time.

Any questions/comments, please contact Susan Killian@ 410-238-4766 or susanbkillian@gmail.com.

Care and Concern/Visitation

Staff contact: Rod Miller

1. Visit members at their homes/retirement homes
4. Transport people to church
5. Pray for urgent requests via the Prayer Vine

Communication

Staff contact: Cathy Anderson

6. Church Photographer
7. Spread the word and share the news via social media from home

Church Office

Staff contact: Kim Ayres

10. Book meeting rooms and arrange for setups
11. Manage altar flowers, can be done from home

Property and Maintenance

Staff contact: Loren Todd

12. Perform general maintenance
13. Serve as a handyman

Technology

Staff contact: Cathy Anderson

14. Operate A/V system on Sunday mornings
15. Operate A/V for funerals, weddings, special events
16. Duplicate recorded DVDs and CDs during the week
17. Create worship visual aids

Worship and Music

Staff contact: Doug Hollida

18. Participate in a choir: voice and/or bells
21. Assist with children's musicals and/or with children's Christmas Eve musical
22. Assist with youth musicals/concerts

Age Level Ministries

Staff contact: Margery Schammel

Cribbery / Nursery

23. Assist in Cribbery on Sunday mornings
24. Volunteer for childcare as needed

Children's Education / Elementary ages

25. Serve as Sunday School superintendent
26. Plan and lead summer Sunday School program
27. Co-Teach Sunday School

Youth Education /

Middle and High School ages

28. Co-Teach middle school Sunday School
29. Co-Teach high school Sunday School
30. Be a Confirmation mentor
31. Plan and administer at Youth Council functions
32. As a team, plan and lead youth group
33. As a team, organize youth missions

Adult Education

34. Co-lead a short-term study on Sunday
35. Organize and lead short-term weekday studies
36. Help organize and/or lead a Disciple Bible study

Miscellaneous

Staff contact: Rod Miller

37. Serve as a Wedding Coordinator
38. Become certified and oversee kitchen operations

The numbered items missing are positions that have been filled. Wahoo and Thank you!



Stewardship 2016

The theme of the Stewardship Campaign for next year is **Grace — Receiving and Giving**, based on

the Scripture in 2 Corinthians 9 : 10-11. The logo depicted above with the two hands represents the two aspects of experiencing God's grace -- receiving it and giving with it.

God's grace is a gift, given without regard to our merits. We need to be open to receive his grace, accept it, and be thankful. Then, as we give, we can do so with a deeper perspective and a greater appreciation of God's love to share. Think about how God's grace has been shown to you and how you can return a portion for his work in the world through graceful giving.

Please note that Commitment Sunday is November 15th. More information on the campaign will be forthcoming.

— Stewardship Ministry



We are very excited to announce that you have contributed \$646,451 through September 30, 2015 to the Growing Forward Capital Journey.

Let's build on our success!

We need you to continue to fulfill your pledges in order to fund future projects. Additional contributions are always welcome.

Below is the information for those interested in making a year-end stock gift as part of your pledge.

Stock Gifts for

Growing Forward Capital Campaign:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516
Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04316** Towson UMC

Please feel free to contact Kim Ayres in the church Business Office with any questions — 410-823-3693 or kayres@towsonumc.org.

Financial Notes

Here is some helpful information from your Business Office! Do you know there are several different ways to send us your contributions? Here is the list of the different ways to send in your contributions:

Cash or Check placed in the offering plate during worship.

Drop off Donation in door slot of the main office attention Business Office.

Mail check donations by the US Postal Service to Towson UMC attention Business Office

Online Banking you set up online checking with your bank. You control the frequency and amount sent. The bank sends a check to Towson UMC. Set up Towson UMC as a "vendor" and include your envelope number, if you have one, and name as "account number".

Stock Transfer Have your broker transfer stocks and mutual funds to the Towson UMC broker:

Stock Gifts for Annual Church Operating Budget Only:

Merrill Lynch

901 Dulaney Valley Road, Suite 516

Towson, MD 21204

Telephone: 410-321-4323

Fax: 410-970-4295

DTC #5198

Account # **813-04325** Towson UMC

Online-Giving (Credit Cards & Electronic Funds Transfers)

Giving online with credit cards and with electronic fund transfers are easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. Contributions can now be deducted automatically from your checking or savings account at any time or processed using your credit or debit card. Our electronic giving program offers convenient ways for you to give from any device (computer or phone) anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

Visit our website at www.towsonumc.org.

Click Here to Donate Online button (at the bottom of the screen). Click on the Create Profile button, then follow the onscreen

instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions. You can also use the QRT code see p. 12 of this *High Spire*.



All contributions must be submitted to the Business Office by December 31st to receive credit for this year on your contribution statement. As always feel free to contact Kim Ayres in the Business Office (410-823-3693) with any questions or concerns. We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith and commitment. Your pledges and contributions are a critical part of how we can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world.

See the chart outside the main office door — OR — call the church office at 410-823-6511 to order Flowers to be placed on the Altar and to light the Spire in honor or in memory of a loved one.
Orders need to be placed by Noon Tuesday BEFORE the Sunday.

- ✚ **FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones.
You have a choice when donating flowers for the altar: you may order arranged cut flowers that you take home after the 10:15 service on Sunday for **\$30.00**,
OR — you may consider ordering from *Paul's Flowers*, which could be a lasting shrub or perennial flowers to be planted here at church for **\$55.00**. *Paul's Flowers* may be ordered April—Nov., and need a 2-week notice.
- ✚ If you would like a **rosebud** on the altar announcing the birth of your child or grandchild, please contact the church office at 410-823-6511.
- ✚ Donate to **LIGHT THE SPIRE IN THE EVENING** FOR THE WEEK in honor of or in memory of a loved ones. **Cost is \$30.00**. Fill out an envelope with the details of your gift and place in the mail slot in the church office door. Envelopes are with the Flower Chart (or call the church office).

Towson United Methodist Church is a community of Christ-followers growing in love of God and neighbor. This is what we at Towson UMC believe Christian discipleship is, what we are to be, and what Jesus meant when he sent his followers to “make disciples”—

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God’s image. We commit to Jesus’ example of inclusive love, care, and intentional hospitality with persons of every race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, faith story, physical or mental ability, economic status, or political perspective. We respect our diversity of opinion and expressions of faith. Therefore, as God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ.

— adopted by the TUMC Church Council February 2, 2015



WHAT IS THIS?

No, it's not a new stamp from the Post Office ... but it is for your smart phone! If you have an app to scan QR codes, then **HERE IT IS** ... the new Towson United Methodist QR code. You can donate to the church online from your home or pew using your credit card or online banking! It's safe and secure. **This includes your Sunday offerings, Capital Journey payments, and monthly mission offerings.**



DUE DATE FOR ARTICLES IN THE NEXT HIGH SPIRE (a double issue)
DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016 issue is due Thursday, November 19, 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!

Event photos taken by our church member and church photographer, Steve Houk, may be viewed at www.flickr.com/photos/94929393@N05/ great pictures of the church family!

To view your *High Spire* in color go to www.towsonumc.org , scroll to the bottom and click on the icon for the *High Spire*. It will open as a PDF.

Enjoy viewing the article about our church on Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Towson_Methodist_Church

This entry was created and photographed by
James G. Howes, member of TUMC since 1972.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AT TOWSON

8:15 AM Traditional Service in the Chapel. This service has communion every Sunday and usually piano or organ accompaniment.

10:15 AM *Worshipping God Together* in the Sanctuary. This service is blended and richly varied. About twice a month we open with contemporary songs led by our praise band. And, about twice a month we are more traditional, with one of these Sundays including an old-fashioned-hymn-sing. Every Sunday, we hear from the 3,000 pipes of our glorious organ. And, every Sunday we are blessed by one or more of our five vocal choirs or three handbell choirs. You may hear anything from an a cappella anthem in Latin from the 1500s, to a classic with the organ, to a recent song accompanied by our praise band. Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month, and is open to all.

We have gluten-free bread, too, just ask the server.



TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Hampton Lane
Towson, Maryland 21286

410-823-6511

www.towsonumc.org / towsonprays.blogspot.com

Business hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM



Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews, Resident Bishop

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

Carole Dean, TUMC's Church Lay Leader

Rev. Dr. Roderick J. Miller, Lead Pastor

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 cdcdirector@towsonumc.org — **Erin Rigley**, Center Director

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