

The Spire



February 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Ash Wednesday

Come join us for Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 PM on February 22. This year we're going to conduct a "Sin-burning" service. We'll distribute a piece of paper to everyone on which each person will be invited to write a particular sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The paper will then be brought forward following the sermon and placed in a bowl to be burned with palm branches for the ashes. It provides a wonderful cleansing opportunity which will help us prepare for the Lenten season.

Youth Director Welcome

We are pleased to announce the newest addition to our Loch Raven staff--our Youth Director Ms. Chanell Jones. Chanell started with us on January 1st 2012. She was introduced to the church at the January 8th 11:00 service and had her first meeting with the youth and parents on that evening. As you get to know and recognize Chanell please take time to give her a warm, Loch Raven Church welcome. We look forward to her leadership with our youth.

Confirmation Signup

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will begin Sunday February 12th at 10:00 AM during the Sunday school hour. If you have a child aged 12-18 (6th through 12th grade) who wants to confirm their faith and become a full member of Loch Raven UMC please contact the church office to register them or if you have any questions. Classes will run for 13 weeks. We will not have class on Easter or Mother's Day. We will receive the confirmands into membership on Pentecost Sunday on May 27th.



Lenten Sermon Series

I'll be preaching a Lenten sermon series called *All For You*. It's about Jesus' sacrifice for us. It begins Sunday, February 26th and runs through Easter. The first message is called *Extravagant Love* and is based on Mark 14:1-11. The second message is called *How's Your Memory* and is based on Mark 14:12-26. Week three will be *Toss It or Keep It* based on II Corinthians 5:17 and Joshua 5:9-12. Week four is called *Return to the Shepherd* from Isaiah 53:7-9 and I Peter 2:19-25. Week five is entitled *Turn Around and Come Home* from Joel 2:3-5 and Luke 15:21-24. Week six is Palm Sunday and the sermon is called *Whatever Happened to Palm Sunday Parades*. It's based on Luke 19:28-40. We'll work through Holy Thursday and Good Friday and finish on Easter with a message called *Stones* from Matthew 28:1-10 and Colossians 3:1-4.

Pastor Cliff

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All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcomed and considered for publication.

The deadline for the March issue is **Sunday, February 12, 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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Family Ministries Minute

I hope everyone is having a wonderful start to 2012. The Family Ministries team has been hard at work planning opportunities for our Loch Raven Family to get together for fellowship and fun (and generally food is included – we are good Methodists!).

Ski/Snow Tubing Day

In February we have 2 items on the calendar. The first is the 3rd annual ski/snow tubing day on Saturday February 4th. We will meet at the church at 8am and car-pool up to Ski Roundtop in PA. Ski/snowboard lift tickets are \$55 for 4 hours and \$60 for 8 hours. For children under 12 they are \$48 for 4 hours and \$52 for 8 hours. Ski/snowboard rentals are \$40. Tubing is \$27 for the entire day.

Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, February 21st we will have our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Dig out your Mardi Gras beads and join us at 6:30 for pancakes, sausage and King cake.

Fish Fry

In March we will have our 4th annual Friday night fish fry. Come on out for fresh fish, chicken nuggets (for those non-fish eaters), salads, hushpuppies and dessert on Friday, March 9th at 6:30 pm. This event has been getting

bigger every year. Come join the fun!

One last note, Family Ministries is in need (not quite desperate but working on it) for additional members. We are a great little group (emphasis on little) and promise you will not spend your life in meetings. Please contact Sharon Gardner at sh1ar2on3@gmail.com if you are interested.

Lenten Bible Study

Responsibilities. We all have them, but we don't all take them as seriously as we ought to. Wouldn't it be great, though, if we all took responsibility for the things we are responsible for? It's time to stop the finger-pointing and excuse-making and to remove the "ir" in "irresponsible." We'll be using Andy Stanley's book *Taking Responsibility for Your Life*. The session titles are: *Let the Blames Begin, The Disproportionate Life, This is No Time to Pray, Embracing Your Response Ability*.

This four week Bible study begins February 27th on Monday nights at 7:00 PM and will be repeated on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM. Please contact the church office at 410 825-0900 or at info@lrunc.org so that we can order the correct number of books.





“After eight days Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up onto a

mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.” ---Luke 9:28-29

I've always enjoyed watching cartoons. I grew up on them. I've especially appreciated the ones where there was no talking. Everything relied on sound effects and pictures. Some of my favorites were Tom and Jerry and the Roadrunner and Coyote.

I remember one Roadrunner cartoon where the Coyote was laying out one of his special Acme traps in a never-ending attempt to catch his prey. Roadrunner comes racing along toward the trap. He stops in the middle of the road. He stands still and a light bulb flashes on above his head as he realizes that the Coyote has set a trap for him.

Have you ever had that happen to you? You're not sure about how to deal with something in life, and then all of a sudden the answer comes to you---seemingly out of nowhere. That's what happened to Peter, John, and James that day up on the mountain with Jesus.

They had been traveling with Jesus for sometime now and began slowly realizing that

he wasn't just their average preacher/rabbi. Miracle after miracle, lesson after lesson began to unfold the greatest mystery of all to them. This Jesus was the Messiah for whom they had been waiting.

Jesus reaches his destination on the mountain and begins to pray. Suddenly his facial appearance changes and his clothes become as bright as a flash of lightning. Then, if that wasn't enough to shake up his disciples, Moses and Elijah appear.

Peter doesn't know how to respond. A huge light bulb has flashed on and they have realized that they are in the presence of the Christ. All they needed to do was stand still, bow down, watch, and marvel. Instead, Peter tries to say something, but nothing needs to be said. He then decides that they should build a monument to each of them---Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Then a voice comes down from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

Why on earth do we always think we have to do something when all God wants us to do is just realize who he is to us and marvel? How many times has God shown us who he is and all we wanted to do was try to control the situation? The next time we have a God revelation let's just stand and marvel or bow and say thanks. This event in the Bible is called the transfiguration of Jesus. We celebrate Transfiguration

Sunday on February 19th this year. It is a great opportunity for us to think back on all those times in our lives when God has revealed himself to us and invited us to be a part of his life through Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,

Cliff



It's Cookie Collection Time for the Board of Child Care

February provides an opportunity to support the Board of Child Care.

We have been asked to donate cookies for the girls and boys who live on the Board of Child Care campus. A box will be placed in Fellowship Hall if you would like to help. Store-bought cookies are preferred. Some of the children have food allergies and the staff can check the ingredients in store-bought cookies. Please bring them from January 29 until February 26. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted.

Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Countdown to VBS has Begun!

Help Wanted at the **Shake It Up Cafe**, Monday through Friday evenings the week of June 25, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Share your time and talent in this special kitchen where chefs are gathering to mix up an edutainment batch of fun for all ages to explore the message that Jesus calls us to "shake up our lives and become his followers." Positions available in this cafe for all ages where the Bible gives us the recipes and leader materials and resources are provided are:

Bible Story Chef: Sharing the secret ingredients of the Bible

Discovery Time Chef: Sharing the rise and fall science of food

Snack Chef: Sharing preparation of three samples of healthy foods

Craft Chef: Sharing and inspiring creativity and imagination

Recreation Chef: Sharing fun times in the kitchen with the Cafe's game book

Dance Chef: Sharing a "dancing with the Stars" teaching experience with a musical DVD session of Cafe songs

Adult Recipe Chef: Sharing for adults the secret ingredients of the Bible with the Cafe's own recipe book for adults

For additional information, contact Debi Wynn at 410-583-0270 or at tnhedutainment@aol.com.

Loch Raven United Methodist Women End of Year Giving – 2011

Thanks to all who supported the United Methodist Women during 2011 with your pledges and support of our various fundraising projects. As a result, UMW was able to donate a total of \$2,700 to the following organizations:

Board of Child Care Auxiliary	\$300
Essex UMC – "Table of Grace" Outreach Program	300
Quality of Life Retreats	150
Manna House	200
Heart's Place	200
Assistance Center of Towson Churches (A.C.T.C.)	200
Ellen Hoover – Missionary	250
Sue Porter – Missionary	250
Red Bird Mission	250
The Wesley Endowment Fund	100
Asbury Methodist Village Guild	100
N. M. Carroll Home for the Aged	100
Habitat for Humanity (Loch Raven UMC)	300
TOTAL END-OF-YEAR LOVE GIFTS	\$2,700

Yvonne Horn
Treasurer, UMW

Birthday Celebrations

Belated birthday wishes:
January 29 Michael Koogler

February Birthdays:

- 4 Chad Schoelkopf
- 5 Dick Annis -Forder
Theresa Alaeze
- 7 Robert Bartram
Bolanie Akerele
- 10 Sandra Edmonds
Cherie Buszczak
- 14 Melissa Quinn
- 16 Kathryn Ruble
- 17 Betty Ford
- 23 Courtney Naff
- 24 Titilayo Akerele
- 25 Laverne Nimmo

Outreach and Evangelism

In recent years, fewer American women have died from heart disease. Still, it remains women's number one killer.

Mark your calendar now. On **Sunday, February 19**, we want both women and men to wear something red to call attention to the number one killer of both women and men.

Blessings,
Katherine McKinney

Introducing a New Church Event

Imagine the church serving as an art gallery, a studio theatre and a concert hall. Imagine the arts coming alive as church members and the community are given the opportunity to showcase their artwork of paintings, drawings, photographs, sculpture and other artworks. Imagine dance, music and theatre performances being offered throughout the day. Imagine the church offering a **December Festival of the Arts**. Following the success churches across the country have had with arts events, an arts festival is in development for our church. The Annual Arts Festival of First United Methodist Church, Alexandria, LA, was established in 1967. First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, MI began its Celebration of the Arts, a 13 day event in 1972. Visit their websites at www.grandrapidsfumc.org and <http://www.fumca.org/artsfestival> to explore how these churches have provided art experiences for their communities. And then surf the Internet to discover other church art festivals.

The church will come alive with the arts on Saturday, December 1, with the day concluding with an evening concert and Christmas singing of favorite seasonal songs led by Joyous Voices, a regional music touring company.

To continue the celebration of the arts through the weekend, on Sunday, December 2, the church's Worship Committee will revisit a past Loch Raven service and celebrate the beginning of Advent with a Love Feast and special music during the Sunday Morning Services.

Help to make this arts festival the first of many more to come for our church by serving on the Arts Festival Committee. For additional information, contact Debi Wynn at 410-583-0270 or by e-mail at tnhedutainment@aol.com. Join us as we serve to develop a new Loch Raven UMC event that will inspire the mind, excite the spirit, and engage the soul of church members and the community.

United Methodist Women February Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle
Monday, February 6
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: Great People of the Bible—Lesson 4

Phyllis Downes Circle
Tuesday, February 7
10 am—Parlor

NO GENERAL MEETING

Special Recognition

On Sunday, January 8, Special Mission Recognition was awarded to Merrill Harrison to honor her service to LRUMC. A gift to missions from the UMW will be made in Merrill's name.

From the Mailbox

I want to thank my church family for their prayers, cards and rides and phone calls. It all helped so much for my recovery.

Roy Dorfler

Rick and Rella would like to thank the church family for their monetary contributions for Christmas gifts for Eddie. Your money went to purchase a 19-inch TV, a pair of long johns, socks, boxer shorts, PJ's and 6 music CD's. Thank you for your generosity.

