

The Spire



September 2017

Loch Raven United Methodist Church



There's a Class for You!

Welcome Back to Sunday School

Beginning September 10th, we welcome everyone back for children and adult Sunday School. There are two adult classes—*Going His Way*, led by Jonathan Wilson (Room 128), and *Becomers*, led by Owen Williams (Room 202). There are two children's classes (ages 3—1st grade and 2nd grade—12th grade). Classes begin at 9 AM. Hope to see you there.

Amy Price



Growth Through God

The summer is almost over and the school year is about to begin. This marks the beginning of my second month, and my family and I are thankful to be here at Loch Raven UMC. As I am starting to connect faces with names, I am getting a feel for the church and community. I am encouraged about the things that the church is currently doing and excited about what is to come. I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you and see that this is a caring church with great ideas for the future.

A favorite scripture of mine is 1st Corinthians 3:6-7: *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.* This scripture, where the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, grounds me to the fact that all growth comes from God, but God calls us to be intentional about planting seeds and watering them. To me, it is comforting to know that we are not responsible to make the church grow. There is no trick or technique that can cause growth. Growth only comes from God. So, we are freed from worrying about growth and can focus our efforts on planting seeds and watering them. This allows us to release the outcome to God while being fully present with God and one another.

I am excited for the church, to see what God will do as we continue to connect with the community. I believe that God has some amazing things in store for us as we step out in faith. Dietrich Bonhoeffer informs us that, *Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this.* As believers, when we come together in the name of Jesus Christ, living a life of discipleship, our

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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 10, 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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Visit us on FACEBOOK.



LABOR DAY September 4

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

School Supplies for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

It's hard to miss all the "Back to School" newspaper ads and store displays for school supplies. Now is a great time to purchase those much needed and appreciated pens, pencils, crayons, markers, composition books, etc. to pack in your shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.

The shoeboxes will be collected in November. Additional information will be in next month's Spire.

Yvonne Horn
Missions Committee

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. Watch the Sunday Worship Bulletin for the most critical need.

Manna House Breakfast Club – Oct. 14 (If you would like to volunteer to help prepare or serve breakfast, contact Linda Cole: 410-666-5222.

Collection of hotel-size toiletries for Essex UMC. There is a box for the items on the hospitality desk. This is an ongoing collection.

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

UMW September Schedule

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 5

10 a.m.—Parlor

Study: A study of Ecclesiastes
Journey into Meaningful Living

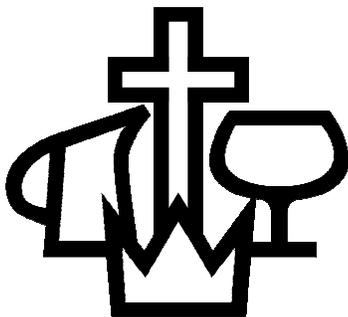
"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, September 11

7:30 p.m., Room 202

Planning Session

NO GENERAL MEETING



Growth Through God

(Continued from page 1)

faith deepens and we grow in grace. I am humbled to have the privilege to pray with you, laugh with you, cry with you, to reach out to the community with you, and to experience life together with you. As we grow in grace and seek God together I am excited to see what God will do in our lives individually and collectively.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor George



Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley's Motto

Trustees Report

The Trustees of the Loch Raven United Methodist Church want to take this opportunity to update you on numerous projects which will be starting soon. These projects are necessary improvements for the structural integrity of our church. Equally important, these projects represent upgrades and improvements which we as stewards of the church believe indicate that we are a going and growing church!

1. New Sanctuary Doors and New Rear Inside Entrance Door – Chesapeake Door

- a. Sanctuary doors will include using inserts made by Jim Wagner
- b. New inside rear door will be single 40" door with panic bar
- c. Approximate cost \$17,000.00
- d. Start date, Tuesday August 22nd
- e. 4 to 5 days to complete

2. Reconstruction of Steeple – CIS Steeplejack

- a. Replace damaged exterior cladding panels, repair damaged underlayment, replace missing trim, prepare exterior surfaces and apply protective coatings
- b. Approximate cost \$87,470.00
- c. Approximate start date mid-September to mid-October, weather dependent as well as completion of other projects
- d. 30 days to complete

3. Removal of small amount of damaged asbestos tile

- a. Approximate cost \$2,500.00
- b. Start date to be determined

4. Air conditioner enclosures – Fence Masters, Inc.

- a. Fence-in right and rear units
- b. Approximate cost \$1,500.00
- c. Start date September 28th

5. New Attic A/C

- a. Approximate cost \$9,250.00
- b. Start date August 21st

6. Kitchen Clean-Up

- a. Cost \$600.00
- b. Complete

7. New Office Copier

- a. In progress

Annual Conference Report

The 233rd Session of the Baltimore-Washington Conference opened on May 31st at the Wardman Park Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. Bishop LaTrelle Easterling made history as the first woman to lead the 628 churches of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. During the opening session the bishop stressed the theme of the session "We are One: Connected in Covenant." She stressed that we are the body of Christ together and how we choose to live out our days is our response to this covenant. If we choose to be divided we will lose our moral witness to the world. Bishop Easterling brings a fresh spirit and energy into our conference.

During the session's times of holy conferencing we voted on five amendments to the denomination's Constitution, passed a resolution to become a member of the Religious Coalition on Reproductive Choice, chose to participate in a conference-wide boycott of Hewlett Packard products until the company ceases to profit from the Israel-Palestine conflict, revised the conference moving policy, officially closed Centennial-Caroline Street UMC in Baltimore and Overlea Chapel UMC in Baltimore, adopted an \$18,463,136 budget for 2018, lowered the benevolence factor used for apportionment to 17.725 and increased the equitable compensation rate for clergy by 2 percent.

We celebrated with the ordination of seven Elders and the commissioning of one provisional Deacon and nine provisional Elders, gave thanks for over 600 years of service from 24 retiring clergy, lit candles to remember the lives of bishops, pastors, clergy spouses and laity who died during this year, collected special offerings for Seeds of Security and scholarships for youth to attend Rock, welcomed two new district superintendents, Revs. Wanda Duckett and Ann Laprade. Rev. Wanda Duckett will be our new superintendent beginning July 1st.

If you would like any information on our conference or would like to view the videos of conference you can check out the conference website at www.bwcumc.org.

Thank you for the privilege of representing Loch Raven church as your lay member to Annual Conference these past 6 years.

Carole Webner

Lay Member to Annual Conference

IN TOUCH MINISTRY

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

We also like to celebrate our church family's BIRTHDAYS. 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

From the Mailbox

Dear Loch Raven Church,

Thank you so much for the wonderful Retirement Reception on June 11. We so appreciate all of you that made that possible. I know it was a team effort. Thank you for the flowers on the altar for Carole. Thank you for your prayerful thoughts and your kind words. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts and cards. Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen who made that great food possible. You will always be a part of our life and always be remembered.

In Christ,
The Webner Family



Thank You

On behalf of Abbottston Elementary and the surrounding community, we would like to thank everyone for your donations of school supplies. We were able to supply students and teachers with much needed materials to start the year off prepared. We will continue to collect Kleenex, hand soap and hand sanitizer to get ready for the winter flu season.

Amy Price

Dear LRUMC Family,

When I first learned of Jim's prognosis I knew it was going to be a difficult journey. When we broke the news to my family, a close cousin said, "But you don't have any family up there." I remarked that I had Jim's family and our church family. Thank you Loch Raven UMC for being my surrogate family, especially this past year. Too many specific people to mention by name, but thanks to my faith partners, Sunday School Class, Women In Christ Circle, handbell choir, lawn and house helpers, husband-sitters, card-senders, phone-callers, visitors, prayer warriors, and encouragers. You all helped make the journey a little easier and helped us keep our faith strong as Jim's body weakened.

I wish to thank Pastor Cliff, Pastor Wayne, Judy and Sam for bringing Jim's wishes to life in a beautiful memorial service; all who came to the funeral home and/or memorial service; the women who helped with the reception; all who shared memories (orally and written); and for the cards, phone calls and visits. It amazed me how many of you knew Jim as the same person I had known for over 30 years, despite his quiet nature! You helped see me through this bend in the road of my faith and life journey.

Bless you all,
Myra Wagner

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your support of the used clothing drive and bake sale to benefit my trip to the Girl Scout National Convention in October. I truly appreciate your overwhelming generosity and I look forward to sharing the details of my trip when I return.

Thanks again,
Caitlin Webster

Dear Friends,

Thanks for your prayers, beautiful cards, visits, and words of encouragement during my recovery, all of which have helped immensely in my healing.

Your many acts of kindness will be forever remembered.

God Bless,
Rebecca Mickey

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for recognizing my many years being a member of Loch Raven Church. I never thought I would live to this age (97)! You are a loving congregation. I enjoyed being more actively involved when I was younger, and now I appreciate your help and prayers since I cannot be as active.

Blessings to all of you!
Vesta Williams



Many thanks to all who help beautify our altar each Sunday by ordering flowers. Starting in September, please take an envelope, which you will find by the flower chart in the arcade, for your payment. It will have a place for your name, amount of payment and the date. Please fill this out and place it in the offering plate either before or on the Sunday your flowers are scheduled to be on the altar. Prices are as follows:

- Bowl—\$40
- Vases—\$55
- Bud Vase—\$19
- Pedestal Bowl—\$45

Thank you again so much for adding to the beauty of LRUMC.

Sandi Cuthbert
Altar Guild

Special Mission Collection: CHANGE a Child's Life With Your CHANGE



According to Christian Blind Mission International, there are many reasons children go blind in the world's poorest countries. Lack of Vitamin A, cataracts, and river blindness are among some of the main causes. Many children also live with extremely low vision...unable to see to walk, read, go to school, or help with household chores.

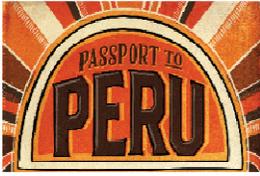
You can help prevent children from going blind for pennies a day! During September and October the Missions Committee is asking everyone to pick up a prescription bottle and fill it with your spare change—or a check (payable to LRUMC and indicate CBM Mission on the memo line) to help prevent blindness or restore sight to children.

Here's what your spare change can do:

- **75 cents** gives a dose of medicine, called Mectizan, to a child so he won't go blind from river blindness
- **55 cents a day for a year** can give a child a cataract surgery and the ability to see again
- **10 cents a day for a year** can provide a pair of special high-powered glasses to a child with low vision so he can read, write and go to school again!

Please Help Us Prevent Childhood Blindness!





What Did You Do This Summer?

By: Merrill Harrison

Well, we don't know what YOU did this summer, but if you attended our Vacation Bible School, you went to PERU! (*Well sort of!!*) Our theme this year was Passport to Peru—*Discovering God's Good Gifts*—and 55 children joined us on our journey. Every day we discovered an important truth about God. We called these Bible points—and we learned them in both English and Spanish:

God gives us	<i>Dios nos da</i>
Comfort	<i>Consuelo</i>
Patience	<i>Paciencia</i>
Peace	<i>Paz</i>
Love	<i>Amor</i>
Joy	<i>Alegria</i>

Our days were filled with incredible Bible-learning adventures, cultural experiences (*We got to touch a blanket made from the wool of an alpaca!*), team-building games, unique treats (*Plantain Chips were a big hit.*), and cool faith-building songs like *All That Is Good*—all amazing standout activities that helped grow our faith. Bible stories included:

God is our Good Shepherd (Psalm 23)
 Simeon and Anna wait for the Messiah (Luke 2:21-40)
 Jesus calms the wind and waves (Mark 4:35-41)
 Jesus died and came back to life (Luke 22:66-24:12)
 Paul and Silas praise God while in prison (Acts 16:16-40)

We were challenged to discover evidences of God in our everyday life—we called these *God Sightings*—and filled up a wheelbarrow full of fiesta flowers representing some of our sightings.

We discovered that God loves everyone. He loves the children in Baltimore and the children far away in Peru. And even if we can't be close to the people in Peru, we can pray for them. We also learned that many children do not have access to safe, clean drinking water, so we joined with other children in *Operation Kid-to-Kid* and in partnership with *Group Cares* and *Living Water* to help build wells in remote villages in Peru. The \$155 we raised will provide clean water for 31 children for a whole year!

We loved our various arts and craft projects and Peru explorations and experiences. We made love-gift boxes, rain sticks, and llamas! We even got to touch and play with a guinea pig!

We concluded with Fiesta Friday! Chick-fil-A sandwiches, fries, juice and ice cream! And everyone got a bag of goodies that Rick Neumann supplied from the Coast Guard, and Rev. Winkfield gave us a *Jesus Calling Bible Storybook! Gracias!! No podemos esperar hasta el próximo año.* (We can't wait until next year.)

Special Thank You to All who Made This Year's VBS a Success!



We would like to thank Maria Stockton-Porter who coordinated this year's Vacation Bible School (*She even used her vacation time from work to be with the children!*) Our special volunteers played a tremendous role: Maria (Opening and Closing Activities), Pete McGinnes (Harmonica Player and Song Leader)

Merrill Harrison (Bible Story and Missions), T.J. Greene (Music and Dance), Amy Price, Nancy Gillotti, and Caitlin Webster (Peru Exploration and Experiences), Sandra Edmonds and R.J. Stockton-Porter (Snack Preparers), Edy Pratt and Jan Hoener (Decorations), Miriam Roehl (Arts and Crafts designer), Rick Neumann and the Coast Guard (gift bags), Joann Munden (Alpaca blanket), Rev. George Winkfield, Anne McCorkle Garrett, Sandi Cuthbert, Janet Gaver, the director of IMPROVE – Viola Watson-Bean, her teachers and aides: Ms. Kris, Ms. Nicky, Ms. Clay, Leslie, Desmond, Brian, Artis, and Aran, and an extra special thank you to all the LRUMC members who supported us with your many donations and prayers. *If we forgot anyone, please forgive us, we do value your support.*

Team Members Needed

Do you have ideas for growing and nurturing Loch Raven's congregation or community outreach?

Join the Membership Team for exciting opportunities to serve your church and its community.

For information contact Debi Wynn at elizwynn@aol.com or 410-583-0270.

UMC Lectionary Calendar September, 2017

*Month of September:
Season of Creation*

September 3

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
(UMH 828)

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149 or Psalm 148
(UMH 861)

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

*Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 15-Oct. 15*

September 17

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Exodus 14:19-31

Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
(UMH 135)

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Church Color: Green

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or
Psalm 78 (UMH 799)

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Missions *In Action*: What's It All About

By: Merrill Harrison

Jesus Sends His Apostles on a Mission: Jesus called his twelve followers together. He gave them power over evil spirits and power to heal every kind of disease and sickness. Matthew 10:1

What is a mission? The dictionary defines it as:

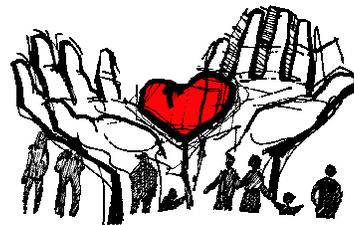
An important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes, typically involving travel.

A group of people sent on a mission.

An organization or institution involved in a long-term assignment in a foreign country.

The vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith.

A strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling.



Simply stated *mission* is:

a group of missionaries

the work of a missionary

a place where a mission or missionary works

a group sent to a foreign country to carry on discussions or to provide training or assistance

a task or job that is assigned

YOU

Through your talents, gifts, and service to the church, you too are a missionary even if you don't travel far from home. Your own mission in life can be anything you pursue with passion and enthusiasm. Your efforts can really change the world for the better. What will you do?

We on the missions committee thank you for your support and help with our various projects. If you would like to join our team, contact Sandi Cuthbert.

Jesus told this story in Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ . . . *When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no place to stay, you welcomed me into your home. ³⁶ When I was without clothes, you gave me something to wear. When I was sick, you cared for me. When I was in prison, you came to visit me.'*

³⁷ *"Then the godly people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you with no place to stay and welcome you into our home? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?"*

⁴⁰ *"Then the king will answer, 'The truth is, anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.'*



Community Outreach Night 2017 Loch Raven Festival of the Arts Event Saturday, October 28, 6:30 – 8pm

It may be only September but mark your calendars now! Turn on your creativity! And spread the news!

It's a community outreach event combined with art for this year's version of the free Loch Raven Festival of the Arts – A Loch Raven Trunk or Treat Night. A Trunk or Treat event is trick or treating with kids visiting creatively decorated cars in the church's parking lot. There are many opportunities for participating:

- Set up & car decorating at 5:30pm.
- Decorate your car in a family-friendly theme, dress in costume and be part of the Trunk or Treat line up of cars.
- If you have a car but don't want to decorate it or man it yourself, we can provide a decorating team and cast of costume characters.
- If you don't have a car, but have ideas for transforming a car into a Halloween-friendly fright, sign up for the Decorating Team.
- Volunteers are needed for working at non-vehicle Trick or Trunk stations, role playing a fortune teller, face painting, game stations, and more fun possibilities.
- Have any ideas to make this a super fun and memorable fun-for-all-ages night for the community? Contact me or any member of the Membership Committee—Adelaide Wilson, Rhoda Wilson, Sandra Edmonds, Patti Ferguson, Edward Smith, Theresa Aleaze.

Debi Wynn

Community Job Fair Saturday, October 21 10am to 3pm

This is Loch Raven's first partner event with the Greater Hillendale Community Association. Please support this new initiative to serve Loch Raven's neighborhoods by participating on this Saturday as a greeter, registration station, hospitality station, Loch Raven Church info station, employer hosts.

Volunteers can sign up for one or both shifts of 9am to 12pm or 12pm to 3pm

Leaders are needed for leading workshops such as:

- Utilizing Internet Resources when Job Searching
- The Interview—Best Practices for a positive approach to the Q & A
- Proceed to Succeed—You are suddenly unemployed; now what?

A job search is a challenging, stressful experience for many folks and if Loch Raven can assist with making their employment search a more positive one, this community mission initiative has the ability to provide a life-changing moment for attendees.

For more information, contact Debi Wynn.

Members Ministry Loch Raven Mentors Needed

By: Debi Wynn



It is always a wonderful Sunday when new members join the church. These folks have met with the Pastor, attended Membership classes and officially joined on a Sunday morning. But then what is next for these new members of our church family? A new 2017 initiative for Loch Raven, important to the growth and sustainability of this church family, is a mentorship program for new members in which they are paired with a church member who will lead the way in helping the new member become acclimated to Loch Raven's opportunities in service, fellowship and Christian education.

Dr. Richard Krejair's article on church mentoring clearly shares the value of mentorship:

We are called, not to just visualize mentorship, but to do it; not to just talk about it, but to do it. The effective church is one that is mentoring, building relationships, and teaching its members by other, caring people who are, themselves, being disciplined, equipped, taught, led, and encouraged. Mentors need to be authentic in Christ, be willing to learn and grow as one of His disciples, and reproduce your knowledge and experience to others.

Loch Raven Mentors will provide:

- A commitment to mentor a minimum of 6 months.
- Contacting a new member on a regular basis with an email, phone call or card.
- Introducing new members to church programs and activities.
- Attending a 4th month membership anniversary fellowship event for new members and their mentors during their first Loch Raven year.
- To serve, fill out a bulletin insert or contact any member of the Membership Team — Adelaide Wilson, Rhoda Wilson, Sandra Edmonds, Patti Ferguson, Edward Smith, Theresa Aleaze.



ACTC Update

Over the past few months, through the generosity of this congregation, we have delivered the following items to ACTC:

canned vegetables—55 cans
 spaghetti sauce—27 jars
 potatoes, boxed and
 canned—34
 chili—11 cans
 soup—28 cans
 tuna—7 cans
 mac & cheese—5 boxes
 spaghetti—10 boxes
 brownie mix—1
 stuffing mix—1
 Vienna sausage—4 cans
 fruit—21 cans
 rice—1 bag

Wow! Great job everyone!

A couple of hints—please bring in only the requested items that ACTC has requested from our church for the monthly item and please check expiration dates on the package or can.

Thanks again for your help.

Sandi Cuthbert
 Missions Committee