



THE SPIRE



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

March 2011

Joint Event to Kick off Kits for Conference Season

Boonsboro, Centenary, Cove, & Peakland United Methodist Churches connect for Kit (& Kind-dom) Construction.

On Saturday, March 19 from 9-11am the congregations of the four churches will join together to create kits for presentation at the 2011 Virginia Annual Conference. The Rev. Rachael May of Peakland UMC is coordinating the event. Each congregation will be responsible for supplies and/or funds. Watch the Glad Tidings for details!

The 2011 Virginia Conference kit collection is being conducted to replenish the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) supply. UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot reports there is a need for all types of kits. Local churches are encouraged to collect items for any of the following most requested UMCOR kits and bring them to Annual Conference for delivery:



Health Kits: 1 hand towel (15"x25" up to 17"x27", no kitchen towels); 1 washcloth; 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized); 1 metal nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers); 1 bath-sized bar of soap (3 oz. and up); 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes); 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages (Band-Aids). **(NOTE: DO NOT INCLUDE TOOTHPASTE! Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)** Seal all items in a 1 gallon plastic zip-top bag.



See Kits continued on Page 4

Church Spring Cleaning

By Carl Gravelly, *Property Committee Chair*

ATTENTION: YOU WILL BE REQUIRED to be in attendance on Saturday March 26th for a spring cleanup day. By order of the property committee...



Schedule of events:

- 8-9a Breakfast by youth group and work orientation
- 9-11:45 Morning tasks
- 12 Noon Lunch!
- 12:45-4p Afternoon Tasks

This spring we will be focused on the following projects: Kitchen cleaning/organizing/labeling; 1st Floor Sunday School room cleaning; Fellowship Hall cleaning; landscaping church grounds including mulch, flower beds, cleanup, pruning; Boiler room cleanup; paint touch-ups including chairs, exit signs, shed; Plumbing repairs including toilet rebuilds; Sanctuary projects: pews magically erased, radiators cleaned, Rose Window cleaning/repair.



A dumpster will be on site to receive piano, Boiler room and closet contents, filters and more!

Breakfast will be for sale from the youth group. Lunch will also be for sale as a fundraiser for our annual Jellystone Camping trip currently being planned. Everyone was a help last fall, let's make this day better!

Conserve Energy

The Property Committee urges you to help conserve energy. For 5 light fixtures left on, for 12 hours overnight, we waste \$3.



Please pay attention to the signs posted near thermostats. They will explain how to adjust temperatures and what that thermostat controls, and it's not usually what you think.



Dear Friends –
 Ah, Lent. Ask most people what Lent is all about and they'll

tell you it's about giving up things and going without. And a lot of folks who choose to stand outside the faith might possibly go one step further and suggest that's what Christianity is about all the time – going without, a whole lot of "thou shalt nots," the no-fun zone.

But giving up something in Lent is purely temporary. That's because we are the party of joy. Giving up only heightens our appreciation of God's goodness, which is intended for right now, not just in the eternal future. In God's hand are pleasures, now and forevermore.



Stephen Ministry In Action

The following testimony was published in a Stephen Ministry congregation's newsletter. It was written by a care receiver in his 50s, who has been wheelchair-bound after a stroke left him partially paralyzed 10 years ago. He is divorced and estranged from his family, and he was discharged by the hospital to a nursing home where "people are sent to die."

My Stephen Minister was first assigned to me after I had been coming to church for more than a year. Since I had already been living in a nursing home for five years, my first thought was, "I wonder how long he will last? Will he be like everybody else and fade away after a few weeks?"

He began visiting with me in August. When November rolled around, he was still coming! December marked the start of a new church year, and he began telling me about the church seasons. After a while, I started asking him questions. I was amazed that an ordinary lay person could know so much about the church. While he did not know all the answers, he continued to impress me



We don't even do a good job of giving up things during Lent. Most people forget that the 40 days of Lent don't include the Sundays, because they're meant to be feast days! That's why we talk about the First Sunday in Lent, not of Lent. Every week we throw our fasting out the window and have a good time.

Even our offerings are not sacrifices. We're not going without. We're giving! We're living now. Sundays in Lent are a party, and giving gifts just makes it a happier time because we're aware of what our gifts can do!

Grace and Peace,

because, if he did not know, he would find out and bring me the answer the following week.

One of the best ways to learn is by example, and I have learned a great deal since I began watching my Stephen Minister three years ago. And I am still learning today as he faithfully visits me week after week. Through my Stephen Minister I have learned to be patient. I have learned to love and to trust. I have learned to pray, and I have learned how to worship our God. I have learned the importance of Holy Communion. Most of all, my Stephen Minister has given me the confidence to be close to our Lord. (It makes it a little easier to be a Christian when a caring Christian comes to see you every week.)

Through Stephen Ministry, I have learned the meaning of Christian love and Christian virtue. After years of thinking that nobody cared about me, I know what it means to have somebody who really does care--and keeps on caring, without growing weary of it. And my Stephen Minister was always there for me when I needed him! He was there for me when my mother became ill, and he was still there after she died. He was there when I moved to a new home. In fact, I cannot really recall what life was like when he wasn't there. And I can count on the fact that he'll be there at our visit next Tuesday!

I now am truly beginning to understand what Paul meant when he told the people of the Church at Corinth, "Be ye steadfast in the Lord." That's what Stephen Ministers are--steadfast in the Lord. And with the help of my Stephen Minister, I can be steadfast too.

– from www.stephenministries.org



Applying Bible Principles

One of the most striking accusations the Lord Jesus made when He was on earth was to label someone a hypocrite. Time and time again, He criticized the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy. They said one thing but did something entirely different. They fit the description used by Zig Ziglar who said, "A hypocrite is one who is not himself on Sunday."



That's perhaps what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy: "And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

In other words, to give credence to Christianity, to give lip service to following Christ and to trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, and then to fail to provide for our own family, is hypocrisy. To do so, in reality, is to deny our faith and to be considered as someone who has no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and no interest in spiritual matters.

It seems like such a small thing — relatively speaking (pun intended) — that Paul is exhorting Timothy to do. Provide for your own household, your own relatives. Take care of those under your care. Minister to those closest to you as a demonstration of your Christian faith.

Yes, we are to give to His ministry here at Centenary United Methodist Church. Yes, we are to be involved in ministering to others "on our own" and as part of the outreach of this church. But we are also to provide for our own families. We are also to minister to them and to care for them, for by doing so, we demonstrate the practical reality of our Christian faith. We thereby avoid the label of hypocrite since what we say is what we do.

How's the balance in your life? Are you providing for the needs of this ministry and those of your household? As a result, do others (especially your family) see Jesus in you?



Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Mission To Haiti

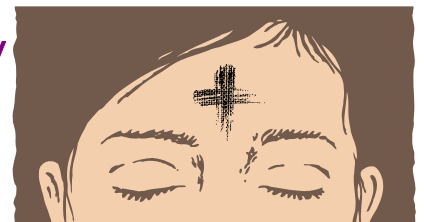
Ruth E. Syre, M.S.N., R.N., .C.N., Congregational Health Program Coordinator, Department of Pastoral Care, Centra Health will speak on the topic: A Corporate and Personal Health Care Mission to an Earthquake-Battered Haiti

In a recent e-mail, Ruth noted, "It was an incredible trip, and I am so thankful I was able to go. Now I know why I've been running so much-- so I could be in shape for what we needed to do. We saw nearly 800 patients in five clinic days. Our stay was lengthened by three days when the airport was closed due to political unrest. We were always safe. Thanks for all the prayer support. Now I'm waiting to see what God wants me to do with all that I experienced."

God encouraged Ruth to accept our invitation to tell her story to our MMM group. All members and friends of Centenary Church are invited to hear her important message.

**"Brown Bag" luncheon 11:30am,
Program at Noon.
Tuesday, March 15**

**Ash Wednesday
Worship
March 9
7:00 pm**



Ash Wednesday

Scholarship Money Available for Randolph College

There is \$1305.00 available in the **Lambuth M. Clarke Endowed Scholarship** for 2011. This scholarship was established to be awarded to a Randolph College student with ties to Centenary UMC. If you wish to nominate someone, please contact Pastor Rick so this award may be made. Thanks.

Kits (continued)

School Kits: 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip); 3 pads



(or loose leaf) of 8.5"x11" ruled paper (approx. 250 sheets total); 1 30-centimeter ruler; 1 hand-held pencil sharpener; 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers; 1 large eraser; 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24!).

Prepare a 14"x16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and one of these three closures (Velcro, snap or button) and place items in the bag. Visit the UMCOR website for bag specifications.

Baby/Layette Kits: 6 cloth diapers; 2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits; 2 baby washcloths; 2 gowns or sleepers; 2 diaper pins; 1 sweater open in the front; 2 receiving blankets. Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.



Birthing Kits: 1 hotel-size bar of soap (1 oz. and up);



1 pair of clean latex gloves; 1 square yard of clear 4 mil plastic sheeting; 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long; 1 clean single use razor blade (carefully

wrap the blade in paper or plastic to protect it and keep it from causing injury); 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 square yard. Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

IMPORTANT Packing Instructions:

All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items — nothing more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be removed and will delay the shipment. Kits should be packed in boxes with only one type of kit in each box, with the contents clearly written on the box.



Monetary donations include: \$1 per kit for processing and shipping; \$1 for UMCOR to purchase toothpaste for health kits.

If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, include: \$12 for UMCOR to provide a health kit; \$11 for a school kit; \$35 for a baby/layette kit; \$8 for a birthing kit.

****NEW INSTRUCTIONS** SEND ALL monetary donations on one check, payable to "Virginia Conference UMC," earmarked for "Kits" and mail to: Treasurer, Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, P O Box 5605, Glen Allen, VA 23058. Do not place checks inside the boxes.**

Questions regarding *kit contents* should go to the conference Mission Office at 1-800-768-6040, ext. 144, or (804) 521-1144, or e-mail Mission@vaumc.org

Advanced Medical Directives / "Living Will" Discussion

On Sunday, April 3, 2011 the Health Ministry Team will sponsor a program, during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30 am) on making health care decisions prior to suffering a debilitating illness. Our discussion leaders will be Dr. Elroy Cantrell, an Urgent Care Physician and Melissa Waugh, a licensed attorney in Virginia. Both discussion leaders are members of Centenary United Methodist Church.



Virginia Advance Medical Directive Forms will be available to all participants in this informative discussion. The "who", "what", "when" and "how" questions concerning advanced directive choices will be provided for all interested CUMC members, family members, or community friends. Everyone is welcomed to attend!

The Third Floor classrooms will combine to provide space for the discussion. We will begin promptly at 9:30 am to provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions of our two expert leaders. Arrive a bit early to pick up a form & grab a cup of coffee prior to the program beginning.

**2011 Operating Budget
through February 23, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	40,863
Prior Year Pledge	950
Unpledged Offering	5,097
Loose Plate Offering	164
Church School Offering	435
Miscellaneous Offering	1,155
Bazaar Income	10
Interest Income	18

Total Receipts.....\$48,992

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	-14,175
Pastor Expense	-13,029
Building & Grounds	-15,048
Office	-2,299
Programs	-1,976

Total Expenses.....\$51,399

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	225
Fellowship Fund	270
JIFF	92
Pennies with a Purpose	63
Local Benevolences	95

TOTAL \$745

MEMORIALS



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

Darlene Bryant

**Rivermont Area
Emergency Food
Pantry**

Thank you to those of you that have been so faithful in bringing food for the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry, we have been feeding many families this winter and seems to just be getting to be more each week. Keep up the good work, we want these families know we care about them.

Items that are especially needed include powdered milk, cereal, fruit juice, canned soup/meat/fruit and vegetables.

Since a number of the recipients are in 1 or 2 person households small can and box sizes are also appreciated.

Food donations are collected at Centenary and transported to the pantry at Holy Trinity Lutheran. Volunteers are needed for transport and for packing bags during Centenary's week (every 8 weeks).

**Mission
Opportunities
Day of Difference**

Mark your calendar for May 20-22, DAY OF DIFFERENCE weekend will be here before you know it. There will be many projects available for everyone to participate.

Friday night we will have a neighborhood Talent Show in the Parking Lot across from Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church. We will begin Saturday with coffee and donuts at The Daniels Hill Recreation Center on Cabell Street and will continue with the neighborhood clean up, prayer walk and several houses to make repairs. A Health Fair will be a part of Saturday's activities.

We will need everyone to pitch in and help make this the best day of our year, we want to show this neighborhood that UNITY FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY is what it will take to make this a place we are proud of.

Sunday we will have our annual worship service and block party. Plan to attend all of these activities, you will be blessed and in turn bless someone.

- Paula Howell, Day of Difference Representative

**Sunday
March 13!!**



**Stewardship - February 2011
Operating Budget**

January 30	14,901
February 6	6,666
February 13	6,028
February 20	4,068

Confirmation Class

If you are interested in having your child confirmed into membership of our church, please contact Pastor Rick. Through confirmation and a reaffirmation of the Christian faith a young person acknowledges what God is doing for them and also affirm their commitment to Christ's Church. The traditional age for confirmation is 12.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Kool Kickoff to Kits for Konference	1
Spring Work Day is March 26	1
Pastor's Letter	2
Stephen Ministry	2
MMMs to hear about having a Heart for Haiti	3
Opportunity to learn about Advanced Directives	5

Scenes from the South of the Sanctuary Chili Cookoff!!



A great crowd turned out to taste 11 different chili entries. Dr. El made dessert and the #1 chili was Lego My Chili from the Childrens' Council and Mari Smallshaw.

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 United States. They offer several different packages each month and offer online ordering at 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 (\$31) for March (online order deadline 3/15-pickup 3/19) includes: 3# (pounds) Split Chicken Breast, 2# IQF Flounder Fillets, 2# Ham Chowder, 3# IQF Chicken Drumsticks, 1.5# Boneless Pork Chops, 1# 80/20 Lean Ground Beef, 1# Ground Chicken, 1# Peas, 1# Green Beans, 1# Carrots, 1# Pasta, 25 oz. Pasta Sauce, 8 ct. Flour Tortillas, 1 pk. Taco Seasoning, 7 oz. Corn Muffin Mix, 10 ct. Instant Oatmeal (2 x 5 ct. boxes), 32 oz. 2% Shelf-stable Milk, 1 dz. Eggs, and Dessert

Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 580
Lynchburg, VA

Return Service Requested

