



THE SPIRE

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



April 2010

Change the World? Centenary's Helping!!



United Methodists have chosen April 24-25 as a weekend that could change the world. All 11 million of us are urged to come together Saturday to participate in a community-based workday,

thus taking church outside our own walls. Then on Sunday we will unite globally to eliminate malaria with a special offering.

Centenary members will join other community partners to continue the Habitat House Build on Monsview Place. Contact Carl Howell (847-8138 or attheriver@hotmail.com) to volunteer for your part in world changing, be it construction, cooking or site clean-up. UM Communications chief executive the Rev. Larry Hollon observes, "We all want to see change in the world and by serving our local communities, we get to see that change up close and personal."

Hollon continues, "But we can also touch those we do not see and may never meet. By raising awareness and funds, we can save lives and conquer malaria - a disease that the U.S. has already defeated." United Methodists can join together globally to eliminate a preventable, treatable disease that kills one child every 30 seconds. Generous donations on Sunday, April 25 will help reach the goal of eliminating malaria in Africa by 2015, an effort already actively pursued.

Centenary was one of the first churches in the Virginia Conference to commit to changing the world, but it can't happen without our collective efforts. Whatever your level of expertise, support Saturday's Habitat build; whatever your financial resources, support Sunday's offering to eliminate malaria. We are a connectional church - we are committed - we CAN help change the world!



Habitat Build News *(by Charlie Wilson, volunteer coordinator)*

We're having a great time! Congratulations to all who have showed up for the work we have gotten accomplished. We have the floor, all the outside walls and partitions in place. The frame is straightened, roof trusses are in place and sheathed.

One of my joys of working with Habitat is the fellowship between those who provide their talents and share their love of building for those who would not be able to afford a home without Habitat for Humanity. It is also great to see the smile on Sierra's (the new homeowner) face as she works along with us each week.

With your help and God's Grace, we'll get this done. For those who prefer to remain closer to the ground, there will be other things to do. I hope many of you will be able to come. Please let me know if you are planning to be there so we can provide for lunch.

WE HAVE STARTED A BLOG for the Monsview project. You can find it at 2010Habitatproject.blogspot.com. There are pictures and descriptions of the work.



FROM THE



PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Each Sunday I try to include readings from the Gospel, the Epistles (Letters) the Old Testament and the Psalms into our worship service. I also try to follow a three year cycle, which when finished will have covered the majority of the Bible. This is called the *Revised Common Lectionary*. I strongly believe that reading ahead will increase your understanding and enjoyment of the service.

April 1, 2010 – Holy Thursday: The Scriptures are Exodus 12:1–4, 11–14, Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 & 1 Corinthians 11:23–26. The sermon text is John 13:1–17, 31b–35 and the message is “Celebration and Sacrament”.

April 2, 2010 – Good Friday: Various Scriptures from the Gospels.

April 4, 2010 – Easter Sunday: The Scriptures are Acts 10:34–43, Psalm 118, & 1 Corinthians 15:19–26 .The sermon text is Luke 24:1–12 and the message is “What’s the Good Word?”.

April 11 , 2010 – 2nd Sunday of Easter: The Scriptures are Acts 5:27–32, Psalm 150, & Revelation 1:4–8. The sermon text is John 20:19–31 and the message is “Knock! Knock!” .

April 18 , 2010 – 3rd Sunday of Easter: The Scriptures are Acts 9:1–6, Psalm 30, & Revelation 5:11–14 . The sermon text is John 21:1–19, and the message is “Are You a Success?”.

April 25 , 2010 – 4th Sunday of Easter: The Scriptures are Acts 9:36–43, Psalm 23, John 10:22–30. The sermon text is Revelation 7:9–17 and the message is “Crying Out Loud”.

Grace & Peace,

Invitation to Commissioning



By Alice Wilkenson, *Stephen Leader*

On Sunday, May 2, during our worship service our congregation will commission our Stephen Ministers. Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. Now we invite you to help carry on that biblical tradition by being a part of commissioning those who have responded to God's call to be part of our congregation's Stephen Ministry.

Our Stephen Ministers will soon have completed substantial training to equip them for their task. We now lay hands on them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

This commissioning service offers an opportunity to show our support for this ministry. Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry..How can we help?

First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. This

ministry calls for both time and effort. At times they may feel tired, discouraged, or convinced that they are not accomplishing anything. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry.

We can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Minister. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. We can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers~ let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

April 2010 Spire

2010 Annual Conference Attendees will Pack 100,000

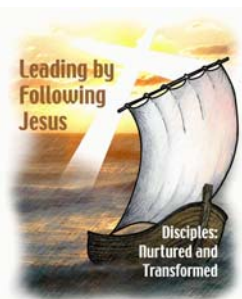
Stop Hunger Now Meals

Members of the upcoming Annual Conference will be invited to participate in preparation of 100,000 meals through Stop Hunger Now. Meal preparation will take place in the exhibit hall on Monday, June 14, and Tuesday, June 15. Stop Hunger Now meals are filled with dried vegetables, chicken broth tablet, soy, rice, and 21 nutrients. Each packaged and sealed meal, able to feed six people, is shipped to those in need around the globe. Cost of the meals will be \$25,000. Churches and individuals wishing to assist with the cost of preparing the meals are invited to contact Marc Brown, Director of Connectional Ministries, at MarcBrown@vaumc.org

Josh Bell, son of Rodney and Karen Bell, is currently serving his country in Iraq as part of the Georgia National Guard. His mailing address for those who would like to send him a card or package:

1LT Bell, Joshua E.
HHD, 110th CSSB
APO, AE 09331

In-Home Bible Study



We are searching for 6 hosts to lead an in-home Bible Study. We are searching for individuals and couples who will attend these studies. These studies will be a time to study, and to build & strengthen relationships within our church family. We're envisioning an 8 week study that would involve as many as 50-75 people all studying at the same time. The study will be *Good News for Good People*, a study of Romans. There will be training for those interested in hosting the study.

If you are interested in any way, please email the pastor at Pastorrhe@aol.com or call the church office at 846-4601. Thanks.

*Centenary's Marvelous Mature
Methodists invite you to lunch
and a fabulous program*



*Return from the
Great Northwest*

In January, Frances & Marvin Unger's Travelog took us to America's great Northwest Territory and neighboring Canada. We were so thrilled looking at the scenery that we lost track of time and we've been there for three months. There's much more to see, but believe it or not, it's time to return to Lynchburg. Please join us for the beautiful return trip!

Tuesday, April 20

11:30 "Brown Bag Lunch"

Program at Noon in Wesleyan classroom

Interfaith Outreach Update

By Bev Maslow, *IOA Executive Director*

Thank goodness the snow is gone... IOA's office was closed for six days due to weather. Unfortunately, the snow and cold have left their mark on the electric bills clients are bringing us. I am seeing bills averaging \$700 and have seen some as high as \$2,000. A brochure with tips to save energy now and in the summer is being printed to distribute to clients when they seek assistance with their utility bills.

The congregations who partner with Interfaith Outreach Association are part of a network of churches. Through your financial support we can provide services to those in need. If you would like to know more about how those resources are used - you can attend a Circle of Hope informational meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, call to reserve your seat today. We promise not to keep you more than one hour!

Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 21 at noon

Tuesday, May 4 at noon

I love this work, not only helping clients, but also helping you make informed decisions about how to best help them. Thank you for participating with us as we serve together to help people in need.

Centenary's new "Wednesday Word"



Please check your email each and every Wednesday for **Wednesday Word** sent out by Pastor Rick to keep Centenary members updated and involved in our events.

Applying Bible Principles

"Likewise all to whom God gives wealth and possessions and whom he enables to enjoy them, and to accept their lot and find enjoyment in their toil — this is the gift of God" (Eccl. 5:19).

Don't you just love gifts? There is great satisfaction both in getting gifts and in giving them. Since we are created in the image of God, it stands to reason that He also must take great delight in giving and receiving gifts.

All that we have comes from His hand, but in particular, Solomon indicated that money and riches and the ability to enjoy them are gifts from God. In other words, God gives us that which is rightfully His, and then He allows us the enjoyment of wealth and money. As we enjoy what He has entrusted to us, no doubt He takes great pleasure in our enjoyment if our actions are in conformity to His Word and His will.

How can we be sure that our enjoyment of money and wealth is according to God's plan? The Bible contains a great deal of specific instruction as to how we are to use money, but this guiding principle is to motivate our entire lives, including the use and enjoyment of wealth: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

There's nothing wrong with money. There's nothing wrong with enjoying the things that money can buy. Solomon was correct when he said that both are gifts from God. The key is to use money in such a way that our enjoyment will bring glory to God. One of the primary ways to do that is to give to the Lord and His work here at Centenary United Methodist Church.

During the past few months, have you kept God's glory as the number one priority in your use of money? Or have other things taken the place of your giving to God?

MMMs Enjoyed Legacy Lecture



Randolph College English professor emerita Dr. Carolyn W. Bell who serves as a member of the board of directors of the Legacy Museum of African

American History was the guest speaker for the MMM's luncheon meeting on March 23.

The Legacy Museum, located at 403 Monroe Street, will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a new exhibit beginning in June 2010, and is the only museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of African Americans in Lynchburg and the surrounding counties.



Dr. Bell told about the opening exhibit in 2000 on health and medicine among Central Virginia's African



Americans, and highlighted her presentation with photos and artifacts collected for that exhibit. Information about Harry Reid, well-known African American pharmacist during the 1940's, was of especial interest to members of the group. He was only one of the many prominent leaders of the black

community who have been recognized in the nine exhibits at the museum highlighting educators, clergy, civic and social groups, members of the military and leaders during the rise and fall of Jim Crow in Central Virginia.

Dr. Bell told how the search for artifacts, memorabilia and personal stories has been an enlightening and uplifting experience for her. Members of the group who heard her presentation and viewed the photos and brochures shared her enthusiasm for the Legacy Museum, and expressed an interest in planning a future visit to the museum for the opening of their anniversary retrospective exhibit in mid-June.

For more information on the exhibits, museum hours and fees, membership and mission of the Legacy Museum visit www.legacymuseum.org

Worship Expert Tells 5 Talent Academy Participants to Think Outside the Sanctuary

Sally Morgenthaler told a 5 Talent Academy audience of nearly 500 laity and clergy that congregations must go where the people are, not only in terms of mission and outreach, but also in worship.



Morgenthaler, a Lutheran whose father was Methodist, applauded the legacy started by John Wesley's preaching to people on the streets, in prisons and factories. "It's your heritage," she said. "Your tribal history. ... You invented small groups!"

Best known for her book, *Worship Evangelism* (1998), Morgenthaler said that we have a very spiritual culture, but that people today don't worship God in the traditional ways. "The reason why church seems disconnected is that we are not connecting the dots to where real life is."

Her solution? "You have to make a difference in your community. You have to matter, and not just be taking up parking spaces. You remember 'If you build it, they will come'? Our culture is not like that anymore. If we are it, then they will come."

Morgenthaler said the Internet has also made a profound difference in the church, enabling persons to contribute their money to a good cause with a click of a mouse rather than working through the church. Changing worship to adapt to these changes is not about style or music, but about every element that goes in to planning worship, Morgenthaler stressed. "People no longer want to come and hear a report about a mission trip," she said, "they want to go out and help people."

Speaking to the Cabinet and other conference leaders during the lunch break, Morgenthaler described her popular book as "350 pages to say

people want worship to be meaningful, not generic frou-frou.

"We have so formalized and officialized the act of worship," she continued, "we've taken it away from the people.

In the afternoon session Morgenthaler offered more tangible ideas, and gave team members from participating churches time to react and brainstorm. Pastor Rick Ecklund, Ida Powell, and Garland Harper attended from Centenary UMC and Centenary is an active participant in the 5 Talent Academy. About 110 churches are participating in the 5 Talent Academy, the arm of "All Things New" that is teaching existing congregations how to revitalize their ministries.



Facts Worth Consideration

- 44% of all Americans are unchurched.
- 58% of unchurched Americans said that if they were asked to visit a friend's church they probably or possibly would.
- Less than 4% of all church membership comes as a result of the pastor's efforts.
- A friendly church is a growing church.
- First impressions are lasting impressions.
- Every human being needs to feel important and a part of something important.
- Evangelism is as simple as letting people know when your church meets, what it does when it meets, and inviting them to participate.

A "Banner" Idea!

At the March Church Council meeting Earl Simpson brought up the idea that we should be changing the banner signs in front of the church monthly - changing colors, too - to make them more visible to others. He has volunteered to pay for one month and is hoping that others will do likewise. The approximate cost is \$200 for the two banners needed. If you are interested, please email the pastor at Pastorrhe@aol.com. Thanks.



Team Forming for Mission Trip to Sager Brown



Once again our Mission Committee is sending a team to UMCOR Center at Sager Brown, Baldwin, LA. We will be leaving on October 30, 2010 and return to Lynchburg on November 7, 2010.

This is a wonderful week of hard work, Bible Study and getting to

know Christians from all over the United States all coming together to help make our world a better place. As you know UMCOR is one of the first to respond when a crisis in the world happens.

Our cost last time we went was approximately \$350 each volunteer, I suspect the cost will be about the same this year. We will do what we can to help raise the money through some fund raisers, but we all help to make up the difference. Let me know if you are interested in making this trip, many of the ones who went last time are eager to return. We will try to have a organizational meeting after Spring Break to fill out some necessary forms and get our team registered.

- Paula & Carl Howell, Team Leaders

UMCOR Responds to Needs in Chile

UMCOR officials do not believe that relief supply kits are currently needed in Chile, but the agency has set up a special fund for financial support for relief work in Chile. Donations can be made to **Chile Emergency**

Advance # 3021178. Donations may be dropped in church offering plates. Please make your check out to Centenary UMC and indicate in the memo line of the check that it is for the Chile Emergency.



Sanctuary Choir and Youth to Present Allen Pote Easter Cantata On Easter Sunday

April 4, during morning worship, Centenary's Sanctuary Choir and Youth will present Allen Pote's Easter cantata, He Is Risen!

The music of this work is very upbeat and uplifting intermixed with original and familiar melodies.

Charlie Layne, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Karen Bell, Mary Ann Sigler, and Connie Wentzel will all offer solos during the program.

Chris Howell will serve as the Narrator for the presentation. Dave Shackelford will portray Pontius Pilate.

Danny Moore will direct the program with F. Johnson Scott, III providing the accompaniment.

What a great way celebrate our risen Christ and to share the good news of hope that His resurrection means to all of us.

You will not want to miss this one.

Bishop Names Four New District Superintendents

After a year of no changes on the Bishop's Cabinet, Bishop Charlene Kammerer has named four new district superintendents. The Rev. Ken Jackson will head the Alexandria District, replacing Alan Reifsnnyder who will retire at 2010 Annual Conference. The Rev. Tommy Herndon will replace Ed Pruitt as superintendent of the Harrisonburg District. Pruitt will retire at 2010 Annual Conference. The Rev. Mike Houff will be head of the Staunton District, replacing Kathleen Overby Webster who will be appointed to a local church. The Rev. Larry Thompson Jr. will lead the Winchester District, replacing David Forrest who will be appointed to a local church.



**2010 Operating Budget
through March 25, 2010**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	45,501
Prior Year Pledge	179
Unpledged Offering	7,385
Loose Plate Offering	238
Church School Offering	674
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	600
Miscellaneous Offering	(512)
Easter Offering	1,249
Interest Income	63
From Gifts/Memorials	1,795
Total Receipts.....	\$58,172


Expenses:

Apportionments	-9,442
Pastor Support	-18,435
Program Support	-3,345
Building & Grounds	-20,949
Office Support	-4,216
Staff Support	-20,978
Total Expenses.....	\$77,365

Benevolence Receipts
Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	300
Fellowship Fund	396
JIFF	190
Pennies with a Purpose	128
VIM	50
Meals for Haiti	530
UMCOR	2,334
TOTAL	\$4,928

MEMORIAL GIFTS



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

In Memory of Byron Wilkinson
Evelyn and Art Smith

In Memory of Douglas Reid Sasser
David and Bernice Armistead

In Memory of Irene Simmons Reed
David and Bernice Armistead
Fred and Faye Gillispie

In Memory of Rebekah C. Moore
Dot Morcom
Faye and Fred Gillispie


In Memory of Irvin Farlow
Bill and Ida Powell

In Memory of Myrtle Duncan
Columbus
Betty and Tommy Wooldridge

In Memory of John Huckabee
Mary Jane and Charlie Layne

In Memory of
William Estes Wilson, Jr.
Doris and Terrell Moseley
Frances and Marvin Unger
Ida and Bill Powell
Frances Allen Circle
Virginia Hogan
Dottie and Jim McDermott
Harriet Ramsey
Lisa and Bill Roseveare
Kay Hudson
Frances and John McKee
Mary Jane and Charlie Layne
Barbara H. Webb
Annie and Aubrey Mehaffey

In Memory of
Carl Douglas Humphreys
Doris and Terrell Moseley
Ida and Bill Powell
Bob and Virginia Saville
Peggy and Garland Harper
Dawn and Barry Arrington
Janice and Terry Martin
Sue Pitts
Mary Jane and Charlie Layne
Faye and Fred Gillispie
Barbara H. Webb
Annie and Aubrey Mehaffey
Frances and John McKee



Stewardship - March 2010

Operating Budget

February 28	8,182
March 7	5,586
March 14	5,638
March 21	4,271

Harvesters Quartet Cystic Fibrosis Fundraiser

If you missed the great concert on March 28 delivered by the Harvesters Quartet from Sanford, NC - well, what were you thinking? After a delicious BBQ lunch from Jimmy Mays, about a hundred folks gathered in the sanctuary for good old Southern Gospel. Donations for CF research are still welcome - The Great Strides Walk is May 8!

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SHARE Packages available for April

Call in by 4/11. Pickup on 4/24



REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 1# (pound) chicken breast fillets, Italian meatballs, 1# oven roasted turkey breast deli meat (made by Oscar Mayer), Breakfast pork

sausage links, Brown 'N Serve 26 links, 4 large red velvet cupcakes, 1 pkg. chicken rice mix, 3# Potatoes, 2# Onions, Oranges, Assorted produce.

THE BIG JIMMY -\$12: (12) Jimmy Dean split smoked sausage with egg (Large, man-sized sandwiches)

COMBINATION STUFFED CHICKEN-\$20: chicken cordon bleu, chicken & broccoli, chicken kiev. 4 of each=one dozen pieces (6 oz. Each)

CHICKEN BREAST NUGGETS-\$12: Five pounds!

BREAKFAST FESTIVAL-\$18: 8 fully cooked skillet frittata omelets made with eggs, cheddar cheese, and honey ham, 8 fully cooked sausage links wrapped in blueberry pancakes, 16 fully cooked hash brown potato patties, 16 fully cooked pork sausage patties, extra lean

APRIL GRILL PACKAGE-\$20: 1# boneless, center cut pork chops, 1# beef patties, 80% lean, 1¼ # extra lean teriyaki pork tenderloin, 1# IQF boneless, skinless chicken breast fillets, 1# beef brats, made by Johnsonville, 1.7# chicken drums, tray pack

CHICKEN CORN DOGS-\$8: on sticks! 16 honey batter dipped corn dogs, by Foster Farms

TYSON CORNISH HEN-\$7: Stuffed with wild rice and mushrooms (3 lbs. Package)

SHARE is a nonprofit volunteer service and food distribution program that helps people at all income levels stretch their food dollars. Each month, participants pay \$20 and complete two hours of community service. They get a food package of fresh and frozen meats, produce, specialty items and staples that would cost \$40 at the grocery store.

If You Eat -You Qualify!!

Call Paula or Chris Howell - 847-8138

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

**Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

