

The Spire



February, 2010

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Staff Parish Relations Committee News

Our much beloved music director, Jennifer Edwards, has been chosen to sing in a major production for the Seattle Opera. That honor will take her away from us for several weeks. Fortunately, our previous music director, Judy Zahren, is willing and very able to assume the music responsibilities while Jennifer is away. The time period will be essentially Lent and Easter. Congratulations Jennifer and thank you Judy.

Linda Jones, our church secretary of many years, has announced her plans to retire in May. We are hoping to be able to find someone within our own church family who would be interested in taking on this ministry. If you have any interest, or would like to discuss this job, it's responsibilities, etc., please contact SPR chair Merrill Harrison or Pastor Gayle in the near future.

Warm Up With Family Ministries

Ski Roundtop

While most of us are probably anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring and warmer temperatures, winter is still unfortunately going strong. But why not make the most of it and join the Family Ministries Committee (FMC) for a ski trip to Ski Roundtop? The trip is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2010.

Prices are listed on the bulletin board and there is the potential for a group discount if we get enough people signed up. If you are interested in going, please sign up on the bulletin board to reserve your spot today!

Pancake Supper

Lent is only a few weeks away, starting February 17th with Ash Wednesday. The FMC will be kicking off the Lenten season with our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Dinner will be served starting at 6:00, followed by Trivial Pursuit at 7:00. In or-

der to ensure that everyone has enough to eat, the cost for this year's Pancake Supper will be \$5 for ages 10+, \$2 for ages 3-9, and free for children under 2. In addition, any surplus funds collected will be donated directly to the boiler fund. Stop by, fill your stomachs, and enjoy some fun and entertainment with your Church family.

Lenten Fish Fry

Lent also marks the season of one of the Family Ministries most popular events, the Lenten Fish Fry. This year's Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 12. Fresh fish will be served, as well as chicken nuggets (for the kids only!) and plenty of sides. This event requires a great deal of preparation and cost, so it is one of the rare occasions which requires a per person price. Unfortunately, we have all been hit by a rough economy and the FMC does its best to keep costs down so that everyone can enjoy this event. The anticipated cost for

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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 March issue is **Sunday, February 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.

Editor - Nancy Williams

Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

Pastor - Gayle E. Annis-Forder

Pastor of Congregational Care - Robert J. Fringo

Church Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 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

Web Site: www.LRUMC.org.

Youth News

We would like to thank the congregation for their support of our Calendar fundraiser. \$236 was raised. **THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!!** Next Fundraiser will be the film canisters in March.

Calendar of Events:

January 24
3pm – 5pm
Ice Skating

February 13 – 15
Youth Retreat and skiing
Deep Creek

February 28
7pm – 8:30pm
Retreat recap and game night.

All Youth in grades 6th – 12th or ages 12 – 18 are invited to attend any Youth meeting or event. Hope to see you there!

Warm Up With Family Ministries

(Continued from page 1)

this dinner will be \$7/person. Everyone is also encouraged, once again, to sign up so that we can have an accurate head count as the fish will be purchased fresh from the market that morning. Following dinner, everyone is invited to adjourn to the auditorium for movie time (movie yet to be determined).

Sign up sheets for all events will be available on the bulletin boards in the entryway. Please consider joining us for one or more of these events and spending time with your Church family outside of Sunday service!

Missions Monthly Collection

The Missions Ministry will be collecting for HEART'S PLACE during the month of February. The following items will be collected in the Hospitality Area.

New Men's Tube Socks
Skin Lotion
Hair Grease
Tooth Brushes
Razors
Deodorant
Shampoo
Wash Cloths

Thanking you and blessings,
Missions Committee



Education Spot Light on Sunday School New Adult Class has formed

Are you looking for a way to fellowship in a small group on Sunday Mornings? If so, you may want to try out the new Adult Sunday School class that has just formed. This class meets at 10am in room 126.



Dear Friends,
The Christian church is organized around the

story of the life, ministry and message of Jesus. We have two major "cycles"; Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost. We are just finishing the first of these cycles and are poised to begin the second.

This year, in both worship and study, we will be looking specifically at a small portion of that story, one day to be exact. The theme is "24 Hours that Changed the World." We'll be looking at the last portion of Jesus' life on earth and the meaning these events have for us.

We begin our Lenten observance with a service for Ash Wednesday at 7:30 in the evening on Wednesday, February 17.

Lenten Bible study will be on Monday evenings Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:30 – 9 p.m., and on Thursday mornings Feb. 18 and 25 and March 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Sign up sheets are available in the hospitality area and the rear of the sanctuary.

Part of what we do as Christians is to "tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love." No part of that story reminds us more of that great love than the story of Jesus' ultimate gift for us on the cross, and God's triumph in the resurrection.

May this be a year when that story takes on new meaning for all of us.

Blessings+

Pastor Gayle

Board of Child Care News

February provides an opportunity to support the Board of Child Care.

We have been asked to donate cookies for the girls and boys who live on the Board of Child Care campus. A box will be placed in Fellowship Hall if you would like to help. Store-bought cookies are preferred. Some of the children have food allergies and the staff can check the ingredients in store-bought cookies. Please bring them in anytime until February 21. Cash to purchase cookies is also being accepted.

Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Membership Updates

Member Deceased:

Patricia Myers
Deceased December 18, 2009

Address Unknown:

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

Jermaine Carter
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Nancy Hart
Charles Per Dieu
Beatrice Welsh



Why Ashes

On Ash Wednesday many pastors dip a finger or thumb in black ashes and make the form of a cross on the foreheads of worshipers. Many Christians keep the symbol on their head for the entire day. It is a reminder of one's sorrow for one's sins. It is a sign of humility and

the need for forgiveness. Also, the cross on the forehead reminds us of the death of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins.

From the Mailbox

Dear Pastor Annis-Forder, Pastor Fringo, Lin and Loch Raven Congregation,

Thank you so very much for your love and concern for my mother and her family. We truly felt your support during our time of need. It has been over a month since Mom's death, and our family is slowly healing. Christmas will have some sad times, but our belief in God and heaven strengthen us. As my former pastor, Ray Keene, put it—No more tears, no more pain, no more confusion. Just love, joy, peace and contentment. Praise God for his great love!

Love,

Larry Morgan
Son of Almeta Morgan



For the Love of Us

As Christ drew near to death, He Himself trembled. It was an experience of all His creation, but He had never felt it. To His humanity, His assumed flesh, it seemed terrible—Gethsemane bears witness [to] how terrible it seemed; but He passed into it for love of us.

—*Phillip Brooks*

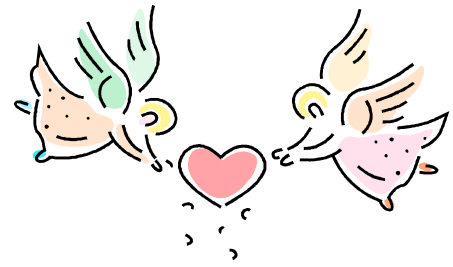
Letter from Sue Porter dated January 5, 2010

Dear Rev. Gayle and the L.R. UMC,

Greetings and Happy New Year! This is just a brief note to say how much I enjoyed being with you on Sunday, Jan. 3 and sharing about the work you support in Liberia. I also want to thank you for the generous \$300 gift which will go towards the many needs of the school of nursing. I consider myself very blessed to be connected in service to God's people. Thank you for years of support both financially and in prayer. Blessings to you for all you do!

Sue Porter

Following Sue's visit, the missions committee voted to become a full partner in Sue's support, taking on a \$2500 commitment, one full share of her salary support. This covenant relationship with the LRUMC congregation will be in addition to the support she receives through the United Methodist Women. Jen Byrd and the youth fellowship are also looking for ways to support the ministry of the nursing school in Liberia. Thanks be to God for the opportunities we have to be in partnership with God's people everywhere!



Have a Heart

Valentines of every size and description adorn store windows and other places of business this time of year. The holiday has become a time for love to be enthroned as a virtue, with the heart symbolizing the romance of our lives.

But the heart symbolizes not only love, but life itself!

Consider God's words to Samuel: "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NRSV).

The heart—that inner countenance—shows what we really are. Samuel was to seek one of the sons of Jesse to be the new king. David, even though he was the weakest physical specimen, was the one selected. His heart was great.

Love looks deeper than outward appearances, and we can thank God for that. Don't be swayed by mere valentines—have a heart!

Boiler Fund Update:

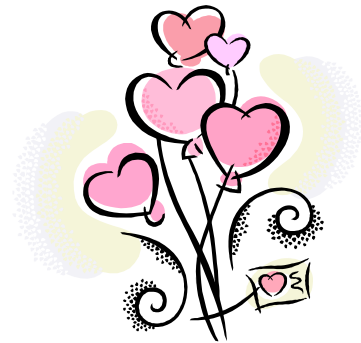
These gifts have been received since the last *Spire*:

12/20/2009	= \$	515.00
12/24/2009	= \$	100.00
12/27/2009	= \$	400.00
1/03/2010	= \$	120.00

Total Received: \$28,431.00 towards \$73,000

The Board of Trustees offers their appreciation for every gift received and sends their blessings and a heartfelt thank you!

Thanks so much for continuing to give as you are able to the Boiler Fund. At this writing, we are closing in quickly on the \$30,000 mark, with a total need of \$73,000. Each gift is a blessing, no matter what the size. Thank you for your continued faithfulness.



In Your Heart

If there is peace in your heart,
you will find it impossible to
hate.

If there is honesty in your
heart, you will find it impossi-
ble to judge another.

If there is love in your heart,
then that is all there is.
Fear is gone, as is judgment
and the desire for violence.

—Kim Hauenstein
United Protestant Campus
Ministries, Cleveland, Ohio

United Methodist Women February Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, February 1

7:30 p.m.—Room 202

Study: *Growing Through
Life’s Challenges*

Lesson 4: Growing Through
Grief and Loss

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, February 2

10 a.m.—Parlor

Study: *Knowing Jesus*

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, February 10

9:30 a.m.—Room 202

Study: *Esther*

NO GENERAL MEETING



Ash Wednesday, the begin-
ning of Lent, comes on Febru-
ary 17. We Christians observe
Lent for 40 days (excluding
Sundays) to examine our spiri-
tual condition and to strive to
improve our relationship with
God.

Lent is also a period of spiri-
tual preparation for Easter
Sunday, the greatest day on the
Christian calendar.

During Lent most churches
have additional services. Some
offer special Bible study events
or classes in strengthening the
spiritual life. It is a good time
to study the life of a great
Christian from the past and the
ways that person developed
closeness to God.

It’s important that each
Christian practice spiritual dis-
ciplines to “show that you are a
letter of Christ. . .written not
with ink but with the Spirit of
the living God, not on tablets of
stone but on tablets of human
hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3,
NRSV).

*Opportunity may knock
once, but temptation
leans on the bell.*

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake

The following is from the Home Dedication Ceremony for Andrea Brinkley on November 21, 2009. This is Habitat's 273rd house.

"Looking back, I never thought I would be a homeowner," says Andrea Brinkley who is grateful for the rough road that has brought her to purchase a home from Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake. "I can't be ashamed of my past because it has brought me here, to this. If someone else sees where I came from, then maybe that will encourage them to change too. I want to be an example."

The past three years have brought Andrea the happiest days of her life; a new fiancé, James, a good job at Mercy Hospital, her driver's license, and now the joy of owning her own home. But it wasn't always so easy to smile according to Andrea, who sold drugs for longer than she can remember and used for 21 years. Ultimately, her addiction landed her six years in prison and cost her custody of children. After serving three years, Andrea was released on parole and went straight to Marian House in Baltimore, a safe community for women and children who are in need of housing and support services. While she knew she could have gone back home and lived with her grandmother or any number of others, Andrea also knew that it was time to take responsibility for herself, her life, and the lives of her children. It was time to be independent.

After just a year in Marian House, Andrea was able to rent a two bedroom apartment through "Shelter Care Plus," a Marian House program that moves women and their families to independent housing if they agree to certain conditions. Through the program, she underwent counseling each month and her progress was monitored and supported by Marian house staff. Her success in the program led to her getting her oldest child, Sauntia, back, and not long after, her son Anthony was returned to her as well. The reunited family of three moved into a two bedroom town home. *"The house is okay, but it's not mine."*

Andrea is now coming up on five years in the Marian House program. The program is structured to help women get ready to go out on their own. She is more than ready. She has been working hard to adopt Tyona, a seven year old, and Andrea is confident that becoming a homeowner will be the final step to stabilizing her family. Clean and sober for eight years, engaged to the man of her dreams, and soon to be a proud homeowner, Andrea Brinkley is a prime example of someone who has triumphed over the challenges of addiction and despair and is moving into a safe place to live and thrive with her family. *"I feel so blessed that God looked at me and saw that I was worthy. Thank you for making families like us happy."*



The Altar Guild thanks you all for your support during the Christmas season and throughout the entire year. Without you the altar would be without the beautiful flowers that enhance our worship. Thank you very much.

A reminder that the 2010 Flower Chart is posted in the Arcade. The costs are as follows:

- Regular center bowl—\$30
- Larger center bowl—\$40
- 2 Vases—\$40
- Pedestal bowl—\$35 and up



Repent—a Worthy Word for Lent



What pops into your mind when you hear the word “repent”? Is it a dark and somber word for you, perhaps reminding you of John the Baptist’s shouting for people to repent and be baptized?

What does the word “repent” mean anyway? Literally, it means to stop the way one is going, turn around, and then walk in the opposite direction. It refers to turning away from sin and shallow living and to begin walking through life following God’s direction.

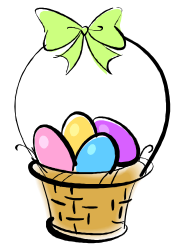
Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, is an opportunity to check our spiritual condition, to repent (if needed) and to walk more faithfully with our Lord.

If we take Lent seriously, we can begin to discover a new vision for life—a more joyous way to live. Lent can enable us to discover the immeasurable benefits of living the Christian life passionately.



CHOCOLATE COVERED EASTER EGGS

Individually Wrapped Easter Eggs
\$9.00 per dozen



Vanilla Cream, Chocolate Cream, Coconut Cream, Peanut Butter

- Deadline for ordering: Sunday, March 14
- Pick-up Order: Sunday, March 21, 9am—12 pm
- Payment due when placing order
(checks payable to: Loch Raven United Methodist Women)
- Submit order(s) with payment via the offering plate, Church Office, or give to Nancy Gillotti

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ dozen—Vanilla Cream (dark chocolate)

_____ dozen—Chocolate Cream (dark chocolate)

_____ dozen—Coconut Cream (dark chocolate)

_____ dozen—Peanut Butter (milk chocolate)

_____ dozen—Assorted (three of each kind)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____