



THE SPIRE



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

June 2010

Centenary Involved in the Lynchburg Community

JIFF Year Coming to Close

By Paula Howell, *JIFF Director*

Our JIFF Program is closing out another year with our neighborhood kids. It has been a good year with the kids spending time learning about how to care for the environment, their community as well as friends and family. They have also had time of learning more about the Bible and how it teaches us how we should live our lives.



Our Parish Nurses, Dawn Arrington and Sue Pitts, have provided them each month with a lesson on Health from how to help prevent sickness to learning about healthy snacks. Mari Smallshaw and Dr. White have helped with music each month and showed them not only new

songs but new ways of make music with bells. Much thanks goes out to our weekly volunteers who are so faithful in making sure this program keeps going; Helen and Earle Simpson, make sure the pizza and drinks are there as well as providing carrots to round out their diets. Carl Howell, Bill Roseveare and Denise Bryson who lead the groups as they go from station to station and keep them orderly. Chris Howell and Melva Shelor have so tirelessly taught classes. Belva Shelor, Karen Bell and Michelle Webster (former JIFF Kid) who have managed the Kindergarten thru 2nd grade class, teaching and keeping them entertained. Thank you to Jack Bryson who filled in while his mother was recuperating from surgery, as well as Marty and Melissa Waugh who faithfully come whenever they are needed.

As you can see it takes a lot of people to keep this program going, we appreciate all the prayers and invite you to come by any Thursday at 5:30 PM and help out.



Modeling Unity in our Community

DAY OF DIFFERENCE was a huge success despite the one rain downpour and the weather mans' threats. Every year it is such a blessing to be able to partner with the other churches in the lower Rivermont area and provide UNITY FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY. On Friday evening we opened the weekend with registration where everyone that was signed up got their shirts. Denise Bryson and Chris Howell led the Youth in a game that encouraged the youth to meet the people of the different churches. That was followed by the Pep Rally led by Fellowship Church of Christ.

If you were around on Saturday you saw plenty of Purple Shirts picking up trash, manning the Health Fair and working on the Habitat House on Monsview that we are assisting on the build. If you were around on Sunday you saw many of those same shirts coming together to enjoy a time of fellowship with the neighborhood, eating hotdogs with all the trimmings and closing our weekend with a spirit filled worship service led by the ministers of all 7 churches. -Paula Howell, *CUMC Representative*

Interfaith Outreach Association

IOA is continuing its search for a part-time Fund Development Director. The Fund Development Director will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of a proven fundraising/marketing plan, working with a team of volunteers and staff. The position requires 10-20 hours per week. The candidate must have

See IOA continued on Page 4

FROM THE



PASTOR

Dear Friends –

It is so hard to believe that Annual Conference has come again. It seems like just yesterday that we were all in Norfolk and now we're back again. The Task Force on Redistricting is bringing before the Conference a

recommendation that the Virginia Annual Conference reduce the number of districts to 16, the reduction to take place following the 2011 Annual Conference. This would save about \$500,000 in costs to the Conference and will have very little or no effect on the Lynchburg District.

There will also be a discussion on the dates and duration of each annual conference: Previous Annual



Stephen Ministers Care

By Alice Wilkinson, *Stephen Leader*

Is life more than you can handle alone right now?

Are your health, your attitude, or your relationships suffering?

Are you adjusting to a new job, changed marital status, serious illness, the death of a loved one, a recent move?

Would you like to have someone in your life who really cares?

MAYBE A STEPHEN MINISTER CAN HELP

Consider having a Stephen Minister walk with you or a friend on a journey to wholeness. How does the referrals process work?

1. A person – either you, a relative, or a friend – is in need of Christian care.
2. The Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinator learns about this need from you, someone else, or the Pastor.
3. The Referrals Coordinator meets with the person to talk about Stephen Ministry.
4. With the person's permission, the Referrals



Conference action has approved the following dates for conference:

- Roanoke June 16–19, 2011 Hampton June 20–23, 2013
- Roanoke June 21–24, 2012 Hampton June 19–22, 2014

The Site Selection Committee is charged with finding a location for Annual Conference which is set at least 5 to 6 years in advance. According to the Book of Discipline (§1603.2), it is the responsibility of the Resident Bishop to set the dates for Annual Conference. With the recommendation coming from Common Table to move to a shortened Conference, with a Friday through Sunday afternoon format, the Site Selection Committee recommends to the Bishop that Annual Conference be held as follows:

- Roanoke June 22–24, 2012 Hampton June 20–22, 2014
- Hampton June 21–23, 2013 Hampton June 19–21, 2015

Hampton will eventually become the permanent meeting location for future Annual Conferences.

Please be in prayer for all the clergy and lay delegates as they travel and conference together.

Grace and Peace,

Coordinator assigns a Stephen Minister to meet on a weekly basis with the person.

5. The Stephen Minister continues to provide distinctively Christian care for the person with strict confidentiality.

Stephen Ministry helps to meet the needs of individuals who are:

1. Homebound/alone
2. Hospitalized/recently discharged
3. Facing serious or terminal illness
4. Experiencing major adjustments to jobs/careers/residences
5. Residents of long-term care facilities/nursing homes
6. Facing decisions on future care of aging parents/spouses
7. Experiencing absence of family members due to death, school, military assignment, marriage, divorce
8. Persons adjusting to becoming single parents
9. Persons who need someone who listens and cares
10. Needing someone who does not "do for" but is "there for"

If you would like to know more about Stephen Ministry, please call Alice Wilkinson, 384-0810.

Sager Brown Here We Come!

By Paula and Carl Howell, *Mission Team Leaders*

Once again Centenary is sending a Mission Team to the UMCOR Center in Baldwin, LA. Our dates are Oct. 30–Nov. 7.

You know all those kits you send to Conference? Well this is where they continue their journey to all parts of the world to provide what is needed after a disaster to help get people's lives back to normal. The teams all assist at the warehouse in getting things ready to be shipped. Additionally, they help with projects in the



communities all around that area, such as restoring homes that are damaged in the area that has so many hurricanes, flooding and natural disasters.

A meeting will be held on June 13 right after worship to see how many people are interested in joining the team and give a general idea of what the cost will be. We will have fund raisers but since Volunteers in Missions require the members to pay their way we will have some expense.

Your Invitation to Breakfast, Fellowship and Fun!

By Ida Powell, *Breakfast Eater and Spire Reporter*



Anyone for blueberry pancakes? Omelets? How about eggs to order, bacon, sausage, fried apples, grits, toast, biscuits? Other breakfast favorites?

If you are hungry for a good morning meal and if you enjoy a large side order of rich fellowship and fun, here is your invitation: Join the Wesley Chapel Class for breakfast each second Tuesday of the month. Come to Famous Anthony's, 2631 Lakeside Drive (Route 221 across from Sheetz) at 8:30 a.m. Call Earl Simpson, 384-2529, and your space will be reserved. If you are among those fortunate persons who do not need to gulp cereal and race to work, this invitation is for YOU!

Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists present



Lynchburg TV - Keep An Eye on It

Presented by Steve Smallshaw,
Lynchburg City Broadcast Services Coordinator

We'll have our "Brown Bag" luncheon in Fellowship Hall at 11:30am and then travel to City Hall to see the TV studio and learn how Steve and his colleagues create programs that tell Lynchburg's on-going stories.

Tuesday, June 15

3Ms Discover Old City Cemetery Ties

During its May visit to Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery, Centenary's Marvelous Mature Methodists discovered many ties to our church. Also known as the Methodist Cemetery, it was established in 1806. It is the oldest continuously operated public cemetery in Virginia, celebrating its bicentennial in 2006, as did Centenary.

The recently added chapel was built from materials salvaged from the former Hermon Methodist Church in this area and contains King James Bibles donated when Centenary's pew bibles were replaced. Outside is a marker naming six Centenary clergy and prominent lay members who were buried there in the early 1800's.

This 3M's outing, planned by Mary Jane Layne and Shirley Moorman, included a talk by cemetery board president Bruce Christian, an appearance by a mourning widow in period garb and a guided tour of the grounds. During a stop at the chapel, the group sang several 1800's hymns directed by Charlie Layne and accompanied by Katherine Sasser.



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Applying Bible Principles

A wise person once observed, "Half of any task is having the right tool, and the other half is knowing what to do with it." Although we don't often consider it as such, money is a tool which God uses in our lives as a means of spiritual growth.

You see, money is not an end in and of itself. It is a means to an end. And in God's hands, one of its primary "ends" is to instruct us and to help us grow spiritually. God especially wants us to avoid our natural tendency which is a bent toward selfishness, greed, and hoarding. That's why the Lord Jesus said, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions" (Luke 12:15).

Well, if an individual's life does not consist in having a lot of possessions, in what does it consist? Jesus provided an insightful answer to that question in Matthew 6:20-21, where He said, ". . . store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Now, according to Jesus' teaching in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25), there is nothing wrong with saving. There is nothing wrong with investing or earning interest on investments. There is nothing wrong with being a wise steward by planning for the future. In fact, Jesus taught that those who do so are to be commended. But our primary emphasis as God's children is to make our investments in the "Bank of Heaven." When we do that, our investments are secure. They are not affected by inflation, theft, wear and tear, or anything of the kind.

There is only one way to make deposits in this special "bank": By giving to the Lord's work. Although the money is used here, it is credited to your eternal account. Each time you give your tithes and offerings at Centenary United Methodist Church, you are giving to the Lord by investing for eternity. You are storing up "treasures in heaven" that will glorify God forever.

Thank You from the Property Committee!!

The Property Committee has been busy this spring, trying to resolve concerns and completing projects around the church. You may notice the new Ramp outside the fellowship hall, toilet repairs, dishwasher repairs, and numerous other changes that are invisible to the average person. We have also teamed up with the parsonage committee and replaced/upgraded the HVAC at the parsonage. Yet the list is still growing. We thank everyone that has helped, in great or small ways and appreciate the feedback. Please excuse the construction as it continues - especially your patience while materials cure. We try to keep the disruptions minimal. *-Carl Gravely, Property Chair*

IOA (continued)

excellent communication skills, a desire to grow in this area, attention to detail, competent in the use of computers, ability to meet deadlines, ability to engage others and passionate about the mission of IOA. If you have an interest in the position email ioa@ntelos.net.

IOA has just learned of the resignation of one of its board members due to acceptance of a job in another state and we are looking for a new member to fulfill his duties. Call 846.6098 or email ioa@ntelos.net.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Emergency Assistance: Wow! Twenty or more people have come to our office every day for the past three weeks seeking assistance. Three of us are interviewing to try to keep up. This is a pace we have never seen before. We can only hope it does not last! There are days we have to close

early because we have had too many packed into our lobby waiting to be interviewed. We are so grateful for your support that allows us to assist people in need!

Furniture: Awareness of IOA's Furniture Program has grown and we are assisting more families than ever before with their basic furniture needs. Thank you! We have a great need for full/queen size metal bed frames. If you have a frame that you can donate, please contact Donna Snow ioadonna@ntelos.net if you can help.

Progressive Release: Our second 12-week session of life skills classes for the year began last week with 8 men and 8 women who voluntarily signed up to participate. The Purses of Promise and Backpacks of Blessing projects continue to be well-received. These two projects provide good, usable purses and backpacks "stuffed" with needed "goodies" for men and women when they are released from jail. Contact Roger Paul at ioaroger@ntelos.net or 846.6098.



Ramp Improves Accessibility

By Ida Powell, *Spire Reporter*

Check out Centenary's new ramp leading from the alley to the Fellowship Hall. Completion came just in time for late May's Day of Difference, monthly SHARE food distribution and the Family First luncheon.

Who needs a ramp? Anyone headed for the church kitchen with loads of food and utensils. The adult juggling diaper bag, infant and other small children. Those unloading the SHARE tractor-trailer. And those whose vision and/or mobility issues make maneuvering steps problematic.

Was the ramp expensive? Cost was minimal, thanks to extensive labor by Property Committee Chair Carl Gravely. This guy combined engineering expertise, muscle and sustained effort to see the project through from design to construction to completion. Though he was underwhelmed by his request for volunteer help, he was assisted by Barry Arrington, Carl and Chris Howell.

When did Carl have time to do this? He sandwiched it in between his full-time job, singing in the choir, helping teach a junior high Sunday School class, JIFF volunteering, serving on the Church Council, and chairing the property committee.

Thanks, Carl! The new ramp is just what we have long needed and we are very grateful for all your efforts to improve and keep our church property in good repair.



Centenary Member Chosen for National Meeting

Alan Gurdal will be one of four Virginia Wesleyan College student representatives at Student Forum 2010. Shenandoah University is hosting this annual leadership conference of the United Methodist Student Movement.

During the conference, hundreds of students from across the nation will engage in education and dialogue concerning United Methodist college students around the world. Look for Alan's report in the next Spire.

Alan has been active in campus Christian ministry at Virginia Wesleyan, most recently participating in interviews for a new campus chaplain. We join parents Reba and Robert in being proud of this son of Centenary.

New Methodist Born!

Here is a picture of Pastors Rick and Liz Ecklund's new granddaughter Kennedy Gene Ecklund. She was born on May 20. Their daughter Erin is the mother.



Special Summer Church School

The Wesley Chapel Class is following its tradition of inviting special teachers for summer church school sessions. Fortunately the class includes several exceptionally qualified persons, allowing Bill Powell to enjoy a brief sabbatical after a half century of teaching.

Luther White is planning June lessons focused on Thessalonians as well as our response to Christ's example of servanthood. He will also offer glimpses of a fascinating character from our faith history. Having recently obtained a new Oxford Press biography of Francis Asbury, he will help the class better understand this man who did so much to establish Methodism as one of the first two bishops in America. Those present may even experience a bit of original drama.

In July Bob Staples will follow Cokesbury's Adult Bible Studies, focused on the foundation of Christian commitment. Bob has ways of engaging those present in the lesson as he engages in a lively presentation.

David Shackelford will continue Adult Bible Studies in early August, leaving time for two very interesting guest speakers at the end of the month.

All three men are experienced educators. Following a legal career, Luther was president of Randolph-Macon and Kentucky Wesleyan Colleges. Bob's career included teaching as part of his work in a research lab as well as teaching in New Jersey and at Central Virginia Community College. David completed a career of administration and teaching history with service as assistant principal at Heritage High School.

For those who "don't do Sunday School" or for other adult classes, this is your invitation for a fresh summer learning experience. Come to the third floor at 9:30 a.m., grab a cup of coffee, sing several hymns, share joys and concerns, open your Bible along with your mind and heart, and enjoy!

Did You Know?

Did you know the songs playing at noon and 6 at Centenary UMC are changing? Stop and listen this month, as we feature music for Memorial Day weekend, and new music for the month of June.

Furthermore, we still are receiving praises and comments on the system.

"On Mother's Day I was sitting in my backyard. I live on a quiet back street in Rivermont. The bells at Centenary United Methodist Church started to play. I jumped in the car and rode up and down Rivermont Avenue and on some of the side streets where I saw people who had stopped to listen to the bells. Some people were singing the hymn that was playing and some had a look of serenity and pleasure on their faces. One thing for certain is that these people for a few minutes had stopped and turned their attention to the music that speaks and invokes thoughts of Christ." ~Natalie Robinson with Trinity United Methodist Church, Lynchburg



The School of Christian Mission is a cooperative school offered by the Virginia Conference Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women (UMW). It offers a wonderful opportunity for your whole congregation to come alive to mission by participating in a weekend or week-long "school" held each year at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone, Va.

It is an excellent "mission trip" for the youth. They have a fun time together as they learn about what we United Methodists are doing around the world to alleviate suffering and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. They participate in hands-on mission projects, ranging from gleaning to work in a battered women's shelter.

There is also an intergenerational study for adults and children. During the weekday session, there is a class for children (ages 5-12). The participants participate in hands-on mission activities that make mission real for them.

See School continued on Page 7

A Camping We Will Go!!

Mark your calendars! We are booked at Jellystone for the weekend of August 13-15. In case you've never joined us before--we will have swimming, rafting, hiking and other camping activities as well as great food, fellowship and devotionals around the campfire. Stay for one night, both nights, or come up just for the day.

Annual Conference June 13-16

Centenary will be well represented at the Virginia United Methodist Annual Conference meeting June 13-16 in Norfolk. As usual, Pastor Rick will be present as will Centenary's delegate, Lay Leader Garland Harper. Ida Powell will be a district delegate. The district delegation also includes Briannah Ecklund as a youth representative and Carl Gravely as a young adult representative, though his attendance may be impacted by work responsibilities. Expect a comprehensive report from Garland following this gathering of 3,000 Virginia United Methodists.

Persons with computer access will be able to follow events online at www.vaumc.org. The "2010 Virginia Conference Session" section of the website will be updated to reflect the actions of the annual conference and audio files of sermons and Bible studies will be posted. Anyone interested may also attend in person.

Bishop Honored by Virginia Council of Churches

Virginia Conference Bishop Charlene P. Kammerer was honored this past Tuesday, May 18, with the Virginia Council of Churches' Faith in Action Award for 2010. Each year the Virginia Council of Churches recognizes an individual and an organization who exemplify personal faith and action on behalf of all God's children.



Bishop Kammerer came to Virginia in 2004 after serving for eight years as Bishop of the Western North Carolina Conference. She was elected bishop in 1996, the first woman elected in the Southeastern Jurisdiction, from her native Florida Conference. She also served as campus minister at Duke University in Durham. She currently serves as president of the General Board of Discipleship and is a member of the denomination's Connectional Table.

**2010 Operating Budget
through May 23, 2010**

Receipts:

Pledged Offering	81,095
Prior Year Pledge	179
Unpledged Offering	14,315
Loose Plate Offering	645
Church School Offering	1,184
From Rustburg UMC	1,000
From UMFS	1,200
Miscellaneous Offering	88
Easter Offering	2,568
Shortfall - Budget	50
Interest Income	116
From Gifts/Memorials	4,864
Total Receipts.....	\$107,304

Expenses:

Apportionments	-14,162
Pastor Support	-31,818
Program Support	-5,392
Building & Grounds	-32,369
Office Support	-7,052
Staff Support	-36,342
Total Expenses.....	\$127,135

Benevolence Receipts

Outside of Budget

Stephen Ministries	500
Fellowship Fund	704
JIFF	829
Pennies with a Purpose	280
VIM	50
Local Benevolences	40
Meals for Haiti	530
Conference Offerings	13
UMCOR	2,549
Operation Teddy Bear	15
Sager Brown	123

TOTAL \$4,154

MEMORIAL GIFTS



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

Darlene Bryant

In Memory of Arthur Roy Smith, Jr.

Frances and Marvin Unger

Gene Maddera

Virginia and Nae Hugh Pearson

Marjorie and Rex Butler

In Memory of Dianne Arrington James

Graves Sunday School Class

Katherine Sasser

Mary Jane and Charlie Layne

In Memory of Robert S. Eagle

John and Jacqueline Novak

In Memory of

William Jopling Marshall, Jr.

Gene Maddera

In Memory of William Estes Wilson, Jr.

Katherine Sasser



School (continued)

There are also classes for adults where men and women (young and old alike) come to learn and become involved in mission groups through one of the three courses from which they choose.

Each year there is a Spiritual Growth, a Geographic, and a General issues course offered. Each course helps us understand God's work in our world, how we are involved as United Methodists and challenges us as individuals in our personal life and local congregations. Meeting and sharing with United Methodist missionaries is also a highlight of the school.

After attending a school, we encourage you throughout the year to help share your new-found knowledge of mission with your congregation and across the conference. For more information about the school, contact the conference mission office at 1-800-768-6040, (804) 521-1100, ext. 144; e-mail: mission@vaumc.org.

School dates for 2010 are July 22-25 and July 26-29. The Spiritual Growth Study will be "For the Love of God: John's Letters." The Geographic Study will be "The Beauty & Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible." Other studies include a youth study, children's study and "Joy to the World: Mission & Evangelism"

**Stewardship - May 2010
Operating Budget**

April 26	3,212
May 2	8,416
May 9	5,824
May 16	4,294
May 23	2,781

Red Bird School Classes Suspended for 2010-11

With deep regret the Red Bird Mission Board voted at a meeting on May 13 that due to lack of funding the school would be closed temporarily at the end of the current school year and would not reopen in the Fall.

The other ministries: Red Bird Medical and Dental Clinics, Elderly Housing, Community Housing Improvement, Community Outreach, Craft Store, Community Store will continue to serve God's people living in and around the Red Bird Valley. Learn more by visiting www.rbmission.org

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SHARE Packages available for June

Call in by 6/13. Pickup on 6/26



REGULAR PACKAGE-\$20: 2# (pounds)

roaster chicken drums, 10 oz. Black Forest

deli ham, 1# teriyaki whole pork tenderloin,

Chicken breast strips, 2# processed cheese (similar to Velveeta), 3# potatoes, 2 jumbo yellow onions, additional fruits and vegetables

JUNE GRILL PACKAGE-\$20: (4) 4 oz. center cut pork

chops, 1# boneless, skinless chicken breast tenders,

1.25# whole pork tenderloin, 4# chicken leg quarters,

1# beef patties 80% lean, 1# jumbo meat franks

JUNE STEAK-\$18 (10) 5 oz. bacon wrapped choice top sirloin

BEEF FAJITA-\$16: Each box includes 2# IQF Fully

Cooked Fajita Beef Strips, 3# IQF Roasted Green and Red Peppers and Onions, 1.5# Bag Flour Tortillas
SEAFOOD PACKAGE-\$18: 12 oz. IQF Fully Cooked Peeled and deveined shrimp, (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)

BREAKFAST BURRITO PACKAGE-\$12: Each burrito contains scrambled eggs, breakfast sausage, picante sauce, onions, peppers, American cheese in a tortilla shell. Pack 24

SUPPERTIME ENTREES-\$22: 7-16 oz. Entrees/ Oven and Microwavable Trays May menu: Lasagna with Meat Sauce; Grilled Chicken Breast Alfredo with Penne Pasta and Broccoli Florets; Beef Strips with Mashed Potatoes, and Calif Blend Mixed Vegetables and Gravy; Beef Ravioli in Marinara Sauce; Chicken Parmesan with Penne Pasta, Sauce and Mozzarella; Manicotti with Marinara Sauce; Turkey ala King with Rice and California Blend Mixed Vegetables

If You Eat -You Qualify!!

Call Paula or Chris Howell - 847-8138

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