



Towson Presbyterian Church

*Towson Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith
growing as disciples of Christ.*

December 2017

400 W. Chesapeake Ave.
Towson, Maryland 21204
410-823-6500

www.towsonpres.org

The TPC Staff

Rev. Rob Carter
Pastor, Senior

Rev. Joel Strom
Pastor, Associate

Stephen Harouff
Director of Music/Organist

Jeness Hall
Director of Children and
Family Ministry

Tara Flynn Runge
Administrative Coordinator

Kathryn Bojanowski
Business Administrator

Leslie Foretich
Director,
Towson Presbyterian
Preschool

Kyanne Fields
Childcare Coordinator

Walter Austin
Sexton

Dear friends,

Every year, Advent comes amid prophets' shouts, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!" Isaiah proclaimed it, as did John the Baptist. It's Advent's annual reminder that God isn't done with our world yet. There is still more work to do. There are mountains to level, valleys to raise, and bridges to build as we strive to help God usher in God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

So while the temptation of this time of every year is to jump right into the joyful news of God's first incarnation amid our Christmas celebrations, Advent asks us not to get ahead of ourselves. Instead, Advent asks us to reflect on where we've been, take stock of where we are, while also looking ahead to what God says is still to come. Such is the work of Christians every Advent—celebrating our growth in discipleship this past year, while looking ahead to all the ways we can continue to grow closer to our God, and who God is calling us to become.

It is my great hope that TPC has been a blessing to you this past year along your path of discipleship, just as I am thankful for all the hearts and hands who contributed to all the mission and ministries of 2017.

Still, we know there is more, or new, we might endeavor. Indeed, as I've shared in numerous, prior Pastor's Thoughts, this is a significant reason why Session has spent parts of the summer and fall exploring where we've been, where we are, and where God's calling us to go. They are making steady progress as they work through the different resources they'll be utilizing to seek the congregation's input on these questions.

As a gentle reminder, they are:

- **Appreciative Inquiry** interviews and cottage meetings that will explore what members' believe to be TPC's core characteristics, as well as members' greatest hopes for TPC's future.

- **Natural Development Surveys**, which will be given to a handful of members, seeking to measure TPC's strengths and weaknesses amid what have been identified as "eight quality characteristics" of growing churches.

- **Timeline**, which will reveal the great history of TPC's life and ministries throughout the years.

Session has embarked on this journey, and will soon be asking for your input, because we know God's not done with any of us, or our community of faith. As Advent reminds us, there are still mountains for us to level, valleys for us to raise, and bridges for us to build as we seek to increase the difference we make in God's kingdom throughout this world.

In Peace,
Rob

Tending the Flock

Rev. Joel's "Office Hours" @ LaCakerie

Rev. Joel will not hold "Office Hours" at LaCakerie in the month of December. Starting in January he will begin holding them at a new location and time! More info to come in the January newsletter.



OFFICE HOURS

Week-After-Christmas Office Hours

Please note that TPC's office hours will be reduced the week after Christmas to 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bulletin Prayer List

To facilitate the office's administration of TPC's weekly Bulletin Prayer List, and to ensure the list is both up-to-date and accurate, beginning in January of 2018 we will keep names on the Bulletin Prayer List for **four weeks** before removing them. After four weeks, names can be requested to return to the prayer list as desired.



Worship at TPC in December

Advent means “arrival,” or “beginning.” So it makes at least some sense that Advent marks the beginning of a New Year within the Church. But much more than this, Advent simultaneously points us back to God’s first arrival in the Christ child, while also pointing us forward to the time when Christ comes again to fulfill God’s will for the world. Advent, then, is a season inherently filled with tension—a season in which we behold the distance between the kingdom God revealed in Christ, and the time when that kingdom will come to be fully realized. In this way, Advent is also a time to reflect on the ways in which God is calling us to bridge the distance between God’s advents in this world. How can we help fulfill God’s will today, even as we wait with hope “Emmanuel,” God with us, to come again?



Dec. 3 As Advent turns the page on a new liturgical year, so it also begins a new year in the Revised Common Lectionary—the ecumenical cycle that offers both daily and weekly Bible lessons, and from which Pastors Rob and Joel select the lessons for each Sunday service. This year, TPC will be following Year B in the three-year lectionary cycle.

As such, on the first Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Hope—we turn to the prophet Isaiah (74: 1-9) and the Gospel of Mark (1:1-8), which speak to the and the stress of waiting for One who’s promised to come again, but has yet to actually arrive. This morning, we will also joyfully celebrate our Lord’s Supper.

Dec. 10 On the second Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Joy—we turn to the first chapter of Mark’s gospel, which doesn’t begin with shepherds in the field or angels in the sky; nor does Mark speak of a virgin mother or a journey to a Bethlehem stable. Rather, Mark begins with the cries of John the Baptist, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John’s unabashedly called people to “repent.” And though he was a strange man, wearing strange clothes, saying strange things, people still came to John from all across the countryside. They came to repent, to see life from a new perspective, and uncover a reality they had never known before.

Dec. 17 **Christmas Cantata!** On the third Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Love—TPC will share **one single worship service at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. There, we will behold the glory of God’s coming proclaimed in song, as TPC’s Chancel Choir leads us in the sounds of a beautiful musical service.

Dec. 24 This year, the fourth Sunday of Advent—the Sunday of Peace—also happens to be Christmas Eve. TPC will celebrate **one Sunday morning worship service at 10 a.m.** in the sanctuary. Worshippers are encouraged to dress casually as desired.

We will also gather for three special Christmas Eve services in the evening:

4:00 p.m. – Family Service

Worshippers of all ages—including wee ones—can come and hear the Christmas story retold and joining in the singing of lots of carols!

8:00 & 10:00 p.m. – Candlelit Services of Lessons & Carols

These beautiful, candlelit services are filled with Scripture lessons, choir anthems, and rich Christmas carols that all combine to retell the majestic story of the Christ child’s birth.



Dec. 31 The first Sunday *after* Christmas is a time to intentionally celebrate the light of God’s incarnation in our world! Pastor Joel will offer the morning message as we gather for **one service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.**

Advent Festival & AFM & Joyous Goodies for All to Eat!

Sunday, December 3rd in Thompson Hall will be the **Annual Advent Festival!** There will be several crafts (and one will be edible on the spot!) including a miniature gingerbread house for children to decorate and take home. Once created, some of the crafts will go to nursing homes and the homebound.

We have very **LARGE Coloring Banners for Advent** that we will need many hands to work on, so please ALL TPC members stop by the tables – but especially the coloring banners – to give 20-30 minutes of your artistry to an all-church project that will hang in Thompson Hall.

We will begin Advent Festival around 10:40 am so the children will get a head start BUT there will be time for intergenerational bonding. Please come directly to the celebration after the 10 am service.

There will be much to entertain & amuse you between the Alternative Gift Market and the Advent Festival. Thank you to Jennifer Bolster and her team for creating yummy goodies for all of us to snack on while we begin our Advent preparations.

FYI – Chime Choir & Cherub Choir will rehearse December 3rd at 11:15.

Chimes in the Choir Room.

Cherubs in Room 212.

We look forward to seeing everyone together on this special day!

Worship, Music & Arts



Benefit Concert for TPC's Music Ministry

On **Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. in the Chapel**, TPC will be very blessed to host a special holiday benefit concert for TPC's music ministry, featuring the vocal talents of soprano soloists Carol Lord Openhym and Lynn C. Terrell Arnold. There is no cost at all to attend, while a free-will offering will be received.

Christmas Cantata Service, Sunday, December 17th

During the 10 o'clock worship service, our Chancel Choir, with soloists, will present the Christmas portion of George Frideric Handel's timeless *Messiah*. The service will run a few minutes longer than usual, but we hope to make it worth your time! Please plan to celebrate this occasion with us.

G.F. Handel (1685-1759) spent most of his career living in London composing and producing operas (secular, staged) and oratorios (sacred, usually not staged or only semi-staged). As Italianate opera was falling out of favor among the London audiences, it was his settings of sacred texts that secured his popularity as a composer. Though, he never lost his love for the dramatic flair of the opera stage.



Part One of *Messiah* includes five scenes, though, for time, we will omit "the coming judgement" scene. We'll begin with "Isaiah's prophecy of salvation" from Isaiah 40:1-5, then move to the "prophecy of Christ's birth" from Isaiah 7, 9, 40, and 60. Then, "the angels announce to the shepherds," Luke 2:8-14. Finally, we'll conclude with "Christ's healing and redemption," from Zechariah 9, Isaiah 35 and 40, and Matthew 11:28-30. Of course, we'll end the service with that great statement of victory, the "Hallelujah Chorus."



All-Age Christmas Caroling

on

Sunday, December 17

from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TPC folk of all ages join to bring carols of cheer to those shut in and ill. We'll board a bus at 5:00 p.m. and return to Thompson Hall for a delicious chili dinner and games and fun. If you know someone who would like a visit from the TPC church caroling bus, please let Rev. Joel Strom know. You can sign up to sing via the church website.

Epiphany Stars – December 31, 2017

During the offering on Sunday, December 31, you will receive an Epiphany Star.

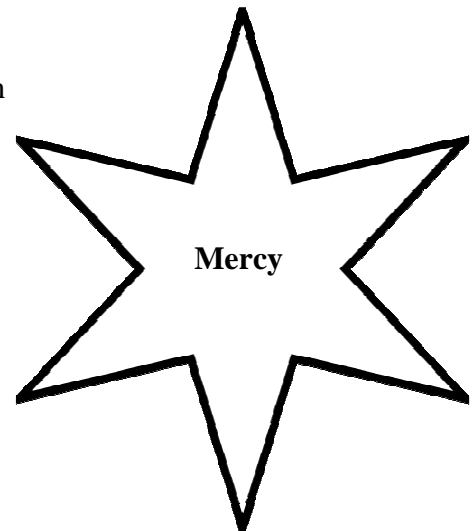
An Epiphany Star is a paper star made out of construction paper. Written on each star is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Some gifts are traditional: *faith, hope* and *love*, for instance, while others might say *creativity, humor* or *simplicity*.

The stars will come around in baskets and you're encouraged to pick one randomly – without peeking at the words and choosing your favorite. Next, place the word somewhere where it can be seen – on your refrigerator, in your wallet or pocketbook, or on your desk. Then, let this word “work” on you throughout 2018.

Trust the Holy Spirit to speak to you in 2018 through this word. On Epiphany Sunday in January 2019 we'll hear in worship, and in small group gatherings after worship, how God's Spirit spoke to you through your star. The idea is that the gift written upon your star is God's gift to you in the coming year, and in turn, your gift to God.

If you are away on December 31, Epiphany Stars will be available to be picked up in the Narthex throughout January.



Children & Family Ministry

What's Happening in Church School?

The Parable of the 10 Maidens. The Parable of the Talents. The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats.

During three weeks in November, **Grades 1-2** and **Grades 3-5** learned about these stories. The parables build on one another and are immediately told in quick succession in Matthew.

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25: 31-46 that we must bring **COMPASSION** to the world. We are to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, give warm clothes when someone is cold, visit the sick, visit the jailed.

Grades 1-2 created a **Giving Tree** which is located in Thompson Hall. The children cut out the leaves with various messages of **COMPASSIONATE ACTION**. Some of the instructions are "Visit someone who is in hospital or housebound, or send a card." "Buy some new clothes and give them" to ACTC to distribute.

We invite members to take a card and perform the suggested action. Once your **COMPASSIONATE ACTION** is completed, place the card in the collection plate during worship as part of the offering.

Grades 3-5 wrote Haikus in response to the call of **COMPASSIONATE ACTION**. Reflect the children's wisdom.



Grades 3-5 Haikus

You feed me when sick
You love me when I am down
You give me a drink.

You give me a home
You visit me in jail now
Your share a bright light.

You give oil to light
You live to serve the people
You give to the poor.

Lara K.

I feed the sick ones
I saw you shivering so
I gave you clothing.

Chris C.

You have fed me well
You helped me when I was lost
You are blessed by God.

Isaac H

Compassion is love
Love others with all your heart
Do the same for me.

Treat others with love
Love as they are your own kin
Love me like family.

Anon.

You have not fed me,
But the others have acted.
Why do you hold back?

Feed the ones in need
Let others join your table
Make sure they are loved

Brody K.

You will eat today
You fed me when I was sick
You will eat right now

Kaitlyn C.

Youth

Summer, 2018 Youth Trips

Middle School - YouthWorks Mission Trip to Harrisburg, PA
June 24-29, 2017

High School – Montreat Youth Conference
July 22-28, 2017

To reserve a spot for our summer trips, hand in a \$100 deposit written out to *Towson Presbyterian Church* by Sunday, December 10. Contact Pastor Joel if you have any questions. And scholarship assistance is always available!

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



To help offset the cost of their trip to the Montreat Youth Conference this summer, our high school teens are selling Christmas Wreaths in Thompson Hall on December 3 and 10 after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Come on down and peruse the options on a laptop or purchase a wreath yourself through this link:

<https://www.lcffundraising.com/f/488397> Thank you for your support!

Participants for Christmas Eve

Dear Parents of TPC Children and Youth,

We are looking for volunteers to assist us with the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service. If your child is available, we have something for them to do!

Pre-school to Grade 1: Cherub Choir. Meets every Sunday at 11:15 with Lorene LaBerge

Grade 2 to Grade 8: Chime Choir. Meets Sunday 11/26, 12/3, 12/10 with Stephen Harouff at 11:15 am in the Choir Room

Grade 2 to Grade 8: Gospel Readers and Angels. Rehearsal Sunday 12/17 from 11:15-12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

ALL Volunteers attend the ONE and ONLY put it all together Dress Rehearsal on Sunday 12/17 11:15 am – 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Please let Jenness Hall know ASAP via email (jhall@towsonpres.org) or in person if your child would like to join the festivities. Thank you!

Stewardship --- TPC needs your gifts!

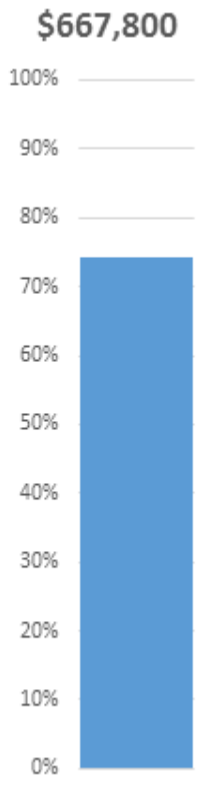
Time to Make A Difference

Towson Presbyterian Church exists because of your monetary and spiritual support. Please pledge your gifts for 2018 and consider making a special 2017 year-end gift.

Pledges are accepted all year long, but we ask that you send in your 2018 pledge before December 3, 2017.

If you have misplaced your pledge envelope, you can email your pledge to kathryn@towsonpres.org or call the church office at 410.823.6500.

The General Fund remains short of the year-end goal by approximately \$171,000. You can help reduce the short-fall with a special year-end gift.

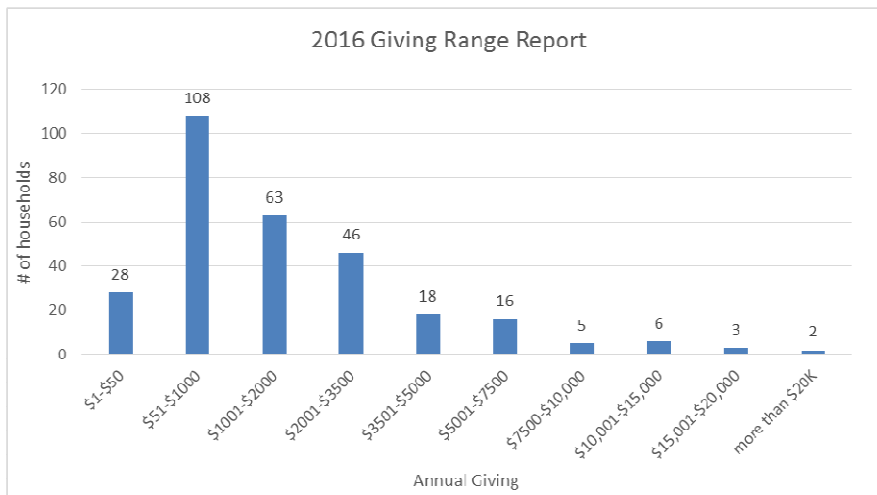


There are many ways to make your monetary gifts to TPC:

1. **Sunday mornings:** Please make your check payable to Towson Presbyterian Church and drop it or cash in the offering plate passed during each service.
2. You may also mail contributions to Towson Presbyterian Church, 400 W. Chesapeake Ave, Towson, MD 21204. Please do not mail cash.
3. Online at www.towsonpres.org by clicking the "Give to TPC" button. This is a secure, safe and convenient way to contribute to TPC using your TPC Online account or as a Guest.
4. Using your smart phone, text our church keyword (CheerfulGiver) followed by a dollar amount to 73256. Within seconds, you will receive a reply text with additional instructions to enter your payment method.

You incur no fees for using online or texting, but for each gift via checking or savings, TPC will pay a 1% bank fee. For each gift via credit or debit card, TPC will pay a 3% bank fee. You may choose to increase your gift to cover those fees.

5. **Gifts of Securities:** You could potentially avoid capital gain taxes by gifting securities to TPC. You or your broker should contact the church office at 410-823-6500 to receive additional instructions on how to transfer stock shares electronically to TPC's account.



Adult Spiritual Formation

“Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited”
Sunday, December 3 and 10

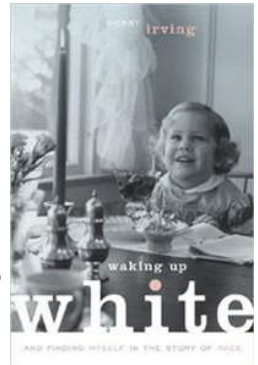
Join either Alison Peer at 9:00 a.m. or Joan Pugh at 11:15 a.m. in the Library as they invite us into the season of Advent and explore biblical characters from our Advent lectionary readings who invite us to wait and prepare for the Messiah. Childcare will be offered at the 9:00 a.m. class.

Book Study - January 2018

Waking Up White

Book Study and Small Groups

It's been called “one of the most important books on race in recent memory.” For 25 years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her—and ultimately for all of us.



The co-moderators of the PC(USA) have called upon all churches in the denomination to explore this book, in the hopes of facilitating both discussion and increased understanding of the racial tensions and divisions amid our communities. Books go on sale in Thompson Hall for \$5 on Nov. 12, and sign up for a Small Group, which will begin meeting in January!

Mission

McKim Center – Gifts for Children & Hat/Mitten Drive

TPC will once again support the **McKim Center** to provide a real Christmas for some of the most deserving children in town. These are the **McKim Kids**, youngsters who may be short on the material things but who are long on drive, determination, and the desire to make better lives for themselves. The McKim Kids go to the Center for: After School Tutoring; Homework Helping hour, Arts & Crafts, Summer Day Camp, Music, Cooking, Dance and Sports.

The McKim Center needs a total of 200-250 new gifts for boys & girls from elementary through middle school age (4-15) and TPC will do its part! Here is how you and your family can help:

TPC will have our Angel Tree in Thompson Hall beginning Sunday, December 3rd.

Please take an Angel that will list the age & gender of the children your family will buy a gift.

Also, a hat and mitten/glove drive for the McKim Kids begins December 3rd.

Please bring in a hat, pair of gloves OR a matching set! We will hang these on our Angel Tree as the gift tags are taken.

DEADLINE for UNWRAPPED Gifts & Hats/Mittens/Gloves is
Sunday, December 17th.

This project is co-sponsored by Mission Outreach & the Children & Family Ministry Committees.

Thank you for your generosity so the McKim Kids may have a special Christmas.

Earth Corps/ Intergenerational Garden

Celebrate the Bounteous Harvest - Season 8 in the IGG!

Over 2 dozen volunteers, young and old, supported the InterGenerational Garden (IGG) in various ways over this past year, our 8th season. It was truly an intergenerational effort. And these efforts resulted in 52 deliveries of fresh, healthy produce to ACTC between March and November including:

- 96 gallon bags of lettuces, spinach, carrots, and radishes
- 171 lbs. of tomatoes, peppers, green beans and squash.



If you'd like to see a record of this and previous seasons in the IGG check out the IGG blog:

<http://tpcigglog.blogspot.com/2017/> (Thanks to our resident blogger – John Sheehan!)

Look for the IGG table at the Alternative Gift Market, and join us next Spring as we tend this special corner of God's creation next season!

Carol Appleby, *chair*

WHAT WAS LEARNED WITH THE BURIAL OPTION SURVEY?

This past October congregational members were asked to participate in a Burial Option Survey. While not as many of you completed it as we would have liked we thank those who did.



We learned that the traditional full body burial in a casket in the ground is no longer attractive to many of our current members. Those of you who responded were about evenly divided in your interest in the other options. Half indicated your preference for burial of cremains (ashes), either in a niche in the Courtyard columbarium or at BeeTree Cemetery. The other half of you indicated a preference for or interest in green/natural burial which might become available at BeeTree Cemetery. Several of you indicated you had already made burial arrangements. You are to be congratulated!

There is still work to be done before either option will become available and that work has been divided between EarthCorps for green burial and the Cemetery & Columbarium Sub-Committee of the BeeTree Committee for the design and development of a Columbarium addition.

TPC's EarthCorps Committee, sponsored a workshop on green burial November 4th. If you were unable to attend, EC member Ann Phillips, would be happy to answer any questions you have or direct you to additional information on green burials in general. Ann is also on the board of the Green Burial Association of Maryland. If you have questions about green burials at BeeTree Cemetery specifically contact EC committee chair, Carol Appleby.

The Columbarium addition is temporarily on hold due to Courtyard storm water issues that will need to be solved (under the leadership of the Property Committee) before any additional Courtyard construction can occur. Due to the nature of the water problem and the upcoming winter weather, it will be spring, 2018 before that solution can be implemented. If you desire any information regarding the Columbarium addition, please contact Mary Jane Pennell.

Alternative Gift Market

TPC's Annual Alternative Gift Market (AGM)

WHAT? Twelve charitable organizations will accept donations for items that support their mission.

The Shopping List with all the items will be distributed December 19th for you to ponder your choices over the Thanksgiving holiday! We have great gift ideas for teachers and family!

WHERE? Thompson Hall

WHEN? December 3rd & 10th, 9 - 9:50a.m. and 11 - 12:30 p.m.

WHO? You, your family & friends can SHOP at the Market!



Organizations accepting donations for their items at the AGM include:

- Heifer, International (bees, bunnies, llamas as well as micro loans to women to start a business)
- ACTC (peanut butter, bus tokens & lunch and care bags)
- Honduras Mission Trip (bags of cement, eco-stoves, oven mitts)
- Partners for Just Trade (crafts & accessories by artisans who get a living wage by selling through this organization)
- Food 4 Thought (backpacks, cereal, peanut butter)
- TPC's Youth Groups
- High Peake
- Fair Trade Coffee and Teas,
- Earth Corps & the IGG
- Casita Copan
- Medical Benevolence & Healthcare 4 Honduras.



Items range in price from \$2 to more than \$100. Your donations provide needed items and you get a beautiful Christmas card which details the item, the organization and its mission.

WHY? Because no one really needs another holiday tie, or sweater, or a belt. Because many people around the world **REALLY NEED** you to buy items that will make their lives possible and just a little bit better!! Let us all join in and be Christ's hands in the world!

See YOU at the Market!



Property

A significant kitchen renovation...new sod on the front lawn of the property...new sod and some fresh landscaping around the southwest corner of the building. The Property and Memorial Committees have collaborated on some nice upgrades to the look and functionality of our church this year – but there's still more to come!

In December, the sidewalks in front of the church will undergo a substantial repair and replacement effort. The project will begin on or around Monday, December 11th, and will include replacement of the cracked Chesapeake Ave entranceway into the Thompson Hall parking lot. The work will be staged so that it does not impact access to the church on any Sundays, and should be completed before Christmas (weather permitting).

If you are coming to TPC for any reason on a weekday during the week of December 11-15, please be aware that you will likely not be able to enter the Thompson Hall parking lot via Chesapeake Ave (use either the alley or the Central Ave entrance/exit to get into the parking lot). If you are coming to TPC for any reason on a weekday during the week of December 18-22, please be aware that you may need to enter the building through either the Thompson Hall or Alley entrances.



We have more great improvements planned for 2018, so stay tuned!

Kevin McKenna, *chair*

Memorial

The Christmas Holidays are fast approaching which presents us with many opportunities to remember a loved one or to honor a friend or family member with a memorial gift. Some of us have homes with little need for more “gifts” and would welcome a donation in their honor to Towson Presbyterian Church. It would go to the General Memorial fund for the much needed maintenance of the Church; for example concrete sidewalks and entrance step repair or a multitude of other needed areas. Another possibility would be to “think spring” and donate to the Intergenerational Garden to produce healthy food for providing sustenance to families in need. Each of your honorees would receive notification of the gift.

Memorial Funds this month have been received for Kathy Bredbenner and Ken Strout. We have been blessed with these wonderful memorial gifts and deeply thank the families for their designations.

For Memorial Gifts, I would like to remind you to send appropriately identified donations directly to Kathryn Bojanowski in the Business Office and not placed in the Sunday Offering. This way, the appropriate information will be forwarded to the Memorial Chairman who will then be able to send thank you notes, notify families of donations and generate accurate gift records.

If you would like further information, please contact: Susan Hossfeld 410-683-4357, e-mail shossfeld@comcast.net.

Susan Hossfeld, *chair*



SESSION MEETING

October Highlights:

Session discussed the motion in September to move the Annual Congregational meeting from the last Sunday in January to the second Sunday in February “if the way be clear.” However, this month it was noted that the bylaws do not allow it without a change requiring congregational approval. As such, the motion in September is voided.

Rev. Carter presented the document “Committee Mission Statements” for final review. Motions: Session approved the document and each committee’s mission statement, which will now be added to the Session Manual.

November Highlights:

Presbytery Report: Session learned that the merger between Brown Memorial Woodbrook(BMW) and Govans Memorial was approved. When the property of Brown Memorial Woodbrook Church is sold, the proceeds will go to the merged congregation.

Stewardship and Finance: Session approved the following motions:

- To have the Finance committee develop a policy for restricted giving, which will include a defined number of categories for gifts. The Finance committee will define and describe the categories and bring recommendations back to Session for final approval.
- To approve the Finance committee recommendation that the 12/31/2017 balance in Equities Dividends (2-40501) and Fixed Income Dividends (2-40601) be allocated as follows: 7% to the Carr Music Expendable account and 1.7% to the Property Expendable account- with the remaining 91.3% portion used to reduce the Self Loan.

Session learned that TPC received an unrestricted gift this week of \$45,000 from the estate of Mildred Murray. The Session received the gift with gratitude to Mildred Murray and to her family.

The Session approved the following motion:

- To receive the gift and to have the Finance committee apply it to the Endowment Fund for self-loan management.

Worship Music and Arts: The Session approved the following Motion:

- To celebrate communion the first Sunday of the months in 2018, except for January 7, 2018. Communion in January will be celebrated on January 14, 2018. TPC will celebrate a Congregational Reaffirmation of Baptism on January 7, 2018.

Property: The Session approved the following motions:

- To formally sponsor Troop 729 of the Boy Scouts of America at TPC.
- To allow Rev. Rob Carter and the Property committee to negotiate and sign a short-term lease agreement with Kol-Halev Synagogue for use of the Chapel.

Session Meeting: Session approved the following motion:

- To cancel the Stated Session Meeting scheduled on December 27, 2017. The Session approved the following Motion: To call a Special Meeting of the Session on January 10, 2018 to review the draft budget and to discuss Emergency Preparedness.
-

Phyllis Gray, *Clerk*

Christmas Poinsettias

Flowers are \$15.00 / each

Given by: _____

In honor _____ or memory _____

Of: _____

Please donate my poinsettia : _____

Please return to Tara by December 15.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=157910>



Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. Family Worship followed by cookies and punch in Thompson Hall
(infant care provided)

8:00 p.m. Lesson and Carols - Childcare is available

10:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Please spread the good news of the birth of our Savior and invite your family and friends to join TPC at one of the three Christmas Eve worship services.

Come see the peace and love, hope and blessings that the birth of Jesus Christ brings us, so together we can sing *Rejoice!*



Online Giving is now is now available!

Online, Mobile, Or Text

Please scan the QR code or visit www.towsonpres.org



Registration at TPP....



Registration dates at TPP:

Beginning January 8, 2018 families who are members of Towson Presbyterian Church may register. Applications will be available beginning January 3rd.

Beginning January 15, 2018 families who have a child currently enrolled in our school or have had a child previously enrolled may register.

Beginning January 22, 2018 all remaining spaces are open to the public on a first come basis.

For a tour of our school, please email us at towsonprespreschool@gmail.com or call us at 410-337-2762 to set up a convenient time for you to visit.

How to Register on your Application Date:

Applications are available at school between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. They are also available on our website at www.towsonprespreschool.org. Applications are considered in the order in which they are returned.

Leslie Foretich, *Director*

Inclement Weather Policy

TPC will seek to have the sanctuary open for worship every Sunday, regardless of weather conditions. In case of inclement weather, however, the 8:30 am service and church school/adult education classes may be cancelled. A decision will be made and communicated by 8:00 am on Sunday morning. The church plans to hold 10:00 am Sunday worship, with rare exceptions.

TPC's leaders are not able to promise in all conditions that the church grounds will be clear and safe; if conditions for walking or driving to church seem dangerous, parishioners are urged not to come to church.

Meetings and programs other than worship services may be cancelled at any time (on Sundays or during the week) if weather conditions become unfavorable. Also, the church office may close when weather conditions present a danger for travel.

To stay informed in times of inclement weather:

- Check the answering machine message
(410) 823-6500
- Check the webpage: www.towsonpres.org.
- Tune to WBAL (1090 AM).

Policy adopted by Session, December 2005

Sign up for RainedOut on the TPC website.

