



# the Centenarian

JUNE, 1999

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

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could help other people without qualifying our responses with issues like race or religion?

Wouldn't it be nice to see the world respond to human need simply because there was a human need? Consider this remark from Bob Allen, a camp manager in Macedonia, when he was asked about the stark differences in relief provided for refugees in Kosovo as opposed to the aid given in various parts of Africa: "The life in Africa is far more simple. To maintain the dignity and lifestyle of Europeans is far more difficult." (Los Angeles Times, May 21, 1999, "Relief Camps for Africans, Kosovars Worlds Apart.")

When I first read this article, the cynic in me wanted to return to those glorious days when Black nationalism was fashionable and the realities of our global community had not set in so solidly. But the Christian in me will not let the cynic in me take charge. I am called, and you are called, by our Christ, to be in the world but not of it. To be constantly aware and critically aware of the realities of the world in which we live, and yet not let ourselves be sucked into its degradation and dehumanization, or be seduced by its glitz and glamour.

Toward that end, the one thing we cannot do is to be naive about the realities of our world and bury our heads in the sands of escapism, pseudo-reality and apathy, pretending that the world is something it really is not. Neither can we become so jaded with the world that we simply throw up our hands and delude ourselves into thinking that what we do and say does not matter. We must be able to think kingdom-size and to see ourselves as not just citizens of the city of

see **WRITE** on page 3



Rev. Herbert L. Lester, Jr.

## Journeys in Faith

### Giving Something Back, Especially to Our Youth

by Jim Dupree

We all need to be a role model for our children. We need to let the children know that we care and will spend time with them. We need to let them know that there is more to life than being basketball stars and participating in athletics. I have volunteered with the summer and afterschool programs. One afternoon, we had about 104 children in the program. Just being present with the children gives them a chance to ask questions like:

"What do I do?"

"What is the insurance business?"

"How does car insurance work?" Somehow more of the boys asked this one.

Girls attended the sessions too though. It gave me a chance to talk with all the children about the importance of staying in school, preparing themselves and being able to get better opportunities in life if they are better educated. We talked about what college students might attend and how to get in. And we just talked about life in general.

The afternoons I spent with the youth gave me the satisfaction of giving something back to the community. As a youth, I attended the YMCA in a little town in Mississippi. Back in those days more adults were involved in our lives. They were monitoring us whether it was organized or not.

I've been working with youth for 25 years or more. When my son became a part of a musical group, I bought instruments for the other youth too. I helped organize the

see **GIVING** on page 2

## Thought for the Month

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift.

That is the reason we call it  
the present.

—The Prayer Ministry

## Journeys in Faith

### Being the Best Centenarians we can be!

from A.C. Montgomery

When I first moved to Memphis I became involved with the youth because Myrtle Donoho asked for help to pay for youth to go to camp. I agreed to give so long as no child knew I made the contribution. I felt there was no reason for the children to know. I gave her

see **BEST** on page 11

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#### **GIVING from pg. 1**

Vollentine Boys Club and served on the first Board, later becoming President.

Some adults have a lack of commitment to youth, perhaps because they don't know how much they could contribute just by their presence. Many of us don't think we have enough time, or we have other things we consider more important. Men, especially, can have such a positive influence just by showing up and showing "I care."

Long ago, I was told that there are four legs to life: religion, family, health and career. My religion tells me I should do something for my extended family - the community and especially our young children in their formative years. If we don't put time in our schedules for our youth, we're really missing something in life and the opportunity to make a contribution. Most of us are selfish to an extent and don't want anyone to interfere with our routines of life. We must have some kind of religious conviction to make a better community and commit our time to youth. Instead of just taking from life, we need to put something back in. It's part of our tithing.

We need more one-on-ones with youth in the neighborhood. For example, a youth in my neighborhood, Hickory Hill, wanted to borrow my rake to make money raking neighbors' leaves. I kidded him about renting out my tools, but this gave us a chance to talk. He has been living with his father, a single parent. I've been a mentor to this youth for three years now.

We have a number of retired men. Some have nothing to do. If they understood how much they are needed - just their presence can make a difference in a child's life. Even adults, who are reluctant to volunteer with youth and think they might not like it, would probably enjoy it if they would try it.

Everyone wants to feel needed. These kids really need us.

*Note: For opportunities to volunteer with youth, see page 5.*

## **CUMC Computer Resource Center to Begin June Classes**

by Rev. Richard Cook

Four classes will begin in June:

#### **Intermediate Windows 9X:**

Wednesdays - 8:00 - 9:00 P.M., June 2-30

#### **Introduction to Computer Repair:**

Thursdays - 3:30 - 5:30 P.M., June 3-July 1

**Ask the Experts\*:** Fridays - 1:00 - 3:00 P.M., June 4-25

#### **Introduction to Data Bases**

Saturdays - 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., June 5-26

#### **Computer Lab Open**

Saturdays - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Free Internet

\*New Class! - Have you ever wanted to know someone you could ask "How do I...?" Then this is the class for you. Ask the Experts is an open forum class where you bring whatever computer question you have had about whatever software program or piece of hardware - anything. If we don't know the answer, we will not stop until we find it.

## **Mother's Day Tributes**

With the encouragement of Ann Willis, Mother's Day Tributes from various generations of Centenarians were shared with the congregation during an inspirational Worship Service.

#### **To All Mothers - by Chris Ross**

Hoping that this Mother's Day is the nicest you've had yet. A day that's filled with pleasant hours and times you won't forget And may the days that follow be special for you too - Days that bring you happiness in everything you do.

Happy Mother's Day and Happiness Always!

#### **My Generation - by Geraldine Bynum**

Among the greatest experiences of my life, motherhood ranks almost at the top. ...In the words of an African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." And in my generation, my mother along with all the other mothers of my friends ...helped in many ways in the development of our lives with their love, the caring, the sharing, the sacrifices, the understanding,...the leading in Christian values and in living in the Christian way.

Discipline was not a choice in my day, but a way of life. We made no plans on Sunday because they were already made for us. We were taken to Sunday School and church...The Easter and Christmas play rehearsals we were taken to until we got it right. ...At home the dinner hour was the time ...for prayer and a delicious and nutritious meal prepared usually by the mother who magically fed many from so little, making a way out of no way.

Respect was taught from the eldest child down. It took endless patience and courage and the will to go forward when things went wrong, but showing pride and joy for a job well done. ...we will still stand as a village for the present and coming generations....when I grow up I want to be just like my mother.

#### **To Our Mothers - by Gina Williams-Jackson**

How can we say thanks for the things you've done for us. Things so undeserved yet you've given to prove your love for us. The voices of a million children cannot express our gratitude. For all that we are and ever hope to be we owe so much to you.

Thank you for giving us life and teaching us to live it in the way God intended...For the noses you wiped, the diapers you changed, the messes you cleaned up behind us, we thank you. For the stories you read, the lullabies you sang, the hugs and kisses you gave, we say thanks. When we went to school, you continued to support and encourage us...As our biggest cheerleader we could always hear your voice over everyone else's. Thanks for impressing upon us the importance of a good education and for your gentle reminders to do our homework and study for our tests, especially when we wanted to chat on the phone or hang out with our friends. Thank you for helping us to survive our teenage years. You know, that's when we thought we were grown, but you knew we still had a long way to go. Thanks for your advice and counsel as we graduated from high school and made choices about what we would do for the rest of our lives....We always knew that you wanted the best for

see **MOTHERS** on page 4

## Reclaiming the Holy in Our Lives

### Exercises for Women

by Bertha Mosley, President

**T**he Centenary United Methodist Women were represented by Marie Hall, treasurer, and myself at the April 24-25 Prayer Retreat at Lake Shore. It was very different from any previous retreat we had attended. The retreat leader, Sister Emily Nabholz, SCN, of the Catherine R. Spalding Retreat and Conference Center in Nazareth, Kentucky, is a full-time spiritual director in holistic health. She lead us in exercises for women to get in touch with

our bodies and minds in Christ. She reminded us that women do for everybody but ourselves, and that it's important for us to take at least 15 minutes every day just for ourselves. Even taking a hot shower and relaxing can clear our minds and get us back in touch with ourselves.

In one exercise we followed a Native American tradition where women in the community empathize with a woman who is having a baby. We all held our stomachs and hollered to feel her pain and to take away some of that pain.

The experience was incredi-

bly invigorating. Sister Nabholz wouldn't let us take any notes. She said that our mind would recall what it needs. Our theme was Reclaiming the Holy in Our Lives:

Reflections on Women with Jesus in Scripture. The retreat had a calming and peaceful effect on us. We left with a new awareness of God in our lives and strength to endure the doubts of others.

The two-day retreat concluded with morning meditation and communion. We decided to make newborn jackets for the babies at Methodist Hospital. So we left with some material for the jackets and now just need some willing hands to stitch them into garments.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held June 14-18, Monday through Friday, from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. If you have any materials or arts and crafts to share, please give them to Canary Williams.

### Coming June 27 - Opus III

by Earnestyne Toney

The Centenary Sanctuary Choir will present a musical extravaganza, Opus III, June 27. The choir will perform a variety of musical numbers from anthems to contemporary gospels and spirituals under the direction of Zebedee Jones.

We'd like to involve the entire Centenary family in spreading the spirit, so please contact Joyce Johnson or any member of the Sanctuary Choir to join one of our committees.

### Happy Father's Day

#### To Father

by Kametris Wyatt

To Father,  
He who helped to create me —  
A beautiful person, inside and out:  
I thank you.

Father, O Father,  
Whose kind voice echoes his loving soul  
with each breath he takes;  
Whose strong and helping hand  
is forever extended to his child  
as he holds on to God's mighty arm  
with prayerful tenacity;  
Whose needed guidance is always appreciated;  
Whose powerful spiritual presence can be felt  
even when he is not near;  
Whose dynamic physical presence  
is perfectly balanced by his gentle demeanor,  
I love you.

Father, Dear Father,  
Benevolence and Love Personified.  
Your name is too formal for one who holds  
such a special place in your child's heart,  
Which is why, when your child addresses  
or speaks of you,  
The child can honestly and proudly refer to you  
As **Daddy**.

## Memphis Annual Conference Meets June 6-9 in Jackson

The Memphis Annual Conference will meet June 6-9, 1999, at the Civic Center and First United Methodist Church in Jackson, Tennessee. Rev. R. Grace Imathiu is the conference preacher and Bible Study leader. She is an ordained elder in the Methodist Church in Kenya where she was born and raised. She was the pastor of several congregations in Nairobi, Kenya. She has also led Bible Studies in Benin, Tanzania, Denmark, England, Germany, the United States, Brazil, Australia and Malaysia. She is the author of *Matthew's Message: Good News for the Millennium*. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in the New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Registration begins Sunday, June 6 at 2:00 p.m. A Memorial Service begins at 4:00 p.m. with a Worship Service led by Bishop Kenneth Carder at 7:00 p.m.

Child care is available during the conference.

#### WRITE from pg. 1

Memphis, or the state of Tennessee, or even as American citizens; we are members of a global community - the kingdom of God - and what we do impacts our world, and what the world does has its impact on us. We don't just live in America's mid-south, we live in one of the largest distribution centers on this planet! Christ calls us to manifest His kingdom in all that we do and say in the midst of all of this—something we cannot do without actively engaging our world, in the name of our Christ and in His service!



## Centenarians at Work

**Please Support Our Businesses and Services. Check these out yourself - if you haven't already - and refer others to our members for these services....**

### **Melvin Cain**

Cain's Auto Care  
946-9603  
2090 Elvis Presley  
auto body work and paint

### **Christopher Colehill**

Lawns: manicured to your taste  
946-5635  
1119 James  
Cut, shape, rake - call me! I know what you need.

### **Courtney Davis & Roy Davis**

Davis Auto Sales & Salvage  
465-9655  
www.luvmuslcar@aol.com  
380 Fredonia Rd. Mason, TN 38049  
Recycled auto and light truck parts, pre-owned autos, auto restoration, engine and transmission swaps

### **Barbara Dupree**

363-3669  
6602 Imperial Oak Dr 38115  
seamstress

### **James D. Dupree**

State Farm Insurance Co  
362-1300 • 365-0440  
5495 Winchester Rd.  
Sells and services insurance needs of the general public

### **James Haley Sr.**

Neighborhood Assistance Corp of America  
396-3366  
4230 Elvis Presley Ste 210 38116  
Financing for new homebuyers & refinancing of existing homes over 10%

### **James Haley II**

J2 Productions  
362-2108  
jhaley@j2productions.com  
4783 Townhouse Way 38118  
Desktop publishing and website design

### **Susanne Jackson**

Caricatures, Consulting, Organizing  
458-5634  
susanneo@aol.com  
2352 Parkway Pl #15 38112  
Cartoons, layout/design, organizing, writing

### **Michael Lewis, SPHR**

Strategic Synergies, LLC  
345-3226  
1427 Blueberry Dr.  
mlstones@worldnet.att.net  
Organizational development and human resources management consulting firm.  
Strategic planning, diversity training, team development and human resource auditing are among its specialties.

### **R.S. Lewis**

Lewis Funeral Home  
526-3264  
374 Vance Avenue 38126  
Funeral Services

### **Walter McLaughlin**

McLaughlin and Associates  
726-4697  
P.O.Box 40833  
Memphis, TN 38174-0833  
Marketing and public relations with emphasis on

## the Centenarian

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### **MOTHERS from pg. 2**

us....Thank you for all those times when you didn't say, "I told you so." ... But we also thank you for the times you did say it...

Now that we're young adults we still appreciate your advice and counsel even though we don't always remember to say thanks. Some of us are raising our own children now and we find ourselves saying some of the same things...even though...we always said, "When I grow up, I'm not gonna say that to my children." As we continue to grow and mature as adults, we thank you for your continued love, support and encouragement for in today's society we need it now more than ever.

Thanks to those of you who gave us life. Thanks to those of you who were part of the village that it took to raise us. Thanks to our mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, aunts...teachers, church members...and all the other women who have made a difference in our lives. You are all women we respect and admire. And to my own mother, I thank you for the wonderful example you have set for me and my brother, and I just hope that I can be as good a mother to my sons as you have been to me. ...To God be the glory for all the mothers that he has given us.

## Health Tip

## Avoid Infections - Stay Healthy

by Charles Parker, Dph.

During the winter months physicians often are encouraged by their patients to prescribe antibiotics to fight influenza, the common cold and other infections that often do not respond to antibiotics. Sometimes antibiotics do help, especially when the infection is caused by a mixture of viruses and bacteria. However the improper use of antibiotics such as penicillin, ampicillin, erythromycin, or clarithromycin can lead to the creation of new strains of bacteria that do not respond to these medicines.

Another misuse of antibiotics occurs when outdated antibiotics are used indiscriminately at home for new problems such as a runny nose or a continuing cough.

It is always best to have a physician evaluate each illness independently to determine the cause and best treatment. If antibiotics are needed, take them as prescribed.

Complete the entire course of therapy to prevent recurrence of the infection.

The best way to avoid infections is to stay healthy by eating well-balanced meals, drinking plenty of fluids, and getting adequate rest. If dietary habits are less than ideal, ask your pharmacist and physician about a good vitamin and mineral supplement. Also, remember to wash your hands often.

**Youth and adults!!! - If you were NOT listed and have a business or service you would like to share, please fill out the form in the church office on the bulletin board for the July Centenarian, or call 458-5634.**

## Join <sup>the</sup> Centenarian

Please call Susanne Jackson at 458-5634 or the church office at 774-7604, if you would like to join our staff. Fill in the Centenarian article form in the Narthex or in the office to contribute your stories. If we have erred in a story, please let us know. We welcome letters to the *Centenarian* and all other comments.

## CUMC's Men and Little League Softball Teams on Winning Streaks — Coed Team Getting Better

from Coach Billy Renfro



### Rev. Rich Cook at bat.

"The Centenary Men's Softball Team and the Little League (PeeWee) Team have both done great!" says Coach Billy Renfro. Both teams are 3 wins and only 1 loss. The Coed Team is 1 win and 3 losses, though Coach says, "We're improving and getting better. We expect to turn the season around."

The Men's team is in second place and Coach Renfro says, "We expect to win in that League and compete in the City Championship!" The one loss was to another team that was also 3-0. The victories have been by wide margins and the team is something to watch. Even in a horrendous dust storm, they played with great spirit though they were barely able to see the ball through the dust and wind. That game was not counted even though our team was in the fourth inning and winning 14-4 when the rain finally began. Coach says you need five innings to complete a game.

The men play on Mondays at Kennedy #9 which is out Old Austin-Peay taking a right on Raleigh-Lagrange and another right on Coleman. The Coed Team plays Friday nights at Tobey #2, just south of the Memphis City Schools Board of Education, off Hollywood. Times for both teams vary (See the schedules on page 6.)

The PeeWee Little League Team includes youth 12 years old and under. They just started official games about two weeks ago and play twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, at either 6:15 p.m. or 7:15 p.m. at the field on Neely Road, just south of Fairway. Coach says they're finally getting to the point of playing like the Coach expects them to play. He anticipates a good season.

### Members of the teams include:

**Men's:** Raymond Benbow, Claude Bynum, Rev. Rich Cook, Eric Cox, Horace Ford, James Haley, Maurice Jones, Curtis Kones, Rev. Herbert L. Lester Jr., Adam Webster, Scott Walker, William Whitley, Thomas Williams

**Little League:** Dominique Hall, Dean Harell, Danny Harris, Cordell Jeffries, Corderous Jeffries, Dedrick Jeffries, Kenyatta Larry, Darren McNeal, Chris Ross, Danny Williams

**Coed:** Rev. Rich Cook, Helen Copeland, Eric Cox, James Haley, Rev. Autura Hampton, Susanne Jackson, Kanedria (KiKi) Jones, Kim Jones, Rev. Herbert L. Lester Jr., Robin Matthews, Charles Parker, Nicole Parker, Randii Renfro, Pelvis Ross, Rosalyn Ross, Sarah Taylor, Barbara Walker, Shelia Whitley, William Whitley, Thomas Williams

## Children and Youth Ministry Help Needed

by Rev. Autura Hampton

There will be an important meeting of the Children (infant to 5th grade) and Youth Ministries (6th-12th grade) on Saturday, June 12, 11-11:45 a.m. All parents of young people in either of these ministries are asked to be present for some important information regarding the restructuring of these programs, youth council membership, children's council membership, and upcoming training to be provided for these leadership positions. Also, all adults who are interested in supporting either of these ministries are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Autura Hampton at 774-7604 or 566-0068.

## UMYF meeting change

The Centenary UMYF meeting day and time has changed. Beginning May 16, the Youth meet every Sunday from 5-7 p.m.

## CAMP HERO

Camp Hero will operate this Summer from June 14-July 30, 1999, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday. The camp is for young people ages 6-11. Mature 12-14 year olds may volunteer as junior counselors. We are also looking for mature youth ages 15-17, to provide leadership in various roles. Adult volunteers are also needed. Please contact Autura Hampton for more information.

## Rev. Autura Hampton Led Youth Festival Worship

photo and story by Vincent Walker



### Rev. Autura Hampton led Youth lesson.

On Saturday, May 8, the UMYF participated in a youth festival sponsored by Hurt Chapel C.M.E. church in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Rev. Autura Hampton led the youth in the morning worship and lesson. Her theme for this discussion was "The Body of Christ."

Youth from both churches and their friends discussed and participated in activities demonstrating cooperation, team work, communication and sharing of gifts and talents. Just as the parts of the body work together for the body to function; we, as parts of the Body of Christ, can work together to make Christ known in the world.

## Fifth and Sixth Grade Sunday School Students Speak Out

Sunday School class is the bomb. (Note: this is GOOD) We learn things about Jesus's time and the Bible. Sunday School should also have activities that interact with other Sunday School classes.—**Tierney Humphreys**

Sunday School is fun. We learn about God and Jesus. We need to go on field trips. It will be really fun if we did. More people would come if we did.—**Kenyatta Larry**

The best thing in my Sunday School class are my teachers. They are so fun. They are considerate. They'll put you in the mood to learn. And they are helpful when we're feeling down.—**Gabrielle Campbell**

I think Sunday School class should go on field trips. More kids should get involved.—**Dominique Rivers**

What we think about Sunday School is that our teachers are fun and we do fun things on Sundays.—**Tiffany Davis**

## Centenary's Wish List

*Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to improving the parking lot! We are really making progress on our wish list.*

Some members listed the following as their greatest wishes for Centenary for 1999:

- Central air/heating system
- A powerful sound system for the Family Life Center
- Church grounds landscaped
- A new church marquee
- Handicapped parking
- Piano (baby grand)
- Choir loft renovated
- A slim table for the narthex
- A laminating machine (especially to help with youth ministries)

*(Please let us know if you have anything to add.)*

**Centenarians,**  
**Coming to your Sanctuary Sept. 27-Oct. 1!!**

# REVIVAL '99

## "Getting Our Faith On Track"

People Get Ready and Plan to Be on Board!  
Rev. Herbert L. Lester, Jr. is the conductor, and a strong committee is leading this train

## Community Youth & Character (effort, initiative, perseverance)

(Some of the skills or character traits that we need in school and in life to survive and thrive.)

**Who do you know that goes the Extra Mile and what do they do?**

- My grandmother- when she doesn't feel like doing something for me she does it anyway.
- My Daddy -- He buys me clothes and shoes...
- My brother cuts grass and does work. He also plays basketball in the gym.
- My buddy Denise because they love me very much.
- My grandmother helps me with my homework when she doesn't feel like helping me.
- Plenty of friends help with different challenges.
- My mom
- Grandpa
- My Daddy

**Offering without being asked...What chores do you hate (dislike) doing?**

- Work and school
- Taking out the trash
- I hate to clean up
- Mopping and sweeping, washing dishes and fixing my bed.
- Cleaning a big nasty mess caused by someone low down.

**Would you try doing them for two days without being asked?**

- Yes, no answer and "I'll try."
- Can you swap chores with someone else? Maybe

Craig Dotson, Darryl Greenwood, Melvin Sims, Donavon Redden, Michael and more

## Softball Schedule

**COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT OUR TEAMS!!!  
It's GREAT FUN!**

Men: Mondays at Kennedy #9

June 7 7:45 p.m.

June 14 8:45 p.m.

June 21 Rain Date - Make up\*

June 28 8:45 p.m.

July 12 7:45 p.m.

Coed: Fridays at Tobey #2

June 4 6:45 p.m.

June 11 8:45 p.m.

June 18 Rain Date - Make up \*

June 25 7:45 p.m.

July 2 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

July 9 7:45 p.m.

\*call Coach Renfro at 789-5321 for info.

Little League Mondays and Thursdays at field

on Neely Rd. just south of Fairway: 6:15 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.





# Centenary's Youth Day: Spirit Fills Sanctuary through Voices of Youth

*"But to each one is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good."*

—I Corinthians 12:7

**W**ith a joyous "Gonna Be A Lovely Day," the Youth and Young Adults welcomed Centenarians and visitors to Youth Day. And it definitely was a lovely day!!!

In celebration of Pentecost, the Youth and Young Adults shared the ways in which they allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. We heard the Voices of Youth bearing gifts of dance, oratory and music, both vocal and instrumental. The youth skillfully led us in a spirited worship service that brought joy to our hearts and inspiration to our souls.

Kris Burke served as worship leader, guiding us through the service. Marcus Jeffries urged us to read the announcements and focused our attention on the most critical ones. Horace Ford inspired the children to share their spirits with a smile. Karlton Bynum recited the Scripture lesson. Gerald Fanion III and Whitney Wilson led the offering urging the spirit of giving as we, too, have received so many blessings. Danielle Strickland offered Prayers for the People. The youth offered thanks to God for their talents and for their parents who have nurtured their gifts. Geoffrey Lewis shared his wonderful musical talents and Brandi Williams offered an impressive interpretative dance in the prelude and postlude to the service. Youth participating in the Youth and Young Adult Choir included Horace Ford, Marsha Jones, Zakiya Larry, Geoffrey Lewis, Antonio Perkins and Brandi Williams. Berneta Miles presented special certificates on behalf of the pastors and congregation that commended the youth for their participation.

Zakiya Larry gave a deeply moving, heart-felt thanks for beautiful parents and a real church home. She reminded how important a safe, secure and spirit-filled foundation is to youth who are now surrounded with difficult decisions and



**Berneta Miles presents recognition certificates to Horace Ford, Marsha Jones, Zakiya Larry, Geoffrey Lewis and Brandi Williams.**

more dangers than ever before. She mentioned the recent shootings—and the sirens outside, noting that someone at that very moment could be hurt.

Zakiya directed our attention to the critical role of youth in Biblical history. "Throughout the history of Christianity, God has spoken to youth, directed their paths, and given them gifts to further his ministry - and God hasn't taken a vacation yet! Yes, God is working through youth even today," she said.

She pointed to the examples of the youthful David's confrontation with Goliath, the teenaged Joseph's rise to power, Miriam's ability to care for her brother Moses from afar, God's choice of the 14-year-old Mary as mother of Jesus, and the birth of Jesus. She added, "Christ didn't descend in a glowing chariot with blinding light and trumpets sounding. He didn't come as a great king of war or a fighting warrior. God presented his son in the form of a newborn baby—innocent, helpless and dependent on its mother, a mere child. Maybe God's trying to tell us something! Though Jesus didn't begin his ministry until he was in his 30's, he was found at the age of 12 revealing wisdom, knowledge and truth to the priests and scribes of the temple."

Zakiya speculated, "Maybe God uses youth because we haven't quite learned the rat-race way of society. It may be easier to condition us for God's work because we, for the most part, are untainted by the whims of society - You know the phrase, 'Get them before it's too late.' Whatever the reason may be, youth's gifts have been used throughout time to spread God's word. Our voices at times may not be heard....but we're blessed with gifts and need you as parents and adults to help cultivate these gifts. So when you hear a little whisper or you hear a teenager stumble upon some great revelation—listen, for out of the mouths of babes comes great wisdom and truth."

Youth Day certainly spread truth, wisdom and the Holy Spirit! They sang, "Speak to My Heart"—and they definitely did.

## Practices in our Faith

### United Methodists Are...

by Emma Tom Johnson

#### Biblical in Faith

United Methodists trust free inquiry in matters of Christian doctrine. Our faith is guided by Scripture, tradition, experience and reason. Of paramount importance is Scripture. For United Methodists, the Bible is the record of God's people living out God's promise.

#### A diverse community

United Methodism was formed when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged in 1968. United Methodists trace their spiritual heritage back to 18th century leaders including John and Charles Wesley, Francis Asbury, Philip Otterbein, Martin Boehm and Jacob Allbright.

## Lucille Scott Library Opens Doors to the World

Lucille Scott and the Library Committee welcomed Centenarians to the Library Open House and reception after an inspirational Youth Day worship service, Sunday, May 23. The Holy Spirit spread throughout the church on this Day of Pentecost as Centenarians of all ages shared God-given talents and gifts.



**Lucille D. Scott**

A special selection of books were displayed including *Faith of Our Fathers: African American Men Reflect on Fatherhood* edited by Andre Willis, *Mandela: An Illustrated Autobiography* by Nelson Mandela, *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor, *Sacred Journeys: A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer* by Jan L. Richardson, *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.* edited by Clayborne Carson, *Family Medical Guide* by editors of Consumer Guide, *The Road Less Traveled* by M. Scott Peck, M.D., and *The Greatest Generation* by Tom Brokaw. An amazing collection of Big Books for youth includes the *Biggest Pop-Up Book Ever* by Richard Scarry. Other books for youth range from *Tales from the African Plains* retold by Anne Gatti to *It Takes A Village* by Jane Cowen-Fletcher.

The library will be open for 30 minutes each Sunday immediately after worship service. The library will also be open by special request: groups should notify one of the members of the Library Committee.



**Delois Brack and Dr. Les Doll Twillie view books.**

To borrow any books or materials, fill out the blue borrower's card in the book with:

- name and telephone number
- current date

Books are loaned for one month and are due back one month from the date they are loaned. Books labeled reference should not be checked out. If no attendant is in the library, leave the card in the middle desk drawer.

The Library Committee is chaired by Erma Williams and includes: Mae I. Fitzgerald, J. LaRosa Green, Natasha Grider, Mary Hardy, Jane Hannah, Susie Mickle, Tillie W. Perry, Earnestyne Toney, and Canary Williams.

## "And I Felt My Heart Strangely Warmed" - John Wesley

by Dorothy Tureaud

Growing up in a Methodist Church School, one encounters the phrase that is the subject early on. It was made by John Wesley after he heard a worship service of Moravians. Their devotion and sincerity were overwhelming to him and he reacted with this piquant statement that has come down to us. I believe that from time to time each of us experiences heart-warming occasions. I remember my visit to John Street United Methodist Church, which was New York City's first Methodist Meeting House. Located far downtown in the Wall St. area where the city had its beginnings, this church has stood for many years. It reaches out to all people; indeed the neighborhood epitomizes the concept of America as a melting pot, and is the same area that was the inspiration to the young Methodist theology student who wrote the hymn, "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life."

An interesting fact about the church is that before the abolition of slavery in New York, the leaders heard of a 40-year-old black man, James Varick, who was to be sold South. Aware that at his age working in the fields would mean certain death, they purchased him for five dollars. The next day he was manumitted. He became sexton at the church and studied for the ministry.

After his ordination, he went uptown and established Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Today this is one of Harlem's largest and most prestigious churches. But even as John Wesley, after organizing the Methodist Movement never relinquished his role as a minister in the Church of England, Rev. Varick retained his status as a minister at John Street Church, and today his portrait hangs proudly among the succession of ministers at the parish.

It so happens that John Wesley was unaware that Methodism was flourishing in the colonies until some Methodist ministers apprized him of the fact. Dr. Wesley gave the New York ministers a beautiful communion service to carry back to John Street. This elegant old English Tea Service is still in use at the church.

Although compared to many well known churches in New York, John Street is quaint rather than imposing. It sends tentacles over a very broad area. It sponsors multi-services to many people. There is a superb day care center and a comprehensive feeding program. For many years it offered the first assistance to newly arrived immigrants, and although the thrust of helping has somewhat changed with the government taking over many of the former programs, the church is still a fortress to many of the city's unfortunate.

The service that I attended was an early morning meeting. Many Wall Street workers and others of many varied occupations were present. People of all races and clans composed the congregation, the choir, ushers and altar workers. The serenity, dignity, and quietness of the occasion was a model of how beautiful and wonderful an ideal Methodist service can be. It called to my mind the hymn, "There's a Sweet Holy Spirit in This Place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord." After listening to a short but compelling sermon and taking communion from the tea service contributed by John Wesley, I felt that like him, I had undergone a heart-warming experience. Thanks Be to God.



## Living by Doing as a Christian

by Erma Williams

Growing up as the youngest of 12 children may have made a difference in my life. My mother was always trying to help somebody. She gave her life for us. My Dad died when I was 11. He really believed in us helping each other. I guess this carries into everything else I do. I can't understand how families fight. I couldn't imagine not doing something for my sisters and brothers.

I really do believe you need to give something back to your church and community. I've been teaching since I was 20 years old. That's my job and I get paid for it. Even when I do something extra at school, I consider that as part of my job. The few things I do at church, that's my way to give back.

This is my community because it's where my church is—and I've been a member here for about 30 years. Since we're in the community, we should do something here.

When my children were younger, I was busy raising them and working. Others like Sara Hart led the Vacation Bible School and E.T. Johnson and others did a lot of work with youth. Now it's my time. It's part of my responsibility.

I've helped with the summer camp for the last two years. In the evening program, I followed Rev. Autura Hampton's plans during the two hours I volunteered with the youth. During the day camp, I helped with reading and related activities for one week. Some of the community youth really need lots of help.

I don't feel I know the children as well as I know the students at school. I know even at school, students often had no one to take the time to explain things to them. When I talk with youth, the little things I can say or do gives me gratification. For example, every year the seniors want champagne glasses as souvenirs from their prom. Yet, they've taken a

Prom Promise that says they won't drink and drive. So I explain to them that it doesn't make a lot of sense to give champagne glasses when they've agreed not to drink. Once they reflect on it, they agree. They just need someone to talk with.

A young lady went to East High School who lived at a group home. She had real problems. One day she told me all the things that had happened in her life. She had never lived with her family. I just ended up being her personal counselor, and Tina Jackson helped too. Sometimes teachers would ask me to work more closely with her based on the comments in her journals. This young woman graduated from East and has now been out six or seven years. She is considered legally blind, but has made a way for herself. Mrs. Jackson helped her get a job at the Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church Academy. This young woman has made it. She stayed out of trouble and off the streets. She worries about her family, but she has survived. She just needed someone to talk with.

If you really talk with youth, they're ok. Many youth have just missed out on some things. They are looking for caring and attention. Some adults don't have the patience to work with youth—and some youth are very different than youth in their generations. Some adults though, just haven't tried working with youth. If they tried it, they might find that they can do it and that they enjoy it. Most youth want to be disciplined. They want guidance and they want to be somebody! Just listening to them and talking with them can make a difference. If some adults would try to volunteer with youth, they might be surprised and would have a lot to offer them. Youth pay a lot more attention to what we say and do than we think.

Some people talk about their religion. I tell Rev. Lester all the time that I try to live by doing—as a Christian. I'm trying to do what I think I should do.

## Dr. Marie Milam Honored as Role Model of the Year

Dr. Marie Milam was recently honored as Role Model of the Year by the Memphis Alliance of Black School Educators. Rev. Herbert Lester Jr. said the tribute was tremendous and that many of us in the congregation have known little of all Dr. Milam does in the community. Dr. Milam says that her inspiration and motivation has come from reflecting on the spirit of her parents - who did not have fancy titles or plush offices to define them; who never looked for power; and

who did what had to be done because the power was already in them. Their example has led Dr. Milam to outstanding achievements and service.

She has also been recognized as: Outstanding Role Model by Northside High School; Educator of the Year by the Military Retirees of the Tri-State Area; Outstanding College Educator by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and Senior Class Faculty Award - DuBois Scholars Anchor Award from LeMoyné-Owen College. She has made possible a \$70,000 grant award from

Nike Corporation to do test preparation for the ACT and SAT at Booker T. Washington and Carver high schools. Dr. Milam has secured more than \$15.5 million to-date to initiate academic achievement programs through grant writing efforts since 1988.

Dr. Milam is a graduate of Manassas High School and earned Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and an Educational Doctorate from The University of Memphis. She serves as Director of Training for the Memphis Urban League, Inc. where she coordinates training programs for unemployed and underemployed people.

Approximately 700 individuals have been employed or upgraded since 1994. She also serves as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at The University of Memphis where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in foundational studies and leadership principles. Dr. Milam is President/Owner of Pro-Ed Consultants, Inc., which does professional educational consulting, faculty development, program evaluation; conducts leadership training seminars and test-preparation sessions.

## Words of Wisdom

shared by Vietta Lewis from the Internet

We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider free-ways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less common sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and lie too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've done larger things, but not better things; we've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; we've split the atom, but not our prejudice; we write more, but learn less; plan more, but accomplish less.

We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals; more food but less appeasement; more acquaintances, but fewer friends; more effort but less success.

We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication; we've become long on quantity, but short on quality.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships.

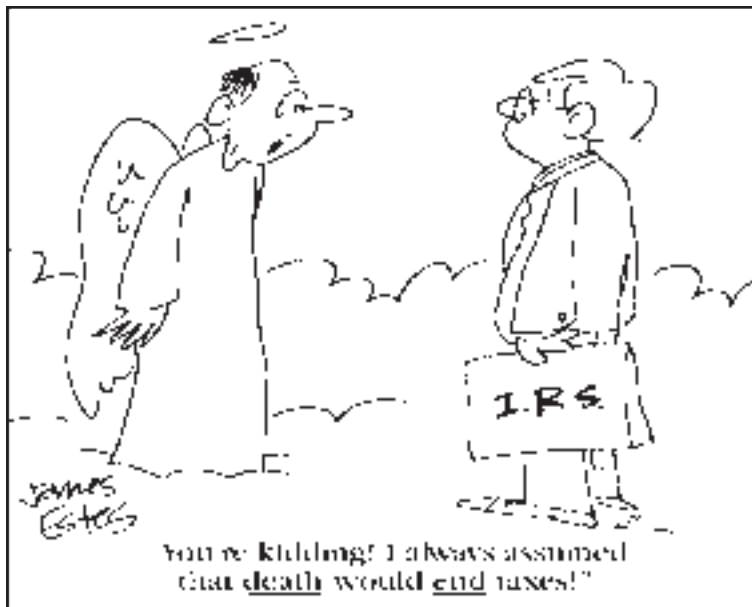
These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure and less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

These are the days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw-away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom.

Indeed, it's all true.



## Disciple Bible Study

*Let the Skies Rain Down Righteousness - Isaiah 45:8*

"We demand leaders, hoping they will bring security and peace. We want our leaders to make decisions for us, to tell us what to do so we won't have to take responsibility for ourselves and our actions. But power tends to corrupt; and we discover our leaders, like us, have feet of clay." Each Disciple Bible Study lesson begins with reflection on the Human Condition that spans the generations from Biblical times to the present. Often the issues that confronted our Biblical ancestors still face us today.

We struggled with the issues, as did the Biblical writers, when they asked, "How could something so grand and glorious (kingships), end up here?"

We reflected that even leaders cannot transcend their humanness — and it requires a community of faith to keep us all in check — and obedient to our covenant with God. Even the great leader David succumbed to weaknesses as a parent, to his lust and womanizing, to deceitfulness and murder. The Bible reflects the truth and does not idealize leaders. We learn from the way they dealt with their strengths — and their weaknesses — and from God's justice, grace and mercy.

We reflected on the prophets who often warned the people, but whose warnings were rarely heeded. We shared our own difficult paths in admitting our wrongs and sins and in relying on worship as an opportunity to develop our characters and our faith. The prophets were opposed to paganism and to injustice. We acknowledged that Elijah doesn't let us off the hook: We too must break with pagan "gods" such as money, property, status, and false security. We asked, "How is God warning us now?" We replied, "Natural disasters, crime/violence, babies with guns, the loss of community and more."

We questioned, "How do we find a prophetic voice?" Can we raise our voices together in community...and be stronger?

We asked, "What would today's Jeremiahs be saying to us?" We answered, "Better Straighten Up and Fly Right!" for "God Is Still in Charge."

And we don't know who God may be using, just as he used Cyrus. We also recalled Malcolm X's prophetic words when President John F. Kennedy was killed, "The chickens have come home to roost." We discussed how real social movements come from the bottom up and must include a broader base. We must own up to our own circumstances and that we cannot straighten them out by ourselves - we must "Let go and Let God." Not that we do nothing...we must do our part...but we must also know that God's will shall prevail. We must continue to struggle to be in the world but not of it.

We reflected on the messages of Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah in the midst of the crises of exile. Jeremiah said that all have sinned, yet in the midst of total societal collapse he revealed his faith. Ezekiel shared that God is everywhere and so hope and resurrection are always possible. Isaiah spoke of the suffering servant and how we can be saved by other's suffering.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke of the redemptive power of unearned suffering; that is, suffering for a cause - just as Jesus said, "Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me." We spoke of faith as character - rather than simply beliefs - that requires trust, dependency and obedience (discipline).

Our Disciple Bible Study continues Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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the money even though I didn't have much. My job didn't pay a salary—my income varied. I learned early, though, that it wasn't out of abundance you gave, but out of whatever you have — and you share that.

I feel we're supposed to do this. My Mama always told me if the Lord blesses you, you should do what you can to help. I thought my Mama was one of the grandest mothers in the world. She seemed a lot like John Wesley's mother: small, thorough, very encouraging.

Mama never believed in forcing anyone to do anything. She just encouraged me and others. I once wanted to use my brother's car, and I asked Mama to make him do it. She said she wouldn't make him do it, but she would encourage him to let me use the car.

I started making plans for that Friday night. I didn't know anyone who could say, "No," to Mama.

I also really liked John Wayne partly because he would say he's so good he doesn't have to prove it. I want to help the children see that they're good enough and don't have to prove it. We could make the world a better place if we encourage the youth to be the best they can be. It's when we do shabby that we get shabby.

I started going to youth programs when some Centenarians said no one would come. I said, "I will!" I've always gone to support youth. There have been so many people who have been so grand to me ever since I was young. I'm just returning what was given to me when I volunteer with the youth.

I enjoy working with the youth. I like to help children to excel—not just doing, but doing in a way to teach them to be their best. We have to help our children be better than just being gang members — or at least be a part of good gangs. I didn't get to play a lot of basketball, but I learned how to do drills. Everybody should get to play and have their fair shot at the hoops. They need to play as a team and not as individuals.

Children in church shouldn't have to wonder who we adults are. It's up to us to build those relationships. It's my responsibility to make sure you like me -- and your responsibility to make sure I like you.

In 1964 I became a Centenarian. Back then on my block everyone knew me as "Uncle Bubba," especially the youth. I still am Uncle Bubba to many people who are grown now. Through the years, I've felt it was quite an honor to have built such good relationships that children would call me Uncle Bubba.

It's important to be a part of the community. I think every child in the area from Parkway to Crump should know Centenary. We're among the oldest congregation in the community and we should be the best known. I think John Wesley would expect that. That's the Wesley way and that's my Mama, Mama Chacey's way. Growing up in Grenada, if I didn't know you, you hadn't been there long enough. By our fruits we shall be known. As a little boy selling milk, I sold the BEST milk! When I sold wood, I didn't just throw it, I stacked it under the house. Be the BEST! We should be the BEST CENTENARIANS we can be!

## Graduates Day

by Gina Williams-Jackson

Graduates' Day will be celebrated on Sunday, June 13, 1999 at the morning worship service. All graduates from high school, college, graduate and professional school will be honored. Graduates will participate in the worship service. The speaker for the morning will be Pam McKelvy of Channel 3 News. A reception will be held immediately following the service.

Graduates' Day is being sponsored by the Young Adults. Gina Williams-Jackson is chairperson and Jackie Toney is co-chairperson for this special celebration.

## Congratulations Graduates!!!

Kheli Bynum	Hamilton High School
Gerald Fanion, III	Hamilton High School
Horace Ford	Westwood High School
Derrick Gabriel	Ridgeway High School
Marsha Jones	Central High School
Janyael Powell	Hamilton High School
Crystal Rawlings	Germantown High School
Gina Thompson	Central High School
Brandi Williams	Hamilton Middle School

## College

Joi Flowers	University of Memphis
Glennette Mayo	University of Memphis
Timbalyn Milam	LeMoyne Owen College
Kimbra Toney	University of Memphis

## Pastor and Coach Win First Round In Bid Whist Tournament

With great enthusiasm and support from others, Mike Lewis, Rev. Herbert Lester Jr. and Billy Renfro, coach for Centenary's softball teams, helped create the first-ever Cardplayer's Rodeo. While intending just to help out with the rodeo, Rev. Lester and Coach Renfro entered at the last minute. Their love of Bid Whist - and to hear them tell it, long years of practice - swept them ahead of the other skilled teams as they took the First Place trophy.

Janice Twillie, who also expected only to help with the tournament, said (with a broad smile on her face) she was "forced" to play when Donald Vernon's partner couldn't participate. The team won second place! Adell and LaVerne Hines came in third. The tournament lasted well into the night, Friday, May 21, was great fun and a rousing success, and raised funds for Centenary's Recreational Ministries.

First Round for Spades is June 5; Pinochle follows on June 12, and the next round in the Bid Whist tournament is on June 19, in the Myrtle G. Donoho Family Life Center at Centenary. Registration is from 4:00 -5:55 p.m. and play begins at 6:00 p.m.. The entry fee is \$20 per team of two, per round.

Trophies (and braggin' rights) each round! Call 774-7604 for more information.





### Church Bulletin Bloopers

- 22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.
- A song fest was held at the Methodist church Wednesday.
- Hymn 43: "Great God, what do I see here?" Preacher: The Rev. H. Blodgett Hymn 47: "Hark! an awful voice is sounding"

—via the Internet from Chirelle Jefferson

Buy Books & CDs on-line from the Centenary Bookstore - <http://www.centenary-umc.org>



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