



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

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## The Message for April 2016

**Sunday, April 3**

Tech Wesley Leads Worship

**Sunday, April 10**

*Truth or Consequences:  
Stopping the Double Talk  
Matthew 5:33-37*

**Sunday, April 17**

*Truth or Consequences:  
Freedom to Be Me—Freedom to Be You  
John 8:31-59*

**Sunday, April 24**

*Truth or Consequences:  
Being Real with Those We Love  
John 4:1-42*

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:  
rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

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



## From the Pastor

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

We are in the season of Easter. Easter is more than a day! Easter is more than a season! Easter is a way of living! Easter is about living because you have been freed from your past, freed from your sin, and freed to live a new life! Easter is your opportunity to begin again or grow stronger in your faith. How will you live your Easter this year?

I am excited about a new worship series that I believe will help us to live out our Easter. The new series is entitled *Truth or Consequences – Living the Truth in Light of The Resurrection!* Join us in worship April 10-24! My friend and therapist Dr. George Wolcott says, “The three most dangerous lies are: 1) When I say yes when I mean no just to keep the peace. 2) When I tell another person that what he/she is doing is OK when it is not OK just to not make waves. 3) When I say that I am OK when I am really not just so I don't burden the one I love.” When we give into these three dangerous lies we make ourselves open to guilt, blame and shame. Jesus' death and resurrection gives us LIFE that is eternal (forever and forever Amen) and life that is complete and whole right here and right now! With this worship series we will explore the ways in which we have bought into these dangerous lies and where we have allowed guilt, blame and shame to cheat us out of abundant LIFE. As we live and speak the truth we will proclaim that Kingdom LIFE (abundant LIFE) is a totally different life than the world offers!

By now you have most likely heard that come July 1<sup>st</sup>, Beth, Matthew and I will be appointed to serve the St. Charles United Methodist Church in Destrehan, Louisiana. Our last Sunday in worship at Benton will be June 19<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day). The new senior pastor for Benton UMC will be the Rev. Brad Franklin, who is currently serving First UMC of Winnfield, Louisiana. Brad's first Sunday will be July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brad and Emily have a set of fraternal twins and one son on the way who is due May 4<sup>th</sup>. You will be blessed by this family.

The past five years have been filled with laughter and tears, sorrow and joy, blessing and good ministry! There has been a lot of growth in our five years, some for you and some for me. The challenge for you is to continue to grow in your commitment to Christ and to live it out through the ministry of Benton UMC. My advice is to listen twice as much as you speak. There is a reason why God created us with two ears and only one mouth. When you have a criticism to share with the new pastor and other staff and church leaders, please share in a way that is constructive, in a way that can best be heard and please share it speaking the truth in love and please don't forget the love! When your new pastor offers a new class, initiative or program, please enthusiastically support them not only with your prayers but mainly with your presence. Some of my loudest detractors have never taken the time to get to know me nor to participate in any of the many studies and programs that I have led. Please support your new pastor in every way that you possibly can!

In this time of pastoral transition, please pray for your pastors and our families (outgoing and incoming), the church staff and the congregations of Benton, Winnfield and St. Charles. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your senior pastor. We are not gone yet, but know that when you come to New Orleans we will be on your way in Destrehan.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Danny Gleason  
Senior Pastor



## Serving Those In Need

Please join the Disaster Response Team at Benton UMC. We will collect items, serve on location, support local disaster efforts, work with the Shreveport District Disaster Preparedness Team and more.

**Contact:**

**Rachel Stoneman**

**(318) 935-8515 or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org**

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scan here:



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# Mark Your Calendar

## Monthly & Special Events

- Saturday, April 2**  
Seed For the Harvest Community Garden Planting Day..... 9:00 AM
- Sunday, April 3**  
United Methodist Men  
Breakfast & Devotion..... 7:30 AM
- Thursday, April 7**  
Dinner With Friends..... 6:30 PM
- Friday, April 8**  
FUNdamentals of Contentment ..... 5:00 PM
- Monday, April 11**  
Finance Committee Meeting ..... 5:30 PM  
Church Council Meeting ..... 6:30 PM
- Thursday, April 14**  
Morning Glories ..... 9:30 AM
- Saturday, April 16**  
Miles for Missions 5K..... 7:30 AM
- Sunday, April 17**  
United Methodist Men  
Breakfast & Devotion..... 7:30 AM
- Tuesday, April 19**  
Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM  
Food Bag Packing ..... 10:00 AM  
Nightingales—*Purchased, Not For Sale*.... 6:30 PM  
Reach New People Team Meeting ..... 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, April 20**  
The Closet Clothes Ministry ..... 11:30 AM  
The Table Food Distribution ..... 12:30 PM
- Saturday, April 23**  
United Methodist Women Study ..... 8:00 AM
- Monday, April 25**  
United Methodist Women  
Executive Committee Meeting ..... 12:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 26**  
O.P.A.L.S. .... 11:30 AM  
Getting Help Through the System..... 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 27**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry..... 1:30 PM
- Saturday, April 30**  
Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM



**Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM**

## Family Life Worship Center

Adults singles, couples and empty nesters. Hope to see you there!!

## Fun ♦ Food ♦ Fellowship

Potluck Dinner—Each small group is assigned to bring food.

Contact : Reba Hearne 337-739-5048

We will divide into small groups for next quarter. Each small group meets once a month for dinner and fellowship.

## Weekly Events

<b>Sundays</b>	
Sunday School.....	9:00 AM
Worship.....	10:15 AM
<b>Mondays</b>	
Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM
First Place 4 Health .....	6:00 PM
<b>Tuesdays</b>	
Intercessory Prayer Team .....	9:00 AM
Women's Study Group .....	11:30 AM
Men's Basketball.....	7:00 PM
<b>Wednesdays</b>	
Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM
The Closet Clothes Ministry .....	11:30 AM
<b>Wednesday Night Live</b>	
Dinner .....	5:30 PM
Small Groups & Classes .....	6:15 PM
<b>Thursdays</b>	
Choir Practice .....	5:30 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous .....	6:00 PM
<b>Fridays</b>	
Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM

# Serving Opportunities



**Tuesday, April 19 & Wednesday, April 20**

## The Table Food Ministry

**Tuesday, April 19**

9:00 AM Truck Unloading

10:00 AM Bag Packing

**Wednesday, April 20**

11:30 AM The Closet Clothes Ministry

12:30 PM NWLA Monthly Food Distribution

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

## You are Invited!

If you knit or crochet, please join us to make prayer shawls! Prayer shawls are blessed when finished and kept to be given when requested for someone who is ill, grieving or needs to be comforted in a special way. They represent a tangible reminder of God's ever-present love.

For more information contact  
Betty Russell 560-1182 or  
Debra Kintner 746-8207

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

**4th Wednesdays at 1:30 PM  
Breakfast Club Classroom**



## Substitute Drivers and Driver Assistants Needed

There are many ways to serve at Souper Saturday and we need YOU! Find out if this is your serving spot by riding along with a driver and trying it out. See if you like the winding roads and conversation as you ride to the next house on the list.

For more information on Souper Saturday, please contact:  
**Katherine Kavanaugh**  
(318) 218-7730  
katherine.kavanaugh@cookyancey.com



**Saturday, April 16, 2016**  
Registraton: 7:30 AM Race Start: 8:30 AM  
Complimentary Breakfast: 9:30 AM  
Childcare available with advance registration.

Our Spring Missions 5K will raise money to support homeless ministries in our area:

- Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission
- The Hub
- Feeding the Homeless
- Bossier Parish School Board-Homeless Liaison

**Please support these and other ministries of our church and community. Contact Rachel Stoneman to find where you connect in mission at (318) 935-8515.**

# Welcome to Benton UMC!



## Meet the Hacketts

Neil and Jamie Hackett joined February 28, 2016, by transfer of membership from Broadmoor United Methodist Church..

Neil is talented in the technology field and enjoys anything related to that. Jamie is employed at Aramark at University Health. She enjoys cooking, coaching soccer, and reading.

The Hacketts have been married for almost 15 years and have two children: Owen and Addison. Owen is 7 years old and is a first grader at Legacy Elementary School. Owen enjoys soccer, baseball, cub scouts and tennis. Addison is 3 years old and attends the Mother's Day Out program at St. Jude Catholic Church. She enjoys playing soccer and dance.

The Hacketts have been attending regularly and are active in Wednesday Night Live and children's programs. The warm reception they received enticed them to join the Benton United Methodist family.

The Hackett's address is 2503 Prairie Moss Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111 . We welcome them to the Benton UMC family!



## Benton United Methodist Women President, Pat Mosher

### MORNING GLORIES

April 14, 2016 at 9:30 AM  
Breakfast Club classroom

### NIGHTINGALES

April 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Pairs and Spares classroom

Our speaker for this evening is Cassie Hammett, founder of the Hub:Urban Ministries and founded Purchased: Not For Sale in 2011 in downtown Shreveport. We became aware of this program when UMW, UMM and Board of Church and Society sponsored the Human Trafficking Event in Pineville, LA March 5<sup>th</sup>. Anyone from the church is invited to attend. A love offering will be taken. (See article to right)

**STYLE SHOW AND LUNCHEON** was a success even though we had to postpone it a week. Everyone had a wonderful time, the food, service, tables, models and dress stores emcees were appreciated and many are already planning for next year. Proof of success!!

**THANK YOU ALL** for participating and making it a FUN raising day and luncheon.



United Methodist Women thank all who helped make the style show a success!! **Everyone** did so much: members of the UMW, the men in the kitchen, servers, and especially the kids all worked hard. I cannot name them all but here goes:

- Ms. Mary Jo and crew at the children's table
- Zachary Lecour server, escorted ladies down the stairs
- Ethan Crites, server
- Erin Crites, server
- Teynia Hunter, server
- Harlie Matchner, server
- Leah Lacour, server
- Delaney Davis, server
- Colby Davis, server
- Gabe Gonzalez, server

### Fundraisers:

Benton Car Show and Market – May 14  
Fall Craft Sale – October 15  
Frozen Casserole Sale – November 13

### Activities:

UMW District Cluster Study—Latin American Mission Study  
Benton—April 23  
General Meeting—June 7  
UMW State "Mission u"—Wesley Center  
Woodruff, LA July 20-23  
UMW District "Mini Mission u" August 20  
Shady Grove UMC, Mansfield, LA

For more information on Benton United Methodist Women, please contact:  
**Pat Mosher, President at onthelake8@bellsouth.net**

## Special Program for All:

**HELP END  
Human Trafficking**

Who:  
Speaker, Cassie Hammett

What:  
Nightingales Circle  
UMW Program  
Purchased: Not For Sale

Where:  
Pairs & Spares Classroom

When:  
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 6:30 PM



## Purchased: Not for Sale

Come hear and become aware of what's happening right here and now in Shreveport and how we can help.

Cassie Hammett is the founder and director of **The Hub: Urban Ministries** which she founded in 2007 and **Purchased, Not for Sale** (founded in 2011). At The Hub, Cassie gets the honor of walking those in poverty through a process that gives them hope, friendship, community, a place they belong and the skills needed to become self-sufficient, which brings them value and worth. Through Purchased, Cassie and the staff get to live life with women and children who have been enslaved in the dark world of the sex industry. The ministries at Purchased are set up so that these women and children can find freedom, full restoration, joy, self sufficiency, independence and worth in Christ.

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

Tuesday, April 26 at 11:30 AM  
Family Life Worship Center  
Cost: \$5.00

The OPALS (Older People with Active Life Styles) will meet Tuesday for a delicious meal and BINGO! This is a great time to get together over lunch, laugh and play a light-hearted game of BINGO with your friends. OPALS is designed for the 55+ bunch, but it is always open to anyone interested in the program or who just wants to enjoy some good fellowship. Hope to see you there!

The cost of the meal is \$5 and you will need to RSVP by Friday, April 22. Everyone is welcome!

Please R.S.V.P. to  
**Peggy Rumbaugh**  
(318) 349-1465

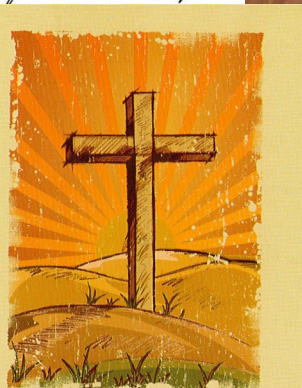
## Thank You, Benton UMC! For all you do for our community!

*You are a  
Blessing!*

*Pastor Gleason,*

*Thank you and the church  
for your support.  
You guys are helping us  
make a difference for many  
people.*

*God Bless You All,  
Henry*



*This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.*

### TO THANK YOU

*Benton United Methodist Church,  
I would like to express how  
much your generosity is appreciated  
by allowing the Benton girls' soccer  
team to hold our banquet there.*

IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

*The facility and equipment were  
awesome as usual, and the banquet  
was a huge success. Again,  
Thank you so much.  
Pam Varnado  
Girls' soccer coach*

## Committee Summaries

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*  
Romans 8:28

The following are summaries of the church committees, boards, and teams that met during the month of January. Each future Insight will contain a summary of the meetings that occurred the preceding month. It is hoped that you will read these and if you have any questions, ask the board, committee, or team member or chair.

**For more information about our council, boards, or committees, please contact:**  
**Ron Jones**  
ronald.r.jones@att.net

### Lay Leadership



Your Benton UMC Lay Leadership Team met on March 15, 2016 in the Breakfast Club Classroom at 6:33 PM and was opened with prayer. Old Business included filling the vacant position on Finance for the class of 2018 with David Doyal. We also nominated a person for the class of 2016 vacancy on Trustees and a person for the vacant class of 2018 position on the Lay Leadership team. We will confirm those two at our April meeting after we have spoken to these two congregation members and receive their approval. The team came up with a list of 20 church members for the Building Study Committee. This is the group that will be narrowed to 7-10 members who will begin before year's end to review Benton UMC's needs for space. (Parking, Sunday school, storage, office, daycare and all other space that is and will be needed for the next 5-10 years.) This is the committee that will lead to the future possible study committee for a new sanctuary. We will be looking at how these nominees stand up to the five vows we all took when we became Methodist. Finally, we divided up the different parts of the upcoming Pentecost "Catch the Flame" revival/celebration. The car show and shine will be managed by David Denmon and directed by Mark Silliman and Jim Miller. The play area and bounce houses will be managed by Debbie Filler. The food and trade booths will be handled by Joann Horton and the United Methodist Men. The music and band groups who will perform will be managed by Katherine Ashley. The tailgating and bonfire finally will be managed by Gordon Bartage. Speakers and recognition of the confirmands and new members will be managed by Ron Jones. The lead off Prayer March will be led by Todd Hable. Final timing, invitation/announcement flyers and locations will be out by the time you read this. There was no new business and the meeting was closed with prayer at 7:43 PM.

### Raise the Roof Campaign

To begin with I want to from my heart thank those who have sacrificed a great deal to contribute above your normal tithe to help this project. As of March 14, 2016 you have added over \$5,670 to the \$16,300 we had at the end of Jan 2016 for a new total of \$21,970 collected. This equals 100 of the 160 squares needed to cover the roof of the Daycare building. Another look shows we are at 63% of the \$35,000 needed to get the job done. We have 7 weeks remaining before our projected start date to replace the roof with 35 year shingles. A suggestion to go along without 2 Starbucks a week or cutting one time eating out a week and donating that money to Raise the Roof Project is this: this Sunday I will be donating 10% of my federal tax refund to the Raise the Roof project. Pray about doing the same and keep thinking about how you can help as we complete Lent and celebrate the Risen Lord we follow.

Blessings to all, Ron Jones



On April 16, 2016 we will host a 5k. All youth are invited to participate in the run. The cost is \$20 and one will receive a free t-shirt. The 5K is "Miles for Missions" and the youth will receive some funds to go toward Feeding the Homeless that we participate once a month in downtown Shreveport.

# Student Ministries

**For more information on Student Ministries, contact:**

Todd Hable, Director of Student Ministries  
(318) 372-1168 or todd.hable@bentonumc.org

### The Body of Christ...

Time has changed and we move forward with our mission and goals as a youth group. We are learning how and what Jesus wants us to do. We have been learning how to be disciples for Christ as we break down the gospel of Jesus in the New Testament. We continue to grow as Christ leads us within our youth group. We are focusing on what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37. Paraphrasing, "LOVE GOD AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR."



### Jammin' at Winter Jam...

In March our group went to CenturyLink and had a great time at Winter Jam. Winter Jam is a Christian concert that has 10 bands for \$10 that has speakers that present the message and the people hear about Hope International. Hope is an organization that helps children in other countries. We had a few that were moved and sponsored a child in need.



### Student Band Information

Music is back and I encourage any youth to come and learn how to sing or play an instrument. Will Hughes will be conducting the practices on Sundays after service for an hour in the youth room. Will also gives private lessons at his studio in Shreveport for an hourly fee. Will can teach anything one desires. Please contact me or catch Will after church to get info.

*Please come and join us as we become the "Body of Christ."*

