

NEWS CLIP



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“Facing the New Year with Grace”

How will you approach this New Year? Will you, once again, make a list of resolutions, promising to keep them this time? Or have you given up trying to change, preferring instead to hunker down and ride out whatever changes come your way? For some a new year brings the optimism of a fresh start, a year of new beginnings, but for others the remorse and regret over failed resolutions and missed opportunities. Some are unable to move forward, either from past scars or hurt experienced in years gone by. Is there a good way to face 2010?

A survey I once heard about indicated that fifty percent of people live their lives looking back at the past, while forty percent live in the moment and ten percent live their lives thinking about the future. In which era do you spend most of your time? Are you stuck in the past, stewing about the pain, injustices, and sorrows of yesterday? Or are you someone who is always worrying about the future, with all its uncertainty?

I can imagine that the apostle Paul faced more than his share of painful memories and uncertain new years. As he sat in his dark and damp Roman prison, he knew that at any moment he could be executed. I wonder if he was tempted to feel sorry for himself, about how his once promising religious career had come to this. Yet I don't see any regret or sorrow as he penned these words to the church at Philippi:

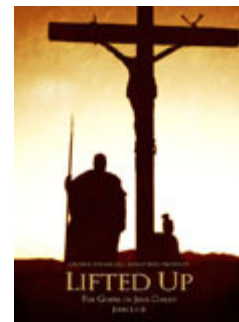
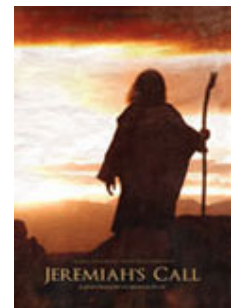
“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:7-14).

“Facing the New Year with Grace” (continued)

Paul gives us some good advice on facing a New Year of uncertainties with the grace God supplies. First he admits that he is not there yet, which shows us the grace to humble ourselves under God’s mighty hand so that He can lift us up (1 Peter 5:6). Second, he relies on God’s grace to leave those things in the past which weigh him down that are not going to help him. Third, he relies on the grace which God supplies to “press on” toward the goal that God has set for him. Foremost in his mind is his goal, that he may **“know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”** Paul’s goal was not to get through life without getting hurt, or to suffer, but to know Christ and to become more like him.

As our church moves into 2010, we must have this same perspective. We must admit that we’re not there yet; we have not ‘arrived’ at a perfect knowledge of our Lord, or in a love for one another. We’ve come a distance in our journey of faith, but there is quite a way to go. Second, we must leave those things which weigh ourselves and our congregation down behind. Do you harbor any unforgiveness or grudges in your heart towards anyone? Do you spread strife and promote discord among the brethren? Confess it to God and in repentance leave it behind. Third, not only must we leave behind those things which hinder us, but we must all “strain forward” with great energy to “know” Christ and what He has called for us to do here at Loch Raven. God has much work for you and this church to do for His kingdom. Will you commit yourself, by His grace, to that which brings glory to Him in the New Year?

- **Pastor Lou**



Mark your calendars now to attend the “God Provides” series being held at
Loch Raven Presbyterian Church

six consecutive Sunday evenings—February 21 thru March 28, from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.



LRPCA WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

Blessings to All in the New Year!

Although those unable to attend our annual Christmas Tea have probably already heard, it was our dear friend Gail Parker who brought Elizabeth—our “surprise” visitor. We were spell bound as we listened to spirit-filled Elizabeth show her feelings and thoughts surrounding her miraculous pregnancy and divinely appointed time she and Mary shared prior to the birth of their sons.

It was a blessing for all to witness the deep love Elizabeth had for the Lord and deep trust in God’s mysterious ways.

It was a very special night. As the last ladies left—I looked up and saw the beautiful moon, stars and glistening snow and thanked God for the spirit-filled “Elizabeths” at Loch Raven Presbyterian Church.

Your sister in Christ,

Debbie Soukup, WIC President

**January 2010
WOMEN’S CIRCLE SCHEDULE**

CIRCLE	DATE/TIME	HOSTESS
Elizabeth	Friday, January 22nd 9:30 a.m.	Sue Banner 410-82-7289
Esther	Wednesday, January 20th 12:30 p.m.	Joanne Stevenson 410-661-3040
Hannah	Thursday, January 14th 6:00 p.m.	Sandy Magsamen 410-687-6090
Rebekah	Thursday, January 14th 10:30 a.m.	Naomi Miller 410-668-9089
Ruth	Thursday, January 14th 10:30 a.m.	Kathryn Fagan 410-828-9468
Half-Baked Girls	Monday, January 4th 7:00 p.m.	Church Library Fran Donofrio 410-661-5901

Youth NEWS

Greetings to all!

Before we look forward to January, the New Year and what lies ahead for the Youth Program, I'll take a moment and look back at the end of November and December. It has been a very busy month with so many activities... it all seems to have blurred together!



We ended November with the Metro Maryland Youth for Christ Middle School "Alive 2009" Conference in Ocean City, Maryland on November 20th-22nd. Our youth, Rachel Banner, Gabby Ensor and Daniel Quivern, all had a wonderful time and enjoyed listening to the outstanding speakers, Preston Centuola and Reggie Dabs, the small group seminars, the worship band and the concert Saturday evening by Family Force Five.

We began December with our one and only regular Friday Night Fellowship with a lively discussion on billboards that have appeared in Baltimore, "Can you be Good without God?" The youth did an outstanding job coming to terms with defining what "good" is from the world's point of view and then from a biblical perspective. Only by defining what "good" means, can one answer that question. Also, in December we had a wonderful evening with "Christmas in Hawaii". Many thanks to Patty De Rosa for organizing our mall Scavenger Hunt...everyone had a great time figuring out the clues, and congratulations to the "Prancers" for their winning efforts. Thanks also to Sue Banner, Laurie Calka and Dan & Lynn Master for their assistance! Congratulations also goes to Jen Quivern for winning the 2009 Limbo Championship! She had a tough time with some "stiff" competition (pun intended!) from Ben Shields and Alan Master, but was able to clinch the win with a final pass. To finish December...or to kickoff the New Year, we look forward to the "Rock-In, Lock-In" on January 1st. Hopefully we'll have a great turnout and a fun evening of games, a time of sharing and maybe a little sleep!

As we turn our attention to January, we will get back on a regular schedule of Youth Fellowships starting on Friday, January 8th. We will start a short study of the book of Jonah, and we look forward to discovering the truth's God has for us in this "old favorite" from the Old Testament.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO SENIOR HIGHERS: The Impact 2010 Conference will be here before we know it! It's hard to believe, but the Registration deadline for \$60 is February 1st! The conference is in Ocean City, March 26th - 28th, so keep watch for details!

Again, I want to thank EVERYONE for your support...from volunteering, your prayers and financial assistance over these many months. You have been a blessing for us and the youth!

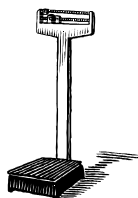
In Christ, Carol & Brian Sweeney

LRPCA FAMILY AND OTHER

TOPS

(Taking off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS is having a very exciting fall season. We have had two no gain weeks in the last month. If you would like to lose a little weight before the end of the year, come out to see how TOPS can help you reach your goal.



We meet in the choir room on Tuesday nights. Weigh in is from 6:15 to 6:50 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

THANKS!

Dear Church Family,

You are truly family. It was so good to worship with you last Sunday. I've missed you; five months is a long time.

It is such a blessing to know we are surrounded by your prayers. Your gifts of cards, flowers, meals, visits, calls and all the rest of the ways you've shown our Lord's love and generosity, have sustained and encouraged us. Chuck and I can never thank you enough.

Our Lord's love shines through you.

Love,

Martha and Chuck Masters

THANK YOU

A couple of days ago, I received a thank you check from Loch Raven Church for my previous recital in August. I did not expect a check so it was a thankful surprise for me. I am enjoying blessed days with lots of concert engagements and wonderful relationships with many people. Although the weather is cold, I am just happy to meet each day looking for another blessing waiting for me. And I hope the same to you!

Have wonderful days, and keep warm. Not fun to catch a cold. My regards to all!

Sincerely,

Eunice (Yun Byun)

THANK YOU!!!

Rev. Quievryn, Rev. Kidwell, Rev. Jones, Suzanne Woo, Pei-Hsin Kao and I (Lee Goon) would like to thank everyone for your generous Christmas gift to us!! We all count it a joy and a blessing to serve the Lord Jesus Christ here with you. We are continually blessed by your encouraging words and faithful support. Thank you SO much!!

In His love,

Rev. Quievryn, Rev. Kidwell, Rev. Jones, Suzanne Wood, Pei-Hsin Kao and Lee Goon



Dear Mission Committee Members and Loch Raven Congregation:

Thank you so very much for your support of me and my trip to the Urbana Conference in St. Louis this December. I am confident that God will pour out His Spirit on me and the other twenty thousand people who plan to attend the conference. It is impossible to attend something of this magnitude without being very grateful for the way that God has provided. I am extremely grateful for your monetary support and especially for the prayer support that each of you have invested in me—it is felt very strongly!!

In Luke 19 when Jesus tells the parable of the talents, when the Master comes back He rewards His servants for the ways that they've invested their 'talents' while He was away. I am praying that what you have 'sown' in your prayers for me may come back to you tenfold. In Malachi 3, God says that if we bring our whole tithes into His storehouses, He will open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing we don't have room for it...how great is our God that we cannot out give Him! May he bless you this year for your generosity.

- Laura Master

MISSION POSSIBLE

January, 2010

Alvin and Beverly Rene'

In a fall mailing, Al wrote of his First Nations status: "My name is Alvin Rene' and my indigenous name is K'olego undwa, which means in my Abenaki language, 'He gives good words.' My dad was born on the Odanak Reserve in Quebec. Other family members are from Wendake Reserve of the Wendat (Huron) also in Quebec."

Al attended a large gathering being held on the reserve in July, praying to clarify his treaty status with his father's reserve. For some years he had been writing letters and including family documents to the Canadian government. There were no results until the invitation came to attend this gathering. The result of his visit was that he is "now a registered member of the Abenaki band of Odanak Reserve..."

He wrote of his first experiences with NAIM (North American Indigenous Mission): "In the late 1970's I became the first Native missionary to serve with NAIM. It was difficult being a Native missionary in a non-Native mission. When we rejoined NAIM I was happy to see more First Nations on staff and the non-Natives seemed to be refocused in partnering with us."

In their Christmas letter, Al tells of attending the Nooksack Tribe's community breakfast and speaking to several people about starting a Native fellowship. He received a positive reception and expects to work with others to develop a fellowship.

Beverly, in the meantime, has been using her artwork to minister to the Nooksacks. The small drawing above is one example of her art. She has had many opportunities to portray their Native friends and use the artwork in large and small sizes. She frequently shows her pictures at Seattle area stores and galleries.

She is recovering from abdominal surgery (December 21) and looks forward to eating normally again.

Their goal – "We try to do contextualized ministry- ministry that allows people from a different culture to apply scriptural truth to their lives in a way that fits into their culture without violating spiritual values."

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 p.m. "Rock-In, Lock-In"	2
3	4 1:30 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m. Half-Baked Girls Bible Study	5 6:00 p.m. TOPS	6 1:30 p.m. Logans' Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Meeting	7 1:30 p.m. GriefShare Meeting 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	9
10 7:00—8:30 p.m. "God Provides" Planning and Staff Training Sessions	11 7:00 p.m. Session Mtg. Deacons Mtg. Trustees Mtg.	12 6:00 p.m. TOPS	13 7:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Meeting	14 1:30 p.m. GriefShare Meeting 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship "Stitches of Love" Knitting Group	16
17	18 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	19 6:00 p.m. TOPS	20 1:30 p.m. Logans' Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 1:30 p.m. GriefShare Meeting 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship	23
24	25	26 6:00 p.m. TOPS	27 7:30 p.m. Congregational Prayer Meeting	28 1:30 p.m. GriefShare Meeting 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29 7:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting	30
31 COMMUNION 7:00—8:30 p.m. "God Provides" Planning and Staff Training Sessions						

LOCH RAVEN
Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America

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www.lochravenpca.org

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m.—Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Loch Raven Presbyterian Church
exists to glorify God and make known
His eternal and unchanging purpose,
fulfilled through a living relationship
with Jesus Christ.

Rev. Lou Quievryn, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ralph Kidwell, Pastor of Visitation
Suzanne Woo, Music Director
Pei-Hsin Kao, Accompanist
Lee Goon, Church Secretary
Austin Kenly, Church Treasurer

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday—The Office is Closed



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Friday, January 29, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Snow Date—Friday, February 5, 2010