

The Spire



October, 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Operation Christmas Child Pack & Pray

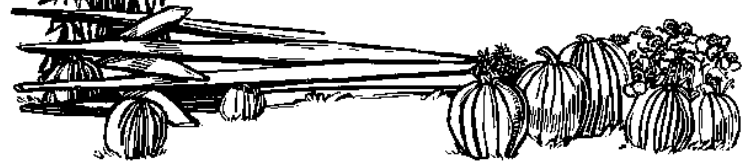
Christmas is fast approaching. Don't miss out on being part of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child ministry! This year please consider packing a shoe box and putting a smile on the face of a hurting child across the globe. Simply fill a shoe box, for a boy or a girl, with small toys, school supplies, hat or cap, socks, and hygiene items. Pray for the child who will receive your gift box. More details will follow in the Sunday bulletin and the November Spire. **COLLECTION SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 20, 2011.**

Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Purse, put it this way, "Pack your shoe box with love, send it with prayer, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a hurting child. That's the power of a simple gift."

Yvonne Horn
Missions Committee



October Events



Sunday, October 2

World Communion Sunday celebrated at both services followed by our annual Awujoh multicultural dinner 12:30 to 3 pm

Saturday, October 15

Missions 2nd Annual Yard Sale—8 am to 1 pm

Wednesday, October 19

Charge Conference—8 pm

Wednesday, October 26

Family Ministries' Harvest Dinner, autumn crafts and pumpkin carving—6 pm

Saturday, October 29

Community Heath Fair 10 am—1 pm
Location: Faith Presbyterian Church
5400 Loch Raven Blvd.

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WORSHIP  WITH US!

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 November issue is **Sunday, October 9, at 11:00 a.m.** *Electronic Submission:* You may send articles by e-mail to: [njw.williams@yahoo.com](mailto:njk.williams@yahoo.com) or place articles in the Church Office's newsletter box.

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Children's Page and Address Page Editor - Peggy Kelly

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Change of Name/Address - Call, mail or e-mail church office

Website: www.LRUMC.org

United Methodist Women October Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Monday, October 3
7:30 p.m.—Room 202
Study: *Great People of the Bible*
Study 1: Adam and Eve

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, October 4
10 am—Parlor

GENERAL MEETING

Due to Charge Conference, there will be no General Meeting in October. The next General Meeting will be Wednesday, November 16



Board of Child Care Christmas Store

The Christmas Store offers the children served by the Board of Child Care the opportunity to select Christmas gifts for their families. The store depends on donations. It is currently well stocked with items for babies and young children. However, there is a need for items for young adults (teenagers) and adults. Some examples of needed items for males are cologne, aftershave, hair care items, gloves, handheld games, small flashlights, watches, wallets and sports related items. For girls and women there is a need for hair care items, fragrances and cosmetics.

If you wish to donate an item, the collection box will be in Fellowship Hall until November 20. Thank you.

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson

Stillness Can Heal

“Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10, NRSV). People who seek silence and are open to God's presence testify that such stillness and seeking can bring healing. Tension is relieved, stress begins to dissipate, one's inner person feels refreshed and the nearness of God becomes a reality. In the depth of stillness, God's power is present and restoring us to wholeness.

—Charles Ferrell



Blood Pressures

For several years, blood pressure testing has been offered on the second Sunday of each month between services in the education office.

In the beginning, the number of people using this service were many. Our numbers are dwindling! We are down to a precious few!

Please stop in to see us—the second Sunday of each month from 9:30 am to 11 am in the education office. It is an easy, quick way to help monitor your health.



This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel says: "Reform your ways and your

actions, and I will let you live in this place..." — Jeremiah 7:3

It happened a number of years ago while I was standing in the outfield tossing pop-ups to three six year olds. I was trying everything I knew to get them to hold on to a fly ball. "Here we go, Chris. Hold your glove up this way. Move to the ball. Get it in the glove, then trap it with your free hand so you can dig it out and be ready to throw." These were my instructions over and over again.

Then I said, "Okay, now we're going to try something new. I'm going to toss it up anywhere. One of you call for it, saying, 'I got it' and make the catch." Little Doug just stood there with this puzzled look. Then he blurted out, "Coach Webner, shouldn't it be I have it?" Baseball players have been yelling "I got it" for over a hundred years. Little Doug has never caught a ball in his life, but could he be right about this? I quickly mulled it over in my head, "I got it. I have it. I got it." "Your right, Doug," I said. Technically, it

should be 'I have it,' but it comes out quicker to say 'I got it.'"

I kept it the same, but Doug made me think about what I was doing. I've appreciated that thought-provoking moment ever since. We shouldn't just do things the same old way just because we've always done them that way before. We need to be secure enough in who we are as Christians so that we can occasionally risk changing some of our old ways.

Change isn't always the answer, but change for the better is what Christ wants from us. When somebody has a new idea, it should be considered. Jesus brought a whole new way of living to the people of his day. Nicodemus, the Pharisee, learned all about that when he was confronted with being born again.

The prophet Jeremiah warned his people to "re-form" their ways so that God would give them life. This same word of caution still applies to us today. Whether God's word comes from a six year old little leaguer or a thirty-something year old Jesus we'd better be willing to listen and change accordingly.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Cliff

What More Can You Do?

I will do more than belong—
I will participate.

I will do more than care—
I will help.

I will do more than believe—
I will trust.

I will do more than dream—
I will work.

I will do more than teach—
I will inspire.

I will do more than earn—
I will enrich.

I will do more than give—
I will serve.

I will do more than live—
I will grow.

I will do more than be friendly—
I will be a friend.

I will do more than talk—
I will listen.

I will do more.

—Unknown





Noah's Ark

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float for a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Wesley Guild Trip

Allenberry Playhouse
Saturday, November 19

This year's show is called *Mistletoe Magic*. The trip includes:

- A delicious buffet luncheon
- Reserved seats for the Allenberry Christmas show
- A visit to Brown's Market
- Taxes and included meal gratuity
- Roundtrip transportation
- Cost: \$75.00 per person

For information and reservations, contact Pat Nardone at 410-823-5377.



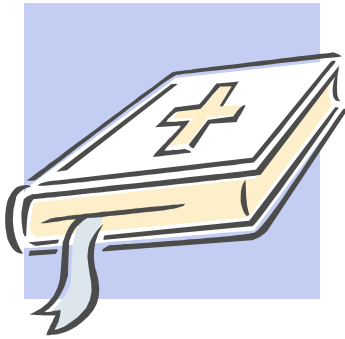
A new feature coming to the Spire will be a monthly list of members celebrating a birthday or anniversary. Marcia Smith will be coordinating gathering this information, so if you would like to be included, contact her via phone at 410-825-0215 or email at: gary.marcia.smith@verizon.net

The church must be one because a fragmented church is not much help to a fragmented world.

—Justo L. Gonzales



**Happy Halloween
Monday, October 31**



Bible Facts

Did you know that:

- There are 66 books in the Bible?
- Micah and Nahum are the middle books of the Bible?
- 3 John is the book with the fewest words?
- Psalms has the most chapters?
- There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible?
- Psalm 117 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117 is also the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- There are 31,101 verses in the Bible?
- Psalm 118:8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible? "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man." (NIV)
- John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the Bible? It has two words: "Jesus wept."
- Esther 8:9 is the longest verse in the Bible? It has 78 words.

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

We cannot begin to describe how much we appreciate your cards, visits, phone calls and caring thoughts during Mom's illness and passing. She had a true Christian heart, a giving spirit and touched many with her quiet understanding and compassion. We have no doubt that she is with Jesus.

Thank you, Cliff, for the memorable funeral service. You did a good job getting to know Mom quickly and complimenting her character.

The funeral reception was wonderful. Thank you to the women's circles for setting up, the beverages and the delicious desserts. The food was delicious, and we are grateful to Mom's Sunday school class for their generous contribution.

Thank you all for honoring her life with us.

In Christian Love,

*The Thomas and
Martin Families*

Dear Loch Raven Friends,

Thanks to Reverend Bob and Reverend Cliff and his wife Carole for their visits.

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls and visits. I would not have made it without your loving support.

You can't imagine how much the cards meant to me. When I was having a really bad day, along came a cheer up card to lift my spirits.

Hope to be back in church soon.

God bless you,
Harriet

