

The Spire



March, 2013

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Special Lenten and Easter Services

Holy Thursday

March 28 @ 7:00 PM

Good Friday

March 29 @ 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service

March 31 @ 6:30 AM
along with our regular
8:30 and 11:00 services



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, February 17th we received four new members at the 8:30 service. They are:

Patricia Barbee, received on confession of faith;

Harriet Garner, received on confession of faith;

John Mayden, transfer from the Church of God;

Lucy Moran, transfer from the Church of God;

Please make sure to give them a warm Loch Raven Church welcome as you get to know them.

What Is Staff-Parish Relations Committee?

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is the administrative unit of the church. Its role is similar to that of a human resources department and oversees the interests of the pastors, staff, and congregation in fulfilling the mission of the church.

The committee's primary responsibilities include:

- Serving as liaisons between the pastors, staff, and the members of the congregation.
- Interviewing and hiring non-appointed staff.
- Annually assessing job performance of the pastors and staff.
- Developing and recommending written policy and procedures on employment of non-appointed staff.
- Ensuring the church's Safe Sanctuary Policy is implemented and enforced.
- Supporting learning and spiritual renewal for the pastors and staff through individual study and continuing education programs.
- Educating and reminding both the staff and the congregation to focus on working together to fulfill the mission of the church by promoting unity, and encouraging, strengthening, nurturing, supporting, and respecting the pastors, staff, and the members of the congregation.

Committee members are nominated by the committee on lay leadership and elected by the charge conference. The committee is comprised of faith-based church members who represent the diversity of the congregation and who serve for three years as part of a class.

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The Spire is published monthly (except July and August) by Loch Raven United Methodist Church, 6622 Loch Raven Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21239.

All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcomed and considered for publication.

The deadline for the April issue is **Sunday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m.**

Electronic Submission: You may send articles by e-mail to: njk.williams@yahoo.com or place articles in the Church Office's newsletter box.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address

Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Cliff Webner

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Phone: 410-825-0900. **Fax:** 410-825-2600. **E-mail:** Info@LRUMC.org

Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Lenten Bible Study

This year's Lenten Bible study continues on Mondays, March 4, 11, and 18th at 7:00 PM and is repeated on Wednesdays, March 6, 13, and 20th at 10:00 AM. You are invited. Feel free to drop in on any class. We are using Ray Vander Laan's *Walking with God in the Desert*.

What Is Staff-Parish Relations Committee?

(Continued from page 1)

To ensure consistency, a new class joins the committee as another class concludes its service. The committee is comprised of 5 to 9 members of the congregation. A lay leader or lay member to annual conference is also part of the committee. No staff member or immediate family member of a pastor or staff can serve, and only one person from any one household can be on the committee at the same time.

Current SPRC Committee Members:

John Christopher
Sandra Edmonds
Nancy Gillotti
Merrill Harrison, chairperson
Lois Hively
Beverly Mignott
Melvin Miles
Maria Stockton-Porter
Jonathan Wilson



Sermon Series

This year's Lenten sermon series, *God Breaks Through*, continues through Easter.

3/3 *Don't Forget Your Brakes*—Exodus 20:8-11 and Luke 10:38-42

3/10 *There's Something Wrong Here*—Genesis 3:1-7 and Luke 4:1-13

3/17 *Breaking with the Past*—Isaiah 43:16-21 and Philippians 3:8-14

3/24 *Jesus Came Weeping*
Luke 19:29-42

3/31 *God Breaks Through*
John 20:14-29 and Ephesians 2:14-18

March Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Aidoo
Stan Kriel
- 2 Erin Potter, Brianna Lee
- 4 Eddie DePrine, Jr.
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Michaela Jones
Heather Marsalek
- 12 Clint Gardner
Jason Myers
- 14 Norma Jones
- 15 Anne Marie Smith
- 16 Doris Blottenberger
Karen Seets
- 17 Roy Dorfler
Matthew Price
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 20 Phil Scott
- 22 Erin Mellott
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 25 Sam Boner
- 30 Dave Jackson
Robert Cullum
Irene McCrea

*From the
Pastor*



But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.—I Corinthians 15:20

Easter is on its way. The promise of new life comes with it. Three things come to mind when I look at the above Scripture passage. The first thing is that **it begins with a “but.”** It’s one of the “big buts” of the Bible. It is a “but” that signals contrast; i.e., one thing contrasts with another. If we pay attention to what the contrast is about we will learn something about how God works. The contrast, in this case, refers to the hopeless situation we would be in if Christ had not died for our sins. **So, without God in our life we are hopeless and with God in our life we have hope.**

The next thing that we see in this passage is that **Christ has been raised** from the dead. Christ did not raise himself up. He gave himself up. God raised him up. From this, we realize that **God is the initiator of our salvation.** We cannot save ourselves from sin. God saves us. Yet how many times in life do we try to save ourselves, instead of trusting God for our salvation?

The last thing we see is the reference to **those who have fallen asleep.** Of course, here, Paul is referring to those who have already died. We could also think about the many ways that we fall asleep to the ways of God. How many times do we take God for granted and leave him out of our life? We need to stay awake to the ways of God.

The Easter season is a wonderful time to discover or rediscover the new life that God has for us. **Let’s live lives of hope. Let’s let God do the saving. Let’s stay awake to the wonderful promises that God has for us.**

Happy Easter,
Cliff



**BEHOLD,
CHRIST HAS RISEN!**

Habitat for Humanity News

From: James Manley

Late January and early February have been very exciting for us. Three families moved into the houses we worked on in Pen Lucy, and it's very gratifying to know that our church helped provide these folks with something as important as a place to live. I'm so pleased that you all have been able to make contributions! Every year the people of LRUMC come through and contribute to the organization.

On Super Bowl Sunday, many people took advantage of an extra opportunity to give. We thought about what we could do to support Baltimore, and Habitat seemed like about as hands-on a way as we could think of to do so. Sharon Neumann designed special envelopes through which people could support the city of Baltimore as we support the team, and we raised about \$300 toward our annual pledge. Thanks to everyone who contributed! Let me also note that you can still contribute.

If there are still some of you out there who prayed while watching the game, "God, I'll do anything if you'll just let them win!" well, now's the time to pay up! We still have a way to go to reach our annual goal for church support of Habitat, and your contribution will make a real difference. Please consider supporting us at this time.

And now back to your regularly scheduled joy at the Ravens' success!

Welcome to Our New Administrative Secretary

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Myra Wagner has accepted the position of Administrative Secretary at LRUMC, effective Monday, February 11.

Myra recently retired after 32 years as a Special Education teacher in the Baltimore City public school system and earned her Master of Education degree from McDaniel College, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

As a member of our committee stated, “Myra Wagner has been a long-standing member of the LRUMC family and understands how to bring professional support service to the congregation. Myra has the skill set to work with the current and future pastors as well as the front counter personality to meet and greet the LRUMC members, staff, visitors and vendors. In addition, I personally have had the opportunity to observe the results of her tremendous organizational skills.” We agree and hope you do also.

We would also like to thank our team of wonderful volunteers who helped out in the office during this time of transition (my apologies if I missed anyone) with an extra pat on the back to Nancy Gillotti for coordinating all the volunteers:

Sandi Cuthbert
Nancy Gillotti
Nancy Harvill
Lois Hively
Cecilia Miller
Audrey Moltz
Myra Wagner

In addition, we would like to thank one of our previous church secretaries, Marlene Dennstaedt, for her assistance in the interview process.

Please note, that due to budgetary concerns, the position is now part time with hours 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday through Friday. You can reach Myra at mbwagner@lrumc.org

The committee would also like to thank Michele Brown for her service over the past two and a half years and wish her all the best.



Good Samaritan Fund

Do you know what this is? Each month in your box of envelopes is an envelope marked *Communion Offering*. The money from these envelopes goes into the Good Samaritan Account. This fund is used for special needs that are not covered in our church budget. For example, it buys supplies to make 30 bag lunches for Manna House, buys supplies to make 150 sandwiches for the homeless served at Essex UMC. In the past it was used for an emergency gas bill for a family in need. In other words, extras that are needed come from this fund and are disbursed at the discretion of the mission co-chairs and the pastor. Unfortunately, this fund is nearly depleted and we could use an infusion of much needed resources. So when you come upon that envelope the first Sunday of each month, if you could help us build that fund back up, it will be very much appreciated.

The Missions Committee

OUR MISSION

LRUMC Vision Statement

“We believe Loch Raven United Methodist Church is called by God to be a living witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving as stewards of God’s gifts and blessings. As a multicultural church, we minister through worship, learning, fellowship and mission to the community.”

OUR PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY 2013

• OPERATING BUDGET

In order to fulfill our mission and ministry in 2013, the Finance Committee consulted with each work area and adopted an operating budget to support these objectives.

We ask for your *prayers, presence, gifts and service* to insure our success.

• PROGRAM

* **The Worship Committee** will use \$2,150 to proclaim God’s Word in meaningful worship, including altar flowers, bulletins, altar guild and worship aids, and seasonal banners. All are provided for both Sunday Services. The *Upper Room* and other devotional material will be made available for your daily worship time.

* **Music Ministry** further enhances our worship experience with vocal and instrumental offerings by the Chancel Choir, Holy Grace Choir, the Handbell Choir and Praise Band. \$5,200 is needed for choir expense for music, organ substitutes, musicians, robes, pianos, organ and sound system maintenance.

* The **Outreach Committee** sponsors the Health Fair and Lunch with the Nurse.

The **website** is updated on a weekly basis to present an excellent source of information about our church.

The **Evangelism and Outreach Committees** are now combined as one with an emphasis on practical evangelism. The total Outreach and Evangelism budget is \$500.

The Communion offering is for the Good Samaritan fund that the Pastor uses to provide discretionary aid to those of our community in need.

* **Miscellaneous**—\$3,100

* The **Office Ministry** provides the essential communication between the church office and outside community through numerous telephone conversations and written correspondence, including the *Spire* church newsletter. The expenses for the office include reproduction and postage, maintenance of the church office equipment and office supplies. The total budget for the Office Ministry is \$10,725.

* **The Finance Committee** budget covers financial records, bank charges, payroll taxes, and workers compensation for a total of \$8,988.

* **The United Methodist Women** continue to be an active group and although not part of the budget, support missions projects such as Sussanna Wesley House, Board of Child Care, and Wesley Home.

* **Community Service** The church will continue to host Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, and Girl Scouts.

We will be open to other group and/or workshop opportunities to fully utilize our facilities. Your sacrificial giving makes it possible for us to meet these needs in our church and community.

* **Conference Apportionment**

Our dollars will join those of other United Methodist churches, paying our full share of the cost of essential ministries in our Conference and world-wide through *Conference apportionments* of \$45,629, enabling results too large to be done by any individual church in the work of God’s Kingdom.

OUR PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY 2013

A New Year 2013

“[I]t’s tough to include a real pledge of time or money in your New Year’s resolutions. Especially when you realize how you will feel if you do not follow through on it.”

“But this is a new year. Time to get things done, time for changes, and a greater sense of dedication to oneself, and to the cause. Shouldn’t it be the cause of each one of us, as we sit down and reminisce, and start to resolve, that we will give a little more, look at ourselves a little harder? That we will resolve to give our time, and our money, and become a part of the dedicated people of the New Year.”

Stewardship, January 2006
Parish Publishing LLC

* Our **Missions Ministry** budget is \$15,000 and includes international, national and local missions, including partnership with the Assistance Center of Towson Churches.

The church provides aid for natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes through U.M.C.O.R.

* The **Christian Education Ministry** will use \$3,150 to provide curriculum and sup-

plies for Sunday School, Bible Studies, confirmation and membership classes. This includes \$400 for camps and retreats enabling our youth to make new friends, learn new skills, experience God’s love in a very different way.

Our *Youth Group* is very active under the Youth Director’s leadership. The *Adult Sunday School* classes provide various studies of scripture with dedicated volunteer leaders. \$1,250 is included in the Education budget for the Youth and Adult programs.

* PASTORAL SUPPORT

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has noted the faithful service of the Pastor and Staff and have increased salaries accordingly for 2013.

The SPR has agreed on the Pastor’s salary of \$60,470 for 2013. Medical expenses for the Pastor, pension, conferences, auto allowance, and housing allowance bring the total to \$109,600.

* PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Pastor of Congregational Care provides a dedicated ministry for those in the hospital and the homebound. He brings the message that Loch Raven is praying for them and their well-being. The Pastor of Congregational Care’s salary will increase this year to \$21,320 and with auto allowance for a total of \$26,220.

* OTHER STAFF SALARIES

Part-Time Youth Director - \$5,000 plus \$500 expenses

Nursery Nanny - \$2,760

Director of Music - \$17,100

Organist - \$14,500

Administrative Secretary - \$28,000

* BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

General maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, utilities, insurances, inspection and maintenance contracts, property taxes, and office phones will cost \$51,910 for the church. Custodial supplies and custodial services will total \$30,000.

Replacement of the heating system with a more efficient unit has substantially reduced the cost of utilities for the church.

Regular monitoring of property conditions and maintenance needs by the Trustees have kept this year’s costs low while presenting an interior and exterior appearance inviting to members, neighbors and passers-by. We can take pride in our public image.

We recognize and say sincere THANK YOU to pastor, staff and a host of volunteers for their work.

Our 2013 budget totals \$380,032.

Dave Jackson, Chair, Finance

Community Event

For anyone interested, the Baltimore Flute Choir will be performing a concert on Monday, March 4th at 7:30pm at Mercy Ridge Retirement Community in the Performing Arts Center. It is free to attend. We will be playing some Irish music to get us ready for St. Patrick's Day, as well as some other kinds of music.

Thank you,
Erin Mellott



Never doubt that this is God's world, and that it is brought near to him by the right work of the least of his children no less than by the mighty works of geniuses.

—Helen Keller

EASTER FLOWERS

As always, we will decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday with beautiful plants. Use the order form below to indicate your choice and please include your payment. **FIRM DEADLINE March 24, Palm Sunday. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

I would like to order flowers (indicate choice below):

LILIES (\$14.00): _____ 4-6 Blooms on single stem TULIPS (\$13.99): PINK_____ RED_____ YELLOW_____

LILIES (\$17.50): _____ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems HYDRANGEAS (\$19.25): PINK_____ BLUE_____

AZALEAS (\$17.50): PINK_____ WHITE_____ RED_____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

OTHER: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

_____ I WILL PICK UP THE PLANT AFTER THE 11 a.m. EASTER SERVICE

_____ I WILL DONATE THE PLANT TO THE CHURCH TO BE PLANTED ON CHURCH GROUNDS

From the Mailbox

To Our Church Family,

Words can never express how very grateful we are for our church family. Many, many thanks for all the beautiful cards I received after my recent surgery. Each day brought another lovely message. The phone calls and visits were always a bright spot in my day and I feel truly blessed to have you all in my life. Thanks to Carol and Cliff for your visit and Lin, thanks for the yummy lasagna! God bless and keep you all!

In Christian Love,
Sandi Cuthbert

Dear Church Family,

We thank you so very much for your many, many prayers, cards, phone calls, home visits, and other expressions of kindness and concern during our time of bereavement. Because of you, we have a greater understanding of the scripture "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

We are, as well, especially grateful to Rev. Webner and Rev. Fringo for conducting a beautiful service honoring a life well lived.

Sincerely,
The family of George Sinkler

I want to sincerely thank my church family for all the cards and calls I received upon the death of my husband, Tim. I especially want to thank Audrey Moltz for her comforting and calming calls to me. I also want to thank Pastor Bob for the peaceful time he spent with me.

How fortunate I am to have such a loving family.

Marge Tyler

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, calls, visits, and kind words following the sudden loss of Jim's mom. Life is an uncertain journey and it is with the love of Christ that we are able to get through the tough times. Thanks for showing His love in all you do.

Blessings to all,
Jim and Myra Wagner

You're Invited

UMW APRIL GENERAL MEETING
Open to the Congregation
Sunday, April 21

One service at 10 am followed by luncheon and program on Habitat for Humanity.

United Methodist Women March Schedule

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, March 4
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Great People of the Bible*—Lesson 12
Study Leader—Joann
Devotions—Sandi
Hostess—Sandi

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 5
10 am—Parlor
Study: Acts—Chapter 10

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 20

6:30 pm—Covered Dish

Speaker—Joyce Dixon on her knowledge and experience from the School of Missions

Covered Dish Assignments:

Set-up: Phyllis Downes
Main Dish: J—M
Vegetables: N—Z
Salad: A—C
Dessert: D—I
Clean-up: WIC

EASTER EGGS

Deadline for orders—March 10
Making the eggs—March 15 and 16
Pickup on March 17

Outreach

Katherine McKinney

Heart Attack Warning Signs

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most of them start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** This feeling often comes along with chest discomfort. But it can occur with or without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs.** These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you're with has one or more of these signs, call 911 immediately. Get to the hospital right away.

If you're the one having symptoms, and you can't access the emergency medical services (EMS), have someone drive you to the hospital right away. Don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.



How Crucial is the Resurrection?



We cherish the birth of Jesus, his wisdom, his loving deeds, his courage in the face of a brutal death, but it is

Christ's resurrection which is absolutely crucial to Christian beliefs.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explained that the Resurrection was the foundation of our Christian belief system. He insisted that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we who believe in eternal life have no hope for it at all. "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, NRSV).

Finally, Paul expresses very clearly how critical the Resurrection is to our Christian hope. "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:19, NRSV).