

# INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2016

## From the Pastor

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

This month brings the celebration of Pentecost and the gift of the promised Holy Spirit and my last full month as the Senior Pastor of Benton United Methodist Church.

We are in the latter part of the fifty days of Easter. The Easter season begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues until Pentecost Sunday (May 15). The fifty days of Easter are a time for us to live and bask in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In that resurrection we are freed to live as a new creation in Christ. As new creations in Christ we are freed: to be who God intends for us to be; to receive God's love; to love without conditions; to forgive all wrongs; from the past that tends to haunt us; and we are freed to live!!!!

Easter is all about: bringing new life to the dead; healing all brokenness in all of creation; re-creating humans into the true image of God; reconciling relationships through the righteousness of Christ; forgiving all sin; and freeing us to live with no fear.

When Pentecost arrives God sends His Spirit, the Advocate, the Comforter to energize us and give us power to do things more powerful than Jesus did on earth. During Easter we have been renewed by God's love. With Pentecost we are employed, equipped and empowered to go out into all the world and make disciples of Jesus Christ! Through Pentecost we receive from God gifts for ministry, strength beyond our comprehension, wisdom full of grace, and love that finds its purpose through our action in the world.

I invite you to join me in preparing for Pentecost as we begin now:

1. Praying that God would send His Spirit upon His Church yet again.
2. Reading Acts 2 to find out what happened at the first Day of Pentecost.
3. Being open to God's Spirit moving your midst.
4. Being in worship of God and in study of His Word.
5. Practicing and living the faith.
6. Coming to the *Catch the Flame* Pentecost Tail-gating event – Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>!

In Easter we find ourselves in the middle of God's love in Jesus Christ! Through Pentecost we are charged to leave the comfortable and go to the fringes and share God's love and grace in ways that we could never imagine. Our openness to God's Spirit helps us to find the center and to move outward to love as we have been loved, forgive as we have been forgiven and to bless as we have been blessed.

My last Sunday as the Senior Pastor will be June 19<sup>th</sup>. Please join me in praying for a smooth transition in pastoral leadership not only for Benton UMC, but also for St. Charles UMC (my new church); First UMC, Winnfield UMC (Pastor Brad Franklin's current church); and the Pine Ridge UMC, and Kentwood-Tangipahoa UMC where Rev. Kevin Smith who has served 8 years is coming from to serve First UMC, Winnfield. I have been asked how folks could honor me for the five years I have served through the Benton UMC. My answer is simply to love God with all that you are, love your neighbor as yourself and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in all of your living, loving and forgiving.

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

# Mark Your Calendar



## Monthly & Special Events

### Sunday, May 1

United Methodist Men

Breakfast & Devotion ..... 7:30 AM

### Tuesday, May 2

First Place 4 Health Orientation ..... 6:00 PM

### Friday, May 6

Scott Wells Motivational Speaker ..... 6:00 PM

### Saturday, May 7

Dance Recital..... 6:00 PM

### Thursday, May 12

Morning Glories ..... 9:30 AM

Daycare Preschool Graduation ..... 6:30 PM

### Friday, May 13

Sew Crazy Ladies..... 10:00 AM

### Saturday, May 14

Catch the Flame Pentecost Celebration .... 9:00 AM

### Sunday, May 15

United Methodist Men

Breakfast & Devotion ..... 7:30 AM

LifeShare Blood Drive..... 8:30 AM

Coffee With the Pastor ..... 9:00 AM

### Tuesday, May 17

Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM

Food Bag Packing ..... 10:00 AM

Nightingales ..... 6:30 PM

### Tuesday, May 24

O.P.A.L.S. .... 11:30 AM

### Wednesday, May 25

Prayer Shawl Ministry ..... 1:30 PM

### Friday, May 27

Sew Crazy Ladies..... 10:00 AM

### Saturday, May 28

Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM

### Monday, May 30

*Church Office Closed—Memorial Day*



## Bethlehem Christian Families

**SUNDAY**

**JUNE 12, 2016**

**8:30 AM-12:30 PM**

We will have a special opportunity to view the creations in wood created by the hands of Christian artisans in and around the Holy Land region. The Rishmawi Family has been designated representatives for these wonderful Christian artisans and has been authorized to show their olive wood carvings.

We invite you to visit their display tables and view some of the finest handcrafts available from the Holy Land. This Family strives to bring these fine carvings to our church.

**You can view these beautiful items On-Line @**

<http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>

## Do you like to hear the "Lullaby of Broadway"?

The Shreveport Opera Express Singers are offering a free concert of Broadway Music at the Cottage Grove Memorial Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. The church is located on Hwy 160, just north of Plain Dealing – and we've been given a special invitation. Pastor Cheryl plans to attend, and if you would like to join her, just be at the church by 4:45, and we'll travel together. For more information, contact Pastor Cheryl at (318) 422-0914.

## Weekly Events

### Sundays

Sunday School ..... 9:00 AM

Worship..... 10:15 AM

Youth Band Practice..... 11:30 AM

### Mondays

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

First Place 4 Health ..... 6:00 PM

### Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team..... 9:00 AM

Women's Study Group ..... 11:30 AM

Men's Basketball ..... 7:00 PM

### Wednesdays

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

The Closet Clothes Ministry ..... 11:30 AM

Wednesday Night Live Dinner ..... 5:30 PM

Small Groups & Classes ..... 6:15 PM

### Thursdays

Choir Practice ..... 5:30 PM

Alcoholics Anonymous ..... 6:00 PM

### Fridays

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



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

**MORNING GLORIES**

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 9:30 AM  
Katherine Ashley's Home  
100 Andrew Place, Bossier City, LA  
(318) 464-3798 for information

*\*Morning Glories has snacks for fellowship on Sunday, May 22, 2016*

**NIGHTINGALES**

Tuesday, May, 17, 2016 at 6:00 PM  
Pat Mosher's Home  
216 West Lake Circle, Benton, LA  
(318) 572-3447 for information  
*Bring a salad and a friend.*

These will be our last circle meetings until September 8<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Have a great summer!

**Fundraisers:**

Benton Car Show and Market – May 14  
The UMW will have a **bake sale booth** and we will be selling **OWL Salsa and Jelly** from the Methodist Children's Home in Ruston, LA.

Fall Craft Sale – October 15  
Frozen Casserole Sale – November 13

**Activities:**

General Meeting June 7  
UMW State "Mission u"  
Wesley Center in 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**

4<sup>first place</sup> health

discover a new way to healthy living

**Orientation: Monday, May 2 at 6:00 PM**  
**Classes Begin: Monday, May 9 at 6:00 PM**  
**Pairs & Spares Classroom**

New 12 week session of First Place 4 Health begins in May. Have questions? Join us for orientation on Monday, May 2 and find out all you need to know—there is no obligation! Weekly meetings will begin May 9.

First Place 4 Health will help you create balance in the four core areas of your life --- emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical. The results? Weight loss and total health from the inside out!

**For more information, contact:**  
**Katherine Ashley (318) 464-3798**  
**or Nancy Grant (318) 455-4350**

*Memorials*

**New Leaves**  
placed on the Donor Recognition Tree  
in memory of:

*Frankie Rodes*  
by Billy Tom and Carol Jean Johnston

*Frankie Rodes*  
by Steve and Sarah Davison

*Donor leaves are available for a minimum donation of \$100 in the church office in memory or in honor of your loved one. All donations go to the Building Fund.*



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

**Tuesday, May 24 at 11:30 AM**  
**Family Life Worship Center**  
**Cost: \$5.00**

The Older People with Active Life Styles (OPALS) will honor their mothers for their May meeting. They invite you to bring your mother with you, if you can; or a picture of her if you can't. Be ready to share one of her favorite "sayings," and something you find unique about her. If you have a poem or writing about motherhood, bring that as well, and we will all celebrate motherhood!

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**

# 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](mailto:ronald.r.jones@att.net)

## Lay Leadership

Your Lay Leadership Team met at 6:30 PM on Monday, April 18, 2016 and here are the highlights:

- Filled vacancy on Lay Leadership Team with Reba Hearne
- Filled vacancy on Trustees with Doris Wilhite
- Position open for Lay Leadership: Recording Secretary, contact Ron Jones at (318) 469-3693 for information.
- Pentecost Tailgate Celebration "Catch the Flame" information:
  - 9 AM bus for prayer walk around Benton: School Board, City Hall, Fire Department, Police Department and Benton UMC, see sign-up sheet in Family Life Center to participate
  - Pentecost t-shirts for \$15 available
  - Car show is from 10 AM-2 PM with awards at 3 PM
  - Live music from 1-6 PM from various bands around the community, speakers on Pentecost, playground and bounce houses, trade and food vendors, tailgating, and a bonfire at 9 PM
  - Confirmands will be recognized at 6 PM



For more information on Pentecost Celebration, see one of these Lay Leadership Team Members: Car show - David Denmon, Play Area and bouncies - Debbie Filler, Trade and food booths - Joann Horton, Music and bands - Katherine Ashley, Prayer Walk - Todd Hable, Speakers - Francis Edwards and Earnest Covington, Tailgaters - Gordon Bartage, Bonfire - Ron Jones and Recognition - Ron Jones and Earnest Covington.

We reviewed the list of members selected for the Study Committee and are waiting for Rev. Brad Franklin's to make final announcements. This committee will be seated and starts it's work in the October-November time frame.

There was no new business, so the meeting was closed at 7:46 PM with a prayer for Benton United Methodist Church as it goes through this transition with Rev Dr. Danny Gleason.

Blessings,  
Ron

## Raise the Roof Campaign

I am kind of in a state of FUNK over our upcoming pastor transition, but our lives are full of change. That is pretty normal in the world, but we are of Jesus, not the world. So blessings to all of you who have given regularly to get a new roof for our original sanctuary and present Daycare. As we approach 70% of our \$35,000 goal I pray we can get to or over the \$30,000 mark early in May. If we can do this (and remember all things are possible with Jesus), we can get started and collect the remaining funds to complete the direly needed improvement as work is in progress. So please, pray about what you can do as April ends and May begins to make this possible. Blessings to all the members of God's Benton United Methodist Church.

Blessings to all, Ron Jones



# Student Ministries

For more information on Student Ministries, contact:

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

April showers are true this year as we have received a lot of rain. I like to call them showers of joy; however, several within our area experienced a lot of damage. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

## Feed the Homeless

The youth made time before soccer and baseball to serve at the new location in downtown Shreveport to feed the homeless. We met on a Wednesday evening and assembled the snack bags and then several students blessed the bags.



## Good Samaritan

Anna Grace Stinson received the Good Samaritan award from the Benton United Methodist Men. She was very surprised of the award. A.G. donates a portion of her sale money from her Pig sale at the State Fair toward feeding the homeless. An account has been set up within the Church if anyone would like to donate.



## Miles for Missions 5K

We had a few students compete in the Miles For Missions 5K. Our very own Tate Sellers came in 2nd place and Zac LaCour came in 4th place overall!

**Let's not forget that our seniors will graduate May 14th!!!**

**Senior Recognition Sunday is May 1st!**

## Student Band Information

The Youth Band is full swing as we meet after each Sunday service and practice. Meals will be provided by the parents of the Band. All students are welcome to join us as we spread God's love through music.



## Scott Wells –Top Para-cyclist

Everyone is invited to come listen to Scott Wells, a para-cyclist competing for the Olympic hand cycling team on Friday, May 6 at 6pm within the Family Life Center. Scott will share his testimony. Donations are welcome.



**Scott Wells**  
Top Para-cyclist  
in the USA

Hear His Story  
**Friday, May 6, at 6:00 PM**  
Benton United Methodist Church

Pre Camp	June 3-5
Jr/Sr High 1	June 13-17
Elementary	June 20-24
Jr/Sr High 2	July 4-8

**Camp Caney 2016**  
[www.caneycamp.com](http://www.caneycamp.com)

## SUMMER FUN!!!

**Thursday, May 26 we will go to Six flags. More details to follow. This will be an all day event.**

CATCH THE FLAME  
**Pentecost**  
TAILGATE PARTY

Saturday, May 14, 2016

**BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

prayer

walk 9:00 AM

Bossier Parish School • Board Benton Town Hall  
Benton Police Department • Benton Fire Department



Food & Trade  
OPEN AT 10:00 AM  
**VENDOR BOOTHS**  
FOOD • CRAFTS • GIFTS

**BOUNCE!!!**

FUN FOR ALL AGES!  
Bounce Houses • Live Music



Confirmand Recognition  
6:00 PM

**FIRE FROM HEAVEN BONFIRE**

**9:00 PM**

# *Catch the Flame Car Show*

**Saturday, May 14, 2016**

**REGISTRATION & SET-UP: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**ENTRY FEE: \$10.00**

**JUDGING AT 2:00 PM & AWARDS AT 3:00 PM**

**Information: (318) 965-2273**

**Proceeds go to Stand Up 2 Hunger**

**PEOPLE'S  
CHOICE  
JUDGING AT  
2:00 PM**



# Welcome to Benton UMC!



## Meet the Simon's

Henry and Wilma Simons joined the Benton UMC congregation on February 28, 2016 by transfer of membership from Trinity Heights Baptist Church. Henry and Wilma have been attending for awhile, and Wilma is active in the Bodies on A Mission exercise program.

The Simon's address is:

115 Haymarket Court, Bossier City, LA 71111

*We welcome them to the Benton UMC family!*

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

Rev. Danny + Congregation  
Greetings to you in the name of Christ.  
Please know that,

*Because of you,  
there's someone who  
is thanking God today,  
Someone who appreciates  
your warm and caring way,  
Someone who's remembering  
the special things you do  
And wishing you His blessings  
every day  
the whole year through. —*

*Thank you for your generous gift  
to the Peoples UMC Women's Ministry.  
May God bless you abundantly,  
Sincerely,  
Funice + Peoples UMC.*



## Louisiana Guard Awards Senator with Distinguished Civilian Service Medal

The Louisiana National Guard awarded State Senator Robert R. Adley with the Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal during a ceremony at the Louisiana State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge on December 2, 2015.

The Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal is awarded by the adjutant general, upon recommendation, to a civilian who has rendered exceptionally meritorious service in furthering the security and welfare of the State of Louisiana. The performance must be such as to merit recognition for service which is clearly exceptional.



# Spotlight



**Matthew Gleason (left)**

Congratulations to Matthew! He took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in his first middle school golf tournament as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader! Wow!



**Drew Martin (right)**

Congratulations to Drew! He won elementary state champion in bull's-eye and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in elementary 3D! Go Tigers!



**Emma Rutledge (left)**

Congratulations to Emma! She placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in her division at the last IBO 3D NASP Tournament. Way to go, Emma!

# Serving Opportunities



## Souper Saturday Needs YOU! We serve the last Saturday of each month.

### Cake Coordinator Needed

Beth Gleason has been dedicated to the job of seeing that Souper Saturday has had plenty of cakes to go along with the meals delivered each month. With her upcoming departure, I will need someone else to line up volunteers to bake pound cakes each month. Notice I said "line up volunteers". The position does not require that you bake them all yourself. If anyone is interested, please contact me at (318) 218-7730

### Some of you might be asking, "What is Souper Saturday?"

Souper Saturday consists of a dedicated group of volunteers having a wonderful time of fellowship while preparing, packaging, and delivering a meal of vegetable soup, sandwiches, fruit, and cake. We currently deliver to 82 individuals that are the homebound, elderly, or disabled, and in need of a weekend meal.

A team arrives at 7:30 AM to prepare the soup. Another gathers at 8:30 AM to make peanut butter sandwiches, slice cakes, and assemble the food sacks. The delivery teams are out the door by 9:30 AM. As I mentioned earlier, there are volunteers who prepare homemade pound cakes to top off the meal.

This mission is perfect for **anyone** at **any age**. If you are interested in participating in any area of this ministry, you can contact the church office, or give me a call at (318) 218-7730.

### Thank You For Your Service!

Beth, thank you for your service to this mission. It has been a pleasure and a blessing to have worked with you. You will be missed.

Katherine Kavanaugh

For more information on Souper Saturday,  
please contact:

**Katherine Kavanaugh**  
**(318) 218-7730**

**katherine.kavanaugh@cookyancey.com**



Join this new sewing ministry to work on mission projects (*like book bags for UMCOR or Fall Bazaar*), update costumes for the Journey, or to 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 Family Life Worship Center 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, May 13 and 27.**

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

## 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**

# Serving Opportunities



Left to right:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jason Bobo; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Tate Sellers;**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jason Sellers (Ann Sellers holding his place); 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Zac LaCour**



Thank you to everyone who served at the race by volunteering, running, ghost running, buying a shirt, cooking breakfast, and sponsoring. And a special thanks to Amy Randall for leading this effort to serve the homeless. Because of your commitment to serving beyond our walls, you raised **\$1,133!** \$283 will go to support each ministry throughout the year. This money will make a difference in many lives affected by homelessness through:

- **Feed the Homeless:** The Jett family and friends make lunches and snack bags to take downtown to the homeless. Each week they provide one of each for around 90 individuals each week. They also provide basic toiletry items such as soap, toilet paper, bottled water etc.
- **Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission,** The Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission exists to pursue the passion of Jesus Christ to lift up the hungry, homeless, abused, and addicted.
- **The Hub Urban Ministries:** The Hub: urban ministries exists to walk 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.
- **Helping the Homeless Through Bossier Parish Schools:** Benton UMC works with the Bossier Parish School Board Homeless Liaison to help people avoid or get out of homeless situations.

*Our first quarter focus is Feed the Homeless and the \$283 will make almost 100 snack bags which will last about 4 months! For information about Feed the Homeless, contact Todd at [todd.hable@bentonumc.org](mailto:todd.hable@bentonumc.org)*

## Our Generous Sponsors:

- Bank of Montgomery
- Edko
- State Farm—Benjamin Lee
- Sheppard's Countertops
- Z Integrative Therapy
- Lawn Commander
- PRS—Professional Restroom Solutions LLC
- Barksdale Federal Credit Union
- Caskey Dirt and Gravel
- Adcock Weddings and Event Florals

## Door Prize Sponsors:

- Shane's
- Tamolly's
- The Wooden Spoon
- Izzo's
- Newk's



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](http://www.bentonumc.org)

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## The Message for May 2016

**Sunday, May 1**

*A Noticeable Difference*  
 Isaiah 58:1-7; Matthew 5:13-16  
 Rev. Ken Irby

**Sunday, May 8**

*Show's Over*  
 Acts 1:1-11 & Luke 24:44-53

**Sunday, May 15**

*Birthday Gifts*  
 Acts 2:1-21 & John 14:8-27

**Sunday, May 22**

*Love Beyond Understanding*  
 John 16:12-15 & Romans 5:1-5

**Sunday, May 29**

*Seeing Is Not Always Believing*  
 Luke 7:1-10 & 1 Kings 18:20-39

## 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.



# SCOTT WELLS

**Friday, May 6, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**Benton United  
 Methodist Church  
 Family Life Center**

Scott Wells, President and CEO of Independence Regained, is the top Para-cyclist in the USA. He will share his story of his spinal cord injury and recovery experience that led him to advocate and raise funds for a specialized spinal cord and traumatic brain injury rehab and research hospital in north Louisiana. Scott is a graduate of Airline High School in Bossier City, served in the Navy for 10 years, and is now living and working in Shreveport, Louisiana. For information on Independence Regained, please visit [www.independenceregained.org](http://www.independenceregained.org).

For more information, please contact:

**Benton United Methodist Church**

4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, LA 71006 • (318) 965-2273 • [www.bentonumc.org](http://www.bentonumc.org)