



# the Centenarian

MAY 2007

The official Newsletter of Centenary United Methodist Church, "The Miracle on McLemore"

"...all that God is doing with us, and through us, and sometimes, in spite of us, here at Centenary!"

## The Write Reverend

### This Is How We Do It!

#### The Charge Conference

The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. All members of the charge conference must be members of the local church. The charge conference must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry.

#### The Church Conference

The convening of the Charge Conference as a meeting in which all members of a local United Methodist church are invited to attend and are extended the privilege of vote. A Church Conference is called to have broad participation of the members of the congregation. The Church Conference may be authorized by the district superintendent.

#### The Church Council

1. **Purpose**—The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference (§ 244).

2. **Mission and Ministry**—Nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and



Dr. Herbert Lester, Jr.

their accompanying responsibilities include:

a) The nurturing ministries of the congregation shall give attention to but not be limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages.

b) The outreach ministries of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and interreligious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women.

c) The witness ministries of the church shall give attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications; Lay Speaking Ministries; and other means

that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.

d) The leadership development and resourcing ministries shall give attention to the ongoing preparation and development of lay and clergy leaders for the ministry of the church (§ 259.1).

e) The nurture, outreach, and witness ministries and their accompanying responsibilities shall include consideration of (i) the election of a prayer coordinator to promote prayer and mobilize the local church to pray, (ii) establishing a prayer room or designated place for prayer and prayer resources, and (iii) encouraging intentional prayer for the pastoral leadership of the local church.

3. **Meetings**—a) The council shall meet at least quarterly. The chairperson or the pastor may call special meetings.

b) In order for the council to give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first

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**and much more!**

## May Birthdays

5 Erma P. Williams	18 Ashley Taylor
8 Geraldine Reed	19 Gene Cumby
9 Frank Williams	21 Kirby Cain
10 John Jordan Jackson	22 Annie Mathews
Maxine Randolph	24 Marc Willis
11 David Rivers, IV	27 Posie Scott
12 Geraldine Bynum	29 Eboni Cain
13 Fannie Hunter	Jared W. Jackson
14 Blanche Hunt	30 Jessica Fanion
15 Terri Fanion	31 Melene Parker
London Elion Dickerson	Willis Durham

## Birthday Recognition

The Shepherding Ministry believes that birthdays are very important events in the life of our members. All of our members are sent a birthday card. Member names are listed on the birthday calendar in the Family Life Center.

Each month the birthday calendar will be published in the Centenarian. If your name is not listed please inform Wilhelmina Carter.

—Wilhelmina Carter, Shepherding Ministry

## Congrats!

**George Louis Eason**, the grandson of Billie Hansbrough and the late Robert Louis Hansbrough, made history on March 30, 2007. He was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School. George is the first African-American to achieve this milestone in the school's sixty (60) year history. Congratulations to George and we hope and pray for his continuous academic achievement.

—Billie Hansbrough



# Opus

## Rehearsal Schedule

May 12 <sup>th</sup> 10 AM	June 9 <sup>th</sup> 10 AM
May 19 <sup>th</sup> 10 AM	June 12 <sup>th</sup> 7 PM
May 26 <sup>th</sup> 10 AM	June 16 <sup>th</sup> 10 AM
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10 AM	June 19 <sup>th</sup> 7PM
June 5 <sup>th</sup> 7PM	June 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10 AM

## “No Greater Love”

During the regular Easter service in April, the membership continued to experience a spiritual encounter during the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus especially with the music of preparation “No Greater Love” so emotionally/spiritually performed by Mrs. Bernita Myles, the rich alto/contralto guest soloist with the Centenary Mass Choir. Our talented musicians were Mr. Z Reynolds Jones, pianist and Minister of Music; Dr. Autry J. Parker, Jr., bass guitarist and Mr. Virtner Clark, drummer. Our talented director was Mrs. Cynthia Haley, pianist and Associate Minister of Music.

“No Greater Love” is a contemporary gospel selection composed by David L. Allen in 1986. This selection has been arranged and scored for solo and choir (SATB) with pianoforte accompaniment by Minister Daniel Mario Cason II (Professional for Christ). This piano arrangement actually requires a virtuoso pianist with great technical skills to execute the patterns of arpeggios, “the notes of a chord played one after another instead of simultaneously”. Some elements of this score are similar to the classical music of Bach and Handel where “the player is at liberty to break the chords up and down several times, to extend them, and to interpolate extraneous notes as he sees fit. The note values, and even tempo of such passages are left entirely to the player’s discretion”. (Harvard Dictionary of Music) Bravo to our musicians and director for their dramatic interpretation of this selection!

The text of “No Greater Love” is based on the following Bible verses: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 NIV). “My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13 NIV).

Mrs. Myles delivered a musical oratorical solo delineating the message of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The mass choir responded with deep conviction and section by section “There is no greater love”. At times in unison and in harmony the choir reiterated the message with interpolations from the soloist. The congregation also participated in this tumultuous celebration.

Centenarians, let us incorporate “No Greater Love” in our daily lives and our interactions with our sisters and brothers regardless of race, creed, color, and nationality. May we continue to have spiritual encounters at Centenary and to display our convictions with consistent examples of Christian deeds and actions.

—Mary A. Hardy, Sanctuary Choir

# Let's Rejoice For The Presence Of The Lord Is Here

## Look To The Light

As born again Christians, we often feel abandoned and rejected because of certain circumstances. In reality, we must (being children of God) not let our situation bring us to a dreadful summation. As we read in Ephesians 2:8-10; for it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

God the creator, sustainer and giver of life, prepared all of this magnificent creation for us to enjoy. He opened up the skies and made the brilliant light appear. He perfected it with numerous clouds and added the birds, butterflies and other creatures to astound us.

He gave us large, humongous trees and bright colorful flowers with many resilient smells to dazzle our olfactory receptors.

How magnificent he is. We must be grateful for all God has given us—He will always be here for us to be our all in all. As followers, we need to remember his teachings and know God blesses beyond belief. In Isaiah 60:1-3, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." God is a good and merciful God, who loves us no matter what we say or do. Our human side tells us to feel pain, regret and disappointment, but God tells us "I have everything you need if you'll only believe and trust in me. It tells us in Isaiah 61:3 "Bestow on them the crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair." Jesus tells us he came to earth so we could have life and have it more abundantly. How do we achieve this attribute? By believing in him and that the storms of life can threaten, but they cannot destroy.

John 10:9-11 tells us "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Let us as God's chosen live for him, believe in him no matter what the cost and prepare for his coming. Out of darkness there is light and in this light there lies hope for a better tomorrow.

*Dear God: Give us the strength to endure our shortcomings. Open our minds to greater endeavors, Forgive us our transgression and let us give you all the praise, honor and glory you so richly deserve. We ask it in Christian love and obedience. Amen*

—Janis Paxton

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agenda item at each meeting be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. The administrative and supportive responsibilities of the church will then be given attention. It is recommended that the council use a consensus/discernment model of decision-making.

**4. Other Responsibilities**—It will also be the responsibility of the church council to:

- a) review the membership of the local church;
- b) fill interim vacancies occurring among the lay officers of the church between sessions of the annual charge conference;
- c) establish the budget on recommendation of the committee on finance and ensure adequate provision for the financial needs of the church;
- d) recommend to the charge conference the salary and other remuneration of the pastor(s) and staff members after receiving recommendations from the committee on pastor-parish relations (staff-parish relations);
- e) review the recommendation of the committee on pastor-parish relations regarding provision of adequate housing for the pastor(s), and report the same to the charge conference for approval. Housing provisions shall comply with the annual conference housing policy and parsonage standards. Housing shall not be considered as part of compensation or remuneration.

**5. Membership**—The charge conference will determine the size of the church council. Members of the church council shall be involved in the mission and ministry of the congregation as defined in ¶ 252.2. The membership of the council may consist of as few as eleven persons or as many as the charge conference deems appropriate. The council shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the church as outlined in ¶ 243. The membership shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a) the chairperson of the church council;
- b) the lay leader;
- c) the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee;
- d) the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance;
- e) the chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees;
- f) the church treasurer;
- g) a lay member to annual conference;
- h) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men;
- i) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Women;
- j) a representative of the United Methodist Youth;
- k) the pastor(s).

**6. Quorum**—The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum.

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# UNITED METHODIST MEN

- We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. and we share breakfast on the 4th Sunday at 8:00 a.m. at Piccadilly's in the Whitehaven Plaza.
- We are continuing in our efforts to raise much needed money for the food pantry. If you are a United Methodist man and you have not yet donated your \$20-\$25 or whatever you are able to donate, please do so immediately. You can give your donation to Darryl Humphrey, Brian Davis, Thomas Lamon, Thomas Milam, Charles Nichols or place it in a church envelope and designate "United Methodist Men - Food Pantry".

—Darryl Humphrey, UMM President

## The Best Things In Life Come With A



**United  
Methodist  
Women's  
Membership**

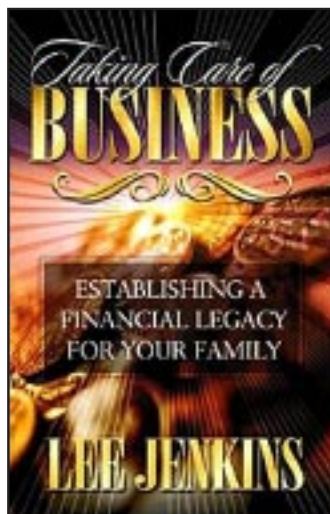
### Why Not Join A Circle Today?

## Financial Literacy Ministry

The goal of this ministry is to aid Centenarians in becoming better stewards of their financial resources.

In May, we will continue our study of the book, *Taking Care of Business: Establishing a Financial Legacy for the African American Family*. Lee Jenkins challenges African-American Christians to handle true wealth (as opposed to worldly riches) according to biblical standards. We will meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. in the W. A. Miller classroom.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase the book on-line, please visit <http://centenarymemphis.com/flbc.shtml> or see James Haley, II.



## Pentecost Celebration

Sunday, May 27

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people... and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

—Acts 2:17a,21 (NIV)

Dynamic Worship  
Please Wear Red  
Reception Following

## 2007 Confirmands

To me confirmation means another stage in our religious journey, and earning full membership in the church, which brings me closer to God. It's not just about being friends but gradually entering the kingdom that is at hand.

—Eyana Cain

As my friends and I have matured over the years, but mainly during this confirmation year, I have realized that it is possible for people to change. Some of my friends and I have learned a few important things during this time. FOR instance, we've learned that its possible to challenge Christianity with a positive attitude. I NOW know that thinking deeply and challenging the content of



the Bible will help my understanding of my religion. In the end, if I fail to think for myself and challenge what I am taught, it only limits the knowledge I carry on with me into the future.

My friends and I do not have to know what we believe in right this minute, especially since we are continuing to grow as a Christian community. But by opening ourselves to what is in the Bible, and feeling free to investigate and question it, we will keep growing throughout our lives. —Dawn Ross

To me confirmation means having a better understanding of Christ. The beginning of a time to put away many of my childlike ways of thinking and behaving. Confirmation means to complete a process of learning who God is and his expectations of me as a Christian. —Alexis Copeland

To me confirmation means that I am now ready to be a part of the youth ministry because I now have a better understanding of Christ and the Methodist church. As a youth I can demonstrate my belief and faith from what I have learned in the classes and group activities. —Kayla Copeland

Good Morning, let me start by introducing myself. I am Lauren Stewart and my mentor was Lucille Grose. I am one of the 2006-2007 confirmands. Since confirmation I have learned to have a better relationship with Jesus. I was so glad when I was told I could go through confirmation. I have decided to spread the GOOD NEWS to my peers. I have taken this class with 13 confirmands: Eyana~ Alexis~ Kayla ~Kierra ~ Kayla ~Aliese ~Tierney~David~Taylor~Nichols~William and lets not forget our 2006-2007 worship leader Dawn Ross. As a 2006-2007 confirm I wish the best of luck to the 2006-2007 confirms in life —Lauren N. Stewart

Confirmation is a part of the journey I will take with my faith. In this journey my destination of course is a relationship with God -

GOD IS ONE

GOD IS ETERNAL

HE IS MY REDEEMER

Confirmation has taught me how to have patience. It also has me excited about my faith. I want to share him with my friends and family I want to thank him for if it had not been for him I would not be here. I want to thank him for his knowledge. I want to thank Rev. Lester for his knowledge I want to thank my 12 other confirmands because they have made this process a joy and thank you to each and everyone of my church family and of course my real family for all of your support. Lastly but not least I would like to thank my mentor Mrs. Powell for her dedication. I promise I will take this information I have learned and share it with the world. Thank You! —Taylor Stewart

Confirmation meant a lot to me. It was very fun, but it also helped me become more serious with God. The most fun was when we went on two trips. The first one was the weekend at Lakeshore, I like to spend time and meet my confirmation class, and I liked Mrs. Autura as our guest speaker the best. Our second trip was even more fun. We visited a church in Jackson, TN where we got to lead the worship service, and to learn and watch a liturgical hip-hop dance. My favorite classroom activity was when Rev. Lester did the Christ quiz. Not only did we learn facts about John Wesley starting the United Methodist church, but we won a pizza party. I would like to thank Rev. Lester for letting me in the class even though I'm in the 5th grade, so I could be with my cousin Kayla, and for taking us on the

see CONFIRMATION on page 6

## The “Councilor”

### A publication of the Administrative Council of Centenary United Methodist Church

It has been a while since I've communicated with you, but several months ago in an issue of The Centenarian, I mentioned the Administrative Council's goal to provide more information regarding the church's finances. The following information is therefore presented to put things in perspective and to offer a “refresher” of some of our biggest challenges.

First of all, Centenary's 2006 operational funds totaled \$351,789.85. An additional \$15,248.68 was received for Centenary's apportionments. 2006 expenditures totaled \$461,262.08; of this amount, \$236,426.02 was related to the mortgage on the Family Life Center and other spending for church maintenance, insurance, utilities, etc. \$181,099.79 was spent on salaries.

We all know that certain salaries must be paid in order for the church to operate. However, Centenary has another major obligation: the mortgage on the Family Life Center. The monthly note on the mortgage is **\$6,910.08**, which equals **\$82,920.96** per year. It was reported at the March Administrative Council meeting that the mortgage is due to be paid off in approximately five years. If you have any constructive ideas for retiring this debt earlier (fundraisers, campaigns, etc.), please contact Mr. Bennie Williams (chairman) or any member of the Finance Committee.

Another obligation of the church is the assessment of apportionments by The United Methodist Church. Centenary's 2007 apportionments total **\$71,274.00**. Last year's apportionments totaled \$87,510.00, but only \$15,250.00 was paid towards them.

—Kametris Wyatt, Administrative Council Chairperson

#### CONFIRMATION from page 5

fun trips. I would also like to thank my parents and aunt and uncle for taking me to confirmation. I would like to thank my grandparents and the congregation for supporting my journey and road of faith to be more serious with God. Most of all I would like to thank the intelligent, loving, witty, devoted, honest and considerate, Mrs Minnie White for being my mentor and saying a prayer for me every night I called her. I would like to thank the Lord for letting me have a wonderful time going on the journey to get closer to him. Because of this experience I am a better listener during church, since I now know how important it is to listen to the word of God.—**Alise Parker**

Confirmation has been a special time for me. I've learned the history of the United Methodist Church. I also created a bond with some of the members. Confirmation meant that I am taking steps into being a better servant of the church for my fellow men and God.—**William Whitley**

When my mom asked me what confirmation meant to me I said everything. Of course she told me that I needed to be a little more specific. So I started to think about some of the things that Rev. Lester talked to us about. Especially John Wesley, he didn't have a lot of luck with women, but more seriously I learned that Jesus was brown skinned. I say he was black and not this white skinned blue eyed person that many pictures show him as. I really did learn a lot. So, what does confirmation mean to me? Well it means hope. I hope that I continue to grow in Christ and make my family proud including my church family. It means faith to me. Even though I'm a kid I can have faith in God. It's not something just for grown ups, and last praise, I will continue to praise and thank God for this experience and the many things that has blessed me with. So that's what confirmation meant to me! Everything!! —**David Rivers**

Confirmation has meant a lot to me. I have gotten close to God. I have made a better connection with him. I have learned to respect and love others unconditionally. I thought the first day of confirmation was going to be hard, but I enjoyed it and had fun. Since confirmation, I have made new friends and have gotten closer to others that I have known. I learned more about my church, God's love and the Methodist community. We've gone on two trips to Lakeshore and Jackson, TN. Lakeshore was a camp. We went to Jackson for the Bishops communion. Instead of the chips that we use for communion, they use loaves of bread, that we broke off of and dipped into a cup of wine. I was assigned to a mentor, Mrs. Janice Sampson. Mrs. Sampson prayed with me, gave me advice, and words of encouragement. To Rev. Lester and Mrs. Sampson, I thank you for your time and dedication with helping me understand myself better and God's love for me. I THANK YOU!! —**Kierra Taylor**

In Confirmation I learned about the Methodist Church and. We took trips to learn how other Methodist Church's conduct their worship service. I learned how to find scriptures in the Bible. I thought Communion was just going to the altar to get the bread and drink the juice. Now, I know that communion means so much more. Communion is taking of the bread which is the body of Christ and the drinking of the wine which is his blood, so that a piece of Christ is with us as we go on in our daily lives. —**Nicholas Strickland**

*Other confirmands for 2007 include Kayla Parker and Tierney Phillips.*

## Congratulations to our upcoming 2007 Graduates:

Annise Humphrey	May 19, 2007 7:00 PM	Mid South Coliseum
Jessica Merriweather	May 24, 2007 7:00 PM	Mid South Coliseum
Jamahl DePriest	May 27, 2007 7:00 PM	Mid South Coliseum
Chelsea Whatley	May 27, 2007 7:00 PM	Mid South Coliseum



## Kudos to

**Dionne Humphrey** - National Honor Society at Cordova High School  
**Lindsey Parker** - 2007 Jr. Miss Program and Pageant Winner  
**Jamahl DePriest** has received a full athletic scholarship to Southwestern Community College in Creston, Iowa  
**Chelsea Whatley** has received full scholarships to Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee Knoxville

## Youth Annual Conference

**Chelsea Whatley, Jamahl DePriest, Paige Parker, Dominique Stem,** and **Brian** (guest of Jamahl) attended Youth Annual Conference at Lakeshore UMA.

**Theme:** That's Our Network

**Scripture:** Romans 15:5-6

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Focus:** YAC is a leadership meeting and the primary goal is to elect officers and begin designing programming for the next conference year.

The youth of the Memphis Annual Conference come together for elections, missions, fun, and fellowship.

### Elections Highlights:

Paige Parker was elected by the Conference Youth Council to serve as Member at Large

Morgan Sampson (Calvary Longview UMC ) was elected Member at Large on the Executive Board of the Conference Youth Council

Katrina Dorse (Calvary Longview UMC) was elected President.

Ayanna Hampton (Capleville UMC) and April Ewing (Calvary Longview UMC) were also elected Members at Large.

## Youth And Parents Please Mark Your Calendars!

**YOUTH DAY AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
 JUNE 5, 2007 JACKSON, TN

**YOUTH WEEKEND AT CENTENARY UMC**  
 JUNE 9 - 10, 2007

**WORKSHOPS & ACTIVITIES INCLUDING THE RESCHEDULED 'NOTHING BUT NETS' TOURNAMENT**  
 JUNE 9TH

**YOUTH LED WORSHIP SERVICE**  
 JUNE 10TH

# the Centenarian

The deadline to submit newsletter articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Information for the newsletter should be e-mailed to:

[editor@centenarymemphis.com](mailto:editor@centenarymemphis.com). In the subject line please type "Material for the Centenarian."

Information for the newsletter can also be mailed to Erma Williams, 9601 Mourning Dove Cove, Germantown, TN, 38139.

Please send your information exactly as it should appear in the newsletter.

Current and past issues of *the Centenarian* can be downloaded from

<http://CentenaryMemphis.com>

## Give More Without Giving More!

Help raise funds for the church by purchasing books, DVDs and computers from the Centenary store online!

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## Centenary

United Methodist Church

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