

Thanksgiving Telescope

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honor of Thy majesty, and of Thy wondrous works. And all shall speak of the might of Thy terrible acts; and I will declare Thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of Thy great goodness, and shall sing of Thy righteousness. The Lord is good to all!" (From Psalm 145: 3-9) Notable quote from Bartlett

Consider: Our thanksgiving is the telescope through which we look to see the goodness of God! Our responses to this celestial view comes in three forms:

1. What God shows us
2. What we feel upon seeing
3. What we do in response

I've come to understand that this "unsearchable" God wants more than anything for us to see and know Him clearly and intimately. Remember how in, "Song of Songs" scripture compares our love relationship with God to that of a young couple deeply in love? That is the way He loves us and that is the way He wants us to love Him! Once we see that love, we process our feelings our emotions toward this loving God, our response becomes our "thanksgiving"!

This season of Thanksgiving is especially significant for us. Now more than ever we should realize how much God loves us, and how much He gives to us. There is not a single moment of life that is not simply bubbling over with the goodness of God! (e.g., Were you, as moved as I was on Sunday by the children's singing and the testimonies by Donna and Emily?! What a gift!) We all know there are sad times, trying times, frustrating times. We face them, our children, our neighbors, and people all over the world face them! But we don't have to be overcome by them! We still have it pretty good! David Grayson has a note for the whole world, that could easily be a reminder to Christians: *"It is a sad thing to reflect that, in a world so overflowing with goodness of smell, of fine sights and sweet sounds, we pass by hastily and take so little note of them."*

Take another look through the "Thanksgiving telescope"! Speak of God's honor! Declare His greatness! Remember His constant goodness! Slow down in your rush through life and smell the roses that God has left for you. If you do, I'll bet you'll see God more clearly than ever before! Have a most blessed Thanksgiving holiday! God bless you! See you in church Sunday! -Skip

DID YOU KNOW... by Gwen Baskett, Evangelism
I am pretty sure I erred in the assumption that the Evangelism Committee changed names. In fact, Witness/Church Growth is the "umbrella" over communications and evangelism, and Mike McKinney is the chair.

Recently, Gene and I visited Spring Valley UMC in Henderson and Ray Pearce, the minister, preached a sermon entitled "The How..." of evangelism. As we left the service, I thanked him for writing my next column.

There are some things the church must do before it can produce effective evangelism. First, we need to examine our attitude. Are we truly in relationship with God? Do we seek his will and direction for our lives? Are we really committed to "making disciples" and bringing them into our fellowship as family? Do we discriminate among potential believers? Does our "comfort zone" keep us from action? Second, it is important for us to revisit the fundamentals of our faith. In other words, what are the basics upon which we base our beliefs and service? Have we truly accepted these principles? Do we have the heart of a Christian? Or, are we just going through the motions of religion? Next, what does our vernacular (everyday speech) demonstrate to the world and each other? Do our biases block our ability to embrace the world in Christian love? Is it possible to reach out and love those we do not trust or approve of? What impact do our words have on others? Words can be a mighty sword that separates us from God and others.

"The How" requires:

- 1) Courage versus fear. Fear paralyzes us from trusting God to be with us. We are our own worst enemies by doubting ourselves and making excuses. Confidence in our beliefs and the right attitude is what it takes.
- 2) The church must be steadfast in its efforts. There is no room for quitting. God will provide openings, words and abilities, and we must trust the Holy Spirit to give us the judgement for who, when, and where.
- 3) We must serve with humility, reminding ourselves it is God who saves, not we ourselves. Ego and self-importance undermines our reliability and offends.
- 4) We must learn to love again! Expand our boundaries. Make our words consistent with our feelings. Agape love is "wide open" according to Webster. Honesty is the first step toward changing individual and corporate attitudes, habits, and action.

Ray, thanks again.



PRAYER CONCERNS : Jeff and Kristy Barefoot, Jim Bond, John and Barbara Cameron, Becky Clegg, Gene Ellis, Blanche Goodwin, Fred and Bettye Greger, Walter and Charlie Lackey, Irene Lowe, Charles McAdams, John

Martin, Elaine McBride, Doug McCrary, Dottie Piontek, Paul Skinner, Mark Steger, Bob and Gracie Walker, Camille Yorkey, Service men and women serving our country. For Prayer Concern Request, please complete the Prayer Request Card in the Pew Book Racks or contact the church office 787-0789. Drop the Prayer Request Cards in the Offering Plate during the Worship Service or leave in the church office.

PRESENCE...

Worship Attendance:

September 27-242

October 4-288

October 11-279

October 18-310

October 25 will be posted in the November Issue

Sunday School Attendance:

September 27-155

October 4-170

October 11-156

October 18-162

October 25 will be posted in the November Issue

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

...Michael and Tonya Martin for the birth of their daughter,

Finley Claire, Friday, September 4, 2009.

...Ben and Andrea Porter for the birth of their son, Caleb

William, born on September 25, 2009.

...Craig Potter and Shannon Luxford for the birth of their

son Lucas Burton Potter, born October 14, 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Katherine and Eric Goodwin who were married at Benson Memorial, Sunday, October 18, 2009. Katherine is the daughter of Jim and Joni Amerson.



Sympathy is extended to:

The family of Bud Barker, who passed away

Thursday, October 8, 2009.

The family of Dora Jean Bohannon, who passed

away Monday, October 12, 2009.

The family of Ben and Andrea Porter for the death

of Andrea's grandmother, Donna Skipton, who

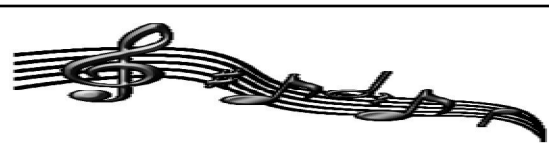
passed away Monday, October 12, 2009.

Donna and Allen Till for the death of Donna's Aunt,

Sue Anderson, who passed away Tuesday, October

13, 2009.

CELEBRATE OUR FAITH, STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH,
SHARE OUR FAITH



CHOIR MEMBERS AND INSTRUMENTALIST NEEDED

All Choirs are now in full swing. We are actively recruiting men for the Chancel Choir. Additional instrumental ensemble players are also being actively recruited. The ensemble group meets Mondays, 5:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary.



Spirituality & The Arts Series
Presented by Hinton Rural Life Center

Enjoy a retreat in the mountains to renew your spirit and to tap into your creativity! Choose from three exciting workshops below:

- Hand and Soul Retreat: February 5-7, 2010, led by Kim Joris. "A Personal Path To Spirituality Through Art.: The Connection of the Hand That Creates It and the Soul That Inspires It."
- Faith Book Scrapbooking Retreat: February 12-14, 2010, led by Clarissa Youngblood Fuentes, "Scrapbooking Your Sacred Journey."
- Creation Care Retreat: Date TBD, led by Kim Joris and other local artist, "Focusing on Environmental Stewardship."

For more information on these events, [download a brochure](#) or visit www.hintoncenter.org, or call 828-389-8336 (toll free: 866-389-8336). Register by December 31, 2009 and take 10% off workshop fee.

"THEY SAID IT!" *"Never tell people HOW to do things-- tell them WHAT to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity!"* - Gen. George S. Patton
(Note to self: Have I pleasantly surprised God lately?!)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS COMMITTEE - Please join us for Benson's annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday November 22 following the 11:00 a.m. service. Look for more information in the November bulletins.

"ANOTHER LEVEL" UPDATE - Benson Memorial celebrated another great "Another Level" event Sunday, October 18 at Oliver Twist. Throughout the three "practice" services we have averaged almost forty people, for which we give thanks. About twenty five percent of those in attendance are not Benson Members, and that percentage is expected to rise dramatically when enough money is available to begin marketing. Fundraising totals have broken the generous \$4,000 mark which has helped with essential preliminary equipment, but assistance is still needed to reach the \$19,000 goal! Benson Memorial has created something worth sharing: now we need your help to get the word out! With all efforts working together, it will be possible to invite thousands of young adults in our area who are hungry for "another level" of good news in their lives. The next service will be Sunday, November 15. Special offerings to support the ministry can be made to Benson Memorial with "Another Level" on the memo line.

WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY-THANK YOU SO MUCH! - Response to the request for small toiletry items has been wonderful. Please continue to donate these items and put them in the box located in the Administrative Building hallway outside the office. These gift items will be taken Tuesday, December 8, during our Christmas visit with the women.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING will be Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Asbury UMC, 6612 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27613. Tentative Offerings include the following:

- Staff-Parish Relations (for all committee members, particularly incoming)
- Legacy Partners: Gifts Which Impact our Shared Future (for stewardship)
- Risk-Taking Mission (for all mission committee members and more...)
- Spiritual Formation: From Cradle to Grave (for Education and more...)
- Prayer Ministries: A Blueprint for The House of Prayer (for anyone interested)
- Radical Hospitality: From Foyer to Kitchen (for Evangelism)
- How Do We Handle God's Money in The Church? (for Finance members)
- The Ministry of Lay Speaking (for all current lay speakers and those interested in becoming lay speakers)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



"Train up a child in the way he/she should go. When he or she is old, he or she will not turn from it."

"Some Things You Can Be Thankful For"

This past week, I came across a very powerful article written by Tim Davis@cybersall.org. Here is what it said:

"If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed— one third of the world does not have access to every one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend church without fear of harassment, arrest or torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you prayed yesterday and today, you are in the minority because you believe in God's willingness to hear and answer prayer.

If you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, you are part of a very small minority in the world. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all."

What a powerful article! This month, let's all reflect upon these words the next time we feel down, frustrated, or overwhelmed, for we all have so much to be thankful for!

In His Service,
Kristina

Nursery Ministry Sign-up Sheets for the months of November and December are posted outside the Nursery door and on the Children's Ministry bulletin board located in the Administrative Building. One or two volunteers are needed each week in the nursery to assist the paid contractors during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Sign-up directly or send an email to kyeatts@bm-umc.org with the dates you are available to serve. For more information, call Kristina Yeatts 787-0789, Ext. 304. Thanks for serving our youngest disciples!

Nursery Ministry Volunteer Schedule - 11:00am service

* Please remember to switch with another volunteer if you are not available to help on your assigned day.

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
November 1	Allison Dugan 676-2036	Holly Revels 571-9681
November 8	Cathy Poland 781-3076	Sarah Allen 844-6005
November 15	Debby Wojnarowski	Sandra McLaughlin
November 22	Andrea Porter	Sarah Allen
November 29	Nicole Licari & Caitlyn Strother	TBD



Children's Church – During November, Children's Church will be offered right after the Time with Children moment at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The leader is Erin Swinson, assisted by Peggy Reynolds
 * November 1: Sandra McLaughlin November 8: Karen Stevens November 15: Sarah Burnside November 22: and Joni Amerson November 29. At Children's Church, Children Age four through Grade 2, sing songs, read a Bible story, pray, and have lots of FUN! Children's Church meets in the Gathering Room, Room 113 and concludes when church ends. For more information, or to volunteer call Kristina at Ext. 304 or email her kyeatts@bm-umc.org. Thanks for serving our youngest disciples!

Children's Ministry Forms - Attention all Parents! I am still missing some of the Sunday School Registration forms, Medical Release Forms, and Participation forms. If you have not turned your child's form in, please do so ASAP. Thanks!

November Birthdays
 23 –Wesley Dunn
 23 –Jessica Lemons



Upcoming Events in Children's Ministry
 December 6 Sunday—Children's Christmas Program
 December 20 Sunday—Birthday Party for Jesus
 TBD –Christmas Caroling (Family Fun for all)



A Look Ahead – Attention all Children! On Sunday, December 20, 5:00-6:10 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a Birthday Party for Jesus. At the Birthday party, we will sing songs, make a craft, play games, and eat birthday cake in honor of Jesus. All who attend are asked to bring one "unwrapped" toy for a boy or girl which will be given to the Toys for Tots program.



PLEASE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO JOINED BENSON MEMORIAL UMC Sunday, September 27, 2009

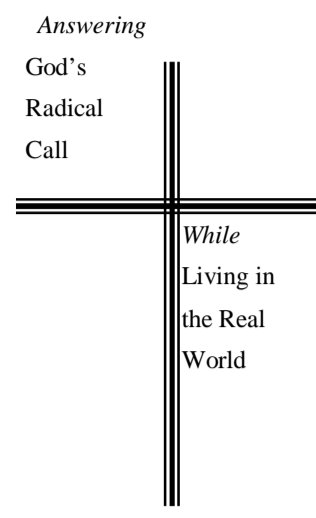
- David W. Boone
- Susan M. Boone
- Matthew Boone
- Allison Boone
- Betsy Williams

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

The Good Neighbor Ministry for helping Monique Martel to move, Saturday, September 12, 2009.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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**BEACON DEAD-
LINE**

The Newsletter Deadline for the **DECEMBER** Issue is **NOVEMBER 15**.

Mary Honeycutt, Editor
919-787-0789
mhoneycutt@bm-umc.org

Our Financial Giving

	Month Sept	Year - to - Date Jan - Sept
Budget Needs	\$65,774.23	\$591,968.07
Actual Receipts	\$54,137.77	\$542,305.07
Actual Expenses	\$57,455.26	\$519,135.33

NOTE: Reverend Skip Williams day off is Friday and Ed Priestaf, Associate Pastor is off on Monday. The church office closes at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.