

The Spire



September 2013

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Pastor's Fall Bible Study

Fishing stories—We've all heard them. "It was this big." "You should've seen the one that got away." People love to tell stories of their fishing adventures. When it comes to faith, however, most people clam up. Why is it we can't talk about what God has done in our lives as naturally as we can spin fishing tales?

This six session Bible study about sharing our faith begins on Monday, September 9th at 7:00 PM and is repeated on Wednesdays beginning September 11th at 10:00 AM. Each class will last for an hour and a half. There is no need to sign up and there will be no separate book. Just show up with your Bible and pencil or pen to take notes.

We will be using Andy Stanley's DVD called *Go Fish*. As we go on this great fishing adventure together we will be equipped with tools that will help us make sharing our faith a natural part of our life. Come, join me—because of what's on the line.

Happy Anniversary to LRUMC!

Praise the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. Psalm 104:1

I was thinking about the upcoming 60th anniversary celebration that is being planned for September 15th. I am familiar with all of the ministry that is being done by this church in the community and beyond. Every once in awhile someone comes up with a new idea and we give that a try. Then I think back through 60 years worth of ministry that has been shared with me. Loch Raven Church has been blessed with creative, visionary pastors, church leaders, and lay people throughout its sixty years.

The amount of planning, discussion, decision-making that has gone into this 60th anniversary event has been incredible. I have been blessed by conversations with the remaining previous pastors. One morning I received a call from Carroll Doggett, our founding pastor. He asked me how things were going with me. I could honestly tell him that things with me and Loch Raven Church were going great.

Remember back through your years here at LRUMC. Some of you have been here all 60 years. Some have been here just short of that. Some of you have been here 40 years. Others have been here 10 or 20 years. And still others have been here 5, or 1, or even less than 1. But everyone has a memory of something from LRUMC or maybe it's a conversation that you had with someone. If you put all of those memories together it's a lot of memories, a lot of ministry, a lot of souls saved, or healings, and lives transformed. It is phenomenal!

Don't miss this once in a lifetime celebration on September 15th. Come for worship @ 9:30 A.M. You will hear Rev. Carroll Doggett's message for us. You will hear from the other attending

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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 8, at 10:30 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Cliff Webner

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

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Update: Position of Pastor of Congregational Care

It is with deep regret that we announce the elimination of the position of Pastor of Congregational Care, effective September 30, 2013.

This decision was not made lightly, but due to the church's current fiscal deficit, we believe this was our wisest course of action.

The elimination of this position in no way lessens our need for this important ministry to our church family. We ask all of you to step up and continue to care for our homebound and sick members through your prayers, phone calls, cards, and visits.

We have been blessed by the service of Rev. Fringo and would like to celebrate his 15 years of ministry at Loch Raven United Methodist Church with a reception between church services, Sunday, September 29.

If you would like to contribute toward a "love gift" for Pastor Bob, please drop it in the offering plate (marked *Love Gift for Pastor Bob*) or mail it to the church office.

Start thinking of your best "Pastor Bob story" or how he has touched your life, so we can include it in a remembrance book for him. If you are not able to attend the service, mail your stories to the church office.

Merrill Harrison, SPRC Chair
for the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Fall Worship and Sunday School

PLEASE REMEMBER: Our summer worship schedule runs through SEPTEMBER 15TH this year. The fall schedule (WORSHIP @ 8:30 & 11:00 AM WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00) resumes on SEPTEMBER 22ND.

All Chairpersons of Committees/ Ministries

We are in the process of preparing the Church Calendar for the remainder of 2013 through August 2014. It would be very helpful if you would establish your meeting dates and calendar of events at your first Fall meeting. You may email any info to Myra Wagner at mbwagner@lrumc.org

Community Health Fair

Location:

Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Blvd. (at corner of Loch Raven and Woodbourne, and across from St. Matthew Catholic Church)

Date: Saturday, October 12

Time: 10am to 1:00 pm

Questions—call Katherine McKinney at 410-323-7995

Happy Anniversary to LRUMC!

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pastors. You will hear from our new District Superintendent, Rev. Cynthia Moore. Then stay for lunch and share your story with others. And if we don't get it all done on that day, we still have a lifetime with each other. In the words of the great hymn writer Fanny Crosby, "To God be the glory, great things he hath done."

A special thank you to all who made this event such a wonderful success. Thank you to Debi Wynn, James Manley and the "Living the Faith" Sunday school class, and Harriet Cole and her team of leaders. None of this would have been possible without their hard work, thoughts, and all of your prayers.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

Charge Conference

Charge Conference is our annual meeting with our District Superintendent. It provides us with an opportunity to share with our Superintendent what ministry we have been doing this year. Our Charge Conference is made up of our District Superintendent, Pastors, and Church Council. Everyone is invited to come. This year's Charge Conference will be **Tuesday, November 5th from 6:30-8:00 PM.**

The Thrills and Challenges of VBS

By: Debi Wynn

As the *Spire* is going to press, the church is serving as an amusement park offering fun, fellowship and guidance for handling the ups and downs of life through recreating an amusement park visit experience. The Loch Raven United Methodist Church and IMPROVE Children's Center are partnering to offer Colossal Coaster World where children are experiencing the thrill and excitement of a day at the park without leaving the church! Kids visit Worship Rally at the Main Gate, Coaster Alley for Bible study, Cotton Candy Café for snacks, the Adrenaline Zone for recreation, Tune Town for music, the Global Expo for missions and the Scissors and Snuff Emporium for crafts.

Having an amusement park setting, with ferriswheel, roller coaster and other park pieces would not have been possible without the assistance of Bill and Jackie Waller and Faith Haugh of First Baptist Church of Savage, Brian Hogan of Bethel Baptist Church of Ellicott City and Mike and Sheri Amos of Redland Baptist Church. Mike and Sheri designed and built the lively set that has transformed the auditorium into a park setting. This group of folks not only shared their VBS resources with us, but they also rented a large vehicle and delivered and set up the amazing learning and fun park environment. Our church is truly blessed to have connected with these very special people and their churches. Thanks also to Pastor Cliff for his guidance and support.

Maria Stockton Porter, Viola Watson-Bean and I pooled resources, set the scene, assisted by John Mayden and our church's youth, and Viola got the ball rolling this morning, VBS day #1, engaging the kids in fun while learning activities. Her team of amusement park attendants include Pastor Blow of New Zion Hill Baptist Church leading the kick off rally, Connie Stewart and Roslyn Butler leading Bible Study, and arts and crafts, music and recreation led by Tel Vaughn Hicks, Talford Greene and Shawanda Wilson. Our church members supplied the tasty snacks for Cotton Candy Café. As Carole Webner and I created marshmallow roller coasters packs this morning for the kids to assemble, I began thinking "How do we top roller coaster fun and faith learning next year?!" If you missed participating in this VBS season, join us next year for VBS 2014.

SHOE BOX MINISTRY (Shining God's Light Around The Globe)

Operation Christmas Child shoe box collection time is just around the corner! Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected more than **100 MILLION** gift-filled shoe boxes. If all the shoe box gifts were stacked on top of each other, they would be 26,000 times higher than the Empire State Building.

A shoe box filled with age-appropriate toys, school supplies, and hygiene items can bring joy and hope to children who have endured poverty, disease, and disaster. These same boys and girls are also invited to a 12 lesson follow-up discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*. This program introduces them to God's Word through a series of Bible stories.

Pack a shoe box in honor or memory of someone.

Plan a special shopping day with your children or grandchildren to pick out shoe box items. (Dollar Tree store is great.)

Youth Group or Sunday school classes may want to consider getting together for a shoe box packing activity.

Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and brochures will be available in early November. The brochure includes specific instructions on what to pack in your box, a boy/girl label to attach to your box, and a detachable donation envelope. ***COLLECTION SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 24TH***. All boxes must be brought to church by 11:00 a.m. on or before that date.

As you pack your box, please keep in prayer the children who will be receiving your gifts and learning about Jesus. Together we have the opportunity to share the love of Jesus and the joy of Christmas with children around the globe. Let's spread the "Good News"!

Yvonne Horn

Missions Committee



Missions Yard Sale

The 4th annual Indoor Yard Sale will be on **Saturday, October 19**, 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, kitchen-

ware, household linens, collectibles, tools, small appliances that work. We cannot accept computers, televisions, baby car seats. We will begin collecting donations in early October.

Return of the Festival of the Arts

By: Debi Wynn

Last December was the premiere of the Loch Raven Festival of the Arts, offering an opportunity for folks to share their artistic talents, hobbies and skills. We discovered several Loch Raven church members had artistic skills that many of us were not aware of and the Festival provided a wonderful sharing experience of creativity. The 2013 Festival will be held on Saturday, November 30 from 1 - 5 pm and all ages are invited to participate with one or more pieces of their paintings, drawings, photographs, textiles, pottery and all types of family-friendly arts and crafts. Folks need not be a church member to participate. So please help to spread the word to family and friends. Registration forms will be available in the October *Spire* and in the lower lobby entrance of the church. For additional information, email me at tnhedutainment@aol.com or call 410-583-0270.

UMW

September Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 3
10 a.m.—Parlor
Study: Acts

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, September 16
Meet for dinner and
planning session
6:00 p.m. at Yvonne Horn's home

NO GENERAL MEETING

September Birthdays

List compiled by Marcia Smith

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



Membership Updates

Address Changes:

James F. Coleman
5687 E. Newcomer Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47805-9456

Erica Dixon
P.O. Box 41349
Baltimore, MD 21203

Joyce Dixon
P.O. Box 41349
Baltimore, MD 21203

Alma Jackson (zip code change)
212 Aigburth Road, Apt. 112
Towson, MD 21286-1157

Shannon Larrimore
14 E. Elm Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21206-1102

Deborah Olewe
2700 Proctor Lane
Parkville, MD 21234-1904

Ruth Tenley (New mailing address, she still lives on Highland Drive)
1232 Stumpf Road
Middle River, MD 21220-1523

Updated address:

Vesta Williams
800A Southerly Road
Suite 101
Towson, MD 21286
410-616-8819

From the Mailbox

Dear Loch Raven Family,

Your prayers and concern have been a blessing in our lives.

The Williamson-Taylor Family

Dear Friends in Mission :

Thank you for your gift of \$220.00 in support of UMCOR Project #901670 (Oklahoma Tornadoes).

Because you gave, UMCOR is able to “Be There” and “Be Hope” on your behalf. UMCOR programs provide food for the hungry, help farmers grow plentiful and nutritious food, and support people left destitute by natural disasters and war. Your gifts go a long way to bring healing and hope to people in need. We give thanks for your generosity.

This gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer
United Methodist
Committee on Relief
General Board of Global
Ministries

Missions News and Notes

Indoor Yard Sale: See article on page 4 of this *Spire*.

Manna House: serving breakfast 7 days a week to approximately 175-180 guests. This is where we provide bag lunches. Seeking volunteers to serve breakfast. More information to follow in next *Spire*.

Essex UMC: We are now providing 150 sandwiches to Essex UMC on the 4th Wednesday of each month. They provide a hot meal every Wednesday afternoon at 4 pm and each guest is given a sandwich to take with them. This is a new outreach for Missions. We make the sandwiches on the 4th Tuesday and they are delivered to the church the next day.

September Collections: Do you have any of those little bottles of shampoo, conditioners, hand cream or small soap bars we all collect when we travel? If so, bring them to church in September. A box will be located in the Hospitality Area. They will be distributed to the homeless guests at Essex UMC for their use. Thank you so much for these important items for those who have so little.

October Collections: Do you have any worn/used towels, blankets or throws? Sandi Cuthbert will be collecting them for Defenders of Animal Rights during the month of October. A box will be located in the Hospitality Area. Thank you for caring for these helpless animals.

How Well Do You Know.....Harriet Cole

By: Marcia Smith

(Second in a series of articles highlighting long-time members)

Harriet Cole was born Harriet Godman on May 26, 1928. She was one of six children, two boys and four girls. She attended schools 74 and 49 in Baltimore City; she completed 3 years of middle school in two years.

Harriet graduated from Eastern High School in 1945. After graduation Harriet began her career in the printing industry. She started out as an estimator for Universal Lithographers, the first company to print books by lithography. The company also printed the first books of scenic photography of the Chesapeake Bay and the Baltimore vicinity. The books included photographs by A. Aubrey Bodine, a photojournalist for the Sunpapers for 50 years. During her career in the printing industry, she also worked for Urban Printing, Optic Binding and Printing and Rosedale Printing where she worked until she was in her 70's.

She met her future husband, the late Clair Cole, at Oxford Methodist Church which was located at 24th Street and Greenmount Avenue in Baltimore City. She and Clair married on September 15, 1951 and eventually became the proud parents of three sons, John, Dennis and David.

Clair was drafted into the Army one month after they were married. He was serving in London when their first son John was born. Clair also worked for Universal and Optic preparing materials to get them ready for printing.

Did you know that Harriet was one of the first people to ride across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, that she used to ride the ferry boat down to Ocean City and she enjoyed visiting friends in New York City.

She was also a member of The Order of the Eastern Star, the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women may belong. She joined the organization in 1950 and has served in various capacities including Past Worthy Matron. She has served as Secretary for the last 20 years.

She and Clair started attending Loch Raven UMC in October, 1953, but did not officially join until May, 1954. She joined Loch Raven UMC because Carroll Doggett was her Youth Counselor; according to Harriet, "He was a young counselor and I was an older youth." Nan Doggett invited her to join the United Methodist Women and she continues her service to this day. She is a Past President and currently serves as Vice President.

In it's heyday, LRUMC boasted 1700 members, with 75 members in the youth group. The group was broken down into several smaller groups. Both Harriet and Clair were Youth Counselors. The church put on a lot of plays back then and Harriet performed in a lot of

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The Baltimore-Washington Conference Annual Conference 2013

It was my privilege to represent Loch Raven UMC at the 2013 Annual Conference held at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center in Baltimore. Our Conference theme was *Sowing the Seeds....Be the Light*. This was the first Conference with our new bishop, Marcus Matthews.

This year's Conference began with a one-day session on May 4th. More than 1,100 lay and clergy members met to get acquainted with the issues that were coming before us at Annual Conference later that month. Here we learned about the \$16.8 million budget proposal and what we needed to be prepared for Annual Conference. On May 29th our 3-day sessions began. We were a group of over 1,700 representing 646 churches. Here are some highlights from this year's conference:

- 25 new clergy were ordained to serve in our conference
- Shared 565 years of service in ministry with those who retired
- Shared a message from our Baltimore Mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
- \$16.8 million budget was adopted for next year
- Created seven new faith communities
- Learned about the upcoming changes in the pension program
- Paused to remember and celebrate the saints
- Attend Bible study, worship, prayer and fellowship gatherings

In this coming year the Bishop challenged the churches to sow seeds of faith, pray for our churches, adopt a school in our community and make disciples for Jesus Christ.

I thank you for the opportunity to represent Loch Raven UMC.

Yours in Christ,
Carole Webner
 Lay Member to Annual Conference

How Well Do You Know. . .Harriet Cole

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them, mostly musicals. The plays were directed by Martha Bennett. She was also part of the camping group organized by Henry and Martha Vohrer. Harriet remembers that the men would do shows to entertain their fellow campers on Saturday nights.

Clair and Harriet started the "Road Runners" travel group, organizing annual bus trips for church members. They went to various places around the U.S. and led several trips to England and Europe. Clair also started the Oyster and Sour Beef Dinners and was Chairman for the Dinners for many years. The dinners were a great fundraiser and a great source of fellowship for the Church.

Harriet has spent three quarters of her life in this church and she continues to serve as an active member. She has served in various capacities including Lay Member to Baltimore Washington Conference for over 35 years. To date, the only position she hasn't held is President of the Board of Trustees.

Her fondest memory of the church: "Looking back at the dedicated people we've lost over the years." Also remembering how much God has and continues to bless Loch Raven UMC.

I don't know too many people who haven't met Harriet, but if you haven't, she and her youngest son David can be found in attendance at the 11:00 service, sitting right up front.