



Pleasant News June Issue 2019

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Worship Times:

9:00am Traditional

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am Contemporary

Pleasant Grove
United Methodist Church
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1915 Oakdale Road
Charlotte, NC 28216

704-392-2387

www.thegrovetoday.org

Inspiration Point

Galatians 4: 4 - 7. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Here is a little story that I have borrowed from the *Gospel Herald*: A gentleman who was a professed Christian was taken seriously ill. He became troubled about the little love he felt in his heart for God, and spoke of his experience to a friend. This is how the friend answered him.

"When I go home from here, I expect to take my baby on my knee, look into her sweet eyes, listen to her charming prattle, and tired as I am, her presence will rest me; for I love that child with unutterable tenderness. But she loves me little. If my heart were breaking it would not disturb her sleep. If my body were racked with pain, it would not interrupt her play. If I were dead, she would forget me in a few days. Besides this, she had never brought me a penny, but was a constant expense to me. I am not rich, but there is not money enough in the world to buy my baby. How is it? Does she love me, or do I love her? Do I withhold my love until I know she loves me? Am I waiting for her to do something worthy of my love before extending it?

This practical illustration of the love of God for His children caused the tears to roll down the sick man's face. "Oh, I see," he exclaimed, "it is not my love to God, but God's love for me that I should be thinking of. And I do love Him now as I never loved Him before."

(Inspiration Point continued)

Can you remember the love your Daddy had for you? Can you remember him reaching out with his long arms, and bringing you up into a big hug? Can you remember the love he gave you, even if you were naughty? The times he sacrificed himself in order for you to have what you wanted? Do you remember the times when you followed him around and imitated what ever he did? He was the greatest, wasn't he! You trusted him totally, and when you grew up, you wanted to be just like he was! And he totally loved you! You were probably the apple of his eye! That was what made the relationship so special! There was a special bond between the two of you, and I pray to God that that bond never went away until the day you were or are separated by death!

Dearly beloved, that is the kind of relationship that God wants to have with us today! He wants a loving and devoted kind of relationship! He is not waiting until we do something special before He gives His love to us! In spite of how wealthy we may be, we cannot do anything that would cause Him to love us anymore! God is always giving and giving unto us and we can do nothing for him in return! Yet, He still loves us with all His heart! Our relationship with God should be just as close as our relationship with our loving daddy has been!

Brother Phil

What Do You Say When Asked...

Are all Human Beings valuable to God?

All human beings are valuable to God, and he calls us to see people as he sees them. Compassion goes a step further by compelling us to feel their pain. Compassion literally means, "suffer with." God calls us to come alongside people who are suffering. It doesn't mean we can fix their problems, but it does mean we can enter into their pain. Before we act or practice this belief, we must believe it is God's call on the life of all Christ followers. When we believe this in our hearts, we will show compassion to all , especially to those in need.

Congratulations to Our Own Phil Turner!!!



We recently learned of some changes coming to Pleasant Grove, Phil Turner, and how he is serving here in our church family. Just so that we would all understand the details and celebrate together with Phil, we asked Pastor Byron to fill us in on what Phil's recognition means and he was most happy to do so!

Before moving to Charlotte, Phil was an ordained Local Pastor in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Every UMC Conference across the country appoints any number of Local Pastors to serve in both small and large churches. As a Local Pastor, ordination is tied specifically to the local congregation within which the Pastor serves. This differs from an Elder in the UMC, who can perform all clergy rites in any United Methodist Church throughout our denomination. So, when Phil left Florida, he also left behind his license to serve as an ordained clergy in the UMC.

Byron asked Phil if he would like for his ordination to be recognized by our Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC (WNCC), so that he would be able to perform baptisms, weddings, and communion here at Pleasant Grove. Phil said, "Yes, that would be nice." So, with Byron's encouragement, Phil began the process of getting his paperwork and records transferred from the Florida Conference to the WNCC.

Phil has gone before the Metro District Committee of Ordained Ministry, which is made up of the District Superintendent, other clergy, and lay persons from various churches within our district. Phil answered questions regarding his ministry here at Pleasant Grove and questions about his vocational call into ministry. The committee voted and recommended that Phil Turner be recognized as a Retired Local Pastor who is eligible for appointment within the WNCC.

On June 20th, during the executive session of Annual Conference at Lake Junaluska, NC, All the current clergy members of the WNCC will officially vote Phil in. As a result, we will change Phil's title from "Director of Congregational Care" to "Pastor of Congregational Care".

Phil will keep doing what he has always been doing and he will now be able to take communion to those who are home bound and in the hospital. He will also be able to officiate communion and baptisms without the need of a Clergy Elder (Pastor Byron) being present.

With Phil being appointed here at PGUMC as a Retired Local Pastor, we will be entitled to have two lay delegates to represent us at Annual Conference starting in 2020. Phil will also be able to attend Annual Conference as a clergy delegate and will have a vote on matters that come before the Annual Conference.

So, that's what this change means to our Annual Conference, to Pleasant Grove, and to Phil. It all seems like a win, win, win!!! Congratulations on this recognition, Phil! We are so very proud of you, so very pleased to have you serving the Lord with us, and we love you so very much!!!

Happy Father's Day

The volunteers with Pleasant News want to wish all of our fathers a very "Happy Father's Day!" For all who are or have been fathers, for all who have been fatherly to the special people in their lives, for all men who serve and love and care simply because they are called to do so...we offer this prayer:

O God,
We thank you for these men,
the men who have taken on the
awesome task of following in Your footsteps.
We thank You for their courage and strength.

And our prayer is that
as they learn what it means to be a Father,
that You would father them,
show them, teach them, apprentice them.

We pray
that You would show them
how to be good fathers,
no matter how old or young
their children may be.

Amen

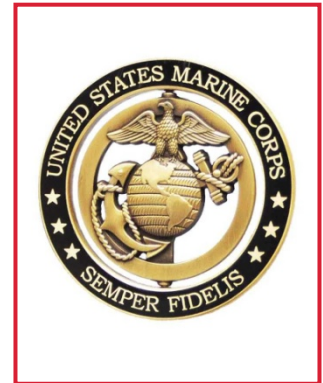


11:00AM
IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Graduation Sunday 2019



On June 9th, during the 9:00 worship service, the Pleasant Grove family will honor our graduates for this year. We are so very pleased to be recognizing four awesome college graduates and one very special graduate serving in the U.S. military. Our graduates who have recently completed their undergraduate studies are Cooper Alexander, Faith Alexander, and Katie Smith. Melanie Nance has finished her Nurse Practitioner's degree. And Caleb Hornbuckle has completed his Marine Corps Recruit Training. Please make plans to join us on June 9th as we let these family members know how very proud we are of their many and varied accomplishments! Then, stay tuned next month as we fill you in on all the details about their studies and their plans for the future!



Christ In Us



Every now and then you see an image, a photograph, an action that just shines a light on the Love of Christ that resides in each of us. Just before our Four Year Old Preschool Class went into the Chapel to present their end of the year program, one of our teachers, who just happens to be a grandparent of one of these precious children, captured this image with her camera. So many times we question how we can show Christ to others in the world we live in today. Pastor Byron, without realizing it, is showing us just how simple and profound our action can be. Byron simply met the kids where they were, asked them to join him in prayer, and then prayed a simple prayer with them. This is evidence of the "Christ In Us" and we are so blessed to have Byron shepherding us in discovering and displaying this gift here at Pleasant Grove. Is this not a beautiful image of how we can all help to build a child's faith and help them to better understand the gentleness, the kindness, the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ?



The United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove

The United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove started a July get-together a few years back so that we could make sure we stay in touch. If we don't plan these events it gets very easy to become distracted and not keep up. We have two Circles. One meets in the daytime and the other meets in the evening. The women in these groups have very different lifestyles but we have one thing in common at our core. **We are all United Methodist Women!** We have a bond with Oakdale, Pleasant Grove UMC and each other through this group of women. On Tuesday, July 9th, at 6:00 PM, we will come together for a covered dish dinner. Jana Alexander will lead us with a devotional, we will enjoy our meal and we will spend time in fellowship. We would love to have you join us to see what it's all about!!!



Vacation Bible School - Roar!

Summer is almost here! Well it's still quite a few months off, but I can pretend right? I can't help but be excited for Summer when Vacation Bible School is coming! So mark your calendars for June 23 – 27! Our theme this year is ROAR! We're exploring the African safari with lions to learn that "Life is Wild, God is good."

So if you're interested in getting involved contact Colin Winslette at colin@thegrovetoday.org to get plugged in to an awesome week of VBS!

I'll see you soon!

Colin Winslette

Getting to Know You...



This spring season has been such an exciting one around Pleasant Grove. Since Easter Sunday we have had no less than six people join our sweet church. As we roll into summer we are trying to catch up with each of them so that we can help you all get to know them a little bit better. So, for the next few months we will be featuring one or two new family members in the newsletter. This month, we would like to introduce to you, Martha Honeycutt. Martha attends the 9:00 worship service and has been gracious enough to play her harp as an additional form of worship in that service. We recently asked Martha a few questions and would like to share her responses with you. The next time you see Martha around the church...singing in the choir, working at the hot dog lunch, attending the fellowship meals, or wherever else she might pop up as she serves the Lord with us, be sure to give her a big old welcome from "Pleasant Grove, the Friendliest Church in Charlotte!"

We first asked Martha about her roots...where she was born and raised and a little something about her family. Martha said that her family was originally from Albemarle, but that she remembers Charlotte the most. Her Dad was a Federal Meat Inspector so they lived in several places before landing in Oakdale around 1967. Her parents still live in Oakdale and she is the oldest of four. She recently moved from Wadesboro, so she is very excited to be close to her family again...and it's wonderful to have her family as her neighbors! Martha has three adult children and two grandchildren that she dearly loves!

We then asked Martha about her line of work and the kinds of jobs she has had, as well as what her hobbies and interests are. Martha says that she has been incredibly blessed to have had jobs that she loved! She is a Sign Language interpreter for the Deaf, semi-retired. She retired from the school system in 2014 and works part-time now. Before that, she worked in hospitals as a surgical tech...assisting the surgeons. Martha says that she knows that many people trudge through life with jobs they dislike and don't enjoy, but this was not the case for her. Sometimes her job was difficult, but they were always good! Martha likes to cook, sew, crochet, paint, and garden, although she says that she doesn't have outside "dirt in the ground" here. The interest that takes up most of her time now is playing the harp as a Clinical musician. Since this past August, her harp "circle" has blossomed. She volunteers for Levine-Dickson Hospice, and has monthly sessions at several facilities in the surrounding area. Martha says that every time she leaves a session she leaves a bit different...such a blessing!

When asked about her bucket list, Martha says that she has always wanted to go to Alaska and walk on a glacier. She says that she isn't so sure this is going to happen but she is keeping it on her list, nonetheless.

Most of us have a favorite passage of scripture and Martha is no exception. She says that Proverbs 3:5-6 covers a lot for her. She says that we can truly trust in the Lord, knowing that He knows us, and loves us with an everlasting love. She also shared that when she thinks of her finances she tries to follow Proverbs 28:23-24. She says that this passage means that she needs to pay attention to her debts and assets and it really helps to keep her in line.

(Continued from previous page)

And, when we asked Martha about what brought her to Pleasant Grove, this was her response. “I have known Margaret Parker for years, as I would help my Mom get to her hair appointments. Back in August a move was necessary, and the Lord opened doors that amazed me. God put Margaret and myself together and worked one miracle after another. She and Roy welcomed me to the community with open arms. I can’t say it enough...I am incredibly blessed. Of course she invited me to church, and I quickly felt at home!”

And we can't say it enough either, Martha... We are incredibly blessed to have you as a member of the Pleasant Grove Family! We look forward to serving together with you, growing in our knowledge of the Lord and His Word with you, enjoying sweet fellowship together with you, and just loving with Christ's Love together with you!

Welcome Home, Martha...Welcome Home!!!

YOUR CONVERSATION WITH GOD...

Ask God to help you identify those times when you are living outside the faith and joy He offers and embracing the fear and dread that Jesus remedied on the cross. Ask Father God to help you to be an ambassador of joy as you encounter people living in fear and dread.

Father, banish me from returning to fear and dread. It's so easy for me to worry, to obsess, and to yearn pointlessly for false security. You have called me to live in faith and in joy. I pray that my life will be an example of triumph through tears, hope in darkness, and faith in a land of squalor. It seems that many times I live on the edge of hell-empty of joy, light, holy affection. Teach me to crash the gates of hell with the hope and overcome darkness until the dawn appears! Indeed, You are my bright and morning star. Shine, dear Father, so that I can see the way. Jesus, I rest in Your escape.

(As taken from – Max Lucado's – 3:16 – The Church Experience Workbook)

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

IN MEMORY

Raymond Auten

Howarth Family
Pat and Kathy James
Mary Courtney
Pina Nance
Leslie and Mary Davis
E. Hamlin
Sonny and Brenda Watkins -
Bereavement Fund
Anonymous
Joanne Marz
James and Vicki Allgood
Robert and Coretha Ferrell
Ron and Anna Robinson
Grady Auten - Cemetery Fund
Tim and Terri Honeycutt -
Family Life Center

Dot Lanier

Pat and Kathy James - Bereavement Fund
Anonymous - Flowers in Sanctuary
Joanne Marz
Robert and Coretha Ferrell
Tim and Terri Honeycutt-
Family Life Center

Lyn Kelly

Sonny and Brenda Watkins - Bereavement
Fund

Ron and Anna Robinson

Carolyn Henderson

Tim and Terri Honeycutt - Roof Fund

Harry and Ellamena Simpson

Calvin and Barbara McCall

Eleanor Plummer

Tim and Terri Honeycutt - Roof Fund

Katherine Sloan

Tim and Terri Honeycutt - Roof Fund

IN HONOR

Jean Lynch

Covenant Sunday School Class

Donnie Adams

Horace Nixon - Family Life Center

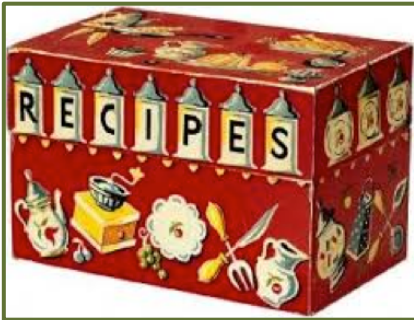


Preschool News

We have had a great Preschool year and it is hard to believe that summer is almost here. The kids did a fantastic job with their End of the Year programs and the teachers and parents were so proud of them. We enjoyed watching the children grow in their social and academic skills during the school year and are excited to hear about what our rising kindergarteners will accomplish when they start "big" school in August!

A huge thank you to Lynda Elliott, Debra Taylor, Myrtle Cornette, Sherri Brown, Sherrie Cannon, Harriett Summerlin, Tammy Roberson, and Diana Graham for their hard work this year. Teaching little ones is not easy and they did an awesome job working with the children and keeping them on task. We also appreciate Jeannie Upton, Colin, and Byron for their involvement with the children and an extra thanks to Lindsay for her help and assistance. We're very blessed to have such a caring and involved staff, church and support team. If you know of anyone who is interested in enrolling their child for the fall, please have them contact Mary Usher at m_usher@bellsouth or call the children's building at 704-393-7895.





The Recipe Box

The early garden produce has begun to come in and we are all looking forward to fresh, local fruits and vegetables during the summer season. This month, we bring you a recipe from Gwen Abernethy. It is one of her favorite late Spring, early Summer recipes. She found it in a magazine a very long time ago. And then Reba Henry included it in her cookbook, Recipes and Remembrances, which was published in 1994. We hope that you will try this fresh take on some of our favorite vegetables...light, healthy, and beautiful...all in the same dish!!!

Asparagus and Carrots in Lemon Butter

2 lbs. carrots, quartered & cut in small strips, 1 ½ inch long
1 lb. asparagus, cut in pieces, 1 ½ inch long
2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
½ tsp. freshly grated lemon peel
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. pepper



Bring 1 inch of water to a boil in a large, deep skillet. Add carrots. Cover and cook carrots 4 to 5 minutes or until crispy tender. Remove from skillet to colander and drain. Cook asparagus the same. Make sure not to overcook. Strain in colander. In same skillet melt butter and add the rest of the ingredients. Return carrots and asparagus to skillet. Sauté 1 to 2 minutes until vegetables are hot. You can cook the vegetables one day ahead and refrigerate separately. Then finish as the recipe directs.

God's Attributes: self-existent, unchangeable, mighty, powerful, providing, healing, dependable, sanctifying, peaceful, righteous, shepherding, present, all-sufficient, sovereign, all-seeing, everlasting, strong, all-knowing, all powerful, changeless, eternal, faithful, glorious, good, holy, just, loving, majestic, merciful, omnipresent, perfect, infinite, gracious, patient, creative.



John Wesley - Methodist Church Co-Founder

Updated June 19, 2018 - by Jack Zavada

John Wesley met death singing hymns, quoting the Bible, and saying farewell to his family and friends. Some of his last words were, "The best of all is, God is with us."

John Wesley is known for two things: co-founding [Methodism](#) and his tremendous work ethic.

In the 1700s, when land travel was by walking, horseback or carriage, Wesley logged more than 4,000 miles a year. During his lifetime he preached about 40,000 sermons.

Wesley could give today's experts lessons in efficiency. He was a natural organizer and approached everything diligently, especially religion. It was at Oxford University in England that he and his brother Charles participated in a Christian club in such an orderly manner that critics called them Methodists, a title which they gladly embraced.

Personal Life of John Wesley

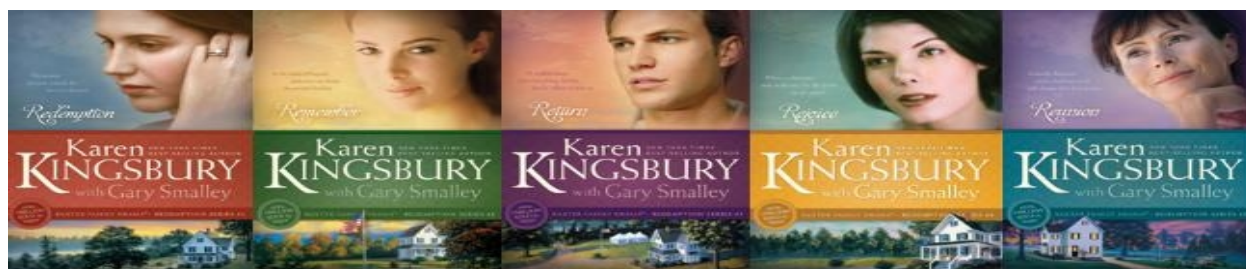
John Wesley met death singing hymns, quoting the Bible, and saying farewell to his family and friends. Some of his last words were, "The best of all is, God is with us." Susanna Annesley Wesley, John's mother, had a profound influence on his life. She and her husband Samuel, an Anglican priest, had 19 children. John was the 15th, born June 17, 1703, in Epworth, England, where his father was rector.

Family life for the Wesley's was rigidly structured, with exact times for meals, prayers, and sleep. Susanna home-schooled the children, teaching them religion and manners as well. They learned to be quiet, obedient, and hard working.

In 1709, a fire destroyed the rectory, and young John had to be rescued from a second-story window by a man standing on another man's shoulders. The children were taken in by various parishioners until the new rectory was built, at which time the family was reunited and Mrs. Wesley started "reforming" her children from the bad things they had learned in other homes.

John eventually attended Oxford, where he proved to be a brilliant scholar. He was ordained into the Anglican ministry. At age 48, he married a widow named Mary Vazeille, who deserted him after 25 years. They had no children together.

The strict discipline and relentless work ethic instilled early in his life served Wesley well as a preacher, evangelist, and church organizer. He was still preaching at age 88, just a few days before he died in 1791.



Recommended Reading

So, here comes summer and we are all looking for that great summer read! Whether you plan to spend time reading on the porch at home, while you are on vacation, or just whenever you can find a peaceful moment to yourself, we have a recommendation for you. Our very own Karen Dellinger has been talking about this series of books for quite a long time now. She says that they are great stories with a definite Christian foundation. They are fiction but as the author likes to put it... They are life-changing fiction!

We highly recommend the Baxter Family series of books by Karen Kingsbury. There are twenty-three titles that really should be read in order so that you can keep the family members and their stories straight in your story-line. There are also six titles that can be read as stand-alone books and in any order.

Karen Kingsbury is America's favorite inspirational storyteller and a #1 *New York Times* bestselling novelist, with more than twenty-five million copies of her award-winning books in print. Her last dozen titles have topped bestseller lists and many of her novels are being developed with Hallmark Films as major motion pictures. Her Baxter Family books are being developed into a television series which is slated for major network viewing. Karen is also an adjunct professor of writing at Liberty University.

Redemption is the first book in the Baxter Family series. It begins the tale of the Baxter family...their fears and desires, their strengths and weaknesses, their losses and victories. Each book in this series explores key relationship themes as well as the larger theme of redemption, both in characters' spiritual lives and in their relationships.

Why don't you get started on this wonderful series of books? You will quickly find yourself immersed in their lives and hungering to find out how their story weaves around and works out. We know it is a large number of titles but we are sure that once you get started you won't want to put them down!!! To help you out, we have included the list of titles below for you. Happy Reading!!!

These books can be read in any order or as stand-alone titles:

Two Weeks, When We Were Young, To The Moon And Back, In This Moment, Love Story, A Baxter Family Christmas ...And coming in the spring of 2020...The Baxters-A Prequel

These books take you back to the beginning with the Baxter Family and should be read in this order: Redemption, Remember, Return, Rejoice, Reunion, Fame, Forgiven, Found, Family, Forever, Sunrise, Summer, Someday, Sunset, Take One, Take Two, Take Three, Take Four, Leaving, Learning, Longing, Loving, Coming Home.



Father's Day Word Search

Father's Day is Sunday,
June 19. Can you find
these words that have
to do with dad?

ATHLETIC	FUNNY
BRAVE	GOLF
DAD	KIND
DADDY	SPORTS
ESPN	TENNIS
FATHER	TIE
FISHING	TOOLS
FOOTBALL	



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

MARTY WESTMAN/MCT