



Briarwood United Methodist Church

February 2011 Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

A friend of mine placed his order for flowers the other day. Every year for Valentine's Day he has the habit of sending flowers to his wife at her office. So, he places the order early to make sure she gets them.

Now why does he do this? Presumably, he does it to tell her he loves her. Well, one might ask, couldn't he just tell her in words? Or couldn't he just wait until she gets home from work to give her the flowers?

I suppose he could, but I suspect the reason he does it this particular way is that deep down he knows that words are not enough. Love requires action.

Expressions of love are just as important, if not more important, than the words we speak. What's more, he sends them to her office because he wants everyone to know how he feels about her.

What's true about our expressions of love at Valentine's Day is also true about our love for God. Words are not enough. We need to express them in action.

I suspect that's part of why Jesus says in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

What God wants most from us is not the verbal expression of our love, though that's certainly nice. What He wants most isn't even a bouquet of red roses to profess our love.

Rather, what God wants most from you and me is wholehearted obedience to His will. If we really love God, we will do what He says is best. We will abide by His wishes in our lives.

That's real love according to Jesus. Everything else is just professing a love we're not willing to follow through on.

And the test of that love is the everyday world in which we live, where everyone can see the extent of our love for God. Real love isn't a private love. If we love God, we can't hide it. All the world can see. That's where the rubber meets the road.

This Valentine's Day as we give expressions of our love to our sweethearts, may we also be mindful of how we can do the same to God through the way in which we live our lives for Him. Happy Valentine's Day!

See you Sunday,
Lauren



February Anniversaries

February 15 Dewey & Nita Myers

Shut-ins of Briarwood

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

Manhattan Nursing
Julia (Bill) Heflin
(Martha Cowser's sister)

Ridgeland Point
Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

February Honorees

February 6 Fred & Martha Jean Ray
February 13 Gayle Reeves
February 20 Barbara Renton
February 27 Vera Richardson

Family Night Supper



Family Night Supper is Wednesday, February 16, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

The Wesley Class will host us for the evening.

UMW Meetings

Ethel Bailey Circle – Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 10 am

Fidelity Circle – Saturday, February 26, at 10 am

Sermons for February

What the Bible Says About ...

February 6 – *Abortion*

February 13 – *Homosexuality*

The Gospel of Matthew

February 20 – *Parable of the Four Soils*

February 27 – *Parable of the Wheat & Tares*

Men's Club

Men's Club will meet Sunday, February 20, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast.

Mission Needs for Wingard House

The items needed for the Wingard House are: Clorox, hand dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, and trash bags.



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.

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).

Mary McKee
Nurture Committee, Chair

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, March 13, at 3 p.m. in the Seekers Class.

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

Evangelism & Missions Committee

The Evangelism & Missions Committee will meet on Thursday, February 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

2011 Budget

At the January 25th meeting of the Church Council, a new budget was approved for 2011.

While many things remain the same, the overall budget has been reduced by over \$20,000 from last year to this year. Here's the breakdown:

2010 – \$190,747
2011 – \$168,356
\$ 22,391 *difference*

Our hope is that this new budget will help us to be better stewards of our resources while still funding the ministry that is essential to Briarwood UMC.

Thank you as always for your continued support of Briarwood's ministry and mission.

Fidelity Circle

The Fidelity Circle of the UMW will begin a study of the 21 most encouraging promises of the Bible. This will be an interactive study.

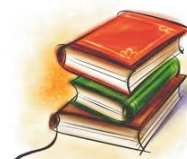
Come join us for our next meeting on Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. as we discuss the following promises:

- Escape from Temptation, 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Victory over Fear, Isaiah 43:1-2
- Divine Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6
- A Blessed Life, Psalm 1:1-3

Each of us can think of the different promises that God has made that encourage us and help us through difficult times. Come join us as we share about what all of these promises mean in each of our lives. Everyone is welcome.

Virginia McGrane

Library Notes



I decided that the last of March was too late to get out the Lenten and Easter books, so I have started putting them on the end of the library table for your convenience.

Also, all of the No. 5 books are on the Life and Teachings of Jesus. We have many of the real *classics* for this holy season. Go by and find the special books for you to enjoy.

Linda Anglin

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$13,277.00
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$17,836.00