

# The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC  
March 2014

## Notes from the Pastor

Several days ago, I was visiting one of our members who was a long term resident of a nursing home. She was excited that finally the healing process of her surgery was showing some progress. After many weeks of prayers and repeated trips to the hospital, there was a definite sign that healing was occurring. She was ecstatic.

But my recollection of her excitement was tempered a few moments later when I was about to enter the elevator. There was a wheel chair bound man whose entire face was black and blue --- bruises covering his eyes, cheeks and mouth. I had no idea as to what had happened and I was reticent to ask. I just smiled at him and had a quiet prayer. He looked so forlorn and sad – given the state he was in.

In Hebrews 13:3, we read *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* It was clear to me that the man appreciated my silent prayer and compassionate reflection.

Hospitality to the stranger is a key part of the Christian life and who knows we may actually met an angel in an unexpected encounter.

*Dick*

## A Reflective Prayer

*Holy God, as you guide my steps, so also guide my eyes and ears that I may not be so busy with my priorities as to miss the priority of seeing and ministering for you. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen*  
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## Worship

Lent is a time of preparation for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and funereal in anticipation of Good Friday. The Sundays of Lent are not part of the forty days of Lent and so they remain "little Easters," as are all Sundays. Fasting and giving up something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on some things.

### **Worship schedule:**

March 5<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday 7PM  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – "Renounce"  
March 16<sup>th</sup> – "Be Born Again"  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> – "Sharing Living Water"  
March 30<sup>th</sup> – "Being Healed"

**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

**Lenten Study** –the Pastors of Mt. Gilead/Patapsco and Piney Grove will join Pastor Dick at PGUMC for a six week video based Lenten study by Adam Hamilton – *24 Hours That Changed the World*. We will begin on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-7:45. We will share a meal and reflect on the Scriptural passages for Lent that guide us. Please join us each week. For additional information contact Pastor Dick.

## **Vacation Bible School Son Treasure Island**

is the name of the 2014 VBS program. If you have an interest in vacation Bible school please contact 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 starting a new study called "The Messiah" on Sun., March 9th. 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** led by Pastor Dick will continue with the 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. We gather at 9AM with coffee on Sunday mornings in the Tracey Building. We are looking into the possibility of visiting the Hindu Temple in Finksburg, MD and a visit to the Muslim Friday prayers.

## **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:

## **Handicapped ramp construction in Hampstead:**

Beginning Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> we will start the construction of a 35' ramp. This project supports one of the PGUMC families and is closely supported by members of the Baltimore County Christian Work Camp.

If you are interested in helping, please contact, John Lambert 443-223-4850.

**Spring 2014:** Work with PGUMC members doing interior repair including electrical and plumbing and painting. Again, we are supporting a PGUMC family.

## **Rebuilding Together**

**Baltimore** – April 26<sup>th</sup> 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**

The UMW will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon at Marsha Schuster's home. All are invited to attend this meeting. As of Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, the UMW has made over 25 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

## **March Dates:**

March 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday at 7 PM

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Vision Team

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Emmaus Team

March 18<sup>th</sup> - Church Council

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Emmaus Team

## **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, and for the future of PGUMC.

## **Future Happenings**

**Holy Thursday** – April 17<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Dick will lead a walk through the Stations of the Cross in Emmitsburg. We will gather at the church parking lot at 9AM and return by 1PM.

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

**July 20<sup>th</sup>–July 23<sup>rd</sup>** Baltimore County Christian Work Camp. John Lambert will have more information soon.

**Easter Flowers** - We will be ordering Easter flowers for Easter. Please look for a order form in your bulletin. The flowers listed below may be ordered and may be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday.

<b>Lilies</b>		<b>\$9.75</b>
<b>Mums</b>	(Y,W,P/P)	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>Tulips</b>	(Y, R, P, W)	<b>\$9.00</b>

**Please give your order with payment to Helen by Sun., Apr. 6.**

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

Pastor Dick – 410-913-6182  
or [revwrh@gmail.com](mailto:revwrh@gmail.com)

Helen Kemp- -410-429-5080  
or [pgchurch@verizon.net](mailto:pgchurch@verizon.net)

Please check out our website:  
[PleasantGroveUMCMD.org](http://PleasantGroveUMCMD.org)