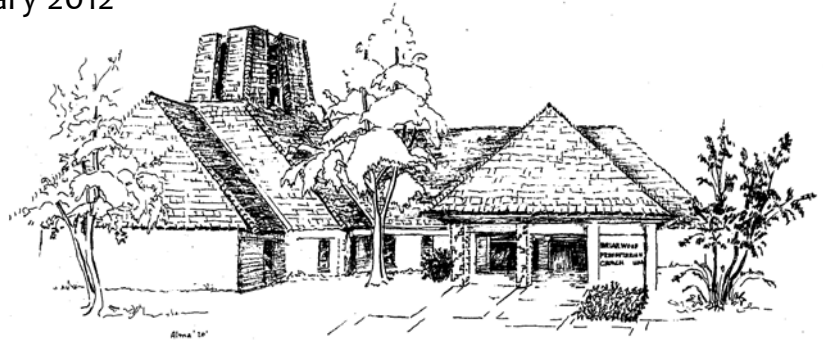


# The Briarwood Vision

February 2012

Rev. Charles N. Bowdler, Senior Pastor  
Volume 15 Issue 2



I am very pleased to tell you that the state of the church is really very good! There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place. We are very fortunate to enjoy such good relations with each other. Many other congregations are torn by internal strife or denominational alienation, but by the wonderful grace of God, we are enjoying the peace and unity of the church. There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place and it is the Spirit of the Lord.

I also sense that there is growing excitement for new ministry and service. Something subtle but profound happened when the Elders went on retreat last spring. There is a new hunger and openness to prayerfully search for God's bright future, to step out in faith, and to do God's will. A number of other examples of new ministry and service also come to mind: our Youth Group is growing in community and service; the Chancel Choir's blended voices inspire us week after week; our PW organization offers strong leadership, devoted Bible study, and a vital mission ministry; new cooking teams are preparing delicious meals for the congregation on Wednesday nights; the Explorer's Bible Study group is meeting weekly to learn God's Word and to share the way God works in our lives; our participation in the Presbytery's Cursillo program is growing; and the Mission Committee is exploring new possibilities for local mission.

Our spirits have not been dampened, in spite of loss and grief. We had over twenty funerals in 2011. The stalwart pillars of the church are growing old and finishing their earthly race. Others departed this life before they attained the fullness of years. We rejoice that they have entered into eternity, but for us who remain, it has been hard and emotionally taxing.

Remarkably, in spite of such great loss and the sluggish economy, we finished the year without a deficit. Furthermore, we paid down our renovation

loan by about \$50,000.00. We currently owe approximately \$25,000.00. However, we have received an additional pledge of \$10,000.00. I believe that we can pay off the balance of the note by the end of 2012. We look forward to being debt free again. Your generosity has redounded to the glory of God and the welfare of the church. We do have one financial challenge. Pledges for 2012 are about \$25,000.00 less than the budget adopted by the session. We expect that some additional pledges will still be made, and we hope that new members will also help to close the gap. If you intended to turn in a pledge and have not done so, it is not too late. Please contact the office, and we will send a card right out. Our Treasurer and Finance Committee will continue monitoring our stewardship closely.

Finally, let me express my gratitude for our wonderful staff. Larry Coleman is ever the faithful and cheerful servant; Josie Moore is a loving and caring nursery attendant. Audie Dodson is multi-talented and ever convivial; Judy Foster and Barney McCann are skilled and dedicated in their craft; Chris and Dawn Barnhardt are investing in our youth and teaching our young people the Christian faith; Bill Smith is profoundly dedicated to the ministry of visitation; and Heather Williamsen's gifts as a liturgist, teacher of young disciples, and devotional leader are blossoming and blessing the congregation.

We have so much to be thankful for: the sweet Spirit of Jesus in our midst; the Saints who rest from their labors; the incredible generosity of God's people; our gifted Elders and church staff. Never-ending praise belongs to our God through Jesus Christ our Lord and the blessed Holy Spirit. All thanks to God. Amen.

*Charles Bowdler*



# Presbyterian Women

## PW Calendar

Feb. 5 – Bible Study Review, PWCT

Feb. 21 – Mary Martha Day



Tuesday, February, 21

10:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Women will be baking cookies in February to be mailed to our college students or to members who are away serving in the military. We need packing materials to ensure that we are sending cookies and not cookie crumbs. Please bring packing popcorn/peanuts or bubble wrap to the Fellowship Hall before February 15th. Of course we also need cookies, so find your favorite cookie recipe and get ready to make someone's day. Please bring cookies to the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> Mary Martha Day.



Do we have your College Address?  
Don't let one of our College Members miss out on a delicious Presbyterian Women cookie box!



<i>Cir/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Hostess</i>	<i>Bible Moderator</i>
1 2/19	12 noon	Helen Howie	Theda Ruff
2 2/14	6:00pm	Jane Hogue & Linda Walker	Jane Hogue
3 2/14	10:00am	Dot Stribling & Joy Clemmer	Carol Busbee
4 2/10	9:30am	Noni Buchanan	Mary Frances Bowling
5 2/12	4:45pm	Dawn Barnhardt & Bonnie Everett	Suzanne Stephens



A small but enthusiastic group of Briarwood PW members attended Winter Retreat at St. Mary's of the Pines in Chatawa. We learned that God calls each of us to his service whether it is to be an Elder, PW Leader, Sunday School teacher, or a participant in a weekly Bible Study. We each have individual God given talents that we are called to use in the work, worship, and service of our Lord.

## Save the Date

April 22, 2012

Birthday Offering  
Celebration

Sunday Evening

Food, Fun, and  
Fellowship

## SERVING THIS MONTH

### ELDERS OF THE WEEK

- 5 Mark Bailey & Carol Busbee
- 12 Wayne Forrest & Charlie Parrish
- 19 Suzanne Stephens & John Sumrall
- 26 John Barron & Sandy French

### USHERS

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Mickey Velkey (Capt.) | Larry Wedderstrand (Capt.) |
| Clarence Melton       | Michael French             |
| Art Magee             | Charlie Parrish            |
| Kit Stilley           |                            |

Warren Dorsey (warrendorsey@comcast.net) is chair of the Usher Committee. Call him or your usher captain, if you need to change a day. Then inform the office.

### FLOWER TEAM

- 5 Stephens, Stilley, Haber, Colman
- 12 Stephens, Stilley, Haber, Colman
- 19 Gerber, French, Wedderstrand
- 26 Elmore, Lenoir, Magee

### SANCTUARY PREPARATION TEAMS

- 5 Sandy French
- 12 Ella Edwards
- 19 Dot Stribling
- 26 Rosanne Fischer

Rosanne Fischer is chair of Sanctuary Preparation Committee. If unable to serve, please contact her at 601.982.7282 or [fischerro@hotmail.com](mailto:fischerro@hotmail.com)

### EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>   | <b>2 - 5's</b> |
| 5 Betty Simmons  | Brock Henry    |
| 12 Janet Wagner  | Hugh Hogue     |
| 19 Polly Duggan  | Sarah Banta    |
| 26 Noni Buchanan | Courtney Hogue |

### + Christian Symbols +



This number appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



- 2 Marene Lewis
- 5 Mary Frances Bowling
- Jacob Burrell
- 7 Warren Dorsey
- 8 Donna Saffold
- Monty Dodson
- 12 Robert Ham
- Linda Walker
- 13 Douglas Odom
- 15 Megan Rock

- 17 William Elmore
- 21 Pat Daniels
- Alex Gregory
- 22 Carol Alexander
- 23 Christian Foster
- 25 Caroline Walker
- Anne Dreher
- Bobby Hackett
- 26 Jack Liles
- 27 Adam Sikes
- 28 Freddie Ussery

*If you have a birthday this month and don't see your name, contact the office.*



*Marcial Forester*  
*January 8, 2012*

You are invited  
to a reception honoring  
our newest members,  
baptized babies, and communicants  
of the past year.

Sunday, February 19, 2012  
under the bell tower  
following worship

Light appetizers will be served to give  
you time for a short visit  
with the members  
before you go to lunch.

In case of inclement weather,  
reception will be held in the fellowship hall.



VALENTINE'S DINNER, DANCE, and KARAOKE

The Youth cordially invite the congregation to an evening of dinner, dancing, and karaoke on Sunday, February 12th from 6-8pm. The youth are planning a formal, candlelight dinner of spaghetti, salad, french bread, and dessert. They will be your hosts, your chefs, and your servers (restaurant style) for the evening. Following dinner, the dance floor will be open for couple's dancing, line dancing, or even karaoke singing. A nursery and children's activities will be provided. The cost of the evening will be \$10 per person or \$15 per couple/family (tips welcomed for good service). Proceeds from the night support our youth trips to Montreat during the summer. Come, relax, and enjoy an evening together as we celebrate God's love for us and each other. Hope to see you there!

*In The Mailbag*

Dear Briarwood Family,

*Thank you for all the calls, cards, visits, and food during Jack's illness and death. Most of all thank you for your continued love and prayers. WE are truly blessed.*

*Evelyn Stevens and family*

Dear Church Family,

*My family wants to thank you all for the many kindnesses during and after my husband Harty's illness and death. We are grateful for the prayers, meals and hugs that we all received. We are particularly appreciative to Circle Two who provided food while he was in the hospital and a meal after the Memorial service. Thank you again.*

*Sincerely,  
Betty Keating and family*

**YOUNG DISCIPLES VALENTINE ICE CREAM SOCIAL**



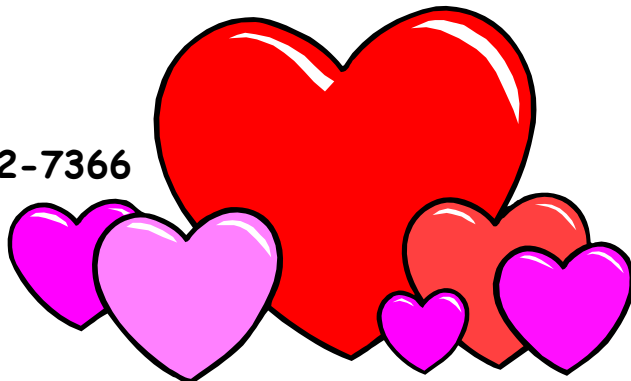
**EAT PIZZA AND MAKE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM SUNDAE**

**WHEN: February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**WHERE: Briarwood Fellowship Hall**

**TIME: 6pm**

**QUESTIONS: Call Dawn - 601-692-7366  
(Preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
	<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">March 2012</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	March 2012							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		1  10:30 Staff Meeting  WNF - Devotion Rev. Bowdler	2	3	4
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5  Sunday School PW Study Review Morning Worship PWCT 	6	7	8  10:30 Staff Meeting  WNF - Committees	9	10 Presbytery  Circle 4  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Kaleidoscope - Laurel</div>	11																																																	
12 Sunday School Morning Worship Circle 5 Valentine Dinner	13  Circle 1	14  Valentine's Day  Circles 2 & 3	15  10:30 Staff Meeting WNF – Catered Supper YD Ice Cream Social	16  Saints Alive - noon  DAR Service	17	18  Billy Brumfield House Meal																																																	
19 Communion Sunday School Morning Worship  Youth	20	21  Presbyterian Women Cookie Caper	22  10:30 Staff Meeting  ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE		24	25																																																	
26  A Meal Sunday Sunday School Morning Worship Youth Session	27	28	29  WNF supper and programs	Kaleidoscope, our annual presbytery wide training event will be held in Laurel at First-Trinity on February 10 and 11. There are brochures and registration forms at each sanctuary entrance.																																																			



“My Song Is Love Unknown” is number 76, appropriately under “Lent” in our hymnal. Its author, Samuel Crossman, was a 17th century Anglican priest with Puritan leanings. His poem, written in 1664, was not married to a tune until the 19th century. In the 20th century our poem was married a second time, to the tune we are learning: LOVE UNKNOWN, by the English composer and pianist John Ireland (1879–1962). The hymn made it to the States in time to be included in our 1990 hymnal. “Lovely” is a word that applies to both the tune and the intensely personal text. (How many “I,” “my,” “me,” and “my Friend” can you find?) “My Lord” is “dear,” his praises are “sweet.” Like our hymns for January and March, our hymn for February is not a hymn of praise addressing God directly; it is, rather, a confession of our own faith, and a testimony to others of what God means to us.

We have five of the poem’s original seven stanzas, with only slight changes having been made to the wording. The hymn is a dramatic retelling of the gospel story: Christ’s incarnation (John 1:14), his humiliation (Philippians 2:1–11), and his suffering love for the unlovely (Isaiah 42:1-4; 50:6; 53; John 13:1; Romans 5:6–8; Galatians 2:20b; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 3:16) all pass in review. Like Lent, the hymn does not get to the resurrection, focusing instead on Christ’s suffering love. In stark contrast with Christ’s steady, on-course self-giving are the fickleness and unfaithfulness of those to whom He came (Matthew 11:16–19; 21:8–11, 15-16; 22:1–6; 26:69–75; John 1:10–11). Stanza 4 echoes society’s perverted sense of justice (Matthew 27:15–26; Acts 3:14; 7:51–53). Though beyond comprehension (Isaiah 6:5; 1 Timothy 1:15), I dare to call the one of whom I sing “my friend” (John 15:12–17). Such “unknown” love (Ephesians 3:18–19; 1 John 3:1, 16; 4:9-10) is indeed enough to move us to sing our praise as long as “immortality endures”—as we sang in January’s “Hymn of the Month.” One danger lurking in our singing this hymn is one we also encounter in reading the gospels; namely, that we read the story as spectators, failing to identify with any of the actors (Luke 18:9–14). According to our hymn, how does Christ bring us into the right relation with God? Not all hymn writers are considered poets; Crossman meets the test. His rhyme scheme (ABABCDDC) treats us to a pleasing “internal rhyme” near the middle of the third line of every stanza.

John Ireland’s tune is in a pitch-range that is just right for a congregation—neither too high nor too low for us. We can, moreover, easily navigate the tune, mostly taking small steps and only slight leaps—the whole journey proceeding very naturally from start to finish of each stanza.

P.S. To experience the thrill of robust singing by a congregation of untrained singers like most of us, Google “Westminster Abbey, Psalm 100.”

P.P.S. An unnamed party will give the sum of \$25.00 to every member of Briarwood under the age of 21 who memorizes and recites this hymn by March 1. Speak to the pastor.

Bill Smith



### Saints Alive

Thursday, February 16, 12 noon

Come and learn from The **Senior Planning Group** of Ridgeland what your benefits are in the area of taxes, healthcare and investments. Of particular interest they will deal with “how the new Healthcare Reform Act will impact us.” There will be games and prizes! \$5.00 lunch

### Church Football

*A timely bit of church humor*

Quarterback Sneak - Church members quietly leaving during the invitation.

Draw Play - What many children do with the bulletin during worship.

Halftime - The period between Sunday School and worship when many choose to leave.

Benchwarmer - Those who do not sing, pray, work or apparently do anything but sit.

Backfield-in-Motion - Making a trip to the back (restroom or water fountain) during the service.

Staying in the Pocket - What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.

Two-Minute Warning - The point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your children and belongings.

Sudden Death - What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime".

Trap - You're called on to pray and are asleep.

End Run - Getting out of church quick, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

Flex Defense - The ability to allow absolutely nothing said during the sermon to affect your life.

Blitz - The rush for the restaurants following the closing prayer

## The Briarwood Vision

Briarwood Presbyterian Church  
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Jackson, MS 39211  
601.956.4553  
briarwoodchurch620@gmail.com  
www.briarwoodpres.org

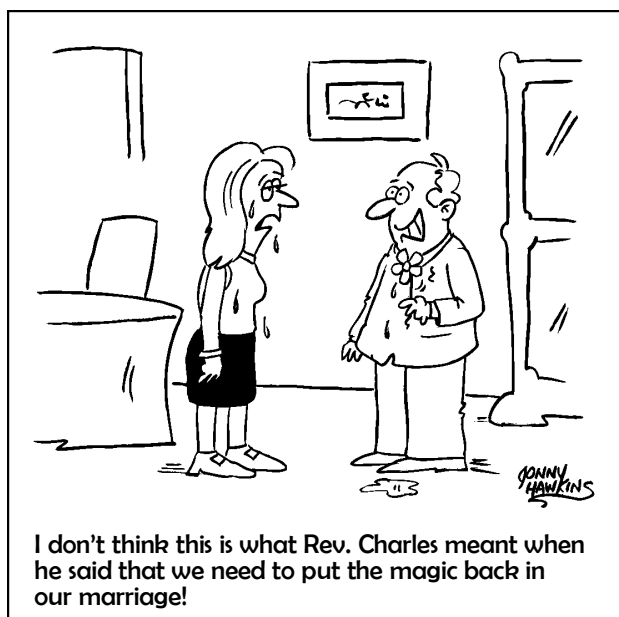
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"Love is the strongest force the world possesses,  
and yet it is the humblest imaginable."  
—Mahatma Gandhi



Sunday, February 5, our youth will again participate, along with youth groups across the country, in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. Following worship they will be collecting canned goods or donations to help hunger programs. Then, at 5 p.m., the Youth will have their annual Youth Super Bowl Party at the Barnhardt's house. Youth are to bring their favorite snack and/or appetizer, enough for yourself and a friend. All are welcome to come and enjoy fellowship and a great game



I don't think this is what Rev. Charles meant when he said that we need to put the magic back in our marriage!

Holy Communion  
Sunday, February 19

Preparation Team  
Anne Dreher & Joretta Meyer