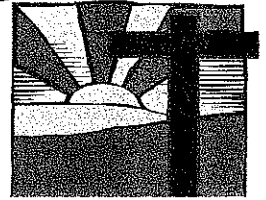


# Uniondale Messenger

Volume 8, Issue 11

November 2011

## Time to Toughen Up By: Charles Swindoll



### Birthdays & Anniversaries

2<sup>nd</sup>- Robert & Lucille Beavens  
4<sup>th</sup>-Ernie Barclay  
4<sup>th</sup>- Leonard Bartel  
4<sup>th</sup>-Mallory Horne  
8<sup>th</sup>- Jeff Espich  
12<sup>th</sup>-Jessica Fromm  
22<sup>nd</sup>-Don & Elda Mae Weaver  
24<sup>th</sup>-Roger McAfee  
30<sup>th</sup>- Lura Burke



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There are 1,130 frostbitten miles, mountain ranges, blizzards, hungry beasts and frozen seas between Anchorage and Nome. This awful trek is the scene of the ultimate endurance test known as the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, where 12 huskies pull a sled and its driver through the most grueling, inhuman conditions one can fathom. One frequent champion was the late Susan Butcher, who tough-minded fixation on winning earned her the nickname Ayatollah Butcher. The secret, she would tell you, was her own mind-set and the training of those dogs, which gave new meaning to the word "serious". Her 150-dog kennel was a thing to behold. Shortly after each pup's birth, while it was still blind, she held it in her hands and breathed into its nose. That way, she claimed, each one would associate her smell with comfort and encouragement. The rapport began with that breathing-in-to-the-nose routine. She personally fed, trained, massaged, and —on a rotation basis— slept with each dog. She personally nursed them to health when they were injured. She was infinitely patient with them, talked to them, believed in them, even sang to them (old folk songs by Bob Dylan with Joan Baez, plus a few Irish lullabies). The objective?? To bond with them. It paid. They saved her life on the trail more than once. Back in 1979, she led her dog team to the 20,320-foot summit of Mount McKinley. It took 44 days.

What a woman!! One reporter described her as having "a stiff spine...a stubborn mind-set," which was what she needed to endure moose attacks, blizzards so severe that one time for 5 hours she couldn't see the lead dog, and a sudden plunge into icy water (Granite and Maddie, the mushers, pulled her out).

The Christian life isn't an eleven-day race. It's a lifetime journey full of more dangers and pitfalls than a hundred Iditarods. So its foolish to think we can enter it half-heartedly or sustain it easily. To survive it calls for help from above and toughness from within. If Susan Butcher was willing to give that kind of effort to win a race that is incredible in the eyes of the world, seems to me we should be capable of conquering the marathon from earth to heaven. A combination of 2 ingredients is essential: the capacity to accept and the tenacity to endure. I move that we toughen up. All in favor say, "Mush".

Dear Pastor Troy and all the Uniondale UMC family--

To my beloved sisters and brothers of the Uniondale UMC:

My heart and soul received a HUGE transfusion of love and joy on Saturday afternoon, Oct 8, as you gathered to greet me and each other in the church basement. Thank you! Thank you! I so appreciated seeing so many of you, my dear friends, giving our hugs, catching up a bit on our recent happenings, just being together again in that special place after quite a long while. You honored me greatly! For sure, I am the richer in blessings because of you in my life--both now, before, and on into the future.

Especially I thank Mary Etta and Elaine and their families for making all the arrangements for time, place, invitation, and delicious refreshments. It was such a wonderful idea you came up with! I'll be happy to "hire you" as my social secretaries any time!

May God continue to bless richly the ministries of Uniondale UMC as you faithfully LIVE Christ's love in the neighborhood. I love you. Margie Miller



## Eleven on a Rope...

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter.

10 men and 1 woman...

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all

So they decided that one had to leave,

Because otherwise they were all going to fall.

They weren't able to choose that person,

Until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of

the rope,

Because, as a woman,

She was used to giving up everything

For her husband and kids or for men in general,

And was used to always making sacrifices

With little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech, All the men started clapping . . . . .

# November 2011

\*\*WE HAVE LOTS OF OPEN SPACES FOR VARIOUS TASKS DURING THE CHURCH SERVICE--PLEASE SIGN UP!!

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						29
30 Greeters--Tim & _____ Sound board--Tim Jr. Church: Elaine & Deanna Acolytes: _____ FALL FESTIVAL & Lunch	31 Trunk-N-Treat!! 6:30 Church parking lot	1	2 Charge Conference at St. Mark's (Decatur) 6:30	3	4	5 Woman's Faith Circle 2:00 pm at church
6 Baptism Greeters--Tim & Dorothy Sound board--Ernie Jr. Church: Amy, Claudia & Tonia Acolytes--Horn's	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Membership Sunday Greeters--Tim & Ernie Sound board: Bill Jr. Church: Claudia & Elaine Acolytes: _____	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Breakfast--Bowley's Greeters--Tim & Dorothy Sound board--Tim Jr. Church: Coralee & Claudia Acolytes: _____ *Thanksgiving Service at Prospect UMC 6:30	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25 Decorating church--details to come!! ☺	26
27 Greeters--Tim & Dorothy Sound board: Ernie Jr. Church: Claudia & _____ Acolytes: _____	28	29	30			

## Confessions of a single girl, living in a small town...

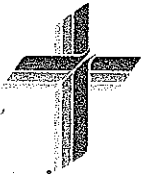
Do you have a great plan for your life? You know that you're going to do this and that and you know all will be well with your plan. I had a plan...a smart plan, or I, at least, thought so. I was in school at Anderson University getting my elementary education degree. I was going to go an extra semester and do my student teaching in Wells Co. so I could live at home and save money. My plan was to student teach in the fall and graduate in December 2006. I would then substitute teach at various schools to get my foot in the door. Then I planned to have a teaching job for the 2007-08 school year. I felt it was a well, thought-out plan. However, my life did not go according to plan one bit. My student teaching experience proved to be a hairy experience (one that attempt to forget at times) and I made the choice to end my student teaching halfway through. Fortunately, AU was able to turn what I had done so far into an internship and I was still able to graduate in December. At this time, I wasn't sure what to do next. The only plan that I had, which I thought was a great plan, was no longer "THE" plan. This was a low point in my life. I sort of felt that, career-wise, my world had shattered. Even though I still had a degree, what was I going to do? All I had planned and dreamed of was becoming a teacher. But after my experience in student teaching, teaching was the last thing I wanted to do. I figured that I could do some substitute teaching, but it was difficult going back into the school after things went so poorly.

Looking back now, I know that God was definitely in control and although I had the "perfect plan", God knew me better and had a much better plan for me. Because I ended student teaching early, I got the great idea to go work on a dude ranch and I've met amazing people and had incredible experiences. A verse comes to mind when I think of letting go my plan and letting God in control:

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Although its difficult letting go, and letting God, He is in control of our lives and he knows what's truly best for each of us. We must always put our faith and trust in Him and He will continue to lead us on amazing adventures.

*Amanda*



### Let's Not Forget...

Norm Jackson  
801 N. Huntington  
Warren, IN 46792

Margaret Hassler  
37446 Carson Street  
Farmington Hill, MI 48331

Maxine Crum  
River Terrace  
300 Caylor Blvd.  
Bluffton, IN 46714

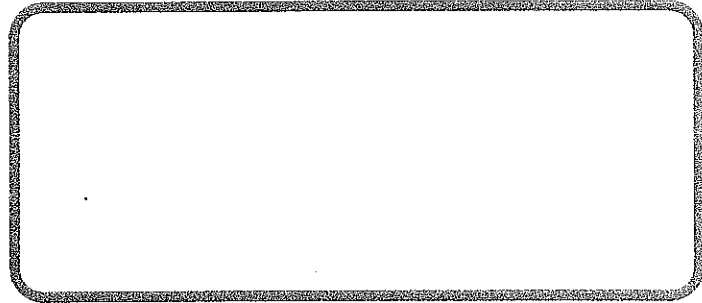
Helen Trout  
801 Huntington Ave.  
Warren, IN 46792

Doris Emily  
The Woodlands at River-Terrace  
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt 214  
Bluffton, IN 46714

**Uniondale United  
Methodist Church**

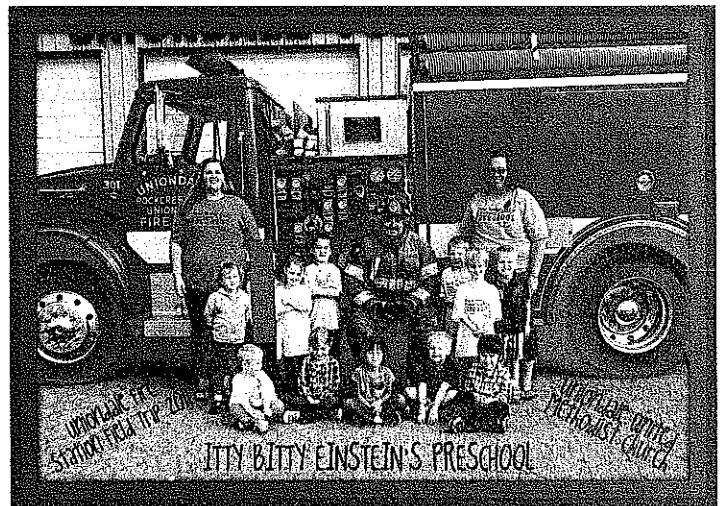
5857 N. Main St.  
P.O. Box 115  
Uniondale, IN 46792  
Pastor Troy Drayer  
Phone: 260-543-2256  
Email: tmdrayer30@gmail.com

**We're on the web!!!  
[www.uniondaleumc.com](http://www.uniondaleumc.com)**



***ITTY BITTY EINSTEIN'S PRESCHOOL UPDATE***

We had a fun October, and are looking forward to the Halloween party on Monday, We are looking forward to, the month of November, and learning about thanksgiving. We are going to be taking school pictures and placing another order for t shirts if any one would like to order one, we will have a sign up sheet on the preschool door soon. We **WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME OUR 14TH STUDENT WHO WILL START ON MONDAY.** Thank you all for your love, support, And prayers.



**With love, Jennifer and Jessica**