



Pleasant Times

2013 Fall/Winter Edition

Pleasant Grove UMC

15300 Dover Road, Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-429-5080 Email: pgchurch@verizon.net

Visit our Website at :

PLEASANTGROVEMDUMC.ORG

Notes from Pastor

A Time to Rest?

As I write this note to you, our extended Pleasant Grove UMC family, we are just several days from Thanksgiving. The weather is taking its slow but steady walk toward winter with the possibility of snow showers on Sunday. I am certain that many of you are thinking - "Where has the year gone?" Yes, time does seem to travel at an extraordinary fast pace. And as we all are aware of its pace. But, it is at this time of the year that we really need to slow down instead of yielding to its increased pressure of trying to fit everything into our schedule. Certainly you will say --- Pastor Dick - you have to be kidding or you are out of touch with reality. But, I am not out of touch with reality - just trying to live my own words of advice.

Thanksgiving is the time to sit back and just be thankful for the many blessings that God has given us. I have to chuckle a little as I re-read our current outside church sign -- "God gave us our relatives - be thankful." This little gem came to us courtesy of the search engine, Google. I will have to say that I have received several interesting comments from PGUMC folks that span the entire spectrum --- Yes, I agree to obviously, you do not know my relatives. Still - God did give us our relatives and we are to be thankful for them. Thanksgiving is the time for us to readjust our awareness about our blessings and then to take stock and maybe readjust our feelings - if even only a little. Remember that God loves our relatives, in concert with us or in spite of us.

Can you imagine how much more we could relax into the holidays if we were at peace with members of our family?

And now Christmas is on the way. This is another stress filled holiday for many --- but does it have to be? Not really!

Right after Thanksgiving comes Advent --- the watchful waiting period for the coming of the Christ child. Maybe instead of the frantic pace of last minute shopping, cooking, and Christmas card preparation (or email cards), it might be possible to focus on the coming of the baby Jesus and slow down a little. If so, we (note the change from *you* to *we*) might just begin to experience Christmas in a new light of peace and relaxation.

In order to help the process of slowly working into Christmas time, we have a little Advent booklet - The Story of God with us that gives us a daily Scripture reflection for us to think about. On Sunday, November 24th we will pass out one to each person in worship. If you were unable to attend that day - give us a call and we will mail you one. This little booklet will give you the inspiration to just slow down a little.

God's continued blessing to each of you!

Dick

A Vision for the Future

In early October, five members of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church attended a Baltimore - Washington UMC Conference sponsored seminar on "Building Healthy Congregations."

The purpose of the meeting was to help churches navigate through the changing times. As you are aware, many churches are seeking to understand just how God wants us to address the changing demographics and attitudes concerning worship. For us at Pleasant Grove UMC, it is quite clear that we have to address this issue head-on. As a result of the Conference meeting, we have decided to establish a Visioning Committee that will look at all the dimensions of worship at PGUMC. Since, from

worship comes all other programmatic aspects of church we will be examining in detail our programs and our facilities.

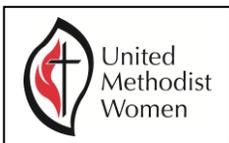
At our initial meeting we are discussing our vision along with what we do well. Also, we plan to have a first one page summary for the congregation the first Sunday in January 2014. If you would like to participate, please contact Jody Roblyer or on email at jodyroblyer@yahoo.com.

Rice Bowls

The missions theme for the 2013 Vacation Bible school program was to support children in South America through a program called Rice Bowls (www.ricebowls.org). The children in VBS and the congregation of PGUMC raised a total of \$572.73 which equals 2290 meals for impoverished children.

Social Hall

Repairs have been made to the Social Hall, by placing a handicap bar ion the bathroom, fire extinguishers were tested and passed, and a vote was passed for a fire extinguisher to be placed in the basement. A storage shed was placed behind the Tracey Building, and the Recycling bin has brought money in to help with the Youth group and children's supplies.



On November 5th, our monthly meeting was held at Sharon's home. We did rather well at the Bazaar so apparently changing to the fourth Saturday in October

helped. Thanks to all who helped in any way. It was our month to do casseroles but voted to do them after New year's when they don't get many at Our Daily Bread. We will be helping out with the Christmas families. Our Christmas dinner meeting will be held at Vola's on December 3rd. A thank you letter was read for the donation sent to Susannah Wesley House. Vola Osborn, President

Events

December 1st Advent Begins

December 1st Adult Study class will explore the prophecies that predicted the coming of Jesus, each Sunday at 9 AM in December.

Dec. 22nd

Come and worship this day in the Social Hall. We will have worship, and also a Christmas brunch. Bill Hedrick and his band will be with us for an "ole fashioned Christmas Carol Sing." Invite our neighbors, family for worship, fellowship, singing and food. Any questions, see Pastor Dick. There will also be a visit from a Christmas celebrity.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tues., Dec. 24th at 7 p.m.

Be certain to bring your friends and family to the Candlelight Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 7 PM on December 24th. We plan to have a wonderful celebration for the pending birth of the Christ Child. We will sing carols, pray for our family, friends, our country and world and especially for our church. This will be a time to greet our friends and to wish to all the peace of Christ.

COMING IN 2014 !

**Church Bus Trip to Sight & Sound
Theater production of
"Moses"
in Lancaster, PA on June 18, 2014**



"Moses is the newest show held at Sight & Sound theater and it will be interesting to see the parting of the Red Sea, the Burning Bush, The Plagues, and the Ten Commandments.

The cost is \$95.00 per person.

This includes the show, Bird-in-Hand Restaurant (smorgasbord at 2:15 PM) and motor coach. We will leave Pleasant Grove church at 8:30 AM sharp and return at approximately 5:30 PM.

Vola will need to know by **March 2, 2013**, if you and any friends plan to go (names), so the offer can be opened up to any outsiders. This is necessary as 30 persons are needed to continue the trip.

Please make your check payable to:

"Pleasant Grove UMC"

Mail to:

Vola Osborn

15206 Old Hanover Road

Upperco, MD 21155

The total is due by May 2, 2014. Call Vola at 410-429-3922 for information and reservation.

Prayer List

April Schriefer Gary Bosley Janet Bosley
Doris Kirkland Becky Harvey Joe Tracey
Charlotte Yohn David Osborn Helen Kemp
Chrissy Minor Fran & Marley Pat Sheppard
Georgianna Harvey Beth & Family
Paul & Ruth Warren Service Men & Women

Thank you...I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards on the passing of our Shirley to a better place. It helps so very much to know you all care. Sincerely, Vola



Making Christmas Special



Have you ever felt rejected because you didn't get the gift you were looking for, a birthday card on your special day, no calls to say "Hello" when feeling blue or ill. Can

you put these feelings into how Christ must feel at Christmas when we are supposedly celebrating His birthday, but He is left out of the picture altogether?

If you have ever been looking for someone or something to happen at a particular time in your life, just so you feel like you belong somewhere, or belong to someone, then you can identify life, just so you feel like you belong somewhere, or belong to someone, then you can identify with how Christ, God, or your Higher Power feels when he is given such little time for such a great gift He gave us long ago.

Christmas shopping is not the same any more, it starts too early and most of the gifts given aren't really meant for the person we give to. We buy just to say we got them something, it is not always given from the heart. Ever show up unexpectedly at a friend's house, they are having a party, but you

weren't invited? Oops, someone's birthday and you don't have a gift or they were not expecting you to show up for the party, so they have no gift for you. Oh, if they don't have anything to wrap or give you, you feel so left out.

But when you arrive somewhere to see a loved one, and it is a surprise, when gifts are given and somehow you get one too, you feel so much better, because it looks like they were prepared for you. Of course, you have to it makes everything look fine. It's these special occasions that we expect more than we give. We must step back and then see how much better we can live.

For we know that God cares for us all, so why do we stumble and sometimes fall?

He expects so little of us sometimes that we forget; He loves us always, and will love us yet.

To give Him the glory on this great Christmas day, wouldn't that help to show others the way?

And then not just this special day alone, Why not give it all year long?

We will not regret one faithful day For Christ is already on His way.

Let's remember Christ this year all through And we will see glory shine through you.

