



The Grove Gazette

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DICK

Now that the weather has become warm and the summer is upon us, I find that each morning, as the sun is rising, that I need to sit quietly on our porch, with a hot strong cup of coffee and the ever present smart phone. I quickly move to a link that allows me to search BibleGateway.com for the Bible verse of the day. It helps to center me each morning in the Word.

Today's verse is from Psalm 46:10 (NIV)
*¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

Probably the hardest thing that I do is "to be still." My mind seems to fast track immediately to the "things I must do today." Are you like that? I am certain that you are. I find that if I have some paper and a pencil, I can quickly jot down a thought and then move back towards what I should be doing – focusing on God's Word for the morning.

One advantage of the "verse of the day" is that I am not encumbered with many biblical thoughts – I can concentrate on one. And that is important, because in the stillness of the morning, I find that the Spirit speaks to me in dedicated thoughts.

Out of these quiet times have come many thoughts and ideas that are directed towards the ministries that our church is involved in. We, your church, are constantly spreading the Word of God.

- Helen and Tim Kemp at the Strawbridge Shrine show visitors how the Spirit spoke to Robert Strawbridge a long time ago and the result was a firm awakening on Christianity in our back yard.
- The men from the Westminster Rescue Mission are showing us a new path towards working with homeless children.
- Jody Roblyer brings us frequent messages about our health.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- If you would like the verse for the day, each day, let Pastor Dick know and he will send it to you.
- Vacation Bible School
Wednesday July 29th—
Friday July 31st
9:00am—noon

- Jennifer Sterling has started a "Mothers Play Group" for moms with young children.
- Ed Lambert is busy with fulfilling the mission of "Hands Helping Neighbors."
- The UMW is engaged in health kits and dresses and pants for children in Haiti.

Yes, God – in the stillness of the morning is speaking about new ideas and opportunities for us to continue to be the ever present "beacon of light on the hill."

Look over this Newsletter and be moved to join us for worship on Sunday, 10:30.

God's radiant blessings upon you.

Dick

"Want to dive a little deeper into the meaning of Sunday morning scripture?"



SUMMER SCRIPTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Want to dive a little deeper into the meaning of Sunday morning scripture?

If so, join Pastor Dick in his office on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:50 to review, analyze and meditate on the morning scripture.

We will begin on Sunday

July 5th. Come as you are with your questions and comments, having read the morning Scripture in advance.

Pastor Dick will give you all of the Scriptures on June 28th.

GOD AND LAWN CARE

GOD to ST. FRANCIS: Frank, You know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now, but, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow and, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

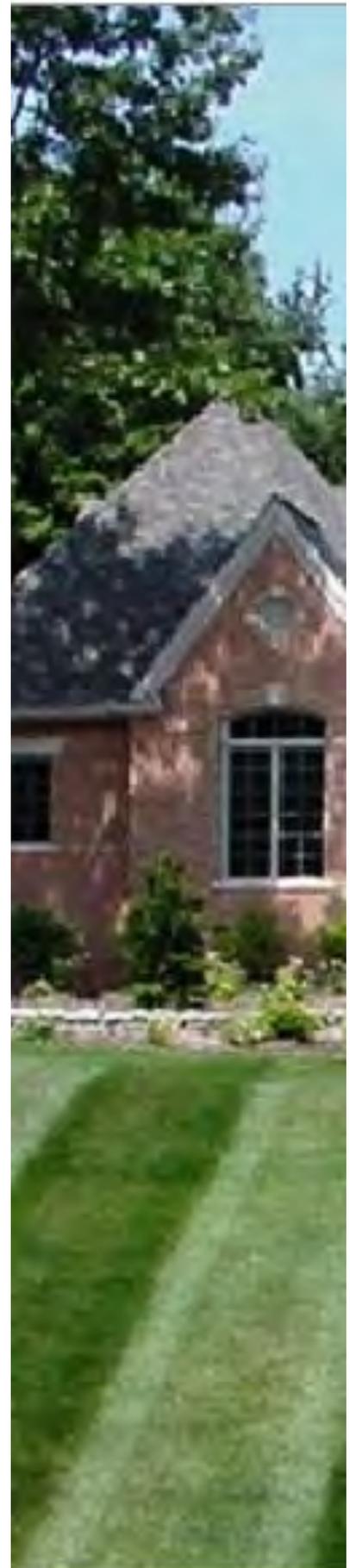
GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

- 2 - Pat Lambert
- 4 - Robbie Kirkland
- 15 - Bea King
- 15 - Jennifer Taylor
- 18 - Robert Albee
- 21 - Simone Albee
- 26 - Marsha Schuster

JULY

- 13 - Lula Morrow
- 25 - Ann Harden

AUGUST

- 3 - Linda Morrow
- 8 - Cynthia
Karamikolis
- 8 - David Osborn
- 10 - Phyllis Osborn
- 10 - Doris Kirkland
- 14 - Joyce Brown
- 19 - Timmy Harvey
- 26 - Sean Forney
- 28 - Linda Schaefer

HALF TRUTHS

They are simple phrases. They sound Christian – like something you might even find in the Bible:

- *Everything happens for a reason*
- *God helps those who help themselves*
- *God won't give you more than you can handle*
- *God said it, I believe it, that settles it*
- *Love the sinner, hate the sin*

We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth – yet they also miss the point in very important ways.

Join us as we search for the *whole* truth.

Everything Happens for a Reason? (June 28, 2015)

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves? (July 5, 2015)

God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle?(July 12, 2015)

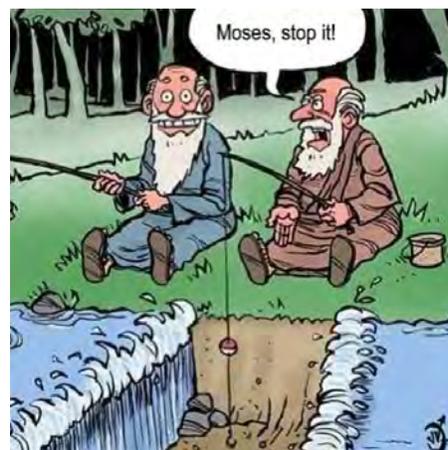
God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It? (July 19, 2015)

Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin (July 26, 2015)

THE FISHING STORIES IN THE GOSPELS

Many of the great gospel stories having something to do with fishing. Jesus called fishermen to be his disciples; he preached from the fishing boats; he called his followers to “fish for people”; he multiplied the fish and the loaves to feed the multitudes; he told parables about fishing, and the last scene we see in the gospels is Jesus helping his disciples fish. Whether you're into fishing or not, you'll love this special series of messages!

- ◆ **Cast Your Nets into the Deep Waters** (August 2, 2015)
- ◆ **Fishing for People** (August 9, 2015)
- ◆ **Parable of the Nets and Fish** (August 16, 2015)
- ◆ **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand** (August 23, 2015)
- ◆ **The Gospel's Final Fishing Story** (August 30, 2015)



A NOTE OF THANKS

A note of thanks to the congregation of Pleasant Grove Church for your caring and prayer during the illness and death of our daughter Brenda. We appreciate all the cards, memorial donations, food, phone calls and visits.

Brenda had a very kind and gentle spirit. She enjoyed her family, especially her five grandchildren, and her many friends. We were blessed to enjoy her smile and laughter for 66 years.

Emily Bolte and Family



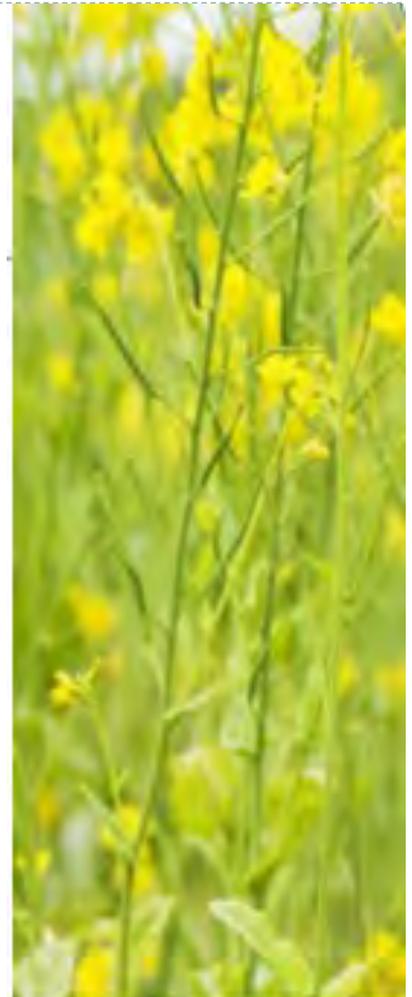
“We were blessed to enjoy her smile and laughter for 66 years.”

THE HEART HEALTHY DIET POEM

(In the spirit of the Methodist Church)

Eat all the healthiest foods you can.
In all the best cooking ways you can.
With as much organic foods as you can.
With as many fruits and vegetables as you can
And in as many colors of the rainbow as you can.
With beans and nuts every day you can.
With lean meats, poultry and fish as best you can.
With foods high in fiber as much as you can.
With low fat dairy foods as best you can.
With small amounts of healthy oils as best you can.
In moderation for eating sweets and desserts as best you can.
Drink water when you are thirsty as best you can.
Reduce sugary drinks as best you can.
Eat and share with all the family and friends you can.
Enjoy and savor the flavors of each food as best you can.
With mindfulness to feeling full and not overeating as best you can.
Cooking and serving food with love as much as you can.
Eat with gratefulness as best you can.
Eat without distractions (like TV) as best you can.

- Jody Roblyer





THANKS!

Dear Church Family,

I want to say thank you so much for the card and the money but I really want to say thanks for all the love and support you guys have given me.

Tim Harvey

“Join the United Methodist Women for their fall bus trip to Bernardston, Massachusetts on September 14-18, 2015.”

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND BUS TRIP

Join the United Methodist Women for their fall bus trip to Bernardston, Massachusetts on **September 14-18, 2015**.

The cost includes 4 nights of lodging and 11 meals. Sightseeing visits include Kringle Candle Company, Sturbridge Village, Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Mark Twain House and Museum, a train ride on the Hobo Railroad along Lake Winnepesaukee followed by a boat cruise, Calvin Coolidge's home and visit the Friesian of Majesty Horses for a tour and carriage ride.

Cost: \$820 per person (double room) or \$920 per person (single room). For more information contact Vola at 410-429-3922.

PARSONAGE REPORT

Beginning in November, 2015, the Parsonage became vacant, after being rented since the summer of 2005. During the period of time between 2005 and 2015, there were the occasional plumbing/heating/air conditioning issues which were addressed.

As a result of the vacancy in the Parsonage, it became apparent to the members of the Trustees that a total remediation project was going to be at hand. Some of these projects would require the contracting of professionals, and we set out on getting bids, comparing bids and settling on who we felt would give us the best job for the price. Contracts were awarded for the repairing of walls and painting throughout the entire structure; for cleaning and replacing carpets; for repairing plumbing and connecting new fixtures; electrician services; chimney cleaning; and rain gutter/spouting cleaning and repair.

In addition, there were many man hours provided by the Trustee members and members of the Church. Pleasant Grove is fortunate in that, we may be few in numbers, but we have many talented folks who were willing to give of their time and talents to see this job through. There were many hours spent cleaning out the house before we could assess the actual remediation needs. It became apparent, that all appliances would need to be replaced, all kitchen and bathroom cabinetry would need to be removed and replaced, as well as some interior doors, etc. Members began the arduous task of shopping for all of these items, comparing prices and features and then deciding on items to purchase.

The Parsonage has not been fully remediated and we were able to contract with Long and Foster Realtors as of May 2, 2015 to market the house as a rental property. It has been slow going, but we are hopeful that we will be successful in getting a new family in the Parsonage in the near future.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for a Science Adventure!

Wednesday July 29th—Friday July 31st
from 9:00am—noon



Friday night closing program and
cookout at 6:00

For more information or to sign up call
410-429-5080 or email Miss Helen at
ledbug2001@yahoo.com

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

Provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs.

Coupon books will be distributed on Thursday July 9th from 9:00am—11:00am or until the supply runs out.

In order to receive Farmers' Market Coupon Books, the recipient:

- Must be 60 years of age or older (proof of age required)
- Must be a resident of Baltimore Co.
- Must meet Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Income Eligibility Guidelines

You can pick up your coupon book at the following locations:

- District 2: Owings Mills High School, 124 Tollgate Rd., Baltimore, MD 21117
- District 3: Cockeysville Branch, Baltimore Co. Public Library, 9833 Green-side Dr., Cockeysville, MD 21030
- Northern Carroll County distribution is on July 1st from 10am—noon at the North Carroll Senior and Community Center.

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7 UMW-Jody Roblyer	8 Playgroup	9 Trustee 7pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Social Hall Res.
19 Emory Grove	20 BCCWC	21 BCCWC	22 BCCWC Playgroup	23 BCCWC	24 BCCWC	25
26	27	28	29 VBS 9-noon	30 VBS 9-noon	31 VBS 9-noon	← VBS Cookout 6

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 UMW-Fran	5	6 Casseroles	7	8
9 Blue Grass	10	11	12 Playgroup	13 Trustees 7pm	14	15
16	17	18 Church Council 7pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Playgroup	27	28	29
30	31					