

The Spire



March 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Family Ministries Lenten Fish Fry

Please mark your calendars now for the 3rd Annual Family Ministries Lenten Fish Fry, which will be held on Friday, March 12, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. The planned menu will include whole fried fish, chicken nuggets (for the kids!), hush puppies, corn, green beans, rolls, and dessert. The cost for this meal will be \$7 per person. Sign-up sheets for dinner are available, so please sign up now to ensure enough food for everyone!

Immediately following the meal, all are invited to stick around for a free movie. This year's movie will be *Shadowlands*, the 1993 film starring Anthony Hopkins as C.S. Lewis, famed author and professor. The film is based on the true life events of Lewis, chronicling his relationship and marriage to Joy Gresham.

Also, the Family Ministries Committee will be sponsoring Sizzlin' Summer Nights again this year. We have seen wonderful turn outs for all the events in the past and hope to continue the trend this year as well. Stay tuned for more information!



Dear friends,

There are moments and events in life after which nothing is

ever the same. We don't know when they will come. We just often have a sense that they are upon us. I had just this conversation not long ago with one of our members. You wake up one morning and start your day as you usually do, and then something happens and everything changes forever.

It is exactly this phenomenon that is our focus for Lent this year. Using Adam Hamilton's new book *24 Hours That Changed the World* as our guide, LRUMC is exploring the last day of Jesus' life on earth. How is it that that day changed everything forever? It was one of those occasions after which nothing has ever been the same.

We began on February 21 with the Last Supper and continued on February 28 to the Garden of Gethsemane. March 7 will be "Condemned by the

Righteous", March 14 "Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate", March 21 "The Torture and Humiliation of the King", and March 28 "The Crucifixion". We will conclude the series on Easter Sunday, April 4 with "Christ the Victor."

Looking ahead to Holy Week, we will have a dramatic presentation of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:30 p.m. The Good Friday Service, on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. will be a Tenebrae, service of the shadows with candles and readings. We will also have an Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 on the front steps, followed by breakfast.

Change is often difficult, but God calls us to it. Let the story of Jesus, and the reality of God's love for you change you in many and profound ways. In coming to a new understanding of God's offer of new life in Christ, may this be a time after which nothing is ever the same.

Blessings+

Pastor Gayle

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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 14, 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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Children's Page and Address

Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Gayle E. Annis-Forder

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

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Phone: 410-825-0900. *Fax:* 410-825-2600. *E-mail:* Info@LRUMC.org

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

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org

Special Request Fabric Needed

For Maundy Thursday this year we are doing a presentation of the Last Supper. Fabric is needed for costumes for the 12 disciples and Jesus. If you have fabric you could donate, particularly in neutral, earth tones, please contact Debi Wynn, Patti Ferguson or Pastor Gayle. Thank you!

Thank you!

We are grateful to David Brown, Gary Horn and Adrian Palazzi for spending a Saturday morning clearing sidewalks after the second blizzard so that we could get in for church on February 14. At the time when everyone was tired of shoveling and digging at their own homes, these three made an extra effort for our church family. Thank you so much!

Youth News

The month of March our focus will be on learning more about our church family.

The youth will be participating in a "Get to Know Your Church Family" Scavenger Hunt. Each Youth has been given a list that describes a person or persons within our congregation. The Youth must find the person that is described and have him or her sign off on that question. The goal is to get the Youth to meet some new faces. Be on the look out for the Youth asking lots of questions and for your signature. Let's wish them luck!!!

Calendar of Events:

Upcoming Youth meetings:

February 28th – 7pm – 8:30pm, Game night.

March 14th and March 28th – 7pm

All Youth in grades 6th – 12th or ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend any Youth meeting or event. Hope to see you there!

A plea for help!

Jen Byrd is looking for a few volunteers to be an additional chaperone at Youth meetings and/or events. In accordance with our Church's Safe Sanctuary policy, there must be at least two adults over the age of 21 at all activities. This could be an opportunity for you to get to interact with the Youth. If this is an area of Ministry that you could help with, please give me a call. Thanks.
 Jen 443-756-4000

BOILER FUND UPDATE:

These gifts have been received since the last spire:

1/10/2010	= \$	5,120.00
1/17/2010	= \$	10.00
1/24/2010	= \$	75.00
1/31/2010	= \$	250.00

Total Received: \$ 33,886.00 towards \$73,000

The Board of Trustees offers their appreciation for every gift received and sends their blessings and a heartfelt thank you!

Big News

At the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, enjoyed by 45+ LRUMC folks on February 16, despite the cold weather and piles of snow, a big announcement was made. Family Ministries committee members Linda and Joe Orzolek shared that they are expecting a new addition to their family, their first child, in August, and they feel very blessed. We're so glad to be some of the first to know, and look forward to welcoming a new brother or sister to our church family. Thanks to the Family Ministries committee for a wonderful evening of fellowship, and to Linda and Joe for sharing your joy!



EASTER FLOWERS and ALTERNATE GIFTS

As always, we will decorate the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday with beautiful plants. Use the order form below to indicate your choice and please include your payment. Because of the current economic situation and the needs of so many people, this year we are offering another option to honor Christ's resurrection. You may elect to make a monetary gift in memory or honor of someone. These gifts will be sent to ACTC (Assistant Center of Town Churches) to assist persons in need in these challenging times. **FIRM DEADLINE March 28th, Palm Sunday.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

I would like to order flowers (indicate choice below):

LILIES (\$13.30): _____ 4-6 Blooms on single stem TULIPS (\$12.95): PINK____ RED____ YELLOW____

LILIES (\$15.75): _____ 8-10 Blooms on 2 stems HYDRANGEAS (\$19.25): PINK____ BLUE____

AZALEAS (\$17.50): PINK____ RED____ WHITE____

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

Board of Child Care News

During March and April, you will have the opportunity to join or renew your membership in the Board of Child Care Auxiliary. Why join the Auxiliary? Proceeds from the membership drive help the children of the Board of Child Care by providing amenities not covered by the Board's government funding. Auxiliary projects include Easter baskets, birthday cards and gifts, gifts for high school graduates, field trips and arts and recreation activities. The Auxiliary hopes to provide driver education of eligible students, college visits for graduating seniors and assistance with prom costs.

A one-year Membership is just \$2.00 per person, but the funds raised make a big difference to the children. Envelopes will be in the pews from March 21, 2010 until April 18, 2010. Please consider helping the children by joining the Auxiliary.

Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Honors Presented by United Methodist Women

The organization known today as the United Methodist Women began many years ago. Methodist women put on long gowns and their best hats and decided something needed to be done to help women and children at home and around the world. Their pledges probably consisted of small change. Today we follow in their footsteps and our purpose remains the same. Each year we honor two people who show such purpose by serving our local church. This year Jen Byrd and David Brown were recognized with a gift sent to Missions in their honor. Thanks to both of you for your work with children and the care of our church home.

Membership Updates

Address Changes:

Mary Beck
Oak Crest Renaissance
8832 Walther Blvd
RG - Room 210 South
Baltimore, MD 21234

Kathryn and Brendan Crowe
2033 Garden Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Member Deceased:

Evelyn Roberts
January 13, 2010

Donald Laird
January 14, 2010

Joyce Grimm
February 10, 2010

Address Unknown:

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

Jermaine Carter
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Beatrice Welsh

The Road Runners of Loch Raven United Methodist Church

The Road Runners of Loch Raven United Methodist Church trip to Niagara Falls, Canada is fast approaching and now is the time for you to make your reservation.

If you need more information about the trip, a complete outline was in the January 2010 Spire.

So decide who your traveling friend will be, fill out the **reservation form on page 5** and return it to Sharon Neumann along with a deposit of \$25.00 for each person.

We will be leaving from Loch Raven United Methodist Church on Monday, October 4th and returning on Friday, October 8th, 2010. The cost is \$529.00 per person / based on double occupancy. Single occupancy is available at a slightly higher cost.

A \$25.00 deposit is required by March 31, 2010.



The Road Runner is here to remind you that you must have a passport for this trip. No substitutes are allowed. It must be an original valid government issued passport.

Niagara Falls, Canada

Monday, October 4 through Friday, October 8, 2010



Yes, I (we) will be traveling to Niagara Falls Canada with the LRUMC Road Runners. I (we) have filled out the information below and have included a check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the deposit which is due on March 31, 2010.

Name(s): _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Traveling Friend: _____

Please return to: Sharon E. Neumann (410-882-0431)
7830 Daniels Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234

Boy Scout Troop 792

2010 Mulch Sale—April 17, 2010

Tan Bark Mix

A unique blend of oak barks that are double shredded and aged to produce a high quality ground cover. Its dark chocolate brown color will enhance the beauty of all your gardens while providing all essential properties that quality mulch should.

* **3 cubic foot bags**

* **\$5.00 per bag**

- **free delivery on orders of 10 or more bags (limited delivery area)**
- **\$1.00 for each bag purchased by a church member will be donated to the church Boiler Fund** (this only applies to orders received by Jen Byrd)

For questions/additional information contact Jen Byrd at **birdie21234@aol.com** or 443-756-4000

------(cut off and return bottom portion. Retain top part as a reminder of delivery date)-----

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Community: _____

Delivery instructions: (please mark location):

____ front driveway ____ rear driveway (only if alley accessible)

My order: # of bags ____ x \$5.00 per bag = Total paid \$_____

Please make checks payable to **Boy Scout Troop 792**. Return this form with payment to Jen Byrd or place in offering plate.

****Order and full payment deadline is 4/2/2010****

Education

Spot Light on Sunday School

Older Elementary – grades 4th – 6th
Merrill Harrison, teacher



Upper Elementary Class is Finding Their Way Through the Bible.

The upper elementary class, comprised of students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, meet from 10:00 to 10:45 in room 212. We begin the day with music led by Patti Ferguson.

We have been *Finding Our Way Through the Bible*, a self-instruction book designed to help us become more familiar with the Bible and how to use the reference materials.

We also read stories from our class magazine, *Faithzine*.

Currently, we are learning more about the work of the apostles and the early church, and how we can better serve God.

We have made a prayer box, Health Kits for Haiti, and most recently we made a love kit filled with objects that help us

remember how much God loves us. Perhaps you would like to make one, too.

Cotton ball – To cushion the rough roads

Rubber band – For flexibility

Sweet & tart candy – A reminder to appreciate the differences in others

Candle – A reminder to share your love with others

Happy face stickers – Smiling is contagious

Eraser – A reminder that we can start each day over with no mistakes

Button – A reminder to keep quiet when you have nothing kind or good to say

Gum – A reminder that friends stick together

If you are in the fourth, fifth, or sixth grade come join us one Sunday, we'd love to have you in our class.

United Methodist Women

March Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, March 1

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*

Lesson 5: Growing Through Being in the Middle

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 2

10 a.m.—Parlor

Study: *Knowing Jesus*

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, March 10

9:30 a.m.—Room 202

Study: *Esther*

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 17

Covered Dish

6:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall Program: Photos and a discussion of their trip to Israel by Scott and Megan Eshleman

Circle Assignments:

Set-up: Ellen Hoover

Vegetable: S-Z

Main Dish: J-R

Salad: A-C

Dessert: D-I

Clean-up: WIC

Young Adult Sunday School Class

This new class is underway with about a dozen members. Thanks to James Manley and Bola Akerele for their organizational efforts. The class is discussion format with rotating leadership, stimulating conversation and lots of laughter and sharing. “Young adult” is a loose designation, and the class welcomes all comers. They have already been engaged in mission, checking and packing the health kits that have been collected here for UMCOR. You may join them any Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in Room 126.

OUR MISSION

LRUMC Vision Statement

“We believe Loch Raven United Methodist Church is 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. As a multicultural church, we minister through worship, learning, fellowship and mission to the community.”

OUR PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY 2010

• OPERATING BUDGET

In order to fulfill our mission and ministry in 2010, our Church Council consulted with each work area and adopted an operating budget to support these objectives.

We ask for your *prayers, presence, gifts and service* to insure our success.

• PROGRAM

* **The Worship Committee** will use \$2,450 to proclaim God’s Word in meaningful worship, including altar flowers, bulletins, altar guild and worship aids, and seasonal banners. All are provided for both Sunday Services. The *Upper Room* and other devotional material will be made available for your daily worship time.

* **Music Ministry** further enhances our worship experience with vocal and instrumental offerings by the Chancel Choir, Holy Grace Choir, Angel Choir, and the Handbell Choir. \$7,400 is needed for choir expense for music, organ substitutes, musicians, robes, pianos, organ and sound system maintenance.

* **The Outreach Committee** sponsors the Health Fair and Lunch with the Nurse.

The website has been updated on a weekly basis with digital photos to present an excellent source of information about our church.

The Evangelism and Outreach Committees are now combined as one with an emphasis on practical evangelism. The total Outreach and Evangelism budget is \$2,150.

The Communion offering is for the Good Samaritan fund that the Pastor uses to provide discretionary aid to those of our community in need.

* **The Office Ministry** provides the essential communication between the church office and outside community through numerous telephone conversations and written correspondence, including the *Spire* church newsletter. The expenses for the office include reproduction and postage, maintenance of the church office equipment and office supplies. The total budget for the Office Ministry is \$10,725.

* **The Finance Committee** budget covers financial records, bank charges, payroll taxes, and workers compensation for a total of \$7,892.

* **The United Methodist Women** continue to be an active group and although not part of the budget, support missions projects such as Susanna Wesley House, Board of Child Care, and Wesley Home.

* **The Projects Committee** sponsors the dinners that promote fellowship between our members and the community. Although not a budget item, the proceeds from projects is used for the budget.

* **Community Service**

The church will continue to host Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Daisies, and Girl Scouts.

We will be open to other group and/or workshop opportunities to fully utilize our facilities. Your sacrificial giving makes it possible for us to meet these needs in our church and community.

* **Conference Apportionment**

Our dollars will join those of other United Methodist churches, paying our full share of the cost of essential ministries in our Conference and world-wide through *Conference apportionments* of \$38,623, enabling results too large to be done by any individual church in the work of God’s Kingdom.

A NEW YEAR 2010

"[I]t's tough to include a real pledge of time or money in your New Year's resolutions. Especially when you realize how you will feel if you do not follow through on it."

"But this is a new year. Time to get things done, time for changes, and a greater sense of dedication to oneself, and to the cause. Shouldn't it be the cause of each one of us, as we sit down and reminisce, and start to resolve, that we will give a little more, look at ourselves a little harder? That we will resolve to give our time, and our money, and become a part of the dedicated people of the New Year."

Stewardship, January 2006
Parish Publishing LLC

* Our **Missions Committee** will continue to be a part of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches providing food and financial aid and Thanksgiving baskets; the Hearts Place providing over-night shelter, food, and money. Also support to the Manna House Soup Kitchen.

Our Missions Ministry budget is \$15,000 and includes international missions such as Suzanne Porter, national missions such as the Heifer Project, and local missions.

The church continues to support Theresa Alaeze's Nigeria Hospital Building Fund and her visits to minister to those afflicted with AIDS.

The church provides aid for natural disasters such as hurri-

canes and earthquakes through U.M.C.O.R.

* The **Christian Education Ministry** will use \$3,350 to provide curriculum and supplies for Sunday School, Bible Studies, confirmation and membership classes. This includes \$500 for camps and retreats enabling our youth to make new friends, learn new skills, experience God's love in a very different way.

Our *Youth Group* is very active under the Youth Director's leadership. The *Adult Sunday School* classes provide various studies of scripture with dedicated volunteer leaders. \$1,250 is included in the Education budget for the Youth and Adult programs.

* PASTORAL SUPPORT

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has noted the faithful service of the Pastor and Staff and have increased salaries accordingly for 2010.

The SPR has agreed on the Pastor's salary of \$65,500 for 2010. Medical expenses for the Pastor, pension, conferences, auto allowance, and housing allowance bring the total to \$107,179.

* PASTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Pastor of Congregational Care provides a dedicated ministry for those in the hospital and the homebound. He brings the message that Loch Raven is praying for them and their well-being. The Pastor of Congregational Care's salary will not increase this year and remain at \$19,500 and with auto allowance for a total of \$23,500.

* OTHER STAFF SALARIES

Part-Time Youth Director - \$3,600 plus \$1,700 expenses

Nursery Nanny - \$2,520

Director of Music - \$16,000

Organist - \$14,000

Administrative Secretary - \$30,200 plus pension \$7,044

* BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

General maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, utilities, insurances, inspection and maintenance contracts, property taxes, and office phones will cost \$59,795 for the church. Custodial supplies and custodial services will total \$31,000.

The replacement of the heating system with a more efficient unit will substantially reduce the cost of utilities for the church.

Regular monitoring of property conditions and maintenance needs by the Trustees have kept this year's costs low while presenting an interior and exterior appearance inviting to members, neighbors and passers-by. We can take pride in our public image.

We recognize and say sincere THANK YOU to pastor, staff and a host of volunteers for their work.

Our 2010 budget totals \$398,578.

Dave Jackson, Chair, Finance

From the Mailbox

I want to thank all of you, my dear friends, for your thoughts and prayers at this sad time in my life upon the death of my dear daughter Patricia Lynn.

Thanks so much for your many cards and many phone calls. Your love has meant so much to me and my family. It has been hard, but as Psalm 30:5(b) tells us:

*Weeping may last for a night,
But joy comes in the morning.*

I know it will.

Love and Blessings,
Isabelle

From the family of
Evelyn Roberts

Pastor Fringo,

Thank you for your council these past weeks and for your kind words of comfort. Your service was moving and your guidance appreciated.

With Warmest Regards,
Drew Roberts & Family

Sunday, March 14



Set clocks ahead one hour.



CHOCOLATE COVERED EASTER EGGS



Individually Wrapped Easter Eggs
\$9.00 per dozen

Vanilla Cream, Chocolate Cream, Coconut Cream, Peanut Butter

- Deadline for ordering: Sunday, March 14
- Pick-up Order: Sunday, March 21, 9am—12 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)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____