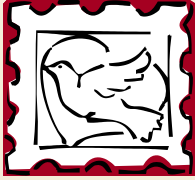


BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AUGUST 2010



THE LOVE LETTER

Friendship Day!

...you could win
a cruise for two!

(See page 3 for details)

August 15 at 10 a.m.

Teachers of
Benton UMC

Join us for lunch!

Tuesday
August 10, 2010
at 12:00 p.m.

(See page 2)



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Children's Church
(Ages 3-3rd Grade)
10:20 a.m.

Wednesday
REACTION

Student Worship
6:30 p.m.

REGULAR EVENTS

3rd Sunday at 7:15 a.m.
United Methodist Men
Breakfast

1st Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
3rd Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

United Methodist Women
Circle Meetings

Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.
Prayer Group

4th Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.
OPALS

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 'Nite' Live
Resumes September 8th

Last Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
Souper Saturday

L Y N N ' S L I N E S . . .



"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

Judges 6:15 (NLT)

I confess that I do sometimes think I am somebody. I start to believe God has gifted me for a purpose, that I have a natural talent. I've learned through the years, especially these last two, that injures my relationship with the Lord, because it is then that I begin to depend upon my own strength and my own abilities rather than letting God work in me and through me.

I think, rather, that I need to maintain the perspective of Gideon from the Old Testament. Remember Gideon? The Lord called Gideon at a time the nation of Israel had strayed away from the will and heart of God. They began to reap the consequences of their sin, and they did what they always did—cried out to the Lord for help. And the Lord helped—as He always did. He called Gideon to act as deliverer for the nation.

Gideon's response is classic. "Who me? Who am I? I'm nobody!" His response was reminiscent of Moses' protests when God called him to deliver the nation from Egyptian bondage. I think it is also indicative of the answer we all give when God calls us (and He has called each of us!). I certainly know it is the answer I gave when I first sensed the call of God in my life. "How can God use me? Why would God use me?"

Then, something interesting happens. I start to hear words of affirmation for my preaching, or I experience some little success in a ministry project, and I begin to think, "Yeah, I can do this! I might just be somebody." It just sort of creeps up before you know it. It is a little thing called pride, and it separates us from the will and heart of God.

Here's the point—as long as I think there is something in me, God cannot use me because I will have my own agenda to pursue. It is only when we think we are nobody that God will use us, because then, we are empty of ourselves and can be filled with His power and presence.

I've discovered in my own life that I must practice repentance, seek His forgiveness for my own pride, and seek humility on a continuing basis. I remember that I am but a poor beggar in constant need of his mercy and grace as I face each day.

So? Think the Lord can't use you? Good! Listen closely. I guarantee He's calling.

Until next time, keep looking up...

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Benton UMC Teachers, please join us for our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

When: Tuesday, August 10 at 12:00 p.m.

Where: Benton UMC Family Life Center

Why: Because we love our teachers and we want to thank you for caring for our children and community.





WITH JOY

19” Sometimes God gives a man wealth and possessions. He makes it possible for him to enjoy them. He helps him accept the life he has given him. He helps him to be happy in his work. All of those things are gifts from God. 20 A man like that doesn't have to think about how his life is going. That's because God fills his heart with joy.”

Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

Is your heart filled with joy? God has given me so many gifts and because he gives to me freely, I want to give back to him through our church. Since 2005 I sponsored a young AIDS orphan who I met while in South Africa so she could attend school. She graduated last year and so I adopted a young girl from Zimbabwe through World Vision. Both noble causes, but using the resources in that way prevents me from giving completely to the mission of Benton UMC. I want our church to grow in every way. And I believe that God has a vision for us that will enable us to grow disciples, help the poor and live out the good news.

I admit that there are some things that happen in the “Big Methodist World” that break my heart. I strongly disagree with some of the stands that have been made, but Benton UMC is my church, my home and the place that I give to God my tithe. I have seen the church leaders wrestle with how we distribute and spend the gifts that we receive and I believe that we are filling God’s heart with joy also. Do you enjoy your wealth and possessions? Do you accept the life that God has given to you? Are you happy in your work? God has richly blessed us all, there is no need to think about how our life is going-it is going with God with joy!



~Dianne

“So you see, faith by itself is not enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”

James 2:17, NLT



As a member of Benton UMC all of my life, I was extremely honored when asked to be co-chair for the missions committee. I can remember my first mission trip to inner city Dallas in Jr. High, and all the ones that followed through high school. Missions grew my faith and is what saved my faith. As Christians we all have our struggles and times where we feel our faith slipping away. When I experienced this I still went to church and always accepted Jesus, but I was not “there.” A mission trip to Matamoros, Mexico changed that for me. God gave me the opportunity to have an experience that renewed my spirit.

Whether it be going to Mexico, Kentucky, or living my everyday life missions is in my heart. We all have our part to give: going on trips, supporting those that do, or being part of local missions. I pray that you all have the chance to be a part of the mission opportunities at Benton UMC. The lyrics from the song Follow You by Leeland speak perfectly to the heart of missions: *“I’ll follow you into the homes that are broken. Follow you into the world. Meet the needs for the poor and the needy God. Follow you into the world.”* Are you willing to follow?

~Amanda Chico

Financial Report

2010 July Financial Report		Bank Accounts	General Fund (Operating)	Building Fund	Designated Gifts
July 4	\$ 10,945.27	Opening Balance 6-30-10	\$ 64,120.11	\$ 22,478.90	\$ 39,202.22
June 11	11,525.55	Income	\$ 32,460.72	\$ 14,888.00	\$ 5,287.00
June 18	4,183.00	Expenses	\$ 43,336.22	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 9,792.92
June 25	5,608.90	Bank Balance 7-30-10	\$ 50,244.64	\$ 17,366.90	\$ 34,693.30
Received YTD	\$ 340,874.61	Mortgage			
2009 YTD	\$ 339,491.36	Principal balance 01/2010		\$ 1,496,489.71	
		Principal balance 07/2010		\$ 1,300,905.85	

SUPER SUMMER SUNDAYS

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes at 9:00 a.m.

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

Wear you shorts, bring your suits and be ready to have some beach fun 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!

See "Eligibility Requirements" below:

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 15th, 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 15th, and register all friends on the forms provided by 11:00 a.m. on August 15th.
 - 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.

Donor Recognition Tree

*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.*

The Smart Discipline Program

by Dr. Larry J. Koenig

Coming to Benton UMC

Monday, August 16, 2010

6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person/\$15 per couple

Bring your kids!

Childcare (nursery babies-2 yrs) available with advance registration and activities planned for ages 3 yrs-12th grade.

Benefits of *Smart Discipline Program* for Parents:

- ◆ Stops fighting and bickering
- ◆ Puts an end to homework hassles
- ◆ Instills positive beliefs
- ◆ Gets kids to clean up rooms, do what you ask the first time, and to bed on time
- ◆ Builds self-esteem
- ◆ Puts an end to whining
- ◆ Gets kids self-motivated
- ◆ Curbs negative attitudes
- ◆ Helps with ADD/ADHD kids

For peace of mind and your child's self-esteem, reserve your spot now for *Smart Discipline*.

To reserve your seat or for more information:

Call 965-2273 or visit

www.bentonumc.org/smartdiscipline

where you can register and pay online.

You can always pay for special events on E-Giving.



Would you come out of your comfy home for a guaranteed way to stop the fighting between your kids?



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

Student Life Campers

Top, from left: Lacey Halphen, Rose Whittington, Morgan Whittington, Margie Covington, Jessica Nelson, Chris Winterman, Shane Cram, James Covington, Dean Sullivan, Joe Simpson, Gage Carroway, Gideon Estes, Nate Inman, Sarah Stoneman, Logan Caskey, Josh Caskey, Hannah Easter, Grady Estes, Alex Whittington, Crosson Easter, and Austin Robison.

Visit www.studentlife.com for more information.



Contact Information

Chris Winterman, Student Minister
 Office: (318) 965-2273 or Cell: (318) 465-1031
chriswinterman@bellsouth.net
www.myspace.com/bentonumshelter491
www.facebook.com/cwinterman

UMW SOCK HOP

The United Methodist Women are sponsoring a 1950's Sock Hop. All proceeds will go to fund mission projects. Everyone is invited for a 50's style fun time. Come out for:

- ◆ Food: Hamburgers, fries, sodas, floats and more
- ◆ Music & Dancing: The *Ko Ko Mo Cruisers* will perform 50's music
- ◆ Best Dressed: Prizes will be awarded for the best male and female 50's style dress

Friday, August 6 at 7 p.m.
Cost: \$10.00 per person
Tickets on sale now!

Call Betty at 560-1182 for more information.



Missions

Haiti Opportunity

We are partnering with 1st UMC, Shreveport for a trip to Haiti. The trip will be October 21st – 30th. Specific travel dates (leave on the 21st or 22nd) depend on the travel arrangements in country. There will be a medical component that will hold clinics in 2-3 Churches. Non-medical team members will assist in running the clinics, but there will also be a group working with the orphans, doing painting or other light physical work, or investigating micro-business opportunities. The actual agenda will become clearer as teams are formed. The cost will be \$1600-1800 depending on transportation costs. Applications are in the church office, or you may contact Rachel Basco at rachbasco@gmail.com.



“For I was hungry, and you fed me...”

Matthew 25:35



Stephanie

Lauvila

Rose

Kenson



Back-to-School Blowout Supply Collection

BUMC will be collecting school supplies for the families on our food basket list and to give to the local schools. School supplies are not an everyday expense and it can be very hard for some families to work that into their already tight budget. Please help make their Back-to-School experience a little easier by bringing a backpack (**without wheels**) filled with some of the items listed below, to church on or before August 8th. We will make packages with the basic supplies for the families on our list and the rest of the of the donated items will be sent to the local schools. Please call the church office at 965-2273 for more information.



Wide-Rule Loose Leaf Paper	Manila Folders 1/3 Cut	Washable Colored Markers, Broad
Spiral Notebooks (no black)	Elmer’s School Glue (no gel)	24 ct Crayon Boxes
Wide Rule 70 ct.	Small Elmer’s Glue Sticks	Water Color Paint Sets
Wide Rule 120 ct.	Large Elmer’s Glue Sticks	Dry Erase Markers, Black
Wide Rule 180 ct.	Pink Bevel Erasers	Fluorescent Yellow highlighters
Marbled Composition Notebook .	Rulers	Kinder mat–plastic, red and blue
Graph Paper	Blunt 5” Fiskar Scissors	Ziploc Bags
3x5 Ruled Index Cards	Pointed 5” Fiskar Scissors	Quart
Vinyl Folders w/Brads (multi-color)	No. 2 Pencils (made in USA)	Gallon
Paper Folders w/Brads (multi-color)	Colored Pencils	Facial Tissues
9x12 Construction Paper	Black/Blue Medium Pt. Stick Pens	Paper Towels
9x12 Manilla Paper	Red Medium Pt. Stick Pens	

E-GIVING

Did you know you could pay for special events such as Smart Discipline on **E-Giving**? For a better idea of all the options available, visit www.bentonumc.org and click on the **E-Giving** link to see all the features.



OPALS



Older Persons with Active Lifestyles invites everyone to attend their meeting scheduled for August 24, 2010 in our Family Life Worship Center at 11:30 a.m.

Bingo is on the agenda for that day. Come out and play with us—everyone is welcome! Call Barbara Hays at 990-9952 to sign up.

Beach B.U.M.S. Meeting

Parents of children 3 yrs to 5th grade are invited to attend on Sunday, August 15 at 4 p.m. in Bible Beach. Please do not miss this important meeting about our fall schedule—including dates, new programs and a variety of other exciting ministries for the coming year.

Please call Mary Jo or Ashley Stinson for more information about this important meeting.

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

Congratulations!

Our very own Susan Watts entered the *United States Karate Alliance 2010 World Championship* this week. Look at the trophy she had bring home!

She is the 4 time winner of the *Black Belt Women's Kumite*.

Way to go, Susan!



Like Mother, Like Daughter

Congratulations, Kathryn! Kathryn brought home *Texas State Champion Forms & Fighting* and *National Point Awards*.



UMW NEWS

The UMW is getting back in the swing of things! They will resume their regular meetings in September, beginning with the UMW Members Meeting. It will be a Salad Supper on Tuesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The Nightingales will begin meeting on September 21st and the Morning Glories on September 22nd. We hope you had a great summer and are excited to see you again.

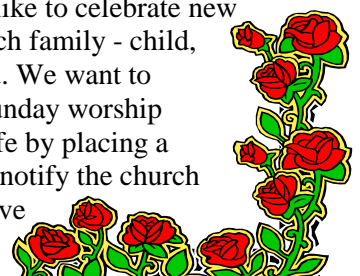


Nightingales	Morning Glories
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010	Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010 9:30 a.m.



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.



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



Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006
Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 965-5360
Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.bentonumc.org

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PERMIT #17
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
BENTON, LA

Return Service Requested

Wednesday 'Nite' Live
There will be no WNL dinner, adult
or children's activities during the
month of August, but will resume on
September 8, 2010.

Smart Discipline-Register NOW!
Monday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m.
www.bentonumc.org/smartdiscipline
Children's activities during seminar.
(see page 4 for details)

REACTION Student Worship
will continue in August at 6:30 p.m.

*Please watch the Sunday worship folders
and website for information on the
upcoming WNL programming!*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Deaths

Pete Sirman
Joel Ward
Brannon Boone
Ann Brock
Dianetha Sarpy

Military

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

Requests

Jennifer Warner
Ron Gormanous

Jim Farnam
Terri Kavanaugh
Evelyn Futch
Carolyn Pearce
Jean Wright
Brock Cassell
James Cox
Cleve Davidson
Tripp Litrell
Brian Barnard
Gulf Coast residents
Willie Gies
Pam Knippers
Ben Stewart
Angelique Pormealeu
Denny Wilde
Lloyd Bullock, Jr.
Bea Aucoin
Christy Delaney
Odie Harris
Ed White
Greg and Missy Pipes
Marion Cole

Mrs. Manghum
Glenda Coley
Sue Oldham
Dymone Domingue Johnson
Larry Toland
Mervin Scott
Beverly Brown
Scout Lyerly
Ethel Gay
Rudine Lloyd
Corie Roper
Louise Carter
Eddie Malmay
Claire Evans
Courtney Pate
Kathy Wiggins
Diane Coker
Bill DeBusk
Howard Coon
Jonnie Hoyle
Bobby Wall
Dennis & Daisy Durham
Nancy Faulk

Bockhaus Family
Julie Smithard
Paul Raven
Zinnie Burns
Odell Webb
Bill Richards
Rosalyn Riley
Ricky Malone
Joy Porter
Landon Tynes
Jacob Ross
Reggie Futch
Betty Helms
Reggie Allgood
Kimberly Rumbaugh
Mike Collier
Jean Croom
Bob Lusk
Doris McClendon
Ed Eckfeld
Erin Gates
Terry Edminston