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**Benton United Methodist Church**

P.O. Box 182, Benton, MO 63736-0182 † Rev. Harry G. Sharp, III – Pastor † Tel: (573) 545-3673

**Boy Scout Sunday**

February 12<sup>th</sup> was Boy Scout Sunday, and something very special happened at church that day. 100% of the men and boys in worship have been or are now in the scouts. Not many churches can make that claim! Dave Callaway and I have attained the rank of Eagle, Greg Heuring almost got there, Scott Mainord was active in the scouts, and Brent Heuring is presently a Cub Scout. I hope that the example of these men will help motivate all youth to stay the course morally and motivate Brent toward the goal of being an Eagle Scout.

**He is Such a Friend to Me**

A minister passing through his church in the middle of the day, decided to pause by the altar and see who had come to pray. Just then the back door opened, and a man came down the aisle. The minister frowned as he saw the man hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was kind a shabby, and his coat was worn and frayed; the man knelt, he bowed his head, then rose and walked away.

In the days that followed, each noon time came this chap, each time he knelt just for a moment, a lunch pail in his lap.

Well, the minister's suspicions grew, with robbery a main fear; he decided to stop the man and ask him, "What are you doing here?"

The old man said, he worked down the road. Lunch was half an hour. Lunchtime was his prayer time, for finding strength and power.

"I stay only moments, see, because the factory is so far away; as I kneel here talking to the Lord,

This is kind a' what I say:

"I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S FRIENDSHIP, AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS JIM CHECKING IN TODAY."

The minister feeling foolish, told Jim that was fine. He told the man he was welcome to come and pray just anytime. Time to go, Jim smiled, said "Thanks." And he hurried to the door.

The minister knelt at the altar; he'd never done it before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, and met with Jesus there. As the tears flowed, in his heart, he repeated old Jim's prayer:

"I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, LORD, HOW HAPPY I'VE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND EACH OTHER'S

**Worship and Fellowship**

Sunday Service – 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages – 10:30 a.m.

Family Fellowship –

Wednesday Evenings

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Bible Study or

Discussion of Today's Issues

FRIENDSHIP, AND YOU TOOK AWAY MY SIN. DON'T KNOW MUCH OF HOW TO PRAY, BUT I THINK ABOUT YOU EVERYDAY. SO, JESUS, THIS IS ME CHECKING IN TODAY."

Past noon one day, the minister noticed that old Jim hadn't come. As more days passed without Jim, he began to worry some.

At the factory, he asked about him, learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, but he'd given them a thrill.

The week that Jim was with them, brought many changes to the ward. His engaging smiles – a joy contagious. Changed people, were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand why Jim was so glad, when no flowers, calls or cards came, not a visitor he had.

The minister stayed by his bed, he voiced the nurse's concern: No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile; "the nurse is wrong, she couldn't know, that in here all the while everyday at noon He's here, a dear friend of mine, you see, he sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me:

"I JUST CAME AGAIN TO TELL YOU, JIM, HOW HAPPY I HAVE BEEN, SINCE WE FOUND THIS FRIENDSHIP, AND I TOOK AWAY YOUR SIN.

ALWAYS LOVE TO HEAR YOU PRAY, I THINK ABOUT YOU EACH DAY, AND SO JIM, THIS IS JESUS CHECKING IN TODAY."

May God hold you in the palm of His hand, and Angels watch over you.

But for those of us who are already His, He not only holds us in the palm of His hand, but has engraved our names there, and we are continually in His sight. (Isaiah 49:16) – **Wouldn't this be great to experience at our Lenten Luncheons?**

## Birthday Calendar

Recent and upcoming birthdays are:

Tim Davis – March 6 [Anita' s son]

Karen Callaway – March 9

Stephen Strobel – April 4

Dave Callaway – April 5

Kathy Graham – April 25

Karen Davis – April 25 [Anita' s daughter]

Andrea Heuring – April 28

## Church Calendar

The **United Methodist Women** meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The next meetings are:

– April 10

– May 8

The **Church Council** met Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and will meet next on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. – Please join us in the fellowship hall as we discuss the business of our church. The Church Council meets on the third Thursday of each month.

Our **Wednesday Evening Fellowship** should be a part of your week. Join us as we gather at **6:00 p.m.** for a light meal and a time of fellowship followed by lively discussion. We are alternating between Bible studies presented by our members and discussions of various contemporary subjects. Karen Callaway has been doing a great job of coordinating this activity and has presented several of the studies. This is a great opportunity for fellowship and learning. Invite your friends – you don' t have to be a United Methodist to enjoy this time together.

Sign in the church nursery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

From 1 Corinthians 15:51

## Ways to Give

The saying, “charity begins at home,” is not found in the Bible, but it does make a point. We should help those in need, beginning with those closest to us: our family, our relatives, our neighbors. It may be easier to help the anonymous poor of Ethiopia than a relative who can' t manage money, but both the Old and New Testaments agree that our generosity should begin with those we are bound to in one way or another.

The difficulty with the saying “charity begins at home” is that it is often used to justify charity ending there. This idea is something Scripture does not teach. On the contrary, our acts of charity are to ripple ever farther out to the needs of the world.

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**A PASSENGER JET** was traveling through a severe thunderstorm. As everyone onboard did their best to ignore the turbulence, a young woman turned to a minister sitting next to her and with a nervous laugh asked, “Reverend, you' re a man of God. Can' t you do something about this storm?” The minister replied, “Lady, I' m in sales, not management.”

## Prayer Requests

**Pray for:** President Bush, all elected leaders, those serving in the military, Christians suffering around the world, and God's mission for Benton UMC.

**Continued prayers for:** Fletcher Chasteen, Norma Deal, Johnny Felter, Gloria Frobese, Robert Gandt, Suzi Glaus, Damien Heuring, Tim Ingram, Leona Kasler, Chastidy Lynch, Kevin & Mary Ann Mainord, Martha Sue Mainord, Lester and Mary Miller, and Mikala Morrow.

**Lenten Luncheons** – Join with the Christians in our community for the Lenten Luncheons. The two Wednesday luncheons will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon.

The first will be here at Benton UMC with Father Varone speaking, and the second will be at St. Denis where your pastor will speak.

## Work Day April 8<sup>th</sup>

Join us Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. for this important Spring Work Day on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. It is time to **Spruce-Up for Spring** and engage in the major event of **relocating the air conditioner**. Mark your calendars now and come be a part of this stewardship event.



## Enroll Now for Summer Camp

*Send the kids to Summer Camp!* Our church camps are some of the jewels of United Methodism in Missouri. Encourage our youth and other youth of the community to participate in this opportunity.



Off to camp!

Scholarship money is available if it is needed. Enroll before April 15<sup>th</sup> – you will receive a discount.

## Our Mission at Benton UMC

- **Invite** and **nurture** our community as a family through love and acceptance and to **make disciples** for Jesus Christ.
- **Teach** spiritual growth to Christ-like maturity, through the Word, the Sacraments, worship (prayer, praise, and peace), and fellowship.
- **Build** and **expand** our mission into the community by and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

There are many individuals and families in our community who are looking for the type of fellowship available right her in our church and with our church family. We have been called to make disciples for Jesus Christ, and one way to follow that calling is to invite them to join you in one of our activities – who knows they may like it here. The next thing you know you might have to sit in a different pew!

