

November HighSpire

*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
November 2010
Volume 51, Issue 11



Celebrating our Baskets of Blessings

Thanks to Melanie Webster for decorating our altar during October with symbols of our many ministries.



Pictures from the Blessing of the Pets Service October 17 on the front lawn



Thursday, November 25 THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

10 AM Ecumenical Service
here at Towson UM Church
Rev. Fred Weimert of Calvary Baptist
will be preaching... p. 4

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Flea Market, Nov. 6... p. 6

All Saints Celebration, Nov. 7... p. 3

PATHWAYS Tutoring kicks-off 2010-11, Nov. 9... p. 5

Thanksgiving Baskets/Shoe Boxes due Nov. 14... p. 7

Girls Night In, Dec. 4... p. 7

Hanging of the Greens, Dec. 4... p. 8

Scouting News... p. 8

End-of-Year Donations Instructions... p. 9

Advent Opportunities

From Loss - To Lament - To Light... p. 2

Advent: A Time of Waiting... p. 3

We Want To See Jesus... p. 8

Registration Form for ROCK Youth Retreat
Jan. 21-23, 2011... p. 10

Registration Form for Women's Retreat
Feb. 25-27, 2011... p. 10

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form... p. 9

Saying Thank You!

Thanks to Bill Raker and Mary Jo Sims for encouragement during Gordon's illness and for the many prayers for him. He loved them all.
— Dolly Kennard & family

I want to thank David, Mary Jo, and Bill for their visits and encouragement while I recuperated from my hip replacement surgery and the month I spent in Rehab.

Thanks, too, to Mary Benson and the Barrans for their visits to me while I was confined.

Towson United Methodist Church is a very good place to be a member.
— B. J. Gerding



Baskets of Blessings

What's in your basket of blessings?

John 6: 5-6: When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

John 6: 1-14

Jesus knows our every desire. His blessings are His answer to the plan for each of us. Have you considered the blessings of your life? God challenges each of us to examine the blessings in our lives and how they can 'fill' the **Baskets of Blessings** within our church and community.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign for 2010 is underway. The second mailing was accompanied by a Commitment Card. Commitment Sunday is October 24th and the time for our church to thank God for our blessings by giving collectively to the church community. If you were unable to be with us on the 24th, you are welcomed and encouraged to mail your commitments to the church business office. Thank you for your support and involvement.

Receiving, filling, and sharing our *Baskets of Blessings* enables us to grow in faith.

—The Steward Ministry Team

AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM OUR PASTORS:

The pastors want to visit persons of the congregation when hospitalized, but the current HPPA laws prevent the hospitals and nursing homes from contacting us to let us know when you are there. PLEASE, if you go to the hospital or nursing home, have a family member or a friend call and let us know which hospital you are going to and when (date). We cannot call on you unless we know this information.

Church family NEWS:

DEATH & RESURRECTION:

Ronald Kearney passed away Tuesday, September 28, 2010.

Mr. Kearney is Kim Pilarski's father and Krista & Kelsey Pilarski's grandfather.

Catherine "Kitty" Gross passed away Thursday, October 7, 2010.

She is remembered as the "Lady of Liaisons" on the Mission Work Area.

Maurice Preston passed away

Friday, October 8, 2010, and his wife

Rose Preston passed away three days later on Monday, October 11. Their family held a joint memorial service for the couple in Oak Crest Chapel.

From Loss To Lament To Light

The Advent and Christmas seasons are meant to be a time of preparation and praise. We wait in hope for the birth of the Christ child, the light of the world. On Christmas Day, we welcome our savior with joy and praise.

But there are times within our lives when the losses we have endured — the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, the loss of hopes and dreams, the demise of a relationship, the inability to continue a much loved pastime or pursuit — seem overwhelming. We have difficulty matching our emotions with the expected joyfulness and excitement of the holiday season.

**On Thursday, December 9TH
at 7:00 PM**

in the church parlor

we will have an opportunity to come together to pause and to ponder the message of this season for those of us whose sense of loss seems, at least at times, overwhelming. Come and share together the peace that Christ offers us — a serenity amid our loss, a hope in the midst of our sorrow, a promise even in our present reality. We will share a service of Holy Communion, followed by a refreshment time together. For additional information, contact Rev. Mary Jo Sims at msims@towsonumc.org or 410-823-3713.

From the Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are preparing for our annual All Saints Celebration on the first Sunday in November. All Saints Day officially falls on November 1. It comes from the tradition in the Roman Catholic Church to provide for a collective feast day for all of the canonized saints without their own particular feast day. March 17 is the Feast of St. Patrick, for instance, but there are many more saints than there are days of the year, thus the need for an All Saints Day. You might be interested to know that since the souls of the saints were being invoked on November 1, it was believed the souls of the sinister would stir the day before, and then go in hiding from the souls of the holy. So it is that the custom began that All Saints Day or All Hallows (Holies) Day would be preceded by a sinister day on All Hallows Eve, our Halloween.



David Cooney

Of course, in the Protestant tradition, we do not have canonized saints or feast days for the saints, so it may seem odd that we would celebrate All Saints Day. The reason is simple. While it is true that we do not canonize saints, it is also true that we do have faith heroes and heroines, those we believe walked especially closely with the Lord. Additionally, the apostles referred to all believers as saints, those made holy by the grace of Christ, marked in baptism, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In that spirit, we like to remember and honor the "saints" who have been part of our community of faith.

It has become our tradition to remember, on this day, those of our fellowship who have died since our last All Saints celebration, and to have an opportunity to remember others who have been part of our faith journey. It is a service I have come to cherish. Hearing the names read and called forth is a powerful reminder that we do belong to each other through Christ and that when we gather for worship we gather not only with the living but also with a great "cloud of witnesses" comprised of those who have gone before us. This culminates with communion, coming to the table of the Lord as a foretaste of the great heavenly banquet being prepared.

It is also a time that allows for positive words and thoughts about others. In campaign season and in a time filled with angry talk radio and television, mean-spirited blogs, and constant attempts by so many to divide and denigrate instead of to unite and bless people, it is easy to forget that through the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit God has made us holy and to speak negatively of others is to speak negatively about that which God has sanctified. All Saints reminds us of the specialness of each person and about talking to and about each person with appropriate respect. It is good to speak well of the dead. It is also good to speak well of the living.

Thanks be to God for all the saints, those from whom their labors rest and those with us still.

Yours in Christ,
David



Advent: A Time of Waiting

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We hear the voice of John the Baptizer proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven has come near. The gospel writers tell us that John was the one of whom Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord...'"

As children, we wait eagerly for Christmas Day to arrive. As parents and other adults whose lives are closely connected with young and school aged children, our pre-Christmas waiting often seems harried. We wonder if we will be "ready" when Christmas Day arrives—there is so much baking, shopping, decorating to get done. As "senior citizens," we wait to hear that our loved ones are coming for a visit, we wait for the mail to bring gifts and cards, for the phone to ring or the e-mail to ding.

Most often, our waiting is impatient. But it need not be so. Waiting in itself can be a spiritual gift.

Come and join others as we spend some time in prayer and reflection at the beginning of the Advent Season—a time to consider together the gift of waiting. Rev. Margery Schammel will offer the reflection.

Service of Prayer and Reflection in Early Advent in the Parlor

Thursday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM



Kathie Metz

Kathie's Music Notes

This edition of the *High Spire* should reach you either right before or right after Oct. 31, which has been designated "Choir Recognition Sunday." The service was a joy to plan, as I envisioned the people who would participate and the music we would use. So this is a perfect opportunity to express my gratitude to all who share their time and talent week after week to make the music at our church happen - not only those who create the music, but also those who provide the transportation, those who sit alone on Sunday mornings while family members are in the choirs, and those who carve out choir time from family time. Many, many thanks to you all, past and present, who make, and have made, my job such a joy!

Onward! Many of you look forward each year to attending the **Holiday Brass Concert** at The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. Tickets are now on sale for the Nov. 30 concert, \$23 at the door, but \$15 if purchased at the TUMC group rate. Please phone or e-mail Ginny Foster with your ticket request: 410-296-4780 or virginiafoster@comcast.net. Our Chancel Choir is one of two choirs singing, and I am honored again to be the organist for the event.



November brings us:

Nov. 7 — All Saints Sunday

Nov. 14 — Mission focus Sunday

Nov. 25 — Thanksgiving Day Service at 10:00 AM

Nov. 28 — Advent I

each a very special opportunity to give thanks, to worship, and to make a joyful noise!



Mary Jo Sims

From the Associate Pastor

Weaving a Basket: Faith, Flawed, and Forgiven

For the past several Sundays, the basket that I began weaving on Ministry Celebration Sunday (August 29th) has appeared on the altar (see pictured left). Each Sunday, the basket comes nearer to completion. I have enjoyed the time each week that I spend weaving this basket. It allows me the opportunity to reflect once again on weaving as a metaphor for my life in Christ.

I confess to all who read this that the basket I am weaving is flawed. At one point, I pressed too hard on one of the spokes and broke it. So, I had to cut the spoke back on each side to where the woven sections were and then insert a new spoke. Thus, there is a spoke in the basket that has a doublet at one point—part of the old spoke alongside the new spoke. But it is clear that the new spoke is now what is supporting the basket and holding it together at that point. How like our lives that spoke is. Christ came into our lives and made us new creations—new spokes. He forgave us our sins. Yet, even as forgiven children of God, we still often carry with us some of the baggage of our old lives. The old spokes in our lives often live alongside the new. We live flawed lives.



I can't rid my basket completely of the old spoke. But, when this basket is finished, I will weave another. And, I will remember the lesson not to press too hard on a spoke as I am weaving. I hope that the next basket I weave won't have such a flaw in it. But, it will have flaws, I suspect. The spokes won't "line up" on both sides of the basket exactly even. My weaving won't be quite as consistent or tight as I would like it to be. My choice of design might not be everything I would want. But I will keep trying to make each basket better than the previous one, just as I try to live each day for Christ a little better than the day before, knowing that, even though I am flawed, Christ still continues to love me and forgive me and to hold me near.

Your sister and servant in Christ,

Mary Jo



DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ARTICLES IN THE HIGH SPIRE

December 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, November 10

January 2011 — due Wednesday, December 15

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

OR — you may e-mail it to Cathy Rosellini at rosellini@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.

PATHWAYS Tutoring

"The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us."

When August came and I learned that many of my wonderful tutors were not able to return to PATHWAYS this year, I began to panic. I soon realized that this program was so important that if God wanted it to continue, with dedication and persistence, He would make it happen. I reached out to churches, local colleges, Campus Ministry organizations, Community organizations, Recreation Council and Senior Center bulletin boards, retirement community bulletin boards, Baltimore City and County volunteer placement organizations, Sr. Expo participants, High Schools, my own neighborhood, and even my book club! Basically, I had no shame in getting the news out about PATHWAYS and our needs throughout our community.

As a result of my near panic about the future of PATHWAYS, people in every corner of our community know about our mission to help students who cannot afford private tutoring. God has said He wants this program not only to continue, but flourish!

We currently have a waiting list of students who want to be part of the program. I wish you could have been with Harvey Ramsdell (a board member and tutor) and myself at Barclay Elementary/Middle for Back to School Night. Several parents lined up to sign their children up for PATHWAYS. Several of the students who came to us from Pleasant Plains and Halstead Academy are now at Loch Raven Academy and are anxious to continue with PATHWAYS. As a result, we have added

Loch Raven Middle School to our Baltimore County list of schools, bringing the number of schools we service to five. I have most recently been asked to be on an Advisory Board at Loch Raven Middle School as a representative of the community. We will be focusing on supporting quality educational opportunities for our students.

We will continue to welcome new tutors to PATHWAYS as the year progresses. Although we pushed our starting date to November 9th, we have enough new tutors to be able to service more students per session than in the previous years. Once again, in this amazing journey, God has validated our mission and provided the help we need.

Thank you for your prayers, monetary donations, and concrete participation in PATHWAYS. As students return and new students participate, we are making a huge difference. Our families and the schools they represent are so grateful, and we are building real relationships with students who may remember us when thinking about what direction their lives should take.

All of this takes place in a space that sits just below our Sanctuary. We are saying, God's people care about you and we are willing to go the extra mile to empower you socially and academically. Praise God!

—Stephanie Kimmons, Director



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

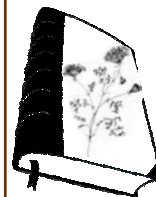
October marks my fifth month of being back here with you in Towson UM Church. I wish to thank you for welcoming me back in your midst. It is truly a privilege and a joy to be here with you again, as this is the church where I grew up and was confirmed.

I wanted to do something to express my appreciation for both my church families (here and Christ Our King Presbyterian Church where I was the organist for 29 years) and so I have dedicated my new book *STUNNED BY YOUR GLORY* to my two church families. This book also contains words and music to two different hymns—one dedicated to each church family. I have copies of my book available for purchase, should you be interested. This book is not available through bookstores.

Again, I thank you for being such a wonderful, welcoming church family. May God richly bless you always, and may we always and forever rejoice in our matchless Lord and Savior Jesus, for He is truly our salvation and our eternal joy.

—Joyce Keedy, 410-823-2761

Jesus my joy, my heavenly King, Your praise eternally I sing,
For You alone my spirit yearns, and with Your holy flame it burns —
Yours was the cross, the grief, the pain, all for my underserving gain —
Your name forever I extol, because of the blood You shed for my soul.
Jesus my love, my heart's true delight, You are my rock, my song in the night,
Dearly I love You, holy Lord, yet how I long to love You more —
Mine was the sin that stained my soul, Yours was the blood that made me whole,
Blameless before You I shall be, because of the blood You shed for me —
I praise Your name eternally.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Fellow readers:
we will meet in the Parlor of our church on **Sunday, November 28 4:00—5:30**

We are reading *The Sweet By and By* by Todd Johnson, a joyful, hopeful novel of the friendship among five southern women. It will make you laugh and cry — a nice read for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Marilyn Donoho,
410-825-0789,
ronmardon@verizon.net -and-
Carol Woodworth,
410-870-1728,
carolwoodworth@comcast.net.

Missions & Outreach

COMMUNION / MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, November 7

UMCOR—United Methodist Committee on Relief

100% of your donation goes toward the needs...

UMCOR partners The Methodist Church of Chile (IMECH) and the Methodist Humanitarian Aid Team (EMAH), members of the Interchurch Emergency Committee of Chile, are part of a holistic recovery effort in that South American country following the massive earthquake there last February. UMCOR offered a follow-up training in disaster preparedness last month, and then toured earthquake and tsunami-affected areas that now are receiving home construction, food, livelihood, and psycho-social support. A disaster response training in October 2009 positioned IMECH and EMAH to positively impact the response to the 8.8-magnitude earthquake and recovery efforts. Your gift to UMCOR helps the Chilean people rebuild their lives.

Farmers in Minnesota were expecting a bumper crop this fall, but before they could bring in the harvest, heavy rains in the southeastern part of the state provoked flooding that left “soybeans falling from their pods or corn stalks rotting in standing water,” reported Minnesota Annual Conference Bishop Sally Dyck. The rain fell on September 23, and three days later, the Conference Disaster Response Team was helping residents in Pine Island and other small towns of the area to clean out flooded basements and remove their ruined belongings. UMCOR support for the conference’s relief efforts will keep recovery moving forward. Your gift to UMCOR makes a difference.

UMCOR provides emergency relief in many areas of the world. To find out more about UMCOR’s ministries, please visit umcor.org. We will be collecting for UMCOR during our communion offering November 7th. Thanks!

FRESH FRUIT — Sunday, November 7

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

WE ARE COLLECTING

GENTLY USED—CLEAN—JACKETS ...for

Margaret Brent Elementary/Middle School students

As your kindergarten and older student grows out of jackets, or if you have jackets you no longer need, please bring them to church in a plastic bag and place near the Sharing Bins in the main lobby. If it needs minor repairs, place a note on the bag, and we’ll make sure it gets fixed.

TOY DRIVE IS COMING!

The Outreach Committee will again be collecting **new** toys for the Homestead United Methodist Church community on **Sundays, December 5 & 12**. As you do your shopping, please select a toy for a needy boy or girl. There will be more information in the December *High Spire*.
—Pat Totzauer, 410-938-8699

OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Our latest shipment of government surplus food that is expected to last 3-4 months has us concerned — we have NO PROTEIN to offer the families who depend on us once a month for food. We are asking you, in Christ’s compassion, to bring in the following items and place them in the Sharing Bins in the church lobby. We help approximately 55 needy households with food per month here at TUMC. THANK YOU!

Canned Chili w/beans	Canned Beef Stew
Canned Chicken	Canned Baked Beans
Canned Tuna (white meat)	Rice
Canned Ravioli/Spaghettios w/meat	
Chunky Soups w/meat	
Canned beans of any type (not green)	
Peanut Butter (plastic jar)	Jelly (plastic jar)

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A LARGE TRUCK?

Our Emergency Food Pantry is in need of someone to transport our food deliveries from Randallstown to TUMC **four times each year**. We are looking for an individual, or a company that can spare an employee, with a large box truck or an open truck with a tarp, who is available on Thursdays during the middle of the day. We typically receive 3 pallets of food for each delivery (on pallets) that need to be brought back to the church and unloaded into the church’s garage (if you have a pallet mover, that would be ideal). The Boy Scouts kindly carry the cases of food and arrange them in our pantry inside the church the day after the delivery. We are usually given at least one week’s notice, and the process starts at about 10:30 in the morning in Randallstown and ends about 12:30 here in Towson.

Please contact Dwight Kines at 410-828-0792 or djkines@comcast.net. Thanks.

GETTING THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED

Cathy Anderson Rosellini was the “Key Note Speaker” for the St. Paul’s School for Girls theme “Girls to Women: Food for the Body, Food for the Soul” assembly on October 15, 2010. The program is designed to make students aware of the food needs of people in the community. The students are opening a campaign called “A Ton of Food.” This campaign is designed to collect cans of food needed for the guests of our Emergency Food Pantry. Mrs. Rosellini did a great job of making students aware of the needs of others and the need to share resources. The campaign will take place over several weeks.

Towson's United Methodist Women's ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, November 6

9 AM to 12 noon, Fellowship Hall

The women have been collecting all sorts of items from furniture to knick-knacks to sell.

Hotdogs, cold drinks, and a bake table.



BOTH COLLECTIONS BELOW ARE DUE AT CHURCH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

It's that time of year to be thinking about Thanksgiving! Our local Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) assists the Dept. of Social Services by providing food baskets to 2,300+ Baltimore County & City families in need. Towson area businesses and churches support this effort.

Here are the items needed to complete a food basket:

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



Monetary contributions will help provide supermarket gift cards. Make checks payable to: ACTC.

Place your grocery items in **ONE REUSABLE GROCERY BAG** and mark complete or incomplete. If incomplete, we will make sure it gets completed.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOE BOX GIFTS**



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

Start thinking now if you'd like to give to a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years old. Items you can put in a shoe box are small school supplies, toys, hygiene items, hard candy, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, or toy jewelry.

Please don't include used or damaged items, war-related items, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins, anything breakable, aerosol cans, or candy that is out-of-date.

We will be handing out printed Christmas shoe boxes this year on Sundays Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 for you to fill and return by Sunday, November 14.

Include a \$7 donation, checks payable to Samaritan's Purse, to cover the cost of shipping & other project costs.

Questions? Contact Nancy Ross at 410-561-8496

As our youth start looking toward their yearly retreat to **ROCK in January** (see p. 11), they are once again raising funds to off set their cost to attend. Over the next several weeks, the youth and a leader will be set up in the fellowship hall between the first service and Sunday School with the Greater Baltimore Coupon Books. The cost is \$20, and for each book they sell they earn \$8 profit until they reach 351, at which time they earn \$10 per book. The books contain coupons for buy-one-get-one-free deals and percentages off to local restaurants, fast food places, mini golf, bowling, theater, zoo, and many other venues. They make wonderful stocking stuffers or that little gift for someone you want to remember. In this economy, everyone can use a tool to save with. Your teenage children and grandchildren will love to keep it in the car when they are out and about stopping by local stores. Please stop by and support our youth or see one of the youth in MYF for details. You may also contact Susan Davis Bengel at 410-258-6132.



GIRLS NIGHT IN

SATURDAY, DEC. 4 — 4:30 PM UNTIL...

FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN GRADES 6 THRU 12

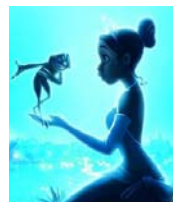
Come to the **HANGING OF THE GREENS** (see p. 8), share dinner together, and then spend the night in the Parlor watching "chick flicks" together. In the morning, we can attend the worship service together at 8:30.

Bring your fuzzy slippers, your warm pajamas & robes, pillow, and blanket. We'll eat snacks, watch the movies, and giggle through the night. Bring a friend if you'd like. Let us know you are coming by filling out this form and sending back to the church to the attention of Rev. Mary Jo Sims.

Name _____

Grade _____ E-mail _____

Parent's signature _____ Date _____



Christian Education



In worship on Children's Sabbath, October 10, you were given a magnet with a name of a child to pray for this year. At this child's baptism, a covenant was made to pray for and nurture this child in their faith development. What a responsibility we have been given as Christians! Please keep this child's name in a special spot as a visual reminder to add this child and all children to your prayers each day. If you were not here on October 10, you may find additional magnets in the church lobby on the Information Table.

GIFTS OF LOVE

On **November 21**, we will begin handing out Advent sticker books to the children and their families entitled Gifts of Love. "This is the season of gifts – giving them and getting them. This is a good time to count up the many gifts our loving God gives us and then when Christmas comes, we will be ready to praise God for His great gift of love – His Son, Jesus, born in Bethlehem."

HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 4

Join the fellowship on Saturday, December 4 as we prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. This is a day for the entire church family. At 4:30 PM families with children are invited to participate in Advent activities, while other youth and adults decorate the church for the season. NO experience necessary! At 6:00 PM, we will move to the sanctuary for a brief dedication service with our Cherubs and Trebles providing the music. Immediately following the dedication, we will enjoy dinner in Fellowship Hall hosted by the Tower Class. A Free Will Offering will be taken to defray the cost of dinner.

GETTING READY for December 4

The children and their families, at this year's **Hanging of the Greens**, will be making gingerbread manger scenes. Would you like to help us by donating supplies for this activity? A box will be located in the church office labeled "Getting Ready."

Needed are: gumdrops, Teddy Grahams, M&Ms, Christmas shaped marshmallows, mini marshmallows, coconut, Smarties, Skittles, little pretzels (thin sticks), red string licorice, little candy canes, holiday shaped pretzels, and animal crackers. Join us in Rooms 314-312-310 at 4:30 PM as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

WE WANT TO SEE JESUS

When: December 7 & 14

Ages: Three – 1st Grade

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Place: Room 312

We will bring the Christmas story to life with games, crafts, and stories. There is an excitement that young children feel when they first learn about God's love.



A time to start.

A time of waiting set apart.

Be with me, Jesus as I wait.

But please, dear Jesus, don't be late!

A light supper will be served each week and a free will donation will be taken to offset the cost. Contact Jeannine Neuen at jneuen@towsonumc.org or 410-823-3698 to let her know you will be attending.

Scouting News



Cub Scout Pack 102, located here at Towson United Methodist Church, welcomes the following new members to our Pack:

Den 1 Tigers: Cal Broseker, Will Buchanan, Owen Holder, Nicholas Johnson, Aidan Reimer, Barclay Reith, Collin Wagner, Will Guidice, and Ryland Issac.

Den 3 Bears: Alex Koster, Mason Issac, and Nick Reith.

During the month of October, all of these Scouts earned their Bobcat badge and were presented with the award at the October Pack meeting on the 15th. Pack 102 has plans for plenty of fun and activities this year. Come join us at our monthly Pack meetings on Nov 19 or Dec 17 in Fellowship Hall. Contact Beverly Mosley at 410-339-7129 or by e-mail at gustav30@msn.com if you have questions about Cub Scouts at our church.



Boy Scout Troop 102 has finished a busy summer that started with Summer Camp at Camp Raven Knob in Mt. Airy, NC where the scouts earned 75 merit badges between them; Survivor Weekend with Sam Shrestha earned the title of Sole Survivor; OA ordeal where

Sean Owen and Kyle Pomykala became our newest brothers in the Order; and two Saturdays of service at Carpenter's Kitchen. At the annual family picnic, all of the Scouts were recognized for their rank advancements and achievements over the past year. Special recognition was given to members of the Rooster Patrol for earning the National Honor Patrol award and to the three Scouts who earned the Eagle rank this year: Cody Pahr, John Ward, and David Caplan. Troop 102 meets almost weekly all year on Friday nights. Contact Scoutmaster Steve Mosley at 410-339-7129 or by e-mail at gustav30@msn.com with any questions about Boy Scouts.

Happy Holidays! Yes, the holidays are quickly approaching. Here are some friendly tips from the Business Office to ensure you receive credit for all your donations in 2010.

Please have all donations into the business office by December 30, 2010 to receive credit on your 2010 contribution statement.

If you plan on making stock donations to the Church, please send them to your brokers before December 27, 2010 to guarantee credit in 2010.

If you wish to receive credit for a stock donation you must send a letter to the Business Office with what we are to expect, so when the Business Office receives notice from our broker that we have received stock, your contribution statement can be credited for the donation. **If the Business Office does not receive a letter, the donation is assumed to be anonymous and your contribution statement will NOT be credited for the donation.**

To transfer stock and/or mutual funds to the Church, you will need to send your donation to the following address with the account information provided below:

UBS Financial Svcs.
307 International Circle
4th Floor
Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031
Phone # 410-771-1110
Fax # 410-771-3110
DTC #0221
Account Number H70017221
Towson United Methodist Church

To transfer stock and/or mutual funds to the **Shining Brightly Capital Campaign**, you need to send your donation to the following address with the account information provided below:

Merrill Lynch
901 Dulaney Valley Road
Suite 516
Towson, MD 21204
Telephone: 410-321-4323
Fax: 410-970-4295
DTC #5198
Account # 813-04299 Towson UMC Capital Campaign Fund

Also include the following information with the transmittal from you broker/bank to Merrill Lynch:
Donor Name: _____

Designated to: Capital Campaign
Purpose of Gift: Shining Brightly Campaign

Please remember how very important it is to let the Business Office know that you are making a donation if you wish to receive credit.

As always feel free to contact Kim Ayres Ashby in the Business Office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all your donations and contributions to our Church to help make it a better place.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA 2010
The price for each plant: \$15.00

The United Methodist Men of Towson United Methodist Church have arranged for you to place a Memorial or Honor poinsettia in the Chancel area of our church during the Yuletide Season. A complete listing of flowers will be available at the Christmas Eve Evening Services and the following Sunday's Worship Service if your order is received on or before **December 12, 2010**.

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

YOUR NAME _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

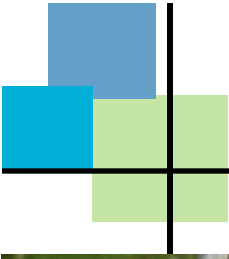
IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

PLEASE SEND MY PLANTS TO A SHUT-IN YES NO

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



The Lord is My Shepherd

Women's Retreat 2011

February 25 - 27, 2011

Registration Form



Join us for a wonderful weekend getaway for women of all ages at the Greenwood Hills Bible Conference Center (website: www.greenwoodhills.net) in Fayetteville, PA. The weekend retreat begins Friday evening and ends with a 1:00 pm meal on Sunday. Registration fee includes lodging, 5 meals, and workshop/retreat expenses. This year's retreat will begin with a Friday night movie. You will enjoy organized Saturday sessions and workshop options as well as plenty of free time for relaxation and fellowship. We look forward to your joining us for this year's retreat. —*The 2011 Retreat Design Team*

Please mail this form to Sue LaHatte, 14 Galetree Court, Cockeysville, MD 21030. Checks should be made out to Towson UMC. Deadline for registration is January 30, 2011

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Registration Fee

- \$ 75.00 (1/2 fee) (final payment due January 30)
- \$150.00 (total fee)
- Optional donation to retreat scholarship fund
- I would like to apply for funds from the scholarship

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



SLEEP OPTIONS

- Early to Bed
- Night Owl
- No Preference

If you have unused travel-size toiletries, please save them to bring with you for a project at the retreat.



REGISTRATION FORM



ROCK 2011 is an exciting Christian weekend retreat in which youth in grades 6-12 from the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church will gather at the Ocean City Convention Center. The purpose of the retreat is to "ROCK" the lives of our youth and help them into a new or deeper faith in, and personal relationship with, the ROCK of our Salvation, Jesus Christ.

January 21, 22, and 23 — Ocean City, Maryland

Special Guest Speaker: Bishop Violet Fisher... At the age of twenty-five, Violet was ordained by the King's Apostle Holiness Church of God and served as National Evangelist and Missionary to East Africa, Haiti, and Jamaica. After she returned to her home church and graduated from Eastern Baptist Seminary, she was ordained deacon and elder in The United Methodist Church. Violet currently serves on the Board of Directors, Eastern Baptist Seminary and is the mother of one son.



Give me THAT fish!
ROCK 2011

Unsearchable Riches... loves to play live as much as possible and has had the pleasure of opening for groups such as Mercy Me, Audio Adrenaline, FFH, Avalon, Go Fish, and ZoeGirl, among others. They have put out 3 CDs, including their latest release, *Songs to be Sung*.

Salvador ... Premier Latin Jam Band, their songs amply demonstrate the virtue of the American work ethic in producing fresh expressions of worship that actually sound effortless, seamless, and spontaneous.

Joe Castillo, sand sculptor, author, and storyteller. See his awesome work at www.sandstory.com.

The cost for ROCK this year is \$125 — the same as last year.

The deadline for registration and to pay for ROCK is THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2010.

You will need to bring extra cash for Saturday lunch and for additional optional spending.

If you intend to go to ROCK, please fill out this form, attach your check for \$125, and return them together to Liz Dahne in the church office.

Youth's Name _____ Grade _____

E-Mail Address _____ Parent's Signature _____