

The Spire



December 2013

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Welcome to Our New Organist: Sally Tarr

It was with regret that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee accepted the resignation of Lizao Wang on October 6. She received a job offer in China and decided to return home. But our God does not shut one door without opening another.

At the same time, Sally Tarr was looking for a new organist position. A match, as they say, made in heaven. Sally has a Bachelor's Degree in Church Music from the Westminster Choir College, graduating *Magnum Cum Laude*. She also earned a degree in Mathematics and Education from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College). She currently teaches at the Dundalk Elementary School.

In fact, this is a home coming for Sally whose parents Joe and Katie were long-time members of Loch Raven United Methodist Church. Sally can even remember services held in the chapel. What a perfect way to conclude the celebration of our sixtieth year—welcome home, Sally.



“The Gifts of Christmas” Series

This year's Advent sermon series is called *The Gifts of Christmas*. Each week of Advent through Christmas Eve we will focus on a gift that God has given to us through Jesus Christ.

December 1 st	<i>The Gift of Peace</i> Psalm 85:8
December 8 th	<i>The Gift of Joy</i> Zephaniah 3:14-20 Luke 3:7-17
December 15 th 8:30 service	<i>The Gift of Hope</i> Jeremiah 33:14-16 Luke 21:32-36
11:00 service	Cantata
December 22 nd	<i>The Gift of Faith</i> Psalm 126:6
December 24 th 7:00 & 11:00 PM 10:30—Festival of Music	<i>The Gift of Love</i> Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-2

Note: The Sunday after Christmas, December 29, will be one service at 10:00 AM.

Inside This Issue ...

Pastor's Message	Page 3
It Isn't All About Soup Labels Anymore	Page 3
How Well Do You Know—Vesta Williams	Page 4
Missions Update	Page 5

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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 8, 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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And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..."

LUKE 1:46-47, NIV

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, you may telephone the church office on Sunday morning to determine if church services remain scheduled for the day. The telephone number is (410) 825-0900.



your message of love and hope for us all.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

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

Holiday Stress Relief

“and a little child will lead them.” --- Isaiah 11:6

Why does life get so complicated as we get older? I was thinking about stopping right there and having you email me answers. I think, for many and varied reasons, that a lot of people tend to put a lot of undue pressure on themselves---especially at this time of year. Then I read Isaiah and it says, “and a little child will lead them.” That’s a little child as in childlike.

So, as we head toward Christmas, I’d like to offer some ways that we could be a little more childlike. Please note that I’m saying childlike---not childish. Those two words are very different.

I read these holiday stress-relieving ideas in “Laughing Matters” from the People Connection.

Replace your inbox with a garbage can.

Go to a coin laundry and throw in the towel.

Answer a highly technical question in your best Donald Duck voice.

Place a mark on your body to show where you’ve had it up to.

For a quiet evening, play a blank cd at full volume.

Pretend you’re still in control.

Take an eight-hour lunch break.

Imagine doing any once of those crazy things instead of all the running around that we do during the holiday season. We shop, we visit, we decorate. We shop and visit some more. All of us could use a little more fun and lightheartedness in our lives. As a matter of fact I think it would make a wonderful Christmas gift.

I think about that Isaiah 11:6 passage. It simply says, “and a little child will lead them.” Do you think a little child would be doing some of the things that we get into? I think a little child would be having much more fun with life than we do. God sent his little baby Son to show us the way back to him. I think it’s appropriate that we follow in his steps.

Grace and peace,

Cliff

Merry  *Christmas*

It Isn't All About Soup Labels Any-more!

The Board of Child Care still participates in the Labels for Education Program, so please continue to save the labels from Campbell products.

They also participate in the Box Tops for Education Program. Box Tops labels can be found on many brands, such as Progresso Soup, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury and Hanes.

There is a bulletin board display in the arcade with a list of participating Box Tops products and a container to turn in labels and box tops.

Strawbridge School, which is located on the campus of the Board of Child Care, is registered with Giant Food for their A Plus school rewards program. If you shop at Giant, please consider selecting Strawbridge as one of your schools. They are under Baltimore on Giant’s list of schools.

The congregation donated 126 cans of green beans and 62 cans of cranberry sauce this year for the Board of Child Care Thanksgiving baskets.

Thank you for your support of the Board of Child Care.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

How well do you know Vesta Williams

By: Marcia Smith (3rd in a series of articles about long-time members)



Vesta Leishear was born on April 7, 1920 in Baltimore County, the only child of Will and Gertrude Leishear.

She graduated from Catonsville High School in 1937 and attended Baltimore Business School where she studied shorthand and secretarial skills. Although she and her future husband William Owen Williams attended the same high school, they would not meet until they both attended the Strawberry Festival held at Emmarts Methodist Church that summer after graduation .

Vesta put her secretarial skills to good use at the American Red Cross where she held the position of secretary to the Executive Director. She was there for two years until she and Bill were married. Their marriage produced two children, Owen, Jr. and Vesta.

Bill joined the armed forces and was subsequently stationed in Tallahassee, Florida and then Ft. Eustis, Virginia for a few years after that. During her stay in Tallahassee, she also worked there as a secretary for the American Red Cross.

Upon leaving the service, Bill attended school on the GI bill. He had originally planned to be a doctor, but as his time in the service put his education on hold, he ultimately decided on Pharmacy School. Upon graduation from the University of Maryland in 1951, he and a partner opened the Idlewood Pharmacy on the Alameda Extension in Baltimore County, where he worked until his first heart attack at age 56. After his recovery he worked at the Stella Maris Pharmacy until his death in November, 1978.

Vesta and Bill joined Loch Raven in 1956 and served in a variety of capacities. Vesta was the Director of the Children's division, which covered the Nursery through High School. She assisted with the kindergarten class and wherever else she was needed.

Bill, along with Ed DePrine, were co-teachers. Bill also served on the Official Board, now referred to as the Church Council.

When asked what she would most like to change in the church, she responded, "the number of members." Considering the attendance in the early days of the church, that is quite understandable; over 1800 members with two Sunday School Services.

She loves the friendships that she has made and the caring people within the church. She has enjoyed traveling over the years and still enjoys a game of bridge with friends on Friday nights. She takes part in some of the many activities offered at Edenwald, her home for the past seven years.

She was injured by an accident with a food cart over the summer and that has slowed her down a bit, but she hopes that that is temporary and that she will soon return to her previous good health. Her daughter Vesta, with her husband and two children, had just arrived for a visit from New Zealand at the time of the accident.

In spite of her injury, you can find Vesta in church on Sundays with her son Owen and her daughter-in-law Nancy. She's usually sitting up front on the right.

Missions Update

In September a collection of mini shampoos, soaps, etc. was taken, and the following were delivered to Essex UMC on October 23:

Soaps—142, lotions—53, conditioners—63, shampoo—76, and a very large bag of miscellaneous items.

In October used towels and blankets were collected for Defenders of Animal Rights. Previously delivered in mid-October were two large bags of these, with another two large boxes to be delivered.

Lunch bags were distributed in October, and 71 bags were delivered to Manna House on October 28th.

Missions is very grateful for your continued faithful support. We now ask you to search your hearts as we embark on a new Missions adventure by adopting Abbottston Elementary School where our own Cathy Miles is the principal. This is a congregation-wide appeal, as the few people on Missions could not possibly support this, and all help is appreciated. A few members have already been to the school and come back very impressed with the caring staff and well-behaved, polite children. So, please give it some prayerful thought and contact Sandi Cuthbert at 410-661-0974 to offer help.

Missions Committee

Anniversary Sunday Arrives!

At the 60th anniversary of Loch Raven United Methodist Church, 156 church alumni and present members celebrated six decades of church history. One past member, Mark Shillingburg, flew in from New Hampshire and when he heard about the festivities through Facebook postings, he said "It sounds like fun to visit old times and see folks I haven't seen for awhile." Mark's mother Eva was director of the church's weekday Kindergarten program during the church's first three decades. Among the other church alumni attending were Pastor Hank and Carol Thompson, Martha, Richard and Donald Vohrer, Lisa Haynes, Mark Greenwood, Kay Lewis, Corrine Cox, Lucy Moore, Phyllis Cooper, Arlene Ruckle and Jen Byrd.

This celebration was a blast to the past for Ardith Luttrell, an original resident of Loch Raven Village who continues to reside in this mid-20th century community. Mrs Luttrell became a charter member of the church in 1953. "Rev. Carroll Doggett and his wife came to my door in 1953 as they visited everyone in the newly built and growing Loch Raven Village. We were new to the area and we liked that a church was to be in our area. Our children were young and we wanted a church home that would be good for them, where they could grow. The Doggetts had young children and we knew they could relate to a young family like ours and the many others in our neighborhood." When Mrs. Luttrell was recognized at the anniversary celebration as the only charter member still worshipping at the church, she responded with enthusiasm "I love this church!"

As morning was breaking on this Sunday, the welcome balloons/signs were put into place. Aleece Roehl and Edward Smith hung the anniversary banner on the church lawn and then Aleece went out on a fresh flower run pick up. Carroll Doggett and family pulled into the church parking lot as the choir gathered in the choir room, final checks were made in the auditorium by Lois Hively and myself for set up, Doris Ndlovu was in the kitchen prepping salads and fruit for the after church lunch. James Manley, Erin Mellott, Maria Stockton-Porter, and Rhoda Wilson were in final reviews for the afternoon program. Everything was proceeding as hoped. We were ready and eager for church members to arrive.

And as folks arrived on this sunny morning, they passed by an original 60th anniversary banner designed and created by Aleece Roehl. Aleece was tapped for this assignment when her Confirmation class pages of drawings and art work were discovered in the church's archives and revealed that she had wonder-

(Continued on page 6)

Anniversary Sunday Arrives!

(Continued from page 5)

ful artistic talent. Beautiful sidewalk art, created by the IMPROVE after school childcare program under the direction of Viola Watson-Bean, welcomed visitors with cheerful messages of artistic chalk drawings and messages.

The anniversary celebration was designed by James Manley's Sunday School Class as a tribute to the older generation of our church for all that these active and caring members have done to bring the church through six decades of worship, service and fellowship. With inspiration from Harriet Cole and the group of older church members who met last February to share their ideas for an anniversary celebration, the church's younger generation went into action to provide a special anniversary to honor these folks, recalling the many activities they have undertaken over 60 years to get the church into the twenty-first century.

The church is now 60 years and three months old and as we review memories of anniversary Sunday, those who participated, supported it with their gifts, and made it all come together over a year, we'll look at the possibilities our church has in its future. In the meantime, if you are Internet connected, visit the following YouTube postings and enjoy church memories shared by Dorothy Thompson and Isabelle Burrell

Video 1: <http://youtube/FCuNyrQsDLE>

Video 2: <http://youtube/nqJCUXTn4Zg>

In Search of Photos

If you attended Anniversary Sunday and took photographs, please share them for posting by emailing to me at: tnhedutainment@aol.com

Thank you
Debi Wynn



Eternal Light

Christmas occurred when God invaded Earth in a strange and marvelous way. A special child was born to improbable parents in an unlikely place at an inconvenient time and in an unwelcoming world. Yet heaven's light pierced the darkness and shone through the life of that unique baby. That light was and is an eternal light. God's light in Christ is a saving light that can keep the world from total destruction, from the ultimate darkness. The message is always true: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV). And it never will.

—Charles Ferrell

Membership Updates

New members November 10, 2013

Amanda Brown
7 Esperanza Court
Pikesville, MD 21208

Carol A. Everhart
205 E. Joppa Road #1608
Towson, MD 21286
410-337-3563
canneverart1965@hotmail.com

Stephanie A. Houston
6752 Glenkirk Road
Baltimore, MD 21239
410-821-8266
annie6725@verizon.net

Beverly C. Lambe
6012 Winthrope Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21206
410-319-8379
Transfer from Towson UMC

United Methodist Women December Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle
Monday, December 9
(Note change of date for this month’s meeting)
Holiday Dinner and Ornament Exchange at Nancy Williams’ Home—6:30 p.m.

Phyllis Downes Circle
Tuesday, December 10
10 am—Brunch at Nancy Gillotti’s

NO GENERAL MEETING

From the Mailbox

October 4, 2013

John Mayden
Youth Minister
Loch Raven UMC

Dear Minister Mayden,

I am writing this letter to extend a heartfelt thank you for your support of our families and students. You have blessed Halstead Academy in your commitment to ensuring that our children were prepared for school (through your provision of school supplies). Your gesture is truly reflective of the passage Matthew 22:39—*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

On behalf of the Halstead Academy community, I again extend my thanks to you for your generous donation and your presence of mind to care for your neighbor. We are truly blessed to have you as our friend.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tambra Chisolm
School Social Worker
Halstead Academy



December Birthdays

- 3 Matt Webner
- 4 Myra Wagner
- 5 Charles Chilcoat
- 7 Nancy Williams
- 8 Judy Feustle and Carole Webner
- 9 Christian Smith
- 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 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