

# The Sweet Spirit

## Olive Branch United Methodist Church

August 2016



### From The Pastor's Pen,

Greetings and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope this note finds you healthy and surviving the heat of the sun and experiencing the warmth of The Son.

Jesus said, "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light." (Luke: 8: 16 NIV) When we light a lamp in our home, we do so to illuminate a room or area. Jesus is telling us through this parable, to let our light shine in the world. Our light is the truth and gospel of Jesus Christ that He intends for us not to squander or hide, but to share and bring brightness to those who need to know Christ.

The people of the South Brunswick charge are full of Christ's light and do share it so willingly and not sparingly. I have had so many people tell me, when I tell them that I serve the SB Charge, that they know exactly what churches I'm talking about and they speak highly of you. Of course, I acknowledge and agree with their comments. Your witness is like a bright beam of light, illuminating darkness, but also lighting the path for others to find the saving grace and love of our Lord. I can't tell you how proud I am when I tell people that I pastor Rock and Olive Branch United Methodist Churches. You should be proud also of the work you are doing within and outside our churches as wonderful disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we come to the end of another conference year, I will stand proud and cherish the privilege of representing the SB Charge at our Charge Conference on September 28 at Brodnax UMC. Keep up the good work and "Let Your Light Shine!"  
Blessings and Peace, Pastor Randy

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### To Be United Methodists

#### Why Do We Have Prayers of Confession in Worship by Rev Joe Iovino

Many of us were brought up in a different denomination. We were taught confessing our sins was between us and God. Forgiveness was just between me and God. We can go to God in prayer at any time to acknowledge our failures and struggles and ask for God's forgiveness. However, many United Methodists find strength and support in confession to one another as well

as to God. Sin is a persistent force in our lives. The good news is that when we confess our sin, God promises to forgive us.

While The United Methodist Church does not consider confession a sacrament, we need to confess our sin before God and one another. As we gather for worship, United Methodists often offer a prayer of confession. Through spoken prayer and a time of silent prayer we confess our sinfulness before God.

Confession should be followed by a declaration of pardon. Confession and pardon together remind us that we are sinners saved by grace.

Many United Methodists who gather in small groups find confessing their sin to one another brings support and spiritual growth. People in our lives who pray for us, cheer us on and ask how things are going are a source of strength as we confront temptation. Many Christians find strength in being accountable to their vows to live as Christ would have us live.

John Wesley recommended that Methodists meet weekly with approximately five other people in a band, where they confess their sins to one another. He said the bands followed the command of God to “confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another that you may be healed (James 5:16)

In worship, small groups, and anytime we choose, United Methodists confess our sins before God and one another. When we do, God forgives us and we receive strength to be, in the words of Wesley, more and more dead to sin, and more and more alive to God.

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### Our Library

At all ages we can benefit from the church library. Learning should never stop. We can learn about something we never were exposed to or learn more about a subject we are interested in. This month, in our library:

Our church boasts two libraries. Both are available to anyone interested in borrowing a book. One is a general library, containing many interesting and well read books. The other is the library of the United Methodist Women. This library is recommended reading from the Conference United Methodist Women. There are many books about various topics and issues that affect each of us and the world also.

If you are interested in any of these books, please drop by and borrow one. Read it, enjoy it, learn from it and then return it so someone else may find the same pleasure.

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### United Methodist Women

All women of the church are invited to take part in the meeting and missional activities of the UMW. The United Methodist Women recently had their Annual Candlelighting Service and it was a great success. We raised \$610 that will go to Conference Missions.

Coming up in September, the UM Women will hold a Salad Luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> immediately following services. This is a fundraiser for the Women and will take the place of the regular Second Sunday Luncheon. We will still have great fellowship and great food. So please plan on joining us.

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Also coming up on September 20<sup>th</sup> the UM Women will sponsor a “Pie Party” and all the women of our church, Rock Church and Prospect UMC are invited. Please save this date and watch for further details.

Our next meeting will be on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

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### **Message from the Council Chair – Jane DiStefano**

The Church Administrative Council meets every other month on the second Monday at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend. It is always an open meeting, although voting is limited to committee members.

This month the Council discussed several issues including making sure our church facility is safe and operating efficiently. We also discussed cleaning the outside of the church and the carpets. And of course we are working hard to make sure we are financially strong.

We discussed the upcoming “Lisa’s Great Giveaway” and the efforts many people have put forth for this great cause. If you don’t know about Lisa’s Giveaway, please as a member of the Outreach Committee, as they would be proud to tell you about it.

Finally, we discussed Charge Conference. It will be held on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to 8:30 at Brodnax United Methodist Church in Brodnax, VA. This is a time for members of our Churches to gather and share the happenings, joys and sorrows from each church. Please plan on joining us that evening. If you need a ride, please let any council member know and we will arrange something. It is always an enjoyable evening.

If you have any items that need to be discussed at council, please feel free to come to a meeting or contact me or Pastor Randy. Remember that this is everyone’s church and what is important to you, is important to us. Our next meeting will be on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. That is the night we will finalize Charge Conference requirements.

### **Worship Committee Nancy Williams, Chairperson**

The Worship Committee is beginning to plan activities for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent (Christmas) Seasons. They are planning to meet in September to begin planning.

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### **Outreach**

Lisa’s Great Give Away will take place on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of many volunteers to work that day. Many thanks to each of you who has worked so diligently to make this

Please don't forget our Church pantry! Our brothers and sisters in the greater community are suffering and need help. We are blessed that Food Lion is willing to provide us with meats, vegetables, fruits, and baked goods but, it is up to us to fill out the dietary needs of the families we serve. We currently service 10 families with food donations. Help keep our pantry stocked with your donations. I know you will open your hearts. Also, one of our biggest needs is meat. So if you are able, pick up an extra package of meat to help out one of our families. A big “thank you!”

to those who take the time to help with the deliveries and each of you who donate to the Food Bank. Thanks again for all you do.

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### **United Methodist Men**

The men are planning on a weekly golf event. As we get more information we will post it and invite all those who would like to join us to do so. You don't have be good to join this group! We are a bunch of duffers!

We applied to VDOT to take responsibility to clean up Ankum Road from Route 46 to Gasburg. The powers to be agreed to let us be responsible for 2 miles of the road starting at the intersection of Gasburg Road and Ankum Road and continuing 2 miles north on Ankum. The signs identifying the area and who is responsible for it have been posted. We will be scheduling a Saturday to take on this effort. We invite the church to join us twice a year as we try to help our community keep looking good. The State will be supplying all the equipment and apparel we need. If you would like to join the UMM a sign up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall.

A note to all the men of the church: the UMM meets on the third Saturday of each month. This month we will meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We invite all men of the church to join us for a time of fellowship, breakfast, and devotion. We welcome our sister church, Rock, as we would gladly have them join us for breakfast. Our next meeting will be Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 AM. Breakfast will be provided.

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### **Anniversaries**

Chris & Debra Brockwell – 6th    Kenneth & Carol Baird – 10th  
Pat Morrissey – 11<sup>th</sup>

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Celebrating birthdays this month:

3 – Mattie Bersch    17 – Kenneth Baird    18 – Kathy Mihoc    24 – Mike Cestaro  
25 – Pat Grigg    26 - Debra Brockwell    27 –Nancy Maguire, Lauren Stephenson  
31 - Polly Burger, Edward Maguire

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### **Choir Makes a Joyful Noise**

And our choir does just that. We practice on Wednesday's at 7:00 PM. We are 14 strong at this time. If you feel that you would like to make a joyful noise, please come join us. It should be an exciting time for us and the church! Let us all come together to praise the Lord in song at our worship services.

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How about it Randy???



08-25-2014

CAN YOU HELP SET ME UP SO I CAN  
FRIEND AND LIKE JESUS, TEXT HIM MY  
PRAYERS, AND SHARE ALL HIS TWEETS?

Upcoming Events:

Sun August 14<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday Luncheon - After Services

Sat August 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am – UMM Breakfast and Meeting

This is your newsletter. It is meant to be a way to communicate what your church is doing and what all the organizations are doing both in the congregation and the community. I am sending this electronically via email and copies will be made available for those who need a printed copy.

There are many organizations within our church and I hope they would like to have their achievements, plans, and meetings made known to the entire church. It is my hope that they will ask one of their members to drop a short note as to what they doing each month. The line of communication in the church needs to be open and full of what we are doing at Olive Branch to make disciples in our area. If you would like to send us something, please bring it to church or send me an email ([revedumc@yahoo.com](mailto:revedumc@yahoo.com)) and we will see that it gets published. We need all information by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month. Please, let's keep our church informed on what we are doing. See you at church and all our activities!

God bless. Ed DiStefano