

The Spire



October 2015

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



5th Annual Loch Raven Festival of the Arts

Saturday
November 14

Showcasing
performances, an auc-
tion and refreshments

Contact Debi Wynn for sub-
mitting your art or volun-
teering at 410-583-0270 or at
tnhedutainment@aol.com



Church Growth and Revitalization— Making Choices

I am interested in church growth and the revitalization of churches. I spent three years in a program, traveling around to various growing churches throughout the country, learning about how their churches grew. I even spent a couple of years in church planting.

What do you do when the neighborhood has changed around your church? There are choices that a church can make when that happens. Every church, whether they know it or not, will make a choice. Sometimes the choice is purposeful and sometimes it happens by default. But every church will make a choice about working with their community.

I came across an interesting article the other day about churches dealing with changing communities. It was in a newsletter called *Ministry Matters* and it was written by Ron Edmondson. Ron is Senior Pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. He says there are three choices that a church can make when dealing with community change.

Be Representative of the community.

Rev. Edmondson says, “You can strive to represent your community again. This may require staffing and programming changes. You’ll have to ask a lot more questions such as what the community needs and how best to address them. It won’t be easy and it will challenge your people, but it’s a noble goal. It’s likely the community needs more churches that do reflect the community.”

Leave the community.

Edmondson says, “You can relocate. You can relocate to a demographic that better represents who the church is now. Some will dis-

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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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Visit us on Facebook

No Worries

The sermon series on worry is finished. Does that mean our worries are over too? Probably not. Even the best of Christians slip into worrying about something at some point. But here are some of the things that we learned:

- Pray instead of worry.
- Value the things which God values, e.g. developing relationships, loving and caring about others and our self, our salvation and other's salvation. See Galatians 5:22-26.
- Worriers live in the future. Get out of the future and focus on what's in front of you today.
- Worriers lose sight of God in the situations of life. Keep God at the center.
- God knows what we need in order to live.
- God knew us even while we were still in our mother's womb. That goes for our children, grandchildren and parents as well.
- Worriers live in the past. Forgive the past and get on with living in the present. Let God deal with the past and future.
- There will be time enough for all of the things that God wants you to do. That goes for money also.
- Worrying never solved anything.
- Don't assume---communicate.
- Don't control---trust.

Those are some of the main points of September's sermon series. I hope they have helped you.

Cliff

Revival

Our John Wesley Bible study continues. We are learning about John Wesley's faith, the land in which he lived, and Methodist history. The class meets on Monday nights at 7:00 in the Parlor. We still have two classes to go—October 5 and 12. Please stop by.

Cliff



Join the Trustees for the
**EVELYN DORFLER GARDEN
PARTY, IN MEMORY OF ROY,**
Saturday, October 3, from
8AM to 12 Noon.
Lunch provided.

Church Growth and Revitalization—Making Choices

(Continued from page 1)

agree, but I don't believe this decision would mean you don't care for the community which is here now. The church is just different. You should know this can be an expensive option, because you likely will not be able to sell your current facilities for what it will take to relocate."

Slowly die in the community.

Edmondson says, "This is an option. It wouldn't be my favorite, but it is an option. It could actually be a viable option if at the end of your time you realize your building is going to be better used by a church that does represent the community. You could begin to share your facility with a church like that now and coexist for the foreseeable future, then when your church officially closes its doors the new church inherits the building."

Nobody ever wants to think about those last two options. Fortunately at Loch Raven UMC we have already taken some positive steps to move toward the first option. We are trying to be more representative and reflective of our community. We need to keep being receptive and welcoming to visitors. We need to continue thinking about ways to physically get out into our community.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

Chick-fil-A LRUMC Spirit Night

Wednesday, October 7

5:00 PM—8:00 PM

2008 East Joppa Road

Parkville, MD 21234

Dine in or carry out at this location and Chick-fil-A will donate 20% of the ticketed sales to **LRUMC's Vacation Bible School program**. (Also for every chocolate chunk cookie (1-ct. or 6-ct.) purchased, **an extra \$1.00 will be donated.**)

You must present the Chick-fil-A flyer (pick one up at church) or tell the cashier you are here for the Spirit Night at the time of your purchase so we can receive the credit.

Happy Eating!



On behalf of the Abbottston Elementary School committee, we want to thank everyone for their donations of school supplies and money. We were able to supply over 50 children with needed materials for school. We were also able to purchase school uniforms for families in need.

As summer draws to a close, we will begin collecting tissue boxes to prepare for the cold and flu season. The orange container is outside Fellowship Hall for this collection.

Thanks again for everyone's generosity to help our school family.

Amy Price

World Communion Sunday October 4

Together, we enable national and international graduate students to change the world.

World Communion Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Your giving helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve.

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy.

By giving generously on World Communion Sunday you will make education and vocational impact possible by equipping gifted and qualified students from around the globe to become the world-changers God created them to be.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world." And because the people of The United Methodist Church believe that all of God's children have been created and gifted to build the kingdom Jesus ushered in, we're resourcing them to do just that. Because of your giving on World Communion Sunday, the most powerful tool to change the world is in more hands.

For more information on this special giving opportunity, read a story about the impact you are making with your gifts. (<http://www.umcsgiving.org/mpact-articles/scholar-trnsforms-society>)

Remaining Special Giving Sunday this year:

United Methodist Student Day Sunday - November 29, 2015



The Board of Child Care Auxiliary is preparing Thanksgiving baskets again this year. We have been asked to donate canned green beans (14.5 or 15 oz) and cranberry sauce. There will be a box in Fellowship Hall from October 4 until October 25 for donations.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

“HOLY,
Holy
HOLY
is the
LORD
OF HOSTS;
the whole
EARTH
IS FULL OF HIS
GLORY.”
ISAIAH 6:3, NRSV

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.

Membership Updates

Address Changes:

Ina Belle Mahan
415 Springbrook Court
Hanover, PA 17331

Minnie Webster
615 Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 450
Towson, MD 21204

Deceased:

Warren L. "Roy" Dorfler
August 30, 2015

BIRTHDAYS



October

- 1 Anne Palazzi
- 2 Adelaide Wilson
Doris Ndlovu
- 3 Gary Messman
- 4 Jen Dorsey
- 5 Harriet Williamson-Taylor
- 7 Jo Thomas
- 8 Molly Shock
- 10 Carol Everhart
- 14 David Brown
- 15 Dorothy Jackson
- 16 John Mayden
- 17 Hazellene Milligan
- 21 Chidozie Osuwa
- 22 Donna Welsh
- 23 Ardith Luttrell
- 29 Edith Pratt
- 31 Stephanie Houston

Notes of Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Many, many thanks to you all for the lovely cards and phone calls during the time I was house bound with the injury from my fall. How it brightened those days you will never know. Blessings to you all; we are all so blessed to have each other.

Love,
Sandi Cuthbert

United Methodist Women October Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, October 5
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Moments That Take Your Breath Away*
Lesson 12
Study: Joann
Devotions: Nancy
Hostess: Cheryl

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, October 6
10 am—Parlor

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, October 18
Covered Dish—Fellowship Hall
After church service.
Bring what you wish.
All are welcome.
Program: Making cards with Martha Vohrer

REMINDER FOR UMW MEMBERS

If you have not yet turned in your 2015 pledge money, it would be appreciated if you could turn it in to Yvonne or your circle leader by the end of November.



UMC Lectionary Calendar October, 2015 Church Color: Green

Oct. 4 – Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalms 26 or Psalm 25 (UMH 756)

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Mark 10: 2-16

Oct. 11 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Psalms 22:1-15 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Oct. 18 – Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Laity Sunday

Job 38:1-7 (34-41)

Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c (UMH 826)

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 25 – Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Psalms 34:1-8 (19-22) (UMH 769)

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

Clothing Drive Update

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed clothes, etc. to our used clothing drive. We collected 202 bags filled with wearable, usable clothes, shoes, etc. Because of your efforts, we were able to raise \$431.30 for the church's general fund.

Special thanks to Sharon for making the tags and Yvonne for donating countless trash bags. In addition, many thanks to everyone who helped during the sorting and organizing process!

Many people have asked about the company we are using so I thought I would share a little background information.

A&E Clothing Corporation in New Jersey is a for-profit company that processes used clothing and exports overseas as well as distributing in the United States. The clothing is collected from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, and Maryland. They export to various countries in South America, Europe, and Africa as well as Haiti and other countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

They were first known as American Used Clothing Corporation which was established in 1996. In 2006 A&E Clothing Corporation arose from American Used Clothing Corporation. Over time they have developed into a medium-sized company that works hard to satisfy suppliers as well as customers.

We earn 20 cents per pound on the donations collected!

We hope to make this an annual event, so please check your bulletin/Spire for the next donation period!

Thanks again,
Jennifer Webster



Missions *In Action*: Operation Christmas Child

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. Our focus this month is on Operation Christmas Child, a project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Shoeboxes are collected in the U.S., Australia, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, and the U.K. Since 1993, more than 124 million shoeboxes have been collected and delivered to children in more than 150 countries and territories. In addition, more than 4.7 million children have participated in *The Greatest Journey*, a follow-up program that is offered to children who receive shoebox gifts, and teaches them about Jesus.

More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide, with more than 100,000 of those in the United States, are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts. During National Collection Week (Nov. 16 – 23) shoeboxes are collected at more than 4,000 drop-off sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The shoebox gifts are then prepared for overseas shipment at eight major processing centers across the U.S.—Atlanta; Baltimore; Boone, NC; Charlotte, NC; Dallas; Denver; Minneapolis; and Orange County, CA.

In 2015, with your help, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach 11 million children!

For more information, see: www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

As of September 6, you have donated \$472 to Christian Blind Mission International (CBM). **Thank you!**

- Start collecting items for our Christmas Shoebox donations to Samaritan's Purse.
- Collection of hotel-size toiletries for Essex UMC. *There is a box for the items on the hospitality desk. This is an on-going collection.*
- To help better serve food-starved individuals in our community, we will be collecting specific, non-perishable food items monthly for **ACTC** – *stock up on sale items!*
 - October—cans of tuna fish
 - November—cereal
 - December—boxes of macaroni and cheese
- Sandwich making for Essex UMC 3rd or 4th Tuesday of every month