



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
(434) 846-4601 www.centenary1806.com

April 2011

CUMC Member Chosen for Brazil Mission Trip

Six Virginia Conference young adults will participate in a mission to Brazil this summer and one of those chosen is Centenary's Carl Gravely.

Leaving Virginia for Brasilia on July 21, the team of both clergy and laity will participate in "The Week for Jesus." Virginia Conference Initiatives of Hope Brazil Chair Dot Ivey states "I am excited that this young adult team will combine faith-sharing and relationship-building with partnering in mission through a program of the Methodist Church in Brazil called "Semama Pra Jesus," (Week for Jesus). These special weeks occur all over Brazil and combine evangelistic activities with medical clinics, building and renovating and other efforts to improve communities. Ivey concludes, "It will be the first time that a Virginia Conference team has participated in this program." She also believes that Carl may be the first from the Lynchburg District to travel to Brazil.

This trip is focused on building relationships through mutual ministry and sharing between young adults in Virginia and Brazil. The group will be staying with their Brazilian counterparts for the entirety of the trip, at the camp as well as in host family homes during the second week. There each person will join in intentional conversation with a small group of Brazilian Methodist young adults on topics of mutual interest.

This mission trip is scheduled for July 21-August 4, 2011 and will be led by Rev. Kristin Holbrook, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, Salem. Joining Kristin and Carl will be two others from Roanoke, one from Fredericksburg and a North Carolina college student. Rev. Holbrook declares "We are excited to have Carl joining us on the Virginia Conference Young Adult team to Brazil. He seems to be a passionate and dedicated young man with many talents and abilities. I am sure that he will be a



blessing to the team and to the Brazilian Methodist Church."

According to Carl, "I'm really excited to meet with the other five members and travel to share and relate with ideas and stories about the United Methodist Church. Though I don't know exactly what I will be doing during the Week for Jesus, I'm ready for a life-changing adventure."

Costs for this trip are estimated to be \$2500, lower than usual because of the food and lodging provided by Brazilian host families. Airline tickets are the primary cost and escalating fuel costs make immediate purchase necessary. To contribute to this mission experience, please make a check payable to Centenary UMC, marked on the memo line for Brazil Mission Trip. Though a generous donation from the Potts endowment for youth and young adult mission trips will be very helpful, many more donations of any amount will be deeply appreciated.

When Carl returns there will be opportunities to hear of his experiences and learn about our fellow Brazilian Christians. With them, with Carl's team, the people of Centenary will join in saying in Portuguese, "Deus et bom," God is good!

Easter Egg Hunt!!



Grab your baskets and come to the Centenary Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 16 at 12:00 in the field behind the church. Everyone's invited for a cookout, games, egg hunting and more! Don't forget your Easter Basket!

Donations of candy or other small egg-stuffing items are welcome. Please drop them by the church office by April 14th. Questions? Call Mari Smallshaw at 846-3242 or mws1019@aol.com.

Easter Message From the Pastor



Dear Friends,
Without Easter, the
Christian faith is a
waste of time.

That's what the
apostle Paul says: "If

Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you
are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The reason for this is that Christ's Resurrection not
only gives us hope for eternal life, but because God
used the Resurrection to confirm that what Jesus said
in his earthly life was true. Jesus said he would rise
from the dead. If he hadn't, who would have taken his
teachings seriously thereafter?

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,"
Paul says (1 Corinthians 15:20). The resurrection was
God's stamp of authenticity on Jesus, proclaiming,
"Yes, Jesus is my Son. Yes, he has overcome death.
Yes, what he told you is true. Trust him! Follow him!"



New Class in Home Stretch

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Centenary UMC and Peakland UMC have joined
together this year for the training class of Stephen
Ministry. The class, which meets every Monday evening
at 7:00 to 9:30, began the first week of January and will
conclude in June with the commissioning of the new
Stephen Ministers.

Our trainees have worked extremely hard and their
dedication is paying off. The course has involved
pre-class reading assignments and in-class lecture,
discussion, and role playing. Our trainees are showing
some real growth in knowledge and skills.

"I've found the skill practicing to be the most valuable
component," says one trainee. "It takes what you're
learning out of the realm of theory and turns it into
something you have to apply. It can be very challenging
to role-play, for instance, that you're ministering to a
young mother whose husband has just died. It brings out
real emotions and tears. But it is extremely helpful
because it prepares you for actual caregiving situations."

There will be special worship opportunities at
Centenary UMC during Holy Week and on Easter
Sunday. These include: Palm/Passion Sunday
worship on April 17; Holy Thursday Worship – April
21 at 7:00 pm; Good Friday Worship – April 22 at
7:00 pm; Easter Sunday Worship – April 24 at
11:00 am.

Last month you received our annual Lenten
letter with a special Easter offering envelope. As
you know, we asked you to make an extra
sacrificial gift to assist the church and the work of
Christ in the world. Please give prayerful
consideration to the gift you will make.

We hope you can join us on Easter Sunday in
celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Grace and Peace,

"During the skill practicing there has been real
ministry going on too," says another trainee. "When you
learn and discuss grief, you can't help but surface
genuine issues from your own life. When this happens,
we find ourselves ministering to each other. All of that
will help us be better caregivers later on."

A recurring emphasis of Stephen Minister training has
been confidentiality. What a care receiver says to his or
her Stephen Minister is held strictly confidential. Even the
identity of the care receiver is kept confidential from
other Stephen Ministers, and everyone else.

When this class is finished, the trainees will be
commissioned as Stephen Ministers and receive their first
caregiving assignments. But even then their training is
far from over.

Continuing education is an important component of
Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers will meet for
continuing education once a month, even after they
begin meeting with their care receivers. The goal is for
Stephen Ministers to continually enhance their skills and
learn new ways to care. We want them to provide the best
care possible for their care receivers.

Please lift up the training class in your prayers over
the coming weeks and watch for regular training class
updates in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin.

April 2011 Spire

Thanks for the Help!!!

A sincere THANK YOU to every one who participated or helped with the Church Spring cleaning day March 26th. Breakfast provided by the Youth Group fueled us to start the day off right.

Many tasks were accomplished: the kitchen was intensely cleaned and organized, the sanctuary was dusted, pews were magic-erased, brass was polished and clutter was removed. In the choir room music was filed and closets were cleaned. The library was dusted and straightened. First floor classrooms were organized. The outdoor crew raked and planted and weeded and put down about 5 tons of mulch. And once again, we filled a very large dumpster.

A delicious lunch was a fundraiser for the Jellystone camping trip this summer and was a needed relaxing break for a bit. (the boss was a slave driver!)

The Property Committee again thanks you for your help and releases you all now to your own spring cleaning, now that you have experience! We will reconvene in the fall!!



Cleanup Gets Extra Help



Centenary's spring cleanup was jump-started when three Old Dominion Job Corps members spent four days hard at work on the church grounds March 21-24. Landscaping students Darren, Kevin and Sean were engaged in Work Based Learning, their first such experience at a church site.

From a long list of tasks prepared for them by Property Committee Chair Carl Gravely, they removed dead plants and sod, edged flower beds and fixed sink holes and low areas of the lawn. The young men hauled many wheelbarrow loads of sod and earth around the property. A huge mulching exercise was hampered by the very late arrival of a load of mulch.

This extra help was greatly appreciated by church members who worked on Cleanup Day. In turn, Centenary was glad to further the education of Job Corps students who were evaluated by supervisor Carl Howell. This new partnership can benefit us in years to come since a great variety of trades are offered.



Old Dominion Job Corps

Old Dominion Job Corps is located in Monroe and currently has 350 students primarily from this state as well as North Carolina and the District of Columbia. Job Corps is a program of the US Department of Labor, offering youth ages 16-24 an opportunity to attain a trade and, for those who do not already have it, a high school or GED diploma.

Centenary members who wish to learn more about the Job Corps and tour Old Dominion's site are invited to a meeting of the ODJC Community Relations Council at the Center from 8:30-9:30 am on Wednesday, May 11, 2011. It is located at 1075 Father Judge Road, Monroe. Call 929-9400 to respond.

Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Spring for Fun

Our guest is Lynn Fox, Senior Recreation Specialist, Lynchburg Parks & Recreation Department. Lynn will tell us about the outstanding cultural and educational programs and recreational opportunities available for seniors and folks of all ages in our great city. She'll have a few surprises for us, too. Come out and have a relaxed good time.

"Brown Bag" luncheon 11:30am,
Program at Noon.
Tuesday, April 19

Project needs Pillowcases

Day of Difference plans are well underway and the forms will be available in the near future so you are able to sign up for areas that are of interest to you. There will work areas for all skill and ability levels including painting, light carpentry, trash pickup, prayer walking and much more.

All of the children will be doing an art project on pillowcases during our special day on 5/21, if you have any new or gently used solid color pillowcases to donate you can bring them to the office where there will be a box for collection.



Meet Carl Gravely

By Ida Powell, *SPIRE Reporter*

Because he will be representing us in Brazil and because he came to Centenary just a few years ago, some persons may wish to know more about Carl Gravely.



Carl is a native of Arona, Pennsylvania and the eldest of 10 children. He claims he “grew up Methodist,” active in youth group and participating in choir since age 12. At age 17 he was a Certified Lay Speaker, preaching several times in his home church. There he participated in Christmas Eve and other special services, joined his dad in the Men’s Group, played piano for a children’s Sunday School class, and helped with Vacation Bible School. Carl also did babysitting and much more, including attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

At the Pennsylvania College of Technology Carl earned a degree in 2006 in electromechanical maintenance technology and in 2008 earned a second degree in electrical technology and building automation. He financed his own education, finishing first in his class. During those four years in Williamsport, PA, he attended Third Street UMC, sang in the choir and helped with children’s music.

AED/CPR Update



On Sunday, May 1 Melissa Waugh and Dawn Arrington will conduct a CPR/AED review class.

We will meet immediately after the worship service, in the Fellowship Hall for pizza and the review class will be 12:30–1:30 pm. The one hour review will not be a certification class but a review of important procedures to follow when providing CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and using the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) in case of an emergency.

If you think that you are physically unable to provide CPR, you can still benefit by knowing the proper procedures & ways to be of assistance in such emergencies.

All Centenary staff, worship service ushers, teachers or any other interested persons are welcomed to attend. Please call the church office to pre-register for the one-hour review. We need an idea of the number of people attending to order lunch and to provide any necessary hand-outs for review.

Questions? Please contact Melissa or Dawn.

From the moment of his arrival at Centenary, Carl Gravely has made multiple significant contributions of time and talent. He currently chairs the Property Committee, no small task with a large, nearly 100 year old facility in need of multiple repairs. He serves on the Church Council, has sung in the choir and helped teach a junior high Sunday School class. His friendly manner and desire to serve in any capacity are enhanced by a delightful sense of humor.

Carl Gravely, a valued Centenary member, will bless the people of Brazil as he offers himself in service as a member of this mission team.

Brazil is Mission Focus

“Initiatives of Hope” is the name of a partnership between the UMC Virginia Conference, the Methodist Church of Brazil and United Methodist churches in Mozambique. Working together builds relationships with God’s people in other cultures, sharing from our abundance, and learning from those who struggle to have enough. As church members join together and discover the gifts all have to share, United Methodism’s goal, “Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” is advanced.



The 181,000 member Methodist Church of Brazil is a dynamic and growing community with a clear sense of mission and purpose. However, the challenge the Church faces is great. Since the 1980s, tens of millions of Brazilians have migrated to urban areas where acute economic distress has created the greatest number of “street children” in the world.

The Brazilian government has proved unable to contain this humanitarian crisis, or to direct sufficient resources to families living at subsistence levels in the interior, where people live without necessary resources.

Initiatives of Hope works in partnership in two primary ways. The Shade and Fresh Water Project offers at-risk “street children” a caring community, food, and education in a safe environment in Shade and Fresh Water Centers run by local churches. The John Wesley Medical Boat provides medical care to people in remote areas along the Amazon River through houseboat clinics.

Long before sending Carl Gravely there, Centenary people have supported work in Brazil through apportionment giving, proving once again that we United Methodists can do together what one individual or one church could never do.

April 2011 Spire

Applying Bible Principles

Under the Old Testament economy, people were required to give to God because this was also the means of providing the government. A theocracy was in place then, which meant that government was actually operating under the direct authority and leadership of God Himself.

Today, we are under a different economy. However, we are still required to support the government. We may not like the way government operates. We may not agree with the policies of our governmental leaders. We may not even like the political process or the individuals involved in it.

But God says that is not the issue. The issue is one of obedience. He says we are to pay our taxes to whom “taxes are due” (Romans 13:7). In spite of all the ills of government, God says that governmental agencies and government leaders are His “servants” and that they operate for our ultimate “good.”



So the question is not whether we agree with or even support the work and activities of our governments at the local, state and national levels. The question is one of whether or not we will obey God. You see, it's relatively easy to sing, “Oh, How I Love Jesus.” It's far more difficult to demonstrate our love for Him by yielding to Him in full and complete obedience, especially when His commands are ones we do not care for — like paying our taxes.

If He is in charge, if He is Lord of our lives, then we will do what He tells us to do. As the little chorus states it so clearly, “I'll say, ‘Yes,’ Lord, ‘Yes,’ to Your will and to Your way; ‘Yes,’ Lord, ‘Yes,’ I will trust You and obey.”

Even when it comes to paying my taxes? Even when it comes to paying my taxes!

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's” (Matthew 22:21).



UMCOR Response to Pacific Emergency

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is connecting with partners to assess damages and needs resulting from the powerful 8.9-magnitude earthquake and 33-foot-high tsunami that rocked Japan.

The quake hit in the middle of the afternoon, at 2:46 Tokyo time, just off of Honshu, Japan's most populous island. It is the strongest earthquake to hit Japan in the 140 years that records have been kept. It takes the place of last year's earthquake in Chile as the fifth strongest ever anywhere in the world.

UMCOR head, the Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey, urged prayers for those affected by the disaster. She said that as needs become clarified, UMCOR will respond. “Once again, in the wake of disaster and in the face of widespread need, we rely on the ever expansive generosity of United Methodists and all people of goodwill to help us respond to those whose lives have suddenly been turned upside down,” she said.

The 33-foot tsunami barged into the port of Sendai in northeastern Japan, pushing buildings, cars, ships—everything in its path, far inland. In Tokyo, the quake disrupted electricity and ground and air transportation—and sent people fleeing from office buildings and homes for the safety of parks and other open areas.

Your support for Pacific Emergency, UMCOR Advance #3021317, is urgently needed. Make your checks payable to Centenary UMC and put the Advance number on the memo line.



Shared Ministry Project

Members of Lynchburg District United Methodist Churches gathered at Peakland United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 19 to make disaster relief kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This mission project fulfilled a commitment to work together on mission and ministry in 2011, as defined by the Boonsboro, Centenary, Cove, and Peakland cluster at last October's joint Charge Conference.

According to Rev. Rachel G. May, Associate Minister at Peakland, "The earthquake and tsunami in Japan have introduced a measure of urgency for the help and hope that come by way of UMCOR kits. Today, attendees at this event offer our mission effort as a blueprint for other congregations and as a foundation upon which others may gather and minister in the future."



Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Each UMCOR health kit contains personal hygiene items: a hand towel, washcloth and soap; toothbrush and toothpaste; comb; nail clippers, and six adhesive bandages.

Sager Brown "graduates" Paula Howell and Belva Shelor led a demonstration of the assembly of health kits prior to the packing. Their expertise helped the project go quickly and assured that each of the kits was correctly prepared.



Speaking of the compact kits and of the individual effort required for their construction, Rev. Dr. Edwin Clever of Peakland UMC noted, "It is wonderful how something

so small can make such a difference in someone's life."

Among the seventy attendees giving their time to the mission and ministry were other local United Methodists from Providence-Whites, Main St. (Bedford), Court Street, Fort Hill, Rustburg and Timberlake United Methodist churches. Cornerstone Church of Christ (Chatham) also participated.

Oscarlyn Elder and Maxine Nelson, laity active in organizing and leading the shared ministry, report 230 complete health kits. Forty partially completed kits are

ready to be sent to Centenary UMC where parish nurses will add missing items and oversee preparation of additional kits by elementary and middle school neighborhood youngsters involved in a weekly mission program. Donations of \$443 will also contribute to the efforts of UMCOR.

The shared response to the needs of God's creation and participation in the nurturing of our relationships concluded in a worship gathering led by Rev. Rick Ecklund, Centenary UMC, Rev. Liz Ecklund, Rustburg UMC, Rev. Lane Spigener, Boonsboro UMC, Rev. Dr. Clever, and Rev. May. District Superintendent Larry Davies led us in our shared ministry project. A nourishing brunch helped attendees to celebrate the day's accomplishments.

Now more than ever, kits are needed: UMCOR Supply Kits can help care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis, like in Japan. They also help provide basic necessities to people who lack ready access to essential supplies. Kits provide vital support for the work UMCOR does throughout the world. By donating kit supplies or financial gifts to purchase the supplies, you make a direct, tangible difference in sustaining people's lives. The website

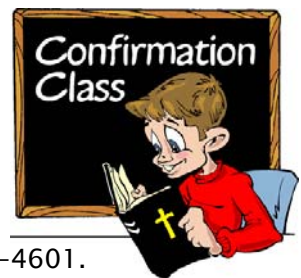


<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies> has information on how to prepare kits. Birthing, layette (for newborns), health and school kits will be collected at Parking Lot A at the Roanoke Civic Center during Annual Conference in June. Page 16 of the April Advocate has complete details on kits at Annual Conference.

- portions of this article were contributed by Mary J. Smith of Peakland UMC. Photographs courtesy of L. John Charles.

Class Forming

If you are interested in having your child confirmed into membership of our church, please contact Pastor Rick at 846-4601.



Through confirmation and a reaffirmation of the Christian faith a young person acknowledges what God is doing for them and also affirm their commitment to Christ's Church. The traditional age for confirmation is 12.

**2011 Operating Budget
through March 23, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	57,925
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	7,932
Loose Plate Offering	245
Church School Offering	643
From UMFS	600
Miscellaneous Offering	1,163
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	245
Interest Income	35
Total Receipts.....	\$69,825

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	-21,750
Pastor Expense	-19,003
Building & Grounds	-23,957
Apportionments	-9,707
Office	-3,426
Programs	-2,801
Total Expenses.....	\$79,924

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	325
Fellowship Fund	372
JIFF	533
Pennies with a Purpose	195
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	373
TOTAL	\$1,873

MEMORIALS



**In Memory of
Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Bryant**

Darlene Bryant

**Spotlight on
Pennies for a Purpose**

On the third Sunday of every month Centenary takes up an extra offering titled "Pennies With a Purpose". In theory, everyone is to empty their pockets or purses of their loose change. Of course we always accept the paper kind of money also! This money is earmarked for special outreach or Missions projects. This monthly offering can really add up! Recently we have disbursed a total of \$1,160 for the following worthy causes:

- UMW for Habitat for Humanity lunches
- Helped a family in need that had lost everything in a fire
- Peakland UMC - Joint UMCOR project
- Rivermont Area Food Pantry
- Day of Difference
- Sager Brown Expenses

**Thank you for your contributions
each month!**

**Rivermont Area
Emergency Food
Pantry**

The Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry has been busy this winter, last week when Centenary was responsible for packing bags we provided food for 28 families. Thank you to all the volunteers that help to make this possible.

Some are not able to come and pack bags but all of us can remember a couple of extra cans of food when we are grocery shopping and just put in one of the containers in the church and they will be taken to the food pantry.

Monetary gifts are also accepted and often more useful because our shoppers can purchase the items needed.

Items that are especially needed include:

- Canned meats
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Fruit juice
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- Brunswick Stew
- Powdered Milk
- Pancake Mix
- Spaghetti / Sauce
- Cereal
- Soup
- Canned Pasta

Stewardship - March 2011

Operating Budget

February 27	3,265
March 6	7,326
March 13	2,987
March 20	7,367

IOA - Home and Harvest

Interfaith Outreach, Churches for Urban Ministry, Lynchburg Grows and SunTrust Bank are partnering together to plant a garden on donated land on the Polk Street. Children from the neighborhood will help name the garden and help work it. We plan to provide cooking and canning classes using the harvest from the garden. Interested in helping? Please call Bev Maslow at 846.6098.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Centenary's Carl Gravely headed to Brazil!	1/4
Is Your Easter Basket Ready??	1
Pastor's Letter	2
MMMs Speculate on Springing Seniors	3
UMCOR Responds to Pacific Emergency	5
Shared Ministry Event Great Success	6



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 17
Worship Service at 11:00 am.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday – April 21
Worship with Communion at 7:00 pm.

Good Friday – April 22
Worship Service at 7:00 pm.

Easter Sunday – April 24
Worship with Choir Mini-Cantata at 11:00 am.

Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the US.



They offer several different packages each month and offer convenient online ordering at www.angelfoodministries.com. Local host sites include: Bethlehem Lutheran on Timberlake, St. Paul's Episcopal on Clay St., Westminster Presbyterian on Floyd Street, Thomas Terrace Baptist on 460 and Temperance Ruritan Club in Amherst.

The "Bread of Life" box (\$31) for April (online order deadline 4/17-pickup 4/23) includes: 2# (pounds) Beef Steak Burgers, 2# All Natural Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breast, 2# Fully Cooked Meatloaf, 2# Sloppy Joe Mix, 1.5# Breaded Large Chicken Breast Chunks, 1.5# Smoked Sausage, 1# 100% Ground Turkey, 1# 3-Way Veggie Mix, 1# Fresh/Frozen Butter Peas, 1# Large Sliced Carrots, 2# Waffle Fries, 1# Spinach, 28 oz. Baked Beans, 12 oz. Egg Noodles, 8 oz. Corn Muffin Mix, 32 oz. 2% Shelf Stable Milk, Dozen Eggs, Dessert

Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 580
Lynchburg, VA

Return Service Requested

