



THE SPIRE



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

November 2010

November Busy Month at Centenary UMC

Fall Bazaar is November 13



The **FANTASTIC FALL BAZAAR:** will be Saturday, November 13, 8am-1pm in Centenary's Fellowship Hall.

Members have worked long and hard to create an amazing array of holiday foods and gifts. There will be Brunswick stew, frozen entree casseroles, homemade spaghetti sauce, apple butter, hot pepper jelly, cookies...I'm sure your mouth is watering just thinking about it all!

Once your stomach is taken care of you can shop the wide variety of crafts, silent auction, live plants and much more. You can get a lot of your holiday shopping done!

The bazaar room has been filling up with all kinds of crafty stuff...it would be impossible to list it all! The silent auction will include gift baskets, gift certificates, artwork and much more!

Come and join us for breakfast and stay for Brunswick stew lunch. Dessert available all day!!

In fact - you can eat dessert

FOR your meal if you want! Invite everyone you know!



Community Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service

Centenary will be the host church for our annual inter-faith community Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 25 at 9:30 a.m. We will need volunteers to greet, usher, sing in a joint choir, and to provide "finger food" refreshments following the service. Please contact Kathleen at 846-4601 if you'll help in any way.

Advent Begins Sunday, November 28

Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of the Christ - whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings; historically, the season was marked by fasts for preparation. Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ's coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday).



2010 Charge Conference

Our 2010 Charge Conference will be on Sunday, November 14 from 6- 8pm. Similar in structure to last year's charge conference, we shall be joined by the congregations from Peakland, Boonsboro, and Cove United Methodist Churches. Centenary will be the host church this year. We will be called upon to provide main course food for a covered dish dinner at 6pm.



Dear Friends –
As we approach the final 2 months of this year, it is

very hard to believe that 2011 is almost upon us. As we approach this new year, we are still behind in our anticipated giving. We have a shortfall of about \$55,000 that includes an amount carried over the past few years, as well as, this year's budget.

In Jesus' time, Roman law permitted weary foot soldiers to draft any resident of the land to carry the soldier's pack for one mile. The law existed to prevent Caesar's legions from abusing the common people; citizens could be forced to shoulder the equipment for only one mile.

Jesus used this legal limit to illustrate how the Christian spirit differs from the popular cultural attitude, "do as little as you can get away with." Jesus put it like this: "...and if anyone forces you to go



Needs YOU!

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Even if you are not a Stephen Leader or a Stephen Minister, you play an important role in our Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers need your prayerful support as they confidentially meet with their care receivers every week. Our Stephen Leaders also need your help in identifying people who might benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship. If you see a friend, coworker, neighbor, relative, or someone else who could use some extra Christian care, tell that person about our Stephen Ministry and get permission to refer him or her to a Stephen Leader.

As a Stephen Ministry congregation, Centenary is part of a big network of care. There are thousands of Stephen Ministry congregations representing more than 150 Christian denominations across the US, Canada, and the world.

The Stephen Ministries headquarters is based in St. Louis, Missouri, and can connect our Stephen Leaders with Stephen Ministry congregations virtually everywhere in the country. So if you have a relative or friend far away who is in need of care, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders. They may be able to connect your friend to a Stephen Ministry congregation in his or her own neighborhood.

For more information please call Alice Wilkinson (384-0810) or Dawn Arrington (384-5851).

one mile, go with him two miles" (Matthew 5:41). A person could be required to tote the gear one mile, but could volunteer to carry it a second mile.

Jesus' statement has become part of the terminology of Christian giving today. "Second-mile giving" is the offering we give beyond those that meet minimum responsibilities.

We have generously supported the special projects and voluntary mission funds, but have not kept up our support of the regular operating budget of the church. In other words, we've jumped over the first mile to go the second, which is not exactly what Jesus urged.

Let's be absolutely clear about this. There is no suggestion that we stop supporting the special funds. But as Christians, our goal ought to be to go both miles. We really demonstrate the Christian commitment when we make sure the first mile is taken care of, as we joyously undertake the second!

To help us catch up on the first mile of our budget, please consider placing an extra gift along with your regular offering this Sunday. Alternatively, you may send contributions directly to our financial secretary Cindy Harding in care of Centenary UMC, 1501 Rivermont Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24503-1699.

Grace and Peace,

UMW Fall Meeting to feature Miriam's House Board Member



Ann Gibbons, a chaplain at Lynchburg College and member of the Miriam's House Board of Directors, will be the featured speaker for the Fall meeting of the Centenary United Methodist Women.

Women of all ages will be interested in hearing about Miriam's House, a long term shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence, which helps young women get on their feet again through their transitional housing program. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about this service to our community that the UMW helps to support.

Our World Thank Offering will be dedicated at the meeting, also. If you don't have a World Thank Bank, you can make a contribution to world missions in a offering plate if you so desire.

All Centenary women are invited to join us in the Chapel at 3pm on Sunday, November 7, for this interesting meeting and stay for light refreshments afterward.

SoSA Offers Alternative Christmas Gift Card Program

Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), a national hunger-relief ministry, offers an Alternative Christmas Card program that helps feed Americans who are in need while honoring special friends and family. For a minimum donation of \$12 in honor of someone special, you can provide about 600 servings of fresh food to those in need. Your gift donation will be announced with SoSA's exclusive Alternative Christmas Card, and you will also receive this beautiful card as a thank you and confirmation of the gifts you make. This year's card is the 16th in a series designed exclusively for SoSA by Virginia liturgical artist Annis McCabe. The full-color, 7-inch by 5-inch card features original art on the front and an inspirational verse inside. For more information, go to www.endhunger.org/card.

Property Committee Report

The Property Committee wants to thank everyone who came out for the great Church Work Day!! A great crew showed up and got a LOT of work done! If you'd like to see some of Garland's pictures of the progress visit picasaweb.google.com/Centenary1806/WorkDayAtCentenary#

As we head into the winter heating season the boilers are getting their checkup and the church family is reminded to do all they can to conserve energy! If anyone has building concerns please let Carl Gravely know.

UMW Offers Sharp Gift Idea!

The UMW has been asked to sell again the RADA stainless steel cutlery. The really hot item has been the Tomato Peeler (\$4.50). Other favorites: the Heavy Duty Paring Knife (\$4.25), the Mini Server (\$5.50), and the Small Spatula (\$6.25). The black dishwasher safe Resin Handles are now available on all. RADA has expanded its line to include stoneware baking dishes, cookbooks, dips, sauces, soup mixes, cake & cheese cake mixes, soy wax candles, and many interesting gift boxed sets appropriate for your use or as wedding, birthday or holiday gifts. Call Ann Harper (528-2677) to place an order or if you would like to look through the current catalog. It doesn't cost a thing to look, and you just might find something you can't live without!

*Centenary's Marvelous
Mature Methodists present*



*Looking After
Each Other*

Cindy Kozerow, who is responsible for organizing and educating **Neighborhood Watch** programs for the Lynchburg Police Department, will have useful information and timely tips about how we may improve our quality of life and keep ourselves and our neighborhoods safer.

*Enjoy wonderful Pre-Thanksgiving
Fellowship with us!*

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

Tuesday, November 16

People to People Ambassador in Our Midst!

Briannah Ecklund, granddaughter of Pastors Rick & Liz Ecklund has been selected to be a People to People Ambassador in 2011. In case you haven't heard of People to People, President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would nations. She will be doing fund-raising and seeking donations to help pay her expenses in the coming months.



UMW Advent Brunch

The annual Lynchburg District UMW Advent Brunch and Worship Service will be held at Heritage UMC on Saturday, December 4.

The United Methodist Men will serve an abundant meal for \$8 at 8:30am. After enjoying the delicious brunch, we will adjourn to the sanctuary for the worship service. The season of Advent will be welcomed in with a program of music presented by The Witness, from Memorial UMC.

The registration deadline is Nov. 23rd. Please send your check for \$8 made out to Centenary UMW to Ann Harper and she will send one check from our church. The worship service is free and will begin at 10:30am in the sanctuary.



Faithful Stewards of God's Infinite Grace

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 4:10).



We are entering into our annual stewardship

emphasis entitled, “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace.” During the next few weeks, we will consider what it means to be a “faithful steward” and how our stewardship translates into practical Christianity.

This emphasis is built in its entirety on two concepts: First, God owns everything! As Psalm 24:1 states clearly, “The earth is the



Lord’s and everything in it.” God owns it all and has never relinquished the title deed to the world. Second, our responsibility is to manage that which belongs to God which God

has entrusted to us. In other words, all that we have is a blessing from God and represents that which God has loaned to us on a temporary basis.

What kinds of things belong to God? Certainly our time is a gift from our Heavenly Father that is given to everyone equally. All of us have the same amount of time — 24 hours per day. How we use our time is what makes the difference for this life and for eternity. Some will squander their time by giving priority to activities that carry little impact for eternity. Others will invest their time wisely for God’s glory and for the good of others.

Our talents are also gifts on loan from God. Not everyone receives an equal amount of talents or abilities, but all of us can excel at something.

Some are called to a public ministry whereby what they do is highly visible, including pastors, worship leaders and teachers. Others are called to a less visible role in the ministry and work of the church. But



all of us are given talents and abilities which can be used for God’s glory and to strengthen the Gospel outreach here at Centenary United Methodist Church.

The question is not whether we can do something for the Lord. The question is if we will use our talents and abilities to serve God. Unfortunately, many times, we offer excuses to avoid serving the Lord, excuses that often appear humorous when applied to other activities. Moody Monthly once carried an article which illustrated excuses people might use for not attending sports events. The analogy is easy to make in terms of serving the Lord. Every time I went, they asked me for money. The people with whom I had to sit didn’t seem very friendly. The seats were too hard and not comfortable. The coach never came to call on me. The referee made some decisions with which I could not agree. I was sitting with some hypocrites — they only came to see what others were wearing. Some games went into overtime, and I was late getting home. The band played numbers that I had never heard before. The games are scheduled when I want to do other things. My parents took me to too many games when I was growing up. Since I read a book on sports, I feel that I know more than the coaches anyhow. I don’t want to take my children because I want them to choose for themselves which sport they like best.

On the second day of their conference at Yalta, Premier Stalin gave President Roosevelt a reason why a proposed plan would not work. Roosevelt gently reminded Stalin that this was not the same reason he had given the previous day. Stalin replied, “My dear Roosevelt, whenever you don’t want to do something, one excuse is as good as another.”

Stop and think about it: 80% of the work in most churches (including our church) is done by 20% of the people. The rest have made other activities a priority for their time and talents.

As one of the “Faithful Stewards of God’s Infinite Grace” here at Centenary United Methodist Church, will you go against that trend by making a commitment to the “Proprietor of the Universe” to use the time and talents that have been given to you to make a difference in the ministry and outreach of our church? Remember, as one of those to whom God has entrusted time, talents and treasure, God is counting on you...

**2010 Operating Budget
through October 18, 2010**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	163,184
Prior Year Pledge	324
Unpledged Offering	25,797
Loose Plate Offering	1,349
Church School Offering	2,232
From Rustburg UMC	3,000
From UMFS	2,700
Miscellaneous Offering	473
Easter Offering	3,568
Shortfall-Budget	145
Interest Income	218
From Memorials	5,249
Total Receipts.....	\$208,294

Expenses:

Apportionments	-23,209
Pastor Support	-63,584
Program Support	-9,658
Building & Grounds	-54,490
Office Support	-14,169
Staff Support	-72,673
Total Expenses.....	\$237,783

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	1,075
Fellowship Fund	1,240
Sager Brown	2,118
JIFF	1,745
Pennies with a Purpose	584
VIM	50
Local Benevolences	140
Meals for Haiti	530
Conference Offerings/Kits	237
UMCOR	2,549
Operation Teddy Bear	454
TOTAL	\$10,722

MEMORIALS



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

Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Frances Quigley

Bill and Ida Powell

**URGENT NEED AT
PARK VIEW
MISSION**

The Park View Mission is getting low on canned foods and out of toilet paper. This is an emergency request for whatever canned goods you can give but especially we need toilet paper in whatever quantity you can deliver. Please respond and deliver to Park View as soon as you possibly can.



District Projects

Roof Repair for Jackson Street UMC

The district, churches and individuals have responded to the problem of Jackson Street UMC's roof.



Jackson Street is one of the oldest churches on our district with a rich history of providing spiritual leadership within the African American community as well as the city of Lynchburg. With the help of volunteer labor, district funds and a continued offering from the clergy and other individuals, they are in need of only \$5,000 to complete the work. If you would like to add your support to this project please call Fran Briley at our District office - 832-0401. If you can help please call the Rev. Alex Duncan at 757-232-7135 (cell) or 846-5819.

"Backpack for Kids' Sake" Program

This program for Lynchburg Area at-risk school kids will provide nutritious food over the week-end when school resources aren't available. Please see the display table in the church narthex with a sample backpack and types of foods provided. You can help by filling out a commitment card. Cost per child is only \$200 a year. Sponsored by the Lynchburg District UMC, Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Gleaning for the World, & other area churches.

Stewardship - October 2010

Operating Budget

September 27	1,769
October 3	6,900
October 10	5,402
October 17	5,504

Teddy Bear Project Continues

"Children Helping Children" is continuing the "Teddy Bear Drive." Yard sales are a good place to get good buys on stuffed animals. Used ones are fine as long as they are clean and in good condition. Your support is always appreciated and Gleaning for the World will distribute them in orphanages around the world. There are a lot of children who would love to have one of these animals to hug. The next delivery will be August 2011.

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Did You Miss A Great Time?

Fun Day at Layman's Farm

Our 2nd annual church Family Fun Day at Layman's Farm took place on Oct. 17th. In all 37 church friends and family met in Moneta to enjoy a beautiful fall day. The weather was perfect for our outing and many enjoyed bouncing on a huge trampoline, picking pumpkins, getting lost in the corn mazes, shooting pumpkins and corn out of a cannons, taking a hayride, and eating yummy barbecue sandwiches and kettle corn. Hopefully we will have an even bigger crowd to go with us next year.



MMM Fall Outing

Over a dozen Marvelous Mature Methodists enjoyed the Tuesday, October 19 excursion to Otter Creek Restaurant and Morris Orchard.

Food was eaten, apples and produce were perused and the whole group enjoyed the afternoon of fellowship and fall foliage. Don't miss this month's MMM gathering!



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1501 Rivermont Avenue
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