

# The Spire



January 2013

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## New Members Class

I know that we have a number of people who have been attending worship and other church events on a regular basis, but who haven't made the decision to actually become a member at Loch Raven Church. We have also had a number of people who have asked me how one can become a member of LRUMC.

This is your opportunity. If you have been thinking about becoming a member of LRUMC or, if you just read this article, and began to think about it, or if you are just curious and have some questions about LRUMC then this is your opportunity.

The New Members Class usually happens one time during the year and this is it. We will be meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the downstairs parlor. If you don't know where that is all you need to do is hang around in the front of the sanctuary after the 11:00 service and someone will show you the way. You don't need to bring anything with you. There are no tests. Just bring yourself.

Write it on your calendar now. **The New Members Class is January 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM in the parlor.**

*Cliff*

## Let's Have a Talk

### Loch Raven, We Want to Hear from YOU!

On January 6, the first Sunday of the New Year 2013, we will have one worship service at 10:00 A.M., followed by a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Following the luncheon, we are asking that you please stay around for a conversation. Some might call it a "Town Hall meeting" or an "Open Forum". Others might call it a "Self-Assessment Session". Let's just refer to it as a "talk."

Rhoda Wilson (the Church Council Chairperson) and I would like to have an opportunity to listen to what your dreams are for Loch Raven Church. How well are we tracking as a church body? We would like to talk about how things are going, where we have been over the years, and where we are headed. It will give us an opportunity to learn more about Loch Raven Church. It will also give all of us an opportunity to learn about each other. So come prepared to share significant concerns **and** effective recommendations.

So there it is. Everyone is invited and we're sincerely asking EVERYONE to come. Begin the New Year with our 10:00 A.M. worship on January 6<sup>th</sup> (Epiphany Sunday), stay around for lunch at about 11:30 A.M. Then hang around so that we can have a talk (approximately ending around 1:30 P.M.). Maybe we will have an epiphanal moment-- a moment when God sheds His light on us and we are able to hear His voice.

See you there!

*Rhoda Wilson, Church Council Chair*  
*Cliff Webner, Pastor*

### *Inside This Issue ...*

New Youth Director	Page 2
Pastor's Message	Page 3
Family Ministries—Night of Books	Page 3
Request for Ushers	Page 4

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

## New Youth Director at LRUMC

We are pleased to announce the selection of John C. Mayden as the new Youth Director at LRUMC. The Staff Parish Committee has been working hard to complete the hiring process and had some wonderful candidates from which to choose. All of them would have done a fine job.

John is a 2007 graduate of Candler School of Theology and has a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University. He is also a graduate of Frostburg State University in 2004. John is employed full time as a social worker for Baltimore City since 2008. He also works part time as a Youth Director for Celebration Church on Monroe Street. John is 30 years old and has been married for four years. He and his wife live in Baltimore City.

**I would like to invite the youth and their parents to meet John on January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM in the Youth room.**

I would also like to express my appreciation for how the parents stepped up and worked with the youth through these last few months. Karen Jones has done a wonderful job with the kids, as well as a number of other parents. That is the kind of effort that moves a church forward. That is one of the things that makes Loch Raven Church the Greatest Church in the World!

Take care,  
*Pastor Cliff*

## Six New Year Resolutions

1. Forget the past and honor God more.
2. Live for Christ in the world.
3. Trust God with a strong faith.
4. Remain faithful to my church.
5. Witness to the lost.
6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.



*For surely*  
**I KNOW THE**  
**plans**  
*I have for*  
**YOU,**  
*says (the)*  
*Lord...*  
**TO GIVE YOU A**  
**future**  
**WITH**  
*Hope.*  
 Jeremiah 29:11, NRSV

## Cliff's Note

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*  
**Philippians 4:13**

As we head into this New Year, I was thinking about the challenges that we face in life. As I look ahead at my own life's challenges I find it useful to look back and remember what God has already brought me through. When I look back, I remember the people that God has allowed me to get to know.

I remember Bill Locklear. He was the Choir Director at Perry Hall UMC where I used to attend as a layperson. He asked me to sing in the choir when I never sang in a choir before. He asked me to play a trumpet solo when I hadn't played for twelve years. Bill was a teacher, an encourager, a friend. He knew how to push and pull the best out in people.

Bill died while I was in my first year of seminary. He had leukemia and battled with it for many years. I still remember this skeleton of a man coming into church, carrying a pillow to sit on, sitting down in the front row right in front of the pulpit just so he could hear my last sermon before I moved out of state.

After the service we had this conversation. He said, "Problems occur in everyone's life, but what separates us from others is how we go through them. Put your faith and trust in the Lord and he will provide you with full assurance and peace. Remember, you, and all that you have, are God's. Your life is not yours. You may own a home. It's not yours, but rather through God's grace he's allowed you to have it. God puts food in your mouth. God gives you children. They, too, are his. He knows what's best for you and, in his time, he may let you know."

The apostle Paul writes to the Philippian Church, "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

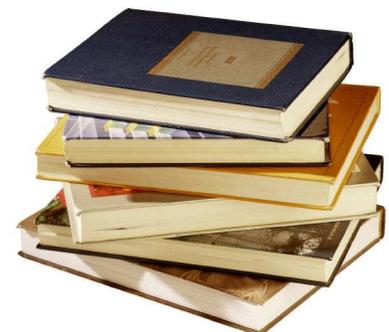
Like my friend Bill, Paul had been down the road and around the block more than once. He experienced adversity and prosperity, but no matter what the situation he knew that Christ had enough strength to see him through. No matter what the challenge, no matter what the change, Christ has the strength to see us through safely today.

Grace and peace,  
*Cliff*

## Family Ministries Presents a Night of Books, Books, and More Books

Come join us on Wednesday, January 23, for an evening of soup, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and good Books! We are hosting a Book Exchange and hope you will join us. Bring those books you have read and share them with others who may want to read them. Have a good review of a really good book? Feel free to share that too! We will make a craft or two and have a great evening talking about books. All books are welcome—fiction, non-fiction, comic books, children's books, teen/young adult books. Even Magazines, Cookbooks, Self Help Books! Opportunity is available to donate your books to a local free Book Exchange program. *The Free Book Thing* is a local program where you can drop off your used books and take home other books you may want to read.

Hope to see you with books in hand and bring a favorite dessert to share too! Sign Up outside Fellowship Hall!



## Ushers Wanted

Would you like to serve your church and your God? No meetings required! How about serving as an usher at one of our services. We ask that you sign up for a month at a time. If you wish to serve more than one month you are more than welcome. The job description is as follows:

- Arrive at church one-half hour before the service begins.
- Check sanctuary to make sure everything is in order.
- Stand in Narthex to greet church attendees and hand out bulletins.
- During the service remain in the Narthex to monitor the service.
- Count number of attendees in each service.
- Assist in taking the offering.
- After the service, pass through the sanctuary to check the pews and straighten hymnals, remove left over bulletins and other stray papers.
- Assists head usher in miscellaneous duties such as turning off lights, locking doors, communion, etc.

If there are four ushers at each service and all participate fully, the entire commitment is only about one hour and forty minutes a week. This is not too much to ask, so come out and join us. If interested, please contact Adrian Palazzi at 410-952-8890 or Michele Brown at the church office. Leave your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and desired month(s) you wish to participate. Our church will be a better place if all participate rather a few doing all the work.

Regards,  
Adrian W. Palazzi  
Head Usher



## From the Mailbox

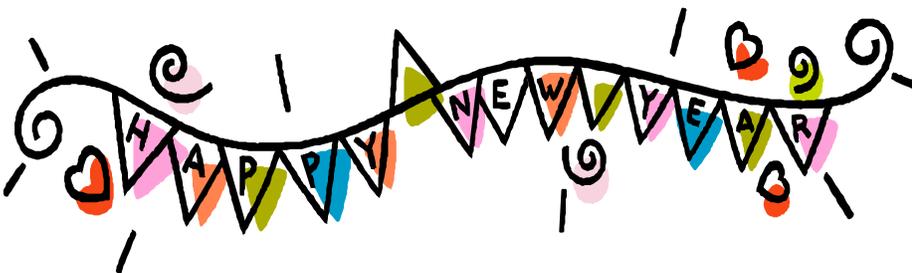
To my wonderful Loch Raven family,

Thank you for all your prayers for my mother, Retha Peters. She was very appreciative of each and every one. And thank you for your cards, kind words and sympathy at her passing. God truly blessed my sister, brother and me with a wonderful mother. Heaven is indeed rejoicing.

*Merrill Harrison*

We want to thank everyone who joined us for James' 21st birthday reception on 11/11. LRUMC was a big part of James' life. Thank you for helping us celebrate his life, and honoring his memory. We continue to be blessed by you. James was a wonderful son, brother, friend and teammate. We miss him every minute of every day, but we know we will see him again. It is the essence of our faith.

*Marcia & Gary Smith*



## Habitat for Humanity

By: James Manley

The last few weeks have been a great chance for me to participate in our church's missions. First, my wife and I enjoyed packing boxes for Samaritan's Purse, and then on December 1st the two of us, with Kathy Ruble and three others, worked at a Habitat site at 609 Dumbarton Avenue in Baltimore. It's so fulfilling to make a contribution: with Habitat we see the beautiful new homes that have been renovated, even though the burned out places across the street remind us that there is plenty more to do. It's great to be part of a caring church that is helping to make change in this world, even though the world always needs more.

I learned some things last week while on site with Habitat and I thought I would share them with you. Did you know that all program recipients have to put in 250 hours of "work equity" and go through a 50 hour class teaching them about budgeting and about doing repairs around the house? You probably know that the program is accessible only to the poor: people who, for example, are stuck in bad homes for which just paying rent takes them over 80 hours of work time. Still, Habitat doesn't give the houses away: they give people a 0% loan, and recipients pay for the house over 30 years. Thus, only people with some means of paying are considered. So there is no free lunch: this is far from a handout, and it's great to be part of giving people a hand up.

I'm so happy to be a part of our church's mission, reaching out to people who are stuck in different kinds of poverty, both in Baltimore through Habitat and around the world through Samaritan's Purse. Thanks for your support of the church and for our church's missions! I'm happy and blessed to be part of this community of faith and I hope you're feeling the same way. Have a great New Year!

## Operation Christmas Child Update

If you packed a shoe box or wrote a check to cover the mailing/handling of the boxes, a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in this ministry of Samaritan's Purse. We collected 82 boxes this year - a new record. This means 82 more smiling children across the globe who will be introduced to the Good News of Jesus. Thanks again for your support.

*Yvonne Horn*  
Missions Committee



## Birthdays

- 1 Laurie Collidge
- 2 Gregory Sinkler
- 7 Hannah Yeich
- 14 Scott Eshleman
- 15 Jessica Lautenschlager
- 16 Owen Williams
- 17 Katherine McKinney
- 21 Hortense Fauntleroy and  
Stephen Ferguson
- 22 Jim Wagner
- 25 Jamie Ferguson
- 26 Margaret Tracey and  
Joseph Caleb
- 27 Nancy Gillotti
- 29 Ev Dorfler and  
Carolyn Lutz

## United Methodist Women January Schedule

### “Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, January 7  
7:30 p.m.—Room 202  
Study: *Great People of the Bible*

Lesson 10: Daniel  
Study: Judy  
Devotion: Judy  
Hostess: Cheryl

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 8  
10 am—Parlor  
Study: Acts

**NO GENERAL MEETING**