

# The Spire



Summer 2016

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Annual Conference 2016

The 232nd session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held on June 1 through June 4 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. It is here that 631 churches will gather for worship, fellowship, learning and holy conferencing, as they conduct the business of the church. At this Annual Conference we will say goodbye to our Bishop, Marcus Matthews, who will be retiring. The funds that were collected for his retirement gift will be presented. Thank you for your thoughtful giving towards the African University Fitness Center in honor of our Bishop.

Guests are welcome to join us at Annual Conference. If you would like more information you can visit the Conference website at [www.bwcumc.org](http://www.bwcumc.org) or contact me as your Lay Member to Annual Conference. Look for an article on Conference in a future *Spire*.

*Carole Webner*  
Lay Member to  
Annual Conference

## The Summer of Hope

*And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

—Romans 5:3-5

Do you remember when you were a child and made a wish on the first star that appeared in the evening sky? “Star light, star bright...I wish I may, I wish I might...have the wish I wish to-night.” And how many birthday candles have you blown out, with friends and family urging you, “Make a wish!”?

Once adulthood arrives, “wishes” are often relegated to day-dreams or packed away as silliness. But hope—that’s something else entirely!

“Hope is the cord that connects us to God, the very thing that enables God to work in our lives” (Mary Lou Carney from an article called *Hold on to Hope* in Guideposts magazine). Repeatedly the Psalmist points to the power and benefits of hope. “No one who hopes in you [God] will ever be put to shame” (Psalm 25:3). “The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love” (Psalm 33:18). “Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God” (Psalm 42:11).

Hope goes beyond wishing; hope is believing, expecting, anticipating a reality yet to come. The word *hope* is found 130 times in the King James Version of the Bible. It is often linked to the words *peace* and *faith* and sometimes *love*.

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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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**Visit us on FACEBOOK**

## A Church Family Special Event

As I was going up the stairs to the auditorium on the night of the spaghetti dinner/talent show, the aroma of spaghetti sauce emanating from the kitchen, in front of me was one of the committee members in her black and white serving attire and she was balancing a large tray of food as she climbed step by step. I was wishing I had my camera as these are the behind the scenes moments of work that folks don't see for producing an event. The setting up of tables and chairs and table décor and the shopping and prep of the food for cooking are all unseen but important pieces of the event.

The entertaining moments were in motion the minute folks walked in the door and smelled the delicious food preparation led by Doris and were greeted by our greeters, then up to the ticket table and onto the hostess, continuing throughout the evening. Servers wearing the black and white offered a classy appeal to the proceedings. Everyone sharing talents during the entertainment segments brought something different to the stage for a fun evening.

Many thanks to all for contributing to the success of this enjoyable entertaining evening. Thanks to Patti and Maria for shopping for the supplies, to Myra for her pre-event help and reminders, to Sam for planning a fun choir finale and to accompanists Patty and Judy. Furniture moving muscle was provided by Edward, Ron and Patti on Friday and Saturday and also a huge thanks to two IMPROVE boys, Joshua and Osbourne, who helped me move tables back to the first floor on Tuesday. Thanks to IMPROVE Director Viola Watson and TJ for their assistance with stage and sound set up, to the Fundraising Committee and their families' help with greeting, ticket taking, serving and food running, and to the Miller's granddaughter who offered to help when she arrived at the event. Her floor-to-floor running was very much appreciated. And a thanks to the unknown toy mover whom I discovered after church the following morning had moved toys from the second floor hallway back to their place, something I had planned to do following the service. And success would not be possible without a thank you to church members who encouraged their families and friends to attend! Folks attending enjoyed this lively evening of food and fellowship. And the fellowship continued Sunday after church as folks purchased leftovers and enjoyed time together as they ate in Fellowship Hall. Many thanks for a job well done! Until next year's night of Italian food and festivities...

*Debi Wynn*



## The Summer of Hope

(Continued from page 1)

**Beginning Sunday, June 26**, we will enter into what I am calling “The Summer of Hope.” We will spend time each Sunday morning in worship throughout the summer learning about the hope that God gives to us. I think you will find it to be very uplifting to spend time with hope. Invite your family, friends, and maybe even a stranger or two to join us for **“The Summer of Hope” at Loch Raven UMC.**

Your pastor, Cliff



## The Story of the Fourth of July

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776 as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation.

But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776).

It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775).

And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes.

## Share Your Talents

A talent is worth only what you do with it. Imagine your talent as a plain bar of iron that's worth about \$5. That same bar of iron, when made into horseshoes, would be worth more than \$10. If made into needles, it would be worth around \$3,500. And if turned into balance springs for watches, it's worth would become over \$250,000.

What is your talent, and how are you using it?

## A Moment for Reflection

Wayne Harting

A common assumption among otherwise well-meaning Christians is that the New Testament is actually all the Bible we need. It is assumed that, except for the Psalms and maybe the story of creation at the beginning, we could just let the rest go. We would have a smaller book to carry. For that very reason I appreciate that our Sunday worship time at Loch Raven includes listening both to a reading from the Old and the New Testament – reminding us each week that both are needed to hear what God is saying to us.

One way we limit how God can speak to us through both parts is to equate the Old Testament with law and judgment, while assuming the New Testament is where we meet love and grace. Spend some time with Deuteronomy in your “old” testament. The summons that sounds (6:4-5) right after that almost terrifying “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone,” is not “Fear!” or “Respect!” or “Tremble!”, appropriate though these would be. The surprise is in what IS there: You shall **love** the Lord your God . . .with all your heart. . .soul. . .and might.

## Planning Session – 2016

On Saturday, April 30, twenty-one members met to brainstorm ways to achieve our church goals. We broke into two teams. One team focused on ways we could enhance our worship and stay in touch with all members; the other team explored ways we could engage with our local community. Here are our ideas:

### Worship and Member Support

1. Complete installation of multi-media equipment – *refer to Multi-Media Team and Finance*
2. Increase participation in worship – *refer to Worship Committee and Grow Worship Team*
  - a. Offer more praise and echo-leader songs in worship
  - b. Have a song/praise leader for all songs and hymns
  - c. Expand role of the Liturgist, offer training
  - d. Increase opportunities to sing with the choir (choruses, etc.)
  - e. Project songs on the wall
3. Expand welcome packet or bag (popcorn, magnets, coloring books/crayons for children, etc.) – *refer to Worship Committee*
4. Engage and assist home-bound members – *work with Rev. Harting*
  - a. Form subcommittee to follow up with members
  - b. Formalize process for following up with missing members

### Community Engagement

1. Explore the possibility of hiring a Program Director (full or part-time) – *refer to SPRC and Finance*
2. Explore internship programs with area universities
3. Deepen partnership with both Halstead Academy and Abbottston Elementary
4. Create volunteer opportunities; offer community service opportunities for middle and high school youth
5. Expand community communications – advertisements, fliers
6. Create joint activities with the Ghana Church
7. Establish partnership on joint activities with the Glenmont Community group
8. Deepen relationship with IMPROVE and the Learning Garden
9. Offer babysitting
10. Host movie nights
11. Form couples club
12. Offer a Farmers' Market
13. Start a softball team
14. *Hoop it up* – create various teen activities, possibly partner with other area churches

What is keeping us from accomplishing great things? Is it that we are trying to do them in our own strength rather than the Lord's? Remember, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). From the above list, where do your interests lie? If God is nudging you to lead or work on one of these initiatives, please contact the church office.

*Merrill Harrison*, Church Council Chair

## Father's Day Sunday, June 19

Enjoy this inspirational collection of Father's Day quotes for Christian fathers:

- "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." -- Billy Graham, Christian Evangelist
- "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."  
-- Theodore Hesburgh, Catholic Priest and President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame
- "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it."  
-- Clarence Budington Kelland, U.S. Writer
- "How true Daddy's words were when he said: 'All children must look after their own upbringing.' Parents can only give good advice or put them on the right paths, but the final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."  
-- Anne Frank, German Jew and Holocaust Victim
- "Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father!"  
-- Lydia M. Child, U.S. Author
- "We are given children to test us and help us learn about God."  
-- George Will, U.S. Journalist
- "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." -- The apostle Paul, Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)



## Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.



One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

## **Missions *In Action*: Doctors Without Borders** *responding to medical crises caused by conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics, or lack of access to health care*

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. One of our newest projects is Doctors Without Borders.

Founded in 1971, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières is a neutral and impartial humanitarian organization whose primary mission is to provide high-quality medical care to people who need it most. It does not promote the agenda of any country, political party, or religious faith so that it may gain the necessary access to populations in need.

They operate in more than 60 countries and help save lives by providing medical aid to people living in areas where there are armed conflicts, epidemics, natural disasters, and other crisis situations. Although most situations call for a rapid response which requires specialized medical and logistical help, they also run longer-term projects designed to tackle health crises and support people who cannot otherwise access health care. Teams are currently working in conflict zones including Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

They even helped fill temporary gaps in medical service in the U.S. after Hurricane Sandy in 2012. They provided medical and mental health care at evacuation centers in Brooklyn and Staten Island in New York and in Hoboken, New Jersey. They also worked in high-rises in the Rockaways where elderly, disabled or chronically sick people were confined without electricity, water or access to their medicines.

Their teams focused on facilitating continuity in medical care for people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and upper respiratory tract infections. Pharmacies were damaged and closed, so teams identified pharmacies elsewhere that could provide the necessary medicines that staff then delivered to patients.

For more information, see: [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

### **Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:**

Collect change for Christian Blind Mission International

Manna House Breakfast Club – July 16 (If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Myra Wagner: 410-825-0900, 410-485-7607 or [mbwagner@lrumc.org](mailto:mbwagner@lrumc.org).)

To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for ACTC – *stock up on sale items!*

June—Spaghetti/Pasta

July—Canned Fruit

August—Saltines (boxes with individual packages)

September—Dried/Powdered Milk

Collection of hotel-size toiletries for Essex UMC. *There is a box for the items on the hospitality desk. This is an on-going collection*

Sandwich making for Essex UMC 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month

## Summer Collection for Christian Blind Mission International

**CHANGE** a child's life with your **CHANGE**



You can help prevent children from going blind for pennies a day! The Missions Committee is asking everyone to fill up a prescription bottle or other container with your pennies or loose change (checks are also welcome!) to help prevent blindness or restore sight to children.

According to Christian Blind Mission International, there are many reasons children go blind in the world's poorest countries. Lack of Vitamin A, cataracts and river blindness are among some of the main causes. Many children also live with extremely low vision...unable to see to walk, read, go to school or help with household chores.

Let's see how much we can collect over the summer!

## Musical Notes

*Sam Chin, Music Director*

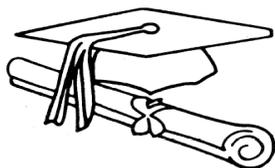
As summer is fast approaching we conclude yet another wonderful season of our Chancel and Handbell Choirs. I want to thank each member of these ensembles for their dedication and hard work throughout this season. Without their willingness to share their talents our worship experience would not be the same: Thank You.

During the summer we will feature soloists and ensembles as we continue to praise and worship God each Sunday. There will be a sign-up sheet (on the door of the choir room) for those interested in performing special music. New to this season, I will also have a sign-up sheet for those interested in participating in Praise Band (vocalist and instrumentalist). There will be specific songs on certain Sundays to enhance the message and theme of that week. If there are any specific Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) songs that you would like the Praise Band to perform, please feel free to contact me at [doochin@gmail.com](mailto:doochin@gmail.com).

As always, all our ensembles are open to new members. If you are interested in getting involved in the Fall, please feel free to talk to me for more information.

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6*

### Congratulations Graduates



Loch Raven United Methodist Church is blessed to have a family that shares milestones with each other. Graduation is one such event that everyone celebrates. If you or a member of your family is experiencing such a milestone, please share it with your church family by completing the form below and returning it to the church office by June 12.

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**2016 Graduates**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
 School

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Degree

\_\_\_\_\_  
 School Attending in September

## UMC Lectionary Calendar June - August, 2016

Church Color: Green

### June 6 – Third Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

1 Kings 17:8-24  
Psalm 146 (UMH 858)  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

### June 12 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

1 Kings 21:1-21a  
Psalm 5:1-8 (UMH 742)  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36-8:3

### June 19 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
(UMH 826)  
Romans 8:14-17  
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

### June 26 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14  
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 (UMH 798)  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62

### July 3 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

2 Kings 5:1-14  
Psalm 30 (UMH 762)  
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### July 10 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 82 (UMH 804)  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

### July 17 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 52 or 82 (UMH 804)  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

### July 24 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 85 (UMH 806)  
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)  
Luke 11:1-13

### July 31 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Hosea 11:1-11  
Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830)  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

### August 7 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20  
Psalm 50:1-8, 22 (UMH 783)  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

### August 14 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
(UMH 801)  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

### August 21 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Jeremiah 14-10  
Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

### August 28 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

Jeremiah 2:4-13  
Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803)  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14

## United Methodist Women June Schedule

### “Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, June 6  
6:30 p.m.—Dinner at  
Bahama Breeze in Towson

### Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, June 21  
12 Noon—Lunch at  
Peppermill

### FLEA MARKET Saturday, June 4 8AM—1 PM

To reserve a space for \$20  
contact:

Nancy Gillotti  
410-823-5187 or

Nancy Harvill  
410-828-8271



The Fundraising Committee  
will be hosting *Everybody's  
Birthday on October 16, 2016.*  
Looking forward to everyone  
participating in this event.

More information will be  
forthcoming in the September  
*Spire.*

## 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

Births:  
April Elizabeth Eshleman  
March 30, 2016  
Parents: Scott and Megan  
Eshleman



## Summer Birthdays

### June Birthdays

- 1 Spencer Shelton
- 2 Kerry Webner
- 3 Merrill Harrison
- 4 Judy Zahren
- 5 Tim Shelton  
Jonathan Yeich
- 9 Nancy Harvill
- 10 Karen Mooney
- 11 Megan Eshelman
- 12 Deborah Olewe
- 15 Karen Danforth  
Minnie Webster
- 18 Olu Okerele
- 23 Michele Brown
- 25 Dorothy Thompson
- 26 Londa Lee

### July Birthdays

- 1 Jackson Lee Eklund
- 4 Sarah Aidoo
- 8 Robert Cole
- 9 Debbie Shelton
- 10 Shirley Messman
- 11 Luciana Margaret Roman
- 17 William Shock (Will)
- 18 Pauline Graves
- 19 Ellen Underwood  
Evan Horn
- 22 Adaeze Alaeze  
Christopher Palazzi
- 23 Erin Olsen
- 24 Kristopher Seets  
Jennifer Byrd  
Rachel White
- 25 Dellroy Harrison
- 28 Scott LaCompte  
Kirsten Scott
- 30 Ruth Weygand
- 31 Jane Cullum  
Edward Smith

### August Birthdays

- 3 Grace Boner  
Lynn Jean
- 4 Jean Oberia
- 5 Russell Thompson
- 6 Brian Miller
- 7 William Bratton  
Robert Lacy
- 9 Janae Edwards
- 12 Betty Shock
- 14 David Frazier
- 16 Betty Cox
- 17 Emily Larrimore
- 18 Jennifer Weaver
- 19 Del Lloyd  
Isabelle Burrell  
Albertha Sinkler  
Mack Briscoe
- 22 Phil Lee  
Pamela Williams
- 23 Erica Mink
- 24 Maria Stockton-Porter
- 26 Estelle Batra  
Cheryl Koogler
- 27 Matthew Cuthbert
- 28 Jeanne Amberman

