

Back at the beginning of the calendar year (not to be confused with the liturgical year) I was drawn into a reflective mood by all the nostalgia in the air (e.g., Auld Lang Syne, giant acorns, and smooching at midnight). Ultimately this nostalgia led me to make a list, but not just any list. It moved me to list the names of those folks who over the course of my life have shaped me in profound and positive ways. The list included family members, teachers, friends, etc. It was an august list, to say the least. It was a powerful exercise, because as I perused the list, carefully constructing any associated memories, I was reminded once again of the stark reality that I am not a self-made individual. It is only by the grace of God and others that I am who I am (I will leave it to others to debate the efficacy of said dispensation). What a great and humbling insight to be given, and one that assists in keeping the ego at bay.

You hear it at every turn. Offered by every manufacturer. Try our product for 30 days and if you are not satisfied return it for a full refund. No questions asked. Of course the hope is that you will like it, and you won't return it. The beauty of this "deal" from the consumers perspective is that it is risk free. Maybe a little hassle to return something, but if it turns out to be that bad the effort is worth it. Well, have I got the deal for you.

February 22, 2012, also known as Ash Wednesday, marks the first day of the Lenten season, the 40-day period immediately preceding Easter. Historically Lent has been used by Christians to delve deeper into their faith. They have employed spiritual disciplines such as fasting, meditation, holy conversation, and scripture reading—among others. These practices have enabled folks to connect to God more completely. Here is the deal. I invite you to be more intentional about your faith development during Lent 2012, but not only do I encourage you to practice spiritual disciplines I encourage you to reach outward as you are looking inward. Over the course of 40 days I am challenging you to be "the name" on someone else's list. Be the one who changes a life. Consciously live out your faith in the lives of others. Be an agent of grace. Allow God to change you as God uses you to change others.

The bottom line is that it's only 40 days. What do you have to lose? Nothing!

We'll talk more about this in the coming days.

Peace,
Jay

January Attendance

January 1 - 101
January 8 - 370
January 15 - 296
January 22 - 314
January 29—TBD

January Offering

Jan. 1 - \$3,321.00
Jan. 8 - \$7,652.50
Jan. 15 - \$9,943.50
Jan. 22 - \$5,175.50
Jan. 29—TBD

Needed in January -
\$47,209.50

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

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



NEW MEMBERS

- T., Kyle, & Ty Furlow
- Bill & Marsha Kelly

CONCERNS

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

SYMPATHIES TO

- Joe Wingfield on the loss of his father
- Lois Munford on the loss of her brother



*If you have a prayer concern that you would like
to bring to the attention of the congregation
please contact Rev. Jay Minnick at
Jay.Minnick@pgumc.org or the church office
at 787-7763 or office@pgumc.org.*

Hopefully from time to time, my newsletter article sparks an interest in what we have to offer at Pleasant Grove and provides information to you on how to be involved. One of our middle school youth has summed all of this up better than I ever could. I would like to share a poem written by Heather Crew. Heather is in eighth grade at Leesville Middle School and won first place in the National Junior Beta Club's poetry competition. Her words say it all. Thanks Heather for letting me share this!

Lucinda Sullivan

Query

What is the value of a volunteer?
A question with many an answer.

Ask a single mother, struggling with
empty stomachs

Question a starving child, cheeks
stained from tears

Inquire a lowly beggar, beard scraggly
with lice

Perhaps your answer lies here.

Ask a caring missionary, short on
funds

Question a torn woman, arms purple
with bruises

Inquire a troubled patient, uneasy
with anxiety

Perhaps your answer lies here.

Ask a pained teen, wrists sore with cuts
Question a forgotten veteran, with a
scarred soul

Inquire a beloved elder, consumed with
illness

Perhaps your answer lies here.

Ask these, and your answer will not be
spoken

It will be felt in your heart.

Did you know the average American uses 465 trees worth of paper in a lifetime? We'd like to remind you that recycling efforts have been underway at PGUMC for several years! A wooden recycling bin is located at the front doors of the Narthex for bulletins, and a green recycling container is outside the copier room in the Sanctuary Building. Additionally, green containers are located in all other buildings and blue rolling bins are located outside. Help us save trees! Please recycle!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Thank You

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Tom Hall | 16 Brice Farrell |
| Tricia Higdon | Michelle Waters |
| Teri Lowder | 17 Chad Simmons |
| Alex Martin | 18 Megan Lucas |
| Jude Martin | Bobby Powers, III |
| 2 Sandy Burns | 19 Amber Deziel |
| Martin York | Linda Hufnagel |
| 3 Ethan Barber | 21 Mary Ann Minnick |
| Mark Holmes | Pam Adamchik |
| Owen Humble | Morgan Miller |
| Emmery Soroka | 22 Leroy Hurd |
| 4 Mike Pierce | Dee McLamb |
| Jeff Cleveland | David Hall |
| 5 Fran Jones | 24 Cindy Wilson |
| Luke Poole | Allison Lee |
| 7 Kim Carr | Elizabeth Pedersen |
| Mackenzie Lee | Landon Soroka |
| Shepard Lee | 25 Roger Snyder |
| 8 Casey Winwood | Ralph Morris |
| Matt Brown | Marge Morris |
| 9 Emily Hopson | Averi Avent |
| Lib Upchurch | 26 Pamela Wimbush-Cady |
| 10 Abby Proffitt | Carole Clemo |
| 11 Joe Lupton | 27 Mary Cannon |
| 12 Hannah Magri | Owen Cole |
| 13 Christina Barber | 28 Ed Glaesner |
| 14 Bob Powers, Sr. | Megan Pfanmiller |
| 15 Phil Maness | |
| Leigh Menconi | |
| Scott Letchworth | |



Dear Pleasant Grove UMC,
I want to personally thank you for being part of the life of Shiloh UMC through your prayers and your efforts. The church is doing well, attendance is starting to come back up now that we are in the sanctuary, last week we had 19! :) Your outreaching of support and love is touching lives you are not aware of. Last week I was talking with a gentleman who is finding his way back and it began as he has watched the many volunteers coming into the church over the past months. He just watched and pondered on how these people could give so selflessly of their time. He is beginning to understand it is through the love of Christ that we are able to love others and he is wanting to know more, he is wanting what he sees others, like those in your church, seem to have. As I titled the message on Christmas Eve....."Something's happening here!!" And it truly is...one smile, one hammer, one chair at a time!!

God bless and peace and joy to you today!

Rev. Pam Stoffel
Shiloh UMC
Stumpy Point

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

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

	8:30 a.m. Acolytes	11:00 a.m. Acolytes
2/5	Grace Ulanch	Christian Santos/Taylor Speri
2/12	Harper Minnick	N/A
2/19	Allison June Mabe	Sterling Hensley
2/26	Owen Cole	Cole Arwood

	11:00 a.m. Nursery
2/5	Dana Murphy/Shannon Ziemba
2/12	Dedra Barber/Kaitlan Phelps
2/19	Jody Cleveland/Lindsay Osterhoudt
2/16	Lauren Higdon/Renee Sarver

	8:30 a.m. Children's Church	11:00 a.m. Children's Church
2/5	Kristy Scheele	Simmons/Minnick/Beers
2/12	Kelly Werner	Piscorik/Speri
2/19	Victoria Bass	Sarver/Walker
2/26	Amy Light	T. Higdon/Beers/McCann

WORSHIP AND FACILITY VOLUNTEERS

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

Altar Guild 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Karen Haire & Nancy McGee
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	Open/Close
2/5	Anna Quinn
2/12	Joe Padden
2/19	Mike McCann
2/26	Don Carter

9:45 a.m.	The Grove—Ushers/Greeters
2/5	Beth Lucas, Larry Mosiman
2/12	Cathy Anderson, Fay Davenport
2/19	Rob & Shannon Ziemba
2/26	Melinda Brown, Stephanie King

8:30 a.m.	Bread	Ushers
2/5	Victoria Bass	Mike Colvin, Pamela Wimbush-Cady
2/12	Jeanette Haynes	Terry Sawyers, Bill Umphlett
2/19	Stephanie King	Jane Albright, Bob Hufnagel
2/26	Susan Ostling	Eric Townsend, Pamela Wimbush-Cady

11:00 a.m.	Bread	Ushers
2/5	Sandra Della Rosa	Sandy Jennekens, Steve Lebria, Mark Potratz, Bill Speri
2/12	Ginger Cannon	Kevin Currin, Noel Currin, Harrison Sullivan, Derek Osterhoudt
2/19	Brandi Walker	Wayne Barnes, Mark Holmes, Suzanne Pfeifer, Mike Pfeifer
2/26	Donna Hill	Randy Jassmann, Karen Jassmann, Karen Stewart, TBD

Fusion Group

The next meeting of the Fusion Group will be on Wednesday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m. in the Hyder House. The meeting is open to anyone ages 25–40ish and will be hosted by Tim and Anna Clark. Childcare will be provided. For more information about the meeting please contact Anna at acvclark@gmail.com.



Noah Hyder Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Please join us on Tuesday, February 21 and support the ministries of the United Methodist Men by enjoying a church-wide pancake supper between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Proceeds of the fundraiser will be earmarked toward Fellowship Hall enhancements for *The Grove* worship service. Anyone and everyone is welcome! MENU: Pancakes, bacon, sausage (3 varieties), Banker's famous sausage gravy, biscuits, and sweet tea PRICING: Adults: \$6, Children 4 to 12: \$4, Kids 3 and under: EAT FREE.

Theology on Tap

Want to sit down with some of your fellow church members and talk about the different issues going on in the world around you? Mark Potratz, Mike Brown, and Sherry Gentry-Gasper are working on opportunities for these conversations to take place. Theology on Tap will start on Thursday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. at Manchester's on Leesville Road. The first topic for discussion will be "Story Telling". For more information please contact Mark Potratz at mpotratz@nc.rr.com.

Vacation Bible School 2012!

Mark your calendar now! Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 5-8, and the theme is OPERATION OVERBOARD – Dare to Go Deep with God! Classes for ages 3 – adult will be available! Stay tuned for more details.



Thank you so much to everyone who donated blood on January 4, to everyone who brought brownies, to everyone who invited others to join us, and to everyone who wanted to but couldn't!! We registered 33 people and 30 pints of blood were donated. You helped save the lives of up to 90 area patients! Thank you so very much!!

Next PGUMC blood drives - mark your calendar:

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

Thanks again for making this possible. If you would like to help in future blood drives contact Jean Farrell at pjfarrell@mindspring.com.

Save The Dates!

Preschool Summer Enrichment Camps

Camp 1: June 4—8

Camp 2: June 18—22

Camp 3: July 16—20

Camp 4: July 30—August 3

Camps are designed for kids ages 3 years-old through rising 1st graders. For more information please contact Cathy

Anderson at 787-1652 or cathy.anderson@pgumc.org.

PG Moms in Motion

PG Moms in Motion will meet on Thursday, February 2, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided. For more information please contact Lindsay Osterhoudt at lindsay047@gmail.com.



**Youth Group Dinner Theater,
March 2 & 3, 6:30 p.m.**

Lights, camera, action! It's time for our annual Youth Group Dinner Theater. This year's production will take place on Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3. The evening will include a delicious candlelight dinner and a fun dinner show presented by our youth groups. Childcare will be provided. Please see a youth group representative to order tickets.

Valentine's Day Truffles!

Are you wondering how to celebrate the one you love this Valentine's Day? Are you still craving the delectable chocolate truffles you first tasted last Valentine's Day? Or maybe you've just heard the hype about the PGUMC Oreo Truffles and want to experience the yumminess for yourself? Either way - the PGUMC Middle School Youth Group can help!

Yes - you guessed it - the Valentine's Oreo Truffle Fundraiser is upon us! The youth have spent lots of time and love making truffles to sell for Valentine's Day. The truffles, approximately 10-12 depending on size, will be in a decorated box all ready to give to that someone special for Valentine's Day! Each box will be \$6.00 or you can buy two boxes for \$10.

If you would like to pre-order truffles, please email Sheila Hensley at sheila.hensley@sas.com or call (919) 870-9240 by Sunday, 2/5. Pre-orders will be available for pick up in the Narthex after worship services on Sunday (2/12) just in time to be that perfect Valentine's Day surprise on Tuesday. Any remaining truffles (after pre-orders are filled) will be available for sale after services as well but keep in mind that last year the extras went fast and left others begging for more.

Collection of Warm Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, and Blankets!

The days are getting colder and the nights even more so! The Middle School Youth Group wants to reach out to those in our community who need simple basics to stay warm. With that in mind we are preparing for an outreach event at Moore Square in downtown Raleigh in early February where we will be distributing bagged lunches as well as any warm outerwear items we can collect! Please help with this outreach effort by donating any warm coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, and blankets that you are ready to part with. You can put them in the Narthex at church or get them to any member of the Middle School Youth Group. The youth are also willing to purchase these items at Goodwill if you would prefer making a monetary donation in the offering plate (labeled "MSY Moore Square" on the memo line).



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 MARCH
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 20.**