

The Spire



September, 2012

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

FALL SCHEDULE



SEPTEMBER 2

Labor Sunday
ONE SERVICE @ 10:00 AM.

SEPTEMBER 9

Schedule returns to
8:30 AND 11:00 AM Worship
with 10 AM Sunday School



Charge Conference

Charge Conference is
Monday, October 22 at
6:30 PM. This is an opportunity
for you to meet our new District
Superintendent and hear
about the various ministries of
Loch Raven UMC.

Discipleship

by what power or what name did you heal this man? --Acts 4:7

Kick-off Sunday is September 9th. This year we are heading into the Fall season focusing on Discipleship. Discipleship is about being a follower of Jesus Christ. Actually, discipleship is defined as being a student of a teacher. In our case, the teacher is Jesus Christ.

We will be opening up with a four-week sermon series called *Discipleship*. September 9th's message is called *What Can I Get By With?* Based on Luke 17:7-10, it's about people who tend to focus only on the end result so much so that everything in between simply becomes a hoop to jump through. So much of life is missed. September 16th's message is called *Adjusting to God's Way*. It's based on Isaiah 6:1-8 and Luke 14:28-33. I'll be talking about the life adjustments that we often need to make in order to understand what God's purpose is for us. September 23rd's message is called *Going Along With Jesus* and is based on Luke 14:25-27. It's about taking up our cross and doing whatever is needed to further God's message. Finally, on September 30th the fourth message is called *Holy Boldness*. It's based on Psalm 23 and Acts 4:5-12. It's about that brand of boldness that is characteristic of someone who has made a realistic appraisal of all the factors involved in a given situation and then, taking everything into account, the easy and the difficult, still moves forward for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Don't miss any of these messages. They will make a difference in your life. Then you can continue to make an impact on those that God has around you.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

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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 9, 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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Loch Raven Welcomes New Organist

After two months of searching (thanks to the work of Scott Eshleman and the members of the SPRC), I am happy to announce that Li-Zao Wang will be officially joining us as organist on October 1. Li-Zao is currently a second-year student at the Peabody Institute of Music of the Johns Hopkins University where she is pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma in Organ Performance. She plans to continue on to the Masters of Music program at the conclusion of this program.

Interacting with her these past 3-4 weeks, the word that comes to my mind in describing her is: pioneer. Leaving behind all that is familiar back in China—language, culture, family and friends—Li-Zao embarked on a field of study that is very uncommon in China: the Pipe Organ. According to Li-Zao there are approximately 10 pipe organs in all of China and even fewer qualified organists that can play them. Currently she is one of only five students that have come to the U.S. to learn this grand instrument.

We are blessed to have Li-Zao share her musical talents with us each Sunday and I hope and pray that during her stay here at Peabody and at Loch Raven United Methodist Church she will not only master her instrument but also be able to witness the love of Christ and the fellowship of what can only be found among believers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Please join me in welcoming Li-Zao to LRUMC.

Sam Chin

Director of Music

United Methodist Women September Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 4
10 a.m.—Parlor

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, September 10
Meet for dinner and planning session
6:30 p.m. at Yvonne Horn's home
Circle Members: Please RSVP to Yvonne

NO GENERAL MEETING



LABOR DAY

September 3

The person who creates or leads or labors will inevitably make many mistakes. But at least those who strive to accomplish something of worth will not make the mistake of doing nothing.

—Anonymous

Fall Bible Study

What do you wonder about? We all have questions about life. They are real, important, and challenging questions. They are big questions about life and faith, heaven and hell. Sometimes they are questions that hit closer to home—dilemmas about parenting or difficult relationships. Don't we crave answers to these questions that tug on the deepest parts of our hearts?

Where is God during my suffering?
 Any advice for my struggling relationship?
 How should I discipline my kids?
 What happens after we die?
 How can a loving God send people to hell?

We will be using Max Lucado's video called *Max on Life*. Max Lucado is one of the most trusted pastors and authors of our time and he will help us take on these important questions. With four sessions featuring powerful real-life stories from people who have faced the situations that give birth to some of our biggest questions about life and faith, *Max on Life* is a great study for both new and mature believers navigating the difficulties of everyday life.

The classes start on September 10 at 7:00 PM and are repeated on Wednesdays, beginning September 12 at 10:00 AM. They last four weeks. Please sign up on the downstairs bulletin board or in the upstairs narthex.

Take care,
 Cliff Webner

Missions Yard Sale



The 3rd annual Indoor Yard Sale will be on **Saturday, October 20**, from 8 am to 1 pm. It's not too early to start looking around your house for items to donate to the sale. Some of the items we use are clothing in very good condition, shoes, purses, jewelry, books, DVD's, CD's, toys, kitchenware, household linens, collectibles, tools, small appliances that

work. We cannot accept computers, televisions, baby car seats. We will begin collecting donations in early October.

Thanks for all your support. All proceeds go to a mission project.

An Eggcellent Time

A good conversation is like an egg—you never know what you will discover until you crack it open. At one time, before frozen TV dinners packaged in silver trays entered the scene, family discussions took place at the kitchen table while eating dinner. It was a time for sharing experiences, concerns, and the joys and tribulations of life. Life-styles of the 21st century, with a hustle and bustle of busy schedules for both adults and their children, have made the kitchen table discussion almost extinct. This dinner table experience was revived at the church's 2012 VBS *Shake It Up* with the kids preparing the main course - eggs. Joining me around the table were Maria Stockton-Porter and her son RJ and Funmi OlaOlorun and her son Ayomide. These young men made a great team working together to prepare the nightly meal. RJ was our Top Chef who creatively transformed the taste of eggs each night and, assisted by Ayomide, they joyfully prepared and served these eggs that kicked off sunny side up conversations, With Bible readings, art projects, which included art pieces for our church's older folks, Bible Olympics and the microwavable eggs that were truly a tasty treat, VBS was a joyous week of fellowship. A big thank you to Maria and Funmi for their help with preparations through to cleaning up on the last day when I needed to leave before the table was cleared! Congrats to RJ and Ayomide on a week of Shakin' It Up. Well done!

Debi Wynn

Marcus Matthews Appointed as BWC Bishop

Bishop Marcus Matthews of the Upper New York Conference was appointed to serve as the leader of the Baltimore-Washington Conference beginning Sept. 1. Bishop John Schol, the BWC's current leader, has been appointed to serve the New Jersey area.

This appointment will be a return home for Matthews, who began his ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

He enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary in 1971 and served as a student intern at Douglas Memorial UMC for a year. He became an assistant pastor at Asbury UMC in Washington, where he continued as associate for two years after his graduation from Wesley.

From 1976 to 1982, he served as pastor of Jones Memorial UMC in Washington, DC, where he oversaw the building of a new sanctuary and established a community development program. In 1981, he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary. He was pastor of Epworth Chapel UMC in Baltimore, from 1982 to 1986, when, during his pastorate, Epworth received 272 new members.

In 1986, he became District Superintendent of the Baltimore East District and in 1991 was named Conference Council Director, a position he held until being named Washington West District Superintendent in 1999.

Matthews was elected bishop in 2004 and served the Philadelphia Area. In 2008 he took leadership of the New York West Area and in 2010 he became bishop of the newly formed Upper New York Area.

He has served in leadership positions throughout the denomination.

Bishop Matthews is married to Barbara Walker Matthews and they have two children, Jaime S. Matthews and Marci Michael, and five grandchildren. His other interests include movies, reading, jogging, and playing with his grandchildren.

A service of farewell and appreciation for Bishop Schol, who has led the BWC for the past eight years, will be held at a date and time to be announced later.

Habitat for Humanity Building on Faith Week

SAVE THE DATE! September 15th is part of Habitat for Humanity's "Building on Faith Week," and it's an opportunity to do some gardening and neighborhood beautification in a part of Baltimore that really needs it. I hope that you will be able to come with us and support the community. This is a rare ALL AGES event with Habitat—usually volunteers need to be 16, but everyone can help this time. If you don't feel called to come out to work, please feel free to contribute lunches for attendees or by donating financially through LRUMC. Sponsor a tree for \$200 or a part of a tree for \$100, some fencing for \$80, a shrub for \$75, a waterbag for \$50, or bulbs for \$20. Please mark donations for "Habitat" and put in the offering. For more information or to volunteer, contact James Manley at 410-704-2146 or at isahayajoe@yahoo.com. Hope to see you there!



Baltimore–Washington Annual Conference Report 2012

More than 1,300 members of the Baltimore-Washington Conference gathered May 29th-June 1st to celebrate in worship and meet the challenges facing the United Methodist Church in the coming 2013 year. Clergy and Lay members from 646 churches in Maryland, Washington D.C., the panhandle of West Virginia and Bermuda worked together to implement the vision of the United Methodist Church.

Our agenda included worship, witnessing the ordination of 9 elders and 2 deacons and the commissioning of 14 candidates for ordained ministry, inspiring preaching from Zan Holmes, Bishop Gregory Palmer, Kendra Dean, and Clif Christopher, passing a \$17.1 million dollar budget, nominated Rev. Rodney Smothers as an Episcopal candidate for Bishop and approving a 2020 vision.

The Bishop, John Schol, addressed the Conference and shared his thoughts on the state of the church. He shared an overall vision to create a new church, which breaks down outdated traditions to become a spiritual movement founded on the love of Christ, which brings meaning and purpose into people's lives. The 2020 Vision proposes the following: increase worshippers and professions of faith in many churches, growth in mission participation and small groups, and efforts to build 500 units of supportive housing for the homeless in Baltimore and Washington DC.

The Laity celebrated ministry with our Conference Lay Leader, Delores Oden, who after 8 years will be stepping down from the position. Delores Martin will serve as the new BWC Lay Leader. For the first time at Annual Conference the Certified Lay Ministry Candidates were recognized. There were 27 men and women who were presented certificates showing they had completed the required two years of training.

These are some of the highlights from this year's Annual Conference. If you would like to know more you can check out the Conference website at www.bwcumc.org. Thank you for letting me represent Loch Raven Church.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Carole Webner

From the Mailbox

Thank you all so much for your cards, gifts and warm wishes as I depart Baltimore. I enjoyed working for Loch Raven and getting to know everyone at the church. I will never forget y'all! I wish you the best in the future.

All the best,
Chris Keenan

Thank you to my church family for your concerns, prayers, cards and support during my surgery and recovery period. God is all powerful and through his divine intervention the pathology studies are all negative! Prayer is a great surgeon.

Don Webb

To My Dear LRUMC Friends,

I can't begin to thank all of you enough for your cards, telephone calls, visits and especially your prayers during the recent surgery of my "knee replacement." In the beginning it wasn't any fun and I never thought I'd reach this "wonderful point" again. However, I made it because of my children, caring people like you, and especially your prayers.

I really missed all of you during this period, but HALLELUJAH, by the time you read this I'll be in "full swing."

Love you all,
Isabelle

Birthdays and Anniversaries

AUGUST

- 3 Grace Boner
- 4 Jean Oberia
- 5 Russell Thompson
- 6 Brian Miller
- 7 Robert Lacy
- 12 Betty Shock
- 14 Dave Frazier
- 16 Betty Cox
- 17 Linda Davis
- 18 Jennifer Weaver
- 19 Del Lloyd, Isabelle Burrell,
Albertha Sinkler and Mack
Briscoe
- 22 Phil Lee
- 23 Erica Mink
- 24 Maria Stockton-Porter
- 26 Estelle Batra and Cheryl
Koogler
- 27 Mathew Cuthbert
- 28 Jeanne Amberman

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Rowland Nworgu
- 2 Norma Roehl, Donald Webb
and Olayinka Akerele
- 4 Marlene Dennstaedt
- 5 Lois Hively and Steven
Gardner
- 9 Nicholas Webster
- 10 Marge Tyler and Rebecca
Gansert
- 11 Doris Therit, Gary Horn and
Lashawn Maddox
- 14 Yvonne Horn
- 16 Elsie Chang
- 17 John Shock, Mike Palazzi,
Joshua Alaeze and Edith
Parker
- 18 Claudine Lyttle and Gavin
Stewart
- 21 Marcia Smith and Richard
Dawson
- 22 James Harvill and Sarah
Jones
- 25 Jon Cuthbert

- 29 Olaseinde Akerele
- 30 Rhoda Wilson

Celebrating 95 years!

September 1
Vergie Crouch
205 St. Mark Way, Apt. 518
Westminster, MD 21158



ANNIVERSARIES:

August 19
George and Albertha Sinkler

September 24
Phil and Londa Lee

Note: Our home computer spent most of the summer on the disabled list so we are working on recovering our files. Michelle Brown has been kind enough to provide me with the missing information. If you joined the church in 2012, your birthday may not be on record. Feel free to call my home to make sure that I have your information. If you notice any errors or omissions, please let me know. (410)825-0215.

Marcia Smith

Rev. William T. Chaney, Jr. from Western Region Guide to Baltimore Region District Superintendent

William Chaney has served in fulltime ministry for more than 25 years. He has a passion for new church planting and revitalization, preaching, worship, leadership development, coaching and resourcing pastors and congregations. While in Maryland, Chaney served on the State of Maryland HIV/AIDS Faith Initiative, the Grow Congregations team, as a staff resource person for the Young Adult Council and has coordinated the Prodigal Worship Conference. He has served on the faculty of the Youth Theological Initiative at Candler School of Theology, Interfaith Health Department of the Carter Center, and as a church consultant. Chaney is a graduate of Candler School of Theology at Emory and, along with his degree, he earned certificates in Christian Education and Black Church Studies. He is married to the Rev. Michelle Holmes Chaney and they have a wonderful elementary school daughter, Courtney Elizabeth Chaney.

Safe Sanctuary Policy—A Timely Reminder

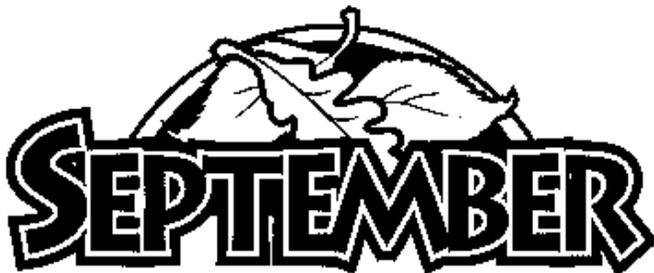
As we begin a new school year, we would like to remind the congregation of our church's Safe Sanctuary Policy which was approved by the Church Council and at our Charge Conference, November 19, 2008.

As early as April 1996, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church adopted a resolution aimed at reducing the risk of child sexual abuse in the church. Loch Raven United Methodist Church established a child abuse prevention policy and developed procedures to demonstrate our absolute and unwavering commitment to the physical, mental, emotional safety and spiritual growth of all our children and to be in covenant, with all United Methodist congregations and in conjunction with our governing body, the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Our covenant states:

As a Christian community of faith and a United Methodist congregation, we pledge to conduct the ministry of the gospel in ways that assure the safety and spiritual growth of all of our children as well as those who work with children in our church. We will follow reasonable safety measures in the selection and recruitment of workers; we will implement prudent operational procedures in all programs and events; we will educate all of our workers with children regarding the use of all appropriate policies and methods for reporting a suspected incident of abuse. We will conform to the requirements of state law.

We should all take this responsibility of safeguarding our children—and in fact all individuals—very seriously and do everything that we can to protect them. Please report any concerns or issues you might have to a member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. If you would like a copy of our church's Safe Sanctuary Policy and Procedures, please contact the church office. Copies are also available in the narthex.



Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship God, filling our inner being with a fullness we would never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way in us for the power of God to transform us, and this transformation of our inner attitudes can only take place when awe leads us in turn to wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience toward God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*

Blessings,

Katherine McKinney
Outreach & Evangelism

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

The Loch Raven Festival of the Arts Scheduled for December 1

Do you paint, draw, create sculptures, photography or engage in other artistic endeavors? Do you enjoy expressing yourself through a creative project? Are you someone who enjoys looking at art and appreciates the beauty and message in a piece of art? A new event is just around the corner, the Loch Raven Festival of the Arts, an experience of art enrichment for all ages for showcasing and viewing artworks, dance and music celebrating the heritage of the Loch Raven Boulevard communities and the holiday season. This celebration is created:

To promote a sense of community heritage within the area.

To provide local artists the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents.

To provide a local opportunity to launch the holiday season.

To provide support of local service organizations such as the Towson Assistance Center through donations being accepted at the event that will assist families in need during the holiday season.

To recognize LRUMC's 60 years of community service and worship opportunities.

An arts event has proven to be a successful endeavor for many churches including:

First United Methodist Church, Alexandria, Louisiana This Annual Arts Festival was established in 1967 to encourage use and understanding of the arts as a means of healthy expression.

First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids, MI Now in its 39th year, this festival began in 1972 and is a 13-day festival of the arts.

Nativity Episcopal Church 28-years

Pine Forest United Methodist Arts 23 years.

The Cumming First United Methodist Church Festival of Arts was created in 2008 and in 2012 more than 200 artists with over 350 works of art participated in its Festival of Arts.

Following these examples of congregations who have been championing their art festivals to be successful ventures, a community art event at our church has the potential to be an amazing experience to touch the hearts, minds and spirits of event visitors through art while benefiting folks in need during the Christmas season. Picture for a moment Fellowship Hall, the lower hallway, the Auditorium and several of the classrooms transformed into an art gallery. And as it is the Christmas season, imagine the Sanctuary once again filled with a variety of manger scenes as it was a decade ago for a special worship service .

The premiere of the 2012 Loch Raven Festival of the Arts is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. Add this event date to your calendar, share with your family and friends and plan to participate with your art and/or attend what is hoped to be the first of many years for the church to serve as a vessel for artistic expression.

There will be three categories for submitting art and all submissions must be family-friendly for viewing: 1) Community heritage: "Loch Raven" 2) The holidays: "Tis the Season" 3) The Open-Themed Category: "In the Eye of the Beholder." Get out your paints and brushes, clay, recyclable materials, the art media you most enjoy working with and plan to share your works at the festival. Entry guidelines will be available on the church website but if you are not Internet-connected, call me and I will mail information to you.

(Continued on page 9)

The Loch Raven Festival of the Arts Scheduled for December 1

(Continued from page 8)

The day's schedule as of September planning:

2 - 4 pm - Entertainment and artistic workshops for children

3pm - 8:30 pm The Loch Raven Art Gallery Opens

During this time the art will be on display for visitors to enjoy, with a selection of the projects available for purchase. As artists will be encouraged to donate a portion of their sales to the church's holiday mission projects, consider beginning your Christmas shopping season at this event.

4 - 5 pm Unified Voices will sing.

Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins is a gospel choir with amazingly talented singers that consists of a diverse group of individuals working together through music to bridge the gap between the medical institution and the historic East Baltimore community. Under the direction of Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch, the volunteers are residents of the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan communities and are employees and students of Johns Hopkins. This is a musically "wow!" group not to be missed!

From 5 - 7 pm TBA artists will perform

From 7 - 8:30 pm Joyous Voices will sing.

Begin your holiday season this evening with a candlelight concert by professional carolers *Joyous Voices*, a regional touring holiday music company that has performed throughout Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Brightly costumed performers dressed in Dickens-era attire inspire a merry mood as a *cappella* quartets deliver gorgeous arrangements of favorite holiday classics.

As concert seating is limited in the Church beautifully decorated for the season with a display of manger scenes, reservations are encouraged for the musical programs. Although this event is free, canned goods and/or donations will be appreciated to provide support of the Towson Assistance Center, an organization supported by Loch Raven Church, that will assist families in need as we raise voices in music to raise assistance for the community during the holiday season.

If you would like to assist with the behind the scenes of this event, the sharing of your time would be most appreciated. The holiday season is just around the corner!

Thanks

Debi Wynn

tnhedutainment@aol.com

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