

# The Spire



November 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Thanksgiving Baskets for ACTC

As members of the Assistance Center of Towson Churches, we agree to help provide Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families in the area. Each family receives a food basket and a certificate to purchase perishables. This year Loch Raven will be collecting money to purchase the certificates. To make a donation use the envelopes in the church pews marked *baskets*. We will collect donations from October 23 to November 13. As always, thanks for caring.

*Missions Committee*



**November 6  
Daylight Savings  
Time Ends  
Set Clocks Back  
One Hour**

## Thank You and Welcome

**“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?” ---I Thessalonians 3:9**

-oOo-

It's November, the month of thanksgiving, and an opportune time to think about things for which we are thankful. You have heard me say from the pulpit on a number of occasions and in Bible study as well how thankful I am to be working among you here at Loch Raven Church. It is always tough when you first walk into a church as pastor. You do all you can to try to hit the ground running. But, of course, things happen and maybe you don't get to every person, place, meeting, or event right away. Then you remind yourself that you're in it for the long haul. A seminary professor said to me years ago, "There will be time enough for all of the things God wants you to do." I'm grateful for that bit of wisdom that has helped me along the way.

In the above Scripture passage from I Thessalonians the Apostle Paul is talking about his fellow workers in the ministry. He is grateful that he sees God working through them. Paul knows that ministry can be hard. He knows that he needs good people around him. He is thankful that he has it.

You know that the Staff Parish Committee and I have been working hard over the last few months to hire a number of staff vacancies. A number of you have even reminded us that the number of vacancies happening all at once have been unprecedented. A number of you have written notes of encouragement to us. These were also notes of thanksgiving for the work that we have been doing on this. I want to say a personal thank you for both

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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 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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## Worship Notes

**All Saints Sunday is November 6<sup>th</sup>.** We will be tolling the bell for those members who have died since last All Saints Day. We invite you to come and commemorate those great saints that have passed from our physical presence.

**November 13<sup>th</sup> is Commitment Sunday.** It is an opportunity to commit ourselves in faithful stewardship of our resources as we support the ministries of Loch Raven Church.

**Christ the King Sunday is November 20<sup>th</sup>.** It's also known as Thanksgiving Sunday and presents a wonderful opportunity for us to be thankful for Christ the King. It is also the last Sunday of the Christian calendar.

**Our Thanksgiving service will be November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM.** Let's gather together to ask the Lord's blessings. Be thinking about what you have been thankful for since last Thanksgiving. We will have time to share these blessings during worship.

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** is the First Sunday of Advent. It is also United Methodist Student Day and it is **Youth Sunday** at Loch Raven Church. It is the first Sunday of the Christian calendar. Our youth will be doing the service that day. Let's come and show them our support.

## United Methodist Women November Schedule

*Prepared by Betty Shock*

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Tuesday, November 1  
10 a.m.—Parlor

**“Women in Christ” Circle**  
Monday, November 7  
7:30 pm—Room 202  
Study: Great People of the Bible  
Study 2: Noah

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 16**  
**6:30 pm—Covered Dish**

**Speakers: Cheryl Koogler and Margot Gerding will discuss the Emergency Response Team trip to North Carolina**

### Assignments:

Set up—W.I.C.  
Main Dish—D-I  
Vegetable—A-C  
Salad—N-Z  
Dessert—J-M  
Clean up—P.D.

*We* GIVE YOU THANKS,  
AND *praise* YOUR  
*glorious*  
*name.*

1 Chronicles 29:13, NIV

## Thank You and Welcome

(Continued from page 1)

the written and verbal thank you notes. You have been a vital source of encouragement which has helped to sustain us through the process.

I want to thank God for our two most recent hires---namely our organist, Chris Keenan, and our Music Director, Sam Chin. You have already experienced the musical giftedness that Chris brings to us and, by the time you read this, will have experienced the same from Sam. We are very pleased to have the spirit-filled leadership that both of these men bring to Loch Raven Church.

Chris Keenan is a senior at The Peabody Institute. He is from Franklinville, Tennessee. His parents and sister reside in Franklinville. When he graduates he hopes to continue on to a master's degree. We are hoping he does that at Peabody, but no matter what, we want the best for him and we are glad he is with us.

Sam Chin is a husband and father. He is a member of the Naval Academy band where he plays the clarinet. Sam is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he majored in music. He has a master's degree in music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. You can read more of Sam's bio at [www.usna.edu/USNABand/biographies/ChinBio.htm](http://www.usna.edu/USNABand/biographies/ChinBio.htm)

So we say welcome to Chris and Sam as they begin their ministry here at Loch Raven. As you see them at worship or choir practice or at some other church event please take time to say hello and continue to be encouraging with an occasional thank you. We are glad they are here.

Grace and peace,

*Cliff*



## October/November Birthdays and Celebrations

### Birthdays:

Doris Ndlovu 10/2  
Adelaide Wilson 10/2  
Robert Fringo 10/30  
Gary Smith 11/5

### Anniversaries:

Cliff and Carol Webner 10/7  
Owen and Nancy Williams 10/11  
Cathy and Melvin Miles 10/13

If you would like to share your special dates with your church family, please feel free to e-mail Marcia Smith at [gary.marcia.smith@verizon.net](mailto:gary.marcia.smith@verizon.net) or call (410)825-0215.

## From the Mailbox

Dear Loch Raven Friends,

I wish to thank you for the many cards, telephone calls and visits received while I was in the hospital and health care center. All of these loving thoughts helped make me feel better. How blessed I am to have a wonderful, compassionate church family. God bless you all.

*Vesta Williams*



### Time for Soup

Cold weather is on the way. That means it's time for soup. Please continue to save your Campbell's soup labels and also box tops for kids. The Board of Child Care uses these for school aids. Thank you.

*Betty Shock*

## Label Collection

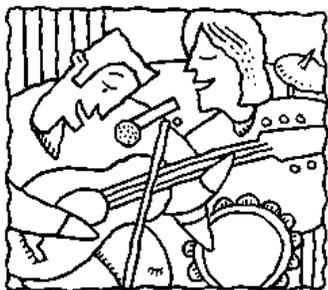
# Music in Ministry

## Introducing LRUMC's New Organist

Christopher Keenan began studying the piano at age 8 and the organ at age 13. He is a senior at Peabody Conservatory, majoring in organ performance under the tutelage of Donald Sutherland. He plans on attending graduate school in organ performance after this year. Upcoming performances include a 3 concert tour of England, with recitals at Westminster Cathedral and Albert Hall, Nottingham. Other interests include running, reading, and coffee. His favorite organ composer is Bach and his favorite piano composer is Chopin.

## Praise Band

Sam Chin, our Director of Music, is interested in forming a LRUMC Praise Band. If you play an instrument or like to sing and would be interested in participating in a praise band, Sam would be glad to hear from you.



## SHOE BOX MINISTRY Shining God's Light Around the Globe

Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection time is just around the corner! Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected more than 86 MILLION gift-filled shoe boxes.

A shoe box filled with age-appropriate toys, school supplies, and hygiene items can bring joy and hope to children who have endured poverty, disease, and disaster. These same boys and girls are also invited to a follow-up discipleship program that introduces them to God's Word through a series of Bible lessons.

Pack a shoe box in honor or memory of someone.

Plan a special shopping day with your children or grandchildren to pick out shoe box items. (Dollar Tree store is great.)

Youth Group or Sunday School classes may want

to consider getting together for a shoe box packing activity.

This year we will have empty Operation Christmas Child boxes as well as plastic shoe boxes and brochures available in the narthex. The brochure includes specific instructions on what to pack in your box, a boy/girl label to attach to your box, and a detachable donation envelope. **COLLECTION SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**. All boxes must be brought to church by that date.

As you pack your box, please keep in prayer the children who will be receiving your gifts and learning about Jesus. Together, we can spread the "Good News" to children across the globe.

*Yvonne Horn*  
Missions Committee



**November 11**

## Membership Updates

George Sinkler  
A Caring Touch  
(Assisted Living)  
c/o Michelle Bacon  
5519 Moravia Road  
Baltimore, MD 21206  
410-800-2005

# Searching for Saints

God is on a saint search, and it's not 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



**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV



**Count Your Blessings**



**United Methodist Women Gift Card Sale**

The United Methodist Women will be taking orders for gift cards the first two Sundays in December. Watch the church bulletin for details.