



Centenary Herald

Newsletter of Centenary United Methodist Church

Pastor Garvin C. Warden

July 2005

Centenary United
Methodist Church
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The Pastor's Pen

Plans for our church program year beginning on September 11 with Rally Day are well on the way. The committees and their leaders are working diligently to make sure that the programs offered will meet many of our needs as we grow in fellowship and deepen our spiritual journeys. In this edition of the Herald along with the issues to come in August and September, we will keep you informed as to the details of Rally Day and upcoming programs for the church year. We ask that you pray about the Christian Education programming and fellowship opportunities as you learn more about them. Pray that they may enrich our lives and help us to grow in better understanding of the love of God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

In our discussions as committees and as individuals struggling to discern what God is asking us to do in this time and place, we constantly come to the same conclusion; we need more than the few persons presently serving to develop a vital ministry in this place. Your church needs your commitment to its ministry and life. We can begin to transform this community of ours but in order to transform lives we too must be transformed. Perhaps you need a particular study approach never offered before to help in your transformation. If that is the case, please let us know.

When Paul wrote his letter to the church at Ephesus he said some particular things to them in chapter 4 vs. 7 to 16 that are still relevant in this day and age. In verses 11 to 13 he says *(11) "The Gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."* The scripture's relevance is that no one person has all of the gifts needed to accomplish all the ministry God needs us to do in this place. Each of us combined in community bring our particular gifts and graces to do ministry, with the common goal of equipping and building each other up to fulfill Centenary's vital mission in the world.

When the summer season is over, remember the gifts God has bestowed upon you and use them for God's ministry in our world. May you find rest and relaxation but more than that may you be renewed to be in Ministry and Mission with God in the world.

Blessings, Garvin

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CONFERENCE NEWS

Going to be on Martha's Vineyard between July 5 and July 10?

You are invited to: Camp-Meeting Week 2005 at The Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs

The Theme of Camp-Meeting 2005 is "Faith in a Red and Blue World"

- Tuesday, July 5, 8 pm - Camp-Meeting Opening and a concert with *Still Working*, a four-member Christian band from Middleboro MA; Free-will offering
 - Wednesday, July 6, 8 pm - Community Sing with focus on hymns (old and new), religious songs from American history; Free-will offering
 - Thursday, July 7, 8 pm - Evening Service with Rev. Martin McLee, Pastor at Union UMC, Boston MA. Special Music by the New England Gospel Ensemble, a 9-person group; free-will offering
 - Friday, July 8, 8 pm - Evening Service with **Rev. Gary Shaw**, District Superintendent, Rhode Island / Southeastern Massachusetts District, United Methodist Church, preaching - with special music by Love Divine from Taunton with Tracy Silva, 2004 **Boston Pops Talent Search winner**, and Natacha Pachebat, 2005 Boston Pops Talent Search finalist, Free-will offering
 - Saturday, July 9, 7 pm - Evening Service with **Bishop Peter Weaver**, President, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church preaching; with special music by *Men of Hope* and *Voices of Faith*, Southern gospel style vocal groups, Shepherd of the Valley UMC, Hope RI; Free-will offering
 - Sunday, July 10, 9:30 am - Sunday Service with **Bishop Peter Weaver**, President, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church preaching; with special music by combined Island church choirs.
- Sandy Sweet, SandyPadre@aol.com

CHURCH OFFICE NEWS

- ♦ The church office will not be open on **Fridays** beginning Friday July 1st. However, the week of the 4th, the office will be closed on Monday for the holiday and open on that Friday, July 8th.
- ♦ Please think about signing up to be **refreshment hosts** during the summer. We will NOT serve coffee until September so it is really easy...just juice and snack. See or call Agnes Curran at 508-543-2471.
- ♦ The sign up sheets to offer **summer music** while the choir takes a break during July and August are filling up slowly but surely! Please speak with Dennis if you have any questions regarding music. Duets, trios, solos, instrumentals...**all are welcome to offer their musical gifts.**

Wheel Chair Would Be a Great Help

If you or someone you know has a wheel chair that is not being used, would you consider donating it to Centenary? It would be convenient to have a wheel-chair available should the need arise to assist someone coming in to worship with us, for someone attending a memorial service or another special service, or any program or activity that takes place here. Please give Karen a call or deliver the wheel chair to church during her office hours. You may also bring it on a Sunday if that is more convenient for you.

Bridgewater State College Recognizes Centenary "Resident Artist"

Donna Schneider was awarded a \$250 scholarship in the visual arts category on May 9th at Bridgewater State College. The students, representing the Campus Climate Action Group, have committed a part of their lives to making the campus a more accepting community. Donna's artwork represented "Diversity" and if you saw her work, you would certainly see why she won.

The colors and depth of her artwork depict all of the colors, shapes, sizes and emotions of this world. Take a moment to congratulate Donna. I am sure that she would be pleased (and a bit embarrassed) to show you a photo of her award winning painting.

Month of Sundays

Sunday July 3rd, 2005

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72,
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67,
Romans 7:15-25a and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday July 10th, 2005

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 119:105 -112 or Psalm 25
Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-11 and
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 17th, 2005

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Genesis 28:10-19a,
Romans 8:12-25 and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday July 24th, 2005

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Genesis 29:15-28
Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday July 31st, 2005

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Hebron Special Collection (last Sunday of the month)
Scripture: Psalm 17:1-7, 15, Genesis 32:22-31
Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

Safe Sanctuary Training/Refresher Thursday September 22nd 6:30 PM

All those who have not had the Safe Sanctuary Training are encouraged to attend this great workshop that will be led by Jan Hanson and Brian O'Connor, particularly parents who wish to take part in Sunday School and/or Youth Group activities with their children.

The refresher portion of the evening is a must for those who have already had the training. This is in accordance with the Safe Sanctuary policy approved by Church Council for Centenary Church, stating that all those who go through the training must have a refresher course to review the policy and keep up with any changes or additions that have been made on a yearly basis.

More info in the August Herald. Please mark this important date on your calendar. Thank you.

Church Council Meeting June 6, 2005

- The importance of “leaving your mark” in our world was the theme for opening devotions by Bonny Gray.
- Trustees announced bids have been received to refurbish Centenary’s entire kitchen. A subcommittee will be meeting to draw up funding proposals to present to Church Council. If approved by that body, a Charge Conference would then be called for final approval.
- Church Council approved allocations of funds from the Coulter Estate to re-shingle the roofs on the parsonage house and garage.
- Welcoming and Integrating is excited about plans for the month-long September “open house”. By means of door hangers and magnets, new persons will receive special invitations to join us for worship.
- Hebron Outreach Center looks forward to a busy summer as they will be the primary site for the children’s summer lunch program along with their regular activities. (The lunch program involves 100 – 200 children.)
- Informational handouts on Leadership Opportunities, Mission of Christ, Ideas for Congregations, and U.M. Connectional Giving were distributed for discussion at future meetings.
- Church Council next meeting is currently scheduled for September.



Roberta Kohler, Secretary

Special Dates this Month

Independence Day, July 4

Family Yard Sale, July 9

Herald Deadline, July 10



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Ken Glew | 13 Michael Umberger |
| Geraldine Greene | 14 Karna Antonitis |
| Idella Michaud | Kristen Galvin |
| 2 James Bedford | 15 Carol Smith |
| Ruthann Daviau | 16 Richard Beauvais |
| Thelma Dukes | Randy Peirce |
| 3 Shirley Perry | 18 Rev. Garvin Warden |
| 4 Audrey Dickinson | 19 Susan Daniels |
| John Galvin | 20 Deborah Blackburn |
| Jordan Lithway | Jan Hanson |
| Erika Ross | Robertta Kohler |
| 6 Thomas Ferraro | Bryce Mollman |
| David Howlett | 22 Michaela Gormley |
| 7 Jeffrey McLean | 23 Erin Logue |
| 9 Robert Bruckner, Jr. | 24 Arnold Blackmar |
| Jessica Sproul | 25 Lorri Umberger |
| Shayna Stott-Miller | 26 Marie Maloney |
| 10 Richard Audette | Bertha O'Boyle |
| Brendan Johnson | 27 Devon Verzillo |
| Stephen Johnson | 28 Joan Surgens |
| Thomas Knight | 30 Steve Gray |
| 12 Derek Spencer | 31 Rees Jones |
| 13 Madelyn Harvey | |

6 Kelly Fox & Alan Goldberg

8 Paul & Ronnie Sowden

8 Dario & Sybil Pavoni

16 Charles & Dianne Spencer

17 Andy & Idella Michaud

20 Bob & Linda Bruckner

Best Wishes to All!!!

If your name is missing from our Birthday or Anniversary lists, please let Karen know and we will get that corrected immediately. Thanks.

STAR SPANGLED THOUGHTS OF FREEDOM

O beautiful for patriot's dream
that saw beyond the years
of strife

so we here and now cheer bursting lights
while clasping tight
brilliant bright
red blue striped and star white balloons.

Heaven flung sparkling fireworks
flare . .

red yellow and orange spangles glare
commemorating celebrating

the brave land ... home of the free land.

America America ... God shed His grace on thee...
this steamy night
fourth of July.

In a far away and foreign land ..

(where the grace and love of God
seems "missing in action")...

the same fourth of July

**broils and brims, seethes and breathes
turmoil.**

**Heaven flung missile's rage and fly
as hatreds
centuries old flare...**

scarring

burning hearts with hardness.

**A child in that foreign far away land lies sleepless
awake ... afraid
clenching tightly small hands that will never clasp
a balloon or see the fireworks of peace...
...only the working fires of war.**

**And we ...because the love of God and Infinite
Grace**

was not missing

in the hearts of those who forged

this once wild wilderness

with pilgrim's pride—we...

still dream patriot's dreams

**waving high the banner blazed with stripes and
stars**

crowning nobleness

this blessedness

allegiance pledged

with thankfulness

from sea to shining sea.

In progress spring 2005 (complete 6/7/2005) kmp

Centenary Concerns and Celebrations

Prayer Concerns

The Centenary church family offers heartfelt sympathy to John Galvin, Rhonda, Lori, Erika, Kristen and Karna (and their extended family and close friends) on the loss of **Marjorie**, June 17th, 2005 after her heroic efforts battling cancer and Parkinson's disease. Marge's memorial service was here at Centenary on June 22nd, Rev. Garvin officiating.

Becky Audette, Marcie's brother **Berchelle Browne, Ralph Perry and Claire Jeffrey** have all been hospitalized recently. Under tests are **Shirley Santos and Laura**

Gignac. Barbara Boynton and Natalee

Rolince have each broken an extrem-

ity...Barbara a wrist and

Natalee an ankle. (Natalee was hospitalized to surgically put her ankle into place.) Please keep all of

these folks in your prayers, as well as **Irene Marecek, Jim Knight, Mil Thurber, Thelma Dukes, Henry Miozza, Laura Hochberg, Janet Darling, Barbara Wilmarth, Sybil Pavoni and Priscilla**

Cody. There are many in our church family undergoing difficulties within and without their families. No one knows another's troubles. Please take time to remember your church family in your prayers, and of course your **Pastor Rev. Garvin, Marcie and their family**.

New Member

After her baptism and growing up years at Centenary, (and taking on the role as financial secretary for the church,) **Laura Lea Gignac** officially joined the Centenary Church family on Sunday, June 12th.

Laura's daughter **Hailee** was baptized during that same worship service. Welcome Laura and Hailee!!

Black Belt Awarded

Tommy Ferraro was awarded the Black Belt in karate. Way to go Tommy. That is quite an accomplishment for such a young gentleman.

Moving Away

Longtime member of Centenary, **Barbara Moore (Sanborn)** has moved to Maryland. Should you wish to drop Barbara a note, her address is c/o John B. Moore, 602 South Memorial Drive, Delmar, MD 21875.



From the General Board of Global Ministries
"We acknowledge and thank you for your gifts (totaling \$812.00) given to the South Asia Emergency Fund through the United Methodist Committee on Relief."

Thank you Centenary

"To all the wonderful folks at Centenary United Methodist Church, Whether you visited with me, or sent a card or flowers, your expression of sympathy means so much to me. I am grateful for your kindness. Thank you for thinking of me. Your kind words have been a great support to me. Thank you." **Kathy Trowbridge**

"The family of **R. Stanley Cody** would like to thank each one individually who donated to Centenary United Methodist Church in loving memory of Stanley. The "Centenary Herald" is the best way and we enjoy reading it every month. Stanley would have been very pleased, as he felt the church was a strong influence for good and was important in our lives and deserved our support. We appreciated the many cards and notes from our church family and wish to thank all. The expressions of esteem made me feel we were truly a church family. Special thanks to Karen who acknowledged all of the donor's gifts. May God bless you all."

Sincerely, **Priscilla, Stuart, Allan, Dwight and Sean Cody**

Thank you to:

Noah and the Ark that Floated into Centenary
Congratulation and thank you to Miss Wendy, Miss Krystal, Miss Michelle Peirce, Miss Lisa Ramos, Miss Barbara Ebert, Miss Ruth Farmer, Miss Carol Ferraro, Mr. Art Hillman and **all of the Sunday School youth** who jubilantly and enthusiastically offered an insightful and quite humorous rendition of Noah's encounter with God and the building of the ark. The readers, the builders, the animals and the ocean waves, the sun, clouds and brilliant rainbow of hands...the dove who tirelessly flew back and forth from the ark to the ocean covered earth...everyone did wonderfully and the congregation appreciates you all so much. Thank you. Thank you also to **Don Hanson** and **Ken Burch** for their eloquent reading during the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Lamb" and to **Miss Marion Phillips** who offered in the same presentation a heartfelt and powerful testimony in song to the faith she lives.

Thank you all for a terrific Children's Sunday.

Upcoming Events

FAMILY YARD SALE

Centenary's yard sale will be held on July 9th beginning at 8 AM. There are still spaces available if you would like to setup a table. Please speak with Dave Blessinger or call Karen in the church office. The cost is \$20 for 6' foot tables and \$30 for 8' tables. Buy as many tables as you would like. **PLEASE DO NOT DROP ANYTHING OFF AT CHURCH .**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR NEWS

We have been told by many people who attend our Christmas Bazaar every year that it is the best in the area. When we tell friends and co-workers that we have been meeting and planning for this year's bazaar, we always get the response, "Already!?" Yes, already, and we believe that is why our Bazaar is so successful.

There is a group of ladies who meet once a week for the Country Corner and Christmas Tables to work on items so there will be a good supply to sell. Jerry Lithway is refinishing an antique chair and Barbara Palmer is making two afghans, both for the Silent Auction. Bonnie Lithway will be making her Boursin Cheese Spread for the Country Corner, and there are many others who are generous in their time and talents who make contributions for the Bazaar.

You can help too! The following is a list of ideas:

- ◆ Knit or crochet items for the "Made By Hand" table (mittens, scarves, hats, lap robes, baby sweaters, Ponchos, etc).
- ◆ Sew items for the same table (aprons, cloth children's books, or your own ideas).
- ◆ Make jams, jellies and/or pickles when the crops are plentiful. (Bonnie Lithway will be looking for Green Tomatoes this Fall.)
- ◆ Make wood items (birdhouses, small step stools- Jerry Lithway can give you ideas).
- ◆ Save for the "Vintage Section" (Vintage doilies, lace, linens, jewelry, glass items, Old cookbooks, baskets, Old sheet music are items we are looking for.)
- ◆ Save your "gently used" jewelry, or that jewelry gift you never really liked, to resell at the jewelry table.

RALLY DAY- SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

Our theme this year will be **Walking with Jesus**. Scholars disagree over the exact location of Emmaus. This uncertainty offers an insight into the story. Emmaus may be anywhere. Hearts burning and eyes opening do not occur on only one road, geographically or spiritually speaking. Emmaus comes into sight wherever a path leads us toward communion with God, and whenever we recognize an encounter with the Risen Christ.

As you travel many different roads this summer, keep your eyes and hearts open to the possibility of a spiritual encounter. On Rally Day when we gather, there will be a special table where we can share our Emmaus Encounters. We are asking people to bring in a token, picture, or some type of souvenir from their travels. This could be something as simple as a photograph, map, a special rock or any type of item that symbolizes the road you traveled.



Enjoy your summer and enjoy your travels.

MORE BAZAAR NEEDS

- ◆ **Jan Hanson** is looking for ladies who have decorative pins that they no longer wear, or an earring that does not have a mate or large brooch at the end of a necklace that is no longer fashionable...she and several others are creating new jewelry with remnants of the old.
- ◆ The **Country Table** is looking for used Christmas Cards. These are needed NOW. If you have some, please drop them off with Karen in the church office. Thank you.

The Bazaar is an ongoing event. Please think ahead as to how you can offer your talents and be a part of the great fellowship time. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact any one of the chairs. Let's make this year's "Old Country Store" themed Bazaar the best one yet!

Candi McLean, Sue LaPierre, Jerry Lithway, Judy Clarke, and Sharon Howlett

The Stewardship Corner

Tithing as a Prayer Practice

from: “*Creating a Life with God*”
by Daniel Wolpert

Most trips we take require a guide. Many of us first log onto the internet to get maps and driving instructions so that we know how to get where we are going. The need for directions is no less in the spiritual journey, which brings us to the Bible, that wonderful and mysterious book that speaks to us of God. But most of us will not spend our days engrossed in the Bible or caught up in blissful union with God. We live in the nitty-gritty of the world. We go to work, spend time with our friends, wash dishes, and do chores.

There are several prayer practices that seek the imminent (meaning close-by, near, or indwelling) aspect of God. This is the God who is with us always. This is the God who knows our thoughts before we think them. It’s the God who is everything and is at the heart of all. Yet even in this nearness God remains hidden, and so we need one or more methods of prayer that brings the light of God clearly into focus. Tithing is one of those prayer practices.

Currently in the US the average level of material giving in mainline churches is 1 to 3 percent of a person’s gross income. Obviously these percentages are far below the biblical standard of the tithe (10%). Perhaps some people do not feel their church is worthy to receive their money, but I do not think that is the main issue. If we could find a church that you would want to support, how is giving 10% of your income to the church a prayer practice?

Tithing is a spiritual practice because it requires a level of giving that is hard, and thus it forces us to relate to God as we participate in this practice. When we give away money “to God,” we have to ask the question: Do we trust that God will provide? When we begin to turn over large amounts of our resources to someone else, we encounter our fears about existence. Will we starve? Will our children go without? Will we become homeless? These are real fears because we see people who live these outcomes all the time.

When we give away our precious money, we encounter our true feelings about those biblical passages that tell us God will provide and that sounds so nice as long as we have money in the bank. Tithing is a prayer practice because it forces us into relationship with God. We must ask God for what we need.

Unfortunately most of us don’t believe that if we fully commit our lives to God, we will be sustained. Communicating with God about our survival requires trust and an examination of our values and priorities. We begin to examine our fears, ask God for reassurance, and then listen for God’s response.

As we begin to give more, we are forced to come face-to-face with the reality of how we use our resources. I know many people who say their financial situation is difficult, yet they spend thousands of dollars a year on cigarettes, or alcohol, or gambling, or new cars, or any number of things they do not need. Their lifestyle is far from the one advocated by Jesus.

This prayer practice challenges us to look at what we regard as important. How do we spend our time, our money and other resources? Communicating with God about these concerns leads to the result of all prayer practices – deeper intimacy with Jesus. Much of our material striving is not only about meeting our basic creaturely needs but also about filling a void in our soul – the void that only God can fill. The more we pray with our material lives, the more our thirst for living water is quenched, and we find that we no longer need or want so many material things.

Art Hillman for the Stewardship Committee

(“*Creating a Life with God*” is published by Upper Room Books, Nashville TN and can be found in most religious book stores.)

ARTHUR W. HILLMAN, CRS



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**CENTENARY UMC
MISSION STATEMENT**



We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in the Holy Spirit through the worship of God and fellowship with each other, in order to actively minister throughout the world.