

Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

May, 2010

Pastor's Corner

I'm really enjoying our current sermon series in Galatians. I hope you are as well. Paul really challenges us with the essence of the gospel, those foundational truths of our faith. Like this one:

"So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ." (Gal. 2:16)

According to Paul, we are saved by faith in Jesus. Faith is the key ingredient. It is the one act required on our part in response to God's incredible grace in Jesus.

And yet, what exactly is 'faith'? Faith is one of those words we use in church all the time. And we sort of know what it means, but there's still a haziness to it. What exactly is 'faith'? How do we put our 'faith' in Jesus?

Certainly, we mean more by faith than just a wishy-washy 'Gee, I hope so.' Faith is more than wishing something were the case. It's more than a fantasy or dream without any foundation in reality.

After all, I may have faith that God wants me to be rich and successful. But, if God never promised me such, my faith in it is unfounded. I can keep believing it, but I'll ultimately be disappointed.

Faith is also not just believing that there is a God and that God loves everybody. All of that may be true, but just believing and accepting those facts is not really faith as the Bible talks about it.

Faith, as the Bible describes it, is an act of trust in which we take God at His word and live as if what He has said is ultimately true, even though we have no real proof other than that God said so.

And that's the key. God has said so. God has promised that what Jesus did on the Cross is sufficient for our salvation, that somehow by His death on the Cross we can be forgiven of our sin.

I may not fully understand how. I may not be able to prove it. But, if God has said it, then I trust Him for it. As a result, I live my life banking on the fact that God will do what God has said.

That's how we put our faith in Jesus. And every day we live that faith as we live the way Jesus calls us to live. We take Him at His word and love our enemies and turn the other cheek. And as we do, He fills us with His Holy Spirit and changes us more and more into His likeness.

And it all begins with a simple step of faith, an implicit trust that God will keep His promises. May God give us grace to trust Him more.

See you Sunday,
Lauren

May Anniversaries

May 9	Pip & Dean Bryant
May 10	Pete & Virginia Spitzkeit
May 16	Jerry & Linda Letson

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

May Honorees

May 2	Janet Coleman
May 9	Martha & Pete Cowser
May 16	Dennis & Julia Cranford
May 23	Gloria Davis
May 30	John & Ann Day

Family Night Supper

The Family Night Supper will be Wed., May 19.
Dennis Cranford will present the program.

Summer Bible Study

Beginning Tuesday, June 1, Hardy Nall will lead a 12 week Bible study on the Old Testament. Study sessions are scheduled from 9:30-11:30 AM.

Study booklets, at a nominal fee, will be available for participants.

Sign up now!

A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Kate's office.

UMW News

The UMW General Meeting will be in the church parlor on May 11. There will be a Mission Guest speaker.

The Fidelity Circle will meet in the church parlor on May 22. Kate Box & Jo Finch will host the meeting.

The Ethel Bailey Circle meets on May 25. Ann Holland and Yvonne Dyson are hostesses.

There will be no further meetings of the circles or General Meetings until September.

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

Wingard House: Assistance Needed

The Wingard House, which is a shelter in Jackson for over 50 men, women and children, needs our help.

Special items needed for the coming month are: Toilet paper, Clorox, laundry detergent, mustard, and oleo.

These items may be left in the Fellowship Hall kitchen in the box under the table.

Wesley Sunday School Class News

The Wesley Sunday School Class is renewing its project to receive clothing, shoes, or miscellaneous items for the Salvation Army. If you have anything to donate, you may leave it in the Wesley Sunday School classroom, and we will deliver it to the Salvation Army each Monday morning after the Intercessory Prayer group meets.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will meet Sunday, May 23, at 3 p.m. in the Seekers classroom.

Library Notes

A new addition to the church library is *Forecasts and Faith* by Barbie Bassett, a local television personality.

Barbie lists five keys to weathering the storms of life based on her own crises and experiences. She recounts how Scripture and her Christian faith have sustained her and uplifted her in both her private and professional life.

Through this book Barbie seeks to inspire the readers to trust God completely and praise Him in everything.
by Mary McKee

Men's Club

The Men's Club will meet on Sunday, May 16, at 8 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Dr. Doug Godfrey will share about the new health care program.

Thanks

Mignonne Maxwell and her daughter Jen Macy would like to thank Briarwood United Methodist Church for all the food, cards and especially the prayers during our time in and out of the hospital. We felt all the love and concerns our Briarwood family gave us and feel so lucky to be apart of it.

Thank you again.

Jen Macy and Mignonne Maxwell

Tornado Recovery - UMCOR

In the aftermath of last weekend's tornadoes Conference & UMCOR recovery teams are organizing to help. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office. If you'd like to donate, please mark your donations for "2010 Tornado Recovery."

Up for a Game of Bridge?

We are thinking about starting a bridge club here at the church. If you are interested, let us know here at the office. More information soon to come.

Changes of Address

Nita & Dewey Myers have a new address. It is 600 Pear Orchard Rd.
The Orchard, Apt. # 331
Ridgeland, MS, 39157

Virginia McGrane has new phone numbers.
Home: 601-829-0020
Cell: 601-506-1336

Missing!

The metal display rack that held the big Bible story books in the kindergarten-early elementary classroom is missing.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of this item, please notify Kate in the office (601-956-4035).

Record of our Faithfulness

Budget Received to Date	\$51,728.91
Budget Needed Weekly	\$3,668.00
Total Budget Needed to Date	\$59,248.00