

# THE SPIRE



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

## In Unity for a Better Community

Day of Difference, now in its 4th year is a chance for the Rivermont church congregations, community residents and local businesses to partner and work together in a display of unity, for the long term enrichment and enhancement of the Rivermont neighborhood.

Day of Difference this year is planned for the weekend of May 29, 30 & 31. Prior to the weekend we will have different churches open for you to come and have prayer for the neighborhood, the weekend events or anything on your heart. They will just be open prayer for you to come and go.

Monday, May 25: 6–7pm at Mt. Carmel Baptist, Cabell Street

Tuesday, May 26: 6–7pm at Centenary UMC

Thursday, May 28 6–7pm at Fellowship Church of Christ, Bedford Avenue

Friday night, May 29, there will be registration and a Pep Rally, with music and special guest speakers. Assignments will be given out for projects, trash pick up, etc.

Saturday will start at 8 AM in the RABC Parking lot across the street with Donuts, Coffee and a time of prayer. Then the trash pick up and home projects will begin around 9 AM. Volunteer lunches will be provided.

Sunday afternoon will complete this wonderful weekend with a Neighborhood Block Party and Worship Service beginning at 5 PM.

As you can see there are many opportunities for everyone to participate. We will need cookies and cupcakes for the volunteer lunches as well as the Block Party. We will need to provide lunchmeat



for the volunteer lunches and other items for the Block Party. Remember Centenary United Methodist Church is in charge of this year's event and will need everyone coming together to make this all work.

There are sign up sheets available, please fill in and get back to us as quickly as possible so final preparations can be made. Questions may be emailed to [paulahowell44@gmail.com](mailto:paulahowell44@gmail.com) or call me at home 847–8138.

*Paula Howell*, Co-Chairman for 2009 Day of Difference

## Mothers Day Treat Planned

Sunday, May 10 – 10:30–11:00am in the first floor garden area (between education building and fellowship hall) there will be a special reception to honor all of the Mothers of Centenary. Enjoy a snack before worship and fellowship with your church family on this special occasion. Sponsored by Children's Council and the Shackelfords. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

FROM THE



PASTOR

Dear Friends –

As we enter May and the days are getting longer and the sun warmer, I want to thank you for your support in the first few months of this year. Our average attendance through Easter Sunday is higher than last year and our giving has not

been severely damaged by our weak economy. We still are lagging behind in paying all of our apportionments, however, so any additional help would be appreciated greatly. I do ask you to read the article on giving by Ann A. Michel found in this month's *Spire*. Another excellent book on giving and church finances is *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New Vision for Financial Stewardship* by J.



## School Backpack Campaign

When a family in our community has their lives turned upside down by a house or apartment fire, your American Red Cross is there to provide them with emergency-caused needs. Things like a safe place to stay, food, clothing, shoes and medical needs. We provide compassion and care to those that have lost much or even everything they had.

Your local chapter will also provide our clients with referral information that directs them to other government, non-profit agencies or faith-based groups in the area that might provide additional services. The clients may find help with additional clothing and food needs. There might be assistance in locating a place to begin life over. After settling into a new place, they may even find help with furniture, kitchen needs or other household needs.

Many of our clients have children. When they lose everything in a fire, it's not just their clothes and toys, it will often be their school books and supplies too. We would like to be able to provide

Clif Christopher (available through Cokesbury). It has some wonderful insights into the changed giving patterns that are emerging throughout the Church.

Our Staff/Parish Relations Committee has invited me to stay for the 2009-2010 Conference Year and I have indicated my willingness to do so. Bishop Kammerer has personally assured both Liz and me that we would not be moving this year, so I think it is a pretty sure thing that we'll both remain in our appointments. (This last statement is subject to change until the Bishop "fixes" the appointments at Annual Conference.) We both are looking forward to another year with our church families.

Grace & Peace,

every school-aged person a backpack, filled with general school supplies. Ages and sexes of our clients vary. We will need to provide backpack suitable for elementary through high school aged students, as well as for boys or girls.

We are reaching-out to the community requesting that individuals and groups help us make this possible. We need sponsors that will purchase school supplies like pencils, ink pens, notebooks, and other general school supplies and then fill a backpack for one school-aged client. Backpacks can be delivered to the Historic Virginia Chapter at 1007 Sheffield Drive, Lynchburg, VA. Help us provide a little more to those affected by local disasters. Thank you!



Did you know?

Close to 12,000 people have listened to our choir on YouTube?

More than 14,000 first time visitors have visited [www.centenary1806.com](http://www.centenary1806.com)?

Our Internet Chapel has more than 100 hours of Sunday Worship Services?

## May 2009 Spire

# Equitable Compensation Fund

(Third in series on Apportionments)

Supplements salaries of churches that are unable to meet the minimum compensation level set by the Annual Conference. Also provides salary support for new churches for the first 3 to 5 years.

2008 Apportionment – \$900,000

Percent Paid 2007 – 94.7%

Unfunded Mission & Ministry – \$47,923

2009 Apportionment – \$1,040,000

This fund provides for assistance for churches within the Virginia Conference that are unable to meet the minimum compensation scale of the Conference. Full-time ministers are guaranteed a minimum level of compensation dependent upon their ordination status. Also, the local church or charge is required to provide a minimum amount frequently referred to as the "floor" level of compensation. The minimum compensation and floor levels for 2009 are as follows:

	Compensation	Floor
Full Connection (Elders)	\$39,336	\$27,552
Probationers/Associate Members	\$35,880	\$25,128
Local Pastors	\$33,288	\$23,280

The primary obligation of the Equitable Compensation Commission is to make up the difference between the minimum compensation level and the floor for churches determined to be eligible. The Commission also pays the pro-rata portion of ministers' current pension plan. Some categories of churches eligible for compensation support are:

1. New Churches
2. Inner City Churches
3. Geographically Isolated Church or Charge
4. Mission Church or Charge
5. Larger or Cooperative Parish
6. Innovative Ministry
7. Ethnic Minority Churches
8. A Charge which involves unusual expenses

## Marvelous Mature Methodists

### May Program



## "The Caprichords Quartet"

**Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> ... "Brown Bag" lunch at 11:30 ... Program at Noon**

*Lead singer Doris Padgett; Margaret Tucker, tenor; Betty York, baritone; and Betty Smither, bass* are former members of the "Sweet Adelines" Barbershop Chorus. Come hear these wonderful voices sing the memorable harmonies of familiar songs.

In 2008, there are 66 charges receiving funds for compensation support throughout the Virginia Conference. Some of these are new churches which are normally given total support for their first year with a schedule to become totally self-supporting within a five-year period. Although your church may not currently benefit directly from this fund, we are part of a connectional system that was there to help many of our churches at their inception or in times of financial difficulty.

## Kits for Conference

Annual Conference is coming up June 14-17 at the Norfolk Scope and we hope to have a large number of Kits to send with Pastor Rick. The 2009 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 except flood buckets. Kits will be displayed on our altar on June 7. The April Spire included a detailed list of items for each kit. If you need a copy, please let the church office know. **If you prefer UMCOR to provide kits for you, send:** \$12 for health kit; \$11 for school kit; \$35 for baby/layette kit; \$18 for sewing kit. Make checks payable to Centenary United Methodist Church and send to Ann Harper.

# Saints and Martyrs Discussed

Centenary's 3Ms now have a better understanding of those the church calls saints and martyrs. At its April meeting the Reverend Alan Combs reviewed the thesis prepared on that topic for his Masters of Theological Studies at Duke Divinity School. Now in his first appointment, he is associate pastor at Heritage United Methodist Church.



“Not all saints are martyrs, but all martyrs are saints,” Alan declared as he traced understandings throughout church history. As a result of the Reformation, Protestants generally ignored saints, considering them to be a facet of the Roman Catholic faith and thus irrelevant for them. In so doing, Protestants lost reverence for saints and a desire to emulate their lives.

There was also misunderstanding of veneration of saints and the idea that prayer was to them rather than to God through a particular saint. Such intercessory prayer is based on the concept that saints have a special closeness with Christ and thus may possess more influence with Him.

Alan described how the recent death of his dear, good grandmother reinforced his awareness of the communion of saints. Such fellowship or communion exists between all members of the Church, both saints in heaven and believers on earth, a source of strength and comfort for believers.

As understanding increases, renewed reverence for saints and martyrs is emerging in recent centuries. First evident in more orthodox Episcopal and Lutheran denominations, a resolution regarding saints and martyrs was approved by the 2008 United Methodist General Conference. Alan voiced concern for how this reawakened interest might be transferred to “the people in the pew,” suggesting a model from the Lutheran church. There a listing of saints and their feast days is included in the hymnal. Our UM Hymnal was put to good use during the talk as the presentation was interspersed with related hymns.

# UMC 101: Methodists + EUB

by *Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., DMin*

What do an Anglican cleric, a Mennonite bishop, a German Reformed pastor, and a Lutheran layman all have in common? Each of these leaders challenged people to realize that salvation is the result of a change of heart, rather than mere adherence to a church's traditions and rituals. They are also recognized as early leaders of The United Methodist Church. So, who are they?

**John Wesley** (1703–1791), a priest in the Church of England, is credited with starting the Methodist



movement. His partners included his brother Charles and other members of the “Holy Club” at Oxford University. In response to Calvinism's

theology of predestination and limited atonement, Wesley taught that all people can be saved by grace through faith.

**Martin Boehm** (1725–1812) was a farmer in Pennsylvania and was “chosen by lot” to become a pastor in his Mennonite congregation. Later he became its bishop.

**Philip William Otterbein** (1726–1813), a German Reformed pastor, came to America from Germany to serve the German people of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Otterbein was present at the 1784 Christmas Conference (the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church), and he was invited to participate in the ordination of Francis Asbury. Boehm and Otterbein met at a “revival-type” of gathering in Pennsylvania and developed a long and endearing friendship. Along with others who were Mennonite, German Reformed, Lutheran, and Amish, they formed the United Brethren in Christ. The early leaders of this movement were united more by pietistic religious zeal than by church membership.

A Lutheran layman, **Jacob Albright** (1759–1808) was a farmer who was converted by early Methodists.

**2009 Operating Budget  
through April 30, 2009**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	58,850
Unpledged Offering	10,851
Loose Plate Offering	998
Church School Offering	934
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	900
Miscellaneous Offering	200
Easter Offering	5,495
Shortfall Offering	705
Interest Income	136
From Memorials	1,223
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>\$81,292</b>

Expenses:

Apportionments	-11,744
Pastor Support	-21,962
Program Support	- 4,472
Building & Grounds	-23,143
Office Support	- 6,250
Staff Support	-32,282
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$99,853</b>

Benevolence Receipts  
Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	1,675
Fellowship Fund	642
Sager Brown Trip	299
JIFF	856
Local Benevolences	50
Pennies with a Purpose	369
Souper Bowl	200
Operation Teddy Bear	27
UMCOR	140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,258</b>

**Stewardship - April 2009**

<u>Operating Budget</u>	
April 5	5,856
April 12	7,375
April 19	4,192
April 26	4,072

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

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

Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Mary Whitten

Charlie & Mary Jane Layne

In Memory of Lolene Snow

Susan Wilson

In Memory of Howard Satterwhite

T.J. and Kitty Chaffin

In Memory of Elizabeth Mantiply

Marvin & Frances Unger

Bill & Marjorie Wilson

Charlie & Mary Jane Layne

Dorothy Morcom

Bill & Ida Powell

Terrell & Doris Moseley

Doug & Katherine Sasser

**UMC 101 (concluded)**

Preaching among the Germans in Pennsylvania, Albright eventually started the Evangelical Association. In 1946 the Evangelical Association and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ merged to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Their ministry, similar in theology and practice to the early Methodists, was primarily given to German speaking people particularly in the Mid-Atlantic states and throughout the Midwest.

The early leaders of the Evangelical Association and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ spoke German and ministered to the German people in America. The Methodists spoke English and ministered to the English-speaking people. From the beginning both the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were similar in organization and mission. Begun by evangelical pietistic efforts, converts were encouraged to form classes or societies for strengthening their spiritual life. Their differences related to their view of authority and order. The EUB heritage distrusted autocratic uses of power and control, although clergy and lay persons alike were expected to be accountable. The early Methodists persistently established orderly rules and regarded their Discipline and Articles of Religion as having weighty authority.

On April 23, 1968, delegates from the former Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church met in Dallas, Texas and the United Methodist Church was born. It was a merger of two denominations. At long last, these two denominations, guided by the same theology but separated over the years by language and practice, united for the purpose of proclaiming the reign of God and for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

