

News Briefing

Congregational Newsletter Insert. More information available at www.ntnl.org

January 2012

Celebrating our Ministry together
in the NT-NL Mission Area

Looking Toward the Future

Briarwood's Exciting Master Plan

Gifts to *DiscipleLife Alive!* have enabled Briarwood Retreat Center to undertake a full review of its site and facilities, resulting in the development of a new Master Plan for the future of the campus. The Master Plan envisions that (1) an attractive new entrance will be built that provides a sense of arrival and welcome for campers and retreaters, (2) distinct areas of the grounds will be zoned for ministry with children, youth and adults, (3) parking will be added and all vehicular traffic will be moved to the periphery -- with a new pond placed central to the grounds, (4) the *DiscipleLife Center for Mission* will be built to accommodate up to 160 participants in a facility that is technologically "state of the art", (5) a new lodge will be constructed that can hold up to 60 participants in single and double rooms, (6) Trails End cabins will be removed and two new 16 bed cabins provided, (7) a new High School area will be developed with a meeting space and two cabins (to be used for local schools' nature study during the week), and (8) space will be provided for the Briarwood and NT-NL Mission staff. Briarwood's Master Plan will help them grow and strengthen over the next decade as a partner with the NT-NL Mission Area in *Leadership Formation for Mission*.



The Shalom Center at Briarwood



We Want your Videos

How does your congregation engage in mission both locally and globally? Tell your story in pictures by developing a 30-40 second video of your members in action. The videos will be used at the 2012 Mission Assembly and posted on the Assembly Facebook page. Our assembly has a Global Mission theme this year, presented in special speakers, music and workshops. Go to NTNL.org – Assembly.

From Merger to Merger: A History of the ALC's Southern District, 1961-87

A history of the Southern District is now available, authored by a number of folks active in the former judicatory. History, essays and a 40-page photo gallery are all included. A limited number of books will be printed. Learn how to reserve yours at the Bulletin Board on NTNL.org.

FYI (Go to www.NTNL.org)

January Emphasis: *Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed January 18-25

- ❖ **Voting Members** at the coming Mission Assembly (April 27-29) will elect a bishop to serve in the NT-NL Mission Area for a six year term. The Committee on the Bishop Election encourages you to be in prayer about the election and nominees. Information about the process is found at NTNL.org – Assembly.
- ❖ **Position Opening at Briarwood:** the Board of Directors of Briarwood Retreat Center has opened its search for a new Executive Director. To see the position description, go to BriarwoodRetreat.org.
- ❖ **New Visions: Leadership for Mission**, March 5-6 at Briarwood, is offered by *Healthy Congregations* and taught by Pr. Jon Lee and Pr. Paul Blom. The event will help congregational leaders increase mission awareness, improve congregational vitality, grow leadership skills and manage change in healthy ways. Learn more at NTNL.org.
- ❖ **The ALOA Senior Fest** (Adult Lutherans Organized for Action) is Saturday, Feb. 18, at King of Glory, Dallas, featuring The Rev. Walt Waiser on the topic of Prayer. Learn more at NTNL.org.
- ❖ **NT-NL Lutheran Men in Mission** sponsors a gathering for all men on Jan. 20-21 at Briarwood. The keynote presenter is Richard Ray, Anchor 4 News, speaking on *Living DiscipleLife*. Info contact Davis Tubre (hdtubre@gmail.com).
- ❖ **The Apprentice Conference** at King of Glory, Dallas, Jan. 27-28, features James Bryan Smith, C.J. Fox and Matt Johnson talking about the exciting adventure of being continually transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Learn more at KingOfGlory.com.
- ❖ **What Shall I Say?** The annual continuing education conference for all ELCA rostered leaders in TX and LA is Jan. 23-25 in Waco. Four presenters will preach and reflect on the preaching task.

