

Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

In This Issue – April 2020

- Pg 1 Inspiration Point
- Pg 3 From the Pastor's Desk
- Pg 5 Preschool Post
- Pg 6 Recommended Reading
- Pg 7 Did You Know
- Pg 8 Recipe Box
- Pg 9 Happy Easter
- Pg 10 Memorials / Honors
- Pg 12 Recipe Box
- Pg 14 Getting to Know You
- Pg 16 Word Search

Worship Times:

9:00am Traditional (Sanc)
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am KidLife Children
11:00am Lifepoint Service (FLC)

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Inspiration Point

Colossians 1:11 – 12 As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that He has for us.

Paul wrote these strong words of encouragement to the church at Colossians! Our strength comes from the Power of the Holy Spirit within us! Even so, many times, things come our way that are difficult to bear. We wonder why God does not always answer our prayers about these things the way we want them to be answered! But the scriptures tell us that we are to endure them, all the while giving thanks to our Father in Heaven! Even while we are in the midst of our most difficult times, God is right there with us! We may have to suffer, we may have to walk through difficult financial times, we may have to witness the sicknesses and even death of our loved ones, but God is right there with us! All during these very trying times, our call is to continue to give thanks to God! We don't have to thank him for the difficulties, but we can thank Him for making us part of His kingdom, and for giving us the strength to bear these things.

Our mind set shapes the way that we approach difficult times. If we live in the world, and we look at difficult times as the world sees them, then we will only see the most dark side of everything. Things will look dismal and will keep us in despair. Without God, we can have no hope, but with God everything is possible. He is in charge of us and of our bodies. He is there to sustain us, and to encourage us, and even to bring strength when we have no strength of our own.

(Inspiration Point continued from page #1)

How many of us have ever gone to the bedside of some dear old saint of the Lord to visit and to cheer them up but went away being refreshed and cheered up by them and by their faith and trust in God instead? Most of us have! God is sustaining them, and He is the source of their strength. We need to pay heed to this lesson. What ever He will do for any one, He will do for all but we must ask in prayer first. He has given you a will and he will not violate your will. You must ask Him first!

After God redeemed us and delivered us out of the power of darkness, Satan has no power over us. He wants us to believe that he does, but he does not! Now there are sicknesses and diseases in the world, but God does not go around cursing us with sicknesses and diseases. Satan cannot either if we are walking with the Lord as we should be! We may be infected by them from worldly sources, but even as we endure them, and await our healing, God is there, and his Spirit is there! We can have His love, joy and peace as we wait!

Jesus is God's beloved Son. It is through him that we have redemption and forgiveness. It is through him that we are saved. It is through Him that we participate in all the good things of God's kingdom! It is by studying about Him in the Bible, and by the counsel of the Holy Spirit that we can know for certain what God is like. Jesus is God incarnate upon the earth. The things that Jesus did, as He said, He only did what He saw the father do. We cannot see the Father, but we can see Jesus through the Scriptures, and we can see the things that He did here. Those are the things that we should be doing! That is what Paul did! Jesus sees the Father, and does what He does, we see Jesus and we do what He does. In this manner, we are doing the same thing that the Father does!

As I write this article, the corona virus is sweeping the world! Thousands are sick and hundreds are dying of it's infection! I am reminded of the day of the Passover! The angel of death was moving through the city and the Children of Israel were inside their locked homes having their dinner of unleavened bread and reading their scriptures. Their door posts were marked with the blood of the unblemished lambs. Under the New Covenant, we do not sacrifice lambs anymore because Jesus became our Lamb of sacrifice, but we can gather our families together to read our Bibles and to pray and praise the Lamb of God! We can speak words of faith and pray in faith in our Lord Jesus using His promises, and trust God to supply all our needs (including toilet paper!) I trust God that we shall all endure this trial and walk out the other side of it stronger and better off as Christians than ever before! May God bless and protect you and your loved ones!

Brother Phil

From the Pastor's Desk



THE ANSWER TO WORRY

The COVID-19 virus has changed the way we live and work. It is an understatement to say that many folks are worried and stressed out. I believe that the Bible tells us how to get rid of worry and stress. The Apostle Paul talks about how we are to get rid of worry in Philippians 4:4-7.

He begins by saying in verse 6, *"Do not worry about anything."* Well, that sounds good, but how do we get rid of our worries? First, **Make everything a matter of prayer.** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God (v.6).*

I must admit that I do not pray enough. Again and again Paul commands us to pray about everything. We tend to want to handle the little things ourselves and only "bother" God with the big stuff. The Bible tells us to, *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."* (1 Peter 5:7)

In fact, Paul takes it a step further. He said, "Present your requests to God." Don't be afraid to ask God for help. Twenty times in the New Testament we are commanded to "Ask God." Also, the book of James reminds us, *"You do not have because you do not ask God."* (James 4:2)

Could it be that the reason God hasn't helped you is because you have never given him the opportunity? Think about the biggest problem you're facing today. Have you asked for God's help? Now, think about the *smallest* problem you are facing. Have you asked for God's help? **If it concerns you, it concerns God.** Bring your requests to him. The first step to getting rid of worry is pray like you ought to pray — make everything a matter of prayer.

Secondly, **Point your thoughts in the right direction.** Our thoughts control us. Emerson said, "You become what you think about all day long." The Casoslav (the daily prayer book used in Russian Orthodox monastic communities) gives the following instruction for the beginning of each day:

Upon rising from sleep, pray "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen." Then, stand for a few moments in silence until you have achieved interior calm and you are recollected. Then, with three reverences, begin your prayers.

Most people's lives are not governed by their beliefs; they're governed by their emotions. Most people allow their feelings, not their faith, to dictate the direction of their thoughts. How much more effective would you be if you began every day by thinking through your personal statement of faith — and let your beliefs control the way you think?

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You could begin each day by saying, "This is the day that Lord has made! I'm above ground and my heart is beating, so it's a great day! I've got many things to look forward to. Today, I will make progress on my problems. Today, God will be with me every step of the way. Today, God will cause all things to work together for good. Today, God will give me the opportunity to serve him. Today, I will encourage my family. Today, I will show God's love to everyone I meet."

Thirdly, **Act against your worries.** Many people resign themselves to their worries and do nothing. Doing nothing fertilizes anxiety — it causes your worry to spread out of control. Acting is a weed-killer. It removes worry once and for all. Paul said, *"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."* (v.9)

I've noticed that people who don't worry have committed themselves to taking responsible action. Doers aren't worriers, and worriers aren't doers. If you act in the direction of whatever worries you, your worries will fade away.

What kind of action should you take? Well, what are you worried about? Is it your marriage? Then do something that will strengthen the bond or open the lines of communication. Are you worried about losing your job? Try to protect yourself and get your resume ready. Are you worried about your health? Take steps to become healthier. It's as simple as this: Taking action eliminates worry.

It comes down to this. **The cure for worry and anxiety; is to pray like you ought to pray, think like you ought to think, and act like you ought to act.** Your worries will fade away, and the peace of God that passes all understanding will guard your heart and mind.



Preschool Post and After School Additions

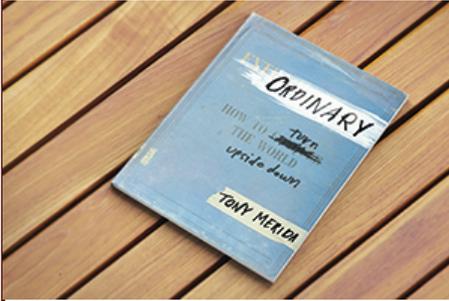
Preschool managed to get off to a great start for the month of March! We spent some time learning about Noah and the Ark and really helped the students to understand that God keeps His promises. Several of our classes even made a variation of a “Fruit Loop Rainbow!” We also had fun thinking about Leprechauns, rainbows, pots of gold, flying kites, and anticipating the start of Spring. In one of the photos below you can see our four-year-old class using their “Leprechaun Lookers” to go on a Leprechaun hunt around our building! Fun! All of this was accomplished while we still continued to engage the kids in academic activities working with colors, shapes, numbers, letters, and responsible classroom citizenship. It was a great first half of the month!!!

And then everything began to change. We are all aware of the challenges we are facing as we navigate unknown waters. Our weekday children’s ministries are not immune to these challenges. However, we continue to seek ways to serve our families with young children and preschool remained open throughout the month. Our before and after school programs are now open all day to help working parents through this uncertain time.

We are being diligent about sanitizing our rooms, tables, chairs, and toys. We are constantly washing hands and practicing social distancing. All the while, we are doing our best to keep things as normal as possible for all of our children. Our prayers are for the safety of everyone we know and especially for those who must still work for the good of our society...healthcare workers, law enforcement, firefighters, store workers, farmers, truck drivers, childcare workers, and the many others who keep the rest of us going. May this virus be but a memory very soon!!!



Recommended Reading



As Christians, we are constantly looking for ways to be the hands and feet of Christ in our present world. But, what if, instead of just focusing on hands and feet, we instead tried to reflect the true nature of Christ in His world, to His people? What if we tried to, instead of doing one kind act here and another act of mercy or justice there, we tried to live the totality of our lives just loving God's people, who like us, were made in His very image? Don't you think that in so doing, we could truly make a difference in the world?

This month's *Recommended Reading* selection, Ordinary, by Tony Merida, gives us the underpinnings of this sort of life. Tony Merida is the founding pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, NC. He is the author of Faithful Preaching, co-author of Orphanology, and serves as an editor and contributor to the Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary series. He is married and together with his wife Kimberly, they have five adopted children.

Ordinary isn't a call to a radical lifestyle. It is actually a call to the contrary. The kingdom of God isn't coming with dazzling displays of light or a jaw-dropping arrival, but with lowly acts of service and love. In this book, Merida wants us to push back against sensationalism and the thought of "rock star Christianity." He wants us to help people understand that we can make a powerful impact in this world by engaging in "ordinary" Christianity.

In Acts 17:6-7 we read, "These men...have turned the world upside down...saying that there is another king--- Jesus!" (HCSB) How were they doing this? How were they turning the world upside down? They had a different king, Jesus, who called them to a new, unique, and different lifestyle. These were not impressive people but they had an impressive King. We know from our study of the New Testament that the men who followed Jesus during His earthly life were "unschooled, ordinary men" but these ordinary men turned the world on its heel! God used them, one conversation at a time, one meal at a time, and one act of mercy at a time, to change lives as they submitted to the lordship of Jesus, proclaimed His substitutionary death and bodily resurrection, and displayed good deeds that reflected the values of the Kingdom.

Merida says in the preface of Ordinary that, "My prayer is that we would see a recovery of such a movement, an "ordinary movement," that involves ordinary Christians, not just the "super Christians," who live on mission in the rhythms of everyday life. Ordinary Christians who proclaim an extraordinary message and ordinary Christians who practice compelling acts of justice and mercy." He goes on to say, "If God is a father to the fatherless, and I am to reflect Him in every way, then doesn't that mean I should care for the fatherless too? If "true religion" involves caring for orphans in their affliction, then what kind of religion am I practicing if it doesn't involve some measure of orphan care? Am I neglecting "the weightier matters" of doing justice and mercy like the Pharisees? Have I turned into a polished (Christian) whose public life is far more impressive than my own personal life?"

Through things such as simple and humble acts of service, neighbor love, and hospitality, Christians can shake the foundations of our present-day culture. In order to see things happen like have never happened before; we must do what Christians have always done. We need to become more ordinary. In reading this book, let's think together about how we, ordinary people, doing ordinary things, might turn the world upside-down! And until we live in that promised and longed for world that is to come, let's bring a taste of the future into the present by practicing everyday justice. Let's motivate one another to practice kingdom hospitality, care for the fatherless, and speak up for those who have no voice, love our neighbors, and do justice in other ways that glorify God!

We highly recommend this little book of less than 150 pages to anyone who is looking for a way to challenge the way they are living out their faith. We can all become stagnant. We can sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that we are just "little ole' me" and can never make a real difference in the world. This book is a wake-up call and we hope that you will read it with a focus on how to be "Christ for the world!"

Did You Know???



...that local United Methodist Churches are on the front lines for addiction recovery? Well, we are!

Healing House, a ministry of Brentwood UMC in Brentwood, TN, opened its doors in 2017. Healing House is a residential community for women recovering from alcohol and drug addiction and is the only non-profit program of its type in Williamson County. When Pat Ralls volunteered to be a part of this new ministry while still in the research and planning stages, little did she know that in helping others transform, she would find transformation for herself.

Ralls says, “I didn’t know about addiction, but I am someone who likes to get behind stuff.” She also added that she felt led to attend the first meeting, which proved to be a step that would lead to more than two years of weekly gatherings. During this time, Ralls and the committee located the Healing House properties and then rallied their congregation to donate, not just money, but the items needed to furnish the two houses. Ralls states that she really didn’t understand why she was doing what she was doing, other than it being a calling from God.

Now that the ministry is up and running, her commitment to Healing House continues. She leads weekly Bible studies with the women, makes grocery runs when needed, plans outings for the women, and organizes and orchestrates fundraisers. Ralls says, “I’m 64 years old and I’ve done a lot of things, but there is nothing that compares to serving these ladies.”

Ralls is called “Ms. Pat” around Healing House. Her name, when uttered by the residents of Healing House, has a heavy inflection of love. The ladies who live at Healing House have this to say about Ms. Pat...

“Ms. Pat will do anything to help, with no desire for anything in return. It’s just because she feels led to help other people, out of the goodness of her heart. She’s a good testament to what you can be like, what a faith-based person can be. My ideas (about being a faith-based person) were more about being selfish and having judgment and thinking if you don’t believe what I believe, you’re wrong. My ideas of what church is have changed significantly from being here, seeing the genuine selflessness of the people affiliated with the church, and Ms. Pat is an example of that.”

Whenever I see Ms. Pat, she makes my heart feel at peace. Something about her just makes me smile and feel good inside.”

Tracey Levine, Healing House executive director says this about Ms. Pat... “Pat has always made our women feel that they are an important part of the community and that we all share a bit of brokenness. We all know that we are loved by Pat and that she wants the very best for every single woman that graces our door!

Ralls hasn’t always had a heart, or an open door, for those who are broken, troubled, or marginalized. Those whom Jesus frequently embraced were not always in her line of focus. Her family had a nickname for her. They called her “Book ‘em, Danno,” referring to the trademark expression of Steve McGarrett on the iconic television show Hawaii Five-O. She admits to being very straight-laced and seeing most of the world in black and white, with no gray areas. This is the life space in which she has been transformed. While she does not consider herself an accomplished student of Wesleyan Theology, her work with Healing House does indeed illustrate one of John Wesley’s main tenets. By doing good (the second of Wesley’s general rules), she has found herself changed by God’s grace. She humbly states, “I am just following God.”

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As is the case with so many of us, it was a family tragedy, ten years ago, that led Ralls to step into the work of Healing House. A distracted driving crash took the life of her son and Ralls says that this “opened her heart.” It opened her heart to other causes that people feel passionate about and maybe she didn’t. She knows that people’s passions come from God and that’s why she was open to contemplating what addiction means and how it impacts others. She says that once her mind was opened by her own personal tragedy, she began to see that when you have really been captured by God, you have got to just keep going. She says that the tragic loss of her son put her in greater touch with humanity.

Not only is Healing House a beautiful example of what the Body of Christ can do when the people come together for one of the very causes that Christ Himself championed...but Pat Ralls is also a beautiful example to us all. She shows us the difference that one person can make when we open our lives to the leading that comes from Christ and open our hearts to His people. May we always be looking for opportunities to serve. May we always be searching for what God would have us do next in our lives. May we always be ready to be used by God in service to our neighbors. Let’s not sell ourselves short and think we aren’t capable. May we always be ready, willing, and able to do what God puts us to doing! This is Kingdom Work!!!

(Crystal Caviness wrote the information in this article for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications. It was originally published on February 12, 2020. Photo courtesy of Healing House)



What do you say when asked...

What is our Authority for Believing the Bible?

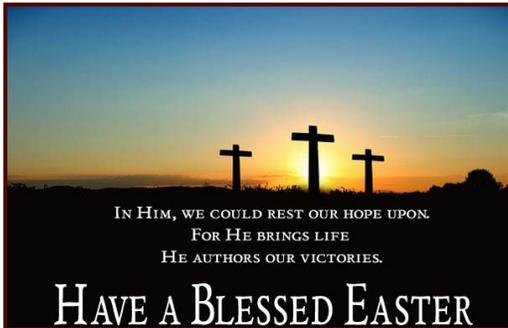
Jesus and the apostles confirmed the authenticity of the Old Testament, quoting it scores of times in their writings and ministries. *The Dead Sea Scrolls, The Septuagint, and The Codex Sinaiticus*, all of these documents, and many more, are available for examination to any interested individual.

“All Scripture is breathed out of God and profitable for teaching, for proof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3: 16-17, ESV)

The Bible is the only book ever written that gives satisfactory answers to life’s ultimate questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the purpose of Life?

Happy Easter, Pleasant Grove!



This month, we will celebrate Easter as a Church Family! And you can rest assured that the celebration will indeed go on...whether we are worshipping together on our campus, or worshipping together, alone, in our own homes. But, regardless of what the world's circumstances are, Christians around the globe and right here in our own communities will be remembering, giving thanks for, and celebrating our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!

The season of Easter, which always brings into focus all that we have to be thankful for, has a special significance this year...don't you think? We are always thankful for the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus. We are always thankful for a God who provides a way for us even when we know we don't deserve it. We are always thankful for The Word of God, guiding us, sustaining us, informing us. We are even thankful, at this time of the year, for warmer weather, springtime activities, and the explosion of color that nature provides us. But, this year, aren't we finding some other things to add to our gratitude list? Think about more time at home and away from the hectic and over-scheduled lives we tend to lead. Consider more meals shared around the family table. Perhaps the love and care shown to you by a friend or neighbor comes to mind. Maybe you have taken the opportunity to spend more time in your Bible, in prayer, in worship and praise of the Lord God.

Bunnies are cute and Easter eggs are fun to find. Easter candy is yummy and it is fun to dress in our Easter finery. But, this year and every year hereafter, let's really focus on the reason we celebrate Easter. This year, Easter 2020, the celebration just might mean a little something extra for all of us! When the world seems out of balance and the times are confusing and fraught with fear of the unknown we can cling to the sure hope that we find in Jesus Christ and know that our true identity, our future, our eternity is safe in His hands!

Christ is Alive! The Resurrection is True! We serve a Living Savior! All our hope is in Him!

Happy Easter, Church Family, Happy Easter!!!



THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY

Sonny Watkins

Tom and Julia Grey

Jewel West

Willie and Nadine Williams

Pauline Melton

Willie and Nadine Williams

Troy Wilson

Barry and Ronda Dwyer

Willie and Nadine Williams – Trustees

Shirley McClure – Trustees

Vivian Kiser – Trustees

Von and Cindy Fraley – Trustees

Lib Primm – Trustees

Rufus Frank and Sandra Boyd – Trustees

IN HONOR

Vivian Kiser

Steve and Maria McClure

Horace Nixon

Peggy Pace – Family Life Center



Helping Others Through Backpack Buddies

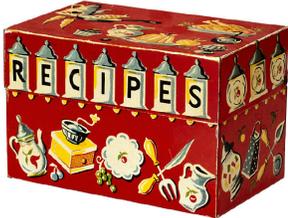
We are all well aware that our Backpack Buddies ministry helps our neighboring students with weekend food throughout the school year. And, we are also aware of the fact that during these unusual and trying times, our neighbors have truly missed the blessing of the two meals they receive at school each day. We have been so impressed at how the school systems have stepped up, in acknowledgement of this need, to provide “grab and go” breakfasts and lunches for any student in need. Although we have all understood the necessity of social distancing and have had to change our routines to do what is right for the whole of our society, the needs that our Backpack Buddies ministry meets have not changed...in fact, they may have been magnified! In response to Christ’s call on our lives to meet the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, Backpack Buddies continues!



We have been distributing the backpacks to our Oakdale students as scheduled. Each Friday, the families of these children have the opportunity to pick up their child’s backpack of weekend food here at our church from 10-12 in the morning. So far, we have also been able to provide each family with a \$30 gift card to Food Lion. Dear people of Pleasant Grove, this need is real! It is so easy to see the need as these families express their gratitude and relief at the continuation of this ministry. Through these gifts of food we are reflecting the love of Christ as He has asked us to do.

As you continue to tithe to the church during and throughout these days apart, please consider supporting Backpack Buddies as well. We are in need of our normal donations of food items but we are also in need of financial donations so that we can keep doing just a little bit more for these precious families. You can send a check to the church marked “Backpack Buddies” to be a part of making a difference in a child’s life. Thank you, in advance, for being the light of Christ to folks who sure could use a little light in their everyday lives!





The Recipe Box:



Here we are at the beginning of April, which means that Easter Sunday is less than two weeks away! As of this writing, we really can't predict what our Easter Sunday celebration might look like. Most of us are probably used to have friends and family over to break bread together as we celebrate this most joyous day. This year, our gatherings just may be a bit different. Whether you are a party of one or two, share the time together virtually through one of the social apps on your phone or computer, or are able to come together with your immediate family, the celebration should go on!!! Food is such an important part of our celebrations, both as a culture and society and as a family of God. So, in these unique times we wanted to

share a simple and delicious recipe with you that is sure to enhance your Easter Sunday meal, no matter the size of your gathering.

Margaret Parker knows her way around the kitchen and has supplied us with a recipe that is sure to please your palette. Sometimes we feel that a recipe has to be super involved and time consuming, elegant, jaw-dropping, and even impressive, to be served at a holiday. And although we are sure that Margaret has served plenty of those types of dishes for her holiday meals throughout the years, she, like so many of us, has found that sometimes the simpler, the better! This recipe is simple, but it still impresses with its richness of taste and satisfying flavors. **Blender Coconut Pie** can be found in the latest Pleasant Grove cookbook, [Feeding the Flock](#), but we wanted to reproduce it for you here, to put it right at everyone's fingertips. When you have the opportunity to have a crowd around your table once again, this recipe is great because it makes two pies. But, that is exactly what makes it fantastic for right now too! During these strange and unusual times we need to look out for one another. So make them both and share one with a neighbor! We strongly suspect that this recipe will not only serve you well this Spring, but will find a permanent home in your own recipe box!

Blender Coconut Pie

6 eggs
1 stick butter or margarine, melted
1-cup buttermilk or milk
2 cups sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 package (14 ounces) coconut
2 unbaked pie shells

Put all ingredients, except coconut and pie shells, into a blender. Blend until it is mixed well. This makes 2 pies; so put lots of coconut into each pie shell. Pour the blended ingredients on top of the coconut. Use a spoon to be sure all the coconut is covered. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 45 minutes. Enjoy!



Dearest Lord, during this holy time for so many, we pause to remember that your light can never be extinguished. Help us to believe in this truth so that we might live lives that display your eternal illumination. Amen.

ReligionQuotes.info



May all your prayers be answered
and may you feel the Lord's
presence near you...
not only for Easter,
but always.

Happy Easter!



Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



Getting to Know You!!!



One of the best things that we do around Pleasant Grove happens when we welcome new members into the church family! And each month, here at *Pleasant News*, we look forward to highlighting these newest family members. This month, we would like to introduce Herb and Phyllis Vanhoy. These sweet people are the parents of Tim Vanhoy, one of our worship leaders in the contemporary worship service. They have been around Pleasant Grove for some time now and we are just tickled that they have made it official and joined our church. They bring a wealth of experience as well as hearts full of love to the table and we look forward to serving our Risen Savior alongside them in the years to come.

So, without further ado, Herb and Phyllis Vanhoy!!!

Pleasant News: Where were you born and raised?

Phyllis was born in Salisbury, NC. She went to school and graduated at Granite Quarry, NC. Herb was born in Albemarle, NC. He went to school and graduated at Rockwell, NC.

Pleasant News: Tell us a little bit about your family.

Phyllis' parents both worked in the cotton mill (Cone Mill in Salisbury). Her father passed away in 2000 and her mother, in 2008. She had one brother that went to be with The Lord 17 years ago. Herb's mother died when he was nine years old and his father passed away in 1973. Herb had a brother and a sister who are now deceased. Herb and Phyllis had a total of four children. One of these children, Jeffrey, died at three days of age and another died before birth. However, God blessed them with two other wonderful children and three of the best granddaughters that anyone could ever hope to have. As you know, they have Tim, and Cara, whom they feel is their child too! They also have Karen who lives in Summerville, SC. Their grandchildren are Hayley (Tim and Cara's daughter), Kenzie (and her husband, Cameron), and Kayla. Kenzie and Kayla are Karen's daughters. Because of this loving family, Herb and Phyllis know that they are blessed!

Pleasant News: What is your line of work or what sorts of jobs have you had in the past?

Phyllis is currently retired. She stayed home and worked as a Mom for 18 years. Then, she worked in Finances at J.M. Alexander School in Huntersville, NC. She also worked as a church secretary and treasurer at Homestead UMC and church secretary at Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Herb retired in 2017 after working in the petroleum industry at Paw Creek for 49 years.

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Pleasant News: What are your hobbies and interests?

Herb loves to walk! Weather permitting; he walks an hour every day. After retirement, he took up reading and he has now read over 600 books! Herb also loves to go grocery shopping. He prefers going alone, because he says that Phyllis spend too much money (HaHa!). Phyllis LOVES to paint. She also loves to read but doesn't do too much of that since she has taken up painting.

Pleasant News: What is something on your bucket list?

Phyllis says that she thinks that she has completed her bucket list but Herb says that there is still one item hanging out there...He wants to zip-line!!!

Pleasant News: What is your favorite verse or passage of scripture?

Herb's favorite verse of scripture is Hebrews 13:5-- "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you!" What great assurance this verse provides! Phyllis says that she has many favorite verses. However, her very favorite verse is Psalm 118:24-- "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Phyllis says that she quotes that verse every morning when she rises and tries to change the "Let us" to "I will". She suggests that if everyone would try to do this every morning we would all have a better day and a better world. Another verse she loves is Philippians 4:6—"Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers." Such great advice and such wise counsel!!!

Pleasant News: What brought you to Pleasant Grove?

Here is the response that Phyllis and Herb gave: "Of course, most of you know we have family in the Praise Band. That is what brought us here when Homestead UMC closed. However, we moved to Lincolnton, NC and we thought PGUMC was too far to travel. We came only occasionally. So, we found a church in Lincolnton. However, our hearts were still at PGUMC. When Pleasant Grove started the contemporary service we found that we weren't too old yet to travel the 35-40 minutes to church! So, finally, after talking with Pastor Byron we decided to make the commitment to join. Now, not only do we have family in the LifePoint Praise Band, we have made new friends and new family here at Pleasant Grove!"

Pleasant News: What is something you dream about, or wish for Pleasant Grove?

Herb says that his prayer for Pleasant Grove is that more young people and children would attend to learn the true message of Jesus Christ. Phyllis says that her prayer for our church is that it will grow by winning people to the Lord. She prays that God will lead us all to do His will here at Pleasant Grove.

Pleasant News: What do you enjoy most about being a part of Pleasant Grove?

Herb and Phyllis both say that what they enjoy most are the loving and caring people at our church. Also, they love the fact that the message is both Biblical and affirming. Byron, Phil, and Colin are all God-loving men and they all preach straight from the Bible. Herb and Phyllis love all three of these men in leadership at Pleasant Grove.

Pleasant News: Tell us anything else that you would like to about yourself or your relationship with the church.

Phyllis and Herb would love to live closer so that they could get more involved in the great activities and programs Pleasant Grove has going on. They truly hate not being able to attend night activities because of the distance they have to travel. Because of this desire, Herb and Phyllis hope that the people of Pleasant Grove can see how much they truly love the staff and people at our sweet church!

Well, Phyllis and Herb, we think it is abundantly clear that you love Pleasant Grove. And, we hope that you are crystal clear in your knowledge that you are loved and cherished here at Pleasant Grove. We look forward to shared joy with you as we love God and love our neighbors together! The only thing left to say is this...

"Welcome Home, Herb and Phyllis Vanhoy, Welcome Home!!!"

Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
R C R O S S S H R E D P H M N E
I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F
E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB

