



the Centenarian

AUG 2006

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!"

Checking In - From an Old Friend

Every Sunday it has been a tradition in our family to call our relatives. No matter where we lived, we always called home to "check in" – to give our weekly summation of events – how things went at work, at home, with social events, or with the latest list of things to do with Joi. But the most important question we always answered was "How was service?" Well... that tradition still rings true in the Flowers household.

We receive many calls from our daughter throughout the week. However, the Sunday call revolves around church. Updates are given on Herbert's sermon, the latest capital improvements, and even Zebedee's repertoire! Joi wants us to remain "in the know" about Centenary because of what service means to our family. Each Sunday, she finds an extended family at church, but larger than that she finds fellow Christians and the warmth of God's Love.

Service is the pinnacle of our beings as Christians. It is the culmination of who we are each week. It is the honoring of Christ's coming, His going, and an unbounding faith of things to come in our lives. Essentially, service is our method of celebrating. Service also means doing. It means the act of work. Doing for the Lord, not merely doing what you are asked to do, but doing what you are called to do with a whole heart dedicated of mind and spirit.

I agreed to write this note because of what Centenary represents for me. This church represents a piece of my family's tradition. It is the place I chose to bring my family for worship when we moved to Memphis. It was the place I had in mind to answer the question my parents posed on the weekly Sunday call. "How was service today?" Without hesitation, each week I told my parents service was good because the people here were genuine and God fearing. They served. They were dutiful. They believed in the Methodist doctrine and principles; they loved The Lord.

When we moved to Ohio, you made a commitment to nurture and protect our daughter and you have done so. She now answers our question every Sunday. We can hear it in her voice. We see it in her face and now in her duty and service. Centenary is still a truly remarkable place to worship, a place with a sweet, sweet spirit. Thank you for keeping the Holy Spirit alive in your congregation. Thank you for looking after Joi.

Joyce and I are still involved in the music ministry at our Cincinnati church home – Gaines United Methodist. Next month we will be celebrating Gaines' 132nd year of ministry and legacy in the greater Madisonville, Ohio area. I also chair the church's Capital Endowment Committee, where we are growing a program of financial investments and sacrificial gift strategies to ensure our legacy. It has, at its core, an opportunity to build a multi-million dollar, multi-cultural activity center...sound familiar?

God is truly blessing us with His wonderful grace and mercy. We miss each of you and wish God's continued blessings in your lives. God willing, we will see you very soon.

It was an honor to be a guest writer for the newsletter. All Honor and Glory to Christ our risen Savior.

Always a "Centenarian"

—Haze H. Flowers, Jr.

Dear Centenary UMC

These little words say
so much,
because what you've
done has meant
so much.

God Bless You!

Thank you so much
for allowing us to stay
in your building as we
returned from our trip
in the mission field.

**Staples UMC,
Minnesota**

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and much more!

The Shepherding Ministry

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 N. Z Cain | 17 E. T. Johnson |
| 2 Carla Bynum | Thomas Milam |
| 4 Judy Lewis | |
| 6 Norma Strickland | 18 Constance Williams |
| 7 Margareta White | 21 Mary Monroe |
| 8 Charles Parker | 22 Zebedee Jones |
| David Rivers | 24 Hattye Strong |
| 9 Maurice King | 26 Maude Sartor |
| Freddie Caswell | 28 Beverly Green Lamom |
| Bertha Mosley | Lindsey Parker |
| 11 Kalon Bynum | Barbara Walker |
| Clyde Pinston | 29 Roy Davis |
| 13 Rev. Lynn Harris Milam | Christian Ross |
| 14 Willie Lee | 30 Stephanie Walker |
| 15 Joyce Johnson | 31 Jaylynn Cooper |
| 16 Ella M. Hewitt | Robert Fouche |
| Dr. Herbert Lester, Jr. | Marguerite Mosley |
| Margaret White | Britinni Norman |
| | Thomas Lamom |

Birthday Recognition

The Shepherding Ministry believes that birthdays are very important events in the lives 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

Prayer Ministry Corner

Mission Statement

- To increase and encourage the believers' awareness of the need to pray and provide the practical tools for this endeavor.
- To encourage the church to take prayer as seriously as worship, outreach and other areas.
- To stress that the outpouring of prayer will enrich all of the ministries of our beloved church, with God's vision power.
- To pray for the power to do the work of God, wisdom to serve its community, and grace to touch this world for Christ.

The Prayer Ministry invites everyone to come and utilize the Prayer Room. The room provides a comfortable, quiet and serene atmosphere with two private booths and a prayer request box; volunteer intercessors are also available. The Prayer Room is open everyday during office hours from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; on Saturdays from 10 AM to Noon and on Sundays from 9:00 AM to Noon. Also join us on Mondays at Noon as we pray for unity and a deeper sense of family in our congregation.

Centenary has been and continues to be blessed with an abundance of talent. If we would use all of this talent to its fullest potential doing the work of God, there is no limit to the shower of blessings!

There IS power in prayer. Send God a knee-mail today!

—Joyce Johnson, Prayer Ministry Coordinator



Attention United Methodist Women

Thanks for continuing to participate in our reading program. We are going for the GOLD. We can achieve that goal if we complete one of the four (4) reading plans in large numbers. The deadline for turning in your reading plan is Thursday, August 3, 2006. The following are the three (3) ways you can get your plan to me:

1. You can give it to me at church on Sunday, July 30, 2006.
2. You can mail it to me by August 3, 2006.
3. You can call me by August 3, 2006.

Lula F. Carter
2426 Thames Rd.
Memphis, TN 38114
Telephone #: 744-4052

Family Ministries

Do You Have Diabetes?

Do you have diabetes and not know it? According to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately one-third of adults with diabetes don't know they have it. The prevalence of diabetes has risen since the 1980's. One major symptom of diabetes or prediabetes is elevated blood glucose levels. People with prediabetes can often prevent or delay diabetes in almost 50 percent of cases if they reduce calories and increase daily physical activity.

Diabetes is the most common cause of blindness, kidney failure, and amputations in adults and a major cause of heart disease and stroke. If you think you might be at risk, consult your family physician.

On June 30th, the family ministries of the church sponsored a "PASSPORT TO BETTER HEALTH" night. Our speakers were Dr. Beverly Williams-Cleaves, Endocrinologist and faculty member of the University of Tennessee Medical School and Brenda Speight, Registered Dietitian.

This was a very informative evening. Thanks to those of you that came out.

—Vietta Lewis

Africa University

Africa University is one of thousands of ministries that The United Methodist Church has created and maintains in order to meet spiritual, physical, intellectual, medical, educational and other needs. Africa University is a dream come true for its 2,000 graduates. In 2005, the university graduated 391 students from 14 Africa countries.

One graduate beamed, "I'm almost without words to describe how I feel. Leaving this place is a big achievement in my life." Simon Estes, a concert singer, has become emotionally and financially involved in Africa University. He said, "We know civilization began in a certain area of Africa and people spread out all over the world." Africa University stands as beacon of new knowledge for new leadership.

The United Methodist Church established the Africa University Fund as an apportioned connectional giving item, asking only 30 cents per member per year to support this God-led endeavor.

—Stewardship Committee
& UMC.org

the Centenarian

The deadline to submit newsletter articles is the 15th of each month.

Information for the newsletter should be e-mailed to:

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>

Giving Honor To God

Sometimes we chosen followers of God get so hung-up on materialistic issues and worldly things that we forget where all these wonderful things come from. We focus on the new house/car we just bought, or the deal we just closed at our job. How do all these amazing things come about? Let's be realistic, none of us have the inherent ability or magical foresight to perform any operation without God's blessing. He is such an awesome God, and He and He alone can do things beyond what we can dream or imagine. Being the humans we are, and having a tendency to make mistakes, we often take God's goodness for granted. We use our car, our houses and our material gain as idols. This is a blatant sin in God's eyes. For it states in Deuteronomy 5:7-10: "You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments." We must remember to worship God with our presence, praise, gifts and by serving Him. We should bow down to Him and thank Him for all of his goodness, mercy and his unconditional love. God never stops giving and we should give Him all honor and praise. It tells us in Psalms 9:1-2:

*I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in you.
I will sing praise to your name, O most high.*

So let us as the chosen people that God created, practice worshipping Him in spirit and love and may we remember how our ancestors disobeyed God and made golden images—we are also guilty of that today. Let us ask God for guidance, strength, and love that we will Worship only Him and abide by the laws He so graciously provided for us.

—Janis Paxton

S/PPRC

Announcement

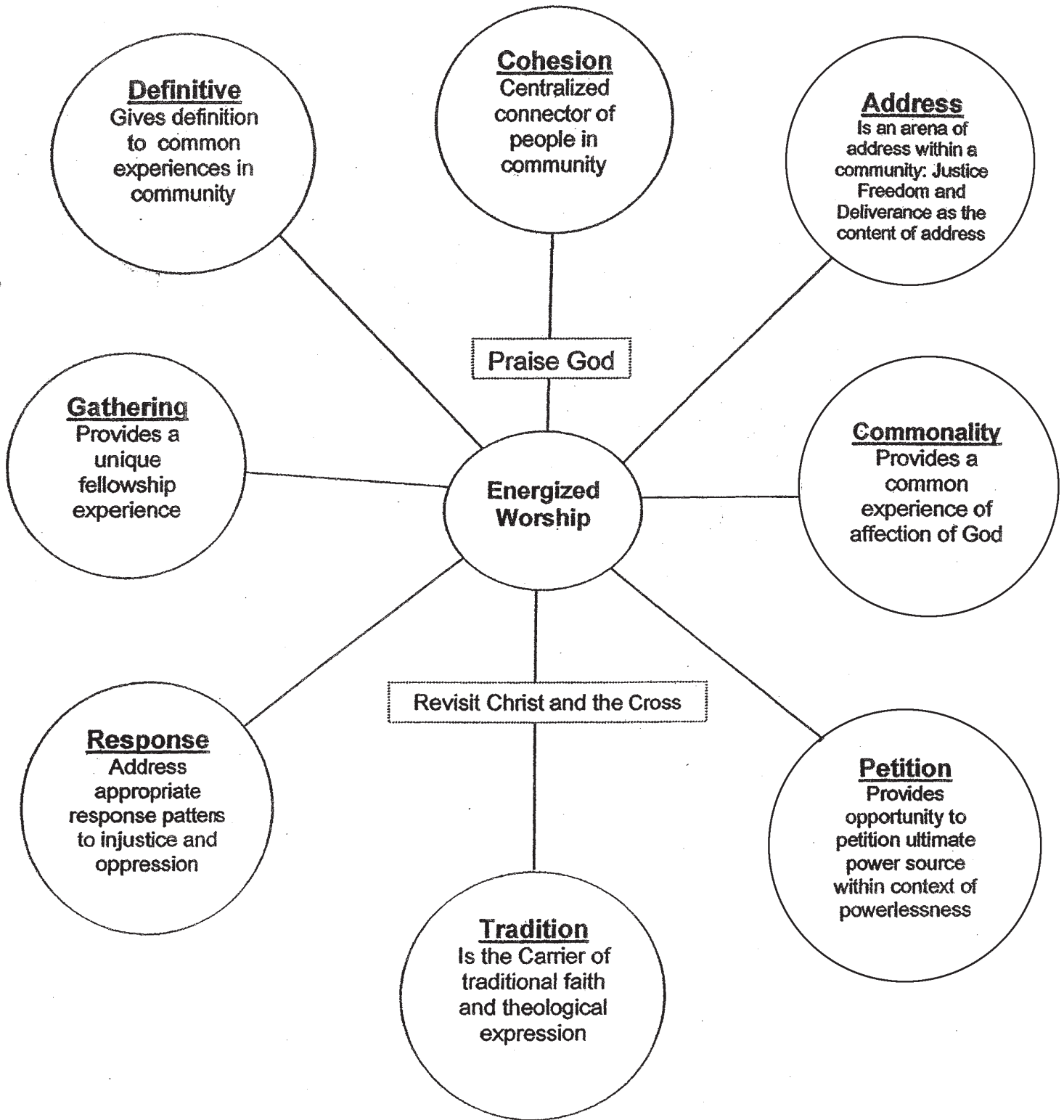
We are now working on a second survey to compliment the first survey. We have chosen a more comprehensive survey to promote greater participation as recommended by our District Superintendent, Rev. Sharon Karamoko.

Please look forward to participating.

—Lula F. Carter, Chairperson
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

African-American Worship

Functions of Worship



The Committee on Finance

The job of the committee on finance is to identify, perfect, and manage the finance system for the congregation. The finance system is the processes of raising, managing, and dispersing the finances so that the mission and vision of the congregation can be achieved.

Membership of the Committee on Finance

The *Book of Discipline* provides for the committee on finance to be made up of persons who, by virtue of other leadership responsibilities, link the committee to other areas of congregational life, as well as several persons who are nominated in recognition of their commitment and witness of personal stewardship. The Discipline calls for the following members of the committee:

- **Chairperson – Bennie Williams / Co-Chairperson – Archie Willis**
 - **Pastor – Dr. Herbert Lester, Jr.**
 - **Lay member of the annual conference (one)– Frances Williams/Ursula Williams**
 - **Chairperson of the church council or board – Kametris Wyatt**
 - **Chairperson or representative of S/PPRC – Lula Carter**
 - **Representative of the trustees – Delois Brack**
 - **Chairpersons of the ministry group on stewardship – James Haley, II and Cecelia Patrick**
 - **Lay leader – Robert Sampson, Jr.**
 - **Financial secretary – Stephanie Walker**
 - **Treasurer – Earlene Gladney**
 - **Church business administrator – Earlene Gladney**
- Others as determined by the charge conference: Jackie Fanion, Gregory Grider, Roy Davis, Robert Hansbrough, and Carl Hibler**

With the exception of the pastor, when paid employees serve on the committee on finance, such as financial secretary, treasurer, or business administrator, they serve without vote.

(From Finance: 2005-2008. Copyright 2004 by Cokesbury. Used by permission.)

The committee on finance has met on a regular basis during 2006. At the present time we meet on the 4th Sunday after the morning worship service; we have attempted to find another time, other than Sunday, but so far we have not been able to agree on a date/day and time that is convenient for the majority of our members. We will continue to try.

The first three months of the year we worked on our budget. We spent a lot of time looking at salaries, benefits, ministries, programs, mortgage, property improvement and maintenance, security, benevolences, etc. We spent this time looking at the budget in an attempt to bring our expenditures more in line with our income. The total proposed budget for 2006 came to a grand total of \$529,720.59. (This includes our conference apportionment of \$83,301.00). In order to raise this budget we need to average at least \$44,143.38 per month. For the first six months of the year we have averaged between \$24,000 - \$26,000 per month. Summer months are traditional “slow months” as far as our contributions are concerned. Many of us are away on vacation and miss worship service; however, the finances of the church must go on. Let me take this opportunity to remind you to make every effort you possibly can to leave or send your contributions before going on vacation.

At the most recent Administrative Council meetings, members have consistently stated that we need do a better job of communicating to the congregation the financial situation of the church and I agree wholeheartedly. It is also important that the communication is two-way. Members should be given information on how funds are spent, especially when funds are donated for specific causes, and because of shortfalls in expected income, funds must be used for more critical needs.

The Council suggested and approved the following media for communicating financial information to the congregation:

- **The Church Newsletter (*The Centenarian*)**
- **Announcements – delegate different members of the congregation to make statements concerning finance during the worship service**
- **Quarterly Giving Statements**
- **The Worship Bulletin - weekly**

As chairperson of the Finance Committee, I have seen the need for committee members to have more details about our liabilities and assets. It is really hard to make good sound decisions with limited information. I presented to the Council, the idea of having a Financial Retreat. The Administrative Council approved this Retreat but we have not done it yet because we have not gathered all of the information needed and trying to schedule it when the majority of members can attend. I am looking at dates in September now; most vacations should be completed by then. The purpose of this retreat will be to review and discuss all of Centenary's assets and liabilities/indebtedness and various accounts to ensure that the core Finance Committee and the congregation are knowledgeable about the

see FINANCE on page 10

Financial Literacy Book Club

The goal of this book club is to aid Centenarians and the community in becoming better stewards of their financial resources.

We will discuss books that deal with important financial topics including wealth building, investing and personal finance management from a variety of authors including Suze Orman, Dave Ramsey and David Bach.

If you have any questions, please visit <http://centenarymemphis.com/flbc.shtml> or see James Haley, II.



Do You Tithe? Tell Us About It!

tithe — The setting aside of *one-tenth of one's income* for God as is specifically noted in the Bible. Tithing has been the traditional minimum standard of giving for Christians. The United Methodist Church has taken the official position that tithing is the standard for United Methodists, and the practice of tithing is to be actively encouraged in every local church. Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press.

Do you tithe? Please share your testimony with *Centenarian* readers. Be sure to tell us why do you tithe, what changes you observed in your life as a result of tithing and how you deal with challenges that might prevent you from tithing.

Email your testimony to stewardship@centenarymemphis.com or mail it to the church office to the attention of the Stewardship Committee.

Financial Problems?

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barn will be filled to overflowing.
(Proverbs 3:9-10)

—The Stewardship Committee

Tithe First!

Growth in Christ begins with putting God first in our lives. One very significant way to grow in grace and love is to put God first in the stewardship of our money, pledging each month to give “off the top” to God’s work through the Church.

Name _____

Subject _____

TEST

1) Name a character from a TV sitcom.

2) Name a character from your kid's
English class. _____

*Know what
really matters.*

Know about your kid's school and know about your kid.
Find out 100 ways to know more, do more. 800-307-4PTA or pta.org



VBS/Camp



Bracelets support Gulf Coast

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — “Rebuilding church and communities” reads the inscription on bracelets being offered by the United Methodist Council of Bishops to encourage support for hurricane survivors along the Gulf Coast. Money from sales of the maroon wristbands will be used for the bishops’ Katrina Church Recovery Appeal. Wristbands are \$2 each, with free shipping for orders of 50 or more. Order by calling toll free (888) 346-3862 or online at www.umc.org/churchrecovery. Churches are encouraged to sell the bracelets as a local fund-raiser.

Youth will gather for major event in '07

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — More than 10,000 United Methodist youth from across the world are expected to “splat” at Youth2007, the largest quadrennial youth event of the United Methodist Church, July 11-15, 2007, in Greensboro, N.C. While speakers have been confirmed, workshop leaders are needed to reinforce the theme “Seek, Pray, Learn, Act, Teach.” Registration is open at www.Youth2007.org, and more information, including workshop leadership applications is available from Dayna Schoonmaker, Youth2007 office coordinator, at (877) 899-2780, Ext. 7190, or Youth07@gbod.org.

Beware bogus e-mail seeking donations

NEW YORK — Several incidents of bogus e-mails asking for direct donations for United Methodist missionaries or mission programs were reported in early July. Some originated in Nigeria. “The General Board of Global Ministries does not solicit gifts via e-mail,” said Deborah Bass, a staff executive. Support for missionaries and mission projects is channeled through the Advance for Christ and His Church, and each has a distinct number. Some of the bogus messages have contained United Methodist terms, such as “covenant relationships” in reference to missionaries, and “UMCOR,” the relief unit of the mission board. If you receive an e-mail claiming to raise funds for the board, write to info@gbgm-umc.org.

Willie Nelson buys church home

ABBOTT, Texas — Abbott United Methodist Church, closed by the 2006 session of the Central Texas Annual Conference, received new life as a community church when it was purchased by country music star Willie Nelson this summer. Nelson grew up in the church, which dates from 1899, and said he couldn’t stand the thought of it being silent, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Youth assist residents through Florida program

GRETNA, Fla. — On the rooftop of a small frame house, the sounds of hammering nails and ripping tar paper pierce the morning air. The youth are part of “Love At Work,” a summer mission program sponsored by Killearn United Methodist Church in Tallahassee, Fla. The goal is to encourage spiritual growth in youth

through service to others. Founded in 1993, Love At Work is designed to help residents in Gadsden County, Fla., who live in substandard housing.

‘Cool collars’ help soldiers fight the heat

ROSWELL, N.M. — Long sleeves, pants and body armor provide some protection for United States soldiers serving in Iraq, but they do nothing to combat the heat, which exceeds 100 degrees in Baghdad in the summer. The United Methodist Women’s Circle of Faith at First United Methodist Church makes “cool collars” for the troops. Each collar is a strip of khaki fabric more than two feet long and two inches wide, with crystals sewn into a pocket in the center that become cool when wet.

Global AIDS Fund Committee plans gathering

WASHINGTON — The United Methodist Global AIDS Fund Committee is sponsoring “Lighten the Burden,” a gathering of United Methodists working to fight AIDS, Sept. 8-9. The conference offers opportunities for learning, skill-building and networking, and includes speakers, workshops and discussion groups. Registration may be done online at www.umc-gbcs.org/aidsconference. Contact Sarah Langford at (202) 488-5646 or Slangford@umc-gbcs.org.

Pastor feeds travelers’ bodies, souls

BASTIAN, Va. — The Rev. Alan Ashworth has built a ministry around a basic principle: when you’re tired, the smallest kindnesses mean a lot. His church is the New Hope Union United Methodist Church in the mountains of Virginia, near the Appalachian Trail. The congregation offers hot meals to thousands of hikers who travel the more than 2,000-mile-long trail each year.

UMCOR among ‘Big Names in Katrina Relief’

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Committee on Relief ranked sixth for the amount raised for hurricane relief in a recent survey by Newsweek of the “Big Names in Katrina Relief.” UMCOR raised some \$64.5 million for hurricane relief and rehabilitation, which will fund long-term recovery for the next three years.

Gathering brings together Sudan’s ‘lost boys, girls’

FAIRFAX, Va. — What gives a 5-year-old the strength to survive the slaughter of her family? How does a 6-year-old walk a thousand miles and survive by eating leaves and mud? Where does a 7-year-old get the courage to jump into the crocodile-infested Nile? Elizabeth Anok Kuch, Angelo Maker and James Garang will tell you in one word: “God.” Like thousands of “lost boys and girls” from Sudan, they have stories of the wartime horrors they lived through as children, and they shared them at “Lost Boys: Found!” a July 7-8 reunion. The reunion was hosted by Crossroads United Methodist Church, Ashburn, Va., and the United Methodist Board of Church and Society.

see WORLD NEWS on page 10

U.S. United Methodist membership drops

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — For the first time since the 1930s, the U.S. membership of the United Methodist Church has dropped to just under 8 million. A preliminary report from the denomination’s General Council on Finance and Administration, released June 21, shows that total U.S. membership dropped to 7,989,875 in 2005.

Alabama honors “faithful” Sunday school teacher

CODEN, Ala. — Marie Gray, 92, has been teaching first- and second-graders John 3:16, the Lord’s Prayer and the 10 Commandments for more than 70 years. She was honored for her service to Coden United Methodist Church during the Alabama-West Florida Annual (regional) Conference June 4-7.

Four United Methodist churches make ‘50’ list

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — At least four United Methodist churches are listed among the “50 Most Influential Churches,” published in the July issue of The Church Report. The churches, and their rankings, are Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan. (7); Ginghamburg United Methodist Church in Tipp City, Ohio (9); Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco (24); and Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston (43). For details, go to www.thechurchreport.com.



<http://centenarymemphis.com/men>

- We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 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

church’s financial position. Discussion would include bills owed, account balances, interest rates, etc.

The Church Budget and lists of the church’s spending-to-date will be provided. All members of the congregation will be invited to attend and participate. I think this type of workshop will also give us some real insight on what we need to do in order to prepare a more realistic budget for 2007. It will also get us started early enough to have our budget completed and ready to implement in January 2007.

Please do not look at the figures quoted in this report and become discouraged. I think we are moving in the right direction as far as our finances are concerned. In order for us to have a strong finish in 2006 we really do need more members to become regular givers. We need everybody to give something every quarter. You would be surprised at how much it would help our finances if we had more consistent givers.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2Corinthians 9:7 NIV)

—Bennie Williams, Chr., Committee on Finance

**The Best Things In Life
Come With A**



**United
Methodist
Women’s
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**All parents with children
5 1/2 to 12 years old that are
interested in being an Acolyte,
please call Pearl Crosby Pegues
at 901-785-0606**

“Something Within”

Miss Lucie E. Campbell wrote the text and music to “Something Within”, a gospel song, in 1919. A performer, music director, composer, and teacher, Miss Lucie is considered one of the greatest influences on setting the music performance standard within the black Baptist church. Her songs gained classic status within the music published by the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. Miss Lucie was born in Mississippi, of slave lineage, and came to be known as one of the most influential women within the Convention, the largest African-American organization in the world, having a membership of more than six million.

“Miss Lucie dedicated this song to a blind singer named Connie Rosemond. Mr. Rosemond, who was quite poor, played his guitar on Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee. One very cold, rainy winter day, Connie Rosemond stood out on Beale Street, his feet wrapped up in used burlap rags, playing hymns and spirituals as people passed by. Some local men, who had just stumbled out of a bar, asked him to play some ‘good ole Southern blues.’ They even offered to tip him five dollars, but Connie refused.

Miss Lucie, who was shopping at a nearby fish market, overheard the exchange, including Mr. Rosemond’s reply that he could only play songs that came from ‘something within.’ It was that comment that spurred Miss Lucie to write this song, which was eventually performed at the National Baptist Convention in 1919 by the blind street singer who had inspired it, Mr. Connie Rosemond. The writing of ‘Something Within’ brought national recognition to songwriter Miss Lucie Campbell.” (Gwendolin Sims Warren, “Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit”)

Chorus: “Something within me that holdeth the reins, something within me that banishes pain, something within me, I cannot explain, all that I know – there is something within.” (L.E. Campbell)

Centenarians, what is this something within? In our Christian faith this something within could be the Holy Spirit. In Christian theology the Trinity represents the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This powerful Holy Spirit encompasses the armor of God that can guide us, control us, check us, or restrain us in our daily actions. It can remove, dismiss, or overcome the obstacles and challenges in our lives. It can relieve the distress, the suffering, and the discomfort of this world.

“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught by the human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13 NIV)

—Mary A. Hardy, President, Sanctuary Choir

The 30th Annual Church Music Workshop of America Review and Highlights

The week of June 19-22, I was blessed to be present at the annual Church Music Workshop of America on the campus of Jackson State University. This year’s theme was *Music and Worship: A Joint Venture for Spiritual Fulfillment*. The overall focus was to review innovative ways to blend traditional and contemporary elements of worship. A variety of lectures—led by church musicians, music educators, recording artists and other music professionals—were presented daily, along with a mix of new music presentations and panel discussions.

The workshop’s emphasis was the presentation of new music. The registration packet included approximately a dozen songs selected from the African American Church Music Series of GIA Publications. Several of the clinicians, especially Dr. Raymond Wise of Columbus, OH, also presented material from their own pens. All of the new music crossed every sacred genre from new arrangements of Negro Spirituals to anthems to contemporary selections. I believe I’ve returned with a wealth of material that will add depth, diversity, and spirit to the repertoire of all our choirs.

One particular workshop session was devoted to hymns, with emphasis on those written by African American composers. This session stressed the importance of diversity and balance in the ‘musical diet’ of the church along with the deep meaning and treasures/comfort found in the lyrics of these songs. This session also recommended that hymns be taught to children’s choirs. This provides an important contrast to the ‘radio music’ the children want to sing, and gives them early exposure to the meaningful nature of hymns. I will be incorporating this into the rehearsal structure for our group immediately.

The session ‘The Music of the Whole Church (Complete and Lacking Nothing)’ addressed how our music ministries can be more effective in the 21st century church. The importance of versatility in the total music program was again stressed as a tool to meet the spiritual needs of people based on the unique aesthetics that make up the African American experience. The key is to have bridge builders in the music ministry who have training across the continuum from the African-centered ‘gospel’ perspective to the European ‘classical’ style that recognize the Holy Spirit as the connector, and are humble, obedient and sensitive servants.

Please accept my sincere gratitude, especially to Mr. Zebedee Jones and the Sanctuary Choir, for allowing me to attend this workshop. It was a technically and spiritually enriching experience. I believe I have brought back some wonderful resources, music, and ideas that will help move our music ministry—and our worship experience—to a higher level.

—Cynthia Haley, Assistant Minister of Music



Spirit of *The Centenarian*

"The written word still has a place in the world today. It is poetic and romantic. It opens our imaginations and allows us to become a part of the story...Early church leaders shared their experiences and then wrote them down...all took courage and strength from what they read."—The Church Newsletter Handbook

"Best" Newspaper Headlines of 1998

- Include your children when baking cookies
 - Something went wrong in jet crash, experts say
 - Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers
 - Drunks get nine months in violin case
 - Iraqi head seeks arms
 - Is there a ring of debris around Uranus?
 - Prostitutes appeal to Pope
 - Panda mating fails; veterinarian takes over
 - British left waffles on Falkland Islands
 - Teacher strikes idle kids
- from the Internet

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