

# The Sweet Spirit

## Olive Branch United Methodist Church

### September 2017

#### From the pastor's pen



As I pen this letter, I can't help but thinking about our sisters and brothers in Texas and Louisiana that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Our prayers need to continue for everyone who are facing total devastation of everything they had, including homes, clothing, vehicles, and mourning over those who lost their lives during this storm.

And now, all eyes are on Florida and north, possibly heading our way. My sister, her friend and my nephew live on the Gulf Coast of Florida in a home I have half interest in. Of course, I'm worried more about my family than the home, but chaos may prevail. I already heard today that in the St. Petersburg area there is no bottled water available and gasoline is running scarce.

The Lord Jesus once said that He will give us peace unlike the world does. This peace that comes from Him overcomes all feelings of worry and turmoil in our hearts, even while we are undergoing pressures and problems all around us. Yes, God's peace transcends all understanding: You're in the middle of chaos, yet you are in peace.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." In the midst of chaos we have hope and trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you."*<sup>1</sup>  
*Peter 5:7*

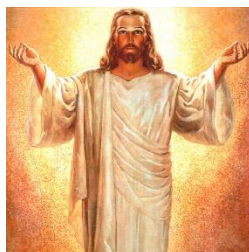
*Only Jesus can give us peace in the midst of this chaos. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27*

*Please be in earnest prayer for all that have been and may find themselves in chaos and devastation in the days ahead. Also, if you are so lead and able, please donate to UMCOR that have already sent resources to Texas and Louisiana and are prepared to help in Florida and any other areas affected by Hurricane Irma. Every dollar that you give will go directly to these affected areas.*

*Make your checks payable to Olive Branch UMC and denote UMCOR or Hurricane Relief in the memo area. Our treasurer will send a check to UMCOR after our donations are tallied.*

*Praying for you I am,*

*Pastor Randy*



## Did You Know?

Nathaniel H. Williams was born in the Meherrin District, Brunswick County, Virginia to Robert Henry and Mary Claxton Harris Williams on the 7th day of August, 1839. There is not much available about his early life. He worked as a farm laborer before the Civil War. After the war he worked as a laborer, farmer and a carpenter. When war broke out Nathaniel was a newlywed as he married Sarah J. Lynch in 1859. Nathaniel managed to steer clear of the fighting until April of 1862 when he decided to enlist, as many of his neighbors did, in the Neblett/Coleman Heavy Artillery. The unit was posted to Drewry's Bluff on the James River east of Richmond. Their task was to provide protection for Richmond against Union gun boats. In the spring of 1863 the unit was merged as Co. I into the 12<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry. They joined the troops of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia on May 16<sup>th</sup>. They joined this army in time to take part on the defensive side in General Grants Overland Campaign. The 12<sup>th</sup> fought in the Battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, the Siege of Petersburg, the Appomattox Campaign. These battles were some of the most deadly in the war. When General Lee decided that it was time to surrender he did it at Appomattox Court House. Pvt. Nathaniel H. Williams, along with the 12th VA Infantry, stacked their weapons and went home. He returned to Brunswick County and worked as a laborer, farmer, and a carpenter. In the following years he and Sarah had four children; James- 1866, Madrid-1868, Charles-1870, and Anna – 1875. When you look at his life and war records you see a man who was dedicated to his beliefs. He lived a life of many different turns. He saw his family grow up. He saw the world he grew up in changed dramatically by war. He may not have been a rich man but he was a man of strong beliefs. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1900 Nathaniel left this world and joined his comrades of the 12<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry and family in God's house. Nathaniel lies resting in our cemetery in peace.

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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. The next meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend. If you have any suggestions for our church or problems, please join us. It is always an open meeting, although voting is limited to committee members.

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**LISA'S GREAT GIVEAWAY** Lisa's Great Giveaway! This annual event is sponsored by the Outreach Committee and is an opportunity to truly give back to our community. The Outreach Committee collected clothing and small household items to be given to anyone in need. The women spent days folding and sorting clothes by sizes. Then we offered them freely to anyone who wanted them. The event was held on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. The event required lots of manpower in order to set up tables for all the items and then put them out on the day of the event. The day started with a small downpour but the sun came out and everybody worked together to get things set up. God was looking down on us! The Men put up the tent and made it usable to hang clothing on. We advertised we would be open at 9:00 am and we did. We were busy 'til we closed down at 1:00 pm. There were some sad stories we heard but the one that hit home was a lady who told us that she was moving to Roanoke Rapids in a van that her friend was driving. She was coming from Ebony. The van caught fire and she lost everything she and her family had. She was so glad we were holding this event and thanked us profusely. Her words were "Thank you for doing God's work." That day we helped 106 people that had a need. We delivered a truck load to our sister church for their yard sale to help them finish the work on their foundation. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make this day a success. And a very special thanks to **Nancy Maguire** who chaired this event!



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## United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to meet women of the church or become better acquainted. It is also an opportunity to take part in missions and other activities. We always have a great time. We are looking forward to the District Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Lewis. Our unit will present the Bishop with a Prayer Square and a history of Olive Branch.

## United Methodist Men

After taking the summer off, the United Methodist Men will resume meeting on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. We will begin planning for the rest of the year and how we can help those who are suffering from the disasters in our country. Shortly after the landfall of hurricane Harvey we donated \$650 or an equivalent of 10 cleaning buckets to UMCOR to be used for cleaning the mess the storm left behind. We will be planning our fall cleanup of Ankum Road for a Saturday in October. The Men sponsor this event and hope the Church will come out and help us make our community look good! Also, as the weather starts to cool there is nothing like a warm bowl of Brunswick stew. Watch for the date of our stew sale in October and help us or get your portion of stew to stay warm and comfortable.

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## Outreach

This past month has seen changes on our Outreach Committee. Chairperson, Jerri Burgess has left us and moved to West Virginia to be closer to her family. The Committee met just before the Council meeting in August and voted Ed DiStefano and Nancy Maguire to be co-chairs of the Outreach Committee. This decision was confirmed by the Church Council. We ask that all please give us a chance to review everything that goes on and contact Jerri for any and all information she might have that we can use to keep this committee viable and leading to help the least of us.

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 11 families with food donations. Please help keep our pantry stocked with your donations as we have a shortage of canned vegetables. 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. With the departure of Jerri Burgess we are in need of help with the deliveries to our families. Cathy and Robert Moore are doing a great job, but if you can take 2-4 hours out of your busy day, one day a month please contact Ed DiStefano, or Cathy Moore. The help will be appreciated.

**Special Reminder:** Olive Branch Homecoming – Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 AM

Please join us for this fun event and for the luncheon we will have afterwards. It will be a covered dish luncheon with the church providing meat.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Sun. – Sept 10 – Second Sunday Church Luncheon after worship. Bring a dish if you can, if not just Come and Enjoy the Fellowship! Meet your neighbors!

Wed. – Sept 13 – United Methodist Women- Meeting 1:00 PM

Wed. – Sept 13 - Choir Practice at 7:00 PM Each Wednesday

Sat.- Sept 16- United Methodist Men – Meeting 8:00 AM

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 to all! Ed DiStefano