



News from ^{the} Brook

115 Maddox Road

August 2008

Greetings,

The fifth Sunday in June marked the beginning of our second year in ministry together. It also was the beginning of my twenty-first year as a Methodist pastor. Twenty years later I am still excited about the ministry of our Lord. It gives me great joy to see that same excitement at "The Brook." God is good all the time!



There are several questions facing our conference this year. One question is, do we invest in new churches or do we work more with existing churches? I believe that God desires for us to do both. I also believe that Middlebrook can serve as an example for the Mississippi Conference of revitalizing an existing church. Middlebrook can be an example that "All things are possible for them that love the Lord." Over a year ago when I was asked to come to Jackson my prayer was, "Lord, send me to a church that wants to serve and not to be served." There are some internal issues we must address, but there are so many critical issues in our community. As we love and serve the people of God, our blessings will be released. It is time for us to "Go Fishing." Remember, God has already provided the harvest. We are in the right place at the right time, we can make a different.

We need every member to help by doing the following:

1. Pray for the pastor, Middlebrook and South Jackson
2. Be lead by the Holy Spirit, not ego
3. Work as a team
4. Support all chairpersons
5. Support the Visionary Leadership Team
6. Attend the church-wide VLT Bible Study
7. Attend the Leadership training for your group
8. Attend the District Leadership training
9. Support C+

(I will attend church plus two other ministries....S.S-Bible Study-NOW)

To God be the glory,

Peace and Love

Rev. L. Fitzgerald Lovett

MIDDLEBROOK

United Methodist Church

Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett, Pastor – Email: revlovet@gmail.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 22658 • Jackson, MS 39225-2658

Office Phone: 373-3296 • Fax: 373-3342

Website: www.jxnsaints.com/middlebrook.htm

PURPOSE

This News Letter is the fourth issue from the Nurture, Outreach, and Witness (NOW) Committee. We hope that these news letters will help keep the congregation informed as to the hope, vision, and progress of the church, without having to attend all the meetings (a right that the Book Of Discipline gives every member).

If you have any questions of comments, please feel free to contact your Class Leader, Lay Leader or the involved church official.

Spotlighting Our Youth

Remember that TV Program “Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader”? Our Congratulations and appreciation to these Two young men. They are our future and we are indeed proud of them.

Nick won 1st place in the Engineering category at the Jackson State Regional Science Fair in February.

The Solar Wars – Abstract

Nicholas Bohannon – 5th Grade Science
Teacher _ Mr. Keith, St. Therese Catholic School
February 4, 2007

My Project was to determine whether a mini solar powered car would go faster with its two solar cells connected in series or parallel. I thought that the car with the parallel connected cells would go faster. I conducted my experiment January 18 – 21, 2008.

The results of my project showed that my hypothesis was incorrect, in that the solar powered car went the fastest with the solar cells connected in series. This was true because the series connected solar cells generated more voltage, allowing the car to travel faster.

Congratulations to Jared Fitzhugh, who participated in the Regional II Mississippi Science and Engineering Fair on March 27, 2008, at Jackson State University. Jared won 2nd place in the field of Behavior and Social Sciences. His project was titled “All About Fingerprints”.

Note: The above articles were scheduled to appear in an earlier newsletter, but were lost in cyber space and left out by mistake.

WANTED

We are looking for young photographers in junior high or high school to help with picture needs at Middlebrook. We will provide the camera (digital) and training if needed. Contact the Pastor if you want to join our team.

NOW (Nurture, Outreach and Witness)

The next NOW meeting will be August 10 right after the Sunday morning worship service in the Cornerstone Sunday School Classroom.

The NOW committee is in the process of developing strategies on how to reach out to the new residents that will soon be moving into our area. Anyone having ideas or suggestions need to pass them on to Genny Seeley, Witness Chairperson.

Genny Seeley

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES

The Older Adult Ministries has met three times since the last report. They have been concentrating on crafts for Christmas decorations, and hopefully for sale. We hope to have some of these items on Power Point for your inspection and order.

Roberta Pennington

Blood Drive

On Saturday August 23rd, 2008 from 10AM to 2PM, the Forest Hill UMC and the Middlebrook UMC men, in partnership with Mississippi Blood Services(MBS), will conduct their third annual blood drive. The MBS bus will be located on the Forest Hill UMC parking lot. If you can't give bring/send a friend or love one. Additional information and handouts will be provided by the men through their respective church.

UMC Men Presidents:
Johnny Posey, Forest Hill UMC
JD McAdory, Middlebrook UMC

Saturday August 23rd, 2008

10 AM to 2 PM

Forest Hill UMC Parking Lot

THE 2008 MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Lay Leader, Howard Edmonson

The Conference began Sunday June 8, 2008 at Christ United Methodist Church here in Jackson MS with Bishop Hope Morgan Ward at the helm.

Highlights of the conference included a message by the Rev, Dr. Lovett Weems on the eight provocative questions that focuses on the fact that the UMC is failing to attract persons other than White and African American married couples which seems to be the focus of outreach effort. We must seek greater diversity.

The second was a rousing sermon given by a young African American seminary student, the Rev Theon Johnson III of Canton.

Drivers, show faith; support mission with new tag.

Connectional Ministries has proposed a vanity tag that reads: Mississippi United Methodist, Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors with the letters "G" and "O" (for Go make Disciples). We need a minimum of 300 applicants. The application fee is \$31.00. Of that amount \$24.00 will be returned to the conference to fund missions. If interested see Mrs. Roberta or Rev Lovett for an application.

Of all the issues debated and voted on by the conference, the most compelling was an issue called "Direct Billing."

When we first moved here from New Jersey I was pleasantly surprised to see that the Mississippi Conference paid the pension and health benefits for the local church clergy out of the apportionments. In the New Jersey Conference the individual local churches were responsible.

This has been extremely helpful for small congregation churches in the Mississippi Conference since the current annual cost for pension and health benefits for each full time pastor is \$16,866 .

In the past these benefits had been consolidated into the apportionments and then spread out to all

churches. Thus the large membership churches and small membership churches that did not have a full time pastors (of the 1140 churches, 484 are small membership served by retired ministers, part time local pastors, lay ministers, student pastors, etc, and do not have these expenses) were not happy paying for the rest of us.

Additionally, the conference received \$601,208 less than was budgeted for pension and health benefits. The difference was made up out of the reserve fund.

Now here was the proposed solution: The conference is going to stop funding these fringe benefits and the affected local churches will be "Direct Billed". This will be done in four phases. Phase 1 will began in Jan. 2009, and will be the cheapest part of the package (death and disability insurance). The other phases will be implemented as the conference directs. The vote on this issue was 578 for direct billing and 499 against. I cast my vote against the measure because our church, in its current circumstances, would be adversely affected.

There was an argument put forth that this will force small membership churches to examine their circumstances to see if they really had a workload that required the services of a full time pastor. The actual minimum cost of a full time pastor at Middlebrook (salary, housing allowance, pension, health benefits, etc) is approximately \$1,700.00 per week.

Needless to say, retired pastors, part time local pastors, certified lay ministers, etc. that accept a negotiated salary only, will be in high demand.

Certified Lay Minister: (B.O.D. 272)

As our lay speakers already know, the position of certified lay minister was created at the 2004 General Conference in order to enhance the quality of ministry to small membership churches, expand team ministry in churches in deference to an expression of gifts and evidence of God's grace associated with the lay ministry of early Methodism. The certified lay minister is to be recognized and utilized.

Hat's Sunday at The Brook

June 29, 2008



July – August Birthdays

July Birthdays

Wesley Jackson
Jessie Pennington
Rev. Fitzgerald Lovett
Mary Hopkins
Nickolas Bohannon
Mallieu Pruitt
Fannie Sutton
Toni Fitzhugh
Bishop James Warren

July 01
July 01
July 03
July 07
July 10
July 10
July 19
July 22
July 27

August Birthdays

Camille and Caleb Bohannon
Tiffany Sutton
Rhoda Barnes
Robert Bracey
Marvin Hopkins
Francis Moffett
Whitney Wade
Marie McLaurin
Sallie Barnes
Melvin Brown

August 05
August 09
August 11
August 11
August 13
August 14
August 19
August 20
August 24
August 26

LIVING WITH AIDS

The Youth Sunday School class, “The Believers,” use DEVOZINE: The Devotional Lifestyle magazine, as their daily resource.

The July-August ‘08 issue of DEVOZINE contains faith stories written by young people. The first topic in this issue is “Living With AIDS: Reaching Out to Those Who Suffer.”

Among other things, the youth were asked to complete the following true/false quiz about HIV/AIDS, to discuss the answers, and to write an article for their church newsletter dispelling some myths about HIV/AIDS.

TRUE or FALSE

1. A healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS
2. HIV/AIDS can be spread by sharing cups and glasses.
3. HIV/AIDS is the number one cause of death in the world today.
4. Babies can get HIV/AIDS from their mother’s milk.
5. People get AIDS when the HIV virus damages their bodies so much that they can no longer fight infections.
6. More than one third of all people living with HIV/AIDS are under age 25.
7. Young people do not listen when they are educated about HIV/AIDS.
8. Medications can help people with HIV/AIDS live longer and healthy lives.
9. Medication can eventually cure them.

ANSWERS

1. TRUE. People can have HIV many years before they get sick, especially if they take medicine to keep their immune system strong. 2. FALSE. HIV can only live in the human body and dies quickly anywhere else. You cannot get HIV by sharing cups or glasses. It is spread through sex or blood-to-blood contact with a person who has the virus. 3. FALSE. HIV is the fourth largest cause of death, but it is a growing problem. 4. TRUE. Babies can get HIV/AIDS from their mother’s milk, but the risk is reduced significantly if the mother nurses for less than six months. 5. TRUE. AIDS is

caused when the HIV virus attacks the immune system until the body can no longer fight infection. 6. TRUE. More than one third of the people with HIV/AIDS are under age twenty-five. 7. FALSE. It has been proven that education is the best way to reduce the number of infections and that young people are the most likely to listen and to protect themselves. 8. TRUE. Medicine helps people with HIV/AIDS to stay healthier longer. 9. FALSE. There is no cure.

Submitted by Roberta Pennington

Company’s Comin’ – We’ve Got to Get Ready!

Did you know that by the end of 2008 Middlebrook could have over 300 new neighbors? That’s right. There is a new subdivision being built on Raymond Road down toward McDowell Road. The developer is projecting that over 300 homes will be ready for occupancy by the end of 2008. So what does that mean to Middlebrook? It means that we have the opportunity to reach out to over 300 families and share God’s love with them and since they will be new residents they just might need a new church home. No doubt some of these families will already have a church home, but it may be a lot further away than Middlebrook. With the price of gas continually going up, a drive to a closer church may be a very inviting option for them. So Middlebrook, we’ve got to get ready!

How do we do that? First we need to start making sure we are treating each person (remember that a stranger is just a friend you haven’t met yet) in a friendly and welcoming manner. If they are a first time visitor, we need to get them to fill out a visitor’s card. These cards are in the back pew pockets. Usually the ushers do this, but **all of us** are on the welcoming committee and can do this. Make sure you get the card back and pass it on to Frances Moffett or Genny Seeley before you leave church. Then we need to follow up on each visitor and let them know how much we appreciated their visiting Middlebrook.

All of us need to understand that we have the overall potential in the next few years to have over 1000 new residents in our area because of the new development that is in progress. Each person who moves into one of these residences is a unique individual, created by God and needing a relationship with God. As the Body of Christ it is God’s purpose for us to reach out and allow Him to touch people through us. ***Let’s get ready, company’s coming!***

Genny Seeley

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays:

8:30 AM – Philippian Church Worship

9:00 AM – Middlebrook Sunday School

10:30 AM – Middlebrook Morning Worship

Wednesdays: 6 PM – Middlebrook Prayer and Bible Study

A Church for All God's Children

Middlebrook United Methodist Church, consecrated October 5, 2003, is a worship community in which all God's children fellowship together regardless of race, color or national origin, or religious affiliation.

Our mission is to:

- * *Make disciples of Christ;*
- * *Build community; and*
- * *Enhance the quality of life* – through the development of social structures to improve the lives of those we serve and seek to serve.

Middlebrook UMC
P.O. Box 22658
Jackson, MS 39225-2658

Date	Event	Format
June 29, 2008	Cluster Gathering - Alta Woods UMC	Picture Slideshow
June 29, 2008	Hat's Sunday at 'The Brook'	Picture Slideshow
June 22, 2008	Administrative Board Meeting - Middlebrook	Picture Slideshow
June 7, 2008	Chicken Cookout – Forest Hill - Middlebrook	Picture Slideshow
December 7, 2007	Middlebrook – Forest Hill Joint Christmas Tree	Picture Slideshow
October 7, 2007	Middlebrook 4th Anniversary Program Booklet	PDF (98Ks-2 MB)
October 7, 2007	Middlebrook 4th Anniversary Program Booklet	PDF (LoRes-900 KB)
October 7, 2007	Middlebrook 4th Anniversary Reception	Picture Slideshow
December 17, 2006	"Happy Birthday" Jesus Celebration	Picture Slideshow
October 8, 2006	Jesus and All That Jazz, "The Concert" & Reception	Picture Slideshow
October 8, 2006	Jesus and All That Jazz, "The Concert" Flyer	PDF (287 KB)
October 1, 2006	Middlebrook 3rd Anniversary Service & Reception	Picture Slideshow
December 18, 2005	"Happy Birthday" Jesus Celebration	Picture Slideshow



Middlebrook on the Web has a new Archive section.

Check us out at:

http://jxnsaints.com/Middlebrook/m_archives.htm