

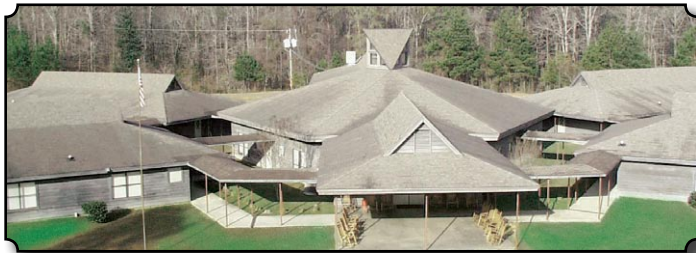


Dear Friends of Discover,

It seems like forever since our fall 2007 retreat. I hope that you have had a good year thus far. We have our fall 2008 retreat coming up at Wesley Pines with Dale Hathorn as our speaker. Dale did a wonderful job the last time he was with us. I encourage you to sign up and join us for a spirit filled weekend with Dale November 7-9. Please invite a first timer to Discover! We will be electing new officers at the fall retreat. My time as president is just about up. We will elect a president, a secretary, a publicity chairman and some at large members. **If you are interested, please call me at 601-924-4666 or email me at [mnorcom@juno.com](mailto:mnorcom@juno.com). Other members of the nomination committee that may also be contacted are Steve Seeley (601-372-7461) and Frances Gibson (662-578-8840).** Next spring in May of 2009 we will have our first "in a church" retreat. It will be held at Batesville FUMC with Julian Davis (one of our own) as our spiritual speaker. We will need lots of help. Hope to see you at one or both of these events!

*Mike Norcom*

Mississippi Chapter President, DGC



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

**Fall Retreat — November 7-9, 2008**

**The Registration Deadline is September 26, 2008**

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

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

A Ministry of:

The Foundation for Evangelism an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church – **DGC is Open to all Denominations**



I attended my first DGC retreat several years ago on the coast at Arlean Hall. My family was on the Coast recently and saw the continuing effects of the destruction of Katrina. There are continuing effects because in many places only patch work repairs have been done. As I looked at the destruction to Arlean Hall, I was reminded of what happens to us spiritually when we do not maintain our spiritual house. DGC is a really great form of spiritual upkeep that is like "spring cleaning." All the cobwebs are swept out, fresh paint is applied to restore and refurbish. (Jennie Heberg is a pastor's wife from South MS. She has attended several retreats and has participated in as well as led the Bible study.)

*Jenny Heberg*



The DGC Retreat made me better aware of the spiritual gifts the Lord has given me. Because of this new awareness my service to the Lord has been "amped"! I had spoken at churches before, but now becoming better equipped at DGC and also having become a Certified Lay Speaker, I have sanctioned training. God has expanded my boundaries again!

*Frances Ashcraft*

(a new Discoverer at last fall's retreat)



*"DGC is not just another program, it is an opportunity."*

*Carol Norcom*, First UMC, Clinton  
(Carol has been to a number of retreats serving as a leader, on the prayer team and participating in the Bible study)



### Hospitality Corner

Excitement is building! We are now counting the weeks until our fall retreat. We are enthusiastic over seeing our brothers and sisters in Christ that we have missed over the past year and it is also time to offer jobs to some of our Discoverers who will return as "Oldies but Goodies". I want to extend a personal invitation to all repeat discoverers to take part in the Hospitality Room. There are so many wonderful treats to choose from such as cakes, cookies, pies, brownies, candy, nuts, chips, fruit, drinks, ice cream, etc. Whatever suits your fancy, plan to bring to share with the group. I will need one or two volunteers for clean up after the fellowship both Friday and Saturday nights (these need to be late nighters). I am an early riser and will put all of the food out. Let me know what you plan to bring by email at [patnasonwilliams@bellsouth.net](mailto:patnasonwilliams@bellsouth.net) or you may phone me at 662/234-7681 (please leave a message if there is no answer). I look forward to hearing from you.

In Christian Love,  
*Pat Williams*, Miss Hospitality



The blessings I have received from my DGC retreats have literally changed my Christian life. At my first retreat I received a dose of confidence that I am still using for the Lord twelve years later! During those years God has called me to many ministries for Him. I am still discovering God's call for my life as He continues to guide me in using my spiritual gifts. Besides accepting Jesus as my Lord & Savior, attending that Discover God's Call retreat was the greatest thing that I have done so far in equipping myself to be the Lord's disciple. (Sheila has attended a number of retreats and has served as a small group leader, attended the Bible study and has served on our chapter council)

*Sheila Gillis*,  
Heritage UMC, D'Iberville



### *Greetings from the Heart,*

The Mississippi Chapter holds a special place in my heart. After marrying my husband, Phil, we moved close to his parents in Long Beach. Our two girls were born in Vicksburg. I've attended retreats at Camp Wesley Pines and was on the prayer team at the very first Discover God's Call retreat which was held at Arleen Hall in Biloxi. Your chapter has been in my thoughts and prayers ever since.

We have a wonderful connection from the past. Under the authority of the Foundation for Evangelism your Discover God's Call National Council is accepting a challenge to "enlarge our borders". We now have an exciting connection for the future to 'press on' toward the mark that God has presented to the Discover God's Call organization. Our mission of "*helping people discover God's call by recognizing and using their spiritual gifts*" will remain. Our method of presenting that mission must and will evolve to reflect the times in which we live and in the direction that God is leading us.

I'm counting on you to "not lose faith" and to "pray without ceasing". Now more than ever, keep your National and Chapter Council members in your prayers. We need to stay focused on God and go where God leads wherever that may be. I will be in prayer for your fall Mississippi Chapter retreat. May the Lord bless us as we live to bless others.

*In Joy and Peace,*

*Pat Bailey*

National President, Discover God's Call

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## **Discover at Annual Conference**

Discover God's Call had a display at the Missions Fair at Annual Conference. Various members of our group handed out brochures and talked to people about attending a retreat. We talked to probably over 100 people. More and more people are becoming aware of Discover and are positive about it. We need to continue to pray that God will bring forth fruit from all the seeds that we have planted.

One of the things that was noticed as we spoke to people was several pastors saying they had lay people who needed to attend this retreat. When pastors say that kind of thing we need to remind them that they can get 1½ CEU's for attending a retreat. They should make their plans to attend for CEU's and then tell their congregation to come along with them! Continue to plant, fertilize and water those seeds!



*Genny Seeley*



## NATIONAL DISCOVER GOD'S CALL MEETING

The semi-annual National Council meeting was held August 1-2, in Nashville, TN, with six from the MS Chapter in attendance, including Mike and Carol Norcom, Charlie Wood, Frances Gibson and Steve and Genny Seeley.

Several exciting things are happening with DISCOVER GOD'S CALL. The MY DISCOVERY booklet for the small group sessions at the Weekend have gone through major revisions, as has the PRE-RETREAT STUDY. These revisions have condensed and simplified the pre-retreat study to 15 days, rather than the 26 day study previously used. The DISCOVERY booklet for the Weekend has been updated AND REVISED.

The COUNCIL was honored during their meeting by the attendance of Dr. Jack Ewing, the new Executive Director of The Foundation for Evangelism, an affiliate of the General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, of which the DISCOVER GOD'S CALL organization is an outreach program.

Dr. Ewing brought us great news saying that the FOUNDATION is looking to place "venture" money into new outreach ideas for leadership development. He was very positive about the good job that DGC does in training the laity for leadership and service. Council members were encouraged to envision where DGC might expand their outreach to provide church leadership to a more diverse group, especially young people. This encouragement was a very welcome addition to our National Council meeting.

*Charlie Wood*



## Discover God's Call Honors Member

At our fall retreat last year, we recognized the service of one of our long time members, Loretta Mattade. Formerly of First Methodist Church of Batesville, Mrs. Mattade attended her first retreat in the spring of 1997. She faithfully returned to almost every retreat that was held in Mississippi until she moved to Clarksville, TN several years ago. As a repeat attendee, Mrs. Mattade participated in the Serendipity Bible study and the prayer group. Her most significant contribution to the ministry was her capable leadership in managing the book table. With her background in accounting, she was a natural for this position. Not only did she keep all the funds straight, but she made sure there were plenty of items to purchase other than books that would not only be useful to retreat attendees but would also remind them of their Discover God's Call experience. Mrs. Mattade's faithfulness, her sweet, helpful spirit and her kindness were valuable assets to the ministry of Discover God's Call in Mississippi. She is a faithful disciple of Christ and the members of the Mississippi Chapter are honored and grateful that she chose to serve the Lord through this ministry. The chapter honored Mrs. Mattade with an honorary lifetime membership on the Chapter's Executive Council. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a collage of pictures from the various retreats she had attended.



Loretta Mattade, former member of Batesville First United Methodist Church, thanks participants of the Discover God's Call retreat for their recognition of her service to the ministry.

Mike Norcom, President of the Mississippi Chapter of Discover God's Call, presents Loretta Mattade, with a certificate of lifetime membership to the Chapter's Executive Council in recognition of her service to the ministry.



### Be a Small Group Leader

Being a small group leader at Discover God's Call retreat is an opportunity to help others find their gifts and how to use them to help build God's Kingdom.

Training for leaders is held on Thursday before the retreat begins on Friday so that everyone will know what they are doing and gain confidence in doing it. Being a leader is a great way to get to know all of the new Discoverers and how God is speaking to them at the retreat. It is a WONDERFUL way to serve God and others. One must have been a New Discoverer at a previous retreat. The Vice President is responsible for choosing the leaders and the Small Group Trainer is responsible for training them. If this is something the Lord has laid on your heart to do please call or e-mail Frances Gibson: 662-578-8840: gibson\_fran@hotmail.com.

*Frances Gibson*

### Continuing Opportunities in Discover

You can continue your Discover experience by attending every retreat. We have a Bible study, a prayer team or you can be a small group leader or help with the Worship team. The Prayer team under girds every aspect of the retreat with prayer. They also pray for concerns of individuals who have come to the retreat. The Serendipity Bible study group does a study on a different topic at each retreat. Participants also learn how to lead a Serendipity Bible study at home or in their church. There are plenty of opportunities for your Discover experience to continue on. Give it a try!



*Prayer Team in Action*

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

**November 7-9, 2008**  
**Camp Wesley Pines, Gallman, Mississippi**

**The Registration Deadline is September 26, 2008**



*This is to Certify*

*That*

*Loretta M. Mattade*



*by vote of the executive council*

*of the Mississippi Chapter of Discover God's Call  
has been made a life time member of the council  
with all rights and privileges that position holds*

*We have found her to be a true servant of God  
Showing the Love of Christ to all she encounters*

**DGC officers for the MS Chapter:**

President, Mike Norcom – 601-924-4666, 961-5133  
mnorcom@juno.com

Vice President, Frances Gibson – 662-578-8840  
gibson\_fran@hotmail.com

Registrar, Steve Seeley – 601-372-7461  
dgc@jxnsaints.com

Co-prayer leaders,

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bobbyandjune@hotmail.com

Sandra Bruner – 662-281-3787  
sandra.bruner@bxs.com

Publicity and Bible Study Coordinator,

Genny Seeley 601-372-7461  
gnseeley@bellsouth.net

Conference Chair, Lou Ann Staggs – 662-534-7733  
merton@netdoor.com

Search Group Trainer, Carey Sutphin – 662-323-5628  
cls1@ra.msstate.edu

Secretary, Carol Norcom – 601-924-4666  
mnorcom@juno.com

Music, Dr. Brenda Wilder – 601-924-9287  
dbwilder@jam.rr.com

Hospitality, Pat Williams – 662-234-7681