



INVITING IN...
GROWING UP...
SENDING OUT...

Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006
Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 965-5360
Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.bentonumc.org

NON-PROFIT
PERMIT #17
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
BENTON, LA

Return Service Requested

The Message for February 2015

- 8 **United Methodist Women Sunday**
Cheryl Fell speaking
- 15 **Transfiguration Sunday**
Cheryl Nelson Preaching
- 18 **Ash Wednesday Service**
6:15 p.m.
- 22 **ONE Worship Service**
10:15 am
Ephesians 4:1-6
“**The BIG ONE – ONE Hope of Our Calling**”

Black Tie Event
Mark Your Calendars
Black Tie Event coming April 11, 2015
Fundraiser for the Benton UMC Music Ministry
Details and ticket information coming soon.

Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, LA 71006 • (318) 965-2273



INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2015

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you in the Name and Spirit of Jesus Christ!

Are you ready for the Big ONE?! (I am not talking like Fred Sanford in saying “It’s the big one Elizabeth! Here I come.”) Are you ready for the Big ONE worship service? For the season of Lent, Benton United Methodist Church will worship as ONE body, in ONE place, at ONE time on Sunday mornings. Consider this Big ONE worship during the season of Lent as an experiment in unity.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus: “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3 NRSV) We can learn a lot from Paul and the early Christian Church about how to become a unified Body of Christ.

As we move into this Lenten time of unified worship, I invite you to consider the “WHO” and “WHAT” of worship. The challenge for us is to remember WHO worship is for, and WHAT worship is about.

- WHO is worship for? Worship is for the Lord! We are in worship to praise, honor, glorify, bless, magnify, offer, and thank God through our songs, prayers, gifts, and presence! I have heard some remarks about worship that greatly concern me: “I did not get anything out of the sermon today.” “I did not get anything out of the music today.” “I did not get anything out of worship today.” When did worship become about us “getting” anything? Worship of God since the beginning of time has always been about what we “give” into worship and not what we can “get” out of worship! The central point of worship found in all of God’s Word (Old and New Testaments) is the sacrifice of the offering. This is where we offer to God the sacrifice of our hearts, lives, and gifts to honor and praise Him. Worship is about God, not about us!
- WHAT is worship about? By worshipping we are praising, honoring, glorifying, blessing, magnifying, offering, and thanking God in all that we think, say and do! As we worship God, if we receive a spiritual enlightenment or a warm feeling or fuzzy, then praise God all the more! Worship is not for the purpose of our gain or our feelings. Worship is about wholly offering ourselves to God (body, mind, soul, and livelihood).

Whenever we come together for worship it is our pleasure and honor to worship God! And thank God we live in a country where we are free to worship God as we please! Worshipping God is not really a “gotta”, where we “got to” worship God. Worshipping God is where we “get to” worship God. Worshipping God is really about the attitude of our heart. Personal worship or devotion time is when we get to spend our daily quiet time alone praising God. In worshipping God corporately, we gather at least once a week with the Body of Christ (The Church) to collectively praise God. Personal devotion and corporate worship is not an either/or but rather a both/and situation. Both are time well spent with God!

With the Big ONE Worship service our focus will be on the unity that we have in Christ Jesus. This Big ONE worship service will incorporate parts of worship from both the Traditional and Contemporary services as well as feature music styles from our Chancel Choir and the GAP Band & Singers. You will know plenty of people and there will be plenty of people for you to meet. It will be a great time in the life of Benton United Methodist Church!

Continued on Page 2



souper saturday

Soup Ministry @ Benton UMC

Weekend Mission

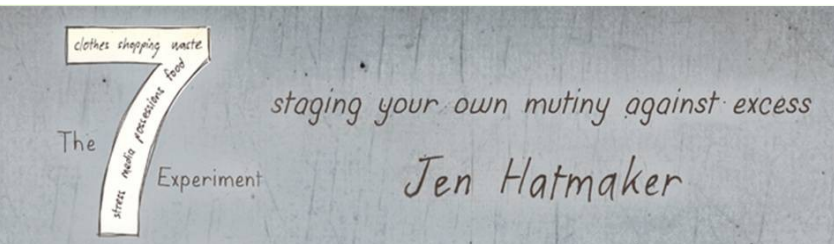
I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to become involved with our Souper Saturday mission team. This is held the last Saturday morning of each month. We prepare and deliver a nutritious meal to about 65 individuals in our local area.

This is a great opportunity for those of you that would like to become involved with church missions, but can’t serve during the week because of other commitments. There is a wide range of tasks to get the job done, so there’s something for all ages – baking pound cakes, preparing vegetable soup and peanut butter sandwiches, cutting cakes, assembling the lunch sacks, delivery, delivery helper, even writing a note to include with the lunch sack-the whole family can serve! With enough members on the team, service can be done on a rotation basis, and it doesn’t require a monthly commitment. However, there are those loyal servants I can count on to be there each month.

Not only will you receive a blessing by serving those in need, it is also a wonderful time of fellowship and getting to know other members of your church family. ~ Katherine Kavanaugh

For more information contact:
Katherine Kavanaugh
(318) 218-7730
or the church office at (318) 965-2273





THE 7 EXPERIMENT: A Mutiny Against Excess
 By Jen Hatmaker
Begins February 4, 2015
 Led by Karla Horton and Lillian Holley
 Contact Ann Sellers to order your book!
 ann.sellers@bentonumc.org



- Day 1 – Leave a note under their pillow
- Day 2 – Have a **heart** shaped dinner...**heart** shape pizza, etc
- Day 3 – Donut Breakfast...”Donut you know how much I **love** you?”
- Day 4 – Make secret message **Valentines**
- Day 5 – **Heart** attack their bedrooms
- Day 6 – Write a list: *Ten Things I Love About You*
- Day 7 – Make a scroll **love** letter
- Day 8 – Watch a movie
- Day 9 – Eat dinner at your family’s favorite restaurant
- Day 10 – One big bear **hug**
- Day 11 – Go for a walk together
- Day 12 – KIDS...THIS IS FOR YOU...one hour of no arguments!!! Even better a whole day of no arguing!!!

From the Pastor (Continued from Page 1)
 Our scriptural focus for our Big ONE worship service will be from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Church at Ephesus: “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6 NRSV) I invite you to commit this verse to memory.
 Here are the Sunday morning time frames for the Lenten Services (beginning February 22nd):

- 9:00 a.m. **Sunday School for all ages**
- 10:00 a.m. **Fellowship time with coffee and goodies in the Worship Center**
- 10:15 a.m. **The Big ONE Worship begins with the Prelude**

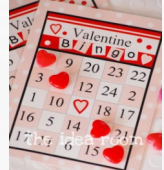
Our worship design team is meeting to plan the Big ONE worship. Our hope is to provide the best avenues for our congregation to worship the Lord with all that we are. I am extremely excited to begin this Lenten time of the Big ONE worship with you. Begin praying now that God will strengthen our unity as we worship Him as ONE body!
 Grace and peace,
 Rev. Dr. Danny Gleason
 Senior Pastor

Dinner With Friends
February 13, 2015
at 6:00 PM
 in the
Family Life Worship Center

Dinner With Friends will kick off in February! Dinner will be brisket and all the fixings. There will be a time of fellowship with prizes to be won!!! A chance to find more ways to be connected through Bible study, food, or whatever may work for you with others in this group.
 For more information, contact:
 Ann Sellers
 (318) 965-2273
 ann.sellers@bentonumc.org

O.P.A.L.S.
 (Older People with Active Life Styles)
Tuesday, February 24, 2015
 11:00 a.m. in the Worship Center
 \$5.00 per person

Bingo with a Valentine theme will be the program for this month’s OPALS. Miss Betty’s famous lasagna is on the menu! Everyone is welcome, but you must make a reservation by calling Sandra Upshaw at (318) 326-5966.




Servant of the Month
“By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23”

The Servant of the Month is Mark Crosby. Most every Sunday he is one of the smiling faces that hands you a bulletin as you enter the 8:30 a.m. service. Mark is the head usher for that worship service and served with his son, Mark David, until his son’s tragic death in 1999. Mark and Rita became members of Benton United Methodist Church in 1979 and the both of them have faithfully served ever since! Mark taught Sunday School for several years (1988-1999). He has worked with Souper Saturday since its beginning. Mark faithfully visited members in the nursing homes. He is one of the cooks with the Benton United Methodist Men barbecues for the last several years. Mark helps in the Benton UMC Daycare and is one of the handymen who keeps it up and running.

Mark’s life is remarkable and is the picture of what a servant should be. He began a life of serving his country when he joined the Air Force at 17 years of age and served for 3 years. Mark worked at Barksdale AFB in civil service in civil engineering for 37 years. Mark loves, supports and defends our country! He also supports and helps disabled veterans.

Mark serves in and around the Benton Community as well. He volunteers at the Hughes House in Benton, works with IMPACT Benton, and helps anyone who is in need, especially widows and those who have been released from prison. He set up the Mark David Crosby Band Scholarship (\$1,000 per year) at Benton High School to honor their little drummer boy.

As a family man Mark serves faithfully as a father, husband, brother, son, son-in-law and uncle. Mark built both of their homes in Benton and has built homes for other family members as well. Mark’s relationship with the Lord has helped him to lead and to love his family to walk in the way that leads to eternal life.

Character matters in the life of a man because it reflects his convictions, reveals his values, and reinforces his beliefs. Mark’s character is evident in his life and through his relationships he loves those who God’s sends his way. He provided their son Mark David with a strong spiritual environment and surrounded him with grace and love. Mark and Rita taught their son how to tithe as showed by their example. They also taught him how to serve by their example as he would become the “Penny King”. As a true servant of the Lord, Mark willingly follows his Master’s instructions without exception. He is definitely “one in a million”!

the table
Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

Tuesday, February 17
 9:00 a.m.—Truck Unloading
 10:00 a.m.—Bag Packing
Wednesday, February 18
 12:30 p.m.—Food Distribution

For more information on serving,
 please contact:
 Rachel Stoneman at (318) 965-2273

The Clothes Closet

We have been amazed at the response to our Clothes Closet Ministry. Your generous donations have made it possible to provide winter clothing to many families in our area. Our loyal volunteers work every Wednesday to sort, size and hang the donated items. Our greatest need at the present time is clothing for infants and children. If you know of a neighbor who has a child you might consider asking them to donate items when the child outgrows them. School uniforms are always in demand, as are sweaters and coats. Spring is fast approaching, but we still have some chilly weather ahead and our patrons are always seeking warm clothing. If you cannot bring your donations to the church, please call the church office and Sue Shadow will arrange to pick up the items from your home.

Volunteers are also needed:

Wednesdays 11:30-12:30 p.m.— *Sorting and organizing the clothing*
 3rd Wednesdays 11:30 -5:00 p.m.— *Helping shoppers find sizes and organize throughout the day*

We have formed wonderful bonds of friendship working in **The Closet** and welcome others to come share those bonds. If you can’t volunteer on a weekly basis, maybe you could consider working one Wednesday per month. You will be greatly rewarded spiritually for your service and bless those who are able to serve with you.

Benton United Methodist Women News
Special Sunday—Special Guest

The Benton United Methodist Women Sunday will be February 8, 2015. It is a special day set aside to celebrate the work of the United Methodist Women and to honor a few of our church members who sacrifice their time and energies for missions. Our guest speaker will be Cheryl Fell, R.N., a.k.a. Nurse FUNshine! Cheryl has been a positive role model promoting wellness as a way of life over the course of her 30+ years in the nursing field. As a mental health advocate, Cheryl facilitates breakfast clubs that teach, encourage, and affirm healthy living and genuine happiness. She delights us with her wit, wisdom, and no-nonsense approach to wellness.

Valentine Basket Silent Auction

Valentine Basket auction ends February 8 at 12:00 p.m. after second service. Please have all your bids in by that time so we can call the winner.

Spring Style Show and Luncheon

Saturday, March 14, 2015
\$20.00 per person

Tickets and table reservations are available now for this delightful day of good food and entertainment. Please contact Patsy Burnes at (318) 658-5554 for tickets and information on tables.

Small Groups

All women are invited to join the circle and general meetings, mission opportunities, and fundraising events. We currently have two small groups (aka Circles) that meet monthly from September through May.

- The **Morning Glories** circle has changed its monthly meeting date to the second Thursday of the month – meeting on February 12, at 9:30 AM in the Pairs and Spares Sunday school classroom.
- The **Nightingales Circle** meets the third Tuesday of each month, February 17, at 6:30 PM in the Eva Smith Sunday school classroom. *Nightingales Circle will have a speaker on our Disabilities Study, Linda Resendez, on February 17 at 6:30 in Eva Smith Classroom. She works with Veterans and Volunteers of America. All are welcome to come hear her.*

Each circle enjoys refreshment, fellowship, and a short program.

For more information about these events or becoming a part of the United Methodist Women, please contact:
Katherine Ashley (318) 464-3798 lucykatherine52@yahoo.com

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

PROVIDENCE HOUSE
 Breaking The Homeless Cycle One Family At A Time

January 12, 2015

Benton United Methodist Church
 4615 Palmetto Road
 Benton, LA 71006

Dear Reverend Dr. Gleason,

Your generous gift will help countless homeless families and their children like Mike reach her highest level of self-sufficiency this year.

Mike lived in the shelter with his mother and his brother several years ago. He visited us recently and dropped off coats, socks and shoes. He described that his life is tremendously different since living at Providence House. He has a full-time job working in the oil/gas field, and owns a home. Mike says he will never forget what it was like to be homeless and cold and to have Providence House provide shelter, warm clothes and a better life for he and his family. He donates today, because of the impact it had on him in the past.



"Imagine ... a community where no family is homeless."

By giving, you become a part of this story and countless others.

Thank you for being a light in the darkness for those living in the shadows of our community.

Happy New Year,

Susan Seiler-Smith
 Sue Seiler-Smith
 President, Board of Directors

DONATION RECEIPT
 Check #: 1541
 Date: 1/8/15
 Amount: \$1628.00

Providence House is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were provided to the donor by Providence House in exchange for this donation.

814 COTTON STREET · SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71101 · PHONE: 318-221-7887 · FAX: 318-221-7976
 www.theprovidencehouse.com

The Advent Conspiracy raised \$1,143.00 for the Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center in Shreveport. They serve women and children who need assistance with an unexpected pregnancy. They offer free ultrasounds, clothing, education, job assistance programs, abortion recovery Bible studies, counseling, and other necessities. **Vickie, the Executive Director, would like to thank you, Benton UMC, for taking part in Advent Conspiracy 2014 and serving those in need.**

Dear Reverend Dr. Gleason,

Your generous gift will help countless homeless families and their children like Mike reach her highest level of self-sufficiency this year.

By giving, you become a part of this story and countless others.

Thank you for being a light in the darkness for those living in the shadows of our community.

Happy New Year,

Susan Seiler-Smith
 Sue Seiler-Smith
 President, Board of Directors

The Advent Conspiracy raised \$1,628.00 for Providence House in Shreveport. They serve homeless families by providing shelter, clothing, education, and life skills. **Thank you, Benton UMC, for taking part in Advent Conspiracy 2014.**

January 15, 2015
 Check #4588
 This gift is from: General
 Today's gift: \$1,143.00

Benton United Methodist Church
 4615 Palmetto Road
 Benton, LA 71006

Happy New Year!!!

It's a new year with fresh new possibilities. You are enabling us to help others to start fresh and new.

Recently, I was able to visit with a client named Rhonda.* With slurred speech and many tears she told me about her drug addiction and incarceration. She said that drugs had caused her to lose everything. As we talked, she shared with me that she had two abortions about 5 years ago. I asked her when she began using drugs. She said it was not long after the abortions. "Do you think there might be a connection?" I asked. Looking puzzled, she said that the thought had not occurred to her but was most definitely a possibility.

Her positive test result caused her to cry and state, "I hope the baby is ok." We were able to do a free ultrasound and tears streamed down Rhonda's face as she saw her little baby and its heartbeat. I gave her information about a local agency that provides one-on-one counseling and a program that will help her get off the drugs. I also shared with her about Jesus and how He wants to help her.

The client's exit form revealed the desire of her heart and what I believe can be a reality. She wrote, "I am so encouraged and will never use again." When you think of this client, please pray for her as she starts this new year with fresh new possibilities. **Thank you for partnering with us.**

For the Unborn,

For the Unborn,

Vickie Brumley
 Vickie Brumley
 Executive Director

*Benton United Methodist,
 We are reaching a lost
 and broken world together!*

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead," Philippians 3:13

s, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting straining toward what is ahead," Philippians 3:13

protect confidentiality



Keep this receipt for your tax records. No goods or services were provided by this agency in exchange for this gift.

821 Shreveport Barksdale Highway, Shreveport, LA, 71105. 318-861-4600 www.altcpc.com

Louisiana Conference a United Methodist Women Spiritual Growth Retreat
 Saturday, February 7, 2015
 Cost: \$15 per person

Natchitoches First United Methodist Church
 411 Second Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457
 (318) 352-8750 Evelyn Evans
 (318) 357-8296 Church Office

RETREAT LEADER
 Rev. Connie R. Saizon

On-site registration: 8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
 Gathering: 9:00 a.m.

A Day of renewal in Faith, Hope, and Love
 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Benton United Methodist Men Fundraisers:

Apple Butter Sales:

The United Methodist Men are continuing to sell Apple Butter.

- 8 oz. jars are \$5
- 16 oz. jars are \$10.

If you would like to purchase some please email bentonumm@gmail.com or call Jacob at (318) 426-6916.

Firewood:

The United Methodist Men are beginning a new firewood fundraiser. If you have any fallen hardwood trees on your property that you would like cut up and removed, please contact:

Jacob Randall
bentonumm@gmail.com
 call at (318) 426-6916



Beach BUMS News

News for Parents and Kids (ages 3 years old through fifth grade)

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. ~ 1 Timothy 4:12

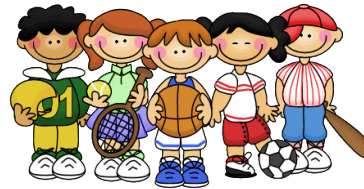


February – the month of LOVE! I always **LOVE** to see all of you! Join us on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Children's Church or Wednesday evenings for Wednesday Night Live. Our special activity for February will be an indoor picnic and movie at Bible Beach on Monday, February 16 at 11:00 AM. Bring your own lunch and a special treat to share with your friends!



Wednesday nights are always fun! Join us for games and snacks each Wednesday evening at 6:15. We will play outside and inside. We will play loud games and quiet games. After a long, hard day at school, we all need a brain break! Wednesday nights will give you the chance to unwind and relax! Join us for the fun! During the month of February, we will be playing Valentine's Minute to Win It games.

Please bring me a copy of your sports schedule so I can come out to one of your games. I know that many of you are playing basketball and baseball is right around the corner. I can hardly wait to see you starring in your favorite sport!



Please mark your summer calendars for the following Camp Caney dates:
June 5, 6, and 7 – Pre-Camp for students entering 3rd and 4th grades
June 22-26 – Elementary Camp for students entering 5th and 6th grades

Vacation Bible School

Also, please put VBS on your calendar for the week of July 20 – 24. We will "travel" to the heights of Everest where we will be **CONQUERING CHALLENGES WITH GOD'S MIGHTY POWER!**



Until next time, let your BEACH BUMS light shine!

For more information, contact:
Mary Jo Duddy (318) 773-6205
Ashley Stinson (318) 349-5913

Bible Beach Children's Ministry Schedule
Sunday School
9:40 a.m.
• Nursery
• Preschool
• Kindergarten/1st Grade
• 2nd Grade/3rd Grade
• 4th Grade/5th Grade
Footprints in the Sand Children's Mission
Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
Bible Beach upstairs in Family Life Center (Grades: K-5th)



News from INstudent Ministries:

It's 2015! How hard has the change been to use 2015 within your daily schedule? Change is inevitable. We must all be adaptable to change especially when dealing with youth. Their lives change everyday with the struggles they have to endure. I like the words that Coach Wooden (legendary UCLA basket ball coach) said, "Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."



In January our focus has been **UNITY** and getting along. Our ages range from 11 to 18, so one might imagine the struggles it is to be unified. Music has been a big part of this month. The youth has had fun learning how to use their musical talents with the leadership of Will Hughes and Jennifer Hable. Remember, **everyone is invited to participate within music.** Sing, play or just come and enjoy.

Our inaugural Benton United Methodist Men's auction was a success as the youth served the tables and babysat the children for the participating parents during the auction. The men were gracious enough to trust our youth to serve their guests and receive tips as a fundraising event to fund our activities or events we have planned. We earned over **\$575** in tips alone. Thank you for your generosity toward our youth!

Southland Christian Camp

Ringgold, La
See camp at: www.southlandcamp.org
Nathan Reynerson-Worship leader, Phil McMichael-Retreat Pastor

What do you believe?

FINDING DNOW (Discipleship Now)

This weekend retreat is a great weekend to find Jesus and learn how to live as a Christian.

February 20-22, 2015

COST \$55 includes meals, materials, room, t-shirt - paintball is available for an additional \$10.

Please fill out forms and return payment by Feb 8th. Forms can be obtained in the youth room or church office.



February 27, 2015
Meet at church: 4:00 PM



More details to follow. Contact Todd Hable

KIDS NIGHT OUT

Feb 14, 6pm-10pm

Childcare provided by:
BUMC Youth Ministry

\$15 donation for One Child
\$20 donation for Two Children
\$30 donation for Three or more

Contact : Todd Hable 318-372-1168



INstudent Ministries: The Body of Christ Sunday School

9:40-10:40 AM
Middle School (6th-8th Grade)
High School (9th-12th Grade)

INstudent Ministries (Wednesdays)
4:00-4:30 PM Homework and Hangout
4:30-5:30 PM Band Practice
5:30-6:15 PM Dinner, Snack Bar and Hangout
6:15-7:00 PM Worship
7:00-7:15 PM Hangout and Snack Bar

INstudent Ministries (Sundays)
2:00-4:00 PM Band Practice
5:30-6:00 PM Snack
6:00-7:00 PM Program (See Below)
1st & 3rd Sunday of Month: Small Groups
2nd Sunday of Month: Monthly Mission Projects
4th Sunday of Month: Game Night

The Body of Christ
To be Christian is to be part of the Body of Christ: to be one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world.
1 Corinthians 12:12-27