

The Spire



January, 2009

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Book/Bible Study Begins in January

Starting in January, a 5 week study of *Three Simple Rules*, by Reuben Job. This will be a study and reflection time designed to offer help to anyone “who desires a new way of living that is challenging but achievable, easily understood and yet profound in meaning and results.” It is a way patterned after the life and ministry of Jesus and first brought into this form by John Wesley for the early Methodist movement. Interest in these three rules— Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love With God—has enjoyed a recent resurgence as Christians have sought a relevant and vital way to live their faith. Come and share with others, learning about how you too can enrich your life of faith.

Dates:

Monday evenings: Jan 12, 26,
Feb. 2, 9, & 16, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Thursday mornings: Jan. 15, 22,
29, Feb. 12 & 19, 10–11:30 a.m.

Text: *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living* by Reuben Job

Cost: \$5 for the book

Please sign up in the narthex or hospitality area so that a book will be ordered for you



**“This day is holy to our LORD;
and do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD
is your strength.”**

Nehemiah 8:10 NRSV

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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 February issue is **Sunday, January 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.

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.

Missions Projects

Monthly Collections

Starting in January, the Missions Committee will be collecting specific items each month for a mission project that the church supports. Our January collection will aid the Susanna Wesley House as they strive to provide shelter and job training for single women and women with small children. Please place your item or items in the Missions box in Fellowship Hall. Let's make 2009 a banner year for missions! Thanks for your support.

Collection Sundays:
January 4, 11, 18 & 25

Items:

Baby diapers (store brand is okay)

Baby wipes

Paper towels

Toilet tissue

Operation Christmas

Child—Shoe Box Project:

We are happy to report that we collected 43 gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to all who participated in this project.



Dressed as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds and Angels, the youth group posed outside LRUMC for the Live Nativity on December 14th. They continued their portrayal of the Christmas story during both services on December 21st as part of the Christmas Cantata. The youth recounted the Christmas story through different perspectives while the Choir performed music describing the events.

The youth thank everyone who has already purchased a 2009 God's Creation Calendar. There are still some remaining for anyone interested. They are great for home, office, or as a gift. The calendars are \$8 each and are available outside of Fellowship Hall after every service.

The youth are making preparations to return to the ROCK retreat, an annual event open to all of the youth in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of United Methodist Church. Loch Raven has been fortunate to be able to send a group of our youth almost every year. The ROCK retreat is January 30th—February 1st in Ocean City, MD.

For any additional information about the youth group, please see Kris Seets or any of our Youth.





Dear Friends,
It's a new year. Some of you are excited, and for others it's a "ho

hum" kind of feeling, like you've been here before. And of course you have. New years come with regularity, and if we let them, our lives can go on just as they always have.

But a new year is also a new opportunity, a sort of built in "reset" button.

There is a man who tells the story of his first day in algebra class. It was his second year of the subject, but he just couldn't seem to get it. He was paralyzed with fear and his stomach seemed as if it were bouncing up and down on a trampoline. A new teacher walked in. She looked a lot like the old teacher, and she was holding a book that looked a lot like last year's book. Before the class began, he thought he'd go up to the teacher and explain to her what a dunce he was with algebra. So he confessed his troubles, but she wasn't interested. "Oh yes, that may be true, but that was before you had me as your teacher. You are going to find that I do things differently. I don't like to get students who have done well in algebra before they have me. Too many prejudices. I prefer getting people who don't know a lot about algebra so I can teach them

from scratch." The boy went back to his seat and breathed a sigh of relief.

We all have chances to start over, especially with the things that are difficult for us. The prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's promise, "I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19), and in the book of Lamentations we read of the mercies of God that "they are new every morning."

There is nothing ho hum about God's love for us and the new opportunities we have to walk each day in faithfulness. May 2009 be a year full of new experiences of the richness of God's love, and of joyful response to that love in worship and service.

Blessings+

Pastor Gayle

The Year

The Year is closed,
the record made,
The last deed done,
the last word said.
The memory alone remains
of all its joys, its griefs,
its gains.
And now with purpose full
and clear,
we turn to meet another
year.

—Robert Browning

United Methodist Women January Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

"Women in Christ" Circle

Monday, January 5
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Proverbs—Learning to Live Wisely*
Lesson 7

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, January 6
10 a.m.— Room 202
Study: *Uncommon Beauty*

Ellen Hoover Circle

Wednesday, January 14
9:30 a.m.—Room 202
Study: *Women of the Old Testament*

NO GENERAL MEETING

End of Year Giving:

Board of Child Care	\$50
Carpenter's Kitchen	\$50
Quality of Life Retreats	\$50
Manna House	\$50
Heart's Place	\$50
Ellen Hoover	\$150
Sue Porter	\$150



Light In The Darkness

We who claim to be children of God live in a far too violent world. Terrorism, war, random killing and sins too horrible to describe appear all too frequently in the daily news. As Christians what can we do?

In another dark time, just before the outbreak of World War II, King George VI of England went on the radio to offer a Christmas message of encouragement for his people. As part of his remarks, he read a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins entitled "God Knows."

Here's a portion of the poem:

*I said to the man who stood at
the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread
safely into the unknown."
And he replied, "Go into the dark-
ness and put your hand into the
hand of God.
That shall be to you better than
light and safer than a known
way!"
So I went forth, and finding the
Hand of God, trod gladly into the
night.
He led me towards the hills and
the breaking of day in the lone
east.*

We may not always be able to dispel the threatening darkness,

but we can walk through it with God for as long as it lasts. Let us remember these words from the popular hymn:

*This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems
oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.*

("This Is My Father's World" by Maltbie D. Babcock)

Funds Sought for Replacement of Back Entrance Awning

You may or may not be aware that the awning at the back entrance is beginning to show some wear and tear. The awning was donated about 10 years ago by Jean Wells. The Trustees had a meeting with the awning company and they received a quote of \$2000.00 to have a new awning canopy installed. The Trustee's were wondering if some of the Loch Raven Church family would like to make a donation toward the replacement of the awning canopy. If you would like to make a donation you may place it in the offering plate and mark it "Awning Replacement" or talk to one of the members of the Trustee Committee. Thank you.

Board of Child Care News

Thanks to everyone who donated cranberry sauce and stuffing mix for the Board of Child Care Thanksgiving baskets. As always, the congregation at Loch Raven was very generous.

There are 2 opportunities to assist the Board of Child Care coming soon:

Christmas Stockings:

By the time you receive this Spire, the Christmas stockings will have been available for a couple of weeks. They will be in the pews until the end of the year. Filled stockings can be returned by placing them in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

Cookie Collection:

The Baltimore Metropolitan District is responsible for collecting cookies for the month of February. The box for cookies will be in Fellowship Hall from January 18 through February 15. Please remember, store bought cookies are preferred. Some of the children have food allergies and the staff can check the ingredients in store bought cookies.

Thank you for your continued support of the Board of Child Care.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson



United States Map

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little girl, Shelby. She wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Shelby and said, "Go into your room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country today." After a few minutes, Shelby returned to her Dad and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh," she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together."



Membership Updates

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Cherie Busczak
1417 Spring Ridge Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75028-3784

Keith & Jessica Lautenschlager
39 Dendron Court
Baltimore, MD 21234-1549

Albertha Weah
P.O. Box 3554
Baltimore, MD 21214

BAPTIZED:

Anna Marie Crowe
November 30, 2008

Parents:
Kathryn and Brendan Crowe

Grandparents:
Gedney and Carol Brown
Thomas & Barbara Crowe

Godparents:
Sharon Gardner and
Patrick Crowe

MEMBERSHIP:

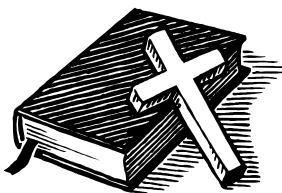
Removed Charge Conference
November 19, 2008:

Wylde Gordon

ADDRESS UNKNOWN:

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

Pauline Ahalt
Jermaine Carter
Amanda Diaz
Mark Formwalt
Mary Foster
Marion Redd-Roberts
Beatrice Welsh



Bible Quiz

In Jeremiah 18, God told Jeremiah to go down to the potter's house. Jeremiah obeyed. The potter was forming a vessel of clay on his wheel, but he accidentally ruined it. He reformed the clay into a lump and started over. He worked the clay again until he had a vessel that seemed good to him.

Jeremiah, the Lord's prophet, discerned that God was using the occasion as a lesson regarding individuals and nations. What was the lesson?

- God can do individuals and nations great good if they yield themselves to God's will.
- God doesn't really care in the long run whether people obey him or not.
- God's judgment doesn't really matter.
- If things don't work out well the first time, you can always try again.

The answer is found in Jeremiah 18:1-10