

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

September 2010

Pastor's Corner

Wow! Last weekend was incredible. What a way to start off the Fall season! By every standard *Back to Church Weekend* was a resounding success.

Worship was awesome as Robert Harris led us in some incredibly uplifting congregational singing. I think I can almost still hear "Our God Reigns" ringing in my ears. Dennis blessed us so much with his gift of music and leadership of the choir. His rendition of "Jesus Loves Me" from Sunday night was deeply moving.

Elaine Yates inspired us with each of her songs throughout the weekend. Her version of "Amazing Grace" was so powerful. And our own Briarwood Choir did such a wonderful job as well.

And then Dr. Case blessed us so richly with his preaching. Each sermon was so powerful. Each one so encouraging, yet challenging. It was hard not to hear God speak.

And it was wonderful as well to see so many people. Each service was so well attended. And the spirit and atmosphere of each was so uplifting. Truly, the Spirit of the Lord was present.

All in all, it was a great time together, and I sense that God did powerful things through it. To that end, I want to thank each of you who helped make this weekend possible.

So many of you pitched in where needed, whether it was setting up tables or giving directions in the parking lot or greeting at the front door or in the hallway. Your servant spirit was so wonderful and encouraging. Thank you so much.

I do want to extend a special word of thanks to a few people in particular: Tommy and Yvonne Dyson for organizing the meal and reception as well as taking care of hospitality for Dr. Case. Virginia McGrane and the Evangelism Committee for getting the word out. Linda Anglin for putting our ad in several of the local newspapers. Sonny and Sylvia Steel for putting together the devotion-al guide to help us prepare spiritually in prayer.

Thank you again to each and all who helped make this such a wonderful time together. Your willingness to serve was a real blessing.

I'm already looking forward to next year. Imagine what God will do if we just give Him the chance. Start praying now. And expect a miracle.

See you Sunday,

Lauren

Sermons for September

Amazing Grace

Sept 5 – *Grace That Seeks Us: Prevenient Grace*

Sept 12 – *Grace That Forgives Us:*

Justifying Grace

Sept 19 – *Grace That Transforms Us:*

Sanctifying Grace

Sept 26 – *Means of Grace & Sacraments*

September Anniversaries

September 2

Jeep & Barbara Clark

September 11

Mike & Pam Knight

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)

September Honorees

September 5

Mike & Pam Knight

September 12

Ella Dee Lamb

September 19

Jerry & Linda Letson

September 26

Leona Love

Family Night Supper

Family Night Supper is Wednesday, September 15, at 6:30 pm. Tanya Ury, a graduate of Wesley Biblical Seminary, will share how she received a shoebox gift from Operation Christmas Child.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet Sunday, September 19, at 3 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

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

Men's Club

Men's Club will meet Sunday, September 19, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast.

UMW News

General Meeting – Sept. 14, 10:00 am
Fidelity Circle Meeting – Sept. 25, 10:00 am
Ethel Bailey Circle Meeting – Sept. 28, 10:00 am

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

Our first action of love will be to gather at 2:00 p.m. Friday to assemble health kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Units and individuals are asked to send money by Sept. 15 (each kit costs approximately \$12.00) to Virginia Spitzkeit. Items for kits will be purchased and brought to Christ UMC for us to put together.

Registration forms are available for early registration. Please try to attend.

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.

Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference this year will be part of a district-wide conference meeting at Clinton First UMC on Sunday, November 14, at 3 p.m.

Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism & Mission Committee will meet on Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

Free Books

Please remember to go look at the Free Books available in the room across from the Choir Room.

Briarwood's Mission

Why are we here? What is our goal as a church?

1. To help those who are lost become found.
2. To help those who are found become saints.

That's it. That's our goal. Our mission. Our vision.

A church is always measured by those two things:

- How many people have we led to faith?
- How many saints have we produced?

Operation Christmas Child

While Christmas still feels far away right now, it is the time of year to start packing shoebox gifts for *Operation Christmas Child*.

Last year, we collected 15 shoeboxes that went to children around the world who would not otherwise experience the joy of Christmas. With each shoebox gift, a book was given that gave a short explanation of the gospel for each child and their family. Every year people come to faith in Jesus through this wonderful ministry.

This year we are asking our church to put together 30 shoebox gifts for this Christmas. 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. Just a couple of months away. More information will be coming soon on how to prepare a box. A link is already up on our website. In the meantime, please be in prayer about how you may help share the gospel with a child around the world this Christmas through a shoebox gift.

Invitation

Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Cranford invite all of you to the Court of Honor for their son, Andrew Cranford, where he will receive his Eagle Scout Award, on Monday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church.

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.

Al Anon Meeting

Thursday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m. Al Anon will meet in the Wilson Hut for its first meeting of the fall. Plans are for Al Anon to meet thereafter on every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$97,081.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$125,272.00