



John 19:30 He said, "It is finished." (The world's sin debt was paid; every iota of the Law had been fulfilled). The Cross had provided salvation and sanctification for all true believers. The blood provided salvation is that the Holy Spirit could come in you and start the process of sanctification. It is the sanctification part of the Cross that separates the true believer from the make believer.

How important is sanctification and is it necessary? Matthew 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (38) And he who takes not his cross and follows after Me is not worthy of Me.

How can I achieve the full benefits of the Cross? You can't; but, with Christ all things are possible.

Matthew, Chapter 11, Verses 28-30: "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take My yoke upon you and learn

of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (3) For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Luke, Chapter 9, verse 23: "And He said to them all, if any man will come after Me let him deny himself (that one denies ones own will-power, self-will, strength and ability, and depend totally on Christ, and take up his cross (everyone has a cross) daily (we have to renew our faith everyday as Satan tries to get our mind off the Cross as the object of our faith) and follow Me.

A yoke was made for two oxen to work together. Christ had to bear up His cross by Himself; but, He is willing to help you bear your Cross everyday. But, you are to let Him lead and you follow.

John Boy, how do you know when one is walking on the sanctification path? The Word says you will know them by their fruit, not their works. In Love and In Christ, John Boy

Opportunities for August

Please note the Sunday's you have been assigned to serve. If you cannot serve on your Sunday, please change with someone else.

August Ushers:

Greg Nelson and Johnny Allen

August Greeters:

Greg and Susan Nelson; Johnny and Susie Allen

August Nursery:

8/7 Noela Woodall and Ann Parrish
8/14 Judy Patton and Rosalyn Ryals
8/21 Susan and Emily Raynor
8/28 Ginger Hall and Susie Chandler

Lay Readers:

8/7 David Gray 8/14 Ricky Harrison
8/21 Greg Kornegay 8/28 Wendy Collins

If you would like to volunteer to be an usher and greeter this year, or give flowers, please see Noela Woodall and Steve Smith.

Birthdays:

7/4 Cory Betchley 7/21 Colton Gregory
7/4 Will Chandler 7/21 Amy Creed
7/6 Rebecca Gray 7/21 Keith Johnson

7/7 Sydney Johnson	7/21 Ann Stephenson
7/8 Tom Betchley	7/22 Zachary Drew
7/8 Tiffany Bonner	7/23 Lindsey Winborne
7/8 Cindy Barefoot	7/24 Evelyn Aranda
7/11 Todd Sorrell	7/24 Julia Johnson
7/12 Bobby Smith, Jr.	7/24 Steve Smith
7/14 Tracie Johnson	7/29 Rachel Drew
7/18 Jill Tart	
8/1 Sami McDaniel	8/21 Steve Cook
8/1 Robert Tart, Jr.	8/24 Tom Parrish
8/4 Danny Blackman	8/27 Keith Curtis
8/4 Faye Parker	8/28 Katie Chandler Bradley
8/11 Anna Wells	8/30 Will Raynor
8/13 Noel Auman	8/30 Judy Patton
8/14 Pat Bass	

Anniversaries

7/1 Marvin and Mary Helen Sills
7/16 Greg and Tammy Davis
7/22 Paul and Cynthia Dunn
7/28 John and Sue Ann Wood
7/31 Terry and Karen Hicks
8/9 Carlos and Evelyn Aranda
8/20 Jonathan and Jill Tart
8/22 Ron and Judy Patton
8/31 Max and Teresa Raynor

Worship With Us

August 7, 2011

8th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 14, 2011

9th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28

August 21, 2011

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 1:8-2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 28, 2011

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

BEACON

Is a publication of
Benson United Methodist Church
P. O. Box 72, Benson, NC 27504
Telephone # 894-3028 - Fax # 894-3476
E-Mail Address
benonumc@embarqmail.com
rpatton@nccumc.org

Web Site www.benonumc.org

Relationships

HOW MUCH do you value your relationships? I think most would respond with an answer of a lot! Many people seem to place substantial significance on their families and friends. Just look at the popularity of Facebook.

But more importantly HOW DO you value your relationships? I think most would reply with an answer of I don't know. Many act like relationships just happen and assume they don't need any work. Just look at the divorce rate in America.

So isn't it a shame that something like relationships which we value quite significantly are often ignored not because of their insignificance but because of our negligence? A new car has a better chance of long term survival than a new friend.

Heart Builders Ministry was designed to teach people how to be in relationships. Its first conference Oscar Winning Relationships targets husbands and wives, who are the building blocks of God's family structure. The ministry believes a spouse should be considered an individual's MOST IMPORTANT relationship apart from their relationship with God. Its goal is to empower couples by teaching them some basic relationship building skills in an informal and entertaining setting.

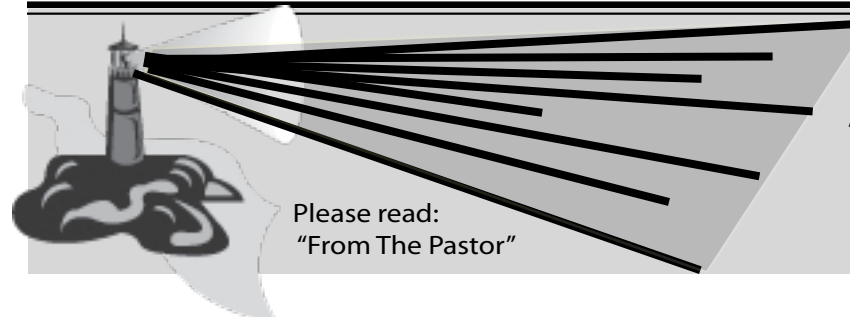
Most weddings are well organized and amply financed to be a grand and glorious event but last a day. On the other hand, marriages are often disorganized and poorly funded but are expected to last a lifetime. If couples would place more emphasis on their marriage than in their wedding, perhaps their chances for survival would increase!

On Saturday, September 10th, Benson United Methodist Church will be hosting the couple's conference Oscar Winning Relationships. Presenting the conference will be Dr. Eric W. Ewert who has recently graduated from Campbell University Divinity School and is the founder of Heart Builders Ministries.

Some of the topics covered will include:

- The secrets of marriage
- The importance of relationships
- Understanding personality types
- Reasons we fall in and out of love
- Relationship management and repair

continued on inside (page 3)



Please read:
"From The Pastor"

Shining The Light On ...

"For grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God:"

Ephesians 2:8

Scriptures to Memorize

FROM THE PASTOR

How Do We Forgive?

Matthew 18:21-35

Simon Peter's question was a sincere one. He wanted to know exactly what the Master expected out of him. The prominent Rabbis of the day were teaching that one should forgive his brother three times. Was that enough? So, one day he asked Christ this important question: Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him as many as seven times? Some of us would like an answer to the same question. Forgiveness is a big problem in our lives. There have been persons who have wronged us and it is so, so difficult to let go of our feelings of anger, resentment and even hatred.

We want to deal with the question, HOW DO WE FORGIVE? Forgiveness is a redemptive act that is essential to our mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. It is not enough to simply act civil towards a person who has wronged us to let bygones be bygones. We must move from our hurt to reconciliation or else we leave an open wound that is not allowed to heal. But how? How do we forgive?

LET'S BEGIN BY ASKING, WHY DON'T PEOPLE FORGIVE? Pain, pride, other people—these are usually the reasons why we do not forgive. And our inability to forgive can have devastating effects on us. In can shorten our lives, poison our memories, weaken our relationship with God and even afflict our own feelings of self worth. This is in addition to the damage to the relationship with the person we cannot forgive. That is a high price to pay in order to hold on to resentment and hatred. But how do we let go?

WE LET GO, FIRST OF ALL, BY RECOGNIZING THAT FORGIVENESS IS A GIFT FROM GOD. We have been forgiven, and thus we are able to forgive others. Jesus followed His answer to Simon Peter with a delightful parable of a man who owed his king ten thousand talents. We are told that this was an amount equivalent to 15 years of wages to a laborer in that day. The king forgave the man his debt. This same man, however, had an acquaintance who owed him 100 denarii, about a single day's wage. The very man who had his enormous debt discharged by the king could not forgive the tiny debt owed him by a neighbor. He had the man thrown into jail. He was forgiven for an amount equivalent to 15 years labor, and he could not forgive an amount equivalent to one day's labor.

The contrast is striking. Of course, Jesus is not simply telling about one man in one particular place. He is talking about you and me. We have been forgiven by God. We are sinners saved by grace. That is what the cross of Calvary is all about. It is about the forgiveness of an enormous debt that we have received. Dwight L. Moody once put that grace in a beautiful way. He wrote: I can imagine Jesus saying, 'Go search out the man who



put the crown of thorns on my brow; tell him I will have a crown for him in my kingdom if he will accept salvation; and there shall not be a thorn in it. Find the man who smote the reed on My head, driving the thorns deeper into My brow. Tell him I want to give him a scepter. So seek out the poor soldier who drove the spear into my side; tell him that there is a nearer way to My heart than that! That is the forgiveness of which Christ is capable. If we do not forgive our debtors God will not be able to forgive us. We can read that into the text, of course, I believe, however, that we have the cart before the horse. We are able to forgive others when we understand that we have been forgiven.

IN THE SECOND PLACE, WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT FORGIVENESS IS THE MOST POWERFUL WITNESS WE HAVE TO THE ACTIVITY OF GRACE IN OUR OWN LIVES. Missionaries tell of entire villages on the mission field being swept into an evangelical fervor by the reconciliation of two longtime enemies by the powerful love of God. When we can forgive another who has wronged us, it tells the world that God is alive and at work.

For some of us the nursing of a grudge has become a deep spiritual problem. It weakens our witness to Christ's presence in our lives. Besides the damage it does to us personally, it prevents us from being effective in our ministry to others. We need to recognize that forgiveness is a gift from God to be passed on to others, and that is the most powerful witness we have to the reality of God's grace in our own lives.

WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE, FINALLY, THAT FORGIVENESS IS A POSITIVE ACTIVITY NECESSARY TO THE HEALING AND WHOLENESS OF OUR OWN HEARTS. Forgiveness is not passive resignation to a bad situation. We do not shrug our shoulders and say, well, there's nothing else to do. I might as well forgive. There is little healing in that kind of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a positive, joyful activity in which we change from seeing ourselves as victims to seeing ourselves as victors. Forgiveness allows us to move from weakness to strength, from inadequacy to self-affirmation. Forgiveness allows us to experience within our own lives the power and the presence of the indwelling Christ.

Humanity nailed God's own Son on a cross. What bargarity! What unspeakable evil! Yet God turned that cross into the means by which you and I may find salvation. That is what God can do with forgiveness. What can you do? Is there someone you need to forgive? An unfaithful spouse—an overbearing parent—a friend who has stabbed you in the back—an employer who has taken advantage of you? I know there is pain. There may also be pride, principle, and other people to consider. The most powerful witness we have to the action of the grace of God at work in our own lives, however, is the ability to forgive others. As we forgive, we heal not only the wounds of a broken relationship, we find healing for wounds inflicted in our own hearts by anger, hurt and resentment. God has forgiven each of us for every soiled thought, act, and deed of which we are capable. Can we not forgive one another? Three times? Seven times? Yes, even seventy times seven?

Ron

continued from page 1

Church members as well as guests are welcome to attend. Registration will begin in August. Contact Susan Auman for registration details and more information at 919-894-8260. For further information you may contact Eric Ewert at either (919) 271-1128 or docewe@hotmail.com.

School Supplies Needed!

School Supplies are needed for Benson Areas Residents with financial. Distribution is Saturday, August 13 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM at Benson Parks and Recreation. We will be serving approximately 200 students in grades K-12. Donated items must be delivered to Benson Parks and Recreation Center on Thursday, August 11 by Noon or Benson Area Chamber of Commerce. Monetary donations may be made to Benson Area Ministerial Association, Post Office Box 72, Benson, NC 27504. We need a minimum of

- 200 bookbags
- 750 one subject spiral composition books
- 200 one subject marblized composition books for journals
- 300 wide ruled notebook paper
- 200 college ruled notebook paper
- 200 folders with pockets
- 2000 pencils
- 100 scissors
- 100 pencil boxes
- 100 markers
- 100 red ink pens
- 200 black/blue ink pens
- 100 sets colored pencils
- 100 dry erase markers
- Erasers (both flat pink pearl 100 and pencils toppers 750)
- Crayons (boxes of 16 or 24) 150
- 400 glue sticks
- 150 1" Binders
- 25 3" Binders
-

United Methodist Men

When the UMM announced the scheduled showing of "The Grace Card" for its June meeting, the entire Church took interest in watching it, and plans quickly grew into a wonderful congregational Movie Night! Thank you for making this a great evening of fellowship and sharing. Over 100 persons came to the fellowship hall on June 6 to eat a sandwich supper and

watch this powerful film on forgiveness and grace.

It spoke loudly to us as individuals to "Go and to likewise", while drawing us close together as a church family... hopefully it blessed every one of us. Due to the wonderful response, a second Movie Night was quickly planned for Monday, June 27th. Again, the turnout was overwhelming with 82 attending to watch "Letters to God." Hot dogs and chips were served from 5:30 to 6:30. The movie ended at 8:15 p.m.

The UMM will resume its regular meeting/dinner plans on Monday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. "Movie Night" will take place again in August at a time and date to be announced. Thank you for your support and attendance of Movie Night!

Youth News

The Youth mission trip to Asheville was a wonderful experience. We studied service; helping the lonely, the lost, friends and family. We looked at how the Bible – God's Word is so applicable today. While we were in Asheville, our group cleaned gutters and did yard work for the elderly, cleaned the Children's mission home, scraped a historic church and spent the day with around 45 children at a youth center. We also visited Sliding Rock and braved the 50 degree water!

Our mission work continues at home; working at the food pantry, cleaning yards, reorganizing and cleaning the nursery and the fellowship hall storage room. Our future plans are to serve the Hospice Center in Smithfield, raise money for games to send to the Youth Center in Asheville and complete the prayer garden. A movie dinner for seniors is planned for August 5 at 6:00 p.m. We plan to go to Emerald Point on August 11.

The Youth continue to study service – helping those in need by looking at Acts, Chapter 3, 4. Please be in continued prayer for our youth. Thank you for your continued support of our young people.

Karen

John Boy's Corner

I want to talk to those who know everything about the Cross.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the Earth will draw all men unto me. (That is all who believe in the atoning work of the Cross).