

# High Spire July

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  
July 2010  
Volume 51, Issue 7



Join me, Galileo, for a fun-filled week at VBC!



On your mark, get set,  
it's Vacation Bible Camp time again  
**July 26 - 30, 9 AM - 12 noon**  
*Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!*

Psalm 150:6

The church will be FILLED with 120+ children, youth, and adults participating in outdoor games, music, crafts, science projects, mission projects, and Bible stories, and of course, snacks.

**See page 8 for all the details.**



**Dr. Seuss**

**Spend Thursday Evenings this Summer**

**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**



**July 1...Green Eggs and Ham**

**July 8...Yertle the Turtle**

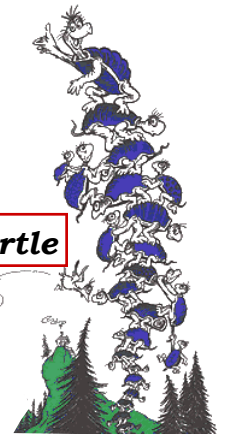


**July 15...How the Grinch Stole Christmas**



**July 22...Fox in Socks**

**July 29...The Lorax**



# Thank You!

*Words cannot express our heartfelt appreciation for all that our church family has done for us during our stressful time of need. Thanks for David and Mary Jo for visiting faithfully at Hopkins Hospital and Bill for visiting since discharge.*

*Thanks for the beautiful Prayer Shawl, the cards, prayers, and delicious dinners that constantly arrive at our door.*

*Being a part of such a supportive congregation has been so helpful during a very difficult and slow recovery.*

— Janet & Jack Daum

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*Many, many thanks to David, Mary Jo, and Bill for their visits during my recent hospital stay. The prayers, phone calls, visits, and cards from Towson friends were very much appreciated.*

— Anita Miller

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*I am very grateful to the Towson United Methodist Church congregation for marking my fiftieth year of ordination on Sunday, June 6. I enjoy so much my practice of ministry among you, but I hadn't taken thought of the fact that I've been at it for 50 years. Thank you so much for reminding me, for your gracious affirmation, for the book by Bill Holmes from my respected colleagues, and for being the Christian community you are.*

— Bill Raker

The following words were written to the glory of God and dedicated to the church family at Towson United Methodist Church. It was written after the Communion Service on Sunday, June 6th, 2010, Joyce's first Sunday back to TUMC after 29 years as organist in Bel Air.

COME, WORSHIP THE LAMB  
My spirit delights in Christ Jesus  
my Lord, most holy Redeemer,  
God's eternal Word,  
He's shed His own blood and  
forgiven my sin, my heart's  
greatest joy is to worship the Lamb.

He bids us to come to the table He  
spreads, Christ Jesus our Savior,  
our life-giving Bread,  
His body was broken, His life blood  
He spilled, that we with abundance  
of life may be filled.

O how can I thank Him, O where  
could I start? I'll worship the Lamb  
and I'll give Him my heart!  
He's captured my spirit and set it  
ablaze, and wrapped me, and  
clothed me with quickening grace.

And then when my faith has been  
changed into sight, amidst  
Heaven's glories, resplendent and  
bright,  
My spirit will dance with delight in  
my Lord, and I'll worship the dear  
holy Lamb evermore.

Refrain:  
Come worship the Lamb!  
And praise Him forever,  
Swept up in His glory,  
exult and rejoice,  
Come celebrate Jesus  
our Savior together,  
Our sweet holy Lamb,  
our great endless joy.

— Joyce Keedy

# Church family NEWS:

## MARRIAGES:

**Randy Watts** (daughter of Jaymie & Dick Watts) and Chris Sachs were married on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

**Allison Brown** and **Shelley Jackson** were married Saturday, June 26, 2010.

## BIRTHS & BAPTISMS:

**Cole Thomas Megaro**, son of Jill & Jeff Megaro, and brother of Isabelle, was born May 24, 2010. Cole's baptism was Sunday, June 27.

**John William Headley**, son of Natalie & Steve Headley, was born February 11, 2010. John was baptized Sunday, June 27.

**Emily Grace Forcier**, born January 5, 2010, was baptized Sunday, June 27. Emily is the daughter of Amy & Matthew Forcier.

**Isabelle Scovil Daniel**, born June 27, 2009, was baptized Sunday, May 30, 2010. Isabelle is the daughter of Margaret & Brent Daniel; granddaughter of Penny & John Carlo.

## DEATH & RESURRECTION:

**Elizabeth Reinicker** died Tuesday, June 8, 2010. Her graveside service was held Saturday, June 12 at Druid Ridge Cemetery.

**Miriam Keller** passed away Sunday, June 20, 2010. Arrangements are pending.

# From the Senior Pastor



David Cooney

Dear Friends,

During the summer our programmatic ministry is not quite as active and many of our ministry teams are able to enjoy a much-deserved break. One team that never rests, however, is our Mission Ministry Team. In addition to providing financial support to

numerous outreach concerns locally, nationally, and internationally, the mission team coordinates regular "hands-on" opportunities for all to serve in some helpful, meaningful, way.



and now Massachusetts (pictured above). This month



our youth head to Western Maryland to work with Camp Hope (pictured left in 2009) while other youth and adults will be home participating in the Baltimore County Christian Workcamp or gleaning in the fields of First Fruit Farm (see p. 4). Vacation Bible Camp always has a mission component (see p. 4 & 8) and Seton Hill Station and Carpenters Kitchen (see p. 4) are ongoing visiting and feeding ministries for us.



The next blood drive is already being planned for September 18. This is a representative, not an exhaustive, list.

All of this is so important. In or out of recession, no matter the season, great need is always present. We never have trouble finding places to help. The struggle is deciding where we can best put our resources of money, time, and labor. Caring in tangible ways is a huge part of who and what we are as Christians and as participants in this church. We also are blessed in our helping. It is so nice to be able to "do something" to respond to all the hurt that is around us rather than simply throw up our hands in despair. It is so heartwarming to see a smile on the face of someone who has had only tears, or to see a glimmer of hope return to someone's eyes. I am so grateful for all our Mission Ministry Team makes possible for us, and I encourage each of you to take advantage of at least one opportunity.

I also want to offer a word of thanks to our choir members and Sunday School and Christian Connection teachers who get a break over the summer. They rehearse each week and lead us in worship, and plan lessons and come every Sunday to teach. Our Sunday experience is greatly enhanced because of them. Many will still be providing music for worship over the summer and participating in educational offerings, but all will have chances to sit in the congregation with everybody else. Be sure to say a word of thanks to them when you see them.

Please remember to give over the summer. We have an aggressive budget this year. Outside income we expected for building use will not be coming to us, making our budget all the more aggressive and now challenging. Giving needs to remain strong even through the summer if we are to meet our obligations. I am thankful for all that you already do. Please keep it up. If you have not yet provided an offering, the summer is a great time for you to do so. The challenge is large, but together we can meet it.

**Don't forget:**

**Sunday morning worship at 10:00**

**Thursday evening worship at 6:00**

**Join in the praise of God!**

Yours in Christ,

*David*

# Missions & Outreach

**JULY** is a month packed with mission opportunities from collecting money, donating items, eating for missions, painting, cleaning, nailing, to gleaning. Mission opportunities are abundant in July, but they don't stop here. Each month offers opportunities to accept Jesus' challenge: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40)

## COMMUNION/MISSION OFFERING

**Sunday, July 4**

### YOUTH SUMMER MISSIONS:

#### Camp Hope

#### Baltimore County Christian Work Camp

Both summer mission opportunities for our youth happen the week of July 19-23. All donations collected today and throughout the month of July will help pay for liability insurance for each worker, building materials, and housing in Frostburg for Camp Hope. The youth and the adults participating in these work camps really appreciate your contributions. Thank you!

## FRESH FRUIT — Sunday, July 4

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, July 5

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. See you then!



## BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP July 19-23, 2010 (that's Monday thru Friday)

In 2009, work was completed on 46 of our neighbors' homes, which consisted of building ramps, repairing and/or replacing floors, ceilings, steps, kitchens, bathrooms, air conditioners, interior and exterior walls/railings/doors, yard work, cleaning inside & outside, plumbing & electrical repairs, hauling debris and painting.

**Youth and adults — can you work Thursday or Friday, July 22 or 23, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM (starts with breakfast & includes lunch)?**

Call Ms. Cathy at 410-823-3689 or e-mail her at [crosellini@towsonumc.org](mailto:crosellini@towsonumc.org).

## GLEANING — Saturday, July 24

### First Fruits Farm

Meet in the Towson UM Church parking lot at 7:45 AM and we'll carpool to Freeland, Maryland. If you would prefer to meet us at First Fruits Farm, you may get directions from <http://firstfruitsfarm.org>; also you'll find a waiver form at this website. Michelle will have extra forms Saturday morning. PLEASE e-mail Michelle Buzzelli, [mmbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:mmbuzz@gmail.com), or call Carole Dean at 410-494-0231 to let us know you can join us. We need to let the coordinators know how many to expect. Snacks will be provided.

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP — July 26 - 30

### Mission Collections

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 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

**Bring your donations to the main lobby of the church.** Donations will be accepted from Noon the day before until Noon the day of the collection.

## SANDTOWN HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORKDAY — Saturday, August 7

Seeking workers 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 Church parking lot at 8:30 AM and carpool together. Bring your lunch and be ready for a full day of work. Contact Fred Crider at 410-308-1608 or [dfcrider@comcast.net](mailto:dfcrider@comcast.net) to receive more information and to sign up to work.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The NEXT BLOOD DRIVE here at TUMC will be **Saturday, September 18** between 7:15 and 1:15. [TUMCBloodDrive@verizon.net](mailto:TUMCBloodDrive@verizon.net).

## 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!

## VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Margot Gerding took the Early Response Team training that is offered by our Baltimore/ Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. An Early Response Team was needed by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and our Baltimore/Washington Conference very quickly gathered a team of 11 and sent them to Nashville for 5 days, May 17 - 21; Margot responded to that call. They met with the UMCOR coordinator and were assigned a project for each day— in churches and homes. Before they left Baltimore, they had no idea where they would be called, they had to be prepared for anything from mud flooded basements to holes in roofs, to children needing hugs. BELOW are pictures from her trip.



# PATHWAYS



The teachers and children are ready for the “summer mode,” which means a time of relaxation and anticipation for next year. Many of our students have said that they will be back. This can only mean that we have been successful in building that all-important mentoring/teaching model for which we planned.

My summer will be less scheduled but no less focused on our PATHWAYS tutoring program. I have begun the process of looking for additional funding for PATHWAYS. We should hear at the end of June from the Ravens in Motion Grant we submitted for 2010-11. This grant is focused on nutrition and physical fitness and includes a plan to build in two Saturday sessions.

The Board of Directors has agreed that we should look to corporate funding as a source. I will be in touch with businesses with which I have some personal connections. **YOU COULD HELP BY THINKING OF CONTACTS YOU HAVE.** Any idea is welcome! Get in touch with me or any member of the Board of Directors of PATHWAYS with your thoughts and ideas.

PATHWAYS will continue to need new volunteer tutors and support personnel for 2010-11. You can commit as little as an hour or more to the efforts. I know from speaking to you that many of you have thought about getting involved and haven't jumped in yet.

*Dive in; the water is great!*



Matt Stover came to speak at the PATHWAYS celebration dinner, May 25th. He was greeted with great enthusiasm.

His message was be prepared to succeed by doing what is right both personally and spiritually...Amen to that!



Stephanie Kimmons, Director  
410-592-5442, [stephaniekimmons@comcast.net](mailto:stephaniekimmons@comcast.net)  
[pathwaystutoring.org](http://pathwaystutoring.org)

# From the Associate Pastor



Mary Jo Sims

## Its Takes a Community . . .

We have heard the phrase, “it takes a village to raise a child.” I would like to modify that to, “it takes a community of caring adults to minister with our youth.” Fortunately, here at Towson Church, we have such a community.

Often, as humans, we neglect to express the gratitude we have for the good work that others have done. I want to take the opportunity at the end of this academic year, as we conclude our weekly Sunday school and UMYF gatherings, to thank those who have been a part of our youth ministry this past year.

Sally Savidge has facilitated our youth ministry council for most of the past two years. This group meets monthly and consists of youth parents and other adults who delight in nurturing the youth in our church. Since Sally has decided that it’s now time for her to step away from this ministry for a while, I want to thank her “publicly” for all that she has done. Those on the youth council have included Robin Barnes, Susan Bengel, Lu Ann Blackman (who has graciously served as our recording secretary and has agreed to continue to do so), Alicia Corson, Ginny Cummings, LaGina Facinoli, Linda and Andy Gaylor, Craig Little, Debbie Potter, Margery Schammel, Anne Sleeman, and Trish Turlington.

This past year, Libby Cox, Ginny Cummings, Alicia Corson, and Lu Ann Blackman served as senior high Sunday school teachers, and LaGina and Tom Facinoli were the middle school teachers. Susan Bengel served as a backup teacher whenever we needed her. After many years of serving as Sunday school or confirmation teachers, LaGina and Tom are also “taking a break.” I thank them for their years of dedication to the ministry of teaching our youth. Fortunately for us, they have agreed to continue to provide backup when needed.

Our UMYF program has been energized through the active presence of so many dedicated adults. Susan Bengel, Alicia Corson, Ginny Cummings, Linda and Andy Gaylor, Craig Little, Sally Savidge, and Margery and Willie Schammel have spent many Sunday evenings providing leadership and support to our UMYF gatherings. Some of these and others—Robin Barnes, Joe Corson, Tom Cummings, Jackie and Eric Killip, and Debbie Potter—served as chaperones and drivers for fellowship outings and such weekends events as our September Retreat at River Valley Ranch, the conference sponsored ROCK weekend at Ocean City, and the 30-Hour Famine and sleepover here at the church.

The youth parents have graciously taken turns in providing meals for our Sunday evening UMYF times.

A particular thanks goes to LaGina and Tom Facinoli, Craig Little, Cathy Rosellini, and Sally Tarr for their work with the youth during the practice times for the Living Last Supper. It was a joy to see the dads, Troy Brewer, Richard Deuber, Andy Gaylor, and Craig Little, acting alongside their sons.

By serving as chaperones and adult workers, several of our members — Tom Cummings, Richard Deuber, Jim Houck, Mike Potter, and Val Wehrle — make it possible for nine of our youth to participate in Camp Hope later this month.

The youth led services that were held in the fall and spring would not have been possible without the support and talents of David Cooney, Kathie Metz, Sally Tarr, Margery Schammel, Jeannine Neuen, Cathy Rosellini, Liz Dahne, Loren Todd, and Homer Barnes.

It takes a community to minister with our youth. Thanks to all of you whose names I have mentioned, to anyone I might have failed to mention specifically by name, to the congregation, and to the youth for a great year!

I encourage you, the congregation, to get involved with our youth program this fall — especially men who are not parents of our youth. Think about it, pray about, and get in touch with me.

Blessings and peace,

*Mary Jo Sims*

## Music Notes



Kathie Metz

Even though the Alleluia Singers’ tour is last month’s news (**see picture on next page**), a few “thank-yous” are in order before this chapter is closed.

Thank you to the chaperones! Fourteen adults gave a week of their time to make sure our 45 Singers were well, happy, and on track:

Robin Barnes, Bill Connolly, Alicia Corson, Ginny & Tom Cummings, Kari & Richard Deuber, Linda & Andy Gaylor, Andrew Hamilton (not a member here, but he’s one of ours, nevertheless), Verna Lewis, Craig Little, Mike McWilliams, and Trish Turlington.

(continued on page 7)

Thank you to Bud Burkart for coming to rehearsals to make sure the sound on Sunday morning was exactly right. Thank you to Cathy Rosellini for beautiful programs.

Thank YOU for wonderful support...two buses meant good news (more Singers!) and bad news (lots of \$\$\$\$)... and for prayers while we were away.

### And now it is July...

The FOURTH falls on Sunday this year, so the choir will make a rare summer procession to the 'loft for "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Please sing along – from the choir loft or from your pew!

The national convention of The American Guild of Organists will be held July 5-8 in Washington, D.C., and I am privileged to attend. The workshops, reading sessions, worship services, and concerts are always inspiring; I hope to come back with fresh ideas for singers, ringers, and music for the organ.

Stay cool!  
*Ms. Kathie*

# Making Disciples

July is a time when we think of red, white, and blue, watermelon, and sunscreen! I have been thinking of those, but I have also been thinking about priorities and humility. Humility is sometimes misunderstood. Humility is knowing one's true worth: neither better than anyone else nor less than anyone else. We are all mortal creatures, brought into being out of what the Bible calls mud or dirt. But we are brought into being out of a limitless love by the almighty God and created in the very image of God. What a muddle of contrasts we are.

Humility is that virtue which teaches us to value every other human as beloved of God and to seek the image of God in others. Humility is that virtue which teaches us how lowly we are compared to our Lord and compared to the person our Lord would have us be. Humility is that virtue which teaches us that we need to live according to God's priorities and not our own. Humility can pinch our pride when we realize that sometimes what we feel is important is only important to God in how it motivates us to live. Is what we feel to be important actually important in terms of God's kingdom? Are we able to put aside our own agenda and follow God's? Humility helps us to put God's will above our own.

Humility is not a synonym for doormat or weakling. We are beloved of God as much as anyone else and should not allow ourselves to be abused. If we have positions of some authority, we are obligated to wield that authority, but lovingly. If we see others being treated as less than a beloved child of God, we speak out and stand with them. When we know our own skills and talents and are willing to use them following God's will, we are fulfilling our call from God.

I guess that is the key to understanding and living a humble life: strength in following God's leading and letting go of our own priorities. I hate not being in control, but humility helps me to admit that I don't always do such a good job. God does a better job calling the shots than I do!

May we all take some time this summer to re-group, catch up, and prepare by remembering that we are creatures and beloved children of the almighty God.



Margery Schammel



God bless,

*Margery*

Alleluia Singers,  
and 2 buses,  
begin their tour

# Christian Education



## **WACKY WEDNESDAYS PAINTING DAYS**

July 7 & July 14

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Children in Grades 3 – 5,  
Youth & Adults

**Join us in Room 310/312 for  
creating, painting, and fellowship  
as we get murals ready for VBC!**

It's a painting party, dress in your  
painting attire. Don't  
miss it! E-mail

[jneuen@towsonumc.org](mailto:jneuen@towsonumc.org) and let her  
know you want to be included.



## **SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR VBC:**

**Do you have any of the following that you might  
donate?**

### **For the Preschool Rooms:**

Empty Pringle cans, packing peanuts, Old CDs,  
Appliance boxes, newspapers, bubble wrap,  
clean oatmeal containers, and old tube socks without  
holes

### **For Decorating the Sanctuary:**

Science Fair Boards (Tri – fold)

Please contact Jeannine Neuen at 410-823-3698 or  
[jneuen@towsonumc.org](mailto:jneuen@towsonumc.org) and let her know if you could  
supply any of the above.

### **For Arts & Crafts:**

Old CDs, 12" dowel rods - thin,  
fine sand paper, pipe cleaners,  
9" pie plates, and adhesive magnetic tape.

If you have any of these supplies, please leave in the  
church office labeled for "Karen Morris & Claire Ricci."

## **VACATION BIBLE CAMP**

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



**July 26 – July 30  
9:00 AM – 12 noon**

Ages 3 (by January 1, 2010)  
through 2009/2010 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Registration Forms may be  
found in the church lobby,  
in the Information Racks

outside the Christian Office (Room 319), and on the  
church website at [http:// towsonumc.org](http://towsonumc.org), click on the  
Galactic BLAST gorilla.

## **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING VBC**

To participate in the Mission Opportunities, choose  
ONE or more item(s) EACH day and bring to the  
church lobby. Everyone, campers & non-campers,  
children, youth & adults, may participate!

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

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **THANK YOU JUNE!**

**June Stritehoff** has  
been a vital part of  
the children's  
Sunday school  
program. **After 40 years** of teaching  
and assisting, June will be retiring  
from teaching in the Children's  
Ministries Area. For the past few  
years, June has been an assistant in  
the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom.  
June, you will be missed!



## **ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRIES**

### **DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY**

The Disciple Bible  
Study Interest  
Sign-up form is  
included in this  
month's *High  
Spire* on **page 10**.

Please mark the

class that you might be interested in taking. We will look at the interest  
forms and determine what Disciple Class(es) will be offered in the future.  
Would you like to be part of the teaching team for Disciple? Please mark  
your interest on the form. Contact Jeannine Neuen by e-mail,  
[jneuen@towsonumc.org](mailto:jneuen@towsonumc.org), or call her at 410-823-3698 with questions, for  
more information, or to talk about facilitating a Disciple class.



**The 2010 Graduating Class of Disciple One**

# FYI

## CHURCH FAMILY DINNER at Friendly Farm Restaurant

Sunday,  
July 18,  
2010



Carpool with  
friends  
leaving  
church after

the 10:00 worship service, around 11:30 OR meet at 12:30 at Friendly Farm Restaurant in Upperco, Maryland near Pretty Boy Dam and Reservoir, just off Mt. Carmel Road and I-83. Enjoy a family style HAM & CHICKEN dinner with all the "fixins." Cost is **\$20.00**, which includes lunch and gratuities. Send your check made payable to the SENIOR ADULT COUNCIL by July 4th to:

Jack Bransby  
2500 Kensington Gardens, #205  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Call Jack at 410-313-8994 if you have special dietary needs.

### 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](mailto: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.



Our SAMG is collecting **OLD EYE GLASSES** to be recycled. Look for the basket in the main office of the church.

David Rothage has written a true-life story about saving two feral kittens. His book, *A New Beginning for Stars & Stripes*, is on sale at [www.createspace.com/3412158](http://www.createspace.com/3412158); discount code 7HRFB3FW. One-third of the profits will go toward saving more homeless cats.

# Conference News

Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Report  
June 2-4, 2010

The 226<sup>th</sup> session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference met together as 1,194 clergy and lay members in Baltimore, representing 680 churches and 180,000 disciples. The conference revolved around the theme "Passionate Disciples Celebrate in Worship." In the opening worship, Bishop James Swanson of the Holston Area in Tennessee reminded the members that to create passionate worship, they must shape experiences in which "people can see and experience God." He also encouraged the laity to take their role in making disciples seriously. "The preacher is the shepherd. The people are the sheep," he said. "Where do new sheep come from? They don't come from the shepherds. They come from the sheep."

In the three sessions on leadership, worship, and evangelism, **Adam Hamilton**, Senior Pastor of the 14,000 member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, stressed that we have the power to change the world.

The Conference members heard from Bishop Janice Huie, who spoke at ordination. Bishop Hans Vaxby, representing the conference's partners in the Black Soil District in Russia, spoke at the memorial service.

- Among the many actions taken, members
- Voted to keep the conference budget at \$14,799,764, the same rate as 2010, and to maintain the 2010 apportionment rates for local churches in 2011;
  - Adopted guidelines for the election of delegates to the 2012 General Conference and approved a process for the election of an episcopal candidate(s) that is grounded in moments of spiritual discernment;
  - Passed a policy requiring local churches to formalize and officially record their policies for the use of pastors' discretionary funds;
  - Approved a merger of Baltimore-Washington Foundation with the newly formed Mid-Atlantic Foundation; and
  - Adopted a conference goal of starting at least two new churches in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

In other reports throughout the three days, members received greetings from Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and renewed the conference's commitment to do ministry in the city. We also learned that the new conference center in Maple Lawn is expected to be completed Aug. 23.

We honored 29 retirees who provided 780 years of service to the church and remembered the lives of those who died during the past year.

For the first time, the annual conference was telecast, via live Web streaming. More than 1,199 viewers from 14 states and four countries watched the proceedings.

Report taken from the "UM Connection"  
June 16, 2010

Report Submitted by Eleanor W. Brown,  
Lay Member to the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference  
for Towson United Methodist Church

# DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

## Interest Sign Up

You are invited to become part of a special study of the Bible!

YES, I am interested in being part of a

### DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY!

Please check the class you would be interested in taking:

- Disciple I** – Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study – 34–week study of the Old & New Testaments
- Youth Disciple** – Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study – 34–week study of the Old & New Testaments
- Disciple II** – Into the Word, Into the World – 32–week study digging deeper into the Old & New Testaments with concentration on four books: Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts.
- Disciple III** – Remember Who You Are – 32–week study of the prophets and Paul’s letters
- Disciple IV** – Under the Tree of Life – Concentrates on the writings in the Old Testament and Gospel of John, 1, 2, 3 John, James, Jude, and Revelation in 32-weeks
- I have taken Disciple I and would be interested in Training to become a Disciple Facilitator.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E – mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Needed:    Yes    No    (circle)

Name & Age of child/ren: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place in the Education Work Area mailbox in the main office —or— mail to:  
Towson UMC, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21286    C/O Education Work Area

**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	croellini@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



**NEWS from the Finance Committee:**

Several of our parishioners have set up recurring payments through their **ONLINE BANKING** and, not only are they saving postage, they never have to worry about missing a week when they can't attend the service. All you need is the church's address and your account number, which is your Envelope Number.

**INSTEAD OF PUTTING YOUR RECYCLABLE PAPER AT THE END OF YOUR DRIVEWAY ... BRING IT TO CHURCH!**  
 This is a fundraiser for the Church's General Budget.  
 (remember: No cardboard of any kind.)  
 Thanks!



**DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ARTICLES IN THE HIGH SPIRE**

August 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, July 14

September 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, August 18

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

OR — you may e-mail it to Cathy Rosellini at [croellini@towsonumc.org](mailto:croellini@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.