



**Centenary United Methodist Church**  
 140 E Market St  
 Smithfield, NC 27577  
 Phone 919-934-2333

*Change Service Requested*

Non-profit standard mail  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
 Permit No. 11  
 Smithfield, NC



# The Centenary Messenger

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors

**February 2012**



Centenary United Methodist Church  
 140 East Market St  
 Smithfield, NC 27577  
 Phone: 919-934-2333  
 Fax: 919-934-9547

## A Message From Our Pastor



*“I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.”*  
*Isaiah 43:11*

Recently, I returned from some vacation days. I certainly enjoyed my time with family and friends. My vacation was a bit different from other times. I purposely planned this vacation without any agenda.

I didn't make reservations at the mountains or the beach. I didn't plan on completing any projects. As much as I am a clean freak, I didn't clean any windows or floors. I didn't mow the grass because my grass was dead and too wet.

I simply enjoyed time. I enjoyed time doing a little reading. I enjoyed time taking a walk. I enjoyed time playing with children. I enjoyed time in my chair!

I must confess that this vacation was one of my best ever. Although I knew I would have a plate full when I returned to the church, still I focused on reflecting and relaxing.

I learned a few things from my vacation:

I am not indispensable. Our great church carried on without a hitch.

I cannot accomplish anything by myself. I need others beside me.

I am thankful that Jesus is my Savior and I can trust my paths to his leading.

After vacation I am ready for February. Although February is the shortest month of the year, I anticipate all that God has in store. Together, let's trust Jesus as we journey on.

Blessings,

David

For God so lo**V**ed the world  
 that He g**A**ve  
 His on**L**y  
 begott**E**n  
 so**N**  
 That whosoever  
 believeth **I**n Him  
 should **N**ot perish  
 but have **E**verlasting life.



A Stephen Ministry congregation

Church Business

**Wednesday Fellowship Supper and Worship**

Make plans to join us!  
Wednesday night at 6:00 for Fellowship Supper


**February 1**  
**Fried Chicken**  
Field Peas/Slaw  
Chocolate Éclair

**February 8**  
**Roast Beef**  
Creamed potatoes/  
Green beans  
Cobbler

**February 15**  
**Chicken Pastry**  
Candied Yams/Collards  
Cheesecake

**February 23**  
**Marinated Pork Loin**  
Ranch potatoes  
Green beans  
Banana Pudding

**February 29**  
**Hamburger Steak w/ Onion Gravy**  
Creamed Potatoes  
Garden Peas  
Chocolate Éclair



**January 2012**

Revenues	<b>\$ 41,328</b>
Expenses	<b>\$ 40,636</b>

Past Due Conference Obligation  
**\$ 7,524**



Attention group leaders and individuals who wish to have your notices included in the monthly newsletter. The newsletter deadline is the **15th of the month**. We must receive it in writing (*you can email it to [frtdesk@embarqmail.com](mailto:frtdesk@embarqmail.com)*) in the office by this date in order to be able to include it in the newsletter.



**Mark Your Calendars!**

**February 23**  
**Details TBA**

Church Family



February Birthdays

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Betsy Fleming        | 14 <sup>th</sup> Jennifer Gaskins       |
| Jeanette Roper                       | 15 <sup>th</sup> Carter Hines           |
| Crayton Matthews                     | Greg Hurt                               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ruth Arlene Southern | Whitley Kate Moore                      |
| Bill Jackson                         | 16 <sup>th</sup> Mary Edna Grantham     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Crissie Keith        | Susan Murphy                            |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Jason Davis          | 17 <sup>th</sup> Marney Harris          |
| Betty Ramos                          | 18 <sup>th</sup> Gina Grimes            |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Perry Holland        | Mary Jo Creech                          |
| Bob Dickens                          | Dorothy Peterson                        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Chris Kinkade        | Carson Stevens                          |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Alaina Hall          | 19 <sup>th</sup> Mary Anne Corbett      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Ruth Edwards         | 20 <sup>th</sup> Jack Tate III          |
| Rhonda Parker                        | 21 <sup>st</sup> Jo Ann Williams        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Charlie Sanders     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Karen Wiggs            |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> Kenneth Baker       | 25 <sup>th</sup> Ruby York              |
| Stan Erwin                           | Andrea Johnson                          |
| Costa Hocutt                         | 27 <sup>th</sup> Jamie Edwards          |
| Susan Parrish                        | Wingate Lassiter                        |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Morgan Dickens      | 28 <sup>th</sup> Raymond (Ray) Earp Jr. |



February Anniversaries

- 12<sup>th</sup> Lynn & William Ragsdale  
14<sup>th</sup> Sam & Barbara Byrd



A Stephen Ministry Story:  
Barnabas and Mark



Barnabas boldly proclaimed God's Word throughout the Roman Empire at the same time that Paul did. Though he appears in the New Testament a number of times, we know much less about Barnabas than we do Paul, perhaps because he wasn't the prolific writer Paul was.

What we do know is that he was an encourager. In fact, his name means "the son of encouragement". And while we might call Stephen the first Stephen Minister (Acts 6), Barnabas could appropriately be considered the second. He had all the characteristics of a Stephen Minister: full of faith, mercy, patience, encouragement, and compassion. He was probably the ideal companion to travel with on a long missionary journey in a potentially hostile land.

Barnabas' biggest contribution to the Christian church, however, isn't a sermon he preached or an epistle he wrote. It may simply have been his role as an encourager and as a "Stephen Minister" to his young cousin Mark.

Acts 15:36-41 recounts the planning of Paul's second missionary journey. It begins with a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over whether to take Mark on the journey. Paul is strongly against it, citing an earlier journey to Pamphylia in which Mark for some reason had abandoned them (Acts 13:13). The details are sketchy, but it apparently was enough for Paul to lose trust in Mark as a faithful dependable missionary companion.

But Barnabas assertively stood up for Mark, which may not have been easy to do against Paul. He looked past Mark's flaws and had confidence that Mark was a man he could trust on such an important mission. Paul and Barnabas resolved the incident by going on separate missionary journeys: Paul and Silas to Syria and Cilicia, and Barnabas and Mark to Cyprus. Barnabas' encouragement for and patience with Mark likely had a significant positive impact on Mark's self-image and future as an apostle. We later learn that Barnabas' confidence in Mark was justified, because Mark even earns his way back into Paul's favor (2 Timothy 4:11).

What would have happened to Mark had Barnabas not stood by his side despite an earlier failing? Would Mark have had the opportunity later to redeem himself and reestablish his reputation? Or would he simply have drifted away, a failed disciple? We can only guess. What we do know is that because Barnabas had faith that a young man could overcome an earlier mistake or misjudgment, the young church was blessed with two missionary journeys instead of one – and we have the Gospel of Mark.

Have you had a Barnabas in your life? Did someone encourage and show faith in you when others doubted? How can you be a Barnabas to someone this week, believing in him or her despite earlier misjudgments or mistakes?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of encouragement. A Stephen Minister, like Barnabas, maintains faith and confidence that someone can overcome adversity and reach their God-given potential. The payoff for such confidence can be astounding. Just ask Barnabas or Mark.

## Memorials

### Charlotte Wallace

Mr. & Mrs. James Creech  
 Ms. Cindy Huntsberry  
 Mr. Earl McCullers  
 Mr. & Mrs. Monty Montgomery  
 Mr. & Mrs. Billy Howell

### Mike Giddens

Mrs. Joan Parker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Lawrence  
 Ms. Cindy Huntsberry  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bateman  
 Mrs. Caroyln Williams  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Stubbs  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Velker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dixon Fleming, Jr.  
 Ms. Mary Edna Grantham  
 Ms Sue Hooks  
 Mr. Eddie Jackson  
 Mr. Bill Jackson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Billy Howell  
 Mr. & Mrs. Franky Batten

### Mr. Joe Grantham

Ms. Mary Edna Grantham  
 Ms. Elinor Starling  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Ragsdale  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex DeLeon



### Bob Selcer

Mrs. Shirley Dorman

### Ken Mitchell

Mrs. Joan Parker

### Martha Wooten

Ms. Joan Parker

### Shirley DeLaPorte

Ms. Mary Edna Grantham  
 Mrs. Carolyn Williams

### John Shallcross

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hall

## Our Church Traditions



### What is the meaning and purpose of Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a wake-up call. Ash Wednesday hits us squarely between the eyes, forcing us to face mortality and sinfulness. We hear Scripture readings that are urgent and vivid. We have black ashes rubbed into our foreheads. We recite a Litany of Penitence that takes our breath away, or should. It is a tough day, but take heart! This is one religious day that won't fall into the clutches of retailers. There aren't any Hall-mark cards celebrating sin and death; no shop windows are decked out with sackcloth and ashes.

On Ash Wednesday we come to church to kneel, to pray, and to ask God's forgiveness, surrounded by other sinners. Human sin is universal; we all do it, not only Christians. But our church tradition sets aside Ash Wednesday as a particular day to address sin and death. We do this mindful that "God hates nothing God has made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent." We are ALL sinners, no better and no worse than our brothers and sisters. This is not a day to compete ("my sins are worse than yours are"), but to confess....

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. We have forty precious days to open ourselves up most particularly to God, to examine ourselves in the presence of one who created us, knows us, and loves us. We have forty days to face ourselves and learn to not be afraid of our sinfulness. We are dust, and to dust we shall return, but with God's grace we can learn to live this life more fully, embracing our sinfulness, allowing God to transform us.

—The Rev. Margaret Jones  
 from "Ash Wednesday—A Wake-up Call"

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**Join us Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 pm**



### Message from Meagan

As I was checking some webpages on the internet this week I found something that really touched me. The following was supposedly written by a Medical Student in India who had previously been a student in a missionary school. I think that this reinterpretation of 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 is beautiful and speaks to us today about the power and importance of living each day in the love of God and neighbor that comes through Jesus Christ. Enjoy!

If I have language ever so perfectly and speak like a pundit,  
but have not the knack of love that grips the heart,  
I am nothing.

If I have decorations and diplomas,  
and am proficient in up-to-date methods,  
but have not the touch of understanding love,  
I am nothing.

If I am able to worst my opponents in arguments so as to make fools of them,  
but have not the wooing note,  
I am nothing.

If I have all faith and great ideals and magnificent plans and wonderful visions,  
but have not the love that sweats and bleeds and weeps and prays and pleads,  
I am nothing.

If I can heal all manner of sickness and disease,  
but wound hearts and hurt feelings for want of love that is kind,  
I am nothing.

If I can write books and publish articles that set the world agog,  
but fail to transcribe the word of the Cross in the language of love,  
I am nothing.



### Centenary United Methodist Women A Message from Your President.



The Centenary United Methodist Women will meet with the United Methodist Men on Sunday, **February 5, 2012** at 7:45 a.m for breakfast and a program. Then they will have a separate business session.

On **Tuesday, February 7, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. our UMW will host the Goldsboro District Cluster Meeting. There will be women from 16 churches meeting at our church. All women are invited to attend this meeting. We will have an interesting and informative program in the sanctuary, and then refreshments will be served in Wesley Hall. The District Program Resources Chairman will bring books from the Reading Program to the meeting. We hope that everyone will be able to attend these meetings.









On **February 18** there will be a District Mission Study-The Journey, Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation at Providence UMC in Goldsboro, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On **February 24-25** there will a Conference 39 and Under Event at Mr. Sylvan UMC in Durham.

These are great opportunities for United Methodist Women..

Thank you.  
Janie Temple, President

# February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6 	7	8 	9	10	11
12	13 	14 	15 	16	17	18
19	20 	21 	22  	23 	24	25
26	27 	28	29 			

### SPECIAL SCHEDULE

2/5	UMM Breakfast, 7:45 a.m. Souper Bowl of Caring, After Late Service
2/7	UMW District Cluster Mtg., 7:00-9:00 pm
2/12	Fellowship Time, 9:20am
2/14	Mary Stevens Cir @ home of Betsy Royall, 10:00 am
2/21	Bettie Stevens Cir. @ home of Vicki Berkau, 10:00 am
2/22	Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30pm

### REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULES

#### Sunday Schedule:

8:45 am. Early Service  
 9:45 am Sunday School  
 10 am Chancel Choir  
 10:55 am Morning Worship  
 6 pm UMYF

#### Mon—Fri

Food Closet, 9:30 am-Noon & 2-4:30

#### Mondays

BSF , 6:55 p.m.

#### Tuesday

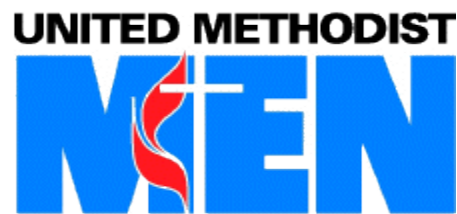
Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
 Disciple III, 7 pm

#### Wednesdays

Robert Flynn's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.  
 10 a.m. Bible Study  
 Fellowship Dinner, 6 p.m.  
 Children's Choir, 6:15 p.m.  
 Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.  
 Hispanic Prayer Group, 7:00 p.m.

#### Saturday

Hispanic Worship



**The Centenary  
 UMW will join  
 the UMM at  
 breakfast  
 Sunday morning,  
 February 5, 2012 at  
 7:45 in Wesley Hall.**



## From Your Youth Pastor



**Dear Centenary Church Family,**

I continue to be blown away by the awesome ministry being done by the youth of this church and the adults who support them in it! Please take a few moments to check out the following UMYF events and activities offered in February of this year!

Blessings,  
 Andrew Tatum  
[tatum.andrew@gmail.com](mailto:tatum.andrew@gmail.com)  
 (919) 631-2487

**UMYF Dinners:** There are MANY Sunday night meals which are still available for the taking! Our UMYF dinners provide an important time for youth ministry fellowship and our youth truly appreciate it when parents and other adults provide tasty, home-cooked meals for them! Please visit the following page and fill out the simple online form to choose a date or dates on which you would like to provide a meal: <http://www.centenaryumcyouth.org/p/umyf-dinners.html>.

**Souper Bowl of Caring:** For more than 20 years the Souper Bowl of Caring has been using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. This year on February 5th our youth will again offer a soup and sandwich luncheon after the 10:55am service and collect donations for Harbor, Inc. which provides safe, compassionate, and advocacy services, resources, and programs to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. You are encouraged to come and enjoy lunch and give as much as you are able.

**Love Wins:** On Saturday, February 25 from 8:00-11:00am, our youth will travel to Raleigh, NC to serve breakfast to the homeless and hungry in Moore Square. Youth and adults interested in taking part in this ministry should arrive at Centenary at 8am and bring \$5 to help with the cost of food.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation began January 29th and will continue until Pentecost Sunday. Confirmation is a time for prayer, reflection and for learning about "the basics" of the Christian faith in the United Methodist Church. Please continue to be in prayer for our confirmands and their families and friends who are supporting them through this journey.

**Kaleidoscope:** Kaleidoscope is a middle-school event held at Camp Don Lee on the weekend of April 13-15. Throughout the weekend, youth have the opportunity to experience community through worship, fellowship, service, recreation and Holy Communion. This year's theme is "You Are More!" As humans we all make mistakes. But as children of God, our mistakes do not define us. Through God's grace and forgiveness, we are given a second chance. It is when we accept the gift of Grace that we truly understand that we are more than our mistakes, more than our past, more than our failure – we belong to God!

The cost of Kaleidoscope is \$95. In order to register for the retreat, parents should visit <http://nccumc.org/youth/2012-youth-events-brochure/> to download the youth events brochure and registration form for this event and follow the registration instructions in the brochure. In order to guarantee your spot for this event, your \$25 registration must be post-marked by March 16.



**BackPack Buddies**

Thank you for your contributions to the BackPack Buddies for 2011. We were able to provide 20 backpacks with food and Bible lessons for the children of West Smithfield Elementary. Our Children's Choir is packing the bags to be delivered each week. Elizabeth Sawrey is shopping for the food and volunteering at Belk's to raise money for the cost of the food. She has volunteered over 70 hours for a contribution from Belk's of over 560.00. Please say thank you to both Elizabeth and Belk's for their support of this program.

**BackPack Food List**

Vienna sausage  
Mac and cheese  
Beans and Franks  
Individual oatmeal  
and grits  
Poptarts  
Breakfast bars  
Granola bars  
Drink boxes

**As we begin 2012 we need your contributions too. You may bring food from the list or send a monetary contribution to the church.**

**Thank you for helping with this ministry.**

Nabs  
Applesauce  
Fruit cups  
Pudding cups  
Individually wrapped cookies  
Spaghetti, spaghetti o's  
or anything like that  
Raisins



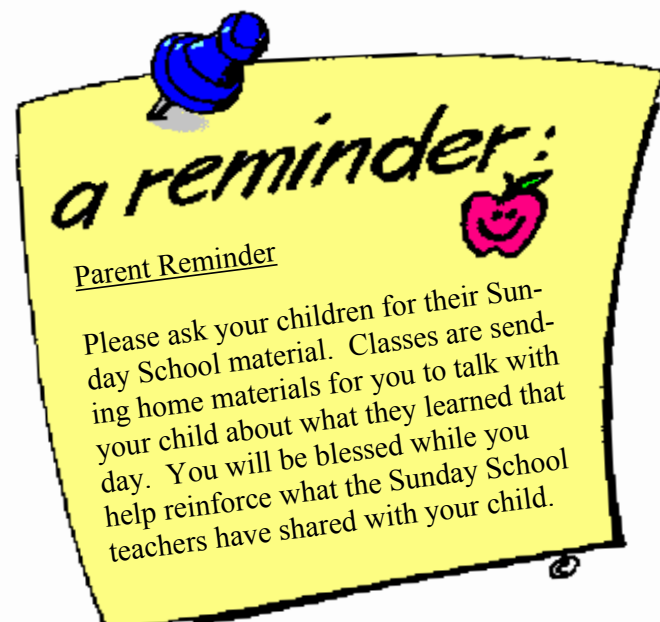
**February 4:** Last Sunday for Session two of Kids Worship

**March 28:** Easter Egg Hunt after Wednesday Night Supper

**May 27:** Summer Sunday School Begins

**June 24:** Vacation Bible School Kickoff

**June 25-28:** Vacation Bible School



*"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends"*  
And that is just what St. Valentine did.

St. Valentine was a priest near Rome in about the year 270 A.D. At that time the Roman Emperor was imprisoning Christians for not worshipping the Roman gods. During this persecution Valentine was arrested. Some write that he was arrested because he was performing Christian marriages, but others say it was for helping Christians escape prison.

During the trial they asked Valentine what he thought of the Roman gods Jupiter and Mercury. Valentine said they were false gods and that the God that Jesus called Father was the only true God. So the Romans threw him in prison for insulting the gods. While in prison Valentine continued to minister. He witnessed to the guards. One of the guards was a good man who had adopted a blind girl. He asked Valentine if his God could help his daughter. Valentine prayed and the girl was given her sight. The guard and his whole family, 46 people, believed in Jesus and were baptized. Because these people had come to know Jesus, Valentine praised God right there in his prison cell. When the emperor heard about this he was furious that Valentine was still making converts even in prison, so he had Valentine beheaded.

Valentine knew that he might get caught in his Christian activities. He knew that if he told the court the truth about the Roman gods that he would be thrown in prison. And he knew that if he continued to witness to Christ in the prison he would make his captors angry. But he continued, because he loved the Lord and his fellow humans. He was willing to risk his life to free the prisoners and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who needed to hear it.

The Bible Says: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."(John 15:13) God showed us this love by coming in Christ to die for our sins. And St. Valentine demonstrated this love when he died for his friends. This is the kind of love that Valentine's Day is really about.



**Make your Summer Plans now!  
VBS will Be The week of June 24th –28th**