



**Briarwood**  
United Methodist Church

January 2012 Newsletter

### *Pastor's Corner*

The other day I took down my calendar for 2011. It was full of little notes I had written myself throughout the year. Meetings I needed to go to. Church events I was scheduled to attend. Visits with friends and family I was looking forward to.

It's always fascinating to look back at a year's worth of notes on an old calendar. It's so telling, isn't it? The notes and appointments reveal something of who we are.

Some of it is banal. Dentist and doctor appointments. Necessary, but not exciting. But, some of it reveals a great deal about ourselves. Like the concert we attended or the vacation we scheduled.

In many ways those notes scratched on a calendar reveal our priorities. Those are the things we value as most important. Those are the activities we least wanted to miss.

So, they get written down. They are prominently displayed on our calendar so that we neither forget nor schedule anything else in competition with it. It's that important to us.

We all have our priorities in life, things that take precedent over everything else. What are your priorities? What are the things you mark down on your calendar so that you ensure you are there?

Of course, I've also learned through the years that some things don't get written down. They are just assumed. Nothing else gets scheduled at that time because that time is reserved for something else.

Church is like that for me. I'm guessing it's that way for you as well. On my calendars Sunday morning is always clear, because I know where I'll be already. It doesn't need written down. It's *that* high of a priority.

Sometimes, what we assume is as important as what we write down. It all says something about what we value most, something about where our priorities lie.

What are the things you are blocking out on your calendar right now? What are the spaces you are reserving by what you write down or perhaps by what you won't write down?

The New Year is an exciting time because we get to start out with all the fresh possibilities of a new calendar. All of our calendars are fresh and clean right now. They are full of potential.

As we begin this new year, may we think a bit about our priorities. Consider how your calendar reflects what you value most. If someone were to look at your calendar, would they see just how important Jesus is in your life?

See you Sunday,  
Lauren



### January Anniversaries

January 18                      Ross & Dana Campbell

### Briarwood's Homebound Members

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

### January Honorees

January 1	Virginia McGrane
January 8	Mary McKee
January 15	Wayne & Joyce Milsted
January 22	Dewey & Nita Myers
January 29	Jim & Jennifer Myers

### UMW Meetings



**General Meeting** – Tuesday, January 10, at 10 am  
**Ethel Bailey Circle** – Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10 am  
**Fidelity Circle** – Saturday, Jan. 28, at 10 am

### Family Night Supper



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

### Men's Club Lunch

Men's Club will meet Wednesday, January 25, at 11:30 a.m. at Piccadilly's for lunch.



Come join us. If you can't make it right at 11:30, don't let that stop you. We will continue to gather through noon.

So, come on out. The meal is pay for your own. And Joe Anglin is our leader for this gathering. So, if you have any questions, call Joe.

### Bible Study

Bible Study will begin meeting again Wednesday, January 11, at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Come join us for a great time of conversation and fellowship as we delve into God's Word.

### Church Council

The Church Council will meet Sunday, January 22 at 3 p.m. in the Seeker's Class.

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

### 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.

### January Sermon Series: *Through the Wormhole*

Through the what? *Through the wormhole.* A wormhole is a warp in time and space through which one might theoretically travel. But, mostly it's a really deep scientific theory.

Theology and the Bible get deep and mind-bending at times as well. So, in January we are going to focus on a few of those really deep, often difficult to understand theological topics. Such as:

**January 8** – *Transcendence and Immanence*

**January 15** – *Sovereignty and Free Will*

**January 22** – *The Trinity: Father, Son, & Spirit*

Come join us as we delve into the deep end of who God is and how that touches our lives.

### Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory Prayer meets every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Every week we pray for the members of our church by name and especially lift up any specific concerns or needs of our congregation.

Come join us as we pray for one another and intercede on behalf of the church. It's a great way to grow in your prayer life and deepen your faith.

### Library Notes



The Christmas media are back on the shelves. For the next four months we will emphasize the life and teachings of Jesus, Holy Week, and the Ascension. All of these books are on the library table and no. 5 shelves.

Linda Anglin

### Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$158,747.92
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,237.60
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$168,350.00