

# The Happenings!

Pleasant Grove UMC  
October and November 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 1<sup>st</sup> is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of WWI – *the war to end all wars*. And August 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> "Getting Your Feet Wet" – Exodus 14  
Aug 10<sup>th</sup> "The Highest Quality Wine" John 2  
Aug 17<sup>th</sup> "A Sinking Feeling" Matthew 14  
Aug 24<sup>th</sup> "Breakfast from the Grill" John 21  
Aug 31<sup>st</sup> "On Being Baptized" Mark 1  
Sept 7<sup>th</sup> "The Night Shift Workers" Luke 2  
Sept 14<sup>th</sup> "The Good Doctor" Luke 4&5  
Sept 21<sup>st</sup> "The Demon Possessed" Luke 8

Sept 28<sup>th</sup> "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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Getting to Know Us . . . United Methodist Women

Some of you may not be familiar with the United Methodist Women and their purpose in the church community. Any woman who commits herself to the "purpose" and chooses to belong

may join. You do not have to be a member of our church. Local units vary in size from six members to more than six hundred. Programs of the units are developed by each unit using a variety of materials with a focus on women, children and youth missions.

Pleasant Grove UMW was actually formed in January 1904 as "The Ladies Aid Society: and continued through the years to currently become the United Methodist Women. The Pleasant Grove UMW are involved in many projects on a regular basis, both with the District and in our own church community. Some of these projects include making casseroles for "Our Daily Bread," supporting the Red Bird Appalachian Mission, supporting Shepherds' Staff by not only funds, but filling baggies with items for the homeless to be able to shower and do their laundry. During the winter months we have sewing days. We make dresses for the Haitian children and donate money to help with the shipping. This project was brought to us by "Least of These Ministries" by Steve and Ann Hall. During the Baltimore Washington Conference I met Fred Sipes who is in charge of the UMCOR hub at Bentley Springs. He gave me a pattern for school bags that needed to be filled with school supplies which were donated. I delivered 16 to him and we are currently working on more. We are happy to have Barbara Oliver join us, she is already working on school bags and little boys paints to be sent to Haiti.

United Methodist Women also provide member and families of our congregation who have suffered a loss with funeral lunches. We often send "Sunshine Cards" to church member for birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, etc just to let them know that we care. We also lend assistance to the church when we can, whether it be in helping to pay a heating bill, sewing curtains, purchasing new equipment for the Hall kitchen or preparing and serving food for fellowship events.

For resources to fund our missions we spend two days at the Arcadia Steam Show and hold our own Christmas Bazaar at the end of October. For a little pleasure and a way of including others in our activities we sponsor a bus trip. We also join Reisterstown UMW for several of their events and recently attended the district UMW Fall meeting.

If you are interested in attending a UMWomen meeting or just want to help out with one of our great projects, please contact Vola Osborn and 410-429-3922.

### **Birthdays**

Oct. 4 Leuvene Merryman  
Oct. 7 Wendel Harvey

Oct. 14 Sandy Coffey  
Oct. 17 Paul Warren  
Oct. 23 Emmalie Bolte

Nov. 5 Art Smith  
Nov. 10 Joe Tracey  
Nov. 15 Jody Roblyer  
Nov. 17 Sara Taylor  
Nov. 18 Georgianna Harvey

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

### **Future Happenings**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – 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.*