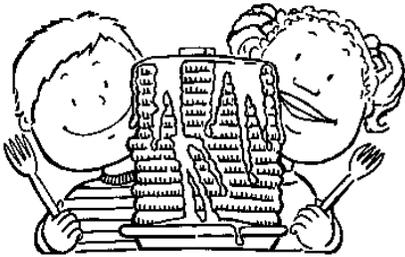


# The Spire



February 2014



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

## Pancake Supper

Family Ministries will be hosting Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 4th at 6:30pm. There will be sign up sheets posted in Fellowship Hall.

## 2014 Offering Envelopes

As we start 2014, please discard your 2013 Offering Envelopes. Your tithes/offerings are recorded on the date received, not the date on your envelopes. Also, your number may have changed for the new year. So, please begin using your 2014 envelopes after January 1. If you have not picked up your new envelopes, they are available in the arcade.

Thank you,  
Financial Assistants

*I give you a new Commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

*John 13:34, 35 NRSV*

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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 9, 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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**Change of Name/Address** - Call, mail or e-mail church office

**Website:** [www.LRUMC.org](http://www.LRUMC.org)

## Board of Child Care News

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 February 2 until February 23. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted.

Thank you.

*Leslie Christopher*  
Keyperson

## United Methodist Women—End of Year Giving 2013

Thanks to all who supported the United Methodist Women during 2013 with your pledges and support of our various fundraising projects. As a result, UMW was able to donate a total of \$2,500 to the following organizations:

Board of Child Care Aux.	\$300
Essex UMC—	\$400
<i>Table of Grace</i>	
Quality of Life Retreats	\$200
Manna House	\$300
Assistance Center of Towson Churches	\$400
Ellen Hoover—	\$300
Advance Special #10337A	
Red Bird Mission	\$300
The Wesley—	\$100
Endowment Fund	
Asbury Methodist Village Guild	\$100
N. M. Carroll Home	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

## February Birthdays



- 1 Joyce Dixon
- 4 Chad Schoelkopf
- 5 Theresa Alaeze
- 6 Adiaha Essien
- 7 Robert Bartram
- Bolanle Akerele
- 10 Sandra Edmonds
- Cherie Buszczak
- 14 Melissa Quinn
- 16 Kathryn Ruble
- 17 Betty Ford
- RJ Stockton-Porter
- 23 Courtney Naff
- 24 Titilayo Akereke
- 25 Laverne Nimmo

## Youth News

On December 22, 2013, the Youth Ministry gave a Wal-Mart Gift Card to Halstead Academy for gifts for a student in need for the Holidays and on the afternoon of Saturday, January 25th the Youth had a Game Day. During the month of February, the youth plan to have a Black History Presentation.



**PRESIDENTS' DAY**

**February 17**

*From the  
Pastor*



*We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces perseverance,*

*and perseverance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us....(Romans 5:3-5)*

On the coast of Pascadero, California, is the famed Pebble Beach. The waves crash, with a ceaseless roar, and thunder among the stones on the beach. They toss and grind the stones together hurling them against the rugged cliffs. Day and night, the wearing down of the stones continues unabated. Tourists from all over the world gather the beautiful, round, polished stones for ornaments on mantels.

Near Pebble Beach is a towering cliff, which breaks the force of the crashing waves. In the quiet cove, sheltered by the cliff, is an abundance of stones. These are unsought, unwanted. They are rough, angular and devoid of beauty.

Like those stones which have been beaten by the waves, so many of us have been pounded by some sort of suffering, trouble, or pain in our lives, but how often amidst the pounding do we fail to catch God's refining hand? Could God bring anything good from our misery?

The apostle Paul offers some good advice to us in his letter to the Romans. He calls us to "rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perse-

verance produces character; and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint us." He then adds, "that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (8:28). Imagine God looking out for our good in all things, even our misfortunes. The fact is, the waves are going to beat on us. The question is, will we rejoice, trusting God to bring good out of the trouble?

Grace and Peace,  
*Cliff*

## From the Mailbox

On behalf of Eddie Grozier, Rick and Rella would like to thank the church members for their monetary donations for Eddie's Christmas shopping spree.

*Rick Neumann*

Dear Church Family,

On behalf of my family, I wish to thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy upon the death of my mother, Edith Parker. Your cards, prayers, presence and words of encouragement were certainly comforting. I am blessed to be a member of this compassionate and loving congregation. I am grateful that my mom, David and I were led by the Holy Spirit to this wonderful church. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

*Michele Brown*

## United Methodist Women February Schedule

### "Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, February 3  
7:30 p.m.—Room 202  
Study: *Moments That Take Your Breath Away*  
Lesson 3  
Study Leader: Amy  
Devotion: Jennifer  
Hostess: Amy/Jen

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, February 4  
10 am—Parlor  
Study: Ruth  
Study Leader: Joyce Dixon

### NO GENERAL MEETING

## Membership Updates

### Address Change:

Carol Everhart and  
Harriet Garner as of 1/16/14  
8413 Kings Ridge Road  
Parkville, Md 21234

### Deaths:

Edith Parker  
December 24, 2013  
Virginia Frey  
January 4, 2014

### Withdrawal:

Joyce Davis  
January 7, 2014