



# THE SPIRE



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

January 2012

## Training and Education Opportunities

### District Leadership Event

**Our 2012 District Leadership Training Event**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 8:30am – 2pm**  
**Heritage United Methodist Church**

It's that time again. Local laity and clergy will soon gather for the sake of growing in and into our ministry roles. Whether it is administrative committee work or the nuts and bolts of ministry with young people—visioning and implementation or cultivating small groups—this event is designed to send local United Methodists back into the congregation equipped and inspired. Virginia Annual Conference Directors of Congregational Excellence and Mission and Global Justice will offer workshops alongside of many others. Participants will share in worship, lunch, and two instructional sessions of their choosing.



Click [HERE](#) for the registration form!

### Lay Servants Academy

All laity are invited to the Lay Servants Academy to be held at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center Feb. 24–26. The Academy will include the 35th Annual Conference Lay Speakers Training; however, you do not need to be on track to become a Local Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Speaker to attend. Every chairperson, committee member, teacher or congregational leader is encouraged to take the introductory Lay Speaking course and overview of United Methodism. The information and skills you will be introduced to will serve you well within your local congregations. A variety of 10-hour courses will be offered for Advanced Lay Speaking. New in 2012 will be the offering of introductory 2-hour classes.

### Come Make A Joyful Noise!

By Danny Moore, *Choir Director*

#### Happy New Year!

A new season of singing praises at Centenary United Methodist Church is set to begin on Thursday, January 5 at 7:30pm in the Layne Choir Room.

If you are not currently a member of the Sanctuary Choir and would like to get involved, this is a great time to do so.

Returning members, I trust that you are well-rested following a two week (unpaid) vacation.

I am very excited about the music to be presented for worship by the Sanctuary Choir in the coming months. With a renewed spirit and energy (and hopefully with some additional members!) I am very optimistic that 2012 will be another great year of singing at Centenary.! Hope to see you at rehearsal!



**Epiphany  
Sunday,  
January 8 –  
Message: “A  
Star and a  
Dream”**



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends –  
Welcome to  
2012. What can  
we do and what

should we be doing so this year and future years are as bright and exciting as the ones we have seen in the past?

First and foremost – please be in prayer for Centenary and all its ministries. Our ultimate job as a Christian community is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. What are you specifically doing to make new disciples? When was the last time you invited someone without a church home to come worship with you on Sunday morning? Make it a goal to ask at least one person a month to come to church with you and the church will grow. Be a witness to your Christian faith.



## In Action

By Chris Howell, *Care Receiver*

Not long ago, I found myself in a place that I never expected to be: in need of a Stephen Minister. At the end of September I was released from my employer in an unexpected and unpleasant manner. I was not prepared for how that would affect my life.

Certainly loss of income and the uncertain future were important issues...but there was something far deeper that was disturbed. I was hopeless and unable to find self-worth or purpose.

Fortunately, I shared some of that with our caring and capable Stephen Leader, Alice Wilkenson. She urged me to consider being matched with a Stephen Minister to help me through the rough patch. She took time to explain the process and that the entire process would be completely private. The privacy of both the care giver and the care receiver is of paramount importance.

My Stephen Minister met with me and listened. And it was a real blessing to have someone to turn to who would just listen and let me vent (and cry). Who would pray for me. Who didn't need to "fix" my situation.

If you or someone you know is going through a dark or difficult time, please don't feel like you are alone. Lean on a Stephen Minister...

And to the Stephen Ministry at CUMC...thank you.

Support the church with your presence – be here whenever possible. Support the church with your gifts – not just to give to help with the church budget, but because we need to give back to God a portion on what God has given to us. Support the church with your service – if something needs to be done, don't wait to be asked, volunteers are always needed. Look for new ways Centenary can be in mission ministry to our community, state, nation, and world.

My prayer is that God will bless us as a congregation in this New Year and that each of us might be blessed as individuals as well.

Grace and Peace,

### Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



### Lynchburg Healthcare: Past, Present and Future

with Peter Houck, MD

We are honored to welcome Doctor Peter Houck to Centenary. He is a well-known and highly respected pediatrician, historian, author, friend and neighbor who has played a significant role in the practice of medicine in this community for many years. He has experienced and written about historic and current medical milestones in Lynchburg and Central Virginia. You won't want to miss his important presentation.

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

Wednesday, January 18

(Please note, this presentation is NOT on Tuesday)

Eleanor Wood would love to hear from you – She is at Manor Care at Lely Palms. The address is 6135 Rattlesnake Hammock, Naples, FL 34113 and she is in Room 411-B. Phone # is 239-330-3238.

**2011 Operating Budget  
through December 31, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	210,386
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	37,185
Loose Plate Offering	1,733
Church School Offering	2,381
From Rustburg UMC	4,000
From UMFS	3,600
Miscellaneous Offering	2,160
Bazaar Income	3,574
Easter Offering	2,261
Thanksgiving Offering	335
Christmas Offering	2,501
Steeple Income	15,870
Interest Income	199
From Gifts/Memorials	13,015
Total Receipts.....	\$300,170

Expenses:

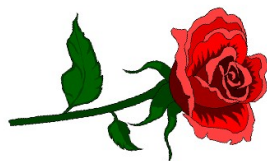
Support Staff Expense	-89,440
Pastor Expense	-76,912
Building & Grounds	-59,841
Apportionments	-58,245
Office	-18,223
Programs	-11,691
Total Expenses.....	\$314,352

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	1,140
Fellowship Fund	1,425
JIFF	2,154
Pennies with a Purpose	771
Local Benevolences	75
Brazil Mission Trip	3,262
Health Ministry	100
Operation Teddy Bear	178
Conference Offerings	105
Global Aids	1,796
TOTAL	\$12,709

**MEMORIALS**



**In Memory of Lawrence Mehaffey**

Marvin and Frances Unger  
Bill and Ida Powell  
Terrell and Doris Moseley  
Hope Montague  
Laura Montague  
Terry and Janice Martin  
Claudia Mann  
Cecelia Lawson

**In Memory of Baylis Kunz**

Percy and Virginia Nowlin

**In Memory of Dr. Willie Morris**

Leonard and Barbara Morris

**Food Pantry in Need**

The Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry has been busy in all of this cold weather. We have been able to supply food to many families but as you know in the winter when many times school is canceled, the demand is greater. Remember to bring a can or other nonperishable



item to church with you. This outreach is very important to our community.

**How to Get More Members for Your Church**

**Some scary awareness numbers:**

- In the last 25 years, Virginia population increased 26%, church membership declined 30%.
- 80% of US churches are declining
- 125,000 churches closed in the last 20 years.
- Average age in US is 37, average age in UMC is 57 and getting older, while the 18-35 age group is increasing 18% per year.

**Facts:**

1. The 1955 style of outreach (attempting to attract people) is not working!
2. It has been realized by those effective in starting new churches & revitalizing existing churches that the new style of outreach is the invite model.

**What to do (all members working together):**

- Where is our mission field?
- 24% regularly attend church in VA (average 1.8 times per month).
- 73% of VA population has never been invited to church.
- 65% would go to church if invited.
- 90% decide to return or not before hearing the sermon.
- 87% of those who join a church were invited by an individual they knew.
- Invite, invite, invite!

**Stewardship - December 2011**

November 27	6,197
December 4	6,036
December 11	10,070
December 18	5,587
December 25	5,892
Year End	17,197

**2011 Conference Journal now posted on Web site**

The 2011 Virginia Annual Conference Journal is now available on the conference Web site, [www.vaumc.org/](http://www.vaumc.org/), in a pdf file format which can be downloaded and printed. Copies on a CD may be purchased at a cost of \$10 each by calling the Virginia Conference Communications office at (804) 521-1110 or 1-800-768-6040, ext. 110.

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## **Many Thanks for the Help!!**

Once again Centenary members stepped up and showed how willing they were to help the less fortunate in our area by Ringing the Bells for the Salvation. Thank you again for your response to all three days, some of you rang all three days that we were responsible for and for that I want to say a job well done. Our ringers this year are listed below and Thank you again for all your help.

Garland Harper, Peggy Harper, David Shackelford, Virginia & Bob Saville, Fran Briley, Don Younger, Earl Simpson, Carlene Cantrell, Renee Graves, Carl Howell, Robert Gurdal, Dawn & Barry Arrington, Dot Morcom, Marty Waugh, Ida Powell, Lisa Roseveare, Smallshaw Family, Belva Shelor, Jack Bryson, Gordon Howell,

Patty Bailey, Kane Campbell & Family, Rodney Bell and Chris Howell.

Thank you to each and everyone who brought Hats and Gloves for the JIFF Kids Christmas, these are keeping many little heads and hands warm. We were able to give to each of the students and have sent some to shelters as well.

-Paula Howell, *JIFF Director/Bell Ringing Coordinator*

## **Vandalism at Local UM Church**

Big Island UMC was severely damaged by vandals at or around Christmas day. The building looks like a large truck backed into it, knocking down a porch, several cement pilings and puncturing and cracking the back wall. The damage is extensive. Please be in prayer for the pastor, Shirley Mercer, for the church and for the Big Island Community. If you want to make a donation: send to the District Office at 621 Court St., Lynchburg 24504 for "Big Island UMC Restoration Fund."

See picture below and click [HERE](#) for a link to the WSET-TV news story.

