



# Briarwood United Methodist Church

## January 2011 Newsletter

### Pastor's Corner

21 days. That's how many days they say it takes to start a new habit.

I'm not sure how accurate that number really is. But, that's what the "experts" advise. If we will commit to do something every day for 21 days straight, by the end of that time it will be a firmly entrenched new habit.

That's good to know because the Bible is constantly calling us to form new habits. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians says as much:

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."* (Eph. 4:22-24)

God wants us to be more like Him today than we were yesterday. But, according to Paul, He won't make us. The ball is in our court. We have to go to the effort of putting on the new self. He won't do it for us. We have to go to the trouble of breaking old habits and starting new ones.

As we head into this new year, what new habits is God calling you to start? In what way is God leading you to put on the new self?

One of the best places we can start is with our daily prayer and devotions. Do you start each day with a daily devotion? Right now would be a great time to start if you haven't already.

There are so many wonderful daily devotionals out there. One I highly recommend is Oswald Chamber's *My Utmost for His Highest*. You can find it online here: <http://www.myutmost.org/>

Another is the Upper Room, which you can pick up in the bell tower on your way into the sanctuary. Of course, if you like, it's also online for free these days: <http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>

Another from a Wesleyan perspective is A.W. Tozer's online devotional, which you can find here: <http://www.emalliance.org/devotions/tozer>

Naturally, which one we use is less important than that we pick one and get started. Twenty-one days from now it could be a wonderful new habit, deepening and enriching our relationship with God. Will you start now?

See you Sunday,  
Lauren

### Sermons for January

- January 2 – *Why Briarwood UMC Exists*  
*What the Bible Says About ...*
- January 9 – *The Problem of Suffering & Evil*
- January 16 – *The Death Penalty*
- January 23 – *Abortion*
- January 30 – *Homosexuality*

### January Anniversaries

- |            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 5  | Cate & Allen Horn    |
| January 18 | Ross & Dana Campbell |

### 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)

### January Honorees

- |            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| January 2  | Ruth Paine          |
| January 9  | Gary Platt          |
| January 16 | Jacquetta Purvis    |
| January 23 | Lois Purvis         |
| January 30 | Jessie Anna Puryear |

### UMW General Meeting

The UMW General Meeting is Tuesday, January 11, at 10 am in the parlor. Rayford Woodrick will be the speaker.

- Fidelity Circle** – Saturday, January 22, at 10 am
- Ethel Bailey Circle** – Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 10 am

### Family Night Supper

Family Night Supper is Wednesday, January 19, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

### Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 25, at 7 p.m. in the Seekers Class.

The Finance Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference room.

### Men's Club

Men's Club will meet Sunday, January 16, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast. Tommy Gregory, our speaker, will share on the subject of Money.

Tommy is an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). He is the Director of the Mississippi Field Office since 1993. He joined NASS in 1976 and has served in Oklahoma, Louisiana, New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Florida. He is also a member of the American Monetary Institute. He and his wife, Lanet, attend Galloway UMC in Jackson.

### Mission Needs for Wingard House

The items needed for the Wingard House are: laundry detergent, mustard, mayo, sugar, and roman noodles.



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.

### Thank You from Elaine Yates

Dear loved ones of Briarwood,

Thank you so much for allowing me to sing in your Christmas program. I enjoyed being with the choir and with you as a congregation. I felt at home (as I always do when I come to Briarwood).

I also want to thank Lauren. Briarwood has again been blessed with an excellent minister and preacher. Remember, it is almost impossible to find both in one person! A very special thank you goes to Dennis for calling and inviting me to come home.

Keep in touch. I keep looking for another Briarwood, but there just is not another one. I miss all of you. May you feel the love and presence of God in the coming year.

God is Love,  
Elaine Yates

### Holiday Meals for Homebound

*A Big, Big Thank You! 28 holiday meals were delivered to our homebound members.*

Many thanks to all of you who helped to provide holiday dinners for our homebound members. In all 28 dinners were prepared and delivered on Wednesday, December 15.

It was truly a church-wide effort, and your contributions and donations made it possible. Thanks.

Mary McKee and Hazel Thornton

### Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please call Mary McKee (601-853-2284) for it to be activated.

If you cannot reach Mary, please call Hazel Thornton (601-853-5072).

The prayer chain remains the same at this time. When changes are made, you will be notified.

Mary McKee  
Nurture Committee, Chair

### Library Notes

*The Life and Teaching of Jesus:* The Christmas books and other media are all back on the shelves.

For the months of January to April, books on the Life and Teaching of Jesus will be out for your perusal. Those books may also be found in section #5. If you need any help finding them, just ask and I'll be glad to come by and show you.

Toward the end of March, I will put Easter books on the library table for your convenience.

Linda Anglin

### Help Needed in the Nursery

*Four Down, Four More to Go!*

Four members answered our call for nursery sitters. Thank you to Thelma Carpenter, Linda Letson, Leah Letson, and Aaryn Ann Letson.

We need four more to volunteer for *one hour* so that no one will have to miss more than one church service every 2 months. Please prayerfully consider this ministry of service.

If you can help, please call the church office or Linda (601-362-5343) to volunteer.

Linda Anglin

### Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$150,776.00
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$190,700.00