



Briarwood United Methodist Church

May 2011 Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

Easter was awesome! Great music. Great singing. Great worship. You could sense the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. It was incredible.

And now, we turn our eyes toward Pentecost when the promised Holy Spirit will come and make real in us all that Jesus did *for* us on the Cross.

As we await that moment, we hear anew the words of the prophet Ezekiel:

For I will take you out of the nations ... I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (36:24-27)

God is speaking to the Israelites who are in exile, and He is promising to redeem them and bring them back to the land of Israel once more.

But, you can't help but hear in it also the promise of Jesus and all that He does for us at Easter. Note, at that time, He will cleanse us from all our sin. He will redeem us from all our transgressions.

Hear also the connection to baptism with water. *I will sprinkle clean water on you.* (See, there's a reason we Methodists don't immerse!)

Then, He will change our hearts. He will remove our heart hardened by years of sin and give us a new heart open and receptive to God's ways.

Finally, He will give us a new spirit. How? God says that He will put His own Spirit within us. And once we've been filled with the Holy Spirit, then we will be empowered and enabled to keep God's law, to be holy and loving and good as God has called us to be.

That sounds like Pentecost, doesn't it? The Holy Spirit makes real *in* us all that Jesus did *for* us on the Cross.

Forgiven sins. Changed hearts. New spirits. Faithful, obedient lives.

It's what Easter and Pentecost are all about. May we live into that reality through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

Mother's Day



Mother's Day is **Sunday, May 8**. Come join us for worship as we honor our mothers.

May Anniversaries

May 10	Pete & Virginia Spitzkeit
May 16	Jerry & Linda Letson

Shut-ins of Briarwood

Jim Alvis	Jim McElroy
Johnnie Beasley	Wayne Milsted
Jeep & Barbara Clark	Ruth & Anne Paine
Janet Coleman	Jones Robertson
Gloria Davis	Avanelle Stephens
Virginia Erwin	Dan Williams
Ella Dee Lamb	

May Honorees

May 1	Paul & Eiko Tashiro
May 8	Hazel Thornton
May 15	Nell Ward
May 22	Dan Williams
May 29	Martha Wilson

Family Night Supper



Family Night Supper is Wednesday, May 18, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Dennis Cranford will provide the program. Be sure to invite a friend to bring along with you.

UMW Meetings



General Meeting – Tuesday, May 10, at 10 am
Program by: Maura McIntosh Fields, who will give a Christian musical presentation.

Ethel Bailey Circle – Tuesday, May 24, at 10 am
Fidelity Circle – Saturday, May 28, at 10 am

Men's Club

Men's Club will meet Sunday, May 15, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m. in the Seekers Class.

The Finance Committee will meet at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference room.

Evangelism & Missions Committee

The Evangelism & Missions Committee will meet on Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

Mission Needs for Wingard House

The items needed for the Wingard House are: **Ramen noodles, mayonnaise, bleach, laundry detergent, 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.

Update on the Rezoning of 310/312 Briarwood Drive

As many of you may already have learned from the local newspapers, the request to rezone the property next door to the church was recently turned down by the Jackson City Council.

While the request was initially approved by the City Planning Board, upon further review by the City Council it was **unapproved**.

Mr. Sall, who owns the property, may yet appeal this decision, or he may at a later date reapply for a different type of rezoning. However, at this time the property is still zoned residential.

Hardy Nall's Summer Study

Beginning **Tuesday, June 7**, Hardy Nall will lead a summer-long study of Church History.

The hours for this study are **9:30 to 11:00 am** each Tuesday morning for 13 weeks, beginning June 7 and running through August 30.

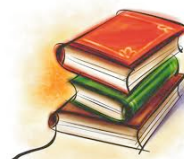
Hardy wrote the "Summary of Church History" and the Guide for this study during his time in Florida this past winter. He will be there each Tuesday morning to lead our study and discussion of the important people and significant events in the 2,000 year history of the Christian church.

Tommy Dyson will have copies of ***A Look at Christian Church History*** and the study outline copied on three-hole paper and ready for the study folder of each participant.

The cost is about **\$5 per copy**, and each participant is expected to keep current with the reading and to share in the discussion of each session.

Make your plans now to join this lively and enlightening study.

Library Notes



The Easter books are back on the shelves. Finish the ones you have checked out. There is no due date. So, take your time to enjoy.

Suggested reading for May and June: Disciples, Peter, Paul, & the Early Church.

Also, a **BIG** Thank You to whoever donated the wonderful set of DVDs on Bible Study.

Linda Anglin

Paul & Eiko Tashiro Scholarship

A scholarship fund in honor of Paul & Eiko Tashiro has been established at Wesley Biblical Seminary to assist students pursuing ministry.

If you would like to donate to this fund, please make your check payable to Briarwood UMC and mark it "*Tashiro Scholarship Fund*." Or, if you prefer, you may send your check directly to Wesley Biblical Seminary at P.O. Box 9938, Jackson, MS 39286.

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$43,760.04
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,237.60
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$54,839.20