



# THE SPIRE



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May 2018

## New Sign – A Constant Witness

Centenary UMC has received a much-needed gift, and the project funded by that gift is now complete.

Have you been enjoying the newly refurbished Centenary sign on Rivermont Avenue? It offers a constant uplifting, encouraging, or informational message to the community every day. Actually, the sign has been more than just refurbished; it has been enlarged and completely rebuilt after it became obvious that major repairs needed to be made. The pattern and look and some of the wood of the original sign have been preserved while, in compliance with the rules of the Historic Preservation Commission, a large message board has been added with the capability of movable lettering. Recently the final piece has been fastened in place, as the newly built top, complete with scrollwork, was added, capping off the restoration of the original look of the sign. Automatic dusk to dawn LED spotlights have been installed to illuminate both sides of the sign.



All of that beautiful work—construction, repair, wiring, installation—has been done by Mike Reeves, volunteering more hours of creative work than we can count. Abundant thanks are due to him.

Equally abundant thanks are offered to Virginia Saville and Charlie Layne, whose gifts made the project possible. The new sign is dedicated in memory of Mary Jane Layne and Robert Saville, who were both active, beloved members of Centenary within very recent memory. A new plaque will be added on the side of the sign acknowledging its dedication.

You may be interested to know that the original sign was also given in memory of two Centenary members of an earlier era. That dedication plaque reads, “This sign

erected to the Glory of God in memory of Mrs. Bea Rector & Mrs. Katherine Shearer.”

We are reminded that God’s work continues and is refreshed through his people as his witness goes forth into the community.

## JIFF to Hear Trades Opportunities

JIFF kids will learn how they can further their post-high school education when they gather on May 10. Last month they learned how Beacon of Hope could support pursuing a post-secondary degree. However, for some young people, learning about skilled trades for which there is great need, is more attuned to their interests and abilities.

They will hear about an opportunity to develop those skills and find a job from Franklin Swann, Old Dominion Job Corp’s Business Community Liaison Director. Located just outside the city at Monroe, Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 to 24 prepare for their future through career technical and academic training. In so doing, young people gain the skills they need to become employable and independent as they are guided to meaningful jobs or further education.

Mr. Swann is responsible for recruitment of students and marketing of Job Corps in Virginia and Maryland. His impressive background begins with an undergraduate marketing degree from Radford University and a Vanderbilt University MBA in marketing. In May his job is to sell our JIFF kids on a no-expense opportunity to gain a trade, a job, and a better quality of life through training at nearby Old Dominion Job Corps.



## Waving through the Train Window (A Visit Home—Part One)

Let me paint half a picture for you this month. It's about the difficulty of change and of apprehensiveness over the uncertain future in which we are going to spend every remaining moment of our existence. Next month I'll tell you the rest of the story—a story that God longs for us to know and love. Bear with me for a few self-indulgent moments.

A couple of years ago I repeated a travel ritual designed to feed my melancholy. Who doesn't enjoy the occasional savoring of the sweet sadness of days and places gone, the home you can't go back to, the dreams that never were? On my return from New York City on a rainy night I found myself once again turning off from I-78, an Interstate road that didn't exist when my parents used to drive us the 85 miles into New York for sightseeing or to see some block-buster epic movie like *The Ten Commandments* or *Ben Hur*. I turned toward the downtown area of the city of my birth, Allentown, PA. In those early growing up days it was a blue-collar river town of steel and coal; of smokestacks and Mack Truck manufacture; of post-war building frenzy and the optimism and hopefulness of all the soldier Bobs who had come home to marry all the Bettys; of radio drama, rock-and-roll, and "I like Ike;" of meat processing, breweries and lumber; of hot-dogs, steak sandwiches and non-chain restaurants; of door to door milk, baked goods, eggs, vegetable and newspaper delivery; of smells good (Freihoffer's Bakery) and bad (Arbogast and Bastian slaughterhouse); of neighborhood mailboxes, grocery stores, and mom-and-pop shops; of busyness and business; of retail and warehouses; of busses and trolleys, railroads, roundhouses, train stations and an airport; of blimps and propeller driven planes that still made you look up; of parks, neighborhood schools, sidewalks and streetlights; of kites, yo-yos, marbles, kick the can, hopscotch and stickball; of the autumn leaf palettes, and skies thick with sight and sound of birds in a hurry to leave in the fall; of snowballs, snowmen, snow forts, snap-over boot fasteners and numb hands; of Susie and Eileen and Ruth Ann—of Johnny and Barry and Jack; of May-poles, ice cream festivals and firemen with hoses and nets; of endless summers, ant mounds, centipedes, lightning bugs in jars, panting dogs and pouncing cats; of the Fairgrounds, fireworks and covered bridges; of bicycles without gears and strap on roller-skates; of Packard, Kaiser and Henry J cars and Indian motorcycles; of deep snows and balmy springs; of cascading spirea hedges, acorns and rose gardens; of Germans, Italians, Jews and Syrians. I can go there today and experience the longing of sweet loss. I can evoke the smell of March snowmelt on thawing soil or the ozone in the thick un-air-conditioned air of a July lightning-laced thunderhead.

I don't always go to the same spot. This time I went by my house. It's a day-care center now, and the families that come and go know nothing of the antenna I once strung for my crystal radio or of the grave in the corner of the yard where the dog, Patches, is buried. I went by the railroad station, not far from where I saw General MacArthur and John F. Kennedy each make a speech, and suddenly six decades had disappeared and I was again the seven year old boy determined not to let the tears escape my eyes as I waved good-bye to my dad, who was off on another business trip, making faces at me through the passenger car window of the long train to help lighten the moment for both of us. The bittersweet tang of memory can be delicious once in a while. But I dare not linger there.

There's a silly song of which I remember the words but not the composer. Here are the first and last verses. I'll leave out the part about drinking and women. You'll pardon me for dropping the "g's" from the "ing's" *All the old stations have been torn down; the high-flyin' trains no longer roll. The floors are all saggin' with boards that are softened, from not bein' used anymore. Things are all changin', the world's rearrangin' a time that will soon be no more. So, where has a slow-movin', once quick-draw outlaw, got to go? This land that I travel, once fashioned in beauty, now stands with scars on her face; and the wide-open spaces are closin' in quickly with the weight of the whole human race. It's not that I blame them for claimin' her bounty; I just wish that they'd taken her slow, 'cause where has a slow-movin', once quick-draw outlaw got to go?* I guess even the criminal element gets wistful, looking back sentimentally to the old days, which in moments of melancholy can be easily overinterpreted as "the *good* old days." Change is unsettling, though utterly unpreventable. Reminiscence can be enjoyable. Memory is a gift. But it was never designed to be a dwelling place. Experience and personal history can be the occasion of learning, warning, joy and thankfulness. Now, what would Jesus have us do with the lessons of memory and the change that inhabits our future? ~ Doug

## 2018 Operating Budget Through April 15

### Receipts:

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Offering               | 57,378 |
| Loose Plate Offering   | 311    |
| Church School Offering | 506    |
| Miscellaneous Income   | 678    |
| Easter/Christmas       | 280    |
| Gifts and Memorials    | 1,030  |
| Total Receipts.....    | 60,183 |

### Expenses:

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Support Staff Expense | 24,024 |
| Pastor Expense        | 23,895 |
| Trustees              | 23,251 |
| Apportionments        | 4,388  |
| Office - Admin        | 3,360  |
| Programs/Worship      | 1,409  |
| Total Expenses.....   | 79,327 |

### Benevolence Receipts 2018

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Sager Brown                | 180          |
| Fellowship Fund            | 211          |
| JIFF                       | 195          |
| Pennies with a Purpose     | 436          |
| Operation Teddy Bear       | 64           |
| UMCOR                      | 150          |
| Lambuth Clarke Scholarship | 1,447        |
| <b>TOTAL \$</b>            | <b>2,683</b> |

## Smallshaws in State Competition

Centenary congratulates two of our youth, Jimmy and Rick Smallshaw. On Saturday, April 21 they were in Richmond to take part in statewide National History Day (NHD) competition at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

To get there, they first had to win NHD competitions at their school, after which they had to be a winner in a regional competition. With state competitors coming from public, private and parochial schools across the state, their participation was truly an honor. Under the theme, "Conflict and Compromise," students chose a topic and mode of presentation from any period of history or locale. Work involving in-depth research started last fall and went on for months.

Along with Dunbar Middle School classmates Aditya Agarwal and Ryan Wyche, Jimmy helped prepare a group exhibit, "Space Race."

Rick, a Heritage High School student, chose to create an individual website, "The Virginias: Centuries of Conflict, One Monumental Compromise." Both junior and senior level contestants were subject to rigorous questioning by judges following their presentations.

Virginia History Day concluded with an awards ceremony presided over by the Virginia Historical Society President & CEO Jamie Bosket. Dr. Steven M. Constantino, Acting Superintendent of Education, VA Department of Education, declared in his keynote address, "Students here today are all winners!" And Jimmy and Rick Smallshaw were there among them. Again, congratulations!

## Scholarship Opportunity For a Student Attending Randolph College

The Lambuth Clarke Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$1,447.38 has been distributed to Centenary UMC to be awarded for the 2018/2019 school year.

"In selecting the recipient for this scholarship, preference will be given to a local student, with demonstrated financial need, who is affiliated with Centenary United Methodist Church and who is attending or will attend Randolph College. However, if no student affiliated with Centenary UMC applies in any given year, the funds will be available for a local student, with demonstrated need, who is attending or will attend Randolph College."

If you know a student who would be eligible to receive this scholarship, please contact the church office. Funds must be distributed to Randolph College by September 15, 2018.



### Stewardship - March/April 2018

|          | Operating | Capital | Other |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| March 25 | 2,640     | 10      | 17    |
| April 1  | 5,734     | 300     | 1,682 |
| April 8  | 2,053     | 50      | 64    |
| April 15 | 1,790     | 70      | 20    |

### Lectionary Readings for May 2018

|   |
|---|
| <b>May 6:</b> Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17                         |
| <b>May 13:</b> Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53                    |
| <b>May 20:</b> Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15      |
| <b>May 27:</b> Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17                        |
| <b>June 3:</b> 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6 |

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

**Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Lynchburg, VA**

**Return Service Requested**



*May 2018*

| sunday  | monday                                      | tuesday   | wednesday                                  | thursday   | friday | saturday  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--------|---|
|   |   | 1<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (P)<br>6:30-8 pm<br>Girl Scouts (FH)   | 2  | 3<br>National Day of Prayer<br>5:30 pm JIFF<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir | 4      | 5<br>11 am Memorial Service for Earl Simpson<br><br>1pm-5pm Open House @ Court Street UMC |
| 6<br><br>2:30 pm Bible Study (P)  | 7<br><br>7:00 pm Church Council (FH)        | 8<br>8:30 am Centenary Breakfast @ Famous Anthony's<br><br>Noon Interfaith Outreach Congregation Meeting @ St. Paul's Church- 7 <sup>th</sup> St. entrance<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (P) | 9<br><br>10:30 am Frances Allen Circle (P) | 10<br><br>5:30 pm JIFF<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                      | 11     | 12  |
| 13<br><br>Mother's Day<br>2:30 pm Bible Study (P)<br>5 pm Youth Group<br>6:30-8 pm<br>Girl Scouts (FH)  | 14  | 15<br>6:30 pm Bible Study (P)<br><br>6:30-8 pm<br>Girl Scouts (FH)  | 16   | 17<br><br>5:30 pm JIFF<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                      | 18     | 19  |
| 20<br><br>Pennies with a Purpose<br>2:30 pm Bible Study (P)   | 21<br><br>Deadline for SPIRE                | 22<br><br>6:30 pm Bible Study (P)   | 23   | 24<br><br>5:30 pm JIFF<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                      | 25     | 26  |
| 27<br>12:15 pm Stephen Minister's<br>2:30 pm Bible Study (P)<br>3 pm Organ Concert Featuring Anthony Newman @ Court Street UMC<br>5 pm Youth Group<br>6:30-8 pm<br>Girl Scouts (FH) | 28<br><br>Memorial Day Church Office Closed | 29<br><br>6:30 pm Bible Study (P)   | 30   | 31<br>5:30 pm JIFF<br>7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir                          |        |   |

**Each Sunday:**  
9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary