

ANNOUNCEMENTS—March 7, 2010

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for the Holy Spirit's power as we continue to work on the Capital Fund Campaign and building plans. If there is any group in the church who would like a team of speakers from the Building Committee to give an update and answer questions, please contact John Rees 919-787-5510, Lee Honeycutt (919) 787-0789 or Skip Williams 787-0789.

THE MEMBERSHIP CARE COMMITTEE will meet Tuesday, March 16, 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room. Please join us if interested in being a part of this ministry.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet Thursday, March 11, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Come celebrate all things Irish with food and a program on "Happy Talk". Make reservations by March 8 by calling Gwen Baskett 791-0179 or Judy Darnell 266-4610.

BENSON BOOK GROUP will meet Monday, April 5, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Please join us in reading and discussing Still Alice by Lisa Genova. This book is available through Wake County Libraries. It can also be purchased through the local bookstores. For more information, please contact Carol Gosselin [881-0504](tel:881-0504) or j_c_gosselin@bellsouth.net.

JAMAICA FEEDING PROGRAM – Several people have asked how to contribute money to this mission. Please make check to Benson Memorial and on the memo line write Jamaica Feeding Program. Put checks in the offering plate or church office. Thank you!

UMCOR RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE – The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is responding to the needs of people affected by the massive earthquake which struck Chile on February 27. UMCOR is working with partners in Chile: Iglesia Metodista de Chile (IMECH), Ministerio Social Methodista (MISOM) and Equipo Metodista de Acción Humanitaria (EMAH) to respond with resources and support. At this point, it is not anticipated that relief supply kits will be needed. Financial support can be made to Chile Emergency Advance # 3021178. Give now by clicking on [Chile Emergency](#) or placing a gift in the church offering plate. Please write check to Benson Memorial and indicate on the memo line Chile Emergency.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY AND MEAL – Wonderful Wednesday is Benson Memorial's weekly gathering for food, study, reflection, and fun! During Lent, the period of preparation before Easter, Wonderful Wednesday will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a meal of light soup, bread and water. A thirty minute study and discussion will follow. The 2010 Bible Study will be based on Germund Thompson's book, The Cross Is Urgent. Weekly study topics will be: March 10 - "A Toiling World--"; March 17 – "A Selfish World"; March 24 - "An Indifferent World--"; and March 31 - "A Redeemed World--". An offering will be received each week, and distributed during Holy Week to a needy local ministry to be selected by the group. Come and learn why the cross is truly urgent for all of us!

ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR is posted on the Administrative Building Bulletin Board. To provide Worship Service flowers, please check for an available date, enter your name and the reason on your selected date. Contact Louise Humphrey for details, 919-518-1825.

THE COVINGTON – The next service for the Covington Assisted Living residents will be Sunday, March 14, 2010. 3:00 p.m. Participation in monthly services continues to increase as the residents enjoy singing gospel songs and hearing the inspired word of God. If anyone wishes to help with this mission service by singing, providing refreshments, reading scripture and sharing God's love, contact Jimmy Ennis, 787-5626.

LAY LEADER WITNESS – Once a month a Lay Witness from the congregation shares a part of their life when God has answered prayers. Your witness may encourage someone to make a change in their life and follow the

teachings of Jesus Christ. The congregation is waiting to hear your story at the 8:45/11:00 a.m. church service. Contact Jimmy Ennis, 787-5626 or Mary Honeycutt 787-0789.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HAITI MISSION – Donations of food and health items from churches are being collected at a warehouse located at the corner of Whitaker Mill Road and Atlantic Avenue. It is operational on Tuesdays, and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As donations come in from other churches in the district, preparing the items for shipment becomes a huge operation. Volunteers are needed to prepare the items for shipping. Contact Jack Robinson 781-5251.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 6:30 p.m., in Rooms 202/203.

PRE-WOMEN'S RETREAT FELLOWSHIP GATHERING -- If you have already registered for the April 16-18 Women's Retreat, are *considering* registering, or would *just like more information* about this wonderful weekend, please join us on Sunday, March 14 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet other women retreaters. Whether you've been a "Retreat Sister" before, or are considering this year's retreat, we hope you will come to Room 202-203, Administration Building for some good time together. We will answer questions about the weekend and to tell you more about some of the arrangements already underway for this special time, planned just for you. We look forward to seeing you! Important Note: Can you still register for retreat? Yes, indeed. Early registrations help our record-keeping, but most importantly, when you find you can come, submit your registration form!

THE BENSON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL/WEEKDAY PROGRAMS REGISTRATION The BMUMC Preschool/Weekday Programs are committed to providing an effective program which takes into account and provides for the emotional and educational needs of young children. We are currently registering for the 2010-2011 School Year and for the 2010 Summer Enrichment Program. For further information and assistance with the registration process, please contact Shannon Luxford, the Preschool/Weekday Programs Director 781-3310 or come by the office.

PRESCHOOL/WEEKDAY CHARLES MCADAMS SCHOLARSHIP FUND – Present economic stress has caused an increase in the requests for financial aid. The Preschool Board has established a Scholarship Fund named in honor of Charles McAdams. Gifts in any amount and at any time are appreciated and helpful. Write checks to BMUMC, on the memo line write Preschool/Weekday Charles McAdams Scholarship Fund, put in the special envelope, and leave in the offering plate or church office. The special envelopes are in the pew racks.

MAINTENACE LIST FOR TRUSTEES – Please list items needing the attention of Trustees on the clipboard located by the office door.

<u>Our Financial Giving</u>		
<u>Week Ending</u>		<u>Year-To-Date</u>
<u>2/28/2010</u>		<u>9 - weeks</u>
Budget Needs	\$15,745.85	\$141,712.65
Actual Receipts	\$20,336.30	\$127,070.28

ALL CHILDREN GRADE 2 – 5 are invited to join the Carol Choir to learn a wonderful children's musical, "Bones", to be presented for Children's Day, April 25. Rehearsals are Sundays 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. Pat Anderson will also be rehearsing parts of the musical with the younger children during Children's Church on Sundays.

HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! – The 2010 Summer Sunday School program is about to begin! Summer Sunday School meets at 9:45 a.m. Teachers and Assistants are needed in the following areas: two Lead Preschool Teachers; two Assistants in the Preschool Class; one Lead Kindergarten- Grade 2 Teacher; and two Assistants in the Third-Fifth Grade Class. Training, curriculum, and supplies will be provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to share

God's Word with the children of Benson. To volunteer for one of these positions or get more information, contact Kristina at the church 787-0789, Ext. 304, kyeatts@bm-umc.org. Thank you in advance for what you will do for the children at our church!

BIBLE STUDY for all Children in Grade 1-5, will be held beginning Wednesday, March 10, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We will have a Bible study on, "Worship." In the study, we will discover the meaning of worship, explore ways in which worship takes place, and share reasons why worship is important. In addition to this study, we will also make "extra" cards to take to the Prison and play games. Come one, Come all!

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA – All Preschoolers accompanied by an adult, and Children Grades 1-5 are invited to an Easter Eggstravaganza, Sunday, March 28, 3:30-5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. We will play games, make a craft, and have an Easter egg Hunt. Bring a basket to collect eggs and finger foods to share. We are requesting items listed below for the meal. If your last name begins with...

A-F – Please bring Chicken nuggets, or Bagel bites to share

G-L – bring fruit or vegetables to share

M-R – bring goldfish, or chips to share

S-Z –bring cookies, brownies, cupcakes or any other dessert to share

CANDY AND PRIZES PLEASE! This year, we are also requesting donations of "soft" candy and small prizes to put in Easter goodie bags for the children. Please drop off your candy and small prizes in the "Easter Eggstravaganza" box in the Narthex by Sunday, March 21. Thanks so much for your help!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010 - It is time to start planning for Vacation Bible School! On Sunday, March 14, after the 11:00 a.m. service, in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a potluck-planning luncheon. Any previous station or group leaders are encouraged to attend. However, this meeting is not just for the "experienced." If you have ever wondered what Vacation Bible School is about or how it gets put together, please plan to come to this very important meeting. For more information, contact Kristina Yeatts 787-0789 ext. 304, or kyeatts@bm-umc.org. Thanks!