

# IN *sight*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2016



## *Christmas* at Benton UMC

### **Saturday, December 3**

9:30 AM The Redemption of Scrooge  
(Every Saturday through Christmas Eve)

### **Sunday, December 4**

5:00 PM Youth Progressive Dinner

### **Sunday, December 11**

10:15 AM Children's Musical  
*Jesus Means Christmas to Me*  
5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party  
at Providence House

### **Wednesday, December 14**

5:30 PM Youth Dinner Theater  
*Dinner In Bethlehem*

### **Thursday, December 15**

10:00 AM Daycare Christmas Program

### **Sunday, December 18**

3:00 PM Youth Socks for Seniors  
6:00 PM Christmas Cantata  
*Come Let Us Adore*

### **Wednesday, December 21**

5:00 PM Random Acts of Christmas

### **Saturday, December 24**

5:00 PM Christmas Eve & Candlelight

## A Word From Pastor Brad

Church,

I'm reminded this time of year of the insightful words from Edward Hays. He was a man of deep faith who went on to the Church Triumphant earlier this year. His words always seem fitting no matter what season of life we find ourselves in. Please enjoy!

Each year we rejoice in this marvelous season of Christmas. It is a time for celebration, gift giving and remembering with cards, letters and parties. The reason of course, for all the music and lights, the festive spirit and good feelings, is an event that happened in a small village where the Jewish prophets had foretold that the Messiah would be born. When the birth took place, it seemed that no one remembered the ancient prophecy, and so people were looking for Emmanuel in other places. Perhaps they were too busy to remember the words of the old visionaries. And we need to ask ourselves this time of year the same question, "Does history repeat itself?"

Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. The old saying rings true this time of year, "The devil is always the most active on the highest holy days of the year."

The supreme trick of the deceiver is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos, the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to all of us.

I would invite us all this Advent season to stop, be still, and to open our eyes and look. Which way is Bethlehem? It's closer than we think. Make room for Christ to be reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Your Preacher,  
Brad Franklin



# Monthly & Special Events

- Saturday, December 3**  
The Redemption of Scrooge Advent Study..... 9:30 AM  
(Every Saturday in December at Panera Bread on Airline)
- Sunday, December 4**  
United Methodist Men's Breakfast & Devotion... 7:30 AM  
Youth Progressive Dinner..... 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 6**  
United Methodist Women General Meeting ..... 6:30 PM
- Thursday, December 8**  
Worship Team Meeting..... 4:00 PM
- Friday, December 9**  
Sew Crazy Ladies..... 10:00 AM
- Sunday, December 11**  
Children's Musical ..... 10:15 AM  
*Jesus Means Christmas to Me*  
Youth Christmas Party at Providence House..... 5:00 PM
- Monday, December 12**  
*Dinner in Bethlehem* Rehearsal ..... 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 13**  
*Dinner in Bethlehem* Rehearsal ..... 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, December 14**  
Youth *Dinner in Bethlehem* Preparations ..... 4:30 PM  
*Dinner in Bethlehem* Youth Dinner Theater ..... 5:30 PM
- Thursday, December 15**  
Daycare Christmas Program ..... 10:00 AM
- Sunday, December 18**  
United Methodist Men's Breakfast ..... 7:30 AM  
Socks for Seniors Youth Mission..... 3:00 PM  
*Come Let Us Adore* Christmas Cantata ..... 6:00 PM
- Monday, December 19**  
Dave & Buster's Youth Trip ..... 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, December 20**  
NWLA Food Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM  
The Toy Shoppe & Wrapped In Love Set-up ... 10:00 AM  
NWLA Food Bag Packing ..... 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, December 21**  
A Cross Faith Advocacy Center ..... 11:30 AM  
The Table Food Distribution ..... 12:30 PM  
The Toy Shoppe ..... 12:30 PM  
Wrapped In Love ..... 12:30 PM
- Thursday, December 22**  
LA Tech Basketball Youth Trip ..... 5:00 PM
- Friday, December 23**  
*Church Office Closed*
- Saturday, December 24**  
Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service ..... 5:00 PM
- Monday, December 26**  
*Church Office Closed*
- Tuesday, December 27**  
*Church Office Closed*
- Friday, December 30**  
*Church Office Closed*
- Saturday, December 31**  
Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM

Dear Church,

I wanted to offer a heartfelt thank you for the gracious monetary pastor appreciation gift. It is much appreciated and very thoughtful of you to do so. God has brought us together and I thank him for it every day. I am honored to be your pastor!

Take Care and God Bless you all!  
Brad

## Staff-Parish Relations News

To our congregation:

I am excited to be able to inform you that we now have a Director of Youth Ministries as a part-time position. Working on a suggestion from Rev. Brad and several parents, your SPR committee has offered this position to Mary Jo Duddy, and she has accepted. She will continue in her role as the Director of Children's Ministries.

This is going to make Mary Jo a very busy Lay Servant. She has a very unique gift, the ability to bond with children and youth of all ages. She is the perfect fit for where our church is in our ministries to our young members. She has the trust and respect of them and their parents.

I urge the whole congregation and particularly the parents to support Mary Jo. Be in prayer for her and our Children's and Youth Ministries and for all that are involved in making these programs successful. The young members of Benton United Methodist Church deserve the best leadership available. God has blessed us again.

God bless us all,  
Dick Mosher, SPRC Chair

## COMPANIONS *in Christ*

What does it mean to "feed on God's Word"? In this 5-week Companions in Christ small group we will explore the depths of scripture, learn to listen to God through scripture and allow our lives to be shaped by the Word. Morning and evening group times are available on Thursdays, beginning January 5. *Preregistration is required so books can be ordered. Please call the church office to register.*

### Questions? Contact:

Catherine Long  
(318) 272-0091  
or  
Dianne Wilkinson  
(318) 780-1487





## Committee Reports

Your Lay Leadership Team presented the new 2017 administrative committee, board and team alignment to the Church Council on November 7th for local approval and took it to Charge Conference approved our 2017 committees on November 13th. Benton UMC, here is the line-up for 2017 (\*indicates new member):

### LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Class of 2017- Mona Bartage, Joann Horton and Gordon Bartage; class of 2018- Andy Holley, Katherine Ashley and \*Jake Duddy ; class of 2019- \*Gary Wyche, \*Dianne Wilkinson and \*Lindsey Salter. \*Catherine Long team advisor as the shepherd of Adult Ministries.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Class of 2017- Brent Hine, Bob McGowen and Kim Cox; class of 2018- \*Doris Wilhite, Jason Sellers and Dave Thomson; class of 2019- \*Derek Reynolds, \*Mark Crosby and \*Lorie Watson. Chair and co-chair will be elected at first meeting in January 2017.

### STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE:

Class of 2017- Amy Duke, Rachel Valentine and Chris Sessions; class of 2018- Robert Hauser, Danny Etter (new SPR Chair) and Martha Grisso; class of 2019 \*Megan Cox, \*Scott Boas and \*Monica Arredondo.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2017- Buddy Hearne (Chairman), Belinda Kennedy and Doug Filler; class of 2018- Rob Salter, Jacob Randall and David Doyle; class of 2019- \*Robert Adley and \*Jeremy Moore.

### DAYCARE BOARD:

Class of 2017- \*Green Long (Chairman), Debbie Filler and \*Mike Valentine; class of 2018- Mandie Rhymes, Donna Dayries and Kay Etter; class of 2019- \*Dana Cherry, \*Margie Covington, \*Myra Sobral and \*Denise Karamales. \*Mary Jo Duddy as non-voting consultant.

### CHURCH COUNCIL:

Chair; John White; Lay Leader Ron Jones; Finance Chair, Buddy Hearne; SPR Chair, Danny Etter; Trustee Chair, TBD; UMM Chair Joel Carter; UMW Chair, Pat Mosher; Daycare Board Chair, Green Long; Lay Delegates to Annual Conference, Ron Jones and Margie Covington; and Recording Secretary, staff member.

*Please as you see those new members, thank them for their service to Benton UMC, and pray for all the administrative groups that they do God's bidding for Benton UMC during 2017.*

**Also the Lay Leadership Team wishes everyone a very Merry CHRISTmas.**



**Benton United Methodist Women  
President, Pat Mosher**

onthelake8@bellsouth.net  
(318) 572-3447

### General Meeting December 6 at 6:30 PM

The Christmas program is by the Nightingales and refreshments and decorating is by the Morning Glories. Let us all receive Jesus as our gift. We welcome everyone this evening.

### Morning Glories

#### December 8 at 11:00 AM

Join us for lunch at the home of Pam DeBusk.

### Nightingales

#### December 13 at 6:00 PM

Join us for dinner at Ralph & Kacoo's. We will take up a love offering for Providence House.

*Please R.S.V.P. to Dianne Wilkinson at (318) 780-1487.*

### Many Thanks!

Thank you for supporting the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry. You helped us send 36 boxes to the children! Thanks also for supporting our casserole sale. We still have some cornbread dressing left for sale—a quick side for Christmas!

We also have *Screamin' Owl* salsa \$6 and *pepper jelly* \$7 for sale made at the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home in Ruston. They make **GREAT** stocking stuffers.

UMW Sunday will be January 22, 2017 with our speaker, Rachel Scott from Noel UMC.

*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.*

**Contact Pat Mosher for information at (318) 572-3447.**

**MATT RAWLE**  
**Advent Bible Study**  
The Redemption of Scrooge  
by Matt Rawle  
Begins  
Saturday, December 3, 2016  
9:30 AM at  
Panera on Airline Drive

## 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**





# Youth Advent Events

Saturday, November 26	4:30 PM	Dinner and Casting Crowns concert
Sunday, November 27	5:00 PM	Dinner and Hanging of the Greens
Wednesday, November 30	5:30 PM	WoW
Sunday, December 4	5:00 PM	Progressive Dinner (\$5 gift card for exchange)
Wednesday, December 7	5:30 PM	WoW and LA Tech basketball reservations
Sunday, December 11	5:00 PM	Christmas Party at Providence House
Monday, December 12	6:00 PM	Rehearse for Breakfast in Bethlehem
Tuesday, December 13	6:00 PM	Rehearse for Breakfast in Bethlehem
Wednesday, December 14	4:30 PM	Prepare for Breakfast in Bethlehem (WoW)
Sunday, December 18	3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Socks for Seniors at Brookdale Christmas Cantata
Monday, December 19	9:00 AM	Dave & Buster's - Frisco, TX
Wednesday, December 21	5:00 PM	Random Acts of Christmas
Thursday, December 22	5:00 PM	LA Tech men's basketball
Saturday, December 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve worship

**For more information, please contact:  
Mary Jo Duddy, Director of Student & Children's Ministries  
(318) 773-6205 or [maryjo.duddy@bossierschools.org](mailto:maryjo.duddy@bossierschools.org)**

# Jesus Means CHRISTMAS To Me

A Simple Christmas Musical for Kids



Created & Arranged by **Luke Gambill**  
Production Notes by **Rhonda Frazier**



## Jesus Means Christmas to Me

**Children's Musical  
December 11 at 10:15 AM**

To the angels, Christ's birth meant the arrival of great joy on earth. To the shepherds, He meant hope for all. To the wise men, He represented the greatest gift anybody could ever receive. As we follow the story of Jesus' coming, we give you an opportunity to discover what Christmas truly means.

More than decorations, sparkling lights on a tree, and presents, we find ultimate satisfaction when we fix our eyes on the eternal gift of Jesus' life. This Christmas, we invite you to focus on Christ and celebrate the everlasting gift of hope and joy that He brings.

## Come Let Us ADORE *Christmas Cantata*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 6:00 PM**

This Christmas, we return to the scene of a humble manger where the great Light of the world was born. We join with the shepherds and angels — in awe of God's love come to earth. Amidst the noise and distractions, we still our hearts as we bow before Him and worship the one true King.



# New Members & Baptisms



*Noah Joseph Franklin*

Baptized on September 11, 2016  
by Rev. Cheryl Nelson

Proud parents are:

*Rev. Brad and Emily Franklin*



## Welcome the Long & Horn Families

Bob and Sharon Long joined on September 25, 2016 by transfer from Floresville United Methodist Church. They are regular attendees and participate in Sunday school classes each week.

Samantha Horn, Bob and Sharon's daughter, Trinity Horn, and Ellie Blanco joined on September 25, 2016 as a transfer from Aztec and Floresville United Methodist Church. Trinity is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Legacy and participates in dance and Ellie is 2 years old. Samantha has been working in Chemical Distribution for the past 10 years.

Their address is  
222 Morgan Court, Benton, LA 71006.



## Welcome the Duck Family

Nathan and Kristin Duck married on October 22, 2016 at Benton UMC. Kristin was baptized on October 30<sup>th</sup> and then joined the church that day with her family. They are the proud parents of Nathan Jr. who is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Nicholas who is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and Jessica who is in kindergarten all at Legacy Elementary. Nathan enjoys working on cars and trucks as well as hunting and fishing. Kristin enjoys cooking and fishing. Please welcome them!

The Duck's address is  
102 Country Club Drive, Benton, LA  
71006.







## Stampede Hunger 5k 2016

The stampede was a huge success! Lynnse's race raised \$2,263 for The Table Food Ministries with 10% going to Northwest Food Bank of Louisiana and 10% to A Cross Faith Ministries.

The United Methodist Men provided breakfast (pictured above) for the contestants and volunteers—it was delicious! Lynnse's team (left) showed up to support her efforts. A big THANK YOU goes to all those who walked, ran, ghost-walked, and served throughout the process to make this race such a big success. We could not do it without you!

And, thank you, Lynnse Terhune for leading this fight against hunger!

## 2016 Stampede Results

From left to right, males: Dalton Dile—3rd place, Kyle Heidrich—1st place, Joshua Hensel—2nd place  
 From left to right, females: Ann Sellers—3rd place, Jessica Venegoni—2nd place, Tate Sellers—1st place







# THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

**BROOKS Tees**  
318-550-8537

**Z**  
Integrative  
Therapy

Cheryl L. Zey BS, LMT, MMT

**edko**

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## GOLD



**the table**  
Food Ministries @ Benton UMC



**BENTON UNITED METHODIST MEN**

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## SILVER



DONNIE JOHNSON PAT & KAREN BOGGS HALCO RESIDENTIAL—JOSH & ALLISON HALBERT

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## BRONZE

CLARK'S FEED AND SEED INC. JAYROE'S HARDWARE & GARDEN  
BARRY BARTON, CPA, CGMA, APC THE J.R. GATTI TEAM



# The Toy Shoppe

We open a toy store for our neighbors to shop for their children's Christmas gifts.

**We need these by Sunday, December 18:**

- **UNWRAPPED Gifts** (\$15-20 in value) for ages 0-12
- **Gift cards** for \$20 are accepted for the teenage children—they like Academy, Toys 'R Us, Game Stop, Bass Pro Shops, and more.

We have 86 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 have been able to donate the extra to the **Benton Fire Department** each year.

**The Toy Shoppe & Wrapped in Love is open:**

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

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

Millie Crites (318) 965-2273

millie.crites@bentonumc.org or

Rachel Stoneman rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

**Thank you for all you do!**



**We Serve**

Lions Clubs International is the largest service organization in the world. We have over 1.4 million members in 202 countries and locations around the globe. We are proud to say that 100% of the funds and donations we raise goes to our charitable programs. All administrative expenses are covered by the individual Lion's dues. We are all unpaid volunteers, from our International President down to the newest Lion.

We are committed to wiping out preventable blindness throughout the world. One way you can help us achieve that commitment is by **donating your old or no longer used eyeglasses, hearing aids, and prescription sunglasses**. Lions Clubs throughout Louisiana collect and recycle used eyeglasses and hearing aids.

The glasses are inspected for condition and the prescriptions determined. They are then packaged up in 100 pair boxes and sent out with medical missionary teams all over the world. We recycle around 100,000 pairs a year and there is always a need. The hearing aids are evaluated and repaired if needed and sent along with the glasses.

Lions Dick and Pat Mosher have **placed a collection box in the North Foyer for eyeglasses and hearing aids**. If you have some used glasses or hearing aids this is an excellent way to clean them out. Just bring them to church and drop them in the box. All donations are gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support!

**For more information call Dick Mosher at (318) 965-2373.**



# the table

Food Ministries @ Benton UMC

Tuesday, December 20  
& Wednesday, December 21

## The Table Food Ministry

**Tuesday, December 20**

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

**Wednesday, December 21**

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  
December 31  
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

## Wrapped In Love



## Wrapped In Love

Our gift wrapping station needs donations of bows, wrapping paper, and ribbon.

Please place in basket in office hallway.



## 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, December 9 & 23

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

## 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

### Saturdays

*The Redemption of Scrooge* Advent Study (*Panera*).....9:30 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

# Candlelight

SERVICE

**Saturday, December 24**  
**5:00 PM**

Join us for this special, child-friendly,  
 candlelight service with Holy Communion.

*Nursery service available  
 for children up to 3 years old.*

