



Briarwood
United Methodist Church

July 2011 Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

It's been a hard week for me to watch the news. I'm sure many of you have heard by now that the New York State Legislature has voted to legalize same-sex marriage. New York is the sixth state to do so. And when the law takes effect sometime this month, one in nine Americans will live in a state or district where same-sex marriage is legal.

Likewise, the Wisconsin Conference of the UMC just finished a church trial in which a pastor was accused of officiating at a same-sex wedding as well as openly professing to be a practicing lesbian. While she was convicted of the first charge, she was acquitted of the second. Worse, the jury handed down a mere 20-day suspension as her punishment. A mere slap on the wrist.

Both within and without, Christians are under fire these days. It's almost enough to make the best of us give in to despair. Why shouldn't we?

But then, I'm reminded of one of Dad's favorite Bible stories. It's in 2 Kings 6:8-17.

The prophet Elisha and his servant are at the city of Dothan. When the servant goes out one morning, he finds the city surrounded by a vast army from Aram.

The servant panics and goes running back inside to the prophet, crying out, "O my lord, what shall we do?"

Elisha isn't even phased. He just stands there calm and patient. The servant is confused. Then, Elisha says to his servant, "Don't be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." (2 Kings 6:16)

Then, Elisha prays for the Lord to open his servant's eyes. And the Lord does. Then, when the servant looks up, he sees the army of the Lord surrounding both the city and the Aramean army.

The Arameans are surrounded and outnumbered, and they don't even know it. Like Elisha said, ***Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.***

Some days we watch the news and we feel like Elisha's servant. We see the forces of this world surrounding us, and we feel small and outnumbered. We feel overwhelmed by the forces against us.

What we need, though, are the eyes of faith to see that those who are with us are more than those who are with them. The Lord is in control. Though evil prevails for a time, the Lord will overcome in the end. God always wins.

Do you believe that? Then why do we worry?

See you Sunday,
Lauren

Happy Fourth of July!



Independence Day is **Monday, July 4**. Hope you have a restful holiday as we celebrate the founding of our nation.

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

Shut-ins of Briarwood

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

July Honorees

July 3	George & Dylan Anglin
July 10	Joe & Linda Anglin
July 17	Johnnie Beasley
July 24	Kate Box
July 31	Tinye Bradshaw

Back to Church Weekend 2011



Back to Church Weekend will be **August 13-14**. Our speaker this year is Dr. Jim Porter.

Worship Services: Saturday at 7 p.m.
Sunday at 10:50 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Summer Picnic & Ice Cream Social



Wednesday, July 20, the Evangelism Committee is hosting a Summer Picnic & Ice Cream Social, along the lines of last year's event.

The hotdog supper will begin at **6:30 p.m.** Our entertainment for the evening will be the local singing group *By His Grace*.

Come join us, and bring a friend along. It should be lots of fun.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, July 24, at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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, July 21, 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.

Cookbook

Please share your favorite recipe for the upcoming cookbook sponsored by the Evangelism & Mission Committee. A box has been placed on top of the cabinet in the kitchen near the parlor into which you can place your recipes.

Thanks,
Virginia McGrane

Outreach: Dollar Car Wash



Saturday, July 30, the Evangelism Committee is hosting an outreach event called, **Dollar Car Wash**.

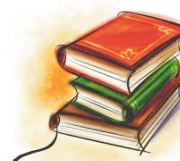
The goal is to show God's love in a practical way to the people of our community. How does washing a car do that? Come join us and find out.

Car wash is from **9 to 11 a.m.** Saturday, July 30.

Summer Study: Summary of Church History

Each Tuesday morning from **9:30 to 11:00 a.m.** throughout the summer, Hardy Nall is leading a study of Church History. Come join in the fun.

Library Notes



Church History: We have many books on the history of the church. The earliest books are in the No.5 category: Jesus and the Disciples. Category No.21, Church History, also has a number of very informative books, especially biographies.

Good News: Good News Magazine is sent to the library each time a new edition comes out. If you would like to have a copy, let Linda know, and she will reserve one for you until they run out (first come, first serve).

Linda Anglin

Pastor Reappointed

We are pleased to announce that Lauren has been reappointed to Briarwood as our pastor for another year.

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$93,172.94
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,237.60
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$83,975.80



NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

BY TOMMY DYSON, LAY DELEGATE

The 23rd and 2011 session of the Mississippi Annual Conference was held at the Jackson Convention Complex on Friday, June 10, through Sunday, June 12. This year's theme was **Arise! Shine! Go!** Approximately 2500 clergy, lay delegates and their guests joined in the celebration of this year's theme to **GO FORTH** as Christ commands. The music, the preaching, and the teaching all celebrated this consistent and urgent Biblical word, **GO**.

Because of the upcoming 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, most of Conference time was spent on electing delegates to those Conferences as well as considering some 33 resolutions to petition the General Conference on matters ranging from doctrine to affiliation and interaction with other institutions. **We voted and voted and then voted some more!! And the tellers counted and counted and counted some more!** As a result, there was simply not enough time to consider all items on the Conference agenda.

For more information on the **33 resolutions** as well as **lists and photos of pastoral appointments and elected delegates to the 2012 General and Jurisdictional Conferences**, a copy of the special Annual Conference edition of the Circuit Rider is in the library for your perusal.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- First of all, this year's music was more than noteworthy! It was lively, spiritual, inspirational and performed by **The All People's Band** from the United Methodist Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio. The band, made up of professional musicians and singers, led the worship services on Friday and Saturday. Their music definitely put the crowd in a "praise mode" with much clapping and lifting of hands.
- We always enjoy the spiritual atmosphere and the messages of worship services at Annual Conference. This year, **Bishop Ward** provided the sermon at **the opening worship on Friday morning**. Referring to the recent flooding along the Mississippi River, she compared the Mississippi to the River of Life in Revelation that is the Heart of God flowing to all people. She cautioned us not to build levees but to allow the river of God's love to flow freely to all people. We closed out that service with Holy Communion.
- On **Friday night**, the **Reverend Jorge Acevedo**, pastor of Grace Church, a multi campus church in Cape Coral, Florida brought the message. Using the parable of the Good Samaritan, Reverend Jorge said that Christians should be about the 3 A's—Aid, Advancement

and Advocating for the least, the last and the lost. These are definitely three **Go** words that we all should think about! After the service, the Order of Deacons did a hand-washing service and told us to "Go and do likewise." The 2011 Conference Mission Offering was taken at the conclusion of the worship service that night; and over \$67,000 was collected for missions.

- The Memorial Worship Service on Saturday afternoon was sacred, special, and led by Reverend Zachary Beasley. This year we memorialized 16 clergy, 18 spouses of clergy, one child of clergy and four laypersons who died this past conference year. Saturday night worship was led by Reverend John Edgar, the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church for All People in Columbus, Ohio, who just happened to bring **The All People's Band** along with him (his wife is the director). His message centered on *touching grace*, and he left this question for us: *What can we do to make sure that people who come to our church touch grace?*
- This year's Executive Laity Session was devoted solely to the introduction of the 31 lay candidates who were running for election to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Each candidate introduced themselves as well as their "platforms" or why he or she was the best candidate for the job. Balloting began on Friday and continued on through Sunday noon.
- Again this year, many organizations from within and outside the Church set up informational booths to spread awareness of their programs and ministries through brochures, slideshows and personnel to answer questions. This "Resource Fair" gave all those attending the Annual Conference many opportunities to learn about various ways that our people promote the gospel of Jesus. Also, the mission or benevolence reports that we heard show us how our apportionments are used in the mission ministries of the Conference that promote the commands of Christ. Dr. Dana Clark, author of *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, was one of the key speakers and in her address on Mission Practices in the 21st Century, she reminded us in very simple words that mission is the fundamental purpose of the church and that it begins and ends with God.
- A budget in the amount of \$15,500,000 was approved for 2012. This amount represents a small increase from the \$15,456,722 approved for 2011.
- The 2012 Annual Conference will be held at Jackson's Convention Complex on June 8-10.

And just in case you haven't heard **the good news**, Lauren was reappointed to Briarwood for another year; and Henderson Rasberry remains as our District Superintendent.

*Mississippi Annual Conference
Election Results*

Clergy Delegates for General Conference

1. Bill McAlilly
2. Mattie Gibson
3. Joe May
4. Connie Shelton
5. Lisa Garvin
6. Mike Childs
7. Ricky James

Clergy Delegates for Jurisdictional Conference

1. Andy Ray
2. Bob Rambo
3. Embra Jackson
4. Bill Beavers
5. Warren Black
6. Vicki White
7. Stephen Sparks

Alternates:

1. Ginger Holland
2. Allison Dickerson
3. Tommy Artmann

*Mississippi Annual Conference
Election Results*

Laity Delegates for General Conference

1. Turner Arant
2. Timothy Crisler
3. Martha Scarborough
4. David Beckley
5. David Stotts
6. Ann Harrington
7. Elizabeth Cumbest

Laity Delegates for Jurisdictional Conference

1. Bill Smallwood
2. Mary Ford
3. William D. Scott III
4. Connie Walters
5. Lydia Smith
6. Dora Washington
7. Jack Ramsey

Alternates:

1. Stephen McAlilly
2. Elmo Gabber
3. Patricia Battle

General Conference

**April 24-May 4, 2012
Tampa, Florida**

Jurisdictional Conference

**July 18-20, 2012
Lake Junaluska, NC**