

The Spire



November 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Merciful and generous Lord, you open your loving hands and bless us abundantly every day of our lives. Even when we go through dark times — suffering, sorrow, pain, desperation — you assure us that your loving, everlasting arms will not let us go. How generous are all your benefits, how supportive, how comforting to experience.

Today we join with “the great cloud of witnesses” who once praised you on Earth and now glorify you in heaven, offering our deepest gratitude for all the gifts you so generously give.

Accept then our thanksgiving for your love, your grace and all the blessings you bestow on us daily. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



**Daylight Savings
Time Ends
Sunday, November 4**



**Give
thanks to
the LORD,
for he
is good;
his love
endures
forever.**

1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

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

The deadline for the December issue is **Sunday, November 11, at 11:00 a.m.** *Electronic Submission:* You may send articles by e-mail to: [njkwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:njk.williams@yahoo.com) or place articles in the Church Office's newsletter box.

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History of the Nativity in Count and Cross Stitch

(As told to Audrey Moltz by Dan Moore)

The beautiful count and cross stitch panels that grace the balcony of Loch Raven United Methodist Church during the Advent season was made and donated by Ella McDade, a member of our church for several years. My wife Lucy, sister-in-law Phyllis Cooper and I were with Ella in a stitching store in Delaware that Ella knew about. We saw the pattern for the Advent panels that were sized for sitting on the mantle over a fireplace. Ella thought it would be lovely hanging in our church over the balcony. I asked her "How could you make it large enough?" Ella said it could be done. However, she made us promise that we would finish it if anything happened to her before it was finished. We said "yes" and did our best to keep her healthy.

In the meantime, Ella was having trouble with her right hand and had to have surgery by a Hand Specialist. After much therapy, she was able to hold a needle in her hand and she was ready to begin the project. She bought the cloth and the thread. She started the pink angel and discovered that the graph was not correct. She got in touch with the manufacturer and finally convinced them that the graph was wrong and they corrected it and sent her a new graph. She had to start all over after pulling out all the work she had done on the pink angel. No one knows how much cloth she bought, but the cost of the thread was over \$600 when the project was finished. The panels were done on #11 Aida cloth over 2 stitches. Every stitch was counted and, as we can see, there was not one mistake. When it was finished, we went to many stores to find the proper backing and finally found it. It was washable Bridal Satin. The lady who owned the store gave it to her at a good price because of what it was to be used for.

Ella made the panels in 9 months and she did not want anyone to know where they came from or who made them. She made our minister promise not to tell, but she didn't make me promise. So I told the church on the first Sunday in Advent that this was a gift to God for healing her hand so she could make a gift for her church.

These hangings are a one in a life time. No one else would ever attempt such an undertaking. There is not another one this size in the world that we know of. When I told the lady from South Carolina that made the graph, she could not believe that it could be done. To prove it, I sent her pictures of it and she was in awe. I told her where it hangs and that I was the first one to hang it. What a wonderful gift God gave to Ella to be able to paint such beautiful pictures with a needle and thread.

Ella lived to be 100 years and 8 months old! — or should I say "young"! She was a very lovely lady.



**Election Day
Tuesday
November 6**

God Makes a Way Out of No Way

They shall feed along the ways, on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind or sun shall smite them, for he who has pity on them will lead them by springs of water.

--Isaiah 49:9-10

As we head toward the Thanksgiving holiday, I am grateful for something that Isaiah teaches us about God. He reminds us that God provides a way when there seems to be no way. Have you ever had a time when your back was to the wall, and it seemed like there was no way out, but then some things changed and the problem was resolved? Look at the provisions that arise when the people in Isaiah's day placed their confidence in God.

- Situations that once seemed fruitless became fruitful.
- The desert places in their lives, where it felt like they were being beaten down by the wind and scorching sun, were transformed into pastures.
- Suddenly, in events, which at one time seemed insurmountable, a road was made to safely reach the other side.

We may not understand why sickness comes, or accidents happen, or why we sometimes fail despite our best efforts, but the Bible is clear that God is at work for good in everything that happens to us as Christians. God makes a way out of no way.

The apostle Paul had many long, dark nights when he had time to question God's ways in his life. Finally, from a Roman prison cell he realized how God was using him to reach others through his letters of faith. He writes, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Or remember Joseph in the Old Testament whose brothers had sold him into slavery because they were jealous of their father's affection for him. Finally, he's placed in a position of power and authority over them. He chooses to save them from starvation. He says, "Even though you intended to do me harm, God intended this for good, so that he could save you and our people from famine."

God is working out his plan of salvation for this world. There are times when we may not understand our part in this plan, but he has a place for us in it and he wants us to be a part of it. So, the next time you ask, "God, are you out there? Do you care about my life?" Always remember that he has already answered with a resounding "yes" through his Son Jesus Christ. God will make a way out of no way for you.

Grace and peace,
Cliff

The Twelve Freedoms of Grief

by Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D.
Submitted by Katherine McKinney

1. You have the freedom to realize your grief is unique.
2. You have the freedom to talk about your grief.
3. You have the freedom to expect to feel a multitude of emotions.
4. You have the freedom to allow for numbness.
5. You have the freedom to be tolerant of your physical and emotional limits.
6. You have the freedom to experience grief attacks or memory embraces.
7. You have the freedom to develop a support system.
8. You have the freedom to make use of ritual.
9. You have the freedom to embrace your spirituality.
10. You have the freedom to allow a search for meaning.
11. You have the freedom to treasure your memories.
12. You have the freedom to move toward your grief and heal.

Reconciling grief will not happen quickly. Remember grief is a process, not an event. Be patient and tolerant of yourself. Never forget that death of someone loved changes your life forever. It's not that you won't be happy again. It's simply that you will never be exactly the same person as you were before the death.

Summer worship time survey results

The results of the summer worship time survey are in and thank you for voting.

120 people voted.

21 voted to leave the services the way they are as 8:30 & 10:00 A.M.

99 voted to go to one service.

Out of the 120 that voted:

2 wrote in that we should do one service, but it should be at 8:30 A.M.

5 wrote in that we should do one service, but it should be at 9:00 A.M.

2 wrote in that we should do one service, but it should be at 9:15 A.M.

13 wrote in that we should do one service, but it should be at 9:30 A.M.

At the September meeting of the Church Council we discussed these results and it was unanimously decided that next summer we should have one service and that it should be at 9:30 A.M.

Again, thank you for your input and comments.

Pastor Cliff, for the Church Council.



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace agreement was signed with Germany ending World War I. Armistice Day was established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: "Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations." On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.

Do you know where these members are?

The following names are members that have moved out of community or for some other reason we no longer have an accurate address for. If you know their address please contact the church office.

- Janene Crawford
- Erin Olsen
- Gregory Olsen
- Richard Cockey
- Evelyn Cockey
- Mark Formwalt
- Charles Per Dieu
- Mary Foster

November Birthdays

- 5 Gary Smith and Kathleen Frederick
- 7 Nicole Eklund and DeVaughn Maddox
- 10 Sandi Cuthbert and Erica Dixon
- 13 Dan Dorsey
- 15 Gregory Olsen
- 16 Mary Lou Bryan
- 19 Tendai Ndlovu
- 21 Nancy Lacy
- 22 Seth Thomas (turning 21)
- 23 Abena Aidoo
- 26 Reynold Small

Belated birthday wishes to Pastor Bob Fringo who turned 85 on October 30th.

UMW Gift Card Sale

The UMW will be selling gift cards for your favorite restaurants, fast food chains, grocery stores, home improvement stores, department stores and specialty shops. These cards make great gifts or stocking stuffers, or use them when you dine out or shop.

We will be taking orders between Sunday services on December 2 and December 9. You can pick up your cards the week after you order.

For more information call:

Joann Munden
410-665-6361
Yvonne Horn
410-296-9555
Sharon Neumann
410-882-0431

United Methodist Women November Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, November 5

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Great People of the Bible*

Lesson 9: Elijah

Study: Cheryl

Devotion: Jean

Hostess: Joann

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, November 6

10 am—Parlor

Study: Acts

NO GENERAL MEETING

Youth Director Needed

We are currently seeking a youth director to lead an active youth group of 10-15 members ages 12-18. The youth director must be a Christian growing in his/her personal relationship with Jesus Christ, must have a strong desire to work with youth to provide mentorship and Christian leadership to young persons during a pivotal point in their lives, and be able to listen to youth uncritically and without a judgmental attitude to encourage and guide young people in a Christian way of life. The youth director must model a healthy Christian lifestyle by being involved in worship, fellowship, service and the recreational life of the church as well as in offering emotional and spiritual support to youth and their families.

Specific duties include:

1. Coordination of youth gatherings for 2 regular Sunday night meetings per month, as well as at least 1 special event or activity off-premises per month.

2. Attend scheduled Education and Church Council meetings and church staff meetings when possible.

3. Work with youth to present Sunday worship services on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Ongoing duties include:

1. Development of meaningful programs for youth that include balanced opportunities for study and reflection, interactive sharing, fellowship and recreation, service and Christian witness, and worship.

2. Work closely with adult volunteers to assist in youth programming.

3. Develop opportunities that deepen youth spiritually and assist in creating opportunities for expanding Loch Raven UMC's youth ministry.

4. Develop a familiarity with United Methodist curriculum and include such material in youth ministry.

5. Acquaint and encourage youth to participate in programs on the District and Conference levels.

6. Prepare updates for the Education Committee and Church Council.

7. Communicate with church and parents through electronic and print media

8. Ensure compliance with the Safe Sanctuary Policy.

If you have any questions or wish to apply for this position, please send a resume to Staff Parish Relations Chair Scott Eshleman at smeshleman@hotmail.com Must be at least 21 years old to apply.

Countdown to Festival of the Arts

As I write this article today for the November Spire, the church's first Festival of the Arts on Saturday December 1, 2012 is only 36 days away! The call for entries of art works has gone out and I thank those of you who have expressed interest in sharing your creativity and exhibiting your art. Please share news of this showcasing opportunity with your creative family and friends and encourage their participation for exhibiting. If you haven't registered to exhibit, please do so today by completing a registration form found in last month's Spire and also available in the church's lower entrance lobby.

In Search of Manger Scenes

There are various styles of manger scenes and they truly represent the reason for the season. A decade or so ago, there was a Sunday at our church when folks could share their manger scenes with the church family and these scenes were set up throughout the sanctuary. The Festival of the Arts is reviving that idea and incorporating a Manger Scene Exhibit into the Festival. If you have a Manger Scene to share with church family and visitors, please deliver it Sunday morning November 25 or Wednesday, November 28 from 6-8pm. If you need help in getting it to the church or would like to set up your display yourself, please let me know. The displays will be set up on Thursday from 6 - 8pm. The display will remain through the Sunday morning service. Please complete a Manger Scene Exhibit Form to participate.

In Search of Assistance

Help to make this first year for the Festival a successful one and join in bringing the church alive with the arts for the community. Imagine the possibilities this event could create, the impact it could have on the surrounding communities as a center for sharing art projects each year.

Share in the spirit of this seasonal event by sharing an hour or more of your time at the Festival. Volunteers are needed as:

- 1) Greeters/ tour guides - to be stationed at the lower entrance lobby and where art is displayed to welcome visitors and offer information on the event
- 2) Art Workshop Elves - to assist an hour or more with demonstrating a craft for the children to create from 2 - 4pm
- 3) Presenters' hosts - 3 people are needed to be assigned and serve as a host for one of the three performing groups, greeting them at the door, showing them to their prep room, leading them to their performance space answering questions as needed. Hosting duty begins 45 minutes before the start of your group's performance.
- 4) Art display set up November 27 - 30 various times daytime and evening as per your availability for an hour or more of your schedule preference.

The Current Festival of the Arts Schedule

- 2 - 4pm: Holiday art workshops for children
- 3 - 8pm: The Loch Raven Art Gallery Opens
- 4 - 5pm: *Unified Voices* will sing - a Johns Hopkins gospel choir

NEW TO THE SCHEDULE

- AT 5 - 6pm: *The Baltimore Flute Choir* - A gathering of instrumental artists
- 7 - 8:30pm: *Joyous Voices* will sing - Dickens-era Christmas Carolers

Call for entries reminder and update

An update/adjustment on requirements for submissions: There is no time restraint for when you completed your art project. If you painted a picture or created an art piece this year or 20 years ago, please consider sharing it in the exhibit. I am discovering some folks have a history of creating art, enjoyed painting, knitting, sculpture, etc and have pieces they did years ago but now they no longer have the time to continue the avocation. If you have been hiding your talents/skills under a bushel or in the attic, please consider the Festival as a perfect opportunity for dusting off your projects and letting your talents shine!

Do you paint, draw, create sculptures, photography or engage in other artistic endeavors? Do you enjoy expressing yourself through a creative project? Are you someone who enjoys looking at art and appreciates the beauty and message in a piece of art?

There are three categories for submitting art and all submissions must be family-friendly for viewing:

- 1) Community heritage: "Loch Raven"
- 2) The holidays: "Tis the Season"
- 3) The Open-Themed Misc. Category for any family-friendly theme: "In the Eye of the Beholder".

Get out your paints and brushes, clay, recyclable materials, the art media you most enjoy working with and plan to share your works at the festival.

In the Spirit of the Season

The Festival of the Arts is free. Canned goods and/or donations may be submitted in donation containers throughout the church during the event to provide support of the Towson Assistance Center, an organization supported by Loch Raven Church, that will assist families in need as artists and musicians fill the church halls with beautiful music and art to raise assistance for the local community during the holiday season.

MANGER SCENE EXHIBIT PARTICIPANT 2012

I will be sharing my Manger Scene with the church for the Festival of the Arts.

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Email _____

Please check off the following pieces included in your Manger Scene:

Mary and Joseph ___ Baby Jesus ___ 3 Shepherds ___ 3 Wiseman ___ Manger ___
 Animals ___ Scenery (trees, bushels, snow) ___ Star ___
 Other pieces _____
 Any special lighting? ___yes ___no
 Please check category that best describes the size: Small ___ Medium ___ Large___

If your Manger Scene has a special history or story involved in its creation, ownership, traditions, etc, please provide here:

