

The Beacon



CHURCH COMMUNICATION

In 1985, with an 8 ½ month "with child" wife, I was assigned to my first full-time appointment, a two-point Wilmington charge consisting of Riegelwood, Wesley and Maco, Shiloh. Nine days after move day, Betsy delivered our second child, Matt. Several months later, on a Saturday afternoon, I was carrying Matt around in the parsonage back yard, lifting him up and bringing him back down. On one such maneuver, he moved from my palms to my fingertips with the swaddling clothes flapping all around him, but nestled back safely into my hands. We continued the trip, and went back into the house.

The next morning, I was greeted at the Riegelwood, Wesley front door by three sour-faced, blue-haired harpies, ranting and raving about my treatment of my newborn child, and they "better not ever see me do such a thing, ever again!" My first thought: "What kind of fishbowl am I living in?!"

I was in my back yard, minding my own business, having fun with my child -- and all the while, I'm being spied upon, with the story being passed around Riegelwood in a matter of minutes!! I was informed that such was the life of a rural small-town pastor. People not only know everybody else's business -- they tend to it as well! (Don't worry, we love them, they're wonderful, and we're still good friends!)

This all goes to say that in small communities, everybody keeps up with everyone else, and with a minimum of effort. Unfortunately, while the rumor mill is active in every church, it cannot be depended upon to keep the larger church family, and especially the preacher(s), up to date on all the life, health and family matters of the congregation! Benson is one such large, active congregation. That's the good news! While there IS no bad news, there is an area I need everyone's help. I have spoken about it in the church worship services, but now I want to repeat it in the *Beacon*. I have three requests for each of you (without exception):

1. Please make it your business to keep the pastor/staff informed about your needs. Don't depend on the rumor mill to pass on hospital visits, illnesses, celebrations, etc. -- the "mill" always seems to lose efficiency in direct proportion to the item's real importance.
2. If you hear others passing information, whether it's true or not, inform the church office. We can validate the information and confirm it with you. Please do not assume someone has already told us -- I'd rather hear something 50 times than miss it once.
3. If you hear others passing on information, either to others or to you, ASK if they have told the church pastors. That alone will help improve communications and our responses to your needs.
4. This is most important-- if you yourself do NOT tell us, we will assume you want privacy in your situation, and we will honor that desire.

We are all family, as the old version of the creed says: "the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God"! In living out the example given in Acts 2, church communication (from the body as a whole to the newest, youngest individual) is the key! Help your staff to be good stewards and servants as we strive to love and serve you! In so doing, we can best serve our Lord and grow His Kingdom!

NOTE: Jon Ed Matheson, Pastor Emeritus at Fraser Memorial UMC, Montgomery Alabama, will be the guest speaker at the Wilmington District's 2009 Camp Meeting, September 27, 28, 29. The celebration will be held at Butler Horse Farm, Elizabethtown, NC. Jon Ed arrived at Fraser in 1973, and by preaching stewardship and personal commitment, led the church to a membership of over 8,400 when he retired this past June, September. I plan to attend one or more nights but cannot go on September 29. That is the Finance and Board meeting night!. If anyone would like to go with me, please let me know!

GBY! See you in church Sunday!

Skip

DID YOU KNOW

Gwen Baskett . Witness/Church Growth, Chair

Sometime over the last few years the name of the Evangelism Committee has changed to Witness/Church Growth. I assume the duties are similar; however, being a word person, I like to reflect on what it says to me.

Webster defines: Evangelism is "a preaching of or zealous effort to spread the gospel..." Witness is "...knowledge, testimony, see...to testify to religious beliefs or faith..." Church is "...a building set apart or consecrated for public worship...having to do with organized Christian worship." Growth is "the process of growing or development...a gradual development toward maturity...a degree of increase in size..."

Are they the same? I am sure the Conference has guidelines to follow their thinking but for now, we can assign our own ideas to the subject.

To me, Evangelism goes outside the church to reach the un-churched and non-believers, something the Methodists do well in mission-related service, but are reluctant to "knock on doors" or approach strangers in the name of Christ. We are limited, or choked by the idea of pressuring people to believe, the prospect of looking dumb if we do not know the scriptures well, or fear not being able to answer questions.

Witness is how we live everyday in every way. The question here is, can others see Jesus in you? Does being a Christian make you different from others? Are we displaying to the world our gifts of the spirit?

Church is a body of Christian believers, specifically, but not limited to, the United Methodist Church, i.e. Benson Memorial UMC. The building houses our ministry and brings together Christians for worship and service.

Growth is "go and make disciples" and incorporate them into our church, where formation, maturity, and ministry is nurtured and encouraged.

What do you think?



PRAYER CONCERNS :

Jeff and Kristy Barefoot, Steve Bond, Becky Clegg, Gene Ellis, Fred Greger, Walter and Charlie Lackey, Irene Lowe, Charles McAdams, John Martin, Elaine McBride, Doug McCrary, Paul Skinner, Mark Steger,

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:

August 2–259

August 9–303

August 16–290

August 23– TO BE POSTED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

August 30– TO BE POSTED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

Sunday School Attendance:

August 2–142

August 9–163

August 16–163

August 23–TO BE POSTED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

August 30–TO BE POSTED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE

DIVORCE CARE AT BENSON MEMORIAL

Divorce Care is a weekly seminar and support group for anyone who is separated or divorced. If you know people who are going through a divorce or separation, make sure they know about Divorce Care. It might just be the best thing you could do to help family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, divorcees and others through a long painful healing process.

The next Divorce Care 13-week session starts Wednesday September 9, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Contact Jennifer Riggert 919-785-9079 or Ken Barnhouse 919-782-7771 for more information.

UMW GENERAL MEETING

The UMW General Meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 6:30 p.m., Rooms 202/203. This will be a covered dish dinner. The guest speaker will be Kristina Yeatts, BMUMC Minister of Children.

CELEBRATE OUR FAITH, STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH,
SHARE OUR FAITH

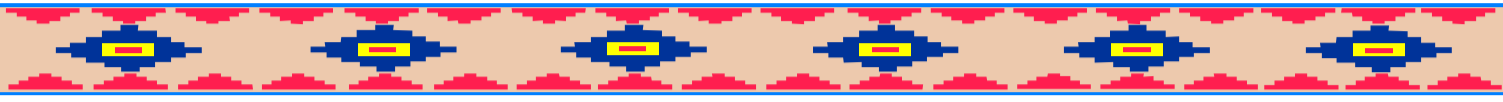
MUSIC NOTES



CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS begin Thursday, August 20, 7:30 PM. New members are welcome and needed. You will enjoy singing with the accompaniment of the new organ. If you think there is not enough room for more singers, we are planning to add another row in front of the existing choir loft. Hope to see you in the sanctuary Thursday, August 20, 7:30 p.m. Bob Petters

CHANCEL CHIMES IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS—This group is open to sixth graders through adults who are interested in playing hand chimes in an instrumental ensemble. Ability to read music is helpful, but not required. The group plays for worship services once a month. Chancel Chimes meets in the sanctuary on Sundays, 3:30 p.m., beginning September 13 to early May. Youth are encouraged to join as rehearsals end before time for UMYF. For more information contact Jennifer Riggert, (919) 785-9079 or jriggert@nc.rr.com.

DUST OFF YOUR HORN, oil those keys, find your sticks, rosin that bow and join Benson's Instrumental Ensemble! The group is open to string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players from teens through adults. Those who played in school are encouraged to rekindle their skills for God's glory. The group plays for worship services once a month. Rehearsals are every other week on Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sanctuary, from September 14 through May. Please contact Jennifer Riggert, (919) 785-9079 or jriggert@nc.rr.com if interested so music can be ordered.



GAME NIGHT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26, 7:00 P.M.



The Community Building Team invites you to join us for game night. This is a great opportunity to get to know others and have a lot of fun. All who attended the first game night this spring had a great time. Dan Brush will lead us in his original game - University Shuffle. No experience needed, and we look forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to Joan Fury 848 1927 or jgfury13@netscape.net if planning to attend. Babysitting will be provided based on RSVP's received by Sunday, September 13.

MEMBERSHIP CARE

The Membership Care Committee will meet Tuesday, September 8, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room. If you are called or interested in being a part of this caring ministry, please join us! For assistance or questions, call Trish Allen 562-6061.





Children's Ministry News

Children's Ministry News

"Train up a child in the way he/she should go. When he/she is old, he/she will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

"What is a Sunday School Teacher?"

This past week, I read this great description of what a Sunday School Teacher is: "Sunday School Teachers are one of the nicest things in a child's life. They come with paints, crayons, and play dough. They tell stories, make puppets, and create a variety of things out of paper. They call every student by name. They know 1001 uses for egg cartons and can turn an empty bleach bottle into a harp. Who else would dream of finger painting with chocolate pudding?"

Sunday School teachers come in all shapes and sizes. They may be young or old, tall or short, male or female. They may have taught for 42 years or have never entered a classroom before. They may prepare for a class of 2 or 102! They may teach students who are 4, 24 or 94.

Sunday School teachers let God's love flow through them to their students. They are very special creatures... Nobody else has so much endurance. Nobody else is so willing to be flexible. Nobody else has quite so much patience. Nobody else has so much to give or is so willing to learn. And nobody else is quite so essential to the life and growth of our congregation.

Sometimes the idea bank runs dry, patience wears thin, and their energy flags, but just when next Sunday looks impossible to face, a student will appear with a hug and a thank you. Then he or she will say, "I love you teacher. You make me want to come to church."

To all the Sunday School teachers and workers who are serving now or who have ever served, Thanks so much for all your hard work and dedication!

Sunday School Classes – This Fall, we are offering the following Sunday School classes for children.

Preschool –Ages 3 and 4 (Room 207)
(3's and 4's will go directly to their class at 9:45am).

Kindergarten & Grade 1 (Room 209)
Grades 2 & 3 (Room 206)
Grades 4 & 5 (Room 113) (Gathering Room)

(All Kindergarten- Grade 5 children will go to the Gathering Room (Room 113) at 9:45 a.m. The children will gather for music, a memory verse, and prayer.

The children will then be escorted to their Sunday School classes at 10:00am.

The Sunday School experience is so important to every child's spiritual growth and development.

Children's News Continued...

Nursery/Children's Church Ministry Volunteer Sheets for August-December are posted places, outside the Nursery and on the Children's Ministry bulletin board. Volunteers are needed to assist during the 11:00 a.m. worship service in both programs. Curriculum, training, and supplies will be provided! Sign-up directly or send an email to kyeatts@bm.umc.org with the dates that you will be available to serve. For more information, call Kristina 787-0789 Ext. 304. Thanks for serving our youngest disciples!

Third Grade Bible Presentation – On Sunday, August 30, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, Bibles will be presented to the following third graders: Lindsey Dunn, Karen Eladji, Foster Hixson, Bryce Poland, Grace Priestaf, and Tyler Yeatts. This is a special day in the life of the church as we recognize the importance of Christian Education and how it helps us grow and serve as Christian disciples. We affirm these children as people of God's Word and pledge our support to them and their families.

Acolyte Appreciation and Training – On Sunday, September 13, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Youth Center, there will be a pizza party lunch and acolyte training session for all current acolytes and all interested third through sixth graders. For the training, a parent should attend with their child. Parent attendance for current acolytes is not required, but welcomed. For sign-up or questions, please contact Karen Stevens at rkstevens@nc.rr.com

September Birthdays

3 – Parker Click
4 – Ryan Click
6 – Samantha Smith
17–Timothy Yeatts
19–Alex Burnside
22- Claire Sawyer
24–Johnathan Allen

A Look Ahead – October

Trunk or Treat- Mark Your Calendar! Attention all Children, Adults, Neighbors, and Friends! On Sunday, October 25, 2009, 4:30-5:30pm in the parking lot in front of the Administration Building, will be Trunk or Treat. All who attend are invited to dress up and decorate the trunks of their cars (optional) and pass out candy/treats to trick or treaters. No scary or evil costumes and/or decorations are permitted. Look for additional information and sign-up sheets in October.

More Upcoming Events in Children's Ministry
December 6- Children's Christmas Program
December 20- Birthday Party for Jesus
TBD- Christmas Caroling–Family Fun

Oral History Project

Benson Memorial celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary this year which means that in 2014, we will be celebrating its Fiftieth. A history of Benson was done for the Twentieth anniversary in 1984, but nothing has been done since. Stories of Benson members that have occurred during the last fifty years are needed to create an oral history of Benson Memorial. This project would require many volunteers, including videographers, transcribers, interviewers, interviewees, and a scheduler. All ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated. To be a part of this project over the next months, contact j_c_gosselin@bellsouth.net or 881-0504.

Benson Book Club October 5, 2009

The Benson Book Club will meet Monday, October 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m. To begin reading and discussing The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society by Mary Ann Shaffer.

January 1946: writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.

Though it deals with a dark period in history, this first novel is an essentially sunny work. It affirms the power of books to nourish people enduring hard times—not so surprising, since Mary Ann Shaffer had a long career as a librarian, bookseller and editor. Her niece Annie Barrows, a children's author, finished the manuscript after Shaffer fell ill: between them, they crafted a vivid epistolary novel whose characters spring to life in letters and telegrams exchanged over the course of nine months shortly after the end of World War II.

The book may be purchased at a local bookstore, or borrowed from a local library. Please join us for a lively discussion.

Any one is welcome at any time, and no long-term commitment is necessary. Read and discuss only the books that have interest for you.

For more information, contact Carol Gosselin [881-0504](tel:881-0504), or j_c_gosselin@bellsouth.net.

We Want Your Input

Several years ago Benson Memorial UMC members took a survey to identify the facilities needs of our congregation. From that survey the most urgent need was for additional fellowship areas as the current fellowship hall was inadequate.

In May 2008 a building committee was formed to address this need. This group has been working for the past year towards this goal. We have been moving forward with the plan of a multi purpose building. We have already completed some preliminary site investigation that will be used in the future.

What we would like from our congregation now is additional input on what you would like this multi purpose space to be and to be used for. We are conducting a new survey to allow everyone to provide input for this new addition to our campus.

Please take the time to complete this new survey. We also ask that each individual in a family complete a separate survey to provide everyone's opinion.

The two ways you can contribute are:

- Complete the survey online. This would be the fastest and most helpful to the building committee since we can use the online survey site to help compile the results. You can reach the link to the survey on the building committee web page on the church website at: www.bm-umc.org
- Obtain a printed copy from the church office and return the completed survey.

The online survey will be active beginning Sunday August 16. Hard copies will also be available in the church office on this date. Responses will need to be filled out online or returned to the church office by Monday August 31. Thank you. Jim Guettler (Building Committee – Vice Chair)



FREE TO A GOOD HOME

A free air hockey table, pool table, and couch are available. Contact Andrea Porter aporter@bm-umc.org or 787-0789 if interested.

SUSANNA WESLEY CIRCLE

The Susanna Wesley Circle will meet Monday, September 28, 10:00 a.m., church to go on a field trip by church bus to the State Farmer's Market. All ladies are invited to attend.

The Schedule is:

10:00 am Leave church

10:30 am Talk by the Market Specialist

11:00 am Lunch at the Market

12:00 a.m. Opportunity to tour the market. Contact

Frances Goodwin 846-9386 to reserve a seat.



PRESCHOOL/WEEKDAY PROGRAMS

EARLY YEARS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
Serving children ages 6 months to two years
Hours - 9:00am-1:00pm

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS
Serving children ages 3 years to 5 years

The Three and Four year old classes
Hours - 9:00am -12:00pm,
with an extended day option to 1:00pm

Transition Class
five year old
Hours - 9:00am-1:00pm
Ratio: 2:16

Contact Shannon Luxford, Preschool Director for information, 781-9910.

BMUMC IS HELPING TO BIRTH A NEW CHURCH!

Abundant Life United Methodist Church is due to "deliver" on Sunday, September 27, 2009 and help is needed to furnish their nursery. Will you help us shower them before the big day? Donations will be received through Sunday, September 13.

Items needed include toys in good condition that can be easily sanitized and small enough to store in large plastic bins, children's books, children's music CDs, CD player, plastic storage containers with lids to store supplies and toys, disinfecting wipes, hand soap, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves (non-latex), paper towels, disposable cups (5 oz. size), clipboards, 3-ring binders, markers, masking tape, name tags, art and craft supplies (crayons, stickers, paper, tape, children's scissors), and bubbles.

CHURCH WIDE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

The Community Builder Committee will sponsor a church wide Continental Breakfast, Sunday, September 20, 9:45-10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Come and mingle with old friends and meet new ones. Note: There will be no Sunday school classes.

Our Financial Giving

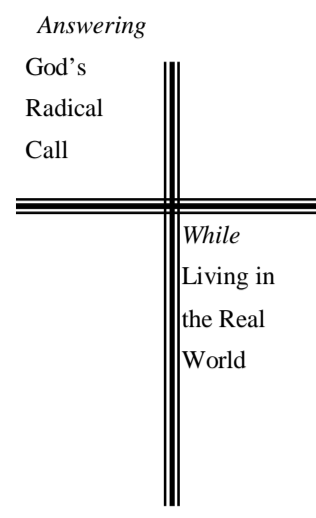
	Month <u>July</u>	Year - to - Date <u>Jan - Jul</u>
Budget Needs	\$65,774.23	\$460,420.50
Actual Receipts	\$54,307.80	\$425,430.46
Actual Expenses	\$53,525.97	\$405,301.62

Benson Memorial United Methodist Church
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Fax: 919-787-0466

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**BEACON DEAD-
LINE**

The Newsletter Deadline for the OCTOBER Issue is SEPTEMBER 15. The Beacon is published monthly and mailed the last week of each month.

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

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.