

# INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 2016

## A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

As we move into the month of November we're mindful and certainly thankful of the bounty that God gives us. Thanksgiving Day for many years now has served as that extra special occasion where we gather together as friends and family to feast, to give thanks, and are prayerful and for those who do without. As people of faith we ultimately live every day mindful, prayerful, and thankful.

Psalm 100 speaks about that kind of everyday attitude that a believer should display.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!

Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

The words of Harry Jewell come to mind. He wrote a Thanksgiving prayer entitled *We Give Thanks*. Enjoy!

Our Father in Heaven,

We give thanks for the pleasure

Of gathering together for this occasion.

We give thanks for this food

Prepared by loving hands.

We give thanks for life,

The freedom to enjoy it all

And all other blessings.

As we partake of this food,

We pray for health and strength

To carry on and try to live as You would have us.

This we ask in the name of Christ,

Our Heavenly Father.

# Happy Thanksgiving

Enjoy your Thanksgiving feast. May God bless you and keep you always. Live with gratitude and thanksgiving everyday as you give glory to God.

Your preacher,  
Brad

### Financial Report Third Quarter ~ Income and Expenses

Income \$ 131,160

Expenses \$ 127,379

The mortgage balance  
on the Family Life Center is \$ 383,037

The 2016 Apportionment total for  
Benton UMC is \$49,618

We have paid \$37,262 leaving a  
balance of \$12,356

*Thank you for your generosity.*

# Monthly & Special Events

<b>Thursday, November 3</b>	
OPERATION: North Star Meeting .....	6:00 PM
<b>Friday, November 4</b>	
Feeding the Benton High School Team .....	2:00 PM
5th Quarter .....	9:00 PM
<b>Saturday, November 5</b>	
Stampede Hunger 5K .....	7:15 AM
Pocahontas Movie Night .....	5:00 PM
<b>Sunday, November 6</b>	
United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion .....	7:30 AM
<b>Monday, November 7</b>	
Worship Team Meeting .....	5:00 PM
Church Council .....	6:00 PM
<b>Thursday, November 10</b>	
Morning Glories .....	9:30 AM
<b>Friday, November 11</b>	
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Sew Crazy Ladies .....	10:00 AM
<b>Sunday, November 13</b>	
United Methodist Women Casserole Sale .....	8:30 AM
Charge Conference .....	2:00 PM
Fall Roundup at 7th Heaven Ranch .....	4:00 PM
<b>Tuesday, November 15</b>	
NWLA Food Truck Unloading .....	9:00 AM
NWLA Food Bag Packing .....	10:00 AM
Daycare Board Meeting .....	5:30 PM
Nightingales .....	6:30 PM
<b>Wednesday, November 16</b>	
A Cross Faith Advocacy Center .....	11:30 AM
The Table Food Distribution .....	12:30 PM
<b>Sunday, November 20</b>	
United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion .....	7:30 AM
<b>Tuesday, November 22</b>	
OPALS <i>Older People with Active Life Styles</i> .....	11:30 AM
<b>Wednesday, November 23</b>	
<i>Church Office Special Hours</i> .....	8:30 AM-12:00 PM
Prayer Shawl Ministry .....	1:30 PM
<b>Thursday, November 24</b>	
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
<b>Friday, November 25</b>	
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Sew Crazy Ladies .....	10:00 AM
<b>Saturday, November 26</b>	
Souper Saturday .....	7:30 AM
<b>Sunday, November 27</b>	
Deck the Halls	
A Hanging of the Greens Service .....	6:00 PM
<b>Monday, November 28</b>	
Worship Team Meeting .....	5:30 PM

## Music Ministry

Choir Practice—Thursdays at 5:30 PM  
All are welcome to come and make a joyful noise!

**Contact:**  
Jennifer Hable at [jennifer.hable@bentonumc.org](mailto:jennifer.hable@bentonumc.org)

**Saturday, November 12**

9:00 - 4:00 at Broadmoor UMC



## GRIEF SHARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Help for those dealing with grief  
during the holiday season

**“Surviving the Holidays” seminar on November 12, 2016**  
*Facing the holidays after bereavement*  
*Led by Reverend Jack O’Dell*

When you’re grieving the death of a family member or friend, you may dread the holiday season. This seminar will offer practical, actionable strategies for making it through the holiday season. At this seminar, you’ll view videos featuring advice from people in grief who’ve faced the holidays after their loss. You’ll hear insights from respected Christian counselors, pastors, and psychologists. You’ll receive a Holiday Survival Guide with practical strategies, encouraging words, helpful exercises, Q/As, and journaling ideas for daily survival through the holiday season.

To register or find out more about GriefShare *Surviving the Holidays*, call Broadmoor UMC at (318) 861-0586 or email Laura Vaughan at [laura@broadmoorumc.org](mailto:laura@broadmoorumc.org).

Broadmoor UMC  
3715 Youree Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105

## O.P.A.L.S. (Older People with Active Life Styles)

**Tuesday, November 22 at 11:30 AM**  
**Family Life Worship Center**

Those Older People with Active Life Styles will feast on bluegrass music, soul food, and Christian fellowship this month! Jerry Horton and his friends will be there with their banjos, guitars, violins and a bass fiddle, to play & sing some “down home” tunes for our entertainment. It’s a potluck meal, with the OPALS providing the meat & bread, so bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share. We remind you that we serve the musicians and their guests, so add a little extra of whatever you bring, and it will be most appreciated. This has become an annual event and it is always the highlight of our year – everyone is invited and welcome – so y’all come!



## Benton United Methodist Women President, Pat Mosher

onthelake8@bellsouth.net  
(318) 572-3447

We have started our **Samaritan Purse Shoe Box** project to be completed in November. *See right.*

**Circles meet: November 10** – Morning Glories, 9:30, Pairs and Spares Classroom; **November 15** – Nightingales, 6:30 Breakfast Club Classroom. The program will be on the World Thank Bank. *\*Morning Glories has fellowship snack for church on November 13.*

### Shreveport District UMW Annual Meeting

Christ UMC – **November 12, 9:30 AM.** New officers need to attend for training and other officers to be refreshed on duties. We will try to ride together. The theme this year is: "Sowing Seeds of Love".



Are you tired of the same old thing? Ready to have someone else cook your dinner? Let us make it easy—choose from lasagna, soups, chicken dishes, fresh baked bread, desserts and many other items. Take home, heat and eat!!

We will also have Screamin' Owl **salsa** \$6 and **pepper jelly** \$7 for sale made at the LA Methodist Children's Home in Ruston.

- Just a Tad Warm (mild)
- Pretty Darn Hot (medium)
- Sizzlin' Tail Feathers (medium with black beans and corn)
- Holy Cow! It's Screamin' Hot (extra hot)
- Bayou DeVille Crawfish Jelly
- Blazin' Hot Pepper Jelly
- Party Time Pepper Jelly

Great for appetizers with chips or pour the jelly over cream cheese with crackers. **YUM!!**

**You can pre-order cornbread dressing or sweet potato casserole to pick up on Sunday, November 13 before or after service. 9x13 is \$15 and 8x8 is \$8. Please call or text Pat Mosher at (318) 572-3447 to order yours!**

**Anyone interested in joining us in our efforts for creative and supportive fellowship, as well as working to support missions, locally and beyond, is invited to join the Benton United Methodist Women at any time.**

## Shoe Box Ministry:

UMW Project but *everyone* can participate with items or filled boxes.

- **Pray** and/or **write** a note for the child who will receive the box.
- Decide **boy** or **girl**
- Decide age: **2-4 5-9 10-14**

### DEADLINE:

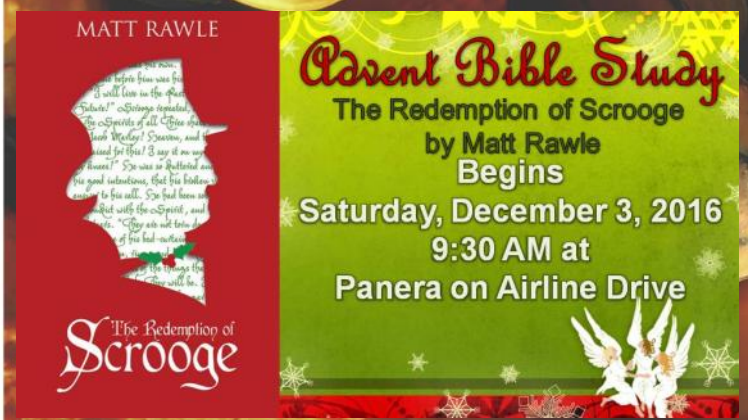
Blessing of the Boxes is on November 13 at church or at the Circle Meetings, November 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> to be delivered to First Baptist Bossier by Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### Ideas:

- Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch a Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with batteries)
- Pens, pencils, sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, t-shirts, socks, ball caps
- Hard candy and lollipops, mints (*double bag all candy*), gum, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

**NO:** military/war items, knives/guns, chocolate or food, liquids, medications or breakable items or aerosol cans.

*Thanks for participating in this Samaritan's Purse project.*



## Advent Bible Study!! The Redemption of Scrooge by Matt Rawle

**Begins Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 9:30 AM  
at Panera Bread on Airline Drive**

Go from "Bah, Humbug!" to a blessed Advent and merry Christmas as we rediscover Charles Dickens' classic viewed through the lens of faith.

**Led by Jennifer Hable and Millie Crites**

**Book order deadline is 11/23 ~ call the church office (318) 965-2273 to order your copy today!!**

# Trunk-or-Treat 2017



*Fall Roundup*  
Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 - 6:00 PM  
7<sup>th</sup> Heaven Ranch

Horseback Rides • Hayride  
Hot Dogs • S'mores • Animals  
**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!!**

## *Fall Roundup*

**Sunday, November 13 from 4:00-6:00 PM**


**FUN FOR ALL AGES!** Bring your friends and family and join us at the ranch. Hot dogs and S'mores are on the menu - roast your own over the fire pit. Enjoy horseback riding, animals to pet, and a relaxing hayride.

Please RSVP to:

Jeanne Hine

Email: [sweetcakes102@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetcakes102@yahoo.com)

Phone: (318) 573-6725



COMPANIONS  
*in Christ*

Save the Date!  
January 9, 2017  
"Feeding on the Word"

*A Spiritual Formation Group*

*Do you wish you knew more about  
how to read the Bible?*

**Save the Date:**

**Monday, January 9, 2017**

## *Feeding On the Word*

*Learn ways to hear what God wants to  
say to us through Scripture.*

Contact Dianne Wilkinson at (318) 780-1487  
for more information.



**Pocahontas**  
**Saturday, November 5 @ 5:00 PM**  
**Nachos and Popcorn**

For more information on  
 Children's Ministries,  
 please contact:  
**Mary Jo Duddy at**  
**maryjo.duddy@bossierschools.org**

**Sunday, November 6**  
**9:00-10:00 AM**  
 Kids will play Native  
 American  
 games and select a  
 Native American name

**10:15 AM Worship**  
 Music will include  
*Colors of the Wind*  
 In Children's Church,  
 kids will enjoy a  
 Native American snack



# Welcome!

Benton United Methodist Church is pleased to welcome Mary Beth West as the new Administrative Assistant. Mary Beth and her husband Darin have been married for 15 years and are the proud parents of 3 children, Michaela (not pictured), Jacob and Emily. Michaela is a Senior at Joplin High School in Joplin, MO. Jacob is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Greenacres Middle School and Emily attends Apollo Elementary as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. The Wests are members of St. Jude's Catholic Church in Benton. The family relocated to Bossier City in 2010 from Richmond, VA. Mary Beth brings with her over 19 years of working experience and enjoys cooking and spending time with her family.

*Please help us welcome Mary Beth!*

## Lay Leadership Report ~ Ron Jones

The Lay Leadership Team is presenting the new board members to the Church Council on November 7. Please join us in this prayer of unity by John Wesley to build the spirit of the church, committee members, staff, and congregation as we move forward:

*I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. AMEN*

### Journey to Bethlehem

Because of the storm damage to our journey scenes, we are not having Journey to Bethlehem this year. Journey to Bethlehem is a drive-through nativity with live actors, live animals, fun, and fellowship.

We will begin in January to reconstruct the scenes for Journey to Bethlehem 2017. We need many people to help with rebuilding the scenes and organizing all the parts for next December. If you have talents in painting, construction, sewing, organizing and a heart for service, please contact Ron Jones (318) 469-9100, Green Long (318) 990-1484, or Mike Karamales (318) 467-3677.

# The Toy Shoppe

The Toy Shoppe will be open this year during our monthly **Table Food Ministry food distribution** and **The Closet Clothes Ministry**. We will open a separate toy store for our neighbors to shop for their children's Christmas gifts. Please bring an **UNWRAPPED** gift (\$20 limit) to bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas. We need toys for boys & girls, ages 0-12. Gift cards for \$20 are accepted for the teenage children—they like Toy's 'R Us, Game Stop, Academy, Bass Pro Shops, and more.

Right now, we have almost 80 children on our monthly program and that is who is eligible for our annual Toy Shoppe. God is so good, that we have always had enough and we have always been able to donate the extra to the **Benton Fire Department** each year. Closer to December, we will have a more accurate list of the ages and genders, but they change and grow around Christmas and it is hard to know how many we will have. The Toy Shoppe & Wrapped in Love is open:

**Wednesday, December 21 from 12:30-4 PM**

**If you are interested in serving on this team, please contact:**

**Millie Crites at (318) 965-2273 or by email at [millie.crites@bentonumc.org](mailto:millie.crites@bentonumc.org)**

**Thank you for all you do!**



**Wrapped In Love**  
Gift Wrapping Station

**Wrapped In Love** gift wrapping station needs donations of bows, wrapping paper, and ribbon. Please place in basket in office hallway. Contact Millie Crites at (318) 965-2273.

## Serving Our Military

**BUMC'S**



**OPERATION  
NORTH STAR**

### OPERATION NORTH STAR

**OPERATION North Star**, sponsored by Benton UMC, is an outreach to support our military troops both domestic and abroad. Each package contains items the service member needs such as boot socks, batteries, lip balm, and each package contains a hand-written card or letter of support. Sometimes, these packages are the only correspondence service members receive from home. **OPERATION North Star** is one way that we at BUMC can honor all the brave men and women who serve our country.

#### OUR NEEDS:

- Please bring 3-5 Christmas cards from each family and use the salutation: **Dear service member**. Write them an encouraging Christmas note, sign it with your name, and bring to the church office during the week or by Sunday, November 13.
- 9 volt batteries
- AA batteries

#### OPERATION North Star Meeting

**Thursday, November 3 at 6:00 PM in the Breakfast Club Classroom**

Would you like to be more involved with OPERATION North Star? Now is the time to find out more about OPERATION North Star and how you can use your gifts to serve in this mission.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Jon Novak  
(318) 218-8468**

# the table

Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

Tuesday, November 15  
& Wednesday, November 16

## The Table Food Ministry

**Tuesday, November 15**

9:00 AM Truck Unloading  
10:00 AM Bag Packing

**Wednesday, November 16**

12:30 PM Food & School  
Supply Distribution

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



### A Cross Faith Advocacy Center

Open  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
11:30 AM-4:00 PM

Benton United Methodist Church • Elizabeth Baptist Church • St. Jude Catholic Church

*Transforming the community...*

For more information on The Closet Clothes Ministry,  
contact Sue Shadow at (318) 965-2496.

For more information on A Cross Faith Advocacy Center,  
contact Rachel Stoneman at (318) 965-2273.

# Souper Saturday

Saturday  
November 26  
7:30 AM

## Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to sub for delivery drivers and sandwich makers. We serve on the last Saturday of each month. Please join us to see if this is where you connect in service.

For more information on Souper Saturday,  
contact Katherine Kavanaugh at (318) 218-7730

# Serving Our Community



[www.bentonumc.org/5K](http://www.bentonumc.org/5K)

## 2016 Stampede Hunger 5K

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Join our Stampede Hunger 5K  
to end hunger in Bossier Parish!

**Registration: \$25**

Registration & Shirt Pickup:  
Saturday, November 5 at 7:15 AM  
1/2 Mile Fun Run: 8:15 AM  
Race Start: 8:30 AM

**Race Day \$30**

*(shirts on first come, first serve basis)*

**Fun Run \$15 up to 9 Years Old**

Carnival games during race for children 5  
and up and nursery with Pre-Registration by  
11/3/16 (ages 0-4).

**Complimentary breakfast after the race.**

All proceeds support The Table Food Ministries of  
Benton United Methodist Church, the Food Bank of  
NWLA, and A Cross Faith Advocacy Center.



## Sew Crazy Ladies

Join this sewing ministry to work on mission projects (like book bags for UMCOR), update costumes for the Journey, or work on our own unfinished objects (aka UFO's). At the same time, we will be spending time with others in Christian fellowship. Also, anyone who wants to learn to sew is welcome, as we will be happy to help new crazy sewers!!!

We will meet in the Bible Bayou on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month from 10 AM until 2 PM. Any and all are invited to join us.

Meeting dates are Friday, November 11 & 25

Contact: Sandra Upshaw at 326-5966,  
or Katherine Ashley 464-3798



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

**Benton United Methodist Church**  
 4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, Louisiana 71006  
 Office: (318) 965-2273 Fax: (318) 935-8516  
 Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net  
 Website: www.bentonumc.org

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 U.S. POSTAGE  
 BENTON, LA

## Weekly Events

### Sundays

Sunday School ..... 9:00 AM  
 Worship ..... 10:15 AM  
 Bible Study (*Hearne Home*) ..... 6:00 PM  
 Youth Small Groups ..... 6:00 PM

### Mondays

Bodies On a Mission ..... 9:00 AM  
 First Place 4 Health ..... 6:00 PM

### Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team ..... 9:00 AM  
 The Closet Workday ..... 10:30 AM  
 Bodies On A Mission ..... 6:00 PM  
 Men's Basketball ..... 7:00 PM

### Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission ..... 9:00 AM  
 WOW! *Wide Open Wednesdays* ..... 5:30 PM

### Thursdays

Slushies and Scripture (*Sonic*) ..... 6:45 AM  
 Choir Practice ..... 5:30 PM  
 Alcoholics Anonymous ..... 6:00 PM  
 Bodies On A Mission ..... 6:00 PM  
 Cantata Practice ..... 6:15 PM

### Fridays

Bodies On a Mission ..... 9:00 AM

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:  
[rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org](mailto:rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org)

All articles are due by the 20th of each  
 month for the next month's newsletter.



# Deck the Halls

## A Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, November 27, 2016

6:00 PM

Family Life Center

Come and join us for **Deck the Halls ~ A Hanging of the Greens Service**. It will be held in the evening on Sunday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 6. We'll have an opportunity to learn the symbolic and spiritual meaning of the hanging of the holly, and the Christian ornaments that decorate the Christmas tree. It will also be a time of fellowship and feasting. Our meal for the evening will be catered. One of Santa's helpers, Brad the Elf, will be our Emcee for the evening.

Come One, Come All as we help to usher in the Advent season.