

# BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2010



## THE LOVE LETTER

### LYNN'S LINES . . .



Can you hear the voice of God? We strain to hear even the faintest whisper of God's voice, for we know what the prophet Elijah knew—that God speaks in the still, small voice, the gentle whisper, as it were. Most of us, if we are spiritually attuned at all, long to hear His voice so that we can be obedient. We love Him, and we want to express our love with joyful obedience. Sometimes, though, everyday life can crowd out our search for God, and He can seem so distant.

I want to let you know there is a way we can learn to listen in a more meaningful way for the voice of God. It is the practice of *spiritual direction*. Spiritual direction has been called by Thomas Merton as “nothing more than a way of leading us to see and obey the real Director — the Holy Spirit hidden in the depths of our soul.” Spiritual direction is one Christian helping another Christian pay attention to God's personal communication to him or her, to help him or her respond to God's personal communication, to help a person grow in intimacy with God, and to live out the consequences of that relationship. It is to bring a person alongside yourself to help you listen, respond, and grow in God's grace.

Why am I telling you this? It's because we now have two certified spiritual directors in our congregation. I was pleased and blessed to travel to The Wesley Center in Woodworth, LA, in May to participate in the “graduation” exercise for Dianne Wilkinson and Catherine Long as they completed the *Academy for Spiritual Leadership: The Path of Spiritual Direction*. It was a great day of celebration for Catherine and Dianne, and for all those who completed the two-year process.



Pastor Lynn with Dianne Wilkinson and Catherine Long at The Wesley Center

Catherine and Dianne have been busy putting their knowledge to work among us as they have placed prayer stations in the prayer chapel that will help to focus our praying in a more direct way. The first station was filled with pictures of local places and agencies that prompted us to pray for the group or agency in the photograph. The current station is an opportunity to contemplate our individual sins, but even more to recognize God's forgiveness. Stop by the Prayer Chapel and see what I mean.

Likewise, I am certain that Dianne and Catherine would be willing to meet with individuals for the opportunity of assisting them on their journey to a deeper understanding of God's desire for their lives. Call the church office and set up an appointment and see where the journey might be taking you.

One other thing you might consider. How about taking the same journey yourself? Log on to <http://www.la-umc.org/root/ministries/spiritual-formation/academy-for-spiritual-leadership> to discover more about the *Academy for Spiritual Leadership*, and discover how God might be calling you to use your gifts for the greater glory of His Kingdom. Or, if you have any questions, simply call me, Dianne or Catherine, and we will be glad to answer them as best we can.

Take advantage of this great gift the Lord has given us at Benton United Methodist Church. Congratulations Dianne and Catherine. Thanks for your faithfulness to God's call.

Until next time, keep looking up...

### SUNDAY EVENTS

**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m. (Summer)

**Sunday School**  
9:00 am  
(Summer—  
beginning July 11th)

**Children's Church**  
Age 3 - Grade 3  
10:20 am

### REGULAR EVENTS

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of each month  
**United Methodist Men**  
Breakfast 7:15 am

3<sup>rd</sup> TUESDAY at 6:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY at 9:30 a.m.  
**United Methodist Women**

TUESDAYS  
**Prayer Time**  
9:00 am

4<sup>th</sup> TUESDAY of each month  
**OPALS**  
11:30 am

WEDNESDAYS  
**Wednesday 'Nite' Live**  
5:30 pm  
**REACTION**  
**Student Worship**  
6:30 pm

Last SATURDAY of each month  
**Souper Saturday**  
8:00 am

From Dianne



### Church Finance 101

I will be glad to come to any Sunday school class or other group to talk to you about our church finances. In the mean time, let me give you some definitions that might be confusing. They say Methodists “talk funny” and I suppose they are right since we like to use acronyms for a lot of our conversations.

- ◆ **Tithe:** A minimum portion of 10% of your income given to your church. You can argue about whether all 10% should go to the church, whether it should be before or after taxes, but the Biblical standard is 10%, plus other offerings.
- ◆ **Pledge:** A portion of your income (whether a tithe or not) that you estimate that you will give to the church during the course of the year. This may be given weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually either at the end or beginning of the year. A pledge card is not a binding document. However the total amount of all pledges is what the Church Council uses as a guideline for determining the budget of the General Operating Fund.
- ◆ **Contribution:** A non-pledged gift. This is the hardest part of the contribution dollars to base an estimate on. It depends on how often you come to church, your level of commitment, if you have money in your pocket or a check with you. I love contributions and I understand that there those who do not wish to make a pledge. I challenge you to try running your business or household on these unknowns. No matter what your circumstance may be, please try to make a contribution to the church.
- ◆ **Designated Gift:** These are offerings given for a specific ministry (usually not covered by the general budget). This includes specific mission projects, Helping Hands ministry, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and at least 50 more special projects. When you choose to give to the Special Fund for a specific need that is already listed in the General Operating Budget, it negates the work and prayer that your church leaders and staff have given for the overall operation of our church.



### Financial Report

2010 June Financial Report		Bank Accounts	General Fund (Operating)	Building Fund	Designated Gifts
June 6	\$ 15,142.78	Opening Balance 5-31-10	\$ 76,043.51	\$ 17,873.35	\$ 34,715.63
June 13	7,436.00	Income	\$ 42,324.46	\$ 24,605.55	\$ 7,531.37
June 20	6,982.02	Expenses	\$ 53,970.09	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,919.78
June 27	9,430.00	Bank Balance 6-30-10	\$ 64,397.88	\$ 22,478.90	\$ 39,327.22
Received YTD	\$ 308,611.89	Mortgage			
2009 YTD	\$ 310,267.02	Principal balance 01/2010		\$ 1,496,489.71	
		Principal balance 06/2010		\$ 1,316,554.90	



### Kenneth Ashley, Stewardship Committee

*Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way that he should go and even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

When I left home as a young man I stopped going to church. College life was full of temptations and I chose not to resist. I had always been sort of a rebel.

A few years later when I entered medical training I began sharing a home with three Medical students, all of whom were committed Christians. On Monday nights they went to a youth gathering at the First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. I soon began going with them.

The church had a separate facility that accommodated all the youth activities. I still remember the smells coming out of the kitchen on those nights. The ladies cooked the most wonderful meals for us and that was the initial hook for a young starving man such as I was.

This was a critical time in my faith journey. It brought me back into contact with the Christian community, and renewed my faith in Christ.

This stewardship campaign is all about what I just described and much, much more. We are experiencing a population boom in the Benton area and there are many who will come to us wanting to reconnect.

Will we be ready to meet their needs? The answer for me is easy.

# Super Summer Sundays

**July 4th-August 15th**  
**Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School Classes at 9:00 a.m.** *(beginning July 11th)*

**July 4th ~ God and Country Celebration**

**July 11th ~ Ask the Pastor Sunday**

*During ask the pastor, you can text, raise your hand, or write your question down on the paper provided in your Sunday worship folder, a question that is biblical or theological in nature.*

**July 18th ~ Bluegrass Sunday**

**July 25th ~ Youth Sunday**

*This special service will be youth led.*

**August 1st ~ Back to School Backpack Blowout Sunday**

*Please bring a backpack stuffed with school supplies or uniforms that will be donated to the local schools.*

**August 8th ~ Beach B.U.M. Sunday**

*Wear you shorts, bring your suits and get ready to picnic at Cypress Black Bayou Park.*

**August 15th ~ Friendship Day**

*Bring your friends! The member who brings the most "unchurched" or "de-churched" friends to church this day can win a cruise for 2!*

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

In an effort to reach our un-churched and de-churched friends and neighbors, and encourage our members to be evangelistic by *inviting in* the community, Benton United Methodist Church will be giving away a Caribbean cruise for two on Friendship Day, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. To be eligible to be awarded the cruise for two, participants must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a professing member of Benton United Methodist Church.
2. Must be 18 years of age.
3. Must attend at least four of the seven Sundays between July 4 and August 15, 2010 (inclusive), and register attendance on the red attendance pads provided by the ushers.
4. Must accompany at least one "un-churched" or "de-churched" friend on August 15<sup>th</sup>, and register all friends on the forms provided by 11:00 a.m. on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - a) An "un-churched" person is one who has never made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and has never been a member of any Christian church.
  - b) A "de-churched" person is one who, though having professed faith in Jesus Christ, has been an inactive participant in a Christian church for the preceding 12 months. A "de-churched" person may or may not be a member of Benton UMC.
5. The member who meets the above requirements registering the most friends in attendance on August 15, 2010, will be awarded a travel certificate valued at \$900 that may be used to purchase a Caribbean cruise, or other travel as the person may choose.
6. In the event of a tie, the winner's name will be selected in a drawing.
7. Staff members and their spouses are ineligible to win.

### DAYCARE NEWS



#### Playground Equipment Fundraiser

The Benton UMC Day Care is selling cookie dough to raise funds for new playground equipment. Cookie dough is on sale now through July 9th. For every 10 tubs the church sells, they will get a 2 lb. tub free for the kitchen. Please order in the church office and make your checks payable to Benton UMC Day Care. Please call Karen at 965-4716 for more information

### UMW NEWS



#### Shreveport Bossier Rescue Mission

The Benton UMW is sponsoring an *Underwear Drive* for the Rescue Mission. Please help by donation **new boxers** for the men and **new cotton briefs** for the women. All sizes are needed.

Containers will be marked and placed in the North foyer. Please help the Rescue Mission with your contribution.

### OPALS

Older Persons with Active Lifestyles invites everyone to attend their meeting scheduled for July 27, 2010 in our Family Life Worship Center at 11:30 a.m. The Silver Foxes of the First United Methodist Church of Bossier City is a group of ladies ranging in age from 66 to 90 who meet twice a week to exercise. They will be here to show us flexibility and strength exercises that can be done while seated in a chair. There are a series of stretches and reaches with a resistance band. Join us for your health! Call Barbara Hays at 990-9952 to sign up.

## Donor Recognition Tree

#### New Leaves

*Placed in memory of:*

**Maurice d. Rea**

*by Reggie and Robbie Allgood*

*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.*

## LifeShare Father's Day Blood Drive

*Thank you, Benton UMC!*

**We received 9 units on June 20.**

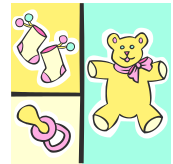
### CARD MINISTRY

The Card Ministry will meet Friday, July 16 at 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. We will create some handmade cards for the Prayer Group, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and for any other needs. No skills needed! We will stop and break for dinner and then get back to the stamping! If you have any questions, please call Rachel in the church office at 965-2273.

### IT'S A BABY SHOWER!

Honoring Bridget Bockhaus  
Wednesday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Breakfast Club Room.

*Bridget is registered at  
Target and Ladies in Waiting.*



### JULY MEETINGS & GROUPS

- Card Ministry ..... Friday, July 16 at 1:00 pm
- UMM Breakfast ..... Sunday, July 18 at 7:15 am
- Church Council.....Monday, July 19 at 6:30 pm
- O.P.A.L.S. .... Tuesday, July 27 at 11:30 am
- Souper Saturday ..... Saturday, July 31 at 8:00 am

### BENTON UMC WEBSITE

Benton UMC website has a new look!  
Please check out the new website at our old address:

[www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org)

If your ministry is not listed or has outdated or incorrect information, please call the Rachel in the church office at 965-2273 or email her at [bentonumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:bentonumc@bellsouth.net) so we can update your webpage!

### WEDNESDAY 'NITE' LIVE MOVIE

*~ Harvey ~*



Our Wednesday 'Nite'  
Live movie on July 7th



and we will discuss it on the following  
Wednesday, July 14.



Regularly Scheduled Events		
4th Sunday	6:00 p.m.	Sports
5th Sunday	TBA	Declaration
Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Drama Practice
Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Band Practice
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	REACTION Youth Service



Hi everyone,

This is Chris, youth pastor of **SHELTER 491**, the student ministry of Benton United Church. I wanted to give a summary on what is going on with our students grades 6-12+. On Wednesday nights at 6:30 we have *REACTION* Student Worship featuring the student band, "Bringing Two." This is a high-impact, exciting, and meaningful worship service. We believe in fun and excitement in our worship because our God is fun and exciting. There is currently an average of 30 students who attend each week.

In September we will resume our Sunday night schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—*FUSION* Small Groups that meet at homes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday—*UPWARD* Prayer and Sonic, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday—*SPORTS* Night.

For missions and service we will go to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky over Spring Break and will have local mission opportunities like Impact Benton, serving the Rescue Mission, and other local service projects.

Just for fun we go to Six-Flags over Texas, have lock-ins and outs (these are great), and do local things like concerts, bowling, mini-golf, etc...

If you are a student, or the parent of a student, grades 6-12+, come and check out what's going on. You can always check on FaceBook at [www.facebook.com/cwinterman](http://www.facebook.com/cwinterman). Thanks.

Chris



**Contact Information**

Chris Winterman, Student Minister  
 Office: (318) 965-2273 or Cell: (318) 465-1031  
[chriswinterman@bellsouth.net](mailto:chriswinterman@bellsouth.net)  
[www.myspace.com/bentonumcshelter491](http://www.myspace.com/bentonumcshelter491)  
[www.facebook.com/cwinterman](http://www.facebook.com/cwinterman)



## Mark David Penny Drive for Missions

The Mark David Penny Drive for Missions has collected:

**\$ 3,132.61**

*Thank you to all who participated  
to make this year's penny drive a HUGE success!*



## Impact Benton 2010

### Results

- 208 workers registered from 15 churches
- 3500 gift bags distributed to area homes
- 90 gift baskets delivered to senior adults
- 5 construction projects completed
- 2 community projects--  
--Hughes House painted & enhanced (not quite finished yet)  
--55 smoke detectors provided for the fire dept to distribute as needed
- 28 yards mowed by Yard Patrol
- Approx 60 children ministered to through Kids Patrol--1 profession of faith
- 69 youth working Impact Benton
- 29 youth housed at Benton UMC
- Avg attendance of 75 in youth services in evening
- Sacks of clothes were sorted by youth for The Hub project
- 1700 meals served by the kitchen crew
- Of course there are the intangibles--people witnessed to & encouraged, the love of Christ shared, bonds between the churches strengthened, new friends made, etc.

*Thank you, Benton UMC youth and adult volunteers, for your support!*

Louisiana  
Mission



Dulac, LA

**Volunteer Now**

**VBS Mission**

**Dulac, Louisiana**

VBS Teams are needed in Louisiana in July and August. The Gulf oil spill is indeed taking its toll on coastal communities. The United Methodist congregations in Dulac, Buras and Grand Isle have asked for assistance in scheduling Bible School or youth day camp teams during the months of July and August.

Benton United Methodist is sending a VBS Mission Team to Dulac from August 2-6. If you are interested in this mission trip and need more information, please contact:

Rachel Basco

318-455-6390

[rachbasco@gmail.com](mailto:rachbasco@gmail.com)

### The Purpose of the Church

He works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, He works on us through each other. [People] are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other [people]. Usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others. That is why the Church, the whole body of Christians showing Him to one another, is so important. It is so easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects—education, building, missions, holding services... The Church exists for no other purpose but to draw [people] into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other reason.

~ C.S. Lewis

# VBS Moments

Kim Cox teaches the kids how to "Foot Fish"



More water games and outside fun.

Pennies for Missions—Who will win?



High Seas Captains



Who is coming back



## Contact Information

Mary Jo Duddy, Children's Minister  
(318) 549-9273  
maryjo.duddy@bossierschools.org

Ashley Stinson, Children's Minister Assistant  
(318) 349-5913  
patash1210@aol.com

## LAY SPEAKER COURSES

### What is a Lay Speaker?

- ◆ a servant leader
- ◆ an accountable disciple
- ◆ a teacher of small groups
- ◆ a Bible Study leader
- ◆ a worship leader

### What do Lay Speakers do?

- ◆ discovers his or her spiritual gifts
- ◆ proclaims the gospel in word and deed
- ◆ seeks to grow spiritually
- ◆ cultivates the Christian community
- ◆ leads in mission outreach

On August 21 & 28, the First UMC of Alexandria is holding the United Methodist Lay Speaker Training. If you are interested in this, please call the church office at 965-2273 for more information. Registration forms are available in the church office.

## E-GIVING

Summer vacation? Stay current on your pledge with E-Giving—the easiest way to donate. For a better idea of all the options available, visit [www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org) and click on the E-Giving link to see all the features.



## NEW BABY IN THE FAMILY?

We at Benton UMC would like to celebrate new babies born within our church family - child, grandchild, great grandchild. We want to announce the birth in our Sunday worship folder and honor this new life by placing a rosebud on the altar. Please notify the church office at 965-2273 if you have a new family member.



## The Love Letter is YOU!

Each month, Benton UMC publishes *The Love Letter*. Your ministry, group, accomplishments, and heart are to be shared with our Benton UMC family. If you have something you are excited about and are willing to share for the benefit of our congregation, please send an email to [bentonumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:bentonumc@bellsouth.net) or bring the article to the church office.

You don't have to be an author, make it simple and we will assist you in editing the information as needed. Give us the who, what, where, when and how and we can take care of the rest. Event pictures are a wonderful addition, but they need to be on disc or emailed to the church office.



BENTON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

4615 Palmetto Road  
Benton, LA 71006

Phone: 318-965-2273  
Fax: 318-965-5360  
E-mail: bentonumc@bellsouth.net

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
PERMIT #17  
**PAID**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
BENTON, LA

On the Web:  
[www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org)

---

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Deaths

Maury Rea  
Kenny Wreyford  
Valerie Rockett  
Lillian Wilson  
Rodney Parker  
Debra McMasters

### Military

Troops and Leaders  
Aaron Thompson  
Cory Campbell  
Derrick Albright  
Patricia Johnson  
William Pluth  
Eric Lee  
Jacob Maddox  
Drew Maddox  
Matthew Flinn

### Requests

Jennifer Warner  
Ron Gormanous  
Adam & Peggy Durant-Praise!  
Mark Landrum  
Jim Farnam  
Terri Kavanaugh  
Pete Sirman  
Evelyn Futch  
Emma Grace Holmes  
Carolyn Pearce  
Wayne Mulford  
Jean Wright  
Joy Porter  
Terry Edminston  
Brock Cassell  
James Cox  
Cleve Davidson  
Tripp Litrell

Brian Barnard  
Gulf Coast residents  
Willie Gies  
Shannon Rahm  
Pam Knippers  
Ben Stewart  
Traci Russell  
Angelique Pormealeu  
Denny Wilde  
Lloyd Bullock, Jr.  
Kathy Nelson  
Erin Gates  
Bea Aucoin  
Ruth Cox  
Central UMC  
Arkansas Flood Victims  
Jacob Humphrey  
Imogene Brazil  
Roy Boggs

Mary Jane Easterly  
C.J. Stewart  
Ben Johnson  
Tiffany Guerunian  
Tavane Greene  
Bobby Davis  
Mable Williams  
Susan Robillard  
Lizzie Hawthorne  
Aiden McSpadden  
Luann Butts  
Jo Himes  
Christy Delaney  
Odie Harris  
Ed White  
Greg and Missy Pipes  
Marion Cole