



THE SPIRE



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October 2017

Rains Came, Buckets Were Filled

Recent hurricanes of unprecedented force caused devastation across Texas, Louisiana, Florida and other places. Because we are United Methodists, relief was immediately on the way. That's because the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) stockpiles supplies for such an eventuality and sends them out as soon as safely possible from their supply depots.



Flooded homes require intensive cleaning with proper supplies, all included in UMCOR's cleaning kits, formerly known as "flood buckets." At Centenary Belva Shelor, responding to what she terms a "God nudge," challenged the congregation to gather supplies and fill as many buckets as possible within a short time. Members sprang into action, bringing items from UMCOR's list, donating funds, hunting the proper five gallon pails with tight lids to be filled to the brim with the designated cleaning supplies. Madison Heights Lowe's and the Bedford Humane Society supplied the necessary buckets.



Within a few days the Fellowship Hall was Bucket Central with Belva in command. Melissa Waugh helped shop for needed items, JIFF kids packed nearly a dozen buckets, and the youth group completed the job. They and youth group sponsors Bill and Lisa Roseveare transported them to an Appomattox collection point.

The result: 31 buckets from Centenary, soon on their way to the Virginia UM Conference in Glen Allen, where not one but two trucks were needed for the journey to the Sager Brown UMCOR Supply Depot in Louisiana. With required items and contributions of \$818, Centenary's members filled those buckets and donated any extra funds to UMCOR. Since each bucket is valued at \$65, that's a total of \$2015.00.



"When the storms of life are raging" God is with us, but what we do for each other makes God's presence real. For all who brought items, sent money, gave of time and energy, and those who offered prayers, Thank You!

Mission Team Prepares

As Centenary's mission team leaves on October 14 to work with UMCOR in Baldwin, LA, we ask



that you keep us in your prayers. We will return late afternoon on October 22. We would like to thank the United Methodist Women for their financial support for the two youth that are accompanying us this year and for the gas money that they have provided. We look forward to the week with fellow Christians as we lend ourselves for God's work and will look forward to sharing this experience when we return.



The Death of a (Lying) Salesman

A recent news story raises a culturally relevant issue. First let me contextualize it.

Bette Davis Eyes, a song written by Donna Weiss and Jackie DeShannon, and performed by Kim Carnes, won two Grammy Awards, including song of the year in 1981. It became the best-selling single in the United States for that year. It's about a manipulative femme fatale, part of whose winsome charm is those "Bette Davis eyes." I

remember the very famous actress, Bette Davis, who worked in movies from the 1930s through multiple decades following. The song is not about the real Bette Davis. It's just a description of the eyes. Though not a beauty, really, by Hollywood standards, Davis' large arresting eyes, her most noticeable feature, along with her willingness to fearlessly play roles other actresses rejected for image reasons, kept her working. She was a fighter in a tough, coarse, ruthless business. She had to be tough to avoid being swallowed up and spit out. Davis played some tough, hardened roles, too. All of that, along with multiple marriages and multiple abortions contributed to what appeared to me to be a sad hardening of her own soul. I remember those young *Bette Davis Eyes* on screen in movies made before I was born, and I remember her much older eyes, by some fifty years in the 1980s. I remember seeing her in an interview near the end of her life at around age 80. I saw unhappy eyes, a changed countenance, not even a discernible residue of the long lost ingenuous eagerness. Rather I seemed to see a lonely absence of joy—that "hardened by life" look of ennui. Fame and money didn't help. She was leathery tough in every way. I was sad, even somewhat sympathetic, I suppose. I've thought about how different my grandmother and mother, my aunts and now my sister and sister-in-law appeared, or in the latter cases, now appear, at that Bette Davis age. In them, as senior citizens, I have seen joy, ready laughter, engagement in life with and for others. Here are, and were, women, though imperfect, receiving life's gifts and successes, bearing life's pain and scars with grace and hope, and living with a confident expectancy birthed in, and tethered to the eternal. A lifetime of establishing wise priorities, choosing a life for God, and investing unselfishly in other people, have created eyes full of dancing light and life. These women have embodied finding Life (capital L) in God's plan for what it means to be human, bearing the fruit of the Spirit and the Image of God. And now it's showing up in my cousins and a sister-in-law who isn't officially "senior" yet. (She would appreciate my noticing.)

That is all to introduce you to another face and another set of old troubled and troubling eyes, for which I have little, if any, sympathy. The news a few days ago included the death of Hugh Hefner, founder of *Playboy* magazine, a business on its own deathbed. But the damage has been done. As I followed the news, it appeared to me that in Hefner's old age, in photos and interviews, his countenance, his eyes, appeared to embody the empty, joyless cadaverous predictable linear result of a life that was a lie at its core. His face was a caricature—a venerated smile without mirth, forced into the world without deeper truth behind it. At the end, in those eyes was the utter, frightful aloneness of the tattered remnants of ever shriveling life—the consequence of rejected redemption. It is the existential aloneness of one who has proudly rejected the source of Eternal Life—the isolation of the God-mocker. With twisted selfish perpetual adolescence, he took pornography mainstream to the ruin of countless souls. He sold the lie of women's sexual liberation while building an empire of personal wealth by using and abusing and exploiting countless women under a slick falsified varnish of sophistication, creating another wide roadway for a parade of selfish predatory males to rationalize and justify using, and then serially discarding young women who were reduced to mere objects of addictive pleasure. The gift of human sexuality and life for the purpose of God's imaging on earth is ripped from its moorings; the concept of family is undermined; men are twisted away from maturity. Relational satisfaction is elusive at best, and more likely non-existent. Marriages lie in ruin, and precious daughters and wives lie in tears. The wake of drugs, addictions, broken promises and broken dreams and literal death are the reality of the legacy of the so-called playboy. Sowing to the wind, the disillusionment and unfulfilled expectations of momentary pleasure have caught a culture in its whirling vortex. We reap the whirlwind—a culture of death: the trivialization of life itself, self-loathing, unnumbered suicides and the countless murders of our own inconvenient children. The destroying liar is dead. And what is almost as troubling to me is the fawning, praising accolades about Hefner from a variety of sources, many of whom should know better. Bleak indeed, but there is hope for those who have ears to hear. There are those who need to know the truth.

Pastors hear the stories and try to point broken souls to hope and redemption. For the used and the user, the exploiter and self-exploiter, there is hope and healing, but only in Christ. I've heard tearful confessions and I've seen notable turnarounds, and new life restored, and marriages healed; but it's hard work and it is all by God's powerful redeeming grace, through surrender, and the gift of His Holy Spirit. I point the broken and needy to Christ.

~Doug

JIFF's First Guest Offers Extras

When local humanitarian and entrepreneur Jim Webster spoke with JIFF kids in September, he brought along wife Crystal. Together they offered a verbal picture of childhoods where a single parent for one and a grandmother for the other reared them in disadvantaged settings. But education was always emphasized and despite Crystal's guidance counselor's statement that she was not college material, she obtained two degrees. They challenged their attentive listeners to have life goals and pursue them with passion, as did both Websters who have been lauded for professional and civic attainments.

Jim's advice repeatedly urged read, READ! And before the next week was over, he delivered two dozen books, secured for our youth when the United Way was distributing children's books. "Brick's Way Go Green!" was written by New York Jets offensive tackle D'Brickashaw Green as a way to give back to young people. The story of a school science fair and a local football hero's help to "go green" is engaging for JIFF's age and grade levels.

Future JIFF speakers will include a financial planner, one of last year's favorites; the mayor, and a high school Beacon of Hope director.

Sunday School, Better Together

In recent summers the Son Worshippers and Wesley Chapel Classes have often combined to give their teachers a break. Since both use Cokesbury's Adult Bible Series, it worked very well – so well that the classes have now chosen to combine.

In football lingo, the new class has a "deep bench." Teachers Rodney Bell and Bill Powell will alternate monthly, with David Shackelford as substitute. Pianists are Ida Powell and Vickie Shackelford, with Katherine Sasser as substitute. Since all are grandparents and disappear periodically to answer that call, schedules are flexible.

If Bible study, experienced teachers, lively discussion, concern for each other, hot coffee, and two hymns for a starter appeal to you, turn up on the third floor at 9:30 am next Sunday and join right in.

Lay Servant Ministries Lynchburg District Training

Everyone is welcome to attend the Lay Servant Ministries training October 20 & 21 at Chestnut Hill UMC, 4660 Fort Avenue: Friday 6:30–9pm, Saturday 8:30am–4pm. Continental breakfast, lunch & refreshments will be served. Register by October 10 by calling Dennis Van Aalsberg 540–632–6743. Courses will include Basic, Leading Worship, United Methodist Heritage, Aging & Ministry, and United Methodist Polity/Justice in Everyday Life.



Apple Gleaning at Johnson's Orchards in Bedford



Bright and early on the morning of Saturday, September 30, several Centenary members joined together with dozens of other Central Virginians to glean apples at Johnson's Orchards.

Orchard workers estimated that between 12 and 15 THOUSAND pounds of apples were rescued from rotting on the ground to filling bellies instead! These will be distributed to hungry neighbors in Southwest Virginia and West Virginia.

The Society of St. Andrew's Gleaning Network has delivered over 104 million pounds of salvaged potatoes and other food to the needy in Virginia. People of all ages can be involved – all you need is a willing heart (and a sturdy back helps, too!).



October 2017 Spire

Our Turn for Meals on Wheels

By Ida Powell, *Spire Contributor*

Twice each year Centenary members are volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg, a program claiming to deliver independence along with nourishing body and spirit. In Lynchburg 340 people are now served with a hot meal and for many, their sole human contact for the day.



Don Younger coordinates drivers and would gladly add more names to the list for service of about an hour and a half twice a year. During the third week of September Centenary's drivers were Rodney Bell, Jae Clebourne, Fred Gillispie, Garland Harper, Paula Howell, Sue Pitts, Bill Powell, Joe Reed, Dave Shackelford, and Jim Steffens. A Meals on

Wheels staff person rides along to give directions and deliver the food. In addition, Don and Earl Simpson drive a route together twice a month. You, too, can experience the satisfaction of filling a real need for some who need that extra bit of help. . . and see parts of Lynchburg never before experienced.

Fall Festival and Dinner

Join your church family for an evening of fellowship on Wednesday, October 25. The dinner and fall activities will be 6-8pm. Come and enjoy!



UM Foundation – A Grant Story

Recently a number of Centenary members gathered and learned more about the Virginia United Methodist Foundation. One aspect covered that evening was foundation grants. This story from the Roanoke District is an example of how foundation funds change lives.

From the website vaumfoundation.org: Most recently, the United Methodist Community Outreach Program of Roanoke,



VA, told us about its mission of decreasing reading deficiencies in young children. The ministry explained that one simple way of aiding a child's learning is by providing quality summer programs that keep them engaged in learning, reading, and activity while school is not in session. The results of the 2016 Summer Literacy Program was overwhelmingly positive with consistent attendance and parent involvement, both of which operate as protective factors when studying reading proficiency. "The future mission of this project is to transform the lives of children and their families to become stable self-sufficient members of society with Christ centered hearts. The award we received will impact the future significantly, planting seeds of fruitful discipleship for tomorrow; raising up skilled parents to lead their children through each stage of life; and well-educated children who think critically, read proficiently, and engage in their community."

Next summer, the need for a summer literacy program will rise again. Like so many of our grant recipients, there is a continual need for growth and to provide more ministry in the community. Ministry does not end when the grant is over. The Community Outreach Program does not face this reality alone.



2017 Operating Budget Through September 30

Receipts:

Offering	139,050
Loose Plate Offering	745
Church School Offering	1,350
Miscellaneous Income	410
Easter/Christmas Offering	982
Shortfall	20
From Memorials	3,883
Total Receipts.....	146,440

Expenses:

Support Staff Expense	60,338
Pastor Expense	48,664
Trustees	48,654
Apportionments	4,388
Office - Admin	6,032
Programs/Worship	5,637
Total Expenses.....	176,713

Benevolence Receipts 2017

Sager Brown	3,695
Fellowship Fund	735
JIFF	2,425
Pennies with a Purpose	225
Local Benevolences	893
Operation Teddy Bear	212
Lambuth Clarke Scholarship	1,182
UMCOR	1,024
TOTAL	\$10,391

Stewardship-August/Sept. 2017

	Operating	Painting	Other
August 27	8,332	1,026	323
Sept. 3	5,322	570	1,350
Sept. 10	2,371	720	2,135
Sept. 17	3,359	2,510	785
Sept. 24	1,043	820	1,009

MEMORIALS



In Memory of Linda Porter

Lorraine Massie

In Memory of Lewis Moorman

Tim and Angie Campbell
Katherine Sasser
Mrs. Fred Cawthorne
Lorraine Massie
Ragged Robin Garden Club

In Memory of Susan McCann

Katherine Sasser
Cheri and Mark Armstrong

In Memory of Kitty Probst

Katherine Sasser
Joe Reed

In Memory of Jane Blankinship

Joe Reed
Sherry Stine
Ida and Bill Powell

In Memory of Ellen Murrie

Tim and Angie Campbell
Joe Reed
Ida and Bill Powell

JIFF Volunteers Rocking New Year

The new JIFF year is off to a great start! Director Paula Howell was excited to report all the cool things that are happening. "I think it all hinged on the meeting we had back in the beginning of August. We brainstormed and prayed and really got re-energized. At the end of the meeting there were still gaps in our coverage...we were short on group leaders, 4th station leaders...I wasn't even sure I had enough people to pick up the pizza. But I was at such peace - I knew that God was working in this! Within days I started getting email and phone calls from Centenary members who felt led to volunteer. Each one is a real blessing." Key spots are covered but there is always room for more help! How is God urging you to be a part?

MATCHING GIFTS

1. YOU DONATE.
2. THEY MATCH.
3. DOUBLE THE IMPACT.

We have had a church member step up with a matching gift up to \$10,000 towards the Paint Fund! Every gift given between September 1 and December 31, 2017 designated for the Paint Fund will be matched up to \$10,000. What a blessing!

Gifts given: \$4,620

**\$4,620 becomes
\$9,240**

**We are 47% towards
our goal of \$20,000**



Lectionary Readings for October 2017

Oct. 8: Exodus 20:1-4; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 15: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 22: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 29: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Nov. 5: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

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1501 Rivermont Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

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October 2017

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1	2 7 pm Church Council (FH)	3 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	4	5 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	6	7
8 5 pm Youth Group 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	9	10 8:30 am Centenary Breakfast @ Famous Anthony's	11 10:30 am Frances Allen Circle (P)	12 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	13	14 Team leaving for Sager Brown
15 Pennies with a Purpose	16	17 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	18	19 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	20	21
22 5 pm Youth Group 6:30-8 pm Girl Scouts (FH)	23 November SPIRE Deadline Email: centenaryspire@ hotmail.com	24	25 Fall Festival & Supper 6- 8 pm	26 5:30 pm JIFF 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir	27	28
29 12:15 pm Stephen Ministers	30	31				

Each Sunday:

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