

BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2010



THE LOVE LETTER

LYNN'S LINES



Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5 (NLT)

Never underestimate the value of hard work. At least that's what I was told growing up as a young man. A solid work ethic was instilled in me by both sets of grandparents, and by my mother. Hard work was just expected. By hard work, none of them meant necessarily back-breaking, sweat dripping in your eyes, "man this will kill you" work—although I didn't know it at the time. Hard work meant giving it your best effort. Hard work meant employing all your resources to accomplish a worthy goal, and to do the best job you could do. Hard work meant being diligent.

Diligence—I like that word. The dictionary defines diligence as "a persistent, hard-working effort in doing something." Diligence and hard work were the same to Solomon. Solomon didn't necessarily mean that back-breaking type of work either, rather the term was meant to communicate "smart" work. Were I given the job of chopping down an oak tree, I could use a hammer to accomplish the task (now that would be hard work!), or I could use an axe (still hard work, but much smarter work than using the hammer). According to Solomon, to use the axe would be diligent. As I reflected on Solomon's advice in Proverbs, I sort of settled on my own definition of diligence—doing the right thing in the right way (and I would add, for the right reason).

I did a survey of Proverbs to discover what Solomon had to say about hard work, and I discovered that hard work is the key to success in life. Of course, Solomon was probably more concerned with material success, but I would venture to say that hard work is the key to success in any area of life—in marriage, in raising our children, in handling money, and most especially, in our spiritual life.

I also discovered some roadblocks to success (things that keep us from working hard). *Self-centeredness* is the first roadblock. Solomon warns in Proverbs 21:2 that "every man's way is right in his own eyes..." Gauging our own interests ahead of the interests of others will hinder us finding success, especially in our relationships with others. *Conceit/arrogance* is another roadblock to success. Proverbs 26:16 says that "lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors." Nothing says failure like thinking we're smarter than everyone else. Who needs advice, right? *Ignorance* is yet another roadblock to success. Ignorance is simply the failure to learn the lessons from previous failures (Proverbs 24:30). Finally, I would say *irresponsibility* would be a roadblock to success (Proverbs 24:33). Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow? Talk about lazy!

I am blessed to say there aren't any lazy people around Benton United Methodist Church. So many of you have been so diligent in making *40 Projects in 40 Days* a reality. Your hard work has made a significant impact in the lives of all whom we have served over these forty days, and it is an honor to be called your pastor. I applaud you all for your diligence, and I know your hard work is responsible for the place our church is today.

So, keep up the good work. Keep up the smart work. Keep up the hard work. You'll find success in life, and we'll find God's success in the life of our congregation.

Until next time, keep looking up...



SUNDAY EVENTS

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:50 am

Sunday School

9:40 am

Children's Church

Age 3 - Grade 3

10:50 am

REGULAR EVENTS

3rd SUNDAY of each month
United Methodist Men
Breakfast 7:15 am

3rd TUESDAY at 6:30 p.m.
3rd WEDNESDAY at 9:30 a.m.
United Methodist Women

TUESDAYS
Prayer Time
9:00 am

4th TUESDAY of each month
OPALS
11:30 am

WEDNESDAYS
Wednesday "Nite" Live
5:30 pm
REACTION
Student Worship

Last SATURDAY of each month
Souper Saturday
8:00 am

Thank you for your generous support of the mission of Benton United Methodist Church. What a joy it has been to see so many participate in the 40 Projects in 40 Days. We have truly made a difference in the lives of so many people by sharing the love of God with a helping hand, a smiling face, a listening ear and a compassionate heart.

You have continued to be faithful in your giving. Thank you for the many ways you respond when the need is made known. Below is a listing of the special funds that you have designated for gifts since the beginning of the year and a summary of our Operational and Building Funds. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me in the church office. You may also contact Jackie Maggio, chairman of the Finance Committee.

1st Quarter

Fund	Income	Expenses	Net	Bank Balance
General Operating	194,977.00	146,501.00	48,476.00	94,709.00
Building Fund	56,226.00	48,000	8226.00	27,918.00
Bank Mortgage due				1,460,375.00
Designated Funds:	17,725.00	14,368.00	3357.00	31,786.00
Souper Saturday	544.00	471.00	71.00	2487.00
Food Baskets	285.00			1198.00
Easter Lilies	540.00			650.00
UMCOR (Haiti)	2352.00	2352.00	0	0
Children's Ministry	420.00	225.00	195.00	294.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	261.00	261.00	0	0
Tweens (Providence House)	270.00	256.00	14.00	693.00
Card Ministry	215.00	213.00	2.00	2.00
Special Gifts	514.00	490.00	24.00	784.00
Caney Lake Project	894.00	875.00	19.00	19.00
Human Relations Offering	80.00	80.00	0	0
Prison Ministry Offering	335.00	335.00	0	0
40 Projects in 40 Days	2005.00	1019.00	986.00	986.00
Youth Accounts	4609.00	1952.00	2657.00	7006.00
Helping Hands	452.00	888.00	(-436.00)	2835.00

This is not a complete listing of all special gifts, but represents what we have received and disbursed this first quarter. Not all expenses are recorded since this chart was completed before the end of some of our projects.

2010 March	
March 7	\$ 12,951.50
March 14	7,154.44
March 21	4,795.17
March 28	8,357.67
Received YTD	\$ 194,977.00
2009 YTD	\$ 190,453.21

Living as Easter People

What difference does it make to us as Christians that Jesus Christ died on a cross and was resurrected from the dead? Are you surprised that I would even ask that question? Are you ready with the proper words that give a theological meaning to the question?

I am tired of my own words and thoughts about being a Christian. I want my life to reflect that I have one Lord and I will do everything possible to glorify his name in my actions. The world is so full of ways to communicate, that we often forget to show the story of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.



I think back to the reactions of the followers of Christ and I can see myself in their actions. Sometimes I deny him, sometimes I lock myself up with fear, sometimes I find myself gazing into the sky as if I thought I could see him coming. But I want to be a fearless, bold disciple who lives out a sermon each day through love, through sharing, through listening. If my life is no different because Jesus died and now lives, how can I ask others to follow him?

~Dianne



UMM NEWS

UMM BBQ

The United Methodist Men are cooking again! BBQ will be served on Burt Blvd. across from the courthouse on Wednesday, April 21 at 11 a.m. The UMM BBQ is award-winning, so make sure you get a plate. You can fax your orders to the church office at 965-5360 or call them in to 965-2273. You can order a slab of ribs or a lunch plate. Ribs, chicken, sausage, and combination plates are available and they come with beans, coleslaw and a roll.

Garage/Rummage Sale

Rob Stinson will be hosting a monthly garage sale at his Cash Point storage facility next to the water tower on Benton Road (Hwy 3) on April 3rd starting at 8 a.m. The UMM will be participating with items in one of the storage facilities. But we need your help. We need donations of large items like furniture, bedding, washers, dryers, etc.

If you have any of these items to donate, call Rob at 402-2437 to set up a time for you to deliver it or for us to pick it up. We must have all items in place and priced no later than Friday, April 2, 2010.

UMW NEWS



Nightingales

Tuesday, Apr 20, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Morning Glories

Wednesday, Apr 21, 2010
9:30 a.m.



UMW SPRING RETREAT

First UMC, Bossier is hosting *The Joy In Fellowship* Spring Retreat on Saturday, April 17 at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Please register for the Spring Retreat by April 10, 2010. For more information, contact Betty Russell at 560-1182 or the church office at 965-2273.

OPALS

Those **O**lder **P**eople with **A**ctive **L**ife **S**tyles will have a wonderful meal and then play BINGO on April 27, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. There will be lots of prizes and surprises this month. Everyone is invited to join us in the Family Life Center and bring a guest. Lunch is \$4 and you will need to call Barbara Hays at 742-9537 to make your reservation. There is always such a good sense of fellowship when we gather, and we are eager to share that . . . even if you aren't 55+! Hope to see you there!!

ENJOYING THE SPRING!

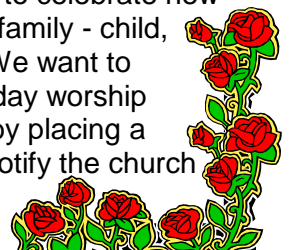


It has been a long winter with lots of surprises of unusually cold weather for our part of the south. I don't know about you, but I am ready for an outing. Reservations are now being taken to go on the *Trails and Trellises Tour* on May 15, 2010. If you love wandering through gardens filled with flowers and interesting features, good fellowship and of course a nice meal, then this is the trip for you!

We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. for the 6th annual *Trails and Trellises Garden Tour* in Minden, LA. There are four gardens to tour in this area and each one promises to be unique. The cost is \$12.00 per person plus lunch. Please call Dianne at 965-2273 for more information or to make your reservation.

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.



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.

Council Chairman

Dear Church Family,

My name is Andy Holley and I have been chosen to be the Chairman of the Church Council for the 2010 calendar year. This is quite an honor for me although I must admit that following in the footsteps of our past Council Chair Katherine Kavanaugh will be a tough act to follow. Katherine was very instrumental in my orientation to this position, by allowing me to ask as many questions as I needed to in order to find my way and continue the Great work that she did during her tenure.



The most important duty of the council in my opinion is to Diligently and Prayerfully seek GOD's will in the overseeing of the business of Benton United Methodist Church, by ensuring that the overall mission of the Church continues above all else. That mission is to bring the Lost of this world to the Saving Grace of our Lord Jesus. I also will be working closely with our Lay Leader Ron Jones and Bro. Lynn to bring the ideas of the congregation to them as well as the Church Council for their consideration.

We will meet on a quarterly basis so if anyone has anything that they would like brought before the council body please feel free to contact me at 318-747-3260 or Rachel Stoneman in the Church office at 965-2273 to get your suggestions on the agenda for the next meeting on April 12th.

My wife Lillian, daughter Hannah and I have had the awesome privilege of being members of Benton United Methodist Church for almost 6 years now and we lead the Breakfast Club Sunday School class each week. I know that I can speak for the entire Church Council by asking for your Prayers and support in our continued efforts to see that Benton United Methodist Church keeps Inviting In, Growing Up and Sending Out.

~Andy Holley



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 3, 2010

2:00 p.m. at Benton UMC



There will be eggs galore, pictures with a live bunny, and cupcakes to decorate.
Don't miss the fun!



ECA Training

The Early Christian Awareness training led by Sandy Shepherd of Colleyville, TX was a great success. We hope to implement the program in our nursery soon. For more information, please call Ashley Stinson at 349-5913.

Children's Ministry

The Beach BUMS (Benton United Methodist Students - three years old through fifth graders) have a new home. Come upstairs and check it out! We are so excited about our new space. We still have a few renovations to go but we have already come so far in making Bible Beach more kid-friendly!

Both book clubs will meet this month. Our KFC Book Club (grades 4 and 5) will meet on Friday, April 16 at 8:00 PM. Our book is Judy Blume's *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Pick up time is 8:00 AM. Our JBJ Book Club (grades 1-3) will meet on Friday, April 30 at 8:00 PM. We will read *Junie B. First Grader: Cheater Pants* by Barbara Park. Pick up time is also 8:00 AM. Remember to wear your pajamas and bring your sleeping bag and pillow.

Three and four year old girls – mark your calendars! It's Teddy Bear Tea Party time! On Saturday, April 24th at 2:00 PM meet me at the church for a trip to Build-A-Bear and the Cheesecake Factory for a special afternoon of fun. Wear your favorite party dress and pretty spring sandals to show off your nails which will be done by our own pedicure team! I am looking forward to lots of excitement for all!

Please be sure to bring me a copy of your baseball, softball, and soccer schedules. Spring is in the air, and I love to see you using the talents God gave you out on the field! All you gymnasts – be on the lookout! You never know when I might drop by and check out your new accomplishments!

Have a great April! Make the most of all God has given you and shine your light wherever you go!
~Mary Jo

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is June 21-25th. Please mark your calendar and call Mary Jo or Ashley if you would like to volunteer or need more information

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

Margaret Febus, Tween's Co-Director

(318) 965-1362

April Fleming, Tween's Co-Director

(318) 965-2273

Aafleming@bellsouth.net



Regularly Scheduled Events		
1st & 3rd Sunday	6:00 p.m.	FUSION Small Groups
2nd Sunday	6:00 p.m.	UPWARD Prayer & Sonic
4th Sunday	6:00 p.m.	Sports
5th Sunday	TBA	Declaration
Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Band Practice
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	REACTION Youth Service

In March, we took a trip to Beverly Kentucky, not knowing much except that we were going to work. Our objective was to go and give to others through service and physical labor. What I didn't know was how much we would come back with. We were extremely tired, quite a bit sore, and at times uncomfortable. But I don't know that I, or the other 4 adults and 6 students, have ever had a better and more fulfilling week. Through serving others, we have served our Lord Jesus. Now, I'm not tooting our horns, I am giving testimony that when you serve Christ by serving others, He rewards you in ways you never see coming. Next year we will go back to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky and it is my hope and prayer to take at least 20 people next year. My goal is not to have the biggest group, but to give as many people as possible the chance to experience God in a very unique and humbling way. It will be spring break of next year so make your plans now. Grace and peace to you.

In Christ,
Chris



Food Boxes



Red Bird Mission Team 2010

Refinishing Floors



Above, from left: Sarah Stoneman, Chris Winterman, Kirsten Basco, Morgan Whittington, Rose Whittington, Alex Whittington, James Chico, Amanda Chico, Alex McGuire, Richard Cox, Cori Basco

Contact Information

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

40 PROJECTS IN 40 DAYS—THANK YOU BUMC!

Thank you, church family, for all you have done for our community during the 40 Projects in 40 Days. Here are just a few things you have done:



Plain Dealing Mission Zone

From left to right: Bill Hine, John Carter, Ron Jones and Jackie Maggio are putting the final touches on the wheelchair ramp they repaired for a Plain Dealing couple. Watch the Love Letter and Sunday worship folder for the next opportunity to serve.



YWCA—Adopted Rooms

Above: Leslie Cram and Donna Dayries. Right: Judy Tyler and Ashley Stinson. They are all painting the adopted rooms, but once the paint dries, they will be back to stock the linens and decorate the rooms with rugs, comforters and other items.



Sutton Children's Hospital Bingo

From left to right: Debbie Filler holds a baby while picking a number for the Sutton Children's Bingo Night. Brittney Reed picks out letters and numbers for Morgan Whittington and Alex McGuire to hold up for the children. Bridget Bockhaus stands by to assist children with their cards. Below, written in a thank you card to BUMC:

Dear Benton UMC:

Thank you guys so much for hosting a WONDERFUL bingo event for our patients and families. It was so much fun and the energy and positive spirit you all possess made the event outstanding! We appreciate your generous donations of toys, also! Thanks for making a difference.

*Sutton Children's Hospital
Child Life Division*



IT'S A BABY SHOWER—TWINS!

Pastor Lynn and Vanessa Malone are excited about the approaching birth of their twin grandchildren in May. To celebrate, there will be a baby shower honoring Piper Malone on April 18, 2010, at 3:00 p.m., in the Family Life Center. Piper and Josh (Pastor Lynn and Vanessa's son) are expecting a little boy and a little girl. They are registered at Target and Ladies in Waiting. Please come celebrate with them on this happy occasion.

***SPRING THAW DATE CHANGE***

Don't forget to change your calendars for Spring Thaw. May 1st from 12-5 p.m. we will have activities for all ages including: face painting, bounce houses, live music, free food, sports, and contests. More details will come as we get closer to the day...you don't want to miss out on this!

ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

Finance Meeting Monday, April 5, 6 p.m.
 Church Council Monday, April 12, 6 p.m.
 Board of Trustees..... Monday, April 19, 5:30 p.m.

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 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.

GRADUATING?

Is Your Son or Daughter Graduating? If your son or daughter is graduating from high school, college or technical school, please let us know! We will recognize the graduates on May 16, 2010. We need to know the school they are graduating from, the college they will attend, the degree they have earned and any club or organization involvement. Please contact Chris Winterman at 965-2273 or email him at chriswinterman@bellsouth.net by April 18.

2010 LAY SPEAKING SCHOOL

This 10-hour course is designed to provide initial and continuing training for laity in leading, caring and communicating. Besides the basic course, two advanced courses are available. Classes begin April 23 at 5:30 p.m. and end April 24 at 4:30 p.m. Please call the church office at 965-2273 for details.

E-GIVING

Don't forget about the newest way to give at Benton UMC. It is easy, convenient and secure. 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.

***MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY***

Christian Motorcyclist Association (CMA)
 April 6, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
 Ryan's in Bossier City
 Jackie Maggio, President

Please come to the first meeting of the new CMA Bossier City Chapter. CMA is an interdenominational Association. CMA welcomes everyone regardless of the brand of bike that is ridden. CMA welcomes anyone interested in bikes, even if you don't own a motorcycle.

Call 549-3165 or 820-1991 for information.

Official web site:
www.cmausa.org



BENTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Births

Sophia Katelin Sprowl
Cameron Parker Sprowl
Mary Claire Temple
Abby Jane Wilkinson

Deaths

Belinda Krumtum
Gary Jones
Jean Welder
Joe Barrett
Ethel Emmons

Military

Troops and Leaders
Aaron Thompson
Cory Campbell
Derrick Albright
Patricia Johnson
Don Riley
William Pluth
Sean Gilder
Eric Lee
Jacob Maddox
Drew Maddox
Matthew Finn

Requests

Jennifer Warner
Kami Chauncy
Ron Gormanous
Adam & Peggy Durant-Praise!
Mark Landrum
John Pope
Jim Farnam
Venus Johnson
Terri Kavanaugh
Maury Rea
Pete Sirman
Eric Medvedev
Evelyn Futch
Robbie Allgood
Merle Little
Shannon Humphrey
Lee Grisso
Ben Stewart
Emma Grace Holmes
Jan Edwards
Barbara Armitage
Lynn Shelton
Bob McGuirt
Tim White
Margie Keith
Jan Taylor
Kathleen Horton
Betty Martin
John McKay Short
Frank Rogers
Bruce Birdwell
Teri Rumbaugh
Corie Roper
Vern Hine
Ralph Malone
Doyle Faust
Virginia Lewis
Scott Wiggins
Margaret Henry
Robben Williams
Paula Clark
Donna Prifogle
Sandra King
Betty Griffin Wilmarth
Norma Jean Connelly
Fern Daum
Richard Clark
Jordan Maxie
Carolyn Pearce
Jack Barrett

April Adams
Tunnisia Coleman
Beverly Quillin
Green Long
Sonja Crick
Joanne Williams
Carol Young
Wayne Mulford
Earl Lungsford
Miles Britt
Lynda Lee
Erin Gates
Louise Farnsworth
Dolores Guest
Susan Mejia
April Nix Johnson
Owen Bell
Bill DeBusk
Jim Buatt
Ann Wilkins
Sue Hefner
Lila Vaughn
Robbie Jones
Mary Anne Jones
Jewell Davis