



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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February 2010

United Methodists respond to Haiti Earthquake

Lynchburg District Response

A Stop Hunger Now meal packing event sponsored by the Lynchburg District on January 18 drew 2,500 participants and packed 210,000 meals for Haiti relief. The goal of the event was 100,000 meals. "People



were literally in line for 200 yards out the door," said the Rev. Larry Davies, Lynchburg District Superintendent. "The response was so great we had to ask volunteers to leave to make room for others." The meals were shipped from Norfolk to Haiti, where Stop Hunger Now has a long-standing relationship.

Centenary's Response

In addition to the incredible volunteer turnout on January 18 - many members have made generous contributions to help get the meals on their way. Of special note - Denise Bryson challenged the JIFF students and volunteers to pledge quarters for the Haiti relief efforts. When asked what a quarter could buy - the students could name very few items (pack of gum, pencil, pack of crackers) and were amazed to hear that Stop Hunger Now could provide a nutrition-dense meal for .25. The pledged quarters are rolling in - and one student went the second mile. Kasia Pullen, with the assistance of her friends and teachers at Linkhorne Middle School raised over \$40. That's a lot of quarters!!

UMCOR and the Conference's Response

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts can be made to Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325. Checks can be made to UMCOR with Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency in the memo line. Checks made out to Centenary UMC can be put in the church's

Relief for Victims of the



Earthquake in Haiti

offering plate or mailed to: UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. Credit card donations can be made by calling 1-800-554-8583. You can also give online on the UMCOR Web site, <http://qbgm-umc.org/umcor>. There you will also find news of the disaster and how we are responding as United Methodists. As of press time on Jan. 19, United Methodists have raised more than \$1 million for relief work in Haiti. The donations will support its efforts to respond to those most in need following the devastating earthquake. An estimated 3 million people need assistance.

UMCOR is also asking that you consider putting together health kits as part of your church's response. For people who are feeling powerless in being able to help those in Haiti, providing health kits is a tangible way they can make an immediate difference, said Kathy Kraiza, director of UMCOR's relief supplies. She estimates that hundreds of thousands of kits will be needed in the months ahead. The kits, valued at about \$12 per kit, contain everything from towels and washcloths to sterile bandages and bar soap. They will be distributed to those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the recent disaster. You can find instructions and a list of items on the Virginia Conference home page at www.vaumc.org. Health Kit instructions are on page 5 of this issue. The closest collection warehouse to Virginia is Sager Brown Depot in Louisiana.



Dear Friends,
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent – the forty days of preparation for the

celebration of Easter. Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time of returning to the Lord.

On this day we recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord for a renewing Spirit. It is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in the light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God. Our worship services and experiences during this time are

Keeping Confidences

By Alice Wilkenson, *Stephen Leader*



Confidentiality, as you may have read or heard before, is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence. Even the identity of a care receiver is kept secret (unless the care receiver chooses to tell someone).

Confidentiality gives care receivers the reassurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Ministers their deepest thoughts and feelings, details they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of innermost feelings that God can work the miracle of healing, restoring faith and hope to care receivers' lives. Without the assurance of confidentiality, most care receivers would have a difficult time opening up, which would impede the healing process.

How does this relate to you, as a member of Centenary church? Even if you are not a Stephen Minister, think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships. Consider how you can improve relationships and help people's personal healing by maintaining confidentiality when something is told to you.

part of a larger environment of repentance and growth in grace. We are to be tested by the Spirit so that our participation in the meaning of the Easter faith may be authentic and a true dying and rising with Christ to new life in God.

Lent should be seen as a time that should sustain and refresh us so that we may give full expression to church commitments on through the great Easter season. I pray that this Easter faith will overflow into our mission to always do God's will in the world.

Grace and Peace,

Sound Team Training

Members who would be interested in learning the operation of the sound equipment should plan to attend a training session February 13 at 9am. Senior high youth and up – no experience is necessary. Please call Chris Howell to sign up: 665-8138.

When someone shares a personal feeling, a thought that is troubling him or her, or something for which he or she might feel guilty, it can be very tempting to pass that information along to someone. Even when motives are noble (for instance, wanting to pass the information along as a prayer request), it could be damaging or painful to the person who first shared the information.

If you really believe it is something that needs to be passed along – to a prayer chain, pastor, Stephen Leader, or someone else who could help – tell that to the person who shared it. Explain why you believe others should know, and encourage him or her to pass it along to the appropriate person(s). Or get permission from the individual for you to share the information yourself.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by – not just those involved in our Stephen Ministry. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds one another up, and encourages healing in a Christian community. As Solomon says in Proverbs 12:18, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

February 2010 Spire

Quaker Memorial To Host Fundraiser for the Red Cross



You are invited by the Historic Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross to a Gourmet Dinner and Auction in the Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall on Saturday evening February 27th 2010 at 6:00 PM. Tickets for the evening will be \$25 per person. For further information or tickets, contact Melissa Waugh (phone: 384-4707 or email mwaugh@trainikins.com) or the Chapter office at 845-1234. All proceeds benefit your local American Red Cross and support its services to our community.

For example, in the past year we responded to 58 fires and other disasters that displaced 328 people from their homes. Our annual cost for this humanitarian relief was over \$150,000. We certified 4,681 people in CPR, First Aid and other vital safety programs for a cost of over \$140,000. Last year we collected 13,309 units of blood from caring donors to save the lives of patients at our local hospitals. Our staff served our military personnel far from home in 611 urgent cases and provided \$10,176 in emergency assistance to their families. The annual cost was over \$50,000. We are projecting a spike in military assistance in 2010 with the recent deployment of 700 members of local National Guard units, so we need your help now to prepare for these needs in 2010. Please consider attending this event, or making a donation to our local chapter. Your generosity will ensure that our community is prepared for disaster and can respond to the urgent needs of our neighbors.

Habitat Build Kickoff!!

Want to see how a house is built? Join us for a Habitat Build on Monsview Place. Skills appreciated but not necessary, all you need to do is help. Saturdays starting February 13th through May. See Carl Howell (or email him: attheriver@hotmail.com) for more information.

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



Valentine Party

Food – Songs – Games – Love Stories Come, bring friends, and welcome them to CUMC.

**Tuesday, February 23
11:30 "Brown Bag Lunch"
Program at Noon**

What is Lent?

The English word lent which stems from an Anglo-Saxon word for "spring" and is related to the English word lengthen refers to the penitential period preceding Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As early as the second century, many Christians observed several days of fasting as part of that preparation. Over the next few centuries, perhaps in remembrance of Jesus' fasting for forty days in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-2), forty days became the accepted length of the Lenten season. Since, from the earliest years of Christianity, it had been considered inappropriate to fast on the day of the resurrection, Sundays were not counted in the forty days. Thus, the Wednesday 46 days before Easter came to be regarded as the beginning of Lent.



Remember Our Shut-Ins



As we head into the chilly winter months when even the hardiest among us have trouble getting out, we urge you to remember our shut ins. We request your prayers, phone calls cards and visits for those who unable to enjoy the pleasures of freedom that we take for granted. Real love is helping someone who may never be able to return the favor.

Applying Bible Principles

There are some wonderful principles in the Old Testament which apply to present-day Christians. One of these is in Deuteronomy 8:10-18. Stated in contemporary language, it says, "When you have eaten and are full, when your cars, houses and bank accounts multiply, don't forget where it came from: Remember the Lord your God."

In truth, all that we have comes from God. He determines what we will receive, whether it be money, gold, silver, houses, land, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, etc. It all belongs to Him in the first place, and He entrusts it to us. According to David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29, riches, honor, power, and wealth all come from God.

That's why there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. Oh, we have to do our part. God's plan is not that we just sit around praying and reading the Bible all day long so that what we need to survive will miraculously drop into our hands. We're not just to pray for "our daily bread," but we're also to get up each day and work for it! That's why the Apostle Paul stated clearly, "Anyone unwilling to work should not eat" (2 Thes. 3:10). But in reality, the amount of money and wealth which we receive is determined by God. According to His divine will and knowledge, He entrusts to each of us the amounts which He knows will be best for us.

What should be our reaction to our financial state? Some might pray, "Dear Lord, you must have made a mistake concerning me and my finances. Please give me more money." Others might try to circumvent God's design for their lives by trying to win the lottery or to obtain large sums of money through some other means. Mature Christians, however, will realize God's infinite wisdom far surpasses their limited perspective. They will accept with a thankful spirit what God has entrusted to them and seek to honor God by their living and by their giving.

Two Church Mission Executives Die in Haiti Quake

United Methodists around the world are mourning the deaths of the Rev. Sam Dixon, the head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) office of mission volunteers, who died in Haiti as a result of injuries received when the hotel where they were meeting collapsed during the Jan. 12 earthquake. Several mission and relief specialists were at the Hotel Montana in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit at about 5 pm. The hotel collapsed, pinning the UMCOR team and many others beneath its rubble. The UMCOR team had been in Haiti for meetings with other humanitarian organizations working to improve medical services.



Photo: Mike DuBose/UMNS

New Property Committee Chair Requests Input

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we begin the new year, I ask that any maintenance or property concerns be given to me or members of the property committee. Several Projects are on the list to be completed for this year, many practically unnoticeable, but important!

How can you help us? Things to keep in mind are turning off lights when leaving the room, keeping doors closed when necessary, especially as we are dealing with the weather, and making us aware if you know of a leaky faucet or running toilet.

If you have a concern, please call or email me (carl.gravelly@gmail.com), so the concerns can be taken care of immediately. With everyone doing their part, we can keep operating costs low, systems in shape, and everyone happy.

In Christ's Love, Carl G



Our Ash Wednesday worship service which will mark the start of Lent (the forty days, not counting Sundays leading to Easter), will be held on Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 pm. Ashes will be imposed on the foreheads of those so desiring to show a mark of penitence.

**2010 Operating Budget
through January 25, 2010**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	13,260
Prior Year Pledge	11
Unpledged Offering	1,288
Loose Plate Offering	78
Church School Offering	197
Miscellaneous Offering	(512)
Total Receipts.....	\$14,322

Expenses:

Apportionments	-0-
Pastor Support	-5,777
Program Support	-2,774
Building & Grounds	-6,273
Office Support	-1,322
Staff Support	-6,744
Total Expenses.....	\$22,890

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	100
Fellowship Fund	148
JIFF	55
Meals for Haiti	430
UMCOR - Haiti Advance	2,085
TOTAL	\$2,818

Snow, Snow, Snow and Finances

We've missed 2 Sunday morning services in just over a month and that can hit the church hard. Not only do we miss the opportunity to worship God and be with our church family, we also miss the opportunity to return to a God a portion of all God gives to us. Please make-up your offering at the earliest opportunity you have. It will be greatly appreciated!

MEMORIAL GIFTS



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

Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Douglas Reid Sasser

Alice Clarke

Gene Maddera

Tom and Kitty Chaffin

Elizabeth Fitch Green

Bill and Lisa Roseveare

Martha Ann Gregory and Carol Croft

Georgia Hospital Association

In Memory of Irene Simmons Reed

Charlie and Mary Jane Layne

Maxey and Madeline Viar

Anne and Bruton Langley

Cleve and Barbara McGehee

Barrett, Dabney, and Corie Saunders

Cardinal Chevrolet

Kathleen Sihlanick

Dot Morcom

Janet Coiner

Billy and Eloise Saville

Bill and Ida Powell

Harris Tire Company

Nancy Johnston

Stonegate Bridge Club

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Parker

Terrell and Doris Moseley

Max and Jackie Meador

UMCOR Health Kits

Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes.

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)

1 washcloth

1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)

1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)

1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)

1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)

6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

and provide \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (do not include in bag)

(NOTE: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be NEW items. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-**nothing** more.

Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

Stewardship - January 2010

Operating Budget

January 3	5,098
January 10	3,121
January 17	3,991
January 24	2,712

2009 Apportionments Paid in Full

The Finance Committee reported to the Church Council that all of our 2009 district and conference apportionments were paid in full. Thanks to all of you for your prayers and hard work!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

United Methodists Respond to Disaster	1
Pastor's Letter	2
The Importance of Keeping Confidences	2
MMMs let loose with lavish love luncheon	3
Quaker Memorial to host Red Cross Fundraiser	4
Budget / Memorial Gifts / Health Kit Instructions	5

SHARE Packages available for February

Call in by 2/14. Pickup on 2/27



REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 1# (pound) chicken breast strips, 1# tilapia fish fillets, 1# turkey breakfast sausage, 1# imitation crab, chunk style,

2# frozen onion straws, 1# spiral seasoned French fries, 1 pkg. apple fruit bars, 3# potatoes additional fresh fruits and vegetables

STEAK PACKAGE -\$16: Six 8 oz. boneless NY strip steaks, 3 lbs. USDA choice

CHICKEN STUFFED WITH BROCCOLI & CHEESE-\$12: (8) 6 oz. portions/3 lbs. Box, Just bake and eat!

CINNAMON ROLL DANISH PACKAGE-\$12: (32) 3 oz. individually wrapped. Fresh frozen upon production

NEW BREAKFAST PACKAGE-\$14: (60) 3 oz. pork sausage links wrapped in blueberry pancakes, on a stick. State Fair label, 9.5 lbs.

SEAFOOD PACKAGE-\$18: 12 oz. IQF Fully Cooked Peeled and deveined shrimp, tail on, (2) 4 oz. Pkg. Flounder Filets, (2) 4 oz. Pkg. Tilapia Stuffed with Shrimp and Herbs, (2) 4 oz. Pkg. Tilapia Stuffed with Scallops and Red Peppers, (2) 4 oz. teriyaki Salmon Filets, (4) 3 oz. Pollack Filets (1 pkg)

SUPPER TIME CONVENIENCE ENTREES-\$22: Seven 16 oz. Dinners per box (that is two 8oz. Servings!) Each box of dinners will include the following: Grilled Chicken with Tomato Basil Sauce and Penne Pasta, Sausage with Green and Red Peppers with Sauce over Linguine, Lasagna with Meat Sauce, Baked Ziti with Meat Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese, Grilled Chicken Breast Alfredo with Penne Pasta and Broccoli Florets, Beef Strips with Mashed Potatoes, and Calif. Blend Mixed Vegetables & Gravy, Turkey Breast Medallions with Roasted Potatoes and Californian Blend Mixed Vegetables (*Substitutions may be made due to delivery schedules or other circumstances.*)

Call Paula or Chris Howell - 847-8138

**Centenary United Methodist Church
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