



the Centenarian

DECEMBER 2007

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

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

Lay Leadership 2008

Lay Leader:

Walter McLaughlin

Lay Member of Annual Conference:

Lula Carter

Lay Member of Annual Conference at Large:

Less Doll Twillie

Alternate Lay Member:

Earnestyne Toney

Administrative Council Chairperson:

Erma Williams

Membership Secretary:

Geraldine Reed

Nurture Chairperson:

Billie Hansbrough

Education Chairperson:

Charlene Parker

Worship Chairperson:

Cynthia Haley

Stewardship:

Cecelia Patrick

Health & Welfare Ministries

/Holston Home:

Harrison McIver / Nicole Parker

Higher Education:

Robin Mathews

Lambuth University Representative:

Elizabeth Caswell

Membership Care:

Hattye Strong

Adoption/Foster Home Ministries:

Marie Lamon

Disaster Relief:

Gwen Ross

Communications Chairperson:

James Haley, II

Age-Level & Family Ministries:

Vietta Lewis

Children:

Nicole Parker / Timberlyn Milam

Youth:

Sherita Lee

Adult Ministry

Couple's Ministry:

Katherine McLaughlin

Older Adult:

Janice Sampson (PACE Ministry)

Family:

Denise Parker

Prayer Ministry:

Bonnie Turner

Shepherding Ministry:

Tawana Cooper

Church School Superintendent:

Minnie White

Chairperson, Finance Committee:

Bennie Williams

At Large Members, Finance:

Eddie Smith, Rosalyn Ross,
Roy Davis, James Haley, Sr.

Church Treasurer:

Earlene Gladney

Financial Secretary:

Stephanie Walker

Trustees

Class of 2008

Patricia Bailey

LaRue Keller

Mabelene Blakeney

Class of 2009

William Hammond

Brian Davis

Paige Parker, Jr.

Class of 2010

Freddie Caswell

James Dupree

Wilhemina Carter

Staff Pastor Parish Relations

Committee Chairperson:

Darryl Humphrey

Class of 2008

Mary Hardy

Marsha Jones

Carolyn Norris

Class of 2009

Tiffany Milam Owens

Rose Sanders

Class of 2010

Judy Lewis

Billie Hansbrough

Ann Willis

CONNECT: Earlene Gladney

At-Large Members of the

Administrative Council:

Lucille Gross, Patricia Bailey,

Rosalyn Ross, Less Doll Twillie,

James Dupree, Toni Hines

Church Historian: Willie B. Pierce

In this Issue...

Baptism Page 2

The Councilor Page 3

Great Debators Page 5

World News Page 6

Sunday School Page 7

and much more!

The Shepherding Ministry

December Birthdays

1 Kevin Davis	11 Marie Milam
Gwendolyn Ross	Brittany Williams
2 Frances Williams	12 Ruby Milligan
Ann E. Willis	16 Candice Thomas
3 May Moon	18 Joe Davis
Nicole Parker	20 Charlton Johnson
Delores Rivers	Andrea Merriweather
4 Alan Toney	22 Tammie Cain
6 Janis Paxton	Ruth Hicks
Anthony Paxton	24 Kierra Taylor
Jon Wesley Wright	25 Noel Stewart
7 Corey Bazile	26 Bonnie Turn
Bennie R. Williams	Lisa Willis
9 Paige Parker, Jr.	27 Pearl Pegues
	29 Elizabeth Burton
	Walter McLaughlin

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

Baptism

Bradley Casey, born on March 8, 2007 was baptized on Sunday, October 7, 2007.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Corwyn and Tiffany Casey and the grandson of Vernon Grose.

Antonio Gladney 13, and **Antwone Gladney** 6, were baptized on Sunday, October 21, 2007.

They are the sons of Mrs. Latonsha Shields Gladney.

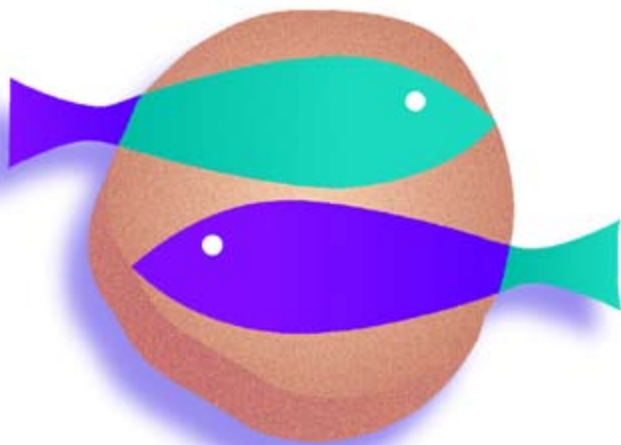
The Sacraments

Like most other Protestants, United Methodists recognize only those sacraments in which Jesus Christ Himself participated – Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

For United Methodist, baptism is the sacrament of initiation that joins us with the church and with Christians everywhere. It's a symbol of new life and a promise of God's saving love... and a sign of God's forgiveness for our sins.

Both infants and adults can be baptized. A person receives the sacrament only once in his or her life. Water is the special symbol of baptism. United Methodist baptize by sprinkling, immersion or pouring. (from "About Being United Methodist")

—Erma P. Williams



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAYS

Every 2nd Sunday

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

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



Centenary
United Methodist Church

Early Morning Service • 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.



The “Councilor”

*A publication of the Administrative Council of Centenary United Methodist Church
Volume II, Issue #3 – December 2007*

Following are updates from, and recent decisions made by, the Administrative Council:

1. At the September 12th meeting, it was announced that an all-church meeting would be held on Sunday, October 7th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2008 Budget and other issues; the goal was to heighten the congregation’s awareness of Centenary’s finances and to promote the need for increased involvement in the church’s ministries.
2. Dr. Deborah Smith, Mrs. Minnie White and others are working hard to revitalize Sunday School. As of this writing, the target date for the “new” Sunday School is **January 2008**. The team is requesting participation from all Centenarians, which can be accomplished by becoming actively involved in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Planning
 - b. Teaching ... especially children’s classes and a young adult class
 - c. Attendance – Learning, growing and sharing with others while studying God’s Word
 - d. Prayer – Praying for the success of Sunday School!
3. It was moved and seconded at the October 24th meeting that, beginning January 1, 2008, 10% of weekly tithes/offerings be used to pay toward apportionments. Motion carried.
4. It was agreed by common consent that the church should strive to limit actual spending to budgeted spending. The Council is aware that unexpected and non-recurring expenses arise from time to time but agreed that spending should be monitored and additional sources of revenue need to be sought.
5. It was also agreed that Designated Giving should be discouraged ... especially when it is at the expense of regular tithes/offerings. Please remember that “Other” giving should be “above and beyond” Regular giving – not “instead of” Regular giving.

Finally ... several years ago, the Administrative Council decided that Centenary should celebrate its anniversary each year on the third Sunday in November. (The timing coincided with the culminating celebration of our 140th Anniversary on Sunday, November 20, 2005.) Therefore, at this time we would like to say “Happy Anniversary!” to Centenary United Methodist Church! We pray for a bright future through continued service of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ. In recognition of 142 years of existence this year, the Administrative Council decided that members should be asked to give \$142.00 (or whatever donation) to go to the church’s General Fund.

Kametris Wyatt

Administrative Council Chairperson

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 Darryl Humphrey, Brian Davis, Thomas Lamon, Thomas Milam, Charles Nichols or place it in a church envelope and designate "United Methodist Men - Food Pantry".

—Darryl Humphrey, UMM President

The Best Things In Life Come With A



United Methodist Women's Membership

Why Not Join A Circle Today?

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®



Movie to feature Wiley College historic debate team

By Linda Green

It is not every day that Denzel Washington and Oprah Winfrey do a movie together about a historically black college with fewer than 1,000 students.

But that's what happened when the pair learned about a David and Goliath matchup in which Wiley College's 1935 debate team won a national championship against Harvard University and also beat other perennial oratorical powerhouses.

United Methodist-related Wiley College is a historically black school in Texas.

In 2004, the United Methodist-related college in Marshall, Texas, began to receive inquiries from Hollywood about Melvin B. Tolson, leader of Wiley's first debate team.

"We started getting calls and researching ourselves for them," said Veronica Clark, Wiley's director of public relations.

The Wiley staff learned that over a 15-year period, Tolson's teams lost only one of 75 debates. The Wiley Forensic Society competed against historically black colleges, but earned national attention with its debates against the University of Southern California and Harvard University. The winning team was composed of four men (including Tolson) and one woman.

The Great Debaters

Scheduled for release Dec. 25, "The Great Debaters" is being produced by Winfrey's Harpo Productions. Washington is both director and star. Filming began in early 2006 and wrapped over the summer. Most of the scenes were filmed in Louisiana with brief scenes on the Wiley campus and at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

"This is exciting. It just doesn't get any better than this. Not to mention that a great story is being told ..."

—Veronica Clark, Wiley College

"Everyone is extremely excited," Clark said. "It is not everyday that Denzel Washington and Oprah Winfrey want to do a movie about a college, especially one about a college our size." The liberal arts college has 926 students enrolled.

"As soon as we learned of the movie at Wiley, the alumni have just been bombarding the college with telephone calls," Clark said. "This is exciting. It just doesn't get any better than this. Not to mention that a great story is being told about newbies coming onto the debate scene and doing so well."

The Marshall community also was excited about Washington's arrival. "He came to campus in sweatpants and a baseball cap," said Clark. "He was here to work (and) he was very approachable."

Since racial diversity was needed in the film, students and community members came out in droves. Other actors in the film include Forest Whitaker, Columbus Short, Jermaine Williams, J.D. Evermore, John Heard, Kimberly Elise, Nate Parker, Justice Leak, Jurnee Smollett and Denzel Whitaker.

The story of Melvin Tolson

Tolson was born in 1898 in Moberly, Mo., to a Methodist Episcopal pastor and his wife. His father served churches in Missouri and Iowa.

A graduate of historically black Lincoln (Pa.) University, Tolson was hired by Wiley College in 1924 to teach English and speech. He also coached junior varsity football, directed the theater club and organized the Wiley Forensic Society.

A monument to Tolson and his achievement stands on the campus.

Tolson was a mentor and teacher to civil rights activist James Farmer Jr. and Herman Sweat, an African American who was refused admission into the University of Texas Law School. Action by the law school resulted in a Supreme Court decision that challenged the "separate but equal" doctrine of racial segregation, a policy established by the 1896 case of Plessey vs. Ferguson.

He left Wiley in 1947 to teach at historically black Langston (Okla.) University. That same year, Liberia declared him its poet laureate. Beginning in 1952, he served two terms as mayor of all-black Langston. He died in 1966.

Resurrecting a legacy

The movie has instilled a sense of pride in the students and the Marshall community. The debate team, defunct after Tolson left the school in 1947, was resurrected in the last academic year and won a debate against Morehouse University. Clark called the win "icing on the cake."

In an interview with the Marshall (Texas) News Messenger, Washington said he thought the Wiley debaters "would be just a really wonderful story to tell. It's about the spoken word — something you don't see much in film — and about education and about debating."

Washington said this part of the story of blacks in America needs to be told — that there is a huge gap between the end of the Civil War and the climax of the civil rights struggle in 1964. He called the movie a "David and Goliath" story.

He also said the spoken word is an important part of current hip-hop culture, and the debating film shows the roots of that tradition. "Our oral history is rich and deep, and debating is a big part of it, a part I didn't know about. It's something I want to share on the film with others," he told the newspaper.

Wiley College is the first historically black college west of the Mississippi River. It was founded in 1873 by Bishop Issac Wiley of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Freedman's Aid Society to prepare the newly emancipated people for the future. The college is one of 11 historically black United Methodist-related institutions of higher education and is financially supported by the denomination's Black College Fund.

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

The Christmas Miracle

Being with child is a miraculous event that only happens to a Mother. The Mother has to wait 9 long months for her little bundle of joy to appear. First she goes into labor and delivery, next after labor and delivery, the umbilical cord is severed, the baby's mouth cleared and he or she lets out a cry, sometimes so loud and forceful that it lets the mom know the child has arrived. Next the child is given to his mother. This marks the beginning of a brand new existence an amazing miracle.

In the biblical account of the virgin birth, Mary was told by the angel Gabrielle that she would be the mother of the Messiah. Also, that the child would be called the savior of the world. This child would not be conceived by any human means but by the Holy Spirit. This tells us that Christmas is about the Miracle of the virgin mother.

God sent his son to earth to save us from our sins and bring us to everlasting life. For we read in Ephesians 2:8 "First, let's look at salvation "saved" we can understand it best when we strip it for a moment of all its religion connotations and look at its root meaning, "rescue." Salvation means rescuing someone from a situation that puts them in danger or would have been fatal, if they hadn't been removed from it. Salvation is rescuing us from our condition.

It also tells us in Ephesians Verse 8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

As we look at the Christmas season and daily grind of shopping, addressing cards and decorating, we somehow lose the true meaning of this special holiday. We forget that Christmas is all about Jesus, his birth and the fact God gave us his son. This is the greatest gift that could he could have ever given to us. Instead of being able to give out of thoughtfulness and love, we often give because it is "expected." No wonder the joy of giving falls away to a sort of panicked despair. Each Christian should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Jesus birth was a Christmas mystery a virgin birth sent into the world to make it better via a loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Only by sharing the gift of God's only son may we truly comprehend what is the real ignorance of giving and receiving gifts. At this season may we capture the true meaning of Christmas, and show our love for others as we prepare to honor God's only son.

Let us pray: *Dear God, Make us more patient, loving and compassionate. Where there is hatred, let us show love; where there is war, let us show peace. Where there are those who have little let them sew bountifully. And Father gives us the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know you better. And may we give as you gave your only son.*

Asking these and other blessings in your name

Amen,

— Janis Paxton

University acts to keep staff despite economy

MUTARE, Zimbabwe — Africa University officials are taking steps to keep teachers and other staff at a time when many professionals are leaving Zimbabwe because of the country's struggling economy. The Africa University Board of Directors approved a policy for staff retention during its Nov. 28-Dec. 1 meeting. In the past three years, nearly 20 experienced staffers have left Africa University for jobs outside the country.

Young adults want to put faith into action, leader says

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Young adults today want to be involved in mission and service, and they represent "a passionate movement" in the church, a United Methodist executive says. Young adults are living out their faith every day by being active participants in their own life stories, said Bill Lazor, director of Young Adult and Single Adult Ministries at the churchwide Board of Discipleship. The board brought nearly 80 United Methodist young adult leaders together in November for a weekend of networking and sharing about their ministries.

United Methodist bishop prays for shooting victims

NEW YORK — Offering prayers for those affected by two shootings in Colorado, Bishop Felton E. May questioned the use of guns "in a society that claims to be civil and compassionate." Five people — including the gunman — died in the Dec. 9 shootings, and others were wounded. May, interim chief executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, issued a statement lamenting the loss of life. "May God heal the bodies of survivors and the grief of those who mourn the dead," he said.

Center offers hope for young mothers in need

RIGA, Latvia — The love of her mother helped Rigonda Verdenfelde endure a rough childhood. Today she is modeling that love for teen mothers with troubled backgrounds. Verdenfelde, 29, is the house mother of The United Methodist Church's Hope Center, an outreach ministry in the remote countryside northeast of Latvia's capital city, Riga. "Some of these girls would not be alive today" were it not for the Hope Center, says the Rev. Gita Mednis, district superintendent of Latvia's 13 United Methodist congregations.

from *United Methodist News Service*
<http://umns.umc.org>

Do you know all the answers?



Sunday School—connected to
the Source of life.

Sunday School



it's for life!

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>

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

584 E. Mclemore
Memphis, TN 38106

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MEMPHIS, TENN.
PERMIT NO. 323