

August Sign Spire



Towson United Methodist Church's mission is to proclaim the Word of God and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Faithful discipleship includes celebration, connection, development, service, and sharing.

Towson UMC's Monthly Newsletter
August 2010
Volume 51, Issue 8

Baskets of Blessings

MINISTRY CELEBRATION SUNDAY



August 29 beginning at 10 AM in the Sanctuary

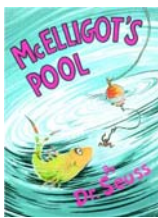
Spread the Word & Bring Your Friends!

Hear great testimonials, see displays and demonstrations.
Eat, visit with friends, meet new people, sign-up for upcoming activities and classes.
Learn more about the changes in the handbell choirs and elementary Sunday school.

See pages 3, 5, 6, and 7



Dr. Seuss



**Thursday Evenings Services continue through August
6:00-7:00 PM in COOL Fellowship Hall**

**Worshipping God & finding spiritual lessons from stories
by Dr. Seuss**

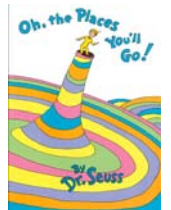
**It's informal and interactive, starting with
a light supper**

August 5...*McElligot's Pool*

August 12...*Oh, the Places You'll Go*

August 19...*The Zax & Too Many Daves*

August 26...*The Butter Battle Book*



From the Senior Pastor



Dear Friends,

Ministry Celebration Sunday

is set for August 29.

This is always one of my favorite Sundays of the year for it is one of the few times we look at the ministry of our church comprehensively. So many wonderful things happen here throughout the year and we try, in a variety of ways, to highlight various programs, activities, and ministries. Seldom, though, do we get the chance to lift everything up in total. Our theme for the day is Baskets of Blessings and in multiple ways you will experience the blessings received and given here.

On Ministry Celebration Sunday you will hear some great testimonials from those whose lives have been touched by this church. You will hear the staff in their annual attempt to sing the anthem. You will see displays and interactive events and even some interesting demonstrations. You can get something to eat, visit with friends, meet new people, sign-up for some upcoming events, and learn about ministries new to you. It really will be a great day at church.

This is what I want you to do. Start thinking now about someone you can bring with you to church that day. Maybe you have a friend who has been thinking about getting back to church. Maybe you have a neighbor who is church shopping. Maybe you have a co-worker you think would be excited about something we are talking about that day. Who might that be? When you have identified someone or some ones, invite them. Do not just say, "You should try my church sometime." Say, "We have a great day planned at church. Come with me." Be specific about time and date. Offer a ride. Tell them you will meet them at the front door and be sure to sit with them. Be a recruiter for your church. They may have no idea all that is available to them. Our hope is that if they come once, they will come again, and this will become their church, too.

**So, mark the date for yourself,
Sunday, August 29,
and plan to be here.
Then invite someone to come with you.
Let's fill the church and
make it a spectacular day.**

Yours in Christ,
David

Music Notes



Kathie Metz

W N D I T W B !

You're right:
**We've Never Done It That Way
Before**, but we're going to try it and see if you like it.

I'm writing about our handbell choirs and a new schedule for the fall. In the past the handbell choirs have been staffed by age; starting in

September, we're offering four choirs based on your comfort zone, and all choirs will be open to all ages.

If you've never played bells and don't read music, but you would like to learn to do both, please sign up for Genesis Bells, which will meet on Tuesdays, 7:00-7:45 PM in the music room.

If you read music, but have never played bells, First Time Bells will be your group, Tuesdays, 8:00-8:45 PM.

Celebration Ringers has been a middle & high school group in the past, but this year it will be open to anyone who reads music and has some experience with ringing. We will meet on Sundays 4:00-5:00 PM in the music room.

As before, the Tower Chimes Handbell Choir will be the most experienced ensemble, but this year, will be open to anyone who rings at a more advanced level. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays in the music room, 6:30-7:30 PM.

Call me in the music office (410-823-6519) anytime or talk with me on **Ministry Celebration Sunday** to sign up. *Bells are fun!*

Watch for Choir Letters in your mailbox! Children and youth from age 4 through high school seniors will receive letters and registration forms for their choirs this month. If you would like the information, maybe for a grandchild or a neighbor, but don't get the mail, just let me know. We have 43 white robes for children in 2nd-5th grades and 57 black ones for middle-and high school singers. *Let's fill 'em up!*

Adult singers are needed, wanted, and most welcome to join either the Joyful Noise or Chancel Choirs. Joyful Noise usually sings twice per month at the 8:30 service, and rehearses at 8:00 AM on that same Sunday. Chancel Choir meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and sings on Sundays at 11:00. We've experienced quite a turnover in singers these past few months, so new voices are especially needed this fall. Let me know you're coming, or just appear (that's good, too)! Thanks!

Missions & Outreach

COMMUNION/MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, August 1

SANDTOWN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY — Saturday, August 7

Seeking volunteers 16 years of age and older to help build a home for Habitat for Humanity in West Baltimore (Sandtown). We'll meet in the Towson UMC parking lot at **8:15 AM** and carpool together. (Release forms are available in the church office—all workers need to fill out one, those age 16 & 17 must have a parent sign it.) Bring: water, lunch, gloves, sturdy shoes (preferably not sneakers), and simple hand tools. Be ready for a full day of work, returning around 4 PM. Contact Fred Crider at 410-308-1608 or dfcrider@comcast.net to receive more information and to sign up to work.

FRESH FRUIT — Sunday, August 1

Fresh fruit will be collected in the main lobby of our church before the worship service for Manna House, a Baltimore City soup kitchen.

MISSION NIGHT at *Chick-fil-A* York Road in Cockeysville On Monday, August 2

Join us and have dinner anytime between 5 & 8 PM, while a portion goes to missions. Just tell the cashier (inside or drive-thru) you are with Towson United Methodist Church. A portion of the cost of your meal will go towards our Volunteers-in-Mission projects. See you then!



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The **NEXT BLOOD DRIVE** here at TUMC will be **Saturday, September 18** between 7:15 and 1:15. TUMCBloodDrive@verizon.net to make an appointment



CAMP HOPE WORK TEAMS leave for Frostburg, MD Sunday, July 18, returning Saturday, July 24. Participating Adults: Jim Houck, Jr., Richard Deuber, Mike Potter, Val Wehrle, Tom Cummings, Youth (starting at the top): Greg Barnes, James Eustace, Michel'le Stallworth, Matt Potter, Michael Cummings, Ryan Deuber, Emily McWilliams, Allie Barnes, and Tim Ford. (thank you Suz Ford for the group photo!)



THE SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY GROUP is collecting **OLD EYE GLASSES** to be recycled. Look for the basket in the main office of the church.

CARPENTER'S KITCHEN Saturdays in 2010:

August 28 October 23

We will be cooking and serving dinner to the less fortunate at Mt. Vernon Place UM Church. Carpool leaves Towson UMC's parking lot promptly at 2:30, returning at 6:30. Cooks need to be at CK before the carpooling volunteers arrive. Contact Linda Diehl (410-522-1966) if you are able to volunteer. Thanks!

HELP! HELP! We need your help!

Your Finance Committee has been working hard to meet the extreme challenges of our financial needs as we strive to ensure the continuance of all our wonderful programs.

Our operating expenses are \$86,000.00 a month.

More problematic is the loss of anticipated income.

Two fully anticipated use of building contracts have been delayed or will not come to fruition.

This amounts to a \$40,000 loss of income for us this year.

This, combined with our already projected budget deficit of \$45,000, means that we are expecting close to a \$90,000 shortfall by year's end,

despite your faithful, ongoing support and trimming our expenses to the bone.

This congregation has always met every challenge in the past and we are asking you to do so again.

We are calling on every member to prayerfully consider a one-time extra gift, or an increase in your weekly offering or pledge, or a fifth Sunday offering each month, even when there is not a fifth Sunday.

Two to three hundred dollars extra from each contributor between now and the end of the year will enable us to meet our obligations and not have to reduce our ministries.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. —*Dave Garman and the Finance Committee*

For Your Information



TUMC Women's Book Club:

Our September selection is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. The novel explores the moral, practical, and emotional dilemma when a child is conceived to be the bone marrow match

for her sister. After reading the book, you may want to view the movie, as there are different outcomes. We hope to see you on **Ministry Celebration Sunday**, August 29th and share our book list for this coming year.

Business/Data Analyst

...needed in Columbia, MD headquarters of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. This is a key organizational position responsible for managing all information technology systems including development and analysis of databases for preparation of standard, dynamic, and ad hoc user reports, identifying trends and modification needs of system resources recommending upgrades and purchases as needed. Will provide staff training and management information for decision making for maximized technology efficiency and effective data collection to meet operational needs and financial records management. Will also revise, develop, and document system design procedures, processes, and assure consistent quality standards. Bachelor's degree required in related area of Management Information Systems; Masters a plus with five or more years of prior related work experience. Exceptional custom service and communications skills also required. Salary in low to mid \$50s. Please see the BWCUMC website -- <http://bwcumc.org/employmentopportunities> for detailed position description and application requirements.

HOUSE CLEANING?

... moving, or just getting rid of things not needed? Donate your items to the Flea Market sponsored by our Towson United Methodist Women. Small and soft items may be brought to the church and placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. PLEASE call Lorraine Jacobs at 410-825-3051 for pick-up and if you have furniture or large items to donate.

YOU COULD BE VIEWING THIS NEWSLETTER IN COLOR!

Go to <http://towsonumc.org> and scroll to the bottom of the page. CLICK ONCE on the picture similar to the cover of this *High Spire*. It will take a minute or less to load. It's that simple! To view your *High Spire* every month in color, contact Liz at 410-823-6511 —or— towsonumc@towsonumc.org —or— write a note on your Sunday attendance card. Liz will e-mail you when the next issue is available for viewing.

You can also find us on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) — search for Towson United Methodist Church and click on that you "like" us.



Making Disciples

Hello Everyone,

The feeling I get at the beginning of August is one of mixed anticipation. I mourn the approaching end of those relaxed days of summer, yet I look forward to the activities to come. We will be celebrating all the ministries of Towson Church on **Ministry Celebration Sunday**, August 29th. This would be a great opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to church. We expect the celebration to be participatory and colorful and fun.



Margery Schammel

We probably all look forward to the things happening this Fall. Although, I worry about myself sometimes, that I may be anticipating and planning and working for the future too much. Of course, I have to plan and work in advance; however, I don't want to miss enjoying what is happening right now, either. I also don't want to miss hearing what God wants of me right now. Maybe God wants me to spend this time renewing and deepening my prayer life or re-learning old lessons as I study Scripture. Maybe God wants me to spend "nothing" time with my girls, strengthening our ties before we all start running in different directions a few weeks from now. Maybe God wants me to have those conversations with my husband that go beyond who is picking up which kid and when. Maybe God wants me to notice and help someone in need right now. I need to pay attention to this moment, as I continue to anticipate the future.

*So do not worry about tomorrow,
for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.
Today's trouble is enough for today.*

Matthew 6:34

I may not be having trouble today, but I certainly have tasks before me today to which God calls me.

May God grant us all the grace to pay attention today to what God would have us do, even as we plan for tomorrow.

God bless,
Margery

From the Associate Pastor



Mary Jo Sims

As one of our lay members to the June session of our Annual Conference, Eleanor Brown, wrote in last month's *High Spire* the theme for that gathering revolved around "**Passionate Disciples Celebrate in Worship.**" For me, one of the highlights of Annual Conference is the worship services, which usually occur in the grand

ballroom of a large downtown hotel in either Baltimore or Washington, DC. How magnificent to hear nearly two thousand people come together to praise God in prayer, in scripture reading, and in song.

As I write this, the echoes of our Sunday morning gathered congregation singing some of the hymns of the church still rings in my heart and mind. What a glorious sound vibrated through our sanctuary the morning of July 18th as we participated in a ten-minute "hymn sing." Equally marvelous was the casual worship service on July 15th. While in many respects, these two services—Sunday morning and Thursday evening—appear to have little in common, they both contained a key element—**passionate disciples celebrating together.**

Worship is such a vital staple of our life together as disciples of Jesus Christ. We eat bread, one of the staples of our physical lives, in a variety of forms—sliced, dinner rolls, hamburger and hot dog buns, pita and other flat breads, muffins, baguettes, and bread sticks. Like bread, worship also comes in many forms

(or styles)—formal, casual, traditional, contemporary, blended, prayer and praise, and "emerging," to name a few. Like the bread we eat, we don't always need to worship in the same form. What is essential is that

- we gather consciously as the Body of Christ,
- encounter Christ through the various elements of worship, such as singing, prayer, scripture, and preaching, and
- respond to God's Spirit shaping our lives for continued spiritual growth and service.

For worship to be passionate means that we gather as expectant people, eager to hear God's word and to offer God prayer and praise. It also means that as we disperse, we leave challenged, sustained, and changed in how we view others and ourselves. We carry our passion for Christ into worship, and then, through the renewing of our hearts and minds, back out into the world. **Worship becomes passionate because we are passionate disciples.**

Passionate, however, does not mean lack of planning and preparation. Indeed, we want our worship to reflect our passion for Christ. Our Worship Work Area Team meets monthly to discuss and discern ways that we can foster passionate worship at TUMC. If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please contact Dave Morris, Worship Work Area chair at dmorris416400@comcast.net.

I hope to see you in worship this summer—either Sunday morning or Thursday evening—or both!

Blessings and peace,

Mary Jo

Church Family News:

Andrew Colin Breault, born on May 6, 2010, was baptized July 11. Andrew is the son of Holly & Matthew Breault, the grandson of Marie & Steve Ponzillo, and the great-grandson of Jean & Omer Petts. His baptismal outfit was Jean's mother's, made of silk, and about 100 years old.

Dates to Mark on your Calendars

September 12 — Sunday morning schedule changes:

two services at 8:30 & 11:00; Children and Worship at 8:30 & 11:00; Children's Church at 11:00; 9:45 Children's Sunday School and Adult Christian Connections

September 19 — Third graders receive their Bibles at the 11:00 service

October 17 — Children's Sabbath

February 25 – 27, 2011

Greenwood Hills Conference Center, Fayetteville, PA.

Meet the 2011 *Design Team*: Jo Miller, Kaitlin Hamilton, Margery Schammel, Mary Jo Sims, Phyllis Napfel, Penny Carlo, Nancy Klueh, Jeannine Neuen, Sue LaHatte, Sue Todhunter, and Susan Brown.

Look for our display on Ministry Celebration Sunday - August 29.



DUE DATES FOR ARTICLES IN FUTURE *HIGH SPIRES*

September 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, August 18

October 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, September 15

All articles need to be in the marked folders outside Room 315

OR — you may e-mail it to Cathy Rosellini at crorellini@towsonumc.org.

Please Note that if your email address and/or phone number is in your article, it is posted in the *High Spire* and on our web page, unless you tell me otherwise.

Christian Education

As I write this article, I am reminded of what a dedicated and awesome group of staff and volunteers I work with each day. Summer in the Education Work Area is always a very busy but exciting time as we plan and implement Vacation Bible Camp, staff and plan for Fall Sunday School and special interest groups, while providing Summer Sunday School, childcare, and additional programs for the children. THANK YOU to all who help to make the many programs possible.

— Jeannine Neuen



Vacation Bible Camp update...

Galactic Blast

A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Psalm 150:6

July 26 - 30, 2010 from 9AM - Noon

- T-shirts have been designed and 248 shirts ordered for staff, youth, & campers
- Craft projects decided on and supplies gathered or purchased
- Preschool teachers are busy planning for the threes, fours, & fives
- A T/2 class for children of parents helping that have younger children not old enough for VBC established
- Counselors trained and Mission Pilots are prepared for their traveling groups
- Registrations assembled and groups assigned
- Recreation area organized, games and activities planned
- Water day, Thursday's Galactic Blast activity, planned
- Mission projects have been selected for support
- Snacks are planned and purchased
- Scripts memorized and set designs painted for Bible Story telling area

- Starship Galactic Praise (assembly time in the Sanctuary) set designed and built
- Audiovisual opening songs put into power point slides
- Music chosen and dance moves choreographed
- Discovery time experiments perfected
- Prayer partners praying for all involved
- After camp lunches and activities planned for the youth.

WOW it is a busy but wonderful week. We look forward to Galactic Blast. Thank you for your support. Please keep VBC campers, youth, and staff in your prayers. Stop by camp during the week and see the Cosmic Adventure Praising God with us.

YOU, TOO, CAN SUPPORT OUR VBC MISSION COLLECTIONS:

Each day during Vacation Bible Camp the children bring an item to support the following missions. If you would like to help, please bring your item(s) on Sunday, August 3 and place on the table in the Lobby marked VBC Missions. You may also bring items during the week of camp. Thank you for your support.

Monday	diapers & wipes for the House of Ruth
Tuesday	wide ruled notebook paper, blunt tipped scissors, crayons, and pencils for Margaret Brent Elementary School
Wednesday	boxed cereal, chunky beef soup, and chunky chicken soup for our Emergency Food Pantry
Thursday	new and gently used children's books for children at U of MD Hospital, downtown.
Friday	bath & hand towels (new or clean & gently used), toy mice, dangly cloth toys attached to a stick for cats, and canned wet dog food (any brand) for the Maryland SPCA

NEW Opportunities for Children's Sunday School

We would like to share with you what and how the children will be studying beginning this fall in Sunday School.

The children in the T/2, 3, & 4 year olds and 5/ Kindergarten classes will continue to study Cokesbury's Rock Solid curriculum. Those classes will be self-contained classes meaning they will remain in their classrooms throughout the hour, with the exception of special assembly days when the ages will all meet together.

NEW — beginning this Fall... will be the way our elementary classes experience Sunday school. We will be implementing the Rotation Method in Grades 1 – 5. This is similar to what we do in VBC, but children will have one rotation per Sunday and cover the same story/

theme for 4 weeks using different methods of learning such as drama, music, computers, cooking, media, Bible skills, and other possibilities. Children will learn 5 stories well in one year plus cover the stories of Advent and Lent. Two Old Testament stories before Advent, two New Testament stories before Lent and then another story/theme, such as learning about the Disciples, Paul, or John Wesley.

Teachers will be recruited to teach the material (rotation) along with helpers to also be with the children each Sunday.

We have put together a five-year plan for the children. They will learn 25 stories in addition to the stories of Advent and Lent well over the course of their elementary years. There will be a model of a rotation for you to view and ask questions at **Ministry Celebration Sunday**.

PATHWAYS

Several of the students who participated in

our PATHWAYS tutoring program this year were part of PATHWAYS INK, our annual newsletter publication. For those of you who haven't gotten a chance to pick one up, here are examples of some of the writing for PATHWAYS INK, Volume 2, May, 2010.

My Grandmother's Puppy

My Grandma's puppy's name is Kloe.

Her fur looks very snowy.

When she gets excited, she runs around the table.

She bites cords, even the cable.

When I play with her, she bites and barks;

Even when I am asleep in the dark.

I love her so much, but sometimes she is a little too much.

When she takes a bath, she looks like a rat.

You don't want to see her pink back!

She's really sweet.

She's sweeter than a peach.

I wouldn't trade her for the world because she's

The sweetest girl.

—by Dionne Johnson—

Haiku and Clerihews Poems

Water is soothing
The whooshing sound of water
Falling on the rocks
—by Taylor Allen-Wright—

Lighting bright down on
The ocean reflects on waves
Sitting on the sand
—by Larry Cook—



Pink flowers growing
In a humongous blue place
Turn different colors
—by Syndi Thorton—



Copies of the PATHWAYS newsletter are available outside the main office.

TOWSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Maryland 21286 ... 410-823-6511 ... 410-823-8916 Fax

Office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

www.towsonumc.org

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Dr. John R. Schol Resident Bishop
Rev. Dr. Anthony Hunt District Superintendent
Merrill Frank & Susan Gralley Church Lay Leaders



David Cooney	Senior Pastor	410-823-3640	dcooney@towsonumc.org	off Thursdays
Mary Jo Sims	Associate Pastor	410-823-3713	msims@towsonumc.org	off Fridays
Bill Raker	Minister of Visitation	410-665-7052	mjr8wlr@comcast.net	works from home
Margery Schammel	Minister of Discipleship	410-823-2485	mschammel@towsonumc.org	part-time
Kathie Metz	Director of Music	410-823-6519	kmetz@towsonumc.org	off Fridays
Sally Tarr	Assistant Director of Music	410-823-6519		part-time
Jeannine Neuen	Director of Christian Education	410-823-3698	jneuen@towsonumc.org	off Thursdays
Cathy Rosellini	Communications; Webmaster	410-823-3689	crorellini@towsonumc.org	off Fridays
Kim Ayres-Ashby	Business Manager	410-823-3693	kayres@towsonumc.org	off Sundays
Loren Todd	Building Superintendent	410-823-2153	ltodd@towsonumc.org	off Wednesdays
Homer Barnes	Maintenance Assistant			part-time
Liz Dahne	Receptionist & Information	410-823-6511	towsonumc@towsonumc.org	off Sundays

The Pastors may be reached at their homes:

David Cooney	410-666-3971	Mary Jo Sims	410-825-4050
Bill Raker	410-665-7052	Margery Schammel	410-592-3805