



# Benton First Assembly Newsletter

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December, 2011

## December

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### December Events

- 3rd—JBQ Trophy Tournament
- 4th—Connect Group Christmas Parties @ 4:30pm
- 5th—JBQ Chicken Express Fundraiser 6-8pm
- 10th— Teen Bible Quiz
- 14th—GM/RR Christmas Production @ 7pm
- 17th—Christmas Production @ 7pm
- 18th—Christmas Production @ 10:30am
- 18th—Christmas Dinner @ 6pm
- 25th—10am Christmas Service
- 28th—service dismissed
- 31st—Youth Lock-in



### From Pastor's Desk

The weather is not changing fast enough. The warm weather seems to be hanging on, but hopefully cooler weather is on the way. I pray that everyone had a good and happy Thanksgiving as you spent quality time with your family. Once again we ate **too much. O well, that's** what the holidays are for. The Russ Taff concert was awesome and I hope everyone enjoyed it.

Now that Thanksgiving is over, the Christmas lights are up and the Christmas tree is the focal **point in the house. Don't** you just love Christmas and all the excitement? I know I do, and it is okay as long as we keep the focus of Christmas where it is supposed to be and that is on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I challenge you this Christmas season to do something different,

instead of waiting on a personal blessing go ahead and find someone you can bless. If you will, I believe you will find a whole new meaning of Christmas.

I know there will be a lot of you on the roads this Christmas season so I pray that you will have a safe journey wherever it is you are traveling to. Now just a quick note on our schedule this Christmas season here at the church:

- \* December 14th the Kids Production @ 7pm
- \* December 17th Choir Christmas Production @ 7pm
- \* December 18th Choir Christmas Production @ 10:30am, we will have Discipleship Ministry
- \* December 18th Church Christmas Dinner @ 6pm (the church will provide the meat, so

bring a side dish and dessert and join the fun)

\* December 25th, Christmas Day Service @ 10am  
Hopefully this will help in making your plans for the holidays. I do encourage everyone to be in church and let us worship and celebrate the holiday season together. This should be one of the most exciting seasons for **God's children as we celebrate** the birth and life of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I pray that everyone has a great holiday season and that God will be more real to you today than He has ever been before. So be safe and may God richly bless you this Christmas season.



## Illumin8 Student Ministries—*Ryan McDaniel*

What an awesome month November has been. The holiday season is here and there sure is a buzz in the air around the students. This is an extremely busy time of the year for everyone. Illumin8 would love to throw out a huge thank you for your support in our Speed the Light Penny per Pound drive. We were able to raise a signifi-

cant amount of money which will go directly to Speed the Light.

With planning for next year happening now we are beginning to see what an awesome year it will be. With our first year behind us as your student pastors we cannot help but be extremely excited for what the future holds. We will kick off the year with a student led service on

January 8th then the Valentines Banquet, Life Group kick off and also great opportunities to support Speed the Light. Thank you for your support of illumin8 Student Ministries and have a blessed holiday season.



## Power Time Children's Ministry News—*Tom Young*

Wow, it is already the Christmas season. Kids especially love this time of the year and it brings out the kid in all of us **adults too. Let's be in church and** celebrate the birth of our Savior together.

We are excited about our Junior Bible Quiz teams. The kids are excited and are studying hard to hide **God's Word in their hearts. We have** our December Trophy tournament on Saturday, December 3rd. If you would like to come check it out, see

me, Becky or Jennifer Greenwell and we will give you details.

Then on Monday, December 5th, we will have a Chicken Express fundraiser. These funds will help with the equipment that we need and travel expenses for the team as we travel to quiz. I would like to reward the kids who work hard to hide **God's Word in their heart to have as** little travel expense as possible. Just come out to Chicken Express between 6pm & 8pm. You can dine in or drive thru, just mention JBQ or

Benton First Assembly and we will receive a portion of your purchase. Thank you for helping our kids as they work hard.

Thank you to everyone who has picked up an angel off the **Angel Tree. You will help make these kid's** Christmas a merry one. Please have your wrapped gifts back to the church by Sunday, December 11th.

Thank you for your support of our kids ministries. May God be real to you and your family this Christmas season.

## Discipleship Ministry News—*Larry Davis*

Thanksgiving has come and gone and Christmas is just around the corner. The Discipleship Ministry has had a great year. I want to thank the ones who are so faithful not just to Discipleship Ministry, but to the other departments at the church as well. You will be truly blessed also for your faithfulness not just for attending on Sunday mornings, but also on Sun-

day nights and Wednesday nights. The people who are faithful in these areas are the backbone of the church. I am so thankful for so many things. I am thankful for all the teachers in Discipleship Ministry.

I am thank for the body of believers who attend Discipleship Ministry week after week. I am thankful for a pastor who does not

water down the gospel and follows the lead of the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for all the other department leaders at the church whose ministries touch the lives not only to our congregation, but to others in the community. But the thing I am most thankful for is that Jesus died on the cross, not just for me, but for you also. What are you thankful for?



### MoMENTum Men's Ministry News—*Jimmy Batterton*

Happy Holidays from the MoMENTum team! We would like to invite you to our annual Christmas dinner to be held December 4th at 4:30. It's pot-luck, so be sure and bring some good

vittles! Cokes, chips and desserts are always needed as well.

Starting Sunday, January 8th at 5pm we will be starting a Men's Study Group to meet every Sunday

before evening service. We will be looking at "The Measure of a Man—Twenty Attributes of a Godly Man." If interested, contact Jimmy Batterton.



### JEWELS Ladies Ministry—*Mua Brothers*

Ladies, it's time for our Christmas Party. Please bring a snack for all to enjoy and a wrapped gift (\$5-\$10). There will be lots of food and the game we have planned involves little effort on your part. No take backs, but lots of fun! So join us December 4th.

God is so good! 90% of the funds needed for the February 2012 Retreat have been raised with the fund-

raisers held this past several months. We are very hopeful that we will exceed our goal with December 8th & 15th peanut brittle fundraiser sales. We have a couple of large orders already, so if you want to purchase freshly made peanut brittle, please sign up at the Information Booth before December 15th. Or if you would like to help provide light corn syrup, we are in need of a few more bottles.

Drop them off at the Information Booth.

This is a very important reminder, the February 2012 Retreat registration form and \$50 deposit are due December 4th. Forms can be found at the Info Booth. This will be our very first ladies retreat and with the presence of the Holy Spirit, great things are expected. So come with great expectation from our Lord!



### Casting Nets Outreach Ministry News—*Shane Brothers*

As I look back this past year, I have seen the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord in my life and here at Benton First Assembly. The Lord has blessed us here with His awesome presence and has opened doors to the outreach ministry. I would like to say thank you to Neil Coffey who helped the outreach build a heat insulated cabinet for our food.

Also, to everyone who has a part in this ministry, thank you for your hard work and heart felt compassion for people and making it a success.

This coming new year we can do greater works with what the Lord has in store for each and everyone who is obedient to the call He has placed in you. I get excited every week when we have 3—4 people give their heart

and life to the Lord on Sunday mornings during our pre-service. It really puts everything into perspective for me that this is what we are called to do. **Let's all get radical together for Jesus!** Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If you would like to join this rewarding ministry, I would love to talk with you.



### Food Pantry Ministry News—*Dan & Loretta Stroud*

A BIG thank you to Ryan and Chelsey along with the ilumin8 group for filling the pantry shelves to overflowing. Wow! 1000 pounds collected.

Also, thank you all who continue to support the Food Pantry donation requests. This will certainly help the Pantry to provide food during the holidays.

## December Newsletter



Benton First Assembly  
1801 Hot Springs Hwy  
Benton, AR 72019

*a place for you*

Find us on the web  
[www.bentonfirst.com](http://www.bentonfirst.com)



## Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18th @ 6pm



### Girls Ministry News—Carla Landon

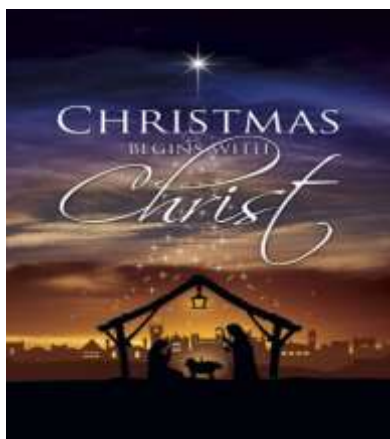
The Girls Ministries and Royal Rangers will come together on Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm for our Christmas program, "The Not so Silent Night." We are so excited and the children are working really hard. We hope you will make plans to join us for an evening of Christmas cheer. We will have practice for all

cast and choir members on December 12th & 13th 6:00pm—7:30pm in the sanctuary. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me or Jennifer Greenwell.

Girls Ministry will be collecting and distributing Christmas cards within our church family for a donation, November 27th—December

14th. Just drop your cards off in the basket at the Information Booth and let our girls deliver your cards!

Thank you so much for your continued support. We appreciate you so much! From all of our girls and sponsors, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!



*Christmas begins with Christ Christmas Musical Production*

*Saturday, December 17th @ 7pm*

*Sunday, December 18th @ 10:30am*

*Plan now to join us and invite your family, friends and neighbors.*