

## **Benton United Methodist Church** **“Inviting In, Growing Up, Sending Out”**

The Discipleship Ministries of Benton United Methodist Church guide our ministries of Nurture, Outreach and Witness. These areas sometimes overlap because the ministries of hospitality, service and mercy to members and non-members cannot be put into boxes.

The **Inviting In** Team leads the congregation to welcome all people to become a part of our community of faith so that they may develop a deeper relationship with God and grow in their discipleship. The team leader is responsible for convening the team to dream and share the hopes and concerns of our community and to plan the work of the team, followed by evaluation for effectiveness. The team coordinates, plans and carries out the witness ministries of Benton UMC, helping all to know and respond to the love of God shown to us through Christ.

The team will set goals for congregational growth (both faith and numbers) and will plan evangelistic events that reach out to our neighbors. Under this broad umbrella, the team will also reach all Benton members and constituents, both active and inactive.

The **Congregational Care** Team leads the congregation in the care and concern of our members and constituents so that they may know the love of God through Christ. The team leader is responsible for convening the team and organizing a comprehensive plan of care and mercy. The team is not responsible for caring out all the ministries, but rather to enlist members to grow in their discipleship by reaching out and ministering to those who are experiencing difficult seasons of their lives. and needs. The team members will work with members of our church in providing communion to our shut-ins; praying for and updating those who request prayers and the prayer chain. The team is responsible for providing food and comfort when there is a death in our church. Our Shepherd Ministry allows each member and constituent to be contacted and nurtured through our lay members. The Grief Ministry is led by Cheryl Nelson and is open to the community.

The **Outreach** Team plans and coordinates opportunities for members and nonmembers to participate in caring for the basic needs of all God’s children without regard to race, color, gender, national origin ability, age, marital status or economic condition. The Outreach team may be organized in such a way that no one person is responsible for the entire work of the team. The team meets and plans projects that help our immediate mission area, our Northwest Louisiana missions, state wide and international missions. The team is responsible for telling others in the congregation of opportunities for service.