

# BRIARWOOD HISTORY

- In the early 1970's, the Missions Committee of Mars Hill Baptist Church felt the need to establish a new church in the Highway 53 area of Oconee County.
- In 1977 five acres of land were purchased at Highway 53 and Robin Hood Road.
- Around 1978 three acres of land were added to the site for a new church.
- First Sunday of May 1977, a group of citizens interested in starting a church met to initiate the building of Briarwood Baptist Church.
- On July 15, 1979 a Ground Breaking Ceremony was held for the first building on the property. This is the building that is currently used as a Fellowship Hall and which was later renovated in the fall 1999.
- On the third Sunday of November 1979, the first service was held in the new building with membership at the mission numbering 43. Rev. Claude Healan, pastor of Mars Hill, conducted services at the mission for 9 months. (Prayer Meetings were in host homes and later in Walton EMC building).
- On the third Sunday of July, 1981, Rev. Dan D Fuller was called as the first full time pastor of Briarwood. He served until his retirement on January 1, 2001.
- On October 25, 1981 the Mission was constituted as a Church with 122 charter members.
- Educational space was added to the original building and was completed in 1983.
- The 500 seat sanctuary and three-story education annex were completed and dedicated in June 1986.
- A building program for 11,000 sq. ft. of educational space, with 17 new class rooms, 2 nursery areas, bathrooms, elevator and church office began in 1996. The facility was dedicated in May of 1998.
- The Sanctuary was renovated in March of 2001.
- In the summer 2004, AWANA Clubs for children were adopted and began in early fall of the same year.
- During November 2004 the property bordering Briarwood to the west became available for purchase. In January 2005 9.1 acres were purchased to bring the total campus size to approximately 17 acres.
- In January 2005 the decision was made to purchase a temporary education complex for youth Sunday school and other youth functions. The building opened in July 2005.
- We are currently working on a project to replace our modular Student Building and expand our facilities.

## **Briarwood Baptist Church** *Belong!*

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