



# THE SPIRE



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

## Exciting New Ministry Beginning

A special Caring Ministry at Centenary will be beginning as 9 members begin Stephen Minister training January 10. At the completion of their training in May, they will be commissioned and will begin providing one-to-one care to individuals experiencing difficulties in life.

Stephen Ministry training combines sound theological principles with contemporary psychology. The skills our Stephen Ministers learn and practice prepare them to provide a very high level of Christian Caregiving. Please lift up the members of the training class (Tim Campbell, Belva Shelor, Peggy Harper, Fred and Fay Gillespie, Tommy and Betty Wooldridge, MaryJane Layne, and Ann Harper) in prayer over the coming months.



## A Stephen Ministry Story

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Barnabas boldly proclaimed God's word throughout the Roman Empire at the same time that Paul did. Though he appears in the New Testament a number of times, we know much less about Barnabas than we do Paul, perhaps because he wasn't the prolific writer Paul was.

What we do know is that he was an encourager and while we might call Stephen the first Stephen Minister (Acts 6), Barnabas could appropriately be considered the second. He had all the characteristics of a Stephen Minister; full of faith, mercy, patience, encouragement, and compassion. He was probably the ideal companion to travel with on a long missionary journey in a potentially hostile land.

Barnabas' biggest contribution to the Christian Church was simply his role as an encourager to his young cousin Mark.

Acts 15:36-41 recounts the planning of Paul's second missionary journey. It begins with sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over whether to take Mark on the journey. The details are sketchy, but it apparently was enough for Paul to lose trust in Mark as a faithful, dependable companion.

But Barnabas assertively stood up for Mark, which may not have been easy to do against Paul. He looked past

**January 10<sup>th</sup> is designated as  
STEPHEN MINISTRY SUNDAY**

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**



**Worship will be led by our Stephen Leaders  
and will include special music and a choral  
anthem celebrating Stephen Ministry.  
COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH SERVED.  
Everyone is welcome!**

Mark's flaws and had confidence that Mark was a man he could trust on such an important mission.

Barnabas' encouragement for and patience with Mark likely had a significant positive impact on Mark's self-image, because Mark earns his way back into Paul's favor. (2 Timothy 4:11).

What would have happened to Mark had Barnabas not stood by his side despite an earlier failing? We can only guess. What we do know is that the young church was blessed with a second missionary journey, and we have the Gospel of Mark.

Have you had a Barnabas in your life? Did someone encourage and show faith in you when all others doubted?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of encouragement. A Stephen Minister maintains faith and confidence that someone can overcome adversity and reach their God-given potential. The payoff can be astounding. Just ask Barnabas or Mark.



Dear Friends –

Happy New Year – Welcome to 2010! Not everyone begins their new year on January 1: Jewish, Muslim, Chinese, and other calendars begin the year on other

days. In fact, our traditional Christian year begins the first Sunday in Advent – the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Our own civil New Year’s Day has not always been January 1. Although that date goes back to the Romans, the Roman year originally started with March. That is why the names September, October, and November literally mean “seventh,” “eighth,” and “ninth” month respectively.

Now, what can we do and what should we be doing as a church so this year and future years are as bright and exciting as the ones we have left behind?

First and foremost – please be in prayer for Centenary and all its ministries. Our ultimate job as a Christian community is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ. What are you specifically doing to make new disciples? When was

the last time you invited someone without a church home to come worship with you on Sunday morning? Make it a goal to ask at least one person a month to come to church with you and the church will grow.

Support the church with your presence – be here whenever possible. Support the church with your gifts – not just to give to help with the church budget, but because we need to give back to God a portion on what God has given to us. Support the church with your service – if something needs to be done, don’t wait to be asked, volunteers are always needed. Look for new ways Centenary can be in mission ministry to our community, state, nation, and world.

My prayer is that God will bless us as a congregation in this New Year and that each of us might be blest as individuals as well.

Grace and Peace,

Come to the Centenary Parsonage (2424 Indian Hill Road) on Saturday, January 2 from 2–5pm for an Epiphany Open House. All are invited! Please bring your favorite dessert or sweet to share.



All Things New is a core strategy to help the Virginia Conference live into its vision of having “faith communities where all God’s people are welcomed at table, nurtured and transformed to be Christ to others in the world.”

**All Things New is:**

- A proclamation of faith in the abundance of God’s grace through Jesus Christ
- A reclaiming of our United Methodist heritage as a missionary movement of God’s Holy Spirit
- A vision for spiritual renewal through an invitation for all faith communities to be fruitful and to multiply
- Our conference’s response to the Great Commission of (Matthew 28:16–20) and to the teachings from the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–29)
- An outline of what must be done to shift from a culture of maintenance to one of mission and fruitfulness

**Core principles of All Things New include:**

- Changing the culture of the Virginia Conference from maintenance to mission and fruitfulness
- Focusing on the joy and desire of the Master rather than the desires of the servants
- Helping everyone be accountable
- Investing in congregations who are willing to multiply their

- gifts (principle based on the Parable of the Talents.)
- Inviting all ministries of the Virginia Conference to live into a new reality where abundance and fruitfulness are the expected outcomes of faithful discipleship
- Creating partnerships of the willing
- The desired culture change points to some shifts required to live out the vision. Some of these major shifts include:**
- From spreading resources and attention too thin to focusing on key strategic areas
- From protecting the present to transforming the present
- From serving the institution to reclaiming the mission of the institution
- From investing first in buildings to investing first in leadership
- From competition to synergy among churches, “new” and “existing,” e.g. any church can become renewed
- From investing in those that are not multiplying to investing in what is working
- From swapping disciples through transfers of church membership to making new disciples through professions of faith

January 2010 Spire

## Do Our Assumptions Still Fit?

By Lovett H. Weems, Jr., *Professor of Church Leadership*

Peter Drucker maintains that organizational problems are not the result of groups doing things poorly or even doing the wrong things. Organizations fail, he contends, because the assumptions on which the organization was built, and on which it is being run, no longer fit reality. Could our congregations be taking for granted some things that were safe assumptions in the past, but no longer fit? Consider the following:

*Assumption: People in our communities are religious.*

*Reality:* The only religious preference that grew in every U.S. state since 2001 was "no religion."

*There are lots of "young families with children."* Married couples with children under 18 living at home represented 50 percent of households in the 1950s; today, only 25 percent.

*Most adults are married.* Married couples now make up just under 50 percent of adult households in the U.S.

*Young adults get married in their twenties and early thirties and return to church.* Married people are more likely to attend church; but of young adults between 25 and 35, just over half are single.

*Making our budget is a sign of vitality.* Perhaps. But some churches have more money because a higher proportion of their membership is over age 50, the group with 70 percent of the wealth in the country.

*People find us through the newspaper or Yellow Book.* Increasingly, the first place a person learns about your church is the Internet.

*Most people in our community already attend a church.* The percentage of unchurched people has increased in virtually every part of the U.S. in recent years. And do not be misled by the polls showing that over 40 percent of people worship each week. The actual attendance numbers do not back that up.

*Many people have moved away.* This is true in some areas, but churches can be too quick to jump to conclusions. Often the children of church members have moved away; but there are new residents, often less well off, who have moved in. How else does a new church succeed in a building once used by a congregation that died because "all the people have moved away"?

*There is one right way to worship.* A church member told a pastor, "I don't like guitars in worship." The pastor replied, "That's exactly what people said when the organ was introduced." Many worship practices considered normative today emerged out of a particular era and context that may have changed.

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



**Lets  
Take A  
Trip!**

With our favorite travel companions Frances and Marvin Unger! Come, bring friends, and welcome them to CUMC.

**Tuesday, January 19  
11:30 "Brown Bag Lunch"  
Program at Noon**

## Ladies Honored by UMW

By Mary Jane Layne, *UMW Spire Reporter*



The Centenary UMW presented a Special Mission Recognition Pin to Dawn Arrington at its unit meeting in November. Dawn represents the Dana Tyson Circle on the UMW Executive Committee and adds suggestions to our planning. She and her circle are also in charge of collecting the Campbell's Labels For Education which is helping Henry Fork Community Center buy a van. Making Health Kits every year for UMCOR is another one of their projects. They worked with the Property Committee on renovating the church rest rooms. Dawn is the leader of our Parish Nurses who do many things to improve the health of our congregation such as the partnership with Centra Health for weight loss. Under her leadership the nurses meet with the Jiff children to help them become more health conscious. Her latest endeavor is to co-chair Centenary's Stephen Ministry with Alice Wilkinson. In appreciation of these many activities, the UMW has made a gift to missions in her name.

At the same meeting Marge Wilson, Chairman of the UMW Reading Program, presented a certificate to Ida Powell who read 10 books including 2 books from each category which earned her a Plan II Certificate. Patricia Butler read or had read to her 8 books which earned her a Children's Certificate. Congratulations ladies !!!

## Conference continued

### Coming out of the 2008 Annual Conference:

The Common Table was tasked with leading us to realign staff, boards and agencies around the core principles and shifts outlined in All Things New. The table is focused on the three areas of the Conference Vision Statement: Congregational Excellence, Leadership Excellence, and Missional Excellence. This focused alignment of conference through the Common Table is enabling us to discern additional levers to make "All Things New."

The Congregational Development Team was tasked with supporting the invitation to plant and to harvest through initiatives described in the right-hand column (strategies for prospective planters, for new faith communities, the 5 Talent Academy and the capital campaign).

## Applying Bible Principles

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. But a wrong view of money can become a problem to us.

In First Timothy 6:9-10, Scripture warns about the dangers of a determination to get rich: "But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

When we have a consuming desire to get rich, when we are obsessed with money so that it becomes the focus of our time and attention, then we have made it the number one priority in our lives. In that spot, it replaces everything, including God. We begin to find our security in money, not in God and in God alone.

However, when our view of God is right and our view of money is right, we will realize that money cannot buy security; money cannot purchase happiness; money cannot guarantee peace or joy or contentment. God alone can provide these essentials as we ". . . strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

In his book, *The Gift of Giving*, Wayne Watts said this: "God always lovingly instructs us in the path that is in our best interest and which will bring us the greatest happiness in life. Therefore, for our good, He instructs us to put Him first in all things, and this includes how we use our money."

How do you view money? Is it at the center of your life, thereby perhaps replacing God's rightful role? And equally important, are you using the money God has given to you to advance His kingdom and His righteousness?

## Thanks for Everything!!

Paula Howell, *CUMC Representative and JIFF Director*

I want to thank everyone for their generous response to the JIFF Angel Tree, the kids were thrilled with their gifts! And a special thanks to Gigi for the "goodie bags" she made for each of them. Sugared up kids for the Holidays!

Again thanks to all the Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army, our need this year was great and you stepped up and helped. A special thanks to, Garland and Peggy Harper, Kathy Keane, Dot Morcom, Earle Simpson, Carl Howell, Jami Howell, Megan Craighill, Gordon Howell, Chris Howell, Karen Warner, David Shackelford, Ida Powell, Don Younger, Renee Graves, Mari Smallshaw and boys, Rodney Bell, Gene Maddera, Jack Bryson and Belva Shelor. Some of these people spent more than one hour and some rang each of our three days.

## Youth Opportunities

### Lynchburg District Youth Retreat

The Lynchburg District Youth Retreat is Feb. 19-21 at the 4-H center at Smith Mountain Lake. The cost is \$95 and is open to all 6th-12th graders. The speaker for the event is Bart Campolo who is an urban minister and son of Tony Campolo. More information about this event will be announced by the Lynchburg District. For information on Youth and Resources - Contact Shawn Kiger at [Shawn@LaneMemorialUmc.org](mailto:Shawn@LaneMemorialUmc.org)

### Senior Highs begin New Study in Sunday School

The Senior High Youth will begin a new book from the 3V series called "Radical Jesus". This 3V study series focuses on what it was like for people of his day to encounter Jesus... who did the unexpected, and turned things upside down. Session titles include -

- \* **The Temptation of Jesus** (Matthew 4:1-11)
- \* *The Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5:38-48)
- \* *Healing of the Paralytic* (Mark 2:1-12)
- \* *The Prodigal Son* (Luke 15:11-32)
- \* *The Rich Man and Lazarus* (Luke 16:19-31)
- \* *The Woman at the Well* (John 4:1-42)
- \* *Doubting Thomas* (John 20:19-29)

All senior high youth are invited to join in the discussion! 9:30am in the youth room on the third floor. The leader will be Chris Howell. Snacks will be served!! Give it a try!

**Save the date...January 23, 2010 - Leadership Training Event, Heritage UMC, 8:30am-2pm. More details to follow from the Lynchburg District.**

2009 Operating Budget through December 15, 2009	
<u>Receipts:</u>	
Pledged Offering	189,573
Unpledged Offering	39,818
Loose Plate Offering	2,191
Church School Offering	2,619
From Rustburg UMC	4,000
From UMFS	3,300
Miscellaneous Offering	1,365
Bazaar	7,250
Easter Offering	5,545
Shortfall Offering	21,220
Steeple Rent	13,800
Interest Income	471
From Memorials	8,897
<b>Total Receipts.....</b>	<b>\$301,454</b>
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Apportionments	- 51,907
Pastor Support	- 65,546
Program Support	- 12,118
Building & Grounds	- 59,295
Office Support	- 17,203
Staff Support	- 94,867
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$300,846</b>
<u>Benevolence Receipts</u>	
<u>Outside of Budget</u>	
Stephen Ministries	4,638
Fellowship Fund	1,858
Sager Brown Trip	279
JIFF	1,621
Pennies with a Purpose	861
Souper Bowl	200
Operation Teddy Bear	303
Conference	445
Local Benevolences	290
Health Ministry	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,595</b>

<b>MEMORIALS</b>	
<u>In Memory of Mr. &amp; Mrs. C.T. Bryant</u> Darlene Bryant	
<u>In Memory of Conrad Dodl</u> Joe & Irene Reed	
<u>In Memory of Louise Davis Platt</u> Louise Perry Lorene H. Johnston Karen Ramsey Katherine Sasser Earle & Helen Simpson Paul Pribble	
<u>In Memory of Douglas Reid Sasser</u> Edwin & Teresa Brinkley Tom & Quen Chaffin Georgia Russell Joe & Irene Reed Chris & Leslie Watkins	
<u>In Memory of William Jopling Marshall, Jr.</u> Bill & Ida Powell Mr. & Mrs. Carl Overstreet Mr. Sheridan Besosa Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Oliver Mrs. Henry Walton, Jr. Mrs. Nancy Soctt Mrs. Marie Powers Mrs. Philip Sneed, Jr. Mr. Edward A. Marshall Mrs. Lucille Laughon	
<u>In Memory of Edith &amp; Henry Minix</u> Doris Speierman	
<u>In Memory of Eddie Mitchell</u> Dot Morcom	

**The Rest of The Story**  
by Bill Powell, *CUMC Treasurer*

When the stock market takes a hit, so do church collection plates. Global economic woes have had an impact on all levels of The UMC in 2009, and the results were budget cuts, staff layoffs, canceled meetings and postponed projects. Even the bishops voted to take a pay cut. But the denomination continued to pursue its four areas of focus—improving global health, engaging in ministry with the poor, encouraging church growth and developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Here at Centenary salaries were frozen and not all obligations have been paid when due.

The last issue of The Spire contained a financial tabulation showing budget receipts and disbursements equal as of November 22. That's good news. The "rest of the story" is that we began 2009 with a \$29,765 deficit in the general fund (the budget) and that deficit remains. In addition, even though we have paid 72% of our conference and district apportionments, we still owe in excess of \$20,000. A recent survey of church giving showed a decline from 3.2% in 1955 to 2.5% in 2007. Scripture tells us God wants a tithe, plus our offerings. The prophet Malachi tells us to bring our tithes into God's storehouse (church) in order that there may be food (resources). If we do this He promises to open the windows of Heaven and pour out on us overflowing blessings. Let's give it a try -- and do it before December 31, and even the IRS will help.

<b>Stewardship - Nov/December 2009</b>	
<u>Operating Budget</u>	
November 29	4,768
December 6	9,385
December 13	23,936

**Campbell's Soup Labels**

The Henry Fork Service Center at Rocky Mount wrote: Thank you for your labels! Henry Fork Center now has 1,089,000 points banked. We need 511,000 more for the vans.

So Centenary members, eat lots of soup on chilly winter days and remember to save Campbell labels for Henry Fork's needs. Place them in the marked basket in the hallway leading to the office. An easy way to support missions!

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### **SHARE Packages available for January**

**Call in by 1/8. Pickup on 1/23**



**REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20:** 3 fully cooked roasted chicken breasts, 5 pcs. Lightly breaded Pollock fish fillets, Tyson seasoned steak strips, 4 fully cooked

chicken thighs, Mrs. Smith's apple pie, whole frozen strawberries, 3# (pounds) potatoes, oranges, additional fresh fruits and vegetables

**RIBEYE STEAK PACKAGE -\$16:** Eight 6 oz. rib-eye steaks for a total of 3 pounds!

**SUPER BOWL PACKAGE-\$20:** 2# breaded onion petals, 12 oz. cocktail franks, 3/4# fully cooked meatballs, (4) 3 oz. Chicken egg rolls, (4) 3 oz. Beef egg rolls, 13 oz. Breaded Chicken breast nuggets,

12 oz. Beef hot dogs, 10z. Honey Ham deli meat  
**BRYON'S BBQ CHICKEN (NEW)-\$11:** 4# fully cooked pulled chicken with BBQ sauce

**SHRIMP PACKAGE-\$10:** 2# breaded ready to cook Market Day label shrimp

**BREAKFAST PACKAGE-\$12:** Jimmy Dean 40 snack size sausage biscuits. Microwaveable. (4.25#)

**KELLOGG'S BLUEBERRY NUTRI GRAIN BARS-\$15:** 48 bars, individually wrapped and labeled.

**SUPPER TIME CONVENIENCE ENTREES-\$22:** New larger size: Seven 16 oz. Dinners per box (that is two 8oz. Servings!) Each box of dinners will include the following: Lasagna with Meat Sauce; Grilled Chicken Breast Alfredo with Penne Pasta and Broccoli; Beef Strips with Mashed Potatoes and California Blend mixed vegetables & gravy; Beef Ravioli in Marinara Sauce; Chicken Parmesan with Penne Pasta, Sauce and Mozzarella Cheese; Manicotti with Marinara Sauce; Turkey a la King with Rice and Mixed Vegetables.

*Substitutions may be made due to delivery schedules or other circumstances.*

*Call Paula or Chris Howell - 847-8138*

**Centenary United Methodist Church  
1501 Rivermont Avenue  
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