



Dear Discover Friends,

Can it be 2006 and yet we are still doing Discover God's Call? Yes, through God's grace we are. The world is being shaken more all the time by natural as well as evil forces. People need hope more than ever. Using your gifts as you minister to others gives them not only hope, but it may bring a complete restoration to their lives. I recently prayed with a lady that had many burdens. I felt very strong in my spirit during the prayer. I asked her afterwards if she felt anything. She said yes, a new peace in her heart. All of us that have been through Discover are salt and light. God has given us a unique combination of gifts to go with our personalities. We need to use them! Your spiritual confidence will grow. See you at Wesley Pines in May with that new Discoverer that you invited.

God's Blessings,

*Michael*

## **Spring 2006 Retreat**

Our spring retreat will be May 12 - 14 at the Durr-Wise Conference Center of Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman. Rev. Cecil Williamson, of Starkville, will be our inspirational speaker. Cecil is a well-known evangelist in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church and has been our inspirational speaker at several retreats.

Begin praying now who God wants you to encourage to come. The cost for this retreat is \$145 and the registration deadline is March 31, so start planning now! If you need brochures contact Steve Seeley at 601-372-7461. Brochures can also be downloaded from our web site at [www.jxnsaints.com](http://www.jxnsaints.com), then click on Discover God's Call.



**Durr-Wise Retreat Center - Camp Wesley Pines**

## **Mississippi Chapter Celebrates 10 years**

Can you believe we've been at it for 10 years?! We held our first retreat in Mississippi on April 12 - 14 of 1996. At that time a few of us had been to retreats in Georgia but not enough of us to staff the entire retreat. We had help from Georgia, South Carolina, Illinois, Alabama and Texas. We had 54 in attendance, with 30 of these being new Discoverers. At our retreat the next April we formally became a chapter. Jim Wilson of Starkville was our first President; Mike McLaughlin of Starkville was our Vice - President and Genny Seeley of Jackson was our prayer team leader. Since that time we have held 13 retreats, helping over 200 people find out what their spiritual gifts are and how God might want them to use them in their church. In addition we have had at least 5 who have made commitments to full time pastoral ministry. Some of our retreats have been small, but God has always worked in a mighty way at them.

A Ministry of:

**The Foundation for Evangelism  
of the United Methodist Church**



### **Music at Discover by Dr. Brenda Wilder**

Like music? How about some hand clapping, toe tapping choruses and hymns? How about music that lifts your spirit into God's presence and takes you out of the problems surrounding your life? If this sounds good to you, you'll love the music at Discover God's Call. Having a group of adults that love the Lord singing praises to Him and worshiping is an awesome experience. If you have musical talent to share at a retreat contact Brenda Wilder at 601-924-9287 or dbwilder@jam.rr.com.



### **Be a Small Group Leader**

There are so many ways to discover God. He woos each of us to Himself because He loves us beyond our wildest imagination. To discover His call on our lives is a whole new aspect of understanding Him. DGC provides an environment where Christians can discover the gifts God has given them as He prepares them for His call.

Part of this environment for new discoverers is a small group. Leaders for these groups can be effective in new Discoverers lives by guiding them, affirming them, and being open to them. The leaders also get to know all the new Discoverers well and see how God works in their lives throughout the retreat. We are fortunate to have leaders who are well trained and do an excellent job. For those of you who would like to invest in other's lives as a small group leader you may contact Frances Gibson at (662) 578-8840 or gibson\_fran@hotmail.com. In order to be a group leader you will have to go through the leadership training that usually begins around noon on Thursday before the retreat begins on Friday.



### **Pastors Listen Up!**

**Rev. Carl Heberg** of Shipman and Winborn Chapel UM Churches attended last fall's retreat. This is what he has to say about the retreat; "I highly recommend DGC to anyone desiring to find or affirm their place within the body of Christ. A DGC weekend will provide an environment in which you can learn and hear from God.

**Cecil Williamson**, noted Mississippi Conference United Methodist Evangelist, who has spoken at several DGC retreats, reminds us of what we heard at the Holy Spirit Conference his ministry just hosted. Dr. John Ed Mathison of Frazer United Methodist Church in Montgomery AL., who spoke at the Holy Spirit Conference, told us that of his church of 8700 members there are about 8000 of them in ministry. This is because they are putting their gifts of the Holy Spirit to work as good stewards of our Lord. "Discover God's Call" is a program to help Christian Church Members discover their Spiritual Gifts, put them to work for the kingdom of God and inspire them to bring this program to their local church and begin to make all members into ministers. Cecil heartily recommends this program for your personal life and to mobilize your church for Kingdom service.



### **From Linda Phillips**

Linda Phillips, from Crystal Springs attended the DGC retreat last November. She comments, "This was my first retreat and I loved it. I really enjoyed the small groups, and getting to know the people in the group personally. Having a different facilitator for each small group session allowed me to hear different perspectives. The music and worship time were very special. All of the team were just the greatest - I could feel and see God's love shining through all of them. Thanks for giving me the chance to experience such an awesome event."

## Two from Mississippi serve in national capacity

The Mississippi Chapter now has two people serving in a national capacity. Recently Charlie Wood accepted the position of forms coordinator. He is still new to this so does not know everything involved, but if you will remember, there were plenty of forms to fill out at the retreat. Congratulations, Charlie!



In addition Debbie Andrews is now a national retreat manager. When she attended her first retreat her gift of administration was confirmed. What would God do with it, she wondered. At her next retreat, God told her very clearly that she was to be a Retreat Manager. "Okay, Lord, but what in the world does a Retreat Manager do?" she asked. During the next months, God placed the folks in her path that she needed to know to understand the duties of a Retreat Manager. God also made sure she got the needed training required to fulfill this task. She has now learned that the Retreat Manager represents the Foundation for Evangelism and they are the "eyes and ears" of the National DGC Council. They oversee a retreat and make sure that things run smoothly and that the events of the weekend are in accord with the standards that are expected by the Foundation for Evangelism. They assist in any area of need during the weekend, including helping staff members, helping with questions that come up and they send in final reports to the National Council so the retreat can be evaluated and suggestions for improvement can be given. Congratulations, Debbie on this very important assignment.

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

**Visit the Mississippi Chapter on the Web! - [www.jxnsaints.com/dgc.htm](http://www.jxnsaints.com/dgc.htm)**

The Picture to the right is a collage of pictures from the Fall 2005 Retreat and can be seen on the web site

## National Planning Committee

The National Planning Committee met in Nashville, TN on January 28. The mood of the meeting was set by Pat Bailey, Planning Committee Chairperson in her devotion about having open hands, willing to accept what God had for them at this meeting. Ann Overcash gave a presentation on the DGC Youth Retreat publicity she'd used in recruitment. She also had a presentation that can be used by chapters for recruitment.

The committee went through a time of visioning, which was a follow up to the session that was held last July at the National Council meeting. The committee was asked to list their "dreams" for Discover. Then the committee was given a recap of the July session. Their dreams got pretty big! There are plans for DGC to have a web page without going through the Foundation for Evangelism's web site.

Included in the web site plans for the possibility for having on line registration with the ability to pay by credit card and/or Pay Pal. Our July meeting of the full Council will be July 28 and 29 at the new building of the Foundation for Evangelism at Lake Junaluska.



Mary Ann Clarke



## What our “old timers” say about Discover



Charlie Wood says his experiences over the past seven years of Discover have been very special and most meaningful in his spiritual maturity. His initial Discover weekend was in the spring of 1998. Since then he and his wife, Edwina have been to four more retreats, each being an awesome experience and a great contributor to strengthening their spiritual growth. They have attended the Bible Study, with Charlie having facilitated one. Last fall they were excited and blessed to be asked to be Small Group Leaders. The association with old friends and making new friends in CHRIST are unbelievable. Charlie and Edwina are looking forward to being involved in Discover and His service for many years to come.

Frances Gibson states that it is strange how we will delay receiving a blessing from God. Several people invited her to attend DGC at different times but she was so busy with church, a husband, and two jobs that she did not adequately consider it. When

she finally attended it was just what she needed at that time. Since her initial participation as a New Discoverer she has returned as a Bible Study participant, as a prayer team member, as a Bible Study leader, and now she is one of our Chapter leaders as Vice President. Each retreat has been memorable and helped her grow in her spiritual life. She has met so many wonderful people and encourages all of you to come for the first time or return again.



Debra Galloway urges anyone who has gone to Emmaus or Cursillo to attend a Discover God's Call retreat. It is not a repeat of the Emmaus or Cursillo experience, but is a wonderful complement. God will build on your Cursillo or Emmaus experience to show you WHERE and HOW He wants you to show His love in everyday life and in your church. She promises... it will NOT be a wasted weekend! She has been to the retreat as a new Discoverer twice, music leader, prayer team member, and bible study participant. Each time she has been blessed beyond words.

### *God's Call is in the Air*

By Joey Gremillion 10-05-05



*God's call is in the air.  
He is calling us all for his purpose.*

*Are you listening?  
Are you responding?  
Are you just in denial?*

*Peter denied him and he still loved him just as he loves us.*

*Are we stepping out in faith following  
what we hear?  
Or are we being a modern day Peter and denying what we hear?*

*Yesterday is gone.  
Today is here.*

*Tomorrow is promised to no one.  
You have a date so don't be late to open you ear to hear your call.*



## Serendipity Bible Study

As always, we had a great time of fellowship as we studied the Bible using the Serendipity study guide at the fall retreat. The Bible study is for folks who have already attended the retreat and who want to come back to experience the closeness of the Father and to be renewed and refreshed again in the company of Christian brothers and sisters. One can also learn how to use the Serendipity Bible to lead a small Bible study after returning to your home church. Is God prompting you to revisit Discover God's Call? If so, sign up for the Bible study. We will see you at Camp Wesley Pines in May.

*Carol Norcom*

## The Hospitality Corner!

We welcome volunteers to bring cakes, drinks, cookies, fruits and/or any type of snack for the May Retreat. We want to coordinate all efforts where we will not duplicate too many items. Please let Carol Norcom, coordinator for this retreat know what you will bring at [mnorcom@juno.com](mailto:mnorcom@juno.com) or 601-924-4666.



## Prayer Team

At each retreat we have a group of people who do nothing but pray for the retreat. While everyone is in their small group, the prayer team is in the prayer room praying for every aspect of the retreat. If you would like to come back to the retreat as a prayer team member contact June Thornhill at 601-945-2561 or [bobbyandjune@hotmail.com](mailto:bobbyandjune@hotmail.com)

## Prayers for the Retreat

We want to continue to gather in small groups to pray for our upcoming retreat and for the over all ministry of Discover God's Call. We had several times of prayer before the last retreat and we all found them to be uplifting and encouraging. Let's work towards doing this again. Prayer is the bedrock of all that we do.

These gatherings have been informal and loosely organized, with someone just stepping up and saying, "Ya'll come to my house." God will honor our prayers and we will build greater community among ourselves. Since the registration deadline in March 31, we need to hold these gatherings prior to that time.



## Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Peggy Hubert – D'Iberville – Ongoing health concerns.  
Louise Davis, Batesville – cancer  
Pam White – June Thornhill's sister – ongoing health issues

Want to keep in Touch with Discover by Email? Contact Genny Seeley at [gnseeley@bellsouth.net](mailto:gnseeley@bellsouth.net) to receive prayer requests and other important information about Discover.

## Our Sympathy

*To the family of Jimmy Jackson, who died on October 17, 2005. We have learned from Edwina and Charlie Wood that Molly has moved back to Starkville. Her address is 208 Womack Rd Apt. 29, Starkville, MS 39759. Her phone number is 662-323-4387, if any of you would like to contact her.*

*Also to the family of Linda Dunn of Pascagoula, who died February 6, 2006.*

You can now pay online by visiting the National DGC organization on the Web! at [www.evangelize.org/dgc](http://www.evangelize.org/dgc) and clicking on retreats

**Discover**

*Where You Are!*

**GOD'S CALL Spring Retreat**

**May 12-14, 2006**

**Camp Wesley Pines, Gallman, Mississippi**

**The Registration Deadline is March 31, 2006!**

**DGC officers for the MS Chapter:**

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Music, Dr. Brenda Wilder – 601-924-9287  
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