

The Spire



January 2015

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Sign In, Please

Why do we ask you to sign the pads each Sunday?

You may be surprised to know that just as attendance is taken at school and other meetings, we are required to record attendance numbers each week.

The entries serve several purposes. If we have a visitor, we can send them a thank you note for worshipping with us, and if they live in the area, we offer an invitation to join our fellowship. If we don't see you for a few weeks, we will reach out to you to see if there is anything you need. If someone would like to join the church, Pastor Cliff knows how to contact them. If a member has a new email address, mailing address, and/or phone number, we are able to update our records.

Please be neat so we can read what you write, include names of all family members, include last names. So, don't forget to *sign in, please!*



Our Mission Statement and 2015 Congregational Goals

At our November 2nd Charge Conference, we confirmed our church's Mission Statement:

Loch Raven United Methodist Church is a multicultural community of faith, called by God to be a living witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ by serving as stewards of God's gifts and blessings. We minister through worship, learning, fellowship, and mission to the community.

And set the following goals for 2015:

1. Outreach to the community through ministry to Abbottston Elementary School, by building a deeper relationship with the IMPROVE education program, conducting a community back-to-school supply donations, supporting various community mission projects, and by encouraging church engagement through various work teams, mission initiatives and ministry opportunities.
2. Strengthen congregational growth and discipleship through quality, relevant Bible studies, spiritual growth programs, and Sunday school classes.
3. Grow average worship attendance to at least 150 in 2015 by implementing formal programs to follow up with visitors and regular congregants who have missed at least three services and by receiving at least ten new members in 2015, and by exploring ways to increase attendance to 180 or more over the next three years.
4. Finalize plans for and begin installation of multimedia in worship.

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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 **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.

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Pastor - Cliff Webner

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

Website: www.LRUMC.org

It's a New Year

As we start 2015, please discard your 2014 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 2015 envelopes after January 1. If you have not picked up your new envelopes, they are available in the arcade.

Thank you,
Financial Assistants

Board of Child Care News

I would like to thank the congregation for your contributions to the Thanksgiving Baskets for the Board of Child Care. We collected 105 cans of green beans, 43 cans of cranberry sauce and 2 boxes of drink mix.

At the fall meeting we were provided information regarding the box tops and labels turned in to the Board of Child Care. During the past year, in addition to other school supplies, box top credits were used to purchase magnifying microscopes and sand and water tables for the Strawbridge School, which is located on the Board of Child Care campus. The Board of Child Care is expecting an additional \$2,500.00 for box tops in December. In addition, they have 50,000 labels banked for future purchases.

Thank you for your support of the Board of Child Care.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson



Our Mission Statement and 2015 Congregational Goals

(Continued from page 1)

5. Celebrate our multiculturalism through Awujoh, multicultural music, and small group studies of our heritage states/countries.
6. Maintain a balanced budget and pay our apportionments monthly and in full and conduct various fundraising events such as gift card sales, dinners, market days, etc.

With all of us working together and with God's help we will achieve our goals and help grow God's church.

The Surveys Are In

As of December 1, we received 84 completed surveys, for a response rate of 37%.

We are busy compiling the responses and will report the results in a future issue of the *Spire*.

Thank you to all who shared their very thoughtful opinions with us.

2015 Special Giving Sundays

United Methodist Church giving is about people working together to accomplish something bigger than themselves. In so doing, you can effect change around the world, all in the name of Jesus Christ. When you give on Special Sundays, you enable vital ministries that change the world, one life at a time. Please note our six Special Giving Sundays this year:

- Human Relations Day Sunday—January 18
- One Great Hour of Sharing—March 15
- Native American Ministries Sunday—April 19
- Peace With Justice Sunday—May 31
- World Communion Sunday—October 4
- United Methodist Student Day Sunday—November 29

Human Relations Day is celebrated on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. It is one of the six United Methodist Church's churchwide Special Sundays. Human Relations Day strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.



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.

JANUARY

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.

Membership Updates

ROOM CHANGE:

Jean Angle
Room 314

MARRIAGE:

Verna Wilson to Daniel Roman
November 28, 2014
Their new address is:
507 Eastview Terrace, Apt. 8
Abingdon, MD 21009
Phone: 443-858-9879

DEATHS:

Nancy Scheeler
November 18, 2014
Sally Tarr
December 5, 2014

January Birthdays

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

In Memoriam Sally Tarr

Our Organist, Sally Tarr, passed away last month from a heart attack. During the one year she was with us at LRUMC she was instrumental in leading our worship services with beautiful organ music as well as accompanying the choir. A wealth of knowledge and experience, she knew exactly what to do or say to help soloist and choir members alike; it didn't hurt that she was able to pretty much sight-read anything.

My last memory of her was the Christmas Caroling at the local laundromat right before our usual Thursday choir rehearsal. She directed us as we sang our joyful Christmas Carols to the waiting people. I have no doubt she's already organizing things up in heaven to make beautiful and wonderful shows and music. We miss you Miss Sally.

Samuel Doo-sik Chin
Music Director



If you are not receiving emails from us, please take a minute to provide us with your email address. You can send it to the church office at: *info@lrumc.org*. What will we do with it, you may wonder? You will receive notices of special events and meeting notices if you serve on a committee. We won't flood your inbox. We do not share email addresses with outside organizations.



Thank You From SPRC

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee would like to thank everyone who helped out during Pastor Cliff's recent surgery and recuperation. Special thanks go out to those individuals who brought us a special message each Sunday: Rev. Ann Parsons Adams, Joyce Dixon, Rev. Wayne Harting, Jonathan Wilson, Brian Miller, Rev. Hank Thompson and Rev. Cindy Toenniessen; and to Brian Miller and Jean Oberia for visiting members who were hospitalized. An even bigger THANK YOU goes out to Myra Wagner who kept the office running smoothly and seamlessly. Myra, you are the *wind beneath our wings!*

Our church is truly blessed; we wish you all a safe, healthy, blessed New Year as we continue to reflect and radiate God's love in our community.

We would also like to share with you a letter from Rev. Hank Thompson:

I want to thank you and the good folks of Loch Raven UMC for the generous gratuity for leading the service on Sunday, November 2. Please know I have made a contribution in the amount of the gratuity (\$100) to the Rett Syndrome Foundation.

Most people are unaware of this horrible disease. Rett syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects girls almost exclusively. It is characterized by normal early growth and development followed by a slowing of development, loss of purposeful use of the hands, distinctive hand movements, slowed brain and head growth, problems with seizures, and intellectual disability. In its first stage, the disease attacks girls usually between the ages of 6 and 18 months, and as the child grows the disease progresses with multiple physical and intellectual disabilities. Many girls suffer the effects of the disease for the remainder of their lives. Rett syndrome is estimated to affect one in every 10,000 to 15,000 live female births and in all racial and ethnic groups worldwide.

I share this information with you because very few people know anything about Rett syndrome, much less know it exists, and yet the statistics are astounding. I knew nothing of this disease until recently when my daughter, LeNora, began working as a marketing agent for the foundation. I was absolutely awestruck when she shared information about the disease. I hope that within the immediate future the general public will be better informed and educated regarding this dreadful disease.



Six New Year Resolutions:

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

*Each day is
a new life.
Seize it. Live it.*



LAMENTATIONS 3:22, NRSV



A Special
THANK YOU



Many thanks to folks who assisted in making the 3rd annual Loch Raven Festival of the Arts possible, to those involved in the planning, setting up, displaying their art, attending, working at the Festival, donating auction items, cleaning up, and to Sharon Neumann and the Church Council for their support as this arts experience brought in new performing groups, new visitors and new funding for the church.

A huge Festival thank you to Maria, Ed and Doris for serving on the planning committee and generating a fun, enthusiastic and exciting spirit for this outreach event, to Myra for her scheduling help, email blasts and bulletin inserts, to Aberash, Cecelia, Morgan and Improve kids and staff for showcasing their art, to Cecelia and the Harvills for providing art connections to Jolin and Jennifer Sherman and their art, to Nancy for including last minute entries into the *Spire*, to Janae, Owen, Sandi Cuthbert and Sandy Moltz, for manning the Festival Café, to Erin for bringing back the gorgeous sounds of the Baltimore Flute Choir and to Cathy and the LRUMC Memorial Handbell Choir a big BRAVO for its performance and providing folks the opportunity to ring bells for the first time as it highlighted one of the goals of this event of providing new exposure to the arts. If you were one of the first time bell ringers, as you now know how much fun and easy it is to ring bells and create music, think about joining the Handbell Choir!

A thank you to folks participating for the first time—Colleen Carr and her artfun baby burp cloths, photographer Jennifer Sherman, Gail Lee and young artists at The Children's Home, the O'Connor School of Irish Dance, Gregory Orosz, flutist and Farshid Esmali, classical guitarist whose artistic endeavor was featured last month on WJZ-TV, and to my musical touring partner Ellis Woodward.

If you missed this year's Festival, please join with us in 2015!

Since I first wrote this final 2014 Spire Festival article, I find with heart heavy news of the morning that a rewrite is needed. One of our very talented church artists, Sally Tarr, displayed her beautiful needlepoint work at this year's Festival and in 2013. She had a wonderful story with each piece. There was one piece that was very special to her and for folks that knew her family and its role in our church's history, I wanted to share it with you. She created a beautiful needlepoint piece of roses and she said the design she selected gave a 3D look. Each rose represented a member of her family and as she pointed at each rose and said who it represented, she shared remembrances of their time here at church. Sally said it was good to be "home" here at Loch Raven. As I am sure many of you have been thinking these past 24 hours, I'm thinking why is she no longer with us, why is there now a very unexpected absence of someone who was sharing for such a brief time not only her musical talents but also her faith and the basis for her faith, which is her parents and involvement in LRUMC. I'm thinking perhaps her short time with us was to show how involvement in church can shape our lives, guide our lives and give us a sense of peace and love. Loch Raven Church was "a comfortable place" for her, a church family, and for all of you reading this, I hope Loch Raven Church provides you that same sense of joy as she had for the church, one that will keep you connected, give you a home for growing your faith and always make you smile as she did when talking about Loch Raven Church.

Debi Wynn

United Methodist Women January Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, January 5

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Moments That Take
Your Breath Away*

Lesson 7

Study Leader: Sandi

Devotions: Sandi

Hostess: Sharon & Linda

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 6

10 am—Parlor

NO GENERAL MEETING

The Year

The Year is closed,
the record made,

The last deed done,
the last word said.

The memory alone remains
Of all its joys, its griefs,
its gains.

And now with purpose
full and clear,

We turn to meet another
year.

—*Robert Browning*

Operation Christ- mas Child Update

If you packed a shoe box or made a donation 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 68 boxes this year. This means 68 more smiling children across the globe who receive the boxes will also be introduced to the Good News of Jesus. Thanks again for supporting this important and meaningful project.

Yvonne Horn

Missions Committee

Happy New Year ♪ *Happy New Year* ♪ *Happy New Year*

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.

