

# Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

## July, 2010

### Pastor's Corner

I've been pondering the following passage of Scripture the past few days:

"Jesus said, 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'" (John 13:34-35)

There are a couple things that stand out in that to me. First, the defining mark of who we are as Christians is that we love one another the same way God has loved us. We are to overflow with that same unselfish, unconditional love with which God has so loved us.

Think about it for a moment. How has God loved us? More personally, how has God loved *you*? That's precisely how we are supposed to love each other as Christians. No more, no less.

Now, that's daunting enough, but it gets even more challenging when you consider that last bit Jesus adds: ***Our love is our witness to the world.*** People will know us (and God through us) by the way we love, or don't love, one another.

That's incredible. Our love is not only to be synonymous with God's love, but people are supposed to be able to see that love and catch a glimpse of the nature of God through you and me.

Do we love like that? Could people take one look at the way we as Christians treat one another and walk away yearning to be loved like that?

I confess, we could all do better at that. I know I'm not there yet. But, it raises that further question:

How could we better express God's love for the world? How do we better witness to the world the incredible, unbelievable love of God through the way in which we love one another?

As a wise saint once put it, "you and I might be the only Bible some people ever read." How we live, and especially the way we love, that's our greatest witness to the world.

May God help us each improve the way we express His love in this world.

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.

### July Anniversaries

July 1	Wayne & Joyce Milsted
July 1	Sonny & Sylvia Steel
July 6	Billy & Thelma Carpenter
July 18	Jim & Jennifer Myers
July 25	J.J. & Vicki Wilson
July 25	Wayne & Betty Snuggs

### Shut-ins of Briarwood

<b>At home:</b>	Dan Williams Gloria Davis Jones & Shirley Robertson Jeep & Barbara Clark Wayne Milsted Ruth & Anne Paine Jim Alvis
<b>Manhattan Nursing</b>	Julia (Bill) Heflin (Martha Cowsert's sister)
<b>Ridgeland Point</b>	Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

### July Honorees

July 4	Virginia Erwin
July 11	Jo Finch
July 18	Doug & Jeanette Godfrey
July 25	Barbara & Dale Hart

### Sermons for July

July 4	– <i>God Bless America</i> – Joshua 5:13-15
July 11	– <i>The Seed of the Church</i> – Acts 7:54-8:1
July 18	– <i>Recruiting the Enemy</i> – Acts 9:1-18
July 25	– <i>Evangelism Explosion</i> – Acts 10:9-23

### Back to Church Weekend

**August 28-29** we will have **Dr. John Case** with us for our Back to Church emphasis for the fall. There will be 3 services: **7 p.m.** Saturday evening, **10:50 a.m.** Sunday morning, and **7 p.m.** Sunday evening.

Please put these dates on your calendar and keep this event in prayer. And begin thinking of who you might invite to come with you to this event.

### **Patriotic Service**

Sunday, July 4, Dennis Cranford and our own Briarwood choir are planning a special selection of patriotic songs. You won't want to miss this. Be sure to invite a friend and bring them with you to church this Sunday.

### **July Summer Cookout**

On **July 25**, after worship, we invite you to join us for a Summer Cookout in the fellowship hall. (After all, it's *hot* outside!) We will have hot dogs, watermelon, and homemade ice cream. If you would like to contribute any of these items, you may sign up outside the church office. This event is sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

### **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.

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

The items needed for the Wingard House are: dairy creamer, canned tuna, Ramen noodles, sugar and laundry detergent.

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, July 18, at 3 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

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

### **The Door is Always Open**

Life can carry such burdens, and we as Christians are encouraged to share those burdens together.

If you ever find yourself needing someone to talk with, we'd just like to remind you that the pastor's door is always open. You are always welcome.

The pastor is in the office from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Mon-Thurs and other times by appointment.

### **DMA**

**Saturday, August 7** 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.

### **Pastor Reappointed**

We are pleased to announce that our pastor, Rev. Lauren Porter, has been reappointed to Briarwood United Methodist Church for another year.

### **Library Notes**

Thanks to Jessie Anna Puryear for a wonderful gift to the library-Did Jesus Go to Church? And 51 Other Children's Sermons. The book was written by Graham R. Hodges, her brother and author of seven children's books published by Abingdon. Most of these sermons were delivered when Rev. Hodges was pastor for nearly twenty-four years at Emmanuel Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Watertown, New York.

We have already started sharing them with our young people. Thank you very much, Jessie Anna.

### **Who Painted that Picture?**

Please call the office and tell us who painted the beautiful little picture of the church and put it on the bulletin board.

### **Evangelism & Missions Committee**

The Evangelism & Missions Committee will meet Thursday, July 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seeker's Class. Please bring your notebooks.

### **Prayer Quilters**

The Prayer Quilters are hard at work sewing a new quilt requested by Tommy Dyson. The quilt will be called 'Circles of Love.' Also, thank you to those who have donated quilting supplies. It is very much appreciated.

### **Record of our Faithfulness**

Budget Received to Date	\$76,038.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$92,260.00