

# INsight

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
JULY 2016

## 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

### Mondays

Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM
Summer Basketball.....	2:00 PM
First Place 4 Health.....	6:00 PM

### Tuesdays

Intercessory Prayer Team .....	9:00 AM
Bodies On A Mission.....	6:00 PM
Grief Support Group @ St. Jude.....	6:30 PM
Men's Basketball.....	7:00 PM

### Wednesdays

Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM
The Closet Workday (2nd & 4th).....	10:30 AM
Summer Basketball.....	2:00 PM

### Thursdays

Thursday Bible Study .....	10:00 AM
Choir Practice.....	5:30 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous .....	6:00 PM
Bodies On A Mission.....	6:00 PM
Grief Support Group @ Benton UMC.....	6:30 PM

### Fridays

Bodies On a Mission.....	9:00 AM
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## A Word From Pastor Brad

Dear Church,

We have an exciting month of July to look forward to in worship. For the first three Sundays we'll be exploring the Trinity. For the fourth Sunday we'll have a Christmas in July service and to end the month for our fifth Sunday we'll have the youth lead us in worship and report on their summer missions and activities. You will be blessed!

I found this summertime poem that I thought was fitting for this time of year. Enjoy!

*Thank you Lord for the golden sun  
That warms the earth from sky of blue  
The rays that brightens the summer's day  
Speaks of the love that flows from you*

*The summertime of heat filled days  
We thank you for the cooling breeze  
And the shade that cools us down  
Under the shadow of leaf topped trees*

*We seek the shelter of your wings  
Your breath upon us like a cooling wind  
To ease the spirit and comfort the soul  
And the rest you give to us who sinned*

*We thank you for the sparkling sea  
To dive beneath its cooling waves  
And Lord we thank you for the blood  
Of your Savior Son the One who saves*

*The summer days we thank you for  
The joys of spending sun filled hours  
Along the coast or countryside  
Or in the garden viewing pretty flowers*

*For in the heart redeemed by you  
Your Savior Son brings a better clime  
Your rays of love; the sunshine of grace  
And for our souls it is always summertime*

~by Colin Moffett

Enjoy the season of summer and may you be blessed.

Your Preacher,  
Brad

*<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer,  
the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.*

~Isaiah 44:6

# Monthly & Special Events

- Sunday, July 2**  
 United Methodist Men Breakfast & Devotion ..... 7:00 AM  
 Fireworks Show ..... 8:30 PM
- Monday, July 3**  
 Prayer Around the Pole ..... 9:30 AM
- Tuesday, July 4**  
*Church Office Closed*
- Wednesday, July 5**  
 The Closet @ A Cross Faith..... 10:30 AM
- Thursday, July 6**  
 Dinner with Friends Quarterly Meeting..... 6:30 PM
- Monday, July 10**  
 Vacation Bible School..... 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, July 11**  
 Vacation Bible School..... 9:00 AM  
 Lay Leadership Meeting..... 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, July 12**  
 Vacation Bible School..... 9:00 AM  
 Mission Expo 2017 ..... 6:00 PM
- Thursday, July 13**  
 Vacation Bible School..... 9:00 AM
- Friday, July 14**  
 Vacation Bible School..... 9:00 AM  
 Sew Crazy Ladies ..... 10:00 AM
- Sunday, July 16**  
 United Methodist Men's Breakfast & Devotion .... 7:00 AM  
 LifeShare Blood Drive..... 8:30 AM
- Tuesday, July 18**  
 NWLA Food Truck Unloading..... 9:00 AM  
 NWLA Food Bag Packing ..... 10:00 AM
- Wednesday, July 19**  
 The Closet @ A Cross Faith..... 11:30 AM  
 The Table Food Distribution ..... 12:30 PM
- Friday, July 21**  
 Just A Bunch of Lit Wits @ Panera Bread..... 7:15 AM
- Tuesday, July 25**  
 OPALS ..... 11:30 AM  
 Church Council Meeting..... 6:00 PM
- Friday, July 28**  
 Sew Crazy Ladies ..... 10:00 AM
- Saturday, July 29**  
 Souper Saturday ..... 7:30 AM
- Monday, July 31**  
 United Methodist Women Executive Meeting..... 6:00 PM

*For more information about these and other events, or to schedule use of a room at the church, please contact Mary Beth West in the church office at (318) 965-2273. Regularly scheduled events are listed on page 1.*

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

## OPALS

**Tuesday, July 25 at 11:30 AM in the Family Life Center  
 Cost: \$5.00**

Benton UMC's Older People with Active Life Styles (OPALS) will have BINGO with an Independence Day theme—so wear your red, white and blue and come join us! The OPALS gather each month for good food and fellowship, and sometimes a very informative program. Everyone is invited to come and participate – we hope you will be there!

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

# MISSIONS EXPO 2017

**Find Your Passion in Serving Ministries  
 at Benton United Methodist Church**

**Wednesday, July 12 at 6:00 PM  
 Family Life Center**

Find where you connect in mission as the leaders of each serving ministry explain the need, service offered, and mechanics of that ministry. Also, hear about the improvements and new ministries that will build on our foundation of mercy.

### Serving Ministries:

- A Cross Faith Advocacy Center
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- The Closet Clothes Ministry
- Disaster Prep Teams (forming)
- Elementary Reading Program (new!)
- Fire Recovery Ministry
- Prison Ministry (forming)
- Sew Crazy Ladies
- The Table Food Ministries
- Benton UMC
- Emergency Food Pantry
- Food for Backpacks at Benton Middle School
- Mackenzie's Manna Bags
- NWLA Food Pantry
- Souper Saturday
- Seeds For the Harvest
- Community Garden

### Quarterly & Yearly Events

- The Toy Shoppe & Wrapped in Love
- Operation North Star
- School Supply Drive
- Beat the Heat Fan Drive
- LifeShare Blood Drive

### United Methodist Men

- P.E.T. Project
- Methodist Children's Home
- Gingerbread House
- Teen Challenge & Operation Blessing

### United Methodist Women

- Ark-La-Tex Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Samaritan's Purse
- UMCOR Sager Brown Depot
- Toy Shoppe & Table Food Ministries
- Providence House
- Purchased, Not for Sale

For more information on serving ministries, please contact:  
 Rachel Stoneman  
 (318) 965-2273 or [rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org](mailto:rachel.stoneman@bentonumc.org)



## Donor Recognition Tree New Leaves Placed In Memory of:

*Mary Ruth Waggoner*

by Dr. Robert & Jeanie Barrett

by Dr. & Mrs. Franklin Noles

by Michele Sells

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.



## Memorials

*Mary Ruth Waggoner*

by Vernon & Sandra Coleman

by Ken & Susan Allen

by Barbara & Henry Cantrell

*Frances Dunnam*

by Barbara & Henry Cantrell

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



**Educator Appreciation Luncheon**  
**Tuesday, August 1, 2017**  
**11:30-1:30 PM**



## Sign-up to serve!

Please contact:

Mary Beth West

(318) 965-2273

Marybeth.west@bentonumc.org



## CALENDAR:

UMW State "Mission u" – Wesley Center in 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!

**July 31 – 6 PM** – Executive meeting to discuss Sock Hop, Nominations and September meetings.



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

We "hop" into August with our annual "Sock Hop", on Friday, August 11, 7-10 pm in the FLWC. Music will be from the 50's and 60's, provided by the Kokomo Cruisers. Tickets are \$12 and include a hamburger, chips, and a soft drink. Ice cream sundaes and sodas will be available. This is an evening of fun for the entire family. **Save the date!!**

UMW District "**Mini Mission u**" **August 18**, Noel UMC, Shreveport at 9:30 AM

General Meeting – Salad Supper, elections and membership – **September 5** at 6:30 PM

Circles meet again in September -- Have a great summer!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Second Quarter 2017

Income..... \$152,790.53

Expenses.....\$148,795.15

### Mortgage balance

\$319,443.31

### Apportionments

Amount owed for 2017..... \$46,530.00

Balance as of 4/20/17.....\$33,761.00

# Thank you!

6/5/17

Dear Pat,

Thank you so much for preparing and delivering the meet tray, cheese, nuts, and chips when mom passed away. What people do without a church family is incomprehensible to me. We are grateful.

Love in Christ,  
Carol Jean

Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated

6/4/17

Dear Benton Church Family:  
Thank you so much for the many acts of kindness and the food sent to our family when my mother passed away. The love shown by so many is a blessing that is only shown through God's love. The family of Mary Ruth Wagoner is grateful.

Love in Christ  
Carol Jean Johnson



thank you

Dear Benton United Methodist Men,  
Thank you so very much for the generous award. As you all know, college is quite expensive and I have at least 8 years to go! Many animal science books will be purchased with your scholarship. I cannot thank you enough! I'm so excited to become a bulldog in the fall at Louisiana Tech!  
GO BULLDOGS! 🐾

Sincerely,  
wynne

# 50's Sock Hop

Sponsored by the Benton United Methodist Women

Dancing

Food

Live Music



\$12 per person

**Benton United Methodist Church**  
**Friday, August 11 from 7:00-10:00 PM**

Family Life Center • 4615 Palmetto Road, Benton, LA • (318) 965-2273

For more information, please contact:  
Pat Mosher at (318) 572-3447

# Serving Our Community

## Summer Mission Group

On Monday, June 19 a group of mothers with their children, ages 1 year to 10 years old, came to serve in our Benton UMC Emergency Food Pantry. This was their second year serving with Benton UMC and we were so blessed to have them!

Mission is messy, slow, and a lot of hard work. Add 22 children – each growing their servant hearts - along with their parents and a few Benton UMC servants, and you get a fast-paced and exciting mission with a lot of fun mixed in!

First, they removed all the emergency food from the pantry and cleaned the pantry. They sorted and packed that food into emergency food boxes that are stored for use as needed. After packing 21 boxes (**WOW!!!**), they prepped the unboxed foods and restocked them into the pantry - all this in less than an hour and a half! See what these little hands and feet could do? Everyone can serve! We all have something to offer—God gives us that gift!

Where can you connect in service?  
What are your God-given talents and skills?  
Find out at **Mission Expo 2017** on  
Wednesday, July 12 at 6:00 PM!



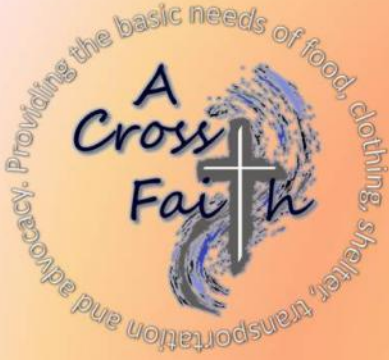
Break time!!!



Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

- 1 Timothy 4:12

# Serving Our Community



## A Cross Faith Advocacy Center

**HOURS:**  
**Wednesday, July 19**  
**11:30 AM-4:00 PM**

Benton United Methodist Church • Elizabeth Baptist Church • St. Jude Catholic Church

*Transforming the community...*

## The Closet @ A Cross Faith

**1st Wednesdays**  
**10:30 AM-12:30 PM**

**3rd Wednesdays**  
**11:30 AM-4:00 PM**

For more information  
on The Closet, contact:

Sue Shadow  
(318) 965-2496

[shadow781@bellsouth.net](mailto:shadow781@bellsouth.net)

### THE CLOSET CLOTHES MINISTRY: WHERE IT'S BEEN, WHERE IT IS , AND WHERE IT'S GOING

Most of our congregation members are aware that our church operates a free clothes closet since approximately 8 years ago. The organizers asked people to donate gently used in-season clothing that was to be redistributed to those in need who received food from our monthly Northwest Louisiana Food Distribution. On a personal note, this idea struck a chord with me because in the 1970s, when we were deep in a recession and jobs were scarce and money was tight, our neighborhood came up with the same idea. Instead of buying new clothing for our children, we redistributed it throughout the neighborhood. As one child outgrew clothing, it was passed to the next smaller child next door or down the street.

About 7 years ago, after I retired, I began working at the closet at BUMC. The donations grew and grew until we decided to open the closet to anyone who needed help--not just food recipients. One day I casually mentioned to then Lay Leader Ron Jones that we weren't reaching many of the individuals who needed help. Ron got busy and contacted all of the local churches and an idea began to grow. For over 2 years we met with members of St. Jude Catholic Church and Elizabeth Baptist and formed A Cross Faith. The Clothes Closet became the hub of a mission offering not only clothing but information about services offered that our patrons might need and not know about. St. Jude donated the use of a their chapel in Benton and we began to prepare to move The Closet to our new location. Meanwhile, donations kept coming in amazing amounts. The generosity of our congregation AND other members of the community has been inspiring. On October 19, 2016, we opened at our new location.

Of course, any time you grow you experience a few growing pains. Adjusting to working at two locations offered a few challenges. Clothing is dropped off and sorted at Benton UMC, then taken to the chapel. Still, the donations kept growing and growing. This is a good thing. Growth meant we were also reaching more families in need.

Currently, we receive and sort clothing at BUMC. If you've ever been upstairs to visit our work location you'll see bags and bags of donated items. If you come on a Wednesday when we're sorting you'll see us spread out over two rooms. It may look chaotic, but there is organization at work. After we sort items to be transported to our chapel, Ron Jones and other wonderful men from our church load the sorted items and take them to the chapel. There we hang them by size. We seek to have our chapel location look like a clothing store. We're proud of our work.

With growth comes a challenge and the need for more workers. Our goal is to open the doors of the chapel **EVERY** Wednesday. That's going to require 2 simultaneously working groups. We need volunteers to meet for up to 2 1/2 hours each Wednesday at Benton UMC to sort clothing and another group to work at the chapel each week to allow patrons to shop.

I invite each of you to visit us either on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at our chapel location or on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday at our work location at BUMC. You will see some ladies working, but you will hear lots of laughter and visiting going on. We enjoy what we do and I invite each of you to come work with us. If you can't come once a week, come when you can for only as long as you can. I guarantee the work we do is satisfying and fulfilling-- and addictive. Our loyal workers keep coming back because we all enjoy what we do. Try volunteering. You may not want to join us, but, then again, you may find that working at the Clothes Closet is just the mission you have been seeking to join. Try it and see.

**For more information on The Closet, contact:**  
**Sue Shadow**  
**(318) 965-2496 or [shadow781@bellsouth.net](mailto:shadow781@bellsouth.net)**



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



**You have a gift to give.  
 Sign up today to donate.**

## 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.

**Benton United Methodist Church  
 LifeShare Bus  
 4615 Palmetto Road  
 Sunday, July 16 • 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**The gift of life.** Your precious gift is carefully provided to someone in need. Maybe someone fighting cancer, sickle cell or another blood disorder. Perhaps someone who was in an accident or an emergency surgery. Your blood donation may save the life of someone you'll meet, someone you already know, your closest loved one, or even you.



*"Because of blood donors, my children have a mother" - Erin*  
 ←



Join us for Vacation Bible School! July 10-14 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM



Vacation  
 Bible School  
 July 10-14  
 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Ages 3 years - entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade!  
 Register Online Now  
[www.bentonumc.org/VBS](http://www.bentonumc.org/VBS)