

# THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503  
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June 2009

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School at Centenary is scheduled for June 22–26 in the evenings. Dinner will be served and there will be classes for all ages.

The children and youth will be headed to Camp E.D.G.E. where they will experience and discover God everywhere! Each day the campers will learn an E.D.G.E. Pledge, a statement of faith followed by an active response of faith. They will be encouraged to answer with their response of faith every time they hear a statement of faith. Can't spoil the fun by revealing them all here...but I will say that one set is "God is with me." "I will stay close to God."

Each session includes an extreme Bible trek to a different Bible destination. There will also be a Scripture Challenge, fun, games and music. Plan to invite everyone you can to join us on The E.D.G.E.!



Volunteers helped with painting and landscaping at the home on Dinwiddie Street that we have spent the past year rehabilitating along with Habitat for Humanity. This home will be sold and the profits will go to build other Habitat Homes.

One group reworked the Community Clothes Closet at the Connecting Point. Others spent approximately 150 Man-hours picking up trash in the entire neighborhood. A small but efficient army fed approximately 250 volunteers their lunches. And our prayer Warriors left no street unblest.

On Sunday evening about 350 joined in our Block Party, enjoying hot dogs and fellowship. Then we united together in Worship, ending the weekend the same way it began on Friday evening – in worship together as a community.

The next project for the Day of Difference churches will be School Supplies on August 22. A list of materials that Centenary members will be responsible for will be in next month's Spire.

I appreciate all of the time and resources that Centenary members have given for this very important outreach ministry. Thank you for helping to model Unity for our CommUNITY.

## Unity in our CommUNITY

by Paula Howell, *Day of Difference Co-Chair*

As we wrap up the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Difference Mission Blitz Weekend, I know this weekend could not have been possible without everyone coming together as one. We want to thank all of those that made donations of money, food, drinks, as well as the time that was spent getting ready for the event. Golden Corral, Reds Chips and Confections, Texas Inn, Pride of Virginia, Flowers Bakery, and Bob Evans were among the area businesses providing support. In addition to the businesses – we appreciate the members of our 7 Churches who have given and sought donations.

This year over the weekend we made repairs to three homes, installing kitchen cabinets, repairing a porch and installing gates on another porch.



Dear Friends -

Someone recently asked me; "Why do we really pay apportionments?" It is a common question asked in many United Methodist churches. I think the reason

this is asked is that folks don't realize what our denomination does with our apportioned dollars. Apportionments are the money we pay as a local church to support the ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Paul Leeland of the Alabama-West Florida Conference uses the term "missional giving" over "apportionments." You see, each local church can only do a little, but the combined giving of all the churches allows for better and greater results. Our apportionments support the work of United Methodist colleges and seminaries, help the fight against AIDS, allows the church to speak out against violence in the Middle East, and supports teachers, pastors, and missionaries around the world - in fact, the church now has been established in 132 countries!

United Methodists gave \$20.8 million to support victims of the 9/11 atcks. To this date, 99% of the funds collected have been distributed with no administrative fees. The funds raised for Hurricane Katrina relief has aided 120,000 families. When Katrina hid the Gulf Coast and FEMA realized they were not prepared to handle the crisis, they asked UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to take over operations within Alabama because The United Methodist Church was the only denomination with the structure and resources to get the job done. That's missional giving and that's why we pay apportionments.

In 2008 we failed to pay 100% of our apportionments. In 2009 we are lagging behind in our missional giving by several months. I urge each of us to dig a little deeper to support Centenary and our missional giving.

Grace & Peace,

2009 Virginia Annual Conference Norfolk, VA June 14- 17, 2009



## JIFF ESSAY CONTEST HELD

At the beginning of May the JIFF students were issued a challenge. They were asked to write an essay about JIFF. There were 3 questions that could be answered: Why do I come to JIFF? Why do the volunteers come to JIFF? and/or Why do I think JIFF should continue in the fall? This contest offered a small cash prize to each group's winner and the best overall essay. The winner was also to have their essay featured in the Spire.

Each of the essays was special - each expressed real thought and consideration of the JIFF program and what it meant to that individual. I was surprised to find that most of the entries chose to examine each of the 3 questions posed. In the interest of fairness the essays were turned over to an impartial group of judges who have never volunteered with the program and don't know the kids personally. The judges were unanimous in their decision to choose the winner whose essay is printed below.

The young lady, Chyna Horsley has been part of the 3, 4, 5 grade girls group and will join the 6, 7, 8 grade girls group in the Fall. Her words will speak for her:

*Why I Come 2 JIFF! Well some of you ask why I come to JIFF: You might not know this, but I come to churches & programs to give God the praise. That's the reason why I go to JIFF. Also have fun. I'm glad JIFF is on Thursday. Matter of fact I wouldn't car if it was on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. I always try my best to come. Not unless I'm busy or someone in my family is hurt (or any other important thing). I love JIFF because there the best program I've ever been to. You might think I say this to win but I don't. I say this from the very bottom of my heart. I try to invite people. When they come, at the end, they tell me they had a great time. I love to hear that all the time. I knew they were going to have fun. I wouldn't lie to them about an awesome program. I'd love to go to a program like that everyday. I always give my heart to JIFF. Give them good manners, respect all the people and more. So people if you don't have anything to do on Thursday or Sunday, come to JIFF. I'll show you were its at and make sure you have a fabulous time. Now I know I can be rowdy at JIFF. I'm just having fun with my friends. Be no harm and do no wrong a JIFF. It is a privilege to go. Once you go you'll fall in love. The teachers respect you like everyone else. Remember try your best and you have control of yourself. When you go be well behaved and don't give up.*

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*Why Do Volunteers Come 2 JIFF? You ask my why volunteers come to JIFF. I really don't have a clue to be true. They might come to JIFF when the people aren't there. I can say the volunteers act like the real teachers. Help, respect always and just kind enough to do it. So I thank them for that. The volunteers are great. Now our teachers that teach us in every class (group leaders), they don't really miss a lot of days. But they always try there best to help. They wouldn't care if it's a little thing or not I hope. They love JIFF just as well as I do. The volunteers and teachers never leave anyone out. And I LOVE THAT. I'm just speechless. Like what program or church can be a little bit better than JIFF. I think we should have volunteers and teachers to be at JIFF. That's how terrific they are. All of the volunteers and teachers make me proud and smile. I come like every Thursday. JIFF I love you with all my heart. I think you should be open as long as you can. My friends and I enjoy having fun at JIFF with the volunteers and teachers. JIFF you're the best. Thanks for all your help and prizes plus more. I've appreciate it.*

*Why I think JIFF should be open in the Fall! Well I was very astonished when I first started coming to JIFF with Kiara, Lelia, Tamera and Kasia. I had a great time there. I always started coming back after that because people encouraged me. JIFF I think you should really be open in the fall. Everyone is starting to come because they love it. I never ever ever should think JIFF close. It should always be open no matter what. Every time I leave there I think I learn something. It's always fun to learn something new everyday. Especially from a nice program. They reward us on some things and we thank them for doing it. We always do activities in our second class, which is basically art. At the very end you have pizza and drink. Guess what I just thought of an important thing. You also can get [banned] from JIFF. You have to be on your best behavior. I hope that's not new to any of you. On special occasions we play games and have fun the whole time. After JIFF if I've done something well I always feel proud of myself and you should too. Follow someone you love and trust footsteps. If I had a chance I'd follow JIFF. They've made me believe in myself more. If you wouldn't open JIFF in the fall, I don't know what I would do. So think positive and open JIFF in the Fall.*

JIFF is a program that is valued by the participants. In order to be in alignment with our Safe Sanctuary guidelines we need to have enough volunteers. If you

can give your time to this program contact the director, Paula Howell. Can't be there every week? That's ok. She will find a way to utilize your talents as often as you can be there. When school starts in August – JIFF will be open, with your support and prayers. Help us to continue to be the *Sanctuary in the City*.

## RETIREE, DISABLED AND WIDOWED FUND CONFERENCE MEDICAL PLAN

(fourth in series on Apportionments)

*This is the fourth in our series on explaining where our apportioned church funds go –*

This Fund provides funding for the unfunded portion of the pension plan for ministers' service years prior to the implementation of the Ministerial Pension Plan and Comprehensive Protection Plan on January 1, 1982 in addition to medical benefits for retired and disabled ministers and widows or widowers.

2008 Apportionment – \$12,579,315

Percent Paid 2007 – 93.9%

Unfunded Benefits – \$702,911

2009 Apportionment – \$12,579,315

In 1982, the United Methodist denomination changed from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. Under the defined benefit plan, our currently active ministers will receive pension benefits directly in proportion to the amounts of funds contributed in their name to the General Board of Pensions for their years of service since 1982 (CRSP/ CPP). For years served prior to 1982, ministers are guaranteed a defined benefit per year of service with pension credit.

However, the amount of the funding provided was not for a specific minister and is now insufficient to provide the payment of retirement benefits for the cumulative years of service prior to 1982. In 2009, each retired minister will be paid \$535 per year of service prior to 1982, with surviving spouses receiving 70 percent of this amount.

In 2009, \$5,048,926 will be included in this apportionment to cover medical and disability benefits for retired and \$550,601 for disabled

## School of Christian Mission

The School of Christian Mission will be July 24--26 and July 27--30 at Blackstone. Sponsored by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women, this year's theme is "Together at the Table." The plenary speaker will be Angelo Maker, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. The three studies will be "Food and Faith," "The beauty and Courage of Sudan," and "Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival." Classes are held for men, women, youth and children. Register early to receive your class choice. The deadline to register is July 10 after which a \$10 late fee will apply. For more information and to register, visit the conference UMW web site at [www.vaumw.org](http://www.vaumw.org)



Dear Members of Centenary –

Several weeks ago our congregation, through Church Council action, decided to enroll in the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry, developed by Stephen Ministries, a nonprofit religious and educational organization based in St. Louis, Missouri. We will be developing a lasting program of caring ministry through the Stephen Series system of training and organization. This model of ministry is already working in thousands of congregations throughout North America and is equipping laypeople to minister to others who are in need.

Centenary will be preparing for this ministry in the months to come. August 2–8, Alice Wilkinson and Dawn Arrington will be attending a one-week Stephen Series Leader's Training Course in Pittsburgh, PA. At this training course, we will receive the instruction and materials necessary to implement and sustain this program of lay caring ministry here at Centenary. We are really looking forward to this opportunity.

Following the one-week Leader's Training Course, a group of lay people from our congregation will undertake 50 hours of training in Christian caring skills under our guidance. This training will prepare the participants to care for others, covering such areas as how to listen effectively, how to deal with feelings, how to use traditional Christian resources in caring, how to maintain confidentiality, how to deal with people

## Apportionment (cont.)

ministers and spouses. This combines with \$563,106 for pre-82 pension apportionment for a total apportionment of \$6,162,633. In addition to the benefits described above, this apportionment combined with MPP/CPP provides \$95,000 life insurance for active ministers plus a lesser amount for retired ministers based on the years since retirement.

**Conference Health Plan** – Medical benefits for active clergy are provided through the Conference Health Plan component of this apportionment and direct billings to churches for the clergy share of the plan. The amount to be raised by this apportionment is \$6,931,395

The camping trip dates for Jellystone Park are August 14th–16th. Folks should sign up to attend on the sheets posted by the 1st floor classrooms or by the office.

experiencing crises, and many other areas of concern. A Christ-centered approach to caring and the need to care for the whole person will be stressed throughout the training.

Upon completion of Stephen Series training, these lay caregivers will be commissioned as "Stephen Ministers" and will become an important part of caring ministry here at Centenary. These Stephen Ministers will provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care for people experiencing challenges in their lives such as hospitalization, loss of a loved one, loneliness, divorce, unemployment, birth of a child, and many other life events for which a person could benefit from an effective helping and caring ministry.

This will be an exciting time for Centenary. The Stephen Series both multiplies the amount of caring ministry that goes on in our congregation and deepens the level of participation by lay people in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. If you have questions about this new form of ministry our congregation is undertaking, please feel free to ask me [us]. In the meantime, I would like you to keep me and Alice and Dawn and our congregation in your thoughts and prayers as we prepare for this major step forward in our lay caring ministry.

Grace and Peace,



## 2009 Operating Budget through May 31, 2009

### Receipts:

Pledged Offering	77,690
Unpledged Offering	14,590
Loose Plate Offering	1,346
Church School Offering	1,173
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	1,200
Miscellaneous Offering	400
Easter Offering	5,494
Shortfall Offering	755
Interest Income	174
From Memorials	1,353

Total Receipts.....\$ 105,175

### Expenses:

Apportionments	-16,029
Pastor Support	-27,918
Program Support	- 4,662
Building & Grounds	-27,714
Office Support	- 7,276
Staff Support	-40,260

Total Expenses.....\$ 123,859

### Benevolence Receipts Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	4,123
Fellowship Fund	742
Sager Brown Trip	299
JIFF	1,011
Pennies with a Purpose	433
Souper Bowl	200
Operation Teddy Bear	52
UMCOR/Conference	200
Local Benevolences	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,118</b>

### Stewardship - May 2009

<u>Operating Budget</u>	
May 3	5,802
May 10	7,654
May 17	2,648
May 24	3,928
May 31	3,534

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

In Memory of Ben Wooldridge  
Tommy & Betty Wooldridge

In Memory of Mary Whitten  
Doug & Katherine Sasser

In Memory of Lolene Snow  
Conrad & Ernestine Dodl

In Memory of Elizabeth Mantiplly  
Conrad & Ernestine Dodl

### New Outreach & Congregational Care Ideas

Recently some new ideas have been floated about ways we can reach out to our community and at the same time, care for our congregation. Please let Pastor Rick or Marty Waugh know if you are interested in making these things happen!

**Matthew Ministry** – a ministry that consists of a prayer chain via website/email/phone to notify all church members of people needing immediate attention and prayers. It will also have a function to get in touch with members that haven't been coming, missed multiple church functions, home bound, sick, nursing home members and visitors to let them know Centenary cares about them and if we can help them.

**Good Samaritan Ministry** – a ministry to help others with tasks they can't perform themselves or need help doing. We could maintain a list of those with skills they would be willing to use to help others.

**Expanded Van Ministry** – Our church van could be used to pick up out shut-in's or any others needing transportation to and from worship each Sunday. If you're interested in this program either as a rider or driver, please contact Pastor Rick, Marty Waugh or Mark Rinckel (Van chairperson).



**GET ON BOARD!**

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### **SHARE Packages available for June**

**Call in by 6/7. Pickup on 6/20**



**REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20:** 2# (pounds) of roaster chicken drums, Hormel fully-cooked bacon, 26 oz. of Southern-style chicken breast

chunks, Oscar Meyer smoked sausage with cheddar cheese, 1# pkg of frozen peaches, 8" frozen fruit pie, 3# potatoes, 2# yellow onions, additional fresh fruits and vegetables

**SPECIAL STEAK PACKAGE-\$18:** (2) 5 oz. filet mignons, (5) 4 oz. filet mignons and (4) 5 oz. bacon wrapped choice top sirloin

**CRAB CAKE PACKAGE-\$16:** 2 ¼ pounds of frozen, hand-made crab cakes by Chesapeake Bay Gourmet; 70% jumbo lump crabmeat. Smaller package than the one offered in April. You get (12) 3 oz. crab cakes.

**JUNE GRILL BOX-\$18:** (4) 4 oz. center cut pork chops, 1# boneless skinless chicken breast tenders, (2) 6 oz. Sirloin Tip filets, (2) 1# pkgs of St. Louis ribs, 1# hamburger. That's 5 ¾ pounds of meat!

**20 SANDWICH BREAKFAST PACKAGE-\$15:** Variety includes sausage & cheese biscuit; bacon, egg & cheese biscuit; Canadian Bacon, egg & cheese English muffin; ham, egg & cheese croissant; sausage, egg & cheese English muffin; and an egg & cheese croissant. Each box will have at least 5 of the above varieties. **All individually wrapped & microwaveable!**

SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) is a nonprofit food distribution and volunteer service program that helps everyone stretch their food dollars. Participants pay \$20 (holiday packages cost a little more) in cash or food stamps and complete two hours of volunteer work for a food box valued at about \$40. Volunteer time is anything you do for someone else or the community for no pay: Church, school, helping a neighbor or helping with your local SHARE program. SHARE has no income requirements, so

**anyone can participate**

- if you eat, you're in. SHARE is a program of New River Community Action.

*(all packages are subject to change)*

*Call Paula or Chris Howell 847-8138*

