



THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church

"Gracious Acceptance. . . . Grateful Service"

www.newhavenumc.org

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Cindy's Chalkboard



In Acts 26:24-28, King Agrippa asked Paul, "In such a short time, do you think you can talk me into being a Christian?" Paul answered, "Whether it takes a short time or a long time, I wish you and everyone else who hears me today would become just like me!"

What DOES it take to be a Christian? Oh, sure, we know that BEING a Christian means first and foremost to claim Christ as our Savior, but what does it mean to become a follower of Christ, as Paul is? This past Sunday we began a sermon series on the four Gospels that begin the New Testament. We decided that ultimately, each one of us must choose. We must choose whether we will follow the path that Jesus is leading. The next step is important, too. Are WE willing to make the effort to invite others on this journey of faith with us?

As I have said many times, the most effective way to carry out our call to make disciples for Christ is to invite others personally. Let's think about this for a moment. How did YOU first come to this church? I suspect that for most of us, the reason you are here today is because someone told you about a wonderful church on the corner of 56th and New Haven Avenue, and asked you to come.

We have an incredible power within us. It's the power of persuasion. The power of persuasion makes us do things we wouldn't ordinarily do. And, many times, it is so powerful, we don't even realize it...it's as much a part of us as the air we breathe.

When you go to the store, most of what we buy is because of the power of persuasion. The advertising industry is big business. They spare no expense – look around the grocery store - everything is strategically placed. Do you know where they put the milk and bread? As far away as possible from the front door, so you have to walk by aisles and aisles of things that you didn't know you needed until you saw them. Children's cereals, the most expensive and sugary kinds, and with those kid friendly boxes, are placed on the lowest shelves so they are right at their eye level. Stores understand the power of persuasion and placement.

So, how can the church use the power of persuasion for itself? **By remembering that you are the only means the church has to bring people to Christ.** People have to see Christ in us! All it takes is one person giving his story, preaching the Gospel, changing the way people feel about Christ.

We can use the power of persuasion for the church, but the only way we can use it is through you and I. Let's invite others on this journey with us.

Walking in faith with you,

Pastor Cindy

**Local Church Leaders Workshop
January 22, 2011
Boston Avenue UMC
8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

It's not too late to sign up for the upcoming Local Church Leaders Workshop! Have you ever wanted to learn more about...

...how to use online tools in the church to harness the marketing power of the internet?

...explore what's working in youth ministry right now and ways to incorporate them into the church?

...two dynamic UMC ministries that are transforming lives in our community through Project Transformation and Restore Hope Ministries?

...insights regarding the local church, the Oklahoma Conference and the UMC denomination through conversations with our own Bishop Robert E. Hayes?

...effective hospitality in the local congregation and to share experiences and ideas to help strengthen local churches in Oklahoma?

All this, *and much more*, is offered during this very informative event. **We encourage all of our leadership here at New Haven UMC to attend this workshop**, and also invite any others that would like to attend. New Haven will cover the cost of your attendance. Please pick up a brochure in the church office for more information, and let our secretary, Pat Bates know which sessions you would like to attend!

SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW ABOUT.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

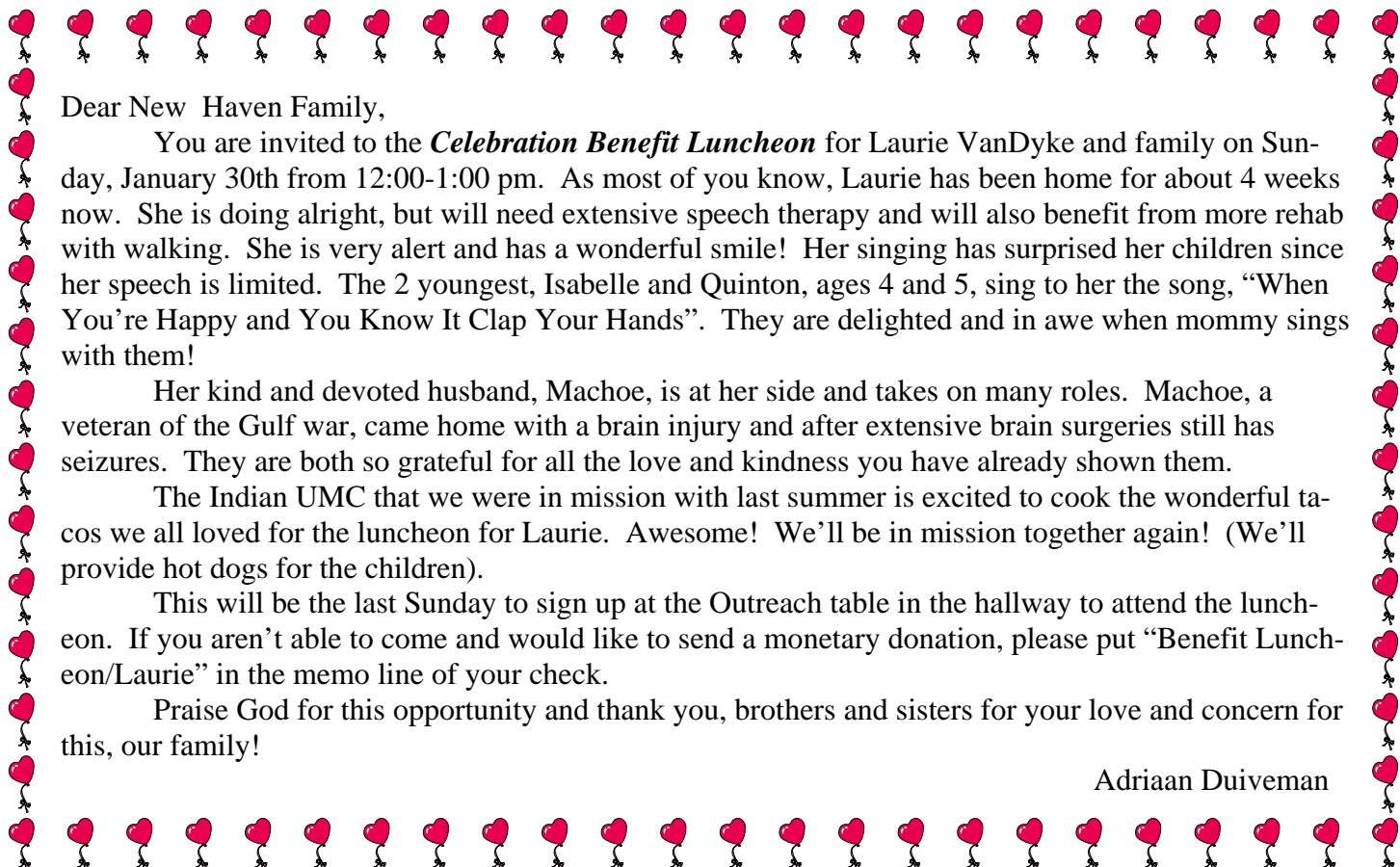
ALL CHURCH VALENTINE DANCE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. IF YOU ATTENDED LAST YEAR, YOU'LL ALREADY KNOW HOW MUCH FUN THIS IS!!!

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH

NEW HAVEN GARAGE SALE! START SAVING ITEMS NOW TO DONATE AND SAVE SOME TIME TO HELP WITH IT, TOO!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH

ALL CHURCH PICNIC AT LEAKE PARK. THIS IS A GREAT ANNUAL EVENT AT NEW HAVEN. . . . FUN FOR ALL AGES! PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND! BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!!



Dear New Haven Family,

You are invited to the ***Celebration Benefit Luncheon*** for Laurie VanDyke and family on Sunday, January 30th from 12:00-1:00 pm. As most of you know, Laurie has been home for about 4 weeks now. She is doing alright, but will need extensive speech therapy and will also benefit from more rehab with walking. She is very alert and has a wonderful smile! Her singing has surprised her children since her speech is limited. The 2 youngest, Isabelle and Quinton, ages 4 and 5, sing to her the song, "When You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands". They are delighted and in awe when mommy sings with them!

Her kind and devoted husband, Machoe, is at her side and takes on many roles. Machoe, a veteran of the Gulf war, came home with a brain injury and after extensive brain surgeries still has seizures. They are both so grateful for all the love and kindness you have already shown them.

The Indian UMC that we were in mission with last summer is excited to cook the wonderful tacos we all loved for the luncheon for Laurie. Awesome! We'll be in mission together again! (We'll provide hot dogs for the children).

This will be the last Sunday to sign up at the Outreach table in the hallway to attend the luncheon. If you aren't able to come and would like to send a monetary donation, please put "Benefit Luncheon/Laurie" in the memo line of your check.

Praise God for this opportunity and thank you, brothers and sisters for your love and concern for this, our family!

Adriaan Duiveman

Small Group Ministries!

The beginning of our Small Group Ministries is just around the corner, and we are so excited!! At our last All-Church gathering, we talked about where we believe God is leading his church here at New Haven UMC this coming year. One of the suggestions that came up was to focus on additional ways to get to know one another in smaller settings. So, it's time to put that into action!

Men's group, Married with Children group, Merry Crafter's group, Red Hatters group, Needle-work group.... are just a few of the examples! Let us know what group interests you, or create your own. Then, come to our introductory meeting on January 25th at 6:30 pm and we will train you in how to lead and/or be a part of a small group. What a great way to get to know others in the congregation! Call the church office or sign-up in the hallway today. You will be SO GLAD you did!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



Sunday, January 16

8:45 am-68

11:00 am-109

Total-177

Adult Sunday School Class Attendance Sunday, January 16, 2010

Christian Living Class-11
Discovery Class-11
Interlude Class-11
Fellowship Class-18
New Friendship Class-12
Journey Class-12



DAY SCHOOL SPRING FLING!

MARCH 27th FROM 3:00-5:00 PM

**THE DAY SCHOOL PARENTS WILL BE
HOSTING THIS FUNDRAISING
EVENT. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ORDER
BEAUTIFUL SPRING/SUMMER FLOWERS
GROWN IN A LOCAL NURSERY AND READY TO
PLANT IN YOUR YARD LATER IN THE SPRING.
FOOD AND GAMES!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!!!**

Opportunities of the Week

Jan. 23 ~ 30, 2011

SUNDAY, January 23

8:45 am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church
9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am Traditional Worship & Children's Church
12:15 pm Trustees/185
4:00 pm Footprints/Sanctuary
5:00 pm Children's Choir
5:00 pm Disciple I/Parlor
5:00 pm Disciple II/Pastor's Office
5:30 pm Bible Blast
5:30 pm UMY

MONDAY, January 24

6:00 pm Writer's Group/185

TUESDAY, January 25

6:00 pm Girl Scouts
6:30 pm Small Group Training
7:00 am Boy Scouts/Gym
7:30 pm AA/ Rooms 185, 209, 210
Alanon/ Room 205, 206

WEDNESDAY, January 26

6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:00 pm A.C.O.A./206

THURSDAY, January 27

4:15 pm Guitar Lessons
5:00 pm Youth Bible Study
6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

FRIDAY, January 28

7:30 pm AA Gym

SATURDAY, January 29

SUNDAY, January 30

8:45am Contemporary Worship & Children's Church
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional Worship & Children's Church
12:00 pm Benefit Luncheon for Laurie VanDyke
4:00 pm Footprints/Sanctuary
5:00 pm Disciple I/Parlor
5:00 pm Disciple II/Pastor's Office
5:00 pm Children's Choir
5:30 pm Bible Blast
5:30 pm UMY

A FUNNY FOR TODAY!

Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on a Donkey. . . .but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time!