

St. Timothy on the Northshore UMC creates card/prayer

St. Timothy on the Northshore United Methodist Church is incorporating an inexpensive and effective ministry which encourages others in times of need.

Known as Ronnie's Life Ministry, the project utilizes a team of volunteers to send notes and cards to names that have been submitted to the group. Recipients are all facing a challenge of some kind. They may be ill, or may have suffered a loss of some kind. Cards are sent and the recipients are lifted up in prayer, both in group settings and by individual volunteers.

"The idea is to overwhelm the recipients with love and blessings through the mail. A recipient may receive up to 50 cards or letters in one week. It is the hope of this ministry that the recipient feels the love and strength of Jesus through personal handwritten expressions from people they may not even know," said Karen Lindsey, who started the project.

Lindsey, a member of St. Timothy UMC, was inspired to develop the ministry after watching her brother, Ronnie Kleinpeter, go through the trials of being diagnosed with cancer and the subsequent treatment of his disease. She remembers how important it was to Ronnie to know that others were thinking of him and praying for him.

The ministry is able to send so many notes at one time to a recipient because there are currently 48 volunteers. Rev. Larry Maddin, associate pastor for St. Timothy UMC and participant in Ronnie's Life Ministry, said, "This project blesses the recipients of the cards and prayers and also gives the participants a 'handle.' Many Christians who want to do something helpful have difficulty getting a grip. They find meetings to attend, books to read, etc., but lack something that is both tangible and worthwhile. You are providing a handle, a grip – and thereby giving them a blessing even as they, with God's help, provide a blessing to the recipients."

Erin Delacroix, whose son Gregory was the recipient of the ministry's cards and prayers, wrote, "Today I ask for nothing, but want to give thanks for all of the notes prayers . . . and offer my prayers to each of you. God's journey for us has had quite a few cobble stones in its path, but He is guiding us with the help of your prayers."

Rebecca Corrales, another recipient, wrote the volunteers saying, "I went to the doctor today and they told me my latest scan was all clear. I am cancer free. Yay! Please give a tremendous thank you to all the beautiful people in your ministry who

are praying for me and who have sent me cards. It's so special to get the hand addressed cards with the thoughtful, personal notes in the mail. It's incredibly sweet, touching and healing."

The ministry was instantly popular among volunteers. "We even have a high school student at our local Catholic high school who is writing for Ronnie's Life Ministry for her community service hours."

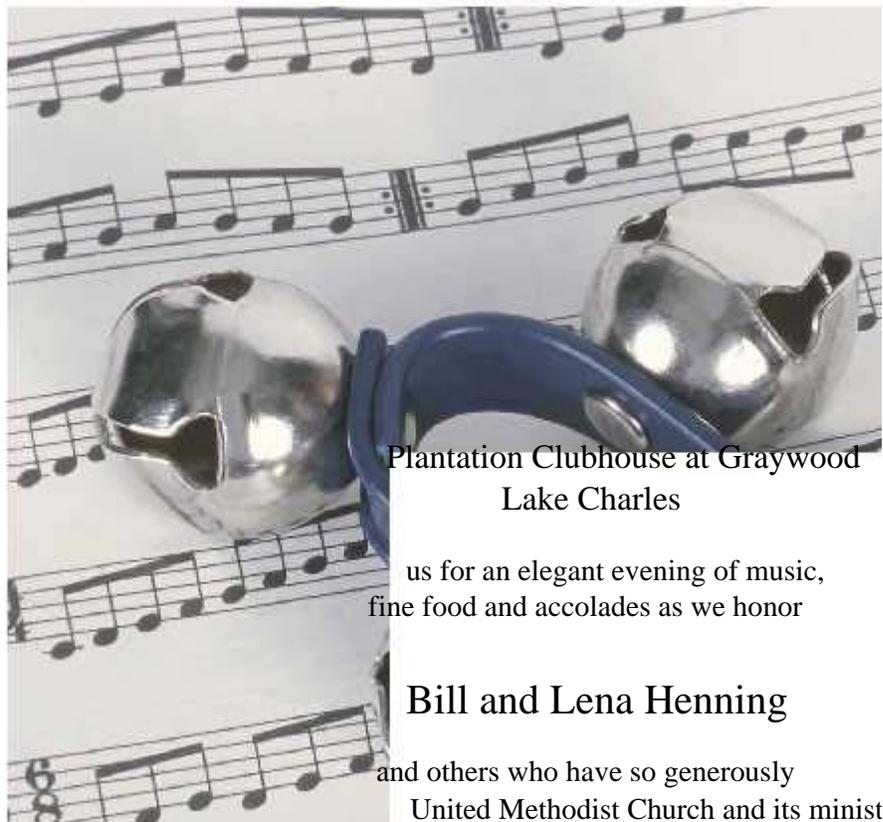
Karen Lindsey's 13-year-old daughter Abby has even joined the volunteer group, and her five-year-old son colors and draws pictures for Karen to send.

"This ministry is important because we are called as Christians to encourage others. If one card or a kind word or thought can make a difference in someone's life, then we have been successful. Life is tough and so many get bogged down with problems and issues. It is our duty and privilege to serve God by serving others and 'cheering on' those who are hurt and suffering," said Lindsey.

For more information about the ministry, contact Karen Lindsey, 24 Audubon Lane, Madisonville, LA 70447, or email telkkl@charter.net.



Volunteers for the Ronnie's Life Ministry at St. Timothy on the Mandeville gather for a picture at a recent meeting. Members pray for and write cards to people who are ill, suffering a loss, and facing challenges.



Plantation Clubhouse at Graywood
Lake Charles

us for an elegant evening of music,
fine food and accolades as we honor

Bill and Lena Henning

and others who have so generously
United Methodist Church and its minist

Correction

In the Feb. 9 edition of Louisiana Now!, an incorrect date for one of the Acadiana District Pre-Conference trainings was listed. The meeting at Pharr Chapel UMC will be on Monday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m., rather than on May 6.

