

From our President



*Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing MS Chapter President, Mike Norcom, and his wife Carol, who has served as the Chapter Secretary, for their gracious leadership and service to the MS Chapter of DGC for the last six years. Thanks to both of them for a job well done.*

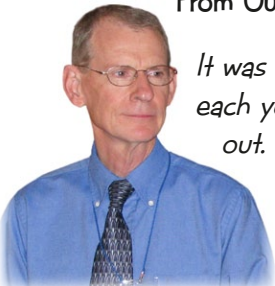
*Great things are happening in the MS Chapter of DGC! Our first ever Church retreat was held at First UMC in Batesville the first weekend in May. There were 16 new Discoverers attending, mostly from that church. We were fortunate to have a leadership team in the church who have attended a retreat to help promote and plan the weekend with the congregation and church leadership. Our own Vice-President Fran Gibson worked with her pastor, the Rev. Pat Ludlam in planning and accomplishing the successful weekend. Positive response has already been received about renewed enthusiasm for ministries in the church.*

*Discover God's Call was promoted at annual conference again this year. We had our display, retreat registration brochures and other information available. Various members manned the display table in the Mission Fair area. At the conference contacts were made with individuals and churches about our retreats and how they can enhance the ministry of their church. Because of these contacts, members of our State Council are exploring several opportunities for future church retreats and a possible retreat for college students associated with the Wesley Foundations in the state. Details for this retreat are being worked out with the possibility of Rev. Dale Hathorn being the inspirational speaker. We are hoping to get the details worked out for a spring of 2010 retreat. We are also following up on contacts for future church retreats.*

*We are excited about how GOD is working in our Chapter. I encourage all past Discoverers to consider returning to our fall retreat and talk to friends about attending with you. The retreat is Nov. 6-8, 2009 at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, MS. The Rev. John Barrett will be our inspirational speaker. We look for God to be glorified in our efforts.*

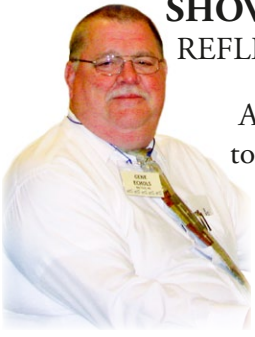
*Charles Wood, MS Chapter President.*

From Our Past President,



*It was a great personal blessing to be chapter president for six years. God gave me a great team each year to work with. Tom Clarke advised me many years ago to delegate to prevent getting burned out. He was correct. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you that helped in any way with the retreats during those years. I dare not name names, but you know who you are. As result of your faithfulness many people have a deeper relationship with God as well as a better understanding of who they are in Christ. Discover God's Call is truly a treasure in a field (Mt 13:44) in today's world. Go and share its riches with others that they also may know of God's call and gifts for their lives.*

*Mike Norcom*



## SHOWERS OF BLESSING

REFLECTIONS OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER by Gene Echols

And I will make them and the places round about My hill a blessing, and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be *showers of blessing*. Ezekiel 34:26

The prophet Ezekiel was speaking of God’s promise of a shower of blessing on his people. While some may think that at Discover, the Small Group Leader blesses the participants, I believe that the opposite is more the case. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit (who is ALWAYS at every retreat) the small group leaders emerge from the small groups drenched in the blessings we have received from the New Discoverers.

Adjectives used to describe small group sessions are a challenge --- intense, inspiring, difficult, emotional, spiritual, fulfilling, rewarding, challenging, and full of promise, grace, and love. As “leaders” we follow the written plan but we are always willing to be guided through the exercises by the awesome power of the Holy Spirit working on and among the participants.

I hope and pray that I have blessed someone along the way in their Christian journey at Discover God’s Call, for I surely have received “my showers” as a small group leader. If there is a call in your life to lead a small group, do not hesitate, take action. As always, pray, discern God’s will for your service, and let Frances Gibson know about the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Frances will pray about it and with the same Guidance Source she will help determine your commitment to service.

Proverbs 28:20 says *A faithful man shall abound with blessings, but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.* Be faithful to God’s Call, in God’s time, for God’s purposes, and you may well receive SHOWERS OF BLESSING.

### Hospitality Corner

After discussing the Batesville Church Retreat at the last council meeting, it was agreed that the way we did refreshments went well and were less trouble than the style we are use to at Camp Wesley Pines. We want to try this method out at the November retreat. For those not involved with the Batesville retreat here is what we did. ALL of the snacks we used were individually packaged products such as peanuts, granola bars, chips, trail mix, cookies, etc. With these items we did not need plates and clean up was more efficient. Also the Discoverers were able to have a wider selection and could more easily carry items to the sessions or solitude times. We also used bottled water at this retreat rather than sodas and they did not seem to be missed.

While this is a new concept, we also want to remain hospitable to new and returning folks as well. We want to coordinate these efforts through email and Susan Echols was asked to do this. We also decided that we don’t need to be totally rigid so if you must bring that five layer double chocolate devils food fudge cake deluxe, then just let Susan know so we will have variety as well. We would prefer drinks to be in cans or single serve bottles rather than 2 liter bottles that

require cups, ice, and more clean up. We also found that left over single serve snack items are easily donated to a local church, daycare, senior center, or perhaps the youth campers at Camp Wesley Pines. Susan is also going to make a special effort to “Go Green” and save the plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling. We will also need some folks to bring ice chests. We currently have more than enough paper goods such as napkins left over from previous retreats.

If you would like to volunteer to bring “goodies” to the November retreat, please email Susan at [klamathgal@bellsouth.net](mailto:klamathgal@bellsouth.net) for suggestions of what to bring and so that she can keep track so we will have a good variety. We also need to remember healthy habits and have fruit, etc. This coordinated effort will hopefully make for easier serving and cleanup of the hospitality area. Also we have never worried about variety but it would be terrible to have nothing to snack on except Twinkies!

The Hospitality Committee looks forward to seeing ALL OF YOU in November.

*Susan Echols,*  
Hospitality Chair



## From Our Vice President on Small Group Leaders



Discover has something for everyone! We provide new avenues for getting the good news of Jesus Christ out to others by using our gifts, helping others identify their gifts and answering God's Call to use these gifts. New Discoverers are on their way to glorifying God just like He has planned. The core of the DGC retreat is to equip the saints to go and spread the Kingdom. Search group leaders help the new Discoverers as the Holy Spirit shows them their gifts and their call. Some calls may be up front and visible and some may be behind the scenes according to the gift and call of God. Search group leaders are selected and trained to aid the new Discoverers. If being a search group leader sounds interesting to you, e-mail or call Frances Gibson for more information. She can be reached at 662-578-8840 or [gibson\\_fran@hotmail.com](mailto:gibson_fran@hotmail.com).

## Serendipity Bible Study by Carol Warren



DGC was an awesome experience and has helped me rediscover the call that God has on my life. I have been challenged to be a more faithful listener to God's call. DGC helped me to see where I could work along side my husband, who is a pastor, and be a benefit to the church and community. I also have attended the Bible Study and participated in the lively discussions, as well as learned how to use the Serendipity Bible to teach Bible Study in small groups. DGC can teach you many things that are eternally important. I am thankful and blessed for having made the choice to have this weekend with God. I invite you to come back and participate in the Bible Study!

## Retreat Prayer Team by Betty Darnell, Prayer Leader

It has been my privilege to be a part of the prayer team for Discover God's Call retreats. Prayer is a vital part of the retreat starting well before the retreat begins and lasting long after we say our good byes on Sunday afternoon.



Being in the prayer room and praying for everyone involved in the retreat could become a heavy load if it were not for God's never ending grace and mercy. He is in control of the prayer room, we are there talking to Him and telling him just how deeply we feel about the concerns we are praying for.

The prayers begin as we pray for enough people to sign up for the retreat. We pray for the ones thinking about signing up to listen and respond by taking that step to register and be a part of the retreat. Once a list of participants is compiled, we pray for each one as they work through their pre-retreat study. We arrive early and pray not only for all who will be involved, but over the facility. When the retreat ends we continue to pray for the new participants to share their experiences with their families and church families. The presence of God in the prayer room is always felt, making us aware of just how

big our God really is. I hope you will consider being a part of Discover God's Call by returning to be a part of the prayer team, or by praying for others if you cannot make it yourself. Once you attend you will wonder why you waited so long!

## NATIONAL DISCOVER GOD'S CALL MEETING

The semi-annual National Council meeting was held July 24 – 25, in Nashville, TN, with four in attendance from MS including our President, Charlie Wood, our vice President, Fran Gibson and Steve and Genny Seeley. God continues to do exciting things through DGC! This past spring the first ever Hispanic retreat was held in Laredo, Texas with the West Texas Chapter being the major organizer. The retreat had a total of over 100 people involved, including a great group of new Discoverers, child care helpers, and people that prepared food for the meals. Not only was it a new thing to have a Hispanic retreat, but it was also held in a Baptist Church! The Carolinas Chapter also had a retreat that was attended mostly by Native Americans. It looks like God is really broadening our borders! Even though several retreats have been canceled in the last year, the retreats that have been held have been a great experience for everyone who was involved.

**Discover**  
*Where You Are!*  
**GOD'S CALL** Fall Retreat

**November 6-8, 2009**

**Camp Wesley Pines, Gallman, Mississippi**

The Registration Deadline is September 25, 2009



Durr-Wise Retreat Center - Camp Wesley Pines

**Fall Retreat – November 6-8, 2009**

The Registration Deadline is September 25, 2009

Share with your Pastor that he/she  
can receive 1.5 CEU's for attending  
a Discover Retreat

**DGC is Open to all Denominations**