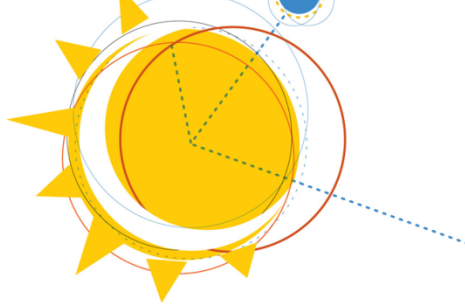


Let our faith endure



as long as the **SUN**,
as long as the **MOON**,
through all **GENERATIONS**.

*Adult Ministries
Opportunities
Winter/Lent 2010*

We enter a New Year reflecting on what gives us meaning and in what ways God may be offering us personal spiritual growth. The Adult Ministries Team of Towson Presbyterian wishes for you many Epiphanies...the discovery of the Holy One in your midst. Contained in this pamphlet are special opportunities for fellowship, worship, and spiritual enrichment. We are excited about new small groups, Sunday morning adult education programs, a Lenten all-church Book Study, our mid-week Music and Meditation Series, and many other opportunities to meet new people in the TPC household of faith.

As we open our lives to hospitality, new questions, and deeper relationships, we are aware that God guides and challenges us in this New Year and provides strength and support through it all.

TOWSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 W. Chesapeake Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21204

(410) 823-6500

www.towsonpres.org

Deepening Our Faith

Sunday Morning Opportunities

8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Seeking Discipleship: Meets in the Library - *Informal conversation*

This adult study group meets each Sunday morning to discuss the works of theologians, current authors, and related readings from the Bible. Writings of a variety of Christian thinkers are chosen by class consensus for their inspiration about God at work in our lives and the challenges of Christian service in today's world. This winter the class will be reading selections from Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Altar in the World* and also participating in *The Last Week* Lenten Book Study, beginning February 21. For detailed weekly readings, please call Cece Bashore at 410.561.1483 or Lisa Kyle at LKyleArch@verizon.net.

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Fair Trade, Fair Talk: Meets in Thompson Hall - *Informal conversation*

Taking as our impetus the advisory to "read the Bible with the newspaper in the other hand," we will talk – using our Christian perspective – about whatever is in the news that day. The Sunday newspapers will be our resource; our Christian beliefs and orientation will be our guide. Just stop by and join the conversation. Guaranteed all perspectives welcome and respected!

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Heartlights - Adult Facilitators : *Beth Bugg, Roxanne Maffitt-Harvey, Ana Montero, and other Invited Guests*

For over 45 years, Towson Presbyterian Church has offered a class each Sunday for adults with special needs. Appropriate curriculum materials are utilized to teach the story of the love of God to our Heartlights class and to help our students profess their faith. The class is held each Sunday (September through May), at 10:00 a.m. and includes a Bible lesson, prayer, crafts, and music. The class also participates in some Sunday services and attends some, or parts of, worship services through the year. New students are welcome at all times!

Mission Across the Street – TPC not only has a unique ministry among developmentally disabled adults with its Heartlights class, but also it is one of the few Protestant churches to sponsor a residential home for the developmentally disabled. Situated on property previously occupied by the manse of TPC, the home was an eight-year mission project of a dedicated group of church members. It opened for the first group of residents in 1992. Currently, eight developmentally disabled adults are in residence. Administration is provided by a state-certified service provider and is overseen by a special committee composed of TPC members and Presbytery nominees authorized by Session. Members of TPC are invited to visit High Peake any time and to serve on the High Peake Board. You may contact Carol Herndon for more information (410.467.2985).

Deepening Our Faith

Sunday Morning Opportunities

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Plumblin Series: Meets in the Second Floor Library - *Information/lecture-based presentations designed to relate current events and issues to faithful living in today's world.*

February 7: Spirituality 101: Practice & Dialogue – the Health Benefits of Prayer and Meditation

Led by Rev. Dr. Roger Rice, Associate Pastor at Towson Presbyterian Church

This class for the beginner or well grounded in spirituality focuses on **practical forms** of prayer and meditation, and **dialogue** with research from Duke University and U of Massachusetts Medical School on the health benefits of meditation. Brief theological/ethical insights will be shared to enhance discussion.

February 14, 21, 28 and March 7: The Literature of Lent

Led by Dr. David Jackson, TPC Elder, former Literature Professor, and Management Consultant

Our Lenten Literature series will explore religious poems from various countries and eras that address four of the great spiritual themes of the Lenten journey – Preparation, Prayer & Betrayal, The Passion, and Hope & Glory. The women and men who wrote these poems have given us powerful chronicles of their Lenten journeys. We will follow their paths, stepping into their extraordinary works so that our imaginations can aid our own Lenten journeys. We will also pay close attention to the artistic excellence of these literary works, studying their formal and aesthetic qualities while we meditate on their religious dimensions. Poets studied will include Denise Levertov, T.S. Elliot, Ann Weems, Dylan Thomas, Christina Rossetti, and Rainer Maria Rilke. Participants are encouraged to keep Lenten journals, whether in verse or prose.

March 14: Your Thoughts on a New Presbyterian Hymnal

Presenter: Organist and Musician David Eicher, Hymnal Editor for Presbyterian Publishing Corporation

David is the Chairperson for the New Hymnal Committee for the PCUSA and comes to us from Louisville, Kentucky. He'll lead a discussion on the new hymnal project, leave time for some hymn singing, and take your comments on hymns and songs that build faith. Come and hear what's new in the hymn singing world and lend your opinion for a future hymnal.

March 21: Environmental Fair Sponsored by TPC's Earth Corps Team – Thompson Hall

This year's Environmental Fair will feature the theme: "Food and Faith." Among the many tables and displays will be the TPC Intergenerational Garden Team, Master Gardener "Grow it, Eat it" Program, Buy Local Opportunities, Local Hunger and the Presbytery of Baltimore's Hunger Action Enabler, Vegan/Vegetarian Diets, JHU Food & Faith Program, and a sign up for a discussion circle on "Menu for the Future" and others to promote ways to eat healthy, cheaply, and care for God's Creation. Come, see the displays, talk to the presenters, and pick up material of interest. In addition to the usual coffee and donuts, Earth Corps will provide healthy food options.

March 28 and April 4: Palm Sunday and Easter – No Class Scheduled

April 11: The Heart of the Labyrinth – Presenter: Dorothy Harnish, Labyrinth Facilitator

Dorothy will explore various uses of the labyrinth, its history, and ways it can be used for personal and spiritual nurture. Dorothy is a certified labyrinth facilitator and serves on the labyrinth committee of Lancaster, PA.



Deepening Our Faith (Continued)

Daytime and Evening Opportunities

A Special Lenten Book Study

Book Discussions Will Occur at Various Times

Throughout the Week between Feb. 21 and April 1

The book TPC members and friends will be reading during the Lenten season is *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. You may purchase your own book or buy one on Sunday morning (cost is \$10), beginning February 7. Sign-up sheets for our Lenten Book Study will be available on Sunday morning, by mailed postcard, or by E-mail. There will be several convenient locations for study groups - in individual homes and at TPC. Groups will use a guide (found at the end of the book).

The Last Week serves as our source of inspiration for the Lenten season and will be thematically addressed by Rev. DeGarmo in his weekly sermons. We'll be digging into the Gospels and the day-to-day account of the week leading up to Easter and how Jesus' message of the kingdom of God was political and spiritual for that time. Find a small group that fits your schedule and join many friends of TPC who will walk the Lenten journey together.

First Tuesday Pastor's Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. in the Library

First Wednesday Pastor's Bible Study – 10:00 a.m. in the Library

Rev. DeGarmo will continue a 30-unit study, "Discovering the Bible," from January through June and will continue monthly through December, 2010. This course offers a comprehensive survey of the entire biblical narrative, using materials developed by the Kerygma program.

Tuesday Night Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Meets in Various Homes)

This group alternates between studying a book of the Bible and reading a book that will enrich their spiritual journey. The current book is *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. This group will read *The Last Week* during Lent. Contact Lenore Chapman at lenorechapman@verizon.net or 410.771.1008 to join this group and discover the rich relationship that can develop in a small group experience.

Lenten Wednesdays - Music and Meditation

February 24 and March 3, 10, 17, and 24

from Noon – 1:00 p.m.

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"



Music programs begin at 12:10 p.m. and end at 12:45 p.m. This program is designed for people on the go. A boxed lunch will be available for purchase for \$7.00. You may stay and eat with us in the Library immediately following the Lenten program or take your lunch with you as you depart. Please make a lunch reservation in advance so we may serve everyone. We begin in the Chapel, where a program of music, scripture, poetry, and short reflection will be offered each Wednesday in Lent. Different instruments will be featured each week, with short reflections offered by various clergy and laypeople.

Our music series is free and open to the public. Join us in taking time during these busy days to make the inward and outward journey together. This program is co-sponsored by the Adult Ministries Team and the Worship and Arts Committee of Towson Presbyterian Church.

Deepening Our Faith (Continued)

Daytime and Evening Opportunities

Master Gardener Presentation in the Chapel on Saturday, February 6 – 10:00 a.m.

Earth Corps, supported by a special group of interested TPC members, is planning an Inter-Generational Garden (IGG) for this spring. Located in the church's property next to the Labyrinth, it will be of modest size, with raised beds to facilitate planting and maintenance. Its purpose is to provide a hands-on educational experience in organic gardening, healthy food, and conservation practices. An educational/planning meeting will be held on February 6 in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The presentation will be provided by a certified Master Gardener who will discuss size, content, planting and maintenance as described in their "Grow It-Eat It" program. TPC members and their friends and neighbors, as well as residents of the local community, are all encouraged to attend.

The Big Event - Saturday, February 20 at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church

The Big Event is a day devoted to learning and reflecting on topics relevant to one's faith and church leadership. A morning worship service opens the event and includes three keynoters who will discuss the dynamics of weekly worship. Network with other Elders and church leaders in our Presbytery, enjoy lunch, take two workshops, and browse a delightful bookstore. A carpool will leave TPC at 7:45 a.m. Cost is \$25. Flyers are in the narthex and on the Education Table.

Forming Faithful Disciples – Let the People Sing – Saturday, March 13 – 7:00 p.m.

New Hymnal Chairperson David Eicher will lead a discussion on the importance of corporate singing and challenge those choosing music for worship to think about the formational aspects of singing. Others responsible for planning worship from the Baltimore Presbytery will join us at TPC for a time of reflection on what is relevant, singable, inspiring, and faithful music in the 21st Century. David is visiting TPC from our PCUSA Louisville Office and will join us on Sunday morning in Plumblin to continue the discussion.

Friday, March 19 – Film: Food, Inc. shown in Thompson Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The documentary film describes the growth, production, processing and delivery of food in the United States. Our youth group will sell refreshments as a fundraiser for their youth mission trip this summer.

The Thoughtful Christian Playgroup (Dates and Times TBA)

This lively, informal group meets once a month to discuss short articles from TheThoughtfulChristian.com. and other books and magazines. Children are invited and enjoy free-play while the adults discuss a variety of topics. For more information or to join the e-mail distribution list for articles and locations, please contact Cyndie Bashore at cjbashore@comcast.net or 410.561.3839. During the Lenten season, this group will meet weekly to participate in *The Last Week* Book Study. Day of week and time will be announced.

Collaging Your Inner Journey: March 10 from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Thompson Hall

Artist in Residence Karen Amelia Brown from the Benedictine Monastery will lead a creative workshop on collage. Using words, images, and simple, everyday materials, participants will be invited to enter into the playful creativity of collage. There will be a \$25 supplies/registration charge for this workshop. Contact The Well Office at 410.296.9355 to register your interest. You are invited to remain with us for the mid-day Music and Meditation program in the Chapel and stay for lunch – please reserve lunch for an additional \$7.

Other Opportunities to Pause, Listen, and Learn

We are aware of a variety of experiences for spiritual enrichment offered by local churches and organizations. Perhaps a program or event will be of interest. TPC members may wish to carpool from the church to some of these events. Contact Sue Thompson at the church or look for signs in Thompson Hall for “Impromptu” gatherings throughout the Lenten season.

- ✧ Keep current with local Presbyterian Church events by checking www.baltimorepresbytery.org and view local church events for activities which will inspire you.
- ✧ Monday, March 15 – Brian McLaren at the Ecumenical Institute – *Public Worship for Spiritual Formation and Mission* – day time program; and *The Gospel, the Postmodern Context and the Church that is Emerging* – 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Seminary, Ecumenical Institute.
- ✧ Concerts at Second Presbyterian Church: Gary Louie (Saxophone) – 3:30 p.m on February 14; Margaret Budd (organ) and David Burgess (guitar) on March 28 at 3:30 p.m.
- ✧ Lenten Lectio on March 9 and March 23 9:30 a.m. - Noon (sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of Emmanuel Monastery). On the second Tuesday of each month there is a Vespers and Prayer for Peace from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Visit their website for detailed information www.emmanuelosb.org.

Building Community

Catonsville Steel Drum Band – Friday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A winter tradition, come chase the winter blues away with a fun evening of Caribbean music. Wear island shirts and sunglasses. A suggested donation is \$5 for adults; children age 12 and below attend free. Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers. Children are invited to make rattles and drums to play along with the band. Light refreshments will be served.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 16 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of pancakes, sausages, bacon and all the trimmings at our Mardi Gras fundraiser for our youth mission trip to Texas City, Texas. Drop in any time for fellowship and great food.

Cost: \$8 per person and \$20 per family.

Third Thursday Lunch at Noon

Informal, funky, and fun, with lots of laughs and fellowship, we will meet at “unique” neighborhood restaurants on the third Thursday of each month. Our goal is to enjoy the ambiance of “Baltimore’s Best.” Look for details in the weekly bulletin or call Lois Leuba to make your reservation and for the “restaurant of the month.” February 18: 7 West Bistro Grille at 7 W. Chesapeake Avenue in Towson.

March 6 – Saturday Night Bingo and Silent Auction

An all-new family night program promises lots of fun for all ages. All proceeds collected will underwrite local, national, and global TPC Mission efforts, especially TPC’s youth mission trip to Texas. Featured will be a desserts, Silent Auction, and Bingo for all ages. There will be a free-will offering, raffles, and games to make you laugh! Don’t miss this community building event.

Building Community

Sunday, March 28: Lenten Festival for Children at 10:00 a.m. and Egg Hunt at 11:30 a.m.

TPC's annual Lenten Festival will be held in Thompson Hall, with crafts and fun from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and an Easter Egg Hunt to follow on the Presbyterian Home lawn across the street. Children, age 4 through Grade 5, will especially enjoy the many crafts that help us experience the real meaning behind our Easter celebrations. Holy Week devotional materials will be available for all. Bring your children/grandchildren.

Thursday, April 1: Maundy Thursday: A Requiem for Choir and Orchestra – 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Along with liturgy and communion, the choirs of Towson Presbyterian and Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian join forces to present John Rutter's *Requiem*. A Requiem is a "mass for the deceased." Traditionally sung in Latin, this contemporary rendition weaves together movements in both Latin and English. The stirring work opens and closes on the same words, bringing the work full circle: "*Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine; et lux perpetua luceat eis*: ("Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to thee; and light perpetual shine on them forever"). Let the music of this service draw you into a deeper contemplation of the events surrounding Holy Week. (A second performance will take place at Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m.)

Diners' Club: Meets in People's Homes

The Diners' Club consists of a mixed group of church members and friends who get together for dinner, fellowship, and fun during the three months of winter. Last year, about 90 people participated in this unique dining experience. Contact: Ellen Barnhart 410.825.4904 or Andrea Katz 410.321.5772.

Supporting Each Other

Grandparenting Support Group

This group provides a resource for grandparents who want to share ideas and support each other in encouraging our grandchildren to develop character and Christian virtues. A planning meeting will be held at the home of Bob and Libby Younglove on Sunday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Bob Younglove at 410.321.0538 if you plan to attend. Bob Younglove and Barbara Heinfeldten will be facilitators of this group.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Fourth Thursday in the Library at 2:00 p.m.

Do you like to knit or crochet? Would you like to join others from TPC in a unique ministry of care and prayer? Even if unable to join the group of committed knitters, you can be a part of this outreach ministry. Knit at home or at TPC. Shawls and lap blankets are made and given to those experiencing an illness or loss. Prayer cards are included and visits made to those in need of some TLC from TPC. Contact Anne Phillips at 410.821.7211 or annieone1@verizon.net.

Mustard Seed Prayer Group

This group offers prayers for members and friends referred to them. Also, they seek volunteers for their group who are willing to pray for others. If you have any prayer requests or questions, please contact Barbara Heinfeldten at 410.583.9079 or heinfeldten@aol.com.

Women's Circles – Meet at Various Times as Listed Below. If interested in attending, please call the contact person. Our Women's Circles enjoy a time of Bible study, food, great fellowship, and are involved in many service projects. If you are interested in forming or joining a small group circle, contact Sue Thompson at the church. Circles can be organized if there is interest!

Circle 8 Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in various homes. We participate in a group Bible study and contribute to mission projects. Contact: Lois Leuba 410.296.0407.

Circle 13 Meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Dotsie Bregel's home for dessert, a book study, and fellowship. Contact Dotsie Bregel at 410.583.1530 for more information.

Outdoor Labyrinth

We have an outdoor labyrinth on Highland Avenue. In ancient times, the labyrinth was a ritual walk to sites in the holy land to meet Jesus. Through the centuries, the labyrinth has evolved into intricate and simple patterns of walking to help people center and pray. One walks the path to the center with openness of spirit to receive spiritually the gifts of serenity, peace, forgiveness, release of grief, or a simple message of truth from God. The walk in itself inspires the silence, the joy of your soul. A mailbox on the path contains some suggestions for personal prayer.



Got an Idea? Want to get involved? Need to talk? Contact a member of the Adult Ministries Steering Committee listed below, and we will lend support to new programs of interest.

Cece Bashore, 410.561.1483

Lois Leuba, 410.296.0407

Peggy Lord, PegLord@aol.com or 410.828.9465

Ann and Barrett Rudd, afpbrudd@comcast.net

Mary Lou Ryce, Chair, marylou.ryce@gmail.com

Sue Thompson, Staff Liaison, susanjeanne@verizon.net