



the Centenarian

SEPT 2006

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

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

The Write Reverend

Lately I've been on a health kick. I've been on a health kick because I want to keep on kickin'! Both my parents died from strokes. My father was also diabetic and suffered from hypertension, and my maternal grandmother was a double amputee because of diabetes. It does not take a rocket scientist to know that with my family history, my sedentary lifestyle and the fact that I am an African American male, I need to be extremely careful about my health. Several Centenarians have been helping me get and stay on track. I am part of a covenant group, (which includes Sheryl Howard, Kametris Wyatt, Cynthia Haley, Robin Mathews and Sherita Lee) committed to losing weight and being as healthy as we possibly can. We pray for each other every day, weigh-in on a regular basis, do group activities and support each other as much as possible.

Charles (Chuckie) Parker heard about what we were doing and

suggested we join him bicycling. Chuckie has entered the FedEx MS Bike Tour, a 150 mile bike ride to Tunica, MS and back. I plan to join Chuck for as many of the seventy-five mile trip down to Tunica as I can make. There are rest stops and potty breaks every six-to-10 miles, and my goal is at least 25 miles. Next year, I hope to be ready for the whole 150!

But it's just as important to give attention to our spiritual life and health as it is to our physical life and health. Personal prayer and bible study, group bible study, Sunday School, covenant relationships, worship, and all the means of grace (including holy communion and Christian conferencing [conversation]) help us be and remain spiritually healthy. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your spiritual health? Are you giving your spiritual health as much attention as it needs and demands? How often do you get your spiritual workout in?

What can we do to help?



Dr. Herbert Lester, Jr.

Read the Write Reverend's Blog at CentenaryMemphis.com

Sunday School Retreat

August 5, 2006 • Nelsonwood Retreat Center

Sunday School—it's for life!

Christian Education Week—Walking Together with Christ

Why Sunday School Is Important!

Sunday School is life giving, connected to the source of life.

It is important to remember why we attend Sunday School. The why is important. Sometimes people are going because they are in the habit of attending. Some people feel that Sunday School is for children and youth. When we realize that Sunday School is one of our best tools for making disciples of Jesus Christ, then all of a sudden we realize Sunday School is worth doing and worth doing well. There is a direct relationship between a church that has a strong Sunday School and whether that church itself

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and much more!

The Shepherding Ministry

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Mattie Jackson | 13 Tora Lipford |
| 2 John Hampton | 16 Wanda Norris |
| 7 Lena Fouche
Tia Phillips | 17 Gregory Grider |
| 8 Deadrick Jeffries | 18 Jillian Jackson |
| 9 Less Doll Twillie
Ursula Williams | 19 Stephanie Scruggs |
| 10 Krissi Cain | 20 Anthony Grose
Michael Lewis |
| Ermazell Renfro | 21 Jeffrey Moon |
| Dixie Crosby | 22 Larry Milligan |
| Mary A. Hardy | 23 Marjorie Moore |
| James Stokes | 24 Kevin Shields |
| 11 Shirley Dickerson | 25 Durell Durham |
| Harriett Langley | 26 Rosalyn Ross |
| 12 Zena Halepota | 27 Harrison McIver |
| Juliette Moore | 28 James Haley II |
| Ashley Sharp | 29 Claude Bynum |
| | 30 Clair Jones |

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 Members

Mrs. Carla Phillips united with us on Sunday, July 16, 2006.

Dr. Deborah B. Smith united with us on Sunday, August 6, 2006. She is transferring her membership from Bethany United Methodist Church in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Smith is a Certified Candidate for the Order of Elders in the United Methodist Church. She is pursuing a Master's of Divinity at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. She is married and the mother of three adult children.

Baptism

Grace Olivia Bazile, the daughter of Jada and Corey Bazile, was baptized on Sunday, August 13, 2006. She is the granddaughter of Candice and Gregory Thomas and the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Blanche Fanion.

—Erma P. Williams

Honor of Father and Mother

We as Christian youth sometimes get so involved with the influences of the world that we fail to realize that God put us here to worship him and to obey his teachings. God provided us with parents and guardians to serve as a guide for children to live by. We as parents can at times be somewhat critical when it comes to our children and the way they live their lives. We see them as thrill seekers, under achievers and at times, a little over zealous in their attitudes. As parents, we should pause and remember that we too were once where they are today. History definitely repeats itself, as we were also "wild and wooly" once upon a time. No one is perfect, and there are many times when we as adults make our own share of mistakes. We as Christian followers must learn to repent and ask for forgiveness for our mistakes.

Psalms 34:11 states "come, ye children, harken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the lord." If the children fear God, this is the start of wisdom and with this they will have riches, longevity and honor. They must be taught to honor God and give him praise. We as parents must embrace our children with a shield of divine favor as it is stated in Psalms 5:12: "For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield." This quote lets us know that it covers our neighbors, our teachers, counselors and our children. This is a divine promise from the lord our God. We as followers of the fold of God ask Him to send good friends for our children to associate with, that will sharpen them like iron and cause them to be all God wants them to be, instead of associating friends that would pull them down.

For in Proverbs 27:17 it says "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend". We as followers of Christ must pray for our children, that they will seek God's guidance, obey his teachings and pray for his understanding as they live in this cruel and instinctive world. We as parents must also pray and thank God for giving us loved ones to talk to our children, teachers to guide them toward a more positive attitude and spiritual advisors to prepare them for God's heavenly realm. This is my earnest prayer for our youth of tomorrow and a wake up call for our youth today.

—Janis Paxton

**The Best Things In Life
Come With A
United Methodist
Women's
Membership**

Why Not Join A Circle Today?

WHY is your Blood Sugar Level so Important?

Latest studies show how controlling your blood sugar can play an important role in helping you recover.

- Your blood sugar level will be tested to determine if you have a high blood sugar level called hyperglycemia. Your healthcare team may give you medication to help lower your blood sugar level to help your body fight infection and recover fast.
- Quite often patients have elevated blood sugar levels while they are in the hospital. This is one of the normal ways your body responds to severe illness, injury, medication, stress and surgery.
- It is very important to control your blood sugar level. Studies show that certain patients in intensive care with good blood sugar levels did not develop the complications other patients did. This could mean fewer infections and going home sooner.
- In order to control your blood sugar level, your healthcare team may need to test it regularly. Sometimes it may have to be tested every hour (if hospitalized). Only a small drop of blood is needed for this testing.
- Sometimes your body needs help and you may receive medication called insulin to help keep your blood sugar level in control. Insulin can be given to you by a shot, a pill or added to your intravenous (IV) drip if hospitalized.

Tight Blood Sugar

- If you do have a high blood sugar level, it does not mean you have diabetes. This is usually temporary in a hospital setting. Usually after a patient recovers, a non-diabetic patient returns to normal levels.
- Your blood sugar levels will have to be tested for as long as they are elevated.
- It is also important that your blood sugar does not fall too low. It is important to have the right combination of medication and food to keep your blood sugar level in control.

—Vietta Lewis

“If My People”

Glenn Burleigh, an African-American composer, wrote this choral composition in 1988. He arranged this Biblical text for SATB voices with piano accompaniment. The Sanctuary Choir often performs this majestic composition during our Sunday worship services. “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (*II Chronicles 7:14 NIV*)

Centenarians, as a people of faith, we are in need of healing. We are confronted with our own spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional issues. We need to pray and to take positive action.

Centenarians, our city of Memphis is in need of healing. The *Commercial Appeal* in its July 25, 2006 issue jarred our emotional core with its front page headlines: “Stolen Lives; 100 Homicides in Memphis – Grime Milestone”. These headlines were painfully reinforced with a picture of 2-year-old Jakira Lewis’ body surrounded by three children and an adult. Editor’s note: “Our goal in publishing this picture is to show the humanity, the suffering and the loss caused by the senseless violence that is all too common on Memphis streets.” We need to pray and to take action.

Centenarians, our international world is in need of healing. There is Israel’s strategic goal of neutralizing Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. There are cross border raids by Islamic militants into Israel. There are anxieties surrounding Iran’s nuclear ambition and North Korea’s nuclear arsenal. There is the war in Iraq and “President Bush’s decision to increase the number of U.S. troops in violence-plagued Baghdad.” “The plan, which Bush announced Tuesday, calls for boosting U.S. troop levels in Baghdad from 9,000 to 13,000.” (*The Commercial Appeal, July 28, 2006*) We need to take positive action.

My fellow Centenarians, the Lord is appearing to us today through Centenary. He is giving us the same message of salvation as He gave Solomon. Let us follow God’s directions so we can be healed, our city can be healed, and our international world can be healed. Amen.

—Mary A. Hardy, President, Sanctuary Choir

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: Due to large amounts of returned mail if your address has changed please of if the address that the church has is incorrect notify the church office. I have displayed member addresses on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary. Please review the list and make changes as necessary. Thank you.

Prayer Ministry Corner

Please continue to pray for the growth and effectiveness of our Sunday School. Remember: Sunday School is for Life!

Also, pray for our leaders and ourselves to follow God's will and be a more viable Miracle on McLemore.

—Joyce Johnson

Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They are Prayed

A life without purpose is barren indeed. There can't be a harvest unless you plant seeds. There can't be attainment unless there's a goal. And man's but a robot unless there's a soul. If we send no ships out, no ships will come in, and unless there's a contest, nobody can win. For games can't be won unless they are played, and PRAYERS CAN'T BE ANSWERED UNLESS THEY ARE PRAYED!!! So, whatever is wrong with your life today, you'll find a solution if you'll kneel down and pray. No just for pleasure, enjoyment or health, not just for honors, prestige and wealth, but pray for a purpose to make life worth living. And pray for the joy of unselfish giving. For great is your gladness and rich is your reward, when you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL from page 1

seems to have real strength and real spirit, real life.

One issue is what can our church do to make the Sunday School more alive and relevant to the lives of children, youth, and adults. Another issue is to emphasize the importance of Sunday School in helping us all grow as Christian disciples.

Eighteen Centenarians met at Nelsonwood Retreat Center to discuss ways to increase attendance in our Sunday School. Our adult attendance is consistent. Our task is to encourage parents to make Sunday School as important as any of the other activities that are a part of their children and youths weekly routines. We also discussed the need to include neighborhood families.

As Christians it is expected of us that we will walk with Christ through prayer, worship, and Christian practices such as meditation, theological reflection, and other Holy habits.

The participants left the retreat with a new determination to make the Sunday School grow in attendance and dedication to the ideals our Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Minnie White works tirelessly to obtain.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IT'S FOR LIFE!!!

—Charlene W. Parker

the Centenarian

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

Information for the newsletter should be e-mailed to:

editor@centenarymemphis.com. In the subject line please type "Material for the Centenarian".

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

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

Current and past issues of *the Centenarian* can be downloaded from <http://CentenaryMemphis.com>

Stewardship Defined

The devout investment or use of money, time and ability. In biblical times, a steward supervised a household or an estate. Today, as God's children, we deem God the source of all we have, seek to hold it in trust for God and desire to be "good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (1 Peter 4:10a)

Source: Sharing God's Gifts Glossary of United Methodist Terms

As the definition states above, stewardship is not just about money. Are you interested in being a good steward of your "time and ability," but not sure how? Your talents do not have to fit into one of the existing ministries or work areas to be used by the church. Some of our ministries were created because members saw a need that was not being fulfilled. Let us help you use your talents here at Centenary!

—James Haley, II & Cecelia Patrick
Stewardship Committee Co-chairs
stewardship@centenarymemphis.com

UNITED METHODIST MEN

- The Centenary United Methodist Men are looking forward to you attending our **Annual Men's Day** on Sept. 24th, 2006.
- We need male volunteers for several upcoming activities for the month of September. If you are interested, please contact **Darryl Humphrey @ 384-4464** or **870-4363** **Sean Burke @ 785-0606** or **262-7959**
- Also, **Charles Nichols** is spearheading a project to have male shepherds to visit Centenary United Methodist Men Sick And Shut In. If you are interested in becoming a shepherd contact Mr. Nichols @753-1079 or email: **cnichols8@midsouth.rr.com**
- The Centenary United Methodist Men visited **Vincent Walker** and delivered a new color TV, which cheer him up tremendously. Reports are that Vincent's spirit is positive and cheerful, as expected. Please keep Vincent Walker in your prayers.
- Congratulations to **Thomas Lamon**, who received a certificate for 25 years of service from the State of Tennessee on June 10, 2006.
- Last, but not least, all men are asked to give \$100.00 each for Men's Day. The proceeds raised from Men's Day will be used for the Centenary Outreach After School Program. If you are unable to donate \$100, all other monetary donations are greatly appreciated.
—Sean Burke, UMM Secretary

**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 Scholars

Our after-school program was continued through the summer. The students enjoyed the computer soft skills training, gymnastics, and pleasure reading. The Centenary library named on behalf of Mrs. Lucille Scott books were used to enhance the reading of the students. The students enjoyed the reading sessions quite well. Lunch was served daily to all students as well as individuals in the community. Fun and games were enjoyed by all.

HATS OFF the Mr. Gene Cumby and Dr. Herbert Lester who made this program a reality for under privileged students who, otherwise, would not have had these wonderful things to do if not for the camp. A special thanks to Felicia Flynn, the church secretary, who assisted in every endeavor as she always does; Mrs. Barbara Thomas for her support and unconditional volunteer work; and Kristy Subber for her assistance whenever and wherever needed; and of course Mrs. Earlene Gladney for all her guidance and support. Thanks very kindly Centenary you are truly the Miracle on McLemore.

—Ms. Shelia Austin, Camp Director

Your Apportionments in Action

World Service Fund

The World Service Fund apportionment is the heart of our denomination wide presence, underwriting Christian mission and ministry around the world. It enables United Methodists to reach out through the general church boards and agencies.

Nurtured and funded by United Methodists, the World Service Fund apportionment:

- Undergirds a network of missionaries and others who serve in the name of Christ and The United Methodist Church around the world;
- Supports specific local church work with children, youth, singles, students, persons who are mentally and physically challenged, adults and older persons;
- Enriches our congregational life with worship, retreat and camping resources, leader training, and stewardship development;
- Provides leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth;
- Continues nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education;
- Continues a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work;
- Expresses our commitment to God's reign through ministries of peace and justice, and efforts to build a church and a society truly inclusive of all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or handicapping condition.

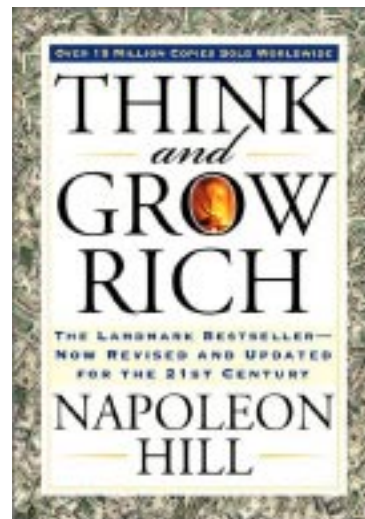
—Stewardship Committee
& UMC.org

Financial Literacy Book Club

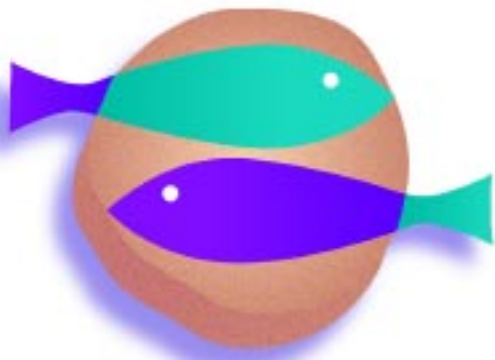
The goal of this book club is to aid Centenarians in becoming better stewards of their financial resources.

In September, we will continue to discuss *Think and Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill. We will meet every 4th Saturday at 1:30 P.M.

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



Do You Tithe? Tell Us About It!



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

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

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

**Before you give to special funds...
Before you reduce your regular giving...**

Tithe First!

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

The "Councilor"

A publication of the Administrative Council of Centenary United Methodist Church

Volume I, Issue #3 – September 2006

Greetings, Fellow Centenarians!

The Administrative Council had a mid-year planning/assessment meeting on June 26, 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to identify Centenary's 2006 successes-to-date and areas for improvement.

After identifying our successes, the members present were then asked to cite why the effort was a success and to assess whether similar actions could be taken in regards to our areas for improvement.

The following were identified as Centenary's 2006 SUCCESSES to date:

1. Vacation Bible School/Camp
2. Children's Choir
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lock-In
4. *The Centenarian*
5. Youth Ministry
6. Trustees/Improvement of church structure
7. P.A.C.E. Ministry
8. Women's Chorus ... and Music Department in general
9. Homebound Ministry/Shepherding Ministry
10. Change in Bible Study time

It was agreed that the above were successful because of:

- Dedication/committed people
- Positive attitudes
- Planning and training
- Desire to see success
- Desire to see the church's mission statement put into effect

The members were then asked to identify any areas for improvement. When identifying these areas, the members were asked to consider:

- What's preventing the problem from being solved?
- *How* should the problem be solved?
- Who are the responsible parties?
- What are the recommended actions?

The following were identified as AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

(Proposed actions and actions possibly taken in the near future are identified in *italic* font; agreed-upon actions to begin immediately are identified in **bold** font.)

1. Stewardship/Membership Finance
 - a. **PRAY!**
 - b. *"Poll" the congregation for a "talent pool" of resources needed ("Resources" include Gifts, Time and Talents.)*
 - c. **Consistent publication of finances (money received and how spent), beginning ASAP!**
 - i. **Published monthly in *The Centenarian***
 - ii. **Published weekly in the church bulletin**
 - iii. *Resume issuance of the quarterly income statements*
 - iv. *Comparison of Spending vs. Budget and Income vs. Budget*
 - d. **Administrative Council to explain on a regular basis what Stewardship is**
2. Sunday School attendance – and Church attendance
 - a. **PRAY!**
 - b. **Pray some more!**
 - c. *Discuss in both meetings and casual settings how to entice others to come, including:*
 - i. *Evaluating tentative plans of the Sunday School Department*
 - ii. *Asking why attendance is low/assessing why people do not attend more regularly*
 - d. *Ask ministries to collaborate more and participate in Council meetings*
3. Communication/Consistency in keeping the congregation informed and in the methods used for
see COUNCILOR on page 8

communication

- a. **PRAY!**
 - b. *Shepherding Ministry will update its phone lists*
4. Consistent, Passionate Leadership, including asking “What is God calling us to do?” (It was mentioned that this calls for both Discernment and Accountability.)
- a. **PRAY!**
 - b. *Recommend leaders’ regular participation in both Sunday School and Bible Study*
 - c. *Establish a process for evaluating leadership. (EX: Lay Membership Committee present proposed slate of officers to the Administrative Council prior to the Charge Conference ... with the understanding that nominees are told that training is required.)*

As emphasized above, it was noted during the discussion of Centenary’s successes and areas for improvement that **PRAYER** is the key to continued success in certain areas and seeing improvement in other areas. While acknowledging that all issues discussed were important, it was agreed that improving communication about the church’s finances and addressing Sunday School and church attendance were top priorities.

It was suggested that the August Administrative Council meeting (August 28, 2006) be used to set goals and that all church officers be encouraged to attend and provide input. Details from this meeting will be discussed in the next issue of *The Centenarian*.

Keep Centenary in your prayers as all of us strive to enhance the church’s self-proclaimed status as “The Miracle on McLemore”!

—Kametriss D. Wyatt, Administrative Council Chairperson



Centenary
United Methodist Church

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Memphis, TN 38106

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

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