

The Spire



December 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Family Ministries Cookie Exchange



Plan on attending Family Ministries first ever cookie exchange on Wednesday, December 14, at 6 pm. We will be having

soup and sandwiches for dinner with cookies, cookies and more cookies for dessert. Please bring 4-5 dozen of your favorite cookies along with a copy of the recipe (if you are willing to share). After dinner you can choose to make a no bake cookie or some recipe cards and then we will all process around the cookie table where you can collect samples of each to either eat or take home (you could put them in the freezer and dessert for Christmas dinner could be done!) After that stay for Christmas Carols and copy any recipes you would like to try at home. To sign up please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or send an email to Sharon Gardner at sgardner@isgusa.com. Hope to see you there!

Room for Jesus

The sermon series for December is called "Room for Jesus." We will be focusing on preparing our hearts and minds on making more room for Jesus in our everyday lives. I'll be talking about how we can best prepare ourselves for his coming and anticipating his arrival into our world.

Many of us have been Christians for a long time. But sometimes along the way we can close some doors to God. The goal of this series will be to remind us that we always need to stay open to the will of God. It doesn't matter how old or young we are. It doesn't matter whether we are a longtime follower or a brand new believer. We need to constantly be anticipating God's movement in our lives. As Jesus' disciples we need to be constantly and consistently ready and willing to learn new things and do new things.

On **December 4th** the message is called "Be Still and Know." It's based on Psalm 46:10. Amidst all the hustle and bustle that the holidays often bring we will be reminded of what is most important about Christmas—the reason for the season. That service will culminate as we take a timeout to commune with God.

On **December 11th** the message is called "The Boss May Come Today." The Scriptures are Isaiah 40:1-5 and Matthew 3:1-6. John the Baptist steps into our lives to help us get cleaned up for Christ's return.

The choir will bring the message in music on **December 18th**. Music has a power all of its own. As we listen and sing the music of Christmas it can take us back to gentler, quieter times in our lives. This service will provide us with an opportunity to let the

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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 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

Website: www.LRUMC.org



Belated November Birthday Wishes

- 5 Kathleen Frederick
- 7 Nicole Eklund
- 10 Sandi Cuthbert
- 13 Dan Dorsey
- 15 Gregory Olsen
- 16 Mary Lou Bryan
- 19 Tendai Ndlovu
- 21 Nancy Lacy
- 22 Seth Thomas
- 23 Abi Aidoo
- 26 Reynold Small

December Birthdays

- 3 Matt Webner
- 4 Myra Wagner
- 5 Charles Chilcoat— (turning 90)
- 7 Nancy Williams
- 8 Judy Feustle
- 8 Carole Webner
- 9 Christian Smith
- 12 Douglas McCrea
- 12 Pastor Cliff
- 14 Amy Burton
- 15 Albertha Weah
- 17 Taryn Mackey
- 18 Angela Chatman
- 18 Laura Palazzi
- 21 Grace Price
- 23 Dr. George Sinkler
- 23 Eugene Amberman
- 24 Amy Price
- 25 Paul Njugana
- 27 Pete McGinnes
- 27 Bernadette Kawaley
- 27 Alexandra Weaver
- 29 Amy Munden
- 30 Nancy Tarr Hart
- 31 Joseph Barker

Loch Raven Members Participate in Habitat for Humanity's Building Our Faith Weekend

We had 10 representatives of our church participating in Habitat for Humanity's Building Our Faith weekend 10/22. I was very pleased to have this kind of participation and I hope we can do at least as well next year. We were assigned to help out at the ReStore, where Habitat sells quality donated materials, giving the profits to building projects around Baltimore. Photos of the event can be viewed on our website. Simply click on *Outreach* to view the photos.

If you are unable to volunteer you can help by making a contribution through the church to help meet our annual goal of \$5,000. Thanks again for your support of this ministry of our church!

James Manley



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



Room for Jesus

(Continued from page 1)

songs of the season surround us as we prepare ourselves for his coming.

Then there is Christmas Eve, **December 24th** with our regular 7:00 and 11:00 PM services. You can even come a little early for 11:00 worship as we join together to sing some of your favorite Christmas songs during the "Festival of Music" that begins at 10:15 PM. The sermon for the evening is called "Room in the Inn." It is based on the traditional Christmas Eve Scriptures of Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20.

Then, finally, we will gather together on Christmas day for one service at 10:00 AM. It's Sunday, **December 25th**. The message is called "What Jesus wants for Christmas." It is *his* birthday so we need to know what to get him. It is based on Matthew 1:18-25.

There you have it. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God throughout the Advent and Christmas season as we make room for Jesus. Let's gather together as Loch Raven United Methodist Church as we prepare our hearts and minds for the advent of God's Son. Bring your friends and family. It will make a wonderful Christmas gift.

Grace and peace,
Cliff

Altar Guild Announces Changes in Flower Prices

As of January 1, 2012, Radebaugh florist will increase the prices of our flowers due to wholesale price increases. As a result, the center bowl price will increase from \$30 to \$35 and the vases from \$40 for both vases to \$50. The Altar Guild budget covers the delivery charge, which is \$10.50 each week.

We hope this increase will not deter the congregation from placing flowers on the altar. Thank you for making the altar so beautiful as we worship together.

Thank you.

Altar Guild

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Change of Address:

Frances Fraling
305 E. Joppa Road
Apartment #1107
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-828-0327

Mary Lou Bryan
305 E. Joppa Road
Apartment #1510
Baltimore, MD 21286
410-828-1291

United Methodist Women December Schedule

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, December 5
Holiday Dinner and Ornament Exchange at Nancy Williams' Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle

No December Meeting
Will meet Tuesday, January 3 at 10 am—Brunch at Nancy Gillotti's

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 21 6:30 pm—Covered Dish

Pledge Service, Election of Officers and Christmas Program—Phyllis Downes Circle

Collection for Susanna Wesley House—women and children's hats, mittens, gloves, scarves. We will use the money collected to purchase items for Susanna Wesley House

Covered Dish Assignments:

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



From the Mailbox

An open letter to the Congregation:

We would like to thank you for your Christian love and support as we continue on this journey through life without James. Thanks for all the hugs, cards, shoulders, kind words, prayers and shared tears as we celebrated James' 20th birthday on 11/11/11. We are so grateful to Chris for his beautiful rendition of "You Can't Always Get What You Want" and Audrey Moltz' thoughtfulness with the flowers. We could not ask for a more loving Church Family. God Bless you all.

Gary, Christian and Marcia Smith



Christmas Caroling

Come join us on **Thursday, December 22**, as Loch Raven Church goes Christmas caroling. Help bring the joy of Christmas to those who can't get out to worship. Meet in the church parking lot at **6:30 PM**



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



- _____ 12 wreaths @ \$14.00 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 Swags @ \$33.00 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 11th**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory: _____

Thank you for your participation.
The Altar Guild

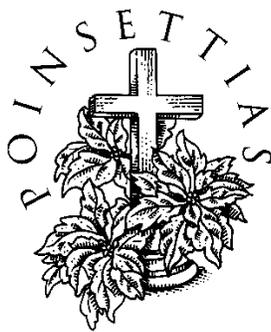
Music in Ministry

Introducing Our New Music Director

Samuel Chin is currently in his sixth year as a clarinet instrumentalist with the United States Naval Academy Band. Originally from Michigan, Samuel holds a Bachelors of Music degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Music degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Sam is very happy to be here at Loch Raven United Methodist Church leading the 20 + wonderful members of the Chancel Choir and serving other musical activities at Loch Raven UMC. He is happily married with two amazing children, Sammy and Olivia, and resides in Odenton, MD



Silent Night, Holy Night



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 11. **We cannot accept orders unless accompanied by full payment.**

Plants may be picked up following the service on Sunday, December 25th.

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 25