



# THE SPIRE



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

November 2011

## November and December are Packed with Things to Do!!



The **FANTASTIC FALL BAZAAR:** will be Saturday, November 19, 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 (see order form on the back of the calendar page inside), homemade spaghetti sauce, apple butter, hot pepper jelly, cookies...and more!

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, home décor, artwork and gift certificates.

Come 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!

## Day of Difference Activities

Day of Difference is still serving our community! On Sunday 12/4 we will be entering a float in the Lynchburg Christmas Parade and all are welcome! Afterward we will join together at Rivermont Ave Baptist Church for fellowship, cookies and hot chocolate. On 12/19 we will be caroling at two nursing homes in the area, visiting with the residents and taking them cards. Let me know if you are available for the activities and we will arrange transportation. It will get you in the Christmas Spirit I am sure.

Paula Howell, *CUMC Day of Difference Representative*

**First Sunday of Advent November 27**



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Program is a critical opportunity to reach out to our community. The Lynchburg District United Methodist Churches will again take responsibility for manning the entire season at K-Mart on Wards Road. Centenary UMC has three dates: Friday 11/18, Tuesday 12/6, Thursday 12/15. We will have the sign up sheets ready by the 1st Sunday in November. The times will be from 9 am to 8 pm and will be in one hour sessions. Be praying about this time we will be helping those who are not as fortunate as we are.

## “How To Get More Members For Your Church” Workshop

Lynchburg District and VA Conference Workshop at Centenary UMC, November 5-6: Saturday, 9am-5:30pm and Sunday, 8:30am-1pm. *We now have 7 lay people to attend this important workshop!*

## Interfaith Community Thanksgiving

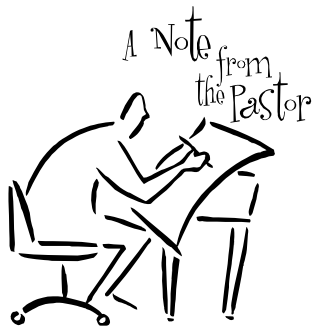
**Service 9:30am**

**November 24**

**at Agudath**

**Sholom Synagogue**





Dear Friends -

November 20? What is it I have to do on November 20? Anniversary - no, that's in March. Birthday - no, mine's in July and Liz's in May.

Thanksgiving - no, that's later in the month...

Oh, wait . . .



November 20 is Stewardship Sunday!!

That's it. The day we ask your participation in our 2012 Stewardship Campaign. November 20 is the day we'll ask you to place your 2012 financial commitments or pledges on the altar of the church. (You can also mail them directly to Cindy Harding, our financial secretary if you prefer). *Remember all financial commitments are completely confidential.*

Please take the time leading up to November 20 to remind yourself how important you as an individual are to your church. Your single financial commitment enables and empowers this church to continue to do God's work. Now more than ever, we need you to look at your pledge commitment, look at the needs of the church, look at all God has given you and continues to give you and give generously to our church ministries and mission.

On November 20, please present your pledge from your heart and not just from your checkbook.

By the way, did I mention November 20????

Grace and Peace,

## Investing for Time & Eternity

"Investing for Time and Eternity" is the theme of this year's annual stewardship emphasis. Be honest. When you first saw or heard this year's theme, didn't your thoughts immediately turn to money? After all, that's what "investing" is all about. Right?

As we'll see in various ways throughout this year's program, "investing" does involve money. But it's not limited to money. Investing also includes other resources that God has given to us, including time and talents.

Robert G. Lee, a well-known pastor for many years in Memphis, wrote,

*If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400 that carried no balance from day to day, allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and finally every evening canceled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do? Draw out every cent — of course!*

*Well, you have such a bank, and its name is "Time." Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off — as lost — whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries no balances. It allows no overdrafts. Each day, the bank named "Time" opens a new account with you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.*

In other words, when it comes to time, it's use it or lose it! And how we use it determines whether it becomes an investment or is simply used up for this life only. Jesus said we are to seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. When we use our time to do that, when we make God's work a priority in the use of our time, we are making a wise investment that will pay eternal dividends.

The same is true of the talents, gifts and abilities God has given us. We can figuratively bury them in the sand and refuse to use them in the Lord's service. That's what happens in many churches and even sometimes in this church. In most churches, regardless of size, 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. One pastor expressed it so distinctly when he lamented, "As much we could use additional giving from God's people, our greatest problem is not money. We just can't get anybody to do anything."

So "investing for time and eternity" includes how we use our "time" and "talents." It also includes the use of our "treasure." We are managers and stewards, not owners. God owns it all! When we give, we are simply giving back to God that which rightfully belongs to God.

## A Sharp Gift Idea!

The UMW has been asked to sell again the RADA stainless steel cutlery. The really hot item has been the Tomato Slicer (\$4.75). Other favorites: the Heavy Duty Paring Knife (\$4.50), 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!

## Investing (continued)

In his excellent essay entitled, "Cost and Worth," Chuck Swindoll wrote,

*The difference between handling our money wisely or foolishly is largely determined by the interplay between these two forces. Obviously, we have spent wisely when the cost is eclipsed by the worth. . . . That is why, in the long run, we can usually determine a person's scale of values by the things he or she purchases. Or to use the words of Jesus, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

And then he concluded with this powerful presentation:

*Think about Sundays — your church life and the motivation you receive. Think about your children and their future. And their children's future. Think about your neighborhood — unreached individuals by the hundreds. Think about the possibilities of radio or television outreach, perhaps a Christian school, enlarged missionary outreaches, room to grow, room to park! What's it worth?*

*Deciding whether something is worth the cost requires intense, effective, prevailing prayer, as well as the hard work of objective thinking. And then it requires courage to act on God's clear direction.*

As you consider your time, your talents and your treasure, will you be one who is "investing for time and eternity" by courageously stepping out by faith in response to God's direction in your life?

## CUMC member selected for Charlotte Seegars Award

Each year a person and a group are selected to receive the Charlotte Seegars Mission award. Just as Charlotte Seegars, the founder of the Henry Fork Service Center, unselfishly dedicated her life to caring for others, this award is intended to honor a person or a group that gives wholeheartedly and faithfully to others through personal mission and the missions of the church, locally, nationally and throughout the world.

Paula M. Howell's middle initial might well stand for "Mission." She believes in it as an outgrowth of her Christian faith, she lives it, she devotes time and energy to it, she models it, she leads her church in it, she motivates others to engage in it.

Paula has touched both nation and world through her work at the UMCOR Sager Brown supply depot in Baldwin, LA. She coordinated two teams of a dozen or more persons to travel there and work including persons from beyond Centenary. In the "transitional" community that surrounds our church she has been an active leader in Day of Difference. A coalition of seven churches whose slogan is "In Unity for a Better Community." Paula is Centenary's representative to monthly planning sessions and has chaired the steering committee. Her rapport with this interracial, interdenominational group is inspiring. She can claim real friends and is respected in both the few large and many small churches united in community-building mission.

Paula headed up the SHARE program operated out of Centenary for area churches until it recently ended in this area. Persons received a low-cost monthly food parcel in exchange for volunteer efforts.

Rush Homes, a local organization offering accessible housing for persons with disabilities, is a recipient of Paula's leadership and service. She has served on their board, helps with volunteer recognition events, and drives a van for monthly trips to familiarize people with available housing, thus cultivating their interest in supporting Rush Homes. This and

## Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



### Rev. Rachel May

Peakland UMC Associate Pastor

"Mommy, Daddy, Where do Clergy Come From?"

You are invited to take a closer look at ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Experience three perspectives: A provisional elder, an elder ordained in full connection, and yours. Consider the local congregation's role in raising up leaders for sons and daughters in the faith. How has your church done its part? How might you nurture God's call upon others' lives with greater attention and intention?

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

Tuesday, November 15

## A Tribute to Helen Morgan As We Bid Her Adieu

*By members of the Frances Allen Sharing Thoughts Circle*

On Labor Day 1958, soon after the Layne family moved to Woodcrest Drive, the Morgan family came to town and settled about a block away on Taylor Farm Road. Charlie Layne walked up to meet the new neighbors and invited them to come to their church, Centenary Methodist. Helen and Charlie were sitting in the living room getting acquainted when a sweet fragrance came wafting into the room. The littlest Morgan, Jeff, had dumped his mother's bath powder all over the bathroom floor. Needless to say, Charlie beat a hasty retreat and went home laughing.

Not long after this memorable introduction, the five Morgans joined Centenary. Over the next 50+ years Helen and her family contributed in many ways to the life of the church and the community.

Helen will soon begin another chapter of her life as she departs for Greensboro, NC and becomes a Tar Heel! She will be near to her daughter, Linda, granddaughter, Morgan, her husband Travis and their little son, Hunter Thomas.

We remember with grateful hearts the many contributions Helen has made throughout her years at Centenary: the twelve years she team-taught the third grade Sunday school class with Ann Harper; the years she served as a counselor for the Methodist Youth Fellowship with Specs Garbee and Elizabeth Huggins; the numerous offices she held in the Frances Allen Circle including serving as chairman several times; and her musical contribution playing in the Bell Choir. (Her cheerfulness and upbeat attitude helped her fit right in with those Ding-A-Lingers). Last but not least, Helen proved herself to be quite an actress and comedienne participating in skits and holiday pageants. Helen has a real knack for telling a good story, making it even better with her animated delivery.

It is indeed fitting that we honored Helen and presented to her a UMW Special Recognition Pin in commemoration of her outstanding contributions to the United Methodist Women and Centenary United Methodist Church. We hope she will wear this pin with pride and that it will remind her of her many friends at Centenary and the cherished years we had together.

Helen has never met a stranger, and we know she will very quickly make new friends in Greensboro who will soon learn to love her as much as we do. May God bless her and keep her happy in her new life.

Write her: Helen H. Morgan, Well Spring #2310, 4100 Well Spring Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410



On Saturday, October 15, ten lay members of Centenary UMC met with Pastor Rick to discuss Vital Congregations and what it means to our congregation and future growth and vitality. Thanks to those who attended and we missed those who were not with us. Some of the points that emerged included: better ways to attract and retain visitors, ways to track absent members, & more outreach and mission opportunities. All committee chairs and church team leaders have received information to share with their committee members.

We will be evaluating where we are now and where we are going in the future. What are our goals for the next year? The next five years? The next ten years? What is the mission of our church? What is the image of our church. What part of our past do we need to embrace and continue? What do we need to do differently? Across The United Methodist Church and throughout the Virginia Conference, churches are preparing to become "Vital Congregations." For this year's charge conferences, clergy and lay leaders should begin the process of setting goals for the next four years in five key areas: Worship, Disciples, Small Groups, Mission Participants and Mission Giving Now is the time to make a difference. If you want to make a difference, if you want this church to grow and fulfill Christ's great commission now is the time! You've been there for the past, now be a part of the future.

You will be hearing more about our discussions over the next few weeks and months as we plan and set goals for Centenary.

## Update from JIFF Chip Shop

Have you noticed how nice and clean our entrance ways are? The JIFF Boys have cleaned each of the entrances, they are not only earning chips to shop with in our monthly CHIP SHOP but are taking ownership of the Church Building as theirs. The JIFF girls have been equally busy cleaning the toys in the nursery and dusting the Sanctuary. This effort is being lead by Chris Howell who is in charge of the Chip Shop. If you have any small items such as jewelry or knickknacks that you would like to donate to this shop it would give us a better selection for their choosing. -Paula Howell, JIFF Director

**2011 Operating Budget  
through October 16, 2011**

**Receipts:**

Pledged Offering	160,056
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	27,823
Loose Plate Offering	1,320
Church School Offering	1,985
From Rustburg UMC	3,000
From UMFS	2,700
Miscellaneous Offering	1,815
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	2,261
Interest Income	163
From Gifts/Memorials	3,706
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>\$205,866</b>

**Expenses:**

Support Staff Expense	-73,973
Pastor Expense	-64,272
Building & Grounds	-54,997
Apportionments	-43,683
Office	-14,411
Programs	-8,932
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$260,268</b>

**Benevolence Receipts**

**Outside of Budget**

Stephen Ministries	1,040
Fellowship Fund	1,148
JIFF	1,631
Pennies with a Purpose	596
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	1,703
Brazil Mission Trip	3,262
Health Ministry	100
Operation Teddy Bear	163
Conference Offerings	105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,828</b>

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory of Bill Cameron**

Earl and Helen Simpson

**In Memory of Bernice Armistead**

Tom and Kitty Chaffin

Jim and Susan Funari

**In Memory of Elizabeth Campbell**

Tom and Kitty Chaffin

**Mission Thoughts**

A year ago on October 30th CUMC departed with a team to Baldwin, LA to work at UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot. Although the next team will probably not depart until the fall of 2012, the world will continue to need to use one another to get through the tough times.

We had one Centenary member go to Brazil with a conference team. And, although details are limited at this time, the Brazil conference is planning to send a team next summer to the Roanoke area. And Thrasher Memorial is planning to send a team down to Brazil next fall, with Carl Gravely on the invitation list.

Although missions have many routes, we have done a lot around here as well. Pennies for a purpose, Habitat for Humanity, Heart Havens, Day of Difference, the list goes on...

You don't have to go around the world to give a hug, you don't have to drive to the far south to swing a hammer. Even if you support those in the church with a hug, a smile, a dollar for gas, the puzzle gets completed, one piece at a time.

As we prepare for the holiday season, remember those who are less fortunate. Donate cans to the food bank, ring the bells, give to local and distant missions, and be available to those who need your presence.

-Carl Gravely, *Mission Team Member*

**Award (continued)**

similar endeavors demonstrates Paula's commitment to the Biblical mandate to care for "the least of these."

It will be no surprise that Paula has chaired Centenary's missions committee, keeping missions before the membership and mobilizing support for projects. Her commitment to mission also guides her work with United Methodist Women.

However, Paula's most noteworthy mission endeavor would be as volunteer coordinator of JIFF. "Juniors in Fun and Fellowship" was started by a Christian educator on Centenary's staff, a weekly late afternoon program for neighborhood K-8<sup>th</sup> grade kids.

Most are persons of color, many from single-parent homes, and many unchurched. About 3 dozen children noisily bound into Centenary 5:30-7pm each Thursday, moving through four classes and activities. Bible study, life skills, games and special presentations culminate with pizza for all. When the trained staff member moved away, Paula assumed responsibility for planning, staffing and funding the program. Several JIFF "graduates" are now proud to be dependable helpers. Though the most obvious weekly outcome is exhausted volunteers, Paula remains calm and in control . . . and lives are being changed for good.

**Stewardship - October 2011  
Operating Budget**

<b>October 2</b>	<b>6,479</b>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>3,412</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>2,417</b>

**Centenary UMC Charge Conference**

**Sunday, November 20 – 3pm  
at Peakland UMC.**

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## What Does It Mean to Be A Church??

*(From the Pastor's letter in the  
October Spire - reprinted by request).*

What does it mean to be a church? Is the church only about the building we meet and worship in? No - the church is much more than just a place to meet! We certainly must maintain our wonderful facilities and the various church committees are working together to strengthen our church building for now and for the future.

But, what else is a church???



A church is a fellowship of committed Christians working together for the Kingdom of God.. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ



for the transformation of the world. Our church must provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. We do this by proclaiming the good news of God's grace and by exemplifying Jesus' command to love God and neighbor, thus seeking the fulfillment of God's reign in the world.



One of the key components of our mission is to expand key ministries that will heal the sick, feed

the hungry, care for the stranger, free the oppressed, and to become a compassionate, caring presence in our neighborhood, community, and world. We must never be perceived merely as an imposing building, but rather as the church in active ministry to our neighbors.

Only then will be doing the true work of the church in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Centenary United Methodist Church  
1501 Rivermont Avenue  
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