

THE SPIRE



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

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October 2008

Reaching Out – Centenary Members Involved in Ministries

Teddy Bears delivered to Gleaning for the World.

by Garland Harper, SPIRE reporter

The Children's Department's annual collection of stuffed animals culminated Sep. 29 with the delivery of the fuzzy critters to Gleaning for the World's warehouse. Betty Wooldridge, Garland Harper, Taylor Ordway, and Jennifer Coffey loaded approximately 250 animals into the church van for the trip to Concord, VA. The toys will be given to children in need, many in orphanages, who otherwise would have nothing to call their own.

In addition to the stuffed animals, Centenary collected almost \$300 to assist GFTW in transporting them to their destinations. Taylor Ordway and Jennifer Coffey are pictured here presenting the check to GFTW Communications Director Ismael LaBiosa.

Many thanks to all the Centenary members and friends who donated the toys and money and made this year's Teddy Bear Drive a great success.

CUMC support of Interfaith Outreach makes big difference in individuals' lives-

This is an update of what is happening here at Interfaith Outreach Association – your association. Please share this information with the members of your congregation so they will know about the assistance IOA offers, thanks to their support!

We require that everyone who seeks help from IOA go through an interview process. The purpose

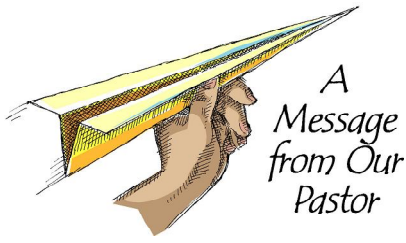


Lynchburg United Methodist Churches & GFTW Work for Hurricane Relief

During the week of September 1, the Rev. Ronald Davidson was on the phone in his office at Gleaning for the World in Concord, trying to figure out how to pay for the shipment and replenishment of three truckloads of supplies headed for hurricane-ravaged areas of Louisiana.

It walked the Rev. Larry Davies, district superintendent for the 91 United Methodist churches in the Lynchburg area. He was on his way to Blackstone for a planning session/retreat with the pastors of those churches and just happened to stop by Gleaning, the relief organization on whose board he sits.

Davidson, Gleaning's founder, president and CEO, told Davies he'd just committed to helping the Danville-based God's Pit Crew get its supplies into areas destroyed by Hurricane Gustav. The folks at God's Pit Crew, who were on the ground in Louisiana, "had no idea how we're going to pay for it," Davidson recalled.



As I'm writing this letter we have just celebrated "I'll Be There Sunday." Over 180 Centenary members and

friends attended worship and the church felt crowded. It was a great feeling and I know we can repeat it if we're all just a little more intentional about our church attendance.



Our wonderful paid staff: Cal Crawford, Darlene Bryant, Cindy Harding, Kathleen Nuckles, Danny Moore, Bettina Butler and Pastor Rick gather for a photo on September 14.

Church Family Fun Night

There will be a dinner on Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m. The menu will consist of jambalaya and rice, corn bread, dessert, coffee and lemonade. There will also be hotdog plates. The cost is \$4.00 for children and \$12 per family. There will be a Fall Festival for the children with games and a Halloween costume contest. The Howells will give a presentation on Missions. The proceeds from the dinner will go towards the Louisiana Missions Trip in November.



Plot for Sale

A single cemetery lot in Spring Hill Cemetery has been given to the Church and is offered for sale. Located in the Granite Section - a highly desirable location. All lots at Spring Hill Cemetery are now selling for \$975 each. CUMC is offering this lot for \$850 and will pay half of the \$100 title/deed transfer fee. For additional information, please call Ann Harper at 528-2677.

We also celebrated with our wonderful church staff and honored them with a luncheon and gift certificates to a local restaurant. We are truly fortunate to have been blessed by such a great group of dedicated people. We recognized our Children's Council and Sunday school children. We also baptized a baby (Turner Allen Layne) and took in a new member (Carl Gravely) and dedicated a memorial to the Rev. Byron Wilkerson. It was an exciting day to be at Centenary!

On October 12 we shall celebrate Stewardship/Consecration Sunday and I pray that the turn-out will be as great. When you're not with us we miss you and you miss being with us. Please come weekly and you'll see a big difference in your life.



Marvelous Mature Methodists

Short Scenic Trip
with the MMMs

When: Tuesday, October 21

Where: Historic Winton Country Club
Homeplace & burial site of Patrick Henry's mother, Sarah

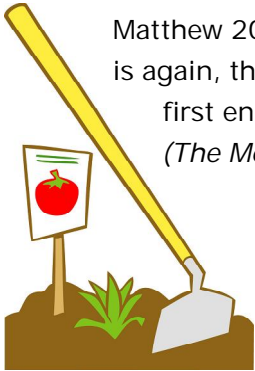
Travel: Carpool & church van
Leaving from Church parking lot at 10:30am return by 2:30pm

Cost: Buffet Lunch \$10 per person
Cash (or check payable to Winton Country Club)

To MMM Treasurer, Lewis Moorman
Contact: Shirley Moorman 384-8080

Reservation deadline: October 14th

Consecration/Stewardship Sunday – October 12



Matthew 20:16 says, [Jesus said] "Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first" (*The Message*). If you have put

Centenary UMC last, please at this moment put it first. You have chosen this church, your church, as your place of worship, as your place of fellowship, as your home for your United Methodist beliefs.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

We need your commitment. We need your support. We

need your pledge on Sunday, October 12. We are not going to try any fancy, splashy stewardship program this year, but simply to lay out what is needed before the congregation.

Why Don't The Chimes Ring?

by Fred Gillispie, SPIRE contributor

For some time there has been discussion of the desirability of once again having chimes played from speakers in Centenary's steeple. Many of our members fondly remember the pleasant sound throughout the neighborhood each evening. The equipment which the church had has long ago fallen into disrepair and been discarded, yet older residents of the neighborhood still ask, "What ever happened to Centenary's chimes?" As part of the church's mission and outreach in the neighborhood, the trustees and Administrative Council have approved the idea of once again having chimes. The appropriate authorities have been contacted and see nothing prohibiting us having them. A small fund is on hand, a little more has been pledged, and a number of members have indicated interest in contributing.

Now is the time to do so! Only when we know how much is available can we decide the extent of the project and when it can begin. Anyone interested in supporting the chimes project should make their check payable to Centenary UMC and note on it: Steeple Chimes.

Over the past year we have seen our costs continue to rise and we have carried a deficit over from previous years. Whether it is energy costs, insurance, program costs, salaries, or increased costs across the board, these expenses have continued to grow. Our ability to meet these costs begins with you. As you enter the church and the lights are on, the heat or air conditioning is working, the Sunday School classes have educational materials, the choir has robes, you are handed a bulletin, etc., it is because we have met our obligations.

All this begins with your commitment on Sunday, October 12. We will ask you to lay your Commitment forms on the altar during the service or to mail them directly to our financial secretary Cindy Harding. Your giving amount is *always kept confidential* and is not shared with anyone.

Your gift is not to balance a church budget (although it does have that effect), but to give us all an opportunity to return to God a small portion of what God is giving to us daily. Your gift enables the fellowship we share to grow and prosper here in this place. It enables the ministries we have to grow and prosper. We have all heard the phrase "many hands make light work," well, many pledges will make light our financial work. Each and every pledge becomes a part of our budget (a budget we adopted in the faith we could meet it), a foundation to build on as we meet our obligations to our church - Centenary United Methodist Church and our commitment as a connectional United Methodist church.

We cannot afford to have even one parishioner not pledge this year. As a matter of fact, we need *everyone* to increase their pledge from last year to the best of their ability. Please pray for our church and our financial well being as we go forward in 2009.

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month?



GFTW continued...

Davies volunteered to ask the pastors of the UMC district's churches to help. He did, and they made a pledge to raise the roughly \$10,000 needed. They "really stepped up to the plate," Davidson said. "It's a God thing." Davies said when he got to Blackstone, he asked the pastors to write down on a card what they felt they could pledge. The total came to slightly more than \$10,000 — enough to pay for the hurricane relief tab.

"If these were 90 big churches, it would be a drop in the bucket," Davies said. But some are small churches with memberships of maybe 100 people and regular attendance in far smaller numbers. So, Davies said, "They stepped in faith."

"I think that's what great about it is the energy ... when you have a lot of these small churches band together," Davies said. "That's how we're going to make a difference."

If you want to continue to make a difference, please send your check to Centenary UMC and mark on the memo line "GFTW Hurricane Relief."

OTTO'S DINER
OPEN
FOR
BREAKFAST!!

When: Sunday, October 19th

Time: 8:00 – 9:30am

Location: Fellowship Hall Diner

Why: Fund Raiser for Louisiana
Mission Trip

Cost: Donation of \$5 (or more...)

Pre-register by calling Church office.

Sponsored by: Graves Sunday School Class



Ten Questions of Faith & Ministry

From District Superintendent Larry Davies

- 1. Do you pray regularly?** It sounds so simple yet nothing happens without prayer. Personal struggles often seem magnified when your prayer life slacks off. Does your church emphasize prayer as a regular and critical part of ministry? Prayer should always be step one.
- 2. Do you have a vision?** It is difficult to shoot an arrow when there is no target. So how can you function without a vision along with goals to help you fulfill the vision? What talents and resources are available to you and your church? What ministry is needed in your community?
- 3. Are we growing in faith?** Spiritual formation is a continuous journey of learning, experiencing and sharing the Word of God. Young and old are discovering a passion for God's Word but don't always know where to begin. Bible studies and small groups play a key role in spiritual development. You can start a Bible study, participate in Sunday school or join a prayer group.
- 4. Are you caring for others?** What are you doing to maintain loving contact with friends and family? Do you regularly offer encouragement to others? What is your church doing to care for each other? Most offer shepherd groups, support ministries or prayer chains. Perhaps you can join in. Even the simple gesture of sending a card is a ministry which often works miracles.
- 5. Do you cultivate friendships above and below your age?** If you don't -- why not? Maybe you need to get a life! Just kidding but it's important that you reach beyond your comfort level and seek to understand other age groups and cultures. You learn a lot and have a great time. Young and old alike have so much to offer but need our love, encouragement and respect.
- 6. Are you involved in a community ministry?** Habitat for Humanity offers wonderful ministry opportunities. How about children at Christmas? Are groups fixing broken down houses for people too poor or sickly to

Ten Questions concludes on Page 6

IOA Update continued...

is two-fold. First, through the interview, we ensure the request is genuine and second, many times we discover additional needs that were not expressed with the initial request for help. It is a joy when we find we can help in other ways. For example, last week a working mother of three came to our office seeking assistance with a utility cutoff. Loretta Robinson discovered while interviewing her that she needed help with more than a utility cutoff. The request for utility assistance started because this mom got behind in paying her bills because she had missed a lot of work due to the medical problems of her youngest child (4 years old).

The problem started in August when the child began having trouble digesting food and was not able to keep anything on her stomach. Visits to the doctor led to a medical procedure done locally but no cause was found so the child was sent to UVA for more tests. While talking with the mom, Loretta discovered the only thing the child could keep down was Pediasure. Needless to say, we immediately acquired a case for her. The mom has been in touch with us since going to UVA and told us she was given a prescription for Pediasure (3 cans/day) and will receive a check from the Department of Social Services beginning October 16 to cover the expense of purchasing this item for her child.

This mom is under a lot of stress as she continues to work full time, pay her bills and take care of her daughter and her other two children. Since our mission is to help relieve distress, we ordered another case of Pediasure for this little girl, which should carry over to October 16 when

the mom will receive help to pay for it. We were able to help with her utility cutoff and we look to help with transportation as they make more trips to UVA for additional procedures this little girl must undergo. Thank you for your support that makes our mission a reality for families like this. We encounter them every day! If you would like to make a contribution to assist in emergency situations like the one above, please make a donation IOA today.

IOA continues to seek new resources to help our clients become self-sufficient. One of the resources we utilize is the services of New Land Jobs (NLJ) which will allow our clients access to job readiness preparation, computer classes for all levels, resume writing, and interviewing skills. We will follow up with NLJ and our clients to see what kind of progress they are making. Once they complete the computer classes, they will receive a certificate of completion that they can take to prospective employers. We are excited about this new phase of reaching out to assist our clients as they make strides to improve their lives.

Encouragement toward self-sufficiency is what we do every day at IOA. We want our clients to learn how to take care of themselves so we look for ways to help them help themselves.

The Emergency Heating Assistance Program for the Elderly (EHAPE) is scheduled to kick off mid-October. If you would like to make a donation for this program, make your check payable to IOA EHAPE. These funds are used to heat the homes of our elderly clients during the winter.

Fresh Pecans!!



Big, fresh pecan halves and pieces add so much to our holiday baking!!

This year the Centenary UMW will take orders for nuts from this season's crop supplied by the Schermer Pecan Co. of Glennville, GA. One pound bags of both Fancy Mammoth Halves and Fancy Medium Pieces will be sold for last year's price of \$8.00. The order deadline is Monday October 13 and delivery will be the middle of November. Place your orders now with Kathleen in the church office or Mary Jane Layne, 384-2085.

**Laity
Sunday
October
19**

Stewardship September 2008	
<u>Operating Budget</u>	
September 7	9,988
September 14	7,847
September 21	3,998
September 28	3,602

Ten Questions...continued

make their own repairs? There is "Meals on Wheels?" Every community has needs?

To meet them God gave us unique talents. What are you doing with yours? Discover what's needed and ask: "How can I help?" What a difference you could make!

7. Are you a witness? Do people really know what you believe? How can you talk about God without others feeling intimidated or offended? Do coworkers look upon you as someone they can trust? Do you listen to their concerns with respect and love? Are you praying for opportunities to share your faith? My favorite definition of witness is the willingness to make a sincere and honest attempt to be a friend to someone in the name of God.

8. What about men? More than 60% of those not attending church are men. Mission trips, building projects and sports have all proven to be successful ways to include guys. Many come back to participate in other activities. One church provided a steak dinner. I like that!

9. Are we reaching single adults? Nearly 60% of the unchurched are single. Surveys indicate many single adults believe in God but feel isolated from church. We recognize their needs by changing our language. Family night supper implies you should be married. Try "Fellowship and Fun" suppers. Ministry ideas could include divorce and grief recovery workshops. Provide free childcare for all of your events or offer parents' night out for stressed out single parents.

10. What about children? Parents struggle to provide a wholesome environment. You can start by enthusiastically volunteering at Sunday school as a teacher or volunteer. There are other opportunities such as: After-School Ministry or MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers.)

Warning: Don't think you have to check off everything or feel guilty about what you are not doing. These questions are simply meant to be a practical guide for you and your church.



Energy-Saving Solutions for Your Home



One of the easiest and cheapest places to start saving energy is with lighting.

Tip #1 – Use compact fluorescent lights

Compact fluorescent light bulbs use only 1/3 as much electricity as a standard incandescent bulb. Because a compact fluorescent will usually last ten times as long as a regular bulb, which means it will easily pay for itself. If every household in the U.S. replaced one light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), it would prevent enough pollution to equal the removal of one million cars from the road.

Hot Water shouldn't be a drain on your wallet.

Over 10% of your energy bill goes to heating water for your dishwasher, shower, and faucets. You can cut this energy use, and your energy bill, by implementing these easy steps.

Tip #2 -- Lower your hot water heater to 120 degrees and drain any sediment.

Though you need to keep your water heater above 120 degrees to prevent bacteria from building up, many hot water heaters are set too high. Draining some water a few times a year reduces sediment and increases efficiency.

Tip #3 -- Add insulation to your hot-water heater.

The standard hot water heater is on all the time, adding extra insulation will save more energy than you think. Most hardware stores sell pre-made insulator "jackets" that can be easily wrapped around one's water heater. Adding insulation to your water heater and any exposed pipes can knock up to 15 percent off the costs of heating water.

Tip #4 -- Install a low-flow showerhead.

Low-flow showerheads are also a worthwhile investment (especially for renters, because you can take them with you) that will reduce the amount of hot water you use and hence the energy needed to heat it.

Heat your home - Not the planet.

Heating and cooling your home is the single largest expense on your energy bills. But taking steps to weatherize your home, you can make keeping your home a comfortable temperature easier and cheaper.

Tip #5 -- Check for and seal any cracks or gaps.

Heating one's home is the single largest use of energy

Energy Savers continued...

for the average customer. Tiny gaps and cracks in an older home are roughly equivalent to a one-foot square hole punched in your wall, which means that sealing gaps with caulking and weather stripping makes a big difference in keeping the heat inside your home and saves you money.

Tip #6 -- Tighten Windows and Loosen Your Budget

If all windows were as efficient as the best products now widely available in the marketplace, the average household would save \$150 a year, and reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by about 4,300 pounds per year. A cheaper and easier method than replacing windows is to insulate your windows during the colder months with transparent film that keeps the heat in and the cold out.

Tip #7 -- Heating Ducts: Keep the air flowing

If just one in ten households used current technology to upgrade their inefficient heating systems, we could keep 17 billion pounds of pollution out of the air. You can also save money and cut pollution by having your heating vents and ducts cleaned regularly, and having your furnace serviced.

Tip # 8 - Sweaters are in this season, so lower your thermostat!

Besides insulation, you can make a big difference in your heating bill by keeping your home at a slightly lower temperature. Lowering your thermostat one degree can cut as much as 10% of your heating bill.

Appliances and Electronics

Tip # 9 -- Defrost your Freezer

The frost and ice that builds up in your freezer over time does more than make it hard to get to your ice cream - it also causes your freezer to work harder to keep the freezer at a cold temperature. By routinely defrosting your freezer, you can keep your ice cream cold and the planet cool.

Tip # 10 - Dirty Clothes, Clean Planet

Modern washing machines and detergents can clean clothes effectively in cold water - which means you don't have to waste energy by using hot water. Another way you can save energy in your washer-dryer and your dishwasher is to always wash full loads. Try hanging an old-fashioned clothesline to dry clothes.

2008 Operating Budget through September 30, 2008	
Receipts.....	205,650
Expenses:	
Apportionments	-42,022
Pastor Support	-45,674
Program Support	-10,871
Building & Grounds	-41,742
Office Support	-14,982
Staff Support	-69,661
Total Expenses 2008.....	224,952
Total Shortfall 2008	\$ 19,302
Shortfall including prior years:	\$38,644
<u>Benevolence Receipts Outside of Budget</u>	
Fellowship Fund	1,306
Sager Brown Trip	1,030
JIFF	2,152
Conference Second Mile Giving	968
Pennies For a Purpose	559
Scholarship Fund	1,815
Local Benevolences	453
Health Ministry	125
Operation Teddy Bear	292
TOTAL	\$8,700

Memorial Gifts

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

In Memory of Roy R. Arrington
Graves Sunday School Class
Eldon & Louisa Rucker

In Memory of Mary Wilson Carwile
Terrell & Doris Moseley
Bill & Ida Powell
Catherine, Wallace, and June Keesee
Aubrey & Ann Mehaffey
Herbert & Whick Harper
Barbara Webb
Hope Montague
Dot Morcom
Florence Wilson
Caroline & Terry Bates & Children
Samuel & Marty Wilson, Jr. and Son

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SHARE Packages available for October

Stewardship Conference on October 11

Otto's Dining returns October 12. Pickup on 10/25.

Fresh Bacon orders due October 13.

REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 2.6# (pounds) chicken

thighs, 3/4# Italian meatballs, all beef & pork, 1.5#

chicken drums, 1# frozen Pollock fish fillets, 3# frozen

sugar cookie dough, 1 box Nancy's petite quiches, 4

cheese, 4 meat, and 4 vegetable mini quiches in each

box, 3# potatoes, apples, assorted produce items to

be added, SHARE newspaper

TONY'S CHEESBURGER - HOT POCKET STYLE

SANDWICHES-\$16: Great value, sold by the case! 24

(4.5 oz.) hot pockets in each case. Stock up your

freezer for quick lunches and snacks!

OCTOBER STEAK PACKAGE-\$16: (6) 8 oz. boneless

New York strip steaks, 3# USDA choice.

Bake and serve!

PORK SAUSAGE PATTIE PACKAGE-\$12: Made by Jimmy Dean, whole hog sausage, 100 plump sausage patties, 5 pound case, fully cooked.

OSCAR MAYER PORK SAUSAGE LINKS PACKAGE-\$10: 6 pounds brown 'n serve breakfast sausage links, Fully cooked. 6 pounds - approximately 48 - 2 oz. sausage links.

CHICKEN BREAST NUGGETS PACKAGE-\$12: 5 pound package of chicken nuggets. Just heat and eat.

SHARE (Self-Help and Resource Exchange) is a nonprofit food distribution and volunteer service program that helps everyone stretch their food dollars. Participants pay \$20 in cash or food stamps and complete two hours of volunteer work for a food box valued at about \$40. Volunteer time is anything you do for someone else or the community for no pay: Church, school, helping a neighbor or helping with your local SHARE program. SHARE has no income requirements, so anyone can participate - if you eat, you're in. SHARE is a program of New River Community Action.

(all packages are subject to change)

Call Paula or Chris Howell 847-8138

