

Centenary United Methodist Church



Serving the Lord since 1829

Homecoming October 26, 2014

Centenary's Beginnings

During Spanish control of Florida the Roman Catholic Church was the only denomination allowed to hold public worship. People of other faiths and creeds were allowed to move into the territory and become citizens, but were not to engage in public worship. By 1821, when Florida was acquired from Spain, additional settlers and missionaries from the various Protestant churches started moving in. Methodists were particularly active in this process and established the Pensacola Mission in December of 1821. In 1822, the Gospel was preached by Methodist itinerants in Florida both east and west of the Suwanee River. In 1823, John Slade was sent to preach in the Chattahoochee Mission which included parts of Georgia, Alabama and Florida. In 1824, the Tallahassee District was formed. That same year Trinity Methodist Church was founded.

All that is known about Centenary's beginnings is that there was a meeting held in the Church to discuss the "Indian Problem" in 1829. That structure was across the street and a little closer to town than the current church building.

The first building owned by this church was constructed in 1839. At this time the church was renamed Centenary to commemorate the 100th anniversary of John Wesley's religious experience in the Aldersgate Church in London, England from which Methodism dates its beginnings. It was a two story frame structure with a slave gallery on the second floor. On the ground floor the wide center row of pews had a wooden partition running down the middle. Men sat on one side. Women sat on the other. The box pulpit was built high and approached by a set of steps.

Following the Civil War, when blacks were allowed to form their own church, Centenary's black members left to form Arnett Chapel AME, which remains an active and thriving church in Quincy to this day. At the same time that blacks left Centenary Church many whites left as well. Economic conditions were very bad in those days.

In 1895 the church building was condemned because of a defect in the south wall. Remodeling was extensive. The second story was removed and the lower walls were rebuilt into a one story, red brick Victorian style church with a tall steeple containing the old bell which had been calling worshippers to church since 1839. This bell now stands on its own on Franklin Street, still calling worshippers to service.

The current church was constructed in 1917 around the foundation of the earlier church, which can be seen in parts of the church basement. The pews for this church came out of the earlier building as did the memorial windows. The stained glass window of Christ knocking on the door of the human heart, inspired by a well known painting by Holman Hunt and made by the Louis Tiffany firm was purchased for this new facility.

(Source: History of Centenary United Methodist Church of Quincy Florida, 1989.

<http://www.centenaryquincy.org/history.html>)

Historical Landmarks

In the **1830's** women were warned of the sin of adorning themselves with jewelry and fine clothes and of dressing in any manner that would detract from the behavior of a humble Christian.

In the **1840's** outdoor services were held from time to time at the "Centenary Camp Grounds" south of town among the beautiful trees and the fine springs of water there.

In the **1850's** all members were expected to obey church rules. If they did not, they were "turned out." Among the reasons for being dismissed were dancing, quarreling and drunkenness.

In **1855** a revival was held in the church, so powerful that seventy new members joined the church. Every family was told to sing the same song at seven o'clock in the evening and to follow with a prayer. When a man in town, not a member of the church, heard of this he told his wife: "Pray; the whole town is praying and going to heaven, and we are left out!"

During the Civil War, regiments were being formed everywhere, and ministers were accepting posts as chaplains or joining the ranks to serve as soldiers or officers. Congregations were demoralized, and attendance at services was very much below normal.

Also during the war whenever there was impending danger to Quincy citizens, the Methodist Church bell was rung as a signal to come together and prepare for any emergency that might arise.

In **1871** a District Parsonage was built on the lot where the First Baptist Church now stands.

In **1872** at the District Conference held in Quincy it was resolved that attending theatres, dancing parties, and other amusements of a worldly nature were wrong. Preachers were urged to persuade the people to renounce all these activities.

Prior to **1879** Centenary preachers were housed in the homes of members, some of whom accepted only unmarried preachers. Centenary's first parsonage was built in 1889 and was located on King Street where an elementary school was later built. In the 1890's a parsonage was built alongside the church where the current Centenary Church now stands.

In **1888** Pastor Francis Bridges was instrumental in turning the tide of lethargy brought on by the Civil War. He organized the church into a working, living organization. That year 46 new members were taken into the church making a total enrollment of 128.

The Quincy Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society was established in 1889. It served the church and its mission thereafter, under several different names including Women's Society for Christian Service, and now United Methodist Women.

Grape juice began to be substituted for wine at communion services in 1889.

In the **1890's** Miss Jessie Munroe was asked to be the choir director. At first she refused for fear of falling in love with a preacher, the fate of her two predecessors. In the end she relented. And, yes she did fall in love with, and marry the preacher who later in life became a Bishop.

Electric lights were installed in the church in **1890**.

In **1893** Mrs. H.J. Davis, an active member of Centenary, joined with four others in forming the First Baptist Church of Quincy. The organizational meeting was held in Centenary church.

During the Pastorate of J.A. Howland (1902-1904) saloons were voted out of Quincy for the first time.

Also in **1904** the church built the first superannuate home (for retired pastors) in Florida.

In **1910** Centenary had a large choir with twenty-five voices.

After a seventeen year absence from the pulpit Francis Bridges, by then a widower, returned to be Pastor of Centenary Church. A courtship followed, unbeknownst to the Congregation between Mr. Bridges and Miss Annie Maud Taylor, who lived with her father in the superannuate home. Francis Bridges and Annie Maud Taylor were married in 1912.

H.J. Davis served the church for seven years beginning in **1916**. At that time the church building was condemned and was replaced with the current church building. A Pilcher pipe organ was installed in this new facility, the first pipe organ in Centenary's history.

During the ministry of Pastor Davis the antebellum home of Judge White was acquired for the parsonage. It is still in use for that purpose. A community event in the later years of Judge White's life was the celebration of his birthday. Local children were invited with their parents for cake and ice cream, and games played on the Judge's lawn. The White House, as it was called, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Within two hours after the news of the Japanese surrender in **1945**, the church was full of worshipers giving thanks. Homecoming that year was full of joy as the soldiers were released from the war on two fronts. During the war, 159 young men and women from Centenary church served in the armed forces.

The educational Building, Office, and Chapel were constructed in **1951**, Sunday School attendance averaged 400 or more each Sunday.

In **1958** Forest Hills Methodist Church was begun on land donated by Centenary Church. The new parsonage provided was a gift from two Centenary members in 1960.

In **1961** Centenary Camp was established and continues to serve, now owned by the Florida Conference of the UMC.

In **1968** The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were officially merged to form the largest body of Protestant churches in the United States.

Major repairs to the Church properties were begun in **1976**. This included restoration of the main sanctuary, a new pipe organ donated by the Shelfer family, and major work on the parsonage and education building. On July 4, 1976 this work was celebrated with many church members in colonial dress, Robert C. Holmes as the main speaker, with loud speakers to broadcast to the overflow crowd on the church grounds. Dedication of the new narthex and its windows displaying the figures of John Wesley, Francis Asbury, and Thomas Coke was a part of the festivities. Restoration work was completed in February of 1977.

In the early **1980's** Centenary participated in an international pulpit exchange. The Whiteheads went to Bold Street Methodist Church in Warrenton, England and the pastor of that church came to preach at Centenary for six weeks in June.

In **1989** Centenary Foundation was formed to establish a permanent fund to undergird the ministries of the church.

Pastors called to the Ministry from Centenary Church

Samuel Woodbery	1847
E.W. Woodbery	1875
D. Lee Switzer	1898
Hugh Cooper Embry	1938
Osborn C. Belyeu	1951

Worship, Education and Fellowship

During the early years of 2000, Centenary's **Sunday School** continued to have difficulties. Renewed emphasis on classes for our children was developed by several members of the church. One individual, Mrs. Richard (Dianne) Bass was the catalyst in an effort to bring back our education program, for all ages. Teachers and workers volunteered to assist in this mission. We started small and have continued until the present to have classes for all ages. Our adult classes, Pairs and Spares, the Ralph Porter Class, and The Upper Room Class taught by the Pastor, have continued in spite of the years of decline and are busy growing with their studies and projects. Our **Vacation Bible Schools** continue to be a time for study and summer projects for the children and youth of our community. **Disciple Bible Study** began in 2002 under the leadership of Carol Deeney and Dianne Bass. This was a very worthwhile endeavor and continued annually until 2010. Our **Preschool** started in 2003 and had a short but positive existence. It was discontinued in the summer of 2007. Our **Youth** continue to be an important part of our Church and our worship experience. They take turns being acolytes in our Morning Worship Services. Our new Director of Education and Youth Ministries, Amy Rooks, works with them with projects and learning activities on Sunday evening.

Our **Wednesday night dinners** and **Bible Studies** continue with great fellowship and learning with Pastor Jack Tilk conducting classes of Bible study and other topics of Discipleship. Our **Prayer meetings** after our study are a special time of prayer and fellowship. The **Hallelujah Night** program continues every fifth Sunday within our geographical cluster. On months having 5 Sundays, we meet on the 5th Sunday for a meal and congregational singing at one of the area United Methodist Churches.

Centenary UMC became a part of the 21st century electronically with the assistance of a young couple, who became a part of our church family. Our Soprano Soloist Heather Watson's husband, Michael, came to our church to become our sound engineer. Through their help and knowledge of electronics we are now online and have a **DVD ministry** for our shut-ins. Our online address is www.centenaryquincy.org our email address is: Centenaryumc@gmail.com. We send the DVD of our worship services to our shut-ins. The group **Holy-Mixers** is a continuing ministry to our shut-ins by visiting them and sharing gifts of love.

When we lose a member of our church family, by death, we have **Condolence Committees** that prepare food for the family either before or after the church service. We have three different groups that handle this very important service for our members.

We have a group of people, called the **Joy Club**, who meet in our Fellowship Hall monthly. These are folk, over the age of 55, from Centenary and other churches in our community, who enjoy learning of new activities in our community, traveling, and meeting for a noon meal prepared by Mrs. Jean Little.

The Magnolia House, an Assisted Living Facility in our community, is the residence of many persons who need help in their later years of life. Centenary has many activities there, during the year. In the month of February, we hold services every Sunday afternoon. Sunday School classes, UMW, our Youth Group and our Pastors lead these services.

We have a very active **Archives Committee**. This committee keeps our historical records and other items of importance safe and in good order. A small room has been set aside for this purpose as the “Archive Room”. One of their accomplishments has been the presentation of items of interest placed in the Franklin Street Narthex, once a month, for the members of the church to “remember when”... and to be aware of our heritage as an historic church.

The **Church Bell**, which has been a part of our history since the middle 1800’s, was restored to public view and use in 2012. It was removed from its position on the Madison St. side of the church to the lawn in front of the Education Building on the Franklin Street side. There was a rededication of this historic bell on September 29, 2012.

Centenary has a reputation for presenting beautiful music during the entire calendar year. Our choirs have presented special music during Advent, Christmas and Lenten seasons. We have been blessed to be near the School of Music at Florida State University. The **Music Department of Centenary** has presented such favorites as the Christmas portion of Handel’s “Messiah”, J.S. Bach’s, “Coronation Mass” during the Advent season, accompanied by members of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and the FSU Symphony Orchestra. In the Lenten Season we heard Dubois’ “Seven Last Words of Christ” and many other favorites of the season. We have the wonderful opportunity to assist music voice majors in the Music School to sing as “soloists” in our choir. Some of whom have gone from us and FSU to become a part of great music venues in the U.S.

Another part of the Music at Centenary is the hand bell and hand chime program. Through generous gifts from our church members in memory of family members, we have another way of expressing music in our worship services.

Centenary Camp is still a vital part of our programs. During the fall months, Centenary enjoys going to the camp for a worship service. This is a special time for those who have grown up with the camping experiences in the summer months of their youth. We enjoy the special activities of “Camp”. This includes volleyball, hiking and swimming in the pool. Being at the camp always includes remembering “when” and “what” we did at camp.

We continue to be active in our community with other Churches. One particular activity is the **World Day of Prayer** held on the first Friday of March at noon. This started many years ago in cooperation with the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy. The Church Women United, a national community of women from other denominations, was organized to work for others in need in their communities. The programs presented in the World Day of Prayer are focused on local missions. These women work cooperatively, with monetary gifts to assist those in need. We still celebrate unity with women of other churches.

STAFF AND PERSONNEL CHANGES

- A.** In July, 2007, Pastor Jack and Cindy Tilk, and their children, Eleanor “Elly,” Joey and Andrew, arrived in Quincy to follow Pastor T. Glenn Bosley-Mitchell and his wife, Gay, as Pastor at Centenary. Joey entered Tallavana Christian School, and Cindy became Office Manager there. Elly and Andrew entered Robert F. Munroe Day School, from which Elly graduated in 2010, and then entered Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, that fall, graduating in May 2014. Elly entered Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina in August 2014 for a Master’s Degree in Theology.
- B.** Beth Edwards, who ably served as Centenary’s church secretary from 2001 until November 2005, was followed by Kay Roach in April 2006, who took on the duties of Older Adult Coordinator in addition to her administrative duties. Kay became actively involved with other aspects of church ministry as well, serving as president in 2010 of the NW District of United Methodist Women in the Florida Conference, and becoming Vice President of the United Methodist Women in November 2013.
- C.** Mae Schroeder began assisting with Housekeeping duties in 2013, and K.D. Edwards continues to serve efficiently as our Head Custodian.
- D.** In February 2007, Molly Mautz resigned as Director of Education and Programs, and relocated with her family to Tampa. Following Molly’s departure, Denise Fletcher and Ellen Watson served as Children’s Coordinator until Nichole Nordschow, a voice major from Chicago at Florida State University, was hired in June 2009 as Youth Director, and under her supervision the Youth worked on several mission projects, including a trip to Newport, Tennessee. During this time, the youth group was called **Students Participating Actively in Missions Group**.
- Nichole graduated in May 2011, and returned to her home in Chicago, and was followed for the summer by Ellen Watson, who worked with the seven **SPAM** youths at the Hispanic Outreach Day Camp at Centenary Camp.
- E.** Lucy Whitehead became music director in 2004, and retired in May 2010. David Haas, a graduate student in choral directing at Florida State University from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, assumed the duties of Music Director in July 2010. David earned his Master’s Degree in Music with an emphasis on Choral Conducting in June 2012, and accepted a position as Associate Director of Choirs at Iowa City West High School in Iowa City, Iowa immediately afterward.
- F.** In August 2011, Ian Collins, a student at Tallahassee Community College, was hired as Youth Director, and in October 2011, Sarah Haas, the wife of our new Music Director, David Haas, and enrolled at Florida State University in pursuit of a master’s degree in speech therapy, was hired as Children’s Activity Director. Sarah graduated in May 2013, and departed soon after to join her husband, who had accepted a position in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in 2012 upon his graduation from Florida State University.

- G. Following David Haas's departure, Matthew Bishop, our current Music Director, assumed those duties in October 2012. Matthew is working on a double Master's Degree in Musicology and Orchestral Conducting at Florida State University.
- H. In 2004, long-time church member Marjorie Morgan had replaced Bill Smith as church organist; Marjorie retired in 2013, and the position was then filled by Kerri Fowler of Tallahassee.
- I. In March 2012, Ian Collins resigned as Youth Director. That position was then combined with the position of Children's Minister, and renamed Director of Children and Youth Ministries, and assumed by Amy Rooks of Tampa in July 2013.

Missions

A. The three circles of Centenary's United Methodist Women have mission projects here at home and worldwide for children, youth and women who are most vulnerable, and the members also contribute generously year after year to numerous local, national and global missions. The UMW continues to sponsor the sale of Easter lilies on Easter Sunday with the proceeds marked for missions.

1. Meals on Wheels – Five teams comprised of Centenary's membership have delivered the daily meals to the homebound of Gadsden County's indigent senior citizens since 2002.

2. Knit Wits – This group of Centenary women began meeting weekly about 2007 to knit sweaters which are delivered to needy children all over the world. Due to the growth of this project, *Guideposts*, the original administrator, turned over the operation to *World Vision*, sponsored by Franklin Graham. By April 2014, Centenary had shipped 537 handmade sweaters to *World Vision*, with the latest sweaters going to Albania, Bosnia, El Salvador, Malawi, Rwanda and Swaziland. The Centenary membership is reminded to wear a sweater on *Sweater Sunday*, the last Sunday in January, when all the completed sweaters made throughout the year are displayed on the chancel rail and blessed, and then mailed to *World Vision*.

B. Methodist Children's Home, Enterprise, Florida - Centenary allocates the fifth Sunday offering for *The Children's Home*, which provides year-round residential care for approximately 300 children needing out-of-home care. The *Emergency Shelter* at the home provides short-term placement care, the *Elizabeth Home* provides care for teen mothers and their babies, the *Independent Living Service* provides care for residents needing assistance transitioning into adulthood, the *Career Development Center* provides job skills and work experience, the *Sexually Reactive Behavior Program* provides therapy for boys who have been abused sexually, and in *Equine Assisted Psychotherapy*, horses are used to aid in the healing process. Back-to-school supplies are gathered by Centenary members each August for the children at *The Children's Home* as they begin the new school year.

A new facility currently under construction, the **Madison Youth Ranch**, in Madison, Florida, will provide additional residential care for children in need.

C. United Methodist Church Thrift Shop of Gadsden/Liberty Counties in Greensboro: Begun in 1977, the *Thrift Shop* has operated for 37 years through the efforts of volunteer church members. Currently, Centenary's Jim and Sonja Durrwachter volunteer monthly, along with other volunteers from the other churches in the two counties to keep *The Thrift Shop* open on Saturday afternoons. The cost of the building rent and utilities are covered by the sales of *The Thrift Shop*.

D. Habitat for Humanity: In May 2010, Big Bend Habitat for Humanity thanked Centenary for its contribution of \$13,753.88 toward the *Gadsden Faith Build*, a three bedroom house located on 10th and Laura Streets in Quincy. Centenary members participated in this build, along with volunteers from First Presbyterian Church in Quincy and the Chattahoochee United Methodist Church in Chattahoochee. The home was completed in August 2010, with the family moving in immediately, and the youngest child beginning the new school year at George F. Munroe Elementary School.

E. Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry – This worldwide ministry collected more than 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes in November 2013, and shipped them world-wide to children affected by war, poverty, famine and disaster in 130 countries. Centenary had sent 35 boxes in 2012, but thanks to the creative solicitation of gift items by Kay Roach, Centenary's secretary, Centenary filled 104 shoe boxes in 2013. A thank you letter Centenary received from a pastor in 2010 in Himachal Pradesh in northern India, who is providing a home for ten impoverished boys with Hindu backgrounds, provided touching insight into the impact this program is having: "The (Samaritan Purse) box you sent reached in our house and got one of our children. He became very much happy by seeing the amazing things in the box."

F. Lunches for the Alzheimer's Project of Gadsden County - Centenary provides lunch to the Respite Care Program at Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Quincy on the first Thursday of each month. Along with lunch, this also provides an opportunity for social interaction for those suffering from Alzheimer's, Parkinson Disease, stroke and other medical conditions, and provides a much-needed free day for caregivers, as well.

G. UMCOR: The United Methodist Committee on Relief was designed so that 100% of all donations go directly to provide immediate relief of acute human need and to respond to the suffering caused by natural or ecological disasters and political turmoil. In April 2010, Centenary UMC provided \$760.00 to UMCOR through special offerings to assist with earthquake relief in Haiti. In March of every year, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to UMCOR.

H. Angel Fuster Methodist Church, Our Sister Church in Santa Clara, Cuba – By 1961, Cuba's Castro regime had so severely curtailed the work of the Cuban Methodist Church that all missionaries and most clergy had fled to the United States. It was not until 30 years later that doors had begun to open for limited church activities and visits from U.S. teams. The Cuban-Florida Covenant developed from that point in an effort to share values, create interchanges and relationships, and to respond to the Cuban Methodist need for financial resources, training, sharing of history and culture, and spirituality. Soon after, Centenary's Administrative Council voted unanimously to enter into a covenant with Angel Fuster Methodist Church in Santa Clara, Cuba, and in 2004, Centenary and its Foundation raised the \$7,000 needed to assist in purchasing a parsonage for our sister church. Kay Roach was recognized in a

ceremony conducted during a September 2012 church service as an ambassador to Santa Clara, Cuba for her missions work there, and in September 2013, Centenary sent \$400, and the United Methodist Women sent \$245, to the Santa Clara United Methodist Women to be used as needed for their congregation. Centenary and Salem United Methodist Church in Havana are presently working together to meet the \$4,000.00 cost of bringing Pastor Marcio Torres and Mrs. Torres to Quincy in October 2014.

I. Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets – Centenary reaches out into the community in various ways during the holidays. In 2009, Centenary assisted First Presbyterian Church in Quincy with the preparation of food for 250 – 300 people at Christ Town Ministries on Thanksgiving Day. Also in 2009, the Holy Mixers and UMW Circle 1 prepared 12 Thanksgiving baskets for our shut-ins. In October 2012, Centenary provided turkey baskets for clients of the Florida State University Early Head Start Program for Gadsden County. In December 2013, Centenary provided turkey baskets with all the trimmings for forty Gadsden County families who were clients of three groups: The Refuge House in Gadsden County, the Florida State University Early Headstart Program in Gadsden County, the Brehon Institute in Gadsden County and The Shade Tree Group, which works under the auspices of Killlearn UMC in Tallahassee, and is based in Gretna.

CENTENARY CAMP

In 1994, Centenary Camp was only used about three or four weeks during the summer, and four to six weekends during the spring and fall. The camp was available for rent by other groups, but there were no organized sessions held there serving the community at that time. The camp was governed by a volunteer board comprised of members from various churches in the district and representatives from Love at Work, Big Bend Walk to Emmaus and Centenary United Methodist Church.

With the combined efforts of Dr. Charles Rockwood with the North Florida Rotary Youth Camp and ten affiliated area Rotary Clubs, others from Centenary United Methodist Church, and the United Methodists in Mission (NOMADS), who travel from site to site providing construction aid, extensive repairs were completed at the camp. Dormitories were air conditioned, and a new 2,200 square foot staff building was constructed at a cost of \$70,000. \$60,000 was invested in a major renovation to the pool in order to pass the state health department's inspection, and the state's regulations also required new water and septic systems be installed. A craft building was converted into a chapel with the assistance of the Walk to Emmaus Community. The entire camp was made handicap accessible.

But the camp was struggling to continue. Most of the revenue was from rentals, and donations from churches and individuals were unpredictable. In 2006, the camp board hired Dave and Donna Bruns as on-site camp directors, and the Bruns have built on the earlier successes. Dave handles the majority of maintenance issues instead of hiring contractors, as was done previously. The first project was to make much-needed renovations to the camp director's house: new windows, carpeting, a new laundry room and a new bathroom were installed, and the master bedroom was enlarged, all with little cost to the camp because the Bruns donated the majority of the supplies, and did the work.

Other successful renovations include:

- 1) A partially enclosed equipment shed was converted into an air conditioned classroom and is now utilized as a space for serving meals, conducting studies or for crafts.
- 2) Two completely handicap-accessible restrooms with showers were constructed behind the classroom. The large covered patio area, and a smaller covered area, which is already furnished with a grill, will become an outdoor kitchen.
- 3) The cabin which was historically referred to as “Paradise” (it was the only air conditioned cabin, initially) has since been converted into a two-bedroom cabin with a small kitchenette, and is designed for use by counselors or pastors whenever they are assisting at camp.
- 4) A small kitchenette was installed in the Lodge, and doors were cut to make the meeting area accessible from two of the bedrooms. Individuals and churches have assumed the responsibility of furnishing curtains, rugs, shower curtains and other accessories for specific rooms in the Lodge to make these spaces attractive and livable for campers.
- 5) A large metal workshop/storage facility was constructed, and a small office building was acquired.
- 6) A new snack hut has just been completed in time for the 2014 camping season.

From the beginning, Donna had a dream to sponsor a day camp for low income minority children where they would be taught to swim and to love our Lord. The first year each camper received a swim suit and most learned to swim by the end of the week. The day camp has now expanded to three one-week sessions with as many as 80 children attending per week. A swimming instructor and a lifeguard are hired each year. Volunteers from the area handle the rest of the responsibilities, including arts and crafts, bible teaching and field sports. Many of the teenage helpers have volunteered at the camp for several years. The day camps are held when Love at Work is renting the camp; this arrangement works because LAW goes out to do mission projects in nearby communities during the day, and is therefore absent from the camp during the day. Those attending day camp have left the camp before LAW returns at the end of the day.

In 2011, the additional dream of conducting an overnight camp became a reality. In the beginning there were only a few children attending, but this has grown into two camps running concurrently with up to 40 children in the younger children’s age group, and up to forty additional children in the older age group, as well. Several ministers have volunteered to do the bible studies on these occasions, and others either volunteer or receive minimal stipends for assisting.

The camp became a part of the Florida Annual Conference in October 2009, but Centenary Camp continues to strive to be self-sustaining. A growing group of dedicated volunteers continue to assist David and Donna Bruns with projects as the need arises. Regular renters who presently utilize the camp include Love at Work, The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Big Bend Walk to Emmaus, the Catholic Church, Kairo Inside and The Wesleyan Foundation. The camp is also available for weddings, family reunions, church picnics/fun day, high school sports camp, birthday and anniversary celebrations, retreats and bible studies, and for confirmation groups, scrap booking groups, quilting clubs and other similar social groups and occasions.

www.centenaryquincy.org/uploads/documents/Homecoming185.pdf