



INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2016

A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

Parables.

What are your favorite parables in the bible?

Is it the parable of the faithful servant, the parable of the mustard seed, the parable of the lost sheep or the parable of the good Samaritan?

Do you know how many parables are in the New Testament? The gospel of Luke contains 24. The gospel of Matthew contains 23 parables and the gospel of Mark contains 8.

I always wondered why Jesus taught in parables. One answer is that everybody young or old enjoys and remembers a good story. A parable will challenge you to visualize the meaning of the hidden subject to understand it better because of the connection to the things you already know about and understand. Example- Jesus sometimes used animals, farming, and baking because those were subjects that most people understood at that time.

Parables may not always make sense the first time you read or hear it. That's why it's always important to read it, pray through it, and reread it for clarity and understanding.

In the month of May we will be exploring several of the New Testament parables in worship in the sermon series called "Tell Me a Story".

See you then.

Be Blessed,
Your Preacher

Weekly Events

at Benton UMC

Sundays

Worship	8:15 AM
Sunday School	9:15 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Youth Small Groups	5:00 PM
Bible Study (Hearne Home)	6:00 PM

Mondays

Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM
First Place 4 Health	6:00 PM
Fervent Bible Study (Sellers Home)	7:00 PM

Tuesdays

Slushies & Scriptures (HS Boys)	7:00 AM
Intercessory Prayer Team	9:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Men's Basketball	7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Slushies & Scripture (MS)	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM
The Closet Workday (2nd & 4th) ..	10:30 AM
WOW! (Wide Open Wednesdays)	5:30 PM

Thursdays

Slushies & Scripture (6th Girls)	6:45 AM
Choir Practice	5:30 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous	6:00 PM
Bodies On A Mission	6:00 PM
Spiritual Formation Group	6:00 PM

Fridays

Slushies & Scripture (HS Girls)	6:45 AM
Bodies On a Mission	9:00 AM

Monthly & Special Events

Wednesday, May 3

The Closet at A Cross Faith 10:30 AM

Sunday, May 7

United Methodist Men 7:00 AM

Worship..... 8:15 AM

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Worship..... 10:30 AM

Tuesday, May 9

Lay Leadership Meeting 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 11

Morning Glories 9:30 AM

Daycare Graduation 5:30 PM

Friday, May 12

Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 16

NWLA Food Truck Unloading 9:00 AM

NWLA Food Bag Packing 10:00 AM

Nightingales 6:30 PM

Wednesday, May 17

The Closet at A Cross Faith 11:30 AM

The Table Food Distribution 12:30 PM

Sunday, May 21

United Methodist Men's

Breakfast & Devotion..... 7:00 AM

LifeShare Blood Drive 8:00 AM

Tuesday, May 23

OPALS..... 11:30 AM

Friday, May 26

Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Saturday, May 27

Souper Saturday..... 7:30 AM

Monday, May 29

Church Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 31

The Closet Work Day 10:30 AM

For more information about these and other events, please contact the church office at (318) 965-2273.

Regularly scheduled events are listed on page 1.

OPALS

(Older People with Active Life Styles)

OPALS

Tuesday, May 23 at 11:30 AM

Family Life Worship Center

Cost: \$5.00

Benton UMC's Older People with Active Life Styles (OPALS) will meet in the Family Life/Worship Center for lunch, good fellowship and an informative program. This month our guest will be Barry Cunningham who has developed an exciting hobby in "handcrafted wood turnings" and he has named his new venture "Barry's Bowls." They are absolutely stunning and unique in their design – and, of course, they are for sale. He will explain the process of preparing the wood and turning it on a lathe, and he will bring a selection of his bowls to display. He will also be at the Benton Farmers' Market with the North Louisiana Woodcarvers on Sunday, May 21.

To learn more about his work, go online to [facebook.com/barrysbowls](https://www.facebook.com/barrysbowls).

We are always eager to meet and promote our local artists, so do plan to join us and get better acquainted with Barry! All are encouraged to join us. Lunch will cost \$5. Everyone is invited!

For reservations, please contact Peggy Rumbaugh at (318) 349-1465 by April 23, 2017.



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 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 10 AM until 2 PM. Any and all are invited to join us.

Meeting dates are Friday, April 14 & 28, 2017

**Contact: Sandra Upshaw at (318) 326-5966
or Katherine Ashley (318) 464-3798**



Donor Recognition Tree

New Leaves Placed In Memory of:

Robert H. Gates

by Sharon & John Burke
by Dr. & Mrs. Renick Webb
by Richard Gaiennie & Family
by Fred & Nancy Thomas
by Bob & Marilyn McGowen

Henry P. Odom, Jr.

by Charlotte Odom

Donor leaves are available for a minimum donation of \$100 in the church office in memory or in honor of your loved one.



Memorials

Robert H. Gate

by Carole Pacheco
by Louise Grisham
by Melba Miller
by Ronald & Martha Gro

Doug Hearne

by Louise Grisham

All donations for memorials and honorariums go to the Building Fund.

FINANCIAL REPORT

First Quarter March 31, 2017

Income..... \$186,684.77
Expenses..... \$157,693.62
(Comparison: Last Year Income 1st quarter \$143,785.07)

Mortgage balance

\$325,505.00

Apportionments

Amount owed for 2017..... \$46,530.00
Balance as of 4/20/17..... \$39,730.00



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

onthelake8@bellsouth.net
(318) 572-3447

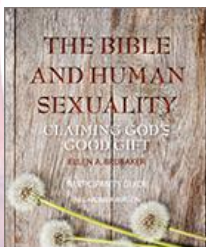
CIRCLES:

MORNING GLORIES – May 11, at 11:00 AM at Catherine Long's home (4801 Woodberry, Benton, LA) Bring a salad to share.

NIGHTINGALES – May 16, at 6:30 PM at Pat Mosher's home, (216 West Lake Road, Benton, LA) Bring a salad to share.

UMW will assist youth monetarily going to Camp Caney. Please let us know so we can help.

Also, our UMW will present a gift to our Benton graduating seniors in May.



Catherine Long presented the intro to our UMW Spiritual Growth Study, **The Bible and Human Sexuality** at both circles. We will finish up at General Meeting, June 6th. This is a really interesting study and we welcome all ladies to attend either or both times. We will be hosting other UMW units on June 6th as a Cluster Study.

The 2016 Spiritual Growth study invited us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understandings of it in light of human sexuality. It examines the influence of church leaders throughout thousands of years of Judeo-Christian history. It also considers the influence of faith, family systems, heritage, and changing gender roles, along with the impact of race, class, age, ethnicity, and orientation.

CALENDAR:

General Meeting **June 6 – 6 pm** **NOTE:** time change so we have plenty of time for study. Sandwiches and snacks will be served. We will be meeting in the Student Ministries Room in the Daycare/Sunday School building.

LA Annual Conference – **June 7-10** at Centenary College

UMW State "Mission u" –Wesley Center - Woodruff, LA **July 19-22** - Studies this year will be Missionary Conferences and Living as a Covenant Community. Hope we can get a couple of ladies to go this year. UMW will pay the cost for two. Please join us!

Sock Hop – August 11 - with our favorite band – *the KoKoMo Cruisers* 7:00-10:00 PM

UMW District "Mini Mission u" **August 18**, Noel UMC, Shreveport

General Meeting – Salad Supper, elections and membership – **September 5**

Circles meet again in September -- Have a great summer

**For information about our Benton UMW,
please contact:
Pat Mosher
(318) 572-3447**

Welcome &



Mason and Kason Pitts

Born on March 10, 2017

Mason – 7 lbs 2 oz and 19 ¼” long”

Kason – 6 lbs 13 oz and 18 ½” long

Proud parents are Jason and Amanda Pitts

Proud grandparents are Albert and Gail Pitts



Trey Alexander Adcock

Born on April 3, 2017

7 lbs 14 oz 20” long

Proud parents are Brian Adcock & Amanda Carter

Proud grandparents are Allen & Jemi Adcock



Congratulations!

Paxton Lane Rhymes

Born on March, 20 2017

7 lbs 12 oz and 19 1/2 inches

Proud parents are Casey and Mandie Rhymes

Proud big brother is Hudson Rhymes



Amber Howard and Brian Kirkley

Brian and Amber married on April 8, 2017 at Benton UMC. They are both members of the church, along with their daughter Ava. They are expecting a little boy in August 2017.

Please join us as we congratulate them for the union of their marriage.



Serving Our Church & Community



Greeters and Ushers Ministries

Help us welcome our guests! This is an excellent way to reach out through the church to those who don't know Benton UMC. Find out if this is where you connect through ministry.

For more information about these ministries,
please contact:

Dick Mosher(318) 965-2373
rlmosher88@gmail.com



Benton UMC Blood Drive
Sunday, May 21, 2017
8:00 AM—12:30 PM

Schedule your appointment by calling Rachel Stoneman
at (318) 965-2273

or online at:

[https://donor.lifeshare.org/donor/schedules/
drive_schedule/168014](https://donor.lifeshare.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/168014)

From your Lay Leader

Raise the Roof update: The Board of Trustees approved the roof work to be done in September 2016. Bible Bayou was completed in October and the Daycare building was scheduled to be completed in November over the Thanksgiving holiday. The contractor cancelled the work in November due to a permitting issue. After rescheduling the work several times, in February, the contractor informed the church that he could not complete the project due to size, licensing and insurance issues. In March of this year, the Trustees decided to re-evaluate the project. An independent appraiser evaluated the roof and said the shingles were 25-year shingle and not 15-year. Only a small portion of the roof around the steeple needs immediate repairs and the roof should last at least 5 more years. Trustees voted to defer total roof replacement at this time and concentrate on the steeple repair. In April, the Finance Committee decided to allow donors some options as to where to direct their funds. The amount collected for the *Raise the Roof Campaign* was \$32,000.00. After completion of Bible Bayou and the upcoming steeple repairs, the remaining amount will be \$26,850.00. An e-mail was sent to everyone that donated to the roof fund. The following are suggestions where funds could be directed:

- remain in the roof fund for future repairs
- transfer funds to the general fund
- needed HVAC repairs
- kitchen fund

**(PLEASE COORDINATE YOUR DECISION, BY EMAIL, WITH CHURCH FINANCIAL STAFF
SO THAT FUNDS FOR ANY GIVEN PROJECT DOES NOT GO OVER THE AMOUNT NEEDED IN THAT AREA)**

As the roof project author, I feel I must apologize for the inconvenience I have caused many members. But this has shown me and many others the heart that this congregation has and how we can come together as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. I am very proud to be a member of Benton United Methodist Church. Thank you for your continued gifts for the growth of God's Kingdom.

Space Search Team Update: The Space Search Team has decided to concentrate initial efforts on maximizing use of the present space. The Clothes Closet area is undergoing modifications for better use of that space. The confirmation classroom has been reorganized. The 4th/5th grade classroom has been converted into a multi-purpose room. Many rooms will get shelving to increase storage. The preparation of the shelves has begun and this will be completed before a Spring House Cleaning date is set. If you are responsible for getting an area organized, let me or a member of the Space Search Team know. Their names are: George Rumbaugh, Ann Sellers, Kenny Watson, Henry Simon, Albert Pitts, Randy Martin, Debbie Filler, Ginny Jones and Jeff Duke. Bless them for the task they have embarked upon. There are several suggestions that will be brought to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Blessings to all,
Ron Jones

Serving Our Community



The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, May 16
9:00 AM
Truck Unloading
10:00 AM Bag Packing

Wednesday, May 17
12:30 PM
Food Distribution

For more information on The Table, contact:
Rachel Stoneman at (318) 965-2273
or rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org

Souper Saturday

Saturday

May 29

7:30 AM

Souper Saturday Needs You!

We need people to ride along with drivers for deliveries, substitute drivers, soup cooks, and sandwich makers. We have very dedicated volunteers—a family of Christ's servants! 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
(318) 218-7730

katherine.kavanaugh@cookyancey.com



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



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.

Camp Caney

Registration for Summer 2017 is open!

Pre CampJune 2-4
 Jr HighJune 12-16
 ElementaryJune 19-23
 Sr High..... July 3-7

www.caneycamp.com



Grief Ministry

Grief is a natural emotion for people who have suffered some loss. There are stages of grief that need to be worked through in order to recover a healthy outlook, and sometimes, people need help with this journey. Benton UMC is preparing to begin a Grief Ministry which will provide just such a support group, open to the community, that will meet weekly during the evening or on the weekend. There will be a trained facilitator leading the group in six-week sessions.

People experience grief for many reasons – loss of a job or a life-style, loss of a loved one or a marriage. The grief support group will provide a safe place for them to share their pain (and what has helped) with others in a similar situation, while being guided through the stages of grief. The meetings are always grounded in spiritual practices and are strictly confidential. We have seen a need in our church family for this ministry and believe God is leading us in this endeavor.

**If you have suggestions, or know of someone who would benefit from this ministry;
 or if you would like to be part of a grief support group, please contact:**

Pastor Brad at (318) 965-2273

Pastor Cheryl (318) 422-0914