

The Spire



November, 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

ACTC Thanks-giving Baskets

During the month of September we had a very successful food drive for the Assistance Center. This year, instead of collecting food again in November, we will be collecting monetary donations to purchase food gift cards. These food gift cards allow the recipient of the basket to purchase perishable items. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. Please mark checks "Thanksgiving Baskets" or use a pew envelope for cash. Last year 2,800 families in Baltimore City and County received baskets. As always, thanks for your generosity.



Worship in November

November brings several special opportunities to gather for praise and prayer, word and song, as we worship the God who loves us beyond measure.

November 7 is All Saints Sunday. We will remember all the dear ones of Loch Raven Church who have gone home to God since last All Saints Day. The service will include a reading of the names and honoring of the saints, candle lighting, tolling of the bell, and communion. This is a special day as we thank God for the saints in our lives and our church.

November 14 is our commitment Sunday, a time to dedicate our intentions for financial giving and giving of self in ministry. This Sunday will conclude the fall sermon series on John Wesley's teaching to "Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can."

November 21 is the last Sunday of the church year, the Festival of Christ the King. We will celebrate with special music, including guest trumpeter Cullen Waller, a regular and much appreciated guest to LRUMC.

Wednesday, November 24 is Thanksgiving Eve and we will gather as a church family at 7:30 p.m. for a service in which we are reminded of God's providence and blessing.

November 28 is both Student Sunday and the first Sunday in Advent. Our Youth Fellowship, under the leadership of Youth Director Jen Byrd, will lead worship at **one service at 10 a.m.** This service was a highlight of the year last year, and will certainly be a blessing to us all again.

See you in church!

Pastor Gayle

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All signed articles, letters, announcements, and other information of interest are welcomed and considered for publication.

The deadline for the December issue is **Sunday, November 14, at 11:00 a.m.** *Electronic Submission:* You may send articles by e-mail to: [njw.williams@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

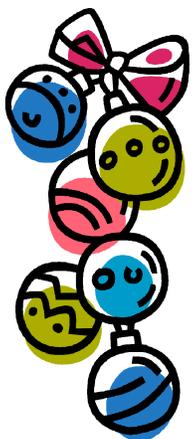
Website: www.LRUMC.org

New Office Furniture

Our Baltimore-Washington Conference center recently moved from rented space to a newly-built and conference-owned facility. Furniture that was not being moved to be used in the new space was offered, free of charge, to churches that needed it. LRUMC was able to get a desk and credenza for the office, some lateral file cabinets, some reception chairs for guests to our office and a bookcase. Thanks to David Brown and Gary Bishop, our custodian, for transporting the furniture, and to Owen Williams for the computer work involved in the change. Pastor Gayle painted the outer office, and David Brown installed new ceiling tiles. We hope the office will be a more inviting place for members and visitors.

Mission Trip to Haiti

Three folks from LRUMC, Phil Scott, Dick Annis-Forder and Pastor Gayle will be traveling to Haiti December 9-17 to work with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the Evangelical Methodist Church in Haiti in restoration efforts after last January's devastating earthquake. Your prayers are requested for the team, which consists of 8 persons from UM churches in the Baltimore Region. Financial contributions are welcome, and should be received by November 14. Perhaps you would "sponsor" a worker for a day for \$50, the approximate cost to keep one person working for a day. This is in addition to travel and project costs. Participants bear most of the cost, but any help from church folk is appreciated. Questions? See one of the folks going on the trip. Please pray for all who are going and all who will be served in the name of Jesus.



Family Ministries Christmas Chill-out Sunday, December 5th 12:30pm

The Family Ministries Committee cordially invites you to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season and join the entire Church Family as we "Chill-out". There will be a delicious Turkey dinner and dessert and then we will watch a movie.





Special Musical Events

November 21 Christ the King Sunday

Trumpet player Cullen Waller will join us once again to celebrate Christ the King Sunday! Cullen will play at both services. Choir sings at 11:00.

December 5 Second Sunday in Advent

Praised for her sweet tone and elegant musicianship, Violinist Lydia Chernicoff will be joining us in worship for both services.

Jennifer met Lydia during her time at Peabody, and is thrilled that Lydia will come to Loch Raven to share her amazing gift with us this Advent season.

December 19 Christmas Cantata

This year's Christmas Cantata will be held for both services on December 19th. Bring a friend and join us as we celebrate the birth of our savior through music!

December 24 Festival of Music 10:00 p.m.

Prepare your heart for the Christmas Eve Service with a concert of Holiday Music!

Loch Raven Youth News

Preparations have begun for Youth Sunday. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 28. It's United Methodist Student Sunday and Pastor Gayle is allowing us to lead the service on that day. There will be one service at 10am. We ask for your prayers while we prepare to bring forth a message of "Preparation" for the Advent season.

Upcoming Calendar

October 24 – 12:30pm
Family Ministries Fall Harvest. (This replaces the normal 7pm Youth meeting)

November 10 – 7pm
Regular meeting.

November 17 – 7pm
Regular meeting

November 27 – Time to be decided – Church service run through.

November 28 – report time 9:15am for church service at 10am.

Sour Beef Dinner Rescheduled

The sour beef dinner originally scheduled for November 6 has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2011.

Pastor Appreciation

October was Pastor Appreciation month. If you have not already done so, please take a couple of minutes and write a note of appreciation to our pastors. We will collect them and place in a "Thank You" box for Gayle and Bob. Just place them in the offering plate or return to the church office. Make your note more personal by including your name.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



Habitat for Humanity Volunteers Inspired

On Tuesday, October 5, LRUMC member David Brown was one of the folks who met and worked with Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter as 10 homes were rehabbed in Baltimore for new Habitat homeowners. It was an inspirational day for all, and David had a great time. Ask him about it! To volunteer for Habitat in the coming year, see Dick Annis-Forder.

United Methodist Women November Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, November 1

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Growing Through Life's Challenges*

Lesson 8—Growing Through Pressure to Compromise

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, November 2

10 am—Parlor

Study: *Romans*

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 17

6:30 pm—Covered Dish

Program—To Be Announced

Covered Dish Assignments:

Set-up—P.D.

Main Dish—A-C

Vegetables—D-I

Salad—J-R

Dessert—S-Z

Clean-up—WIC

Making the Right Choice

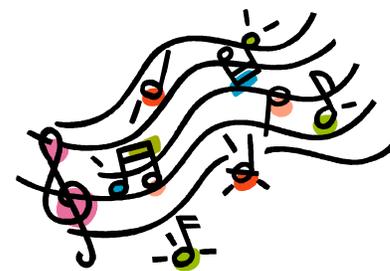
The sweet old man always seemed to be in good humor. One day, a curious younger man asked why he was always so happy.

“Well,” the kindly man replied, “it is because I know when I get up in the morning, I have two choices. I can choose to be happy or I can choose to be unhappy. I try to choose happiness each day. Hopefully that is reflected on my face and in my actions.”

What did you choose this morning?

Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.

—St. Augustine



Do You Love Music?

The music ministry is looking for volunteers to sing or play an instrument on Sunday mornings. If you have a musical ability and would like to use it for the glory of God in this way please contact our Director of Music, Jennifer Edwards, by phone (501) 269-0982 or through email at: edwards24@hotmail.com

All ages and experience levels are welcome!

The Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir are always open to new members. The Handbell Choir meets on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. and the Chancel Choir on Thursday nights at 8 p.m.

If you love music, but don't feel comfortable participating in one of the choirs, join our team of Sound Technicians who run the soundboard up in the balcony on Sunday mornings. No experience required! We are in real need of more people to fill this ministry. Please contact Jim Wagner or Jennifer Edwards if you are interested.



Education Department presents a Live Nativity

Sunday, December 5th

10:15 – 10:45am on the front steps of the church. We will have hot chocolate and cookies.

We are looking for a few Adults to help with singing Christmas Carols. If you would like to participate in this event, please let Jen Byrd know.



Bring a Song of Joy to the World this Holiday Season!

Christmas is a very lonely time for many in our community. Caroling is a fun and easy way that you can minister to those in need and brighten up someone else's holiday season!

For two hours we will travel on a planned route to shut-ins, former church members, hospice facilities, or anywhere else that needs a song of joy! No rehearsal required--We all know the carols already! Music will be provided.

Be the gift to someone in need this Christmas.

December 23rd
6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Please sign up in the Choir Room.

Invite Friends and Family -
Everyone is Welcome!

Hot Cocoa and fellowship will follow.

If you would like to suggest someone that would enjoy a visit from the Loch Raven Carolers, please contact Jennifer Edwards or Pastor Bob Fringo.

Searching for Saints

God is on a saint search, and it's only perfect people who are going to be found. Sure, there may be some who are born with the natural ability to love the Lord with the totality of heart, soul, mind and strength, nonstop. But for most of us, this passion and power come only after we discover that God has always loved us, and that his love precedes our own.

Fact is, most of us find the Lord only after we have been found by him.

And all God asks is that we respond with that same level of passion . . . loving him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength . . . and showing a willingness to love our neighbors as ourselves.

If we do, we'll be God's holy ones, set apart for his service.

—*Homiletics*

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

God bless you all for your calls, your cards, and most of all your prayers during my recent health challenges. Your prayers are being answered. It appears I am heading in the right direction. Thanks for being such a devoted family of Christian love.

Carolyn Hax

Staff Love Gift This Holiday Season

We are blessed with a dedicated, caring, talented staff. If you would like to make a special love gift to be divided among our seven staff members (Pastor Gayle, Pastor Bob, Michele, Jen, Jennifer, Song Yi, and Aleece) this holiday season, please mark your check or envelope "love gift" and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. Gifts will be collected through December 19.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



VETERANS DAY

November 11