



Briarwood United Methodist Church

August 2011 Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

The past few days I've been thinking a lot about Abraham. You'll recall, God came to Abraham and called him to leave his home in Ur and go to a land that He would show him later (Gen. 12:1).

So, Hebrews says, "Abraham ... obeyed and went, even though he didn't know where he was going" (Heb. 11:8).

In essence, God asked Abraham to take a *step of faith*. He asked Abraham to trust him and leave the place where he was most comfortable and to go to a place he didn't even know about yet.

Note that. God doesn't even tell him the final destination. He just tells him to go, and then He will tell him when he's finally there. It's a real step of faith Abraham is being asked to take.

I can sympathize with Abraham. Recently, as you may have heard, we've been asked as a church to take a similar step of faith.

We've been asked to consider entering into a partnership of shared ministry with the Conference Office. The full details of that offer are on page 3 in this newsletter. Please read them carefully, and prayerfully consider them.

As a church, I invite you into a time of discernment. For the next several weeks, we'll be talking about whether this possible partnership is really what God is leading us into at Briarwood.

To help us facilitate that discussion, I invite you to come to one of three possible *listening sessions*. These will be small gatherings of 10 to 15 people to hear the proposal and discuss its possibilities and its challenges in a more informal setting.

Everyone is welcome at these sessions. When you come, you will receive the same basic materials that the Church Council received this past Sunday.

The times and dates for these listening sessions are:

- 1) **Sunday, August 7, at 9 a.m.**
- 2) **Tuesday, August 9, at 11 a.m.**
- 3) **Wednesday, August 10, at 6:30 p.m.**

Each session will take place in the fellowship hall.

Again, please be in prayer about this proposal. It is a significant step of faith we are being asked to take. And yet, like Abraham, it could turn out to be an incredible blessing for us.

I look forward to speaking with each of you as we prayerfully discern God's will for Briarwood. May God give us wisdom and faith.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

Back to Church Weekend 2011



Dr. Jim Porter, Speaker

Saturday, August 13 – 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 14 – 10:50 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Come join us as we get the Fall started off on the right foot. Be sure to bring a friend along with you.

August Anniversaries

August 6	John & Bettye Nall
August 28	Wayne & Betty Snuggs
August 29	Jones & Shirley Robertson
August 30	Joe & Linda Anglin

Briarwood's Homebound Members

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	

August Honorees

August 7	Billy & Thelma Carpenter
August 14	Barbara Clark
August 21	Janet Coleman
August 28	P.W. & Martha Cowsert

Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of UMW



September 23-24, 2011

Hernando First United Methodist Church

Registration – Friday, 2:00 - 6:45 pm
Saturday, 7:45 – 8:30 am

Preregistration is strongly encouraged.

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.

Did Everyone Get a Hot Dog?



Thank you to all who helped out with the Summer Picnic. By all accounts it was a wonderful success. We are also so grateful to the music group *By His Grace*, who shared with us that evening.

Mark your calendars. The time for Operation Christmas Child and our shoebox ministry is just around the corner.

Keep an eye out. More information will be coming soon, including a poster with hints and ideas for putting together a shoebox gift.

If you'd like to join the Evangelism Committee, just let me know. Our goal is to share God's love in a practical way. We'd love to have you with us.

Thanks,
Virginia McGrane

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, September 25, 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, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Looking for a Cool Breeze?



As many of you may have noticed, for the last few months, the air conditioner in the nursery & kitchen area of the Education wing has not been working.

On faith, the Trustees and Finance Committee are moving to replace it at a cost of **\$6,975 (plus tax)**.

If you feel you can contribute some toward the cost, it would be appreciated. Be sure to indicate "for air conditioner" on your check.

Thanks,
Virginia Spitzkeit, Finance Chair

Please Be Extra Careful



Sadly, we had a car broken into in our church parking lot recently. No one was hurt, but some valuables were stolen.

Please take extra caution in the parking areas around the church. Also, if at all possible, please do not leave any valuables in your car.

It's like the old saying: "*An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*"

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.

Linda Anglin

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$103,416.00
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,237.60
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$96,926.00

Proposal for Joint Ministry with the Mississippi Conference Office

Proposal as it was presented to the Briarwood Church Council on July 24, 2011:

As you may have noted in Tommy's Annual Conference report, Galloway UMC has made an offer to buy the current Conference Office building located next to the Galloway facilities. At Annual Conference, the body of delegates voted to explore that option throughout this coming year and then vote on it at next year's conference.

Part of that year of exploration involves considering other possible suitable locations to house the Conference Offices. Recently, the chair of the Conference Trustees inquired about Briarwood's interest in such a partnership in ministry.

What would that look like? If we were to enter into such a partnership, it would mean inviting the Conference to use most of our buildings as the New Conference Office. In essence, they would use all of the Education wing, current Church Offices, and part of the West Wing (where the choir room and parlor are located) as office space for Conference staff (including the bishop). They would also use the Wilson Hut for Conference office space. (*see attached map*)

In return, the Conference would take up ***all expenses*** for our facilities. As I understand it at present, we would no longer have to pay any light bills, gas bills, or pay to repair or replace any heaters or air conditioners. All of this would now be the responsibility of the Conference Office.

Briarwood UMC would still retain use of the Sanctuary, the Asbury class, Wesley class, Friendship Class, and the Sunday School Office. What's more, the Conference would covenant to guarantee us use of this space for as long as Briarwood UMC exists as a congregation, whether that be 10 years or 100 years.

In essence, the arrangement would be this: ***We offer them use of most of our buildings. They take up all the financial expenses and guarantee to preserve a place for us to meet.***

Important to note: This is just something that we are invited to prayerfully consider. We are not obligated in any way to do this.

Personally, I think this is a wonderful opportunity that might alleviate some of our financial concerns for the future and guarantee a place of ministry for Briarwood for many years to come. What are your thoughts?

Lauren

You Are Invited To:

Listening Sessions

To Discuss This Proposal

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