

The Spire



September 2009

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Nursery News

Our nursery staff person has changed over the summer. After several years of staffing our nursery, Jonee Wilson has moved to Nashville to pursue a PhD. We wish her well in this new endeavor, and know that our small children have been blessed by her ministry to them. Thank you Jonee!

On August 2, Aleece Roehl began her duties as our new nursery staff person. She has been busy getting familiar with the nursery, checking out supplies and adding her own little touches to that space, and is eager to care for any children aged 5 and under during the worship services. Nursery care will also be available during our regularly scheduled seasonal evening services. The nursery is available from 8:15 on Sunday until the second service ends. (9:45 on Sundays with a single service at 10)

Aleece is an active part of the LRUMC family. A student in the speech pathology program at Towson University, Aleece regularly worships at the second service on Sunday, volunteers in our office and with Vacation Bible School, and participates with our liturgical dancers. Welcome Aleece!

Sunday School Classes Resume for Children and Adults

It's that time of year again. Sunday school will officially resume on September 13th at 10am. Are you currently attending a Sunday School class? If not, there are several to choose from:

Ages 2 through 4

Amy Price, Room 122

Kindergarten through 2nd grade

Leslie Christopher & Jo Thomas, Room 119

3rd through 5th grade

Merrill Harrison, Room 212

Middle High School Class – Room 210

Senior High School Class – Room 214

Becomers Class—Adult Class

Owen Williams, Room 202

Going His Way – Adult Class

Jonathan Wilson, Room 128

Hope to see you and/or your children in class.

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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 October issue is **Sunday, September 13, 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Gayle E. Annis-Forder

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Phone: 410-825-0900. *Fax:* 410-825-2600. *E-mail:* Info@LRUMC.org

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

SECURITY REMINDER

Many of you know that we had a break-in in July. It seems that we may have been the first of a rash of church break-ins this summer. The vandal(s) entered through the choir room window by breaking the accordion-like side of a window air conditioning unit. They ransacked the choir room and the offices, obviously looking for money. Since we don't keep any cash to speak of in the building, they were likely disappointed, but they did make a mess. Thankfully, it happened after the last person left on a Sunday evening and before the first person arrived on a Monday morning. No one was hurt in any way.

This incident was a reminder to us about the need for vigilance around security

issues. We haven't had any incidents in many years, so maybe it's time for a reminder. PLEASE double check the doors and windows in any room you use before exiting the building. DO NOT leave doors unlocked unless they are being monitored by someone. If you find any lights that are not working properly or need bulbs replaced, notify the office immediately.

There are a lot of people in and out of our building, and we thank God for allowing us the privilege of conducting and hosting so many ministries and services here. It is important to all of us that everyone in this building is invited into a place of safety as well as a place of blessing. Please make sure you do all that you can to maintain our church as a safe place.



Looking for a few volunteers

Education ministry is looking for persons who would be willing to assist as substitute teachers. If this is an area that GOD has called you to help with, please contact Jen Byrd at birdie21234@aol.com or 443-756-4000.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!

- ⇒ To the boy scouts and parents who have refurbished our Arcade and Auditorium in Eagle Scout projects
- ⇒ To Sharon Gardner and the members of the Family Ministries Committee for great fun and fellowship every Wednesday evening this summer with Sizzlin' Summer Nights
- ⇒ To Jen Byrd for organizing Vacation Bible School for the second summer. It was great! Come on out next year, everyone!
- ⇒ To David Brown for responding immediately when we had a break-in to secure our building.



Dear
Friends,

On a hot
August
evening in
1992, I
stood

waiting to pick someone up at the airport that I didn't know. A few months earlier, I had decided to pursue a long-time dream, and applied to host an exchange student for a school year. It had seemed a long way off then, and I wasn't really worried about it, but that night as I waited at the airport, I wondered if I was up to the challenge.

Jana was scared too. It was just the second year that exchange students had been permitted to leave her country, then Czechoslovakia, after the "velvet revolution", and her family had made significant sacrifices to make this opportunity available for her.

We were an odd couple indeed, and not just because of our lack of any physical similarities. I was a single woman with no real understanding of life in a Soviet bloc country, and she was a member of a close-knit family with limited English skills.

We had a few things in common, willingness to take a risk, the desire to make our world-views larger, and a common faith in a God who is larger than both of us.

Our ten months together were chock full of adventures. It wasn't always easy for us to communicate, and we spent a lot of time trying to understand each other. Sometimes it was a huge and overwhelming effort, but we were both stubbornly committed to making it work.

Fast forward 17 years to this August and Jana's visit. We are both still very sure that our lives are different; richer and more blessed, because we took the risk. We wonder who we would each be if we hadn't had that year. We both are filled with curiosity about and appreciation of other people and cultures. We both have unusually diverse collections of friends and experiences, and every time we see one another, we continue the journey of that first magical year. God gave each of us a new world that year, as we saw life through the eyes of another.

I invite you to take a risk from time to time, especially one that involves expanding your world, exposing yourself by being willing to know and be known by someone different from you. God will bless the process.

See you in church!

Pastor Gayle

Board of Child Care News

Thanks to the 87 members of the congregation who joined or renewed their membership in the Board of Child Care Auxiliary in 2009. In addition to the dues paid, \$193.00 was also donated to the Auxiliary.

LRUMC is now part of the Baltimore Metropolitan District. Our district has been asked to donate cake mix and icing for the Thanksgiving Baskets this year. The collection box will be in Fellowship Hall from September 20 through October 11.

The fall district meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, at Towson UMC beginning at 10AM. Information regarding reservations is not available yet. As soon as it is, I will pass the information on. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending, please give me a call.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson
410-323-5105



Membership Updates

New Members:

May 24, 2009

James Joseph Wynn Ferguson
109 East Seminary Avenue
Lutherville, MD 21093

Michaela Ann Jones
7911 Aiken Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21234

Taryn Kristine Mackey
1334 Heather Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21239

Matthew Allan Price
29 Clearlake Court
Baltimore, MD 21234

Samantha Leigh Shelton
9004 Weathervane Garth
Baltimore, MD 21234

Gavin Wade Stewart
6686 Collinsdale Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

and

July 26, 2009

Hilary Geyton
1334 Heather Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21239

Phil Scott
5403 Purdue Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21239

Karla Stewart
19 Debonair Court, B2
Baltimore, MD 21234

Address Changes:

Nick Bergin - Former
Organist
2206 N. Fritz Drive
Bloomington, IN 47408

Nancy Buettner
162 Old Hershey Road
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-1349

Deborah Olewe
2 Rembert Court, Apt 104
Baltimore, MD 21234

New Staff - Nursery Nanny

Started August 2, 2009

Aleece Roehl
733 Overbrook Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Apartment Number Added

Staff, Organist

Song Yi Park
510 St. Paul Street, #1501
Baltimore, MD 21202

Deceased:

Member

Marian Steele
May 19, 2009
Memorial Service at Springwell by Pastor Robert J. Fringo
Interment: MD Veterans Cemetery

Member

Herbert Tscheulin
June 10, 2009
Interment Private
Memorial Service at Loch Raven United Methodist Church
Pastor Gayle Annis-Forder
Pastor Robert J. Fringo
Pastor Henry C. Thompson

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



Wedding Bells

Warm congratulations to LRUMC Director of Music Jennifer Holbrook and Mark Edwards who were married on August 15 in Jennifer's hometown of Guy, Arkansas.

Brian and Cecilia made the trip south for the wedding service and shared the joy of the day on all of our behalf. Our best wishes to Jennifer and Mark and prayers for a wonderful life together for them!

From the Mailbox

Monday, May 25th

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny Burton, TX. My mom and I arrived here on the night of Saturday the 23rd, after moving all my worldly goods to Bloomington and flying from there to Texas. I'll be here all summer, and I plan to join the choir at our church and do some subbing for the organist then.

Thank you for a wonderful sending forth two weeks ago. Loch Raven really knows how to party! It was wonderful to eat all of that delicious food and to get a chance to say goodbye to everyone. I look forward to getting the book with your notes in it. Thanks also for the love gift. I'll be sure to put it to good use!

I'll miss you all in the months to come, and it will be strange to no longer be involved in the community. I am most grateful, however, for all the wonderful memories from the last two years. I'll cherish those for the rest of my life.

Love to you all,

Nick

June 2, 2009

Dear Pastor Gayle,

Thank you and your congregation for your gracious hospitality on Sunday for my recital. I look forward to singing with you all this summer!

Jeff Ayres

We want to thank Pastor Gayle and Pastor Bob and all of our Loch Raven UMC family for joining us at the dedication of the James T. Smith Lacrosse Field. It was a glorious day and a wonderful tribute to James. We have been blessed by James, and we have been blessed by you.

“Right here, right now! Go, #7!”

Marcia, Christian & Gary Smith

Michael and I would like to thank the members of the LRUMC congregation for their prayers, cards, calls, and visits. My recuperation is coming along nicely — the left knee is getting stronger and more flexible each day. I look forward to being able to once again attend church around mid-August. As many of you know Michael was furloughed from his job on July 31st and we are both grateful for your prayers during this difficult transition period. We are both comforted knowing so many of our church family care.

God Bless,
Cheryl Wagner-Koogler

Dear Loch Raven Family,

Thank you for your love and concern extended to me on the recent death of my mother.

Your many cards and expressions of sympathy will always be remembered.

Nancy Harvill

I would very much like to thank Peggy Kelly for her faithful ministry of sending cards to those on the prayer list and those who are no longer able to make it to Sunday services. My mother has very few visitors, and frankly, can't remember those who do come, but Peggy's cards always put a smile on her face. God bless you, Peggy.

Cheryl Wagner-Koogler

Please accept my sincerest thanks for all your prayers, cards, calls and visits during my illness. Thanks also to Pastor Gayle and Pastor Bob for their visits and prayers.

What a wonderful, caring church we have.

In Christian Love,

Ardith Luttrell

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone that attended and participated in the VBS Camp E.D.G.E. I would like to recognize those that assisted with the activities this year: Mrs. Amy Price, Ms. Aleece Roehl; Mrs. Linda Orzolek, and Pastor Gayle. Hope to see more of you next summer. In the meantime... remember we are all friends of GOD and we can Experience And Discover GOD Everywhere!

Peace and Blessings,

Camp Director Jen



Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, September 3, 8 p.m.

If you are interested in joining in the music ministries please contact me or just drop in for a rehearsal. Our doors are open and all are welcome!

Jennifer Holbrook
Director of Music

Outreach/ Evangelism

Be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming Loch Raven Community Health Fair to be held on Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m.—2 p.m. at Northwold Appold Community Academy, 4417 Loch Raven Blvd. Seven churches will be participating along with Good Samaritan Hospital.

Blessings,

Katherine McKinney

United Methodist Women September Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Due to the Labor Day holiday, we will meet on Monday, August 31
Dinner and Planning Meeting
6:30 pm at Yvonne Horn’s Home

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 1
10 a.m. - Parlor
Study: *Knowing Jesus*
Read Matthew 9: 18-34

Ellen Hoover Circle

No Meeting

NO GENERAL MEETING

Bible Quiz

Around 450 years before Jesus, the prophet Nehemiah heard some bad news about conditions in Jerusalem. The city still lay in ruins following an invasion by the Babylonian army many years before. The news caused Nehemiah to sit down and cry. After mourning for days, he felt that he should lead men to rebuild the wall and gates around Jerusalem. He organized a work force and, despite some opposition, they rebuilt the wall.

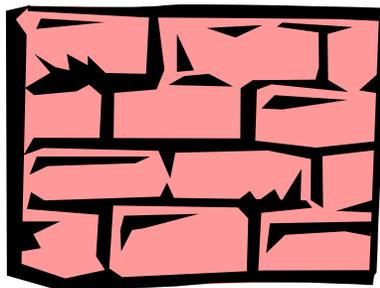
A well-known verse describes the accomplishment:

“So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half its height; for the people had a mind to _____.”

Choose the correct ending to the statement:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live

(The correct answer can be found in Nehemiah 4:6, NRSV)



This summer our Youth participated in the Sizzlin’ Summer Nights activities, Vacation Bible School and attended an Orioles game. This fall we are looking forward to starting our regular meeting schedule on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month through June 27, 2010. More details to come.

Family Ministries News

Well the summer has come to a close, so the Family Ministries Committee (FMC) would like to thank everyone for helping to make Sizzlin' Summer Nights a great success!

Whether you were a participant or a spectator for our events, we greatly appreciate your support and hope you are already looking forward to SSN 2010! But just because the summer is over does not mean the FMC is taking a break. Keep an eye out for our fall events, including an activities fair where you will have an opportunity to receive information on all of the LRUMC committees and decide how you would like to share your talents.

Several months ago, you may have noticed an insert in the bulletin and Spire requesting information on birthdays, anniversaries, and professional services. Thank you to all who participated in these surveys. The birthday/anniversary list will be posted soon, but we would like to get a few more

people to share their skills with the congregation. The FMC is trying to organize a Professional Services directory in which members of the LRUMC congregation are listed according to what services they can provide. That way, the next time you need a car repaired or a window replaced, instead of looking in the phone book, you can go straight to a LRUMC member that you trust! The list will include professional and non-professional services, but we have asked that participants please make sure they have both the experience and expertise to be a reliable source for the desired work. If you would like to be included in the Professional Services directory or in the birthday and anniversary list and have not provided your information, please email or phone Linda Orzolek. (JCLSU99@hotmail.com, 410-296-2523)

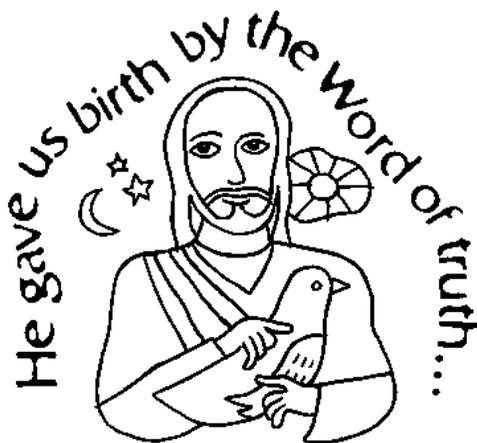
Summer Hymn Singing

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the summer singing in worship. We used the songs that our congregation identified as favorites. There were 128 different choices made, 92 from the UM Hymnal, 35 from *The Faith We Sing*, and 1 that we've printed in the bulletin before that is often sung at Annual Conference. The same 4 songs as last year occupied the top spots on the list, although in a different order; *Lord of the Dance*, *Amazing Grace*, *The Old Rugged Cross*, and *In the Garden*. *How Great Thou Art* came in 5th both years.

The diversity of the choices reflects the diversity of our congregation. The list included songs from every period and style of church music; revival hymns, contemporary praise songs, spirituals, ballads, gospel songs, chorales, folk songs, seasonal favorites. You name it, someone at Loch Raven UMC loves it! Some are songs we've sung for as long as we can remember, others were this year's hymns of the month.

What a neat reminder of the richness of our Christian family, or, as an old hymn calls it the "wideness in God's mercy." We didn't get to sing them all, but we used quite a few, as many as we could possibly fit in, and in singing these choices, we offered a gift to one another. Shall we do it again next year?

Thanks for making a joyful noise to God!



JAMES 1:18, NRSV