

**DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
 9700 NEW CHURCH STREET  
 DAMASCUS, MD 20872  
 Phone: 301-253-0022  
 E-mail: [Damascus.UMC@verizon.net](mailto:Damascus.UMC@verizon.net)  
 Website: [www.DamascusUMC.org](http://www.DamascusUMC.org)

# THE BEACON

## JANUARY 2016



*Devoted Servants, Drawn to Jesus, Dedicated to Making Disciples*

### CLERGY AND STAFF:

**David Cooney, Senior Pastor**

**Amanda McMurtrey**  
 Associate Pastor /  
 Christian Formation

**Polly Edmonds Baldrige**  
 Minister of Music & Worship Arts

**Tom Baldrige**  
 Director of Youth &  
 Young Adult Ministry

**Cora Horst**  
 Director, Pleasant Plains Preschool

**Jane Webb**  
 Office Manager

**Linda Stastny**  
 Office Administrator

**Stephen Kalnoske**  
 Organist / Pianist / Worship Arts

**Debbie Benson / Bookkeeper**

**Lisa Marshall / Property Manager**

**Carlton Addison / Building Services**

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Dear Friends,

A New Year has arrived and with it all of the hopes that rise up when we change the calendar from December to January. I am all for hope. I have never been big on New Year's resolutions. It is not that I have anything against them and I know that many find them helpful. I just don't like to put pressure on myself by adding expectations to all of the expectations that already exist. While I do not make resolutions, though, I do like to enter a New Year with hope. These hopes help to shape my prayers. Here is a sampling of some of my hopes.

I hope that 2016 is a much healthier year for those in the congregation who have had long, lingering health issues.

I hope that 2016 will bring joy and comfort to those in the congregation who have struggled this past year with finances, relationships, depression, and heartache.

I hope that many people we have not yet met will come to know Christ and make our church their community of faith because of the many ministries of this church.

I hope together we will have good, deep conversations about what it means to be a disciple of Christ and because of these conversations we will all become more faithful in our walk with God.

I hope we will witness some miracles in our midst and experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

I hope that God will enable Amanda and me to preach and teach and lead and minister in ways that will enrich your relationship with Christ and bring you both challenge and peace.

I hope that all who have graciously accepted the responsibility to serve on ministry teams, teach in our Sunday School and VBS, bring liturgical and musical leadership to our worship, and carry out the many daily tasks of the church will use their God-given gifts and graces to the glory of God and be fulfilled in their service.

I hope this is the year that we can talk less about terrorists destroying the world and more about Christ restoring the world.

These are some of my hopes. There are many more. You can tell I am very hopeful about 2016. To help us begin the year, we will in worship have the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows, participate in communion with John Wesley's historic Covenant

Service, hear Jesus tell us something about who he is and then hear Jesus ask the question, “Who do you say that I am?”

We are, of course, in the heart of the winter season. We hope, there is that word again, for good weather. If, however, the weather is not so good, you can find out about any cancellations simply by checking our webpage, [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org), or calling the office 301-253-0022. We will post on the web any schedule changes as soon as a decision has been made and put the same message on our phone system. Your safety is more important to us than your attendance, so whatever we decide, if you do not feel safe coming out, please stay in.

A New Year is upon us. I hope and pray, that it will be healthy, happy, prosperous, and joyous for you. Happy New Year!

David

## Jesus Who?

As we transition from Christmas to Epiphany we join the wise men on their search for a child born under a star, witness Jesus’ baptism, reflect on the statements Jesus made about himself and listen for the answer to a most important question . . . All in an effort to answer the question, “Jesus Who?”

Join us throughout the month of January as we delve into the gospel stories that help us to identify who Jesus was so that we might identify for ourselves who Jesus is in each of our lives.



### “Website Tour” – Wednesday, January 13

6:30 – 7:00 pm in the Main Sanctuary

Join Pastor Amanda for a guided tour of our new website.

Learn how to navigate the new website and hear about new features that we hope to unveil throughout 2016!

### Sign Up for Flowers on the New Calendar !

Flowers, as signs of life and beauty, have traditionally been offered to the glory of God to adorn the Sanctuary. The 2016 Flower Calendar is now hanging in the Narthex, in the back of the church. As you come to church, don't forget to stop and sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Please indicate: name, phone number, and whether you are picking up your flowers after church. The earlier you put in for your special dates, the better! You may order the flowers yourself from the local florist Beall’s at 301-253-2840.



Any and all questions will be gladly answered by Linda Stastny in the church office.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, WE WILL KEEP THE WEBSITE HOME PAGE and OFFICE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE UP TO DATE WITH POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS AS SOON AS THE DECISIONS ARE MADE.**



# Christian Formation



***On the first day of Christmas,  
my true love gave to me,  
a partridge  
in a pear tree.***

Acting out the 12 Days of Christmas was certainly fun this year. The children at the preschool love music time with Ms. Polly! And the preschool teachers are always grateful for their special treats from the ladies of the WWJD circle. Hope you had a Merry Christmas. Happy New Year to all!

## **Pleasant Plains Preschool**

*a ministry of Damascus United Methodist Church*

**Director, Cora Horst**

**301-253-9798**

**pleasant.plains@verizon.net**

## **Men's Night Out for January**

The Men of DUMC (and male friends, family & neighbors) are invited for a Men's Night Out on **Monday, January 18 at Mt. Airy Tavern**, 1001 Twin Arch Road, Mt. Airy, MD.

Also, be sure and mark your calendar for the **Annual Men's Retreat for April 29-30, 2016** at Hallowood Retreat Center, 7300 Banner Road, Comus, MD.

We **WILL NOT** have a Men's Breakfast in the month of January.

## **The Young at Heart Planning Session for 2016**

Plans will be made on **Thursday, January 14, 2016**, at 2:30 p.m. for the Young at Heart monthly events to take place in 2016. Any adult with ideas and an interest in participating in the events is welcome to attend the session in the Annex Conference Room. If you can't be there but would like to make suggestions, call Bob Newlin, 301/620-8926, or Jacque Janss, 301/620-7276 before the meeting, if possible.

Our best attended events are luncheons and the annual Christmas dinner at the church dining hall as well as the Frederick Keys baseball game.

We also attend theater events and take day trips to interesting sights in the area. We're always willing to expand upon these ideas if proposed events have the potential for drawing a good crowd.



## **Damascus United Methodist Women News January, 2016**

United  
Methodist  
Women  
Faith · Hope · Love in Action

### **UMWomen Circle Dates**

**Susanna Wesley / Esther JOY Circle**

Monday, January 11 at 10:00 am

in the **Dining Hall**

*(Pledge Service by Bernardine Beall)*

**WWJD Circle Meeting**

**Thursday, January 21 @ 7:30 pm**

**Location: TBD**

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Thursday, Jan. 14:** Executive Board Meeting in the Sacristy. All officers should attend.

**Sunday, Jan. 10:** Deadline for all soup orders! See page # 12 of this Beacon for order form.

**Sunday, Jan. 31:** Deadline for BBQ orders for Super Bowl Sunday! See page # 12 of this Beacon for order form.

**\*\*NOTE: Due to the cancellation of the Turkey-Oyster Dinner this past fall, we are hoping the above TWO projects will help to fund some of the ministries the UMW normally donation towards.**

## Christian Formation / Women's Ministry (cont'd)

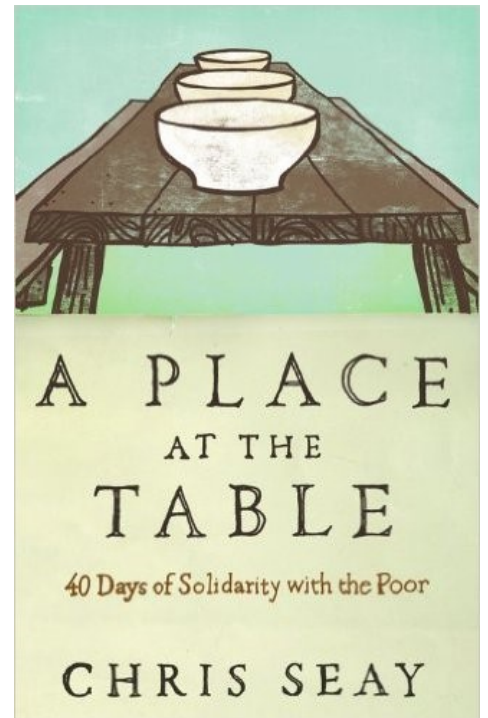
*New Study with Pastor Amanda*

### **“A Place at the Table: 40 Days of Solidarity with the Poor”**

When manna and quail fell from heaven to feed the faithful wanderers in the desert, they were told, take only what you need and no more. It was a journey to a promised land and a challenge to truly trust in God to provide. How often have we read statistics about clean water, hunger and poverty in our world? The numbers are overwhelming and almost unreal, leaving many of us in a place of not knowing how to respond. Here is a chance to change that! Join Pastor Amanda in January to plan and, throughout Lent, to explore dietary habits, portions, and fasting that will help us explore the reality of “taking only what we need” and the spiritual journey of trusting in God.

Mondays, January 25 and February 1 in the Annex Conference Room from 7 pm - 8 pm. Consider and plan. These two classes will be centered on exploring our Lenten goal and taking steps to plan for Lent.

Each Monday Feb 8 – March 28 in the Annex Conference Room from 7 pm - 8 pm Bible Study and reflection on our Lenten Journey together and the daily devotions from the book.



### **SAVE THE DATE --** **2016 Spring Women's Retreat**

Friday, April 29 – leave at 5 pm for retreat, Saturday, April 30, leave after supper for home. Potomac Park Retreat & Conference Center, Falling Waters, WV – less than an hour's drive. Check the web site: [www.PotomacParkRetreat.org](http://www.PotomacParkRetreat.org)

Great accommodations and very affordable. All meals provided, real bed (smile). Mark your calendars now . . .

### ***Come join the Prayer Shawl Ministry*** **Friday, January 15 @ 3:30 / Church Office**

Prayer Shawl Ministry is a creative way to combine the love of knitting and/or crocheting with ministry to people in need of comfort. The shawls we make offer tangible evidence of God's love to each recipient. If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone whom you know, you can contact one of the pastors, Cathy Heinbaugh, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net), 301-253-0742, or Jan Mullinix, [jlm.jan3@verizon.net](mailto:jlm.jan3@verizon.net) 301-482-1122 .



### **“Shampoos for the Center”** **Help Women in Need**

The Damascus United Methodist Women (DUMW) have an outreach program to help women at the Montgomery Avenue Women's Center in Rockville. As you travel for work and pleasure throughout the year, why not bring home those small unused bottles of shampoos and conditioners from your trip and place them in the specially marked “red” basket in the Narthex. The toiletries will be provided to women in need at this walk-in day shelter. DUMW contact: Wanda Miente at 301-972-1876.

# LADIES' NIGHT OUT

## WHEN:

**Thursday, January 21 @ 6 pm**

## WHERE:

**Bucca Di Beppo @ 6 pm  
122 Kentlands Blvd.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878**

**RSVP by January 19**

**Fellowship · Conversation · Companionship · Fun ·  
Sisterhood · Everyone Invited · New Event Each  
Month**

## FUTURE EVENTS

**TUESDAY,  
February 23**

**Ledo's Pizza @ 6 pm  
9805 Main Street  
Damascus, MD 20872  
RSVP by February 21**

**MONDAY,  
March 14**

**Isabella's @ 6 pm  
44 North Market Street  
Frederick, MD 21701  
RSVP by March 12**

**THURSDAY,  
April 21**

**Longhorn Steakhouse @ 6 pm  
20017 Century Blvd.  
Germantown, MD 20874  
RSVP by April 19**

## **CONTACT PASTOR AMANDA**

**AMANDA.MCMURTREY  
@VERIZON.NET  
Call 301-253-0022 or  
Text 970-231-5123**

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS— 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 2016

Tom Baldrige, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net

The Living nativity, with over 50 youth participating to tell the story of Jesus's birth.



We started the month of December and the Advent season with the annual Advent workshop and decorating the church. Thank you for working that day with the younger youth in our church to make ornaments and decorate. I spoke to a number of children who enjoyed your presence at this event.

And what is the Advent/Christmas season without the Living Nativity and the birth of Jesus? Once again the Living Nativity was the highlight of the Advent season for many of our church members and also people from our Damascus community.

The month of January is usually a very cold month, however we keep each other warm with events like the Birthday Bash, game night, ice skating and the Annual Youth Retreat weekend. We will have basketball teams that play each Saturday night during the month of January. Come out and see your friends play. I hope you can make some or all the events listed to the right. If you do not get my weekly emails, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

- Tom

## Youth Retreat

Jan. 22 thru 24

“Getting to know the Bible and YOU”

It is time to turn in your permission forms for a great weekend, when we will consider how great the Bible is. We will also be having a great time doing the three “F”s – fun, fellowship and food. Permission form is available on page #8 of this Beacon or you can get one from the church office or Tom Baldrige.

## CALENDAR

### Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:15 am Charles Wesley Singers lead in worship
- 9:30 am Youth Blend Café: Breakfast, Praise Band, Breakout Group Discussion in Youth Chapel

### Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 5:45 pm Dinner with our church community
- 7:00 pm Youth Bells

### Saturday, January 9: Church Basketball starts every Saturday night

#### Sunday, January 3:

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner: **Bratburd**
- 6:30 – 9:15 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Ice Skating – Rockville**

#### Sunday, January 10:

- 4:00 pm UMYFO meeting - Annex
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner: **TBD**
- 6:30 – 8:00 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Exam Game Night**

#### Sunday, January 17:

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
- 6:00 – 8:30 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Youth Birthday Bash Dinner and dance**

#### Friday - Sunday, January 22, 23, & 24:

- Depart 5:00 pm Friday - Winter Youth Retreat at West River
- No Sunday night youth activity

#### Sunday, January 31:

- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
- 6:00 pm Youth Dinner: **Turner-Little**
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **TBD**

#### Sunday, February 7:

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal – Youth Chapel
- 5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers – Choir Room
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm Youth Fellowship Activity: **Super Bowl Parties**  
**Middle School – Host – Capelutti**  
**High School - Host - Bratburd**

## Birthday Bash

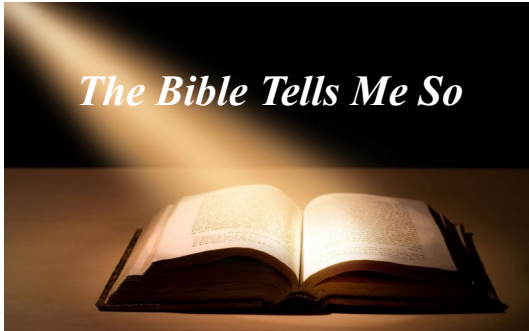
January 17, 2106

Sign up to decorate your birthday month's table- we need four volunteers. We also need some adults to help out. See full article!!

# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS— 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

January 2016

Tom Baldrige, Youth Director | 301-802-4775 | redheaders@verizon.net



## Youth Winter Retreat January 22 - 24, 2016

*Put it on your calendars for the 2016 Winter Retreat!!*

We have started planning and we're very enthusiastic about this year's retreat. You will be seeing many faces and friends (including tall friends) from years past!

The weekend will be filled with many adventures including fellowship, games, fun, food and, of course, the Variety Show! Look for more information within the next few weeks that will be mailed out to all the youth of

the church. The registration form is on page #8 or you can pick one up from the church office or Tom Baldrige. Please turn the form in to Tom as soon as possible.

*And remember . . . friends are welcome . . . so start texting your buddies !!!*

## Youth Birthday Bash



Sunday, January 17  
Great Hall - Damascus UMC  
From 6:00 — 9:00 pm

It's time for the Annual DUMC Youth Birthday Bash and you AND YOUR FRIENDS are all invited!!! Join us for dinner and then we will share in games, fun, door prize drawings and finish up with dancing with our favorite DJ, Blake Motter.

## Attention all 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders Basketball is BACK

Come one and come all to play basketball this winter starting Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, and ending in March. DUMC will be playing other church teams in the area. This is a great way to spend your Saturday nights in fellowship with other youth in our community. We welcome players who have never played basketball before and players who have played for a long time.



If you are interested in playing this year, please contact one of the following people to get on the team roster:

For the 6, 7 and 8 grade team:  
**Tom Baldrige – 301-802-4775.**

For the 9 and 10 grade team:  
**Derek Johnson – 301-829-1114**

For the 11 through 12 grade team:  
**Blake McDonald – 301-661-0722**

## Prayer Requests

The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to write any prayer requests on the prayer cards located in the pews.

Prayer cards should then be placed in the prayer box in the Narthex.

All requests will be kept confidential.

Prayer requests may also be made on-line at [www.damascusumc.org](http://www.damascusumc.org).

DAMASCUS UNITED METHODIST  
**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT**  
JANUARY 22 – 24, 2016

**“THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO”**

This year our retreat theme is based on learning more about the Bible. God used a number of people to create the Bible and put it all together for us. Who were these people? When did they write the Bible? Is the Bible in chronological order? Should we start reading from Genesis and finish at Revelation? If you do not know the answers to the above questions, this retreat is for you. We will also take a look at some hard questions about social issues that face us during our time and how the Bible addresses a number of these questions.

The Bible has been given to each and every one of us to read and understand how it can be used to live a better life here on earth. It tells wonderful stories that can be used as metaphors to understand how to live on this earth with others. And it also tells us the wonderful story of the life of Jesus Christ. Come on the winter youth retreat and enjoy “The Bible Tells Me So” with all of us.

**Learning Goals:** By the end of this retreat, youth will:

- ~ Talk about how the Bible was created – Which book of the Bible was written first and so on.
- ~ Know how to use the Bible to look up important questions we might have.
- ~ Consider how God wants us to use the Bible.
- ~ Have a greater understanding of how to use the Bible.

Dependent on the weather, as part of the weekend’s exploration of “The Bible Tells Me So,” we might be using the Center’s *Climbing Wall* and the *Giant Swing*. The retreat is open to all youth in grades 6th through 12th and college students. **You can invite your friends, too! We have reserved the Retreat Center and two lodges at West River, so there is plenty of room for ALL !** Housing requests will be reviewed and honored on a first-come, first-served basis as registration forms and full payment are received. Room assignments will be made for the well-being and inclusion of all youth.

On Friday, January 22, we will meet at DUMC at 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and leave at 5:15 p.m. **There will be a brief parent and youth meeting at 5:00 p.m.** We expect to return to DUMC on Sunday, January 24, between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Retreat will cost \$100 per person and \$80 for each additional youth in a family. This will cover the cost of food, lodging, supplies, activities, and materials. Registration has begun and will continue through January 19, 2016. Scholarships are available: contact Tom Baldrige at 301-802-4775 to make your request.



**YOUTH RETREAT 2016 PERMISSION SLIP (One per person) - Please detach**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (other than parents): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would like to room with the following persons (*Choose three*):

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) \_\_\_\_\_



# Worship Arts News and Events

January 2016 Polly Edmonds Baldrige, Minister of Music and Worship Arts | 240-750-8287 | redheaders@verizon.net  
Stephen Kalnoske, Organist

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Concert and Evensong.....

## Organist Michael Smith In Recital

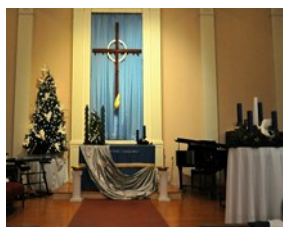
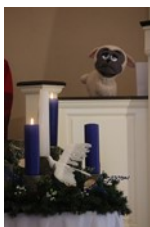
Sunday, January 24

3:00 pm in Sanctuary



Michael Smith is Chair of Performing Arts at The Shipley School and Organist/Choirmaster at The Church of the Good Shepherd, both in Bryn Mawr, PA. He has also served as organist/choirmaster at Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge Park. He holds degrees in organ and conducting at Yale University, where he served as graduate assistant conductor to the famed Yale Glee Club. He has performed recitals throughout Europe, Africa, Russia, and South America.

## A wonderful Advent and Christmas season...



Thanks to the Praise Artisans Guild and all the members of the Worship Arts ensembles at Damascus UMC for making Advent and Christmas at DUMC such a meaningful time for the eye, ear, and soul.

PHOTO CREDITS: Brad West, Nancy Nickerson, Sue Constantinides

## WORSHIP ARTS ENSEMBLES\*

Join for the winter and/or spring term.  
New members always welcome!

**REHEARSALS RESUME  
WEEK OF JANUARY 4**

### WEDNESDAYS

**4:00 pm Colorful Hands of Jesus**

Puppet Troupe for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**4:30 pm Cherubs**

Vocal Choir for 4 ½ years to 1<sup>st</sup> grade

**5:00 pm Choristers**

Vocal Choir for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**5:00 pm Puppets, InC**

Puppet Troupe for Middle Schoolers

**6:30 pm Inspiration Ringers**

Handbell Choir for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

**7:00 pm Youth Handbell Choir**

Handbell Choir for Middle and High School

**7:00 pm Men's Choir**

Vocal Choir for changed voices of all ages

**7:00 pm Women's Ensemble**

Vocal Choir for female voices of all ages

**7:30 pm Chancel Choir**

Mixed voice choir for changed voices

### SUNDAYS

**3:30 pm Youth Praise Band**

Band meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month

**5:00 pm Charles Wesley Singers**

Vocal Choir for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades and up

### MONDAYS

7:30 pm **Ring of Joy**

Advanced handbell ensemble

## PRAISE ARTISANS GUILD

If you feel called to create and help adorn our worship space and building during the seasons of the church year, please contact Connie Ross, PAG Chair, at 301-633-9504.

**CWS Summer Tour to Michigan:  
More info soon**

# MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

**Chair:** Carol Yocum, [carolyocum@msn.com](mailto:carolyocum@msn.com)  
301-829-4822/301-788-6446

**Between Cultures:** Shared ministry with people of Nicaragua. Kathy Jones, 301-580-4591 or [kathyjones@mris.com](mailto:kathyjones@mris.com).

**Blood Drives:** Red Cross Blood Mobile collections. Cathy Heinbaugh, [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net) or 301-253-0742.

**Damascus HELP:** Provides food, financial assistance, furniture, clothes, holiday needs, and other necessities: 301-253-4100 or [DH20872@aol.com](mailto:DH20872@aol.com).

**Earth Angels:** Short term assistance, i.e. yard work, transportation. Kim Briglia, call/text: 240-731-9296 or [kim.briglia@marriott.com](mailto:kim.briglia@marriott.com).

**Earth Stewards:** Adopt-a-highway environmental program. Jeff Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or [heinbjc@comcast.net](mailto:heinbjc@comcast.net).

**Faith Connections:** Healthy Choice Program, community ministries. Debbie Tomlinson, 301-482-0522 or [debtom3@msn.com](mailto:debtom3@msn.com); Holiday baskets, Jane Webb, 301-253-0022 or [great.jane@verizon.net](mailto:great.jane@verizon.net).

**Habitat for Humanity:** Summer home building in Western Maryland--youth involvement. Anita Duvall, 240-485-7650 or [anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:anita.duvall@fda.hhs.gov).

**Harwood House Thrift Shop:** Work times—Tues. (8 am to 2 pm, plus evening) & Thurs. evening; Open: Thurs.—Sat, 11 am to 3 pm. Nancy Counts, [ncounts@verizon.net](mailto:ncounts@verizon.net) or 301-253-6284; Debbie Stone, 301-253-6536 or [dafstone@aol.com](mailto:dafstone@aol.com).

**Meals on Wheels:** Drivers for delivering meals to homebound. Pam Rust, 301-414-5447 or [pamela.rust@comcast.net](mailto:pamela.rust@comcast.net).

**Pleasant Plains Preschool:** Preschool classes & chapel for 2, 3 & 4 year olds. Cora Horst, Director, 301-253-9798 or [pleasant.plains@verizon.net](mailto:pleasant.plains@verizon.net).

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Shawls & lap robes given as a sign of God's love. Cathy Heinbaugh, 301-253-0742 or [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net); Jan Mullinix, 301-482-1122 or [jmullinix74@yahoo.com](mailto:jmullinix74@yahoo.com).

**Medicine Pill Bottles for Malawi:** Leave containers w/ labels removed in the Narthex box. Nancy Nickerson, 301-253-6669 or [nanickerson@verizon.net](mailto:nanickerson@verizon.net).

**Hopi Volunteers in Mission:** Annual week in July serving on the Arizona reservation. Sign up in April. Norm & Cheryl Minekime, [nminekime@yahoo.com](mailto:nminekime@yahoo.com) & [cminekime@verizon.net](mailto:cminekime@verizon.net) or 301-414-0098.

**Travel Toiletries for Homeless Women @** the Montgomery Ave. Center. Red basket in the Narthex. Wanda Miantte, [wmiantte@verizon.net](mailto:wmiantte@verizon.net), 301-972-1876.

Dear DUMC,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. We very much enjoyed getting to be with you at the December 13 services, serving Communion and sharing about our work in Nicaragua in 2015 after the 11 o'clock service. This upcoming year of 2016 is starting off with a bang, receiving Derek Klahre's delegation from Susquehanna University (an added bonus is that Claudia Klahre is their adult chaperone!). We will be visiting La Danta and helping to repair and update the playground made of recycled tires and local wood, as well as visiting Granada and the Little Bluebird Orphanage for a painting project. In 2016, we will also continue our Biblical workshops, as well as think through with La Danta and Friends of Between Cultures ways of doing alternative farming, given that the drought seems like it will now be pretty consistent. At the end of January we will also be delivering the drought relief food donation that DUMC members have so very generously collected.

If you are interested in coming to get to know Nicaragua and La Danta, and getting to share and grow in your faith and theirs, DUMC is planning a summer missions trip for July 16 to the 24. Please contact Kathy Jones (301-580-4591) or Mike Wahl (240-876-9547) for more information.

Thank you,

Amanda & Memo, on behalf of *Between Cultures*

## Damascus HELP wishes you a Happy New Year!

We are in need of volunteers to better help serve the community. We need OD's (answer the phone from home), food drivers to deliver food, pantry donation pick up drivers, furniture teams to pick up and deliver furniture, and transportation drivers.

We are also in need of financial case-workers to access the utility companies for the help the clients' needs. Please call 301-253-4100 if you are interested in any of these opportunities.



## Health & Wholeness

### GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

The DUMC Blood Drive is  
**Thursday, January 28 from 1-6:30 pm**  
in the church Dining Hall



Our first Blood Drive of the year is about to take place, so please check your calendars and make your appointments online @[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor ID: Damascus UMC MD or call 1-800-733-2761 to schedule your donation. Walk-ins are discouraged; anyone with an appointment will be taken first. However, you can now save time by completing the pre-reading and donation questions online from home of the day of the drive.

Thank you to all who have participated in blood drives at DUMC in the past. We have a terrific community of donors & volunteers!

Volunteers are also needed to help prepare for the blood drive. Please contact Cathy Heinbaugh 301-253-0742 or [cheinbaugh@comcast.net](mailto:cheinbaugh@comcast.net) if you are able to help. Thank you for helping us save lives ! !

### Earth Angels!

Did you know that DUMC has 25 Earth Angels? What a band! These angels are ready and willing to provide **TEMPORARY HELP** to DUMC members and folks in our community who are recovering from surgery or illness, navigating through a life transition or crisis, or grieving the loss of a loved one.

Here's what Earth Angels can do for you in your time of need:

Provide transportation to appointments, pick up prescriptions, drop off baked goods, make a meal, do yard work, help with household chores, shop for groceries and other needs, call to check in on your welfare, or make a caring visit. Simply contact Kim Briglia to let her know of your needs.

If you would like to **SERVE** as an Earth Angel, Kim can help you get started. You volunteer for what works for you on a short-term basis. The level of time and commitment is up to you. Come join the band and love your neighbors by lending them a hand in their time of need.

[kim.briglia@marriott.com](mailto:kim.briglia@marriott.com)  
call/text: 240-731-9296



*DUMC's Stephen Ministry  
send wishes for a  
New Year of  
Peace, Hope, and Light in  
2016 !!!*

### CALLING ALL WALKERS!!!

Enjoy the fun of fellowship while  
Getting in some exercise!  
Join us for some invigorating walking  
(usually between 2-4 miles).

If you want to continue or renew your walking habit  
or start a new one with another members from  
DUMC, Call or email Lynn Gruner at  
301-253-5017 / [grunerly@verizon.net](mailto:grunerly@verizon.net)

### Healing Service

Our monthly Healing Service will be held  
**Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 7:00 pm in the Church Parlor.**

**Announcements**



**“OH THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL” ...  
 “AND A CUP OF HOT SOUP IS SO DELIGHTFUL” ---  
 Kenney Sue’s soup that is!!!!**

January 17, 2016 is your lucky day. Kenney Sue’s “incredible Maryland Crab soup,” “wonderful Broccoli Cheese soup,” and “outrageously delicious Turkey Noddle Soup.” The unbelievable price for 1qt. of Maryland Crab \$10.00, 1qt. of Broccoli Cheese or 1qt. of Turkey Noddle for \$7.00, that’s a deal !!!

Believe it or not by January it will be COLD ( Topper Shutt says so!). Orders must be in by January 11, 2016. **We will only make enough soup to fill the orders we receive by Jan 11.** Orders will be ready for pick up in the kitchen after each service. If you can not pick up on Jan. 17 we will label and keep in the freeze or frig to pick up at a later time. Please use the order blank below and give to Joy Schwab, Pennie Adams or Esther Samakouris. Orders can also be left in the church office. Please make checks out to **DUMWomen.**

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Maryland Crab

\_\_\_\_\_ Broccoli cheese

\_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Noodle

Total number \_\_\_\_\_ Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_



**SUPER BOWL BAR-B-QUE**

Once again the United Methodist Women’s famous Super Bowl bar-b-que will be offered February 7, 2016 (maybe Washington or Baltimore will be playing).

**Pre orders due JANURY 31, 2016.  
 Only pre-orders will be honored.**



Lunch will include one quart of homemade Beef bar-b-que, one pint of home -made cole slaw, eight sandwich rolls, and a bag of chips--enough to feed four to eight!!! All this delicious lunch for the fabulous price \$25.00. Please use the order below and make checks out to **DUMWomen.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

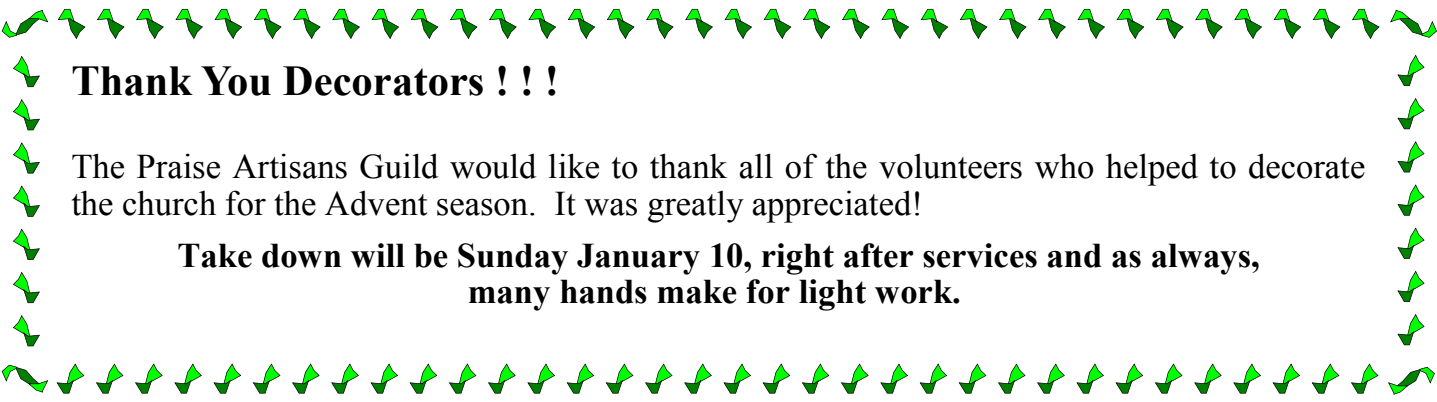
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lunches \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up after 8:15 service \_\_\_\_\_ after 11:00 service \_\_\_\_\_

Orders can be given to Joy Schwab, Pennie Adams, Esther Samakouris or dropped off in the church office. ENJOY ---

**Announcements (cont'd)**



**Thank You Decorators !!!**

The Praise Artisans Guild would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to decorate the church for the Advent season. It was greatly appreciated!

**Take down will be Sunday January 10, right after services and as always, many hands make for light work.**

**UMW NUTS STILL AVAILABLE.....  
AT A REDUCED PRICE!!!!**

Pecans \$7.00    Walnuts \$5.00    Cashews \$5.00  
Almonds \$3.00    Mixed nuts \$5.00

Contact Pennie Adams at [pennie217@yahoo.com](mailto:pennie217@yahoo.com) or 301-831-7517. Please leave your name, phone number and a message please.



We also have the beautiful hand-cut wood ornaments made in Gatlenburg, two designs, each \$5.00.



Note cards, a beautiful lithograph of our church-- blank in side, 5 to a pack made by our own Steve Malley. For \$3.50.

Please also contact Pennie if you'd like to purchase any of the above.

**FRESH,  
FABULOUS,  
DONUTS !!!**



For the month of January, we will be in the narthex selling a variety fresh and delicious Krispy Kreme donuts on Sunday January 10. All funds raised go to support our Between Cultures mission team and the outstanding work they do in Nicaragua on behalf of the poor and in the interest of building a more just world.

You can purchase a dozen donuts (\$8), a half dozen (\$4), or just a single donut (\$1). All the donuts are delicious and made fresh the same morning. Consider taking a dozen home with you, or to Sunday school, or to a social event, or to work Monday morning.

**Congratulations to *The Academy of St. Cecilia* !!**

We have received word that the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County has awarded us a Small Arts and Humanities Organizations and Groups grant in the amount of **\$4,795** for 2016. It was a highly competitive process and we are ecstatic that ASCYO was one of the outstanding arts groups selected to receive this honor.

The board would like to thank Laura Lampshire and Alain Cappeluti for their hard work in compiling and submitting the grant request to the Council. And to be sure, this award is a direct reflection on the hard work that our students and parents put in to make the Academy a great place to be, and we are grateful to all of you.

Have a great Holiday season and we'll see you in February!  
Your ASCYO Board of Directors



## Announcements (cont'd)



### Welcoming Wednesday Dinners Mark Your Calendar!

The *Welcoming Wednesday Dinners* are now available in the Church Dining Hall. We serve from 5:45 pm to 6:30 pm. The suggested donation is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12. This is a chance to connect with your church family mid-week. It is also a **great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to fellowship at DUMC!**

**January 6:** Assorted Soup Buffet, bread, salad, dessert.

**January 13:** Smoked Pork with Fruit Sauce, Sweet Potatoes, Sautéed spinach, Cookies and Milk

**January 20:** Braised Beef Brisket, Smashed Redskin Potatoes, Broccoli, Spinach Salad, Dessert

**January 27:** Fried Chicken, Rolls, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Dessert

Like to cook? Want to help this ministry? You can volunteer for only a few hours on Wednesdays. We need helpers for dishwashing, general preparation, cooking or baking. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, come by during dinners, or email [gabriellehulcher@gmail.com](mailto:gabriellehulcher@gmail.com).

\*Note – Menus subject to change.

### Prayer Needs Listing Revised

In December 2015 we started a weekly prayer list and an ongoing, long-term prayer list. The short-term prayer list appears in the weekly bulletin and highlights recent prayer requests. The long-term prayer list appears in a special prayer section of the Beacon and reflects those who need ongoing prayer.

Prayer lists are meant to be tools that enrich and focus our prayer life. Please consider removing the ongoing prayer list each month from the Beacon and keeping it wherever you have daily prayer, so that you don't forget those persons who are counting on our continued prayer. Then you can simply add the short term prayers each week. Praying for and with each other is an important and vital part of being the body together and we hope that these new, clearer prayer lists will enable you to focus your prayer life.



### Looking for able-bodied Men and/or Women !!!!

On Saturday, January 2, the Harwood House Thrift Shop will be removing the carpet from their main showroom floor. This means all items will need to be taken out of the showroom, the carpet pulled up, and then all items put back in their place.



**Do you have a few hours? Can you lend a hand?  
Have a friend who'd like to help?**

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, just show up. No need to call or leave any messages, just bring yourself at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 2, 2016. Your help will be greatly appreciated !!!!!!!

### Going to buy something on Amazon.com?

**Don't forget to go through the DUMC link  
located at the bottom of the home page on the  
DUMC website ([damascusumc.org](http://damascusumc.org))**

**The Youth Program here at DUMC gets a contribution for all purchases made through this link,  
with no additional cost to you!**

## Announcements (cont'd)

### A SENIOR CHRISTMAS THANK YOU



The Young at Heart would like to say a big THANK YOU to Gabrielle Hulcher, her family and the other kitchen helpers: Carole Macska, Lora Maynard, Kenny Sue Robertson, Jonathan Colborn, Nathan and Colin Capalutti, George Magas, and Hazel Strahorn who made our Christmas dinner such a yummy experience. Thanks also to Santa Claus (Jonathan Colborn) who brought many smiles and HO, HO, HO's. A special thanks to twelfth grader Bethany Macska who shared her wonderful pastry skills with us in the form of beautifully decorated cupcakes. (She has a great pastry career ahead of her. We can say we knew her when!) Thanks Jane Webb for your ongoing support. Our hearts were warmed also by the talents of Julie Sain, Matt Miente, Sue Seabold, Ryan Celli, Dan James and the wonderful "Frank Sinatra" duo of Bob Newlin and Ron Adams. We felt very honored and blessed to have these people in our corner.

Love to all, Jacque Janss, Bob Newlin and all the Young at Hearters!!!!

## Administrative Meetings for January, 2016

- Jan. 6 Office Staff Meeting  
10:00 am in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 7 First Thursday Ministries Meeting  
7:00 pm in the **Sanctuary**
  - ▶ Trustees Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall/back**
  - ▶ Missions Meeting to follow  
in the **Great Hall/Stage Side**
  - ▶ Finance Committee to follow  
in the **Sacristy**
  - ▶ Christian Formation Meeting to  
Follow in the **Library**
- Jan. 10 UMYFO Meeting  
4:00 pm in the Annex
- Jan. 14 SPPRC Meeting  
**7:00 pm** in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 20 **Technology** Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Annex/CR
- Jan. 28 Administrative Board Meeting  
7:00 pm in the Dining Hall/back



## **The Connections Café**

DUMC's Coffee Hour  
Held Sunday mornings between services.

Come and enjoy a hot mug, a few nibbles, and relaxed fellowship. All are welcome.



The Connections Café is  
located in the back half  
of the GREAT HALL.

Joyfully, Pam Compton, Marcia Hofman, Kathy Jones, Gloria Maready, Kim Ferguson, and Gabrielle Hulcher have been using their gifts of hospitality to create this time of fellowship for our congregation. We would welcome more hands to assist, even if it is just **an hour here and there on any given Sunday**. We would also be grateful for food donations like baked goods and fresh fruit. Just stop in or call Pam Compton at 301-253-2958 or email her at [Pamstiches@aol.com](mailto:Pamstiches@aol.com) to sign up to help and/or provide food. We could use you!

## Office Information

### PASTORS:

David S. Cooney, ext. #103  
cell: 240-529-8887 / [david.cooney@verizon.net](mailto:david.cooney@verizon.net)

Amanda P. McMurtrey, ext. #104  
cell: 970-231-5123 / [amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net](mailto:amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net)

### STAFF:

Polly Edmonds Baldrige,  
Minister of Music & Worship Arts  
cell: 240-750-8287 / [redheaders@verizon.net](mailto:redheaders@verizon.net)

Tom Baldrige,  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
cell: 301-802-4775 / [redheaders@verizon.net](mailto:redheaders@verizon.net)

Jane Webb, Office Manager  
ext. #101 / [great.jane@verizon.net](mailto:great.jane@verizon.net)

Linda Stastny, Office Administrator  
ext. #102 / [damascus.umc@verizon.net](mailto:damascus.umc@verizon.net)

Lisa Marshall, Property Manager  
cell: 301-253-5241 / [lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net](mailto:lisamarshall.dumc@verizon.net)

Debbie Benson, Bookkeeper  
ext. #106 / [dumc\\_finance@verizon.net](mailto:dumc_finance@verizon.net)



The Office will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day and will re-open Monday, January 4, at 9:00 am.

Additionally, the office will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, re-opening for business on Tuesday, January 19.

### Office Hours

The office is open Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 6:00 p.m. On Friday, we open at 8:00 a.m., sometimes close for lunch (approx. an hr.) and occasionally close for the day at 4:00 p.m. Additionally,

Pastor David is off on Fridays.  
Pastor Amanda is off on Tuesdays.  
Jane Webb is off on Mondays.  
Linda Stastny is off on Tuesdays.

Please keep this in mind when waiting for a response to e-mail or phone messages. Thank you !!!!!

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### IMPORTANT BEACON MESSAGE

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY, 2016 BEACON WILL BE **WEDNESDAY, January 20** (For Beacon to publish on January 31).

**PLEASE SUBMIT ANY AND ALL ARTICLES BY THIS DATE AT THE LATEST.**

Articles for the monthly **Beacon** (the newsletter) should be e-mailed directly to Jane Webb, [great.jane@verizon.net](mailto:great.jane@verizon.net).

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## The Upper Room

Please feel free to take a copy of the Upper Room which is kept in the pew hymnal racks in our Sanctuary.

Better yet, take a couple of copies and share with friends and neighbors. This publication is a wonderful way to encourage daily scripture reading!



## About Our People

### Your Connection to Care

When you are facing a difficulty, faith issue, or serious illness, your pastoral care team is here for you. Pastors David and Amanda are easy to reach and available to you. Their contact information is below:



**David S. Cooney, ext. #103**  
cell: 240-529-8887  
[david.cooney@verizon.net](mailto:david.cooney@verizon.net)



**Amanda McMurtrey, ext. #104**  
office: 301-253-0022  
[amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net](mailto:amanda.mcmurtrey@verizon.net)

They can also help connect you to a Stephen Minister or an Earth Angel.

### ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

**Pray for those receiving medical care, going through tests, facing surgery or in recovery:** **Pennie Adams** (Cochlear implant), **Benjamin Bautista** (developmental concerns), **Catherine Cramer**, (Randy Anderson's sister with pregnancy complications), **Shannon Barr** (recovering from broken leg), **Mary Burton** (heart issues), **David Bellefleur** (Hank's brother recovering from motorcycle accident), **Ann Cochran**, **Patty Crane** (Cheryl Minekime's cousin with medical issues), **Joyce Dooley** (Carol Taylor's mom), **Pat Duvall**, **April Fry** (Diane Fry's daughter-in-law with M.S.), **Diane Fry** (having complications from her hand surgery recovery), **Patsy Kressig** (Judy's mom), **Nancy Lacy** (recovering from a stroke), **Miel Linthicum**, **Lauren Lloyd** (Jan Mullinix's daughter with health issues), **Daniel Lorenzo** (Angie Thompson's brother with heart failure), **Tom Mielke** (Marilyn Kinsey's son-in-law with M.S.), **Teresa Morella** (recovering from back surgery), **Roberta Mullinix** (Larry's mom in declining health), **Neal Pardini** (recovering from a vascular procedure), **Sue Pratt** (Amy Bilello's mom), **Carolyn Snapp**, **Karen Turner** (Kathy Jones' niece with Lupus), **Amanda Uehara** (Lingrell's 12 yr. old granddaughter recovering from knee surgery), **Karen Wilhem** (Jan Mullinix's daughter with health problems) and **Dr. Authur Woodward, Jr.**, (Recovering at home from head injury).

**Pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer** including **Patty Benson** (Doug's wife), **Mike Bowman** (Roz Bowman's son), **Ann Boyer** (Kevin's mom), **Sue Bradley**, **Steve Capkovits** (Ruth Harward's cousin), **Karen Caroscio** (Stephanie Vara Carter's mother-in-law), **Mickey Cochran**, **Tammy Lee Cosman** (Don & Rita's sister-in-law), **Lauren Dunham**, **Kathy Geehreg**, **Rick Henderson** (Ken's brother), **Willa Kackley** (Judy Benedict's aunt), **Marilyn Kinsey** (melonoma), **Dave Lingrell**, **Tanner Matney**, **Frances Richards** (Rev. Beth Richards' sister), **Greg Sacco** (Gina Wilson's brother), **Tim Sanner** (Dan Krotz's uncle), and **Sharon Stern** (Sandra Malley's sister).

**Continue to pray for all who serve in the military:** The following are stationed in the United States: **John Clayton** – Army (Cathy Heinbaugh's brother), **Thomas LaMaster** – Navy (Ted & Esther Samakouris' grandson), **Gregory Lee** – Army (Cara Hardick Lee's husband), **Benjamin J. Saunders** – Navy (son of Connie Ross), **Alex Sauter** – Marines (son of Todd & Kelly), and **Kossi (Alfred) Setodji** –Army (son of Philip and Mary Davi Avudutu).

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If you would like to add or remove a name to the About Our People section, please e-mail the church office [Damascus.umc@verizon.net](mailto:Damascus.umc@verizon.net) or call (301)253-0022.