

The Spire



December 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Special Christmas Related Events

December 1

Loch Raven Festival of the Arts— 2-8:30 PM

December 2

First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

Worship at 8:30 & 11

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 & 11

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 & 11

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM—Christmas Cantata

December 24

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services at
7:00 & 11:00 PM.

December 25

Merry Christmas !



It's Visual Art! It's Musical Art! It's the 2012 Loch Raven Festival of the Arts!

December has arrived and with it is the arrival of the Loch Raven Festival of the Arts. Please plan on launching your holiday season with this celebration of the arts on December 1. This is a free event. Donations of canned goods will be accepted during this event in support of the Assistance Center of Towson, a local mission supported by our church. The schedule of the festival's activities include:

2 - 4pm: Holiday crafts for children in Santa's Workshop (and a visit by Santa!)

3 - 7pm: Art exhibit Opens

4 - 5pm: Unified Voices, the Gospel Choir of Johns Hopkins will kick off the musical portion of the festival as their singing will uplift the souls and touch the hearts of everyone attending.

5 - 6pm: The Baltimore Flute Choir. Loch Raven church member Erin Mellott will be performing with this group as they ring the halls of the church with the beautiful flute tones and melodies of the season.

6 - 7pm: Supper items available for purchase.

7pm - 8pm: Joyous Voices - a Dickens era ensemble that has traveled to Virginia, Pennsylvania, DC, the Eastern Shore and other Maryland locations is including the Loch Raven Festival of the Arts in their 2012 holiday tour as they begin their hour of music in Mrs. Claus's Christmas Cookie Cafe. They will then lead a caroling sing-a-long to the sanctuary where a variety of manger scenes will be on display, and concluding the arts festival with favorite sacred holiday selections.

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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 9, 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

Advent is Here

December 2 is the First Sunday of Advent. It is the day when the church officially begins to prepare for Christmas. Advent means "coming," therefore, we make ready for the coming of the Lord.

Where should we begin? With ourselves, of course. We should prepare our hearts for Christ to live in them fully. Get rid of the clutter within—the odds and ends of foolish thoughts and familiar sins we find difficult to "let go and let God handle." Advent is heart-cleaning time, so call in the Holy Spirit Cleaning Service, and make room for the best Guest anyone ever had. Start now! Let the Spirit *Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today (from O Little Town of Bethlehem).*

The cleaning service has a guarantee: "When our 'Worker' finishes with your heart, you'll have the best Christmas ever!"

Festival of the Arts

(Continued from page 1)

So please share the news of this festival with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and former Loch Raven church members. Help to spread the joy of the season with an evening of art enrichment. Join your Loch Raven church family as it heads into it's 60th year of service to the community and support this festival with your attendance as we begin what will hopefully be a new holiday tradition for our church for many years to come.

Wrangle the Reindeer (aka set up a car pool)

There may be several Loch Raven members in assisted living/retirement communities or who do not drive at night, wanting to attend the Festival of the Arts but have no transportation. If you can assist with a pick up, and join in the transportation service for this event, please call me. Thanks!

Debi Wynn
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But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord".

Israel is an interesting place to visit. The biblical stories come to life as you gaze across the Sea of Galilee or look down upon the valley of Armageddon or plunge your hand into the chilly Jordan River. But as Christmas approaches my mind wanders back to that place in Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

Although no one is really sure of the exact location of Christ's birth, a church has now been built on the site where most Christians agree it took place. The Church of the Nativity, as it is called, is jointly owned by the Armenian Church and the Catholic Church. The peculiar thing is how separate everything is kept inside. The Armenians have their particularly designated area, as do the Catholics. And from what I have heard the two rarely have anything to do with one another except on Christmas.

Down below their respective chapels is a cave-like setting with a star on the ground, which designates Christ's birthplace. Two sets of stairs descend into this cave area from the above Armenian and Catholic chapels. The nativity scene, marked by this star, is the place where the two separate groups come together. It's as if God is reminding his people of what we have in common or should I say whom we have in common. As I stood there and marveled at that star I remembered back to that first Christmas with Mary and Joseph and their new baby lying in a manger surrounded by farm animals. I don't think God intends for us to be quite as separate as we are.

God is the bridge builder and Jesus is the bridge. Let's remember this Christmas season that God has given us the Christ child to bridge the gap between him and us as well as between each other. The angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."

Grace and Peace,

Cliff

Loch Raven Church Celebrates an Anniversary

2013 marks a special anniversary year for our church and planning is underway for a celebration of the church's years of service to its congregation and the Loch Raven communities. To preserve the memories of church members of the past 60 years, the Anniversary Planning Committee will be in search of church history stories. These stories will be recorded and made into a DVD for all to remember and appreciate the past as we look forward to the next 60 years of the church's many ministries. If you have a video camera and can assist in recording these memories during 2013, or if you have a story to share, please contact me. And as we say farewell 2012, hello 2013, (are we really already in the second decade of the 21st century?!) begin to take a trip back in time to the past six decades to when you first arrived at Loch Raven Church. Here's a seed of thought to begin your look back: For those of you who were here when Bill Carter was working for the church, does anyone recall any of his wonderful stories, such as the one about the geese flying out for the season? Thanks!

Debi Wynn
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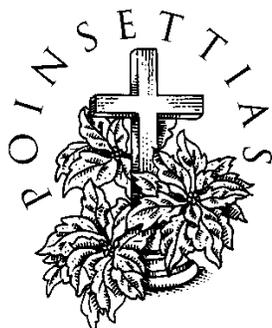
What Is Christmas?

Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



Never the Same Again

After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds returned to the same old world from whence they came. Yet, there must have been a new excitement in that familiar world. Life must have taken on new meaning, for no one is ever the same again after being in the presence of the Lord.



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

Plants may be picked up after morning worship on Sunday, December 30th.

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 on Sunday, December 30

Board of Child Care News

I would like to thank the congregation of Loch Raven church for your contributions to the Thanksgiving Baskets for the Board of Child Care. We collected 111 cans of green beans and 57 cans of cranberry sauce this year.

Thank you for your continued support of the children and families who are helped by the Board of Child Care at Thanksgiving.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Outreach and Evangelism

Katherine McKinney



Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. May we not relish the glitz, and miss the glory of your incarnation. May we not focus so much on the parties and the presents, the decorations and the allure of the creations of humans, but instead think of Christ who bore the imprint of your very being and who carried with intensity and complete dedication your message of love

and hope for us all. In the glorious name of Christ, we pray.
Amen



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 **Sunday, December 16th**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To the Glory: _____

Thank you for your participation.
The Altar Guild

Family Ministries Presents a Night of Books, Books, and More Books!

Come join us on January 23, 2013 for an evening of soup, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and good books! We are hosting a Book Exchange and hope you will join us. Bring those books you have read and share them with others who may want to read them. Have a good review of a really good book? Feel free to share that too! We will make a craft or two and have a great evening talking about books. All books are welcome—fiction, non-fiction, comic books, children's books, teen/young adult books—even magazines, cook-books, self help books! Opportunity is available to donate your books to a local free book exchange program—*The Free Book Thing*—a local program where you can drop off your used books and take home other books you may want to read.

Hope to see you with books in hand and bring a favorite dessert to share too! Sign Up outside Fellowship Hall!



United Methodist Women December Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, December 3
Holiday Dinner and Ornament
Exchange at Nancy Williams’
Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, December 4
10 am—at Nancy Gillotti’s

GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, December 19
6:30 pm—Covered Dish**

Pledge Service, Election of
Officers and Christmas Pro-
gram—Women In Christ
Circle

Collection for Susanna Wesley
House—women and children’s
hats, mittens, gloves, scarves.
We will use the money collect-
ed to purchase items for Su-
sanna 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

*He who has not
Christmas in his heart
will never find it
under a tree.*

—Roy L. Smith

From the Mailbox

Thank you so much for your cards, phone calls and especially your prayers that carried me through my complicated knee replacement. Thanks to Pastor Bob for checking on me and also thanks to Pastor Cliff and Carole for your visit.

I am very grateful to those who donated blood—a gift of life that really got me back on my feet.

God bless all at LRUMC.

Nancy Lacy

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank all of the members, staff and ministers of my Loch Raven family for all the cards, telephone calls, home visits, and especially your prayers during my back surgery and recovery. What a wonderful family you all are. And special thanks to the ladies for their offer to shop for us and take us to appointments. God bless you all.

Grace Boner



Habitat for Humanity

By: James Manley

December is a tough time to be homeless, and it's also the season of giving. That's why several of us are looking forward to the opportunity to go improve the Habitat homes that have been adopted by the United Churches Habitat group. They are in the Pen Lucy neighborhood, just south of Northern Parkway and to the east of York Road. We worked there this past June and we'll be there again on December 1st. We expect to have five people again representing Loch Raven, and are excited to go but sad that our day conflicts with the LRUMC Arts Festival! I hope that all of you will go to the Festival if you aren't able to come work on site.

Habitat also approached us recently with a special need: they would really like to get some volunteers helping out in the Re-Store, their store for construction materials. The job is simply keeping shop: running a cash register, dusting, sweeping, etc. No lifting of concrete! The location is next door to the Habitat headquarters in Halethorpe near UMBC. An hour or two per week or even just a few hours per month commitment from you will really help them out. Call 443-297-5141 or go to: <http://www.chesapeakestore.org/volunteer/index.php> for more information.

Finally, as always we are working to meet our church's commitment to Habitat for the year. If you have any extra you can give, please support Habitat as it works to improve Baltimore by labeling an envelope in the offering. We can use your support as we strive for our goal this fiscal year. Every little bit helps! Have a wonderful Advent and thanks for supporting Habitat.



December Birthdays

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

Anniversary:

David and Michelle Brown
12/26