



# THE SPIRE



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

September 2011

## A New Season of Music is Beginning!

By Danny Moore, *Director of Music*

“To everything there is a season.....” Family Choir Sunday on August 28 marked the start of a new season of singing, ringing, and trumpeting God’s praises through the miracle of music. You are cordially invited to get involved in one of Centenary’s music groups:

The Sanctuary Choir (consisting of adult and some youth members) will meet regularly on Thursdays



beginning September 1 at 7:30pm in the Layne Choir Room. This is a great time of year to join the Choir as new music will be introduced for numerous liturgical celebrations including World Communion, Reformation, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Christ The King, Advent and Christmas Sundays. A special musical observance will be incorporated into the September 11 service of worship as Centenary commemorates those who were lost in the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01. On December 11, the Choir will present its annual Christmas “cantata” program during morning worship. Please consider becoming an integral part of the Sanctuary Choir and its vital musical message through music. Your life, the Choir and Congregation, will be greatly enhanced and blessed if you do.

Centenary’s Youth Choir will meet immediately following worship in the Layne Choir Room on Sundays. The Youth Choir consists of members from late middle



through high school. The Youth generally present two-part music during worship each month.

Centenary’s Junior Choir consists of

members who are generally in the 3rd through the 8th grades. Members rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15. They will present a variety of music (both vocal and instrumental) at regular monthly intervals throughout the year. Junior Choir is a time to learn about God’s Word through music and to gain experience in worship participation. It is a fun and meaningful experience.

The Grace Notes (generally pre-school) sing during Church School time on Sunday mornings. Grace Notes explore the wonders of God’s creation through movement and music. The Grace Notes Choir presents music for worship quarterly through May.

The Centenary Ringers (directed by Mari Smallshaw) is a handbell choir consisting both adults and youth. Members learn how to work as “one instrument.” It is a challenging and rewarding experience. The Centenary Ringers present music several times throughout the year. Contact Mari Smallshaw for information rehearsals for the upcoming season.

Please consider taking advantage of one of Centenary’s musical offerings. You will be glad you did!!

## Promotion and Teacher Recognition Sunday



On September 11th, please join the children’s Sunday School classes in the Graves Chapel at 9:30 for Promotion Sunday, when we recognize our students who are moving up to new classes.



After the 11am worship service, which will include special recognition of Sunday School teachers, everyone is invited to a luncheon honoring our dedicated children’s Sunday School teachers.

## September 2011 Spire



Dear Friends –

As I am writing this letter schools are starting again for a new year. It is very hard to believe that we are almost into the autumn of this year.

As we enter this time of year, we will be celebrating our church for this year and looking forward to the future at our 2011 charge conference. This will be the largest charge conference Centenary has ever been involved in. We also will be setting a time to begin the process of setting goals for the next four years in five key areas: Worship, Disciples, Small Groups, Mission Participants and Mission Giving. This will be a joint effort between me and the members of the church council. This “Vital Congregations” plan will become a part of goal setting and planning for each United Methodist Church.

Danny Moore is planning an exciting music program for this time of year leading into Advent and Christmas. You'll want to be here and not miss anything!

Summer will be over and if you have fallen behind in your giving due to absence and vacations, please catch it up during the last quarter of the year. Thanks.

Finally, I am looking into two small group studies at this time. The first would be a new session of UMC 101 for anyone unfamiliar with the church or coming from other denominations and those looking for a “refresher” course. The second is “The Journey” which would be an Advent study. If you're interested, please let me know.

Grace and Peace,

## JIFF Begins – We Need You!

Now that the students are back in school, JIFF is once again finding a place each Thursday at 5:30 in Centenary's 3rd floor classrooms. Even though we have wonderful volunteers that come weekly to give guidance to these young people we can always use your talents! Each week we try to give the students a variety of activities and learning experiences. You may have a craft or activity that you would like to share with these eager young minds. Call me! Cell: 665-8130 Home: 847-8138 or leave me a message at church. We are always ready for a new lesson.

–Paula Howell, *JIFF Director*



## What Kind of Man Would Receive the Care of a Stephen Minister?

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

- A man like Adam  
who was cut off from all that gave meaning to life and needed someone to remind him of God's promise.
- A man like Noah  
who witnessed the destruction of everything around him and needed someone to wait with him for a new day.
- A man like Abraham  
who had to leave everything he knew and loved behind him and needed someone to journey with him to a new life.
- A man like Moses  
who faced great opposition and needed a companion to support him and speak on his behalf.
- A man like David  
who grieved the death of a wayward child and needed a shepherd's care.
- A man like Elijah  
who thought he was all alone and needed a still small voice to encourage him.
- A man like Job  
who lost everything and needed someone to silently endure his pain with him.
- A man like Peter  
who found himself in over his head and needed the strong hand of a faithful friend.
- A man like Paul  
who knew the unending distress of a thorn in the flesh and needed someone to rejoice when he rejoiced and to weep when he wept.
- A man like Jesus  
who knew intense disappointment, sorrow, grief, rejection, and loneliness and needed an angel of God to minister to him.
- A man like you.

If you would like to know more about how a Stephen Minister could care for you, please see or call Alice Wilkinson (384-0810) or Pastor Ecklund (846-4601).

## District UMW Annual Meeting

The Lynchburg District UMW Annual Meeting will be held at Marsh Memorial UMC (note change of venue), Sunday, Sept. 25 at 3pm (registration begins at 2:30). New officers will be installed and unit pledges to missions will be received.

The speaker will be Millicent Martin from Mt. Comfort UMC who will report on her recent mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

As usual, supplies for the Kingsway Prison Ministry will be collected at the meeting. Items needed are 5"x8" lined notepads bonded at the top, Chapstick and toothpaste. These may be left in the church office if you can't attend the meeting.

If you want to go to this interesting meeting, please give Ann Harper or Mary Jane Layne a call.

## Charge Conference Plans

**Our Charge Conference will be November 20 at 3pm at Peakland UMC with these churches involved:**

Lynchburg Central Cluster Churches –  
Richard Ecklund, Chair

Peakland – Edwin Clever & Rachel May

Boonsboro – Ron Litten

Cove – Sue Keen

Court Street – Doug Pillow

Centenary – Richard Ecklund

Fairview – Reason Chandler

Park View/South View – Phil Showers

Jackson Street – Alex Duncan

Fort Hill – Philip Waltz

Chestnut Hill – Becky Cloud

Forest Road – John Kinnard

### Charge Conferences Asked to Start Planning Goals

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. A planning guide is available at [www.umvitalcongregations.org](http://www.umvitalcongregations.org). The guide will help our church prepare a theological foundation as we worship and plan. Each church will submit their goals by March 1, 2012, and they will be presented at General Conference.

## Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists invite you to

# A Bedford Outing



Leave at 10:45am from the church parking lot for Lunch "on your own" at the Olde Liberty Station Restaurant



Following lunch, those who wish will tour the D-Day Memorial, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this past June. This is an optional, but recommended, activity.

You're on your own after lunch. You may choose to visit the Memorial or enjoy the rest of this last day of summer in other ways. Individuals are responsible for their own entrance fee and added optional "walking" or "motorized" Guided Tour costs. Bob Staples has "gift certificates" for \$2 off the standard \$7 adult admission fee.

**Tuesday, September 20**

## Emergency Food Pantry

Paula Howell, *Co-Chair Missions Committee*

The Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry is very much involved in providing the basic necessities to those less fortunate than ourselves. This summer our needs remained very high and will continue as people are still out of work. We still encourage you to pick up an extra can at the grocery store or set aside a few dollars each month to go to the Food Pantry to enable us to purchase the much needed items.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers that help pack the food bags every 9 weeks when Centenary is responsible and encourage others to let me know if you are available around noon on these days to help out. When we help others it gives us a good feeling inside, our next week is September 19 through 23, come and see what a fun time you can have!

## Lay Speaking Ministry

**The Fall Lay Speaking Ministry Training** will be Friday, Sept. 30, 6-9pm, and Saturday, Oct. 1 9-5pm at Chestnut Hill UMC. For information, contact Joyce Duncan at [mduncan@jetbroadband.com](mailto:mduncan@jetbroadband.com) or 525-7380.

## September 2011 Spire

# Brazil Mission Trip Reflections

By Carl Gravely, 2011 Brazil Team Member

Greetings Centenary Family! It's hard to believe a month ago, I was in Brazil. Cool temps, beautiful people, hearts burning for God's love, and arms wide open.



In case you missed the covered dish luncheon and The Brazil Mission Trip Presentation on August 28, here is a recap of our journey.

First of all, THANK YOU! YOU made it possible for me to be a part of the team! We are the first team to travel to those regions within the UMC. There have been other missionaries, but no mission teams. The main purpose was to build relationships with our counterparts in Christ. The original team was to join forces in the "Week for Jesus" a 2 week conference with young adults in Brasilia which is located in central Brazil.

In June, plans were changed as the conference dates had to move. Since our visas and plane tickets were already purchased for certain dates, we had to improvise our plans. The new plan was extremely low in details, but we had faith and prepared the best we could. The first

week we held Bible school and worked with local station projects, which eventually and hopefully will turn into a United Methodist Church within



2 years. Station projects are similar Shade and Fresh Water Projects, also an undertaking of the United Methodist Church. The second week, we ventured back over the mountains and met young adults and families in the city of Curitiba. Approximately 3 million people live within the city limits of Curitiba. We visited Central and Bacacheri United Methodist Churches. Both of these churches have the holy spirit flowing through and around them.

We witnessed cell groups that meet once a week, drug rehab facilities operated by the UMC, dancing and singing and young people energized to love and worship and serve the Lord. We experienced the hospitality of families, and the willingness to learn more about us and the opportunities of the church in the US. Some of our new friends took a week's vacation to spend time and show us

around. Some students completed classwork with instructors to take days off and fellowship with us. We visited a daycare facility, taught English class and told Bible stories. We spent time on a Brazilian military base and had a Bible verse scavenger hunt. The Holy Spirit was with us, and we were on a roll! We slept very little, ate more than we slept, and spent hours learning a few words in Portuguese to understand what was going on. We took the trip one moment at a time, for no one knew what we were doing next!

What I learned: The families and people of Brazil are extremely welcoming. We greeted everyone with hugs and kisses for arrivals and departures, several times each day as they are accustomed to. You can see the love in each of them as we help with everything they asked. We held Bible



school for 4-5 hours each day without a plan. We prepared the crafts, but the stories and games and dancing and all the other festivities were carried out one activity at a time. (And Centenary thought Bible school was tough!!!)

We played games with the kids to draw attention in the community. And me falling on slick concrete soccer field was an attention getter! We then spent the afternoon in Bible school in a community center that is a partnership between the local government and the project.

Here are a few reminders that I and the families and friends in Brazil need you to remember:

- The apportionments the United Methodist Church gathers from all churches are used for programs around the world, including the shade and fresh water projects and local station projects in Brazil and other countries.

Please see Brazil Reflections Page 5

## Day of Difference

Day of Difference is only winding down so we can gear back up, our summer projects are over, kids back to school supplies already begin used but we are still working to make this community a better place to live, work and worship. Our next project will be the Fall Festival on Monday October 31st, come out and share a good time with our neighborhood friends. Will keep you posted on all that is going on. Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church is leading this year.

-Paula Howell, *Centenary Representative*

## Applying Bible Principles

How rich are you? Most of us would respond to that question with a recitation of our material possessions. We would list bank accounts and their contents, stocks, bonds, houses, vehicles, and other so-called assets as tangible evidence of our wealth.

But is that how rich we are? Not really. Adrian Rogers said this, “If you want to know how rich you are, add up everything you have that money can’t buy and what you’ve sent on to heaven. That’s how rich you really are.”

There are two ways to send money on to heaven, or as the Bible phrases it, to “lay up treasures in heaven.” One is to give to the work of the Lord. As we do that, particularly through giving our tithes and offerings here at Centenary United Methodist Church, we make deposits in what one writer described as the “Bank of Heaven.” Another way to accomplish that goal is to give to meet the needs of other people. That’s the admonition provided by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17–19 when he instructed Timothy, “As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God. . . . They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.”

Compared to many people in the world, all of us — to one degree or another — have been richly blessed by God. That’s why we need to apply Paul’s counsel to our lives. As we follow his instruction, giving in the name of the Lord Jesus to meet the needs of others, we “lay up treasures” for the coming age.

One of the primary reasons God provides material blessings to us His children is that we might through those material provisions minister in His name to other people. According to Matthew 25:40, when we do that, even to what Jesus described as the “least” of His brethren, it is as though we have done it unto Him.

As one writer expressed it so well, “Investing in the lives of others and growing in our relationship with God are spiritual treasures. They are not subject to destruction or thievery. They are fully protected. Their value never diminishes.” Or as an anonymous poet wrote, “Shall the great Judge say, when my task is through, that my soul had gathered some riches, too? Or shall at the last it be mine to find that all I had worked for was left behind?”

As you consider your true wealth and what really counts for eternity, think about this: How much better to be a poor person who is spiritually rich than a rich person who is spiritually poor.

How rich are you?

## Brazil Reflections (continued)

– PRAYERS! Brazil needs us, and yet Brazil prays for the United States more than themselves. We are a powerful nation based on Christian values, but the world can see we are getting weaker with Christ. Are we?

– Relationships! We did not build a skyscraper, or dig a well, or a house or church. We spent time with our friends. We shared ideas, we talked and prayed, and we listened and loved. We made friends and built relationships that will last a lifetime. The entire team has plans to return within 2 years, and depending on plans within the Virginia Conference, Brazil hopes to visit Virginia next summer.



As with most mission trips, I feel guilty that I received more blessing and took away more than what I gave or shared. But I have witnessed many people in Brazil that just to hug and smile at an American made a world of difference to them.

The future is open. There is work to do both here and there. Continue forward in your life making disciples, by building relationships with one person or family at a time.

Thank you for the many ways you showed your support. Deus te abençoe! God Bless You! May God bless you as he blessed the lives that our team of Virginia young adults touched.

–Love, Carl

September 2011 Spire

## Children Helping Children Project Concludes (and begins again!!)

### THE TEDDY BEAR BRIGADE

#### SPONSORED BY THE CHILDREN'S DIVISION

On August 18 the Elementary 3-5 Sunday School children met at the church, collected all of the stuffed animals that had been donated and left in the church van to take them to Gleaning For The World ([www.gftw.org](http://www.gftw.org)). A check for \$165 was also taken to help with transportation. Those going with Garland and Betty were Miah Martin-Bailey, Ayla Bailey-Harris, and Rick Smallshaw.



The Staff at Gleaning For The World greeted us warmly and gave us a tour of the warehouse. It is amazing to see all the different items they have received to help people around the world. Ron Davidson writes

"Some of the most easily overlooked disaster victims are children who have been stripped of their security. Through the Teddy Bear Brigade, we are able to send comfort to a child who has lost everything. Whether here in the United States or halfway across the globe, a stuffed animal brings a smile, hope and joy to children who are easily forgotten."

We will continue to collect the stuffed animals again for our 2011-2012 campaign. Gleaning For The World has set a new goal to collect ONE MILLION stuffed animals by this time next year. We accept good, clean used stuffed animals as well as new ones. Our goal is to collect \$1 for each one we receive to help with transportation. We have already received 8 animals to start the new year. Our thanks to all who have supported this project.

Ayla, Miah and Rick share their experiences with you...

#### From Rick Smallshaw:

On Thursday, August 18th the Grades 3-5 Sunday School class



helped 165 teddy bears begin their journey to needy children halfway around the world. Mr. Garland, Mrs. Betty, Rick Smallshaw and Miah and Ayla Bailey took the church van to Gleaning For The World in Concord, where they presented the bears and a check for \$165 for shipping to Chris Ellis, head of the Teddy Bear Brigade.

Chris gave us a tour of the facility and showed us food, first aid kits and other supplies that Gleaning collects to be shipped all over the world. He showed us pictures of devastation caused by recent tornadoes in Birmingham, Alabama. We saw some helpers rolling up millions of band-aids for the people of Alabama. The teddy bears from Centenary will be sent to children in Guatemala who are dealing with many problems and need a friend to cuddle.

We finished our trip with some fun and fellowship at Dairy Queen.



We want to thank everyone at Centenary who donated teddy bears and money for this great project!

#### From Ayla Bailey-Harris:

On Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> we went to Gleaning For the World with my friends from Sunday School class. I donated a Christmas puppy. I hope that the child who gets it is happy. The trip was fun; we talked during the whole trip. It was fun going. I hope we go again next year. We got a tour and learned about Gleaning For the World.

#### From Miah Martin-Bailey:

On Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup> we went to Gleaning For the World with Mr. Garland, Mrs. Betty, Rick and Ayla. I donated a Rudolf; I hope someone is happy with it. I'm happy that Gleaning For the World gives food to kids that don't have any food. I want to do it again soon.

## Nominations and Leadership



### Nominating COMMITTEE

The Nominations and Leadership Development committee will be meeting Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7pm. They will be seeking to nominate church officers & committee members for 2012 for election at charge conference.

The members of this committee are: Garland Harper (Lay Leader), Belva Shelor, Jack Bryson, Evelyn Smith, Gene Maddera, Tim Campbell, Alan Gurdal, Sue Pitts, Sue Reeves and Earl Simpson.

**2011 Operating Budget  
through August 25, 2011**

**Receipts:**

Pledged Offering	132,713
Prior Year Pledge	970
Unpledged Offering	21,052
Loose Plate Offering	1,060
Church School Offering	1,610
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	2,100
Miscellaneous Offering	1,645
Bazaar Income	67
Easter Offering	2,261
Interest Income	129
From Gifts/Memorials	985
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>\$165,592</b>

**Expenses:**

Support Staff Expense	-59,071
Pastor Expense	-51,913
Building & Grounds	-48,787
Apportionments	-33,985
Office	-11,750
Programs	-8,139
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$213,645</b>

**Benevolence Receipts**

**Outside of Budget**

Stephen Ministries	840
Fellowship Fund	893
JIFF	1,546
Pennies with a Purpose	507
Local Benevolences	75
UMCOR	1,643
Brazil Mission Trip	3,444
Operation Teddy Bear	83
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,031</b>

**MEMORIALS**



**In Memory of Bill Cameron**

Jerry and Catherine Miller  
Ernestine Dodl  
Ivy Hill Ladies Association

**In Memory of Dr. Willie Morris, Jr.**

Sonny and Janice Martin  
Ernestine Dodl  
Leonard and Barbara Morris  
Terrell and Doris Moseley

**In Memory of Bernice Armistead**

Ida and Bill Powell  
Wesley Chapel Class  
Dot Morcom  
Terrell and Doris Moseley  
Sue and Richard Friedman  
Robert Ware

**Mary Jane and Charlie Layne**

Mike and Beth Gamble  
Dot and Dick Loyd  
Tom and Cedella Pitzer  
Ernie and Liz Miller

**In Memory of Elizabeth Campbell**

Ida and Bill Powell  
Dot Morcom  
Dave and Vickie Shackelford  
Mary Jane and Charlie Layne

**Carl Gravely MIA?**

Greetings Centenary...

Thought this may not be the best place to inform you, this will reach many of you before rumors spread.

After talking with team members during the Brazil trip, and new friends in Brazil, the discussion arose about Grad school. I prayed about the matter since that night early on the trip. Matt, a team member from Alexandria, is attending Stevens Institute of Technology and asked if I would be interested in joining him. 10 days is not the suggested amount of time to decide and apply to grad school, but doors have opened! The faith I received during the trip and my new motto "one minute of the day at a time" has propelled me to open a new chapter in my life.

I start classes full time in Hoboken, NJ on Tuesday August 30th, and will be moving to the area over the next month. I have very few details, but many doors have opened and stars aligned to light a new path so that I cannot be afraid to explore where it will take me.

I am not saying goodbye, and I do not know the future (God is sensitive about giving that power away). I am moving forward and will be in touch. This is unexpected for ME, and a shock to many of you, but I cannot hide from the powers that be. I'll take it one day at a time, and together we will see where this journey leads. As I recently learned, it's not the destination that is the prize, its the journey to the destination that is treasured most.

Until I have more info to share, Thank you, and God Bless You All!

Love, Carl

**Stewardship - August 2011  
Operating Budget**

July 24	2,551
July 31	3,947
August 7	6,647
August 14	3,559
August 21	2,161

**Sock-It-To-Me Sunday on October 9**

Bring new socks for men, women & children to worship at 11:00 am for donation to area clothing ministries.

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## UMCOR needs school kits

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has issued an urgent call for more school kits because the latest shipment of school kits to Haiti has "seriously depleted" UMCOR's stockpile. The kits, which cost about \$11 each to assemble, provide children with basic supplies such as paper, pencils and other items. Congregations are asked to ship the assembled kits directly to UMCOR Sager Brown Depot, P.O. Box 850, 131 Sager Brown Road, Baldwin, LA 70514-0850.

Current back to school sales allow preparation of school kits at modest cost. Despite Centenary's efforts at kit preparation in June, the need continues and is greater than ever. Please consider an extra effort this year to help advance children's education where it is most needed.

## 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](http://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 Sept. (online order deadline 9/18-pickup 9/24) includes: 1.5# (pounds) Stuffed Chicken Breast Cordon Bleu, 1.5# Boneless Pork Roast, 1.5# Turkey Burgers, 1.5# Perdue Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts, 2# Lasagna with Meat Sauce, 1# Smoked Sausage, 1# 80/20 Ground Beef, 1# Ground Chicken, 1# Ground Turkey, 24 oz. Crispy Thin Cut Fries, 1# each: Shoepeg White Corn, Julienne Carrots, Sugar Snap Peas, Cut Green Beans, Butternut Squash, 3-Way Veggie Mix, Mixed Cut Yellow Wax Beans

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1501 Rivermont Avenue  
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