



*From the President:*

*Dear Discover Friends,*

"A FEW GOOD MEN". That is a slogan of one of the US military branches. It is also a good one for the Mississippi Chapter of Discover. We need a few good men AND women to fill some positions on the Executive Council. Are you organized, like to be in the middle of things, have the gift of administration? We will need a new **Vice President**.

Do you like to pray for and with others, does it bring a joy to your heart? Are exhortation or compassion among your gifts? We need an additional **Prayer Chairperson**. Perhaps you like to share about what Discover is all about with pastors, churches and individuals. Is administration, shepherding or evangelism among your gifts? We will need to fill the **Outreach Coordinator** position. Maybe your cup of tea is to make sure that everyone has a cup of tea. We have a new position just for you. It is our **Hospitality Coordinator**. We also need a few new **At Large** council members. If any of these are interesting to you or if God prompts you (all the better) to inquire about a position, please email me ([mnorcom@juno.com](mailto:mnorcom@juno.com)) or phone me at 601-924-4666.

*Michael*

## Spring 2005 Retreat

Our spring retreat will be April 15 - 17 at Arlean Hall in Biloxi. Our inspirational speaker will be John Barrett. John currently lives in Midland, Texas and those of us who attended last spring's retreat know what a treat we have in store for us. John is an outstanding preacher and a popular speaker for Discover God's Call retreats. We anticipate that this spring's retreat will be just as great or greater blessing as last spring's. Begin praying now who God wants you to encourage to come. If you need brochures contact Steve Seeley or Mike Norcom. Brochures can also be downloaded from our website at [www.jxn-saints.com](http://www.jxn-saints.com), then click on Discover God's Call. Note that **the registration deadline is March 4, 2005.**



### DGC officers for the MS Chapter:

President: Mike Norcom – 601-924-4666

Vice President: Debbie Andrews – 662 - 256-4099

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Secretary: Carol Norcom – 601-924-4666

A Ministry of:

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



*But each one has his own gift from God. (1 Corinthians 7:7b)*

Stagnate and dying churches often rely on the minister to do the preaching, while the members sit like wet wood offering only their presence and tithe. This is evident when the church no longer has a vision and ministers fail to lead the members to claim their gifts and act on their call into a ministry for the glory of God, which builds up the Body of Christ. I once thought that being in ministry was preaching, teaching, singing or playing an instrument. Then our minister at the time, Willis Brit encouraged the vision that every member is to be in ministry. About the same time I became involved in Discover God's Call. Both of these required that we discover and claim our gifts and to become open to where God may be calling

us. In my journey to claim my spiritual gifts, I found gifts were not necessarily things I could do, but were also attitudes and inner feelings that guide and make me who I am. For example, left as a widow in my late thirties, to pay off some large debts, it became necessary for me to take over my husband's business along with raising two sons, ten and twelve. This left me very angry with God. I wrestled with this anger for years. In working through my hurt and anger, I realized this experience left me more sensitive and compassionate toward others who were angry and hurt and I started Parkway Heights' ministry for widowed and divorced people. So gifts are not only what you do, but they influence what and who you are and lead to where God is calling you. ♥

Evelyn Wiseman,  
Parkway Heights United Methodist, Hattiesburg,



Brenda Wilder of First UMC, Clinton writes: I attended my first Discover God's Call retreat in the spring of 2004. It was a wonderful, spiritual experience that I will always treasure. The spiritual gifts that God has blessed me with were confirmed at the

retreat, and my time alone with God allowed Him to show me how to use these gifts in my church. It has been exciting to watch God bring these visions to pass during the last six months.

Since the Spring Retreat was such a blessing to me, I was determined to attend the Fall Discover Retreat, 2004. I knew somehow God was going to bring about another great spiritual event in my life, though I did not know exactly what. Our retreat speaker was Scott Carter, who is blessed with an anointing of the Holy Spirit as he teaches the Bible and prays for others. As he prayed for me, the Holy Spirit descended upon me in a marvelous way. Scott prayed for areas of concern in my life of which no one else knew – only God knew. I was moved to tears, and it is still difficult for me to express this experience to others without crying. But I cry with tears of joy and rejoicing, not sadness, and with tears of praise to the Lord for His majesty and glory. He really cares about you and me. My heart wants to run and tell everyone to not miss the Spring Retreat, 2005. If you desire a

closer walk with God, want to know your spiritual gifts, and like to experience sweet, loving Christian fellowship, then mark April 15-17 on your calendar, and don't let anything interfere with coming to the retreat. You'll be glad you did! ♥

The first Discover God's Call Retreat in Mississippi was in the spring of 1996, states Pat Williams of Oxford – University UMC in Oxford. Three of us from Oxford attended and loved it. I have missed only one retreat since we began. I look



forward to returning to every retreat to hear the gospel preached by the very best evangelists, to worship and praise in song and to have great prayer warriors praying for us, as well as meeting new brothers and sisters in the Lord and renewing acquaintances from prior retreats. The devil works hard to keep all of us from attending because he knows how awesome the retreats are and that many lives will be changed. One year, I was in South Carolina the day before - arrived in Oxford on Thursday before the Friday of the retreat and literally spent the night in the emergency room. I got out in time to leave at 5:00 a.m. to drive to Biloxi. I even thought I was crazy, but knew the devil was trying to stop a tremendous blessing that I would receive and did. We all need to work to fill every DGC retreat where we can introduce others to the precious gifts of the Holy Spirit. ♥

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

## What Discoverers Are Saying and Doing:

St. Andrews UMC in Amory has established a prayer room as a result of a specific call received by two of our church members who attended a Discover God's Call Retreat. The prayer room can be used at any time but is used specifically at a certain time on Wednesday evenings to pray with anyone who desires. This has proven to be a wonderful addition to our ministries of prayer chains and member care. We pray for all the prayer requests that we are aware of but, in addition, we are there to pray with anyone who needs a personal time of prayer, consolation and encouragement. ♥

## Serendipity Bible Study

Those who attend this small group Bible Study are blessed with new insights into the Word and wonderful fellowship with other Discoverers. Each study is different and deals with completely different issues. The guide from the Serendipity Study Bible is used and not only gives participants an opportunity to study and share with one another, but instructions are given on how to lead a Bible Study of your own when you arrive home. It is a great experience of bonding and digging deeper into the Word of God, and gives you a perfect opportunity to return to a retreat. ♥

## Prayer Team

The prayer team is an integral part of each retreat. Every aspect of the retreat is prayed for, including concerns that Discoverers come to the retreat with that may affect the effectiveness of the retreat in their lives. If God is calling you to be an intercessor, then this is your chance to be a part of something wonderful, sign up for the prayer team! ♥

## Keeping in Touch

Not only was Discover God's Call a wonderful spiritual weekend for Maxine Ramsay of Heritage UMC in D'Iberville, but the experience has continued with the almost daily emails received from Genny Seeley. She keeps all Discoverers who have email updated on prayer requests, thanksgivings and news of what's going on in the lives of fellow Discoverers. If you are not on Genny's list and would like to be, email her at [gnseeley@bellsouth.net](mailto:gnseeley@bellsouth.net) to be included on her email list. ♥

## *Ongoing Prayer Concerns*

Rex Wiseman, son of Evelyn - recovering from gastric by-pass surgery.

Ghuna Kumar in India, friend of Mike and Carol and Cecil and Julie Williamson - dealing with tsunami relief.

Pete Gibson, father of Glen Gibson - recovering from a foot injury

Ruby Gibson, mother of Glen Gibson – recovering from hip replacement surgery

Sarah Kuykendall, Stan's mother - recovering from a broken ankle

Jane Claire Williams, daughter-in-law of Pat Williams – receiving treatments that make her very ill after being accidentally stuck with an HIV infected needle

Joey Wilder, Brenda's son – dealing with personal and family issues

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## Congratulations!!!

To Debbie Andrews who is now a retreat manager and will travel around the country to different DGC retreat to manage them!

To Bill Flathau and Sue Atkins who were married on December 17, 2004.

Congratulations to Sarah and Josh Ammons. They were married December 19, 2004. Sarah is BR Arbuthnot's daughter. The couple resides in Bolton, MS.

**Discover**  
*Where You Are!*  
**GOD'S CALL Spring Retreat**  
**April 15-17, 2005**  
**Arlean Hall - Biloxi, Mississippi**

The Registration Deadline is March 4, 2005!



### Continue the Blessing!

Did you know that you can continue to receive the blessings of a DGC retreat over and over? Once you have attended a retreat as a "new Discoverer" you can attend retreats as often as you would like. Plenty of opportunities are available for repeaters to continue reaping fruit from the retreats. Repeat Discoverers can come back as a search group leader, a prayer team member, a member of the music team or in the Serendipity Bible study. There are opportunities for everyone to stay involved. Pray how God might continue to use you in this ministry. To sign up to be a search group leader, to be on the prayer team

or on the music team, mark "other" on the Hold My Place form on the retreat brochure and clearly specify which activity you want to participate in. Often people don't really specify, which means the registrar has to choose for you, so please give him clear instructions. A separate place is provided to sign up for the Serendipity Bible Study. There is a form in this newsletter to sign up for the retreat, so go ahead, make your plans now and register! The registration deadline is March 4th; so don't put it off any longer! Register now and invite your friends to come along as new Discoverers. ♥