



# THE SPIRE



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

## Virginia Annual Conference June 15-19

The 2011 Virginia Annual Conference session will be held **June 15-19** at the Civic Center in Roanoke. The theme of the conference is "Being Christ to Others: Snapshots of the Kingdom." Information about this year's session, including an agenda, is available on the conference Web site at [www.vaumc.org/ac2011](http://www.vaumc.org/ac2011).



Having the Annual Conference so close geographically gives Centenary's members a unique opportunity to participate in the sessions and worship experiences. Although only delegates are allowed to vote on matters, anyone can attend.

## DS Challenges the Lynchburg District to Build Buckets!

Lynchburg District Superintendent Larry Davies wrote this past week, "Like many of you, I was deeply saddened by the storms that struck repeatedly all over the United States. Like many I want to do something... but what? Can we put together 1000 Disaster Relief Cleaning Buckets between our 91 United Methodist churches and send them to Annual Conference for UMCOR?" The challenge is ON!!

The buckets (formerly known as flood buckets) are in short supply. Funds and supplies are being gathered and shortly a date will be set for a mass assembly at Timberlake UMC. For details on contents of the buckets [visit the UMCOR website](#).

## Conference Offering to Fund Four Mission Projects

The 2011 Annual Conference offering goal is \$200,000 and will benefit four mission projects: Mozambique - Leadership Development/Living Well Society: \$50,000; Brazil - Shade and Fresh Water/John Wesley Medical Boat: \$50,000; Agape Christian Children's Community Center, Inc. - Eastern Shore: \$50,000; and Shalom Zone: Grace Ministries - Roanoke: \$50,000.



## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held June 13 - 17<sup>th</sup> and this year the Surf is Up Dudes!! The beach-themed VBS will begin each night with a dinner from the cooks at the Cabana Cafe.

Grab your surfboard and paddle out to ride a wave of fun and adventure at SonSurf Beach Bash VBS! Learn about cool sea creatures like clownfish, dolphins and sea turtles! Explore tide pools and collect seashells. As the kids explore the wonders of the beach they'll also get Big Answers to their Big Questions about Jesus: Who is Jesus? Why can I trust Jesus? Why do I need Jesus? How can Jesus help me when I mess up? What does Jesus want me to do?



There will be classes for all ages including an adult Bible Study. Be sure to Catch a Wave on over to join in the fun!



Dear Friends –

The official announcement date for announcing pastoral changes has passed and although nothing is final until the bishop says it is, I think I'm safe in reporting to you that I

expect to return as your pastor. The bishop and her cabinet have been meeting to finalize the appointments prior to Annual Conference in June. (Roanoke June 15–19). I believe there will be nine pastoral changes in our district and the addition of one new church – Emmanuel UMC in Amherst. It is always more relaxing to just observe the process than to be a more interested participant! Being so close to Annual Conference in Roanoke this year is a wonderful chance for any of you to take a field trip to conference and observe your Church in action. Although only delegates can vote, anyone can attend any of the sessions.

Please note that you can now follow Centenary UMC on Facebook. We have a Friends of Centenary United Methodist Church page on Facebook. Those of you already on Facebook should check it out.

I hope you're enjoying the Wednesday Word that I've been emailing out over the past several months. Even if you don't check your email all the time – please read this every Wednesday. Are you receiving The Wednesday Word? If not, please send your email address to the church office.

Grace and Peace,

## Lynchburg District Heart Havens Update

By Joe Wills, Chairman LDHH Committee

The LDHH held its May meeting on May 11 and we received word from the Board of Directors of Heart Havens in Richmond that we have been approved to build Heart Havens home #2 in the Lynchburg District. Construction will be starting very soon as we get our volunteer contractors and volunteer workers ready to begin. We have the necessary funds on hand to build! More updates will be coming very soon!



## A Woman Like You

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

What Kind of Woman Would Receive the care of a Stephen Minister?

- A woman like Sarah – who faced a major change in life at an advanced age and needed someone to listen to both her joy and apprehension.
- A woman like Hagar – who was abandoned along with her child and needed someone to offer her hope and remind her of God's presence.
- A woman like Hannah – who struggled with her inability to bear a child and needed someone with whom to share her sadness and pain.
- A woman like Naomi – who had lost her loved ones and needed someone to hear her sorrow and pain.
- A woman like Ruth – who left everything that was familiar to her and needed someone to journey with her in her new life.
- A woman like Esther – who was faced with a major decision and needed someone who could listen to her concerns and offer encouragement.
- A woman like Mary of Nazareth – who lived with both the joys and struggles of having an exceptional child and needed someone to help her sort out the ponderings of her heart.
- A woman like Martha – who was burdened by the demands of daily life and needed someone to help her regain sight of what was most important.
- A woman like Mary Magdalene – who received healing from inner turmoil and needed someone to walk with her as she built a new life.
- A woman like you!

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call Alice Wilkinson, Dawn Arrington or Pastor Rick.



## School of Christian Mission

The Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission will be held at the Assembly Center in Blackstone July 22–24 and 25–28. This is a wonderful opportunity for men, women, youth and children to learn about being partners in God's global mission, and to grow spiritually through study and worship.

The Spiritual Growth Study, *Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Forgiveness and Reconciliation*, will be taught by Dr. Stephen C. Hundley (weekend session) and Rev. J. Pat Watkins (July 25–28 session). This class deals with how individuals, families and communities are called to a life journey of practicing forgiveness, justice and reconciliation in their daily lives.

The Geographic Study will be *Haiti: Challenges and Hopes*. It is an overview of the cultures that shaped Haiti's past and its ongoing legacy of colonialism. The impact of the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010 will be included. Leaders will be Darlene Amon, Dennis Lipke, Sam NeSmith, Jack Martin, Darlene Runaldue, and Frank Holley.

Fees for weekend are Adult \$166, Youth \$142, Child \$115. Week-Adult \$283, Youth \$197, Child \$155. Registration deadline is July 10. Further information and forms are in the church office.

## Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present *Alzheimer's Disease, the "Long Goodbye"*



A program from the Alzheimer's Association  
presented by Sam Lester.

Patti Davis, Ronald Reagan's daughter, in her 2004 book, *The Long Goodbye*, describes losing her father in stages, "Helpless against the onslaught of a disease that steals what is most precious - a person's memory. She writes, "Alzheimer's snips away at the threads, a slow unraveling, a steady retreat; as a witness all you can do is watch, cry and whisper a soft stream of goodbyes."

Sam will discuss the disease, it's diagnosis; needs of patients, caregivers and family; and hope for the future provided by research.

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

**Tuesday, June 21**

## Brazil Mission Trip Update

Greetings Centenary Family,

First of all, THANKS YOU to all who are supporting this mission, and those praying for the team. I met with 5 of the 6 member team on Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> in Roanoke and I am excited. I think we have a fun and enthusiastic group going.

For those internet accessible, I will be starting a blog and this will be the only communication from Brazil that we know of. The Blog will also keep track of the team during preparation in the weeks ahead. These are the details I know thus far - During the last month, I've been to the doctor, and he spent several hours with me preparing me for the trip. This week I have 7 vaccinations to get; Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Hepatitis B booster, Rabies, Viral Hepatitis/HIV/Malaria Contact Prevention, and Tetanus booster. (some of the shots I'm worried about, but doc said get them)

On Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup>, I'll have someone drop me off at the airport in Greensboro NC where we depart. Here is our flight plan (so you can pray me there and back!): Thursday, July 21 we depart Greensboro at 8pm to Charlotte (US Air #3219) then depart 10:30PM to Rio De Janeiro (US Air #800). On Friday July 22 will will Depart 12:19PM to Curitiba (TAM Air #3265).

The return begins Wednesday August 3, departing 7:14PM Curitiba to Rio De Janeiro (TAM Air # 3268) then 10:25PM to Charlotte (US Air #801). At 9:55AM we will make the last flight to Greensboro (US Air #3215)

I have my passport, now I am waiting for a visa to enter Brazil. The new plan for the first week is to travel to Curitiba [kuri'tibe], Brazil - 530 miles southwest from Rio de Janerio. We will be helping with 3 VBS in a week, planning crafts, games, and teaching. Oh, and the team has to take what we plan for crafts...(lots of cotton balls) and games.

The second week, we travel back into the city of Curitiba for young adults hosts and sharing ideas and projects from different worlds. That's all I have so far in a summary version...stay tuned! And continue to pray! Agradeça ao Senhor Aleluia A boa notícia que vai se espalhar Aleluia (Thank the Lord Hallelujah. The good news we will spread Alleluia)

~Carl Gravely, Mission Team Member

## Applying Bible Principles

God's Word has more to say about money and material possessions than about heaven and hell combined. Obviously, how we as His children handle what God has entrusted to us is a very important subject to Him.

Money is also the only subject about which God says, in essence, "Prove Me. Trust Me. Try Me." He does not issue that challenge concerning any other aspect of our Christian walk of faith. Not about prayer; not about sharing our faith others; not even about salvation. Just money.

God said to Malachi, the prophet, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Some promises in the Bible are unconditional in nature. They are going to be fulfilled, regardless of what we might or might not do. Others could be described as "if . . . then" promises. If we will do our part, then God will do His part. This passage from Malachi 3:10 is one of the latter. If we will bring our tithes to God's storehouse, then He will open for us the windows of heaven and pour out for us such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

The question is whether we really believe God when He makes a promise like this. If we do, we will take Him at His Word. We will accept His challenge and "test" Him by giving to Him as He direct. And if we do that by faith, then we can be confident that God will meet that "test" by providing all we need — and more.

### Upcoming Events in June –

**Sunday, June 5 – Stephen Ministers' Commissioning at 11:00 am.**

**Saturday, June 11 – Church Yard Sale from 8:00 am – noon.**

**Sunday, June 12 – Choir Appreciation Sunday at 11:00 am.**

**Monday, June 13 – Vacation Bible School begins**

**Wednesday, June 15 – Virginia Annual Conference meets in Roanoke through Sunday, June 19.**

## What Can \$20 Do??

If a member of your family was seriously ill, and a doctor told you that for \$20 you could significantly improve



their quality of life, would you do it? In the U.S. and around the world, millions of our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering from HIV and AIDS. Over 26 million men, women and children have died from complications due to AIDS. Over 15 million children are orphaned. Persons living with HIV are daily faced with stigma, discrimination and fear.

Jesus sought out those who lived with stigma, discrimination and fear and embraced them with acceptance, hope and love. "Oh my poor children, they will become orphans soon!" This was the painful and fearful response from Dalita (not her real name), a mother of three children who just tested positive for HIV at a voluntary HIV testing event in Armenia.

This tragedy does not need to happen. You have the power to help. Do you have the vision? Thanks to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, United Methodists and their partners can fight this disease in various countries through church, community, and hospital-based projects. Some projects focus on prevention through awareness, education, and training. Others provide voluntary testing, counseling, antiretroviral drugs, and home-based care. Still others offer care and support for AIDS orphans.

The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund invites you to participate in these acts through "20/20: Visioning an AIDS-Free World." Begin by praying for those persons living with HIV/ AIDS or affected by it. You can pledge as little as \$20 one time, a year or every month from now until 2020 (or \$200, \$1000, \$2020 or any amount). You can save a life. \$20 can stop the transmission of HIV from a mother to a child. \$20 can feed an HIV+ person for a month, enabling them to take their medicine and lead productive lives. \$20 can teach young people and adults how to prevent HIV. Your \$20 can change the world.

Your commitment to do the same will transform lives. Join us in visioning an AIDS-free world. Visit [www.2020AIDSfreeworld.org](http://www.2020AIDSfreeworld.org) to learn more, to make a pledge online, and find out how to get involved.

**2011 Operating Budget  
through May 24, 2011**

**Receipts:**

Pledged Offering	89,165
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	14,636
Loose Plate Offering	610
Church School Offering	1,030
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	1,200
Miscellaneous Offering	1,235
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	2,261
Interest Income	71
Total Receipts.....	\$112,245

**Expenses:**

Support Staff Expense	-36,516
Pastor Expense	-31,851
Building & Grounds	-30,100
Apportionments	-19,413
Office	-5,732
Programs	-4,136
Total Expenses.....	\$127,748

**Benevolence Receipts**

**Outside of Budget**

Stephen Ministries	525
Fellowship Fund	534
JIFF	1,064
Pennies with a Purpose	344
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	995
Brazil Mission Trip	2,565
TOTAL	\$6,102

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.T.**

**Bryant**

Darlene Bryant

**In Memory of Louise Arrington**

Katherine Sasser

**In Memory of Eleanor Tankersley**

Terrell and Doris Moseley

Bill and Ida Powell

**In Memory of Ann Watson**

Terrell and Doris Moseley

Bill and Ida Powell

**In Memory of Baylis Kunz**

Ann Campfield

Gene Maddera

John and Frances McKee

Louise Young

Sue Nowlin

Elizabeth Clark

Clays Crossing Property

Owners Association

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dennis

Terrell and Doris Moseley

Bill and Ida Powell

Joe Reed

Katherine Sasser

Dave and Vickie Shackelford

Maxey and Madeline Viar

Wesley Chapel Sunday School Class

Mary Lucy White

Marge Wilson

Becky Thomas

**Rush Homes Dream Builders Luncheon**

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 14 from noon until 1:00 for the 6th Annual Dream Builder's Luncheon! The theme this year will be "Welcome Home." Paula Howell is a table captain and would welcome you to join her! Call 847-8138 to reserve a space!

Rush Homes is a non-profit organization that provides affordable and accessible rental housing opportunities to people with disabilities and low incomes in the greater Lynchburg region. Rush Homes saves the state of Virginia money annually by providing community-based housing options for adults with disabilities.

There are a few things that make Rush Homes stand out from other housing options for people with disabilities in the greater Lynchburg area.

Permanent Residency ~ persons have the opportunity for a lifetime home in which they will not need to fear another move or a drastic lifestyle change.

A Place to Call Your Own ~ Rush Homes does not *require* residents to live with housemates.

Concerned Advocate Landlord ~ Rush Homes acts as a concerned, advocate landlord. Residents and their families describe Rush Homes' responsiveness and proactive approach to upkeep and maintenance as "excellent" and "dependable".

**Stewardship - May 2011  
Operating Budget**

April 24	4,678
May 1	5,911
May 8	3,849
May 15	2,871
May 22	3,878

**Construction Ahead!**

Be aware that there will be some temporary repairs in the near future as we prepare for renovations ahead. The AC should be functional by week's end building-wide. Your continued prayers are needed! Report issues to Property Committee, please!



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## Yard Sale to Provide Funds for Church Family Camping Trip

If you have treasures that you no longer want to hold on to - consider donating them to the Yard Sale to be June 11 (8am - noon).



The proceeds will help provide funds for the camping trip to Jellystone scheduled for July 17-19. And when we talk about "Church Family" we mean the WHOLE church, not just church members with young families! S'mores are for Everyone!!

Volunteers will be needed for the sale and during the week prior to June 11 to help price and merchandise the great donations (please deliver to the Yard Sale room on the first floor of the education wing).

## 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



*Angel Food Ministries*  
Menu

each month and offer convenient online ordering at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://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 June (online order by 6/19-pickup 6/25) includes: 4.5# (pounds) Perdue Whole Chicken; 1.5# Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.); 1.5# 100% Ground Turkey Burgers (6 x 4 oz.); 2# 'Heat n Serve' New England Clam Chowder; 2# Sloppy Joe Mix; 2# Lasagna with Meat Sauce; 1.5# Smoked Sausage "Grillers"; 1# 100% Ground Chicken; 1# Sliced Carrots; 1# Green Beans; 1# Triple Veggie Blend; 1# Sugar Snap Peas; 28 oz. Baked Beans; 1# Long Grain White Rice; 8.5 oz. Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix; 5 ct. Instant Oatmeal; 32 oz. 2% Shelf Stable Milk; 1 Dozen Eggs; 7.5 oz Break-n-Bake Cookies

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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