

## *Pleasant News*

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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#### Worship Times:

- 9:00am Traditional
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Contemporary

Pleasant Grove  
United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 681900  
1915 Oakdale Road  
Charlotte, NC 28216

704-392-2387  
www.thegrovetoday.org

### *Inspiration Point*



Well, it is August already! It is so hot that all we want to do is sit around the house in the air conditioning and drink sweet iced tea! But it was not always that way. Back in the day, we did not have air conditioning, and the cash crop was not harvested yet! Our cash crop was tobacco. Everyone in our community grew tobacco, even if they had a job in town. The whole family was involved when you harvested tobacco. We grew Virginia Bright Leaf, and we picked two to three leaves from the bottom of the stalk once a week until we had harvested all the leaves. You knew when the leaves were ready because they would begin to turn yellow. We picked the yellow leaves once a week. Our mule would pull the sled through the field and as he went by, we would place our load into the sled to be taken to the barn. At the barn, another crew was waiting to string the leaves on tobacco sticks and then place them on poles in the upper part of the barn.

Curing the tobacco was an art into itself! It had to be done correctly because the quality determined the price you would get at the market place! We had cut wood earlier in the year, and had carried it to the barn to keep the fires in the flues going steady! For the first twenty-four hours, we raised the barn temperature to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, then we would increase the temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit for three days, until the leaves were totally dried out and were a bright gold in color!

(Continued on next page)



Once the firing began, someone had to be at the barn at all times, twenty-four hours a day until it was completed! (There were about 7 or 8 teen-aged boys in our neighborhood, and we helped each other during this stage.) Our whole community was made up of tobacco farmers, and this was the common practice in every family. All of us were dirt farmers! No one really had anything of value, and all were at the same socio-economic level. We only got electricity in 1952 when Roosevelt signed the REA into existence! Consequently, we had no running water, we grew our own food, and we plowed our fields, sowed our crops, harvested them and put up the food and sold the tobacco at the market place. After the tobacco was sold, we paid the bills for this years crop, bought two sets of clothes and one set of shoes. When Spring came again, we borrowed enough money to begin the next crop, and that is the way it was!

We all were poor, but all of us were just the same, so it did not matter! We worked hard, we played hard and we worshiped God at the little chapel in the community! We sang songs like, "The Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace," "There Is Power In The Blood," and "Bringing In The Sheaves." We loved all day singing and dinner on the ground! Those ladies could cook! Plus they could sing! It was a good time to be alive! I suppose that we came as close to, "Love the Lord, thy God, with all your heart, all your body, and with all your soul and love your neighbor as yourself" as a neighborhood could come!

Be happy, and stay cool!

*Brother Phil*



*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

*Daryl Evans*

## **From The Pastor's Desk**

### **Where the Rubber Meets the Road**

My pastor's article this month, is about a man with a decades-long history of failure.



His name was Charles. You really can't say that his friends called him Charlie because he got to the point where he didn't have any friends. After failing in business, Charles borrowed some money from the bank to pursue a new idea. But the new idea failed.

He borrowed money from friends, and failed again. And then he borrowed from relatives. But he continued to fail. Pretty soon he owed money to everyone he knew, with no way to pay it back.

He believed he was on the verge of a major breakthrough, but found it difficult to focus on developing his ideas because creditors constantly hounded him. Charles sought protection through the bankruptcy laws, but failed to keep his payment arrangements, ultimately landing him in jail.

During this time, with fewer distractions, he was able to make progress, developing his idea almost to completion. A few more years, a few more loans, a few more mistakes, and eventually he attained the success he had sought for so long. Charles' business invention had to do with a process for vulcanizing rubber.

**His last name, by the way, was Goodyear.** His elusive idea helped you get to work today.

Early in life, Charles Goodyear made a decision to never quit – to try again, and then again, as many times as it takes.

He wasn't particularly good with managing money, and he often stretched himself too thin, but he never let failure – or his own faults – hold him back. He refused to give up, long after everyone else had given up on him.

Finally, Charles Goodyear's decision to try again paid off. It's a decision only the true courageous can make: Allowing no fault or failure, personal or professional, to persuade you to quit, or prevent you from getting back up and reaching for the prize one more time. This is where great lives are made. It's where breakthroughs are achieved. It's where the rubber meets the road.

***For though the righteous falls seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes. (Proverbs 24: 16)***

Keep your eyes on Jesus and He will give the strength and endurance you need to pick yourself back up. I hope to see you in church!



Christ above all,

*Pastor Byron*

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

**IN MEMORY**

**Robert Wilkerson**

Ray and Trena McClure  
Kevin Holt  
Kay Mingus  
Grace Baptist Church  
Anonymous  
Robert and Lynn Porter  
Lucille McCorkle

**Raymond Auten**

Rick and Lynda Elliott – Bereavement Fund  
Anonymous

**Joe and Madeline Tyson**

Johnny and Deborah Tyson – Cemetery  
Fund

**Helen Green**

Anonymous  
Ray and Trena McClure  
Willie and Nadine Williams  
Roy and Margaret Parker – Cemetery Fund  
Vivian Houck – Lord's Fund  
Don and Jane Adams  
Ron and Anna Robinson  
Rick and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund  
Anonymous – Lord's Fund  
David and Susie Johnson - Bereavement  
Fund  
  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Anonymous  
Hazel Sanders  
Brenda Watkins

Wayne and Anna Terrell  
Steve and Karen Dellinger  
Peggy Pace  
Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Cemetery Fund

**Ed Sing**

David and Lynette Primm  
Johnny and Deborah Tyson  
H. Lee and Martha Curry  
Helene and Michael Watts  
Ron and Anna Robinson – Cemetery Fund  
Rick and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund  
Anonymous  
Roger and Patti Beard  
Ray and Trena McClure  
Lib Primm  
D. H. Guzzi  
Robert and Brenda Frazier  
Anonymous  
Margaret and Roy Parker  
Susan Orders – Cemetery Fund  
Kathy Alexander – Cemetery Fund  
Robert and Coretha Ferrell – Cemetery Fund  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Larry and Carolyn Day  
Disciples Sunday School Class  
Tom and Julia Grey  
  
Pina Nance  
Anonymous  
Willie and Nadine Williams  
Don and Jane Adams – Cemetery Fund  
Terry Kelly – Cemetery Fund  
Hazel Sanders  
Covenant Sunday School Class  
  
Steve and Karen Dellinger

Peggy Pace  
Brenda Watkins – Cemetery Fund  
Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Cemetery Fund  
Dudley and Dianne Lawing – Cemetery Fund  
Scott and Karen Blanton – Cemetery Fund

**Anne Reames**

Don and Jane Adams  
Covenant Sunday School Class  
Eric and Karen Brown  
Ray and Trena McClure  
Roy and Margaret Parker  
Pina Nance  
Anonymous – Lord’s Fund  
Brooks and Patsy Frazier  
Laura Gilliland  
Arnold and Rebecca Lakey  
James and Shirley Goodrum  
Marilyn Collins  
Joyce and Jack Keistler  
Mary Frances McCall  
Gary Goodrum  
Roger and Patti Beard  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Willie and Nadine Williams  
Sonny and Brenda Watkins  
Terry Kelly – Cemetery Fund  
Anonymous  
Betty Allen  
Lib Primm  
Anonymous  
Robert and Coretha Ferrell  
Pamela Shirley  
The “Lunch Bunch”  
Vivian Houck – Family Life Center  
Ted and Betty Rector – Family Life Center  
Thad and Carolyn Reames  
UMW – Circle #3 – Steeple Repairs  
Rick and Lynda Elliott – Bereavement Fund

David and Susie Johnson – Bereavement Fund  
David and Lynette Primm  
Peggy Pace  
Steve and Karen Dellinger  
Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Cemetery Fund  
Hazel Sanders

**Sonny Watkins**

Terry Kelly – Cemetery Fund  
Anonymous – Lord’s Fund  
Steve and Karen Dellinger

**Rachel Warwick**

Anonymous – Lord’s Fund  
Peggy Pace

**Carolyn Henderson**

Peggy Pace

**Dorothy Gregory**

Willie and Nadine Williams  
Anonymous – Lord’s Fund

**Evans Ferrell**

Anonymous – Lord’s Fund

**IN HONOR**

**Betty Allen**

Terri Honeycutt  
Maria McClure

**Byron and Jana Alexander**

Anonymous – Lord’s Fund



### **Being Good Stewards**

So many times when the subject of stewardship arises our minds only focus on dollars and cents. We can easily fall into the notion that being a good steward has only to do with what we put in the offering plate regularly. We think that as long as we are giving that 10% tithe to the church then we are doing what we should do. The tithe is vitally important to the overall well being of the church and its ability to carry out its ministries in the community and beyond. But stewardship means so much more. Stewardship is about caring for what we have been entrusted with from our kind and loving God. We are to care for the church and its ministries. We are to care for those who have been sent to shepherd us as a church. We are to care for the relationships with which God has blessed us. We are to care for the resources that have been given to us. In short, we are to put our time, our talent, and our finances into the business of caring.

The tithe shows that we care about the church. But, there are other ways in which we are to show thankfulness to God for trusting us with His blessings. Sometimes it is simply cleaning up behind ourselves when we use church facilities. Sometimes it is cleaning up someone else's mess when it is left behind. Sometimes it is picking up a piece of trash that has been blown into our parking lot. Sometimes it is checking to see that doors are locked and lights are off as we leave a building. These small acts don't seem like much and they don't cost us, as individuals, in a financial sense. But, sometimes the need arises to take on a big job of caring for our church and sometimes these big jobs can cost quite a bit of money. As a church, we have been watching as our church steeple began to age and show wear. The steeple was no longer that shining beacon to the community. It was on its way to becoming an eyesore.

Through the leadership of our Trustees and the generosity of church members, we were recently able to have the steeple cleaned and restored back to its original state of beauty. On Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, a crew, a huge lift, and a tremendous power washer moved into position and accomplished what needed to be done. Now, when folks drive by the church, the steeple will visually call to them and let them know that Pleasant Grove cares and is a place they can call home. Thank you to all who had a hand in getting this work done. God bless our sweet church as we all work to be good stewards!!!

## *Summer Camp Adventures*

Summer Camp, like the heat, is blazing along. The summer campers went to see the CPCC production of *Madagascar* and, as always, it was a great performance. The children really enjoyed the play as well as meeting the cast afterward. And who doesn't love an all day skate along with all the pizza and hot dogs you can eat??? This was a blast! The kids also went to Textile Lanes for the lunch and bowl. All, thanks to Mr. Kevin, who always takes wonderful care of our group, had a great time. Thankfully, the summer camp activities kept our students and staff inside with the A/C during most of the recent heat wave! The name of the game is keeping the students engaged, occupied and busy...and there is a lot more to come as the last part of the summer marches along! The campers are enjoying their summer and they hope you do too!!!



## ***Did You Know???***

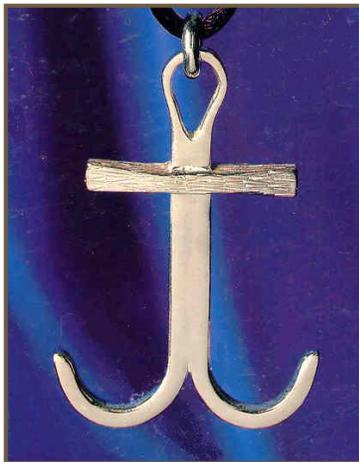
...that when missionaries are commissioned for service, an anchor cross is placed around their necks? Well, that's the fact and here is a bit of the history and meaning behind this meaningful act.

The anchor cross serves as a symbol of the call to mission service that each missionary feels in their heart and soul. It identifies them as missionaries within the United Methodist Church and also serves as a constant reminder of their covenant relationship with God and with the church. The anchor cross symbolizes the necessity of being anchored in Christ and in the community they serve. It reminds the missionary of their call to ministry with all people, wherever the need exists. The United Methodist Church has a long history of sending people into mission service and has always known that Christian mission can be a hard and sometimes dangerous journey. The challenges that missionaries face today are no less than those faced at any other time in history.

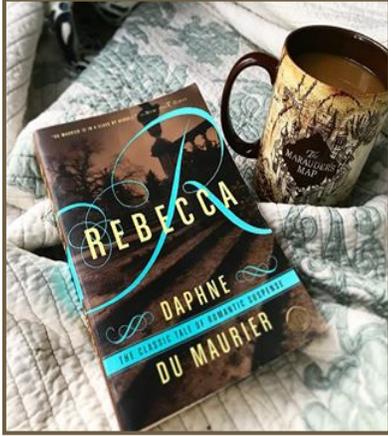
The anchor cross is one of the oldest Christian symbols, expressing faith and hope in Christ. It points us to Hebrews 6:19, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." Examples of this early icon can be found on tombs in the ancient Roman catacombs and on gravestones, as well as in Christian artwork.

Together the anchor and the cross remind the missionary to be anchored in faith, hope and love while engaging in the mission that God has set before them. This symbol also connects each missionary to the larger community of United Methodist missionaries, reminding them that they are not alone and that there are companions in the faith, and in mission service, around the globe.

*(The content of this article was produced by "Ask the UMC," a ministry of United Methodist Communications. It was first published on July 15, 2019 and can also be found on the United Methodist Church website.)*



## ***Recommended Reading***



This month, for our recommended reading selection, we give a nod to those of us who just love a classic tale of suspense and romance. Daphne Du Maurier's Rebecca, published originally in 1938, delivers on both of those and even more. Rebecca is set at the great Cornish estate known as Manderly, one of the most famous country houses in England, and has an immediate sense of urgency as a brilliantly created atmosphere of suspense unfolds. At its beginning the glamorous mistress of Manderly, Rebecca, has been dead for eight months. But her legacy lives on in every aspect of the estate and in the minds of those who still reside there. Du Maurier's work is deeply moving, creating a tapestry of the lives of her well-developed characters, bringing the reader to alternate between the doom of possible disaster and the tenderness of an exquisite love story.

Told through the eyes of the second Mrs. De Winter, readers will be taken aback as the darkest secrets and shattering truths about the first Mrs. De Winter are uncovered and revealed.

So, if you love to get lost in a good read...one with mystery, intrigue, romance, suspense and a sense of British history, then this book will be most enjoyable for you! We encourage you to pick up a copy from the local library, find one on any of the online booksellers or buy an audible version for your listening pleasure! Happy Reading!

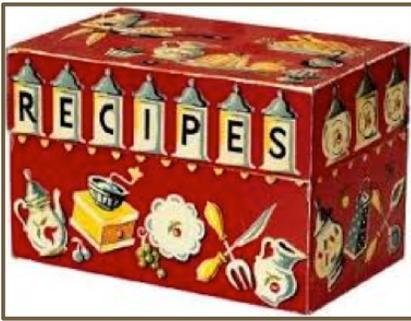
*Review submitted by Sherri Brown*

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## ***What Do You Say When Asked...***

### **What is the difference between reading God's Word and meditating on it day and night?**

The Bible is unlike any other narrative. It is God's story, chock-full of amazing depth and application for our lives. Jesus reminds us that the condition of our heart is important when we hear or read God's Word. If we are open and receptive to God's Words they will take root in our lives and transform us.



## **The Recipe Box**

From 2007 to 2009 Scott Brown spent almost three years working in Gulfport, Mississippi. Due to the distance from home and the work schedule for that particular job, he found it necessary to spend many weekends there. Since Scott couldn't be in Oakdale to worship with his church family at Pleasant Grove, he found his way to First United Methodist Church in Gulfport. The people there welcomed him with open hearts and open arms and really became a little second church family for him. Not only was the church family a beautiful collection of people, but the church building itself is stunning. The congregation worships under a beautiful stained glass dome. This dome is 32 feet in diameter and boasts a banner, which reads, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The dome has survived many hurricanes including Camille and Katrina and remains a constant for all who choose to worship beneath it.



One of the mementos that Scott brought home from Gulfport was a cookbook, Cooking Under the Dome. Cookbooks from different areas of the country are interesting to leaf through and so many times the regional flavor of the included recipes prevents us from giving them a try. However, much like Oakdale, this time of the year means a plentiful supply of fresh, homegrown tomatoes there in Gulfport. We thought we would share a recipe that puts to use those summer delicacies. We hope you will try, and enjoy, this recipe for Tomato Pie!

## **Tomato Pie**

One pie crust  
2 Tbsp. seasoned breadcrumbs  
1-2 large fresh tomatoes  
¼ cup mayonnaise  
Sliced fresh basil to taste  
1-½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese

Sprinkle seasoned breadcrumbs in piecrust. Add fresh thickly sliced tomatoes on top of the breadcrumbs in piecrust. Top with mayonnaise and sliced fresh basil leaves. Sprinkle top with cheese and bake at 350 degrees until bubbly.





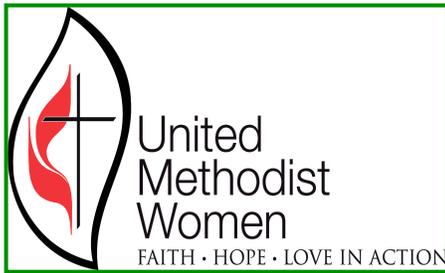
***Homecoming & Revival 2019***  
***At***  
***Pleasant Grove UMC***

Sunday Service, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM – Church Sanctuary  
Guest Speaker: David C Hockett – District Superintendent Metro  
*(Covered Dish Lunch to Follow in the Family Life Center)*

Sunday Evening Revival: The Cockman Family in Concert – 6:00PM – FLC

Monday & Tuesday Evening Revival, 7:00PM

Reverend Talbert Davis – Pastor Good Shepherd UMC, Charlotte, NC



### *News from our United Methodist Women*

Twenty-one United Methodist Women members and four guests were present for the combined meeting of Circles #3 and #6 on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Lynda Morris, UMW President of the Metro District and Donna Varner, Metro District Parliamentarian and Pleasant Grove's District Shepherdess, were in attendance to enjoy a time of fellowship and to bring greetings from the District UMW executive team. Jana Alexander led our devotional for this gathering.



The UMW Metro District Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church in Mooresville. Reservations are \$7.50 and must be mailed in by August 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to go please let Jeannie Upton know by Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. We need to have at least three people go to this meeting if possible. More would be great! The UMW hands-on mission project for this event is the collection of school supplies for Bethlehem Center. You can help by bringing these supplies to the August 13<sup>th</sup> Circle meetings or by getting them to Jeannie by August 18<sup>th</sup>. The items needed are: pencils, pens, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, bottled glue, copy paper, play dough, composition notebooks and construction paper. So, make plans to attend this District meeting and get your school supplies bought and ready to give...such a simple way to impact the life of a child!



## *Christmas in Paw Creek*



### *25<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts & Craft Fair*



Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019  
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church – Christian Fellowship Center  
7400 Mount Holly Road  
8:00AM – 2:00PM

Vendors: \$25 for space plus \$8 for table. Event will include breakfast, lunch, and BBQ sales. Seeking vendors: arts, crafts, toys, services, etc. Vendors please call Jan McClure (704.394.8481) for information and registration. Hurry! Space is limited!



### *Charge Conference at Pleasant Grove*

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming Charge Conference here at Pleasant Grove. Many people do not even know what goes on at Charge Conference. This is the annual meeting that each local church holds to approve the slate of church officers for the coming year, set the salaries for our Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor, and address any other pertinent church business as is deemed necessary. This meeting is open to the entire congregation but the members of the Church Council are strongly urged to attend. To see a listing of Church Council members, please refer to your 2019 church directory and its list of church officers and committees. Make plans now to attend our Charge Conference on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. The church needs your input and involvement as we begin to make plans for and dream about what our church will look like in 2020!!!



COME JOIN US FOR OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

## **PORT-A-PIT BBQ CHICKEN**

"GOLDEN GLOW BBQ CHICKEN"

**Thursday, August 15th, 2019 • 11:00 am to 7:00 pm**

Eat In or Take Out – Delivery for 6 or more plates

½ Rotisserie Chicken – Slaw – Baked Beans – Roll for \$10.00

Sponsored by the Disciples Sunday School Class



Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

1915 Oakdale Road, Charlotte, NC 28216

Tickets need to be purchased in advance

Call the church office (704.392.2387)



# Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 226

Rev.21:1-10

## A New Heaven and Earth

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

ALPHA	BURNING
ANGELS	CARRIED
BOWLS	CRYING
BRIDE	DRESSED
DEATH	DWELLING
DRINK	HEAVEN
FIERY	HUSBAND
HOLY	IMMORAL
LAMB	INHERIT
LIARS	LONGER
LIFE	MAKING
MAGIC	MOUNTAIN
OMEGA	PASSED
PAIN	PLAGUES
SAYING	PRACTICE
SPIRIT	SEATED
SPRING	SHOWED
SULFUR	THIRSTY
VOICE	THINGS
	WATER

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a  
Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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