

The Spire



May, 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Confirmation Graduation

Come, celebrate with us as we receive our confirmation class into full membership. The date is Pentecost Sunday, May 27th. Our confirmands are: Steven Gardner, Sarah Jones, Eron Small, and Nick Webster.

For the LORD, the Most High,
is awesome, a great king
over all the earth.

Psalm 47:2, NRSV



Pentecost, the Church's Birthday

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival when the first fruits of crops were given as offerings to God. On the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. They were filled with power and love, thus empowering them to witness to God's actions in Christ to all who were nearby. Some 3,000 people responded to their claims that Christ was Lord and Savior of mankind.

That outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers on the day of Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday. You can read the entire story in Acts 2.

Inside This Issue ...

Pastor's Message	Page 3
Honor a Mom	Page 3
Spring Cleaning	Page 4
Countdown to Vacation Bible School	Page 5

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 June issue is **Sunday, May 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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Children's Page and Address

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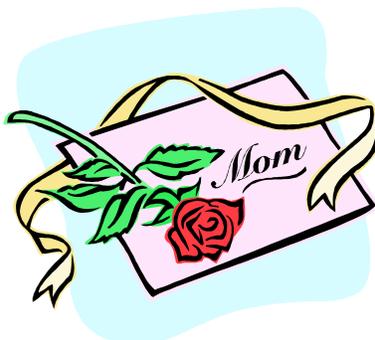
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Mother's Day

Observed the second Sunday in May, this day honors all mothers. It began its present form with a special service in May 1907 at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. The service was organized by a Methodist laywoman, Anna

Jarvis, to honor her mother, who had died on May 9, 1905. By 1908 Anna Jarvis was advocating that all mothers be honored on the second Sunday in May, and in 1912 the Methodist Episcopal Church recognized the day and raised it to the national agenda. It has some parallels with the old English Mothering Sunday in mid-Lent, which focused on returning home and paying homage to one's mother, and with Mother's Day for Peace, introduced in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe in Boston as a day dedicated to peace. Come, join us on May 13th as we celebrate Mother's Day here at Loch Raven Church.

I am including a Mother's Day prayer that you can use to give thanks for your own mother:

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Graduates

December and May/June Graduates we would like to publish your name in the June edition of the Spire.

So, if you are graduating from high school, college (graduate or post graduate), trade school, or G.E.D., please contact the church office with your name and where you graduated. Congratulations from Loch Raven Church!



United Methodist Women Annual Flea Market

Saturday, June 2
 9 am—1 pm

To reserve a space for \$15 contact:
 Nancy Gillotti—410-823-5187 or
 Nancy Harvill—410-828-8271

Pentecost

And in the last days it shall come to pass, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions.— Joel 2.

The day of Pentecost is the fiftieth and the last day of the Easter season, when the church received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. This year we celebrate Pentecost on May 27th.

John Wimber wrote a wonderful song in our U.M. Hymnal called the "Spirit Song." It says, "Let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love. Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul. O let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove will descend upon your life and make you whole." What a terrific verse and great charge to the church.

As we head into the season of Pentecost this year, let's follow the leading of that song. Let's offer everything we have to Jesus, the resurrected Christ. Let's allow his Spirit to fill our hearts and satisfy our soul. Let's even give him the things that are holding us back from fully living as Christ would have us live. And let's see if we don't experience the prophesy of Joel chapter two in our homes and church.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

Honor a Mom

The Missions Team is sponsoring a Mother's Day fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity.

Each year Loch Raven UMC partners with other churches to build a Habitat house. We pledge \$5,000 for building materials and volunteers to work on the houses.

Please consider making a donation in a Mom's honor or memory by using the envelopes provided in the pews. Checks should be made payable to LRUMC. If you would like a certificate for your donation, you can pick one up in the back of the sanctuary. Thanks for caring.

Facts About Habitat Houses

Applicants for Habitat Houses must be citizens or legal residents, with a steady income and good credit. They are required to invest sweat equity in their house and in other houses. Once the house is completed, it is sold to the new owner at cost, with an interest-free mortgage. The mortgage payments are placed in a fund that is used to build more houses.

Spring Cleaning

The Trustees are looking for volunteers for some good old fashioned spring cleaning. There are several decades of "stuff" collected in the closets on the lower level and under the stage in the auditorium. We plan to do some purging on May 19 from 8:30 am to 12 Noon. Anyone wishing to help us sort through and organize these areas is encouraged to attend. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board at the lower entrance to the church. Thanks in advance for your help.



From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

Just want to say thanks for your prayers, cards and phone calls during Sam's back surgery, and to Rev. Bob for his home visits and prayers. It was heartwarming to know our church family was praying for his recovery. Thanks and God bless.

Grace and Sam Boner

Aldersgate Day

May 24th is the anniversary of John Wesley's conversion experience. He began methodically studying the bible, searching out truths concerning conversion. At times despair would overwhelm him, but one night on May 24, 1738, in a little hall off Aldersgate street in London, while someone was reading Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans, John's search suddenly came to an end. He said, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."



May Birthdays

- 2 Tammy Caleb
- 3 Olive Njuguna
- 11 Samantha Shelton
- 12 Steve Webster
- 13 Sara Priebe
- 14 Adele Mueller
- 15 Adrian Palazzi
- 17 Linda Jones
- 17 Cathy Miles
- 21 Patti Ferguson
- 22 David Cole
- 25 Gayle Webb
- 26 Harriet Cole
- 27 Melvin Alaeze
- 30 Peggy Hood
- 31 Justin "JT" Thompson

United Methodist Women May Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle
 Tuesday, May 1
 10 am—Parlor
 Study: Acts

"Women in Christ" Circle
 Monday, May 7
 7:30 p.m.—Room 202
 Study: *Great People of the Bible*—Lesson 7
 Study Leader—Nancy
 Devotions—Judy
 Hostess—Judy and Michele

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 16
6:30 pm—Covered Dish
 Speakers: Kimberly and Richard Brown-Whale

Covered Dish Assignments:

Set-up: WIC
 Main Dish: N—Z
 Vegetables: A—C
 Salad: D—I
 Dessert: J—M
 Clean-up: Phyllis Downes



The Wesley Home Presents COLE

At the Totem Pole Playhouse in Pennsylvania

Thursday, August 16

Learn about the life and hear the songs of an American musical legend.

Your trip includes:

- Reserved seat at the Totem Pole Playhouse
- A delicious farm style dinner at Hickory Bridge Farm
- Taxes and included meal gratuity
- Round trip transportation

Cost: \$80.00 per person

Departs from Towson United Methodist Church at 11:30 am and returns at 8:30 pm

For information and reservations contact: Pat Nardone at 410-823-5377



Countdown to Vacation Bible School

Where did the winter season go?! Yes, with this May issue of *The Spire* it really is only one month to summertime fun with Vacation Bible School! Registration begins May 1 and closes June 5.

VBS 2012 is the week of June 25, Monday through Friday, 6:30 - 8:30pm. In 2012 we are going to ***Shake It Up!*** with Discoveries in the Bible. ***Shake It Up!*** includes fun, fellowship and life-long learning for all ages:

- Bringing to life stories and times in the Bible
- Cooking up science experiments
- Keeping in good physical shape with fun with dance
- Challenging spirited games

Adult Assistance is still needed for the following for VBS. All leadership materials are provided in the ***Shake It Up!*** package. If you would like to join in the fun of making VBS memories for folks of all ages, please contact Debi Wynn at tnhedutainment@aol.com:

- Adult Class Leader
- Dance Leader - DVD and steps provided
- Bible Story Leader
- Snack Coordinator

Please complete the following form and return it to the church by June 5, 2012.

ATT: VBS, LRUMC, 6622 Loch Raven Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21239

For additional information contact VBS Coordinator Debi Wynn at tnhedutainment@aol.com

Children's Registration:

Parent or Guardian _____
 Address _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ E- Mail _____
 Child's Name _____ Age _____ Child's Name _____ Age _____
 Child's Name _____ Age _____ Child's Name _____ Age _____

Adult Registration:

Name _____
 Address _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____