



INSIGHT

June 2016

**Monthly Newsletter of
Benton United Methodist Church**

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

This is my last newsletter article as your senior pastor. It is amazing to think that five years have gone by so fast! When we first arrived in June 2011, our son Matthew was five and one-half years old entering Kindergarten and now he is 10 and one-half years old and just finished the Fourth grade! In these five short years a lot has happened. Together we have helped to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by inviting in, growing up and sending out.” We did this together by:

- Growing in average worship attendance. I attribute this to the Spirit drawing more people to worship through the BIG ONE Worship service!
- Inviting in by implementing a ‘Greeter’ program to welcome guests as well as members to worship. Since going to the ONE worship service our numbers of first time guests has dramatically increased. On average 3-4 mugs are delivered per Sunday to these first-time guests.
- Growing in membership. In the last five years we have: received 136 adults into membership and 40 of them made a first time public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; we have had 32 baptisms (17 infant/children & 15 adults)! Our membership has grown from 733 in 2011 to 805 as of May 29th!
- Beginning a congregational focus on serving through our Spiritual gifts with our Connections Ministry led by the Lay Leadership Team!

Growing our missions program exponentially! Our new or expanded local missions are: Table Food Ministries - NWLA Food Pantry, Emergency Food Pantry, Food for Benton Middle School Backpacks, and Seeds for the Harvest Community Garden; A Cross Faith Advocacy Center (a partnership with St. Jude Catholic Church and Elizabeth Baptist Church); Fire Recovery Ministry; Stand Up 2 Hunger & Stampede Hunger 5k; monthly drives for area homeless ministries and our youth helping to feed the homeless monthly!

God has blessed and will continue to bless this congregation if we remain faithful to loving God with all of our hearts, minds, souls and strength and loving our neighbor as much as we love ourselves! The future is bright and the gospel of Christ is waiting to be shared!

It has been good to lead as your spiritual guide along this journey of faith. Now it is time for me to hand this responsibility over to the Rev. Brad Franklin. You will be blessed by him and his gifts for ministry! Because of my love for you and my covenant in ministry with Pastor Brad, as I leave I will no longer be your pastor. This means that I will not come back to officiate funerals, weddings, baptisms, confirmations, etc... I will remain as a friend but I will not be your pastor. Please make every effort to get to know Pastor Brad and to include him and his family in your family’s life.

Continued on page 2...

Monthly & Special Events

Sunday, June 5

Promotion Sunday

United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion 7:30 AM
 Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission 10:15 AM

Tuesday, June 7

United Methodist Women General Meeting 6:30 PM

Wednesday, June 8

Louisiana Annual Conference (June 8-11)

A Cross Faith Meeting @ St. Jude 5:00 PM

Friday, June 10

Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM
 Benton Fire Department Graduation 6:00 PM

Sunday, June 12

Bethlehem Christian Families 8:30 AM

Tuesday, June 14

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

Wednesday, June 15

The Closet Clothes Distribution 11:30 AM
 The Table Food Distribution 12:30 PM

Sunday, June 19

Happy Father's Day

United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion 7:30 AM

Tuesday, June 21

Reaching New People 7:30 PM

Wednesday, June 22

Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30 PM

Friday, June 24

Sew Crazy Ladies 10:00 AM

Saturday, June 25

Souper Saturday 7:30 AM

Tuesday, June 28

O.P.A.L.S. (Older People with Active Life Styles) 11:30 AM

Weekly Events

Sundays

Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Worship 10:15 AM

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team 9:00 AM
 Men's Basketball 7:00 PM

Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM
 The Closet Clothes Ministry 11:30 AM

Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM

Fridays

Bodies On a Mission 9:00 AM

From the Pastor (continued from page 1)...

When you are in the Destrehan and Greater New Orleans area come and visit us at:

St. Charles United Methodist Church
 1905 Ormond Boulevard, P.O. Box 693
 Destrehan, LA 70047

Contemporary worship is at 8:30 AM and traditional worship is at 11:00 AM.

Our new home is located at:

1 Devereaux Drive, Destrehan, LA 70047

Our last Sunday will be June 19th. Pastor Cheryl Nelson will preaching on June 26th and Pastor Brad, your new Senior Pastor, will be preaching on July 3rd.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your Senior Pastor over these past five years and I firmly believe that the best days of Benton United Methodist Church are yet to come! God bless and God speed!

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

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.

You can view these beautiful items On-Line @ <http://www.bethlehem-art.com/>

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

Tuesday, June 28 at 11:30 AM

Family Life Worship Center

Cost: \$5.00

The Older People with Active Life Styles (OPALS) will feature Pastor Myles Roberts from the HUB Urban Ministries in Shreveport. He will give us an overview of the work they do, their location, staff, origin, and how we can be a part of it. OPALS is designed for the 55+ bunch, but everyone is invited - so join us for this very interesting program.

The cost of the meal is \$5 and you will need to RSVP by Friday, June 24. Everyone is welcome!

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



Benton United Methodist Women
President, Pat Mosher

Fundraisers:

OWL salsa and jelly for sale from Ruston Methodist Children's Home \$6.00 each (*available in the church office*)

Sock Hop - August 12

Fall Craft Sale – October 15

Frozen Casserole Sale – Nov 13

Activities:

July 20-23

UMW State "Mission u"-Wesley Center, Woodruff, LA

July 25

12:00 PM Executive Meeting - nominations due

August 20

UMW District "Mini Mission u" Shady Grove UMC, Mansfield, LA

September 6

General Meeting 6:30 - election of officers, salad supper

*No circle meetings till September 8 and 20.
Have a great summer!!*



UMW Special Event
Tuesday, June 7
6:30-7:30 PM

The UMW will be having a personal safety demonstration at our quarterly UMW general meeting on June 7. **All women and teen girls** are welcome to come. Susan Watts, a member of our church and owner of the Ark-La-Tex Tae Kwon Do on Airline will demonstrate self-defense basics for us. Hope to see y'all there!!!



For all members of the UMW circles - please bring a snack to share (a plate of cookies or fresh fruit is fine!).

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

Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor of:

*Green Long
by Virginia Lewis*

*Patricia Matchner
by Virginia Lewis*

In Memory of:

*Frankie Rodes
by Carolyn Whittington*

*Frankie Rodes
by Mary Catherine Coyle*

*Elsie Whittington
by Martha Jane Coleman Gormanous*

*Nellie Wyche
by Martha Jane Coleman Gormanous*

*Frankie Rodes
by Martha Jane Coleman Gormanous*

*Frankie Rodes
by Louise Grisham*

Donor Leaves

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

*Danny, Beth & Matthew Gleason
for your service and love to BUMC
by Pam DeBusk*

*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.

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

The Lay Leadership Team met at 6:30 PM on May 2, 2016. During this meeting we prayed to begin and then reviewed all the different parts of the Catch the Flame Pentecost/Tailgate celebration set for Saturday, May 14, 2016. The Prayer walk was great and really appreciated by the Benton Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Department. Thanks to Danny for leading that. The Car Show was a hit due to the great work of Mark Silliman, David Denmon and Jim Miller. Thanks to all who helped prepare the back-40 (it is now cleared for a picnic area and will be maintained by Green Long and others), to all of those who came early to help set and tear down and to all those who worked the various areas. A special tanks to Will who set up and maintained the sound system and Rachel who made the posters, flyers and coordinated the music performers. Thank you, thank you, thank you all.

It was determined that the Church Council recording secretary would be the Church Office Administrative Assistant, Vickie Vaughn. We then looked for some names of persons who could fill the second delegate to the Louisiana Annual Conference to be held June 8-11 at Centenary College. Margie Covington was accepted and will be go to annual conference with Ron Jones as Benton United Methodist two voting lay representatives.

The meeting was closed at 7:45 PM with a prayer by Danny Gleason

**We have reached our goal
for the Raise the Roof
campaign!**

**Thank you to all who gave
their support!**



Serving Opportunities

Souper Saturday

Saturday
May 28
7:30 AM

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

If you are looking for a way to serve in missions, but don't have a lot of time, I've got just the thing for you! The Souper Saturday mission team is in need of someone to organize and schedule each month those that bake cakes. You can do it from the comfort of your home by either phone or e-mail. What could be easier?

I'm also looking to expand the list of volunteers willing to bake. The baking can be done at any time; so, if done early in the month, just freeze and deliver by the last Saturday of the month. Again, an easy, simple way to serve in mission and bring a blessing to someone's life.

For more information on Souper Saturday opportunities, please contact:

Katherine Kavanaugh
(318) 218-7730

katherine.kavanaugh@cookyancey.com



The Table Food Ministry

Tuesday, June 14

9:00 AM Truck Unloading

10:00 AM Bag Packing

Wednesday, June 15

11:00 AM The Closet

12:30 PM Food Distribution

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



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 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, June 10 & 24.

Contact: Sandra Upshaw at 326-5966, or

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

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



Gingerbread House
Bossier/Caddo Children's Advocacy Center

1700 Buckner Square, Suite 101 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
Phone (318) 674-2900 • Fax (318) 674-8141



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

ACCREDITED
MEMBER

April 25, 2016

Benton United Methodist Church
4615 Palmetto Road
Benton, LA 71006-0388

Dear Benton United Methodist Church,

The Board of Directors, staff, children, and families served by the Gingerbread House Bossier / Caddo Children's Advocacy Center, join me in thanking you for your generous charitable donation of \$1,000.00 (Check #4780; received 03/01/16).

Through your support we are able to continue offering critically needed services free of charge to child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse in northwest Louisiana. Donations to the Gingerbread House are tax deductible as allowed by law. Our tax identification number is 72-1390471.

To give you an even better idea of the impact we are able to make in our community as a result of your support, I'd like to share with you our progress in 2015:

- 747 children received forensic interviews, multidisciplinary investigations, and family advocacy services, averaging 62 forensic interviews per month.
- 202 child victims & their non-offending caregivers received counseling services.
- As part of our prevention efforts, over 21,524 children and adults participated in educational outreach sessions.
- Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, all services were offered free of charge to child victims of abuse and their families.

Our work would not be possible without your support and prayers. **On behalf of the children and families who will benefit from your generosity and continued support, THANK YOU!**

With kindest regard,

Jessica Milan Miller, M.A., MBA
Executive Director

Thank you
for all your
sympathy
and caring.

From The Turner
and Brim
Family!
(Amthor)



With
Heartfelt
Appreciation

During such
a difficult time,
your kindness
meant so much,
and your thoughtfulness
was really touching

Dear Benton UMC,
 Thank you so much for the delicious sandwiches and meat tray for our family. It was so nice to have these when we gathered at my house after the funeral. We also appreciated Cheryl's calls and visit while we were at the hospital. Thank you again.
 Barbara Grisham Montgomery

Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated



WESLEY FOUNDATION AT LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Becky Clark, Interim Director
 Kaiti Rees Lammerl, Interim Associate Director
 Church Relations Assistant
 Carla Terry, Office Administrator

Amelia Pierce, Ministry Intern
 Caroline Doughty, Ministry Intern
 Leah Lane, Ministry Intern
 Garrett Warren, Ministry Intern
 Courtney Nash, Ministry Intern
 Dylan Sanders, Ministry Intern

Dear Family and Friends,

An Uncommon Community of Followers of Jesus Christ

that

Loves as God loves
Sacrificially and fearlessly

Serves as God serves
Selflessly

Moves as God moves
Endlessly

so the Kingdom of God will be lived out wherever we are!



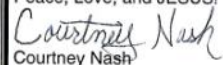
a United Methodist Campus Ministry

As the 2015-2016 school year is coming closer to an end, I cannot help but be amazed by everything that God has done at the Wesley Foundation. The year may be coming to an end, but it does not mean that God's ministry is going to shut down. God's powerful and mighty hand has been upon us enlightening the lives of those who encounter Him here! Last month, we had our 18th annual Wesley golf tournament to help us fundraise for the Wesley as a ministry and for mission trips. We had 111 golfers participate in our tournament -- a HUGE turnout! This was not just a golf tournament, but progression towards the gospel being spread across the nations enabling many to travel to fulfill their purpose in a foreign land!

In my previous letter, I mentioned to you that I have been offered another year to serve with the Wesley Foundation. This is exciting news to me! My intent in taking part in the Wesley internship is partly to continue strengthening my relationship with God; which happens by learning what it means to die to myself, allow Him to make me new, and simply be who God has called me to be. The other broad expectation for this second year is to continue leading others to encounter God in the same way or greater that I am, in hope that they will receive the fullness of God! I want to shape others while being shaped by God and those around me. I simply want to share Jesus with everyone, and to be used as an instrument in such a way as God used the Wesley in my life. Though I have learned a lot in my first year of interning, the second year provides an opportunity of a more effective influence for God's Kingdom in ways that I have learned throughout my first year.

Although I am ecstatic about leaving the country for the first time in my life, I am also nervous about leading a team of twelve to a place where I have never been. There have been times where I have struggled to see myself as a leader and, in turn, projected that insecurity onto others. However, God has not allowed those lies and fears to stand. He has shown me through scripture and my experiences here that I am a leader. In Genesis, we are called into ruling and subduing what has been given to us. Through continual leadership at the Wesley, I have been called to a place of authority that I do not fully understand. Throughout this month, God has been reminding me that with God-given authority and comfort, I am to use my gifts to build up the Body of Christ. We ask you to pray for safe travel. Throughout our mission to Cambodia, we will continuously be on the move from one place to another. I also ask you to pray for the collaboration with one another and other ministries. As we are gone, the Wesley will update you on our mission team's progress at www.latechwesley.org and click on "Blog".

I know that I have said this a plethora of times, but every time I write you, I cannot help but to feel a great sense appreciation and respect that I have for you. For almost an entire year you have supported me, and I ask you to continue your support of me into the upcoming year, whether it is through prayer or financial donations. I have learned that I cannot do life alone. In conclusion, I NEED YOU! You are part of the reason why I am able to be here.

Peace, Love, and JESUS!

 Courtney Nash

P.O. Box 3005 Ruston, LA 71272 318.255.3112 www.latechwesley.org wesley@wesleymail.com



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

Benton United Methodist Church
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Email: bentonumc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.bentonumc.org

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The Message for June 2016

Sunday, June 5
Healing Faith

Luke 7:11-17 & 1 Kings 17:18-24

Sunday, June 12

Jesus Said There Would Be Days Like This

1 Kings 19:1-15a & Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, June 19

Love What Matters

Luke 15

Sunday, June 26

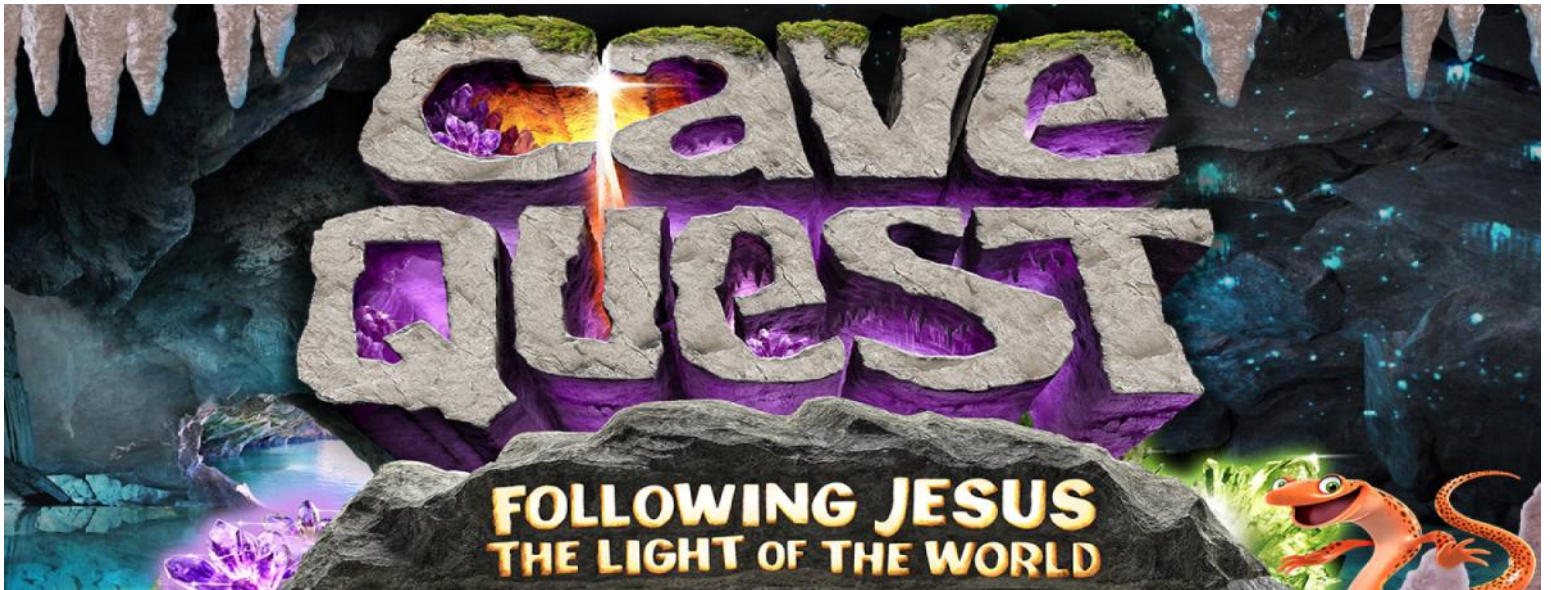
Life in "Wonder" Land

John 14:4-6

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.



Join us at Benton UMC on

Cave Quest Vacation Bible School

Monday, July 11 through Friday, July 15, 2016

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

For more information, visit: www.bentonumc.org/VBS