

The Spire



September 2016

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Conference News

There are a lot of new things happening in our Conference. At Annual Conference that was held in June we said farewell to Bishop Matthews. He will be retiring as of August 31st after 42 years of ministry. Together, our Annual Conference raised over \$300,000 to help fund the new athletic center at the Africa University in honor of the Bishop's retirement. Thank you all for your contributions to the Bishop's retirement gift.

Our new Bishop, LaTrelle Miller Easterling will be joining us on September 1st. She becomes the first female bishop in the 232-year history of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Rev. Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, our District Superintendent, was also elected bishop this July at the Jurisdictional Conference. She will be leading the Western PA Conference. The Rev. Dr. Ed DeLong will be our interim District Superintendent until the end of this year. You can always keep up to date on the happenings of our conference by visiting the website at bwcumc.org.

Carole Webner
Lay Member to
Annual Conference

"Follow"

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him."—Matthew 9:9

There wasn't much worse than a Jewish man collecting taxes for the Romans from fellow Jewish people. This was Matthew Levi, the tax collector and author of the Gospel of Matthew. This is the man to whom Jesus says these two plain and simple words—"Follow me."

Matthew, the tax collector, is being called into discipleship, i.e. following Jesus' way of life, learning what Jesus thinks is important, being obedient to the instruction of Jesus. As he called Matthew to follow him, Jesus calls us to "Follow."

There are a lot of things in this world that cause us to look in other directions than following Jesus' way. I certainly don't need to mention them in this brief article. That is why I've chosen to open up the Fall season at Loch Raven UMC with a sermon series called "Follow." It is a call from Jesus for us to go deeper in our commitment to him and his way of life amidst all of the things in this life that distract us.

The "Follow" series will begin on September 11 and run for four Sundays. Then in October I will be teaching a four-week Bible study on Monday nights also called "Follow." Please prayerfully be thinking about joining me as we commit ourselves to follow the call of Jesus.

Your Pastor,
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 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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Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 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

Website: www.LRUMC.org

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Autumn

School Supplies for Operation Christmas Child



As you see the school supply ads in the newspapers and the displays in so many stores, please think of shoebox items for Operation Christmas Child. Now is a great time to purchase the much needed and appreciated pens, pencils, crayons, markers, composition books etc. to pack in your shoebox.

We will be collecting the shoeboxes in November. Additional information will be in an upcoming Spire article.

Yvonne Horn
Missions Committee



LABOR DAY September 5

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

UMC Lectionary Calendar September, 2016

September 4 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Church Color: Green
Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854)
Philemon 1:1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 11 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Church Color: Green
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14 (UMH 746)
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 18 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Church Color: Green
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4 (UMH 741)
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 25 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C
Church Color: Green
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 (UMH 810)
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Upcoming Date

**Charge Conference
November 7
7:00-9:00 PM**

Reports about the various ministries at LRUMC with our District Superintendent. Everyone is invited.

Missions *In Action*: The Samaritan Women

Providing restorative care to survivors, and bringing about an end to domestic human trafficking through awareness, prevention, and advocacy.

Your mission dollars support a number of worthwhile projects locally, nationally, and internationally. One of our newest national projects is The Samaritan Women.

In 2007 The Samaritan Women was incorporated as a Maryland nonprofit entity with the intent of establishing a Christian home for female victims of human trafficking. In 2011 they opened their doors to serving survivors. Since that time they have emerged as a national leader in Christian care for survivors of domestic sex trafficking, serving on the advisory board of Abolition International Shelter Association and being the first national shelter to pilot the HEART model from Regent University.

Their program offers a two-year stay and can accommodate up to 14 women. They invest in women academically, vocationally, spiritually, socially and in self-care. Their mission is to glorify God by seeking justice, reconciliation, and healing. They fulfill their mission through:

The operation of transitional and restorative shelter programs for women recovering from domestic human trafficking. The program focuses on life-rebuilding, personal accomplishments, social re-entry, and spiritual reconciliation.

Helping to inspire people—inside and outside of the Church—to engage in combating domestic human trafficking through awareness, prevention, service, and advocacy. They also provide the education and tools for them to do this work.

For more information, see: <http://thesamaritanwomen.org/>

Upcoming and Ongoing Mission Opportunities:

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!*

- September—dried/powdered milk
- October—cans of tuna fish
- November—cereal
- December—boxes of macaroni and cheese

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*

Sandwich making for Essex UMC 3rd or 4th Tuesday of every month



Music Notes

Sam Chin, Director of Music

It's been a busy time for our Praise Band as they performed every other Sunday during this Summer season. I want to give special thanks to Jan Hoener, Cecelia Miller, and Cheryl Wagner-Koogler for their contributions – it's been a joy to work with these ladies this summer. We hope to continue to add Praise Band performances throughout the year and we are looking for musicians—especially guitarists, drummers and keyboard players. If interested please contact me at doochin@gmail.com or 443-569-2006.

Likewise, the Chancel and Memorial Hand Bell choirs are always looking for new members and right now would be a great time to join. Rehearsals are full of laughter and there is a sense of comradeship that makes worship a unique experience at each performance. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings: Hand Bell Choir 7-8pm and Chancel Choir 8-9:30PM.

“Excessive Heat Warning. 96 degrees - partly cloudy. Feels like 110 degrees.” These are the readings from the Weather Channel's website as I write this article. I am definitely ready for Fall! Looking forward to seeing all of you back from summer vacation.

A Place for You

How much do you know about the Bible? Or Christian history? Or different ways of praying? Or Christian stewardship? Or Christian theology?

Do you even know why most—but not all—Christians worship on Sundays?

The point is, no matter what your age, there is much to learn from classes offered at the church. If you are interested in learning about a certain religious topic, speak to the pastor.

Look for the smile which breaks forth on the pastor's face. Why? Because an educated congregation thrills pastors. Learning is part of loving God with one's mind. Christian education helps us understand what living as Christians is all about. So go ahead, ask about a class that might interest you.

“It is not enough to have a good mind,” said the French philosopher, Rene Descartes. “The main thing is to use it well.” Learning about Christian beliefs and practices is using one's mind quite well. Your church is a place for you to learn. It has a class for you.

UMW September Schedule

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, August 29
Meet for dinner and planning session
6:30 p.m. at Yvonne's home

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 6
10 a.m.—Parlor

NO GENERAL MEETING



What's It All About

Van Marter, a journalist and minister, was named Distinguished Alumnus by the San Francisco Theological Seminary. As part of his acceptance speech he said, “Every morning I remind myself that it's not about me, it's about God. It's never about what I'm doing, but about what God in Christ is doing in me. It's not about my institution or any other, it's about God. It's on the very bad days and on the very good days that we're most tempted to believe that it's all about us. But it never is.

—Quote from SFTS *Chimes*

IN TOUCH MINISTRY

If you or anyone you know is no longer able to regularly attend worship services, please let the church office know (info@lrumc.org or call 410-825-0900). We want to stay **IN TOUCH**.

We also like to celebrate our church family's BIRTH-DAYS. If we don't have yours, please let us know.

September Birthdays

- 1 Rowland Nworgu
- 2 Norma Roehl
Olayinka Akerele
- 9 Nicholas Webster
- 10 Marge Tyler
Rebecca Gansert
- 11 Doris Therit
Gary Horn
Lashawn Maddox
- 13 Caitlin Webster
- 14 Yvonne Horn
- 16 Elsie Chang
Leah Collidge
- 17 Mike Palazzi
Joshua Alaeze
- 18 Claudine Lyttle
Gavin Stewart
- 21 Marcia Smith
Richard Dawson
- 22 James Harvill
Sarah Jones
- 24 Joycelyn Williams
- 25 Jon Cuthbert
Harriet Garner
- 29 Olaseinde Akerele
- 30 Rhoda Wilson
Joseph Scruggs

Membership Updates

Address Changes:

Israel & Grace Ahaiwe
13115 Hill Canyon Lane
Houston, TX 77072-5636

Jill Eckenrode
18 Robin Ridge Court
Parkville, MD 21234

Janey Harper
103 Kenilworth Park Drive,
Apt.103
Towson, MD 21204-2265
410-296-1851

Karla Stewart Lathroum
105 Stony Point Drive,
Unit 170
Annapolis, MD 21401

Erin Mellott
1631 Hakesley Place
Baltimore, MD 21213

Deborah Olewe
220 Chalet Circle West
Millersville, MD 21108-1026

Phone Number Change:

Karen Seets
443-756-0057

Transferred Membership:

Nancy Buettner
To Christ Evangelical Church
Elizabethtown, PA

Carol Everhart-Evans
To Cedar Grove Baptist
Church
Franklin, KY

Withdrew Membership:

Diana Lowe-DiSalvo
Ina Belle Mahan

Members Deceased:

Wesley Wayne Ford
July 7, 2016

Address Unknown:

If you know the current address for the following members, please call the Church Office:

Joseph and Tammy Caleb
Jermaine Carter
John Williams Daniel
Mary Ann Foster
Frances Fraling
Grace Hilton
Paul Hively
Jessica Lauttenshlager
Susan Morgan
Kingsley and Linda Ngameduru
C. Rowland Nworgu
Gregory Olsen
Erin Olsen
Charles Per Dieu
Latoya Sewell
Beatrice and Scott Welsh

