

Briarcliff Newsletter

Sept. 27th, 2009



What is Connectionalism?

One word unique and basic to United Methodism is “connectionalism.” That means that all United Methodist leaders and congregations are connected by certain loyalties and commitments that call us to live in covenantal accountability and empower us to be in ministry around the world.

The United Methodist Church, which began as a movement and a loose network of local societies with a mission, grew into one of the most carefully organized and largest denominations in the world. The United Methodist structure and organization was designed to accomplish John Wesley’s goal of spreading “Scriptural holiness” over the land.

United Methodists may be amazed at the many organizational layers of church life, but members of other denominations have been heard to say: “If you want something done, get the United Methodists to do it.” Followers of the Wesleys are indeed “methodical” about their approach to mission and ministry.

One reason United Methodists can do great things is the church’s emphasis on “connectionalism.” Sometimes United Methodist leaders speak of the denomination as

“the connection.” This concept has been central to Methodism from its beginning.

No local church is the total body of Christ. Therefore, local United Methodist congregations are bound together by a common task and common governance that reach out into the world. United Methodist churches and organizations join in ministry with each other and with other denominations. Connectionalism comes to life through the clergy appointment system, through the outreach United Methodists do together and through giving.

An example of connectional is Africa University, founded by The United Methodist Church in 1992 and already changing the face of the continent. No one congregation could have developed the university, but together we make a tremendous difference!



Charge Conference

This year’s charge conference will be held on Oct 20th at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. The Rev. DeDe Leetch will preside. All members of Briarcliff are encouraged to attend. Your presence is an

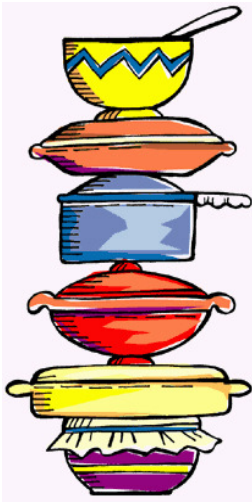
important step in staying informed about the life and mission of Briarcliff United Methodist. All members of the church council have a vote, all others are welcome to attend.

Lay Leadership Committee Meets Today



Members of the Lay Leadership Committee, also known as the Nominating Committee, are asked to meet today at 2pm in room 108 of the Education Building to begin the process of selecting lay leadership for 2010.

Covered Dish Lunch



Join us next Sunday, October 4th following the 11 o'clock service for some delicious food at a covered dish lunch. Briarcliff surely has some of the best cooks in town. Bring a dish large enough to feed your family with extra to share among friends. Sit with some old friends & some new friends & fellowship with your church family. Please limit the desserts.

The Pumpkins are Coming, the Pumpkins are Coming!

Lo & behold it's that time again. The Scouts will be unloading pumpkins on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 5 pm and again on Saturday, Oct. 17th at 9 am. Pumpkin sales fund the Scouting Ministry here at Briarcliff and 25% of the proceeds fund the church's mission projects as well. Church members are encouraged to join the scouts to help unload pumpkins. It's a fun time for all and a great way to get to know some very fine young people & their dedicated leaders.



Fall Festival News

This years Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday,



Oct. 24th from 10 am to 2 pm and is slated as a mission fund raiser. There will be a host of activities available, including a cake walk, bake sale, children's crafts and of course pumpkins sales. Proceeds from the event will fund the mission programs at Briarcliff. Many hands are needed to make this event successful. Sign up sheets will be available in early October. Please reserve the date for this important event.

Quotable Quotes:

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." ~Albert Camus



Future Calendar Items

- Oct. 2nd Pumpkin Delivery
- Oct. 4th World Communion Sunday
- Oct. 4th Covered Dish Lunch
- Oct. 4th Joint Meeting, SPRC & Finance
- Oct. 17th Pumpkin Delivery
- Oct. 20th Charge Conference
- Oct. 24th Wesley Walk for Others
- Oct. 24th Fall Festival
- Oct. 31st Trunk or Treat

