



the Centenarian

JULY, 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

Have you noticed all the activity around the church lately? I have, and I'm really excited. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the United Methodist Men are keeping the Family Life Center open til 9 p.m. for free-play. A group of "unidentified" (smile) men show up and start to line the parking lot. Rev. Hampton has 30 plus children in her day camp Tuesdays through Fridays. *The Centenarian* has taken on new life and vivacity. We just finished a great Vacation Bible School. The library has been formally dedicated, classes are going on in the computer center, and Opus III was a magnificent presentation. Sheryl Neal has brought an entirely new dimension to both the Children's and Youth & Young Adult choirs with her leadership. Billy Renfro has our boys baseball team not only playing, but winning! Disciple Bible Study has taken our scriptural exploration to a new height. The list goes on and on.



Rev. Herbert L. Lester, Jr.

At a much deeper level, however, all the activity is testimony to the spiritual vitality of this community of faith and all the future has to hold for us. There is indeed a miracle on McLemore, and we are a big part of it!

But God does not operate in a vacuum. He uses us and blesses us and prepares us to work with Him in his redemptive activity in and for the world. We, therefore, cannot really understand all that we do separate and apart from what God

see **WRITE** on page 2

Journeys in Faith

Methodist group asks forgiveness for sins of slavery, racism

In a June 12 article Judy Tarjanyl, wrote "Political leaders in Washington may disagree about whether to apologize for the American twin sins of slavery and racism, but 3,000 United Methodists got the job done this week by asking forgiveness church-style." She reported that in a hand-clapping service with lots of "Amens," delegates to the predominantly white West Ohio Conference confessed, repented and asked forgiveness for slavery, racism and discrimination of the past and present.

She continued with quotes from conference participants: "We hear and acknowledge that though not all of us are directly guilty of heinous deeds, all bear the burden of this infamous evil and responsibility for its aftermath," said Jim Nebbelink of Milford, Ohio, conference lay leader."

"We hear and acknowledge this apology," responded Mildred Oglesby, associate conference lay leader; coordinator of urban ministries for the Toledo District: and member of Braden UMC in Toledo. "We understand that the welfare of the oppressed and of the oppressor are bound up together. To that end, we seek reconciliation, for ours is a common destiny."

This service was designed by Dr. Robert Simmons, pastor of Centenary UMC in Columbus, Ohio. It arose from a conference resolution passed the previous year. A follow-up service on healing was held the next day. Tarjanyl reported, "The service Tuesday blended spirituals and liturgical dance with readings about slavery that

see **RACISM** on page 6

Thought for the Month

When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hold on.—The Prayer Ministry

The Centenarian — Building Community

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

— THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER HANDBOOK

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and much more!

HATS OFF TO CENTENARY'S GRADUATES!!!

by Kametris Wyatt

Sunday, June 13, 1999, was a great day at Centenary! It was Graduates' Recognition Day, sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry. The church celebrated the many achievements of its seven high-school and five college graduates. The graduates conducted the service, and the Youth and Young Adult Choir rendered wonderful contemporary gospel musical selections. WREG-TV (Channel 3) news anchor



Pam McKelvy was the speaker for the occasion. Ms. McKelvy delivered a dynamic speech in which she encouraged the graduates to "dream big" and to strive for their respective goals with integrity, determination, and a strong faith in God. Her speech included

both personal testimony and "food for thought" that provided good advice and information for the entire audience. Later, as Gina Williams-Jackson read the accomplishments of each graduate and Jacqueline Toney presented them with gifts, it was easy to imagine how destined for success these graduates are! Centenary can indeed be proud of its 1998-1999 graduates!



WRITE from pg. 1

is doing in the world. If we do, then we miss the point. If we do, then what is the point?

If all that we do is not to the glory and honor of God, and part of what God is doing in the world to save the world, then we might as well be honest and call ourselves a social club, and not a church, because that's all we are. Personally, I think we are a church and on the verge of doing some great things for God and His kingdom. Where do you think we are? Let me know!!!

Join ^{the} 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.

the Centenarian

Staff:

Kerris Easley, James Haley II, Rev. Autura Hampton, Susanne Jackson, Chirelle Jefferson, Zakiya Larry, Michael Lewis, Susie Mickle, Dr. Marie Milam, Dorothy Tureaud, Stephanie Walker, Erma Williams, Canary Williams, Kametris Wyatt, Gloria Wyatt

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Annual Conference: We Are All God's People

by Grace Colehill

The 1999 Memphis Annual Conference was an enlightening experience. On opening night, I was chosen to be a communion steward along with Superintendent Moorehead. The sacred services were led by Bishop Carter opening night with a spiritual sermon, "Surprised by Judgement and Grace." He renewed our faith in our worship and equipped us with God's word to send us out into the world—not just our churches—with acts of compassion, justice and mercy in the hope that others may proclaim Christ as we do. Holy communion and powerful prayer initiated our daily work in addressing concerns for all God's people. Our delegates participated in many meetings and voted on critical issues.

While the inclusiveness report was vigorously debated, a recommendation to accept the report and implement it received overwhelming support. The inclusiveness program will aid in implementing equity and fairness throughout the conference. The Plan of Inclusiveness will encourage cross-racial and cross-cultural appointments and expects to create an atmosphere in the annual conference where pastors will be called based on their gifts and talents without regard to race, gender, class or disability.

The Biblical and theological vision of inclusiveness is to become a more faithful church. The task force on children and violence received substantial attention. An excellent Bible Study was led by Rev. R. Grace Imathiu.

In the next *Centenarian*, we will address more about the annual conference.

Sing While You Drive...

At 45 MPH sing "Freeways Are Happy Ways."

At 55 MPH sing "I'm Lonely Here...Heav'n Is My Home"

At 65 MPH sing "Nearer My God, to Thee"

At 75 MPH sing "When the Roll Is Called In Heaven, I'll Be There."

At 85 MPH sing "Lord, I'm Coming Home."

History

JOHN WESLEY'S CHURCH

(With Comparative Notes on Centenary)

By Marie Milam

John Wesley acquired a derelict building in North London in 1739, once the royal cannon foundry. He leased it for 115 English pounds and spent about 700 pounds on repairs to what became his London headquarters for 40 years and the nearest thing he had to a "home."



The Foundry became a major center of the early Methodist movement. The chapel had a capacity for 1,500 people, and men and women were seated separately.

In addition to holding services there, Wesley started a school for the children of the poor. (Over 100 years later, Centenary established a school at its church site.)

Wesley also established an almshouse for homeless people and pioneered London's first free clinic and dispensary at a time when medical science was mainly practiced by quacks and amateurs. There were very few skilled doctors, and the poor could not afford to go to them. Wesley employed an apothecary and a surgeon, so that the poor could come to the Foundry and obtain treatment and medicine. (Centenary was intricately involved in the establishment of the Church Health Center, which addresses the medical needs of the poor in the Memphis area through the services of skilled professionals.)

With all the residents in the Foundry eating their meals together as one family, the building became a place of community as well as a major preaching house, publishing operation and center for Christian charity and social witness. (The outreach ministry of Centenary is a beacon for the hungry and homeless.) Added to the community activities, the frequent comings and goings of the preachers, including Wesley himself, and their exchange of news and information, made the Foundry a hive of holy activity. (Centenarians readily share knowledge from many areas and the church has become a center for computer education and cyberspace communications.)

But by 1777, with the movement still growing, the time had come for the Foundry to be replaced. A new chapel was opened in nearby City Road in November 1778, opposite the historic Bunhill Fields nonconformist burial ground. As thousands of United Methodist pilgrims can testify today, what became known as Wesley's Chapel, together with John Wesley's House, is still open for worship and witness. (The addition of the Myrtle Donoho Family Life Center has enabled Centenary to serve the growing needs of its church family and the community.)

The spirit of Wesley's old Foundry still lives on in the chapel, an active church, and in the life and witness of countless Methodist churches around the world. (One hundred and thirty-one years after it was founded and christened "Centenary," the church is still a busy center of Christian activity.)

Spring Fling

by Ann Willis, Age-Level Coordinator



If you can't - or don't - remember the '70s, especially what was in "vogue," you should have been at the Young Adults Spring Fling May 15. What a transformation took place. Polyester was everywhere. Afro hairdos even changed their hair coloring. Games, quizzes and music of the '70s were ever present. The food was typical of now: BBQ, slaw, beans, potato salad, home-made ice cream...and more. You didn't know they could cook, did you? And they know the way to Seessel's and Kroger's.

They gathered at the home of Denise and Autry Parker Jr. in Cordova and attendance was good. On a serious note, there was much talk and interest in the formation of the Youth/Young Adult Choir, which is off and singing. My accolades to this group of young people. They are dedicated to the ministry of the church and seem to enjoy working together and doing what they can to enhance the ministry of Centenary. It is a pleasure to be associated with them.

Centenary's Wish List

Thanks to the kind men who put lines on the parking lot! We are continuing to 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.)

Building A Bridge from the Finance Committee

We need to build a special kind of "bridge" this summer. The months of June, July and August are historically low months when it comes to our needed regular support. Not just a slight drop, but a critical one. Will **YOU** help us avoid being dealt heavy financial blows during this three-month period?

Your special gift during June, July and August will be of immense help, and release us from this pressure so we can be most effective in our ministry. THANKS for HELPING!

Congratulations

Rasheeda C. Hogg made the Faculty List at Shadowlawn Middle School for the second semester. Rasheeda C. Hogg and her team took first place in the 400-Meter Relay for 11 and 12-year-old girls for Shelby Youth Sports Track and Field event May 15. Rasheeda and her team also won first place in the 800-Meter Relay for 11 and 12-year-olds May 8. Robert L. Hogg Jr. took fourth place in the 100-meter dash finals and a third place, Bronze Medal, in the finals for the 200-meter dash for seven and eight-year-old boys in the Shelby Youth Sports Track and Field event May 15. Rasheeda and Robert are the children of Chaplain Robert and Mrs. Charlene Hogg, Sr.

SUN SAFETY from Vietta Lewis

There are many ways to "Beat the Heat". Here are a few suggestions for protecting your skin this summer and adapting your exercise program for the summer heat.

- Drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. Cool drinks are absorbed quicker.
- Be aware of the signs of dehydration:
-weight loss -pale color of urine
- Limit exposure to sun during strongest hours (10 a. m. - 3 p. m.)
- Wear sun block SPF 15 or higher
- Acclimate to exercise in the heat

POSITIVE TECHNIQUES TO DEAL WITH STRESS:

- Set Limits
- Smile and Laugh
- Live each day as a new one
- Take Breaks
- Learn to Say NO

Centenary Calendar of Events • July 1999

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Gym Open 6-9 pm		1 Gym Open 6-9 pm	2	3 UMYF Big Bro/Big Sis - 9 a.m. Sun. School Teachers' Mtg - 10 a.m. Youth/Young Adult Choir - noon
4	5	6 Gym Open 6-9 pm	7 Bible Study 6 p.m.	8 Gym Open 6-9 pm	9	10 UMYF Big Bro/Big Sis - 9 a.m. Prayer Ministry - 10 a.m. Youth/Young Adult Choir - noon
11	12	13 Gym Open 6-9 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	14 Older Adults - 10 a.m. Bible Study - 6 p.m.	15 Gym Open 6-9 pm United Meth. Men 7 p.m.	16	17 UMYF Big Bro/Big Sis - 9 a.m. U.M. Women - 10:00 a.m. Youth/Young Adult Choir - noon Worship Committee - 12 noon
18 2 pm Alexander Chapel UMC - Dr. Lester will speak & choir will sing 3-5 p.m. Centenary-Trinity Connection will be at Woody's 1767 West Oak Grove Road in Hernando	19	20 Gym Open 6-9 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	21 Bible Study - 6 p.m. Centenarian Deadline	22 Gym Open 6-9 pm	23	24 UMYF Big Bro/Big Sis - 9 a.m. Youth/Young Adult Choir - noon
25 Finance Comm. Mtg. 12:30 p.m.	26	27 Gym Open 6-9 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	28 Youth '99 - UMYF thru 8/1/99 Bible Study - 6 p.m.	29 Gym Open 6-9 pm	30	

Centenary's Great Qualities

by Ashley Gibson, Megan Anderson and Ricky King

The church has many great qualities, but we will only name a couple; such as, CAMP HERO and Youth Ministry. We believe Centenary has a great summer program because it's educational, but you can also learn and have great fun. Fun like in cool relays, field trips, and other activities such as playing in the gym. Like all other camps, Centenary has its good times and its bad times, but mostly good ones.

Centenary is good because a lot of activities are Biblical. Centenary is very important because if Centenary wasn't here then a lot of children would be out on the streets doing who knows what. Another reason we appreciate Centenary so much is because it has helped us a lot both mentally and physically.

Also, we can't forget about the most important part of Centenary, the teachers. The teachers are what make this camp special. We have four of the greatest teachers you could ever have: Mrs. Autura, Mrs. Phaye, Ms Susanne and Rev. Rich. On behalf of CAMP HERO, we give you a STANDING OVATION!!!

CAMP HERO SONG

(to the tune of UMH#89 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

created by Phadria Edmonds

Be our hero at Camp Hero/Come have fun and make new friends
Learn to care, love and share/Let your light shine from within
We are trying to be heroes/Learning how to do what's right
Everybody needs a hero/We found ours in Jesus Christ.

Annual Conference—Youth Perspective

by Geoffrey Lewis

On June 8, the youth of Centenary United Methodist Church went to the Annual Conference Youth Event in Jackson, TN. In Jackson, the youth went to two worship services, one in the morning and one in the evening. Centenary youth also participated in service projects all over the city with all the rest of the youth in the Memphis Annual Conference. Each different church went to a different service project.

The youth from Centenary went to the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson. In the club we were directed to help the counselors and socialize with the kids. The service project was not exactly what I expected. I expected that we were going to do some physical labor, but it was still a good service project. Even though some of the youth came for swimming - and we didn't swim, they still said it was worth it.

The Bible

(See I Timothy 3:16)

by Mrs. Charlene Hogg, Third and Fourth Grade Sunday School Teacher

The Bible is the handbook of the human condition. All of life's problems can be solved with its study. Understanding will come with persistent study and faith in almighty God, aided by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Our God is ever present and powerful. Open your heart and truly desire for understanding. The Holy Spirit, with which you were sealed at your conversion, (Ephesians 4:30) will intercede and aid in your growth and understanding. Join a Sunday School class with informed Christian leadership, guided by the Spirit. Set aside a time for prayer and study daily. Use your commentaries, references, Bible dictionary and an open mind, set on Jesus.

Talk to God and listen for his response. Don't get too busy.

Third and Fourth Grade Sunday School News Flash

These are some of the good things that happened in Sunday School: we are beginning the study of how God planned and created the world and our place in it.

I shared in class what I am most thankful for: my family, friends and church. — **CHELSEA WHATLEY**

I read a story in class about "Made in the Image of God."

— **ROBERT HOGG JR.**

I am most excited when I look at the world around me: the stars, sun, moon and the clouds.— **MORGAN SAMPSON**

I learned in class that people are the most special part of creation.

— **KYNDALL LEWIS**

I read the Bible verse, Genesis 1:28, in class.

— **DEVON JEFFERSON**

Our Class Prayer:

Thank you God for the heavens and the earth. You made a beautiful world for us to live in, and it is very good. We thank you for all the many good things you have given us to enjoy. Amen.

FEED YOUR BRAIN: Come to Sunday School this Summer. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Youth Rock Centenary at Vacation Bible School

from Canary Williams and Myrtle Donoho, Directors

The E.J. Cox Hall was transformed into the center for Gospel Rock about Peter. Fish on most walls and a pool with a boat made of chairs greeted the 35 youth who gathered every evening for Vacation Bible School at Centenary. You could almost see the "water" rising and rocking with the youth. The decorations, arts and music activities were wonderful.

Youth discussed Simon's name change to Peter; loving one another; feeding my sheep; dancing for joy; God's healing and blessings; and that God has no favorites. They learned some sign language and used that—along with songs, speeches and story-telling—in the culminating activities for the week. The youth also raised \$28 for mission work.

The week went really well and took a lot of work. Others who assisted the directors included: Pat Bailey, Grace and Willie Colehill, Blanche Fanion, Jacquelyn Fanion, Mae Fitzgerald, Mamie Henderson, Gina Williams-Jackson, Susanne Jackson, Joyce Johnson, Martha Jones, Glennette Mayo, Bertha Mosley, Brittany Norman, Janice Paxton, Verdell Pegues, Juanita Powell, Gwen Ross, Earnestyne Toney, Bonnie Turner, Barbara Walker, Vincent Walker, Vivian Whatley, Minnie White, Brandi Williams, and Erma Williams.

Neighborhood Center Awareness Day

from Bertha Mosley

On May 19, The United Methodist Neighborhood Centers all came together at Germantown UMC for "Awareness Day" with the theme, "Our Responsibility, Our Future, Our Hope." Key women and members from the different churches participated. Centenary was well represented. Bertha Mosley, Mattie Jackson, Sam Marie Phillips, Grace Colehill, Earlene Gladney, and Myrtle Donoho attended.

Myrtle Curry, the chairperson, informed us that John Wesley started Awareness Day 193 years ago. Gwen Exson, Program Director, introduced the students from Miriam and Wesley Child Development Centers and from Susanna Preschool. The students sang and welcomed guests. They were wonderful! The teachers are really working with the children.

Rev. Shirley Lynn, Asbury District Superintendent, shared a message taken from Joshua 1:1-11, "Go Ahead, Exert Yourself." Her message conveyed that exerting yourself is being strong and trying to make things better for others - not just for yourself. After the message, a delicious lunch of salads and cold cuts was shared.

Centenary received a certificate for the "Campbell Soup labels" we save, which raise funds for these activities. **Please continue to save Campbell product labels and give them to the United Methodist Women.**

RACISM from pg. 1

Simmons chose so that they would not offend 'Eurocentric sensibilities without doing violence to Afrocentric esthetics.'

Preaching at the service was Ohio East Area Bishop Jonathan Keaton, who talked about how the 'shattered dreams' of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. finally led him to embrace God's dream, focusing on the 'God of the oppressed who was able to make a way out of no way.'

Tarjanyl wrote of Keaton's comments that Cassie Bernal, the Columbine High School student who was killed when she acknowledged belief in God, had been reading a book about peace before her death. "She had underlined words in the book that...quoted Dr. King saying, 'If you haven't found something to die for, you're not fit to live,' Keaton said."

She again quoted Keaton, "Our church needs to be willing to die to kill off racism, segregation, and slavery."

She also quoted Rev. Vance Summers Jr, pastor of First UMC in Bowling Green who cautioned, "We have done nothing to heed the clarion call...God has reminded us again and again what we need to do. So many of our people so easily separate faith and church and private lives and don't put their faith into action."

Finally she aired the comments of Rev. Dee Baker, president and CEO of Toledo Campus Ministry, "I think some of the white people came in with fear and trembling, wondering what would happen. But the way it started, it set the tone for reconciliation. Forgiveness needs to be asked and given." This was believed to be the first worship of its kind at the conference level.

Tarjanyl is a reporter for the Toledo Blade in Ohio syndicated by Scripps Howard News Service

More than half way through our 34-week Bible Study, we have just completed the Old Testament and the years of transition to the New Testament.

We have explored Songs of the Heart, the Psalms; right living as revealed in Proverbs, Ezra and Nehemiah; the suffering of Job; the hope for a Savior reflected in Daniel, Isaiah and Zechariah; and the time of transition as seen through Esther and Jonah. Together we chanted some of the Psalms and shared our favorites that sustain us in our daily lives as well as those that remind us of our blessings and challenges each Sunday. We acknowledged the importance of sharing our feelings and experiences in this community of faith.

We searched Proverbs for guidelines for right living and reflected on the differences between blessings and rights. We struggled with the differences between right living as its own reward and right living for reward.

With Job we asked, "Why do the righteous suffer?" With dramatic fervor, we role played a brief version of Job's story and a member added an ad lib quote for God to the end, "Well, I forgive you, but don't do it again!"

We analyzed the dreams and visions in Daniel for symbols of ages past and present. We considered what steps might be taken today to destroy our religious foundations and considered how we might respond if we were once again torn from our roots.

We reviewed the fate of the Jewish people under the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans as they were torn from their land, their homes, and persecuted for their religious beliefs. As we reflected on the anger of Jonah and his actions to defy God's directives, we considered how we deal with our own personal and collective pains and experiences. We saw that God truly is compassionate and slow to anger, swift on holding us accountable for our sins, but quick to accept real repentance (turning away from evil and towards God). God has stayed with us in our struggles - despite our disobedience and hard-headedness. We saw that Esther was willing to risk her life to save herself and her people, but only with Mordecai's urging and their strong relationship.

We considered what is the central theme of salvation history: redemption and reconciliation. Our Disciple Bible Study continues with the New Testament studies Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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

Father's Day Tributes:

The tributes were introduced by Ann Willis.

Lindsey Parker:

God, Thank you for our fathers. Thank you for these wonderful men who helped to raise us and to provide us with wonderful homes to grow up in. We are thankful for the advice they bestow on us and we are forever thankful to be so blessed to have our fathers

Paige Parker:

Believe it or not, the old fashioned way that fathers raised their children is still okay. Contrary to popular belief as well as the advice of many child psychologists, Proverbs 13:24 still reads, "He who spares the rod, hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

For the past few days, the brutal murder of Ms. Barbara Ann Lee has played over and over in my mind. The heinous actions of the three young men has made me wonder where the breakdown has taken place. As I reflect on my own childhood and how these three young men were raised, how they were poised to be cold-blooded killers, I claim that in each instance there's a lack of a father's stern hand of discipline.

I then asked could I have ended up in the same predicament that these boys ended up in? It's possible, but not probable. I grew up in a home with a father who said what he meant and meant what he said. He laid down the rules and didn't expect me to deviate from them. Even though I didn't always understand or agree with the rules, I followed them.

I can easily think of three rules that would have prevented me from being in the Carpenter boys' situation.

1. I was always taught to be an independent thinker "Don't let others influence you. Be careful how you choose your friends. You don't have to be doing anything wrong but pure association can end you up in a world of trouble. For example, he'd say, "Son, don't go to the mall with different people, you don't know... They could steal something and you not know anything about it, but both of you guys are going to jail.

2. "If it's not yours leave it alone!"

3. There's been a breakdown about guns being in the home. My daddy was an avid sportsman. He had several rifles, several shotguns, several pistols, and I knew where all of them were, but I would rather handshake a porcupine than touch any one of them.

These rules still apply today and it may save a child's life...The challenges facing new fathers are tremendous. Economics has forced fathers to take on extra jobs. It's forced mothers back into the workforce, sometimes even with two jobs. And it's imperative that fathers share in the day-to-day household responsibilities just to maintain a functional household.... So I would like to commend fathers for a job well done. Keep up the good work. Continue to stand up and be men. Exercise tough love. Our children's future depends on it.

Kia Cain:

Today is your day for recognition. Father's this is your day for us to thank you for all things you do all year long....Thank you for being there when we needed you...Today is the day we take time out to tell you and show you that all your hard work and dedication is appreciated. Many times young people such as myself take for granted the fact that we have a

father at home when many families do not. My father has always been there for us and I cannot imagine what life would have been like without his love, support and many sacrifices.

A father is someone who takes the time to show you that he cares about his actions. He's there when you need someone to show you the way. He loves you and he won't hesitate to say how he feels about decisions that you make. He'll generally say, I don't think that's a good choice or I think you can do better if you try harder. Always encouraging while never putting you down, he lets you know that with education and determination, you can do and be whatever you want....We have been blessed that God gave us fathers like you.

Courtney Davis:

In our society we always know that anyone can be a father but it takes someone special to be a Daddy.... I grew up in this church where I had one father but I had many Dads... to make sure I stayed in the right way.

There's one little statement by Mark Twain that's appropo, "When I was a boy of 14 my Dad was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around, but when I got to be 21 I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years....The founder of father's Day wrote, "What Is A Dad?" A Dad is a person who's loving and kind He often knows what you have on your mind. he's someone who listens ...a Dad can be one of your best friends. He's proud of your triumphs, but when things go wrong a Dad can be patient and helpful and strong. In all that you do, a Dad love plays a part. There's always a place for him deep in your heart. For each year that passes you're even more glad, more grateful and proud just to call him your Dad -- Thank you Dad for listening, caring, for giving and sharing and especially for just being you.

Being a Dad is just being a person: someone who makes mistakes; who doesn't have all the answers; who is willing to give everything and get nothing in return; who loves and supports his family in the best way he knows how. Special thanks to my father!

Opus III was a great success!



More on Opus III next month

HEAVEN BOUND by Mike Lewis



Sunny Side Up

Someone Really Said This!...?...
(NOT at Centenary!!!)

shared by Louise Harris

- Don't let worry kill you ~ let the church help.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- The Rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Smith, the son of Rev. and Mrs. John Smith.

"Best" Newspaper Headlines of 1998

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

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



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