

BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2010



THE LOVE LETTER

LYNN'S LINES



Do you see any truly extraordinary workers? They will serve kings rather than ordinary people.

Proverbs 22:29 (NLT)

I wrote last month concerning the value of hard work (diligence) that Solomon says in the key to success in life. I shared with you that I discovered four roadblocks to success: self-centeredness, conceit/arrogance, ignorance, and irresponsibility. I didn't think it quite fair to offer you only half the story, for if there are roadblocks to success, there must likewise be some advice for obtaining success through hard work. My survey of Proverbs did, in fact, prove fruitful in that regard, and I wanted to share the advice I discovered.

First, we simply need to *wake up* to the reality. Solomon offers in Proverbs 6:9—"But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? I want you to learn this lesson." It's like the old Nike commercial used to say, "Just do it!" We have to stop procrastinating if we want to be successful in life. It's true with our salvation, as well. Remember the Apostle Paul? He said, "For God says, 'At just the right time, I heard you.

On the day of salvation, I helped you.' Indeed, God is ready to help you right now. *Today* is the day of salvation." Just do it!

Secondly, we need *vision*. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without a vision, the people perish." Someone as wise as Solomon once said, "If you don't know where you're going, how will you know when you get there?" Rare are the businesses that ever succeed without vision. Rare are the churches that are healthy and growing without a vision. Rare are the lives that are productive and meaningful without purpose and vision. Vision, in the sense Solomon speaks of, has to do with discovering what God is calling us to do. We define it by our mission in life. What is your mission?

Thirdly, if we want to achieve success in life, we must *seek counsel*. Proverbs 15:22 warns us that "plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success." We can never get too much good advice. Abraham Lincoln formed a presidential cabinet by surrounding himself with those who had been his rivals because he believed they could offer him solid advice as he led the nation during the Civil War. I love to be able to say that Pat Day at 1st UMC, Shreveport, and Bill Blakely have served me as invaluable counselors over the years. It's always good to call them up, or share a meal together to bounce ideas off them, to challenge my thinking. Find counselors who will lead you in being successful.

Finally, I would say *value wisdom* if you desire to be successful in life. Solomon counsels in Proverbs 16:16—"How much better to get wisdom than gold, and understanding than silver!" Solomon, the richest man in the world, knew there was something more valuable than all his gold and silver. Actually, he knew it was his wisdom that contributed greatly to material success. I would caution us though in measuring success purely in monetary terms. There is more to life than money.

We all want to be measured by our success. If that's true, the key is diligence (hard work). But don't let the hard work be valued only for the economic gain it can bring us. See the necessity of hard work in every area of life—in your relationships, in your recreation, and most especially in your spiritual life.

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

Motivations for Giving

I have had to make some dramatic life style changes in the last six months as I get closer to retirement and my medical expenses continue to rise. I am not complaining, just stating that I don't have the luxury of dollars that are not designated for something each month. I love Benton United Methodist Church. It is a vibrant, loving community of believers who are active in giving their time, service, talents and financial resources to those needs that they believe in. It has caused me to reflect on why I give and perhaps others give also. I do know that in this day and age, people do not give to the church because they are "supposed to" or out of guilt or even because of tax deductions. So what motivates us?

Belief in the Mission. Benton United Methodist Church's mission statement is Inviting In, Growing Up and Sending Out? How are we doing? Are there areas of our mission that we are not fulfilling? How did you feel about the 40 Projects in 40 Days? Do you think Spring Thaw is an evangelism tool? Would you like for there to be more opportunities for persons to gather for discipleship growth? Do you see lives being changed? Has your life changed because you are a part of this community of faith?

Regard for Staff Leadership. There have been a lot of changes in staff over the last 2 years. Your church leaders have striven to hire the right people to train and encourage spiritual growth. Our doors are always open for you to come by and visit; ask any questions and share any needs. I believe that this staff is God appointed to lead this church in the direction that He would have us go.

Fiscal Responsibility. The Finance Committee and Church Council do not take lightly the responsibility of oversight of the tithes and offerings that you give. We have asked that groups do not raise money for special projects that have not been approved by the Church Council. I have always believed that church unity comes from a unified budget. A budget is a wonderful tool for planning. It gives us an opportunity to think forward on what we want to emphasize in the coming year and give priority to where God is leading us. That means that fiscal responsibility must be not only by church leaders, but also from the congregation. The more people who are willing to make a pledge card commitment to our general operating fund, the easier it is to make meaningful projections of our income and expenses. It allows us to budget for our spiritual leadership, children's, youth and adult discipleship; our evangelism outreach; our music and worship in addition to the general upkeep of our church.

April has been an exciting month for me in my job. I have seen so many who have given their best and most precious resources. Keep on keeping on. God created us to be Stewards of his creation.

~Dianne

Financial Report

2010 April Financial Report		Bank Accounts	General Fund (Operating)	Building Fund	Designated Gifts
April 4	\$ 12,908.27	Opening Balance 3-31-2010	\$ 92,256.18	\$ 27,943.35	\$ 30,311.37
April 11	9,855.21	Income	\$ 37,229.10	\$ 114,070.00	\$ 4,009.99
April 18	7,541.17	Expenses	\$ 46,256.38	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 4,979.88
April 25	6,924.45	Bank Balance 4-30-2010	\$ 83,228.90	\$ 22,013.35	\$ 29,341.48
Received YTD	\$ 231,029.86	Mortgage			
2009 YTD	\$ 227,072.78	Principal balance 01/2010		\$ 1,496,489.71	
		Principal balance 04/2010		\$ 1,345,719.38	

Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of Benton United Methodist Church. Not only did we pay down our mortgage significantly, but we provided Esther Gitobu, our missionary to Cambodia, with a gift of 5 pregnant pigs! We are changing lives, reaching out to help our neighbor and showing God's love.

UMM NEWS**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 the first Saturday of each month 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 the Friday before the sale.

UMW NEWS**Nightingales**

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Morning Glories

Wednesday, May 19, 2010
11:30 a.m.



The *Nightingales* will meet for a salad supper in the home of Pat Mosher on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

The *Morning Glories* will meet for a salad luncheon in the home of Ginny Jones on Wednesday, May 19

**General meeting**

The next general meeting of the UMW will be on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will have a guest speaker from the Pool of Siloam. After our business meeting, we will pack Birthing Kits for UMCOR. Plans for the summer will include two activities for the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission.

Donor Recognition Tree**New Leaves**

Placed in memory of:

Eric Medvedev

by Agu and Peggy Medvedev

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.

OPALS

Those **O**lder **P**eople with **A**ctive **L**ife **S**tyles will share a wonderful meal and then hear about the work that is being done at the Sager-Brown UMCOR Center on May 25, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. Several of our OPALS and other church members went to Sager-Brown last month and they will bring us an up close and personal look at the mission work that is being carried out throughout the world through local churches and individuals. 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 . . . no matter what your age. So, please join us for a good meal and an interesting program.

The April meeting for OPALS also included a beautiful begonia plant for Cheryl Nelson and her years of service and encouragement for our older adults. Everyone signed a card for Cheryl and we look forward to her continuing to participate as a member only.



Thanks, Cheryl!

**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. Deadline May 9, min. of 10 people.

Out of the Box Bible Study
Coming Soon...

Christian Education

Dear Church Family,

My name is Rose Whittington and I have been asked to be the Christian Education Coordinator. This task was previously handled by Rev. Cheryl Nelson and with her recent retirement I was asked if I could help with this ministry. I am very excited and humbled to be asked to assist with the "Growing Up" part of our church mission. Cheryl did such an amazing job and I can only hope to continue what she started and attempt to make improvements along the way.



As the Christian Education Coordinator I am privileged to work with everyone involved with the education ministry. These are the volunteers who give up their time to teach our Sunday school classes, Bible studies, etc. These people are the core of the education ministry and they make my position such a blessing because of their dedication and hard work.

I look forward to learning and growing with this ministry. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions that would help the education ministry at BUMC, please do not hesitate to contact me. This is a new experience for me and I would love any input or advice. You can contact me at home 326-4569 or cell 393-1174.

God Bless, Rose

Other Ministries

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Monday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Eva Smith room. All are welcome, from beginners to experts. If you don't know how to crochet or knit, we can help. We hope to see you there.



Card Ministry

The Card Ministry meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the conference room. We handcraft greeting cards like the one pictured for prayer and other needs. If you can color outside of the lines, you can do it. Call Rachel at 965-2273 for more information.

Children's Ministry

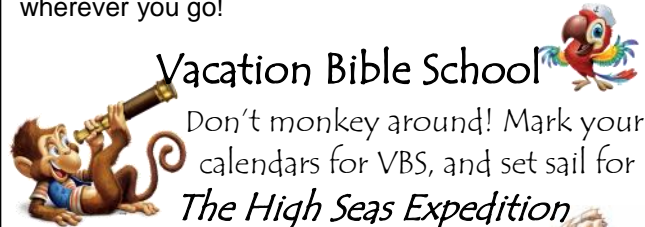
The Beach BUMS (three years old through fifth graders) have moved into their new home. Come upstairs and check it out! We are so excited about our new space. We still have a few renovations to go but we have already come so far in making Bible Beach more kid-friendly!

April was a very busy month. We had our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 at 2:00 PM. There were eggs galore, pictures with a live bunny, and cupcakes were decorated. Tons of children joined in the fun!

Our three and four year old girls, their moms, and a couple of grandmas had a Teddy Bear Tea Party on Saturday, April 24th. We met at the church for a trip to Build-A-Bear and the Cheesecake Factory for a special afternoon of fun. We had so much fun!

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 May! Make the most of all God has given you and shine your light wherever you go!

Vacation Bible School



Don't monkey around! Mark your calendars for VBS, and set sail for *The High Seas Expedition*

June 21-25th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Watch for registration packets to be available soon. Call Mary Jo or Ashley for 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, Tweens' Co-Director

(318) 965-1362

April Fleming, Tweens' Co-Director

(318) 965-2273

SHelter 491

"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty."-Psalm 91:1

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	3:00 p.m.	Drama Practice
Sunday	4:00 p.m.	Band Practice
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	REACTION Youth Service

As we enter May, many people are experiencing bittersweet emotions. We are proud of our children and their accomplishments as they move forward in life, while at the same time there is a bit of sadness as well. Whether we wish we had more time with them as a small child/pre-teen/teen, or whether we look back and think of so many things we could have done differently, there are mixed feelings about promotions and graduations.

I remember when I was preparing to leave for college and my church threw a large "sending out" party for me. There were lots of gifts and very nice speeches by students and adults. Then my dad spoke and simply said, "This is my son, and I love him." Not one eye was left dry after our embrace. In the words of my then youth pastor, "The guy says 5 words and breaks everybody up." My father's sentiments on that day sum up the mixture of feelings we go through as we watch our children move from one stage of life to the other. Having three small children of my own, I already experience these emotions on a smaller scale: wonder, pride, confusion, love, etc...

As parents we just want our children to do well. If you've brought up your children with the motto of Ecclesiastes that to love God and do what He says sums up life, then you've done well. Continue to love and pray for your children as they make their way through elementary school, middle school, high school, college, and life in general. We'll be joining you in this. God's blessing on you and your children.

In Christ,
Chris

Thank you!

To all the youth who give their prayers, presence, gifts and service to support **Shelter 491** Student Ministries.

LOCK-OUT



Friday



May 28, 2010

8:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Drop-off at BUMC and pick-up at IHOP on Air-line Drive.

Permission slips required.
Call Chris for 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

Impact Benton 2010

Registration

You could be eligible to receive \$100 cash!

Everyone who registers with the \$30 registration fee **before May 11, 2010**, will be placed in a drawing for a \$100 cash prize and other prizes. Persons who registered during the March registration rally will be automatically entered for the drawing. See your IMPACT Benton representative for details or send your email requests to:

impactbentonextra@live.com

IMPACT Benton Signs

If you or someone you know still have IMPACT Benton signs from last year,

please take an inventory and contact Lynn Bryan at 318-347-1930.

We need the count by May 4, 2010.

Prayer Changes Things

The Prayer Warriors Team is calling on all IMPACT Benton Churches to establish a PRAYER TEAM at your church to pray specifically for our upcoming IMPACT Benton week. The Team will also collect other prayer requests for Prayer Warriors to lift in prayer. For more information, contact Tiffany Manning at:

manningmet@gmail.com

Sponsorship

You can sponsor IMPACT Benton with a donation of \$100 or more.

Please contact Gary Wyche if you would like to support IMPACT Benton with a sponsorship.

Save the Date!

IMPACT Benton is

June 6-10, 2010

Our Representative:

Gary Wyche

(318) 465-3274

3rd Annual BUMC Missions 5K Run~Walk

Date & Time:

Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.

Early Registration:

Register by dropping off your race application with cash or check only at **Sportspectrum** at 7607 Youree Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105. All credit card registration must be made online at www.sportspectrumusa.com. Registration fee is \$15.00 through June 18 until 6 p.m. Race day (June 19) will be \$20.00. Race day pick up will be from 7:00 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. at the race site.

Course Description:

The course will start and finish at Benton UMC. The

race will wind through the lovely lanes and small rolling hills of Woodlake South subdivision. This is a scenic and challenging course for runners, walkers and sightseers. This is the third annual BUMC Missions 5K Run/Walk, so come out and join the fun!

Awards:

Overall Male and Female will receive medals. Age group awards will also be given to overall and runner-up in each division.

Register online quickly and easily at:

www.sportspectrumusa.com

C. M. A. MAY EVENTS**Christian Motorcyclist Association****Jericho Ride—May 15**

The cost is \$10 per person. We will leave from McDonalds on Airline and Viking Drive at 8 a.m. From there, we will ride to Radiant Life Church in Keithville through Shreveport and Bossier City, making stops along the way to pray for our city, government, nation and our own personal lives. The ride will end at Cypress Black Bayou State Park for prayer, fellowship, food and music. For more information, visit:

www.radiantlifekeithville.com/flyer4.html

CMA Chapter Meeting—May 25

Ryan's Restaurant on Airline Drive
6 p.m.—Dinner, 7 p.m.—Meeting

**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION**

Thursday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center is Preschool Graduation. Karen would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend this ceremony.

MAY MEETINGS

Traditional Worship Team ... Monday, May 3, 5 p.m.
Christian Education Monday, May 10, 5 p.m.
Evangelism Team..... Tuesday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.
Board of Trustees Monday, May 17, 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.

UMW Bake Sale

Check out the UMW Booth
at Spring Thaw on May 1st from
12-5 p.m. for:

- ◆ *Screaming Owl Salsa*
- ◆ *Pepper Jelly*
- ◆ *Baked Goodies*
- ◆ *4 Baskets for a Silent Auction*

All proceeds go to missions.

Art by Joshua Leo / Silent Auction

Sunday, May 2nd and May 9th

Joshua Leo is raising funds to attend the *People to People Student Ambassador Program* in Europe. He is holding a silent auction for one original piece of artwork and prints of his artwork. You can view his art in the North foyer on Sunday, May 2nd and May 9th.

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.



E-Giving

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.





BENTON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Deaths

Eric Medvedev
Jan Taylor
Trudy McBride

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 Flinn

Requests

Jennifer Warner

Ron Gormanous

Adam & Peggy Durant-Praise!

Mark Landrum

Jim Farnam

Terri Kavanaugh

Pete Sirman

Evelyn Futch

Emma Grace Holmes

Ralph Malone

Margaret Henry

Carolyn Pearce

Jack Barrett

April Adams

Green Long

Carol Young

Wayne Mulford

Louise Farnsworth

April Nix Johnson

Bill DeBusk

Jim Buatt

Sue Hefner

Alvin Irwin, Sr.

Jean Wright

Joy Porter

Jacob Lax

Jane Heggan

Bobbie Scarborough

Robert John McGowan

Ann Husser

David Carroll

Terry Edminston

Brock Cassell

Stephanie Nehring

Harry Stephens

Melvin Giddings

Bud Stinson

Jerry Walsh

James Cox

Cleve Davidson

Jim Lewis

Edgar & Emily Richardson

Kenny Wreyford

Gabe & Garrett Fradella

Thomas Wilson

Paula Roberson

Mike Roberson

Lee Grisso

Brandon Duncan

Cole Sharp

Tripp Litrell

Beulah Davis

Mae Gracie

Beverly Bowen

Mac McGregor

Dennis Himes

Dillon Culbertson

Pete Odom

Keith Hetrick

Mathie McGrath

Celeste Clifton

Gina Martinez

Jerry McGuire

Brian Barnard