

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

June, 2010

Pastor's Corner

Recently, we started a new Bible Study on the book of Ecclesiastes on Wednesday nights. It's a book that's easy to take as very skeptical and pessimistic. After all, it starts out with the words:

"Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless!" (Ecc. 1:2)

However, the more I read Ecclesiastes, the more I'm convinced that Solomon isn't just being pessimistic. He's challenging our values.

In essence, Solomon looks at all the things we value most in this world and says, "This is meaningless!" Money. Power. Possessions. Pleasure. None of these things can really make you happy.

And they certainly don't have any lasting value. You can't take them with you when you die. So why pursue them? Why live for them?

Of course, if these things don't have any real meaning, what does? What is meaningful? If these things aren't worth living for, what is? What is truly worth our time and effort in this life?

Solomon won't be able to fully answer that question from where he sits in time and history. All he can do is discount the usual suspects and point toward God and eternity.

But, even if Solomon can't fully answer his own question, we can. We know the answer. What's truly worth living for? Jesus. What gives our lives meaning, even after death? Jesus.

We can't take our house and car with us when we die. But, if we lived for Jesus, all the riches of heaven await us.

What's more, if in this life we've loved God and others with a truly godly, sacrificial love, then that love makes everything we did full of meaning and of inestimable worth.

All the same, we owe Solomon a debt for asking the question and highlighting the often-flawed ways in which we answer it. What is worth living for? What do we value most? What gives our life meaning and purpose?

The people around us are watching how we answer that question. As Christians, may we be very careful to live in such a way that we don't give the wrong impression about what we value most or what gives our lives meaning.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

Worship Service: Time Change

10:50 AM – Beginning Sunday, **August 1**, that's the time at which the Sunday morning worship service will begin.

Based on your responses to the church-wide survey conducted throughout March and April, the Church Council on May 25 unanimously decided to change the Sunday morning service time.

June Anniversaries

June 6	Doug & Jeanette Godfrey
June 6	Jim & Ann Sacca
June 20	Dennis & Julia Cranford

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 Cowser's sister)

Ridgeland Point
Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

Wisteria Gardens

June Honorees

June 6	John & Ann Day
June 13	Charlie & Diane Dickens
June 20	Millsaps & Elaine Dye
June 27	Tommy & Yvonne Dyson

Sermons for June

June 6 – *Holy Disobedience* – Acts 4:13-22
June 13 – Virginia Spitzkeit – Lay Speaker
June 20 – *Father's Day*
June 27 – *The Secret to Leadership Development* – Acts 6:1-7

Fall Kickoff

August 28-29 we will have **Dr. John Case** with us for our back-to-school kickoff for the fall. Please put these dates on your calendar and keep this event in prayer.

DMA

Saturday, July 10, the DMA group is taking a trip to the Bollinger Family Theatre in Bruce, MS. Tickets for groups of 12 or more are **\$11.77** per person.

We will leave the church at **9:30 AM**. We will carpool together to Bruce and then eat at noon near the theatre. The show begins at **2 PM**.

Cost for dinner is estimated at \$10-12. Carpool donation for gas is suggested at \$4. A sign-up sheet is posted just outside the office.

Casual Dress for July

Since summer is the season of muggy and hot here in Mississippi, we invite you to dress more casually for the month of July. Also, as is our custom, July will be our month to use the old Cokesbury hymnals.

Fourth of July Ice Cream Social

After worship on Sunday, July 4th, the Evangelism Committee is planning an Ice Cream Social. You are invited to bring hand-cranked ice cream or brownies.

Invite a friend to come to church along with you, enjoy a great worship service with incredible patriotic music, and then stay afterward to enjoy good food and great fellowship.

Watermelon Cutting

After worship on Sunday, July 25, the Evangelism Committee is planning a Watermelon Cutting. More information soon to come.

Mission Needs for Wingard House

The items needed for the Wingard House are: trash bags (any size), cooking oil, powdered cream, canned tuna, olive oil, and vinegar.

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

Thanks to all of you who have so generously donated clothing, shoes, and miscellaneous items for our Salvation Army Project.

Donations can be left in the Susannah Corner (behind the screen) in our classroom. We make a weekly delivery to the Salvation Army, and your contributions are very much appreciated by them.

Need Something Fixed? You Bring It, We Fix-It

Hardy Nall and Tommy Dyson have volunteered their services as fix-it men to any who need it in our church.

Have a lamp that doesn't work? A clock that's out of sync? Bring it here to the church, and Hardy and Tommy will give it their best to fix it.

Anyone else who would like to help out in this effort is more than welcome to join in. Just let Hardy or Tommy know.

Annual Conference

Annual Conference is meeting June 11-13 at the Jackson Convention Center. Please keep this gathering in prayer as we meet to make decisions for the United Methodist Church in Mississippi.

Request for U.S. Armed Forces

If you have an immediate family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, please call the office to add to our list. This includes Reserves and National Guard.

Library Notes

New books are placed on the end of the library table for your perusal.

Don't forget to go by the "Give Away Books" room across from the choir room. We want you to take any of these books with you before we donate the leftovers to worthy causes.

Change of Address

Janet Coleman has moved from apartment #257 to apartment #25 at the Orchard.

From the Kato family

John and Junko Kato sent me a beautiful DVD music tape titled Bless. You remember the Katos were all musically talented, and they shared their gifts with us when they were members here and in school at Wesley Biblical Seminary. I have shared this tape with several members, and if you'd like to borrow it, please let me know.

Linda Anglin

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$67,283.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$77,588.00