

# Briarwood United Methodist Church Newsletter

## November, 2009

### Pastor's Corner

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. This is the time of year when we're supposed to count our blessings and give thanks for all the good things God has given us. Of course, in a year like this, that may feel harder to do than at other times.

After all, for many this has been a pretty tough year. The economy has hit a record low, many people are being laid off from their jobs, and all of us are tightening our belts just a little bit more. It's definitely one of those "lean years" the Bible speaks of in Genesis.

And yet, all the same, we can give thanks. Perhaps it hasn't been the most abundant year, but as we always say at the beginning of worship, God *is* good. And He has blessed us in so many ways. And, while there are some things we've had to do without this year, still there are other things we have in abundance, perhaps the most important things. Like family. And friends. And a good church community that's loving and supportive. And, the most important thing of all, God in our hearts and lives.

Truth is, we *are* blessed, aren't we? God *has* been good to us, hasn't He? Just look around the table at this year's Thanksgiving Dinner, or look around the room this Sunday at church. We are blessed, indeed. How can we not give thanks?

So, count your blessings, as the song says. Count them one by one, and see what God has done. What are you thankful for this year? For what will you give thanks?

One thing I know, the more I count my blessings, the more thankful I become. May it be that way for you as well this Thanksgiving. As we all count our blessings, may our hearts overflow in gratitude for all God has done.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Lauren

### Sermons in November

November 1 – *Can I Get a Witness?* (part 3)  
*The Saints Before Us*

Nov. 8 – *For the One Who Has Everything* (1)  
*Our Time & Talents*

Nov. 15 – *For the One Who Has Everything* (2)  
*Our Tithes & Offerings*

Nov. 22 – *For the One Who Has Everything* (3)  
*Our Thanks & Praise*

Nov. 29 – First Sunday of Advent

### November Anniversaries

November 21 Tommy & Yvonne Dyson  
November 21 Van & Vera Richardson

### Shut-ins of Briarwood

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

### Manhattan Nursing

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

### St. Catherine's

Bob Gibson  
S 126, Sienna Hall

### Wisteria Gardens

Louise Luper (Jo Finch's friend)

### November Honorees

**Nov. 1** Wayne & Betty Snuggs  
**Nov. 8** Pete & Virginia Spitzkeit  
**Nov. 15** Sonny & Sylvia Steel  
**Nov. 22** Avanelle Stephens  
**Nov. 29** Paul & Eiko Tashiro

### Family Night at Briarwood

The Sunday School Classes will be responsible for certain tasks **before the meal is served:** **1.** Providing **two gallons of sweetened tea and one gallon of unsweetened tea.** **2.** Providing rolls or bread for 50-60 people, and **3.** Filling tea glasses with ice and placing these on counter at service window. **The classes will also be responsible for cleaning up after the meal,** including washing the flatware and any serving dishes that were used. The following schedule is revised so check again with your class.

Oct. 21	Asbury
Nov. 18	Friendship
Jan. 20	Seekers
Feb. 17	Wesley
Mar. 17	Asbury
Apr. 21	Friendship
May 19	Seekers

### Record of our Givings

Needed weekly	\$3,808.00
Received to date	\$114,825.47
Received in Oct.	\$12,041.00

## Promotion Campaign

An ad appeared in the September 17 issue of the Northside Sun inviting people to worship with us. We will continue to put notices in the paper and take other steps of invitation in the future. If you would like to contribute to this project, make your check out to the church and indicate Promotion Campaign.

## November Family Night Supper

“Thanksgiving is our time to give thanks for all the good folks at Briarwood who labor behind the scenes (and otherwise). It’s time to get your nominations for Awards night. The most important “thank you” is the P.W. Cowser Award, which goes to someone who exemplifies “God’s Servant” in our church. When someone goes “above and beyond”, we need to recognize that person, so other awards will be presented for all kinds of good deeds Put your thinking caps on and please turn nomination in to the church office by end of October.”

*Dot McElroy*

## Poinsettias

It’s time for placing orders for poinsettias in the sanctuary for Christmas. The choir Christmas program will be early this year. It will be the first Sunday in December so we will need to get the orders in before that time. They will still be \$8.00 and the deadline for ordering will be Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009. Forms will soon be available in the church office.

## Administrative Council

The next meeting will be November 15 at 3:00 PM. in the Seekers Sunday School Class.

## Lay Leadership Meeting

The Lay Leadership meeting for the nomination of officers of the church for the coming year will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 9:00 AM. in the Conference Room This is an important meeting and members are urged to be present.

## Congratulations

Leah Letson was recently accepted into the American Who’s Who Association for Middle School Students. Her picture and write-up were Printed in the 2008/2009 Who’s Who Registry of Academic Excellence. Way to go, Leah! We are so proud of you.

## A Note From The Finance Committee

Our pastor reminds us every Sunday that we have a good God. It is time to consider what kind of commitment we will make in serving our God during 2010.

Our church, along with many other organizations, is trying to meet its commitment to service and also maintain its current structure and facilities. During the period January through August, 2009, we have spent 60% of our current income for salaries and related expenses and 27% of our current income for maintenance of buildings and grounds. When we add a little in for music ministry and church operations, you can see we don’t have much left for outreach ministries.

You will receive a letter from the Finance Committee which will enclose a commitment card for 2010. Please pray about the ways in which you will serve the Lord through Briarwood United Methodist Church during 2010. Commitment Sunday is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. At that time we ask you to bring your commitment card to the altar.

*Finance Committee: Virginia Spitzkeit, Chairperson*

## Special Dates to Remember

Oct.31	Set your clocks back one hour Sat. night
Nov.1	Day Light Saving time ends
8	Stewardship Day
11	Veterans Day
15	Wilson Hut Opening
18	Family Night Supper
19	Charge Conference
22	UM Student Day
26	Thanksgiving Day
29	First Sunday of Advent

## Thanks

To Hardy Nall for conducting Worship Service on Oct. 11.

To Mike Knight and others for Laity Sunday Service on Oct. 18.

To the decorating committee and kitchen helpers for great work at Family Night supper on Oct. 21.

## Library Notes

Thanks to Virginia Erwin for her donation of five(5) Jan Karon books to the fiction section.

Also, we have a new bulletin board outside the library. (Now if we can get Linda to keep it current!)

## **The Wilson Hut**

The Wilson Hut will be officially open 11/15/2009.

The ribbon cutting will be Sunday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the morning worship service. All church members and friends are invited to the ceremony.

The first AA Group will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, at 7:15 PM.

The Wilson Hut will be the meeting place for AA Group on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:15 PM. There will also be a Wednesday night meeting at 7:15 PM. The meetings will be closed and non-smoking.

Briarwood UMC is pleased to offer this needed service to the community as part of our Outreach and Witness program.

The Wilson Hut looks beautiful. The magic was done and directed by our own John and Bettye Nall and Tommy Dyson. It would be a close contest to decide which Make-Over would be the best, the extreme Make-Over program on TV or our wonderful Make-Over done by John, Bettye and Tommy. They have turned a neglected, badly-needed-repairing building into something that the members of our Church and those attending the activities in the Hut can will be proud of.

The Wilson Hut is being named in honor of Earl and Martha Wilson for their many years of faithful and loving service to Briarwood United Methodist Church. Their service and faithfulness to the Church is immeasurable.

There are still some little things needed to make the Hut officially ready for the groups of people who will be using it for meetings. Below is a list of items that are needed. If you feel inclined to donate these items to the Hut and have them in place by the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, please contact Jen Macy at 601-206-1659.

Things still needed for the Hut:

Twin sink dish drain  
Paper Towels  
Canister Set  
Broom & Dust Pan  
2 Trash cans  
Napkins  
Styrofoam Coffee Cups  
Large Powder Creamer  
Filters for 40 cup coffee maker  
Curtain Rods for Kitchen Window (2)  
Hand soap for bath room & liquid dish washing for kitchen.  
Podium

2 paper towel holders (1 for Bath & 1 for kitchen)  
Toilet tissue  
Mop (sponge) and pail  
Plastic trash bags for cans  
Spoons & Stirrers  
Large container of Coffee  
Large Box of Sweet & Low  
Dish Cloths (6)

## **DMA**

Eleven members of the DMA caught the City of New Orleans on Tuesday, Oct. 13, returning the next day. All reports are wonderful. The group stayed at the Inn on Bourbon St., wandered around the French Quarter, rode around the French Quarter in a buggy, and ate. The real high-light for all was the train ride there and back.

In the future, maybe a train trip to Memphis to take in the sights?

## **Operation Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse**

Hard as it is to believe, the holiday season is right around the corner. And, as part of it, I'd like to invite you to join in a wonderful ministry opportunity: the marvelous gift of a shoe box.

It's hard to believe that a simple shoe box could have such an impact on a child's life, but amazingly, it does. Each year Operation Christmas Child collects and delivers millions of shoe box gifts to over 100 countries around the world, places in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Not only does each gift help a child experience the joy of Christmas, but it also provides an opportunity for them to learn the real meaning of Christmas. Every child is also given a little book that tells the story of Jesus: who He is and why He came. Every year there is at least one child who comes to faith because of your shoe box gift.

Please consider putting together a shoe box gift this year for a little boy or girl. If you're interested, you can pick up a *How to Pack a Shoe Box* instruction sheet in the church office. Or you can go to the church website and click the link on the Missions page.

Thanks for your continual generosity,  
Lauren