

## Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

### October 2010

#### Pastor's Corner

I've really enjoyed our recent sermon series called *Amazing Grace*. It was great to get to look at the different ways in which we experience God's grace in our lives. God has been *so good* to us, and His love for us really knows no bounds!

As part of that series, you might recall that I mentioned that John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, considered Entire Sanctification one of the defining doctrines of the Methodist movement.

I thought you might be interested in seeing what he had to say about it. These quotes come from Wesley's *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection*. (Christian Perfection is another name for Entire Sanctification in Wesley's day.) Here's what he had to say:

*Question: What is Christian perfection?*

*Answer: The loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. This implies, that no wrong temper, none contrary to love, remains in the soul; and that all the thoughts, words, and actions are governed by pure love. (sec. 19, question 1)*

*Q. When may a person judge himself to have attained this?*

*A. When, after having been fully convinced of inbred sin, by a far deeper and clearer conviction than that he experienced before justification, and after having experienced gradual mortification of it, he experiences a total death to sin, and an entire renewal in the love and image of God, so as to rejoice evermore, to pray without ceasing, and in everything to give thanks. (sec. 19, question 18)*

Note the sequence Wesley describes. As we go on in the Christian life, we should slowly die to sin. And at some point, by God's grace, sin should completely die out in us as that root of sin is removed. Then, as we are emptied of sin, we are filled completely with God's holy love.

And out of that love we live in total obedience to God's will in our lives. That's what we as Methodists mean by Entire Sanctification, or what is sometimes called Christian Perfection or Perfect Love.

Mind you, this doesn't mean that we never make any mistakes. So long as we are human, we will still forget things or inadvertently do the wrong thing. Still, in our heart we intend to do the right thing. We do not intentionally sin. Mistakes aside, we do all things out of perfect love.

This is the goal of the Christian life according to the Bible. It's what the Bible means by the word "holy." It's what we often mean by the word "saint." Is this what you and I are aiming at?

May God help us to become Christians like that, emptied of sin and perfected in love.

See you Sunday,

Lauren

#### October Anniversaries

October 15	Morris & Elaine Yates
October 19	David & Shannon McKee

#### Shut-ins of Briarwood

**At home:** Dan Williams  
Gloria Davis  
Jones & Shirley Robertson  
Jeep & Barbara Clark  
Wayne Milsted  
Ruth & Anne Paine  
Jim Alvis

**Manhattan Nursing**  
Julia (Bill) Heflin  
(Martha Cowsert's sister)

**Ridgeland Point**  
Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

#### October Honorees

October 3	Nancy MacGregor
October 10	Jen Macy
October 17	Mignonne Maxwell
October 24	Jim & Dot McElroy
October 31	Virginia McGrane

#### Sermons for October

October 3 – *Laity Sunday* – Mike Knight  
October 10 – *Tearing Down the Altars*

*Can You Hear Me Now?*

October 17 – *Prayer: What & Why?*

October 24 – *Prayer: How?*

October 31 – *Our Daily Devotions*

#### Family Night Supper

Family Night Supper is Wednesday, October 20, at 6:30 pm. Dr. Jim Porter, President of Wesley Biblical Seminary, will share with us about the ministry and mission of the seminary.

### **DMA Trip to State Fair**

Wednesday, October 13, the DMA is planning a trip to the State Fair for Senior Day. Featured guests include the Dukes of Dixieland (jazz), the Spoken 4 Quartet (gospel), and Guy Hovis from the *Lawrence Welk Show*.

We will leave the church at 9:30 am. All events are free. The only cost is lunch. Sign-up sheet is by the church office.

### **Men's Club**

Men's Club will meet Sunday, October 17, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast. Joe Anglin has the program.

### **UMW News**

**Fidelity Circle Meeting** – Oct. 23, 10:00 am  
**Ethel Bailey Circle Meeting** – Oct. 26, 10:00 am

MS Conference UMW Annual Meeting Oct.1-2, 2010 at Christ United Methodist Church, Jackson.

### **Mission Needs for Wingard House**

The items needed for the Wingard House are: dishwashing liquid, coffee, creamer, and sugar.

This is a Christian home that reaches out to those in need – men, women, and children. Place the items in the kitchen across from the Fellowship Hall.

### **Wesley Sunday School Class News**

We will continue to deliver items to the Salvation Army! Thanks for your generous response and contributions. They are greatly appreciated.

### **Church Council Meeting**

The Church Council will meet Sunday, October 31, at 3 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

Finance Committee will meet at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon in the Conference Room.

### **Evangelism Committee**

The Evangelism & Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, October 21, at 6:30 p.m.

### **Thank You to Sunday School Teachers**

September 26 was Teacher Appreciation Day. Our heartfelt thanks to these Sunday School teachers: Yvonne Dyson, Virginia Spitzkeit, Hardy Nall, John Nall, Jen Macy, Ann Holland, Doug Godfrey, & Linda Anglin. Billy Carpenter is Sunday School Secretary.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

We are so grateful for Tanya Diachenko Ury, who shared with us at the last Family Night Supper about her experience of receiving a shoebox gift as a child. What an incredible impact a simple shoebox gift can make!

This year our goal is to collect 30 shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child. Think about it. If each Sunday School class put together just 10 shoebox gifts, we could easily meet and even surpass that goal. Will you consider putting together a shoebox Christmas present this year?

The Collection Week for shoebox gifts this year is **November 15-22**. That's the week before Thanksgiving. Information is available in the church office and on the church website.

### **Craft Fair**

The Evangelism & Missions Committee is sponsoring a Craft Fair here at the church on Saturday, October 23, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Booth space is available for \$25 each. All crafters are welcome. Proceeds from the fair will go to the church benevolence fund.

If you have any questions, please contact Virginia McGrane or Jen Macy.

### **Thank You from Kate Box**

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my church family at Briarwood for all the calls, prayers, notes, and food while I am recovering. So many folks have pitched in for me so many times I cannot count. Thank you.

I hope to feel better and be back with you soon. Briarwood prayers are the best, and I have felt them. Many, many thanks.

With love,  
Kate

### **October is Pastor Appreciation Month**

This little note is not adequate to say our ***BIG*** "Thank You" to Lauren for his service to us and this church. Thank you, thank you, Lauren. We love you.

Linda Anglin

### **Record of our Faithfulness**

Budget Received to Date	\$110,664.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$139,944.00