



The Good News

February, 2010

First United
Methodist Church
Bella Vista
Mission
Statement

To Equip
Generations
to
Become
Spiritually
Maturing
Christians:

By Leading Others
to Christ;
Learning to be His
Disciples;
Loving God
Loving Others
and Ourselves.

In this Issue

UMW Dinner	2
Education	3
Prayer	4
Missions	5
Education, cont'd	6
Worship	7
Children & CrossWord	8
High Notes	9
Fellowship	10
Thank You	11

Sara Says...



Sermon series have been planned for the year - at least the big picture! Ideas learned in Experiential Worship classes are being implemented to enhance the worship experience for each person throughout the year. The focus of our whole year will be about ways we can be better connected to God.

You have no doubt figured out that the series of sermons we are doing now are on Being Connected to God through the Lord's Prayer. As we move into Lent the series will be on Being Connected to God through knowing ourselves through God's eyes. This will be offered as the Lenten Study for the church. Sunday sermons and small groups (offered at different times) will be the venue for our learning. This will also be offered as the Wednesday Lenten Devotional along with the breakfast and prayer.

SHAPE is a five week class where you encounter God through: Unwrapping your **Spiritual Gifts** * Listening to your **Heart** * Applying your **Abilities** * Using your **Personality** * Employing your **Experiences**.

Watch the bulletin for class times.

This is a SPECIAL CHURCH-WIDE STUDY!
Lent, a time for connecting to God through learning
how God made you!

Right after Easter, the focus of the sermon series will be on Being Connected to God through Others. Again, in addition to our Sunday sermons, members will have an opportunity to break into smaller groups to learn how to "Just Walk Across the Room" to invite someone to church or tell them about Jesus Christ. This will expand on the weekend workshop at Mt. Sequoyah on Feb. 19 and 20. You don't have to do one to do the other.

May God be with us as we *Connect to God, Ourselves ,and each other through the year!*



EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY

*UMW
VALENTINE
TABLE SETTING DINNER
and Entertainment*

Friday February 12

\$12.50 per person

Tickets available January 31 and Feb 7 after each Sunday service.

Reception in the Parlor - 5:45 P.M.

Enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres & Punch

Dinner in Becker Hall - 6:30 P.M.

*Salad - an assortment of greens, cucumber, red onion, tomato,
feta cheese, glazed walnuts, croutons,
Mediterranean Vinaigrette.*

*Entrée - Roast Pork Tenderloin with Orange Glaze
Savory Rice with Sweet Peppers
Basil Carrots with Almonds*

Dessert - Red Velvet Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting

All proceeds benefit UMW local charities.



EDUCATION

S.H.A.P.E.

Church-Wide Lenten Study

Connect to God through Learning about yourself

Discover the answers to Life's biggest question - - "Who Am I?"

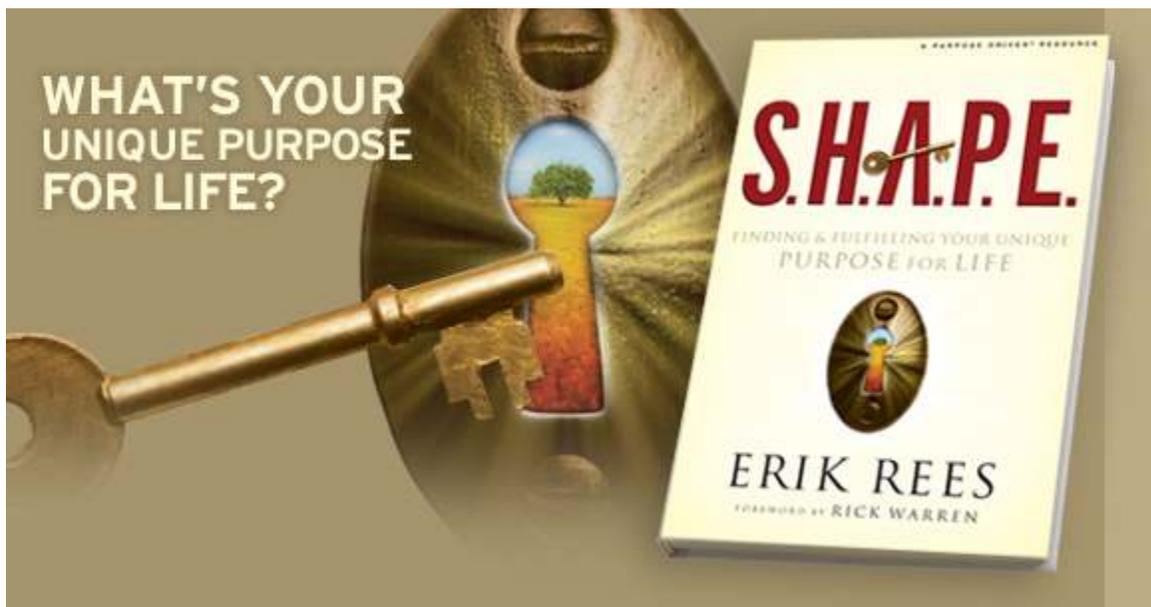
You are unique.....

Learn about how God created you by examining your

- * Spiritual Gifts
- * Heart
- * Abilities
- * Personality
- * Experiences

This six-week group study will be offered on various days and at various times beginning the day after Ash Wednesday (February 17).

Call or come by the office to sign up.





PRAYER

The Prayer Ministry team leaders wish to thank all of you who signed up for one of the ministries for 2010. Prayer is an incredibly important ministry and our goal is to cover all of our people, functions and the facility with prayer. That takes a large number of pray-ers.

Our Hedge Prayer Ministry is still in need of volunteers to pray during the three regular services on Sunday mornings. As the need is greatest during the 8:00 a.m. service, we ask that you search your heart to determine if the Lord is calling you to that ministry. If you find you would like to help in this area, call Peggy Gamble at 855-3565 or Marilyn Hertel at 855-0666 to be placed on the schedule.

Call Joyce Cox at 855-7245 for the Telephone Prayer Chain, E-Mail Prayer Chain, or Prayer Shawls. (If you do not knit or crochet, you may help by donating funds to purchase yarn).

Keith Prueitt heads up our Sanctuary Prayer Group and can be reached at 876-5753. The Home Intercessory team leader is Marilyn Hertel; call her at 855-0666.

We have an overabundance of
United Methodist Hymnals
in the Chapel closet.

They will be placed on the table
in the Narthex.

If you would like to have one,
please feel free to take one home.



If you have a prayer need, there are a number of ways we are here to assist you.

There are blue prayer cards in each pew in the Sanctuary and around the church. Simply write your prayer concern on the card and drop it in one of the prayer boxes located in the Narthex, Library or Becker Hall. Your prayer concern will be shared with our pastors, the Sanctuary Prayer team and Home Intercessory Prayer team members.

If your prayer request is more urgent, you may contact the church office, Joyce Cox or Marilyn Hertel to have your prayer need sent out through the telephone and email prayer partners.

It is never too late to become a part of any of the Prayer Ministries by making a simple call to one of the team leaders, or the Prayer Steward.

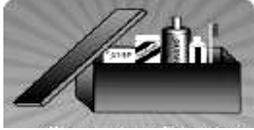
When the Earth Rocks... UMCOR Rolls!

United Methodists have had a long-standing relationship with Haiti through the Methodist Church of Haiti. The strong ties between the Methodist Church of Haiti and The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) helped in facilitating the opening of the UMCOR Haiti field office in 2005. 100 percent of Advance gifts made will go to support relief and development efforts due to emergencies in Haiti.

If you wish to make a donation for UMCOR's Haiti relief efforts, please make your check payable to FUMCBV and note in the memo section of your check: **Advance # : 418325 Haiti.**



MISSIONS



SHOEBOX MINISTRY

We would like to thank the United Methodist Women for their generous donation to Shoebox Ministry. This will help us to purchase items for shoeboxes not received through our regular item donation. God Bless you.

All of the forms for new volunteers have been mailed and we are looking forward to their return. Just a reminder - - please place them in the gold box on top of the cabinet in Becker Hall.

Would you like to work at home writing thank you notes? Everything, including note cards and postage, will be provided. We only send out about four or five a month. Please contact Diane Cox at 925-0988.

CURRENT NEEDS

Socks, zip-lock bags (gallon size), 1X2 5/8 address labels, travel size shampoo, and trash bags.

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW

The following items were delivered to over 13 shelters, various nursing homes, troops serving overseas, Cooper Elementary School, Gravette Schools, and Mena Victims of the ice storm.

- ◆ 3,162 shoeboxes (includes men's, women's, boy's, girls', and babies) with an estimated value of \$38,364.00.
- ◆ 174 Sunshine Sacks to Cooper Elementary
- ◆ 141 purses filled with special cosmetic and bath items with an estimated value of \$1411.00.
- ◆ Items in bulk to various organization and shelters in need, in order to meet our goal of no- item donated goes to waste.

Last but MOST IMPORTANT, the estimated value of God's guidance, the hard work of any volunteers, and all of the items and money donated - PRICELESS!!

As always in His Service
The Shoebox Ministry Team

PAK-A-SAK

In February we will be delivering our collection of food to Restoration Village. They help women and children who are in crisis. The families are surrounded with a Christian environment. Restoration Village does not receive any federal funds and depends upon the generosity of friends and supporters in Benton County. All types of food are needed, especially canned fruit, cereal, soups, spaghetti sauce, pasta, flour, sugar, and coffee.



MISSION OF THE MONTH

The Wesley Foundation

Located on the campus at the University of Arkansas, the Wesley Foundation provides a Christian ministry for many

students who are away from their homes and churches. The ministry depends exclusively on private donations from churches and individuals for monetary support. Their mission is to help students connect heads to think, hearts to love and hands to serve.

BLANKETS OF HOPE

A total of 18 quilts, afghans and blankets, along with 80 hand knitted and crocheted hats were delivered to the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter in January.

Thank you to Erma Blosser, Deloris Sernet, Karen Schroll, Betty Dew, Linda Gerstein and all those anonymous quilters, knitters and crocheters for your dedication and hard work.



EDUCATION

W.O.W. WEDNESDAY !

"W.O.W. Wednesday" for Winter 2010 is underway. Those that came for the "introduction" sessions on January 20 were enthusiastic and eager to get started. We've saved a place for some who asked us to and we have plenty of room to add you to one of these classes. These classes are led by knowledgeable and motivated facilitators and run the gamut from social issues to Biblical history:

1. "CrossWords" is a youth-oriented program led by our Youth Director, Danette Baker. Her subject topics are wide-ranging and include typical teenage-peer social challenges to Christian orientation.
2. "The Gospel of Matthew" is an eight to nine week in-depth study of the first book of the New Testament. The study was developed after months of research by the course facilitator, John Peters.
3. "John Wesley." This six to eight week course presented by Rod Alford covers the concepts and motivations of the founder of Methodism.
4. "Meet the Methodists." This is a six week program presented by Reverend Doris Schlessman to familiarize attendees with the "whys and wherefores" of the United Methodist Church. It is a very delightful and fun-filled, as well as informative, class.
5. "Attitude is your Paintbrush." A nine week course presented by Jim Prather designed to inspire participants to transform negative, pessimistic attitudes into positive, optimistic attitudes centered on the love and hope of Jesus Christ. Weekly subjects begin with the "Attitude of Gratitude" and culminate with the "Attitude of Hope."
6. "Faithlink" presented by Ed Jenner, is a member-participation program centered on contemporary issues for mature youth and

adults who have a desire to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events such as Health Care and our war involvement. The purpose of the program is to guide motivated Christians to consider their personal views on important contemporary issues; it also encourages them to act on their beliefs.

We encourage participation for any person, whether or not a Church member, who is interested in establishing or reinforcing a Christian life style.

We are anxious to provide childcare during the sessions—just let us know ahead of time.

Classes start at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday, preceded by a light meal starting at 5:15. The cost of the meal is \$5.00. There may be a small charge for class texts and other materials.

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

Join Pastor Sara and others to attend the Relational Evangelism Workshop at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville on Friday Feb 19 from 5p.m. till 9p.m., and Saturday Feb 20 from 9am till 4p.m.. There is no cost for the workshop.

The workshop, sponsored by the AR Northwest District Office and led by Pastor Rob Williams, will include a four-part video series, based on the book "Just Walk Across the Room," by Bill Hybels. It will be good to see all of them, but each could stand alone. If you wish to stay over on Friday night, contact Mt. Sequoyah to make arrangements.

Call the church office if you are interested in attending, as we will need to notify the district office of our number. The church bus will go and return on Friday and again on Saturday. (Sign up for one of fifteen seats.)



BOOK NOOK



BECOMING A GOOD SAMARITAN CHURCH by Robert Pierson (269.2) (Donation)
Being a good Samaritan church begins with leadership. Reverend Pierson shows how churches can organize ministry in order to be more

effective witnesses.

THE EXPERIENTIAL WORSHIPER by Bob Rognlien (248.3) (Donation)
Are you filling your life with things that don't satisfy? This little book will help you discover Jesus' recipe to satisfy the deepest longing inside.

BIOGRAPHY:

BRYSON CITY TALES by Walt Larimore, M.D. (Donation)
Publicity stories of a doctor's first year of practice in the Smoky Mountains.

BRYSON CITY SEASONS by Walt Larimore, M.D. (Donation)
More publicity tales of a doctor's practice in the Smoky Mountains.

AUDITION by Barbara Walters (Donation)
Barbara describes her extraordinary public and private journey in life.

Stop by the Library to see the photographic work of Betty Jo Harris, currently on display.

WORSHIP

You may have noticed that our worship spaces are looking a little different this year. Beginning with Epiphany, a "waterfall" appeared on the altar in the Sanctuary. Another appeared in Becker Hall. As you move about the church, you'll notice the sound of water in the form of fountains in various locations.

This transformation is all a part of Experiential Worship - - the concept that God wants us to experience worship with our minds and bodies as well as our spirits. A curious group of members participated in the Experiential Worshiper class offered last fall and discovered that worship can and should be more than just sitting in the pew on Sunday morning.

The water theme was a direct outgrowth of the Experiential Worship class. We read and discussed the story of Jesus' baptism (Epiphany) and shared our ideas and feelings about baptism. Water was the most common theme.

As you worship on Sunday or walk the halls of the church during the week, let the sound and sight of water add to your worship experience. Allow all your senses to be opened to the glory and majesty of God.

And be ready for the next step as we move through the year.



Ash
Wednesday
Service

February 17
6:30 p.m.



CHILDREN



This month we will be starting our rotation Sunday School. The first unit that we will be studying is The Symbols of Holy Week. In this unit the symbols that tell the story of Holy Week will help the children comprehend and tell others the story of the last days of Jesus' life. They will memorize the verse Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

I Asked The Lord To Bless You

*I asked the Lord to bless you
As I prayed for you today
To guide you and protect you
As you go along your way....
His love is always with you
His promises are true,
And when we give Him all our cares
You know He will see us through
So when the road you're traveling on,
Seems difficult at best
Just remember, I'm here praying
And God will do the rest.*

[Author Unknown -- from Mona Rae]

Since Valentines' Day is coming, all of the children will be using the above poem to make a card for a unit of Marines that are currently serving in Iraq. These brave men and women have been there for almost eight months and will be there for a good bit of time more. I hope that we can give them a good boost of morale and remind them that we are praying for them. I think that we can all be reminded that God is always with us and will always take care of us.

Carrie Drish, Director of Children's Ministry

CROSSWORD

Service/Mission News

We've instituted a youth service day each month. On December 21, seven youth came out to ring bells for the Salvation Army in front of Allen's Supermarket. It was a great time and they got a lot of attention and collected an entire kettle full of bills.



Six youth participated on January 16 Service Saturday at Helping Hands.

In February, look for the youth collecting money and canned goods for Souper Bowl for Caring on February 7. Information will also be in the weekly bulletins.

Fellowship News

On January 22, fifteen youth attended the movie premiere of *To Save A Life* and are using it as an outreach to other teens.

Faith News

I am following up this movie with a seven week curriculum during CrossWord on Wednesday evenings. In Sunday School during January, we are studying the book of James in a four part series. In February, we will begin with the Rotation Sunday School dedication on February 7 with the Children's Ministry by providing the story the children will be studying in a drama production and then on to Lenten Studies after Ash Wednesday.

The youth that register by February 3 will be attending *Leadership Rocks* youth conference tour that is coming to Rogers February 19-20. The cost is \$53 for the two day conference (Friday night and Saturday) Lunch is provided. This is going to be an intense weekend conference for the teens. Having a great time and blessed to be here!

Danette Baker, Director of Youth Ministry



HIGH NOTES!



Whew! We've just finished one of our busiest years ever and are looking forward to more of the same for 2010.

During 2009 our wonderful musicians provided music for all of our Sunday worship services as well as for many special services and programs, including but not limited to Advent and Christmas (we performed Vivaldi's "Gloria" with an orchestra), Lent, Holy Week and Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Thanksgiving. In addition, Our Wesley Series calendar of concerts and recitals was especially full during 2009.

For 2010, we expect to continue our busy schedule. We're already preparing special music for the Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter. This year, for example, we've scheduled the cantata "The Seven Last Words" by Dubois for our Good Friday "Tenebrae" service. This music will be combined with scripture readings that tell the story of Christ's betrayal, death and resurrection together with visual images of crucifixion and resurrection scenes by famous artists.

Our Wesley Series for 2010 will feature Italian organist Ennio Cominetti on February 19. On April 18, duopianists Aldo and Judith Mancinelli will be here and on May 9 we'll present the Graduate Fellowship String Quartet from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri- -Kansas City.

All this is just the beginning. We'd like to extend you an invitation to join us in our music ministry, so if one of your New Year's resolutions has been to become more involved in the work of the Church, here's your chance. If you're interested in taking part in this exciting ministry, please let me know. I'd love to visit with you about the opportunities we offer.

Yours in Christ,

Larry Zehring
Director of Music Ministries

Souper Bowl for Caring
February 7, 2010

Children 4th grade and up will be collecting money and canned goods before and after each service that Sunday.

Bring your canned goods to the designated areas throughout the building.

Look for kids with the Soup Pots so you can make a donation!



FELLOWSHIP



Metfield Methodist Shepherd Group Announces Tentative Activities for 2010.

- February 12-** Valentine dinner with the UMW
March 15 - Breakfast at the Metfield Clubhouse
April 17 - Progressive Dinner
May - George Washington Carver National Park and Picnic
June - A Natural Game
July - no meeting
August - Barbecue at Cotton Eyed Joes in Noel
September - Benefit Walk
October 11 - Cook for the Salvation Army, at Bentonville
November - Game Night
December - Christmas Party

We encourage all members to join in all the activities. Watch the newsletter and bulletins to get the latest information.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

There will be no regular Methodist Men's meeting on February 10. It was decided that since many of the men would be attending the UMW February Valentine's dinner on February 12, the attendance at both of the gatherings would suffer if there were two dinners so close together. We look forward to March when we will be back to our regular schedule.

World Day of Pray

(sponsored by the Church Women United)

B. V. Community Church, 75 East Lancashire Blvd.

Friday, March 6

Dessert at 12:30, Program at 1:00 p.m.

The theme for the day is "*Let everything that has breath praise God*". The program was written by the women of Cameroon, Africa.

Please bring non-perishable food items for the Bella Vista Oasis Food Pantry.

CIRCLE INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY 2010 February is the month for Prayer and Self-Denial offerings All Meetings will be held in the Chapel

Charity	February 9	9:00 a.m.	Carolyn Dodge, a volunteer with the Cancer Foundation
Hope	February 11	1:00 p.m.	Barbara Brooks, speaking on a subject from <u>Response Magazine</u>
Martha	February 15	9:00 a.m.	
Naomi	February 16	1:30 p.m.	Program by the Bella Vista Ambulance Service
Sarah	February 9	1:00 p.m.	
Evening	February 18	6:30 p.m.	B.J. Raney will present the program





THANK YOU!

We had some exceptionally hardworking church members turn out on January 18 to clean, sanitize and organize the church kitchen. Those working were: Rod and Arlene Alford, Darrell Bottjen, Cheryl Campbell, Don Hedman, Pat Jenkins, John Justice, Sue Nebrig, Ken Swanson

We did some pretty "dirty jobs."

Thank you!

Joe & Margie Bowen

We wish to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards and the beautiful prayer shawl. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Charlene and Johnny Rayburn

Only the power of prayer by our church family and many others could have resulted in my health being restored. I want to thank Rev. Verle Shoemaker for his visits, encouragement and the presentation of a beautiful brown prayer shawl. A special thanks to friends for the food they brought to my daughter and me upon my release from the hospital.

Ken Fisher

Thanks to all the wonderful people who so generously helped to decorate the church for Christmas. Also, to those who helped take the decorations down. Many helping hands made our work lighter. Also, a big thank you to the ladies that watered the plants and kept them looking beautiful.

Jan Kolbe

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Cathy Luck

Catherine A. Luck, a United Methodist elder, joined our church on January 10.

Cathy comes to us by way of the Iowa Annual Conference where she took disability leave in 2006, after more than 30 years of ministry in Memphis, Tennessee, and Iowa.

From her childhood, Cathy has had a passion for the marginalized of our society, especially the homeless. In addition to their own four children, Cathy and her husband Mike Roth foster-parented eight teen women while transitioning into independent living. She has listened and offered a hand in soup kitchens, homeless and abuse shelters, and drug-alcohol rehabilitation settings. When Cathy read about the need in NW Arkansas for providing shelter, empowerment and supportive community for homeless women, she shared her vision with others and *Oasis of Northwest Arkansas, Inc.*, was born (2007).

Although her ministry was in Iowa, Cathy claims Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia as her homelands. Her academic degrees are from West Virginia Wesleyan College and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

She crochets, sings, plays piano and guitar, plays bridge and hopes someday to return to golfing. She crochets, sings, plays piano and guitar, plays bridge, does genealogy and hopes someday to return to golfing regularly. We are so blessed to have Cathy as an affiliate member of our church. Please introduce yourself to Cathy when you see her.

**First United Methodist Church Of Bella Vista
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715**

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 176
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712**



We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Sara Bainbridge
Associate Pastor - Rev. Verle Shoemaker
Asst. to Sr. Pastor & Dir. of Lay Ministries - Jan
Lowe
Director of Children's Ministry - Carrie Drish
Director of Youth Ministry - Danette Baker
Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
Organist/Pianist - Roiselle Grim
Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker
Worship Leader - Garrett Greer
Treasurer - Al Yanik
Financial Secretary - Marge Smith
Office Secretary - Brenda Jorgensen

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www.LeadLearnLove.com**

FORWARDING ADDRESS REQUESTED

To the Home of ...

WOW WINTER WEDNESDAYS

Feb 3
Supper
5:15 till 6:15 p.m.

Menu:
Pork BBQ
Baked beans
Chips
Fruit Salad
Ice Cream Bars

Classes begin at 6:30 p.m.

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville
Friday Feb 19 - 5p.m. till 9p.m.
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There is no cost for the workshop.

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