

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

March, 2010

Pastor's Corner

“God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Paul wrote these words about Jesus in his second letter to the Corinthians. And in them is the heart of the Lenten season.

As most of us are well aware, we have all sinned, and sin always separates us from God. So, once we've sinned, what do we do? Once we've broken our relationship with God, how do we make it right? How do we fix what's broken?

For us, it's impossible. There is nothing you or I could ever do to make up for our sin, nothing we could do to put it right. At least, that's what the Bible teaches. Only in Jesus could it be made right, only He could reconcile us once more with the Father.

So, God does something incredible. On the Cross, God the Father places all the sins of the world – your sin and mine – on Jesus and makes Him who never sinned to be all our sins. And then, by His death God not only forgives us our sin, but also takes Jesus' righteousness and applies it to us.

And, according to the Bible, it's not just that God looks at us and sees Jesus' righteousness and goodness in our place, though we're still dirty and sinful. Rather, somehow God truly changes and transforms us so that we become what we were not before: holy and pure.

Somehow, by Jesus' death on the Cross, we are not only forgiven, but we are also washed clean of our sin and made holy. Mind you, for most of us that's a lifelong process: to become holy. Still, it begins in a moment.

The moment we trust in Jesus and His sacrifice on the Cross God begins that work of healing and transforming grace in our lives. That's the wonder of the Cross. The wonder of what God has done at Easter.

And that's the good news we have to share with our friends and family in this season of Lent. Easter is a wonderful opportunity to share that good news. And there are so many who need to hear what God has done for them.

With whom might you share the gospel in this season leading up to Easter? To whom might you tell the wonderful news of God's forgiveness and love?

Think about it. Pray about it. Ask God for guidance. What you share may make all the difference.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

March Anniversaries

John & Ann Day	March 9
Jay & Shannon Santucci	March 19
Skipper & Terri Maxwell	March 23

Shut-ins of Briarwood

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

Manhattan Nursing

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

Ridgeland Point

Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

Wisteria Gardens

Jeep Clark

March Honorees

Johnnie Beasley	March 7
Kate Box	March 14
Tinye Bradshaw	March 21
Elizabeth Brunson	March 28

UMW News

The United Methodist Women will observe the annual “Week of Prayer and Self-Denial” at their general meeting, March 9. This is a special Lenten program emphasizing women's role in prayer and world-wide missions.

The special offering to be taken will go to support Methodist work in the United States and abroad. The emphasis is on restoration and upkeep of existing church buildings, hospitals, and schools that are in need of major repairs.

Please be prepared to make your special contribution to this mission effort.

The Ethel Bailey Circle will meet on March 23 at the home of Martha Jean Ray. Nancy MacGregor and Martha Cowsert will also serve as hostesses.

The Fidelity Circle will meet in the church parlor on March 27. Kate Box and Jo Finch are hostesses.

Family Night Supper

Wednesday, March 17, we will have supper at 6:30 p.m. Program will start at 7 p.m. Rev. Lauren Porter will share about his recent trip to Israel.

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on Sunday, March 21st, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Joe Anglin has the program.

Library Notes

Special Reading suggestions

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.

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

Thank You Notes

To Members of Briarwood Methodist,

I want to thank each of you for the loving care that you gave to me and my family at a sad time in our lives.

Van and I both felt blessed that the Lord led us there to become a part of this church.

Please know how grateful I am for your Christian love.

With my love, Vera Richardson

My daughter, Malinda, and I are blessed to have such wonderful friends at Briarwood and we would like to thank each of you for your prayers, calls, and food gifts following her surgery. It was greatly appreciated, as always. Love, Kate

From Dana Campbell

Dear Ladies,

I am writing on behalf of Mississippi School for the Deaf to thank BUMC Women's Group for helping supply delicious cookies to the Hospitality Room for our 2010 58th Annual Boy's Mason-Dixon Basketball Tournament and Cheerleading Competition. This basketball tournament was a huge success and without your support it would not have been. All the coaches commented on how tasty all the food was.

Thank you again for your continued support of Mississippi School for the Deaf and its students.

Sincerely,

Dana Dyson Campbell

Director of Technology and Public Relations

Mississippi School for the Deaf

Sympathy

Briarwood is saddened by the death of long-time member, Jeff Conly. Jeff died on Feb.9, 2010.

Repeat Request-----2010 Directory

Folks, we have had little response to our request for new information to be used in the 2010 Church Directory. Please help us with this.

You may call the church office or write us. The phone no. is 601-956-4035. Thanks, Kate

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.

Library Articles Available

Gary McDonald still sends us his articles from the Madison County Journal each month. They are placed in the binder on the counter in the library as usual.

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$21,702.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$29,904.00

Prayer Chain – March 2010

Group 1

Ann Holland	992-1664
Doug & Jeanette Godfrey	856-9892
Vera Richardson	956-1526
Leona Love	853-2503
Janet Coleman	664-1498

Group 2

Hazel Thornton	853-5072
Barbara Renton	362-2551
Ann Day	978-3275
Linda Anglin	362-5343
Tommy & Yvonne Dyson	956-1775
Mike & Pam Knight	957-8303
Paul & Eiko Tashiro	956-4453

Group 3

Elizabeth Riles, Leader	214-5675
Kate Box	853-0816
Pete & Martha Cowsert	856-5535
Virginia Spitzkeit	957-9867
Avanelle Stephens	899-5724
Nell Ward	981-7328
Virginia Erwin	981-9372

Group 4

Martha Jean & Fred Ray	956-5060
	(W) 977-9675
Joyce Milsted	856-3709
Diane Dickens	956-9900
Betty Snuggs	853-9901
Virginia McGrane	829-2919
Martha Wilson	856-0166

Group 5

Sonny & Sylvia Steel	(H) 957-5526
	(W) 982-2828
Nancy Macgregor	957-8993
LaVerne Elsesser	956-1156
Gayle Reeves	366-0122

Group 6

Camelia Noblin	898-9419
Jo Finch	853-6196
Thelma Carpenter	856-3300
Dot & Jim McElroy	957-1772
	(W) 948-3071
Miriam Igboavodha	981-0148

Prayer Chain Procedure:

- To make a prayer request, call the church office to contact Kate.
- Kate will then contact as many Group Leaders as possible.
- Each Group Leader should then call the next person in their group to start the prayer chain.
- If the person you call on the list doesn't answer, leave a message. But then, be sure to call the next person on the list after them to be sure that the message gets passed on along the prayer chain.
- If you are the last person in a group, unless you are specifically asked to do so, you are not responsible to call anyone.
- When you are called, please have a pen and paper handy so that you can jot down pertinent facts.
- In most instances, any request for the prayer chain will also be sent out by email to everyone on the church email list.