

# Brundidge United Methodist Church

## January 2019 Newsletter

### Receive the Future and Relish the Past

Probably “relish” is more of a cooking term. The dictionary defines “relish” as “to taste with pleasure or savor.” And I like to add a spoonful of relish to boost the flavor of a helping of beans. So to relish can certainly make what is before you more palatable.

As we receive the New Year there are many things we need to relish. I relish my parents showing by example how important going to church and praising Jesus is for my life. Dad, Clyde Shirley, called “Church” God’s gas station where we needed to go for a faith fill up every week.

I relish the memory of Mom, Mildred Shirley, having fabric strewn all over the kitchen table where she made the costumes for the Christmas play. Towels became shepherd’s hats, bed sheets were transformed into robes for Mary and Joseph. Mom made us new outfits for every Easter.

I relish the memory of singing in some big youth choir musicals with my brother Chip. He is just four years older, so I trailed along in life’s footsteps right behind him. We stood and sang about Jesus; wearing our 1970’s wide white belts, white bell bottom slacks, and white platform shoes.

So, this sounds peculiar but I know those past pleasant memories add a sweet savor to my present life to make everything better. As we begin this New Year, I asks that you take a trip down your memory lane to recall those special times that are precious to you. By relishing what is important in the past you’ll find it easier and better to embrace the future.

Philippians 4:8 tells us “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you will look back and realize they were big things. When the New Year delivers a moment of mayhem that tests your patience remember a blessing from the past; that will make the present more palatable.



**Think Eternal and Tend to Your Soul.....Rev Ed**

Our Missions Committee and our United Methodist Women send notes of encouragement to Methodist missionaries each year. In the note, the missionary is asked to send us his/her newsletter if there is one. We have just received a newsletter from Rev. David Pascua in the Philippines. -Nellie Sue Helms

Union Theological Seminary                      December 16, 2018  
Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite Philippines



Dear Friends,

Please receive our greetings of *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!* May the Lord bless and keep you always in his love. What is there for the Philippines in 2019? It is a little bit silent here in the Philippines because of the government's policy of total firecracker ban. In spite of the strong crack-down on illegal drugs by the government operators continue in their drug trading and so they fill the morning news of their capture or their deaths. The government is also positioned to finally end all rebellions and all revolutionary movements and this will probably translate into a more or less "not peaceful" 2019. Notwithstanding the peace agreements with Muslim Filipinos, we cannot yet conceive if the surrender of firearms (80,000) will ever happen. China has been aggressively strengthening its ties with the Duterte government but the presence of the United States remains on the upper hand. The West Philippine Sea remains a potential international flashpoint between superpowers in the light of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In short, we are into internal and external dangers coupled by 22 typhoons that visit us every year. However, people are hardworking, resilient and optimistic. I pray to God that we are given the wisdom to navigate 2019 and beyond safely. "It is better to light just one little candle than to curse the darkness", so they say. So we must light this candle.

At the Seminary, we just entered into the second semester of the school year, 2018-2019. I am teaching only two courses in the Master of Divinity Program because the rest of my time is given into a two year writing project in Wesley Studies. I am now fulfilling the role here at Union of making Wesley Studies the theological, pastoral, and ministerial foundation of United Methodist Students. This is a long term program. I will turn out the draft of the first study material at the end of January, 2019. It will first be used in my classes while it goes through editing. Whenever it can be arranged, I will try to do a two weeks intensive class in an Annual Conference. I bring to God all these plans.

The picture here is my family. Tina, my wife is doing fine. Both my children, Danna and Jacob are married. Dimity, our granddaughter is grade 7. Dimity is showing a talent in painting. She has shown a talent in writing and is continuously developing the skill. The children are at the prime of their career development. I hope they will never lose the passion to move further. I love it here at Union. I have defined clearly my role in this seminary and also in the church. I believe that God has given me this role. I love my church, the United Methodist Church. The duty of a seminary teacher is to increase in the hearts of pastoral students the love of God and love of neighbor. With the help of God, I will endeavor to accomplish this. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Rev. David P. Pascua, DMin, D Theol. O13965AZ

## **Epiphany Service at Clay Hill Church January 6th, 6 p.m.**

This year's service is on a Sunday evening. Hopefully, the outside will have new paint. If not, we will indeed after a rustic looking building. Please plan on attending this celebration of the day that the three wise men arrived to praise the Christ Child.

## **New Church Officers and Committee Members Serve**

As of January 1st you start serving in your elected positions. Updated church officers lists are on the table in the sanctuary foyer. Thank you for volunteering.

## **Thank You Youth and Children for a Wonderful Christmas Program!**

We received \$1,350 for the United Methodist Children Home.

## **Conference-Wide Meetings Planned After Special Conference**

The Special Conference will be held in Saint Louis February 23rd through 26th. The sole purpose of this conference is to address the human sexuality issue in our denomination. Three plans will be presented from the Commission on the Way Forward (a 32 member temporary committee that studied various options).

The United Methodist Book of Discipline states that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching and that "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" cannot be clergy. The Discipline also bans ceremonies that celebrate same-sex unions in United Methodist churches.

1. **The One Church Plan** proposes the removal of statement above. Local churches and conferences shall decide how they stand on the issue.
2. **The Connectional Church Plan** would create at least two more conferences and require six amendments to be passed that could take years. Each conference would eventually have its own Book of Discipline.
3. **The Traditional Plan** keeps the statements above in the Book of Discipline with punitive measures taken against those who choose not to enforce it. This is the only one of the three plans that allows congregations to graciously exit the denomination with their physical and financial assets.

I thank you, Brundidge United Methodist Church, along with other congregations, for waiting patiently for this Special Conference Session. Christ is with us before this session and Jesus will be with us after it also.

I am encouraging anyone in our church to participate in the post conference meetings. The one that I plan to attend is March 7, 2019, at Montgomery First United Methodist Church from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. (Thursday). Pray for our denomination and our delegates from the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

# Memorials and Honorariums

## In Memory of Elva Strother

Kim Wise-Building Fund  
Jim & Laura Carpenter- Building Fund  
Jimmy & Cindy Barron- Building Fund  
Nellie Sue Helms- Building Fund  
Jimmy Hollis-White Christmas  
Frank & Wynnette Fryer- Building Fund  
Kate Taylor-Building Fund

## In Memory of Homer Homann

Randall & Gail Thompson- We Care  
Lois Dykes- Building Fund  
Johnny & Patricia Garrett- Building Fund  
Don & Susan Renfroe- Building Fund  
Larry & Ann Webb-UMW Missions  
Jessie & Edna Dorrill- Building Fund  
Betty Coppage- Building Fund  
Jim & Laura Carpenter- Building Fund  
Lorene Roberson- Building Fund  
Lamar & Jennie Gilmore- Building Fund

## In Memory of Homer Homann

Maxine Dubose- Building Fund  
Nellie Sue Helms- Building Fund  
Jimmy Hollis-UMW  
Sarah Faye Fleshman- Building Fund  
Cot & Jean Wallace- Building Fund  
June Aronson- Building Fund  
Sherroll & Tinye Tatom- Building Fund  
Frank & Wynnette Fryer- Building Fund  
Jimmy & Martha Copeland- Building Fund  
Lamar & Shirley Steed- Building Fund  
Robert & Alice Hudley- Building Fund  
Lawrence & Sara Bowden- Building Fund  
Pike Co. Chamber of Commerce-Bldg Fund

## Durward W. Tatom

Frank & Wynnette Fryer- Building Fund

## Jack & Bertie Brewster

Jerry & Sarah Dyess-Building Fund



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Daisy Hollis-1<sup>st</sup>, Wynnette Fryer-2<sup>nd</sup>, Jaine Treadwell- 3<sup>rd</sup>, Evan Strother-7<sup>th</sup>,  
Georgia Galloway- 9<sup>th</sup>, Cindy Johnson- 9<sup>th</sup>, Jimmy Hollis-10<sup>th</sup>, Donna Hogan-11<sup>th</sup>,  
Mike Robinson-11<sup>th</sup>, Karen Robinson-14<sup>th</sup>, Penny Dickert-15<sup>th</sup>, Adam Sanders-22<sup>nd</sup>,  
Helen Wallace-27<sup>th</sup>, Lauri Dorrill-31<sup>st</sup>

## Smiles From Mrs. Sara

- 1.) Which creatures in Noah's Ark didn't come in pairs?
- 2.) Why did the banana wear sunscreen?
- 3.) How do you make an orange giggle?
- 4.) Why did the turkey cross the road?
- 5.) Who brings kittens for Christmas?



**Genesis 21:6**

**Answers:** 1.) The worms...They came in APPLES! 2.) He didn't want to peel! 3.) Tickle his navel. 4.) To prove that he wasn't a chicken. 5.) Santa Claws