

The Spire



September 2011

Loch Raven United Methodist Church

Loch Raven Welcomes New Youth Director

Marcia Meehan is the new Youth Director of Loch Raven United Methodist Church. Marcia grew up in Pittsburgh, PA and is a graduate of Penn State University. Working with YMCA for 26 years, she has been able to live in several different cities, including Greenville, SC and Dayton, Ohio. Marcia currently lives in Glendale and has a beagle, Sophie. Her goddaughters live in Baltimore, and she likes to travel to Bethany Beach, Delaware to visit her father, as often as possible. She enjoys tennis, hiking, traveling, reading, movies, and going on church mission trips. Her last one took her to Guatemala, where she hopes to visit again next year. She is looking forward to working with the youth at LRUMC and sharing her passion for helping others, both locally and globally, through the United Methodist Church.

September Sermon Series

Come, join us for the September sermon series called ***Triumphant Living in Troubled Times***. Whether you are experiencing trouble now or have experienced trouble in the past this series will speak to your needs. Maybe you've had to deal with some tough issues or circumstances personally or maybe it's some difficulty that's going on in the world. If so, then this series is for you.

September 4th *A New Creation* is about having God's perspective on life. Our text will be II Corinthians 5:17.

September 11th *From Pillow to Pillar* is about Jacob's wrestling match with God over his personal situation. As we remember the events of 9/11 we realize that God can take our biggest burden, our worst situation and bless us through it. The Scripture is Genesis 28:10-19.

September 18th *Step by Step* teaches us how to deal with a situation when we feel lost and confused. The Scripture is Genesis 12:1-3 and John 14:1-7.

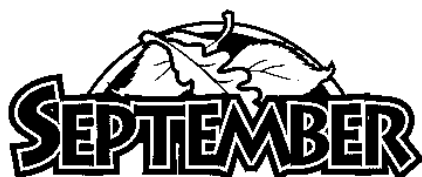
September 25th *The Constancy of God* from Deuteronomy 8:1-3 and Mark 13:24-31. There aren't a whole lot of things in life that you can count on, but you can count on God through it all

Kickoff Sunday

We'll kick off the Fall season on Sunday, September

11th. Worship will be at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. Sunday school for all ages begins at 10:00 AM See article on page 6

for a complete list of Sunday School classes. Come join us.



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

Website: www.LRUMC.org

Fall Bible Study

Money has great power in our lives. Used wisely, it is one key to accomplishing our goals, providing for our needs, and fulfilling our life purpose. In recent years, many of us ignored the wisdom of the past when it came to managing and spending our money. Credit card debt soared, savings rates plummeted, and our home equity became something to be tapped into and spent rather than a source of security in retirement. We felt an insatiable desire for more. And we found ourselves spending tomorrow's money today in order to have what we hoped would satisfy. The result of all of this was not greater happiness and satisfaction, but greater stress and anxiety.

Enough is an invitation to rediscover the Bible's wisdom when it comes to prudent financial practices. In these pages are found the keys to experiencing contentment, overcoming fear, and discovering joy through simplicity and generosity. This book could change your life, by changing your relationship with money.

We'll be studying *Enough* on the five Monday nights starting September 12th and ending October 17th at 7:00 PM and on Thursdays @ 10:00 AM beginning September 8th and ending October 6th. Please contact Pastor Cliff or the church office or sign up in the narthex and downstairs welcome area to let us know you are interested so that we can order the proper number of books.



**WORLD
COMMUNION
SUNDAY**

Remember to wear the colors of your native country on **World Communion Sunday on October 2nd**. What a great way to celebrate our Christian faith as we come together, remembering who we are, whose we are, and where we came from to get to this place.

United Methodist Women September Schedule

Prepared by Betty Shock

“Women in Christ” Circle

Tuesday, September 6
Meet for dinner and
planning session
6:30 p.m. at Yvonne Horn's home

Phyllis Downes Circle

Tuesday, September 6
10 a.m.—Parlor

NO GENERAL MEETING



Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." -- Matthew 17:4

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish I will put up three shelters---one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

It's been said that Peter, James and John were Jesus' favorite disciples. They were the ones that got to go places with Jesus that the other disciples didn't. In this particular case they got to see Jesus in a different light. They began to realize who Jesus was in relation to Moses the lawgiver and Elijah the prophet.

We have opportunities to see Jesus in this light today. There are moments in life when we begin to realize more who he is. For me, coming to

Loch Raven Church has been one of those moments. When I got here and began to meet people I could sense God's presence. I could feel the Spirit of God coming through in the conversations. I could see God in the interaction of the people. I found myself saying in the words of Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." I have truly been blessed.

As we live out our Christian lives together here at Loch Raven Church I pray that we have a lot more of those moments. I hope that we have moments when we see Jesus in a different light. I hope that there are numerous times when we are able to continue to grow closer to Christ and know him the way Peter, James and John knew him. I hope that both individually and collectively as Loch Raven Church we are able to stand back and say in the words of Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." May God bless us in all that we do and say as we continue to grow in our faith.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Cliff

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

Board of Child Care Planning for Thanksgiving

The Board of Child Care Auxiliary is planning for Thanksgiving.

Baskets will be prepared again this year for the families of the children receiving the services of the Board of Child Care. The goal is to fill 225 baskets.

The Baltimore Metropolitan District has been asked to donate cranberries and green beans (15 oz cans) this year. **A collection box will be located in Fellowship Hall from September 25 until October 16 for donations.**

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

Leslie Christopher
Keyperson



LABOR DAY

September 5

Youth News

Ten youth visited Hershey Park on July 25 for the last outing with Miss Jen. Everyone had a great time at the park, despite a little rain. We all worked together at the balloon game to win Miss Jen a Hershey Bear to take with her to Augusta, Georgia.

As a final sendoff, a pot luck dinner was held at the church on July 26 for Miss Jen. Thank you to everyone that made this evening very special for her. She will be greatly missed and we hope that she will come back to visit often!

The youth and their families will be planning the upcoming year on Sunday, September 11, in Fellowship Hall, starting at 6:30 pm. All youth in grades 7 – 12 are welcome to join us for an exciting year! Please contact Marcia Meehan at 717-880-6040, or maymca@aol.com for more information.

Missions Yard Sale

Our 2nd Annual Indoor Yard Sale will be held on **Saturday, October 15**. We depend on the congregation to donate items to sell. It is not too early to start looking for items around the house that you no longer use. This year we WILL NOT be able to use baby car seats, televisions or computers. For more information call Joann Munden at 410-665-6361 or Sandi Cuthbert at 410-661-0947.

Charge Conference

Our annual meeting with our District Superintendent or Disciple Guide is **October 19th @ 8:00 PM**. You're invited to hear about the ministry that we have been involved in throughout this year. We will be sharing how Loch Raven Church has been making disciples for Jesus Christ in our community and beyond.

All Chairpersons of Committees/ Ministries

Mark Your Calendars

We are in the process of preparing the Church Calendar for the remainder of 2011 through August 2012. It would be very helpful if you would establish your meeting dates and calendar of events at your first Fall 2011 meeting.

The computer-generated calendar based on last year's information is available for review in the church office.



Because you gave, the United Methodist Committee on Relief is able to be there providing hope and help for

people left destitute by natural disasters. Loch Raven supported the UMCOR projects listed below:

U.S. Spring Storms: \$3,000

Japan Emergency: \$ 250

Haiti Emergency: \$ 250

This past spring we collected \$1500 for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches and \$700 for No More Malaria.

We also answered a request by the Department of Social Services and purchased back to school supplies for six children.

Thanks again for your generous support of all our missions projects. Your gifts, no matter the size, go a long way towards helping people in need.



Songbook Dedication

Join us in worship on September 25th at the 11:00 service as we dedicate our newest songbooks.

We'll sing plenty of songs and enjoy some wonderful music. So don't miss it.

From the Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, today is exactly one month from me locating to Augusta, GA. My how time flies.

JT and I are getting settled in. My new position is very challenging. I have never been so busy before, but it's a good thing. The professional growth is promising. JT is taking a semester off from school and looking for a job. The economy here is not the best as with most of America, but he is trying.

We are living in an apartment complex in the center of town. We are 6 city blocks from the Masters golf course, 7 minutes from downtown, 10 minutes from the mall and very close to just about everything else. It really reminds me of where we used to live with the exception of public transportation. It's pretty much non-existent in Augusta.

We have not found a new church home as yet :-). I really miss my LRUMC family. I realize this more and more each day. I am missing that in my life and I think once I get that, I will feel much better. No church will ever replace my Loch Raven family, but I am in need of some spiritual stability.

We would like to thank the entire congregation again for the wonderful send off and love gift. It was truly a blessing to us as we get settled here

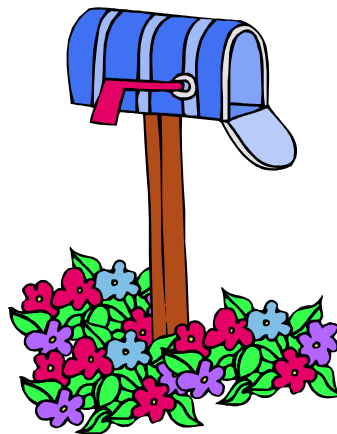
in Augusta. Our address and telephone number was updated with the church office. Please feel free to reach out to us. We love and miss you all very much!

Peace and blessings,
Jen and JT

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your visits, cards and calls of concern during my recent hospital stay. Special thanks to Pastor Bob for his visits and comforting prayers.

In Christian Love,
Dorothy Layton



Dear Church Members,

I want to thank all so much for prayers, concerns and cards while I was recovering from my stroke. I am doing fine now. I want to thank all visitors, and especially Pastor Cliff and Pastor Fringo.

Mary Lou Bryan

A heartfelt thank you to each and every LRUMC family member for your prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent hospitalization and surgeries. My thanks to Pastor Bob for his visits to the hospital. Thanks also to Pastor Cliff and his wife Carole who visited us at our home. We enjoyed meeting both of them for the first time and we each learned a few things about each other. It was really great!

Blessings, love and prayers to all,
Audrey & Lou Moltz

Dear Friends,

We can't begin to thank you enough for all your kindness to us these past five years. Please know that you'll ever be in our hearts, and we will delight in wonderful news of the great ministry you are doing and of neat milestones in your lives. Always remember how special you are. Keep singing songs of joy to God. We will always thank God for you.

Thanks to all for the lovely gifts. The generous financial gift covered our plane tickets to Alaska this August. We'll think of you with thanksgiving on this "bucket-list" trip.

With our love,
Gayle & Dick



Are You Ready For Some Football (I mean Sunday School)?

Christian Education Sunday will be celebrated on September 11th at the 8:30 service. Sunday school will officially resume at 10am (before the Raven's home opener).

Are you currently attending a Sunday school class? If not, there are several to choose from:

Ages 2 through 1st grade

Amy Price, Room 122

2nd through 6th grade

Merrill Harrison and Jo Thomas, Room 212

Middle and Senior High School Class

Carole Webner and Marcia Meehan, Room 214

Becomers Class – Adult Class

Owen Williams, Room 202

Going His Way – Adult Class

Jonathan Wilson, Room 128

Young Adult Bible Study – Room 126

A confirmation class will be held beginning in January 2012.

A fall bible study titled *Enough* will be starting on Monday nights and Thursday mornings in September. Sign up sheets are available.

We have a variety of offerings and we hope to see you and/or your children in Sunday School.

Amy Price

Education Chairperson

Family Ministries Minute

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Sizzlin' Summer Nights this summer. Between the 2 cookouts we went bowling, saw an Ironbirds game (they won!) and went mini-golfing. The response was very positive and we have found some closet pros mixed in our Loch Raven Family.

For fall and winter please mark the following dates on your calendar and join us for family time – Loch Raven Family that is! More details will be forthcoming.

Wednesday October 26:

Harvest dinner, autumn crafts and pumpkin carving

Wednesday December 14:

1st ever cookie exchange

Saturday February 4: skiing and tubing at Roundtop

Tuesday February 21:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner

Friday March 16: Lenten Friday Fish Fry

We are always looking for people to join our committee so if you are interested (or know someone who needs something to do) please contact Sharon Gardner at:

sgardner@isgusa.com.

See you this fall!

Spiritual Maturity

Here are some notes from my sermon from July 31st on the five marks of spiritual maturity. Of course, there are more than five, but here are five important ones.

- A spiritually mature person is positive under pressure. James 1:2-4 says, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." How do you do when you're dealt a bad hand? Do you get negative or nervous? Do you grumble or gripe? Or do you remain positive under pressure?
- A spiritually mature person is sensitive to the needs of others. I John 3:17 says, "Whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" Sometimes we only focus on our own needs singing the "me, me, me" song. God tells us that spiritual maturity is about love, and being concerned about other people.
- A spiritually mature person is a peacemaker not a troublemaker. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." –Matthew 5:9. The questions to ask are: "Am I a peacemaker or a troublemaker? Do I like to argue and debate? Do I like to stir the pot? Do I hurt other people's feelings?"
- A spiritually mature person is patient. James 5:7-8 says, "Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand." We wait on God to answer our prayers. We wait for a miracle. We wait for God to move in our lives. The only way to learn patience is by waiting.
- A spiritually mature person is prayerful. Paul says in I Thesalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing." When things are good---pray. When things are bad---pray. In all things---pray. James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is something powerful to be reckoned with."

Pastor Cliff

Community Health Fair

Location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 5400 Loch Raven Blvd. (at corner of Loch Raven and Woodbourne, and across from St Matthew Catholic Church)

Date: October 29th

Time: 10 am to 1:00 pm

Questions call Katherine McKinney at 410-323-7995



Membership Updates

Address Change:

Verna Barnette
2405 New Haven Circle
Tampa, FL 33573

Jennifer Byrd and
Justin Thompson
405 Bertram Court
Augusta, GA 30909

William & Betty Shock
615 Chestnut Avenue Apt. 1215
Towson, MD 21204

Deceased Members:

Catherine E. Seats
Charles Angle