



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

Tara Flynn Runge
Administrative
Coordinator

Kathryn Bojanowski
Business Administrator

Leslie Foretich
Director,
Towson Presbyterian
Preschool

Katie Kruger
Childcare Coordinator
Walter Austin
Sexton

June 2017

Towson Presbyterian Church

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

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

As I've shared in previous articles, I believe there are three questions that churches within the Reformed tradition must perpetually explore. They are questions born out of the Reformed tradition's motto—*the Church reformed and always reforming*—reflecting our belief that we should always be striving to grow closer to God and who God would have us be. As such, the Session and I have begun to intentionally explore: *Who have we—Towson Presbyterian Church—been? Who are we now? Who are we called to be?*

As each of these questions reveals a pivotal aspect of the life and call of this congregation, they are founded in the belief that our mission and ministries at TPC will grow only as our understanding of who we are and who we're called to be grows. Indeed, clarity of vision and purpose brings form and focus to our ministries, further facilitating our discernment of God's Spirit!

Last month, I introduced three resources that Session will utilize to help explore each question: Natural Church Development Surveys; Appreciative Inquiry; and a timeline of the Towson Presbyterian Church's entire history.

This month, as I begin to introduce these resources in better detail, I lift up the timeline, which will facilitate Session's exploration of who/where our community of faith has been.

Nothing obscure or terribly fancy, Session will create a straightforward timeline that begins in 1836 (the year to which Towson Presbyterian Church traces its roots) and runs through today. Along the timeline will be (almost) everything of significance that has occurred within TPC's life, including the church's ups and downs, the community's joys and sorrows, the ministerial successes and failures along the way, as they have *all* combined to lead TPC to the place we are today. To be sure, there may be no greater tool in helping us discern *who we have been* than this timeline.

To ensure the timeline captures as much of our congregation's history as possible, the Session will form a team that will study various historical documents and gather members' historical knowledge through personal conversations and interviews. The result, we hope, will be a timeline that not only accurately reflects where we've been as a community of faith, but also lifts up recurring values and blessings of TPC's missional life throughout the years—values and blessings that reflect who we've always been and who we will continue to be!

Next month, I will further introduce the second resource Session will utilize—Natural Church Development Surveys—as we continue to look ahead to what God has in store for this special community of faith!

In Peace,
Rob

Tending the Flock

Deaths/Marriages/Baptisms

We extend our Christian sympathies and hope in the resurrection on behalf of our departed members:

James R. Hyde, on May 17

Shirley Cosner, on May 24



Rev. Joel's "Office Hours"

You can find me on Wednesday mornings at LaCakerie (11 Allegheny Ave. by the Towson circle) from 8:30-10:00 a.m. fueling up for the day with a large cup of coffee in my hand (and I'm also available to meet with you Monday-Thursday). Stop by and join me if you're available. I'd love to hear how you're doing and what you're thinking about these days! - Joel

Stephen Harouff to direct concert at the Kennedy Center

In addition to so sharing his gifts and leadership with TPC as Director of Music and Organist, Stephen also has several extracurricular projects that supplement his position with TPC. One of those is work with Encore Creativity for Older Adults, an age 55+ community of singers in the Washington D.C. metro area, comprised of 20 ensembles serving over 1,000 singers. One of those ensembles, the Towson Encore Chorale, rehearses in TPC's chapel every Thursday afternoon during the program year.



We excitedly share that Stephen and Encore Creativity will be represented in a high profile event this coming weekend. The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the National Institute of Health, and the National Endowment for the Arts are combining efforts to present a two day event called **Sound Health: Music and the Mind**. Concerts, lectures, and discussions will focus on the scientific connections between music, health, and wellness—specifically, how music study can help us age gracefully and treat a wide array of health concerns. If you watched the Memorial Day Concert on PBS last weekend you may have heard famed soprano Renée Fleming, Artistic Advisor to the Kennedy Center, speak about the upcoming collaboration. In coordination with this event, Encore Creativity will present a concert Saturday evening, June 3rd, at 6:00 p.m.

The concert will be on the Millennium Stage concert series at the Kennedy Center, and will be conducted by Stephen. It is free and open to the public. It will also be live streamed at www.YouTube.com/user/TheKennedyCenter, and will be archived there. You may also access the video through the Kennedy Center's Facebook page.

Worship, Music and Arts Ministries



Worship at TPC – June, 2017

Pentecost

This month, we enter the season of Pentecost, celebrating God’s promised fulfilled that while Christ is no longer incarnate in the world, God is still with us. In fact, with Pentecost we celebrate the gift of God’s very Spirit that is not only with us, but in us—blessing us with gifts of God and the call to use them for God’s purpose.

As such, Pentecost also introduces a new season in the life of the Church. While it’s known by a relatively pedestrian name, “Ordinary Time,” it is an intentional season in the life of the church in which our worship takes time to intentionally explore the ways in which God is equipping and calling us to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world today.

June 4 Pentecost! All are invited to wear red—the liturgical color that symbolizes the Holy Spirit—as we gather in celebration that God has not left us orphaned, but has given us the Advocate, the Counselor, the very Breath of God in the gift of the Holy Spirit. This morning, we will also celebrate the gifts and calling of new elders and deacons amid a service of installation and ordination. And we will join together at our Lord’s table to share in Communion.

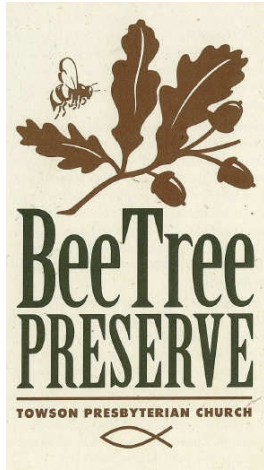


June 11 In Matthew 28: 16-20, Jesus offers “the Great Commissioning,” in which he charges his disciples to continue his ministry and mission following his departure from this world. It seems like an impossible task to do on our own, to be sure. But Jesus promises, “I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

June 18 Gifts of Men Sunday—While we celebrate the *Gifts of Women* in May, today we celebrate the *Gifts of Men*. In this special service, various men of the church will lead both worship services, including the morning’s message.

Worship continued on next page...

Worship at TPC— June (Continued)



June 25 This morning, TPC will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the BeeTree Preserve.

At the 8:30 a.m. service, the traditional early service will be held in the Chapel.

The later service will be held **at BeeTree**, beginning at 11 a.m. We will worship outside (but under cover) at the Preserve, giving special thanks for God's beautiful creation and the special gift TPC has at BeeTree.

Following the service, are all invited to stay for a time of fellowship and nourishment, as we enjoy lunch, games, and lots of fun together.



Memorial

Many needs of the Church remain available for memorials, and restricted contributions for specific projects are also deeply appreciated. The updated Memorial List brochure is located in the Narthex. New ideas are added frequently and may not be included in the current list but are available upon request. You may take the brochure home to review the memorials and new suggestions are always welcome.

The sod is down! The plot to the west of the front Sanctuary door is given in loving memory of Ann Rudd, and the area to the east of the door is in loving memory of George Hohl. We are grateful to the Rudd family and Hohl family for their designations to make our Church an attractive and restful place to worship.

- Funds are needed just to take care of general landscape maintenance for our property—the weeds keep growing, trees need to be pruned or removed and financial help is needed to keep our property well maintained.
- Wooden benches, flag pole and base for Bee Tree

For Memorial Gifts, I would like to remind you to send appropriately identified donations directly to Kathryn Bojanowski in the Business Office. If it is placed in the Sunday Offering it may not get credited to the proper Memorial account. If this happens, thank you notes, family notification, and appropriate record keeping of the gift may not occur as the information is not forwarded to the Memorial Chairman.

If you would like further information, you may call Susan Hossfeld 410-683-4357 or by e-mail at shossfeld@comcast.net.

Mission Outreach

Dear Church Representatives,

In an effort to more effectively collect food from our churches, the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC) is changing the way we are asking you to participate. Instead of collecting all items on our food list, we would like you to focus on 2-5 items of the ones we need the most. We hope that directing you to items that are critically low in our pantry will reduce the amount of money we are currently spending on supplementary food. In addition, we would like to provide you with our packing boxes that you can use for collecting and delivering designated items throughout the month. You can pick them up at the Center or during our General Board Meetings. Having the food already sorted before delivery to ACTC will allow us to place those boxed items on our shelves right away and out to our clients quickly.



The food item(s) we would like **TPC** to focus on in **June** are
Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, and Macaroni and Cheese (boxed)

In addition to streamlining our procedure, we would also like to provide you with more marketing materials to assist you with our food collection. At ACTC we will have a marketing packet for you to borrow and pick up that includes: brochures, packing boxes, tri-fold poster, laminated informational signs, and a variety of videos on CDs and DVDs. If you would like us to deliver these materials to you before your collection month, we would be happy to do so. We will contact you three weeks prior to your collection month regarding the items we would like you to collect.

Please contact us at 410 236-4581 or by email at actc316@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

God Bless,

Intergenerational Garden

Come see what's growing in the IGG!

TPC members and TPP children have been busy planning flowers and vegetables in and around the Intergenerational Garden.



Check our blog:

<http://tpcigg.blogspot.com/2017/05/may-workday.html>

That means we need YOU to help water, weed and harvest to get us through the rest of the season.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0D4CACAE2DA6FB6-2017

Honduras Trip

Honduras and Eco Stoves 2017

In April 2017, we took our annual mission trip to Honduras to serve in villages near the city of Copan Ruinas. As is normal, we had a dental team, a medical team, a community building team, and a construction team – a total of 32 people ranging from teenagers to near 80.

This year our construction team of 7 skilled, adventurous people worked primarily on building eco stoves and teaching the villagers of Chonco how to build the stoves. We built 6 stoves and it is our hope that they will continue to build more during this year.

Why is this so critical? The stoves they currently use (see photo below) use a lot of wood and put out a great deal of smoke inside the houses. The women cooking on the stoves inhale unhealthy amounts of smoke and soot lines the walls and ceilings of their homes – a terrible situation.



The new eco stoves we showed them how to build use 60% less wood. Indeed, an entire meal can be cooked with maybe 6-8 small sticks. Hence, use of these stoves helps save the forest so more oxygen and rain can be produced by a stronger forest. Plus, the stoves are so efficient that there is little ash left from the cooking and the smoke is drawn completely outside the house in a metal chimney. The picture below shows what the stoves look like. You can see the fire inside the “rocket stove.” The fire very efficiently heats the large metal plate on which they can cook, and the smoke is drawn under the plate, down into a chamber and then sucked out through the chimney.



The first lady for whom we built a stove was a little skeptical because it was something different. But when we visited her the next day, she said she had cooked dinner and breakfast on the stove and liked it very much. Indeed, she began talking about how she wanted to clean the soot out of her kitchen and fix it up to look much nicer.

In Chonco, there are an additional 25 homes that need stoves, and we have the money in an account in Copan to buy the materials. We are working with our contact at Heifer International to organize some further training and to get the villagers mobilized to build more stoves. We hope that when we go back next year they will all have new eco stoves and be breathing clean air, while saving the forest.

Congratulations to our TPC members
of
the Class of 2017!!!



High School

Addie Acterberg from Susquehannock (Glen Rock, PA) High School.

To attend Rowan University in New Jersey for Musical Theater.

Marjorie Bowerman from Dulaney High School

To attend Johns Hopkins University

Wes Culp from The Friends School of Baltimore.

To attend Washington and Lee University

Turner Jackson from The Friends School of Baltimore.

To attend Northeastern University in Boston.

Daniel Krugman, from Dulaney High School.

To attend Middlebury College.

Jack Morgan, from Towson High School.

To attend The Air Force Academy.

Claire Pomykala, from Towson High School.

To attend Emory University to study Human Health

College

Caroline Ponsi, from Lafayette College

(B.A. in Consumer Behavior and Marketing).

SESSION MEETING

Session Highlights

Stated Meeting on May 24, 2017



Reverend Carter led the Session with a worship meeting. Rev. Carter led the Session through prayer and reflection for the life of Elder Jim Hyde. Many current elders spoke of his kindness, compassion and love for the Lord and the church. The Session holds the family of Jim in their prayers in the coming days.

The Session **approved a motion** from the TPC Finance Committee to receive the following distributions and allocate to their designed restricted funds:

Grace Lyon Will disposition— Music Memorial Fund (50%) and Snyder Mission Fund (50%)

Flesher Trust—Music Memorial Fund

The Session **approved a motion** from the TPC Finance Committee to approve expenditures from the following Restricted Fund:

Bee Tree Scholarships will be made available for children who might not be able to afford Camp Bee Tree this summer. The Dorman Christian Education fund will be used.

The Session **approved a motion** TPC Personnel Committee to create a new, part-time contract position for a Children's Choir director who will create and direct a children's choir (grades 1-5) and serve under the supervision of the Director of Music.

The Session **approved a motion** for the TPC Finance committee to approve expenditures from the following Restricted Fund:

Music Ministry Fund: The motion to approve distribution of \$5000 from the Music Ministry Fund for support of a Children's Choir instructor for one year. The program will be reviewed by Personnel at the end of the year for continuation of recommendation.

The Session **approved a motion** to have the Mission Outreach Committee present their plan for two upcoming studies to the newly formed Adult Spiritual Formation committee. The Studies explore Refugee and Immigration, and Race relations.

The Session continues to spend time on visioning for TPC, reflecting on three primary questions: *Who have we been?* *Who are we now?* and *Who are we called to be.* Over the next few months, the Session will continue developing its plan for facilitating the congregation's exploration of these questions via the creation of a Timeline, Appreciate Inquiry, and Natural Church Development Surveys which Rev. Carter is currently introducing to the congregation via his monthly TPC Newsletter articles.

Continued on next page

Session Highlights continued...

Summer Worship Schedule

Reminder that TPC will be having **one** Sunday Service beginning **July 2, 2017 at 9:30am**.

There will be an **8:30 service on June 25th** and then the later service will be at BeeTree.

A Call For Musicians

TPC's hard-working and ever-faithful Chancel Choir will soon take a break for the summer. Through the months of July and August we will enjoy solos and small group offerings each Sunday, both vocal and instrumental. We would deeply appreciate the offering of your musical skills and talents! If you would like to play and/or sing some Sunday this summer, please contact Stephen Harouff to let your interest be known. Don't wait! Plans are already underway, but there's still plenty of room for you. He would be thrilled to have the opportunity to work with you.

Stephen Harouff, sharouff@towsonpres.org, (410) 823-6500 ext. 106

Youth

Fundraiser- June 18 -Car wash

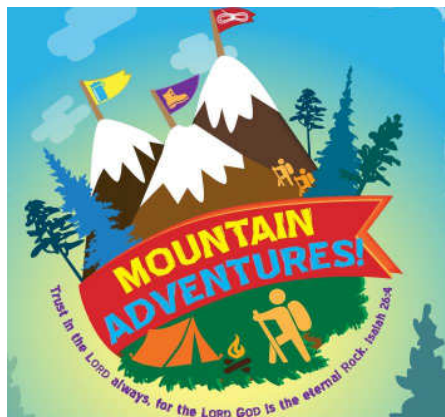
Our teens will be washing cars on Sunday, June 18, in our parking lot **before** and **after** the 10:00 a.m. service for their final fundraiser for the HS Mission Trip to West Virginia.

Stop by to have your car cleaned and support our teens.

Thank you!



Camp BeeTree - VBS



“Mountain Adventures” at Camp BeeTree Vacation Bible School July 10-14, 2017

Interested in volunteering at TPC’s summer children’s camp, July 10-14?

- Help is still needed.
- Brochures, registration forms, adult volunteer forms and can be found on towsonpres.org and at the rear sanctuary entrance.

Fun and formation will abound.

- Camp is for children who have completed Kindergarten through Grade 5
- Please contact co-directors Kim Labrique (klabrique@gmail.com) and Curt Hauer (curtanderic@verizon.net).
- Like our new Facebook page "Camp Bee Tree" to see updates and photos.

Circle 13 Bible Study

CIRCLE 13 BIBLE STUDY-MONDAY, JUNE 12TH: Who is Jesus According to Lesson 7, The Non-Canonical Gospels and Lesson 9, Contemporary Cultural Interpretations?
We will be covering two lessons. Lesson 7 will be a brief overview of the diversity of early Christianity. Lesson 9 will be more in-depth, focusing on how we interpret the New Testament depending in part on our own identity. In preparation for Lesson 9, please read Matthew 15:21-28 and Luke 10:38-42 and review the questions on p. 90. Our final gathering will be a pot luck supper at the home of John & Judith Rietz, 1 Spring Green Lane, Hunt Valley. **The supper will begin at 6:00.** The study will begin at 7:15-9:00. Please bring a picture that answers the question for your lens, WHO IS JESUS?

We will be combining Lesson 7 & 9 at our JUNE gathering.

Support TPC while shopping through AmazonSmile.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. To learn more visit the ["About AmazonSmile"](#) page or go to smile.amazon.com type "Towson Presbyterian Church" as your charity and start shopping!

Thoughts as TPP finishes another year...

It is hard to believe that another year with TPP is finishing up! As a first year director I am pleased with how the year went; we tried some new things such as Soccer Shots which was a great success with children and families alike. Going forward we will consider offering a changing variety of afterschool specials to families especially to add some interest to those children who are Full Time students. Our fundraisers have been a success in monetary terms but most importantly in building our school community here. The classes have released their butterflies, praying mantises and ladybugs and the tadpoles have legs and will be released soon! We have many seedlings ready to go into the IGG and are hoping for nice weather during the next two weeks to get them planted with the children. Most of the classes have had their end of year parties and they were enjoyed by children and families alike! We had the fours reading their own books, a Teddy Bear Picnic with the twos, a tea party with our all girl two year old class (glad to say some Dads came as well!), and a Sea Themed party as well as a pretzel baking party. We are eagerly awaiting a few more parties including a performance of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Mrs. Lehman's fours class. We will be here most of the summer with our 4 sessions of "Summer at TPP". Unfortunately we do find ourselves in need of two new teachers so if you know of anyone wanting to join our wonderful school please see the flyer I have put up outside of Mrs. Runge's office. Happy summer to all!

Leslie Foretich
Director



Tea Party with Dads



Helpers at Dad's Breakfast



Mr Herbert - Juggling
at the Breakfast

Online Giving is now is now available!

Online, Mobile, Or Text

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

