

The Spire



January 2014

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

It's a New Year

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

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 85 boxes this year—a new record! This means 85 more smiling children across the globe who received the boxes will also be introduced to the Good News of Jesus. Thanks again for supporting this project.

Yvonne Horn
Missions Committee



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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 February issue is January 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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From the Mailbox

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake
November, 2013

To the members of Loch Raven United Methodist Church,

As a child, one of my favorite nights every year was Christmas Eve. There were people to see and gifts to receive, sure — but what I remember most were the luminaries placed out on the church driveway. As a wide-eyed schoolboy, I was fascinated with the open flames, and determined to keep them all lit.

Candles are everywhere during the holidays. From those driveway luminaries, to Menorah lighting ceremonies, to the decorative and worshipful—the flickers of flame seem to shine brighter during this time of year, carrying more authority, feeling more important. They stand as a beacon of hope, of remembrance and action. Fully engaged in the beauty of the holiday season, we often forget a candle's practical purpose of warmth and light.

Habitat for Humanity is working in Central Maryland every day to be a beacon of hope to those in need of decent, affordable housing. We are all blessed, but that can be awfully hard to see when a person is worried about a place to live. When shelter and warmth are no longer a worry, how much more joyfully we can then join in the holiday celebrations!

Thank you for making the holiday season bright for the people in your community. We are so grateful for your gifts of time, energy, and financial contributions to Habitat for Humanity. Your care for your brothers and sisters is inspiring, commendable, and all too necessary. We count on your continued support and trust that you will remain that beacon of hope for all those in need.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas,

Matt Herzberg
Faith Engagement Manager

We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of [people] willing to be coworkers with God

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cliff's Note

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart. -- Jeremiah 15:16

Have you ever noticed the way some people ring in the New Year? There are a lot of New Year's superstitions out there and many of them have to do with food. I remember some of my family's New Year's celebrations. The clock strikes twelve. We would kiss our spouse and then eat for the next hour. I especially remember the raw herring, which was always a tasty treat at 12:30 in the morning. I think it was supposed to bring good luck, but what it mostly brought was indigestion. I mean it could make you see the ghost of Christmas past.

Many New Years throughout the world are ushered in with food rituals. In the United States we not only eat herring, but honey, sardines, and salt as well. In Greece they eat a special type of bread. In Spain, the custom is to eat twelve individual grapes in the seconds leading up to the New Year. Anthropologists say that eating certain foods in order to change one's luck dates back to ancient Babylonia.

Jeremiah has a better New Year's idea for us. He wasn't really looking for good luck. He was looking for a good relationship with God. He, as God's prophet, was experiencing suffering and persecution. But he discovered God's word in a new way and it produced deep joy in his heart. The Scripture says, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." God's word brought new life to Jeremiah in the midst of trying times. He was hungry for it, even starving without it, so he devoured it. He ate it up so that it became part of him; the way food becomes part of us.

Now, as we enter into this New Year of 2014, I am not so sure what effect herring, bread, or grapes will have on your life. But I do know that if we rededicate ourselves to the study of God's word that it will have a positive effect on our relationship with God and, in turn, that will have a great effect on us. So, I challenge you this year, whatever your practice is now, to rediscover, to renew, and to rededicate yourself to the practice of studying God's word. It *will* be a source of nourishment for your New Year.

Grace and Peace,

Cliff



Birthdays

- 1 Laurie Collidge
- 2 Gregory Sinkler
- 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

United Methodist Women January Schedule

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, January 6

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Moments That Take*

Your Breath Away

Lesson 2

Study Leader: Judy

Devotions: Myra

Hostess: Leslie

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 7

10 am—Parlor

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 15

6:30pm—Covered Dish

Program—to be announced

How well do you know.....Ardith Luttrell

By: Marcia Smith (4th in a series of articles about long-time members)



Ardith Hash was born in a log cabin on October 23, 1926 in Mouth of Wilson, Virginia. She was the youngest of six children, three boys and three girls. Her sister Kate died at the age of two, before Ardith was born. Her remaining sister, Lucille and brothers Floyd, Richard and Raymond have also gone home to the Lord.

Ardith and her siblings were raised by their mother Bessie on a self-sustaining farm. They raised chickens, turkeys, pigs and cows which provided the meat for their table. They also raised their own vegetables.

She attended the Oak Hill Academy from the first grade until the twelfth grade. Oak Hill Academy is known for its Christian values and excellent basketball program (Carmello Anthony also attended Oak Hill Academy).

It was during her time at the Academy that Ardith started her faith journey. Missionaries from around the world would come to Oak Hill teaching and recruiting students to join them in their work. Ardith received four years of Bible training during this

time.

Ardith graduated in 1944 in a class of 21 students; her intention was to further her education after working to earn money for school. She moved to Baltimore to join her sister Lucille where she took a job with the Western Electric Company. She worked as a Punch Press Operator; she made those little plastic tips found on the end of phone cords.

It was during her time at Western Electric that she would meet George E. Luttrell, a Raw Materials Inspector, marine and her future husband. George served 4 years in Saipan and Iwo Jima and worked at Western Electric between stints in the service. They met in October of 1946 and after a whirlwind romance, they were married on February 22, 1947. Ardith continued to work at WE for another two years until she became pregnant with the first of their three children: Gary, Gail and Karen. They remained happily married until George's death in 1993.

Ardith eventually returned to work in 1963 after her children were all attending school. She worked part time for 23 years in the catalog department at Montgomery Wards at Eudowood Plaza (now Towson Market Place).

During the time that George and Ardith were living in Knettishell with their young family, they were visited by a charming young minister by the name of Carroll Doggett, who invited them to join a new Methodist Church, Loch Raven. Reverend Doggett recruited them along with some of their neighbors. Ardith and George were both excited about the church and became Charter members. They both taught Sunday School and served on the Administrative Board which is now known as the Church Council.

Ardith has continued her service to the church and its members by serving several terms on a variety of committees over the years. She is an active member of the Altar Guild and the Prayer Chain and enjoys spending time with members living at Pickersgill and Edenwald. She has also been seen driving various members in need of a ride to and from church.

Ardith is a very social person. She was part of a Sewing and Knitting Circle with three other members from the church and in the Bowling League. She also enjoys square dancing. She started square dancing in 1999 at Loch Raven Academy where she could be seen hanging out with those "Party Animals" Roy and Ev

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How well do you know.....Ardith Luttrell

(Continued from page 4)

Dorfler. They attended the program there until the space was needed for another program. She recently found a class at Pleasant Plains Elementary School, and is dancing once again.

As we talked about her years with the church, she shared with me a story that truly illustrates the power of prayer. In 1975 when her husband George was diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of 53, Ed DePrine organized a 24-hour prayer vigil where members of the congregation signed up and came into the church every hour for 24 hours to pray for him. She credits the vigil with his recovery.

When asked what she loves most about Loch Raven United Methodist Church, she responded, "the friendliness and caring of the congregation." When asked about what she would like to see for the future of the church, she thinks that it would be nice to have a committee to organize visits to the sick and the elderly and to follow up with former members. She would also love to see more young people at the church.

Ardith can be found on Sundays at the 11:00 a.m. service sitting on the right side facing the altar. If you have a few minutes, ask her about her childhood, growing up during the Depression, walking 2.5 miles to school up and down mountains, (yes, children really did this), churning butter and making soap. And ask her about being the Captain of her softball team during all four years of high school.

This church is full of really interesting people with interesting stories to tell; Ardith is one of them.

A New Year Wish

May the New Year bring us:

Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
 Enough trials to keep us strong;
 Enough hope 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.

Membership Updates

Deceased: Members

James Ferguson
November 24, 2013

Warren W. Baker
December 7, 2013

Address Unknown:

If you know the current address for the following member, please call the Church Office: Joyce Davis



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.