

# The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC  
January 2014

## Notes from the Pastor

Welcome to the first edition of **The Happenings**. As we move into 2014, we are working to be more responsive to the communication needs of Pleasant Grove UMC. We have heard the suggestions concerning the weekly **Pleasant E-News** and the bi-monthly **Pleasant Times** and want to launch a monthly letter that will be crisp and up-to-date. Our plan is straightforward – email **The Happenings** on the first Friday of each month and also mail hard copies the same day. This way you will have a current newsletter and e-news. Also, if there are items that need to be brought immediately to the attention of the congregation and our friends we will both e-mail and send hard copies to all of you. We welcome your suggestions – please send them to us via email- [pgchurch@verizon.net](mailto:pgchurch@verizon.net) or hard copy.

## Reflections

**I Will Light the Candles this Christmas:** by Howard Thurman

*Candles of Joy, despite all  
sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair  
keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever  
present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-  
tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy  
burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my  
living,  
Candles that will burn all year  
long.*

*May God continue to bless you  
in 2014!*

Dick

## Worship

The month of January begins with **Epiphany**, -- the awareness that Jesus is the long-expected Messiah. The month begins with the coming of the Magi (also known as the Wise Men) bearing gifts of:

**Gold** was the kind of gift that you brought to a king.

**Frankincense** was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest.

**Myrrh** was given to someone who was about to die. Their greatest gift comes to us in the form of a realization that Jesus is the Messiah. The Wise Men were the first Gentiles to recognize that Jesus belongs to everyone. Good news is for everyone, not just a select few.

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany Sunday  
Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Jesus  
Jan 19<sup>th</sup> – The Calling of the Disciples  
Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Ted Hall, Ted is a neighbor of PGUMC and has received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award in September 2013. Ted will be sharing his experiences as the founder of Missionary Helpers where he was a bush pilot to the remote areas of Mexico in support of the United Indian Mission and Wycliffe Bible translators ministry.

## Education

**Young Children** class led by Sara and Christiana Taylor will be working with the books of the Bible. This will be an age appropriate DVD based class. Class will begin after “The

Children’s Message” during worship.

**Older Children** class led by Helen Kemp will be working with the Gospel of John followed by the book of James. It will start Jan 12<sup>th</sup> after the children’s message. Note: this class needs the support of another adult so that the class could run each week.

**Adult Class** led by Pastor Dick will begin a 12 week short course on: *Christianity and World Religions* by Adam Hamilton. This course will look at Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—all from a Christian point-of-view. The class will begin at 9AM on Sunday mornings in the Tracey Building. The first class will begin on Sunday Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the book is \$10. You can check [http://books.google.com/books/about/Christianity\\_and\\_World\\_Religions.html?id=E9RYPwAACAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Christianity_and_World_Religions.html?id=E9RYPwAACAAJ) for more information.

## Missions

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

**Christmas Time:** – PGUMC and the UMW adopted three families in the Hampstead area. These families were suggested to Mrs. Claus (i.e. Vola) who coordinated the collection of the gifts. We gave gifts to the families including 5 children. Additionally PGUMC had a large amount of food donated so that we gave each family several boxes of food

and turkeys and hams. Also, four boxes of food was donated to NESAP in Hampstead. Mrs. Claus was in her element as she cheerfully gave the presents to grateful parents. PGUMC is deeply appreciative of the gifts that members and friends gave to support this important ministry.

### **Jan 6<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> –Handicapped ramp construction in Hampstead:**

This project supports one of the PGUMC families and is closely supported by members of the Baltimore County Christian Work Camp. We need people who can work in the cold and help build a sturdy 32' ramp.

**February:** Work with PGUMC members doing interior repair including electrical and plumbing and painting. Again, we are supporting a PGUMC family.

**Sarah's Hope:** In 2014, we would like to continue 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.

**Casseroles:** In the Social Hall Kitchen, the UMW will be preparing casseroles on Thursday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> to help feed the homeless through *Our Daily Bread*. The next time will be March 6<sup>th</sup>

### **UMW**

The UMW will hold their yearly planning luncheon on Thursday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> at noon at Vola's home. All are invited to attend this meeting. Planning of the 2014 calendar, the timing of the fall bazaar and the planned sewing of dresses for Haitian girls are on the

agenda. The PGUMC UMW helps the Westminster based ministry – *The Lease of These Ministries*.

### **PGUMC Committees**

#### **Trustees:**

We have received new chairs for the double room in the Tracey Building. Some of the old chairs were offered free in the Carroll county Times and were gone in several hours.

We are beginning to explore the replacement of the sound system in the Sanctuary. It is about 25 years old and needs a significant upgrade to meet the needs of the PGUMC congregation.

John Lambert and Jean Henderson were thanked for their considerable work on re-glazing and painting the windows in the Sanctuary.

#### **Church Council:**

The Church Council voted to withdraw \$3500+ from the Discretionary Fund to cover the remaining apportionment payments to the UMC Balto-Wash Conference.

All agreed that the Christmas Celebration Brunch held on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> was very successful and we need to consider something similar in 2014.

#### **Visioning Committee:**

This committee is charged with developing a strategy for the future of PGUMC. We are looking at all aspects of the operation of PGUMC to determine a 5 year strategic plan. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Dick.

#### **January Dates:**

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> @ 11:45AM Visioning  
Jan 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM –Trustees  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7PM Church Council

### **Prayer List**

Please continue to pray for: April Schriefer, Doris Kirkland, Charlotte Yohn, Ruth Warren, Pat Sheppard, David Osborn, Georgiana Harvey, Becky Harvey, Helen Kemp and for the future of PGUMC.

### **Future Happenings**

**Men's Retreat:** Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 8:30 until 2:30PM in the Social Hall. Once again we share in this joint retreat with the men of Carr-More and Reisterstown UMC. Please mark your calendars.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Ash Wednesday Service, 7PM in the Sanctuary

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** Rebuilding Baltimore Together – one day mission trip to Baltimore. John Lambert will have more information soon.

**Sight and Sound trip:** Please send in your reservation for the **June 18<sup>th</sup>** trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA. The feature will be a dazzling rendition of Moses. This trip is quite an experience as Moses comes alive through a 2+ hour show. Cost \$95 per person includes , admission ticket, transportation, lunch at Bird-in-Hand. Contact: Vola Osborn 410-429-3922  
Visit: <http://www.sight-sound.com/WebSite/shows.do?showCD=MOS&gclid=COS6yOmy3bsCFfjXOgodNiQA4g>

**July 20<sup>th</sup>–July 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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:  
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