



THE SPIRE



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

July 2010

A.G. and Kate

Are coming to Centenary UMC!

Tuesday, July 20th at 12:30pm
to talk about their prison ministry
and to perform their unique music

The concert is free, but an offering will be taken!

Who Are A.G. and Kate?

In short, A.G. and Kate Buining are talented, dedicated Christian musicians. A.G. plays guitar and autoharp, while Kate plays guitar, 5-string banjo and mountain dulcimer, and they both sing.

In 1972 they met Johnny Cash at a concert in Holland and were inspired and encouraged to pursue a career in country and gospel music. In 1978 they decided to hit the road full time with their distinctive style of acoustic country music, rooted in tradition. Their musical journey has taken them to many concert halls and festivals.

They stood at the cradle of a lot of this music being featured in Holland, *starting their own Grand Ole Opry in their living room*, where many famous country stars like Patsy Montana, The Bailes Brothers, Wade and Julia Mainer, Lonnie Glosson, George Hamilton IV, and The Del McCoury Band played in an intimate atmosphere for an audience of about 50 people.

The first collection of A.G. and Kate songs was released on a record in 1975, and many, many more tapes and CD's have followed.

In the USA they have appeared in Nashville, Tennessee at the Grand Ole Opry; at Ernest Tubb's Midnight Jamboree; and at Fan Fair. They have also performed at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas, and at many Bluegrass Festivals in different States and they took part in several TV shows.

During one of their tours in the Shetland Islands in the early 80's, they became acquainted with the Wesley

Hymns and that brought about a big change in their lives and also in their work.

For about 10 years they sang, arranged, featured and recorded many Wesley Hymns. They ministered in many churches in Britain and in the U.S.A. They were invited to the North

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Conway, AR, where they met Dr. William Abraham (Professor at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas, Texas). They did a 3-week tour with him in 1990. They played for the South West Texas Conference, Perkins School of Theology, St Paul's Seminary, Kansas City, MO, and Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, KY.

Currently their US tours take them to churches, colleges, schools and many, many prisons. Their prison concerts of Country, Folk and Gospel feature secular songs also and reach many men and women who never attend "religious meetings". They come to concerts to hear country music and feel at ease and have a good time. But they don't leave without hearing about God's love in Jesus Christ.

Gradually churches began to ask for a prison program in which A.G. and Kate tell a bit more about their prison work (although in the regular Sunday services A.G. wears a prison T-shirt most of the time and they often share some of their prison stories). This type of concert is also a good way to reach out to non-church people. They call that Evangelism.

A.G. and Kate have published several books with collections of Wesley Hymns. They also publish a magazine in Holland called *'Country and Gospel Music In*





Dear Friends –

As I write this, I'm back at my desk today after several days in Norfolk for the 228th Session of the Virginia Annual Conference. It is always good to meet and greet old friends and to "conference" with laity and

fellow pastors. It was a bittersweet moment to see Douglas Reid Sasser, Jr. commissioned as a provisional member of the annual conference (a step on the roads to ordination as an elder). I know his dad would have been so proud of him.

For the first time, our granddaughter Briannah attended conference as a Lynchburg District Youth Delegate. It was interesting to get her perspective on



Adjusting to New Conditions with Compassionate Care

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Have you – or has someone you know – recently had to adjust to any of these situations: a new job, a new baby, a new boss, a new house, a separation, a grown child moving back home, a seriously ill parent, it death, a best friend who has moved? Be caring and helpful to those around you who are having to make adjustments in their lives. You can make a difference and really help by encouraging them to talk to someone. Also, remember that our Stephen Ministers are trained and available for listening to and helping people as they face changes in their lives.

As we look at Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, we observe the ultimate example of compassion. He now calls us to follow his example and to be deeply concerned for one another. Stephen Ministry is a ministry filled with compassion, It provides compassionate Christians with a place where they can use those gifts in ministry as a Stephen Minister. It also provides a haven where those in need of compassion can receive it in a confidential relationship with a Stephen Minister. If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry, please call Alice Wilkinson, 384-0810.

what was going on (even the parts she found boring!). She was very involved in assisting conference delegates in packing over 100,000 bags of food for Stop Hunger Now.

It is a new world with all the information electronically available almost immediately about the conference events. Many items formerly produced on paper are now all electronic and paperless. Many delegates were posting instantly on Facebook or "tweeting" to others about what was happening. I know, I don't understand it all, either, but I'm working on it.

May God bless each of you as we enter another year of ministry together. Don't forget my door is always open to speak with you about whatever's on you mind and if there's something you want to suggest, I'm ready to listen.

Grace and Peace,

AG & Kate (continued)

That Old Tradition' (in Dutch) and they publish a newsletter that goes out to the supporters of their prison ministry (in English).



The past several years A.G. and Kate have released at least one new CD every year. Each Spring they do a three-month tour in England. During that time they do 60 concerts, around 35 in prisons and the others in churches, village halls and other locations. Then, from early June until the week before Christmas they tour in the USA every year. During that time they do about 150 concerts, about 110 in prisons and the others in churches and other locations.

Over these years they came to Luther White's former church in Fluvanna County many times. It was through his invitation this Spring that Centenary will be able to host this wonderful musical couple during the midday on July 20th.

Please invite others to come to this very special musical program sponsored by Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists. *For more information, visit AGandKate.com. or email at agandkate@hotmail.com.*

July 2010 Spire

Annual Conference votes to reduce Districts by 2

In a sign of continued belt-tightening, Virginia Annual Conference members voted to reduce the number of districts from 18 to 16. That reduction will occur following 2011 annual conference.

Before a small boat not unlike the size used on the Sea of Galilee in Jesus' time, the 228th session of Annual Conference focused on "Leading by Following Jesus" in Norfolk this week. Bishop Charlene Kammerer presided over a meeting filled with uplifting messages and examples of United Methodists' generosity.

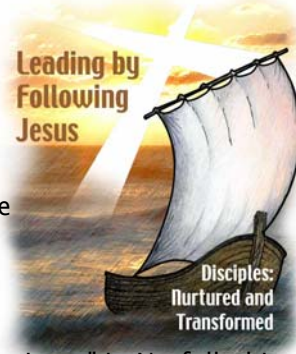
The most stirring moments came in response to the fiery preaching of the Rev. Dr. Vance Ross, deputy general secretary for the General Board of Discipleship, and the quiet testimony of the Rev. Jim Gulley, who survived the collapse of the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince during the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Surprisingly, the business item that drew the most prolonged discussion was the Site Selection Committee report. The committee recommended shortening the length of future conference gatherings, but the provision that drew debate was extending an upcoming stay in Hampton from two years (2013–2014) to four years. The body eventually approved a motion to go back to Roanoke for 2015–2016. The conference had already committed to meet in Roanoke for 2011–2012.

The conference also voted to turn over control of its longtime retreat center in Blackstone to the center's board of directors.

The members approved all five resolutions presented. Denman Evangelism Awards winners were: for clergy, the Rev. Ron Mateer; laity, Sandra Walters; and youth, Tessa Diehl.

Nineteen persons were ordained Elder, one had his orders recognized as Elder, three were ordained Deacon, 38 licensed for Pastoral Ministry, and 23 commissioned as Provisional Members (including Doug Sasser, Jr.). Complete news coverage of 2010 Virginia Annual Conference can be found at the conference home page, <www.vaumc.org>. You can also find information about ordering DVDs of the various sessions.



VBS will be a Galactic Blast!!

At Centenary's Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School 2010, our cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have our cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The fun will be 5:30–8:00 July 26–30!! Volunteers are needed, please contact Carlene Cantrell. There will be an adult class offered...space theme is unlikely. Bring some pre-K through 5th graders and join the fun!!



New Song Book coming in 2011

Production is under way of *Worship & Song*, which will include 188 new, traditional, contemporary, global and ethnic hymns and songs in a wide variety of styles. United Methodist Publishing House and the United Methodist Board of Discipleship are developing this new resource for worship and congregational singing. The resource is scheduled to be released next spring.



Teddy Bear Drive Ends Soon!

By Betty Wooldridge, *Co-chair Children's Council*



"CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN" is the theme for our "Teddy Bear (stuffed animal) Drive" which runs from September, 2009 to August, 2010. We now have more than 200 stuffed animals, thanks to all who have contributed. We need \$1.00 for each animal to help with transportation.

These animals are given to children in orphanages around the world through "Gleaning for the World." Right now we have \$15 towards this fund. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, place your donation in an envelope and mark it "Teddy Bear Fund." Thanks for all your support!

Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula "e equals mc²" is familiar to many college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, "e" might stand for *every*, "m" for *member*, "c" for *commitment*, and the "2" for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22 — "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at Centenary United Methodist Church, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes stated, "Responsible giving or stewardship is not man's way of raising money, but God's way of raising people. . . . The church's budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved."

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust Him to provide the resources. That's a test — a test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It's a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience "far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God's tests regarding money in your life? If God's provision in your life in the days ahead depends on *how* you obey His leading *now* concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?

It just might, you know. . . .



Become a Fan of Centenary United Methodist Church!

Upper Room part of World Cup Evangelism



When South Africa tied Mexico 1-1 during the opening World Cup match, some young spectators watched at big-screen viewings sponsored by churches and faith-based organizations. The events were part of an effort led by a network called TUG - The Ultimate Goal - to "score" with soccer-mad youth. United Methodists are using the network to distribute daily devotional guides and other resources from *The Upper Room* during the month-long sporting event, taking place in Africa for the first time.



Property Committee Mystery Pic Challenge

What's new in the picture above? Here's a hint: there are two of them and new one is a little bit different from the old one! The answer will be in next month's Spire (or you can find the answer on our Facebook page!!)

A Camping We Will Go!!

Mark your calendars! We are booked at Jellystone for the weekend of August 13-15. In case you've never joined us before--we will have swimming, rafting, hiking and other camping activities as well as great food, fellowship and devotionals around the campfire. Stay for one night, both nights, or come up just for the day. This year's theme is a Mexican Fiesta!

In preparation for our great trip to Jellystone - we will be holding a Yard Sale to raise funds for the trip on Saturday July 10! We need from you: #1-your good junk to sell, #2-help in pricing and merchandising (that's laying the stuff out!) #3-SHOPPERS!!! Get the word out - or you'll have to buy all the stuff yourselves!!

Have questions? Contact Mari Smallshaw.

2010 Operating Budget through June 25, 2010	
<u>Receipts:</u>	
Pledged Offering	94,218
Prior Year Pledge	179
Unpledged Offering	16,241
Loose Plate Offering	741
Church School Offering	1,457
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	1,500
Miscellaneous Offering	98
Easter Offering	2,568
Shortfall Offering	50
Interest Income	139
From Memorials	4,864
Total Receipts.....	\$123,055
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Apportionments	- 14,162
Pastor Support	- 38,047
Program Support	- 6,620
Building & Grounds	- 39,214
Office Support	- 8,184
Staff Support	- 43,093
Total Expenses.....	\$149,320
<u>Benevolence Receipts</u>	
<u>Outside of Budget</u>	
Stephen Ministries	600
Fellowship Fund	788
JIFF	889
Pennies with a Purpose	340
VIM	50
Local Benevolences	40
Meals for Haiti	530
Conference Offering / Kits	192
UMCOR	2,549
Operation Teddy Bear	15
Sager Brown	149
TOTAL	\$6,142

MEMORIALS

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

In Memory of June Mehaffey
Vicky M. Brandt

In Memory of Arthur Roy Smith, Jr.
Frances Allen Circle
Dorothy Ferguson
Evelyn Lee Ferguson



You still have the opportunity to provide additional banners for Centenary like the ones above! For a donation of \$200 you can help achieve the goal of having different banners for each church season and maybe more!

Help Continues for Tennessee Flood Victims

June is a month of transition from cleanup to rebuilding after historic floods in Tennessee damaged or destroyed homes and businesses last month. For those who can't afford the costs of recovery, though, the wait goes on. "West of Nashville, all the way to the Mississippi River — that's 150 miles — the people live isolated, devastated, and proud. The money people donate will help us get to them and serve them," said United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Disaster Response Consultant Christy Smith. Read more about the hoped-for transition from relief to recovery in Tennessee and about hardships that still lie ahead for those affected by the flooding at www.gbgm-umc.org. A church bulletin insert and a PowerPoint slide are available for your use. Your gift to U.S. Domestic Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #901670, helps the most vulnerable people affected by the Tennessee floods to rebuild their homes and their lives. Flood buckets are also still needed.

Stewardship - June 2010

Operating Budget

May 30	3,036
June 6	7,525
June 13	3,177
June 20	2,031

The Property Committee would like to thank the "Grounds Committee" – Mr. Tommy Wooldridge for his tireless work to keep Centenary beautiful!



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SHARE Packages available for July

Call in by 7/9. Pickup on 7/24



REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 1# (pound) pork chops, 1# chicken breast strips, Sea-Pak salmon burgers (no breading), 4 beef egg rolls, 2.5# Kraft frozen sweet

potato fries, 4 gourmet carrot cake cupcakes, 3# potatoes, additional fresh fruits and vegetables

RIBEYE STEAK PACKAGE -\$16: Six 8 oz. rib-eye steaks for a total of 3 pounds!

JULY GRILL PACKAGE-\$20: 1# IQF chicken breast fillets, boneless and skinless, Two 6 oz. Choice sirloin steaks, 1# choice sirloin tips (for kabobs!), 1# beef patties, 1# Italian Sausage.

HARVEST TURKEY BURGERS-\$7: (12) 4 oz. Turkey burgers. Hormone and antibiotic free.

BABY BACK RIBS-\$14: Fully cooked in sauce. Has (2) 1.5# packages for easy preparation. 3# total!

BREAKFAST PACKAGE-\$14: The Big JIMMY by Jimmy Dean. (12) Big Jimmy sandwiches: smoked sausage, egg and cheddar cheese on English muffin.

KELLOGG'SAPPLE CINNAMON NUTRI GRAIN BARS-\$10: 48 bars, individually wrapped and labeled.

WHAT IS SHARE? (Self Help and Resource Exchange) is a nonprofit volunteer service and food distribution program that helps people at all income levels stretch their food dollars. Each month, participants pay \$20 in cash or food stamps (EBT) and complete two hours of community service. They get a food package of fresh and frozen meats, produce, specialty items and staples that would cost **\$40** at the grocery store.

Substitutions may be made due to delivery schedules or other circumstances.

Call Paula or Chris Howell - 847-8138

**Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

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