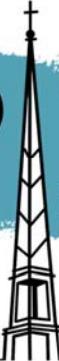


THE SPIRE

Bel Air United Methodist Church



21 Linwood Avenue Bel Air, MD 21014 • 410.838.5181

fax: 410.893.8363 • info@baumc.com • www.belairumc.org

Sunday Worship Services

Bel Air UMC

(21 Linwood Avenue)

8:00 & 9:20 AM ~ Traditional

9:20 AM ~ "Ignite" Youth Worship

11:00 AM ~ Contemporary

(McComas Hall)

**Mt. Carmel Chapel (Corner of
Wheel & Old Emmorton Roads)**

5:00 PM ~ Traditional

Sunday Christian Learning

(21 Linwood Avenue)

C4 Kids

9:20 & 11:00 AM

Infants-Grade 5

11:00 Confirmation

(October-April)

Adult Christian Learning

9:20 & 11:00 AM

***Childcare Provided**

SUBMISSIONS FOR

JUNE/JULY'S NEWSLETTER

Do you have an event or article you'd like to see in June/July's edition of the SPIRE? Send them to wolf@baumc.com **by noon, Tuesday, May 17th.**

If you are receiving only a hard copy and would like to see the SPIRE Newsletter in color, please e-mail Lisa Wolf at wolf@baumc.com or visit our web-site www.belairumc.org

Message from the Pastor

General Conference 2016!

General Conference is the top legislative body of The United Methodist Church. They meet once every four years to revise *The Book of Discipline*, which contains our church laws, policies, history, doctrine, and social policies. General Conference meets again this month, May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Approximately 4,000 people will attend; nearly 1,000 of them are eligible voting delegates – half of which are lay members, the other half are clergy.

You can stay connected with the events of General Conference 2016 at this website: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>.

There are several issues, which will come up at this General Conference. Here's a short list of legislative items: 1) a potential restructuring of the church's general agencies, 2) limited tenure of bishops, 3) shortening the ordination timeline, 4) a new online hymnal available on the cloud (I really wish I knew what that meant; ask Pastor Elizabeth), and finally, 5) a variety of social issues, including our position on homosexuality. Currently, the United Methodist Church takes a conservative stance. We don't ordain homosexual persons unless they take a vow of celibacy. We don't allow for clergy to preside over gay weddings or civil unions, and we don't allow for them to take place on church grounds.

While it's possible for the 2016 General Conference to change our stance on homosexuality, it's highly unlikely. For some United Methodists, this will be a relief. For others, it will be a tremendous heartbreak. Many among our connection feel that the church has been unloving toward the LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans-gender, queer or questioning) community. The sad reality is, no matter what happens at General Conference, some may walk away feeling hurt and disconnected.

I invite you to pray for our church and our denomination, and the delegates who will make a prayerful decision. Know that all of them are committed and loving United Methodist Christian people.

Continued on the next page

Church is closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 30
Church Office Hours— Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:30 pm

Message from the Pastor continued

Far more compelling, far more salient, and far more predominant than any biblical discussion that we might have about human sexuality, is the one that we might have about church unity and love. For the Apostle Paul, this was paramount. His letters to the early churches highlight his zeal and commitment toward this noble passion.

I'd like to close my thoughts with a quote from a recent sermon written by my father, with whom I share a first and last name, the Rev. Byron P. Brought:

We are young. And we are old. We are male and we are female. We are conservative and we are liberal and we are scattered all across the spectrum in between. Some of us love praise music, and some of us cannot get enough of the old hymns. Some of us think children should be in worship, and some of us think that children should be in a classroom as far at the end of the hallway as possible. Some of us are strict Biblical literalists, and some of us think that the Bible must be interpreted afresh in every generation. Some of us are delighted that Rev. Brought is preaching. And some of us are thinking, 'O No, why doesn't he just give it up.' We are different. We are very different. We are not gathered here this morning because we all think alike. We are not a club of like-minded people. We are a family. Just as you don't get to choose who your brother or sister might be, so in the family of God you don't get to choose the brothers or sisters whom God calls into his family. To be sure, ain't nobody can fight like family can fight. But we are family, the family of God. We are seated at a long table, a wide table, and if we are honest there are probably some folks at that table that we would prefer would not be there. But it is not our table, it is God's table. We are invited guests. And if you are like me, you are just darn lucky to be invited.

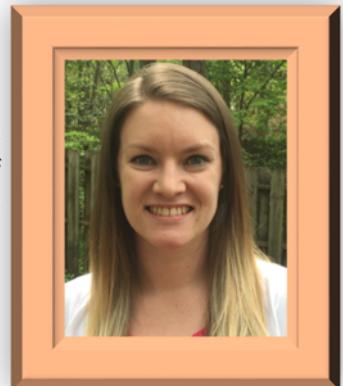
See you Sunday!

Byron

Exciting News!

Starting June 15, we will welcome to our church family, and staff, **Ashley Haugh**, who will serve as our new youth director. She's very excited about joining us, and I know that you'll enjoy getting to know her. Here's a brief bio in her own words.

I grew up in Virginia, Florida and North Carolina, have spent the last twelve years in Midlothian, Virginia, near Richmond. After graduating from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, I taught high school mathematics and coached track for four years. While I was teaching, I was involved in the youth ministry part-time at my church. In the summer of 2014, I began working in youth ministry full time. I live with my 8-year-old black lab mix named Buttons, who is only slightly spoiled. I love iced coffee, never turn down dessert, and enjoying running. I love working with youth and watching their faith grow and develop over the years. I am looking forward to moving to Maryland and working at Bel Air UMC.



Welcome, Ashley. We're excited to know that you never turn down dessert, and excited to have you join our ministry team.

Peace, Byron

Children and Family Ministry



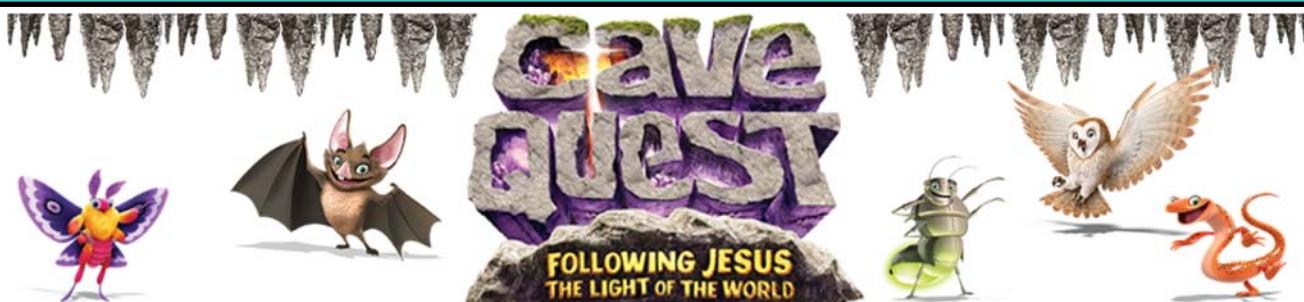
Once Upon a Time
Mother/Daughter Evening
"Cinderella"
An Evening of Ladies in their Finest
Having a Ball on May 20th
6:30 p.m. in our Community Room
Bel Air United Methodist Church
The Tiniest to the Oldest are Welcome!
Please sign up so we may prepare properly
Contact Deb Lampton lamptond@baume.com

C4 Kids Ministry is excited to start our new teaching series...DragOns. We will be learning the parables (earthly stories with a heavenly meaning) of Jesus throughout the rest of this school year. You won't want to miss out!!

Parables – May the Story DragOn



April 24	Wise & Foolish Builders	God Requires Obedience
May 1	Good Samaritan	God Is Love
May 8	Mother's Day	
May 15	Lost Sheep, Coin & Son	God Redeems
May 22	Unmerciful Servant	God Forgives
May 29	Family Fifth Sunday	
June 5	Workers in Vineyard	God is Gracious
June 12	Dragon in the Manger	God Overcomes



Register on-line - www.belairumc.org

August 8 - 12 9:00 am—12 Noon

Ages 3 - Grade 5

\$35.00 for the 1st Child; \$5.00 for additional sibling

Or \$50.00 for a family

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

MAYFLOWERS EDITION

Directing Youth Ministries might have been the very last thing I ever expected to add to my resume during my time here at BAUMC, but I have done just that for an entire school year and I have enjoyed every (well, almost every) minute of it. If BAUMC youth are any indication, the Church and the world have everything to look forward to as they grow into themselves and live into everything that God intends for them to be. We began this year with a kick-off at Camp Wo-Me-To and we reflected back on the year as the (not)SHY group went back to retreat there the last weekend in April. What a blessing the MHY and SHY groups have been to me - students and parents alike. Thank you for the experience, for all the learning, growing and sharing that has gone both ways.

- Pastor Elizabeth



MAY

- 11 Balt Mission Planning
- 15 Confirmation Sunday
- 22 Graduation Sunday
- 25 Balt Mission Planning
- 27-28 30-Hour Famine

JUNE

- 5 Confirmation Reunion
- 23-24 Mission Serve and Play



JULY

- 4 SNOW CONE SALE
@Bel Air Parade
- 10-16 YOUTH/VIM Trip
to South Carolina
- 24-29 Baltimore Mission Trip

ON MISSION - Our last 11am Sunday school module, **May 22nd to June 19th**, will focus on what it means to be in service to our neighbors. To round out the learning experience, participants will have a chance to participate in **30-Hour Famine (May 27-28)**, earning funds to support World Vision efforts world-wide, plus spend a day on Mission in Baltimore. We will conclude the whole adventure with a fun day activity chosen by participants. You must serve in order to play, so join us **Sunday, MAY 22, 11am** in the Youth Center.

YOUTH/VIM to South Carolina - **July 10-16**. Anyone 14 and up may join the BAUMC VIM (Volunteers in Mission) team as they head to South Carolina July 10th. They will help with residential flood damage restoration in low-lying areas of the state. This will be a very affordable trip, and a great chance to experience a short-term Mission for the first time. For students and/or parents. For info, email Tony - vinciguerra.tony@gmail.com)

BALTIMORE MISSION - This week, 24-29 July, is a staple of ministry at BAUMC and a great opportunity to participate in a long-standing urban mission effort. Be part of the relationship between BAUMC and Agape House; be a witness to the learning, growing and sharing that flows both ways! If you want in, contact Mark - markciampaglio@gmail.com

SUNDAY

- 9:20am MHY Sunday School
Gather for worship in McComas, move to the youth center for Bible Study.
grades 6-8

TUESDAY in the Youth Center

- 5-6:15pm SHY Girls
Small Group, grades 9-12
- 6:30-8pm MHY Group
Fun and Fellowship, grades 6-8

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30-8:30pm SHY Group
Hang with friends,
learn more about God, and
explore how faith meets life!
grades 9-12

Young Adult Ministry



YAM First Sunday Brunch: All young adults are invited to gather together for brunch on the 1st Sunday of each month at 1:30pm. The next gathering will take place on May 1 at Steelefish Grille. In order to get an accurate head count, leave word for Tyler Parrish at <http://on.FB.me/22sppBF>.



YAM Small Groups: All young adults are invited to a small group Bible study on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. In May, we will meet on the 9th and 23rd. Small group will be held in the Youth Room from 6:30-8pm. We look forward to you joining us as we grow together in the Lord!



Young Adults! Our next service project will be with BAUMC's Family Food Ministry on May 21st from 9am-noon. We will assist in whatever capacity is needed for the morning. Please meet us in McComas Hall that morning.



Anyone like the movies? How about the Avengers? Young Adults are invited to go see the new Captain America movie **Civil War** on Friday night, May 27. Time, place, and ticket price TBD. Please mark your calendar for a fun-filled evening with what is sure to be an amazing movie!

For questions or more information, visit us at <http://on.FB.me/22sppBF>

The Meaning of the Church Paraments – Final Part by Pat Potter

Pentecost is a day rather than a season. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the disciples and women followers of Jesus fifty days after Easter and ten days after Ascension Thursday. It marks the establishment of the church. The parament color is red, the color of fire, which represents the Holy Spirit. The Paschal candle remains on the altar through Pentecost.

The color for Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day and Christ the King Sunday is white. The time between Pentecost and Advent is, once again, Ordinary Time. It is a time to reflect on doing the work of God's kingdom and growing spiritually. The parament color is green.

This article completes the liturgical year and, thus, this series on the Meaning of the Church Paraments.

We'd like to say thank you to the pastors and all the staff who helped to make Easter week so meaningful. Each service that we attended was an inspiration and was beautifully done. They truly glorified God. Thank you again, Pat & Jack Potter

Staff Spotlight Interview



Cheryl Firth, Birthday May 19

1. Share with me when you started working at BAUMC, and what is your job?

I started working at BAUMC 25 plus years ago. I was an assistant secretary and did the newsletter, phone and whatever needed to be done. In later years, I was assigned to do evangelism work (strawberry festival), congregational care work, pictorial directory and planned church trips. To date, I am an office administrator, youth advisor and wedding coordinator.

2. In a few sentences, tell me about your family.

I am married to Dave for 47 years and we have three married daughters living in Parkton, MD; Atlanta, Georgia and Rapid City SD. We have 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 6 to 13. Just love my family!

3. What is your favorite quote or Bible verse?

My FAVORITE Bible verse is from Proverbs 3:5,6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not on your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight".

4. Do you have any hobbies?

I love to garden, mow grass, work in the flower beds and just be outside. Adventuring in God's beauty (hiking, skiing, swimming, biking (with family & friends)!

5. What inspires you, or what are you passionate about?

I am inspired as I walk along the beach praying and being thankful in and through all things. It pumps me up! My passion is serving others. I just love to talk, listen and help people! We are all special in God's eyes!

May Milestones

Please wish a Happy Anniversary to...

Alan & Sandy Conway who will celebrate their 53rd anniversary on 05/04

John & Shirley Renshaw who will celebrate their 56th anniversary on 05/07

Roger & Charlene Sciarretta who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 05/21

Bob & Carol Sherman who will celebrate their 50th anniversary on 05/14



*We are pleased to celebrate anniversaries of those who have travelled
more than 50 years in marriage together!*

Please wish a Happy Birthday to ...

05/09 - Donald MacLean

05/18 - Barbara Rudolph

05/09 - Bob Gillette

05/20 - Coye Vincent

05/10 - Marguerite Ward

05/21 - Alfonso Roberty

05/17 - Vivian Fortner

05/22 - Shirley Roden

05/18 - Levin Heath

05/28 - Buck Draper

05/18 - Mel Rhoten

05/29 - Charlie Porreca

We are pleased to celebrate the birthdates of those who are at least 80 years young!

We Welcome into the Community of Faith Through Baptism



Jemma Joy Grasmick

Daughter of Scott and Ashley Grasmick

Lindsey Charlotte Grimm

Daughter of David and Valerie Grimm

Layla Marie Harrison

Daughter of James and Christle Harrison

Grace Elizabeth Hartsock

Daughter of Jamison and Amanda Hartsock

Mason John O'Hare

Son of Zachary and Shannon O'Hare

Participation Opportunities



ROAST BEEF AND HAM MISSION DINNER

Wednesday, May 11

McComas Hall

5 PM – 7 PM

*Proceeds support the
Russian Outreach and BAUMC Scholarship*

**Join us for a delicious meal and
good fellowship!**

Adult - \$10 Children ages 5 - 11 - \$5

Children 4 and under are FREE



UMW LOCAL CHURCH TOUR

Join the Bel Air United Methodist Women for another Local Church Tour on **Tuesday, May 10**. We are planning to visit three churches along Route 22 to hear about their history and current missions -- Churchville Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Afterwards, we'll enjoy lunch at Broom's Bloom. We will be meeting at the church parking lot at 8:30 AM and then carpooling. Please RSVP to Melissa Harrah at 410-652-1959 or Alice Archer at 410-838-7357 or aaarcher@comcast.net.

BAUMC Membership Class, Wednesday, May 11, 18, 25, 7-9 PM, Pastor's Office

LEADER: Al Conway

Membership to a church is an important step in our spiritual growth and journey together. In joining the church, we affirm our love for Christ and express our desire to worship, serve, and grow in connection with others. If you have been attending Bel Air Church for a while and would like to explore membership, this 3-evening class will help you decide about membership. The class includes an overview of basic Christian beliefs and the United Methodist tradition, the mission, and core values of our church, 7 traits for being disciples of Jesus, good conversation, and lots more.

Dear Friends at Bel Air United Methodist Church,

Thank you so very much for the wonderful cards, prayers, and words of encouragement during my recent surgery. At these difficult times of life, it is wonderful to be reminded that people have been praying for healing and full recovery. Your thoughtfulness is duly noted and much appreciated. Thank you! Fondly, George Newberry



Thank you to everyone who purchased our delicious Homemade Easter Candy. This was a great fundraiser for our mission projects ... Bel Air United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone for thinking of us with their prayers and love at the passing of our grandson, Michael Johnson. May God continue to bless each of you. Love to All, Joe & Mary Schrufer

Monthly Calendar

Sunday, May 1	1:30 pm Young Adults—Sunday Brunch—Steelefish Grille	7:00 pm Stephen Ministry (L)
Monday, May 2	11:30 am AARP's WPS Friendship Circle (202)	7:00 pm Finance Committee (Byron's Office)
	6:00 pm College Box Ministry (Church Office)	
	6:00 pm Russian Outreach Committee (P)	
	7:00 pm District Boy Scout Committee (202)	
Tuesday, May 3	7:00 pm NAMI/ Alliance on Mental Illness (127)	
Wednesday, May 4	7:00 pm Scholarship Committee Meeting (Office Workroom)	
Thursday, May 5	8:00 am Tiny Tots Mother's Tea Party (CR 101)	
	9:30 am Mary Martha's Circle (L)	
Saturday, May 7	7:00 am Festival of Flowers	
Sunday, May 8		
Mother's Day		
Monday, May 9	9:30 am Blood Drive (M)	
	7:00 pm Board of Trustees (L)	
	7:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee (Byron's Office)	
Tuesday, May 10	8:00 am UMW Local Church Tour	
Wednesday, May 11	5:00 pm Baltimore Mission Trip Meeting (CR 101)	
	5:00 pm Roast Beef & Ham Mission Dinner to benefit Russian Outreach & BAUMC Scholarship	
	7:00 pm New Members Class (Byron's Office)	
Thursday, May 12	10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (P)	
	7:00 pm Ciampaglio Small Group (115)	
Friday, May 13	8:00 am GAIN Meeting (CR 101)	
Saturday, May 14	6:00 pm Confirmation Rehearsal (S)	
Sunday, May 15	6:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 777 Committee Meeting (115)	
Monday, May 16		
		7:00 pm Tiny Tot's 3's Promotion Ceremony 3 day
		10:00 am Esther Circle (P)
		7:00 pm Grandparent Support Core Team Meeting (P)
		7:00 pm NAMI/Alliance of Mental Illness
		7:00 pm New Members Class (Byron's Office)
		7:00 pm The Compassionate Friends (125)
Thursday, May 19		
		9:00 am Tiny Tot's 3's Promotion Ceremony 2 day (AR 103)
Friday, May 20		
		9:00 am Tiny Tot's 4's Graduation (M)
		6:00 pm Set-Up For Family Food Distribution (M)
		6:30 pm Children & Family Ministry - Once Upon a Time (CR 101)
Saturday, May 21		
		9:00 am Family Food Distribution (M)
		10:00 am Sjogren's Syndrome Support Group (AR 103)
Sunday, May 22		
		Graduation/Scholarship Sunday
		12:30 pm Grace Team (115)
		1:00 pm Grief Support (115)
Monday, May 23		
		7:00 pm Ad Council Meeting (L)
Tuesday, May 24		
		8:30 am Spire Mailing Team in McComas Hall
		6:30 pm FCCAU Homeless Shelter Board Meeting (L)
Wednesday, May 25		
		5:00 pm Baltimore Mission Trip Meeting (CR 101)
		7:00 pm New Members Class (Byron's Office)
Thursday, May 26		
		9:00 am Senior Food Distribution (M)
		7:00 pm Ciampaglio Small Group (115)
Friday, May 27		
		TBD Young Adults—Captain America Movie
		5:30 Serve Dinner @ Welcome One Homeless Shelter
Saturday, May 28		
		8:30 am Scrapbook Ministry (Room 202)

Weekly Events

Monday	9:00 am Pass It On	7:00 pm Senior High Youth (YC)
	9:30 am Monday Morning Bible Study (L)	7:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (AR 103)
	6:30 pm Boy Scouts Troop 777 (M or CR 101, AR 103)	7:30 pm NA/Free At Last (CR 101)
	6:30 pm Young Adults Bible Study (YC) 2nd & 4th Mondays	7:30 pm Trust Walk—Broken with Hope (P) 1st and 3rd Wed
	7:00 pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study (115)	
Tuesday	5:00 pm Sr. High Girls Small Group (YC)	6:30 pm Kingdom Affect Band Rehearsal (S)
	7:00 pm ASK: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age (202)	6:30 pm TOPS Chapter 412 (AR 103)
	7:00 pm AA / Sisters of Sobriety (127 (Rm 125 on the 1st Tue))	7:00 pm BSF International (202)
	7:00 pm GriefShare (115)	7:00 pm Cub Scouts Troop 777
	7:00 pm Venture Crew (116) 2nd & 4th Tuesday	7:30 pm AA / Came to Believe (CR 101)
Wednesday	9:00 am MA & PA Trail Walk & Talk	6:30 am Friday Morning Bible Study (202)
	10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study (L)	7:30 am John Packard Men's Bible Study (115)
	11:30 am Manna House Soup Kitchen (M)	9:00 am AMPed—6th & 7th Graders (YC)
	6:15 pm Faith Under Fire Rehearsal (M-Stage)	9:00 am Morning Fellowship (202)
	6:30 pm DivorceCare (115)	9:20 am C4 Kids (CR 101)
	6:30 pm Grandparent Support Group 2nd & 4th Wed (202)	9:20 am Walking with God Class (L)
	6:30 pm Evening Prayer Meeting (PC)	10:30 am Youth Choir (130)
	6:30 pm Cherub Choir Rehearsal (AR 103)	10:45 am Sr High (Confirmands and grade 9—12) (YC)
	6:30 pm Wesley Choir Rehearsal (130)	11:00 am C4 Kids (Room 125, 130)
	7:00 pm BEING HOPE—United Methodist in Global Missions (L)	11:00 am Faith in Community (AR 103)
		6:00 pm FUTSAL - MHY - 6 - 7; SHY - 7 - 8; Adults - 8 - 9 (M)



THE SPIRE

Bel Air United Methodist Church

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CONFERENCE STAFF

Bishop—Rev. Dr. Marcus Matthews

District Superintendent—Rev. Dr. Laura Easto

BEL AIR UMC STAFF

Lead Pastor — Rev. Byron E. Brought

Associate Pastor — Rev. Elizabeth Jackson

Director of Children & Family Ministries—Rev. Deb Lampton

Director of Student Ministries—TBD

Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director - David Tramontana

Church Administrator—Tony Ciampaglio

Pastoral Intern/Director of Young Adult Ministries—Christopher

Pelfrey

Bookkeeper—Linda Ey

Administrative/Congregational Care Asst.— Debbie Atteberry

Hospitality Coordinator—Alice Archer

Administrative and Youth Ministry Assistant—Cheryl Firth

Wedding Coordinator—Cheryl Firth

Administrative Specialist—Lisa Wong Wolf

Facilities & Maintenance Manager—Rick Schulte

E-mail for BAUMC Staff: last name first initial @ baumc.com (ex: broughtb@baumc.com)

Current addressee or



Mother's Day
Festival of Flowers
Saturday, May 7
9am – 2:30 pm
Bel Air United Methodist Church

(At the corner of Rt. 924 & Linwood Ave.)

Assorted hanging baskets, tropical plants, annuals, perennials, cut flower bouquets

Designer pots, garden art, and birdhouses

Children's flower potting station (for Mom!)

Zimbabwe artisan crafts

Refreshments and bake table

Proceeds to support the Chabadza Zimbabwe Medical Mission

A festive event sure to appeal to your gift and gardening interests!

