



the Centenarian

MARCH 2008

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!"

Black college supporters receive H.O.P.E. awards

By Linda Green

LOS ANGELES (UMNS)--Two United Methodists are the recipients of the 2008 H.O.P.E. legacy awards from the Black College Fund for giving hope to 11 historically black colleges and universities related to The United Methodist Church.

The Rev. John G. Corry, chaplain and senior adviser to the president for United Methodist Church Affairs at Meharry Medical College, and Angella Current-Felder, executive director of the Office of Loans and Scholarships for the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, received the awards Feb. 28 during the 41st annual meeting of Black Methodists for Church Renewal in Los Angeles.

The Heritage, Opportunity, Preparation and Education awards were initiated in 2001 and are given annually to recognize "exceptional contributions in continuing a tradition of hope in the historically black colleges and universities related to The United Methodist Church," said Cynthia Bond Hopson, director of the Black College Fund and Ethnic Concerns at the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Nearly 16,000 students attend the 11 church-related, historically black schools. The 35-year-old Black College Fund is supported by local church apportionments and promoted through an internship program named for former fund executive Lina H. McCord.

A helping hand

Current-Felder has encouraged many United Methodist students to make a difference through education. She leads the Women of Color Scholars program, which is designed to increase the number of women of

color serving on seminary faculties as teachers and researchers. The Office of Loans and Scholarships awards approximately \$6 million in financial assistance annually to more than 3,500 students.

"I am humbled by being a recipient of the H.O.P.E. Award," said Current-Felder as she shared the moment with her mother, Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly.

Current-Felder told the luncheon audience that her parents encouraged her and her three siblings to be their own persons but also to fulfill their responsibility "for the liberation of black people. I accept this award. I was only doing what God told me to do," she said.

Trailblazer in the church

A trailblazer in many areas of the church, Corry was the first African-American district superintendent in the Tennessee Annual (regional) Conference. He has served as president of the Judicial Council, the denomination's supreme court, and is the author of nine publications. He is in his 35th year of employment at United Methodist-related Meharry in Nashville, Tenn.

With his family in attendance, Corry told the audience that he is "always humbled when someone recognizes the work I have done. I have been supported by a host of witnesses ... and I know I could not have done those things without the grace of God."

Past recipients include Current-Felder's father, Gloster Current Sr., the Rev. Chestina Mitchell Archibald, on-air personality Tom Joyner, Larry Jenkins of the Thurston Group, and the Rev. Walter L. Kimbrough and his wife, author and professor Marjorie L.

Kimbrough.

A highlight of the annual luncheon is a table competition to raise money to support scholarships for the historically black college represented by its choir at the gathering. This year, the competition awarded \$10,000 to Dillard University of New Orleans and its choir.

Participants opened their wallets after watching tables of the "battling bishops and spouses." Two episcopal tables, one led by Dillard alumni Bishop Alfred and Mackie Norris and another led by Bishop Melvin and Marilyn Magee Talbert, squared off with their checkbooks to enliven the festivities.

"What happens at black colleges does not happen everywhere else," Hopson said, noting that the colleges accept students who have potential but who may have never experienced "I think I can encouragement."

*Green is a United Methodist News Service news writer based in Nashville, Tenn.

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The Shepherding Ministry

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Gerald Fanion, Jr.
Jane Hannah
Jeremy Merriweather | 18 Eric Goodrich
Breck Howard
Marie Lamon |
| 3 Freddie Dillard | 19 Gregory Thomas |
| 5 J. LaRosa Greene
Austin Tyler McCall
Hope Mitchell
Thelma Mitchell | 21 Lucille Grose
22 Eleanor Guy
23 Vincent Crump
24 Eleanor Neal
Rose Sanders |
| 6 Kathryn McLaughlin | 26 Jimmie Brown |
| 8 Mamie Henderson | Horace Ford |
| 14 Calinda Dickerson
Geoffrey Lewis | 27 Paige Parker, Sr.
31 Taylor Humphrey |

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

Welcome New Member

The Centenary Family would like to welcome **Mrs. Arnell Scruggs**. She is transferring her membership from Oak Spring Baptist Church. Mrs. Scruggs is joining with her husband of 29 years, **Mr. Ronnie Scruggs**. They are the parents of one daughter, Chasity, who is a sophomore at Tuskegee Institute.

—Erma P. Williams

Children/Youth Art Extravaganza

In order to make art appealing to the eye, we must display it in an extraordinary way. It takes time and effort to achieve this. This is why it is so important to adhere to deadlines. The great event will take place on Sunday, June 29, 2008. The last Sunday, May 25, 2008 will be the deadline to submit all art work. Start now purchasing easels, frames, matte boards, brushes, acrylic paints, and painter's tape.

Let us try new horizon by making every child feel special! We solicit the help of all Centenarians. If you have relatives that are children or youth, invite them to participate. We are open to new ideas. We want all Centenarians to volunteer to help all children achieve their ideal medium. We want to paint on TV folding trays, high back chairs, small tables, wooden hangers, baskets, flower pots, denim jackets, and clear glass plates. If any adult have any of these items, you can donate them.

Many thanks,
Eleanor J. Neal
382-0563

Give More Without Giving More!

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

in association with

amazon.com



Centenary
United Methodist Church

Early Morning Worship Celebration
Sunday • 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School
Sunday • 9:00 a.m.

Worship Celebration
Sunday • 10:30 a.m.

Bible Study
Tuesday • 6:00 p.m.

Let's Jumpstart The UMW Reading Program For 2008

The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women to:

- expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
- increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests, and concerns;
- to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;
- grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
- enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge;
- strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission

How do we achieve these objectives? We do so by reading a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This helps us to be knowledgeable and caring Christians about the issues of the day.

Get started by choosing a reading program plan. The books are grouped into four categories, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

PLAN 1

- 4 books each year
- 1 from each category

PLAN 2

- 10 books each year
- At least 2 from each category

PLAN 3

- 15 books each year
- 8 books with at least two from each category
- 7 additional books from any category

PLAN 4

- 20 books each year
- 8 books with at least two from each category
- 12 additional books from any category

All of the plans include

- Selections from the 2002-2007 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children's books) and
- Regular reading of *Response* and *New World Outlook*

Where do I obtain this reading material? Your secretary of program resources is anxiously awaiting your request for one of the following:

- (1) *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan* (Education for Mission)

- (2) *Keeping Spiritual Balance as We Grow Older* (Nurturing for Community)
- (3) *Earth Trek: Celebrating and Sustaining God's Creation* (Social Action)
- (4) *The Spider's Web* (Nurturing for Community), a youth book
- (5) *Mama's Window* (nurturing for Community), a youth book

A 2008 Reading List with more reading suggestions will be made available to each of the sub-group leaders. Report completion of reading requirements to Annie Mathews, secretary of program resources. Good Luck on your 2008 reading adventure.

—Annie Mathews

United Methodist Women News

The United Methodist Women have begun this year of our Lord-2008-with a full slate of activities. Some of us will be attending a Prayer Retreat at Lakeshore in March. The dates are **March 27th and 28th** as well as **March 28th and 29th**.

Our own **Mrs. Earlene Gladney** will be running for the **Women's Division in the Southeast Jurisdiction**. This event will be taking place **April 4-6 in Hampton, VA**.

April 12th we will be celebrating **A Day Apart at Emmanuel United Methodist Church**.

April 13th we will be celebrating our annual **Women's Day**. All women are asked to wear white with red accessories. **Dr. Deborah Smith** will be the morning speaker and the Women's Chorus will render the music.

If you are not currently a member of a sub-group of the United Methodist Women, please consider joining one of the seven groups. We strive to continue Jesus's example of mission by remaining involved in mission work. Just a few of the many organizations we are involved in include: Reelfoot, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, First Works, Etc.

If you feel that your calling involves giving back to others as God gave to you, please consider joining an organization. Our president **Earnestyne Toney** or vice president and program chairperson **Gloria Wyatt** will be most happy to speak with you.

I would like to also take this opportunity to welcome our newest officer, **Ms. Veronica Burrows**.

—Rosalyn Ross



UNITED METHODIST MEN

- We meet on the **4th Saturday** of each month at 10:00 a.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 Charles Nichols or place it in a church envelope and designate "United Methodist Men - Food Pantry".

—James Haley II, UMM President

The Best Things In Life Come With A



United Methodist Women's Membership

Why Not Join A Circle Today?

Acolyte Spotlight

Ariel Alexis Ross

Ariel Alexis Ross is 10 years old, and is a fifth grade honor student at Cordova Middle School. Her parents are Pamela Moden and William M. Ross, III. Her grandparents are William M. Ross, Jr, and Gwendolyn R. Ross and Rev. Robert Lee Hamilton and Betty Hamilton. She is also a junior member of the Madam G.S. Young Sub-Group.



Ariel's favorite things include Harry Potter books, Spongebob Squarepants, movies such as "The Great Debaters" and "First Sunday" and songs such as "Just Fine" and "With You". Her hobbies include reading, singing, and dancing.

Women's Chorus Rehearsal Schedule

March 29th • 8:30 a.m.
April 5th • 10:00 a.m.
April 8th • 7:00 p.m.
April 12th • 8:30 a.m.



Coming Events of Rust College

The Rust College A'Cappella Choir will be presented in concert at Centenary United Methodist Church on March 16, 2008, at 4:00 PM. This world renowned choir is under the direction of the extraordinary, **Mr. Zebedee Reynolds Jones**.

The second event for Rust College in the Memphis area is our annual Scholarship Banquet. It will be held at Greenwood CME Church on Kimball on April 26, 2008, at 7:00 PM. If you plan to attend, you may contact me for tickets.

The Memphis Rust Association is soliciting your support for both of these events. It is our goal to continue supporting and encouraging our young students to strive for higher goals.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

—**Billie Hansbrough**

Service Of Interfaith Celebration of Dr. King's Struggle for Living Wages

**Thursday, March 13th, 2008, 7:00 P.M.
Centenary United Methodist Church**

Dr. James Lawson, clergy leader in the 1968 sanitation workers' strike, has been invited to be the keynote speaker. As we commemorate the 40th anniversary of Dr. King's 1968 work with the Memphis sanitation strikers, we will also continue in his footsteps by upholding campaigns for a living wage at the local and national levels.

Centenary's Choirs have been asked to provide music for the meeting.

For more information, contact Rev. Rebekah Jordan at (901) 332-3570 or www.midsouthinterfaith.org

—**Charlene W. Parker**

Disaster Response Fund

The Memphis Conference Disaster Response Fund has been established by Bishop Richard J. Wills, Jr., to provide assistance to persons seeking to rebuild their lives as a result of February's devastating tornadoes in the Mid-South. You may aid in this recovery effort through your financial contributions. Please designate your donation as **Memphis Conference Disaster Relief**. Donations may be sent to:

**Conference Treasurer
24 Corporate Blvd.
Jackson, TN 38305**

This is a unique opportunity as the church to be the hands of Christ to those in need. A toll free number is available at 1-877-664-2204 both for persons requesting help, and for those who may inquire about offering their assistance.

—**Walter E. McLaughlin, Sr., Lay Leader**

What's So Special About Easter?

Easter commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is very significant because it tells us of how Jesus was tortured, bled and died. Jesus was taken before the high priest and the Supreme Court of which they asked the people, "What shall his punishment be?" The reply was, "crucify him, crucify him." Next he went before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. Pilate asked him "Are you a king?" Jesus replied, "Yes, but my kingdom is not of this world, for if it were, my servants would fight to save me."

Pilate's response was "I find no fault of this man." Later Jesus was taken to Mount Calvary to be crucified. They nailed his hands and feet to the cross and crucified him. After all the agony and frustration he went through he still was able to pray "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23: 34.

Easter is a new beginning—it sets us free from the old and brings us into a period of transition. Through this transition, we should see God's goodness and glorify his father in heaven.

As we look back on the cruel treatment of Jesus, we must work hard to treat our fellowmen in a Christ like manner. When we fight, criticize, abandon and use unkind words toward others, this makes God sad and it displeases him. It tells us in 1 John 4:11 "If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." We must also show charity toward others. In 1 Cor. 13:1 it states, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." We all must prepare to meet God and live in his heavenly kingdom. We all must also love God as he loves us unconditionally.

Easter is very meaningful because God sent his son Jesus into the world to save us and make us better Christians. We should be thankful for such a caring, loving and merciful God. He is a wonderful counselor, magnificent father and a peaceful friend. There aren't enough words in the dictionary to describe God but there is one word that says it all in a nutshell.

He is AWESOOOOME!

Let Us Pray:

Most Loving God; give the insight to look ahead to a brighter future. Heal all those wounds that restrict us from showing love for our fellowmen. Bring us to a new beginning, and a deeper understanding of you as our Lord and Savior. Shield us from the enemy and give us renewed strength so we will be able to give you all the praise and thanks you so richly deserve.

Asking these and other blessings in thy precious name.

Amen.

— **Janis Paxton**

Casting Call

THE CENTENARY REPERTORY COMPANY

Dedicated to involving all Centenarians in the life and work of Centenary United Methodist Church through active participation in realizing its mission



There is a "Pentecost story" in each of us. We need to hear yours.

Seeking to cast the men of Centenary in roles for a Pentecost worship experience....all ages welcome

We need YOU to help tell the *Pentecost Story* on Pentecost Sunday at Centenary United Methodist Church. The men of Centenary will lead this worship service, created as a celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church.

Be one of the irresistible characters in this worship experience based on friendship, self-discovery, and the love of God. We promise that you will be a part of a Pentecost story that will continue to resonate long after the worship service.

We need YOU to get involved today. Pentecost Sunday is May 11, 2008. Only a few rehearsals will be held and you don't have to memorize a script. No acting experience is necessary.

See James Haley, Cynthia Haley or Marie Milam. You can also e-mail them at jhaley@jhaley.com; chaley@jhaley.com or Tmilam817@aol.com.

The tallest mountains
aren't the ones you climb
with your
feet.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®



100 YEARS MEN

To celebrate 100 years of ministry from the United Methodist Men, we want to register 100 Centenary men as United Methodist Men.

Annual dues are only \$26.

For more information, please attend our monthly meeting :

Saturday, March 22 · 10:00 A.M.

Or see James Haley, II, President



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."

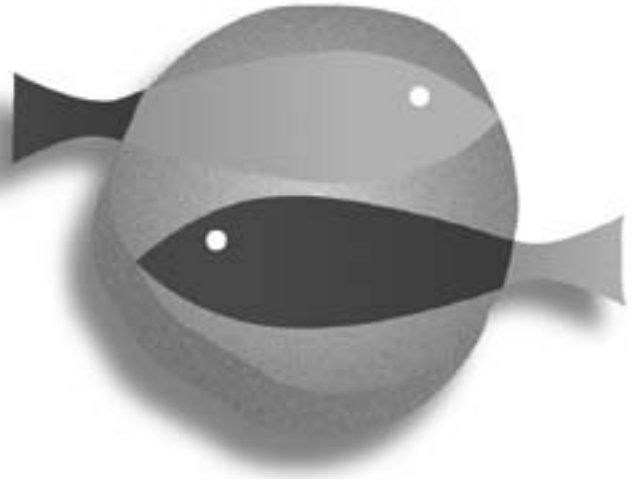
Information for the newsletter can also be mailed to **Erma Williams, 9601 Mourning Dove Cove, Germantown, TN, 38139.**

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

We reserve the right to edit any content submitted for the newsletter.

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

<http://CentenaryMemphis.com>



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAYS

Every 2nd Sunday

If you would like to help contribute to Stewardship Sunday, please see Cecelia Patrick



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Memphis, TN 38106

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