

The Spire



September 2014

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

FALL SCHEDULE



We will begin our Fall worship and Sunday school schedule on September 7.

Worship is at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM. Sunday School is at 10:00 AM.

Did You Know We Have Paper Recycling at LRUMC?



We have this brightly colored bin at the parking lot entrance ready to accept your paper recycling any day or time. We receive cash for every

ton of paper collected.

You **MAY** drop off newspapers, shopping catalogs, mail, magazines, envelopes, office & school papers, colored paper, and fax & copy paper.

Please DO NOT put cardboard, phone books, plastic, glass or metals in the recycling bin!

Fall Bible Studies

In addition to our two excellent Adult Sunday school classes, you will have three choices of adult Bible study this Fall.

The Pastor's class begins Monday September 8th and runs for four Mondays. We will be continuing with Bishop Scott Jones' *The Wesleyan Way*. Here are the dates and titles:

September 8 *You Are Not Alone*
September 15 *Transform Yourself and the World*
September 22 *Invite Others on the Journey*
September 29 *Christ No Matter What*

Joyce Dixon asks, "Want to be energized and revitalized?" You can join Joyce on Saturdays in September as we dig into God's Word to get Biblical insight on the curve balls life throws at us. Specific dates and times will be forthcoming.

Rev. Wayne Harting, one of our newest attenders, will be leading a Wednesday morning Bible study on the subject of spirituality. Come, get to know Wayne, and learn more about what it means to be spiritual in this day and age.

Look for more details on all of the above Bible studies in the bulletin and see sign-up sheets on the church bulletin boards. What a blessing it is to have a church with so many choices for Bible study. Find the one that suits you best.



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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 14, 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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UMW

September Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 2

10 a.m.—Parlor

Study: Ruth—Session 4

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, September 15

Meet for dinner and planning session

6:30 p.m. at Yvonne Horn's home

NO GENERAL MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, September 5, 10 a.m.

Workshop of Wonders

What were you doing the week of August 4? Fifty-four children from the IMPROVE School, the community and our church became Master Builders at the Workshop of Wonders. They acquired skills to Imagine, Build, Grow, Work and Walk With God.

Queen Esther showed the children how they could use their imaginations. (Read the Book of Esther to find out how Esther saved her people.)

Zerubbabel led the campaign to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem because he listened to God even though others tried to stop him. He obeyed God and the temple was rebuilt. (Read Ezra 3:8-13.)

On Wednesday we read a story that Jesus himself told—the story of the mustard seed. (Read Matthew 13:1-2, 31-32.) That teeny, tiny mustard seed grew into a tree! Just like that mustard seed, we are growing physically and in our faith and trust in God.

We also learned how Jesus took something ordinary like 5 loaves of bread and two fish—the lunch of a young person, just like us—and worked a wondrous miracle. He fed over 5,000 people, and there was even food left over! (Read John 6:1-13).

On Friday we heard about two people who were very sad because Jesus had been killed and were walking home to a town called Emmaus. A stranger joined them on the walk. But guess what? The man wasn't a stranger—he was actually Jesus raised from the dead! (Read Luke 24:13-32 to find out what happened.) We learned that when we tell people about God's love and work to help others like Jesus did, we're walking with God.

If you were in church on August 10 you saw some of us sing *Your Grace Is Enough*. Be sure to check out our pictures on our church website (www.lrumc.org) and Facebook. You'll see us in our t-shirts, workbelts and hats. You'll also see some of the wonderful crafts we made.

Lastly, we would like to thank ALL OF YOU who provided snacks for us. We would also like to say a special thank you to the following for making this year's Vacation Bible School such a success. We can't wait until next year!

Amy Price and Nancy Gillotti for our outstanding t-shirts
 Maria Stockton-Porter, Viola Watson-Bean and IMPROVE Children Program and Staff
 Merrill Harrison, Co-chair
 Sally Tarr and Nick—bible story tellers
 Myra Wagner—Rivet the puppet
 Miriam Roehl and Aleece Roehl and Jean Oberia—crafts

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Who's in Charge Anyway?

“Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall...the king watched the hand as it wrote. His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.” --Daniel 5:5-6

I stood on the steps of the floor office at the front of the Hechinger store where I used to work. I watched the cash register lines growing longer and longer. I heard the frustrated cries of the customers—“How long must we wait to spend our money here?” The cashiers worked as fast as they could. One shouted, “I need change on register two!” Then another yelled, “Change on register twelve!” The front-end supervisor ran back and forth from one booth to the next, juggling rolls of quarters and dimes. Amidst the turmoil I leaned over the floor office wall and asked, “Who's in charge anyway?”

King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. He ordered his servants to bring in the gold and silver goblets from the Temple so that they could use them to drink from. As they drank, they praised the gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared, writing on the plaster of the wall. The king watched in horror. His face turned pale, his knees knocked nervously, and his legs gave way. He was out of control.

He called for everybody he could think of to interpret this handwriting, but nobody could. Then he called in the prophet Daniel. Daniel looked at the message. It read, “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin.” He informed the king that he had not humbled himself before God. He said, “By misusing the Temple goblets you have shown that you do not honor the God who holds your life in his hand.”

When ego takes over and kings forget God, all of us are in trouble. But Daniel's lesson isn't just for rulers of countries, military commanders, or in my Hechinger case, Administrative managers. It is for each of us. As we go about our lives, let us always remember that God is in charge and not us. Our lives are in God's hands whether we realize it or not.

Grace and Peace,
Cliff

Highlights from Sizzlin' Summer Nights

On Wednesday July 16, the Sizzlin' Summer Night's activity was kickball and popsicles. Unfortunately not enough people showed up to play kickball, but the event leaders came prepared with another fun outdoor activity. An evening of kickball turned into an evening of bocce ball! Many were new to the game of bocce, but they learned quickly. All were soon laughing as they threw their bocce balls through trees and up and down hills as they tried to get their ball closest to the target ball.

Afterwards the group enjoyed ice pops by the playground as they reminisced about the fun fellowship time they just spent learning a new sport. A “night of bocce” may become a new addition to the Sizzlin' Summer Nights.

On Thursday, July 24, 19 people gathered at the Perry Hall Presbyterian Mini Golf Course on Joppa Road for a fun filled evening of mini golf and snowballs. Our group of 19 divided into smaller teams and headed onto the course. It was a nice, cool night. There were a few hole-in-ones and a few balls that somehow went off course and entered the water or the gravel. After 18 holes of mini golf everyone enjoyed a yummy, refreshing snowball. Everyone was a winner and a great time was had by all!

Your Church in Action

On June 14, 34 of our church leaders met to brainstorm ways to achieve our congregational goals for the year. Our areas of focus and the top ideas included:

Abbottston Support

1. Back-to-School Drive for Abbottston and local community (check with Vacation Bible School Lead Team)
2. Identify a church liaison to coordinate and communicate needs
3. Supply needs and solicitation

Awujoh and Other Multicultural Events

1. Introduce more multicultural music to worship service
2. Celebrations focusing on birth/heritage country or state
3. Hold more than one festival a year

Fund Raising

1. Expand the Gift Card program to an ongoing monthly/quarterly offering (Christmas season would still go to UMW—need to coordinate and work out details) - offer program to other agencies or groups that meet in our building
2. Reinstitute dinners—carryout offerings—sticky buns/baked goods after church, fish fry, superbowl subs, etc.
3. Explore implementation of “Market Day” - online/paper orders of food
4. Used clothing drive—open to community

Grow Worship

1. Explore and implement one worship service
2. Summer social time after service
3. Market research

Multimedia

1. Further explore the feasibility of purchasing (cost study) and installing monitors/screens in the sanctuary above doors at front of the church, 2 more at the sides halfway back (can be used for hymns, visual/sound effects, enhance the message, prayers, stream worship service on the website, highlight weekly activities prior to and at the end of the service—might get a communications student to provide input and support as part of their school project)
2. Add security cameras in hallways and parking lot
3. Install a fixed audio system in the auditorium and fellowship hall—equipment on cart to plug into permanent speakers

Re-energize and Engage Membership

1. Establish a social time after church: potlucks, picnics, additional Awujoh dinners, bowling, movies
2. Church retreats

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“Committed to Christ”

Jesus gave the great commission to us in Matthew 28:19. First, he talks about God giving him all authority in both heaven and on earth. Then he says, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

It takes a certain level of commitment to be a disciple of Jesus’ and to disciple others. So, we’ll be kicking off the Fall season with a sermon series called “Committed to Christ.” It’s a four-week series that begins September 7 and runs through September 28. Here are the dates, titles, and Scriptures:

September 7
Take a Clean Dish
from Philippians 3:13-14.

September 14
Let’s Roll from I Kings 19:19-21 and Luke 9:51-55

September 21
Cross Commitment from John 12:20-33

September 28
Say No to Indifference from Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Matthew 12:30-32.

Note from Staff-Parish Relations Committee

On May 31, we accepted John Mayden’s resignation as Youth Director. While we were saddened by his departure, we were excited for him as he continues to follow God’s call to ministry.

Effective July 1, Rev. Mayden accepted a pastoral position at Mt. Zion UMC in Upperco, MD.

Due to our current budget situation and limited number of high school and junior high students, we will not be filling the position of Youth Director at this time.

Every day is a good day when you receive and give love, see, hear and learn new things.

Workshop of Wonders

(Continued from page 2)

Rebecca Mickey, Sandra Edmonds and Adiaha Essien—snacks
Sandi Cuthbert and Missions Debi Wynn—pictures
Special Thanks T.J. for the best choreography ever!
A special thank you to Jim Wagner for building the workshop and Jim Harvill for the VBS banner.
Special thanks to Home Depot for all of the toolbelts, hats, towels and buckets.



Missions Yard Sale

The Missions Indoor Yard Sale will be on **Saturday, October 18**, from 8 am to 1 pm. We depend on the congregation to donate the items we sell.



It’s not too early to start looking around your house for items to donate. We accept household items, linens, kitchen items, small appliances, toys, tools, books, clean clothing (in very good condition), jewelry, shoes. We cannot accept computers, televisions, baby car seats. We will begin collecting donations in September. Items can be left in the chapel. Thanks for all your support. All proceeds go to a mission project.

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.

Notes of Thanks

To my other family...

Once again the love of my Loch Raven family comes shining through. Your cards, inquiries of my dear sister, Dolores, and most of all, your prayers, bring me solace and comfort as I take this last journey. My privilege has been sharing your joys and sorrows as you have shared mine. It forms a beautiful tapestry of God's will for us – reaching out, caring, loving one another. What a great, simple plan! Continue to PASS IT ON!

I ask, too, that you continue to keep my son, Chris, in your prayers. His life has been a constant series of unbelievable physical challenges, but we've

always been there for each other - quite a fighter and my champion!

So many have meant so much in my spiritual life. I'm blessed by having you walking beside me and with me. God's blessings and love to ALL!!

Marlene Dennstaedt

September Birthdays

- 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
- 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

TRANSFER:

Larry and Anne-Marie Smith
To Blue Ridge Boulevard
Christian Church
Independence, Missouri

DEATHS:

Thomas H. Graves
May 22, 2014

Samuel Boner, Jr.
May 30, 2014

NAME CHANGE:

Joyce Venables is now
Joyce Deitrich

PHONE CHANGE:

Adiaha Essien
410-733-1731

ADDRESS CHANGE:

Katherine McKinney
18532 Vernon Road
White Hall, MD 21161
410-844-1644

Your Church In Action

(Continued from page 4)

3. Partner with youth and young adults from area churches
4. Evangelism and/or revival weekend or retreat

Our teams are currently validating and prioritizing these ideas. If you would like to join any of our work teams, please contact the church office, and watch future issues of the *Spire* for updates.

2014 Loch Raven Festival of the Arts Countdown: September

The Three R's of a Silent Auction

As a fund raising opportunity for the church, a silent auction is being added to the Loch Raven Festival of the Arts on November 15. As timing is perfect for reminding folks 'tis the beginning of the holiday season and a perfect time to begin their shopping, visitors to the Festival will be invited to bid on items, services and experiences for their Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts. Donations of auction items are now being accepted. Suggested items for contributing: An autographed piece of sports memorabilia, tickets to a concert or museum, a one of a kind collector's item, a gift card to a favorite restaurant, a themed gift basket or donation of a service that you can provide. For the next two months, ask businesses where you eat or shop for a gift card or product donation. Let's take advantage of the timing for raising funds for the church and provide the silent auction items that will entice folks to place their bids. Follow the three R's of silent auctions: REQUEST a donation, RAISE the funds with bidding and then we can *REJOICE* with the services the church can provide with the raised cash.

Display Your Talents

Share your creative spirit and participate in the Festival of the Arts with paintings, needlecraft, pottery, recyclable art, photographs, whatever talents or pastimes you enjoy, all ages, children, too, have the opportunity to showcase art works in this third year of the arts festival. For festival questions contact Debi Wynn, Edward Smith or Maria Stockton-Porter.

Registration Application for the 2014 Loch Raven Arts Festival

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

If Youth Gallery (ages 4 to middle school) submission:

Age _____ School _____

Please check your art category of entry: Entries must be family-friendly appropriate.

Paintings (oils, acrylics, watercolor) _____ Sculpture _____

Drawings: (Art works of charcoal, pastels, pencil, wax crayon, inks, etc.) _____

Fiber: (basketry, embroidery, weaving, leatherwork, and tapestry) _____

Jewelry: _____ Metalworks _____ Photography (artist's original images) _____

Ceramics: _____ Go Green - Art created out of recyclable materials _____

Other art _____

The Loch Raven United Methodist Church does not insure individual works of art for this event. Artists who wish to insure against damage or loss will do so at their own expense.

Artist Name (Please Print) _____

Artist Signature _____ Date _____