

The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC
August and September 2014

Notes from the Pastor

As I work on the newsletter today, our world seems like it is in an extended apocalyptic crisis. The shooting down of a commercial airliner, the continued crisis between Israel and the Palestinians, the crisis in Ukraine and the immigration impasse in the US all make the front pages of our news-outlets. Of course, August 1st is the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI – *the war to end all wars*. And August 6th is the day in 1945 when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

No wonder we are uneasy about the future. We may wonder why God is in letting all of these people go at each other. As Christians we are taken back by the firestorm of vehement words from people about the border crisis in the US. Is there any hope?

Several days ago, Ann and I received an email from our granddaughter, Waverly, who lives in Tel Aviv. At age 16, she has lived through four wars in Israel – this being the worst. She has had to shelter pre-school children in bomb shelters as the “Iron Dome” attempts to protect the Israelis from the Hamas rockets. It is the falling shrapnel that is most dangerous to life.

Waverly is working with and creating a USAID Cares program to help the children of Gaza in this current crisis. It is a classic – gathering of foods, toys, medical stuff and a bake sale – all to support the children in Gaza.

Sounds like a God thing to me! There is hope when our teenagers, instead of being glued to their electronic gadgets, are more concerned about the health and welfare of others. Sounds like Jesus is involved also.

Dick

Worship

It is summer and we are on vacation or just taking it easy. In August, our worship services will be centered on the pervasive theme of “Water in the Bible.” In September, our theme will be “The Gospel of Nobodies.”

Aug. 3rd “Getting Your Feet Wet” – Exodus 14
Aug 10th “The Highest Quality Wine” John 2
Aug 17th “A Sinking Feeling” Matthew 14
Aug 24th “Breakfast from the Grill” John 21
Aug 31st “On Being Baptized” Mark 1
Sept 7th “The Night Shift Workers” Luke 2
Sept 14th “The Good Doctor” Luke 4&5
Sept 21st “The Demon Possessed” Luke 8

Sept 28th “Prostitutes and Prodigals” Luke 12

Education

Sara Taylor’s class for the young children revolves around stories from the Bible which are enhanced by music, games and crafts. Sara and her daughters are very dedicated to the Christian education of the young children.

Older Children class led by Helen Kemp is looking into digging deeper into the events and stories about the life of Jesus. Crafts are becoming key to helping the youth explore and develop their faith.

Both classes meet in the Sanctuary for the opening portions of worship and then depart at 10:15 to the Tracey Building for their classes.

Adult Class

On September 7th the Adult Class will begin with a new video series by Adam Hamilton –

“Why? Making Sense of God’s Will.”

Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations; where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to infest his creation?

*In **Why?** best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including:*

- *God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him.*
- *God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering.*
- *While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.*

Please consider attending. We meet at 9AM on Sunday morning. Pastor Dick is the facilitator.

Altar Care – On each of the major worship days in 2014, members are setting up special altars that reflect the theme of the day and the personal touch of the families. Be prepared for some creative and exciting new designs on our altar.

Altar Care (con't.)

Aug 31st – "Labor Day" -- Helen and Tim Kemp
Oct. 5th – "World Communion Sunday"

Birthdays

Aug. 3 Linda Morrow
Aug. 8 David Osborn
Aug. 10 Phyllis Osborn
Aug. 10 Doris Kirkland
Aug. 14 Joyce Brown
Aug. 19 Tim Harvey Jr.
Aug. 28 Linda Schaefer
Sept.16 Joanne Henderson
Sept.22 Pastor Dick

Be certain to send a card of good wishes to our friends in the congregation on their birthday.

Future Happenings

October 25th – Bazaar 9 AM to 2:30 p.m.

November 9th – The Willet Band will be at PGUMC

Willet is a band comprised of brothers, Jeremy, Justin and Jordan Willet from Westminster, MD with a vision to serve unreached people globally. The band has been serving in full-time ministry since 2006, performing and releasing recordings internationally. Instead of signing to a record label, Willet manages bookings, merchandise, touring, distribution, and marketing independently and has decided to affiliate with mission-sending organization, New Missions Systems International, in an effort to use music releases, tour dates, and merchandise to raise awareness and funds for global missions.

A Note of Thanks

PGUMC has received a generous donation from the June bus trip to Sight and Sound. This was a time when 45+ folks saw the musical "Moses" and enjoyed a "Pennsylvania Dutch Meal." Please contact Vola for future bus trips.



*Sarah Elizabeth
Kirkland*

Welcome New Arrival to the Kirkland Family!

Born July 14, 2014 in Pittsburg, PA
Parents, Howard & Martha Kirkland and proud
Aunt & Uncle Doris & Bob Kirkland
United Methodist Women

Vola Osborn, President

The UMW will meet at the Hampstead home of Fran Ball on Tues., Aug. 5th at 7:00 p.m. We will be at the Steam Show Sept. 12 & 13 with a flea market /Craft table. Some of the UMW members have been sewing "School bags" for an UMCOR mission project. The bags will be taken to Bentley Springs UMC in Parkton, MD. We will try to schedule a date to go and stuff the bags. Help us help the children of the Board of Childcare, SEE: Bulletin Board for info on Campbell Soups "Labels for Education" and box tops.

Trustee's

The next meeting of the church Trustee's will be held Thursday, Aug. 14, at 7:00 p.m. There is a church work day planned for Sat., Sept. 6 with a rain date of Sat. Sept. 20. The work will begin at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

Church Organ Replaced

After many years of playing faithful musical accompaniment the church organ has been replaced as it had become inoperable and could no longer be repaired.

After careful comparisons of our options and consideration of how it's quality of sound would enhance our worship, we voted to use some monies from the Memorial Fund for the purchase of a new Yamaha Clavinova organ for use in our sanctuary. Though smaller, it has a lovely full organ sound and also offers some beautiful musical features.

We are grateful to the families and church members who have given to this fund over the years and they can know that each Sunday and also during special services their gifts will bless the spirits of those who hear it played.

COMING SOON!



Saturday, Sept. 6

from 8 AM until?

Rain Date: Sat., Sept. 20th



**Walk with us against Hunger! - CROP WALK
Sun., Oct. 19, 2014**

**Walker registration 1:30 p.m. Walk 2 to 4 p.m.
Cape Horn Park - (gather at ST. George's
Episcopal Church 2434 Cape Horn Rd.,
Hampstead, MD)**