



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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August 2011

Our Stephen Ministry is Growing!

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Last month, Centenary's Stephen Ministers team grew with the commissioning of two new caregivers, Katherine Sasser and Garland Harper. During their commissioning service, we talked about the ways our congregation can take an active role in our Stephen Ministry. The commitment and support of members of the congregation are crucial to the success of this ministry. It also helps our caregivers to know that they are undergirded by the support of the congregation in their efforts.



During last month's commissioning service, we talked about three particular ways that members of Centenary can support the Stephen Ministry:

- 1) Pray for those involved in this ministry. Prayer carries our Stephen Ministers a long way in their caring situations, and is also vital to those who administer this system of lay caring ministry.
- 2) Provide referrals. You can also involve yourself actively in the ministry by referring those whom you know may need the help and support of a Stephen Minister. Be sure to get that person's permission before making the referral, but once you have their consent, make the need known to one of the Stephen Ministry leaders, or to the pastor, and the person will receive a visit to begin the process.
- 3) Receive care yourself. Perhaps you yourself need someone to support you as you go through a particular need or crisis. The process begins in the same way: make your need known to one of the Stephen Ministry leaders or to the pastor. The "visit" that begins the process is for the purpose of evaluating the situation. If it seems that the need justifies the help of a Stephen Minister (i.e. that the need is a good match for the type

of care given through Stephen Ministry), a caregiver will be assigned that is compatible with the person needing ministry. In both cases (whether it is you or someone else who will receive care), we will collect written consent to receive help before an assignment is made.

The testimonials given during last month's commissioning service by three members of our congregation who had received Stephen Ministry care showed us how vital and much-needed this ministry is to our church.

Will you consider actively participating in this important ministry? Blessings you will receive will be as Jesus promised in the book of Luke, "good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will I give unto you." Thank you for giving this your consideration.

Park View Community Mission A Mission of the Lynchburg District



Park View Community Mission invites you to join the "Ten Can Club." Ten dollars can feed an entire family for a

month! Food stamps provide only two weeks of food to needy families, Park View's Food for Family Ministry gives them enough food for the rest of the month. Your ten dollars can fill a grocery cart with nutritious food including meat, potatoes, eggs, bread, fruits, vegetables, juices, and dry goods. Imagine feeding a family healthy food for only ten dollars a month - \$120 a year! Your tax-deductible gift may be sent to 2420 Memorial Ave. Lynchburg, VA 24501. Thanks!

August 2011 Spire



Dear Friends,
Larry Davies, our District Superintendent and Mark Ogren the Virginia Conference Director of Congregational Development and Evangelism

are offering a special course entitled "How to Get More Members." They believe that this is the best training on how to grow our church currently available. It will be held right here in Lynchburg (perhaps even here at Centenary UMC) November 5 and 6, being led by Jim Griffith a church consultant on church vitality. It requires the commitment from Centenary of only \$300, if we register early. This is which is only a portion of the cost, the rest is covered by our apportionments. The commitment of the pastor, and more importantly the commitment of at least 3 key laity (ideally 5 to 8 can

attend for the same price). It is a substantial commitment of time as it runs from Saturday 9:30–5:30 and Sunday 8:00 am to 1:00pm. (Pulpit supply will be needed on Sunday, November 6.)

The question is – are we committed to grow? This is the best, cheapest, most local help available. This is the most recommended – the best out there in terms of outside help. I will be happy to go and commit to it. As key leaders of the church, the question is, are you willing to commit to it? Do you care enough? Can you find an alternative? There are no easy answers, or guarantees. Please let me know if you are willing to commit to this so I can let them know – they only do this in an area if there is enough interest.

Grace and peace,

Youth Mission Trip 2011

In Romans 12:13 the Bible says, "Share with God's people who are in need". During the week of June 11th that is exactly what the Youth planned to accomplish. The Youth from Centenary UMC and Youth from Manor Memorial UMC teamed up and had an unforgettable experience at the summer work camp at



Beulah Retreat and Spiritual Life Center. We kept busy repairing a roof, painting a house, pruning shrubs, sorting canned foods, and cooking and serving dinner for 200 hungry people. We



were exhausted each evening, but were rewarded by seeing the many smiles on their faces. How blessed we were to help the less fortunate.

The Youth ended their mission week by floating down the James River in a tube. As we relaxed on our last day, we had plenty of time to reflect on all our new experiences and get sunburned. We thank God for keeping us safe and happy.



Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Organ Magic

Presented by
F. Johnson Scott III,
CUMC Organist
... an outstanding
musician and teacher ...



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

Tuesday, August 16

The Youth would like to thank you for your generous donations and your prayers. We are so appreciative for your support. The Youth is already looking forward to our next mission assignment. We can't wait to find out what God has planned for us next summer!

–Centenary Youth Group



**2011 Operating Budget
through July 22, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	117,234
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	19,062
Loose Plate Offering	926
Church School Offering	1,356
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	1,800
Miscellaneous Offering	1,092
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	2,261
Interest Income	108
From Memorials	985
Total Receipts.....	\$146,761

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	-51,583
Pastor Expense	-43,823
Building and Grounds	-45,220
Apportionments	-33,985
Office	-10,482
Programs	-6,732
Total Expenses.....	\$191,825

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	740
Fellowship Fund	800
JIFF	1,114
Pennies with a Purpose	349
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	1,263
Brazil Mission Trip	3,444
Operation Teddy Bear	72
TOTAL	\$7,857

**Stewardship – July 2011
Operating Budget**

June 26	5,370
July 3	6,936
July 10	3,737
July 17	2,497

Applying Bible Principles

The writer of the book of Hebrews made this short but powerful statement about the Lord Jesus, "Consider him." That admonition is nowhere more needful than in the matter of giving and receiving.

Consider Him, the Lord of glory, who gave His life so that we might gain eternal life. Consider Him, who was rich, yet became poor for our sakes, that we through His poverty might be rich. Consider Him, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Consider Him, who was quoted by Dr. Luke in Acts 20:35 as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Although many Christians would at first glance agree with that premise on an intellectual basis, by their lifestyles, they demonstrate that their lives are diametrically opposed to this biblical principle. They might even go so far as to state their agreement with what the Lord Jesus said, but not so far as to change their selfish "me first" attitude. They might give mental assent or even verbal assent to His teaching, but in reality, their lives are consumed by a passion for "receiving" instead of "giving." It is as though they pass through life's portals with this striking question emblazoned across their foreheads: "What's in it for me?"

Such an attitude should be foreign to the lives of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ. If our role in life is to follow Him, and to obey Him, we should demonstrate daily, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

God, who owns everything, gives material possessions freely and willingly to us, His children, for a number of reasons, but one of the primary reasons is for us to be able to give them back to Him. Each time we give to the Lord's work out of a heart that responds to His love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness and gain a bit more of Christ's sacrificial spirit. As John MacArthur expressed it so well, "The major money issue in Scripture is not how you feel about it, or even how you spend it. The primary concern of Scripture is how you give it."

Dr. Herschel Hobbs wrote this, "One of greed's victims read this verse, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' How revealing of his sordid, shriveled soul was his comment: 'Well, perhaps so, but receiving is good enough for me.' Is receiving good enough for you? Would you rather be a beggar than a benefactor? a panhandler than a philanthropist? a blight than a blessing? a parasite than a producer? a getter than a giver?"

As you think about your answers to Dr. Hobbs' questions, and as you give of your resources to the Lord's work, "Consider Jesus." "Consider Him" by remembering and obeying His words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."



MEMORIALS

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

Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Bill Cameron

Ida and Bill Powell

Anne and Ralph Snyder

Cheri and Rick Hackenbracht

Benno Gerson

Ernestine Dodl

In Memory of Dr. Willie H. Morris, Jr

Ernestine Dodl

Terry and Janice Martin

**Volunteers are needed for
setup and cleanup for the**

District New Clergy

Welcome Brunch!

August 20 at 9:30am

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St. James Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church Consecrated

On Sunday, July 10, 2011 the church building and sanctuary of St. James CME Church were dedicated at their new location at 280 Rockwell Road, Lynchburg. You may remember that St. James CME worshiped in the Graves Chapel from October 2007 to August 2009. Pastor Rick Ecklund participated in the consecration service reading Scripture from 2 Chronicles and 1 Corinthians. The service was also a celebration of the ministry of the Rev. Arlean Boozer who is retiring. The official history of the church contains many warm and wonderful things about Centenary UMC and the congregation and pastor. The two hour service was well attended and the Rev. Leonard Jones of Mt. Pisgah CME Church delivered the message.

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Return Service Requested



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 (\$35) for August (online order by 8/21-pickup 8/27) includes: 4# (pound) Perdue Tray Pack Leg Quarters; 1.5# Steak Burgers (4 x 6 oz.); 1.5# Perdue Tray Pack Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts; 1# Deli Sliced Ham; 1# Roger Wood Sausage Dogs; 2# Macaroni & Beef Dinner Entrée; 1# Ground Turkey; 2# Heat 'n Eat Cheesy Broccoli Soup; 1# 80/20 Ground Beef; 1# EACH Spinach, Carrots, Green Beans, Triple Veggie Blend, Broccoli, Sugar Snap Peas, Yellow Sweet Corn, and California Blend Vegetables; 24 oz. Steak-Cut French Fries

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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