

The Spire



March 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Our Newest Members

A special welcome to our newest members who were received into membership on February 12th at the 11:00 service. Please give them a warm welcome as you see them around the church.

Lee Davis
Erica Dixon
Joyce Dixon
Hortense Fauntleroy
LaShawn Maddox
James Manley
Erin Mellott
Carole Webner
Kerry Webner
Matthew Webner



LENT

“And as Jesus was going along, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ‘Behold, we are going to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles to be mocked, scourged, and crucified, and he

will be raised on the third day.” Matthew 20:17-19

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 7th). The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* as in the *lengthening* of days, and literally means, “*Spring*, which is the season when the days are *lengthened*.” The Lenten season is a preparation for celebrating Easter (April 8th). Historically, Lent began as a preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance for all Christians.

The Lenten season marks Christ’s final trip to Jerusalem, the holy city, and ultimately the selfless giving nature of love as evidenced in his passion and death. Many Christian traditions today hold that Lent should be a time for offering up of a personal sacrifice.

It took Jesus 33 years to get to Jerusalem, the place where he would offer himself up as the ultimate sacrifice for humanity’s transgressions against God. The last three years of his life were spent in focused, intentional ministry to others in order to lead them back into a righteous relationship with this holy and loving God. His way of life was so radically different than the world’s way that it ended in crucifixion. But it was through this crucifixion, the perfect sacrifice of a sinless human being to a holy God,

(Continued on page 3)



March 11

Daylight Savings
Time Begins

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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 11, 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Cliff Webner

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. *Phone:* 410-825-0900. *Fax:* 410-825-2600. *E-mail:* Info@LRUMC.org

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

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Music Notes

By: Sam Chin

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. (Psalm 33:1-3)

Loch Raven United Methodist Church is truly a unique church. It didn't take me long to realize this, in fact it was my first Sunday — *something called Awujoh*. I still vividly recall the experience of tasting so many wonderful foods, many of which I've never tasted before, and experiencing the wonderful diversity found here at LRUMC. If I had to rank the things that I love most about life, music and food would definitely be among the top of that list. Perhaps it's partly because I've learned that the best way to learn and experience a culture is to eat their food and listen to their music.

As the Music Director here at LRUMC, I have the privilege of working intimately with the Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs. Working with these fabulous people weekly to praise God's name has been a tremendously joyful experience. As I envision the growth of the Music Ministry here at LRUMC I would like to add another means of

bringing glory and praise to His name — Praise Band.

We have a core group of people forming the Praise Band. They are Rhoda Wilson, Kerry Webner, and Megan Eshleman on vocals; Scott Eshleman on keyboards; and Erin Mellott on the flute. We have been rehearsing on Thursdays from 7 – 8 PM and plan to participate in worship services starting in March. I hope and pray that God will use this band to, "*sing to Him a new song*", facilitating the myriad cultures here at LRUMC to bring praises to God. Please support us with your prayers and please let me know if you would like to join the band to "*play skillfully, and shout for joy.*"

Altar Flowers

The Altar Guild is very thankful for your continued support. You made the sanctuary so beautiful at Christmas, and we look forward to the Easter season.

The price of the altar flowers is:

Regular Altar Bowl—\$35
Large Altar Bowl—\$40
Vases—\$20 each (2 vases \$40)
Pedestal Bowl—\$35 and up

Call Nancy Lacy at 410-823-6979 for more information or to order flowers. Thank you so very much.

The Altar Guild



Lent

(Continued from page 1)

that he cleared the way so that we could, once and for all time, be reunited with God.

Sacrifice is defined as something that one cannot seemingly afford to do. In commemoration of this Lenten season let us take a look around at those in our lives. Is there anyone who can use your help? Is there anyone whom you might sacrifice for in order to bring them closer to God? That is what Jesus meant when he told his followers to “take up the cross and follow me.” Sacrificing for someone else during this season of Lent gives us an opportunity to experience a small portion of what Jesus accomplished on that cross for us.

Grace and peace,

Cliff



Membership Updates

New Members

Linda Lee Davis
7017 Lachlan Circle Apt. B
Baltimore, MD 21239
(410) 616-9401
DOB- August 17

Erica J. Dixon
ericajdixon@excite.com
(410) 485-3738
DOB- November 10

Joyce Dixon
jdixontoo@verizon.net
(410) 485-3738
DOB- February 1

M. Hortense Fauntleroy
12 Ashlar Hill Court
Parkville, MD 21234
(410) 339-7629
hfauntleroy@hotmail.com
DOB- January 21

LaShawn Maddox
3114 Chesley Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234
(410) 207-6595
Lashawn.mercer@gmail.com
DOB- September 11

James Manley
1214 N. Charles Street #209
Baltimore, MD 21201
(510) 387-1655
DOB- December 20

Erin Mellott
829 E. Belvedere Avenue #2
Baltimore, MD 21212
(301) 509-1680
erinkmellott@gmail.com
DOB- March 22

Carole Webner
12012 Belair 21Road
Kingsville, MD 087
(410) 592-5222
CaroleWebner@hotmail.com
DOB- December 8

Kerry L. Webner
12012 Belair Road
Kingsville, MD 21087
(410) 592-5222
DOB- June 2

Matthew L. Webner
12012 Belair Road
Kingsville, MD 21087
(410) 592-5222
DOB- December 3

Membership Transfer:

Mary V. Tustin
Transferred Membership to
Oak Crest Protestant Faith
Community

Lenten Bible Study

Responsibilities-- We all have them, but we don't all take them as seriously as we ought to. Wouldn't it be great, though, if we all took responsibility for the things we are responsible for? It's time to stop the finger-pointing and excuse-making and to remove the "ir" in "irresponsible." We're using Andy Stanley's book *Taking Responsibility for Your Life*. The session titles are: *Let the Blames Begin, The Disproportionate Life, This is No Time to Pray, Embracing Your Response Ability*. This-four week Bible study began February 27th on Monday nights at 7:00 PM and is repeated on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM.

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 2012

• OPERATING BUDGET

In order to fulfill our mission and ministry in 2012, the Finance Committee 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 \$3,000 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. \$6,900 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 \$2,000.

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 Sussanna 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 \$49,060, enabling results too large to be done by any individual church in the work of God’s Kingdom.

OUR PLAN FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY 2012

A New Year 2012

“[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 hurricanes and earthquakes through U.M.C.O.R.

* The **Christian Education Ministry** will use \$3,150 to provide curriculum and supplies for Sunday School, Bible Studies, confirmation and membership classes. This includes \$400 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 2012.

The SPR has agreed on the Pastor’s salary of \$58,710 for 2012. Medical expenses for the Pastor, pension, conferences, auto allowance, and housing allowance bring the total to \$104,197.

* 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 increase this year to \$20,700 and with auto allowance for a total of \$24,900.

* OTHER STAFF SALARIES

Part-Time Youth Director - \$5,000 plus \$500 expenses

Nursery Nanny - \$2,680

Director of Music - \$16,500

Organist - \$14,500

Administrative Secretary - \$35,960

* BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

General maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, utilities, insurances, inspection and maintenance contracts, property taxes, and office phones will cost \$55,995 for the church. Custodial supplies and custodial services will total \$31,300.

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 2012 budget totals \$393,531.

Dave Jackson, Chair, Finance



From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

Just want to say thanks for all your support and kind words during Michaela's surgery and recovery. Your kind words and well wishes have helped us get through a difficult time. While Michaela's future as an athlete is questionable, we know we will get through it because of our great church family. Thanks again for your prayers and encouragement as we go forward.

Sincerely,
 Karen, Chuck, Michaela, and Sarah Jones

Dear Church and Rick,

Thank you so much for all you gave me for Christmas.

Eddie

Thank you to my Loch Raven family for your expressions of condolence at my mother's passing. All were truly appreciated. I ask for your continued prayers as my family experiences the grief of our loss while we celebrate her Victory!

Judy Zahren

Lenten Sermon Series

Our Lenten sermon series is called *All For You*. It's about Jesus' sacrifice for us. It runs through the season of Lent and finishes on Easter. The first message is called *Extravagant Love* and is based on Mark 14:1-11. The second message is called *How's Your Memory* and is based on Mark 14:12-26. Week three will be *Toss It or Keep It* based on II Corinthians 5:17 and Joshua 5:9-12. Week four is called *Return to the Shepherd* from Isaiah 53:7-9 and I Peter 2:19-25. Week five is entitled *Turn Around and Come Home* from Joel 2:3-5 and Luke 15:21-24. Week six is Palm Sunday and the sermon is called *Whatever Happened to Palm Sunday Parades*. It's based on Luke 19:28-40. We finish with an Easter message called *Stones* from Matthew 28:1-10 and Colossians 3:1-4.



"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."
 John 14:1 NRSV

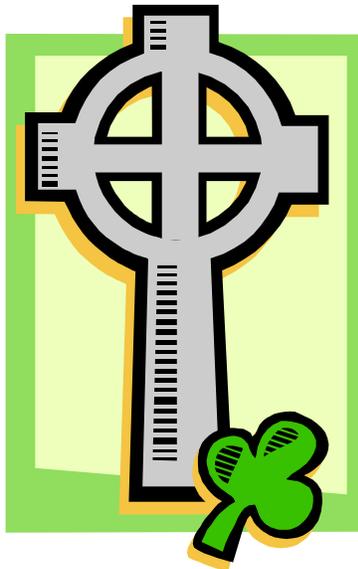


March Birthdays

- 1 Franklin Aidoo
- 2 Erin Potter
- 2 Briana Lee
- 4 Edward DePrine
- 7 Shannon Larrimore
- 10 Peggy Kelly
- 11 Heather Marsalak
- 11 Michaela Jones (Sweet 16)
- 12 Clint Gardner
- 12 Jason Myers
- 14 Norma Jones
- 15 Anne Marie Smith
- 16 Doris Blottenberger
- 16 Karen Seets
- 17 Roy Dorfler
- 17 Matt Price
- 19 Robert Weaver
- 22 Erin Mellott
- 23 Tiffany Hively
- 24 Tim Price
- 25 Sam Boner
- 30 Dave Jackson
- 30 Robert Cullum
- 30 Irene McCrea

*No act of kindness,
 no matter how small,
 is ever wasted.*

—Aesop



Good St. Patrick

On March 17, many churches, especially those with a large Irish population, will celebrate the life of St. Patrick. He grew up in a Christian home in Britain, but wasn't very religious until a major event changed his life. As a teen, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland, but escaped to Gaul (France) after six years. The years of enslavement strengthened his faith. He later wrote, "In that strange land [Ireland], the Lord opened my unbelieving eyes." He was led by God's voice to return to Ireland where he converted people to Christianity tribe by tribe.

Because Ireland is called the Emerald Isle, those who celebrate St. Patrick's day will wear something green. Some Christians will even color food or drink green. Many Christians will also eat corned beef and cabbage and decorate tables with shamrocks. Shamrocks are actually three-leaf (not four-leaf) clover plants. Legend has it that St. Patrick used the three leaves to teach about the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



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 18
- Pick-up order: Sunday, March 25 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
- *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: \$ _____

Adult Leaders Needed for Vacation Bible School

Do you recall your Vacation Bible School Days as a child, remembering the fun times you had at church other than during the Sunday School Hour? Join us in creating 21st century Vacation Bible School memories for present day children and also for adults. The theme of this year's program, a chef in the kitchen cooking up Bible lessons theme, presents the message from the Bible in a unique and fun way with the VBS program "Shake It Up!"

The VBS schedule: week of June 25, Monday - Friday, 6:30-8:30pm. Commitment time for leadership involvement is minimal, rewards of sharing this educational program are bountiful when the young and young-at-heart participants are smiling, laughing and sharing in God's word. Leader information packets are provided. Prep time is minimal thanks to the VBS packets of Leadership materials. One leadership meeting each month in April, May and June with an additional set up day immediately prior to VBS week.

Areas where help is needed:

Bible Story Leader - lessons provided

Science of Food Leader - science project ideas provided

Snack Coordinator

Craft Leader - craft project ideas provided

Recreation Leader - game ideas provided

Dance Leader - DVD and dance steps are ready for teaching to the kids

Adult Class Leader - to share God's message with life-long learners

My memories of church education leaders/teachers include those fun learning experiences with Martha Vohrer, Ann Jenkins and Dottie Carmen. And I know Jen Byrd and her VBS crew provided more recent 21st century fun VBS experiences for Loch Raven families. As you remember education leaders from your early church years, please consider helping us to continue this traditional summer program.

To sign up for a leadership role, contact me, Debi Wynn at 410-583-0270 or at tnhedutainment@aol.com

United Methodist Women February Schedule

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, March 5

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Great People of the Bible*—Lesson 5

Study Leader—Michele

Devotions—Sandi

Hostess—Sandi and Linda

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, March 6

10 am—Parlor

Study: Acts—Chapter 2

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 21

6:30 pm—Covered Dish

Program to be announced

Covered Dish Assignments:

Set-up: Phyllis Downes

Main Dish: J—M

Vegetables: N—Z

Salad: A—C

Dessert: D—I

Clean-up: WIC



Interested in a daytime yoga class at LRUMC? For information, contact Jean Oberia at 410-825-7323.

Is Your Light Growing Dim?



Albert Schweitzer, the gifted physician, musician and missionary, said that at times our own light seems to go out. Sometimes we feel rather dim or washed out. Know the experience?

Schweitzer suggested that our light can be rekindled by another person whose light is still strong and whose presence can increase the power of our own light. Our light can be increased as we live in relationship with the "light of the world."

In John 8:12, Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (NRSV). In Jesus' light, we find that the light in our own life is increased. St. Paul told how Christ's light should affect us: "In the Lord you are light. Live as children of light...." (Ephesians 5:8, NRSV).

EASTER FLOWERS

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. **FIRM DEADLINE April 1st, Palm Sunday. All orders must be accompanied by full payment.**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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

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 (\$19.25): 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