



THE SPIRE



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

December 2010

Countless Christmas Worship Opportunities

Worship with Community

Worship by sharing the Christmas Spirit with God's children who need you. To talk with. To sing with. To laugh with. A lonely person in a nursing home who will appreciate a card and visit. Or a child who needs warm gloves and a hat. A serviceman far from home who wants to know if people back home care that they are far from home during the holidays. Some of those worship opportunities include:

On December 13 at 6pm the Day of Difference churches will deliver Christmas cards and sing carols at Lynchburg Rehabilitation. And on Dec. 14 at 6pm will deliver Christmas cards and sing carols at Avante. On Dec. 20 at 6:30pm we will meet at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church on Cabell Street for a Neighborhood Caroling Party. Cookies and Hot Chocolate will follow at Fellowship Church of Christ.

An Angel Tree for the JIFF students is in the Sanctuary. You are invited to take an angel and bring a gift by Dec. 12. Hats and gloves are especially desired.

Want to say thank you to a serviceman? Use the websites www.letssaythanks.com and www.give2thetroops.org to find ways to express your appreciation. (may not arrive by Christmas but will be enjoyed whenever!)

Worship with Laughter!

Saturday, December 18 at 4pm, Brendan Leahy's "Christmas Pageant" will presented under the direction of Denise Bryson. In this telling of the Christmas story -

Donkey (Carl Gravely) and Camel (El Cantrell) try to decide which of them is the "bestest part of Christmas". The boys and girls of Centenary (as angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men and more)



Worship with Music!

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata On Dec. 12



The Sanctuary Choir will present the Alan Pote Christmas cantata *By Heaven's Light* during morning worship on December 12. This

work contains both traditional and contemporary carols and will provide an uplifting worship experience through music. Narrated by Centenary's own Chris Howell, accompanied by F. Johnson Scott, III, and directed by Danny Moore, *By Heaven's Light* will set the mood for the joy and promise that we all share during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

For a complete list of special music see page 3

Worship with Holy Communion



On Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 there will be a Candlelight Communion Service at 7pm. Please note new time.

will help them find the answer.

The pageant features familiar carols including The First Noel, Away in a Manger and We Three Kings.

A birthday party for Jesus will follow downstairs in the fellowship hall. Family fun for every age!



Dear Friends,

A cartoon from a few years ago showed a woman saying to her husband, "Good grief, Henry. Here's Christmas at our throats again!"

Amid the preparations for Christmas each year, there always seem to be a few voices like hers, proclaiming a "Bah, humbug!" on the whole business. And if the truth be known, some of us may feel less than excited about Christmas ourselves. The expense, the crowds, the overindulgence, the hurried schedules and all the other trappings of modern Christmas celebrations are enough to make all of us take a jaundiced look at the season.

In the face of the humbug state of affairs, it is helpful to remember that God did not send Jesus to be "at our throats," but to be "in our hearts." The difference between those two concepts defines the

VUMAC to Make Emergency Appeal for Funds

From the Board of Directors of Blackstone: The Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) will conduct an emergency appeal to raise funds to pay a \$413,000 debt incurred during its "Growing Faith" capital campaign.

The request to conduct this appeal was approved in an unprecedented joint meeting of district superintendents and the conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) on Nov. 10. According to Paragraph 614.5a of The Book of Discipline, any conference-wide emergency appeal for funds must have two-thirds approval by the district superintendents and CFA.

"This would be considered an 'urgent' phase of the capital campaign," said Farmville District Superintendent Jim Tongue. "If we (didn't) get permission to make this appeal, we'd be in a bit of a box."

"We need to get the word out to all the folks in the conference to have any hope of success. Our hope is that by casting the net broadly we will reach the person who really loves Blackstone but has been out of the loop."

"Fundraising is all about momentum," said Jennifer Wall, Blackstone's current Growing Faith campaign coordinator. "Blackstone has needs. It needs to repay its debts. So we need to get the message out."

In requesting authorization for the appeal, Tongue

gap between gloom and glory. There's a reason we call the gospel good news. As John so aptly put it, "God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." (John 3:17 The Message)

Jesus is God's gift to our world -- and to our hearts. When Jesus resides within, whether we enjoy or merely tolerate the flurry of seasonal preparations, Christmas itself is a grand opportunity to say thank you to God for the gift of the Son.

In the light of that, we are planning the programs and services high-lighted in this month's Spire and Wednesday's Word as opportunities to thank God together for the priceless gift of Jesus. Please join us as we seek to celebrate Christmas in our hearts.

Grace and Peace,

*May you all have a
Christmas blessed with
the presence of Christ.
Merry Christmas to all
of our Centenary
Church Family.*

*Liz, Rick, &
Briannah Ecklund*



(No, this is not one
of our Doxies)

stressed that the VUMAC board has been responding to what the Annual Conference asked it to do in terms of expanding the facility to 750 beds.

"In 2006 the conference voted to keep VUMAC as its conferencing facility, and the board moved forward to do what the conference asked. But the project kept expanding, from \$8 million to \$16 million to \$24 million. We were raising funds for a moving target," Tongue said. Tongue added that when the conference study of Blackstone first began in 2006, there were dreams for major expansion of the facility. "Everybody was thinking big, but they were also driving SUVs and building 'McMansions.'

"Then in 2008 the economy collapsed, contributor confidence vanished and donor anxiety reached an all-time

See VUMAC continued on Page 5

A Look (and listen) Back

In October 2009, UPS freight delivered 2 pallets to CUMC. It was the kit for the chimes we have enjoyed for a year. November 21st was the one year anniversary of the dedication of the chimes. (though they have been ringing since October 18th, 2009) We hope the chimes will continue to chime not only the time of day...but reminder of God into your busy schedule. As well as favorite and melodious hymns at lunch and supper times.

The music has been changing monthly, and is fitted for the church calendar. Some interesting facts:

The Westminster chimes have struck the hour approximately 5022 times since dedication, the half hour 4629 times, and over 300 of the 2000 readily available hymns have been heard in the community.

The CUMC steeple chimes can be heard from Madison Heights, to midtown and downtown, and to the Randolph College block of Rivermont Avenue.

As we enter the new year in both church and traditional calendars, stop by and enjoy the Christmas hymns this month.

One year after the competition, Centenary thanks those involved in big and small ways to make the purchase/installation/and use a success. A plaque will be hung in the church in dedication of the chimes.

Musical Highlights for Season

Musical Highlights During Advent and Christmas

Dec. 5, 12, & 24 Brass with Organ carols provided by Michael Reeves and F. Johnson Scott, III

Dec. 12 *By Heaven's Light* cantata

Dec. 5 & 19 Children and Youth sing Christmas Praise

Dec. 18 Children, Youth, and Adult Christmas musical play presentation 4 pm in Sanctuary

Dec 19 Christmas Sunday at Centenary: familiar carols including Birthday of A King, O Holy Night, O Come Little Children (with voices and violins), Calyspo Carol, Handbells and more...

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service (7 pm) Sanctuary Choir to present an international rendition of Silent Night

Dec 26 Sanctuary Choir to present the Robert Lau anthem entitled Bethlehem, O Bethlehem.

Jan. 2 Epiphany Sunday: Sanctuary Choir to present the John Rutter arrangement of Go tell It On The Mountain.

Brandon Coffey to present the Danny Moore solo composition entitled "What Shall I Offer Him?"

Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Four Hand Piano Favorites

by Elaine St. Vincent and George Clark

Back by popular request, Elaine and George will present a wonderful collection of music on the grand piano in our sanctuary. Their outstanding musicianship blended with their charming humor will make for a relaxing pre-Christmas experience.

Please come and bring friends.

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

Tuesday, December 21

Library Acquires New Books

Another group (15) of interesting books have been donated to the church library, including several dealing with youth ministry and activities.

Come by the library today and take a look at these books filed on the "New Books" shelf, directly in front of you as you enter from the large class room.

Memorial Concert DVD

Just in time for the holiday gift season - the May 30 concert celebrating the life of Rebekah C. Moore has been released on DVD.

Recorded live, the DVD is nearly two hours of incredible performances of both sacred and secular music. Included in the program are the E.C. Glass Brass Quintet and A'Cabellas, the Centenary Sanctuary Choir, composer Mike Whorley, Lynn & Sonna Siepp, organist F. Johnson Scott III, handbell soloist Mari Smallshaw, singers Jackie Davis, Brandon and Jennifer Coffey, and many more.

The DVDs will sell for \$15 and proceeds will support music programming at Centenary. Contact Danny Moore or Chris Howell to order.

*A Celebration
in
Music*



*In Loving Memory
of
Rebekah C. Moore*

Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).

In our last article as part of this year’s stewardship emphasis, we saw that God is the owner of everything and that we are managers and stewards of what God has given us. We considered how each of us has been given gifts of time and talents as blessings of God’s grace. We also learned about the importance of using these gifts for God’s glory, for the good of others, and for the ministry here at Centenary United Methodist Church.

In addition to time and talents, God has also given us financial resources. For most of us, this means working to secure monetary gain. But make no mistake about it: According to Deuteronomy chapter 8, God gives us the ability to earn money. According to King Solomon, even work itself is a gift from God (Eccl. 5:19) In fact, everything we have — even the air we breathe in order to be able to work — is a gift that has been temporarily loaned to us by God.

The truth of the temporary status of our financial resources was brought home to a pastor who needed a dark suit to conduct a funeral. He had very little money, so he went to a local pawn shop where he found a like-new suit in just the right size at a very inexpensive price. As he paid for the suit, he asked the clerk how the pawn shop could afford to sell the suit at such a low price. The clerk smiled and admitted that all their suits had once been owned by a local mortuary that had gone out of business.

The minister felt a little strange wearing a suit that had once been part of a funeral home’s inventory, but he quickly set aside his apprehension since the price was so low and since no one would know. Everything was fine until in the middle of the funeral service, he casually started to put his hand into the pocket of the pants — only to discover there were no pockets! What an object lesson he received that day as he preached about the importance of living in the light of eternity while wearing a pair of pants without pockets!

All of us know the old saying, “You can’t take it with you.” That’s why whatever we are going to do with the



financial resources God has entrusted to us has to be done in this life. In fact, whatever we intend to do for the Lord with our money, we need to be doing now. Or as one person observed, “Do your giving while you’re living so you’ll be knowing where it’s going!

How we use the money which God has given to us is an indicator of our priorities. Our checkbook will reveal clearly the things that are really important to us. How we spend our money is, in fact, a barometer of our spiritual temperature and of our personal faith. You see, it doesn’t take a lot of faith to make a rational, logical decision concerning our giving. As we review expenses and anticipated income, we can easily find the balance and base our commitment on the numbers alone. But exercising faith, looking to God as our Source to provide above and beyond what we might reasonably be expected to give, well — that’s another story.

Jerry Bridges, Vice President of the Navigators, provided this spiritual principle:

When God burdens your heart about something, and you confirm God’s leading based on the Scriptures, you can obey, being fully confident that God will provide a blessing, even when circumstances appear contrary.

When it comes to giving, that goes right along with what King Solomon described in Proverbs 11:24–25,

Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.

Remember, giving is not to help “poor God” pay the bills. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God’s way of growing Christians. Every time we give for God’s glory from hearts that have been redeemed by God’s love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources that have been loaned to us by God, we grow in grace and in our walk with Christ.

As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you — like the Macedonian Christians — begin by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you then be one of the “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace” who will step out by faith by giving your time, your talents and your treasure to the Lord?



YOUR SUPPORT *Counts*

**2010 Operating Budget
through November 24, 2010**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	180,969
Prior Year Pledge	324
Unpledged Offering	29,339
Loose Plate Offering	1,415
Church School Offering	2,551
From Rustburg UMC	3,000
From UMFS	3,000
Miscellaneous Offering	681
Bazaar	4,811
Easter Offering	3,568
Thanksgiving Offering	20
Shortfall-Budget	1,920
Ntelos (Steeple rental)	15,870
Interest Income	236
From Memorials	5,274
Total Receipts.....	\$252,978

Expenses:

Staff Support	-80,217
Pastor Support	-69,311
Building & Grounds	-59,350
Apportionments	-23,209
Office Support	-15,985
Program Support	-10,417
Total Expenses.....	\$258,489

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	1,175
Fellowship Fund	1,325
JIFF	2,234
Pennies with a Purpose	671
VIM	50
Local Benevolences	140
Meals for Haiti	530
Conference Offerings/Kits	237
UMCOR	2,549
Operation Teddy Bear	454
Sager Brown	4,046
TOTAL	\$13,411

MEMORIALS



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

In Memory of Aubrey Mehaffey
Bill and Ida Powell
Charlie and Mary Jane Layne
Terrell and Doris Moseley
Dave and Vickie Shackelford
Earl and Helen Simpson
Marvin and Frances Unger
Maxey and Madeline Viar
Rex and Marjorie Butler
John Mason
Robert and Virginia Saville
Chapel Class
Helen Morgan
Nae Hugh and Virginia Pearson
Dot Morcom
Janice and Sonny Martin
Ann Campfield
Maritta Anderson
Rodney and Karen Bell

**Interfaith Outreach
Association is in
desperate need of bed
frames. If you have any
that you can donate call
Donna Snow: 846-6098**

VUMAC continued

high. . . (donors) did not have money to give. Nobody should have been trying to raise funds at that time.”

After studying the potential for a new conference meeting center, the 2007 Annual Conference approved renovation and expansion of the facility in Blackstone.

At its 2010 session, the Annual Conference approved the transfer of the property title to the VUMAC board, and forgave an outstanding \$80,000 loan to VUMAC. Conference Trustees and the VUMAC Board are in the process of completing that transfer.

District superintendents and CFA members at the meeting were also given a 20-item list of “immediate” needs at Blackstone that totaled just under \$900,000. That includes the two large debt amounts, but also items like a new boiler, window sill replacement, repair of water damage in the auditorium and replacing carpet.

Tongue also said that VUMAC has explored other funding options, including a loan, or grants from the state, or area counties or municipalities. “We’re definitely pulling out all the stops we have available,” he said. Partnerships with other agencies are also being considered.

Tongue called the joint meeting of the superintendents and CFA a “historic event.” ... “I don’t know if this provision of the Discipline has been invoked before.”

**Stewardship - November 2010
Operating Budget**

October 24	3,814
October 31	20,213
November 7	6,145
November 14	4,930
November 21	10,526

Sound Training Scheduled

The sound team at Centenary is looking for some new members! Any member (including responsible middle and high school students) is invited to a basic sound training class on January 15, 2011 at 9am. Biscuits will be served! You can take the class just to see whether this is an area you feel you can serve. No commitment required.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Advent and Christmas Worship Opportunities	1
Pastor's Letter	2
Centenary's Chimes a Year Later	3
MMMs to Savor Show of Musical Skill	3
Faithful Stewards of God's Grace	4
Memorials/Finances	5

Win This Afghan

45" x 60" cable knit handmade; cream color. Hand-knit by Belva Shelor.

\$2 per chance or 3 for \$5

See any member of the Covenant Circle to buy your chance.

The drawing will take place at Centenary United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 18, 2010 after the children's Christmas play. You do not have to be present to win. Proceeds to the general fund.



What Did They Do Down There?

If you are wondering what the team did down at the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana...you can get all the details at meal to be served in January. Details will be in the January Spire.



Meanwhile - enjoy these few pictures and look in this issue for a hidden picture from the trip!



If you find the hidden picture - be the first to email centenaryspire@hotmail.com and get a free chance on the afghan! (note the page/location) If you can tell us where the picture was taken you get a bonus chance!!

Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503

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

Return Service Requested

