



INVITING IN...
GROWING UP...
SENDING OUT...

Benton United Methodist Church
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The Message

April 7, 2013

The Good and Beautiful Life: Learning to Live Without Lying

Matthew 5: 33-37

April 14, 2013

The Good and Beautiful Life: Learning to Bless Those Who Curse Us

Matthew 5: 43-48

April 21, 2013

The Good and Beautiful Life: Learning to Live Without Vainglory

Luke 18: 11-14

April 29, 2013

The Good and Beautiful Life: Learning to Live Without Avarice

Matthew 6: 19-24, 33

Prayer Concerns

Deaths

Benny Wright
Stacy Larkin
Wayne Lunsford
Bennie Hickman
Joan Johnson
Gladys Streicher
Barbara Hicks
Harry Chenault
Lila Booth
Troy Landrum

The Arbor House (Monroe)

Frankie Rodes

Cypress Point

Beverly Quillin
Freeman Flowers

Garden Park

Ed Berridge

Horizon Bay

Lois Beck
Bill & Liz DeBusk
Ruth Dixon
Frances Dunnam
Evelyn Futch
Everlene Harvey
Martha Ree Jones
Elsie Whittington
Sybil Vickers

NWLA War Veterans Home

Leon Faught

Pilgrim Manor

Virginia Duke
Dollie Harrington
Archie Husser
Nellie Wyche

Requests

Jennifer Warner
Jerry Paylor
Nancy Wilde
Isella Reed
Missy Faust
Rev. Rick Byargeon
Earl Redding
Rev. Bob Deich
James Stewart
Stacie Zarroli
Jim & Pam Taylor
Rachael Broussard
Rev. Jayne Trammel-Kelly
Dana Cherry
Jeannine Garner
Danan Tasby
Karrie DeBusk Irwin
Bennetta Ballew
David Todd Weaver
Imogene Wright
Cade Robinson
Glenn Brewer

Braden Winterman

Cheryl Robison
Marguerite Hudson
Coy Long
Donna Cherry
Keenan Ebarb
Janet Hobbs
Ben Gleason
Cason Upchurch
Judy Cummings
Robby Roberson
Bonnie Smith
Rachel Stoneman
Hannah Cherry
Sandi Baldwin
Michelle Kinney
Charlie & Alice Snellgrove
Louise Carter
Don Matthews
Erma Wall
Matt & family
Emmie Green
Doug & Debbie Filler
Mia Odom
Stephanie Hair
Crystal Carter
McKenzie Byers
Gwen Hodge
Kim Pullen
Glenn Scharch
Marry Ann Green
Taylor Henry

Don Duke

Dielma
Karen Johnson
Celina Alexander
Martha Yates

Military

Troops and Leaders
Thomas Greathouse
LaVelton Woodberry
Brian Leo
Josh Van Boening

Community Concerns

Government Leaders
Addiction ministry
Peace in Middle East
Flu epidemic
Families in crisis
Gun Violence
Veteran's Home Build

Church Concerns

Missions (Local, National, and International)
Small Groups & Leaders
Church Leadership
Church Staff
Our Pastor & Family
Our Church Family
Seminary Studies
Confirmation Class

In The News

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INsight

April 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Benton United Methodist Church



Grace and peace to you in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ!

Welcome to the fifty days of Easter! The season of Easter in the Christian Year spans for fifty days from Easter Sunday (March 31st) through Pentecost Sunday (May 19th). Biblically this season is partially accounted for in Acts 1:3 – “After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during *forty* days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” It is estimated that there was ten days between Jesus’ ascension up to Heaven and the day of Pentecost (the gift of the Holy Spirit/Comforter/Advocate).

So, what are you going to do with your fifty days of Easter? It is real easy to fall back into our pre-Lent and pre-Easter lifestyles and forget to allow God to love us through the spiritual disciplines of:

- ◆ Prayer throughout each day
- ◆ Daily Bible study
- ◆ Weekly worship
- ◆ Celebrating the Lord’s Supper as much as possible
- ◆ Keeping the Sabbath holy
- ◆ Fasting and abstinence from whatever seems to be our obsessions that take our focus off of God’s Kingdom
- ◆ Tithing to Lord (giving 10% of our income) to help money to not be the main focus in our live
- ◆ Serving God and neighbors with our gifts of the Spirit
- ◆ Giving of alms (helping our economically challenged brothers and sisters with a hand up and not a hand out)
- ◆ Sharing God’s love with someone who needs hope, peace, love and joy in their life

In all of these disciplines (and many more) we open ourselves up to experience the love of God that raised Jesus from the dead. In and through these disciplines of our faith, we give ourselves to God and we receive and experience the blessings of the Kingdom of God.

During the fifty days of Easter are you going to spend quality time with Jesus like the first disciples did? During this holy season of Easter the invitation is to focus our lives around the things that matter in the Kingdom of God - Loving God and Loving our neighbor as ourselves. It all comes down to loving. If what we do in any given day does not love God and/or neighbor or support the Kingdom Ideals of grace, mercy and justice, is it really worth our time doing it?

During the fifty days of Easter I challenge you to focus the majority of your energy and resources upon your relationships with God and neighbor. Neighbors are anyone who is in need of anything. When Jesus was asked “Who is my neighbor?” He answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan. The neighbor was the one who showed mercy. Are you ready to take the Fifty Day Challenge? Your world will be a better place because of it!

Grace and peace,
Rev. Danny Gleason
Senior Pastor

Mark Your Calendar

April 5-6

Lay Servant School

April 20 ◆ 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Spring Fling & Car Show
Car show, games, food and fun— family event!

April 21 ◆ 7:15 a.m.

United Methodist Men’s Breakfast
Call the church office at 965-2273 for information.

April 23 ◆ 11:30 a.m.

O.P.A.L.S.

~ Special Musical Guests

See page 3 for more information

April 21 ◆ 7:15 a.m.

United Methodist Men’s BBQ
Call the church office at 965-2273 to order your BBQ!

See page 3 for more information

May 3-5

FUNDamentals of Worship
~Women’s Weekend

Deepen your spiritual understanding of how and why we worship the Living Lord
See page 3 for more information

When life puts you in a ditch...

Life just happens. I have a blessed life, and I am extremely thankful. But just as each one of us has experienced, sometimes I get off track and need to be pulled back onto the solid ground.

This was illustrated in a very real way this week when I literally drove my car in a ditch! My small group for the "Good and Beautiful life" study had just finished a wonderful meal in the home of Virginia Lewis and a conversation about what we had learned about ourselves during our 48 media fast. We shared our struggles and our blessings and how we would live differently because of our awareness of how lust creeps into our life.

I was the first to back out. Unfortunately, I had not cleared the driveway when I made my turn and found myself with the front tire suspended over the ditch. I was sideways in the drive, the back side of the car a foot in the air and the front right side sitting deep in soft ground. It certainly was not my intention, but accidents happens.

The checking account is overdrawn, a sudden illness, a tragic accident, an infidelity; we have all experienced something that put us in the ditch. As I have thought over the events that happened after I found myself in this predicament, I think it might make a pathway for anytime we find ourselves off course.

- ◆ I was surrounded by Christian friends who lifted the situation up in prayer immediately.
- ◆ I called on Brother Danny for assistance. He immediately came and brought a neighbor to help.
- ◆ Even though they did not have the equipment to pull me out of the ditch, I had more people there to encourage me.
- ◆ I called a 24 hour towing service and they came with the proper equipment to lift my car out of the ditch and back on the driveway.

When life happens, here is the formula to get out of the ditch:

- ◆ Don't try to fix the problem yourself. Pray and ask others to pray with you.
- ◆ Seek the help of your pastor or other spiritual counsel.
- ◆ If one method of assistance doesn't help, know that there are other ways provided to assist you.
- ◆ FROG: Fully Rely On God. Rest in peace knowing that he truly loves and cares for you.

~Dianne



BUILDING FUND UPDATE

WOW! With our April mortgage payment, our loan amount will go below \$800,000.00. We have paid over \$200,000 in principal payments in the last six months! Wouldn't it be wonderful to have our Family Life Worship Center paid off before December 31, 2015? Your faithful and generous gifts can make that possible.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you for your generous gifts to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) through our special offering. We received \$897.00 that will be used for administrative cost so that when a relief effort is underway 100% of your gift for that disaster is used to aid those who need our help.



The LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM is made up of nine (9) church lay members, the pastor and the Lay Leader. Formerly called the "Nomination Committee", this team is responsible for selecting servant leaders for Teams, committees and boards. This team is composed of spiritually grounded persons who know the membership, can see spiritual gifts, and are called to identify the leaders who will help us fulfill our missions of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The team works throughout the year preparing job descriptions (now ongoing), working with the church staff and other groups to carry out projects as they are developed and responsible for identifying members whose spiritual gifts fit a leadership position.

Finalizations of new leaders who will be asked to serve your church for three years is completed in early fall.

The new nomination list is presented for approval to the Church Council. The final step is acceptance at the Charge Conference in October or early November. If you are interested in working on this key team, speak to one of its members and then let your desires be known. Currently the lay leadership team is seeking servants for the upcoming April 20th Spring Fling.

This team is lead by our pastor (Danny Gleason) and co-chair is the Lay Leader (Ron Jones). The present members are (Class of 2013 - their last year) Catherine Long, Wendy Reynolds, and Pam DeBusk; (Class of 2014) Kim Cox, Tanya White and Lea Ann Clements; (Class of 2015) Connie Wasson, Margie Covington and Ginny Jones.

Next month we will take a look at the Staff-Parish Relations Committee which is kind of like the corporate Human Relations Department.

Blessings to all,
Ron Jones

Servant of the Month...



Patsy Burnes

Serving isn't about being at the forefront of the action. Many times it means being in the background doing the work that others don't necessarily see.

Our April Servant of the Month definitely is one who quietly serves behind the scenes. Patsy Burnes faithfully makes sure that our congregation has a wonderful meal each time we come together as a

congregation to eat. She does this on a regular basis for our Wednesday Night Live meals, weekly, but she is also there to prepare meals for those special events, such as our Great Reunion Dinner, the United Methodist Women's Tables of Love Style Show luncheon, and most recently, our wonderful Christian Seder meal served on Maundy Thursday.

Not many people realize the work that is involved in planning and preparing meals for large groups. Patsy orders all of the food needed for a variety of nutritious meals, as well as all of the supplies needed to serve the meals (plates, cups, utensils, etc.). She and her team of generous volunteers make sure that we all are greeted with a delicious variety of foods, served by smiling faces, in a very organized manner. She then makes sure that everything in the kitchen is cleaned up and stored in an orderly manner. Many of us have trouble doing these tasks in our own homes, much less for our whole congregation! Patsy has been faithful to feed us physically as she feeds us spiritually with her fine example of service. Thank you Patsy!

We have so many wonderful servants in our congregation. If you would like to nominate someone for the Servant of the Month for May, please call the church office at (318) 965-2273 and let us know.



Camp Caney

EXTRA!! EXTRA!! Camp Caney is **CLOSED**. But just for this summer and the summer camp program will go on as normal at the Owl Center. For over four years Camp Caney has been working utilize a grant that was acquired by our very own Robert Adley so Camp Caney's facilities could be renovated and brought into the 21st century. Well it is happening now. The Bid process for a \$1.75 million started March 18, 2013 and will close April 18, 2013. Actual work to completely redo the camp's electrical, plumbing and gas systems, to renovate completely the kitchen and dining hall, to redo the Recreation Hall and construct new cabins should begin in May and be complete by November or December. It will be an almost **NEW CAMP**.

CAMP CANEY WILL HAVE OUR THREE CAMPS THIS YEAR (2013). Arrangements have been made to use the **Owl Center** for three weeks this year so we can renovate Camp Caney.

Camp Caney (at the Owl Center) Dates:

- ◆ Senior High Camp June 10-14 (entering 9th-12th grades)
- ◆ Junior High Camp June 17-21 (entering 7th-8th grades)
- ◆ Pre-Camp July 5-7 (entering 3rd-4th grades)
- ◆ Elementary Camp July 8-12 (entering 5th-6th grades)

Registration information, forms, costs and directions to the OWL Center can be found on the camp website at www.caneycamp.com. Also there are a number of leadership and counselor positions open if you are interested. Finally, there are scholarships available for those who can't afford the registration fee. You can contact Dianne Wilkinson to see if you qualify. If you have never been to a Christian Camp, speak to those who have and truly consider Camp Caney at the Owl Center this year.

Donor Recognition Tree

New Leaves Placed In Memory Of:

Jack Grisham

by Carol Jean & Billy Tom Johnston
by the Eva Smith Sunday School Class
by Sue & Bill Richards and Family

Donor leaves are available for a
minimum donation of \$100 in the church office
in memory or in honor of your loved one.
All donations go to the Building Fund.

April 2013

at a glance

WEEKLY & MONTHLY

Sunday

Traditional Worship 8:30 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship 10:50 a.m.
 Children's Church 11:10 a.m. (for ages 3-5th grade)
 Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
 United Methodist Men's Breakfast 3rd Sunday at 7:15 a.m.

Tuesday

Prayer Team 9:00 a.m.
 Choir Practice at 5:30 p.m.
 NWLA Food Bank Delivery & Truck Unloading
 Tuesday before 3rd Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.
 NWLA Food Bank Bag Packing
 Tuesday before 3rd Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
 OPALS (Older People with Active Life Styles)
 4th Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.
 Sutton Children's Hospital 6:00 p.m.
 (4th Tuesday, Contact: Ron Jones at 469-3693)

Wednesday

Wednesday Night Live Dinner 5:30 p.m.
 Every Wednesday
 Small Groups & Studies 6:15 p.m.
 Every Wednesday
 INcounter Student Worship 6:15 p.m.
 Every Wednesday
 The Closet Clothes Ministries 1:00 p.m.
 (1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, Contact: Sue Shadow at 655-1580)
 Shreveport Bossier Rescue Mission 4:15 p.m.
 (2nd Wednesday, Contact: Bo May at 347-8341)
 The Closet Clothes Ministries 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 (3rd Wednesday, Contact: Sue Shadow at 655-1580)
 The Table Food Ministries Food Distribution
 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
 (3rd Wednesday, Contact: Rachel Stoneman at 965-2273)
 United Methodist Women Morning Glories Circle
 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Pairs & Spares Room

Thursday

Praise Team Practice at 5:30 p.m.
 Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 p.m. in Pairs & Spares
 Al-Anon 6:00 p.m. in the Breakfast Club
 United Methodist Women Nightingales Circle
 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Eva Smith Room

Saturday

Super Souper Saturday
 (Last Saturday)
 Souper Saturday 8:00 a.m.
 The Table Food Ministries Distribution 9:00 a.m.
 The Closet Clothes Ministries 9:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday.

Church Office Help 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 pm.

AND

Friday

Church Office Help 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

EVENTS

Call the church office at 965-2273 or email
 bentonumc@bellsouth.net to submit your calendar
 items.

Thank you...

Dear Faithful Friends,
 Thank you for your recent donation to Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services. Your gift supports a wide array of residential and community-based ministries we offer in Louisiana, which positively impact the lives of our children and families. Learn more about the services you support by visiting our website at www.LMCH.org and look forward to the next issue of *Pathways*, our quarterly newsletter. Again, thank you for your gift. You have done a great thing!
 Sincerely,
 Rick Wheat
 President and CEO

Dear Friends
 in Mission:

Thank you for your generous gift to **United Methodist Committee on Relief**. 100 percent of your contribution will go to Hurricanes 2012, Advance #3021787 through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The United Methodist Church. Your gift is supporting UMCOR's response to survivors of hurricanes that made landfall during the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Because you gave, UMCOR is able to "Be There" and "Be Hope" on your behalf. UMCOR programs provide food for the hungry, help farmers grow plentiful and nutritious food, and support people left destitute by natural disasters and war. Your gifts go a long way to bring healing and hope to people in need. We give thanks for your generosity. You can find out more about UMCOR's work by visiting our website at www.umcor.org or by calling 212-870-3611. If you would like to learn more about **The Advance**, please visit www.advancinghope.org. Your gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,
 Roland Fernandes
 General Treasurer
 UMCOR

If you would like to meet with Rev. Danny, please call the church office at 965-2273 to set up an appointment.

For your convenience the office is open
 Monday-Thursday
 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 including the noon hour.

Bro. Danny is available for evening appointments if needed.

United Methodist Men's Barbecue



Wednesday, April 24th

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Across from the Courthouse

It's that time of year again for our mouths to be watering over chicken, ribs, and sausage perfectly grilled by our UMM chefs.

Call the church office at 965-2273
 by Tuesday, April 23rd to order your BBQ!

United Methodist Women News...

First, let me say, "Thank you, thank you, thank you!" to all who worked together to make our annual style show a success. The Tables of Love were overflowing with warm conversation and delicious food. We were entertained with great music and saw more than a few of today's current fashions. We made over \$1,800.00!!! This money will be used to assist various local missions the Benton UMW supports.

We have been invited to Barksdale UMC on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00 p.m., for their salad/dessert dinner. Rev. Cheryl Nelson will be their guest speaker, so please plan to attend.

On Saturday, April 6, Pat Mosher will lead a Mission Study on Immigration. This cluster meeting will be hosted by the Plain Dealing UMW, beginning at 9:00 am. Please bring a sack lunch.

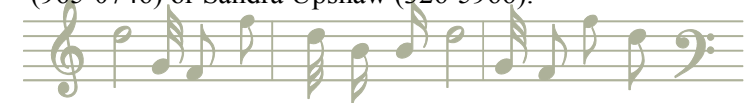
Anyone interested in joining us in our efforts for creative and supportive fellowship, as well as working to participate in many, many ministries, is invited to join the Benton United Methodist Women. We currently have two circles (small groups) that meet once a month. The Nightingales meet the third **Thursday** evening at 6:30 pm in the Eva Smith Room. The Morning Glories meet the fourth Wednesday at 9:30 am in the Pairs and Spares room. Please join either group to enjoy a time of fellowship and study. Each month a short program is presented by a member on a variety of topics of interest.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the church office or Katherine Ashley @965-5586.

OPALS...

The OPALS (Older People with Active LifeStyles) are excited about our meeting Tuesday, April 23, at 11:30 in the FLWC. Faye Powell and David Jones will be our musical guests, bringing a wide variety of old-time instruments to entertain us with gospel music. Faye plays sixteen instruments, including the Q-chord, Melodica, Washboard, Big Foot and Fiddle Bill – have you even heard of some of them?! Of course she plays the very recognizable Dulcimer, Ukulele, Tambourine, Autoharp and others. The music is lively and she invites everyone to join in the fun.

Folks of all ages are invited – lunch costs \$5, and you must make a reservation by April 21; just call Sue House (965-0746) or Sandra Upshaw (326-5966).



FUNDamentals of Worship

Rev. Cheryl Nelson is co-facilitating a women's weekend with her good friend Cheryl Fell of Scott, LA. They hosted six such weekends from 2001-2006, and now seven years later, they are preparing this special "Reunion Retreat," and all women are invited to attend. The theme is **FUNDamentals of Worship**, with Cheryl Fell providing the "fun" and Rev. Cheryl leading a study on the "basics" of worship. Cheryl Fell is a motivational speaker who has traveled across the country as "Nurse Funshine." She is the author of a self-help book, Sunny Side Up: Health and Happiness by the Dozen.

The retreat will be held May 3-5, 2013, at the Wesley Center, located just south of Alexandria in Woodworth. The weekend will begin Friday evening with a meal at 5:30 and opening gathering at 7:00; it will end Sunday, after the noon meal. The cost of the weekend will be \$125 for each participant, which includes two nights' lodging, six meals and use of the facility.

FUNDamentals of Worship promises to be a special treat for the weekend before Mother's Day – give it to yourself as a present! There will be ample time for resting, hiking, walking the outdoor labyrinth, participating in board games and jigsaw puzzles, making the banner and just visiting! Plus, you will be able to deepen your spiritual understanding of how and why we worship the Living Lord as Rev. Cheryl shares her personal story involving three distinct aspects of worship. Just being at the Wesley Center is a treat—if you have never experienced the blessing of the Louisiana Conference, then it is time you did!

If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact:

Rev. Cheryl at (318) 422-0914

Registration forms are available in the church office that you can send directly to the Wesley Center.





Beach BUMS News

News for Parents and Kids (ages 3 years old through fifth grade)



What a wonderful time of year! I remember a song from my childhood that says, "Every morning is Easter morning from now on!" How true is that? Let's live the rest of our lives with the joy of Easter in our hearts everyday! What better way to do that than with a song in our hearts!

MUSIC MATTERS!



Starfish Chorus has been busy, and it really shows! The Easter music shared with our congregation was certainly a blessing. Many thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Hable for her hard work in helping **GROW UP** our faith as we prepare our music. We will soon begin our preparations for our next musical production, "Down by the Creek Bank". Watch for details in your bulletin and on Facebook.

April and May will be very busy months in school - tests, field day, graduations, and more! We will be making our weekly **Footprints in the Sand** treats for our teachers as well as some testing treats for our friends at school. We will work on these on Monday evening, April 1st and Sunday evening, April 7th. Join us for some work but lots of fun! Be a part of **SENDING OUT** God's love to our community!



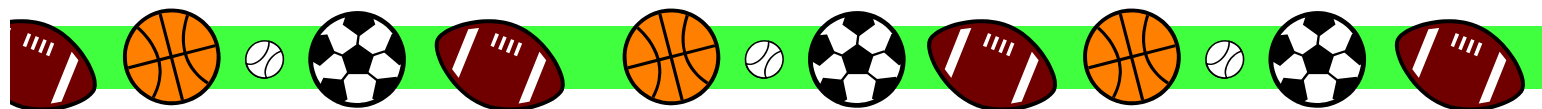
And June is just around the corner! Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it! If you haven't already, mark your calendars for June 17 - 21 and **BRING IN** your friends! We are going to have more fun than a barrel of monkeys!! We will have an epic Bible adventure at **KINGDOM ROCK - Where Kids Stand Strong for God!**



I know softball and baseball season are cranking up. Bring me a schedule so I can get out to the park and see a game or two!

Check out your next newsletter for other upcoming opportunities to **GROW UP** your faith and **SEND OUT** your love!

Until next time, let your **BEACH BUMS** light shine!



IN Student Ministries

INvite ♦ INcounter ♦ INcrease ♦ INgage ♦ INteract
2 Corinthians 5:17

Upcoming Events

INCOUNTER STUDENT WORSHIP
6:15-7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

INSTUDENT SMALL GROUP STUDY (AT WINTERMAN HOME)
6:00-7:30 P.M.
SUNDAYS, APRIL 7, 14 & 21
"COURAGE" BY FRANCIS CHAN

INCOUNTER STUDENT WORSHIP
6:15-7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

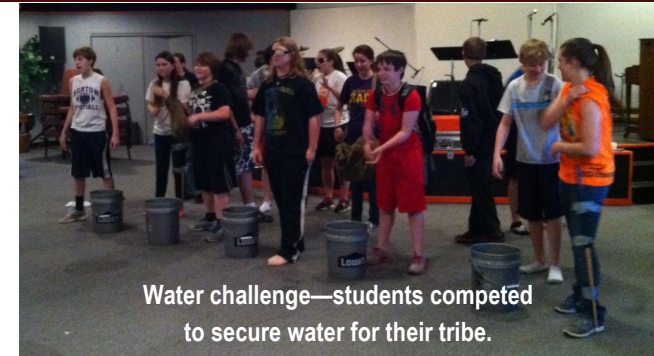
GIRLS' LUNCH AND SHOPPING @ THE BOARDWALK
11:30 A.M.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13
MEET AT THE CHURCH WITH SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP AND MONEY TO EAT/SHOP

INCOUNTER STUDENT WORSHIP
6:15-7:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

INCOUNTER STUDENT WORSHIP
6:15-7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

SPORTS NIGHT PAINTBALL AT OFF LIMITS
1:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, APRIL 28
MEET AT CHURCH WITH SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP, WAIVER, \$55 AND APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

At IN Student Ministries, the student ministry of Benton United Methodist Church, our scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:17 which tells us that "...if anyone is IN Christ, they are a new creation. The old life is gone, and the new life has come." As a student ministry, we talk about the different ways to be IN Christ: INcountering God through worship, INcreasing our knowledge of Scripture, INViting other people into a relationship with us and Him, INteracting with each other in love, and INgaging in service with and to the world.



Water challenge—students competed to secure water for their tribe.

In February, 24 of our students took this very seriously and INgaged in our annual 30 Hour Famine. This event is put on through World Vision, a Christian organization that seeks to eradicate world hunger. The 24 students I mentioned went 30 hours without food, during which time they worshipped, served, studied Scripture, and had games and contests. The best part was that they gathered sponsors to raise money to feed starving children around the world. Through their hard work and dedication, and your tremendous support, these students raised \$5,777. This will feed just over 16 children per year in Jesus' name!

When I called World Vision to check on the online donations, the representative I spoke with was nearly speechless, because over the past two years (only our first two years doing the Famine) we have raised just over \$10,000. What a breathtaking number for a group of our size. Our student ministry, and our church as a whole, take Jesus' commands to care for "the least of these" very seriously. Our students understand what it means to be IN Christ.

Allow me to challenge you today to look for the ways that you can be IN Christ at your job, in your neighborhood, and throughout the world.

Peace be with you,
Chris



After 30 hours of fasting, the INstudent ministries band *Bringing Two* made and served breakfast to the United Methodist Men and then led worship for the congregation. Thank you for supporting our youth!