

# The Spire



December, 2009

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Christmas Chill-Out



Need some time to relax during the hectic holiday season? The members of Family Ministries have just the solution. On **Sunday, December 6,**

**after the 11am church service,** they will be providing a delicious lunch followed by a holiday program including singing, skits, stories and audience participation. The luncheon menu will include Maryland crab soup, baked potato soup, salad, rolls, and Christmas cookies for dessert. So come and relax and enjoy a wonderful time of food and fellowship.

*This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.*

— Frank McKibben



## Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule



Dear Friends,

The refrain of the lovely carol, “O Come, All Ye Faithful” calls us to sing repeatedly “O come, let us adore Him.” Here at Loch Raven UMC, we will have numerous opportunities to do just that during the Advent/Christmas season. Won’t you come and join your voice and heart with others in worship and praise. This is a wonderful season to bring a friend to worship with you!

### **November 29—One service at 10 am**

First Sunday of Advent – Youth Service

### **December 6, 8:30 & 11**

Second Sunday of Advent—Communion Service

### **December 13, 8:30 & 11**

Third Sunday of Advent—Choir Music Program

### **December 20, 8:30 & 11**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sue Porter, missionary to Liberia

### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

7 p.m.—Family Service including candle lighting, carol singing, and a special message for children

10:15 p.m.— Festival of Music, special Christmas music, vocal and instrumental

11 p.m.—Candlelight Christmas Eve service

### **Sunday, December 27—One service at 10 am**

First Sunday after Christmas

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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 13, 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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**Church Office Hours:** 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 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)

## New Boiler Is Up And Running

As of November 4, 2009 the installation of the new heating system was completed. The total cost of the project is \$73,000. We had \$15,300 on hand designated for this project, but have had to borrow the remainder of the funds from ourselves, depleting our investments until the money can be replaced. The new system is much more efficient than the former system, and we will realize savings in our utility bills immediately. Please consider a special gift to this project. Finances are a challenge for many of us at this time, and we know that it will take some time to replace the funds we have borrowed, but we'll keep working at it for as long as it takes. Please mark all contributions "Boiler Fund." We appreciate the gifts so far towards the Boiler Fund, and particularly give thanks for the generosity of Jean Fraunfelter, who left LRUMC \$10,000. We received this bequest just as this critical need surfaced, and our coming warmth will be part of Jean's legacy. Please continue to give as you are able; every little bit helps towards the goal. NOTE: Special Boiler Fund envelopes are in the pews for your offering. Thanking you and Blessings!!

### BOILER FUND UPDATE:

We began with Jean Fraunfelter's bequest of \$10,000 and \$5,600 in the Boiler Fund.

These gifts have been received:

9/20/2009	= \$ 1,165.00
9/27/2009	= \$ 365.00
10/04/2009	= \$ 1,370.00
10/11/2009	= \$ 1,100.00
10/18/2009	= \$ 400.00
10/25/2009	= \$ 252.00
11/01/2009	= \$ 2,426.00
11/08/2009	= \$ 201.00

**Total Received: \$22,879.00 towards \$73,000**

Rev. Carroll and Nan Doggett sent a gift with the following note: "You'll reach the goal! Have faith!" Another member gave a generous gift on behalf of other family members whose funds are tight at this time. We appreciate every gift. Thank you!

## Worship Schedule

*(Continued from page 1)*

**Sunday, January 3—One service at 10 am**

Epiphany Sunday, Communion Service

O come let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

Blessings of Advent and  
Christmas+

*Pastor Gayle*

## Desk Top Computers Needed

We received this request from Joana Mensah. Joana is from Ghana and has been visiting in Baltimore for several months. She attended our Vacation Bible School and has worshipped with us on many occasions.

*Beloved in the Lord,*

*My family is running a church based Technical School for deprived and poor young people in Ghana, West Africa. The name of the institute is HIME-SET (The Hidden Manna Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment Training) Technical Vocational Training Institute at Agona Kwangyako in the Central Region of Ghana. Due to the economic background of the students, we lack many amenities, including computers. The whole school of about 80 students uses only 2 computers.*

*I am, therefore, appealing to anyone in the congregation who can donate any desk top computer he or she is no longer using. Courses we offer are: Masonry, Carpentry, Plumbing, General Electrical, Catering and Dress-making.*

*Thank you and may God bless you.*

*Mrs. Joana Mensah  
(visiting member)*

Please contact the church office if you have a computer to donate. We will work with St. Paul's Ghana church to arrange for shipment.

## Outreach/ Evangelism

### Gifts to Jesus

If you would give a gift to Jesus---Give it to the poor of Earth;

If you would serve His love and missions---Serve by deeds of Christian worth;

If you would give Him gifts of comfort---Comfort others, with His grace;

If you would dry His tears of sorrow---Dry them on another's face.

Every act of love and kindness  
You bestow on one, in need,  
Is a precious gift to Jesus  
And a service, in His creed.  
Give of heart and hand and  
spirit every gift you can afford.  
For--in giving unto others---You  
are giving to the Lord.

*Michael Dubina*

Peace and Blessings,  
*Katherine McKinney*

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## From the Mailbox

On behalf of the Gillotti family we would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during David's illness and passing. He will be missed.

Also, our sincere thanks for all the cards, visits, thoughts and prayers for Don as he continues in his recovery process.

With God's blessing,  
*Don & Nancy Gillotti*

## United Methodist Women December Schedule

*Prepared by Betty Shock*

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, December 1  
Time and place to be announced

### "Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, December 7  
Holiday Dinner and Ornament Exchange  
6:30 p.m.—at Nancy Williams' home

### Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, December 9  
9:30 a.m.—Room 202  
Study: *Women of the Old Testament*

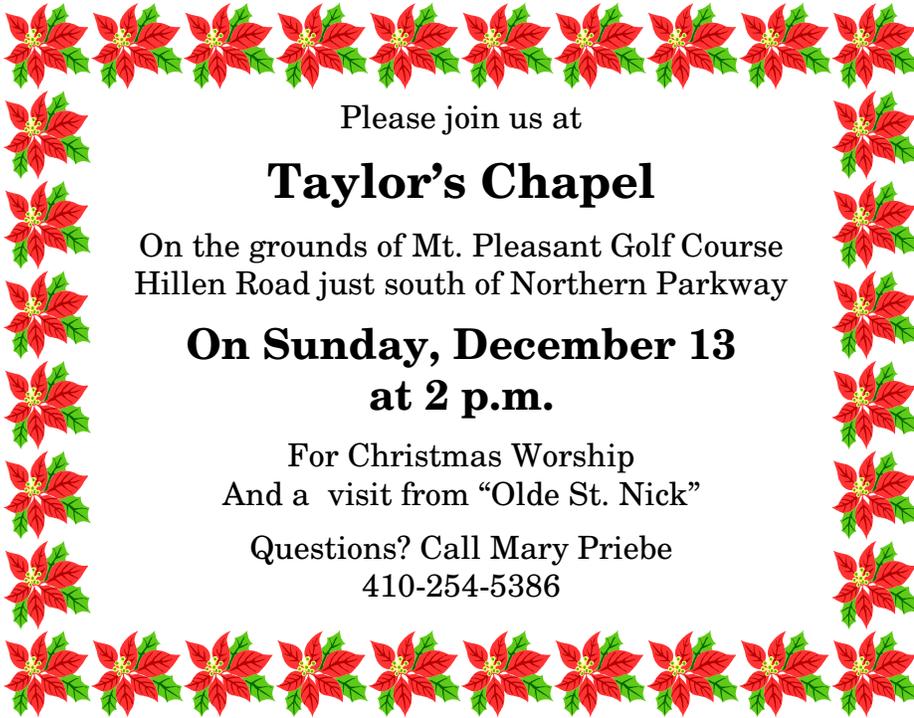
### GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, December 16**  
**Covered Dish—6:30 p.m.**  
Program—Christmas

Circle Assignments:

Set-up—Ellen Hoover  
Main Dish—J-R  
Vegetable—S-Z  
Salad—A-C  
Dessert—D-I  
Clean-up—W.I.C.





Please join us at

## Taylor's Chapel

On the grounds of Mt. Pleasant Golf Course  
Hillen Road just south of Northern Parkway

**On Sunday, December 13  
at 2 p.m.**

For Christmas Worship  
And a visit from "Olde St. Nick"

Questions? Call Mary Priebe  
410-254-5386

## Membership Updates

### Address Change:

Tammy and Joseph Caleb  
P.O. Box 206  
Chase, MD 21027-0206

Erin Olsen  
3730 N. 30th Bldg 15N  
Omaha, NE 68111-1647

### UM Transfer Out:

Elaine and David Gosner  
UM Transfer to:  
New Covenant UMC  
in Florida

### Deceased:

Robert Steele  
October 19, 2009  
Member of Loch Raven UMC

### Address Unknown:

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

Pauline Ahalt  
Rhonda & Charles Biemiller  
Jermaine Carter  
Amanda Diaz  
Mark Formwalt  
Mary Foster  
Nancy Hart  
Charles Per Dieu  
Marion Redd-Roberts  
Beatrice Welsh

## Youth News

**November 29th**  
YOUTH SUNDAY!  
One Service at 10am.

**December 13th**  
Live Nativity  
6:30 - 7:30pm

On the Loch Raven side of the  
church. Please join us for car-  
ols, hot chocolate and cookies.

**December 20th**  
Youth meeting, Pot Luck and  
Christmas Party.

**December Fundraiser**  
God's Creation Calendar's,  
\$8.00 each

## 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, Pas-  
tor Bob, Lin, Jen, Jennifer,  
Song Yi, and Aleece) this holi-  
day season, please mark your  
check or envelope "love gift"  
and place in the offering plate.  
Gifts will be collected through  
December 20.

*Staff-Parish Relations  
Committee*

## H1N1 Virus/Swine Flu

Many of you are concerned about the flu, both seasonal and H1N1, and some of you have had it already. The General Board of Discipleship of the UMC has offered some suggestions for us in preserving both our worship and community life and protecting ourselves from disease. What follows here are some “dos and don’ts” for our life together during flu season.

### **Do:**

1. *Celebrate worship and the sacraments fully and be not afraid!* Use common sense, but always remember this: Jesus is more powerful than germs!
2. *Use hand sanitizer and wash your hands with soap.* You will find soap in the bathrooms and hand sanitizer at all entrances to the sanctuary. Please use it upon entering for the well-being of all worshippers, including yourself.
3. *Receive communion.* Communion servers will use hand sanitizer and will break off a piece of bread (of sufficient size to allow you to dip it in the cup without dipping your fingers as well) and place it in your open hands. Clinical studies have shown that Communion itself poses very low risk for spreading disease. The major ways people catch this or any other flu are through skin-to-skin contact and airborne particles.
4. *Greet persons in ways that do not involve touch if it is a time of spreading infection.* Wave, smile, call out cheerfully, offer a peace sign, touch elbows, or any other way you can convey warm hospitality and the peace and welcome of Christ without skin-to-skin contact. There is great value in real physical contact in the Christian community. Handshakes, hugs, etc. can be healing. The measures mentioned above are meant to be interim actions when the likelihood of spreading infections disease is fairly high.

### **Don’t:**

1. *Come to worship if you are sick with something that can easily spread to others.* Stay home and take care of yourself. If you need help with food or transportation or prayer or some other type of support, call the church office and we will try to make sure that you get the help you need.
2. *Fear germs more than you love Jesus if you are well.* Unless your immune system is seriously compromised, don’t bother with face masks, latex gloves or other medical paraphernalia that give the impression that worship may be an unsafe place to be or that the elements of blessed bread and cup that we share are more dangerous than holy.
3. *Cough or sneeze on other worshippers.* Carry tissue with you and cover your nose when you sneeze. Use your sleeve or a tissue to cover your mouth when you cough. Then use hand sanitizer or go to the bathroom and wash your hands with soap as soon as you can.
4. *Be afraid!* This bears repeating. When we gather for worship, we are here to offer ourselves in praise, thanksgiving and joy to our God in songs, prayers, dance, music, silence and sacrament. The perfect love of God who meets us here casts out all fear.