

Benton United Methodist Church Family News – 2008

Greetings from the Benton UMC family. This is the time of year to pause and reflect on the year and its many blessings.



Royalty was present with us in January. Kathryn Mainord, daughter of Scott and Alvina Mainord, was crowned *Snow Bird Princess* at Kelly High School.

Congratulations, Kathryn!

Black History month concluded with the gospel group "*Wings of Heaven*" presenting a program on February 24. After the worship service, everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for cookies, coffee, and fellowship.

Care packages were prepared under the leadership of Rita Stuckey and sent to units of our local military folks overseas.

Tree trimming and tree removal gave a better view of the church. What a difference!

Benton UMC hosted the *Community Lenten Luncheon* of vegetable soup, sandwiches, and cookies on February 27. St. Denis Catholic, Unity Baptist, and the Christian Mission also hosted a Wednesday luncheon.

The men of the Church attended a "Wild Game" supper at the Zion United Methodist in Gordonville. Plans were made to go back in 2009. The food must have been great!!

Church facilities have received a good deal of attention this year. The electrical service was significantly upgraded, then a heat and A/C unit was installed in the fellowship hall. Projectors, screens and an upgraded audio system has been installed using a Missouri United Methodist Foundation grant.

After a strenuous week of learning cheers and tryouts, Callie Bollinger, daughter of Danny and Traci Bollinger was selected as a cheerleader. Congratulations Callie!

Kathryn Mainord and Paige Rampley won a silver award at the State Conference of FCCLA for their service project "*Trick-r-Treat So Others Can Eat!*" Congratulations!!!

With May comes graduation: Barry Graham, son of Kathy and Fred Graham graduated from Southeast Missouri University, Cape Girardeau, MO. Barry is employed by Tyson Foods in Noel, MO. Kathryn Mainord graduated from Kelly High School and is attending Southeast Missouri University, Cape Girardeau, MO

The summer sport season found Griffen Moore, son of Dwayne and Jennifer Moore, and Allison Holt, daughter of Brian and Krysty Holt, enjoying T-ball.

Rev. Sharp took a love offering from the Church to the Missouri Annual Conference to purchase a PET (Personal Energy Transportation) vehicle.

Brent Heuring, son of Greg and Andrea Heuring, spent a week at Blue Mountain Church Camp. Did he have some stories!!!

On Father's Day, the men of the Church were honored with a breakfast fixed by the women of the Church. It was quite a feast.

In June, the UMW presented a "Rose Memorial" Ceremony. The Communion Rail was covered with red roses honoring our deceased loved ones. It was a very beautiful and meaningful program.

The church basement has had significant water leaks and something had to be done. The church landscaping was removed, a contractor excavated and exposed the foundation, installed a bladder, sealant, and drainage system. The men buried drain pipes and replanted the lawn. This major project appears to be a success.

Kathryn Mainord asked if she could have a garage sale at the church. She made over \$700 which she used to make huge improvements to the Children's Room. Kathryn made it come alive with new paint, rubber interlocking blocks on the floor, and new toys. Good work and thanks, Kathryn!

The guys worked on 2 large griddles and had the hamburger cooking procedures down pat for Neighbor Day; great burgers and no smoke helped net over \$5,400.00.

GOOD NEWS: Apportionments for District and Conference were paid before Neighbor Day. This is the earliest in many years.

The Community Thanksgiving Service was hosted by Unity Baptist Church. Rev. Marshall, of the Christian Mission, delivered the message. The other ministers had a part in the program. Fellowship and refreshments followed in the fellowship hall.

Rita Stuckey was honored with a plaque on December 7 for all the many things Rita does for the Church. Thank you Rita!

The UMW has prepared 43 Christmas baskets for our Benton neighbors.

The children will present their Christmas Program on December 21st then refreshments will be served. Greg Heuring will also be honored for his Greg graduation from Southeast Missouri State University.

Congratulations, Greg!

Church members designed a Christmas card that members signed and was sent to each person on our Prayer List. Also several shawls were consecrated and given to loved ones in crisis. These are two ministries that should continue.

Several people joined the Church this year either by letter or confession of faith. Welcome to the Benton Church. The Church was fortunate to have a healthy membership this year.

Plans are underway to have a Volunteer In Mission (VIM) team from O'Fallon, Missouri come to Benton and help install a lift. This will make the Church's sanctuary handicapped accessible. The sanctuary level will soon have a handicapped accessible bathroom.

We hope you have enjoyed this trip through 2008. Though our membership is small, we are achievers. We share good and bad times, laugh and cry together, but most importantly we are there for each other. Thank you for your continued support. May we together carry the "LIGHT" of Christ and the Church with us each and every day.

Merry Christmas

Benton United Methodist Church

