

The Spire



May 2017

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Annual Conference 2017 “Connected in Covenant”

Once again it's time for our Annual Conference. The 233rd session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference will be held at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, May 31st through June 2nd. This will be the first Annual Conference led by our new Bishop, LaTrelle Easterling. Bishop Easterling is the first woman bishop to be appointed to the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Each year at annual conference we meet to make decisions, worship and fellowship. If you would like more information about conference please visit the website www.bwcumc.org.

Carole Webner
Lay Member to
Annual Conference



The United Methodist Church celebrates John Wesley's "conversion experience" on May 24. The following is a brief account from Basil Miller's book, *How They Were Won*.

As a young man John Wesley attended Oxford University, where he became an instructor in Greek and Logic. He became a missionary early in his life and sailed well-intendedly to Georgia to convert the native Americans, but as he expresses it, "I went to convert the Indians though myself had never been converted."

On ship, during a terrific storm, he noticed a number of Moravian Christians calmly singing and praying while others, even the sailors, were in the clutches of dreadful fear. Conversation with the Moravians convinced him that they steadfastly served God in a way that was foreign to him.

Spangenberg, a Moravian pastor in Georgia, became a close confidant of the Anglican missionary Wesley. On returning to England John met another Moravian named Peter Bohler. Bohler began to tell Wesley about the deeper things of the Lord. After many discussions Wesley became convinced that he had never been converted and knew nothing of the experience of soul rest as did his Moravian friends.

Wesley began methodically studying the Bible, searching out those truths concerning conversion. At times despair would over-

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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 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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Music Ministry Spotlight

By: Sam Chin, Music Director

This month's spotlight member is Cheryl Wagner-Koogler. The Alto section, of which Cheryl is a member, has a special place in my heart. Often tasked to sing supportive lines - which, mind you, are always much more difficult to learn than their soprano counterparts - they seldom get the recognition that all other sections receive yet are vital to the harmonies we create. In my personal experience the members of the Alto section are consistently the most faithful, hard-working members of the choir. This is exactly how I think of Cheryl. Cheryl, with her work as Loch Raven's webmaster (among other things), is doing the behind-the-scenes work which often doesn't get noticed but is vital to the life of our ministries here at LRUMC. Thank you for all your good works!

When did you start attending Loch Raven UMC and when did you get involved with the Music Ministry?

My mother, sister and I joined in 1976, shortly after my parents separated. We transferred from Northwood Appold UMC. My sister and I immediately joined the youth choir. I stayed in the choir until I moved to Anne Arundel County. Then, once I bought my house off of Loch Raven Blvd., my children and I started attending around 1990. Later, once I no longer had responsibilities for driving them to sporting events, I joined the Chancel Choir. In fact, my son Tim joined too in his last years of high school.

What is most memorable experience in LRUMC's Music Ministry?

The most memorable experience for me was when Judy Zahren arranged for us to participate in the International Church Music Festival in Coventry, England and a few years later, Bern, Switzerland. It was such an incredible experience to meet and perform with musicians from all over the world. But, here at the church, taking part in Christmas and Easter cantatas or Good Friday Tenebrae services have been great experiences.

What are your favorite hymns?

Amazing Grace, In the Garden, O Holy Night, How Great Thou Art, 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus.

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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.

Come celebrate Mother's Day with us at LRUMC on Sunday, May 14 @ 10:00 AM.

Pastor's Message

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whelm 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."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Cliff

Music Ministry Spotlight

(Continued from page 2)

Three adjectives to describe LRUMC?

Loving, mission-minded, an extended family.

How do you envision the Music Ministry and LRUMC growing in the future?

I see our music program growing in the future by continuing to incorporate many types of anthems, hymns, and special music into the service. As a multigenerational, multicultural church, we should strive to include music that is meaningful, beautiful, moving, and inclusive. It is wonderful to learn and to sing pieces from different cultures and countries. Sam has been doing a nice job of including guitar, saxophone, and other instruments into the service as well. We are blessed to have a talented organist and others in the choir willing to step in when needed. The music program is very rich at LRUMC and I pray it stays that way for years to come. Singing His praises each week brings me, and I hope many others, closer to God.



***Missions In Action: Habitat for Humanity
Seeking to put God's love into action by bringing people
together to build homes, communities and hope.***

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake.

This year Habitat Chesapeake is celebrating 35 years of helping needy families become home owners. 738 area families have become home owners thanks to your donations and many legions of volunteers. Of these families, 153 have already paid off their mortgages thereby building equity and halting the cycle of intergenerational poverty. More than 2,500 children have been able to focus on their schoolwork and a chance for a brighter future because they have a safe, stable place to call home.

Habitat Chesapeake strives to build in neighborhoods with strong anchor institutions and amenities likes parks and walkable green streets to ensure that your investment of money, time and talent is most impactful.

Did you know that every Habitat affiliate tithes a percentage of its revenue to build in developing areas? For the past five years, Habitat Chesapeake has supported work in Haiti.

Last year, they also launched HabiCorps, a new workforce development program, which provides 10 months of training to individuals who face employment barriers. The trainees learn a wide variety of skills—from framing, to flooring, to fine carpentry—as they build new homes and renovate existing ones for Habitat families. Participants, in partnership with the Job Opportunities Task Force, receive financial literacy coaching case management services and assistance finding jobs when they graduate. In addition, all trainees receive a living allowance and education stipend for future training thanks to funding provided by Americore.

You can further support Habitat Chesapeake through your donations of furniture, cabinets, flooring and more to an area ReStore (*call 410-633-0506 for a pick up*). You can also take advantage of their low prices on home goods by shopping at one of the 6 area ReStores—the Timonium store is located at 7 W. Aylesbury Road.

ReStore sales account for nearly 30% of Habitat Chesapeake's revenue.

Donations prevented 3.6 million pounds of construction materials from entering landfills last year.

Volunteers donated 19,735 hours—the equivalent of 10 full-time employees. If you are interested in volunteering call 410-633-0506.

For more information, see: www.habitatchesapeake.org

UMC Lectionary Calendar May, 2017

May 7

4th Sunday of Easter

Church Color: White or Gold
Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

May 14

5th Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day (USA)
Festival of the Christian Home
Church Color: White or Gold
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
(UMH 764)
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 21

6th Sunday of Easter

Heritage Sunday
Church Color: White or Gold
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20 (UMH 790)
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21
May 24: Aldersgate Day

May 25

Ascension of the Lord

Church Color: White or Gold
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (UMH 781)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 28

7th Sunday of Easter

Church Color: White or Gold
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
(UMH 792)
1 Peter 4:12-14 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Confirmation Update

Our confirmands, Gabby Schwartz, Erika Stiles, and Caitlin Webster are doing well and are on schedule to be received into membership on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. Most recently we have been learning about church history, United Methodist history, worship, and the sacraments. Please continue to keep the class in your prayers.

For the Confirmation class,
Cathy Miles and Pastor Cliff



United Methodist Women May Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, May 1
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Woman of God*
Lesson 7 —*Abigail's Creative Rescue*
Study Leader: Amy
Devotions: Nancy
Hostess: Sharon

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, May 2
10 am—Parlor
Study: Chapter 6

Coming Soon:

Flea Market
Saturday, June 3
8 AM—1 PM



May 29

Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later May 30, 1868 was designated as Decoration Day—a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died—in war or otherwise—are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

Planting Your Spring Garden



For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce Be Faithful
2. Lettuce Be Kind
3. Lettuce Be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

1. Turnip For Meetings
2. Turnip For Service
3. Turnip To Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme For Each Other
2. Thyme For Family
3. Thyme For Friends

Water freely with Patience and cultivate with Love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities

To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for ACTC. Watch the Sunday Worship Bulletin for the most critical need.

Manna House Breakfast Club
May 6, July 15 and Oct. 14
 If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole: 410-666-5222.

Collection of hotel-size toiletries for Essex UMC. There is a box for the items on the hospitality desk. This is an ongoing collection.

Sandwich making for Essex UMC 3rd or 4th Tuesday of every month.

Assurance of the Ascension

After the Resurrection, the risen Lord instructed his followers not to leave Jerusalem. It was there, Jesus said, that they would receive “the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4, NRSV). What was that promise? It was that they would be baptized not with water but with the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after that utterance, Jesus was “lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (v. 9).

The Ascension reminds us that even though Jesus isn’t physically present on earth, as the living Christ, he is as near as we allow him to be.

Jesus’ Ascension offers us the assurance that God is now available to all people all the time. He lives as a guiding, loving Spirit in our midst.

United Methodist Women Annual Flea Market

Saturday, June 3
 8 am—1 pm

To reserve a space for \$20 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. Contact the church office for up-to-date information.

May Birthdays

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

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for your calls, cards and prayers during mom's illness and death. The amazing number of you who were able to attend the viewing and/or funeral service also really helped me to get through a difficult time. It has been a long year and your kind words and hugs have been a constant support. Someone from my work said to me, "Wow, your church was really there for you!" They were right. Thank you.

Judy Feustle



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Just a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make our egg hunt a fun-filled experience. We are so grateful for your monetary donations, plastic eggs and the chocolate stuffings. Everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you again for all your support of our Sunday School program.

Carole Webner
Sunday School Egg
Hunt Organizer

In this special moment in life . . .

Think freely.
Practice patience.
Smile often.
Savor special moments.
Live God's message.
Make new friends.
Rediscover old ones.
Tell those you love that you do.
Feel deeply. Forget trouble.
Forgive your enemy. Hope.
Grow. Be crazy. Count your blessings. Observe miracles.
Make them happen.
Discard worry. Give. Give in.
Trust enough to take.
Pick some flowers.
Share them. Keep a promise.
Look for rainbows.
Gaze at stars.
See beauty everywhere.
Work hard. Be wise.
Try to understand.
Take time for people.
Make time for yourself.
Laugh heartily. Spread joy.
Take a chance. Reach out.
Let someone in.
Try something new.
Slow down. Be soft sometimes.
Believe in yourself.
Trust others. See a sunrise.
Listen to rain. Reminisce.
Cry when you need to.
Trust life. Have faith.
Enjoy wonder.
Comfort a friend.
Have good ideas.
Make some mistakes.
Learn from them.
Celebrate life.