

The Spire



January, 2010

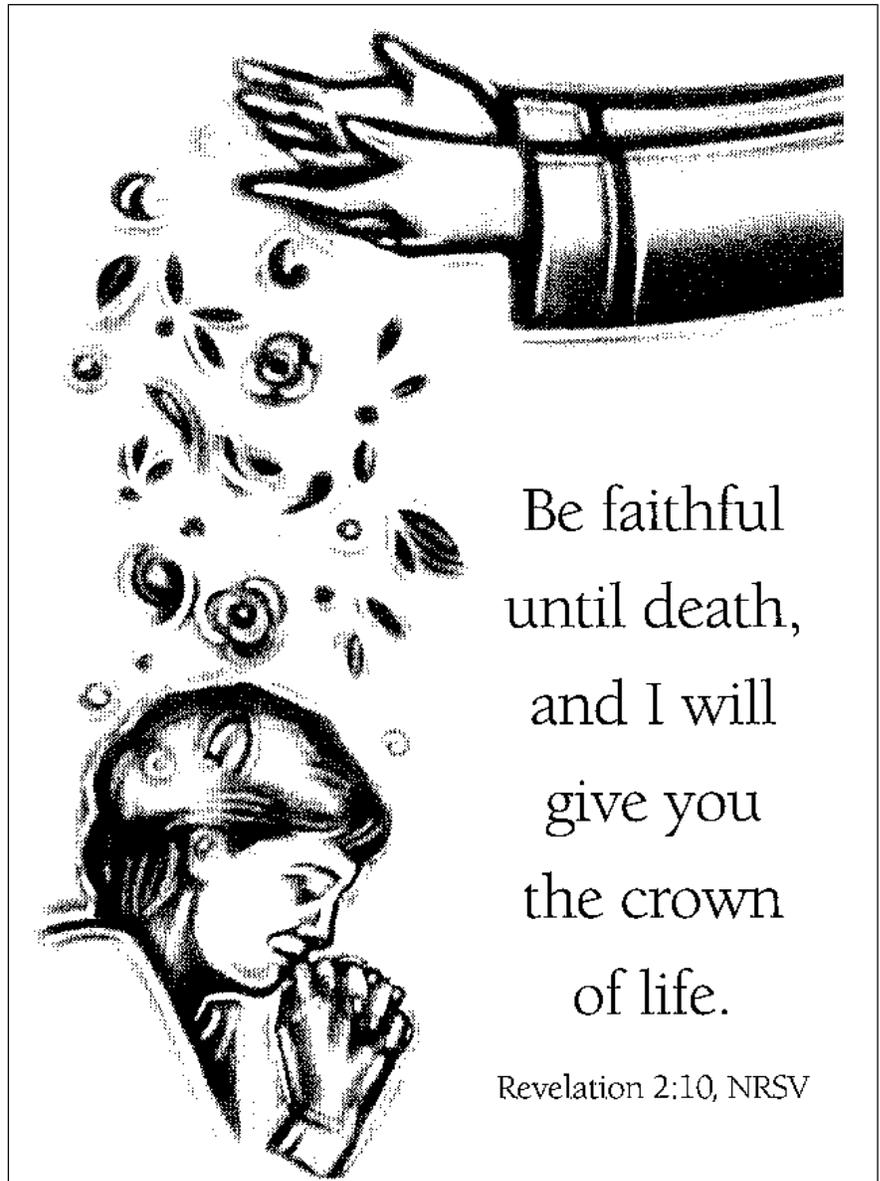
Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Rays of Light

Our liturgical dancers finally have a name! For over 3 years, we've been listing names in the bulletin each time the dancers participated in worship, but now that the group has grown 14 strong, it seemed time to find a name. Since we've been talking about our church as "a multicultural community of faith reflecting the light of God", our thoughts and ideas centered on that theme. One thing led to another, and a name was agreed upon, so from now on the bulletin will say "Rays of Light" when the dancers take part in worship.

New *Rays of Light* are always welcome. Dance experience is not needed. Most of us don't have any experience, just a desire to prayerfully prepare, participate in a creative group process and praise God with movement. Speak to Pastor Gayle if you are interested



Be faithful
until death,
and I will
give you
the crown
of life.

Revelation 2:10, NRSV

Inside This Issue ...

Pastor's Message	Page 3
Boiler Fund Update	Page 3
Employment Seminar	Page 7

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 February issue is **Sunday, January 11, 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Gayle E. Annis-Forder

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. *Phone:* 410-825-0900. *Fax:* 410-825-2600. *E-mail:* Info@LRUMC.org

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

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org



United Methodist Women January Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, January 4
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*
Lesson 3: Growing Through Doubts

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 5
10 a.m.—Parlor
Study: *Knowing Jesus*

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, January 13
9:30 a.m.—Room 202
Study: *Women of the Old Testament*

NO GENERAL MEETING

Executive Meeting January 29, 10 a.m.

2010 Officers:

President—Nancy Gillotti
Vice President—Harriet Cole
Secretary—Ann Jackson
Treasurer—Yvonne Horn
Membership—Isabelle Burrell
Mission Contact—Sandi Cuthbert
Publicity—Betty Shock
Circle Chairs:
P. Downes—Nancy Gillotti and Ann Jackson
E. Hoover—Vesta Williams
W.I.C.—Nancy Williams

Membership Pin Committee:
Isabelle Burrell
Nancy Harvill
Jenny Dorsey

UMW End of Year Giving:

Board of Child Care	\$ 300
Carpenter's Kitchen	100
Quality of Life Retreats	150
Manna House	150
Heart's Place	300
Ellen Hoover	200
Sue Porter	350
The Wesley Endowment Fund	150
Asbury Methodist Village	150
N.M. Carroll Home	150
Susanna Wesley Home (9 gift cards @ \$50)	450
Hope Fund	150
Habitat for Humanity	250
UMCOR	100
Boiler Fund	100
TOTAL	\$3,050





Dear Friends,
Posted on the door right behind me, as I write

this, are Christmas cards from many of you. I have so enjoyed reading them and putting them up, and then looking at them over and over again.

I am delighted by the variety. Each one is different, but they share a common message. Whether contemporary or traditional, light-hearted or serious, ornate or simple, shimmering or muted, all are expressions of connection around the most important gift each of us has ever received.

God cared enough to come to us in Jesus, and at Christmas we remind each other of that amazing gift. The ways to express that message are as numerous as we are, but our common gratitude for the gift binds us together.

Our church is a unique expression of the variety of God's creation. We have learned of God's love for us in different settings, in varying languages, with diverse cultural expressions, but we come together somehow knowing that God's love for us is larger than any other reality, and reaches into our lives whatever the setting.

And so, as I look at the cards, I give thanks for each of you. And yes, they're still up. I promise to take them down before Lent begins, but Epiphany

is still a great time to celebrate Christ's coming to the world, and a great time to share that blessing of Christ's presence with others in ministry and mission.

Thanks for making me aware every day of the breadth and depth and power of God's love. You are a blessing to me.

Grace and Peace to you+

Pastor Gayle



A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:
 Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
 Enough trials to keep us strong;
 Enough hopes to keep us lively;
 Enough sorrows to keep us dependent upon God;
 Enough failure to keep us humble;
 Enough success to keep us eager;
 Enough friends to give us comfort;
 Enough wealth to meet our needs;
 Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
 Enough faith to overcome despair;
 And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.

Boiler Fund Update

These gifts have been received since the last *Spire*:

11/15/2009	= \$ 1,280.00
11/22/2009	= \$ 2,570.00
11/25/2009	= \$ 200.00 (Thanksgiving Eve)
11/29/2009	= \$ 320.00
12/06/2009	= \$ 50.00
12/13/2009	= \$ 300.00

Total Received \$27,596.00 towards \$73,000

We received a gift from a former member with the following note: "Because Loch Raven Church will always have a very special place in my heart I want to help with the boiler fund."

The Board of Trustees offers their appreciation for every gift received and sends their blessings and a heartfelt thank you!

Spot Light on Sunday School

**1st, 2nd and 3rd graders
Miss Jo and Miss Leslie,
Room 115**

We have just finished learning about Moses and each student got to make their own Moses story book. In January, we will be learning how some people were touched by Jesus and how He healed others. While we learn about Jesus, we also learn about life in Bible times. Sometimes, we even get to taste food that would have been eaten during Jesus' time. It's really good! Our room is also decorated with Bible verses and figures from the stories we read each week. Anyone in 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade is welcome to join us. The more the merrier!! See you soon!

Calendar Note – No Children's Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th; however, there will be Children's Sunday School on January 3rd, at 10am in Fellowship Hall. All are welcomed!

*Be at war with your
vices, at peace with
your neighbors, and
let every new year find
you a better person.*

—Benjamin Franklin

Wisdom in the Book of Proverbs

Happy are those who find wisdom, and those who get understanding, for her income is better than silver, and her revenue better than gold.

She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Long life is her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called happy.

Proverbs 3:13-18

Blessings and Peace,
Katherine McKinney
Outreach / Evangelism



Epiphany of the Lord

The word *epiphany* comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means appearance or manifestation. It is an important word for liturgical churches. Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. It refers to the wise men, who were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God's appearance in the baby Jesus.

In the early church, January 6 was a day for baptism. The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for the Jews but for Gentiles as well. Christ's light is for all.

In France, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the "Wise Men." When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.

Missing

If anyone by mistake picked up from the coat rack at church a ladies full-length tan colored coat, size 10, with a Talbot's label, please call Gayle Webb at 410-882-4595. A three-quarter length Talbot's coat, size large, was left in its place. Thanks for your help.

Board of Child Care News

Thank you for your continued support of the boys and girls at the Board of Child Care.

This year, the congregation donated over 60 boxes of cake mix and an equal number of cans of icing for the Board of Child Care Thanksgiving baskets.

In addition numerous items were donated for the Christmas Store. The Christmas Store offers the children an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with their families. Thank you, Amy Price, for delivering the Christmas Store items to the Board of Child Care.

Thanks to the Missions Committee for a generous donation on behalf of Loch Raven United Methodist Church.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Membership Updates

Address Change:

Charles & Rhonda Biemiller
1805 Oxford Square
Bel Air, MD 21015

Harold & Tyler Gowie
5104 Hugunin Way
Perry Hall, MD 21128

Kris and Natalia Seets
2927 Trellis Lane
Abingdon, MD 21009

Blessings:

Anne and Adrian Palazzi on the birth of their grandson, Michael Anthony, born on Saturday, November 28, at 6:01 p.m., weight: 8 lbs 3 oz., length: 21 inches

Removed—Charge Conference 11/23/2009:

Nyewoe Bolongei Barwulor
Ettalue Brown
Elizabeth C. Bonwit-Brown
Marion Redd-Roberts
Amanda Diaz
Pauline Ahalt

Deceased:

J. Almeta Morgan
Deceased November 12, 2009
Pastor Robert J. Fringo, presiding

Address Unknown:

If you know the current address for the following members, please call the Church Office:

Jermaine Carter
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Beatrice Welsh



Our Task

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has the gift of summarizing the role of Christians in God's world. He makes the point that we are to work with God as "agents of transfiguration." We are to be God's instruments, he believes, to change injustice into justice. We are also meant to exercise compassion, care, joy and laughter. If we will do that, the archbishop says, "There will be more togetherness in God's world."



New Adult Sunday School class is starting on January 10th, 10am in Room 126. All are Welcomed!

Watch the church bulletin for further details.

Youth News

A big thank you to the Pastors and the Congregation for their support of the Youth Sunday Service on November 29. We received a lot of positive feedback.

“Cast” of the Too-Too Syndrome:

Readers:

Kris Seets and Verna Wilson

Narrator: Seth Thomas

The Minister: Tim Price

Tilly too-old: Mia Stewart

Terry too-shy:

Samantha Shelton

Timothy too-poor:

Gavin Stewart

Todd too-busy: Matt Price

Tony too-dumb:

Dick Annis-Forder

Teresa too-shy: Kiara Stewart

Tina too-young: Michaela Jones

Tanya too-tired: Taryn Mackey

Ushers: Justin Thompson, Nick Webster and Josh & Adaeze Alaeze

Advent candle reader/lighter: RJ Porter and Nick Webster

The Youth summarized the day in this way:

“Youth Sunday was definitely a unique experience. It was great having fun with everyone, and it seemed to go over well with the rest of the church community. We hope that we spread the word about the "Too-Too Syndrome" and that it opened some eyes as to what we can do for the community and the church, just as it opened ours. Laser Tag was a lot of fun too! Some of us had never played before. Even though some of us were not that good and lost pretty badly, we were lucky to have some stronger players on the same team and it

was amazing to see everyone compete with each other. We had a lot of fun working on the youth Sunday "performance" and the laser tag just made it an overall great day.”

January Calendar of Events:

December 27 – No meeting

January 10 – Youth Meeting
7– 8:30pm

January 24 – Youth Meeting
7–8:30pm

Future planning – February 12 – 14, Youth Retreat and skiing, Deep Creek

All Youth in grades 6th – 12th or ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend any Youth meeting or event. Hope to see you there!

Youth Fundraiser

God’s Creation calendars are still available.

You can purchase after each worship service, or by completing the order form below and your order will be mailed to you. (postage cost is 75 cents per calendar ordered)

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

of calendars: _____ at \$8/each = _____

Check should be made payable to LRUMC-Youth and mailed to:

LRUMC Church office
6622 Loch Raven Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21239

Any questions—please call the Youth Director, Jen Byrd, at 443-756-4000

Lost your job? Under-employed or unhappy in your present position? Wondering what to do next?

Loch Raven United Methodist Church will be offering a 3-week seminar to assist people in any of these situations.

The seminar will be led by an employment professional with over 30 years of experience, and offered free of charge to anyone in the community.

- Dates:** Wednesday January 13, 20 & 27th
- Time:** 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- Location:** Loch Raven United Methodist Church
6622 Loch Raven Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21239

Topics to be addressed will include:

- Finding employment opportunities
- Preparing effective resumes
- Securing an interview & interviewing techniques
- Dressing for success
- How to ask for the job
- Follow up

This seminar does not guarantee that we will find you a new career but can offer tips, suggestions, and directions to help you achieve your goals.

To register, please fill out and tear off below or call the church office at 410.825.0900.

LRUMC Employment Seminar:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____