

# The Spire



December 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Sermon and Study Series Coming in January

Many of you have lamented the relative lack of young adults in our church, a situation experienced by many churches these days. The Barna Institute has done a lot of research on this and interviewed hundreds of young adults outside of the Christian church. The results of that research are discussed in a book called *unchristian* by David Kinaman and Gabe Lyons, and UM pastor Adam Hamilton has organized the material into a book and a study with the title *When Christians Get It Wrong*. This book and study will be the basis for Sunday messages and a weekday study for six weeks in January and February,

Some of us may find ourselves getting a bit defensive. I know I have experienced a bit of that in preparing for this series. If, however, we are serious about wanting to provide a radical biblical welcome of hospitality and acceptance, we need to be more aware of what folks seem to be receiving from us, even when, or perhaps especially when, it's not what we mean to give off.

Since the books I'm reading tell mostly the ugly truth, I've

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## Light Reflectors Covenant

At the May Church Council meeting, council members spent time in small groups discussing the promises of membership, of the baptismal covenant, which are to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We talked about what it looks like to live these commitments with integrity. The summary of responses from that meeting is included in this newsletter. At the Charge Conference in October, Rhoda Wilson, chair of the Church Council, presented the Light Reflector's Covenant. This is a voluntary covenant into which LRUMC folks are invited to enter for the year 2011. It is an attempt to be intentional in all aspects of discipleship. Through the year, opportunities will be offered for support and encouragement for those who are the "test group" for the covenant. Our hope is that it will be a blessing, and that more people will want to take part in coming years. A copy of the covenant is also included in this newsletter.

The Charge Conference also approved this succinct state-

ment of vision and identity: Loch Raven UMC is a multi-cultural community of faith reflecting the light of God. Hence the name "Light Reflector Covenant."

At our worship services on January 9, the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord, we will invite all who wish to be a part of the covenant for 2011 to be prayed for and dedicated. Please consider giving this effort at intentional discipleship a try. Some of us do all these things already, but all of us have room to grow in our commitment to follow Jesus in these specific ways.



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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 January issue is **Sunday, December 12, 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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**Website:** [www.LRUMC.org](http://www.LRUMC.org)

## O Come Let Us Adore Him Christ The Lord!

### Worship in Advent:

#### November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

One service at 10 a.m.

Student Sunday with worship led by our youth fellowship

#### December 5 – Second Sunday of Advent

Communion service and special music from violinist

Lydia Chernicoff

#### December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor Bob will bring an Advent message.

Pray for Pastor Gayle and Dick and the mission team in Haiti.

#### December 19 – Christmas Cantata

Readings and carols of the season with plenty of opportunities for the congregation to join the choir in song.

#### Christmas Caroling, December 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Bring the joy of Christmas to those who can't get out to worship on Christmas Eve. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or welcome area.

#### Christmas Eve:

7 p.m. Family-friendly service including a children's story, a gift for all the kids, carols and candle lighting

10:15 p.m. Festival of Music

Vocal and instrumental Christmas music provided by soloists and ensembles

11 p.m. Traditional candlelight service

The chancel choir will sing. Be together with others in worship to welcome Jesus once again.

#### December 26 One service at 10 a.m.

More carols and Christmas cheer.

#### January 2, 2011

Epiphany Sunday One service at 10 a.m.



## Family Ministries Annual Christmas Chill-out

The holidays can get so hectic that we forget why we are celebrating. In an effort to slow things down and help with your holiday spirit, please make plans to join the Family Ministries Committee and your fellow church members on **December 5th** after the 2nd service for an afternoon of food, fun and holiday cheer.

We will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner followed by a Christmas movie. There will be good food, fun and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

# LIGHT REFLECTOR COVENANT LOCH RAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2011

*Loch Raven United Methodist Church is a multi-cultural community of faith reflecting the light of God.*

As a Loch Raven UMC light reflector, I will commit myself to the following Christian disciplines for 2011:

1. **Daily prayer**  
Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:17
2. **Presence** in worship unless sick or away, **and presence** in a small group study to grow in my faith  
*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2*  
*Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. Colossians 3:16*
3. **Giving** in proportion to my income  
*They shall offer their gift to the Lord. Numbers 6:19*  
*Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you and overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10*
4. **Serving** God with my hands, by volunteering in **service** to the congregation **and** the community and world  
*Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many. Matthew 20:28*
5. Being ready and willing to **witness** to what God has done for me.  
*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. I Peter 3:15*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

## United Methodist Women December Schedule

*Prepared by Betty Shock*

**“Women in Christ” Circle**  
Monday, December 6  
Holiday Dinner and Ornament Exchange at Nancy Williams’ Home—6:30 p.m.

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Tuesday, December 7  
10 am—Meet at Nancy Gillotti’s

### GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, December 15**  
**6:30 pm—Covered Dish**

#### Christmas Program Election of Officers

Covered Dish Assignments:

- Set-up—W.I.C.
- Main Dish—D-I
- Vegetables—J-R
- Salad—S-Z
- Dessert—A-C
- Clean-up—P. Downes

**December 17**  
Executive Committee Meeting  
10 a.m.—Parlor

## Campbell Soup Labels for Board of Child Care

Just a reminder that we still collect Campbell Soup labels and box tops for kids. There is a collection box in the Arcade. Thanks.

## Sermon and Study Series Coming in January

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asked our young adults here at LRUMC to respond with feedback from the other side about what they find positive about the life of faith and the Christian church and community, even while so many of their peers have been turned off.

The series will begin in worship on January 16. The Wednesday morning class will begin January 12 and the Monday evening class on January 17. Look for more information in the January Spire, but please plan now to take part as much as possible. Invite friends you know who have been turned off to church. Tell them we value their perspective. We do! Perhaps we can all learn something about living a Christ-like life in a way that translates in a positive way to our neighbors, especially of a younger generation.

*Pastor Gayle*

## New Church Directory is here!

Our new pictorial church directory has arrived! Thanks to all who were photographed and to Dave Jackson and his helpers for getting the job done. LRUMC – you look great!

## Missions Committee Report

Loch Raven UMC Missions' Committee and congregation are known for reaching out when there is a need in the local, national or world community.

### 2010 – Outreach:

Manna House: Bag Lunches (3 to 4 times a year)  
 Heart's Place: A Complete Dinner and Bag Lunches  
 (Monthly November through April)  
 Blanket Sunday: Monetary Gift (October)  
 ACTC: Thanksgiving Baskets (November)  
 Food Drive (May)  
 Samaritan's Purse: Shoe Boxes (November)  
 Lois T. Murray School: Christmas Presents (December)  
 Habitat for Humanity: Snacks, Labor, Monetary Gift  
 (March – October)  
 Yard Sale: Fund Raiser (to add to Mission Budget)  
 (October)  
 Ronald McDonald House: Books, CD's and Movies  
 Susanna Wesley House: Cleaning Supplies (Spring)

### 2011 Missions Budget:

Life Water for Canada  
 Suzanne Porter, Missionary  
 Habitat for Humanity  
 Dorm Renovations – Liberia Nursing School  
 Heifer Project  
 Warne Baby Fold (Orphanage in India)  
 Ludhiana Medical College (India)  
 Deaf Interfaith (Camp for the Blind and Deaf)  
 Manna House  
 Heart's Place  
 Healthcare for the Homeless  
 Susannah Wesley House  
 Carpenter's Kitchen  
 Board of Child Care

We appreciate all the support from the congregation no matter how small the donation; it all adds up to a successful Mission.

## Baptismal Covenant Conversation – Church Council 5/26/10

### Prayers

Pray in the morning to start the day, might not happen later

Prayer is not a wish list

Help in time of illness and crises, to know that others are praying for you

Learn scripture to enable faithful prayer

Don't just talk, also listen

Pray daily and for others

### Presence

Show up unless sick or out of town

Be truly present, not just taking up space

Let people know you

Be present in small group situations, classes etc.

Show up for fellowship activities to build community

Be attentive to others and their needs with a kind word or hug

### Gifts

Gifts are monetary and also gifts of self

Tithe (10%) is biblical standard, something to work toward if not there

Gifts of time are precious

Gift of that which encourages joy; ex. music, dance, art

Care for our building as a launching pad for ministry

### Service

When you have decided to follow Christ, you can't do otherwise

Giving of self outside of church walls

Support of community ministries

Giving of time in case of disaster; i.e. volunteers in mission, early responders

Habitat volunteers

### Witness

Pride in church and love for God that inspires invitations to others

Share with someone what God has done for me, which is testimony

Knowledge of God's faithfulness, mercy, love etc. is so close to the surface that it's easy to talk about, just comes out

## Attention Shoppers and Diners!

The United Methodist Women will be selling gift cards to many of your favorite restaurants, stores, and specialty shops on the dates below:

**Sunday, December 5 after the 8:30 service**

**Sunday, December 12 between the 8:30 and 11:00 services**

You can also drop your order off at the church office before December 12.

Gift cards will be delivered on December 19 between the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Order forms are available in the pews or Fellowship Hall.

If you don't see your favorite store on the order form, ask if it is available.

Just a few of the participating merchants:

Applebee's  
Red Lobster  
Bahama Breeze  
Starbucks  
Bob Evans  
TGI Fridays  
Carabba's  
Giant Food  
Cheesecake Factory  
Game Shop  
Chili's  
Bath & Body Works  
Dunkin Donuts  
Borders  
Macaroni Grill  
iTunes  
Olive Garden  
Lowe's  
Panera Bread

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# LRUMC Adult Fellowship Annual Christmas Dinner

Once again our Loch Raven Adult Fellowship Group will meet on **Sunday, December 12th**, for our Annual Christmas Dinner at Friendly Farms. We will meet at **1:30 p.m. SHARP** at Friendly Farms. We must have reservations **NO LATER than December 8th**. We will try to carpool where necessary. Directions will follow.

Please call Isabelle Burrell at 410-561-2488 or Harriet Cole at 410-329-1920.

Hope you can join us.

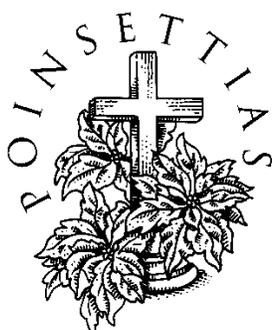
## Attention Shoppers and Diners

*(Continued from page 5)*

Macy's  
P.F. Chang China Bistro  
Kohl's

Your support helps the United Methodist Women raise money for mission projects.

Make checks payable to Loch Raven UMW.



It's time to be thinking of beautifying our sanctuary for the joyous season of Christmas. If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill in the form below and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 12. **We cannot accept orders unless accompanied by full payment.**

**Plants may be picked up following the service on Sunday, December 26th.**

### POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

To The Glory: \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ RED —\$10.50 each**  
**Plants are 6" pots—1 plant per pot—5-6 blooms per plant**

**# of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ RED & WHITE MIX—\$20.00 each**  
**Plants are 6½" pots—2 plants per pot—10-12 blooms per pot**

**Please check one of the following:**

I will donate the plant to the church for a "homebound member"

I will pick up the plant after the service Sunday, December 26

# Membership Updates

## Deceased Members:

Alexander Yonych  
10/31/10

## Membership Transfer:

Brendan and Kathryn Crowe  
Fallston United Methodist  
Church, Fallston, MD

Michelle Vealey  
Bethany United Methodist  
Church, Ellicott City, MD

# From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and cards as I have gone through eye surgery and the recovery of my sight. This has been a challenging senior year, but I am glad to have your prayers. With God's love and plan, I continue to learn that with God everything is possible.

Love,  
*Tim & the Price Family*

# Staff Love Gift This Holiday Season

We are blessed with a dedicated, caring, talented staff. If you would like to make a special love gift to be divided among our seven staff members (Pastor Gayle, Pastor Bob, Michele, Jen, Jennifer, Song Yi, and Aleece) this holiday season, please mark your check or envelope "love gift" and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Gifts will be collected through December 19.

*Staff Parish Relations  
Committee*



## Opportunities available to help beautify the Sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas Season



- \_\_\_\_\_ 12 wreaths @ \$12.00 each
- \_\_\_\_\_ Congregational Candles for Christmas Eve—\$40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christmas Tree—approximately \$50.00 (or donation towards the tree)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advent Wreath Candles—\$25.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Window Greens—\$40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advent Wreath—\$40.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Wreaths @ \$35.00 each for front door and side doors
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 white poinsettia hanging baskets @ \$28.00 each for pedestal stands

Please call Audrey Moltz at 410-823-7837 about selection and availability. Then send your check made payable to LRUMC along with the information below to the Church Office. All orders and payment must be received by **December 12th**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your participation.  
*The Altar Guild*