

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Summer 2017

High Spire

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*

FAREWELL & PIE SOCIAL HONORING PASTOR ROD MILLER

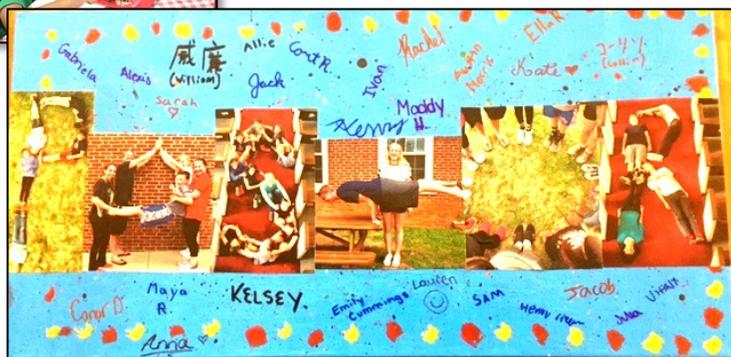


Rod's Farewell Service, Sunday, June 11, 2017.

Stephanie Kimmons shared pictures of the final closing prayer and Pie Social that followed. Bottom picture, youth group's gift to Rod, spelling PASTOR.



Above, the staff's whimsical gift to Pastor Rod. Staff are, clockwise, Doug Hollida, Margery Schammel, Bob Ashby, Kim Ayres, Rachel Livingston, Cathy Anderson. (Paper doll art over photograph)



Thank You Notes

With many thanks, we pray for a restful summer for our dedicated Sunday school teachers!

We will return to Sunday school for all ages at 9:00 AM on Sept. 10th. Education Work Area will hold a meeting of Sunday morning teachers and leaders on August 27th after worship. If you are interested in being part of our disciple making team this Fall, please contact Margery, 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org.

Dear TUMC Congregation,
The worship service and celebration on Sunday, June 11 was all I hoped it might be and more. Carol and I are very grateful for your many cards, gifts, notes, comments, well-wishes and prayers. You touched us in many ways through our time with you and we will remember you with deep appreciation. A special thank you for your Love Offering, which we receive with gratitude.

Towson United Methodist Church —
God is with you. May the Holy Spirit continue to lead and guide you today and always.
In Christ's love, Rod

You may read Pastor Rod's Retirement Sermon. Go to our church's website at www.towsonumc.org. Under "Sermon Series" you'll see the link to open the PDF of his sermon.

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the beautiful Poinsettia, still enjoying from Christmas and the lovely yellow tulip. They brighten up my room. The cards and prayers bring comfort to my heart. —Dorothy Refo

Cathy Anderson will be retiring in July.
We will enjoy each others company and say farewell Sunday, July 30 during the Vacation Bible Camp finale in Fellowship Hall, following the 10:15 service.

If you would like to contribute to a love offering in her honor, please provide a check to Kim Ayres in the business office by July 24. Please make the check payable to "Towson United Methodist Church" and indicate on the memo line that it is for "Cathy Anderson Love Offering." Her farewell message is on the back page of this *High Spire*.



Introducing Pastor Mark Johnson

Dear Friends,

I am both humbled and excited to have been appointed to be the Lead Pastor of Towson United Methodist Church by Bishop LaTrelle Easterling. Towson UMC is known throughout the Baltimore Washington Conference as a strong, vibrant congregation whose people are committed to growing in discipleship and bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community through word and deed. I look forward to meeting each of you and hearing about how you have been faithfully praying, dreaming, and doing Christ's work through TUMC.

I will be the first to admit that I have a great deal to learn about Towson UMC but there are several things I do know. First, and foremost, is that your church staff is incredible. Clearly, the Rev. Dr. Rod Miller, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and other Church leaders have worked hard to develop and support such a high performance ministry team. Sharing in ministry with such a team will be a joy.

Second, I am very concerned, and perhaps you are too, about the increasing sense of polarization and division in our country and even in our Churches. Opposed to this growing sense of estrangement, however, you — as Towson UMC — have proclaimed:

"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."

This is a vision of ministry and discipleship that connects with my heart and soul. In my mind, the people of Towson UMC are proclaiming and living Galatians 3: 28: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.* Well done.

Third, I am awe struck by the breadth of ministry opportunities at Towson UMC. As I have browsed the Church website, read the newsletter and talked with a few Church leaders about the ways you touch the lives of so many hurting people in the Towson community and beyond I can only conclude that you have taken to heart the words of John Wesley, "The world is my parish."

Your lay Church leaders, staff, and Rev. Miller have shared with me Towson UMC's priorities of strengthening youth and young adult ministries, enhancing the Church's long term financial vitality, and prayerfully discerning how to faithfully live into God's Kingdom. I look forward to journeying with you as we work on these, and other, ministry concerns.

Finally, I want to thank the Rev. Dr. Rod Miller. When my wife, Sandi, and I moved to Baltimore from Colorado eight years ago, Rod worked tirelessly to help us get settled into our new home and our new Church appointments. Over the next several years, I was honored to have Rod as my Guide and am indebted for his wise counsel and coaching. Through all these years I have considered Rod to be a good friend and trusted colleague. Over the past several months we have worked together to make this pastoral transition as smooth as possible. I cannot possibly thank him enough for the many hours he devoted to helping me prepare to follow him as Lead Pastor. Thank you, Rod! I know you have been a blessing to the ministry and people of Towson UMC and you continue to be a blessing to Sandi and me. May God continue to bless you and yours as you pursue a new vision of ministry.

Most of all, I look forward to meeting you and hearing your story. Let's find a time real soon to get together.

See you in worship!

Blessings, *Pastor Mark Johnson*

**Pastor
Mark's first
Sunday at
Towson UMC
is July 9**

SUNDAY MORNINGS 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. 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.

Cribbery (nursery) — in Room 122

10:00 to 11:30 for children
infants to 3-years-old
(as of 1/1/17)

Children older than 6 years

stay in worship with your families.

You can find Pew Packs (tote bags with coloring pages and crayons) on tables in the narthex and in the balcony.
(Thanks to Nancy Bopst for keeping the Pew Packs available!)



Summer Sunday School through August 27 during the 10:15 worship service

Children, ages 4-6 years, begin in the worship service with your families. You will be dismissed after the Children's Moment to Room 314 to learn about Caring for God's Earth.

Our summer learning experience is Loving God's Earth. We are learning about nature and how to care for the earth. We are outside some Sundays, enjoying the beauty of Aurora's Prayer Garden and our lovely trees.



We will learn from scripture, Curious George, and the Lorax. We will plant seeds, make simple crafts, and have fun!

WOMEN'S RETREAT NEWS

Our Women's Retreat Design Team meets to do exactly what our name says—design the retreat. We start with prayer and an empty slate several months before the Retreat and end with a wonderful weekend!

The ladies on the Design Team have varied gifts and skills which we add to make the whole experience successful.

We invite YOU to be a part of the Design Team, adding your gifts to our retreat planning.

Our first meeting is **August 28th at 7:00PM**. Please contact Margery (mschammel@towsonumc.org) or Sue LaHatte (slahatte@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

Save the Date: The Women's Retreat for 2018 will be February 23-25.
Beat those winter blahs with an inspiring weekend away with your church friends!!



BE A SUSTAINING MEMBER OF TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

You may:

1. Place your cash or check in the offering plate during worship. If using cash, make sure you use an envelope and include your name and what the cash is for.
2. Mail in your check to the church's Business Office.
3. Send from your bank's online checking or saving account by setting up regular contributions. Have the bank send to Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286. Use your name as your account number, and make sure you tell us what it's for in the memo line.
4. Visit our website at www.towsonumc.org. Click the to **Donate Online** button. Click on the **Create Profile** button, then follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions to be debited from your credit card or Electronic Funds Transfer.



SPECIAL THANKS

to the parents and youth for all their help and support in planning, volunteering, and attending our youth events this year!

It wouldn't have been anything without you; you made it special and unique.

We have an exciting event schedule for Summer 2017. Take note of the following Upcoming Events throughout July and August:

- July 1st 10am-2pm** - Youth Car Wash at church
- Rain Date July 8th 10am-2pm** - if it rains on July 1st we will be here doing the car wash on July 8th
- July 12** - Trip to Hershey Park
- July 30 6-8pm** - Movie Night
- August 7 9am - 4pm** - Genessee Valley Ropes Course
- August 8 6pm-7:30pm** - Social Justice/ Mission Workshop
- August 9 6-8pm** - Family Game Night
- August 10** - First Fruits Farm, Gleaning
- August 11 9am-4pm** - Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, PA
- August 13** - Cookout/ Adult vs. Youth Volley Ball Game
- August 18 7-9pm** - Youth Talent Show/ Open Mic
- August 25** - Guppy Gulch

Baltimore County Christian Workcamp

Everyone, of all ages, is invited to participate in BCCWC this year, July 16-21. You may help out all week, or only a part of the week. We are provided breakfast and ingredients to pack our lunches every day. We are then invited back for dinner each evening. Youth and/or parents interested in helping should contact Rachel Livingston at yandya@towsonumc.org or 410-823-3698.

Vacation Bible Camp

All youth are encouraged to be camp counselors for the children during VBC. Don't forget to register online as at <https://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/TowsonUMC/volunteer/>.

UMYF

During the summer we will not have our regularly scheduled youth group (see summer events above). We will begin meeting regularly again on September 10th. We look forward to seeing some of the new and the old faces. If you would like to take part in planning and shaping our youth ministry, here at Towson UMC, please join us for the **Youth Council Meeting** on **August 6**, immediately following the worship service.

**FABULOUS—FOOD—
AND—FELLOWSHIP**



**“EGG-CITING ANNOUNCEMENT”
OMELETTE BRUNCH!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

**THE OMELETTE MAN
is coming to TUMC !!**

Come one, come all for delicious omelets made to order. Also, bagels with cream cheese, baked goodies, fresh fruit, juices, coffee/tea.

Cost:

- Age 10 and older — \$15
- Age 6 to 9 — \$ 8
- Age 5 and under — free

A portion of the cost will go to the Growing Forward Campaign.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR —AND—
MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!
CONTACT: Ginny Foster
410-296-4780
virginiafoster@comcast.net**



Check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/TowsonUMCYouth/

Questions? Contact Rachel Livingston at yandya@towsonumc.org or 410-823-3698

Missions & Outreach



TWO TUMC COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVES

Saturday, July 1

donate between 6:30 and 12 noon.

You can make your appointment now by contacting **Marella at msch1105@gmail.com** walk-ins are welcome, too.



SAVE THE DATE!!

Our next Towson UMC Community Blood Drive will be held

**Saturday, September, 16, 2017
between 6:30am and 12:00pm**



Anyone older than 17 years of age is eligible to donate (16 year olds needs parental consent). Check the church website for more information. For medical or travel eligibility questions call the ARC at 1-866-236-3276.

Remember... You must wait 56 days between donations. If you are a regular donor, you must have donated before July 22nd to be eligible to donate on September 16th!

For more information or to schedule your life-saving donation contact **Margot via e-mail at TUMCBloodDrive@gmail.com** or though the church office, 410-823-6511.

OUR CHURCH COLLECTS USED CLOTHES — for men, women, and children — as well as shoes and accessories. The bin is in the back of the church next to the playground. All your donations go to the Homestead UMC community, who really appreciates us! Save your July & August donations — our next delivery is in SEPTEMBER!



OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

... will be open to the public on

Saturday, July 29

—and—

Saturday, August 26

9:00 to 10:30AM — in Fellowship Hall

If you would like to volunteer to help once a month, contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792. See the VBC collection for our summer food needs.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—SHOEBOXES

Watch for sales and the bins in the stores with little toys and items for Christmas Shoeboxes. We will be packing our shoeboxes in October!

COMMUNION/MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, July 9

and throughout the month of July

EARL'S PLACE

I am so honored to, once again, have the opportunity to share about Earl's Place at the July 9th service for the Moment on Mission.

Our residents, just like Rev. Mark Johnson, are starting a new journey, setting goals, and looking towards the future with excitement. And all of this starting anew is thanks to partnerships like we have with TUMC.

Earl's Place is a transitional housing project located in Baltimore City assisting men who are homeless and in recovery from substance abuse. Earl's Place gives men a second chance at life. Our residents have the opportunity to get physically and emotionally healthy, find employment and/or continue their education, connect with community resources, and get back on their feet. We house 17 men at a time and they are able to stay for up to two years. We are so excited that this December, with God's grace, we will commemorate our 20th Anniversary. We are in the planning stages for some special events, so please visit our website (umhousing.org) to see all of the exciting things we have going on.

I very much look forward to seeing all of you and sharing the accomplishments of our residents within the last year. We thank you for your annual support as we could not continue the work we do without people like you. We would love to have you visit us at Earl's Place to see first-hand all of the great work that your generosity has contributed to.

—Casey Schurman, former TUMC youth

Please make your check payable to: "Towson UMC" and be sure to indicate, on the memo line, that it's for "Earl's Place."

COMMUNION/MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, August 6

and throughout the month of August

HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Our Hampton Lane Child Development Center is in need of funds for their Scholarship Tuition Fund. This ensures our children's continuous care and education, even when their parents have unexpected financial struggles. Contributions will be accepted throughout the month of August. Make your check payable to Towson United Methodist Church and note on it that it's for the CDC Scholarship Fund. Thank you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at the
Assistance Center of Towson Churches,

120 West Pennsylvania Ave,
Towson, MD 21204.

For more information,
contact Charlie Utermohle at
443-752-2336 or 35international@comcast.net.



Center Attendants – Serve one day a week (M, T, W, Th or F) from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Maintain food storage operation, transport food bins from nearby storage to Center, restock bagger shelves, return empty bins, collect trash, recycle waste cardboard. Pickup truck or SUV desirable.

Fresh Food Drivers (Group 1) – Serve one day a week (M, W, F) from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Pick up food donations from two Starbucks (Burke Avenue, Drumcastle) and one Chipotle (Drumcastle). Car preferred.

Fresh Food Drivers (Group 2) – Serve one day a week (T or Th) from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Pick up food donations from Royal Farms Stores on Timonium Road just east of York Road and on Seminary Avenue just west of the Light Rail. Car preferred.

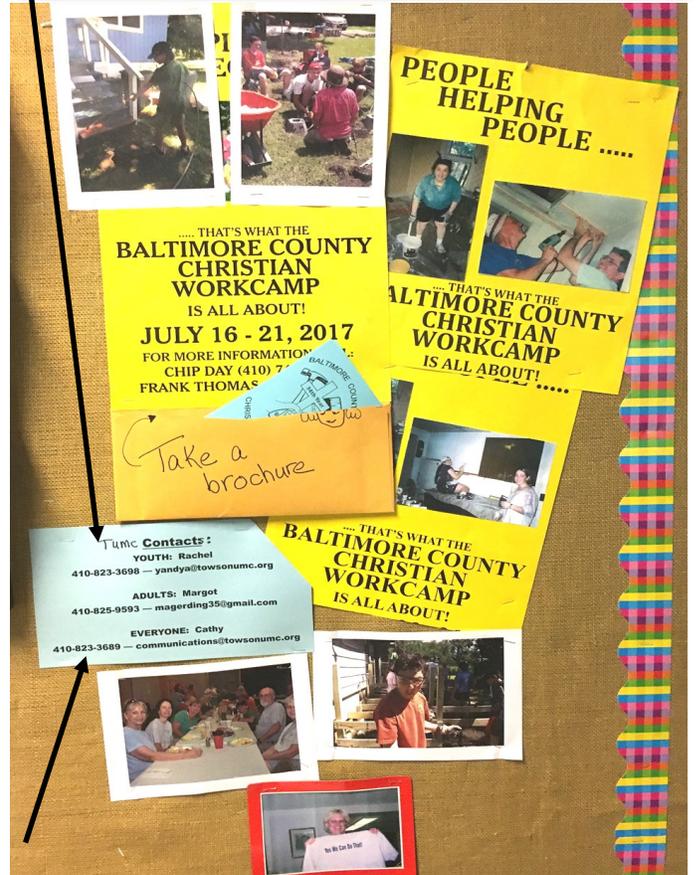
Bulk Food Drivers – Serve as needed. Frequency varies depending on time of year. Pick up large quantities of supplemental food stocks purchased from ALDI (Loch Raven & Taylor) or from Sams Club (Golden Ring). Duration – approximately 2.5 hours. Pickup truck or SUV required.

Baggers – Serve one morning (10:00 AM to 12:30 PM) or one afternoon (12:30PM to 2:45 PM) each week. Pack bags of food for needy families of varying size. Pack Food For Thought bags for student weekend food supplements. Pack lunches and Care Bags for the homeless.

HUM Run – Each Friday at 2:30 PM, ACTC delivers to the Helping Up Mission on Baltimore Street any remaining bread and other perishables that would spoil before use. Round trip – approximately 90 minutes). Van or SUV desirable.

BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP

Take a look at the information that's posted on the bulletin board outside Room 315 (between Rachel & Cathy's offices). CONTACT Rachel, Margot, or Cathy to let us know you want to volunteer one day, two days... or all 5 days. Breakfast is at Hunts UMC, and dinners are at various churches, including Towson UMC on Wed. night of Workcamp week.



**SUPPORT OUR
VBC MISSION COLLECTIONS**

**Mission Opportunities for
Vacation Bible Camp, July 24-28**

Each day during Vacation Bible Camp the children are asked to bring an item to support a mission. To participate, choose one or more of the following item(s) each day and bring to the church lobby. Friends of the church are encouraged to participate, too. If you can only come to church once during the week, you may bring all five items at the same time to the lobby. Thank you for your support!

Monday: School Supplies,

ACTC will provide to the homeless children in August

Buy double of an item you would purchase for your child – bring the extra item to VBC. No crayons, please.

Tuesday: Health Kits

Sturdy Combs, pkg. of plastic Razors, Fingernail Clippers, TRAVEL SIZE Shaving Cream, TRAVEL SIZE Deodorant

VBC MISSION COLLECTIONS CONTINUED:



**Wednesday: Food for Thought
Backpack Program**

SINGLE SERVING SIZES ONLY:

applesauce pack of 6, fruit cups, sandwich crackers with cheese, individual pack goldfish, Nature Valley Granola Bars (12 in a box), Flip top cans of baked beans, tuna fish, or Mac-N-Cheese

Thursday: TUMC Emergency Food Pantry

Cereal such as Raisin Bran or Cheerios or Corn Flakes, Beef Stew, Canned Ravioli, Pork and Beans, Green Beans, Canned Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Canned Chili

Friday: Pets in Need at the Shelter

WET (canned) dog & cat food (grocery store varieties with gravy), DRY dog & cat food (unopened bags), dog & cat treats (no catnip), dog toys, old clean towels.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 24-28

9:00am to 12 noon each day

Note: Dismissal on Friday is 12:30pm

Join us for fun and learning at **HERO CENTRAL** with **FLAME the RED PANDA.**

"Do good! Seek peace and go after it!"
Psalm 34:14b

Join us and learn about being God's heroes!



Who: Children, age 3 years (by Jan. 1, 2017) – 5th grade (completed 2016-17)
Cost: \$10 per child, \$20 maximum per family of campers

Register online! GO TO www.towsonumc.org and CLICK ON *FLAME the Red Panda*.

This will take you to a Cokesbury site to register — campers & volunteers.

After you register, you will receive an email confirmation of your registration, which will include the link you click on to pay for your camper.

If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to "Towson UMC," with VBC in the memo line

Volunteers are free — however — PLEASE REGISTER and give us your t-shirt size.

Register now for our fun summer camp at church!



Painting Day for VBC!

Everyone is welcome to come and paint decorations on **Thursday, July 6,** 9:00AM – Noon.

Please wear paint friendly clothes and let Margery know you will attend.



Donations Needed for VBC:

Donations to help make VBC fun and successful. Bring to church and place in the church office.

- ★ empty paper towel rolls
- ★ empty clean food boxes such as cereal and cracker boxes



Are you able to help with VBC?

Please contact Margery if you are able to, even a day or two will be wonderful!
410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org

The Daily Missions List for VBC is under "Missions and Outreach," page 7



**KENTMORR CRAB FEAST
Stevensville, Maryland
THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 2017**

Join us for an Eastern Shore Crab Feast at the Kentmorr Crab House in Stevensville, MD. In

addition to the all-u-can-eat crabs, you will also enjoy a cup of red crab soup, and a buffet of fried chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, delicious corn on the cob, and ice cream for dessert. Beverages are included. After the two-hour crab feast, we will go to the Amish and Mennonite Market in Annapolis where you can purchase handmade quilts, crafts, fresh produce, desserts, etc.

Departure times:

10:00 AM TUMC / 10:30 AM Oak Crest, Parkville, MD

Return time: 5:30 PM

The price for this trip is \$75.00, which includes the transportation, a two-hour crab feast, and all taxes and tips, including the driver.

Make your check payable to the "Senior Adult Council" and mail to:

**Mrs. Bernice Peacher
12300 Rosslare Ridge Rd. #402
Timonium, Md. 21093**

Please include your phone number and your email address with your check.

Registration Deadline is Sept. 6

Folks of all ages are encouraged to join us

Register early for the bus trips to assure your seat. Each tour allows you to either board at the church or at Oak Crest, whichever is more convenient for you.

Pick up a brochure, with ALL the trips, in the church lobby. If you can't get in, call the office at 410-823-6511 and we will mail you one.

**FRIENDLY FARM RESTAURANT LUNCH
AND TOUR BOORDY VINEYARDS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017**

Depart Oak Crest 10:30 AM / 11:00 AM TUMC
Return 5:00 PM TUMC / 5:30 PM Oak Crest

Travel through the countryside of Northern Baltimore County to Friendly Farm Restaurant for a delicious family style lunch. Offering breathtaking views year-round, the restaurant is located on a two-hundred-acre farm and surrounded by three ponds. Sit, relax, and enjoy the warm friendly service, scenic views, and the great food that has been associated with this family owned restaurant since 1959.

After lunch we travel to Boordy Vineyards, which is nestled among the farmlands of Baltimore County. Enjoy a guided tour of the winery, followed by a tasting of selected Boordy Vineyard wines served with crackers and locally made cheddar cheese. You will also receive a wine glass to take home compliments of Boordy Vineyards.

The price is \$85.00 per person, includes:

- Broiled Jumbo Lump Crab Cake, Fried Chicken, and Family Style Vegetables,
- Vineyard Tour with wine tasting, crackers and cheddar cheese, and glass
- Transportation, all taxes and tips.

Make your check payable to the "Senior Adult Council" and mail to:

**Lois Winship 410-825-4013
1 Southerly Court, # 201
Towson, Maryland, 21286**

Please include your phone number and contact information with your check.

Registration Deadline is Sept. 25, 2017



CATHY ANDERSON (aka Cathy Ritter)
SAYING GOODBYE AND RETIRING FROM TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

I've been at Towson UMC since March 1, 1993. That means I have worked under the leadership of Rev. Walter Smith, Rev. Jim Warner, Rev. Steve Rettenmayer, Rev. Nancy Nedwell, Rev. Judy Emerson, Rev. David Cooney, Rev. Mary Jo Sims, Rev. Margery Schammel, Rev. Rod Miller, and I'll be here for a couple of weeks under the new leadership of Rev. Mark Johnson.

I started my employment here at church half-time as Director of Family Life, the youngest on the staff of 14. In 2003, I applied to work full-time and began working as Director of Communications.

My first office in the church was located in the Tower Room and I had the only computer and laser printer in the church. I was the only staff person who knew how to use a computer. Even accounts receivable and payable were entered in journals with a pencil. Mailings were sent out using an addressograph machine stamping on envelopes. We had a simple Xerox machine to make copies, however, the main duplicator was a Gestener. To create with any color, you had to change large drums. Lois Winship was limited to print one color at a time—black, red, blue, or green, checking registration. I know because I challenged her to make color copies for me! The telephone system was just as antiquated. We couldn't transfer calls, we had to yell to each other to pick up the phone. Lucille Andrews would go to the stairwell near the front door and yell up to the tower when I had a call.

Some highlights from Cathy's tenure with Towson UMC:

- Staff Liaison to the Singles Network of Towson Churches: Towson Presbyterian, Holy Comforter Episcopal, Ascension Lutheran, and Towson UMC created this organization. There were more than 120 people participating. It was because of the Singles Network that our church was introduced to what we now call the Emergency Food Pantry. Hiss UMC no longer wanted to be a part of the government surplus food program and came to the Singles Network to ask for a volunteer church to take over their part of the program.



- Towson Area Ministerial Association: More churches became involved in the Singles Network and I reported back to TAMA. I eventually held offices, including being president of TAMA for a couple of years. This was a cherished opportunity for me to meet other church leaders and learn about other faiths.



- Mike Lynch from our church's singles group and I presented to the Administrative Board the government surplus food program and requested the opportunity to open our doors to the economically challenged. Not the homeless, but those living in a home with a kitchen. Because the singles group wanted to manage it, they chose to open in the evening, after work, once a month.

A big moment for TUMC! We opened our doors as Emergency Food Pantry May 1994.

- I received a phone call from the Department of Social Services about 3 years later. They wanted to know, "How many families can we take?" "Take?" I asked. Apparently, President Bill Clinton had signed a Senate Bill into law — churches and organizations of faith with food pantries would now be 3rd party payees for children in families of drug & alcohol abuse and those who abuse the system. DSS thought our church could handle 12. "What? Let me get back to you!" I did my research; I called our Bishop's office. How did this Bill get signed without any faith leaders knowing about it? With the Holy Spirit, Rev. Steve Rettenmayer, ACTC, and TAMA backing me, I faced groups and politicians all over Maryland. Finally, I represented the UM church and in Annapolis we got the Bill overturned for Maryland.



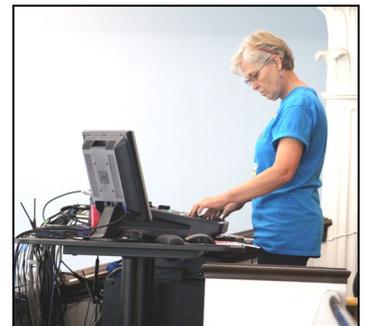
Continues on page 11



Cathy with Reese, the Guiding Eyes for the Blind dog she raised, then adopted in April. Reese was retired & released as a guide dog.



- Wesley Seminary offers a Certificate in Christian Studies: classes were held here at TUMC. I took classes that focused on the track of Care Giving. The professor of my last class in the track, Dr. Lee, encouraged me to go back to college and get my Bachelor's degree. I did! I graduated from Towson University with a degree in Art on my 50th birthday.
- Drama Ministry: I wrote scripts and we put on plays. With Dale Sowers on staff, he adapted "The Living Last Supper," a monolog for Holy Week. He directed and I assisted—training voices of our disciples & creating fun changes!
- Discovering your Spiritual Gifts: It's a great way to learn about yourself, to affirm what the Holy Spirit has planned for you, and yes, we all have 1 or 2 Spiritual Gifts. Many of you discovered yours since I was trained in 1999.
- Family Life Council offered conflict resolution & communication seminars. We planned games and had fun as families—nuclear, blended, single parent, couples, and singles.
- Camp Hope, Baltimore County Christian Workcamp, Habitat for Humanity, and VIM trips: I worked with the youth and adult volunteers, learning and sharing, fixing and rebuilding homes and lives.
- Technology has caught up to Towson UMC. Each staff person has a computer; we have printers that make booklets and posters in full color. We have a database for membership and accounting. Our telephones transfer calls and have caller ID. We have the latest in sound and projection in the sanctuary, and an IMAC to record services. We have a webpage, the youth have a Facebook page, and we have prayers posted on a blog.



I have met and worked with wonderful people here at TUMC. Families and opportunities enriched, challenged, and changed my life. I heard the most beautiful music, and had the opportunity to play handbells. I have been blessed and honored to give you the best of my talents, and, it's been fun to share with you. Please remember, the community respects you, they look to you for leadership and nurturing. Towson UMC has a reputation of credibility and faith. As I produce my last *High Spire* newsletter, I want to push you, and encourage you, to carry on — **you do make a difference!**

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 or in memory of loved ones. **You have a choice when donating flowers for the altar:** you may order arranged cut flowers that you may 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* need a 2-week notice.



✠ Donate to **LIGHT THE SPIRE IN THE EVENING** FOR THE WEEK in honor 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 on the wall outside the church office (or call the church office).



TOWSON PRAYS ONLINE

<http://towsonprays.blogspot.com>

Prayers and thoughts written by friends at church! Make this a "favorite" and join us in prayer.

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.



As you consider final plans for yourself and your family, please remember the Columbarium on the side of our church. Niches are available for purchase by contacting Judy Hobbs at 410-337-9013.



**TOWSON
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH
MINISTRY TEAM**

**501 Hampton Lane
Towson, MD 21286
410-823-6511**

**Business hours:
Monday-Thursday, 10:00—3:00**

**Rev. LaTrelle Easterling,
Resident Bishop**

**Rev. Edwin DeLong,
Interim Superintendent,
Baltimore Metropolitan District**

**Bob Kimmons & Stephanie Kimmons,
TUMC's Church Lay Leaders**

Pictured above:

Sister Act Medley by Doug's Gals
the Offertory anthem June 18, 2017
Happy Father's Day!

Rev. Dr. Mark Johnson, Lead Pastor

Rev. Margery Schammel, Assistant Pastor

Rev. Doug Hollida, Minister of Music

Rachel Livingston, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Kim Ayres, Business Manager/ Receptionist

Cathy Anderson, Director of Communications

Bob Ashby, Custodian



HAMPTON LANE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

410-825-0008 ccdirector@towsonumc.org — Erin Rigley, Center Director
A Ministry of Towson United Methodist Church — Child Care with an approved preschool
www.hamptonlanecdc.org