

# The Spire



April, 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Renovations to be made to Fellowship Hall

Preliminary plans are underway for the much needed facelift to the Fellowship Hall. A draft of the scheduled renovations was presented at the February Council Meeting. The plans include more storage units along the full length of the wall where the current cupboards are located. This will eliminate the need for the old freestanding metal cabinets that are currently being used in the room. New tile will be installed on the floors. New chairs and round tables will be purchased to replace the existing furniture. New window treatments will hang from the wall of doors along the arcade.

At this time the church restrooms are in the process of being spruced up. Several have already been painted and new faucets installed. Aside from planned activities, the trustees continue to provide the necessary and ongoing repairs and maintenance to our church home. The leaky faucet in the kitchen was recently repaired.

*David Brown*  
Chairman of Trustees



Holy Week

### Thursday, April 21 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday communion service featuring a drama "Lord, Is It I?" This drama was presented last year and was very well received. Many people asked that it be repeated, and so it will be. Bring your friends to this moving presentation of the Last Supper.

### Friday, April 22 7:30 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae service with special music from our Chancel Choir.

### Sunday, April 24

6:30 am – Easter Sunrise worship, outside on the front steps of the church. Breakfast right after the service.

8:30 & 11 am—Celebration of the Resurrection in the sanctuary.

## Youth Mission Trip to Camp Hope

CAMP HOPE Inc. is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers who gather every summer in Frostburg, Maryland. These volunteers help needy families and individuals from Allegany County and the surrounding areas to upgrade their homes. They also form a covenant community in which they explore and share their Christian faith.

The Youth and their 3 adult chaperones will be traveling to Western Maryland July 24 – 30. We would appreciate the support and prayers as we go out to serve and live our Christian faith.

As with any mission trip there is a cost involved. The Youth need to raise about \$2700 to cover the costs of this trip. Please be on the look out for ways to financially support this endeavor.

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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 10, at 11:00 a.m.**

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

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**Children's Page and Address Page Editor** - Peggy Kelly

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**Pastor of Congregational Care** - Robert J. Fringo

**Church Office Hours:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.  
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**Change of Name/Address** - Call, mail or e-mail church office.

**Web site:** [www.LRUMC.org](http://www.LRUMC.org)

## Board of Child Care Flower Sale Fundraiser

The Board of Child Care Auxiliary is having a flower sale fundraiser this spring through Flower Power. Orders may be placed via the internet by going to: [www.flowerpowerfundraising.com](http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com), clicking on "Place an Order" at the top right of the screen and typing in Board of Child Care Auxiliary, Baltimore, Maryland. The Auxiliary link appears at the bottom of the screen. Click on it and choose "Order Now" to see the plants and flowers available for purchase. The Auxiliary will receive 50% of the sales. Online orders must be placed by April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Board of Child Care Auxiliary Membership

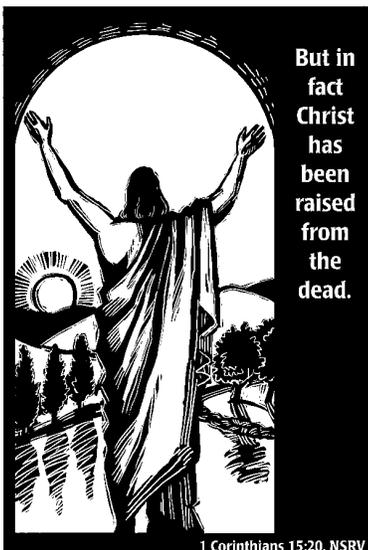
During April, you will have the opportunity to join or renew your membership in the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. Why join the Auxiliary? Proceeds from the membership drive help the

children of the Board of Child Care by providing amenities not covered by the Board's government funding. Auxiliary projects include Easter baskets, birthday cards and gifts, gifts for high school graduates, field trips and arts and recreation activities. The Auxiliary hopes to provide driver education for eligible students, college visits for graduating seniors and assistance with prom costs.

A one-year Membership is just \$2.00 per person, but the funds raised make a big difference to the children. Envelopes will be in the pews during the month of April. Please consider helping the children by joining the Auxiliary.

### Cookie Collection

Thanks to the congregation for your continued support of the children of the Board of Child Care. The cookie collection was successful again this year with almost 100 pounds of cookies and snacks donated.





Dear Friends,  
I'm writing this on Ash Wednesday, preparing for

our evening service, knowing that this time tomorrow, I'll be in Haiti with a mission team from the United Methodist churches of the Baltimore Region. Many of you will remember that our trip, originally planned for December, was cancelled due to unrest in Haiti after the election.

The need is great there, and United Methodists have been very generous in response. Here at LRUMC, many responded when the UMCOR appeal came out after the earthquake last year and we were able to send a nice gift from the church. Additionally, you supported the Mission Committee's Fall Flea Market, which supported the mission team and the digging of a well in Haiti, and many of you also gave individual gifts to support the team.

Our work site is in Les Cayes, a small city in southwest Haiti, working on a church building project for the people of the Torbeck Methodist Church. UMCOR, in partnership with the Methodist Church in Haiti, now has 21 sites where volunteers, mostly from the US, but some from other countries also, are working along with Haitians to meet the great needs of the people there. We are honored to be able to serve.

Mostly, I thank you for your prayers and support. Mission is a collective effort. Some go and some send; some work and some pray; and all of us seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. My prayer is that we will each be led to do just that; in Haiti or Hillendale or Baltimore or wherever God calls.

Blessings+

*Pastor Gayle*

## Fish Fry



**Friday, April 1  
6:30pm**

Cost: \$7.00—10 and up  
\$5.00—3 to 10  
Free—2 and under

Menu: Fresh Fried Fish  
Chicken Nuggets  
Potato Salad  
Hush Puppies  
Green Beans  
Corn Bread

Entertainment: Board Games for all ages

Join us for food, fun and fellowship. Watch for Sign up Sheets.

## Habitat for Humanity

It's time for the Habitat for Humanity effort to begin for this year. LRUMC is joining once again with the United Churches Coalition to provide a home for someone in Baltimore. This year's home is on Jefferson Street.

Volunteers and snacks are needed for Saturday, April 9. To sign up to volunteer, go to [www.habitatchesapeake.org](http://www.habitatchesapeake.org) and click on "volunteer". Be sure to identify yourself as being from LRUMC working with the United Churches Coalition. To volunteer to provide snacks, please call the church office.

Our financial commitment to this ministry is \$5000. We have managed this in the past through funds from the Missions committee budget and gifts from the United Methodist Women, as well as generous gifts from individual members, and some special fundraisers. If you would like to make a financial gift, please mark it for "Habitat" when you send or bring it in.

This year, Chesapeake Habitat will complete its 300th home. Only 1 of those homes has gone to foreclosure, and lives and neighborhoods throughout Baltimore have been changed by this ministry. Prayerfully consider how you might participate this year.

## From the Mailbox

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Though any words of mine would be inadequate, I would like to sincerely thank all who have extended prayers and cards and expressed well-wishes and courtesies to me during my recent operation and recovery. You have been my oasis during this stormy time in my life. Please continue to keep both myself and Myra in your prayers as treatments proceed.

Yours in Christ,  
*Jim Wagner*

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Thanks so much to everyone who sent notes and contacted me after my dad passed away in mid-February. As this huge hole has opened up in my family, it's been wonderful to know that my church family continues to be there to support me. That's particularly meaningful since I have only been with you for about a year and a half. It's great to be part of a community that does such a great job of reaching out and showing it cares; thanks so much for embodying Christ's commandment to love each other. God bless.

*James Manley*

Words cannot begin to express my sincere thanks to my church family for the prayers, love and support over the past few years and especially the last few weeks. A special thank you to Pastor Gayle and Dick and Rev. Fringo for their many, many visits to the hospital, nursing home and assisted living. Thanks to the UMW for their help with the memorial reception and to everyone for their cards and phone calls. I can truly say that my church family Christians get it right.

Blessings,  
*Nancy Gillotti*

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Dear Church Family,

I want to thank all of you for the cards, phone calls and especially your prayers during my sister's illness and her death. This has been a very difficult time for me and my family. Thank you all for your love and support.

God bless you all.  
*Grace Boner & Family*

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I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the prayers, concerns, and cards for my recent operation about my replacement knees.

*Dave Jackson*

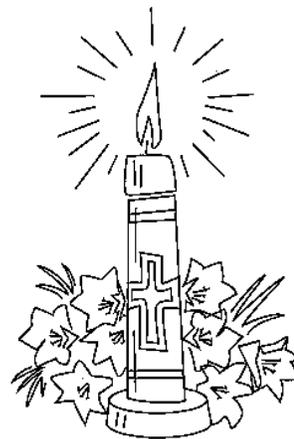
Dear Church Family,

By now, many have been told or heard that I have accepted a promotion with ADP, Inc and will be moving to Georgia later this summer. This is an exciting, but scary time for me and JT. I am excited about this wonderful professional opportunity, but scared to leave my familiar surroundings. We ask for your prayers and support through this transition. Please know that we love our church home and due to the nurturing we found here, it has prepared us for this next step in our lives.

We are unique here at LRUMC and I pray that one day more churches around the world would look like we do on Sunday mornings.

We will miss everyone, but always know we are just a phone call, e-mail, text message, FaceBook, twitter—any technology you can think of, we are just one of those away!!

God loves you and so do we.  
*Jen and JT*





# EASTER FLOWERS and ALTERNATE GIFTS

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. Because of the current economic situation and the needs of so many people, this year we are offering another option to honor Christ's resurrection. You may elect to make a monetary gift in memory or honor of someone. These gifts will be sent to ACTC (Assistant Center of Towson Churches) to assist persons in need in these challenging

times. **FIRM DEADLINE April 17th, 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\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like to make a gift to ACTC**

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

## 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 2011

### • OPERATING BUDGET

In order to fulfill our mission and ministry in 2011, 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 \$2,500 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, Angel Choir, and the Handbell Choir. \$6,900 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** has been updated on a weekly basis with digital photos 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 \$2,000.

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

\* **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 rec-

ords, bank charges, payroll taxes, and workers compensation for a total of \$7,892.

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

\* **The Projects Committee** sponsors the dinners that promote fellowship between our members and the community. Although not a budget item, the proceeds from projects is used for the budget.

### \* **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 \$38,623, enabling results too large to be done by any individual church in the work of God’s Kingdom.

# OUR PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY 2011

## A New Year 2011

“[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 Committee** will continue to be a part of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches providing food and financial aid and Thanksgiving baskets; the Hearts Place providing over-night shelter, food, and money. Also support to the Manna House Soup Kitchen.

Our Missions Ministry budget is \$15,000 and includes international missions such as Suzanne Porter, national missions such as the Heifer Project, and local missions.

The church continues to support Theresa Alaeze’s Nigeria Hospi-

tal Building Fund and her visits to minister to those afflicted with AIDS.

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

\* The **Christian Education Ministry** will use \$3,350 to provide curriculum and supplies for Sunday School, Bible Studies, confirmation and membership classes. This includes \$500 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 2011.

The SPR has agreed on the Pastor’s salary of \$66,000 for 2011. Medical expenses for the Pastor, pension, conferences, auto allowance, and housing allowance bring the total to \$111,146.

### \* 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 not increase this year and remain at \$19,500 and with auto allowance for a total of \$23,500.

### \* OTHER STAFF SALARIES

Part-Time Youth Director - \$4,000 plus \$1,500 expenses

Nursery Nanny - \$2,600

Director of Music - \$16,500

Organist - \$14,500

Administrative Secretary - \$32,000

### \* BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

General maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, utilities, insurances, inspection and maintenance contracts, property taxes, and office phones will cost \$55,995 for the church. Custodial supplies and custodial services will total \$31,300.

The replacement of the heating system with a more efficient unit will substantially reduce 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 2011 budget totals \$393,531.

*Dave Jackson*, Chair, Finance

## Education Update

Sunday school closing for children and youth will be on Sunday, May 29th. This is a one service at 10am Sunday.

There are a few vacancies in Children's and Youth Sunday school that will need to be filled next season. We are looking for a few persons with a passion for sharing their Christian faith with Young People. If you are interested, please contact Jen Byrd at 443-756-4000 or [birdie21234@aol.com](mailto:birdie21234@aol.com)

## Why Every Day Should be Palm Sunday

Jesus was all about giving. He gave of himself. He who was rich became poor that we might be rich. He gave until there was no more to give.

He was all about goodness. The essential goodness of Jesus, unparalleled by anyone before him or after him, testifies to the life to which we are called. When he saw the crowds as sheep not having a shepherd, he was moved with compassion—he became almost physically sick, so great was his love.

Let's give Jesus the palm branch treatment, but let's not make this a one-Sunday wonder. His grace, his giving and his goodness compel us to change our behavior, not just pat him on the back, or complain behind his back.

—Homiletics

## Chaperones for Youth Activities or Meetings

I am looking for a few folks to be on the calendar to serve as the additional chaperone at Youth meetings or events. The Youth meet regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. We also have various off-site activities. If we could have a group of 8 – 10 adults (not related to the Youth) that would be willing to help, that would be great and you would only need to serve at 2 or 3 meetings a year. The only requirement is to be willing to be subjected to a criminal background check. (per our Safe Sanctuary policy)

If you are interested, please contact me... Jen Byrd at [birdie21234@aol.com](mailto:birdie21234@aol.com) or 443-756-4000.

Thanks for your help with this ministry.



*We have  
waited for him,  
so that he might  
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

## United Methodist Women April Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

### “Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, April 4

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*

Lesson 12—What Makes It All Possible

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, April 5

10 am—Parlor

Study: 1 John 4:7-22—Love Is At The Heart of It All

### NO GENERAL MEETING

Our fundraisers for this year will be the sale of chocolate Easter eggs and a spring flea market. All proceeds will go to our UMW projects. Last year we gave \$2,700 to 13 projects both here at home and overseas.

### FUTURE DATES:

April 8th and 9th—wrapping and boxing eggs.

Executive Committee Meeting  
May 13 at 10 am in the Parlor

Saturday, June 4—Flea Market



## Mission Projects Report

### Hearts Place

Loch Raven provides dinner and lunch for 30 people monthly at Hearts Place Shelter. Several members of the Missions Committee take a turn cooking the meal. Other times we have volunteers make a casserole or a cake. The meal is delivered downtown by Marty Marvel and former Loch Raven member John Polasik.

### Essex UMC

In February we made 125 sandwiches for Essex UMC. Every Wednesday Essex UMC prepares a free meal and usually feeds 100-125 people.

Both of these projects are funded by the Good Samaritan Fund.

### Assistance Center of Towson Churches

Looking forward to May, we will do our annual food drive for Assistance Center of Towson Churches. We also pledge

\$2,500 annually to their budget, which is also funded by our Good Samaritan Fund.

### Indoor Yard Sale

On October 15 we will have our second indoor yard sale. We hope to raise money to sponsor another well in Haiti. We will count on the congregation to donate items for the sale, which raised \$1,200 last year.

We are blessed to have so much to share with those who are less fortunate.

If you're interested in joining the Missions Committee, we meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. We can always use helpers even if you can't make our monthly meeting. If interested, call Joann Munden (410-665-6361) or Sandi Cuthbert (410-661-0974)



## Looking Ahead

**Mark your calendar for these upcoming activities:**

### Sunday, May 22

Cluster Choir Concert  
Location: Loch Raven  
Time: 4:30 PM

### Saturday, June 4

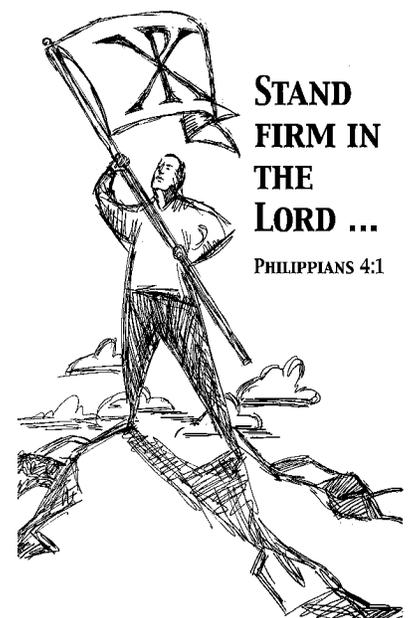
United Methodist Women's  
Flea Market  
Time: 8:00AM-2:00PM

### Sunday, June 5

Music Sunday

*It is light that enables us  
to see the difference  
between things; and it is  
Christ that gives us light.*

—A.W. Hare and J.C. Hare



**STAND  
FIRM IN  
THE  
LORD ...**

PHILIPPIANS 4:1