

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

February, 2010

Pastor's Corner

"So what brought you to this church?" the pastor asked his newest member. "Was it the worship service? the music? the children's ministry? What was it that brought you here?"

The new member thought about it for a moment, then looked the pastor in the eye, and said, "Well, to be honest, Pastor, it wasn't any of those things. Don't get me wrong. I like the worship service. Your sermons are good, and the music is fine. But, really, as I think about it, I came here because of my friend Bob. Bob asked me if I'd go to church with him one Sunday. So I did, and that was it."

That's a common conversation these days among pastors and new church members, from what I hear. According to statistics on first-time visitors, the number one reason why people visit a particular church for worship on Sunday morning is this: *the invitation of a friend.*

Contrary to what one might think, it's not the worship service or the sermon or any program of ministry. It's not even the influence of the pastor or an ad they saw in the local paper. No, it's the personal invitation of a friend or relative that brings most visitors through the door.

In fact, the numbers on this aren't even close. Based on surveys with those who eventually joined a church, only 2% visited because of any form of advertisement (newspaper, direct mail, internet, etc). Six percent (6%) visited because of some organized evangelism campaign.

Another whopping 6% visited initially because they were personally invited by the pastor. But, **86%** visited a church because they were invited by a friend or family member. Eighty-six percent!

That's astounding, if you ask me! That's almost 90% of the time! Nine times out of ten what made a person walk through the doors of a church was a friend's invitation.

But then, when you stop and think about it, I guess it makes sense. What people are basically saying is that they go to church based on the advice of people they love and trust.

In essence, it's all about a *relationship*. If I know you and trust you, I'm more likely to accept your invitation to go to church with you. It's that simple. Truth is, it's how most of us first came here to Briarwood: at the invitation of a friend.

Who invited you? How did you first come to Briarwood?

In light of that, who will you invite to come with you this Sunday? It may make all the difference.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

Guest Preachers for February

February 7 – *Dr. Paul Tashiro*

February 14 – *Dr. Jim Porter*

February Anniversaries

February 15 Nita & Dewey Myers

Shut-ins of Briarwood

At home: Dan Williams
 Gloria Davis
 Jones & Shirley Robertson
 Barbara & Jeep Clark
 Wayne Milsted
 Ruth Paine

Manhattan Nursing

Julia (Bill) Heflin
(Martha Cowser's sister)

St. Catherine's

Bob Gibson
S 126, Sienna Hall

Ridgeland Point

Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

February Honorees

February 7 Wayne Ammons
February 14 Wilma Ammons
February 21 George & Dylan Anglin
February 28 Joe & Linda Anglin

Address correction

Don Hickman has moved to Gretna, La.
The address is: 1003 Isbell St.
Gretna, La, 70053

UMW News

The Ethel Bailey Circle will meet on February 23 in the church parlor. Hazel Thornton and Martha Wilson are hostesses.

The Fidelity Circle will meet on February 27 in the church parlor. Mignonne Maxwell & Jen Macy will be hostesses.

Family Night Supper

Wednesday, February 17, we will have supper at 6:30 p.m. Program will start at 7 p.m.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will have it's **Pancake Breakfast** on February 21st. Everyone is invited to come. Tommy & Pete will be cooking. Joe Anglin will present the program.

Can You Hear Me Now?

That's a common question we've been asking lately. As many of you have noticed, we've made a few additions to our sound system here at the church. Within the last month, we've added two new over-the-ear wireless mics that allow both the preacher and the music director to be miked at the same time during the worship service. Hopefully, this past month you've been able to hear us a bit better from up front.

We've also added a new 16-channel sound board that can handle several more inputs/outputs than the previous 6-channel board. In the future this will allow us to add extra microphones up front for our choir as well as monitors that will allow Dennis and our other musicians to hear what they sound like to the rest of the congregation.

Right now, without the monitors our musicians can't really hear what the rest of us hear in the sanctuary. If you can imagine, it would be something like trying to drive blindfolded. Once we eventually get the new monitors, it will be much easier for Dennis and the others to lead us in worship. So, understandably, we're very excited.

Library Notes

Special Reading suggestions

November and December

Christmas

January, February, March, April

Jesus, Lent, Easter

May, June

Disciples, Peter, Paul, Early church

July

Patriotic, Historical Readings

Year Round Reading

Bible Study, Prayer, Church History, Methodism, Biographies, Etc.

Look on Classification List for numbers.

Repeat Request-----2010 Directory

Work has begun for the new Briarwood UMC Directory. As usual, we are asking for correct information from you. Please check your old Directory and let us know if there are changes to be made.

It has been suggested that we include not only E-Mail addresses, but add your Cell Phone numbers if you have one and would like to have it included. This information is needed as soon as possible. Thanks, Kate

Sympathy

Briarwood extends sympathy to the family of Van Richardson. Van and Vera have been members of Briarwood for several years and he will be greatly missed.

Report of Givings for January

Budget Received in January	\$11,479.00
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,808.00
Total Budget Received	\$11,479.00

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

"Souper Bowl Sunday" will be observed on Feb 7, 2010. At the end of the worship service, the youth will be accepting donations for a selected charity. Please be prepared to give generously.

Briarwood Ad

Just in case you have not seen it, our church has a beautiful new ad in the Northside Sun and for those who do not take that paper, we are including a copy in the Newsletter for you all to see.

Briarwood United Methodist Church

A Loving, Welcoming Christian Community

Come Join Us For Worship this Sunday!

Worship – 10:55 a.m.

320 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39206

Rev. Lauren Porter, Pastor Dennis Cranford, Music Director