



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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October 2011

Heart Havens Ready to Build Second Home! You Can Help!!

By Garland Harper, *CUMC Heart Havens Representative*

Heart Havens is a ministry of the United Methodist Church providing for the residential needs of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, through the development and management of group homes across The Virginia Conference, homes which exemplify the love of Christ and support disabled persons of all faiths and backgrounds, not just those of the United Methodist denomination. Parents need the assurance that their adult children will have a place to live after they are gone. They are searching for quality programs for their adult children. Families desire a spiritual-based program and a home, not an institution, for their children. Heart Havens hopes to meet these needs by assisting to reduce the long waiting lists for services and ease the anxiety of elderly parents caring for their adult children with disabilities.

The Virginia Conference officially started Heart Havens in 1996 as a result of the work of the Commission on Disabilities, and in response to a question of a parent of an adult child with intellectual disabilities: "Where will my child live when I am gone?"

The first Heart Havens homes were existing homes that were modified to provide the safest and most comfortable environment for residents. These existing structures have served the individuals well. In 2002 the Winchester Home opened. This home was built from the ground up and became the template for subsequent building, with slight modifications. Of all the beautiful Heart Havens homes, the Winchester, Lynchburg, Goochland, Colonial Beach (*built and owned by HUD, managed by Heart Havens), Newport News, Richmond, and Ashland homes were built from the ground up. All of the homes have been purchased or built with monies raised by The United Methodist Men, with support from



the United Methodist Women, Youth and members of United Methodist congregations.

The first Lynchburg Heart Havens home, located on Farley Branch Drive near Heritage UMC, opened in 2004. Thanks to the tremendous response to the fund raising effort more than enough funds were collected to underwrite the cost of the first house. In fact, so much money was raised that the possibility of a building a second Heart Havens home in Lynchburg was not out of the question.

Several years have passed and the time to build that second home has come, and *you can be involved!* Much in the fashion of Habitat for Humanity construction, a massive volunteer-driven "blitz build" will be held October 29 and 30 to frame the second home, which will be located right across the street from "Lynchburg Heart Havens Home #1". Work begins at 8am each day and lasts until 5pm. There will be opportunities to help after the blitz build weekend, too.

It is amazing how much can get done in so little time when scores, if not hundreds, of pairs of supervised hands are at work!

Consider being a part of this great effort. You will be greatly satisfied. You may contact Garland Harper to get signed up or to get more details. 434-660-1218 or GRHarper@aol.com. Even if swinging a hammer is not your forte, you can be helpful in many of the behind-the-scenes work, (including food service!).

More information about the ministry of Heart Havens can be found at www.hearthavens.org.



Dear Friends –

In November we shall celebrate Stewardship Sunday and all will be asked to make a financial commitment to the work of Centenary UMC in making disciples of Jesus Christ. I urge you to give generously to our church.

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. At the September Church Council meeting, the council learned about the three quotations we received on replacing the boilers supplying heat for the building. They voted to proceed with the lowest bid to get the work completed before this year's heating season.

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.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rich'.

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

Sock – It – To – Me Sunday October 9

Please bring packages of new socks (for all ages) to the sanctuary for donation to area ministries. Thanks!

STEPHEN MINISTRY



In Action

A Stephen Minister tells about a chance encounter in which she used her Stephen Ministry skills with a neighbor:

Last week in the checkout line at a store near my home I ran into a woman from my neighborhood. I didn't know her all that well; mainly we crossed paths from time to time when we were each out taking morning walks. It had been a month or more since I had last seen her, so I said, "I haven't seen you in a while. How are you?"

When she looked at me, tears suddenly welled up in her eyes, and she then told me that her husband had died two weeks ago.

Immediately my "Stephen Minister instincts" took over, and I began caring for her. The cashier caught on to what was happening--my neighbor and I were the only two in the line--and said, "Take all the time you need." He put the chain across the line and moved to a different aisle.

So my neighbor and I stood there in the checkout line talking for more than an hour. She did most of the talking while I listened and cared. As we got ready to leave, I told her that if she needed to talk more, she should just give me a call. I also told her about Stephen Ministry at our church and the possibility that we could match her up with someone to meet with her and care for her on an ongoing basis.

Afterward I realized again how valuable my Stephen Ministry training was. When you ask someone "How are you," you're really not expecting much of a response. Prior to becoming a Stephen Minister, I'm not sure what I would have done. Probably I would have stumbled along for a little bit and then come up with a reason to cut off the conversation. But since I've had my Stephen Minister training, I knew what to do, and I had some level of confidence jumping in and doing it.

I have no doubt this was one of those God-things--that God planned for our paths to cross in the checkout line. I'm so glad that I was able to be there and listen to her when she needed it. I really felt I made a difference in her life.

–from the Stephen Ministry website

CUMC member Kate McCrea “Leaves a Legacy”

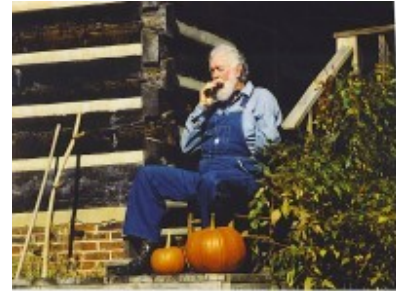
The Fall issue of “Milestones” – the Miriam’s House newsletter includes the following announcement:

The Leave a Legacy Foundation is a “public awareness campaign with a mission to help people become involved with their communities.” The foundation recently launched a high school writing contest and Kate won 3rd place. The contest entailed writing an essay on what “leaving a legacy to others means”. Her reward for her heartfelt essay was a \$100 donation, made to any local organization of her choice. When asked why Miriam’s House was chosen she stated, “I knew that I wanted the monies to stay local because I feel it makes more of an impact that way.”

Kate first learned about Miriam’s House through her volunteerism on the Youth Philanthropy Committee for the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust. The goal of the committee is twofold. Firstly, the committee works to keep the youth of the Lynchburg area aware of our community’s needs, and secondly, to keep them active in volunteering locally. While serving on the committee and looking through grant proposals, one stuck out at her. “I love the concept of Miriam’s House and their ability to get women back on their feet so quickly. It says a lot about the program.” After heavily weighing her options, Kate decided that MH was the best program to invest her prize.

McCrea, a recent graduate from E.C. Glass, has volunteered at other places including her church, Amazement Square and The Daily Bread. Giving back to the community through volunteerism is something that is very important to her. Kate will attend Wake Forest University.

Centenary’s Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Storyteller Gwynn Ramsey Folktales from the Southern Appalachians

Dr. Gwynn Ramsey heard his first tales from his “grandmaw” when he was only a child living in the foothills of North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains. His interest in performing these amusing and thought-provoking tales, often in dialect, spans many years.

Gwynn’s passion for storytelling, a cappella singing, and playing harmonica, spans more than 35 years. He tells traditional Southern Appalachian folktales, legends, ghost stories, riddles, nature poetry, personal tales, sacred tales, and plays harmonica. He is a member of the National Storytelling Network, Virginia Folklore Society, Virginia Storytelling Alliance, Network of Biblical Storytellers, Southern Appalachian Botanical Society, and Society of Herbarium Curators.

Subsequent to achieving the Ph.D. in Botany at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Gwynn taught Botany at Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, VA, in view of the Blue Ridge, for 32 years.

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

Tuesday, October 18



On Sunday, October 2 there was a wonderful presentation by AG+Kate at Centenary UMC. Their program was excellent and there was a great crowd that included members from Rustburg UMC and Bethel Mennonite Church. A heartfelt “Thanks” to all who were responsible for making the evening a success, especially AG+Kate. It’s easy to see why their

prison ministry is so important. They bring hope and love to all who hear their witness. For more information about their ministry visit their website:

<http://www.agandkate.com/> or email agandkate@hotmail.com



Applying Bible Principles

The vast majority of people like to excel at something. Most of us like to do what we do in a manner that is truly first-class. Whether we are involved in one of the trades, or whether we are working in a profession, we like to excel in what we do.

Similarly, in the Christian life, most of us like to demonstrate our love for the Lord in ways that will reflect properly on Him and that will bring honor to Him. As His servants, we take great care that our Christian service is of such quality that what we do for His sake is first-class. Thus, whether we sing a solo in a worship service at church, prepare a meal for someone who is a shut-in, or teach a Bible class, we strive to do what we do for God in the very best way possible.

The Apostle Paul indicates we are also to excel in the grace of giving. "Now as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you — so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking" (2 Cor. 8:7). In other words, just as we might seek to excel in other ways which demonstrate our Christian faith in action, we are also to excel in the grace of giving.

In the context of the verse we just read, Paul commends the Macedonian Christians for giving as much as they were able and more. When we follow their example, we experience "grace giving" in action, not only giving as we are able, but also, giving beyond our ability. This is possible only as we demonstrate the fruit of the Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. As we step out by faith (which is one of the signs of a Spirit-controlled life), we are able to give in ways which might seem improbable or impossible at first. The Spirit of God thereby motivates us and compels us to excel in the grace of giving!

One anonymous writer penned these powerful words: "God has a storehouse of blessings. Prayer is the key to that storehouse. But faith both turns the key and unlocks the door."

Say, are you excelling in the grace of giving? If not, why not take God at His Word — by faith — and begin today?

Centenary UMC's Vital Congregations Goal Setting & Planning Day

Saturday, October 15, 9–11am in the Fellowship Hall.

All are invited & encouraged to participate.

Join us for two hours of strategic planning and visioning for the future – Saturday, October 15 from 9–11am. We will evaluate where we are now and where we are going in the future.

What are our goals for the next year?

The next 5 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. Make a commitment! Be there!

"How To Get More Members For Your Church" Workshop

Lynchburg District Workshop
at Centenary UMC, November 5–6:

Saturday, 9:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.,

Sunday, 8:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

We need 5 – 7 lay people to attend this important workshop!

Please contact Pastor Rick if you will attend.

~ ~ ~

(Eagle-eyed members will note the above is NOT Centenary. It is St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London. Centenary is patterned after this church on Trafalgar Square.



**2011 Operating Budget
through September 30, 2011**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	149,722
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	26,455
Loose Plate Offering	1,254
Church School Offering	1,833
From Rustburg UMC	3,000
From UMFS	2,400
Miscellaneous Offering	1,868
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	2,261
Interest Income	129
From Gifts/Memorials	3,706
Total Receipts.....	\$193,665

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	-67,024
Pastor Expense	-57,612
Building & Grounds	-52,612
Apportionments	-43,683
Office	-13,349
Programs	-8,734
Total Expenses.....	\$243,390

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	940
Fellowship Fund	1,002
JIFF	1,621
Pennies with a Purpose	578
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	1,703
Brazil Mission Trip	3,262
Health Ministry	100
Operation Teddy Bear	163
TOTAL	\$9,444

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Dr. Willie Morris, Jr.
Sue Pitts

In Memory of Bernice Armistead

Rodney and Karen Bell
Ernestine Dodl
Frank McVeigh, Jr.
Joe Reed
Katherine Sasser
Earl and Helen Simpson
Jim and Edythe Steffens
Wesley Chapel Class
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Diddie

In Memory of Elizabeth Campbell

Rodney and Karen Bell
Jane Blankinship
Tim and Angie Campbell
Wesley Chapel Class
Jae Clebourne
Ernestine Dodl
Sue Nowlin
Cowles and Dee Meredith
Craig and Ruth Campbell
Mary and Ronald Younger
Susan Schaller
Michael and Madonna Chernesky
Helen Morgan
Terrell and Doris Moseley
Kathleen Nuckles
Nae Hugh and Virginia Pearson
Sue Pitts
Linda Porter
Joe Reed
Mark and Beth Rinckel
Bill and Lisa Roseveare
Katherine Sasser
Earl and Helen Simpson
Evelyn Smith
Wesley Chapel Class
Carlene and Elroy Cantrell
Maxey and Madline Viar
Gene Maddera

**Lynchburg District
Seeks to Start New
Ministry**

The Lynchburg District Backpack Program is being



modified so we can effectively aid in feeding more hungry children in area schools. For an investment of \$300 a church or individuals can provide supplemental food to 100 children. This program will be presented in more depth to the district clergy at district cluster meetings.

Centenary UMC has been asked to provide storage space and a place to assemble these bags of food. This and other options are being explored.

We'll need a group of volunteers and coordinators wherever this ministry will be hosted. Financial assistance would also be welcomed. There will be more information as this program takes shape. Please let Pastor Rick know if you are



interested in helping make this ministry possible and successful.

**Stewardship - September 2011
Operating Budget**

August 28	2,963
Sept. 4	6,031
Sept. 11	9,415
Sept. 18	4,355
Sept. 25	2,727

Letters Wanted!

Carl Gravely's new address while attending Stevens Institute of Technology in pursuit of his Masters in Mechanical Engineering is 117 Ogden Ave., Apartment 1R, Jersey City, NJ 07307. His email is carl.gravely@gmail.com

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United Methodist Women Selling New Crop Pecans!

Just in time for the holiday baking season, the Centenary United Methodist Women are offering freshly harvested pecans! Available in halves or pieces for 10.25 per one pound bag. Please contact Ann Harper as soon as possible. They are placing the order soon to ensure delivery before Thanksgiving.

Sugar Coated Pecans

1 egg white, 1 tbsp water, 1 pound pecan halves, 1 cup white sugar, $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. Salt, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. Ground cinnamon.

Preheat oven to 250F. In a mixing bowl, whip together egg white and water until frothy. In a separate bowl, mix together sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Add pecans to egg whites, stir to coat evenly. Remove nuts and toss in sugar mixture until coated. Spread nuts on greased baking sheet. Bake for 1 hour. Stir every 15 minutes.

Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries, which said earlier that it would not be able to distribute its discounted food for the month of September, announced plans to shut down for good.

"Angel Food Ministries has considered many options regarding our future," reads a message posted on the ministry's website. "At this time we regret to inform you that we have not found a solution that will allow Angel Food Ministries to continue to distribute food on a monthly basis and have decided to cease operations."

AFM is a Georgia-based nonprofit that was founded in 1994 by Pastors Joe and Linda Wingo to provide discounted food items to the poor and needy. Approximately 500,000 families a month purchased from the organization prior to its shutdown.

Though the economy may have had an impact on the organization, The Christian Post reported Sept. 12 that the charity has also found itself in questionable legal and financial situations involving the Wingos.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that AFM has laid off all 90 of its full-time staff members and put its headquarters up for sale. In order to save money on energy costs, the ministry also got rid of food in its cold storage facility by either returning it to its vendors or by donating it to food banks and charities.

**Centenary United Methodist Church
1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

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