

# The Spire



March 2015

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## 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.

## Multicultural Ministry

I like increasing church membership and worship attendance as much as anybody, maybe even more than most. It feels good. It looks good. But one thing that I have learned over the years is to not get caught up doing what I call "Church by the Numbers." That's where we judge our success or failure by how many people show up at a church event. It can be a real downer judging success by that.

I remember the time when King David decided to take a census of his army (2 Samuel 24:1). The reason for the census appears to be that David wanted to see how powerful his army was. God wasn't happy with it. That ended with God sending a plague on the people.

I came across an interesting article in *Christianity Today* by Ed Stetzer. Stetzer is the Executive Director of LifeWay Research, a prolific author, and well-known conference and seminar leader. Stetzer has planted, revitalized, and pastored churches, trained pastors and church planters on six continents, holds two masters degrees and two doctorates, and has written dozens of articles and books.

Stetzer writes: "In my own presentation at the conference I talked about the reality that a multi-cultural church will grow slower than a mono-cultural church. It's simply a statistical reality that when everyone thinks similarly, they can engage others more quickly and more effectively and churches will grow. One reason for this is that **healthy multicultural churches are built on cross-cultural relationships of transparency and trust; and these take much more time to form and develop than do those relationships with people of similar backgrounds. Furthermore, trust is not a commodity so easily**

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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 April issue is **Sunday, March 8, 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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Call, mail or e-mail church office

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## Lenten Lessons

Come, join me for the *Road to Jerusalem* Bible study. We will be studying pertinent passages from the Bible about Jesus heading to Jerusalem prior to the Crucifixion and Resurrection. This will provide you the opportunity to prepare for Easter. It will be a four-week study which begins Monday, March 2, @ 7:00 PM. We will meet in the parlor. Come by yourself or bring a friend or two along. This should be a great time as we spend time with Jesus, learning about some of the events that took place along the way to Calvary. There is no need to sign up. Just remember to bring a Bible, some notebook paper, and a pencil or pen. A crayon will even do.

Also, the Lenten sermon series called *Lenten Living* which focuses on our relationship to God and others will continue in worship. Here are the Scriptures and Sermon titles for the five-week series which began February 22:

### February 22

*No Other Name* from Acts 4:1-12

### March 1

*God Activity* from Exodus 12:1-14

### March 8

*Always Throw Deep* from Jeremiah 31:27-34

### March 15

*Holiness* from Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Hebrews 12:14

### March 22

*Real Repentance* from Isaiah 58:1-12, Luke 15:11-13, and John 8:3-11

Grace and Peace,  
*Cliff*

## Thanks From the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild would like to thank our church family for providing beautiful flowers for the altar. The flowers add beauty to our worship and offers you an opportunity to honor, celebrate or remember a loved one. Just as a reminder, the cost of providing flowers is as follows:

Altar Bowl—\$40  
Large Altar Bowl—\$50  
Vases—\$27.50 each  
Pedestal Bowl—\$39

We were also grateful for your donations to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Easter is fast approaching, and the price list for Easter flowers can be found on page 4 of the *Spire* and in upcoming church bulletins.

We thank you for all you do and look forward to another year of beautifying our church.

If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, please feel welcomed and call Audrey Moltz (410-823-7837) for information.

Altar Guild  
*Audrey Moltz*  
*Nancy Lacy*



## One Great Hour of Sharing – March 15

One Great Hour of Sharing, one of six special church offerings, is generally celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have taken part in special One Great Hour of Sharing offerings. Your sacrificial gifts help lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) ministry of relief and hope.

The donations received through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, help cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. Your gifts make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

By keeping operating costs under 10% of their total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to underfunded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

Other Special Giving Sundays this year include:

- Native American Ministries Sunday - April 19

- Peace with Justice Sunday - May 31
- World Communion Sunday - October 4
- United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 29

## Multicultural Ministry

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**assumed in a room full of people not like you.**

Thus, if your only goal is growth, the best way to grow your church is to keep it homogenous. This has been a fact recognized in missiology for a long time, something called the homogenous unit principle.

However, perhaps we might consider that there is also a value in going deeper, building relationships and affecting the kingdom of God more through multicultural churches. If that's the case, **it might remind us that God has not called us to go fast but he has called us to run deep.**

I offer the above information so that it might help to set us free of "Church by the Numbers." We need to do more of the things that will help us to get to know each other so that we can build even more trust so that we can continue to take risks together as we move forward in our faith.

Your Pastor,  
Cliff

## Trustees Report

By: Phil Scott

The LRUMC Board of Trustees met on January 8, 2015, and welcomed the new members.

Several members had fulfilled their service admirably and we were joined by the four new appointees, some who had served previously and others for the first time. The new board has a balance of seasoned and knowledgeable members and those with innovative and fresh approaches to facilities management.

The budget that we had prepared for the Finance Committee was presented and discussed, which had a very modest increase over last year, although not nearly enough to address the numerous issues that require our attention.

Last year the Board accomplished the painting of the wood trim at the exterior of the building, and had a successful gardening day, at which time we weeded, trimmed bushes and did general cleaning to the grounds.

Our elevator passed the annual inspection, and various incidents were addressed as they arose, such as the repair of the heating delivery system, and the repair of some heating pipes in the ceiling of the Chapel.

The following are just a few of the major items that we plan to address this year.

The side doors to the Narthex need to be shaved, and the main front doors will have to be restored. These activities would be best performed in March-April,

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# Trustees Report

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on Monday-Wednesday as we will need at least two days to complete.

The door hardware on back doors (vestibule) should be upgraded as an entrance for the disabled. These activities will be coordinated with Easter and other activities to choose the best date.

We need to raise monies to repair the steeple's masonry as

the constant infiltration of moisture is deteriorating the plaster ceiling at the balcony. We need your help in raising the necessary funds. The application of a sealer was discussed, but that is still to be considered as a bandaid.

We would also like to remind everyone of the weight limits on the elevator, which is about 300 lbs or two adults at a time. Using it for furniture removal causes it to break down on a regular basis.

The bells, for instance, are very heavy and should not be taken up all at once.

We also suggest that the unused poster boards could be transformed into works of art. There are members that are very creative and would be happy to take on this project with the children and other young people. We will pay for the art supplies. Looking forward to keeping the membership updated as the year progresses.



## EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to place a lovely plant in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory of and/or in honor of a loved one, please fill in the form below and place in the offering plate or return to the Church office. **FIRM DEADLINE Sunday, March 22. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Plants:

LILIES (\$14.00): \_\_\_\_\_ 4-6 Blooms on single stem    TULIPS (\$13.99): PINK\_\_\_\_ RED\_\_\_\_ YELLOW\_\_\_\_

LILIES (\$17.50): \_\_\_\_\_ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems    HYDRANGEAS (\$22.75): PINK\_\_\_\_ BLUE\_\_\_\_

AZALEAS (\$17.50): PINK\_\_\_\_ WHITE\_\_\_\_ RED\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL PICK UP THE PLANT AFTER THE 11 a.m. EASTER SERVICE

\_\_\_\_\_ I WILL DONATE THE PLANT TO THE CHURCH TO BE PLANTED ON CHURCH GROUNDS

## 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.

### March Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Aidoo  
Stan Kriel
- 2 Erin Potter  
Brianna Lee
- 4 Eddie DePrine, Jr.
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Michaela Jones  
Heather Marsalek
- 12 Jason Myers
- 14 Norma Jones
- 15 Anne Marie Smith
- 16 Doris Blottenberger  
Karen Seets
- 17 Roy Dorfler  
Matthew Price
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 20 Phil Scott
- 22 Erin Mellott
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 30 Dave Jackson  
Robert Cullum  
Irene McCrea

### Membership Updates

**Address Change:**  
Eleanor Harding  
5348 Glenthorpe Court  
Rosedale, MD 21237-2117

**Transfers:**  
Tom McGhan  
To Perry Hall UMC

Katherine McKinney  
To Vernon UMC  
White Hall, MD

**New Member:**  
Edith (Edy) Pratt  
3112 Chesley Avenue  
Parkville, MD 21234  
Transferring from  
Poolesville Memorial UMC



It's time to plan our Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt. We will be playing games, hunting eggs, story telling, and snacking. We need your help. Please consider donating plastic eggs and wrapped candy. There will be a collection box in the church narthex each Sunday beginning March 1st thru March 29th. Thank you for your continued support.

*Carole Webner and the Youth  
Sunday School Class*

### United Methodist Women March Schedule

**“Women in Christ” Circle**  
Monday, March 2  
7:30 PM—Room 202  
Study: *Moments That Take  
Your Breath Away*  
Lesson 9  
Study Leader: Yvonne  
Devotions: Nancy  
Hostess: Sandi

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Tuesday, March 3  
10 AM—Parlor

**Executive Meeting**  
Friday, March 6, 10 AM

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, March 15**  
**12:30 PM, Covered Dish**  
Speaker from  
Susanna Wesley Home

**Easter Egg Project:**  
Orders due March 15  
Making eggs March 20 & 21  
Orders out on March 22

### Family Ministries to host Chicken & Fish Fry

**Friday, March 27**  
**6:00 PM**

Cost: \$10.00 (adults) and  
\$8.00 (children 10 years  
old and under)

Tickets will be available Sundays between services in Fellowship Hall and weekdays in the Church Office.

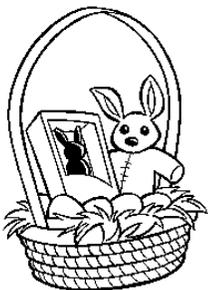
# A New Church Fundraiser that is a Fun Raiser for the little ones: PreSchoolers Buzz of the Day: See a Show! Meet an Author! Celebrating National Reading Month!

On Tuesday, March 3, at 10AM – 11:30AM, for preschoolers and their parents, grandparents and caregivers, Thirst 'n' Howl Musical Productions presents "Mother Goose's Rhyme Time Surprise" and author David Simpson reads his book "The Swan". The Mother Goose show, a 45-minute musical of new Wynn and Woodward songs and well-known nursery rhymes, has lots of audience participation with its four-member cast as it shares the importance of teamwork, friendship and perseverance. Following this theatre presentation for ages 4 to 6 years old, author/photographer David Simpson will read his book "The Swan", a children's book of beautiful images chronicling a unique experience using his photographs of Loch Raven Reservoir to spin his endearing story for the young and young at heart. David's creativity was featured in the Baltimore Sunday Sun newspaper on February 8. Children will have the opportunity to ask the actors and author questions. Tickets are \$6. Group rates are available for 10 or more children. Advance purchase of tickets is needed to ensure a seat at this popular children's event. Encouraging children to make discoveries through reading books is the educational goal of this outreach event that takes place at our church. For ticket information see Debi Wynn on Sunday mornings before/after worship services or email her at [tnhedutainment@aol.com](mailto:tnhedutainment@aol.com). Join us for a morning of book reading adventures!

## Chocolate Covered Easter Eggs

Individually Wrapped Easter Eggs \$10.00 per dozen

Vanilla Cream, Chocolate Cream, Coconut Cream, Peanut Butter



- Deadline for ordering: Sunday, March 15
- Pick-up order: Sunday, March 22, 9 AM—12:30 PM
- *Payment due when placing order*
- **checks payable to: Loch Raven United Methodist Women**
- Submit order(s) with payment via the offering plate, Church Office or give to Nancy Gillotti

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_dozen—Vanilla Cream (dark chocolate)      # \_\_\_\_dozen—Chocolate Cream (dark chocolate)  
 # \_\_\_\_dozen—Coconut Cream (dark chocolate)      # \_\_\_\_dozen—Peanut Butter (milk chocolate)  
 # \_\_\_\_dozen—Assorted (three of each kind)      # \_\_\_\_dozen—Peanut Butter (dark chocolate)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Missions *In Action*: Manna House and Lifewater Canada

Through your weekly tithes and offerings as well as your participation in special donations and volunteer opportunities, you are making a positive impact in our local, national, and international communities.

Each month, the Missions Committee will feature some of the organizations you help support. This month we will spotlight Manna House and Lifewater Canada.

Manna House, located at 435 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, has been serving the poor and homeless of Baltimore for over 44 years. They embrace a holistic approach in providing services—physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. They serve men and women of our community who are faced with poverty, homelessness, mental illness and drug addiction, followed by HIV/AIDS, spousal abuse, and other chronic diseases.

They serve approximately 59,000 meals a year in their soup kitchen and provide a hot breakfast daily for 150-200 individuals. On January 17, six members of our congregation (Myra Wagner, Maria Stockton-Porter, Karen Seets, Marty Marvel, Yvonne Horn, and Merrill Harrison) served scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee cake, and coffee to 153 very appreciative individuals. Our next breakfast service will be May 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)).

We also help support this mission by making bag lunches periodically throughout the year to provide an additional meal for the homeless. Our next opportunity to supply lunch bags will be the week of March 22 (return them Sunday, March 29). Let's see if we can hit an all time high of 200 bags!

For more information, see: [www.mannahouseinc.org](http://www.mannahouseinc.org) or view a video aired on Fox 45 of Lovely Lane UMC serving Christmas Day breakfast: <http://vimeo.com/56377542>

You also help support the work of Lifewater Canada. They believe that being a Christian is far more than just going to Church on Sunday. When people ask: "Why did you provide our village with the equipment and training we needed to get safe water?", their reply is "Because we are inspired by Jesus's dedication to serving others and that we are able to do this work because many people want to give back some of what they have received."

For twenty years, they have helped train and equip people in Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, and Nigeria to drill wells and build washrooms thus helping to save lives and improve educational opportunities for people in those countries. Most wells are completed in 5 days. Drilling is often done in 1-2 days, but it can take months to ensure that a village has received health and hygiene training, raised required funds and is mobilized to work.

Lifewater Canada is run by volunteers working out of their homes, and they use less than 5% of the funds donated for administration, website costs, fundraising etc. They use their personal vacation time to travel to Africa.

For more information, see: [www.lifewater.ca](http://www.lifewater.ca).

### Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

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

Bag lunches for Manna House – *bags given out March 22, return March 29*

Sandwich making for Essex UMC 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Every month

Manna House Breakfast Club – May 16