

The Spire



April, 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

LABYRINTH is in Fellowship Hall

Outreach Ministry has set up a Labyrinth in Fellowship Hall through April 10th.

We are asking the congregation to walk this labyrinth during Lent as a walking meditation or spiritual practice.

Some information about a Labyrinth from the internet:

"The journey to the center of the labyrinth represents the many turnings in the journey of life, a journey that needs God's help and the Church's support and guidance. Although the walk itself is informal and relatively unstructured, most participants find that a period of quietness helps to focus them. For example, are you seeking spiritual guidance, healing, a closer fellowship with God, discernment, blessing, or the fulfillment of some other purpose. The use of prayer is also suggested as a way to calm and 'center' one's spirit at the beginning of and during the walk."

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and "Hallelujah!" is our song.

—Pope John Paul II



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 28—Palm Sunday

worship in the sanctuary 8:30 and 11 a.m.

April 1—Holy Thursday

worship in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. including communion and a dramatic presentation of the last supper

April 2—Good Friday

worship in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. A Tenebrae service with readings, candles and singing. The Chancel Choir will sing.

April 4—Easter

6:30 a.m. Sunrise service on the front steps followed by continental breakfast

8:30 and 11 a.m. Resurrection celebrations with special vocal and bell choir music

Plan to attend each of these services and explore your faith in this most sacred time for Christians. Bring a friend with you.

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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 May issue is **Sunday, April 11, 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.

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

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org

A word about applause...

There has been some conversation recently about applause in worship. For some, this is a joyful expression of thanksgiving to God. Some others have a background that leads them to believe that applause in worship is either distracting or inappropriate.

Here are a few things to think about regarding this issue:

The musicians—singers, ringers, and instrumentalists—do not expect applause. They are offering their gift to God and their church. Music in worship is much more of an offering than a performance. (When the choir comes out of the loft to the steps to sing, it's not to make it more a performance, but to make it possible for all to hear better, and to facilitate communication with the director and accompanist.)

The worship of God can be a moving experience that sometimes calls out an audible response. Some people say "amen", some clap, and some simply nod or smile. Such expressions are ways that people add their own praise to that of the musicians. Joy that bubbles over is hard to contain. Perhaps we shouldn't try, but it's also important to remember that we express that in different ways.

Sometimes the most worshipful response to a musical offering is silence. That may be suggested by the music itself, the season of the church year, or the mood of a particular service. Let the Spirit of God lead you to the appropriate response.

In a diverse congregation such as ours, people come to worship with a host of different experiences, expectations and approaches. As those who plan and lead worship, our goal is to provide an opportunity for each one gathered to have an experience of and with the Holy One. Music is an important part of that. We hope that you will respond to God as you are led, and never feel that any particular response is required or expected. Please also understand that someone else's response may be different from yours on any given day.

BOILER FUND UPDATE:

These gifts have been received since the last spire:

2/14/2010	= \$	25.00
2/21/2010	= \$	20.00
2/28/2010	= \$	0.00
3/07/2010	= \$	400.00
3/14/2010	= \$	12.00

Total Received: \$34,343.00 towards \$73,000

The Board of Trustees offers their appreciation for every gift received and sends their blessings and a heartfelt thank you!



Dear Friends,
You will probably receive this just before

Easter, perhaps even during Holy Week, the most solemn time of our church year. Holy Week calls us to reflect upon the sacrificial love of Jesus for us, evidenced in his willingness to suffer betrayal, denial, abuse, and finally a brutal death.

Pain is a part of human life, even the human life of Jesus. A significant task for every human life is to discover ways to go on in the midst of pain. Followers of Jesus have an advantage in doing this. We follow the Crucified and Resurrected One, the One who shows us how to navigate from tragedy to triumph.

One of the participants at a recent conference I attended said this: "Pain that doesn't get transformed gets transmitted." Isn't that the truth! We've all seen that happen, either in our own lives or someone else's. Pain that isn't transformed often becomes anger or bitterness which infects and pollutes lives and relationships.

We are Easter people, people of the resurrection. Resurrection is the best vision we can have of what it means to transform pain rather than transmitting it. To transform is not the same as to deny. Pain happens. Even Jesus' pain was very real. But God

doesn't allow the pain to be the last word. Jesus' pain is not transmitted. It is transformed into life-giving energy and love.

This Easter, ask God to transform your pain. Easter is proof that miracles happen.

Pastor Gayle



Linda Jones retiring

As we have already announced, Lin Jones is retiring as LRUMC's secretary after many years of faithful service. We will be collecting a love gift for her. If you would like to contribute, please mark your contributions and place them in the offering plate, or give them to Pastor Gayle or Merrill Harrison. If you send contributions to the office, please mark your envelope to the attention of Pastor Gayle.

Watch the bulletin and May Spire for details regarding a retirement celebration for Lin and make an effort to be there to thank Lin for her service to God and to all of us through her work as our church secretary.

United Methodist Women April Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, April 5

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*

Lesson 6: Growing Through Facing Sin

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, April 6

10 a.m.—Parlor

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, April 14

10:30 a.m.—Vesta Williams' home

Study: *Women of the Old Testament*

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 21

Covered Dish

6:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

Program: Power Point Presentation by Rev. Jay DeMent about Redbird Mission

Circle Assignments:

Set-up: W.I.C.

Main Dish: S-Z

Vegetable: A-C

Salad: D-I

Dessert: J-R

Clean-up: P.D.

200th Anniversary Concert
The Maryland Bible Society
Presents
The Morgan State University Choir
Dr. Eric A. Conway, Conductor
Celebrating the Word of God
in Music & Song

Sunday, April 18 at 4:00 p.m.
 Murphy Fine Arts Center
 Gilliam Concert Hall
 2201 Argonne Drive
 Baltimore, MD

Since 1810, The Maryland Bible Society has been providing the Bible in many translations and in many languages to people in Maryland, the United States, and around the world. Join us as the acclaimed Morgan State University Choir, and its distinguished Conductor, Dr. Eric Conway, help us celebrate our 200th Anniversary.

Tickets (\$22.00) can be purchased from Bob Bartram (410-321-6211).

Family Ministries Update

The Family Ministries Committee hosted its 3rd annual Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, March 12. Despite the rain, over 40 people came out to enjoy a delicious meal, including fried fish, chicken nuggets, hush puppies, potato salad, green beans, and corn bread. The night was extra special as we were all able to gather and wish Clint Gardner a happy birthday! We also wish to extend thanks to all the members of the Family Ministries Committee who helped prepare and serve the food, set up, and cleanup. Their hard work made the evening a wonderful success! The evening was capped off by a viewing of the movie *Shadowlands*. Unfortunately, there were a few sound issues that we hope will be resolved before the next movie night, which will be coming this summer as part of Sizzlin' Summer Nights (SSN). Stay tuned for updates on SSN, as details will be coming in the next month or two. Please try to come out and join in at least one of the activities, which are fun for all ages! Whether you want to participate, or just sit and laugh at the people who do, you're sure to have a great time!

Fore!



The Improve Children's Program here at Loch Raven UMC is in need of old/used golf equipment for the Summer

Program for the children. If you can help, please bring your golf equipment to the Church Office.

Thanking you and Blessings,
 Viola Watson-Bean
 IMPROVE

A plea for help!

Thank you to those who have stepped up to volunteer with the Youth for meetings, events, etc. It is greatly appreciated. I am still in need of a few more volunteers and in particular some men. If this is an area of Ministry that you could help with, please give me a call.

Thanks
 Jen Byrd (443-756-4000)

From the Mailbox

Dear Loch Raven Church Family,

We wanted to thank you all so much for everything you have done for us in this difficult time. Many of you helped out with Joyce's memorial service, sent us cards, made thoughtful phone calls, offered to help us with a variety of things, or even simply offered a kind word. The loss of a loved one is never easy, but we are so grateful to know so many wonderful people through our church who have tried to help us through everything. Once again we would just like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Sincerely,
Lois and Tiffany Hively

Spot Light on Education



Welcome to the two year thru kindergarten class. This quarter we have been preparing for Easter. We have heard stories about Jesus and the love that he shows others. We practice singing, playing and learning together. Our class continues to grow. We now have 7 children in our class. Our favorite things to do are use glue and stickers. Our class is led by Ms. Amy and we invite you to stop by and listen to us say our bible verses.

Board of Child Care Auxiliary Honored

The United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries (UMA) has named the Board Of Child Care Auxiliary as UMA's 2010 Group Volunteer of the Year. The UMA is a national association of United Methodist-related and other faith-based ministries and professionals actively involved in promoting quality care in a faith-based setting. The Auxiliary was chosen from more than 380 organizations served by the UMA nationwide.

This award was earned by all the people who support the Board of Child Care through the activities of the Auxiliary; those who join the Auxiliary as well as those who support it financially and with their donations of cookies, items for the Christmas store and food for the Thanksgiving baskets.

Thank you for your support of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary.

Membership Updates

Phone Number Change:

Beverly and Al Mignott
410-583-2508

Member Deceased:

Dorothea Horton
March 2, 2010

Mary Beck
February 26, 2010

Martha Luber
February 23, 2010

Address Unknown:

If you know the current address for the following members, please call the Church Office:

Jermaine Carter
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Beatrice Welsh



Missions Team Announces Upcoming Projects

The Missions Team would like to thank everyone who donated casseroles and cakes to Hearts Place. The clients really appreciate the home-cooked meals and are thankful for the personal care items we collected. The shelter will close in April and reopen in November.

In April we will be collecting the following items for Susanna Wesley House:

- laundry soap
- dish soap
- bath soap
- bathroom cleaners
- brillo & scrub brushes
- pine sol
- Pampers pull-ups (or generic) size 4-5-6
- feminine hygiene products
- wash cloths & dish towels

May is the month for our annual food collection for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. Watch for details.

In this tough economy we are grateful for all your support for our projects.

God bless you.
Missions Team

Youth News

The month of March we focused on learning more about our church family and building.

The winner of the youth “Get to Know Your Church Family” Scavenger Hunt was **Master Steven Gardner**. Congratulations Steven!!!!

We also played Ms. Jen’s version of the reality TV show game, “The Amazing Race”. Each team traveled through the entire church building with clues about the different rooms/areas of the church. There were several road-blocks and pit stops along the way. The Youth actually learned the names of some of the rooms/areas of the church that they didn’t know had names. A fun time was had by all.

Calendar of Events:

April 1st – Holy Thursday service, 7:30pm – Several of the Youth will be participating.

Meeting dates:

April 11th, 7pm—8:30pm

April 25th, 7pm—8:30pm

All Youth in grades 6th – 12th or ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend any Youth meeting or event. Hope to see you there!

****Please remember to return your film canisters to any Youth or place in the offering plate** Thank you for your support!!!**

PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY . . . Miss out having your picture taken?

Please contact:

Dave Jackson by email:
Dave.L.Jackson@comcast.net
or phone: 410-560-6385



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

—John 3:16 NRSV



GALACTIC BLAST

Mark Your Calendars for Vacation Bible School

July 25th – July 29th



The VBS Spaceship will land at LRUMC for a “Galactic Blast.”
Be on the look out for registration information in May.

Boy Scout Troop 792 2010 Mulch Sale—April 17, 2010

Tan Bark Mix

A unique blend of oak barks that are double shredded and aged to produce a high quality ground cover. Its dark chocolate brown color will enhance the beauty of all your gardens while providing all essential properties that quality mulch should.

* **3 cubic foot bags**

* **\$5.00 per bag**

- **free delivery on orders of 10 or more bags (limited delivery area)**
- **\$1.00 for each bag purchased by a church member will be donated to the church Boiler Fund** (this only applies to orders received by Jen Byrd)

For questions/additional information contact Jen Byrd at **birdie21234@aol.com** or 443-756-4000

------(cut off and return bottom portion. Retain top part as a reminder of delivery date)-----

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Community: _____

Delivery instructions: (please mark location):

____ front driveway ____ rear driveway (only if alley accessible)

My order: # of bags ____ x \$5.00 per bag = Total paid \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Boy Scout Troop 792**. Return this form with payment to Jen Byrd or place in offering plate.

****Order and full payment deadline is 4/4/2010****