

The Spire



June, 2009

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Summer Schedule

Our summer schedule begins on June 7 and runs through the end of August, with Sunday worship at 8:30 and 10 a.m. During the summer months, worship hymns will be chosen from your favorites, voted on during worship in May.

Music Sunday with guest preacher, the Rev. Carroll Doggett

Music Sunday this year is June 7, and our musicians have been preparing for a special day. The message will be brought by the Rev. Carroll Doggett, founding pastor of LRUMC. Plan to be present for this joyous celebration in worship.

June Communion

Since the first Sunday in June is music Sunday this year, the sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed on the second Sunday, June 14, at both services.

Celebrate Summer with Sizzlin' Summer Nights

Once again, this year, the Family Ministries Committee (FMC) will celebrate summer in style with Sizzlin' Summer Nights! There has been great success over the past two years with these Wednesday night events, and we hope to get even more people involved this year. The committee will sponsor a variety of events for all ages, and congregation members are encouraged to bring friends and family to join in on the fun. We will be bringing back some of the most popular events, so mark your calendars early!

6/17- Sizzlin' Summer Nights BBQ kick off!

6/24- Movie Night—"Hoosiers"

7/1- Bowling (10 pin and duck pin)

7/8- Ice cream social & Jeopardy!

7/15- Game Night (bring your favorite board or card game to play and share)

7/22- Christmas in July

8/5- Softball

8/12- Softball rain date

8/19- SSN Close Out Cookout

More details about each event will be posted in the Sunday bulletins, so keep on the lookout!

June's events will begin after schools let out, with the first event being the Opening BBQ kick off on June 17th. The FMC

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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 September issue is **Sunday, August 9, 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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Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office.

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org

Child Care Provider Needed

After several years of giving loving care to the youngest members of our community of faith, Jonee Wilson, will be leaving her position here as Child Care Provider at LRUMC. In August, she will journey to Nashville, Tennessee where she will pursue an advanced degree at Vanderbilt University.

Jonee presides over our nursery on Sunday mornings, and her move requires us to search out another loving soul to tend to God's smaller people at our church. This is a part-time position, 4 hours per week, beginning Sunday, August 2. Anyone who has interest or questions about the position should contact Merrill Harrison, SPRC chair, or Pastor Gayle as soon as possible.

"I am
the
true
vine ..."



John 15:1

United Methodist Women June Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, June 1
Meet for Dinner
6:30 pm at the Peppermill

Phyllis Downes Circle

Wednesday, June 3
Meet for Lunch
12 Noon at Pappas Restaurant

Ellen Hoover Circle

No Meeting

NO GENERAL MEETING

Celebrate Summer with Sizzlin' Summer Nights

(Continued from page 1)

will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, paper products, drinks, and most importantly, entertainment. Guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. For movie night, on June 24th, we will be viewing the movie "Hoosiers," an uplifting story of a small town Indiana basketball team who defies the odds to become top contenders for the State Championship. Popcorn and drinks will be provided, and snacks will be offered at the concession stand. We are looking forward to a great summer and we hope each and every one of you can come and join in the fun!

Saying Good-bye and Hello

Dear Friends,

It's a time of saying good-bye and hello on our staff here at LRUMC.

May 17 was Nick Bergin's last Sunday with us. Nick came on board the first Sunday of February in 2007. The choir knew he was a keeper when he got in a zinger on Judy Zahren, our Music Director at the time at his second choir rehearsal. Through time and shared experience, we have grown to love Nick and he has grown to love us.

Now Nick is heading to Indiana, where he will study and practice for a master's degree, forge new friendships, and find another part of the Christian community with which to worship and grow. Our good-byes are full of sadness and also anticipation.

On May 24, we welcomed with joy our new organist, Song Yi Park. It's a hello filled with confidence that God will bless us all in our time together, but it will be our experiences of worship and working together, of sharing a meal and a laugh, of offering support and growing together that will create a relationship of mutual blessing. Nick knows us and Song Yi, and assured us all that we would love one another, and we will.

God's horizons are always larger than ours. We often prefer to stay where things are known and familiar, but God has other plans. A young pianist-turned-

organist from Texas and a very diverse congregation of God's people in Baltimore have engaged in ministry together. And now, that ministry will be changed and enhanced by what God shares through the person and music of a gifted musician from Korea.

At the end of the summer, another member of our staff, Jonee Wilson, will set out on a new adventure as she begins advanced graduate studies at Vanderbilt University. It's a big step for her, and we will trust God to provide a Christian community that will surround her with love and support, as we will also welcome someone else who will love our small children with Christ-like love.

Jesus said hello to his disciples in calling them, and then good-bye to them as well when he ascended to be with God. It was all at the right time, God's time. Paul said hello to congregations that he started, and good-bye as he moved on and left others to lead. It was at the right time, God's time.

May we also trust God in our hellos and good-byes, that the time is right, God's time. When we can't see what's ahead, we are most open to God's leading.

Blessings+

Pastor Gayle

Youth Group News

A big THANK YOU goes out to Matt Price and Nick Webster for representing the youth group at the Garden party. We were told that they were a big help.

Bake Sale for Habitat is still in the process of being rescheduled. Updates will be communicated through the church bulletin.

Thank you Ms. Rachel White for stepping up to volunteer with the youth group this summer. Rachel was a former youth group member and now that she has finished college, is back in town and eager to help out wherever she can. Thank you Rachel!

This summer the youth will be participating in the weekly Sizzlin' Summer Nights activities.

Events for the Summer:

June 20

8am - 12pm

Car Wash - At the Exxon station located at Goucher and Putty Hill Roads

June 28

Youth attending an Orioles game

July 18

Encounter Event

All-day outdoor Youth retreat event held at Manidokan (a conference-sponsored event)



We want to thank everyone who contributed to the May ACTC Food Drive. We are constantly amazed at the generosity of our congregation. No matter how many times help is requested, the response has been as always tremendous.

The Missions Committee

Kneeling Cushions for the Altar Rail in the Sanctuary

At a recent meeting, the worship committee discussed the fact that although many in our congregation would like to kneel, our kneeling space is not padded and prohibits some from kneeling. The worship committee would like to know if there is someone with the ability to make kneeling cushions for the altar rail. We would provide materials if someone would take it as their ministry to make the kneeling cushions. If this is a ministry for which you are gifted and called, please contact worship committee chair, Patti Ferguson.

**Loch Raven United Methodist Church
Education Department
would like you to join us for:**

Camp E.D.G.E

Experience & Discover GOD Everywhere

Vacation Bible School

July 26th – 30th
6:30pm nightly

A lite meal will be served at 6pm.
Free will offering will be taken.
Ages 2 – 99, All are welcomed!

There is no fee, but pre-registration is preferred. Please complete the following information below and return to the church office.

Name: _____ age _____

Name: _____ age: _____

Name: _____ age: _____

Outreach/ Evangelism

Stuff You Should Know

Going Green

Adopting just one of these ideas this summer will make a lasting difference to our world.

Rein in Energy Use

Make a habit of turning off lights not in use. The flip of a switch not only saves energy—and oil, natural gas, or coal mined from the earth—it saves money on electric bills.

Recycle

According to research from Oberlin College, if every American household recycled just one out of ten plastic bottles used, we'd keep 200 million pounds of plastic out of landfills every year.

Think Green Outside

Help keep pesticides and herbicides out of local waterways, where chemicals harm local wildlife and pollute groundwater. Instead, opt for eco-friendly lawn alternatives such as cutting grass higher and leaving grass

clippings on the lawn. (Tall grass crowds out weeds and shades grassroots, and clippings naturally fertilize the ground.) Or use organic fertilizers or compost to keep your lawn healthy.

Buy Local Foods

Buying locally grown foods—apples from a nearby orchard or potatoes from a local farmers' market—helps reduce both fuel consumption and greenhouse gas pollution. While seasonal vegetables are relatively easy to find at local markets, you can also challenge yourself to find local dairy products, meat, and more.

—*Carrie Madren, Maryland*

Mark your calendar for the **Loch Raven Community Health Fair** to be held on Saturday, October 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Northwood Ap-pold Community Academy, 4417 Loch Raven Boulevard. Volunteers will be needed.

Blessings,

Katherine McKinney

Membership Updates

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Alexander Yonych
Emeritus at Pikesville
Senior Assisted Living Facility
1840 Reisterstown Road
Pikesville, MD 21208

TRANSFER:

Keith Lautenschlager
Transferred on May 8, 2009 to:
The Evangelical Lutheran
Church of The Prince of Peace

NEW ORGANIST

(starting on May 24, 2009)

Song Yi Park
510 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

DECEASED:

Non-Member
Service by Pastor Robert Fringo
Robert D. Fahnestock

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

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

Pauline Ahalt
Jermaine Carter
Amanda Diaz
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Marion Redd-Roberts
Beatrice Welsh

Bravo LRUMC Musicians!

After preaching at LRUMC in April, the Rev. Rod Miller told Pastor Gayle that the music at our church was just wonderful; that Jennifer sang as beautifully as anyone he'd ever heard, that Nick was incredibly talented and versatile and can play anything, and that the congregation sings with joy, enthusiasm and faith. Methodists have been a singing people since the days of John and Charles Wesley. Let's all keep making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

From the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

I would like to express to all of you my deep gratitude for your support and encouragement in the last two years. I have grown so much at Loch Raven, both as a Christian and as a musician, and I feel truly blessed to be a part of this community of faith.

Serving here has given me a wonderful sense of purpose and direction. Moreover, it has sparked within me a zeal for music ministry. Indeed, my understanding and appreciation of the pastoral side of music-making has flourished here, and this is something that I find very exciting. Your words of thanksgiving have been an essential part of this process. They have helped me to develop self-confidence, to broaden my musical horizons, and to understand the value of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." I hope to spend the rest of my life doing just that.

I have so much to thank you for – you have been great role models, driven me home, fed me, made me laugh, invited me into your homes, supported me emotionally, guided me spiritually, written me cards, and so much more. I don't know how I would have managed the last two years without you all, and I will truly miss you when I'm gone. I wish you all of God's blessings in the years to come.

With love and gratitude,

Nick

Dear friends in Christ,

At my one month check up, my surgeon and his staff agreed that I was doing remarkably well recovering from my knee replacement surgery and that I was way ahead of schedule with my recovery. I told him that many people had prayed for me, but also for him!

I am grateful for your prayers, your many cards (who knew how many cards had yellow labs and golden retrievers?), your calls, meals delivered, and your patience as I eased back into a full schedule again. You have reflected the light of God to me, and I have been blessed.

Pastor Gayle



Sunday, June 21



Stars and Stripes

Since the early 1800s various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949 that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn't have a standardized flag until 1912. And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.

God gave us life. What we do with it reveals our attitude toward the Giver.

—Charles Ferrell

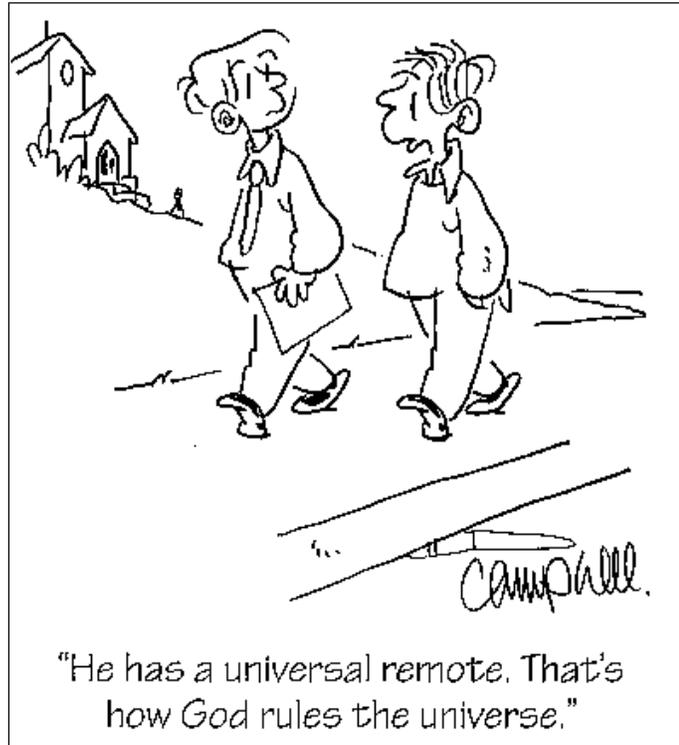
“Decomposing” Takes Time

Jesus, who often escaped to a deserted place with his disciples, knew that decomposition takes time. The making of good, rich, life-giving compost, for example, takes time. “You can’t hurry compost for the same reason you can’t hurry love and you can’t hurry a soufflé,” explains James Gleick, author of *Faster*. “The biochemistry has its own inherent place.” Likewise, grandchildren take time, learning a foreign language takes time, the testing of new drugs takes time, and vacations that truly enable us to rest, relax and recreate take time.

Disciples of Jesus today should recognize the need for the deserted place. It’s a timeless place—a place in which long books can be read, epic movies can be watched, endless prayers can be offered, and deep thoughts can be pondered. It’s a place of Sabbath-keeping and rest, renewal and relaxation, silence and inspiration. It’s a place to be at ease, to become rich and fertile and mature.

—Adapted from *Homiletics*

*God promises a
safe landing, not
a calm passage.*



United Methodist Women’s Annual Flea Market

**Saturday, June 6 (rain or shine)
9 a.m.—1 p.m.**

To reserve a space for \$10.00 contact:

Contact: Nancy Gillotti—410-823-5187 or
Nancy Harvill—410-828-8271