



THE SPIRE



Centenary United Methodist Church, 1501 Rivermont Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24503
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June 2018

Vacation Bible School Returns to Abundance Orchard

Our annual Vacation Bible School will be held **Sunday through Tuesday, June 10-12, from 5:30-7:30** in the church fellowship hall. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, and our program will begin at 6 pm. We will be using the Abundance Orchard VBS material provided by Society of St. Andrew, and the children will participate in a variety of public service projects during our time together.



Please invite your friends and neighbors to come worship and serve with us! The program is open to children who will be in Kindergarten through 5th grade next school year. Our youth are also invited to attend and participate in the service projects as well.



Organ Festival Returns to Court Street UMC

The Virginia International Organ Festival has returned to Court Street UMC for 2018, organized by musician in residence, Dr. Carol Williams. The first festival in 2017 was very popular with concerts drawing 100-200 attendees each performance. This year's lineup includes:

3 June, Gordon Turk

10 June, Rising Star Alex Jones

17 June, Silent Movie with Steven Ball

24 June, Grand Finale with Carol Williams

The concerts on the Schantz organ will also include the use of a big screen to enhance the event by giving the audience a chance to see the talented hands and feet of the organists up close. All concerts are at 3 pm and free.

Refreshments follow each performance.

Please be in prayer for all attendees of the Virginia Annual Conference being held June 15-17 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.



Bequests

Centenary UMC recently received a check from the Estate of a dear member who recently passed away. When a church is named as a beneficiary in a will, the gift to the church is known as a "bequest." The actual gift can come in various types of assets such as cash, stocks, real estate, or even personal property. Please remember that you too can leave a gift to support the mission and ministry of Centenary!

Here are some options for your bequest:

- * A specific dollar amount
- * A percentage of the estate
- * Specific assets

Thank you for all the ways you give to Centenary UMC! (Time, Talents, Tithes)



A Visit Home—Part 2

I've reminisced with you about a romanticized notion of a time and place long gone. All of us probably enjoy a moment of nostalgia now and then, and we tend, as I did, to lift up into our conscious thoughts the happy parts of earlier days. But truthfully, the picture is far more complex than telling incomplete stories and evoking pleasant feelings. For all the wonders of discovering the world through youthful eyes,

there is much about those days I wouldn't want back at all. Not all was light. While still a child I began to learn that where there are human beings there is also sadness and darkness. There was a religion professor whose son was a killer, and a few doors down were neighbors with a son in prison, and there were kids in the neighborhood who were destined to join him. There was alcoholism across the street. Chet would finish his day staggering drunk in the repair shop behind his house while his family lived in need and embarrassment. At the time, of course, I never connected his despair to the death of his oldest daughter, Rosemary, my first playmate. She was about six. Teenaged Don and Alice were killed in a car wreck. Then Walker. Then Gary. I learned too early about mental illness, birth defects and death—even of children. At church there was a boy in polio-caused leg braces, a girl blind in one eye, another who couldn't walk like other kids, and a family whose baby son I had seen in his tiny casket.

There was child abuse down a block on the next street over. Post-war trauma took its toll on returning soldiers and their families. The CEO of a well-known camp was not to be trusted with middle school girls or boys. Virulent racial hatred affected certain neighborhoods. Even on my relatively stable middle-class Maxwell Street, neighbors had disputes that were loud enough to be heard by other neighbors. A boy was kidnapped from the *Tropical Market*, a grocery store near my house. A couple of Sacred Heart Hospital ambulance drivers made the headlines when their crime ring was discovered. Destructive gossip took its toll on civility. The vile vocabulary of adults and older boys eroded innocence. There was secret mischief that a group of boys are prone to, and they wouldn't want teachers or parents to find out the whole story. There were some boys among whom there was common pilfering of sodas, candy and ice cream sandwiches. We heard on the sly that Darla's mom "modeled." Some children were too ready to mock and tease and inflict pain on the weak, the different, the deprived. There were losers and users. Unbathed "Redbeard" wandered the city on foot, pulling his wagon carrying the totality of his earthly wealth. Children would run from him and hide in terror of what they didn't understand. One learned to be ready to fight back because someone might attack for any reason, or no discernible reason, which is how a random blistering attack befell me one unhappy afternoon. Putrid rumors were repeated about Catholic rites and we conservative Wesleyans were mocked as "holy rollers," though in seven decades I have yet to see one roll.

Then too, I learned early the darkness resident in my own soul, the temptability to which we are born, and the readiness to give in to its concomitant individual temptations. I was only about six when I swiped a little wooden boat from Barry's back yard, then in guilt, hid it. He got it back eventually.

Those elements from my storehouse of memory, in last month's column and this, are merely suggestive of a larger truth. This amazing complex, both of the broken and noble, is the human reality of every generation since Adam. It is the story of a humanity with fragmented remnants of the divine to which we gain glimpses, but a humanity that desperately needs to be rescued from the deep and resident flaw, the fear-founded, spring-loaded twist toward the self-god. The world I described is still the world. We are far more technologically sophisticated now, more than half a century later, but except for changes in the names, it is still our world. And still we need to be rescued.

In that urban blue-collar world, I came in contact with some of the finest, most authentic and deeply committed, Spirit-led Christians I have ever known. A precious few of them are still around. Some of them I've even seen recently. There were Sunday School teachers, pastors and family members who were serious about following Jesus and knowing the transforming power of his indwelling presence. They taught me about God, and showed me God. From little known people, at a little church at the corner of Goepf and New streets I learned the Bible and the faith. God always calls the followers of Jesus to tell the story, to be trained and to train others in the faith, to bear witness to the better way, to be part of the next chapter in his story of rescue, to exemplify and embody the path of holiness that leads to wholeness. I have a lot of mileage on me now, and I can joyfully report that the story didn't end at the corner of Goepf and New.

Continued on Page 3

2018 Operating Budget Through May 20

Receipts:

Offering	74,975
Loose Plate Offering	408
Church School Offering	697
Miscellaneous Income	175
Easter/Christmas	280
Gifts and Memorials	1,030
Total Receipts.....	77,565

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	30,216
Pastor Expense	29,869
Trustees	32,076
Apportionments	4,388
Office - Admin	3,121
Programs/Worship	1,609
Total Expenses.....	101,279

Benevolence Receipts 2018

Sager Brown	315
Fellowship Fund	278
JIFF	250
Pennies with a Purpose	487
Operation Teddy Bear	124
UMCOR	150
Lambuth Clarke Scholarship	1,447
TOTAL \$	3,051

DO ALL YOU CAN
DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN.
JOHN WESLEY

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Shirley Moorman

Lorraine Massie
Angie and Tim Campbell

In Memory of Earl Simpson

Fran and Rad Briley
Vickie and Dave Shackelford
Dawn and Barry Arrington
Paula and Carl Howell

Peggy Berger
Kathleen Nuckles
Ida and Bill Powell
Lisa and Bill Roseveare
Virginia Saville
Frances and Marvin Unger
Lorraine Massie
Marjorie and William Pressly
Joe Reed

Gene Maddera
Florence Reaves
Martha Reaves Head
Carolyn Reaves
Dayna Mathews Brown
Angie and Tim Campbell
Renee Minnix
Betty Wooldridge

In Memory of Myrtle Shepard

Virginia Saville

In Memory of Marguerite and Bill Hubble

Evelyn Smith

In Memory of Frances and John McKee

Evelyn Smith

Pastor's Column (continued)

Wherever I have been, in large cities, in towns, villages and countrysides all over the USA and beyond, I have found that the Holy Spirit is active and that Jesus is alive in his church. Faithful Christians embrace the Kingdom of heaven and live in obedience to the Gospel. And we get to be included in the story. There are children, youth and adults at Centenary Church right now who are being taught and formed in the Christian faith by the family of the redeemed.

Questions remain for us as a family of faith engaged in the give and take of life together. How shall we best accomplish the mission that God has laid before us? What will be the specifics in fulfilling the succinct instructions of Jesus to go into the world making disciples of Jesus Christ, in the name of God, whose name is Father, Son and Holy Spirit? How can we maximize effectiveness in that disciple-making task? What are the changes to which the ever living, ever creative God calls us? Two thousand years ago some were longing for the "good" old days—the familiar. Instead God answered prayer with a totally *new* day, unimagined, unlimited in possibility, a radical shift from comfort and expectation. It was a new day called Jesus, bracketed by Christmas and Pentecost, with Easter glory defining it all.

—Pastor Doug

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Stewardship - April/May 2018

	Operating	Capital	Other
April 22	2,279	205	91
April 29	3,868	520	25,131
May 6	3,244	170	598
May 13	4,188	30	152
May 20	4,278	60	284

Lectionary Readings for June 2018

June 3: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
June 10: 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
June 17: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34
June 24: 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
July 1: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

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

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June 2018

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					1	2
3 Honoring Graduates 2:30 pm Orientation for Lay Delegates to Annual Conference @ Fort Hill UMC 3 pm Organ Concert Featuring Gordon Turk @ Court Street UMC 5 pm Clergy Farewell Dinner @ Fort Hill UMC	4 7 pm Church Council (FH)	5 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	6 6 pm District Youth Leaders Dinner, Mi Patron, Boonsboro	7 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	8	9
10 3 pm Organ Concert Featuring Rising Star Alex Jones @ Court Street UMC 5:30-7:30 pm VBS	11 5:30-7:30 pm VBS	12 8:30 am Centenary Breakfast @ Famous Anthony's 5:30-7:30 pm VBS	13 10:30 am Frances Allen Circle (P)	14 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	15 Annual Conference, Hampton	16 Annual Conference, Hampton
17 Pennies with a Purpose Annual Conference, Hampton 3 pm Organ Concert Silent Movie with Steven Ball @ Court Street UMC	18	19	20 Deadline for SPIRE	21 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	22	23
24 12:15 pm Stephen Minister's 3 pm Organ Concert Grand Finale with Carol Williams @ Court Street UMC	25	26	27 9:00 am Life Line Screening (FH)	28 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	29	30

Each Sunday:
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3rd Floor 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary