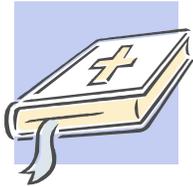


The Spire



March, 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



Lenten Bible Study

For Lent this year, we will be using the Lent 2011 study from the Scriptures for the Church Seasons series. The study is called *Blessings of the Cross* by Robert Martin Walker. Dr. Walker is ordained UMC clergy and teaches religious studies at Iona College.

The study is based on the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Sundays in Lent, inviting us to explore God's hope and presence, and calling us to praise God as we consider God's redemption and new creation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

You may attend on Monday evening or Wednesday morning.

Mondays: March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20 at 10 a.m.

Something New for Lent

Some in our congregation have expressed the desire to join together in singing some praise songs. Our music staff and worship committee have worked together to try to find the best time and place for such an expression of praise.

On the Sundays of Lent, beginning March 13, praise songs will be sung for 10 minutes in the sanctuary before the start of one of our services each week.

8:20 – 8:30 a.m. on March 13, 27, and April 10

10:50 – 11 a.m. March 20, April 3 and 17

If this is a blessing during Lent, and works well for our musicians without compromising other aspects of their duties, we may continue.

Please come ten minutes early to your favorite service on the Sundays indicated above and join other LRUMC folk in singing joyful praise to God!

Haiti Mission Trip

Your prayers are invited once again for the Baltimore Regional Volunteers in Mission team, who will be serving in Les Cayes, Haiti, March 10-19. You may recall that this team was cancelled in December due to the cancelling of flights because of unrest after the election results were announced.

The team will be working with United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Methodist Church of Haiti, specifically on a church building project for the Torbeck UMC in Les Cayes. The team is led by Pastor Gayle and includes people from 4 churches. Please pray for this team and their work, as well as for our sisters and brothers in Haiti



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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 13, 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.

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Ash Wednesday Service March 9 at 7:30 p.m

This service is a wonderful way to begin the observance of Lent. The service will include the imposition of ashes for those who choose, the sacrament of communion, and a special anthem from the chancel choir.

The Children of Loch Raven Are Reflecting the Light of God

By: Merrill Harrison

The children in the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes discussed what it meant to be a reflector of the "Light of God". We reviewed the following Bible verses which reminded us to:

Pray Daily

Pray without ceasing.
I Thessalonians 5:17

Presence

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into his presence with singing.
Psalm 100:1-2

Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other.
Colossians 3:16

Give

They shall offer their gift to the Lord. Numbers 6:19
Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. Malachi 3:10

Serve

Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a

ransom for many. Matthew 20:28

Witness

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. I Peter 3:15

When asked how they could reflect God's Light, Aaron Gardner, Sarah Jones, and Caitlin Webster said by:

- Praying every day
- Doing something nice for others
- Coming to church
- Giving an offering
- Inviting others to church
- Going to school
- Treating others the way we would like to be treated
- Loving one another

They then did something nice for others by making reflector plaques for Pastor Gayle, Pastor Bob, Michele Brown – *and a sibling!*

Won't you join us in reflecting the Light and Love of God this Lenten season?

Special Thanks

Dear Loch Raven UMC Family,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the love gift you gave me for Christmas. I truly appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Michele Brown



Dear Friends,
We've just completed a series in worship and Bible study called

"When Christians Get It Wrong" using a study book of the same name by Adam Hamilton. To be honest, I wasn't sure how it would go. One of you, who had glanced at the book and subjects addressed, warned me that you thought there might be some push-back or resistance or even anger.

What I have witnessed has been different. First, several of our young adults at LRUMC took the time to provide some very thoughtful responses to my request of them to help us know what we, Christians who are a part of the church, are doing right, at least in their eyes. Almost 30 of you have participated in a weekday study, and have shared your thoughts and experiences in a way that has blessed the others present.

Some of the topics have been touchier than others, and there have been times when our differing views of certain things have made truly hearing one another a challenge. I knew from the start that we'd be traveling into some contested territory, but then that was the point. Young adults outside the church have said that we contest an awful lot.

One of our members said, after the service in which we considered the topic of how we deal with homosexuality, "this was the best series yet. I don't know how you'll top it." I'd like to suggest a possibility. The bottom

line in each message and each study session has been to acknowledge what people see in us, the good, bad and the ugly, and to seek to be more and more like the Jesus to whom they are drawn.

I appreciate the affirmation of the work of the past several weeks, but what I really hope and pray is that the conversations will continue. I pray too that we will remain open to the Spirit of God moving us to an ever more authentic expression of the welcome, love and acceptance of Jesus, so that when others look at us, they will also be able to see in us some reflection of Christ.

I am so thankful for all of you, and for the way you seek to live the Gospel.

With love+

Pastor Gayle

United Methodist Women March Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 1
10 am—Parlor
Study: 1st John 4:1-6

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, March 7—7:30 p.m.
Meet at Sandi Cuthbert's Home
Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*
Lesson 11—Growing Through Weakness

UMW GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, March 16
6:30 pm—Covered Dish**

Speaker to be announced

Covered Dish Assignments:

Set-up—P. Downes
Main Dish—J-R
Vegetables—S-Z
Salad—A-C
Dessert—D-I
Clean-up—W.I.C.

Friday, March 4—10 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting
10 a.m.—Parlor

From the Mailbox

I want to thank everyone at Loch Raven for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my surgery and a second one, then Mike's death. Your sincere prayers and well wishes have seen me through very difficult times. I returned home last Sunday afternoon, February 6th.

Blessings and love to you all.

Katherine McKinney

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I would sincerely like to thank all of you for your cards, calls, letters of support and especially your prayers over the last 2 1/2 years. Your concern and prayers have comforted me and kept me going as I made my journey. I have turned my situation over to God so that He would have His way. Again, I thank you.

Blessings to You All,
Donna Johnson