



**Briarwood**  
United Methodist Church

February 2012 Newsletter

### *Pastor's Corner*

Valentine's Day is such a wonderful holiday. Who doesn't enjoy getting a card that says 'I love you' or 'Won't you be my Valentine?'

In fact, with love so much at the center of it, it almost feels like a Christian holiday. After all, the two great commandments both revolve around love: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.* Love is at the heart of what the Bible teaches.

And that's certainly understandable given what John asserts in his first epistle. He takes it one step further and simply states: *God is love.* (1 Jn 4:8)

Love really is at the heart of it all. But, it's not just any kind of love. Paul starts to define that love in 1 Corinthians, and you hear how he phrases it: *Love is patient, love is kind. Love doesn't envy, it doesn't boast. Love isn't proud. It isn't rude or self-seeking. Love doesn't get angry. Love keeps no record of wrongs.* (1 Cor. 13:4-5)

In essence, if you listen to Paul closely, you note something. Christian love isn't sentimental or emotional or even particularly romantic. Love in the Bible has more to do with our character.

In fact, one might even say that biblical love is the same as holiness. To love like Paul's talking about is to be holy, and to be holy as Jesus teaches is to be loving.

And, really, that's about the truth of it. Love in the Bible is always a **holy love**.

And that makes sense if you think about it because in the Bible God is really defined in two ways: *God is love, and God is holy.* Those are the two key descriptions of God throughout all Scripture.

And, if that's how God is and we're supposed to be like Him, then that's how we should be as well: holy and loving. In essence, holy love.

***In the Christian life, there is no love but a holy love, and there is no holiness but a loving holiness.***

These are the two things that are supposed to define our lives because they define God. We are to be holy, and we are to be love. And, really, they are just two sides of the same coin: Holy Love.

So, as we get ready to celebrate Valentine's day, let me ask you. How holy is your love? And how loving is your holiness? May God's holy love define us in all that we do.

See you Sunday,  
Lauren.



### February Anniversaries

February 15 Dewey & Nita Meyers

### 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

February 5	Hardy Nall
February 12	John & Bettye Nall
February 19	Camelia Noblin
February 26	Ruth Paine

### UMW Meetings



**Fidelity Circle** – Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10 am  
**Ethel Bailey Circle** – Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 10 am  
**General Meeting** – Tuesday, March 13, at 10 am

### Family Night Supper



Family Night Supper is Wednesday, February 15, at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Skipper Maxwell will provide the program as he shares in song. Come join us. Bring along a friend.

### Intercessory Prayer

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

Come join us as we lift up one another in prayer and intercede on behalf of the church.

### Men's Club Lunch

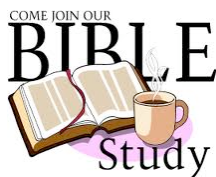
Men's Club will meet Wednesday, February 22, at 11:30 a.m. at Piccadilly's for lunch.



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. For more info, call Joe Anglin.

### Bible Study: Philippians

Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.



Currently, we are studying Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. Come join us.

### Church Council

The Church Council will meet Sunday, March 18 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: *Coffee, dry creamer, cereal, cleaning supplies, and liquid dishwashing detergent.*



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.

### Ash Wednesday: The Beginning of Lent



Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 22, with Ash Wednesday. The first Sunday in Lent is Sunday, February 26.

There are 6 Sundays in Lent, building up to Palm Sunday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 6) as a part of Holy Week.

Easter this year is on Sunday, April 8.

### Conference Proposal Update

Talks with the Conference are ongoing. We are slowly working out the details of the proposal. As those details get resolved, we will eventually have a Church Conference.

A Church Conference is a called meeting of the church members by the DS. At such a conference, each full member has a vote. As a result, you as a congregation have final say over any arrangement into which we might enter.

As we get closer to such a meeting, more information will be forthcoming.

### Library Notes



As we prepare for the seasons of Lent and Easter, 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. Come by and check them out.

Linda Anglin

### Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$11,122.94
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,061.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$159,170.00