

THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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April 2009

Children's Division plans active Spring and Summer!

Easter Egg Hunt

Centenary United Methodist Church will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at RIVERSIDE PARK on Saturday, April 4th 12:00–2:30pm. We will have Hotdogs and fixings for all to enjoy, everyone is welcome to come share in this fun Day.

There will be Egg Hunts For all Ages: 0–4, 5–9, 10–15, and even 16 and over! Please bring your Easter Baskets. Donations of Eggs and Candy are being collected in K–2 Classroom or Church Office.



Centenary United Methodist Church will hold a
**Spring Fling Yard Sale,
Bake Sale and Breakfast**

Proceeds to benefit the Annual Children's Division
Camping Event which will be in July or August.

Saturday

May 2nd, 2009

8am–noon

Have Breakfast with us: Join us for Ham Biscuits or Biscuits with Sausage Gravy and Coffee on the morning of May 2nd. Have a great meal and help a great event! Shop our many treasures and buy baked treats!

Please donate your gently used merchandise. We will welcome cakes and goodies of all kinds for the bake sale.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is scheduled for
June 22–26. Classes for everyone. Please
mark your calendar.

Palm Sunday Processional

On Palm Sunday, April 5, at the 11 a.m. worship service, we will once again have the "Procession waving the Palm Branches." Children and family members (or anyone who wants to process with the children) are welcome to do so. Everyone will meet in the Wesleyan Adult classroom at 10:55 a.m.

Take us out to the Ballgame!



Join your fun church family for an exciting time at the Lynchburg Hillcats baseball game. April 20th, 6:05pm at

Calvin Falwell Field. This is a great event for kids of all ages.

Please sign up if you would like to join us so that we will know how many tickets to pre-order. Our group rate is \$5 for a reserved seat. Please let us know if you will need transportation.



Dear Friends –

I have been made aware daily of how the current economic picture has been causing problems for our church. After all, talking

about money makes everyone uncomfortable. Generally, Christians gave money when asked, and they didn't feel they were being asked for too much. But if they weren't asked, they didn't give or didn't give as much.

While asking, "What would Jesus do?" can sound like a cliché to many, Christ did set the example, even if those Gospel passages are the ones many Christians would rather skip over, and that when Jesus spoke about sacrificing material things, he usually was talking to those who were themselves poor. Jesus didn't shy away from the fact that you need to be giving people, you need to care about others.

For all the clarity and power of the Gospel stories, however, Christians weigh Jesus' injunctions against their personal concerns they find when they get home from church. And fear is a powerful force right now.



**Holy Thursday –
April 9 – 7pm
The Last Supper**

**Good Friday – April 10 – 7pm
Tenebrae Service**

**Easter Sunday – April 12 – 11am
Worship Service**

Feinstein Campaign 2009

All April monetary donations to the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry will qualify for additional funds as part of the Feinstein Challenge. This will be the 12th year the Feinstein Foundation has offered a One Million Dollar Challenge Giveaway. The money is divided among hunger fighting agencies nationwide. Get extra bang for your buck by giving before April 30!

Sacrifice is integral to Christianity. We are to be donating out of thankfulness and the love of God and neighbor. So, *I am asking* each of you to be sacrificial in your giving to Centenary UMC at this time. Please remember that we have mission projects, church programs, apportionments, salaries, utilities, and maintenance at all times that must be paid. And while we have some reserves to borrow against, we need to be receiving more each month to avoid future problems.

Thank you for your help. As we celebrate Easter and God's greatest sacrifice for our sake, shouldn't we give sacrificially, too?

Grace and Peace,

Centenary Youth Happenings

We had a blast at the retreat! We learned about missions, did a mission project with Stop Hunger Now where we packaged 15000 meals in less than two hours! We fellowshiped with old and new friends, we even got to hang with the band – Our Hearts Hero!



Rev. Willie. E Butler joined us for bible study in March, and we discussed the prodigal son. We had a wonderful lesson, and discussion, Rev. Butler will join us from time to time to share with us.

We got to see some of our college students on their breaks, please continue to pray for them as they finish out the semester, we miss you guys and look forward to seeing you again!

If anyone would like to get some volunteer time/ do a good deed/mission, join Paula and other wonderfully dedicated Centenary workers at JIFF on Thursdays @ 5:30 pm OR SHARE, please see church publications for SHARE dates.

School of Christian Mission is coming up in the summer, we have a couple of graduations to attend... and lots of great things to look forward to!! God is so good, and we are truly blessed!

If you have any questions about youth activities, would like to volunteer, or have suggestions please email Bettina at bettinarb@msn.com

Day of Difference 2009

by Paula Howell, *Spire Contributor*

What difference can you make in our Church Community? For Day of Difference 2009, there will be a place for everyone! We will need help with registration and the Pep Rally on Friday, May 29. Saturday morning May 30 we will begin at 8 AM at multiple locations (to be announced), with coffee, juice & donuts. That will be followed with a trash pick up/prayer walk throughout the entire neighborhood. There will also be home repairs in progress, painting and light carpentry. I am sure you will find something you will enjoy doing to make our community a better place.

Sunday, 5/31 there will be an evening Block Party of Hotdogs with all the fixings, potato salad, beans, desserts and drinks, this will be followed by an open air Worship Service involving all of the churches in the neighborhood. Plan to be there, it will be a wonderful experience.

If you would like to participate in any of the above plans please let me know, I will be happy to plug you in so working together we can make this a better place to live and worship.

United Methodism 101

Are you new to The United Methodist Church or a life-long member? Then this course is for you! UMC 101 or "Everything you always wanted to know about The United Methodist Church, but were afraid to ask" will begin on Wednesday April 22 at 7:00 PM in the Wesley Classroom. The course will go until May 27 and be led by Pastors Rick & Liz Ecklund.

Youth Calendar April/May

April

5th Youth 5 pm
12th No Youth (Easter)
19th Youth 5 pm
26th Youth 5 pm

May

3rd No Youth
10th Youth 5 pm
16th Youth KD
17th Youth (TBA)
24th No Youth
31st Youth 5 pm

Marvelous Mature Methodists April Program



"Saints and Martyrs"

Presented by **Alan Combs**,
Associate Pastor

Heritage United Methodist Church

Tuesday, April 14th ... "Brown Bag" lunch at 11:30 ... Program at Noon

What benefit can be drawn from reincorporating a deeper understanding of the "communion of saints" into our current "Methodist" worship? What are the roots of our "Methodist" understanding of and attitude toward the "Saints and Martyrs" of our faith heritage? Come hear this fascinating presentation from our engaging guest speaker. We look forward to your "marching in" to Fellowship Hall on April 14th.

The Episcopal Fund

(second in series on Apportionments)

At their February meeting, the Finance Committee felt that we all need to be reminded of what our apportionments are used for in our Conference and in our world. In 2008 we fell short of paying all of our apportionments by about \$7200. You'll be reading about one or more apportionments each month so we all become more aware of what our Church is accomplishing.

The Episcopal Fund was one of three general apportioned funds, which were a part of the financial plan of the Methodist Church from the time of its unification in 1939. It continued as the source of funding for the office of the episcopacy with the unification that created the United Methodist Church in 1968.

The revenue from the Episcopal Fund apportionment: Pays salaries of bishops; Pays \$10,000 toward the costs for the Episcopal residence; Pays moving expenses for bishops; Provides pension and medical insurance coverage for bishops and their spouses and disability coverage for bishops; Covers costs of bishops' professional travel; Pays Episcopal office expenses, subject to approval by the General Council on Finance and Administration

All funds collected for the Episcopal Fund are sent by the Conference Treasurer's Office to the General Council on Finance and Administration and are then distributed back to our Bishop's Office on a regular basis. All active bishops are paid the same salary based on General Conference action.

Lambuth M. Clarke Endowed Scholarship at Randolph College

This endowed scholarship was established in 2007 by the family of the late Dr. Lambuth M. Clarke, formerly president of Virginia Wesleyan College and later Randolph-Macon Woman's College and, early in his career, vice president at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland. The recipient is to be a student affiliated with Centenary UMC who is attending Randolph College.

In 2008-2009 the \$1000 award was made to Lauren Lee Shelton, who is the granddaughter of Bob & Faye Eagle. If you have any names to suggest for 2009-2010, please contact Pastor Rick so the award committee may meet to award the scholarship.

Choir robes on the way to Africa

During the recent Music Department inventory for insurance purposes, it was decided to dispose of old robes which were no longer in use at Centenary. Carroll Brown, a local representative of the Mercy Care Centre Foundation, came to the church and was delighted to have both green and white robes and stoles for use by children and youth at their school near Nairobi, Kenya. Over 500,000 people live in two square miles in the Mathare Valley where the non denominational Mercy Care Centre is located. In this poverty stricken area, more than 400 students receive a mid day meal, education and spiritual encouragement provided by the Centre (www.mercycarecentre.com).

The Foundation was formed by American friends of various denominations and vocational skills, to help provide a tax-deductible organization to give financial and moral support to the ministries of the school. Other local supporters include the Virginia Baptist Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary which sent jumpers (uniforms) which were being replaced, and E.C. Glass High School students who donated food, clothing and over 1000 books to create the school's first library.

Carroll Brown's note of appreciation said, "These beautiful children will love your gift to them."

Kits for Conference

Annual Conference is coming up June 14--17 at the Norfolk Scope and we hope to have a large number of Kits to send with Pastor Rick. The 2009 Virginia Conference kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot reports there is a need for all types of kits except flood buckets. Kits will be displayed on our altar on June 7. Following is a list of items needed.

Health Kits: 1 hand towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27", no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized); 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. and up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (Band-Aids). (NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE! UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.) Seal all items in a 1-gallon plastic bag.

School Kits: 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip); 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper (approximately 250 sheets total); 1 30-centimeter ruler; 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers; 1 large eraser, 2 1/2"; 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24). Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and closure (Velcro, snap or button) and place items in the bag.

Baby/Layette Kits: 6 cloth diapers; 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits; 2 baby washcloths, 2 gowns or sleepers; 2 diaper pins; 1 sweater open in the front; 2 receiving blankets. Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

Sewing Kits: 3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric); 1 pair sewing scissors; 1 package of needles; 1 spool of thread; 5-8 matching buttons. Wrap sewing notions in the fabric and place in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

IMPORTANT Packing Instructions:

All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items - nothing more. **Do NOT include** any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be removed and will delay the shipment. **Include:** \$1 per kit for processing and shipping; \$1 to purchase toothpaste.

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, send:

\$12 for health kit; \$11 for school kit; \$35 for baby/layette kit; \$18 for sewing kit. Make checks payable to Centenary United Methodist Church and send to Ann Harper.

**2009 Operating Budget
through March 22, 2009**

Receipts:

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Pledged Offering | 42,749 |
| Unpledged Offering | 7,449 |
| Loose Plate Offering | 782 |
| Church School Offering | 661 |
| From Rustburg UMC | 1,000 |
| From UMFS | 600 |
| Miscellaneous Offering | 200 |
| Easter Offering | 500 |
| Shortfall Offering | 655 |
| Interest Income | 91 |
| From Memorials | 590 |

Total Receipts.....\$55,277

Expenses:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Apportionments | - 7,750 |
| Pastor Support | -15,657 |
| Program Support | - 3,692 |
| Building & Grounds | -18,147 |
| Office Support | - 4,138 |
| Staff Support | -23,213 |

Total Expenses.....\$72,597

Benevolence Receipts
Outside of Budget

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Stephen Ministries | 1,675 |
| Fellowship Fund | 422 |
| Sager Brown Trip | 299 |
| JIFF | 746 |
| Pennies with a Purpose | 453 |
| Souper Bowl | 200 |
| Operation Teddy Bear | 10 |
| UMCOR | 80 |

TOTAL \$3,885

Stewardship - February 2009

Operating Budget

| | |
|----------|-------|
| March 1 | 6,200 |
| March 8 | 6,363 |
| March 15 | 3,469 |
| March 22 | 6,058 |



MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. C.T. Bryant
Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Mary Whitten
John & Frances McKee
Marvin & Frances Unger

Fun, Fellowship & Finances



Do you like to have fun? Do you like to spend time with our church family? Do you want to support the church financially at the same time? We may just have opportunities for you this year!

The Church Council will be considering how to proceed on a plan to do all this, but here's what we have in mind. . . . Some type of bi-monthly or even quarterly events that could be sponsored by Sunday school classes, choir, UMYF, etc. (similar to what we did during the Bi-centennial Celebration) that would include an element of fun, fellowship, and fund-raising (finances).

Some ideas that have been discussed are; Church-wide breakfast, Brunswick stew sale, spaghetti supper, silent auction, meal and talent show, pancake supper, cake auction, etc. Put on your "thinking caps" and come up with some more ideas that could be used. *If we all get excited by this, we can make it happen!*

If you have any thoughts, please share them with the Church Council or the Finance Committee or Pastor Rick. Thanks!



Fundraiser

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SHARE Packages available for April

Call in by 4/4. Pickup on 4/18



REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 1# (pound) boneless pork chops, Italian meatballs
1# oven roasted turkey breast deli meat,
frozen fish tenders, 1# frozen sliced

peaches, 1 jar peanut butter, 1 box Mrs. Grass Home-style vegetable noodle soup mix, 3# potatoes, 2# onions, oranges, assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables

STEAK PACKAGE-\$18: (10) 5 oz. boneless bacon-wrapped sirloin steaks

CRAB CAKE PACKAGE-\$20: 3 pounds of frozen, hand-made crab cakes by Chesapeake Bay Gourmet; 70% jumbo lump crabmeat. Product sells

in store catalog for \$99. Minimum retail value priced at \$36.

TYSON ROASTED CHICKEN QUARTERS-\$20: 15# fully cooked chicken, just heat and eat! One 7.5# bag roasted chicken breast w/wing attached. One 7.5# bag of chicken leg quarters.

OSCAR MAYER CHEDDAR MELT SAUSAGE LINKS-\$10: 6 pounds of sausage links stuffed with cheese and onion. Heat and serve!

SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) is a nonprofit food distribution and volunteer service program that helps everyone stretch their food dollars. Participants pay \$20 (holiday packages cost a little more) in cash or food stamps and complete two hours of volunteer work for a food box valued at about \$40. Volunteer time is anything you do for someone else or the community for no pay: Church, school, helping a neighbor or helping with your local SHARE program. SHARE has no income requirements, so

anyone can participate

- if you eat, you're in. SHARE is a program of New River Community Action.

(all packages are subject to change)

Call Paula or Chris Howell 847-8138

