

The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC
April 2014

Notes from the Pastor

It is hard to believe that Easter is just two weeks away. We are rushing towards Easter—in the usual fast pace of life. Do we ever slow down?

From my porch I can see the emerging buds of the hickory tree, the crocus are coming up and the wood-peckers are busy in the bird feeder. Spring is emerging—new life is about to blossom out.

Easter is about the new life in Christ. It is the miracle of the resurrection that is the cornerstone of our faith that makes Easter so vitally important.

So --- plan on coming to church to witness the new life in Christ that all of us can en-joy. In this newsletter are listed the opportunities for worship ---focus upon Palm Sunday, April 13th, the Stations of the Cross walk on April 17th and of course Easter Sunday— Sunrise at 6:30 a.m. and the glorious celebration at 10:30 a.m.

A blessed Easter to all of you.

Dick

A Reflective Prayer

Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you have broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light; grant that we who have been raised with him may triumph over all temptation and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

Worship

Sunday April 13th – Palm Sunday --- we will again remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the palms and then reflect upon the passion of Jesus.

Thursday, April 17th --- Maundy Thursday--9AM Leave PGUMC and travel to the Grotto in Emmitsburg to walk the "Stations of the Cross." Please let Pastor Dick know if you plan to attend.

7:30PM – Maundy Thursday worship at Boring UMC.

Friday, April 18th --- Good Friday worship at 7PM – PGUMC. This is the most solemn day in the Christian year. We will walk with Jesus through the crucifixion.

Sunday, April 20th -- Easter Sunday --- please be bold and invite your family – your relatives and friends to attend the worship services.

- 6:30AM—Sunrise service in the chapel
- 10:30AM –Easter Worship
- 11:45 – Easter Hospitality and children's Easter Egg hunt.

Altar Care - We are currently looking for a person or persons to take over the care of the altar for weekly worship & Special days by Apr. 27th. If you are interested and would like information please contact Helen.

Education

Son Treasure Island is the name of the 2014 VBS program. At this moment we are thinking about holding VBS on Friday evening June 27th 6:30-8:30PM (including a light dinner); Saturday June 28th 9AM-1PM including lunch and Sunday 9:30AM through worship. Please pass your comments and interest to Helen Kemp.

Young Children class led by Sara and Christina Taylor will be using **Buzz** from Group Publishing Co. **Buzz** keeps kids' attention with Bible stories they haven't heard before—those less often told but just as memorable. Children learn in their own style, and they choose which way the lesson goes.

Older Children class led by Helen Kemp will be the study called "The Messiah". It will focus on the Passion and meaning of Christ and includes a DVD presentation each week. This class also begins after the children's message. **Note:** this class needs the support of another adult so that the class could run each week.

Adult Class

Currently the adult class is finishing up "Christianity and World Religions." This will run until April 27th.

Spirit and Spice

Currently the group is using "Unshakable Faith" by Kathy Howard. It is a study on the life of Peter. There are 8 lessons which examine "faith traits" which God instilled in Peter, an ordinary person who was, although a believer, a bit unstable, headstrong and impetuous. However, he was a passionate and natural leader. These traits give us an "unshakable faith" and help us to weather the storms of life we may face. Our goal is to allow God to do in our lives what He did in Peter's life and have an obedient, dependent, and trusting relationship with our Savior.

Missions

PGUMC is quite active in local missions both in the community and region. Here are some of the opportunities that we all have for service:

Kirkland Ramp

On March 25-27th members of Pleasant Grove UMC and two members of the Baltimore County Christian Work Camp came together at the home of Doris Kirkland and constructed a very sturdy 32' ramp and 5' platform to assist Doris in getting into her home. In spite of snow and mud the team was very effective and the Kirklands were pleased. PGUMC held a recognition awards ceremony during worship on April 6th. You can find pictures on our website.

Rebuilding Together

Baltimore – April 26th a one day mission trip to Baltimore. PGUMC has been assigned the home of Mrs. Miller in Mid-Govans. There will be a variety of projects – from painting to electrical to building steps. Our team is forming now and already has eight members. If you are

interested, please call John Lambert ASAP—443-2234850

Sarah's Hope: In 2014, we are continuing with the reading to the Pre-K children at Sarah's Hope in Reisterstown. Usually Tuesday –Thursday at 10AM for ½ hour. Make a commitment for one day a week. To sign up, please contact Helen.

UMW

Reisterstown UMW – Bus trip to American Music theatre to see "Celtic Women" on Saturday June 7th. Leave RUMC at noon and return about 9PM. Dinner at "Plain and Fancy" restaurant. Cost \$130 due end of April. For more information call Carol Hoffman 410-871-9199.

Pleasant Grove UMW

The UMW will meet on May 6th at 7PM in the Tracey building. Leuvene is hosting the dinner. All are invited to attend this meeting. As of April 5th, the UMW has made over 55 dresses for Haitian girls. The PGUMC UMW helps the Westminster based ministry – *The Least of These Ministries*

Visioning Committee:

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.

Currently the Team is looking at:

- Vision and Mission Statement
- Worship music updates
- New front sign that is programmable
- Other church visitations

Prayer List

Please continue to pray for: Bill Arnold, Peggy and Ryan Ayers, April Schriefer, Doris Kirkland, Charlotte Yohn, Ruth Warren, Pat Sheppard, David Osborn, Georgiana Harvey, Becky Harvey, David Montgomery, and for the future of PGUMC.

A thank you note

Friends at PGUMC,

Many thanks for the funeral luncheon help on Sat. March 29th. To all the folks that sent such delicious food, for all the prayers, cards and visits. To the UMW for a great job in serving.

To Pastor Dick for his words of encouragement and visit.

*The family of Fred Lauterbach
Darlene Lauterbach and
Leuvene Merryman.*

Future Happenings

Sight and Sound trip: The June 18th bus trip to sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA is sold out. Vola has created a "wait list." 410-429-3922

July 20th–July 23rd Baltimore County Christian Work Camp. John Lambert will have more information soon.

Contacts: If you are interested in more information on any of the items, please contact:

Pastor Dick – 410-913-6182
or revwrh@gmail.com
Helen Kemp- -410-429-5080
or pgchurch@verizon.net

Please check out our website:
PleasantGroveUMCMD.org