

THE SPIRE



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

March 2009

Off he goes into the wild blue yonder!

By Marty Waugh, *Spire Contributor*

On Tuesday, February 24th, Bruce Colmore departed Virginia for Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas to begin 60 days of Basic Training in the United States Air Force. Lt Col Marty Waugh, USAF, Retired, administered the Oath of Office to complete his final processing before shipping out. Ida Powell, Denise Bryson, and Melissa Waugh also attended the swearing-in and send-off at Ft. Lee in Petersburg, VA. After Basic Training, Bruce will attend technical training as an Aircraft Mechanic and Crew Chief at Sheppard Air Force Base and upon completion will receive orders for his first duty assignment. After two years at Ferrum College, Bruce decided to complete his degree while serving his country and he further intends to pursue a commission as a Second Lieutenant. Because of his college credits, his enlisted rank will be E-3 instead of E-1 and he qualifies for the tuition payback program in which most of his Ferrum College tuition debt will be paid off in installments by the Air Force.

Bruce's address: (absolutely NO food items may be sent) Just cards and letters. He'll love hearing from his family. Use specific format:

AB Colmore, Tyrone E.
324 TRS / FLT 310
Dorm A-10 PSC 3
1320 Truemper St., Unit 362920
Lackland AFB, TX 78236-5570



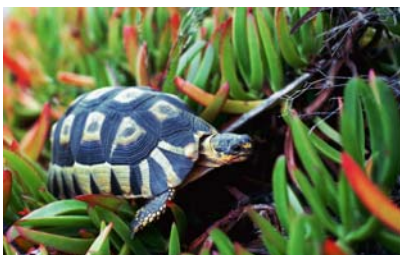
SAN ANTONIO BISHOP OFFERS WELCOME

Excerpt of letter from Bishop James E. Dorff, assigned to Southwest Texas and Rio Grande Conferences to Ida Powell:

"I am certain that Bruce will find at least some slight geographical differences between Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, and Lynchburg. However, I believe he will find no difference in the warmth of the residents and their desire to be available to him and for him."

"We have many wonderful United Methodist congregations both in the Lackland area and in the greater San Antonio area. I feel quite confident Bruce will be able to find a local congregation through which he will find great meaning. I also know the ministry of the chaplains at Lackland will be extremely important to him."

"Please let Bruce know if there is anything I can personally do to be of assistance to him, I would welcome a call from him."



Come see the animals at **Church Family Fun Night** on Wednesday, March 25th, 5:30pm. (not that your church family are animals!) We will be having a great meal and a presentation from the super folks from "The Nature Zone". "Captain Vic" will be talking to us about reptiles. Menu will be announced, will not contain Turtles. Come and have dinner with your church family, they are really COOL!



Dear Friends:

To those of our members who are active

and regular in their attendance - We have many members absent from our regular church fellowship. Look around you on a typical Sunday and you'll probably remember who they are and where they sat. If you do, please reach out and re-invite them to come back home to Centenary.

To those who have been absent - Greetings from Centenary United Methodist Church! We miss you. There are many reasons why people stop attending



Children's Division Activities

The Children's Division has been very busy and has some exciting plans to look forward to. Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me and forbid them not." All children are invited to our Sunday School classes from 9:30 - 10:30, Children's choirs, infant nursery and Super Church. For further information you may contact Betty Wooldridge at 660-0919 or Mari Smallshaw at 846-3242, co-chairs of Children's Council.

The children made valentines that were taken to the Avante and Grace Lodge nursing homes; collected soup through the month of February to be donated to Alliance For Families and Children; and have collected 82 stuffed animals to be taken to Gleaning For The World. This project will continue until the end of August and \$1.00 is needed for each animal for transportation.

Our future plans include Church Family Night March 25th, 5:30 pm. The guest speaker will be a representative from "The Nature Zone." In April there will be an outing to Funquest and then the planning begins for the annual Camping Trip to Jelly Stone Park in Buena Vista! We'll kickoff our fundraising in May with a Yard and Bake Sale (donations can be brought to the K-2nd grade classroom (Gigi's room) or the church office. And start looking ahead to Vacation Bible School in June! Carlene Cantrell will be this year's Director, be sure to let her know how you want to be a part!

Meanwhile watch future Glad Tidings and Spires for more information .

the church to which they belong, but when that happens, both the church and the individual lose. God has so made us that we need mutual support and fellowship. And the nature of the Christian faith is that it thrives best within a community of believers.

This is my personal invitation to you to join with the rest of us "Christians under construction" for worship this Sunday. You are important to our fellowship. This is a great time of year to come home to Centenary as we prepare for Easter on April 12.

Grace & Peace,



Would you like the opportunity to present the Children's Message on a rotating basis? Many of you have expressed an interest in doing this - so we're going to try it. We can supply you with the pastor's anticipated sermon text to make it simpler. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Rick at 846-4601 or Pastorrhe@aol.com so we get set up a schedule.

Habitat Lunch

The Centenary UMW has been asked to serve lunch to Habitat workers on Thursday, March 26, at the Habitat Headquarters on Lakeside Drive. These 50 hungry volunteers are college students who are spending their Spring Break working on homes for the less fortunate in Lynchburg. Colleges represented are Indiana University and the University of Chicago. We plan to serve hoagie sandwiches (ham, turkey, cheese, tomato and lettuce), apples and DELICIOUS HOMEMADE COOKIES. Local businesses are donating chips, drinks and paper products. Funding for the sandwiches and fruit will come from UMW's Acree Fund, which provides money for local mission projects.

If you would like to bake some cookies for these industrious young people, please call Mary Jane at 384-2085. We need to take the food to Habitat by 11:00am

Thursday so cookies should be brought

to the church office by Wednesday, March 25.

Many thanks to the generous bakers.



March 2009 Spire

Day of Difference 2009

by Paula Howell, *Spire Contributor*

The date has been set for the BIG WEEKEND, May 30 & 31st. We will plan events throughout the next couple of months and will need everyone to participate. Our next meeting will be on March 16, 7 PM at Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

We have been trying to determine what the community needs and what is available and needs more help.

1st Saturday of every month, the Connecting Point is open for showers, haircuts, blood pressure checks and the clothes closet is open. Let us know if you can help for an hour or two, they always need extra hands.

Every Saturday Fellowship Church of Christ has an Extreme Outreach Ministry; they serve Breakfast, Lunch and have activities for the entire family. They also need help and an hour or two would be a great help. And you get to visit with other neighborhood churches in helping.

MINI SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

Lynchburg District UMW will be holding a Mini School of Missions on Native American Studies at Chestnut Hill UMC, Saturday, March 28. Registration begins at 9am, Program 9:30-12. Lunch is \$8.

The instructor for the study will be the pastor of Amelon UMC, Larry Jent, who is of Native American descent. He also taught this study at Blackstone School of Missions last summer.

Checks may be sent to Ann Harper, UMW Treasurer, by Sunday, March 15, made out to Centenary UMW and she will send in one check with a list of names to the District.

Our mission project for this event is the Henry Fork Service Center. Suggested donations include snack foods, 39 gallon trash bags, paper cups (5,8, and 16 oz.), paper towels, plastic spoons and forks, toilet paper, tissues, liquid soap (antibacterial) and Campbell soup labels which are being saved to purchase a van.

Plan to join us for an interesting program and Christian fellowship.

Marvelous Mature Methodists

The MMMs wonder...



Where in the world are
Marvin and Frances?

*A travelogue presented by
our buddies, the Ungers*

Come and bring a friend to the Marvelous Mature Methodist's (MMM) program **Tuesday, March 17th**. 11:30am Brown bag lunch in Fellowship Hall followed by Noon Travelogue in the Wesleyan Class to see beautiful photographs and hear anecdotes from the Unger's travel experiences.

UMC 101 – The Advance

World War II had ended when Methodists met in Boston for the 1948 General Conference. Noting the continuing global suffering following the destruction of many cities in Europe and Asia, delegates adopted a “Quadrennial Plan for Christ and His Church,” that included a voluntary “Worldwide Advance” stewardship drive. Based on that beginning, the 1952 General Conference established “The Advance for Christ and His Church.”

The Advance is sometimes called “second-mile giving.” Local churches are expected to support the World Service Fund, other apportioned funds and conference benevolences. After these funds are fully supported, local churches and individuals may choose from among 2,140 individual projects to support and know that 100 percent of their gift goes to the project selected.



Since 1948, United Methodists have given more than 3 million Advance gifts totaling nearly \$800 million for thousands of ministries in more than 100 countries. For additional information and a list of Advance projects, visit

www.umcsgiving.org/content/advance.

– The Rev. J. Richard Peck, *Interpreter* April 2005

Ralph Freeman to present "Song Sermon" on March 22



and organizations supported by this apportionment serve both as a resource to local churches and as an extension of local churches in mission on a conference, national, and world level.

Not only does this apportionment provide for the administrative structure of our Church, but the major thrust in mission giving in our Church also begins with the World Service Fund, enabling the United Methodist be in mission and ministry in 167 countries throughout the world. For instance, because of our contributions to World Service, every dollar that we contribute for the support of approximately 1,070 mission personnel goes directly to these people because overhead expenses are funded through World Service. When there is not enough funds available to provide salary support for these missionaries through our advance special giving, World Service funds are used to make up this shortfall.

The total ministries provided through the World Service and Conference Benevolences are impossible to interpret in this limited space. What it is really about is people – people in local congregations all across the Virginia Conference who live, work, and do ministry where they are – and have enough love and resources left over to want to reach out to the world beyond their door. Acts 1:8 NRSV says "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The World Service and Conference Benevolence dollar is one of the hardest working dollars in The United Methodist Church.

Frances Allen Circle Meets at Court Street UMC



The Frances Allen Circle will meet in the Wesley Guild Room of Court Street UMC on Wednesday, March 11, at 11:15am. After a short business meeting, we will move to the Sanctuary to participate in the Noon Lenten Service sponsored by Court Street. The speaker will be the minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church and special music will be provided. After the service lunch will be served downstairs at a cost of \$5.00 for those wishing to stay.

Ralph Freeman will present a "song sermon" during worship on Sunday, March 22 at 11:00 a.m. He will be appearing in Lynchburg that weekend as part of the "3 Inspirational Tenors." Please mark your calendars now for this exciting musical worship experience. Bring all your friends, relatives, & neighbors to hear this magnificent presentation.



There will be some costs to this event and if you would like to make a special donation to defray the costs, please make your check payable to Centenary UMC and mark it for the Freeman Concert.

Our Connectional System at Work: World Service and Conference Benevolences



At their last meeting, the Finance Committee felt that we all need to be reminded of what our apportionments are used for in our Conference and in our world. In 2008 we fell short of paying all of

our apportionments by about \$7200. You'll be reading about one or more apportionments each month so we all become more aware of all our Church is accomplishing.

The World Service and Conference Benevolences Fund is the cornerstone for the funding of the connectional system of the United Methodist Church. It represents the minimum needs of the general agencies of the Church and the boards and agencies of the Virginia Conference. The 2004 Discipline states in ¶812 that payment in full of the World Service Fund "...is the first benevolent responsibility of the Church." Receipts are distributed monthly to the General Church and Conference Benevolence recipients on a precise formula to support their missional responsibilities. In a typical year, 46.9 percent will be distributed to World Service and 53.1 percent for Conference Benevolences. The agencies

Interfaith Outreach Update

By Bev Maslow, IOA Executive Director

An update of what is happening here at Interfaith Outreach Association – your association.

PSALM 146: 5-8 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever; Who executes justice for the oppressed; who give food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

A grandmother asks for assistance with her electric bill to avoid disconnection of service. After discovering that she cares for four grandchildren who sleep on the floor, IOA staff arranges for the family to receive beds from the furniture warehouse...a ray of hope.

A mother struggles with the anger she feels at herself for having to leave her four children in the care of someone else. She is incarcerated at the Blue Ridge Regional Jail, and is participating in a twelve-week "Life Skills Class" led by an IOA volunteer...a ray of hope.

An independent senior citizen is running low on heating oil and money in a bitter winter cold spell. A neighbor urges him to call IOA to ask about

Fellowship, Fun & Finances

Do you like to have fun? Do you like to spend time with our church family? Do you want to support the church financially at the same time? We may just have opportunities for you this year!

The Church Council will be considering how to proceed on a plan to do all this, but here's what we have in mind. . . some type of bi-monthly or even quarterly events that could be sponsored by Sunday school classes, choir, UMYF, etc. (similar to what we did during the Bi-centennial Celebration) that would include an element of fun, fellowship, and fund-raising (finances).

Some ideas that have been discussed are; Church-wide breakfast, Brunswick stew sale, spaghetti supper, silent auction, meal and talent show, pancake supper, cake auction, etc. Put on your "thinking caps" and come up with some more ideas that could be used. If we all get excited by this, we can make it happen!

emergency funds...a ray of hope.

These rays of hope shine in the lives of people in need in our community because of Interfaith Outreach Association. This light is extended because of the support shared by the member congregations of IOA, which includes Centenary United Methodist Church.

There is Good News to you about your contribution to IOA. The Good News is what we are called by God to do, and where we are called to be a light unto others.

Centenary is one of the 68 member congregations of Interfaith Outreach Association. IOA began as a program of Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship in 1966. It has evolved to provide assistance for the underserved in our community... Campbell County, Bedford County, Appomattox County, Amherst County, and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg.

Annually each congregation contributes what they feel called to give to this wonderful organization. What does your contribution mean to IOA? You support vital programs that directly assist those in need:

- Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Fuel Assistance for the Elderly
(October through April)
- Furniture and Furnishings
- Visually Impaired
- Progressive Release

Each congregation makes a difference. How can you make a difference as a person of faith, even in difficult economic times?

-Examine your personal resources... Do you have an over-abundance of things? Can you contribute usable furniture to the IOA Warehouse?

-Examine your time... Can you volunteer to drive a visually impaired person to class?

-Examine your interest...for volunteering in different capacities

The work and scope of Interfaith Outreach happens in a Circle of Hope made possible by communities of faith. Learn more about IOA by attending an information session to hear from those who are involved in the operation of each program.

See "IOA Update" page 7

2009: Where is the Lynchburg District Going?

From the February 5, 2009 edition of "Touching with Faith", a weekly e-newsletter from The Lynchburg District UMC. To subscribe visit www.lynchburgdistrictumc.org.

1. **Financial Momentum** – Teaching individuals and churches how to successfully manage the financial crisis gripping our world. All of us will have to learn how to creatively make ministry with fewer resources available. Yet, there are many more people than ever facing this crisis who will be looking to us for help. Financial Momentum is our way of saying, we will be ready to provide that help.

2. **Youth** – Regular District Wide Youth gatherings, Providing a District Wide Youth coordinator: Shawn Kiger and providing cutting edge resources free or at greatly reduced cost for any church that needs them.

3. **Communication** – Frequent Email contact with everyone across the district. Joint Advertising opportunities. We will continually promote across the community the idea of 91 United Methodist Churches working together to serve God.

4. **Joint Mission and Ministry Projects** – Working with churches to pursue opportunities for ministry and mission together. Working together we have fed thousands throughout the community, we've built a house in Biloxi, Mississippi and we've sent mission teams to Jamaica.

This year we will strengthen our ties with agencies throughout the community to provide much needed services. We will join with TOPS, Teens Opposing Poverty to provide home repairs and other needed services.

5. **Linking our Pastors and Churches in Creative Ways** – Pastors and Churches are already helping each other in new exciting ways. This will be extended to include opportunities for adoption and shared ministry. Larger churches are sharing

resources and staff to support smaller churches. Pastors are linking in clusters in creative ways to provide support. Some churches will merge and form new faith communities.

6. **Setting the Example:** If I ask churches and pastors to connect, I must connect too.

This year the Lynchburg District Office will connect with a church to share ministry expenses and provide creative new leadership so we too can participate in helping each other during difficult times.

South of the Sanctuary Successful!

On Sunday, February 22 about 8 chili teams gathered to battle for the right to be called Centenary's chili champ. The entries ranged from mildly spicy beef to the flavorful chicken chili. The crowd was so enthusiastic that at the end of the competition there was only one competitor with any chili left to offer: the slightly frightening "Hamster Chili" made by Chris Howell (who rarely gave a straight answer when asked what was *really* in the chili). The winner in both People's Choice and Judge's Choice categories was Alan Takseraas. Table decoration top honors went to Ida Powell for her Patriotic theme in honor of Bruce's departure to Air Force basic training. (as the editor's chili was completely shut out of the awards...I cannot recall the other winners...the youth/judges have remained suspiciously quiet).

After the chili had all been eaten, the church family took a few minutes to send off "AB Colmore, Tyrone E." whom we know better as "Bruce". Veterans gave him advice on surviving basic and Ida presented him with a UM devotion book for servicemen signed by all.



The Media Committee would like to remind you that:

- #1 Submissions to the Spire are welcomed and encouraged. Write it up and send it to centenaryspire@hotmail.com
- #2 The website is an excellent place to listen to a worship service, see the calendar of events, browse photos and more!
- #3 The Sound Team has hearing assistive devices available to enhance your worship experience. Please stop by the sound desk and get your very own earpiece and a receiver.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

In Memory of Helen Patricia Davis French
Doug & Katherine Sasser
Bill & Ida Powell
Charlie & Mary Jane Layne
Frances Allen Circle

In Memory of John William Poe
Dot Coleman
Sue Bragg
Bob, Frances, John & Bobbie Marshall

In Memory of Lolene Snow
Bill & Ida Powell
Gene Maddera
Tommy & Betty Wooldridge
Chapel Class
Maxey & Madeline Viar
Kathleen Nuckles
Fred & Dodie Fauber
Charlie & Mary Jane Layne
John & Frances McKee
Terrell & Doris Moseley
Dot Morcom
Doug & Katherine Sasser

2009 Operating Budget through February 28, 2009

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	27,648
Unpledged Offering	3,263
Loose Plate Offering	512
Church School Offering	417
From UMFS	300
Shortfall Offering	365
Interest Income	47
Total Receipts.....	\$ 32,552

Expenses:

Apportionments	-6,907
Pastor Support	-10,276
Program Support	-2,399
Building & Grounds	-12,986
Office Support	-2,248
Staff Support	-15,430
Total Expenses.....	\$ 50,246

IOA Update *(concludes)*

You are invited on the third Wednesday of February, March, and April at noon to the Carriage House at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church on Clay Street in Lynchburg. Even better, IOA will come to your own church/synagogue... to share the news of how God is working in our community. Please join us for one of the Wednesdays mentioned above. The session lasts less than one hour. Or better yet, plan to hold an information session in your own place of worship to hear the news through the Circle of Hope. Please contact IOA at 846.6098 or ioa@ntelos.net or ioakim@ntelos.net to schedule a Circle of Hope at your place of worship!

Thank you to Betsy Smith for the above write-up explaining IOA's Circle of Hope presentations!

And stay warm but please remember those who can't!

Thank you so much for ALL you do (seen and unseen)!! Learn more at www.interfaithoutreach.org.



A display of baskets made by participants in IOA's Visually Impaired Program

Benevolence Receipts Outside of Budget

Fellowship Fund	284
Sager Brown Trip	299
JIFF	636
Pennies with a Purpose	243
Souper Bowl	200

TOTAL \$1,662

Stewardship -February 2009

Operating Budget

February 1	5,534
February 8	5,830
February 15	3,443
February 22	2,368

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SHARE Packages available for March

Call in by 3/8. Pickup on 3/21

REGULAR PACKAGE-\$24: 9.5-10# (pound) turkey, apple pie, chicken stuffing mix, 3# frozen Rice Gourmet chicken & vegetable fried rice, 3# potatoes, 2# sweet potatoes, 2# onions, 5 oranges, celery, assortment of fresh fruits and vegetables. (Turkey only \$12, without turkey \$12)

STEAK PACKAGE -\$16: (8) 6 oz. boneless sirloin fillet of beef

SPIRAL HAMS-\$24: 9# Cook's honey cured spiral ham in gold foil and net, #1 grade.

TYSON BREADED CHICKEN BREAST PATTIES-\$15: 10# of individually frozen 3 oz. patties.

EXTRA MEAT PACKAGE-\$12: 1# center-cut boneless

pork chops, Arctic Shores brand 18 oz. breaded fish portions, (12) 3 oz. beef egg rolls, 2¼ # Oscar Mayer Brown 'n Serve Italian sausage.

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU-\$13: (10) 6 oz. breaded chicken breast stuffed with ham and cheese. NOW 10 individual servings for same price!

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

