



# The Grove Gazette

## REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS 2015

A few days ago, our son, David, who is stationed as a diplomat in Tel Aviv, Israel sent us a news clip from the *Jerusalem Times* (comparable to the Washington Post or the New York times). The story describes a Christmas party that was held outside of Jerusalem several days before Christmas. A variety of people had been invited and were attending the party – Palestinians from the West Bank, Muslim folks from Gaza, Israeli Defense Force generals, American embassy personnel and other Jewish people. Imagine a Christmas party -- celebrating the birth of Jesus in the Holy Land and Jews, Christians and Muslims all gathered around a table for food and fellowship. Not enemies – but ordinary people with the common human desires. Isn't this is what Jesus talks about loving neighbor?

In this complex and fear filled world, where isolation from the various religions seems to be the fervent cry of some, maybe the words of Jesus do reflect what Peace could be like!

God's peaceful blessings to you for 2016.

**Dick**



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## THE CALL—THE LIFE & MINISTRY OF PAUL

JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>—FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

What leads a man to travel thousands of miles by sea and by land? To be beaten, imprisoned and ultimately lay down his life? A Call: A Call to follow Jesus; A Call to change the world. This is the story of the Apostle Paul — a man second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith. Join us as we retrace Paul’s journey, and study the remarkable life, and life-changing message of the Apostle Paul.

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*“What leads a man to travel thousands of miles by sea and by land? . . . A Call to change the world.”*

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## THE LORD’S PRAYER—THE POWER & MEANING OF JESUS’ WORDS

FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>—MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

Join us as we delve into this powerful prayer, line by line. We’ll discover what Jesus meant when he shared it with his disciples over 2000 years ago. We’ll learn why this prayer was actually radical and controversial in its time. And, we’ll unpack its relevance for our lives today.

# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

STARTING JANUARY 10TH

## ***The Call*** by Adam Hamilton

*What would lead a first-century rabbi to travel thousands of miles by sea and by land, to be beaten, imprisoned and ultimately beheaded for his faith? It was a call – a call to turn the world upside down. This is the story of Apostle Paul whose writings have shaped the lives of one-third of the world’s population, a man second only to Jesus in his influence on Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to follow Jesus.* Adam Hamilton

Join us to reflect upon Hamilton’s words and Paul’s witness – in a video based study program. 9Am on Sunday mornings.

## PARISH NURSE WORKSHOPS

Join us in the Tracey Building from 10:00am—noon for our parish nurse workshops.

Upcoming workshops:

- My Joyful Healthy List for 2016! Say NO to New Year’s resolutions and Yes to what makes you happy - January 20th
- Dreaming of a Quiet Mind! Learning to Let Go! - February 17th



Check your email or the bulletin board outside of the Sunday School room for more information.

## Other Important Message Schedule Dates:

### **February 10**

Ash Wednesday Service  
Noon—Patapsco UMC  
7pm—Mt. Zion UMC

### **February 14—March 24**

Lent

### **Wednesday Night Lenten Worship Services—7pm**

2/17—Pleasant Grove UMC  
2/24—Mt. Gilead  
3/2—Shiloh UMC  
3/8—Mt. Zion UMC  
3/16—Pleasant Grove UMC

### **Palm Sunday**

3/20—10:30am

### **Maundy Thursday—7pm**

3/24—Boring UMC

### **March 25**

Good Friday  
Noon—Shiloh UMC  
7pm—Pleasant Grove

### **March 27**

Easter  
6:30am—Sunrise  
10:30—Celebration  
Worship

## JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### January

- 13 - Keenan Albee
- 13 - Chris Sterling
- 20 - Cyril Albee
- 20 - Beth Hannon
- 23 - Jane Benson
- 24 - Joyce Smith

### February

- 2 - Linda Martin
- 5 - Kristy Karanikolis
- 10 - Becky Harvey
- 10 - Christina Taylor
- 20 - Camden Coffey
- 27 - Gerry Cutler
- 29 - Laura

Nonemaker

## THE EXPERIMENT WORKED!

This year we decided to hold a Christmas Eve-Eve worship service in addition to the traditional Christmas Eve service. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> a casual, family service was held in the sanctuary. We sang Christmas carols and Christmas songs. The Christmas story, through the eyes of a beagle pup, was read by John Lambert. The RUMC clown troupe presented the Christmas story after the children placed Chrismons on the tree. It was a fun filled night with 55 in attendance.

On Christmas Eve, we held a traditional candlelight worship service, highlighted by the baptism of Cadence Marie Minor. Her baptism was "face-paged" to her god-father in Nebraska. With cookies and cider afterwards, many neighbors were able to reconnect with each other at Christmas.

## LONGVIEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM, Pleasant Grove UMC will be sharing the Word of God and music at the Longview Nursing Home. This one-half hour worship service is part of our support of the Hampstead-Manchester Ministerium. If you would like to share in this ministry, be certain to talk to Pastor Dick.

## SPRING BUS TRIP

The United Methodist Women will be headed New York City on **May 10—May 11, 2016.**

This trip will include sight-seeing visits to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and the 9/11 Museum and Memorial.



Price per person:

\$325—Double Occupancy

\$387—Single Occupancy

For more information contact Vola Osborn at 410-429-3922

## UMW MEETING SCHEDULE

### “Sewing Day”

January 19—10:00am—Hosted by Leuvene Merryman (Bring some scissors and a sandwich. Drinks, chips and a sweet treat will be provided.)

### Planning Meeting

February 2—Noon—Hosted by Vola Osborn (Lunch will be provided) Get your mind working for thoughts of a new year!

## PLAYGROUPO

Playgroup will be canceled for the end of January and the month of February. We look forward to meeting back up in March!





## A NOTE OF THANKS!

I wish to thank you all for the cards, calls, best wishes, etc. Those of you who brought goodies, things I love best, dinner and flowers, many thanks. I thought by now I would be back in the groove but it appears it will be a few more days. They tell me I'm not as young as I used to be—I wish—but I thank God things went as well as they did. I had a great doctor who believed and prayed with me before surgery and a team from church praying also. This makes the 10th back surgery I have had, so hopefully it is the end. I am so happy and thankful to have so many wonderful friends. Thank you all for everything.

- Vola Osborn

Thank you and all of the members of Pleasant Grove Church for your kindness in bring the Sunday Sermon and news every Sunday. Its fun to open the door and see who will be there! The flowers, cake and other goodies are welcome too!

- Lula Morrow

Ann and I want to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas gift. We are deeply appreciative of your support and combined ministry. We want to prayerful hope for a blessed 2016.

- Ann and Pastor Dick Harden

### YOUR PRAYERS ARE NEEDED:

#### **Your Prayers are Needed:**

Ann Harden, Doris Kirkland, Brad Stevens, Ruth Warren, Claudia Stout, Jay Warren, Richard Yates, Sunny Adam, Donald Hale, Vola Osborn, Dave Goldinger, Gary Bosley, Marsha Schuster, Sharon Osborn, Art Smith

#### **Homebound Members:**

Georgianna Harvey, David Osborn, Ralph Walter