



FRIENDS OF TOLSON'S CHAPEL

111 East High Street, Post Office Box 162
Sharpsburg, MD 21782
www.tolsonschapel.org

May 1, 2013

Dear friends and neighbors,

Since 2002, a small group of people have been working to restore Tolson's Chapel on High Street to its original 1867 appearance. The group, Friends of Tolson's Chapel (FOTC), is now asking for your financial help.

To summarize major restoration work: The foundation was stabilized. The log structure was stabilized and some damaged areas replaced. The altar alcove was pulling away from the nave, and that has been corrected. The red shingle siding was removed and board and batten siding installed to match the original found under the shingles. The roof was shingled to match the original wood shingles found under the corrugated tin. A bell tower was constructed to match pictures of the old one. The windows were restored. The interior was cleaned and the plaster restored. A resident of Sharpsburg donated the old wood stove that the congregation once used.

Finally, a rededication ceremony was held on September 22, 2012, exactly 150 years after Lincoln presented the Emancipation Proclamation following his visit to Sharpsburg. In 1867, the local African-American community celebrated the two freedoms, Worship and Education, by erecting this building. One can feel their strength in and around Tolson's Chapel.

There are only a few more projects we need to accomplish for the Chapel to be complete such as restoring the early blackboards that are at the front of the chapel, restoring the wood shutters that protected the windows, finding a cast iron lamp holder where one is missing, restoring the cemetery and installing fencing to protect it. Finally we would dearly love to have the bell back that once hung in the tower. We are asking for grant money from State and other agencies to help with those projects.

We are asking for **your** help to cover mowing, liability insurance and general maintenance costs. We hope you will find it in your heart to support this very historic community gem with your gifts. We have an annual fundraising goal of \$4,000 a year to maintain Tolson's Chapel. All monies raised are only for those purposes. If 100 people donated \$40 a year, it would cover our minimum costs. If 100 people and their friends donated \$40 a year, it would cover our

minimum costs. FOTC is a non-profit organization and will provide a receipt acknowledging your charitable donation.

There are several projects you may support directly:

Adopt one or more of the eight shutters for \$500 each

Adopt the bell for \$500

Adopt a pew for \$250 each

Sponsor a week of mowing and trimming for \$50 a week

Donate to our general operating funds at any level

There are several methods available for you to provide a donation:

We would love to have you as our guest at the Open House at which we will accept your donation.

Return the Pledge Form below to our mailing address above

Check out our web site, www.tolsonschapel.com. We will soon have a method to accept donations there.

We are having an Open House on Sunday, June 9, 2013 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm at the Chapel on High Street. We would love to show you all of the work we have accomplished and help you find a way to support the Chapel financially. This event is by invitation, but if you wish to bring others, just let us know.

Come and feel the spirit and strength of this little place that belongs to our community.

Eddie Wallace
President
FOTC

Sid Gale
Board Member
FOTC

Denise Troxell
Board Member
FOTC

Please return the RSVP card, email us at tolsons.chapel@gmail.com or call 240-452-7389 (Eddie's cell phone) by May 31, 2013 to let us know whether you will be able to attend. If you are not able to attend, we hope you will return a pledge or view our web site to make a direct donation.

PLEDGE FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

One time donation: \$ _____

Pledge of \$ _____ to support a ___ pew, ___ shutter, ___ bell, ___ mowing

(Pledges may be paid over a period of five months.)