

# The Spire



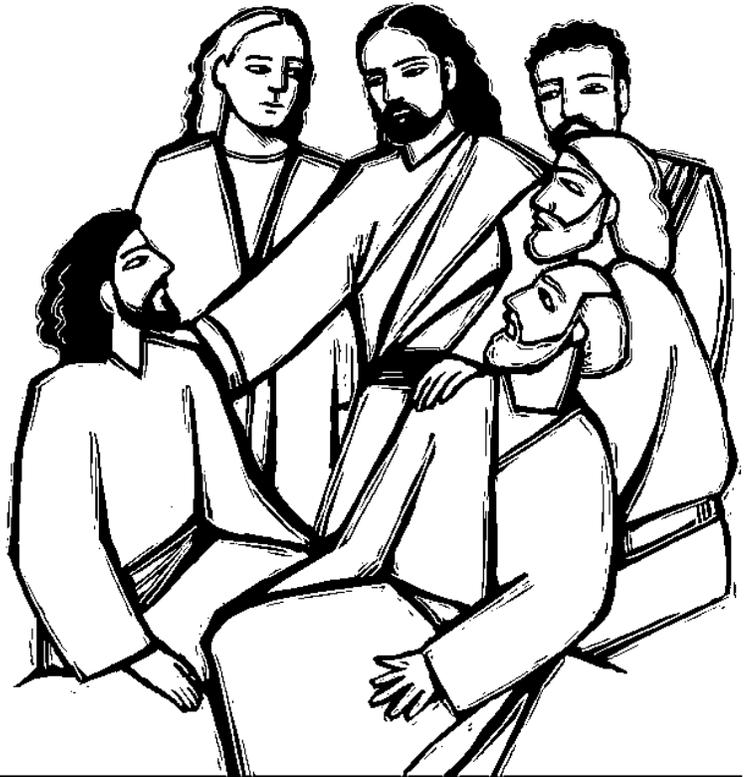
February 2015

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner  
February 17  
6 PM  
Fellowship Hall



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV



## Ash Wednesday

February 18  
Worship Service at  
7 PM

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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 March issue is **Sunday, February 8, 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)



**Valentine's Day**

**Saturday, February 14**

## Musical Notes

From: Sam Chin  
Music Director

It's been an eventful finish to year 2014 here at Loch Raven UMC. I want to thank the following people and groups that have participated in the music ministry's events this Advent/Christmas Season:

### Cast members of the Christmas Play:

- Debi Wynn
- Buddy and Gabby Schwartz
- Sarah Jones
- Caitlin Webster
- Maria Stockton-Porter
- Bilen and Abel Dereje
- Brian Miller
- Jen Weaver
- Jean Oberia
- Children's Choir

Memorial Handbell Choir

Chancel Choir

### Festival of Music participants:

- Becomers Bible Study Group
- Helen Blakey
- Debi Wynn
- Judy Zahren
- Cecelia Miller
- Patti Ferguson
- Joyce Keedy

It was truly a blessing to see so many people volunteer their time and talents to make our church a beautiful beacon for Christ's Church in our community. Thank you.

As we look to 2015, we hope to continue to find beautiful and creative ways to

bring worship to our Lord. If any of you are interested in joining one of our myriad musical groups or have ideas for the music ministry, please contact me at [doochin@gmail.com](mailto:doochin@gmail.com). Happy New Year!



## Board of Childcare 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 1 until February 22. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted.

Thank you.  
*Leslie Christopher*  
Keyperson

# From the Pastor



*There is a time for everything....a time to heal, weep, laugh, mourn, dance... Ecclesiastes 3:1-4*

It was January 5th. It was about 7:00 in the morning. It was the day I was to return to work after being out for three months on medical leave. I looked out the window at the sun which was just coming up across the street. Then I heard this song in my head. God often puts songs in my head when I get up in the morning. Sometimes they are Christian songs and sometimes they are not.

On this particular day, when I needed a word from the Lord, God put a Fleetwood Mac song in my head. Sometimes it's funny what God will do to relate to us. It's so wonderful that our God knows what we need and knows how best to communicate with us. So on Monday January 5 at 7:00 AM I am hearing Fleetwood Mac's "World Turning." Most especially, I'm hearing the line that says, "I gotta get my feet back on the ground." It's funny how God communicates with us in ways that we can understand. When I explored that song a little more I noticed the line before that. It said, "I just wanna be back where I belong."

I have never been more loved and cared for in my life than I have been through the last three months. God has done it. My family has done it. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers have done it. The church has done it. You made it possible for me to sit down.

Thank you for that. Thank you to all of you that filled in-- from the office to the pulpit and everywhere in between and beyond. The church was the church. I have never been more proud of you and grateful to you for being a part of my healing.

Over the last three months, as a church, we have lived out the above passage from Ecclesiastes. As I sat and healed, life went on. We lost Sally Tarr, Marlene Dennstaedt, Nancy Scheeler, and Rich Stewart. Delicious food was served at the Awujoh dinner. A wonderful Wilson wedding took place. The Festival of Arts was celebrated. There was Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

There is so much to say along those lines that a newsletter article won't suffice. One thing that's good about my job is that I write and speak for a living. So I'm sure I'll be having plenty of opportunities to share what I've been through and what I've learned from sitting down. There is a time for everything.

## United Methodist Women—End of Year Giving 2014

Thanks to all who supported the United Methodist Women during 2014 with your pledges and support of our various fundraising projects. As a result, UMW was able to donate a total of \$3,600 to the following organizations:

Board of Child Care Auxiliary	\$300
Essex UMC— <i>Table of Grace</i>	\$500
Quality of Life Retreats	\$200
Manna House	\$500
Assistance Center of Towson Churches	\$500
Ellen Hoover—Advance Special #10337A	\$300
Red Bird Mission	\$100
The Wesley—Endowment Fund	\$100
Asbury Methodist Village Guild	\$100
N. M. Carroll Home	\$500
Life Water Canada	\$200
Ebola—United Methodist Advance Special	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>





You've heard the adage "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, I'd like to offer another one—"It takes a congregation to run a church." I've always known this, but it hit home during the past 3 months. While Pastor Cliff underwent major surgery and subsequent

recovery period, our church became busy with Charge Conference, memorial services, a wedding, special events, a stewardship drive, and special worship services. Although I was the one in the office coordinating all of these events, I could not have done it without several helpers. I'd like to thank those who provided extra assistance:

- 1) All liturgists and ushers (too many to name), for taking on extra responsibilities to keep the worship services running smoothly.
- 2) Debi for helping with children's message.
- 3) Jonathan, Brian, Sandi, Amy, Maria, Nancy, Phil, Dave, and Merrill, for writing reports and/or submitting reports on line for Charge Conference in a timely manner.
- 4) Joycelynn, Sandi and Audrey for giving of their time to assist with office work.
- 5) Sandi and Audrey for filling in for me on vacation and training days.
- 6) All who lent an ear, gave a hug, gave words of encouragement, or expressed their appreciation -- I could not have survived without you.
- 7) Jim, for being patient with me and understanding why I do what I do.
- 8) And lastly, LRUMC for your appreciation and tribute. It is truly a pleasure to serve God by serving His church.

Thank you again to everyone,

*Myra*

## Used Clothing Drive

What Can You Donate?

Wearable and usable men's, women's and children's clothing of all sizes.

Footwear: Shoes, boots, flip-flops, dress shoes, etc.

Accessories: Purses, belts, hats, scarves, gloves, ties and backpacks.

Household items: Blankets, tablecloths, bed sheets, curtains, quilts, comforters, decorative pillows and towels.

Toys: Stuffed animals, action figures, trucks, cars and dolls.

Donations can be dropped off at church by placing them in the chapel. If able, please put all donations in a tightly tied plastic bag. The company that we have contracted with will pay 20 cents per pound. Donations will be accepted through early Spring 2015.

All proceeds from the Used Clothing Drive will go to the church general fund.

Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jennifer Webster at (410) 256-1638.



## IN TOUCH MINISTRY

### Special Prayer Requests

Please refer to insert in Sunday bulletins for up-to-date information.

**Stay in Touch** with some of our members who are not able to regularly attend church. Contact the church office for up-to-date information.

### Notes of Thanks

Dear Pastor Webner,

Please thank your members for sending the food basket to our school, Abbottston Elementary. It was very nice that you were able to help so many families through your mission project.

*Khalil McFadden*

*No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.*

—Aesop

### February Birthdays

- 1 Joyce Dixon
- 4 Chad Schoelkopf
- 5 Theresa Alaeze
- 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
- 26 Adiaha Essien

### United Methodist Women February Schedule

**“Women in Christ” Circle**  
Monday, February 2  
7:30 PM—Room 202  
Study: *Moments That Take  
Your Breath Away*  
Lesson 8  
Study Leader: Amy  
Devotions: Jennifer  
Hostess: Amy & Jennifer

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Tuesday, February 3  
10 AM—Parlor

**NO GENERAL MEETING**

### Membership Updates

#### Address Changes:

Patricia Barbee  
1567 Alconbury Road, Apt. I  
(The letter, not the number)  
Baltimore, MD 21221-4016

Donna Fellerman  
201-A Pointe Way  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078-  
2912

Deborah Olewe  
602 Millwright Court, Apt. 32  
Millersville, MD 21108-2317

Qasim and Laurie Collidge  
2 Hewetson Court  
Timonium, MD 21093-7405

Jacqueline Warner  
7814 Longridge Road  
Baltimore, MD 21236-3832

Diana Lowe-DiSalvo  
2150 Whispering Springs Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801-9698

Katherine McKinney  
18532 Vernon Road  
White Hall, MD 21161-9727

**Room Change -**  
Doris Blottenberger  
Room 218