

# The Spire



June, 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## New Logo

Correspondence from the church will have a new look going forward on our newly redesigned letterhead. Through our process of looking at who we are as LRUMC for the past couple of years, we have come up with a new logo for our church and a descriptive vision of who we are. The logo incorporates the United Methodist symbol and the variety of our multicultural congregation, and is a visual depiction of the vision of being “a multicultural community of faith reflecting the light of God.”

Our own Seth Thomas did several draft drawings for us, using the ideas presented in various meetings and conversations. His concept was approved last fall at our charge conference, and Sharon Neumann’s friend, Dorothy Lasky, turned that drawing into computer art and worked with the printer to get it into the right format.

We hope to soon be able to use the image and vision on reusable shopping bags, church t-shirts or sweatshirts and the like. Thanks to everyone who has help with this process.

## Board of Trustees Repairs and Improvements Update

The Trustees have been very busy making repairs and improvements to the church. The exterior lights on the building have been repaired providing better illumination of the parking lot in the evening. Toilets have been replaced with higher ADA approved units (taller toilets) in all of the restrooms except the one at the end of the hall on the lower level near the day-care. The replacement toilet there is regular height. The counter top in the ladies restroom on the lower level of the building has also been replaced. Lights in the exit signs in the hallways have been replaced and Fick Brothers roofers have been here to inspect and make minor repairs to the roof. The paneled wall in the fellowship hall has been covered with drywall as we begin the planned renovations to that area of the church. The deteriorating

fence at the main entrance to the church has also been replaced. Last but not least the outside of the church looks great because of the hard work of the Garden Party volunteers. Have a wonderful summer!



**June – August**  
8:30 & 10 a.m.

**Holiday weekends**  
**July 3 and September 4**  
one service at 10 a.m.

There is no children’s Sunday school in the summer, but nursery care is available at all Sunday services for young children .

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

**Website:** [www.lrumc.org](http://www.lrumc.org)

## Habitat for Humanity

The United Churches coalition is actively building on Jefferson Street. Some of our folks have already participated as volunteers, and others will be on site on June 25th. If you'd like to volunteer on site, please contact Dick Annis-Forder (410.825.2039 or [annis.forder@verizon.net](mailto:annis.forder@verizon.net)). Contributions are also needed toward LRUMC's \$5000 share in the cost of the build. We have about \$3500 from individual gifts and a part of the missions budget, but about \$1500 is still needed. Please mark any gifts for "Habitat for Humanity." Thank you.

## Favorite Hymns

As the *Spire* is being written, many of you have voted for some favorite hymns. With two Sundays left to vote, there have been 90 different hymns selected so far, 67 from our large *UM Hymnal* and 23 from *The Faith We Sing*. Everything is on the list; old favorites, contemporary praise songs, Christmas carols and all the rest. Come to worship this summer and hear your favorites. Our singing is an offering to God and a gift to each other. Thanks for voting!



The Trustees would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who assisted in making the Garden Party on May 7<sup>th</sup> an overwhelming success. It was a beautiful sunny morning and the volunteers set aside time to beautify the "House of the Lord," our magnificent church. The volunteers worked very hard at tasks which included trimming shrubbery, planting flowers, pulling weeds and cutting down trees, just to mention a few of the activities. We would like to personally thank our youthful volunteers who were truly dedicated. Thanks to Sandi Cuthbert for providing the delicious lunch.

Sincerely,  
*The Board of Trustees*

## Boiler Fund Update

The boiler fund to date has received \$43,154.00 toward the \$73,000.00 cost of the new boiler. Please continue to contribute, as you are able, during the summer so that we can retire the balance.





Dear Friends,  
This summer, Dick and I will be checking off one of

the items on our "bucket list." That term became popular after the Morgan Freeman/Jack Nicholson movie of the same name, and refers to those things a person wants to make sure to do before he/she dies.

We're going to Alaska. Dick had always thought he'd like to go, which I didn't know until fairly recently, and I... well I was raised by Jim Annis. A word of explanation is necessary about that.

My Dad was born in 1929, the year the stock market crashed, and was the oldest of 5 living in a very small town in Indiana. He was a good student and wanted to go to college, and in fact did begin an engineering program at the University of Evansville, but left after one year feeling that, as the oldest, he needed to go to work and help support the family in tough financial times.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey, which later became a part of government agency NOAA, was recruiting, and before long, Dad was working in surveying and mapping in interesting places. My favorite stories as a child were of the early days of his career, living in a tent in Alaska. I shiver just to think of it!

I'm not sure how many of us have actual written bucket

lists, but for all of us there are things we'd like to do and see and experience. Some of us are really good at procrastinating, putting things off until later, always believing that later will come. But the truth is that later, tomorrow, isn't promised. God's gift of life comes to us one day at a time.

So we're raiding our savings and going to Alaska this summer so I can see some of those places my Dad told me about when I was growing up, and Dick dropped everything, along with Cheryl Wagner-Koogler and 8 others, because he'd never gone to help someone after a tornado before.

Jesus said that he came that we might have life and have it abundantly. That abundant life isn't measured in terms of what we have, but in how well we use the gift of each day granted to us.

So dust off your list and get started. See something new, volunteer to help someone, learn a language or a new game or how to do something on the computer, practice a musical instrument, attend a concert or a play, attend a community meeting, go to a new place, reach out to a new person; in short, stretch. God will provide all the elastic necessary so that you won't break, but only grow.

Happy Summer!

*Pastor Gayle*

## The Fire of the Spirit

The presence of the Spirit of



God is often symbolized in the Bible by fire. Moses, for example, saw a burning bush from

which God called to him (Exodus 3:2-6).

In the New Testament, fire is said to have "rested" on each of the believers gathered together on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

It has been common for many believers to talk of feeling something like an electrical current or a burning sensation when they have encountered God. For example, John Wesley, Methodism's founder, spoke of feeling his heart "strangely warmed" as he attended a worship service one Sunday evening.

Those who have had such experiences feel compelled to share the Good News of Christ with others. Someone said that "a burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue." The flame of faith inside one Christian is likely to start a fire in the hearts of others when the message is shared. The fire of the Spirit in a single person can kindle a fire within many others. The compulsion to speak about the love of God can lead others to the wholeness that comes with salvation.

## Imagine No Malaria

Malaria is a parasite that is transmitted to humans through the bite of the female anopheles mosquito, which feeds at night. The parasite enters the bloodstream, multiplies in the liver and returns to the bloodstream, attacking red blood cells.

Early symptoms of malaria are fever, chills, headache and nausea. Left untreated, malaria causes convulsions, coma, organ failure and death.

*Imagine No Malaria* is an effort of The United Methodist Church to raise \$75 million to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. This is a comprehensive approach to beating malaria through prevention, education, communication and treatment.

We will engage the passion of 11.5 million United Methodists worldwide to empower an entire continent to achieve a sustainable victory over malaria.

We are making a difference. Today a child dies every 45 seconds from malaria; just a short time ago, it was every 30 seconds. The clock is slowing down. The number of deaths per year has dropped from 1 million to 800,000.

While malaria has largely been eradicated in the U.S., between 350 million and 500 million people are still infected each year, mostly in Africa.

Malaria is a disease of poverty. It severely affects those who cannot afford treatment or have limited access to health care, leading to a detrimental effect on attendance at workplaces and schools.

Malaria is both preventable and treatable. There is currently a plan to eliminate malaria in our lifetime.

Insecticide-treated mosquito nets are a simple, cost-effective way to prevent malaria, but nets are only part of the solution. To overcome malaria, we must continue to support the most effective prevention methods, while also improving education about the disease, establishing community-based malaria-control programs, conducting communications outreach through radio, and revitalizing hospitals and clinics to improve treatment across the African continent.

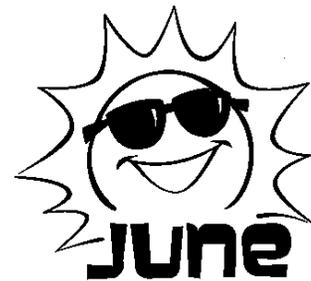
Global health is a major focus for The United Methodist Church, which has more than 11.5 million members internationally and is in mission in more than 125 countries. For more than 160 years the denomination has been a key player in the fight against malaria, operating hospitals, clinics and mission centers across Africa.

Social holiness has always been a hallmark of who we are as United Methodists. John Wesley encouraged his followers to live like Jesus — to reach out to those on the

fringes of society, heal them and send them back into their community for a greater good.

We are in this fight, and we will win it. We will save millions of children's lives, making sure these smiling faces see a bright future.

To celebrate Father's Day, consider making a donation in honor or in memory of a father. Watch the bulletin for details.



### United Methodist Women

#### June Schedule

*Prepared by Betty Shock*

**“Women in Christ” Circle**  
Monday, June 6  
Meet for dinner—6:30 p.m.  
at Basta Pasta in Timonium

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Thursday, June 9  
Meet for lunch—12 Noon  
at Pappas

#### NO GENERAL MEETING

Flea Market  
Saturday, June 4  
9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Spaces—\$15.00  
To reserve a space, call:  
410-823-5187 or  
410-828-8271

## United Methodist Women In the News

A recent edition of the *United Methodist Women News* featured an article highlighting the role played by the Hawaii-based Susannah Wesley Community Center in the “biggest human trafficking case in U.S. History...currently in federal court in Honolulu, Hawaii. A United Methodist Women-affiliated mission, the Susannah Wesley Community Center played a major role in helping the victims find legal support, and the Center continues service with ongoing aid.”

Read the complete article online at:

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/articles/item/index.cfm?id=356>, or if you would like a copy of the article, contact Nancy Williams.



**Father's Day**  
**Sunday, June 19**

## Special Thanks for Support of Board of Child

Once again, the congregation of Loch Raven has shown their support of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. You donated almost 100 pounds of cookies this year. Thank you!

Your donations for Thanksgiving last fall helped the Auxiliary prepare 216 baskets to distribute to the families of the children receiving the services of the Board of Child Care. They anticipate that they will need 225 baskets this year.

Your continued support of the Board of Child Care is appreciated.

*Leslie Christopher*  
Key Person

## Membership Updates

### Deceased Members:

Carolyn Yvonne Hax  
4/5/11



Church members collected 828 soup labels and 100 box tops for the Board of Child Care this past year. These are used for educational extras. Please keep up the good work!

## Mission Is Everywhere

The word “mission” often implies traveling to another country to teach or work. The work done in foreign missions is important, of course, but we can’t all make the trip. What we can do, however, is be faithful servants where we live. Mission is about putting the face and name of Jesus in front of those who don’t know him. We can do that in many ways — any place and any day.



**FLAG DAY**  
**June 14**