

The First-Centurian

Volume 4, No. 21

July 23, 2010

Worship Retreat

Saturday, July 31

9 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

First-Centenary is hosting what will be a very educational and inspirational worship retreat on Saturday, July 31 from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. You are invited - you won't want to miss this important event!

Dr. Constance Cherry is an experienced professor, worship leader, musician, and pastor, having served in local church ministry and academic teaching positions for more than thirty years. She is Associate Professor of Worship and Christian Ministries at Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana, and is also on the faculty of the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. Dr. Cherry speaks and teaches internationally in the areas of worship and church music. She is an active hymn writer with hymns in six major hymnals published in the last two decades. Her publications include musical compositions, hymn texts and tunes, and journal articles. Her first book was published by Baker Academic in 2010, *The Worship Architect: A Blueprint for Designing Culturally Relevant and Biblically Faithful Services*. Copies of this book will be available for purchase.

Session will include: Biblical models of worship, introducing convergence worship, and mov-

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Dr. Cherry

Resumes August 11

Leadership NOW, with Dr. Dwight Kilbourne, is our kick-off session for Prime Time. Hear from Dwight, as well as church leaders who will give us updates on ministries.

Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt

led by Rev. Brian Davis
August 18, 25, September 1, 8

Want to know more about what it means to be United Methodist and how to talk about who we are, what we believe, and what we value in clear, straightforward, and compelling ways? We'll discuss Wesleyan theology and practice while respecting other traditions. As John Wesley himself might have said, this is "plain truth for plain people." This study helps us understand the basic tenets of United Methodist doctrine and theology and to be formed as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Living the Questions

led by Rev. Charles Neal

"Living the Questions" (Part II) invites you to make your faith relevant to the hard realities that characterize our world. During a 20 minute video, a diverse group of theologians will help us see the relationship between our faith and some of the most pressing issues of the day. Charles Neal will lead a discussion during the balance of the hour as we search together for ways God would have us respond to these issues. Topics:

Aug. 18 Restoring Relationships
Aug. 25 Evil, Suffering, and a God of Love
Sept. 1 The Myth of Redemptive Violence
Sept. 8 Reclaiming the World (a call to eco-justice)

Prime Time
Wednesday

Eight-week Disciple Bible Study

Invitation to the Old Testament
Frank Rabold, Facilitator
Books: \$12

Explore the Old Testament's story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Old Testament as an integral part of the Christian Bible.

Includes video segments. Books available. To see session one online, go to cokebury.com. Search for study name.

Sessions:

August 18 – September 8;
September 29 – October 20

1. The Making of the Hebrew Bible
2. The Creation Story of Israel
3. Out of Bondage
4. Promise and Problem in the Land
5. Israel Has a King
6. Division and the Rise of Prophecy
7. Exile and Response
8. Restoration and Renewal

Dinner on Wednesday evenings:

Standing reservations for dinner need to be made anew!

This keeps our list up to date.

foodsvp@fcumc.org
or 756-2021, Ext. 3123.

From Our Pastor



Dwight Kilbourne

At the Gate

A story told by Jesus that may raise as many questions as answers is that of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31).

Lazarus, a man living in destitute poverty, and the rich man both die. Lazarus ends up in a place of comfort at Abraham's side and the rich man lands in a place of torment.

Generally people's focus, related to this story, has been on the destiny of the dead – a place of comfort or a place of torment. While that is central, the gospel writer also addresses the issue of wealth and poverty.

It would be easy for some to take this story and condemn people of means, but this is not the intention of the story. Having wealth is not condemned here or in other places of scripture. What is central is what one does with his/her wealth.

A subtle statement in the story causes me to do some personal reflection. Lazarus is described as a beggar covered with sores who was laid at the rich man's gate. Several times a day the rich man would pass Lazarus as he would come and go from his home. The unspoken message is the man did little to sooth Lazarus' pain, to provide essentials for him, or to attempt to transform his condition.

Who are the "poor" who sit at my gate? Who is that person with whom I frequently come into contact who needs assistance, or a hand up, or to be nurtured toward wholeness? Have I or am I willing to share my resources and time with that person? The question of "who are the poor at my gate" is one that can easily haunt and motivate me.



Small Groups Begin This Fall

Life Groups (small groups) can meet any day or evening, as long as there is participation to form a group at that time. Group leaders will receive

training and will be provided with study resources from which to choose a study book (based on input from Group members). Life Groups are designed for 6-12 people who come together to worship, pray, talk, study, grow, and serve. Life Groups are not therapeutic support groups or in-depth Bible studies. They are designed to apply God's Word to daily life. Programs for children and youth are offered Wednesday evenings, which may be beneficial to parents.

How do I get into a group? Email Barbara Berwanger, barbarab@fcumc.org. Questions: 756-2021, or 619-7997.

Chattanooga District Wide Church Picnic August 29

A time of fellowship and worship for all clergy and laity in the Chattanooga District.

Christ UMC from 4-7 p.m. There will be food and fellowship between 4 and 6 p.m., with games and activities for both children and youth. Worship will follow from 6-7 p.m., with Willie Kitchens and his band leading us in praise and Dr. Fred Dearing blessing us with the Word. The theme of this year's picnic is "Who Do You Say I Am? (Mark 8:29)



Oak Street Playhouse Puppet Theatre presents

The Little Mermaid

September 24, 25, 26 and
October 1, 2, 3

All seats \$6 (Group rate \$5 each for 10 or more)

Call 756-2428 for reservations.

... and make plans for the Christmas Dinner Theatre – *Happy Hollandaise*, a farce by Tim Koenig

December 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12, 2010.

Dinner and the show – \$20,
Groups of 10 or more – \$18.

Have you included the church's
Permanent Endowment Fund in your will?

World Methodist Conference in South Africa

Anyone desiring to be a delegate to the 20th World Methodist Conference to be held in Durban, South Africa, August 4 – 8, 2011, should submit their names along with the following information by August 15, 2010 – address, email address, telephone number, and indicate whether they are clergy, lay, male, female or youth. This may be submitted by email to normaedwards@holston.org or by mail to: Mrs. Norma Edwards, P. O. Box 850, Alcoa, TN 37701.



Sisters Christine and Melody Poke provided beautiful music on their violins in worship on July 18th. Both are students at UTC.



Pictured are participants in the Inner City summer program rehearsing their music for worship on July 18th. Christine Poke directed the singers.

Join the Summer Choir Sunday Mornings
July 25 and August 1 in the Choir Room at 10:10 a.m.
Choir rehearses at 10:15 a.m.

Worship Retreat

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ing from passive to participatory worship. You are invited and encouraged to attend this very timely event in the life of our church!

A sandwich lunch will be served (\$5). Reservations are needed in the church office by Wednesday, July 28 – rsvp@fcumc.org or 756-2021, ext. 3123.

We're looking for volunteers

to greet on Sunday from 9:20 – 9:40 a.m.

before Sunday School begins at 9:45. You will wear a name badge and offer to assist people looking for Sunday School classes. Maps (with class names & room numbers) are available for you. Contact Barbara, barbarab@fcumc.org, 756-2021, so we can schedule you to assist us at least once a quarter. Thank you!

Check out our Online Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Visit our Website: firstcentenary.com, then click on "Ministries," then click on "EMIM."

This online Spiritual Gifts Assessment, through a link to the United Methodist Church website, helps individuals identify their God-given gifts for living faithfully as Christian disciples day by day and find meaningful ways to use their gifts in connection with others through the community of faith. The process helps people understand the nature of spiritual gifts and ways to enhance the effectiveness of their gifts by linking together with others. If you have questions, or need spiritual gifts resources, contact barbarab@fcumc.org.

Within the Church Family

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Blood Drive

Monday, July 26, 2010
3 to 8 p.m.
Oak Street Center



Sponsored by First-Centenary and Positive Christian Singles
Sign up sheets are at the information desks in the Cloister and the Oak Street Center. All are encouraged to participate and help your neighbor in need.

Children . . . Celebrate the start of a new school year at our "Sundae" School Party

Sunday, August 8
2 to 4 p.m.
First Cumberland Presbyterian Church Pool
1505 N. Moore Road



Come swim and enjoy ice cream sundaes.
RSVP to children@fcumc.org

Sunday Worship

July 25, 2010

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Sanctuary
at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

The Great Matriarch
Genesis 16:1-6
Dr. Dwight Kilbourne

The Vine at 10:45 a.m.
Oak Street Center

Not Living Up to Our Potential
Judges 13-16
Rev. Brian Davis

Televised sermon – *The Ministry Of Encouragement* by Dr. Al Bowles
Channel 12, WDEF-TV
at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.

Reading from the Lectionary

- Hosea 1:2-10
- Colossians 2:6-19
- Psalm 85
- Luke 11:1-13