

The Spire



May 2014

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

2014 Annual Conference Highlights

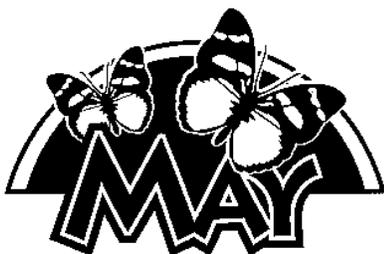
Annual Conference 2014 will be held Thursday, May 29, through Saturday, May 31, at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

The conference will be called to order at 2 p.m. on May 29.

Mr. James H. Salley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement with Africa University Development Office, will lead Bible Study.

Bishop Kenneth Carter, Florida Conference, will be the preacher for the Memorial Service on the morning of Friday, May 30, and the Ordination on the afternoon of Saturday, May 31.

Several area choirs, including the Africa University Choir, First UMC of Hyattsville, Eden/Korean Choir and the "No Other Name" Latino choir.



Feed My Sheep From: Staff Parish Relations

After Jesus' resurrection, he appeared to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius and asked Peter three times if he loved him. Each time Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus, in response to each reply, said "Feed my lambs." Then "Tend my sheep." And lastly, "Feed my sheep."

But what did Jesus mean? He meant more than sharing food, and he wasn't speaking of the four-legged animal. He was speaking of little children and new believers (lambs) and adults and older members (sheep). Jesus asks each of us, today, to do the same thing: to serve by showing and sharing God's love.

How can we care for others? What are some ways we can do that?

- Pray for others.
- Take clothing you cannot wear to a shelter.
- Donate toys and household goods to a local charity.
- Give books and magazines to a library, school, or senior center.
- Spend time reading to children or senior citizens.
- Make cookies and share them with a neighbor.
- Visit someone who is unable to get to church on Sunday morning.

Our church bulletin reminds us that we, the people of Loch Raven United Methodist Church, are ministers and evangelists. Be part of our *In Touch* ministry; reach out to our members—feed them, tend them—as God leads you. See the *In Touch Ministry* page (page 5 of the Spire) for more information.

Inside This Issue ...

"Imagine No Malaria: Changing Lives"	Page 2
Pastor's Message	Page 3
Assistance Center of Towson Churches 5K Run	Page 4
UMW Annual Flea Market	Page 4

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 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

Church Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 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



Our Summer worship schedule begins **Sunday, May 25th**. We will have one worship service and it will be at **10:00 AM**.

“Imagine No Malaria: Changing Lives”

Our Annual Conference has asked all United Methodist Churches in our Conference to support the “Imagine No Malaria” mission project. This project aims to wipe out malaria with education, medical aid and bed nets. If we all work together we can make a big difference in peoples lives. You will find two collection buckets in the church narthex to make your donations each Sunday. The buckets will be there until May 11th, Mother's Day. Please consider dropping your pocket “change” each week into the bucket. You are welcome to make a donation by check made out to Loch Raven UMC with a notation “Imagine No Malaria: Changing Lives”. Together we can make a difference!

Thank you for your continued support.

Carole Webner

Lay Member to Annual Conference

Mother's Day

Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis with the help of Philadelphia merchant John Wanamaker following the death of her mother, Ann Jarvis, on May 9, 1905. A small service was held on May 12, 1907 in the Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, where Anna's mother had been teaching Sunday school. The first "official" service was on May 10, 1908, in the same church, accompanied by a larger ceremony in the Wanamaker Auditorium in the Wanamaker's store in Philadelphia.

Jarvis then campaigned to establish Mother's Day first as a U.S. national holiday and then later as an international holiday. The holiday was declared officially by the state of West Virginia in 1910, and the rest of the

states followed soon after. On May 10, 1913, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on all federal government officials (from the president down) to wear a white carnation the following day in observance of Mother's Day. On May 8, 1914, the U.S. Congress passed a law designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day and requesting a proclamation. The next day, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. In 1934, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved a stamp commemorating the holiday. One of the special Mother's Day traditions is entire families getting together to attend church with their mother or in memory of their mother.



“But Jesus immediately said to them, ‘Take courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid.’” — Matthew 14:27

Life is filled with new challenges. A high school senior sits down with her guidance counselor to discuss the future. The counselor asks, “What are your plans for life?” “I want to graduate from high school,” says the student. “Then

what?” asks the counselor. “I want to graduate from college.” “Then what?” “I want to get a job.” “Then what?” “I want to get married.” “Then what?” “I want to have a family.” “Then what?” “I want to see my family grow into maturity.” “Then what?” “I want to retire.” “Then what?” “Finally I’ll die,” she states quietly. “Then what?” No answer!

There are moments when we stand on the edge of the future and wonder how we will ever face it—moments like birthdays and baptisms, anniversaries, retirement, graduation, weddings, new jobs, new homes.... The list goes on and on.

God knows what it takes to face these challenges and gives us the courage we need. Maybe you remember the courage that Jesus gave to his disciples when they were caught in a storm? They are out in a small fishing boat, some three and a half miles from shore. It’s about 4:00 in the morning. They are completely in the dark. Suddenly, storm clouds form overhead. The wind begins to blow. Waves beat ferociously against the boat. They have been rowing for hours and are tired. It looks like a pretty bleak future—to say the least. But Jesus comes walking toward them on the sea. Amidst the darkness of the predawn hours they cry out in fear, “It’s a ghost!” But Jesus says, “Take courage; It is I. Don’t be afraid.” He climbs into the boat with them. The storm is over.

What challenges will the next few years hold for you? Whatever your future holds, God will give you the courage to deal with the challenges of life. He did it for his disciples in the storm and he will do it for you. One poet writes, “I said to the man who stood at the gate of time: ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.’ So I went forth and, finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me toward the hills and the breaking of the dawn...”

Grace and peace,
Cliff

United Methodist Women May Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle
Monday, May 5
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Moments That Take Your Breath Away*—Lesson 6
Study Leader—Joann
Devotions—Joann
Hostess—Sharon & Linda

Phyllis Downes Circle
Tuesday, May 6
10 am—Parlor
Study: Ruth—3

Loch Raven Ladies Tea
Saturday, May 10
12 Noon—Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$10.00

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.

Did you know?: Aldersgate Day

May 24 is Aldersgate Day. This celebrates our founder John Wesley's life-changing experience at a meeting on Aldersgate Street, London, May 24, 1738. He wrote extensively of that experience in his journal for that day, including these words:

"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

On this day each year let us pray for, or celebrate, such an experience in our lives.

--The Rev. Hoyt Hickman,
Nashville, Tenn., *Interpreter*
magazine



Assistance Center of Towson Churches

Third Annual

Call to ACTION 5K Run/1.5 Mile Walk to Fight Hunger
Saturday, June 7 at Goucher College

Race Day Check-In: 7:00 a.m.

Start Time: 8:00 a.m.

Package Pickup: Friday, June 6, 4pm—7:30pm
at Towson Presbyterian Church

To benefit Assistance Center of Towson Churches
Prizes Awarded

Call to ACTION Race T-shirts for Participants

There are several ways you can participate:

Run the 5K race

Walk the 1.5 mile race

Sponsor a walker/runner with a generous donation

Sponsor the event through your business or place of work

Raise money and donate even if you can't walk

Recruit participants within your church or any organization you belong to

Serve on the committee

Volunteer the day of the event

Pray for the committee and the participants

For more information, contact Dotsie Bregel at
dbregel@gmail.com or 410.583.1530

All 47 churches that support ACTC will be involved, plus anyone and everyone from the community at large.

United Methodist Women Annual Flea Market

Saturday, June 7
8 am—1 pm

To reserve a space for \$15 contact:

Nancy Gillotti—410-823-5187 or

Nancy Harvill—410-828-8271



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:

Jean Angle, Charlie Baker, Joseph and Elsie Barker, Harbans Batra, Doris Blottenberger, Grace and Sam Boner, Elsie Chang, Charles and Jeanette Chilcoat, Ressie Dovel, Norma Jones, Shirley Messman, Eleanor Miller, LaVerne Nimmo, Nancy Scheeler, John Shock, Ruth Tenley, Minnie Webster, and Ruth Weygand.

May Birthdays

- 2 Tammy Caleb
- 3 Olive Githinji Njuguna
- 11 Samantha Shelton
- 12 Steve Webster
- 13 Sara Priebe
- 15 Adrian Palazzi
- 17 Linda Jones and Cathy Miles
- 21 Patti Ferguson
- 22 David Cole
- 25 Gayle Webb
- 26 Harriet Cole
- 27 Melvin Alaeze
- 30 Margaret (Peggy) Hood

Anniversaries:

- May 7
Cheryl & Michael Koogler

A BIG THANK YOU!

The Youth Sunday School Class would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who donated Easter candy for our annual egg hunt. We were able to stuff over 200 plastic eggs. The children had a great time collecting the tasty treats. Thank you again for your support.

The Youth Sunday School Class

Membership Updates

Address/Phone change:

Ronald and Diane Newcomer
21131 San Pablo Drive,
Land O' Lakes, FL 34637
410-340-5069

Notes of Thanks

Dear Loch Raven UM Church Family:

Thank you for all the cards, emails and well wishes following the passing of my Mom. I am absolutely overwhelmed by the outpouring of your caring and concern. You have truly adopted me into your church family and that warms my heart.

Thank you,
Janet Gaver

Dear Church Family,

We wish to thank you for your prayers, cards, Christmas cookies, cupcakes and the delicious meals that were brought to us when I was unable to cook. Thanks to all of you and God bless. Thanks to Pastor Cliff and Carole for their visits.

Thanks to all for your prayers. They have been a blessing. Keep praying.

Grace & Sam Boner



May 26