



Greetings from "The Brook"

My freshman year of college was spent at Rust College. It was a very exciting year. I was introduced to what would become one of my favorite poems. It is printed below.



THE BRIDGE BUILDER

*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim-
That sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when he reached the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.*

*"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting strength in building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way.
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"*

*The builder lifted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."*

-WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

There is an important question that is asked, "Why build you the bridge at the eventide?" The answer is given in the last line, "Good friend, I am building the bridge for him" Christians are called to serve not to be served, to give and not just receive. The Old man who will never pass this way again is concerned not about himself but about those who will come after him.

We are expecting several hundred new families in our community. Some have already moved in and are living across the street or brook from the church. My question for the Brook is, "Why are we not building a bridge?"

Everybody was asked to do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. Consequently, it wound up that Nobody told Anybody, so Everybody blamed Somebody.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!

Middlebrook, we can build the bridge.

To God be the glory,

Peace and Love

Rev. L. Fitzgerald Lovett

PURPOSE

This News Letter is the fifth 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.

MIDDLEBROOK

United Methodist Church

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Our Witness to our Neighbors

The Shine Our Light Ministry went into the Forest Park Neighborhood off Forest Hill Road on Saturday, September 13. We had 2 teams of two members each who shared God's Love in a practical way by giving residents a gift of a candle reminding them that Jesus is the Light of the World.

We visited a total of 34 homes and found 17 where we were able to visit the residents. At the 17 where no one was at home, we left a card to let them know we had been there.

We will be going out again on October 18 and invite everyone to come be a part of this ministry. We gather at the church at 9:30 each time for a time of prayer and devotion to prepare our hearts for ministry, and then we go out from 10 – Noon. We give you instructions on what to say and do, so you will be confident in what you are doing.

Genny Seeley

Middlebrook Church Anniversary

Middlebrook will celebrate its eighth Church Anniversary on Sunday, October 19, 2008. Service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and everyone is invited!!! We are planning to Pack - the - Pews!!! Our goal this year is to raise \$7,000.00 in 7 minutes and pack every pew in the sanctuary.

We are asking each member to pay \$55.00. You may give your offering to your team leader beginning the last week in September. All monies will be turned in to your team leader.

Come and join us in this celebration!!!!!!

Cheryl Haynes

Traveling with Clifton Whitley

I spent the last week of August in Denver, Colorado attending the Democratic Party's National Convention along with my mother who was an elected delegate for Barack Obama from the first Congressional District. We left for Denver on Saturday, August 23. We had good weather as we drove through the heartland of America.

We were up early for a breakfast for the Mississippi Delegation that was chaired by Bennie Thompson. These daily morning breakfasts were sponsored by organizations that included the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, AT&T, the AFL-CIO and an association of solar energy companies. Each morning over breakfast we would listen to speeches by representatives of the sponsoring organizations as well as from party officials such as Jamie Franks, the new chairman of the party in Mississippi. We heard an impassioned presentation from Don Fowler, the former chair of the Democratic National Committee, that rivaled some of the best speeches of the convention. He spoke very eloquently about the need for unity and the importance of electing Barack Obama. He spoke about how Barack's diverse upbringing makes him uniquely qualified to lead a diverse nation as it continues to evolve towards more diversity.

We heard impassioned presentations from union leaders about the importance of unions to efforts to secure living wages and safe working conditions. We heard representatives of the solar industry talk about how that industry is poised to be an engine of economic growth if they can get a renewal of tax credits to support the emerging industry. He stated that John McCain has not voted to support the renewal of those credits, putting hundreds of jobs at risk in his own state of Arizona.

Later on that Monday I was able to be on the floor within sight of the podium as Michelle Obama gave her speech. That was actually the most enjoyable night for me! I was in the arena when Hillary Clinton spoke the next night; however, I was unable to get on the floor and had to watch on a large screen in the hall with many others.

On Tuesday, we went downtown for a panel discussion on issues facing Black America that was sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus. Attendees that we got a glimpse of included actresses, Jasmine Guy and Alfre Woodard and actor Hill Harper.

That Wednesday I took off and went sight seeing up in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Thursday was the big day. After a lunch sponsored by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, we prepared to go down to Mile High Stadium for Barack's acceptance speech. It was unlike anything I had ever seen before. He was scheduled to speak at 8:00 MDT; however, when I got in line at 3:30 the line was about three miles long. It was almost a Biblical scene! There were disabled people in wheelchairs and on crutches, people with babies on their backs and the elderly. When I finally got to the entrance at about 6:30 MDT, the line still seemed to stretch over a mile behind me! Once inside, the struggle to get there was soon forgotten as I listened to Stevie Wonder and waved my American flag with all the others. Barack's acceptance speech certainly lived up to everyone's expectations. I have never seen so many American flags being waved with that kind of emotion in my life. It was certainly an experience that I will never forget! We all left "fired up and ready to go".

Middlebrook United Methodist Women

This year, for the first time, the Middlebrook Unit of the UMW completed "5 Channels of Giving", making it a '5 STAR' unit.

The Middlebrook unit of the UMW received its charter on February 24, 2002. Each year, we would fulfill our mission of working on behalf of women, children, and youth by making a "Commitment to Children", becoming a "Local Mission Today Unit" and, recently, by participating in the UMW "Reading Program".

Our members have served as officers on the district level.. Currently, for the West Jackson District, Connie Fitzhugh serves as Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator; Cheryl Hayes serves on the Committee on Nominations; and Berenda Johnson is president of Sub-District IV.

Currently, our unit is meeting quarterly, on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon. We have 15 members.

If you are interested in working on behalf of women, children, and youth, you may contact Connie Fitzhugh (601:922-2828), our unit president.

Welcome Bags for New Neighbors

The NOW committee is working on Welcome Bags for the 325 new families who will be moving into the subdivision down the street between the first of October and the end of 2008. We are trying to make our welcome gifts practical as well as offer spiritual encouragement.

We will have an information card about Middlebrook Church, a brochure called Meet My Friend, to introduce them to Jesus, a house blessing and discount coupons from local businesses and services. We plan to begin stuffing the bags on September 28 so we will have them ready in smaller groups of 110 - 115 at residents move in in groups of 50 - 100 homes.

Genny Seeley

HAPPY BIRTHDAY "AUNT" SALLIE BARNES

August 24th Celebration at Middlebrook



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

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.

Wednesday, October, 15th – Last day to order a specialty car tag for MS United Methodist. Cost \$31. Proceeds will go to the community centers this year. 300 people are needed to register.

Sunday, November 9th – Middlebrook's Charge Conference. Reports are to be filed at 6 p.m. and a Revival Service will be held at 7 p.m. at Anderson UMC.

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Prayer Initiative

Matthew 21:13 (NIV)

¹³"It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'"

These words of Jesus are found in 3 of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. From all of the Scriptures we find about prayer in the New Testament, God no doubt wants His people to be praying people. To move Middlebrook in this direction in a more holistic way, we have begun a Prayer Initiative.

One part of this initiative is the formation of a Prayer Team that will undergird the ministry of this church, our pastor and our leaders with prayer. If you are interested

in becoming a part of this Team, contact Genny Seeley at 372-7461.

Older Adult Ministry

The Older Adult Ministry met 11:00 am August 19, 2008. The main activity for this session was to work on Crafts for Christmas decoration and Sales. There were 13 members in attendance.

The high lights of the session, was the recognition of the Birthdays of Mrs. Sallie Barnes (Aunt Sallie), and Mrs. Frances Moffett. Refreshments (Ice Cream Cake) and drinks were provided by Mrs. Roberta Pennington.