

# The Spire



October, 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

## Family Ministries – Fall Harvest – Sunday, October 24th, 12:30pm

The Family Ministries Committee cordially invites you to join the entire Church Family as we celebrate the fall season.

Soup and salad lunch will be provided along with a delicious dessert.

There will be fall-themed activities and fun for all ages.

This is an excellent time to invite someone to church and then join in the festivities.

Hope you see you there!!!!

## Charge Conference Scheduled

Our annual Charge Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19 at 8 p.m., with the Rev. Rod Miller, the Baltimore-Washington Conference staff member assigned to LRUMC, presiding. All members of the Church Council are members of the Charge Conference, and all of those in the LRUMC family are invited to attend.



This year's World Communion Sunday on October 3 will be extra special as we welcome the people of the St. Paul's Ghana Methodist Church that meets here on Sunday afternoons. Christina Blankson, coordinator of this ministry, and members of that congregation will share in worship with members of LRUMC at the 11 a.m. service. We thank God for this ministry to Christians from Ghana and for the opportunity to worship God together in unity.

Looking ahead, next year the Awujoh feast will be on World Communion Sunday, the first Sunday in October. As Barb Frick noted at the feast in May, "we'll feast at the Lord's table upstairs, then come down and feast at our multicultural, international table down here." What a

blessing to be a part of a church in which the beautiful variety of God's family is so evident!



Missions will sponsor an indoor yard sale on Saturday, October 23, from 8 am to 1 pm. We are asking church members and friends to donate items for the sale. Contributions can be brought to Fellowship Hall.

Suggested donations include:

Men's, women's and children's clothes—clean and in very good condition

Books, CDs, DVDs, toys, tools, kitchen and household items, working electronics

**Proceeds to benefit Haiti relief and a clean water project.**

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*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 November issue is **Sunday, October 10, at 11:00 a.m.** *Electronic Submission:* You may send articles by e-mail to: [njk.williams@yahoo.com](mailto: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** - Gayle E. Annis-Forder

**Pastor of Congregational Care** - Robert J. Fringo

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**Change of Name/Address** - Call, mail or e-mail church office.

**Website:** [www.LRUMC.org](http://www.LRUMC.org)

## Boiler Fund Update

As of September 5th, the total amount received towards the \$73,000.00 cost of the new boiler is \$38,371.00. The Board of Trustees offers their appreciation for every gift received and sends their blessings and a heartfelt Thank You!

## Loch Raven to Host Fall Meeting of Board of Child Auxiliary

The Fall meeting of the Baltimore Metropolitan District of the Board of Child Care Auxiliary will be held here at Loch Raven UMC on Saturday, October 16.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch. The cost of the lunch is \$7.00 and there will be a choice of ham or turkey sandwiches. Reservations are required for lunch and are due by October 9th.

If you are interested in attending, please contact me. Thank you.

*Leslie Christopher*  
Keyperson



We are planning a Sour Beef Dinner to be held on **Saturday, November 6,** from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you are able to volunteer to help in the kitchen or serve in the dining hall, please contact Dave Jackson or the church office.

## An Invitation to All Women of LRUMC

We would like to invite you to join our United Methodist Women. Our purpose:

*The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

We currently have two circles which meet monthly, one on Tuesday at 10 am and the other on Monday at 7:30 pm.

We also have covered dish dinners with guest speakers. Our next covered dish dinner will be **Wednesday, October 20, at 6:30 pm.** Tim Shelton will be our guest speaker. Tim was in the Peace Corps and just returned from the South Pacific.

Please contact me and I will be happy to tell you more.

Blessings,

*Isabelle Burrell*  
UMW Membership  
410-561-2488

Dear Friends,

Several people I know have celebrated anniversaries lately, some of them significant ones, like Pastor Bob and



Helen Fringo's 60th wedding anniversary. I always enjoy the words of wisdom shared when an anniversary is announced in church. We could all learn a little something about improving our relationships!

Some folks have an aversion to celebrating events like birthdays and anniversaries, often because they don't like to draw attention to themselves. In the best light, this represents a desire for folks to focus on things that might be deemed more important. "Don't fuss over me," I've heard people say. "Go do something useful for someone who needs it."

It's a noble thought, and such urgings have often been the impetus for alternative giving, giving to charity rather than giving a gift to someone who already has more than enough of everything, which is the situation of many of us.

I'd like to suggest another way to look at occasions like these for those among us who prefer when it's not all about us. Could we possibly look at these milestones as being all about God instead of all about us? After all, it is God who gives each

day, so a birthday is a celebration of God's gracious gift of 365 days, another cycle of opportunities for praise and service. An anniversary is a special chance to give the praise to God. Who among us is all that we hope to be in our dealings with others, especially those closest to us, like our spouses? Some years we thrive, and others seem more like just holding on, but in any case, it is God who gives us the capacity to keep at it, and that's a cause for praise and thanksgiving.

I've got an anniversary coming up this month, and a birthday a few weeks after that. I'm going to try to do it differently this year. For the anniversary, I'm going to focus on the gift of God that I have in my husband, and pray for the grace to continue to grow in my capacity to give and receive love and acceptance. For the birthday, I'm going to ignore the signs of aging and focus on what's before me today. I know I'm not 20 anymore, but the list of things I can do is so much longer than the list of things I can't, and I'm so thankful for each day.

I am also so thankful for each of you, and the ways you let God's light shine from your lives brightly enough for me to benefit from the glow.

Blessings+

*Pastor Gayle*

## United Methodist Women October Schedule

*Prepared by Betty Shock*

**"Women in Christ" Circle**  
NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN OCTOBER

**Phyllis Downes Circle**  
Tuesday, October 12  
10 am—Parlor

### GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, October 20**  
**6:30 pm—Covered Dish**

**Speaker—Tim Shelton will speak on his time with the Peace Corps**

Covered Dish Assignments:

- Set-up—WIC
- Main Dish—S-Z
- Vegetables—A-C
- Salad—D-I
- Dessert—J-R
- Clean-up—P.D.



## News from Nick Bergin (former organist, now graduate student at Indiana University)

Nick writes that he was searching his belongings for a CD and came upon the DVD of the 2008 Christmas Cantata (thanks Vern Davies). He popped it in and watched the whole service and was struck with "quite a case of the warm fuzzies."

His news is that he'll be spending the bulk of the fall semester in St. Louis as the organ scholar at the Episcopal Church of St. Michael and St. George while their assistant organist is away in Virginia working on an organ building project. Nick says he looks forward to "a wonderful chance to learn a TON of great English choral repertoire and work on service playing skills." He is excited and grateful for this opportunity.

The internship ends in late November, after which Nick will take a 10-day trip to Sweden (where his father lives), hopefully playing a few recitals and seeing family and friends who live there.

It's an exciting fall for him, and he wanted to pass on the good news. He sends his love to all and hopes that all his friends at LRUMC are well. (Back at you, Nick. We send our love as well and hope this all will be a major blessing for you.)

## A Very Special Ministry

The Prayer Chain in Loch Raven Church is the outreach of prayer to all who suddenly are facing immediate needs. We have a dedicated group in the church who make themselves available, through phone calls, to pass on these requests one-to-one-to-one until many are united in bringing these special needs to God. There is no better way to express love and concern for a member of our church family.

Your only involvement is the willingness to make one or two phone calls to the next person in your group and/or the church office. Such a small thing that means so much!

If you would consider being a part of this loving ministry and have any questions, please notify the church office. Someone will be happy to talk with you.

*Marlene Dennstaedt*  
Prayer Chain Coordinator

## Our 6th and 7th graders need your HELP!!!!

We are looking for two or more, middle high Sunday school leaders for this upcoming season. This class will have 3 – 5 children in attendance regularly and would really like to be in a class that is age/grade appropriate. If this is an area that GOD has called you to help with, please contact Jen Byrd at [birdie21234@aol.com](mailto:birdie21234@aol.com) or 443-756-4000.

## The Matter of Conscience

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What happens when someone's conscience bothers them?"

A boy spoke up and said, "It makes you tell your mother what you did before your sister tells on you."



## From the Mailbox

My Dear Church Family,

Thank you for holding me and my family in your prayers, hearts and thoughts and for the many cards for the recent death of my sister-in-law, Emily Wagner. Also, a special thank you to the Altar Guild for the beautiful African violet. Just to know that God and all of you are there when a tragedy happens is so comforting for all of us.

Emily was a wonderful Christian woman, wife, mother, grandmother and sister-in-law. She was my brother's high school sweetheart. They have four children and eight grandchildren. She was actively involved in her church and intercessory prayer group for many years.

Emily taught Bible study, woman's ministry and traveled to Albania on five separate occasions as a missionary through their Church where she encouraged, listened and prayed for the people of that country and at the celebration of her life a lady traveled from Albania to thank the family and the Church for Emily's ministry to her people. She will be greatly missed and always be in our hearts and thoughts.

Blessings and love,  
*Lin Jones*

My Dear Church Family,

This is very late, but never to be forgotten by me, dear friends, my deep appreciation for your prayers, cards and calls during my recent knee surgery.

Thank you Pastor Gayle, Pastor Bob and Lin for your visits to the hospital and flow-ers from the church. I appreciate all aspects of a visit.

And I thank you all again for your love, understanding and interest shown to me during my car accident. Again, thank you for praying for the Selbys. Your prayers, without doubt, gave us all peace beyond understanding. The Selbys and I are truly grateful. I knew God was with me every step of the way and we can all say "Our God is an awesome God!"

Love,  
*Glo Martin*

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To: Loch Raven United  
Methodist Church

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so much for praying for my family and me. We could feel God's love and His peace through this difficult time.

It is a blessing to know that so many Christians lifted us up in prayer.

God Bless All of You,

Betty Selby  
John Selby  
Chris Curreri

## Membership Updates

### Address Change:

Frances Fraling  
5302 Loch Raven Boulevard  
Apt A  
Baltimore, MD 21239  
410-433-1546

Adele & Mark Mueller  
200 Fieldgate Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17603  
717-945-6260

### New Telephone Number:

Doris Ndlovu  
Cell Phone: 443-326-4216

### Deceased:

Members:  
Robert Whisenand, 8/25/10



## Loch Raven Youth

The youth have been working on writing a brief bio about themselves. In the coming months, you will get the opportunity to learn more about one or more of our featured Youth in the *Spire*. Stay Tuned!

### October Calendar

10/10 – Youth meeting, 7pm  
10/24 – Youth meeting, 7pm

## Meet This Year's Habitat for Humanity Homeowner

Many of you give generously of your resources each year to Habitat, and many also give their time and labor to work on the home. Below is an introduction to Tiffany Douglas, the homeowner whose house was sponsored by the United Churches coalition, of which LRUMC is a member church, a home that was dedicated in July. This was printed on the program for the dedication.

*Tiffany Douglas is about to achieve one of her life goals. At 24 years of age, she is moving into her own home – a foundation to build upon for her daughter, Londyn, and her sister, Stephanie. In her young life, Tiffany has already accomplished a lot – graduating from high school at 16 years of age, earning an associates degree at 19 and receiving her B.A. with a concentration in jurisprudence when she was 22 years old. When asked about the jurisprudence major, Tiffany explains, “I have always wanted to be a lawyer ever since I was in elementary school. My dad kept getting into trouble and my dream was to become a lawyer and defend him in a court of law.”*

*Tiffany found Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake in her own unique way – with her eyes on a goal and the determination to reach it. “I was riding through Pigtown one day*

*and I saw these beautiful houses. I thought to myself ‘I want to live here.’ Just then Dana Gaither (a Habitat owner) came out of her house. I stopped and asked her whether there was an association or entity I could talk to about getting a house like hers.” Dana directed Tiffany to Habitat for Humanity. Tiffany attended the very next orientation and decided that Habitat’s homebuyer program would work for her.*

*She applied, was accepted, and began to invest time in her journey toward homeownership. “I worked in the office some, and I went to all the different construction sites in Baltimore. Stephanie came out on site with me a couple of times as well.”*

*You can tell, when you talk to her, that Tiffany is going to be a great asset to her new neighborhood and to her neighbors. “I want to show people, especially people my age, that it’s possible to own a home. I wasn’t sure it would be possible, but it is happening now. That’s what Habitat does. You see other people have become homeowners.*

*Now that she has achieved her goal of owning a home, we have to ask what’s next. “I hope to go to law school and become a lawyer, like I’ve always wanted to be.” We wish Tiffany every success as she*

*continues to reach for new goals and help the people around her to reach for goals of their own.*

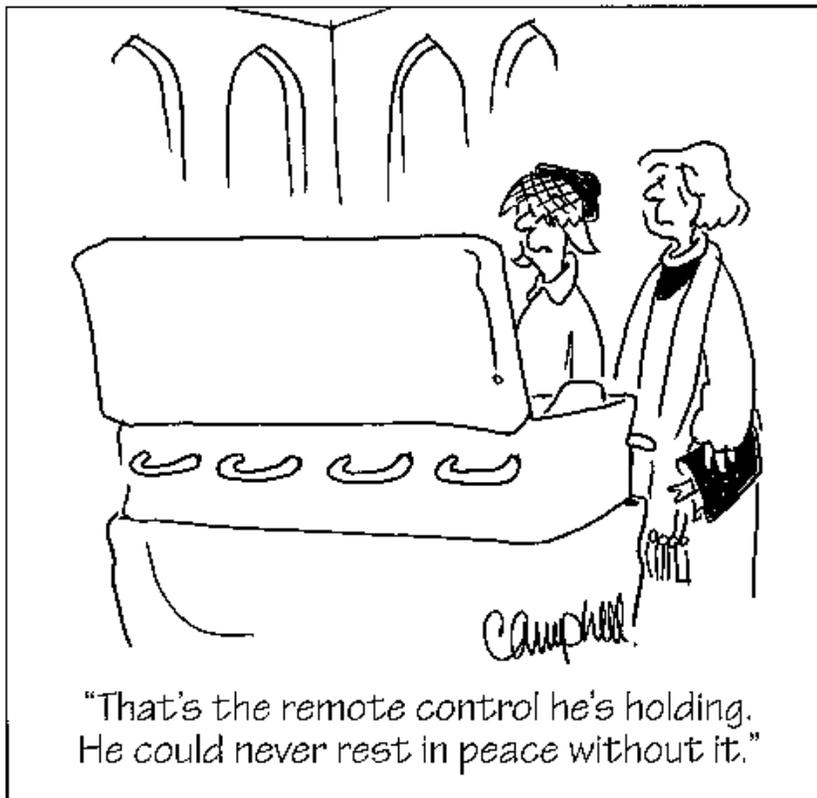
The ministry of Habitat changes lives, and Habitat homeowners like Tiffany change neighborhoods for the better. What a privilege it is to be involved in this ministry which brings renewal to Baltimore!



## The Nature of the Church

A study of the Church in the New Testament reveals that the Church is:

- A worshipping fellowship (Acts 2:46-47)
- A studying fellowship (Acts 2:42)
- A witnessing fellowship (Acts 2:44-47; 3:9)
- A serving fellowship (Acts 6:1-6; 20:35)
- A loving fellowship (Hebrews 10:32-34)
- A praying fellowship (Acts 1:14; 12:12)
- A cooperating fellowship (Acts 1:11-14; 2:1; 4:23)
- A joyful fellowship (Acts 2:46; 5:40-41; 13:50-52; 16:25)
- A suffering fellowship (Hebrews 10:32-34; Philippians 1:29)
- A courageous fellowship (Acts 4:13; 4:29; 15:26)
- A powerful fellowship (1 Corinthians 4:20)
- An enthusiastic fellowship (Acts 2:43-47)
- A generous fellowship (Acts 2:46; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12)



## What’s Your Spiritual Yield?

In a sermon, Arizona pastor Jane Tews said: “I sometimes imagine what it would be like if the nightly TV news included a kind of Dow Jones report on the spiritual yield. The announcer might say, for instance, ‘Well, friends, kindness was up an eighth today, but greed rose by 2 percent. Lust was down a half a point in slow trading, and justice showed no change. Patience reached a new high — closing at 72. Love had a narrow gain to 49 percent, but peace plummeted when investors panicked.’”

Tews then added that God’s kingdom isn’t measured that way. Instead, it’s apparent when human need is met, when justice is strengthened, when evil is reversed and when people in bondage are freed. The kingdom becomes a reality when there is reconciliation among enemies, when false pride is eliminated and when guilt is lifted.

“When a troubled soul searching for identity and meaning takes the risk of faith and accepts Christ as Lord and Savior, that’s when the kingdom appears,” Tews said.