
*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
October 2010
Volume 51, Issue 10**

High Spire October

Another success for Towson UMC Community Blood Drive!

The Results of the September 18th Blood Drive:

We had 68 donors arrive between 7:00 am and 1:15 pm with 5 of these being first time donors! We actually had to turn away a couple of late walk-ins. The ARC was able to get 57 pints of blood! Of the 68 donors, 44 were new donors since the last event and 52 of these 68 are members of this church! Way to go TUMC members!!



Blood Drive Participants were eligible to receive Door Prizes

3 Course Dinner for 2 at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse recipient: Rosalie Antos (pictured left with her husband Don)
Recipients of the Five Guys Meal drawing:
Gloria Bortz Rick Brown
David King Richard DeVilbiss

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to everyone who helped to make the Sept. 18th event a success! A team effort consisting of pre-event workers passing out flyers and recruiting donors to event volunteers who spent their Saturday making sure the donors were registered, hydrated, comfortable, and smoothly moving through the process... all contributed to this success.

They include:

Bobbie Blaker	Becky Engel
Ruth Ann McWilliams	June & Terry Bond
Liz Morris	Carol & John Engel
Tyler Brewer	Sue Garman
Libby & Bill Rogers	Sue Brown
Cathy Rosellini	Jack Gerding
Natalie Headley	Pam Carr
Vernon Sevier	Liz Dahne
Loren Todd	Maria & Ted Jackson

And for all those who donated, remember to visit our sponsors and thank them for your Chick-fil-A and Rita Italian Ice coupons for free food and dessert!

Help keep the momentum going! Put March 5th on your calendars now and plan to come out with your life saving donation!

—Margot Gerding, Blood Drive Coordinator

NOTABLE DATES:

- Saturday, October 2**
Chancel Choir retreat... p. 4
- Sunday, October 3**
World Communion Sunday... p. 4
Communion Offering: Heifer Int'l... p. 8
Fresh Fruit collection... p. 8
- Thursday, October 7**
Golf Tournament for League of Dreams... p. 8
- Friday & Saturday, October 8 & 9**
Tower Chimes Handbell Choir prepare for Christmas... p. 4
- Sunday, October 10**
Children's Sabbath... p. 4 & 6
- Sunday, October 17**
Blessing of the Pets, 2:30 PM... p. 2
- Saturday, October 23**
Carpenter's Kitchen, serve dinner... p. 8
- Sunday, October 24**
Commitment Sunday... p. 4 & 7
- Saturday, October 30**
Pumpkin Fest! 2-4 PM... p. 10



- Sunday, October 31**
Choir Recognition Sunday... p. 4
Youth attend "Zoo Boo"... p. 7
Women's Book Club meet... p. 7
- Saturday, November 6**
Flea Market in Fellowship Hall, 9 to 12 noon
- Sunday, November 14**
Thanksgiving Baskets due... p. 9
Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes... p. 9
- Tuesday, November 23**
TUMC Charge Conference... p. 3

Saying Thank You!

I wish to give thanks to so many people for their prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls over the last several weeks to help me and my family with my recuperation.

Also to David, Bill, and Mary Jo: your visits, words of inspiration, and encouragement through the eyes of Jesus Christ sank deep into my heart.

God bless each and everyone. — Bill Snyder



A huge thank you to Maria Springer for volunteering to host the Ladies Tea at her lovely home. Of course the food and company were absolutely amazing! Eyes were popping at the lovely linens, flowers, china, and display of sweets and savory sandwiches. Marcia Freedman spent many hours as Maria's "sous chef". Shirley Derksen and Nancy Andrew were serving tea on Sunday. PATHWAYS has benefited from all the generosity shown by these women and those who attended. God Bless you all! —Stephanie Kimmons

*Dr. Raker,
Thanks so much for your visits during my knee surgery. The visits mean so much when you have a long recovery from surgery. — Carol Sorrell*

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.***

For many of us, our family pet is an essential aspect of our lives. Certainly, we are grateful for our pets and the many ways in which they enrich our lives.

On Sunday, October 17th at 2:30 in the afternoon, the youth will lead us in a Service of the Blessing of the Pets. Plan on bringing your pet so we can share the joy that these wonderful creatures give us. Dogs and larger animals should be on leashes or harnesses. Smaller pets, such as cats, mice, and birds, should be in secure containers. **If you don't have a pet, please come anyway** and make the acquaintance of your friends' pets. We will convene on the lawn encircled by the driveway that leads to the church's front door. You may want to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on.



**Blessing of the Pets
Sunday
October 17th
2:30 PM**



Church family NEWS:

MARRIAGES:

Greg Fritz married **Tara Mooney** Saturday, August 7, 2010 in Michigan, Tara's home state. They have returned back to Towson!

DEATH & RESURRECTION:

Janet Daum passed away September 18, 2010. Janet's Funeral Service was here at Towson United Methodist Church September 22.

Gordon Kennard, Sr. passed away Saturday, September 18, 2010. Gordon's Funeral Service was held at Mitchell-Wiedefeld on September 23.

ADDRESS CHANGE FOR THOSE SHUT-IN:

Your cards and notes are appreciated! Visitors are also welcome.

Doris Wenzel
Ravenwood Lutheran Village
1109 Luther Dr.
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Rev. Eric Peacher
Mays Chapel Ridge
Wellspring, Room #1
12261 Roundwood Road
Timonium, MD 21093

Alnetia K. Ewing
204 East Joppa Road #1006
Towson, MD 21286

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.

From the Senior Pastor



Dear Friends in Christ,

Our Charge Conference is scheduled for **November 23**. This is an annual event at which time the members of our Administrative Board meet with the District Superintendent to do some official church business such as review the work of the Trustees related to our property, report on our financial position, approve lay speakers and candidates for ministry, and hear reports of all clergy related to our church by appointment or participation and connection. It is nearly two months away, but already different persons and groups are preparing reports.

Perhaps the most important action taken at Charge Conference is the election of church leaders for the coming year. Well over 200 people serve as chairs of boards or committees, church officers, or team workers for everything from discipleship ministries to mission to fellowship ministries to worship. While many more participate or help with the multitude of programs and activities and ministries that happen here each week, these are the persons who lead our church forward. This testifies to the fact that the work of the church belongs to all and that decision making is shared by many.

The Committee on Lay Leadership, the group responsible for identifying and recruiting leadership, is now meeting to prepare a nominations report to Charge Conference. The committee reflects on the spiritual gifts needed for particular roles and through prayer and thoughtful discussion identifies those who have demonstrated those gifts. Committee members then contact the persons identified to ask if they are willing to accept that leadership role.

Here are two things I hope you will pray about. One, is there a ministry you would like to help lead? You may have a passion for mission. You may have skills in the area of finance or property or administration. You may have a gift of creativity that would be very helpful in worship planning. You may enjoy working with children or youth or leading small groups. How do you think God wants you to use the spiritual gifts you have been given? When you answer that question for yourself, let me know. My hope, and the hope of the committee, is to invite you to serve in an area in which you can flourish and which brings meaning and joy to you. It is not a matter of being willing to take your turn to do a job. It is a matter of purposefully and productively using what God has given to you to share. Don't be shy. Say, "I would really like to..."

Two, pray about being open to what others see in you. You may well be called for a position you had not considered and maybe do not feel qualified to do. You are being called, though, because others think you are the right person for the position. Others have seen gifts and graces in you that have caused them to want to nominate you. Take a risk and say yes. It can lead you to new experiences you will find very fulfilling. If you see the name of someone on the Committee on Lay Leadership on the caller ID, don't screen the call. Pick up the phone and listen. Say yes and join the hundreds of others who have also said yes to helping our church answer the call of God.

Jesus once lamented that the harvest was plentiful but the laborers few. I am confident that at Charge Conference we can say the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are many, for what a harvest we can then bring in.

David



A Steelers jersey... what's this about?

Here's the problem...

Dave Garman, Chair of our Finance Committee promises to wear the RAVENS purple jersey instead of their beloved black & gold Steelers jerseys the Friday and Sunday of the Steelers/Ravens game Sunday, Dec. 5th.

All we have to do is raise the money OUR church needs to pay its bills... Dave challenged each household to give an additional \$20 a week starting Sept. 1st through 2010.

IT'S UP TO US TO GET THIS STEELERS JERSEY CHANGED!

We can do this together!

Kathie's Music Notes



Kathie Metz

Choirs are singing, bells are ringing, and it is good to be back into our schedule!

The Chancel Choir will sing all day at our annual fall retreat **October 2nd**. Thanks to Jim Todhunter, Mt. Moriah Masonic Temple has been made available to us. It is a beautiful, near-by venue that will suit our needs nicely.

The following weekend, **October 8 & 9**, the Tower Chimes Handbell Choir will ring all night and all day at the United Brethren Conference Center in New Windsor. This is the weekend we use to prepare Christmas music (!) and the music for the festival next spring.

We will be found at church, too, with special music at services throughout the month:

October 3rd is World Communion, the day we use music common to our brothers and sisters in other countries. Next is **Children's Sabbath on October 10th**, and the boys and girls of our Sunday School, along with Carol Choir and Alleluia Singers, will sing about our blessings. Special focus will be on the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, which the elementary-age children are studying during their first rotation curriculum.

One of the Chancel Choir members requested that we sing "a lot of Mendelssohn" this year. A favorite of many is *Hear My Prayer*, which we will sing at the 11:00 service on **October 17**. The soprano soloist will be Judith Cavendish Blandford, a personal friend from my hometown. Judy has sung for us several times in the past, is on faculty at Howard County Community College, and maintains a large private studio of voice and piano students.

Commitment Sunday is October 24, and we will be blessed to sing a new hymn written for the day by Rev. Fred Crider. The Alleluia Singers will reprise a favorite anthem from this past summer's tour, *Praise His Holy Name*, and I'm told they will be joined by their chaperones for the singing. Should be a joyful noise, indeed!

The last Sunday of the month, **October 31**, has been designated "Choir Recognition Sunday." Music for the morning will include all of our singing choirs, bells, percussion, brass, piano, and organ. Psalm 150 has been chosen as the theme, and we will have an opportunity to recognize those individuals and families who have blessed us with their time and talent through their participation in choirs. It promises to be an exciting time to praise God!

From the Associate Pastor



Mary Jo Sims

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.

from "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," United Methodist Hymnal, 206

The gospels, especially the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are full of images of Jesus walking from town to town with a band of disciples and others trailing after him. **This year in our youth group (UMYF) we are considering the theme, "Walking with Jesus."** It is certainly an appropriate theme for youth as they mature in their faith to continue to ponder what it means to walk with Jesus. Indeed, it is the prime directive of all disciples of Jesus. How do we answer Jesus' call to "Come, follow me?"

Often we want assurance that Jesus is walking with us. Such assurance ought to be a part of our DNA; from the beginning of creation, God has made known to us that God is always as close to us as our very breath. As the son of God, Jesus assured his followers that "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b).

Jesus walks with us. How, then, do we walk with Jesus? What are the ramifications for such walking? As I shared with the youth last Sunday evening, are we asking Jesus to take the lead or are we trying to direct where and how and at what pace we walk with Jesus? In our walking with Jesus, are we allowing him to determine the course?

These are questions that have serious ramifications for our youth as they live through the often confusing and sometimes turbulent years of adolescence and post adolescence. They are questions that we continue to ask ourselves through our journey with Jesus in all of life, in every phase of life. Do we look to Jesus to lead us?

Your sister and servant in Jesus the Christ,

Mary Jo Sims

PATHWAYS Tutoring



Recently Allison Jackson was asked to say a few words about PATHWAYS during our monthly Moment on Missions. Allison has been an integral part of the success of PATHWAYS since its inception in 2006. She spoke so eloquently that I wanted to make sure our church members got a chance to "hear" her message. Enjoy, reflect, and pray on her words . . .

My name is Allison Jackson, and I have been involved with the PATHWAYS tutoring program here at Towson United Methodist Church since its inception in 2006. It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to speak briefly about this special program in the hopes that you will give a generous Communion offering.

PATHWAYS tutoring takes place in Fellowship Hall from 4-6 PM each Tuesday throughout the school year. We offer free tutoring and snacks to students from Title 1 schools in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County. We also offer special enrichment sessions, where students have the opportunity to learn about everything from poetry to outer space! Another special feature of our program is the career speakers who come to tell the children about their vocations; this year our students even got to hear from a Brigadier General! But the career day speaker I'd like to talk to you about today is a woman by the name of Kathie Metz. I think at least a few of you know her...:-)

From her perch on the organ bench, Kathie spoke to the children. She told them about her role as music director at TUMC, and then she did what she is perhaps most famous for around these parts—she played the organ. With her skillful fingers and feet dancing up and down and all around, the church was filled with rich and melodious sounds.

"How does it work?" the children asked delightedly. (Bear in mind, this was many of the children's first time hearing organ music.) Kathie pointed to the screen that masks the tall organ pipes and explained how an organ works. (I will not repeat the explanation because 1) my time is limited and 2) I'm not musically-inclined, and I fear I will say something wrong!) But there is a reason why I am talking about organ music today...

Using nothing more than her hands and feet, a talented organist can play music so soulful and deep, it brings tears to the eyes and chill bumps to the skin. The pipes allow this to occur. I believe that the playing of organ music is a fitting metaphor for what we do at PATHWAYS. Yes, it is true that we only get to interact with each child for an hour per week. That's not a lot of time to combat the lack of attention, lack of structure, and lack of hope so many of our children have in their lives. However, I believe that our time with our kids each week has a bigger effect than can be measured by test scores or grades—though we are definitely helping those to improve. Just like the pipes allow the touches and taps of an organ to translate into beautiful music, there is a force that allows our once-a-week interactions with students to impact their lives richly. **That force is God.** God can—and does—amplify our time with our students. He gives us the privilege of nurturing some of his most precious children, and they grow as students and as people due partially to our efforts but mostly to God's.

I've seen this program triumph over all kinds of challenges, and I know it will continue to triumph over the challenges we face now. One is that we need funding to continue our mission. Transporting our children from their schools to our beautiful church is not inexpensive, and we need your donations to help cover this cost, which comprises the bulk of our budget.

We also need more tutors. Word of our program has spread through the schools we serve, and we need loving adults to work with these children. You don't have to remember Calculus or the preamble to the Constitution to help—just bring your loving heart and your faith in God! Please pray about this need. The under-served children of Baltimore desperately need your help. Thank you.

Tutoring sessions for this school year will begin November 9...

To learn more about PATHWAYS and to learn how you could be a tutor for this school year, please contact Stephanie Kimmons at 410-592-5442 or e-mail her at stephaniekimmons@comcast.net.



DUE DATES FOR FUTURE ARTICLES IN THE HIGH SPIRE

November 2010 Issue — due Wednesday, October 13

December 2010 Issue — due Tuesday, November 9

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.

**Wednesday Morning
Bible Study
10:30 - 11:30**

Do you have a biblical passage
that is bugging you?

Or a theological issue you'd like to talk over with
someone?

Or a need to do some shared Bible study
along about mid-week?

Then maybe the Wednesday Morning Bible Study is
what you're looking for. This study meets weekly in
Room 214-216. Rev. Bill Raker leads this study and
some twelve to sixteen persons participate weekly as
we look at the scripture lessons used in the previous
Sunday's services or at other Bible Study material as
special seasons may lead us to do. You do not need
to sign up ahead of time, but if you have questions,
feel free to call Bill Raker at 410-665-7052. Just set
the time aside, bring your version of the Bible, and
come.



**UPPER ROOM
DEVOTIONALS...**

(in regular and large print)
for September/October are

available in the main lobby of the church on the
devotions table under the stained glass display. The
suggested donation is \$1.00.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Fellow readers — we will meet in the
Parlor of our church on **Sunday,
October 31** from **4:00—5:30 PM.**

Our October reading selection is
Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay.

This is a shocking, profoundly moving, and morally
challenging story. It takes place in Paris in 1942.
Sarah is a ten year old girl who is brutally arrested by
the French police in the vel'd'hiv' roundup, but not
before she locks her younger brother in the family's
apartment cupboard, thinking she will be back in a few
hours. Will he remain safe?

We can't wait to discuss this book with you!
Marilyn Donoho, 410-825-0789,
ronmardon@verizon.net and Carol Woodworth,
410-870-1728, carolwoodworth@comcast.net.

OUR YOUTH ARE "WALKING WITH JESUS"

6-12 graders meet Sunday evenings from 6—7:15
in Fellowship Hall, unless it's noted...

October 3 Sharing Stories of Walking with Jesus

October 10 Hearing the Mission

October 17 Walking with God's Creatures and
Blessing of the Pets at **2:30 on the front lawn**

October 24 Wilderness Walking: Wearing Masks

October 31 Zoo Boo **1:00—4:30** at the Maryland Zoo!



Baskets of Blessings

Have you been blessed?

In John 6, Jesus uses
the small lunch basket of a
boy to feed Five Thousand.
How will the simple lunch offered
by a small boy bless a multitude?

⁵When 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?" ⁶He asked
this only to test him, for he already had in mind
what he was going to do.

⁷Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages
would not buy enough bread for each one to have
a bite!"

⁸Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's
brother, spoke up, ⁹"Here is a boy with five small
barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will
they go among so many?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There
was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat
down, about five thousand of them. ¹¹Jesus then
took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to
those who were seated as much as they wanted.
He did the same with the fish.

¹²When they had all had enough to eat, he said to
his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over.
Let nothing be wasted." ¹³So they gathered them
and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the
five barley loaves left over by those who had
eaten.

Baskets of Blessings, our theme for the 2011
Stewardship Campaign, will highlight how blessings
strengthen our faith and trust in God. What special
blessings from God have you received? How has
God surprised you with exactly what you need?
When did God make the *impossible* seem *possible*?
How have you shared a blessing with others? Surely
these questions were asked by the crowd who
witnessed Jesus feed Five Thousand from a boy's
basket of five barley loaves and two small fish.

Consider these and other questions as we launch
the 2011 Stewardship Campaign. Giving makes it
possible to provide a multitude of blessings for others.
We welcome your support during the fall campaign.
Join members of Towson United Methodist Church on
Commitment Sunday, October 24th, as we 'bless the
multitude'.

More information will be coming in the weekly bulletin
and mailings to members. We ask you to pray for the
Baskets of Blessings campaign.

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

—The Steward Ministry Team

Missions & Outreach

COMMUNION / MISSION OFFERING

Sunday, October 3 & thru-out the month of October
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL



Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one (or yourself) and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. "I loved my Heifer gift. I don't need more chocolate

or knick-knacks. Knowing that a family gets a goat for milk and can be self-sufficient is a great positive thing to bring into the world. It's wonderful to know a family has been given help in my name."

Our children in the Sunday School classes will be collecting during the month of October, and you can stop by the table in the lobby to choose your gift. Any amount is great and can be given to wherever it is needed most. Or, you can give a specific animal: a Heifer cow is \$500, a sheep is \$120, a llama is \$150, a water buffalo is \$250, a flock of ducks or chicks is \$20, a trio of rabbits is \$60, honeybees are \$30, and a pig or a goat is \$120.

FRESH FRUIT — Sunday, October 3

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



WANTED — YOUR UNUSED TOOLS!

The Mission Work Area (MWA) is gathering new and old unused tools to be used for various mission activities and trips, both here at church and away on VIM trips. Basic tools like hammers, tape measures, wonder bars, screwdrivers, taping knives, etc.... Are great examples of tools to have on hand. Power tools are also welcome but should be in good working order. If you have extra tools looking for a good home, or if you are just downsizing, think of donating them to the MWA. Please place your donations on top of the Sharing Bins in the church lobby. Thanks! Any questions, contact Margot at magerding@verizon.net.

CARPENTER'S KITCHEN

Saturday, 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!

SWING WITH THE LEGENDS

Celebrity Golf Tournament and you'll help
THE LEAGUE OF DREAMS

Thursday, October 7 the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association and League of Dreams will host a one-day celebrity golf tournament at The Waverly Woods Golf Club, Marriottsville, MD.

9:00 Registration and continental breakfast

11:00 Shotgun Start, 18 holes

5—7 PM Reception / Live Auction / Dinner

One player is \$195, team of three is \$550.

For more information and to sign up to play, contact Frank Kolarek at Fkolarek@leagueofdreams.org or 410-719-1641.

RAISING FUNDS FOR YOUTH RETREAT

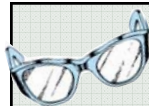
ROCK

As our youth start looking toward their yearly retreat to ROCK in January, 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 theirs 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 UMYF for details. You may also contact Susan Davis Bengel at 410-258-6132.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR THE HOUSE OF RUTH

During the month of October, our Guest Ministries Committee will be collecting funds to purchase books for children who are staying at the House of Ruth (these are funds over and beyond your weekly church offering). Through Scholastic Books, we are able to obtain a 25% discount. The books generally cost about \$10. Please place your contribution in the container at the Welcome Station in the foyer or place it in the offering plate along with your weekly church offering. Make separate checks for this extra gift payable to Towson United Methodist Church, designated to "Guest Ministries/House of Ruth."

Your generous and thoughtful contribution is greatly appreciated.



THE SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY GROUP

is collecting

OLD EYE GLASSES and

USED CELL PHONES to be recycled.

Look for the basket in the main office of the church.

GROWING IN FAITH AT CAMP HOPE by Amy Willis
(reprinted from UM Connection, September 8, 2010)

CAMP HOPE (Christian Appalachian Mountain Project Helping Other People Enthusiastically) is a mission trip for youth ages 14-18. CAMP HOPE runs for four weeks during the summer, with 100 youth and adult volunteers staying for one week. Each year, these volunteers help 55-60 families in Allegany County by repairing their homes.

Six years ago, I was a 14-year-old girl lost in the shuffle. I was attempting to find myself as a person, discover where I fit into my group of friends and my high school, and solidify my beliefs. I was raised in The United Methodist Church and blessed with a childhood full of love, compassion, and incredible pot-luck dinners.

As I became a teenager and attempted to determine my own thoughts and opinions, I was forced to re-evaluate my faith. I wanted my relationship with God to be just that—*my* relationship with God. I wanted to be able to call my faith my own.

The summer after my ninth grade year, I went to CAMP HOPE with my church, Trinity UMC in Prince Frederick.

When I heard that we would be working on building a porch and I would be able to use power tools, I was in; any opportunity to get out of the house for a week and use tools that most 14-year-olds aren't allowed to use, right?

I quickly learned, however, that CAMP HOPE is not just about using the pneumatic nail gun. The week includes worship, games, and fun.

Looking back on my first CAMP HOPE experience, I realize how much I have changed in the last 6 years. More importantly, I see how many of those changes stemmed from my time at camp.

Attending CAMP HOPE taught me how important it is to not only have faith but to share your faith.

Being surrounded by other Christian teens showed me that I am not an outcast for being a Christian; quite the opposite is true. Forcing myself to turn off my cell phone for a week and spend time in the moment with other people continues to remind me of the importance of strong Christian relationships.

I have been blessed with the opportunities to attend camp both as a camper and as a staff member. Seeing camp from both sides has allowed me to explore multiple aspects of my faith and challenged me to go out of my comfort zone. Each of the 15 weeks I have spent at CAMP HOPE thus far have been different, but they have all helped me grow as a person and as a Christian.



Greg Barnes & Richard Deuber, July 2010

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)
- 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



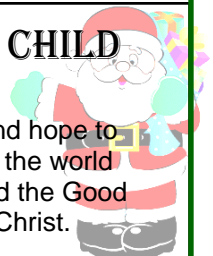
Monetary contributions will help provide supermarket gift cards. Make checks payable to: ACTC.

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

Bring to the church lobby after October 24. Thanks!

**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.



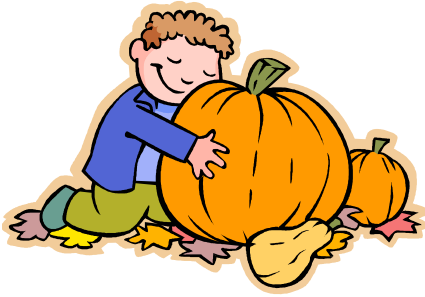
Start thinking now if you'd like to give to a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14 years old. Items you can put in a shoe box are small school supplies, toys, hygiene items, hard candy, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, or toy jewelry.

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. Flattened boxes, ready to fold into a shoe box, will be on the Information Table in the main lobby of the church if you'd like to pick it up during the week or before Oct. 31.

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



IT'S A PUMPKIN FEST!!

at Towson United Methodist Church
501 Hampton Lane, Towson
410-823-6511



Saturday, October 30th
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Guest Ministries is sponsoring an afternoon of fun and pumpkins. We will gather on the lawn by the columbarium, which is all the way to the right when looking at the church from Hampton Lane.

If the weather is inclement, the event will be in our Fellowship Hall.

Everything is FREE. Activities will include pumpkin carving, pumpkin decorating, crafts, games, and light refreshments.

All ages are welcome.

Each child who carves a pumpkin must be accompanied by an adult.



Please complete the registration below, and return by October 10, 2010 to *Towson United Methodist Church* or place it in Margery Schammel's mailbox in the church office.

Questions? Contact Margery Schammel at 410-823-2485 or mschammel@towsonumc.org or Armilda Beard at 410-821-5378.



PUMPKIN FEST

Name: _____ Number attending _____

Ages of children attending: _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone: _____

Please return by October 10, 2010 to:
Towson United Methodist Church
501 Hampton Lane
Towson, MD 21286
Attention: Pumpkin Fest

Or, you may place in Margery Schammel's mailbox in the church office.

