

# THE PGREETER

December 2011

Late in the fall years ago the children's choir at Pleasant Grove was preparing for their Christmas pageant. Allana, the choir director, was laying out the plot. "We will need someone to play Mary. Oh, and of course, we will need a Joseph. We will need three kings, some shepherds, and an innkeeper, too." Then it happened. The little girl in the front could no longer contain herself. Her hand began to wave frantically as she tried to draw Allana's eye. "Wait! Wait!" she blurted out. "Miss Allana, Miss Allana, something is wrong. "What is it, Jane Doe?" Allana inquired. "Miss Allana, that's the same story we did last year."

Friends, it's December, and that means we are going to do the same story we did last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. In fact, over the next few weeks we are going to be retelling the same story we tell every single year. While that may be a bit disconcerting to an eight-year-old it should be good news to the rest of us. You see that means we get another chance. We get another chance to get it right. That's the beauty of our liturgical structure. We always get another chance. In the words of the Advent conspirators, this December we will get another chance to worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all; and who knows it just might change our lives. Just try to imagine what such a change might look like in your life. What a difference it might make. You just never know, so why not give it a try? This year give Emmanuel a try.

## *In December Darkness*

*Ann Weems—Kneeling in Bethlehem*

*The whole world waits in December darkness  
for a glimpse of the Light of God.  
Even those who snarl "Humbug!"  
and chase away the carolers  
have been seen looking toward the skies.  
The one who declared he never would forgive  
has forgiven,  
and those who left home  
have returned,*

*and even wars are halted,  
if briefly,  
as the whole world looks starward.  
In the December darkness  
we peer from our windows  
watching for an angel with  
rainbow wings.  
to announce the Hope of the World.*

Peace,  
Jay

### **November Attendance**

November 6 - 343  
November 13 - 391  
November 20 - 324  
November 27 - 301

### **November Offering**

Nov. 6 - \$12,091.50  
Nov. 13 - \$7,641.70  
Nov. 20 - \$11,198.00  
Nov. 27 - \$5,895.25

Needed in November -  
\$37,767.60

*Thank you for your ongoing  
faithfulness to Pleasant  
Grove United  
Methodist Church.  
Your attendance and your  
financial support are critical  
for the health of our church.*

*Please note that our budget  
year runs from  
July 1—June 30.*



### **BIRTHS**

- Camden Burd
- Samantha Waters

### **BAPTISMS**

- Caelan & Ava Rose
- Carrington Sadosky

### **NEW MEMBERS**

- Mike, Elaine, Caelan, & Ava Rose

### **CONCERNS**

- Bob & Mary Anderson
- Foye Lee Beck
- Bill Groff
- Mary Ruth Hall
- James & Lorraine Hollis
- Joe Lupton
- Mary Ann Minnick
- Geneva Moorefield
- Hilde Richmond

### **SYMPATHIES TO**

- the family of Bobbie Bailey
- the family of Richard Harvell
- Bob Anderson on the loss of his son
- Kaitlan Phelps on the loss of her grandmother
- Cindy Hardy on the loss of her aunt

“ 'Tis the season to be jolly...”

As we all know, that is often not the case for everyone during the holidays. However, Pleasant Grove has once again reached out as the Body of Christ to offer holiday cheer to so many of our neighbors.

Thanks to your abundant generosity, we are once again supporting our Young Disciples Sunday School Class as they provide new toys to the Robeson County Community Center. The members of this fourth and fifth grade class will offer their shopping expertise and purchase toys for the Center. Again, Lois Munford distributed Salvation Army stockings, and we filled 65 of these stockings to support children in our area. Pleasant Grove continued the tradition of adopting clients of the ARC of Wake County for special holiday gifts. The ARC supports adults with disabilities, and these gifts are sure to make the holidays brighter for 15 clients.

As always, our children are busy too. Quest will be wrapping gifts for the Methodist Home for Children, and the Children's Choir will go on their annual caroling trip to bring joy to our church members who are homebound. Our Middle School and Senior High Youth have activities planned that will also bring joy to our shut-ins, public servants, and families in the area.

Our GreatMinds Mentoring Program participants will be enjoying a special holiday meal and receiving new shoes, thanks to our boy scout troop! The Pre-school will be collecting mittens to distribute to those in need!

The newest endeavor for PGUMC was the adoption of a three bedroom apartment for the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network, which in January will house a family who is in the process of transition housing - taking one step from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Your response to filling that apartment with much needed items has been overwhelming.

I am happy to be a part of such a wonderful faith community that reaches out to others - not only during the holidays, but year round. Yes, at Pleasant Grove, it truly is the season to be jolly, and I want to thank you for sharing your love so freely with others!

Merry Christmas!  
*Lucinda Sullivan*



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Melinda Brown	16 Hilde Richmond
Brian Phelps	Matt Terribile
Colin Snider	17 Betty Ann Starkes
2 Todd Baitsholts	Blake Burd
Sophie Potratz	19 Valerie Ziemba
Thompsie Suarez-	22 Niki Speri
Perez	Madeleine Townsend
3 Micah Minnick	23 Sherman Lee
4 Chris Krieski	25 John Kimber
5 Dan Sodosky	26 Robbie Fritz
7 Dedra Barber	27 Jennifer Turner
8 Julia Cole	28 Kim Matthews
9 Bob Anderson	Andrew Waters
Ben Pfeifer	29 Wally Adamchik
11 Lainey Higdon	David Menconi
Chris Ostling	Jim Moore
14 Victoria Bass	Erik Thomas
Page Pfeifer	Chris Werner
15 Kathleen Kitts	30 Matthew Barber
Ericka Krzyzaniak	Grant Grimes
Jackson Werner	31 Alice Kimbell
	Leslie Schreiner

### ADVENT AT PLEASANT GROVE

**Children's Christmas Performance—**  
 Sunday, December 11, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
**Chancel Choir Christmas Music—**  
 Sunday, December 18, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
**Christmas Piano by Candlelight—**  
 Sunday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.  
**Family Christmas Eve Service—**  
 Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion—**  
 Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day—**one worship service at 11:00 a.m.

## Thank You

Dear PGUMC Family,

We cannot tell you how grateful we are to have you all in our lives. The prayers, calls, rides, and food have been a blessing (many times over). Thank you everyone! Hope to see you soon.

God Bless,  
*Quent, Michele, and Katelyn Gardner*

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PGUMC Friends,

Many thanks for the cards, calls, visits, and food you sent after Mary's surgery and the death of Bob's son. Your thoughtfulness is really appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Bob and Mary Anderson*

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So many activities have filled our calendars recently, and we want to thank all those who make these activities possible. Thanks to all those who participated in the clean-up day, the Advent Workshop, Wake Interfaith driving and meals, Advent decorating, and the community Thanksgiving service. We appreciate your faithfulness!

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## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

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Please make arrangements to switch with someone if you cannot make it on your assigned day. Notify Lucinda Sullivan of any changes.

	<b>8:30 a.m. Acolytes</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Acolytes</b>
<b>12/4</b>	Harper Minnick	Sterling Hensley
<b>12/11</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>12/18</b>	Grace Ulanich	Hannah Potratz
<b>12/25</b>	N/A	Owen Cole

	<b>11:00 a.m. Nursery</b>
<b>12/4</b>	Paige Humble, Megan Pfanmiller
<b>12/11</b>	Jeanette Day, Sherry Gentry-Gasper
<b>12/18</b>	Jennifer Piscorik, Hanna & Melissa Beers
<b>12/25</b>	TBD

	<b>8:30 a.m. Children's Church</b>	<b>11:00 a.m. Children's Church</b>
<b>12/4</b>	Amy Light	Mann/Speri
<b>12/11</b>	No Children's Church	No Children's Church
<b>12/18</b>	Sharon Nelson	Pfeifer/Hedrick
<b>12/25</b>	N/A	No Children's Church

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## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS (CONT.)

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<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ivey Dodd, Flo Ingram, Julie Lebria
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	Open/Close	
<b>12/4</b>	O'Brien/Wood	<p><b><i>Please help keep our Sanctuary tidy.</i></b> Worship bulletins may be placed in the recycling box in the Narthex. Bibles and hymnals should be returned to the pew pockets. Trash may be disposed of in the trash cans in the Narthex or the church hallways. Children's worship supplies should be returned to the cabinet in the Narthex. <b><i>Also, please remember that food &amp; drinks are discouraged in the Sanctuary at all times.</i></b></p>
<b>12/11</b>	Eric Cousins	
<b>12/18</b>	Wood/McCann	
<b>12/25</b>	Chris Werner	

8:30 a.m.	Bread	Ushers
<b>12/4</b>	Allison Lee	Mike Della Rosa, Carrie O'Brien
<b>12/11</b>	Cindy Wiedel	Jane Albright, Terry Sawyers
<b>12/18</b>	Jill Liverett	Mike Colvin, Roger Snyder
<b>12/25</b>	N/A	N/A

11:00 a.m.	Bread	Ushers
<b>12/4</b>	Sheila Hensley	Derek Osterhoudt, Suzanne Pfeifer, Mike Pfeifer, Karen Stewart
<b>12/11</b>	Cindy Hardy	Sandra Della Rosa, Mark Potratz, Bill Speri, Rob Ziemba
<b>12/18</b>	Martha Brown	Kim Arwood, Jeff Cleveland, Mark Holmes, Sandy Jennekens
<b>12/25</b>	Cathy Anderson	TBD

**Christmas Music, December 18, 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

The Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas music on Sunday, December 18, at both the 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. They will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble. Among the selections are "Christmas Cantata", "Christmas Day: A Choral Fantasy on Old English Carols", "Carols of the Night" featuring "Silent Night" and "O Holy Night", "Carol of the Bells", "The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth" and "Go Where I Send Thee",



**Christmas Piano by Candlelight, December 18, 7:00 p.m.**



Enjoy the music of the season as Joe Lupton presents the 4th annual performance of "Christmas Piano by Candlelight" in the Sanctuary. Get away from the Christmas rush and relax with an evening of piano Christmas arrangements in a candlelit atmosphere. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall and childcare will be provided.

**Senior Adults' Monthly Luncheons**

All senior adults are invited to go to lunch together on the third Wednesday of each month. The group meets at the church at 11:00 a.m. on third Wednesdays for lunch outings to various local restaurants. It's a great time of fun, food, and fellowship for our senior adults. For more information please contact Betty Pierce at 848-3925 or Betty Ann Starkes at 848-1696.



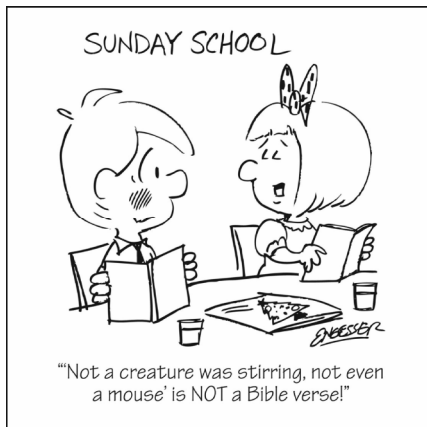
**Middle School Youth Providing Free Childcare, Sunday, December 4**



The Middle School Youth would like to give the gift of their babysitting expertise to provide busy parents with an afternoon of rest & relaxation, holiday shopping, baking, etc. Children may be dropped off in the Mattie Bell Building between 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. If you would like to pre-register your child(ren) please contact Sheila Hensley at [Sheila.hensley@sas.com](mailto:Sheila.hensley@sas.com) or Stacy Potratz at [spotratz@nc.rr.com](mailto:spotratz@nc.rr.com).

Thank you so much to everyone who donated blood on November 9, to everyone who brought brownies, to everyone who invited others to join us, and to everyone who wanted to but couldn't!! We had a great turn out. We registered 32 people and 27 pints of blood were donated. You helped save the lives of up to 81 area patients! Thank you so very much!!

Now if by some chance you were out of town or busy that night, you may try donating at Rex's donation center on Blue Ridge. That way you can help with the current community need and keep yourself on schedule for the November blood drive at PGUMC.



### **Advent – The Coming of Something Extremely Important**

Bells are ringing, carols are being sung everywhere, and we're rushing toward Christmas. But although the world may be pushing us toward Christmas it is important for us to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Advent has the potential to form and transform us if we allow it to happen. While we wait expectantly the realities of the world keep coming at us – suffering, injustice, hostility, and on and on. But if we rely on the scriptural promises of this season, we will know that God is at work among us and within us to change not only ourselves but also the world.

Please join the Transitioning Together Sunday School Class during this Advent season to explore and reflect upon scripture as we wait for Jesus to come into a longing world.

The class meets on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Hyder House.

Please contact Deborah Horton with any questions at [drhcrp@bellsouth.net](mailto:drhcrp@bellsouth.net) or during the day at 460-3264.

***We can make a difference in the world no matter how small we may be.***

Our preschool children collected coins for UNICEF in October. The money will help provide blankets, food, clean water, and medicine to children in need around the world. In November, canned goods were collected to help feed Wake County families. During the month of December the Preschool will collect hats and mittens to keep needy children warm this winter.

We are excited to announce that PGUMC Preschool will offer another class for toddlers ages 18–28 months beginning in January 2012. The class will be held 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Spaces are available, so please let your friends and neighbors know about the class.

Mark your calendars! Registration for the 2012–13 preschool year will begin in January. Please watch for more information coming soon or contact Cathy Anderson at 787-1652 or [cathy.anderson@pgumc.org](mailto:cathy.anderson@pgumc.org).

Happy Holidays!  
Cathy Anderson

On Sunday, December 11, 2011  
at

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
the PGUMC Children's Choir  
will present

### **The Legend of the Christmas King**

Please join us as we journey to Bethlehem with the "fourth wise man", Artaban, who goes in search of

the newborn King of kings.

Along the way, Artie is joined by Mortimer the angel who helps him on his quest.

During their journey, Artie and Mortimer meet some people in need,

and Artie misses the birth of Jesus.

Yet, he learns some important truths as he travels.



***Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church***

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**Our Mission Statement**

***We exist to be the Body of Christ in the world.***

**Our Vision Statement**

***Our vision is to reach all through hospitality, engage all in ministries,  
and enable all to grow spiritually.***

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER IS DECEMBER 26.