

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

April, 2010

Pastor's Corner

As we draw nearer to Easter, I am always reminded of these words from the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians:

“For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile; you are still in your sins... For if only in this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” (1 Corinthians 15:16-17,19)

For Paul, the Resurrection is not optional. It is not a nice luxury: Good if we have it, but something we could easily live without. The Resurrection is an absolute essential of the faith.

If Jesus was not raised from the dead, we are still lost in sin. We are not saved. There is no hope. We might as well live as the pagans do.

Why? Because when Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered Death and the Grave and provided for us Life Eternal. And, because He rose from the dead, we too have the assurance that one day we also will rise from the dead. This is our hope. This is why we celebrate so much at Easter.

So, if Jesus didn't do this, there is no Life. Death has won. The Grave is the end. This life is all there is.

But, Jesus did rise. And not just spiritually, as some will at times suggest. Paul is very insistent on this, as is all the rest of the New Testament. Jesus rose not just spiritually or metaphorically. He rose physically, bodily – with a body like ours, but transformed and glorified. A heavenly body.

If we say Jesus rose, but think there's still some grave with His bones in it, then He really didn't rise. A physical, bodily resurrection is absolutely necessary. No bodily resurrection for Jesus, no hope of resurrection for you and me.

But, as all Scripture proclaims, He did rise. He is risen – physically, bodily, not just metaphorically or spiritually. And because He is risen, we have the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life. Because He is risen, we have the hope of bodily resurrection from the grave ourselves.

This is why we celebrate at Easter. This is why it is the most high, holy time in our entire church year. It is the very center of our faith. As the old hymn proclaims, *“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, ... and life is worth the living just because He lives.”*

Come join us at Easter as we celebrate our Risen Lord and Savior. See you Sunday,

Lauren

April Anniversaries

Paul & Eiko Tashiro	April 7
Pete & Martha Cowser	April 8
Dale & Barbara Hart	April 9
Fred & Martha Jean Ray	April 17
Dot & Jim Alvis	April 22

Shut-ins of Briarwood

At home:	Dan Williams Gloria Davis Jones & Shirley Robertson Barbara Clark Wayne Milsted Ruth & Anne Paine Jim Alvis
Manhattan Nursing	Julia (Bill) Heflin (Martha Cowser's sister)
Ridgeland Point	Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)
Wisteria Gardens	Jeep Clark

April Honorees

April 4	Ollie Bullock
April 11	Ross & Dana Campbell
April 18	Billy & Thelma Carpenter
April 25	Jeep & Barbara Clark

Family Night Supper

The Family Night Supper will be Wed., April 21, at 6:30 pm. John Day and the New Bourbon Street Jazz group will be the entertainment.

UMW News

The Fidelity Circle will meet in the church parlor on April 24. Virginia McGrane is hostess.

The Ethel Bailey Circle meets on April 27. LaVerne Elsesser and Virginia Spitzkeit are hostesses.

Note to Circles: Please remember to bring your donations to the Wingard House to your circle meetings.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on Sunday, April 18, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Tommy and Pete will cook breakfast. Dr. Sherwood, a friend of Joe Anglin, will give the program.

DMA Trip

A trip to the Old Capitol, King Edward Hotel and lunch is in the planning stages for the month of April. Details will follow.

Library Notes

Don't forget the many beautiful Easter books that are now displayed on the library table.

OOPS!!!

Linda meant to put the book on Oral Roberts life in the biography section of the library, but somehow she put it on the "Give Away" table. When you are through reading it, please return it and we will put it in the library.

Free Books: Come & Get 'Em

In the Sunday School classroom across from the Choir Room, there is a table with books on it that will **not** be put in the library. We are making these books available to our members. Go by, browse, and take any books you would like to read. No sign-up. They are yours to keep or give someone. Later, we will donate leftovers to certain organizations that sell books for charitable funds.

The "New Quilt"

Recently the Prayer/Quilters finished a quilt for the wall of the Wilson Hut. It is beautiful, if we do say so ourselves. You, the congregation, helped make it. You, with your generous donations of fabric, basting, thread, etc. supplied the "ingredients" that we needed.

"Mr. Fix It" (Tommy Dyson) and his personal decorator, Yvonne Dyson, hung the quilt last week. It is in a good spot on the wall of the Hut.

More new quilts are coming. The Prayer/Quilters are on a roll now! Three (3) more new quilts will be appearing in various places in the church. Watch for them. A contest will be announced in connection with quilts. (No, the quilts won't be raffled off, John.)

Till next month, we will be threading and sewing. Stop by on Friday mornings for a visit. As the "Old folks" say, a "set to". You are always welcome.

Virginia McGrane

Need Your Help:

Worship Service – at 10:30 or 10:50 am?

At the recent Church Council meeting on March 21, we discussed a possible time change in the hour of the worship service.

10:55 a.m. has always seemed like an odd time. That 5-minute increment tends to throw people off, including some of us. So, the question was: What if we changed it?

Two different times came up in the discussion, and we thought we'd put it to you (since you are the ones it will affect the most, and we still want you to come).

Which would you prefer: 10:30 am or 10:50 am?

Take a moment, think about it, and then reply with your preference, perhaps even an option we've not listed. Your input will help us as we make these decisions for the life of our church. So, please let us know.

Thanks for your help.
Lauren

Earl Wilson Dollar

The Evangelism & Mission Committee (formerly Outreach & Witness) is sponsoring the "Earl Wilson Dollar" program. The monies designated (in special envelopes in back of the pews) will be used to help minister to those coming to our church asking for help with various needs.

Why the "Earl Wilson Dollar"? It's a story Martha Wilson has told many times. Each Sunday, Martha and her three little girls would sit in their favorite pew, and Earl Wilson would come by and give each of the girls a dollar for the collection plate. After a while, (as a joke) others would stretch out their hand when Earl came by to give "his girls" their dollar for the collection plate.

The Evangelism and Mission Committee with permission of Martha and family, invites you to join in the "Earl Wilson Dollar" offering. Monies contributed will be directed to the emergency fund in the church office.

Jen Macy, Virginia McGrane, Co-chairpersons of the Evangelism and Mission Committee.

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$38,851.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$44,576.00