



THE SPIRE



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

May 2011

An Opportunity to Show Our Unity

Day of Difference is now in its 6th year! This coalition of seven Rivermont churches (C Street Baptist, Centenary, Fellowship Church of Christ, Mount Carmel Baptist, Rivermont Avenue Baptist, Rivermont Baptist and Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian) has activities year-round to enrich and enhance the local neighborhood, but the Spring weekend event is the biggest! On May 20-22 everyone in the Rivermont neighborhood is encouraged to participate in all of the excitement, hard work, fun and fellowship! There are volunteer opportunities, health screenings, worship and entertainment planned for the 3 day event.



The kickoff will be Friday night with a Community Talent Show, 6pm in the Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church parking lot. Contact John Smith 944-4409 if you want to share your talent! The registration table will also be open to confirm job assignments.

On Saturday there will be neighborhood cleanup, basic carpentry & painting at several sites and a prayer walk. Participants are gathering at 8am for donuts, coffee and prayer in the Daniels Hill Center on Cabell Street. Crafts and games will begin in the Daniels Hill Center at 10am. Fun for all ages till 2pm!

At 11am the Health Fair will begin and will include appointments with the Mammography Mobile Unit. Please email debra.crawley@centrahealth.com for an appointment.

The Clothes Closet at Harvest House, 801 Cabell Street will give away clothes 11am-2pm. And the Connecting Point's haircut and shower ministries will be available 11am-2pm.

Sunday will be Celebration Day! The evening will begin with a joint Worship Service at 5pm in the parking lot at Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church. Join together to worship God, share His amazing power, and ask for His healing

grace for the neighborhood. Pastor Charles White will bring the message.

Then we will celebrate the neighborhood growth, success and improvements with a party! Hot Dogs with all the fixings will be served. Everyone is invited!

Volunteers are needed for every aspect of the event beginning with putting up posters and yards signs, registration, home repairs, prayer walkers, trash pickers, preparing food for the block party, sharing talent on Friday night! There are flyers with all the details in the church office.

"May the God who give endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of UNITY among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." Romans 15:5

Property Needs Attention

By Carl Gravely, *Property Committee*

As you will be hearing over the next few months (and probably figured out already...) – Centenary's building is aging. Just like our homes, sometimes there are things that need attention. Sometimes those are minor or cosmetic and can wait. But then there are items that are more critical. Those need attention more quickly.

The property committee needs your help to keep the physical plant in working order. If you see something that needs attention – don't assume that someone else will let us know! Make sure word gets to us by leaving a note in the church office, writing an email (carl.gravely@gmail.com) or calling. Because it is hard to fix things that we don't know are broken!

Especially when there is a potentially serious problem (spraying water, moaning pipes, frozen air handlers) – it will help prevent further damage if we know quickly! Thanks for the eyes and ears! Together we will keep Centenary UMC a beautiful place of worship for 100 more years! And more!



Dear Friends,

Recently, the Board of Trustees accomplished an extensive and well-thought out review of the Centenary physical plant. They have uncovered many problems

that must be addressed in the near future. On April 12, the Trustees met with the Finance Committee to discuss the situation and examine the financial ramifications and financial level of commitment necessary to repair and maintain our church. For example, did you know that we are currently operating on only one boiler and we are in danger of having a church without heat or air conditioning?

Centenary United Methodist Church has been a presence on Rivermont Avenue to almost 100 years and our buildings are in serious need of renovation.

The Trustees and Finance Committee are bringing a recommendation to the May Church Council meeting to address the situation. They are recommending that Centenary United Methodist Church form an ad hoc Capital Campaign Committee to include representation from the Finance Committee and Trustees and others with needed expertise.

The details are still being worked out, but the first step requires the approval of our Church Council in order to move forward. If this recommendation is adopted, and you are interested in assisting with the Capital Campaign you will have the opportunity to assist. Also there will be many opportunities to learn about this Campaign if it is approved.

Grace and Peace,



Dear Members of Centenary UMC:

Our congregation has a group of people skilled in caring for those facing challenges in their lives. These people, called Stephen Ministers, have undergone extensive training to develop and nurture their caring skills. Following a commissioning service the first Sunday in May 2010, they began their caring ministries in our congregation and community. Now our Stephen Ministers are working with people who are experiencing many different kinds of crises and stress in their lives.

Who might receive care from a Stephen Minister? Care receivers may be hospitalized, grieving the death of a loved one, separated or divorcing, homebound, unemployed, adjusting to the birth of a child, or otherwise experiencing difficulties.

Each of us has times when we are lonely, grieving, hurt, or in need of care. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells us that such troubles can bring spiritual growth to the sufferer. But when we who are in

Christ suffer, we also find comfort through Christ, and one of the ways we find this comfort is through others who have found Christ's care and comfort in their sufferings (2 Corinthians 1:4-6). Our Stephen Ministers offer this Christlike care to those in need.

Think about your life and the lives of the people around you. Are you going through a time of crisis or challenge? Do you know someone who is suffering from grief or loneliness? Is one of your friends struggling to find meaning in life after he or she has retired or after all the children have gone? Could you or someone you know benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister?

If you have questions about the work of the Stephen Ministers in and around Centenary, feel free to call me or Pastor Rick. The people who are so generously giving of their time and talents as Stephen Ministers are: Tim Campbell, Fred Gillispie, Fay Gillispie, Peggy Harper, Laura Huckabee, Martha Shelton, Belva Shelor and Betty Wooldridge, (Katherine Sasser and Garland Harper, soon to be commissioned).

Please consider whether you know of someone who needs their care. And I ask you to remember them and their ministries in your thoughts and prayers.

~ *Alice Wilkinson*,
Stephen Leader

Applying Bible Principles

God uses money in a variety of ways in the lives of His children. One of the most important ways God uses money is to confirm direction. Simply stated, God uses the supply of money or the lack of it to confirm His direction for many of the decisions we must make in life.

If God gives us clear direction which is confirmed by His Word, then He will provide whatever is needed to carry out that direction. The only problem is that He expects us to step out in faith in obedience to His leading and His Word, usually without knowing in full the pathway that lies ahead.

Living that kind of life requires faith in God's person and His promises. It requires taking God at His Word and basing how we live on His Word. It requires trusting Him, even when circumstances appear to be contrary. It requires seeking first His kingdom, and then being confident that He will provide what we need. It requires — as the writer of Hebrews observed — believing that God “. . . exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China who lived in the 19th century, summed it up beautifully this way: “God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply.” This means that if we are not experiencing God's supply, either we are not doing God's work (that is, we are not seeking first His kingdom) or we are not doing God's work in His way.

Make no mistake about it: God is not a God of disorder. He will not provide specific direction which He confirms by his Word if He does not intend to provide what is necessary for us to obey Him fully. But He looks to us to be willing to trust Him by taking the first step, and then another, and yet another.

By the way, has God been speaking to you lately? Has He confirmed that direction through His Word? If so, remember this: You can be confident that as God works in your life, He will use money or the lack of it to confirm His direction.

The Wednesday Word

Are you receiving The Wednesday Word, a weekly update of interest to Centenary UMC members? If not, please send your email address to the church office. centenary1806@verizon.net

*Centenary's Marvelous
Mature Methodists present*



*Potent
Piano*

by our guest pianist
Peyton Morgan

Welcome this talented musician back to CUMC for an encore program of selected varied piano pieces sure to please all musical tastes from Jazz to Classics and more. Come and bring a friend!

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

Tuesday, May 17

Henry Fork Service Center Nears Goal!

The United Methodist supported [Henry Fork Service Center](#) has been collecting labels for the Labels for Education program for several years. They are nearing their goal of 1.6 million labels to buy a van for transporting children at Henry Fork. Only about 300K to go! The Dana Tyson Circle at CUMC processes the labels and sends them quarterly. For information on what products are eligible: www.labelsforeducation.com



Underwear Collection Sunday, May 8

Please bring packages of new men's, women's or children's underwear to the sanctuary for dedication during the worship service. Thanks.



**Memorial
Day
Sunday
May 29**

**Bishop Kammerer to Serve on
Candler Faculty**

Bishop Charlene Kammerer, resident bishop of the Virginia Conference since 2004, will join the faculty of Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, after her retirement from the active episcopacy in fall of 2012.



She will serve as bishop-in-residence from January 2013 to 2016. As bishop-in-residence she will teach, mentor students, and act as a key resource for spiritual formation.



**Lynchburg District
Clergy/Laity Banquet**

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Christian Fellowship – 5pm

Dinner – 5:30pm

at Timberlake UMC

Conference Lay Leader, Shirley Cauffman will be our Guest Speaker. It is sure to be a Special Treat for Everyone who attends.

Come and Enjoy an Evening of Good Food, Good Fellowship, and Special Music. The buffet will include two meats, (to be decided), Three Vegetables, Salad, Hot Bread, Beverages and Dessert.

All of this for only \$10.00 per Person

Tickets can be purchased from Garland Harper (our church Lay Leader) or through Fred Fauber, District Lay Leader: 2716 Westhaven Place, 24501, 384-5637, catandjog@aol.com

Reservations must be in by May 17.

Brazil Mission Trip Update

By Carl Gravely, *Mission Team Member*

First off, **Thank You** to each and every person, Centenary Members and Guests, who is supporting my cause for this mission trip. Currently the funds are at \$2,300 and the cost estimate as of 4/28 is \$2,800...I'm praying it will steady out.

Secondly, plans have changed: Let me explain. The "Week for Jesus" was rescheduled, and since paperwork for the 6 team members is being processed (passports/visas/medical releases) will need to travel on the planned dates, July 21–August 4th. Instead of Brazilia, we are going to Curitiba, which is in the south of Brazil. (more flight time=high plane ticket prices). A pastor named Audir Lopes is coordinating our first week, which will be working with one of the Station Projects. She has two different locations in mind, and she is deciding early May where she will send us. For the first week, we would be assisting with one of these projects, which work with poor children and their families. She is hoping that we could do activities with the children, like plan and execute a Vacation Bible School. I believe that one of these Stations is coordinated by a young adult who was supposed to be here in Virginia for annual conference but got denied for her visa.

The second week will be coordinated with Pastor Lopes and a young man named Renato, who is the President of the Young Adult Confederation for the Methodist Church in Brazil. Renato is working with some of the young adults in the area to develop a program like we had originally thought about, with conversation and sharing, so this second week will be full of activities involving young adults and churches, including cell groups and worship services.

Finally, though it is different than our original plans, it still fantastic. This is an area of Brazil that NO Virginia teams have visited, so we would be making some paths for future teams and partnership in this conference.

Am I prepared? Well, passport is in the works, Medical papers are being filled out, I'm trying to learn Portuguese via an online class, and I am getting excited! I appreciate all the support and prayers as I prepare for Gods work ahead.

**2011 Operating Budget
through April 21, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	73,095
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	11,902
Loose Plate Offering	339
Church School Offering	814
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	900
Miscellaneous Offering	1,493
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	697
Interest Income	54
Total Receipts.....	\$91,331

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	-29,231
Pastor Expense	-24,988
Building & Grounds	-27,811
Apportionments	-14,561
Office	-4,489
Programs	-3,254
Total Expenses.....	\$104,334

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	425
Fellowship Fund	509
JIFF	557
Pennies with a Purpose	261
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	875
Brazil Mission Trip	2,325
TOTAL	\$5,027

MEMORIALS

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

Darlene Bryant

**In Memory of Frances Quigley
and Margaret Hill**

Charles & Helen Moser

In Memory of Louise Arrington

Wesley Chapel Sunday School Class

Ernestine Dodl

Graves Sunday School Class

Charlie & Mary Jane Layne

Bob & Virginia Saville

The Hope Chest

Interfaith Outreach Association (IOA) is starting a VERY EXCITING program that will benefit our Community, Congregations and IOA. The Hope Chest is a furniture store where we intend to sell furniture donated to us that will not be used in our Furniture Program. Proceeds from sales in The Hope Chest will be shared equally with your church or synagogue and IOA. Donors will have the option of having all proceeds go to IOA.

Here are ways you can help! donations of rugs, lamps and furniture in good condition (NO toys, electronics, appliances, clothes, metal or large office furniture); Volunteers and trucks to transport; Volunteers to staff new shop; get the word out!; and SHOP, SHOP, SHOP!

Scheduled to open August 1. Call 846.6098 to make donations/get info.

Churches Step Up Quickly to Assist Tornado Victims

United Methodists are opening their hearts, wallets and doors to people affected by violent storms that cut across the southeastern US. Between April 14-16, hundreds of tornadoes leveled homes, toppled trees and ripped through churches in 14 states.

Particularly hard hit was Gloucester County in the Rappahannock District. Asbury UMC in Foxwells near Windmill Point suffered damage to its sanctuary, which has been declared unsafe by a county building inspector. Church trustees are contacting structural engineers to assess damage and possible repairs. Church members hope the newer social hall will be declared safe so they may worship there. Meanwhile Bellamy UMC in Gloucester is serving as a command post for the Red Cross, Salvation Army and local emergency responders. "We opened up the church even before the storms had left the area," said the Rev. Ken Waclo, the pastor at Bellamy.

Rappahannock DS Joseph D. Carson said the best thing churches can do right now is pray, begin organizing volunteer teams for later work trips, and donate money. "As is most often the case in disaster response, money is the most flexible, helpful, and easily managed gift anyone can give."

Donations should be sent made out to Centenary UMC with "Virginia Tornado/Storm Damage" indicated on the memo line. A single check will be then sent to the Virginia Conference.

**Stewardship - April 2011
Operating Budget**

March 27	4,383
April 3	6,952
April 10	5,085
April 17	5,144

**Your
Support
Counts!!**



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Senior Highs to Study Minor Prophets

The Senior High Sunday School students will be starting a new course of study from Simply Youth Ministry called "Minor Prophets, Major Messages". It is a 6-week small group Bible study that focuses on six important lessons from prophets of the Old Testament that are often overlooked. Whether these lessons are hard to find, or we can't pronounce a Bible figure's name, these lessons are important for us to know and live by.

Lessons will cover: Been There. Done That. Wouldn't Recommend It (Amos 2:4-16); Don't Just Stand there, Do Something (Obadiah vs. 1-14); Do What I Say, Not What I Do (Jonah 1:1-3 and Jonah 3:1-4:1); When Leftovers Just Won't Cut It (Haggai 1:1-13); It All Adds Up (Zechariah 7:8-14 and 8:14-17); Are You In Possession of Stolen Goods? (Malachi 3:6-18). Don't miss it!!

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 each month and offer convenient 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 (\$35) for May (online order deadline 5/15-pickup 5/21) includes: 1.5# (pounds) New York Strip Steaks, 2.5# IQF Split Chicken Breasts, 2# Gourmet Mac & Beef Entrée, 1.5# Bone-In Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.), 1.5# Fully Cooked Meatballs, 1.5# Maple Flavored Breakfast Sausage Links, 1# Ground Turkey, 1# Ground Chicken, 1# Garden Peas, 1# Green Beans, 2# Fresh Sweet Georgia Vidalia Onions, 28 oz. Diced Tomatoes, 1# Seasoned Waffle Fries, 1# Pasta, 1# Long Grain Brown Rice, 2% Shelf Stable Milk, 1 Dozen Eggs, Break-n-Bake Cookies

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