

# Welcome to THANKSGIVING PLACE

First envisioned in 2002 and dedicated in 2005, ThanksGiving Place is a one-acre interfaith park dedicated to expressing gratitude and giving thanks. Please enjoy this meditative park, which provides a rare slice of peacefulness and green space in an urban community. It also offers residents of Stadium Place and our neighbors an opportunity to experience a reconnection with nature in a sacred open space.



## Portal and Memorial Bricks

This is the entrance to ThanksGiving Place. The pergola serves as a portal and provides a quiet transition from the streets to the labyrinth and meditation garden. The bricks within this entrance space contain individualized messages of reflection, celebration or memorial. Beyond the pergola, a lawn leads to a place for meditative contemplation, the Santa Rosa labyrinth.



## The Santa Rosa Labyrinth

*Lea Goode-Harris, copyright 1997*

This 65 foot, 7-circuit blue stone labyrinth is the center of ThanksGiving Place. Labyrinths have been utilized for thousands of years as a tool for meditation and reflection. The Santa Rosa was created by *Lea Goode-Harris* in 1997. It's based on the Chartres style and includes a 12-foot diameter center providing a place for contemplation. We invite you to walk the labyrinth and experience it for yourself. You will find the entrance to the labyrinth under the bell tower pergola. Follow the pathway to the center, pause to reflect and then follow that same pathway back to the beginning. The entrance and exit are the same in a labyrinth. Even though there is only one path, there is no right or wrong way to walk it.



## Gratitude Bench

The gratitude bench, located under the bell tower, was generously donated by the *TKF Foundation* for all to use. Each bench, made from 100 year old, reclaimed pickle barrel wood, is built by inmates of the Maryland Department of Corrections who are learning practical skills to help them lead productive lives upon release. Located under the bench you will find a weatherproof gratitude journal as well as a Santa Rosa lap labyrinth.



## Curran Memorial Bell Tower

The J. Joseph Curran Sr. Memorial Bell Tower was dedicated in 2007 as the final phase in construction of ThanksGiving Place. It is centered on the John G. Kovach Memorial pergola and gratitude bench. This memorial bell tower chimes every 15 minutes during the day to remind all of us to be grateful.

ThanksGiving Place is located on the site of the former Memorial Stadium (1949-1997), the past home of the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Colts. This site, now called Stadium Place, is a national model for an affordable retirement community for older adults, while also offering intergenerational opportunities with the surrounding community. The master developer of Stadium Place is GEDCO (Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation).

