

The Spire



October, 2009

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Fall Bible Study

Join us this fall for a 5 week study on prayer called *Unselfish Prayer*. The study topics are: Moments of Truth, On the Other Side of Despair, Preoccupation with Praise, Good to Give Thanks, and Praying Unselfishly for Myself and Those About Whom I Care.

You may choose a daytime or evening class.

Monday evenings

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Oct. 19 & 26, Nov. 2, 9, & 16

Thursday mornings

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 22 & 29, Nov. 5, 12 & 19

Materials will be provided, but please sign up so we'll be sure to have enough for everyone. Sign up sheets are available on the bulletin boards in the hospitality area and narthex, or you may call the church office. Bring your Bible and come on out for some new insights and lively sharing!



New Boiler/Upgraded Heat System Approved

On the evening of September 13, the Church Council met in a special meeting called by Council Chair Rhoda Wilson to consider the proposal brought by the Board of Trustees to replace the boiler and upgrade our heating system. This is a project which has been on the back burner for some time. It has become urgent now, in that our present system is not working at the moment, and the necessary repair would be very costly without addressing any efficiency issues.

Twenty-eight LRUMC members attended the meeting. Trustees President David Brown introduced Jim Blake from A.J. Michaels, the company which presented the proposal identified by the trustees as best suiting our needs. Mr. Blake fielded a wide range of questions, both technical and practical.

A motion was made, and unanimously approved, to go ahead with the project, beginning work as soon as possible so that we will have working and efficient heat when the cold weather comes.

The total cost of the project to replace the original heating system of the church with a new and efficient system is \$73,000.

It's a big undertaking with the economic reality of our time, but we really **MUST** do this. At this writing, the heating system is not operational, and even repaired, it continues to burn an extravagant amount of fuel. Our winter fuel bills can, and often do, exceed \$5000 for one month. A conservative estimate is that the new system will yield a savings of 25% or more from the first day of operation.

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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 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.

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

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org

New Boiler/Upgraded Heat System Approved

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\$5300 has been put aside over the years toward this project. In addition, our dear Jean Fraunfelter, a charter member of this congregation, generously remembered LRUMC in her will and her family has agreed that she would want her \$10,000 gift to be used toward this critical need. That means we have \$15,300 in hand. The finance committee, understanding the urgency of the need, has authorized the borrowing of whatever funds we can't collect from donations from our investments, but we will need to pay it back as soon as possible.

We need the help of all who are able to help with this. Specifically, we need to collect as much as folks

are able to give right now to reduce the amount we need to borrow. Then we'll need folks to continue to give, as they are blessed, until we restore the funds taken from investment accounts.

We know this is a hard time for many, and our congregation has been incredibly faithful in giving in these times, both for our operating budget and for special collections for mission to those in need. Please prayerfully consider responding once again. All donations should be marked "boiler fund". We offer a big round of thanks to the trustees for all their work on this, and we are grateful for all you do in Christ's name. Thank you and God bless you.

Pastor Gayle



Autumn

New "Young Adult" Sunday School Class Forming

Are you a "younger" adult looking to fellowship with other "younger" adults on Sunday mornings? If so, we would like to know who you are. Please contact Jen Byrd at 443-756-4000 or email: birdie21234@aol.com.

Youth Group News

During the month of September, we got a chance to get to know one another and talk about our summer. We had three youth meetings and a Lock-In. We also had our first fundraiser of the year. We would like to thank everyone who supported our Car Wash/Bake Sale. And a HUGE thanks to Ms. Doris for her assistance with the baking.

October Events:

Oct. 11
Youth Meeting/Game Night
7 – 8:30pm

Oct. 25
Youth Meeting
7 – 8:30pm

Christian Fright Night
Date to be determined

All Youth in the congregation between the 6th grade and 18 years old are invited to join the group. Hope to see you soon!

**Mark your Calendars –
Youth Sunday, November
29th – one service at 10am.**



Outreach/ Evangelism

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance of flowers—the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence.

—Helen Keller

Reminder:

**Community Health Fair
Saturday, October 17
10 a.m.—2.p.m.
Northwood Appold
Community Academy
4417 Loch Raven Blvd.**

Blessings and Peace,
Katherine McKinney



Get Well Cards Would Be Appreciated

For anyone who would like to send get well wishes to Robert (Bob) Steele, he will be a resident at the following address for the next 6 weeks:

Levindale Hebrew Geriatric
Center
2434 West Belvedere Avenue
Room 290B
Baltimore, MD 21213

United Methodist Women October Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, October 5
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Growing Through Life’s
Challenges*
Lesson 1: Growing Through
Rejection (Moses)

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, October 6
10 a.m. - Parlor
Study: *Knowing Jesus*
Read Matthew 4: 1-11

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, October 14
9:30 a.m.—Room 202
Study: *Women of the Old
Testament—Hannah*

GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, October 21
Covered Dish—6:30 p.m.**
Speaker—Retired police officer
J. Price
Subject—Financial Abuse
Among Women

Circle Assignments:

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

From the Mailbox

To My Loch Raven Church Family,

Thank you for the cards and many prayers during my illness. Your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated.

Peace and blessings to you all,

Jacquelyn Hart

Dear LRUMC Congregation,

Thank you for the card and gifts. I am settling into Nashville quite easily (the people are very nice and helpful) and have just officially finished my first week of school (though I have been going in to work on a couple of research projects for the past few weeks). I'm learning new things, seeing new places, and meeting new people every day. Also, I'm very excited to be able to experience the great music and participate in the thriving Christian community here in Nashville. The professors at Vanderbilt are NO JOKE (they are working me very hard), but luckily my classmates are a fun and interesting bunch. Please continue to keep me in your prayers and I'll keep you posted. God bless. Stay in touch.

Jonee Wilson



Dear Pastor Gayle,

I am the church member from Bethel Methodist Church, Agona Kwanyako Circuit, Ghana, West Africa, who met you recently. I came to visit my sons here. Upon my arrival, I was introduced to St. Paul's Ghana United Methodist Church. My first attendance at Loch Raven United Methodist Chapel was on June 21st. After the service I took one of the information folders displayed in the church. I carefully read through the enclosed materials. I picked the following: *The Covenant Prayer*, *The Bible and You* and *True Love* for my personal use. I collected copies of *The Upper Room* and *Called to be Free* as well, which have enriched my devotional life to date. Then again I discovered that there was going to be a Vacation Bible School from July 26—July 30 at 6:30 p.m. in which I planned to participate. By God's grace I did so and it was of immense help to me. I enjoyed the warm fellowship of the brothers and sisters; I admired your enthusiasm and your husband's zeal and involvement, not forgetting the super supper we enjoyed before the program started.

With regards to the E.D.G.E. [Experience & Discover God Everywhere] program, I found it to be practical, spiritually helpful and motivational. Its aim of encouraging participants to discover God more and make Him known to others has enhanced my witnessing life. I have already shared my experience with three friends and recommended to them to make themselves

available to be part of it in the future. Likewise, most of my church members in Baltimore and Ghana may be encouraged to get involved in subsequent ones.

Finally, I would like to seize this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you, the organizers, especially Jen Byrd, whose approach to the teaching of the Word inspired me very much and all my school mates who contributed on the success of this E.D.G.E. program.

It is my prayer that LRUMC pastors, leaders and church members are strengthened spiritually with God's wisdom and increased love for the Lord as they embark on the church's numerous programs.

May God bless.

Mrs. Joana Mensah



Thought You Would Like To Know...

Ella McDade, who cross-stitched the beautiful Christmas Manger Scene that we hang across the front of the balcony beginning in Advent, passed away August 24. Ella, who lived at Morningside and was told by the staff there that she was a sweet lady, was 100 years old. She and her husband Carl joined Loch Raven in 1979. Carl passed away in 1984 and Ella transferred her membership in 1999.

Membership Updates

Address Change:

Katie Johansen
8351 Hillendale Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Dorothy & Russell Thompson
800 Southerly Road, Apt 1014
Towson, MD 21286

Jonee Wilson
920 Woodmont Blvd, Apt R10
Nashville, MD 37204

Address Unknown:

If you know the current address for the following members, please call the Church Office:

Pauline Ahalt
Jermaine Carter
Amanda Diaz
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Marion Redd-Roberts
Beatrice Welsh

A Teacher's Prayer

James J. Metcalf

I want to teach my students how—
to live this life on earth,
To face its struggles and its strife
and to improve their worth.
Not just the lesson in a book, or how the rivers flow,
But to choose the proper path, wherever they may go.
To understand eternal truth, and know right from wrong,
And gather all the beauty of a flower and a song,
For if I help the world to grow in wisdom and grace,
Then I feel that I have won and I have filled my place.
And so I ask your guidance, God, that I may do my part,
For character and confidence and happiness of heart.

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!



LET'S RAISE THE ROOF

A night of food, fun, and entertainment
to support Theresa Alaeze's mission
project in Nigeria.



Saturday, November 14
7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

If you are interested in being a part of the program, contact Judy Zahren at 410-933-0936 or e-mail: JZahren@comcast.net. Theresa's presentation at the worship services last month was so inspiring. Let's continue to support her efforts and assist in raising the \$8,000 needed to put a roof on the clinic for women and children. Come and join us November 14th.