



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

- 8:45am Bible Study Groups
- 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

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Inspiration Point

Romans 8:26 to 39: (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the Saints in accordance with God's will.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all-how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

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As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.


As we know, there are two realms available for us to live in. The physical realm is the one that we can look about us and see the things that we physically deal with every day. Satan rules in this physical realm, and everything taking place there would be normally under his influence. He has that right, as God gave it to Adam in the beginning, but Adam passed it on to Satan soon after that. We know that this is true, because, as the Scriptures say, Satan took Jesus up on a high place, and told Him to look about Him, and if He would but bow down and worship him he would make Jesus ruler over all that He saw. He would not make this promise if he did not have the authority to do it. If we choose to live in this realm, we cannot please God!

The other realm is the Spiritual realm. In the spiritual realm, God rules through Jesus Christ. When we are born again, and the Holy Spirit of God enters us to make us like Jesus, we enter the Spiritual realm! We can choose to continue to live in the physical realm, or we can choose to live in the Spiritual realm. Sometimes we choose to go back and forth between the two realms. We know that we belong to the Spiritual realm, but there are strong attractions to the physical realm! We enjoy the things that appeal to our lower fleshy nature! Satan is an expert in sending us temptations that entice us to dwell in this realm! But in the Spiritual realm, God has sent the Holy Spirit to help you! God has given us hundreds of promises to help fulfill all of our needs! Paul writes, "But my God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus!" When we live in the Spiritual realm, we can live in peace with God, our Father! The Bible teaches us, "All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose."

Satan and his minions can cause us all kinds of damage here on earth, but in spite of all this, he cannot separate us from the love of our Lord and Savior! Once we become God's property, you are always God's property! You are the beloved! You are ordained to be called "the Sons of God!" So Christians, remember to whom you belong! Remember whose arms enfold you! Spend quality time with God every day! Work on your personal relationship with Him! Think about it! May God richly bless you and yours!

Brother Phil





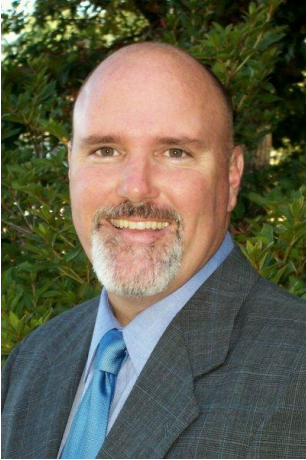
Men's Luncheon

Every Thursday at 11:30am
Stockyard Grill
4925 Rozzelles Ferry Rd, Charlotte

All men are invited to join for fellowship & good food!

From the Pastor's Desk

THE GREAT (ROMANS) EIGHT



*I think that Romans 8 is one of the great chapters of the Bible. I've been reading Mark Batterson's book, **IF**. It is a great read! The book is easy to understand. It contains a lot of practical advice on how to apply God's truth to our daily lives. I encourage you to get a copy. You can order it from Amazon. Here is an excerpt from his book:*

When it comes to the eighth chapter of Romans, even wordsmiths are at a loss for words. Not many adjectives can do justice to its mystery and majesty.

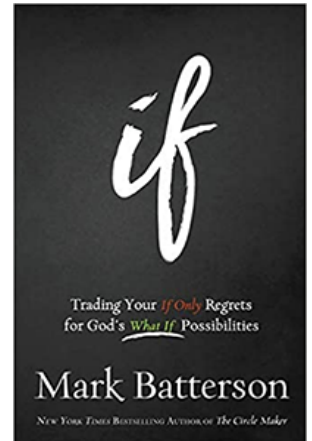
Theologian and pastor *John Piper* calls the eighth chapter of Romans the greatest chapter in the Bible. In shorthand, "the Great Eight."

Who am I to argue with him?

Martin Luther called it "the clearest gospel of them all." *William Tyndale*, who was martyred for translating the Bible into English, called it "the most excellent part of the New Testament." And Dr. *Douglas Moo*, a professor at Wheaton College Graduate School, calls it "*the inner sanctuary within the cathedral of Christian faith.*"

I've always thought of it as "The *If* Chapter." The ten ifs in Romans 8 add up to infinite possibilities. One last label — "Super 8." Like a good film, Romans 8 has got it all — action, adventure, story line, even some special effects.

Christ Above All,
Pastor Byron



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

IN MEMORY

Jewel Brown

VFW Post 6724 Ladies Auxiliary

Danny Wilson, Jr.

Anonymous – Backpack Buddies

Al Godwin

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Brenda Watkins – Cemetery Fund

IN HONOR

Terry Kelly

Anonymous – Cemetery Fund

Anonymous – Cemetery Fund

Jeannie Upton

Shirley Gelsinger

Praise Band

Eric, Karen, Cameron and Kaylan Brown



Scripture of the Month

Hey there friends!

It's Colin again, bringing you another piece of scripture during the month of September. This month let's talk about a well known verse but one that is always good to meditate on: Hebrews 11:1.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"

The entirety of Hebrews 11 is an important lesson on faith (I encourage you to read the whole thing although I won't write it all out here). Paul is writing to encourage believers to have



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faith and that the Bible is filled with examples of God’s goodness to the faithful. Something important that Paul makes clear here in his examples and in saying “things hoped for” is that sometimes the fruits of our faith will not come anytime soon. Even the best examples of God’s goodness here on earth pale in comparison to the good that will eventually come. The glory of the Kingdom of God is better than anything we could ask for now. After all, if the only thing we were to have faith for was just for the tangible, it would hardly necessitate faith at all. We look forward to what Jesus Christ promises us in eternity, not just what He may promise tomorrow. If God has accomplished many incredible things throughout scripture with those who have faith just imagine how much grander His ultimate promise will be!

So stay strong in the faith and be encouraged this month as God promises great and greater things for those who love Him! I look forward to sharing with you more in the future but for now I’m signing off! See ya next time!

In humble service,

Colin



Did You Know???

...that worship can happen anywhere, anytime, anyplace, that your heart meets with the heart of God? Of course you did!!! But this month we would like to highlight a worship experience that happens by the Nantahala River near Bryson City, Tennessee. For the past 15 years, the Rev. Wayne Dickert, aka Wayner, has led this worship service beside the river, touching the lives of countless people who came to the river to raft or kayak, but stayed to worship.

Wayner had been a raft guide and head of instruction at the Nantahala Outdoor Center and had been thinking about having a riverside worship service. In 2007, he tossed the idea out to the president of the Outdoor Center, just knowing what the answer would be. But, instead of the “no” that he expected, the president said, “Sure! What do you need from me?” Wayner said that at this point he thought to himself, “What do I do now?”



He was still laity at this time, and he enlisted the help of his senior pastor and youth pastor to get the service, called “River of Life” off the ground. The service was designed to be a cross between a summer camp service and a contemporary worship service. The service became a hit with the paddling community that typically spends their Sundays on the river, so he was able to reach people who would be unlikely to ever set foot in a church building. The last Sunday of each month, Wayner and the congregation paddle down the Nantahala River after church for what he calls “big, boomin’ fun.” Now in its 15th year, the success of River of Life is

credited to building relationships and “being in life with people.” During the development and execution of this

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service, Wayner was appointed to Bryson City UMC, where he continues to serve as pastor. Serving in a traditional sanctuary setting, as well as a riverside setting, has been a beautiful opportunity to share God’s love with people from very different walks of life.

Tim Ray, a paddler from Alabama, who has attended River of Life services over the past 15 years says that he’s seen rafters walking by who wound up hanging out for worship. “You never know where a seed’s planted,” he said. Observers have commented that “Wayner just leads with delight and joy and a sense of humor, and that shines through.”

One of the unique aspects of the River of Life service is the five minutes that Wayner sends worshippers to the river’s edge to spend solitary time with God. The invitation is not to sit in the pew and pray, but to go to the water and reflect on God’s presence...Look at the movement of the water and reflect on how life moves us along and changes us.



There have been several mission efforts born out of River of Life. One of the primary ones is funding well projects in Haiti. This cause was all started by an unexpected love offering at a service early on. “Since this ministry was born up out of the water, we decided to use any money that came in to do water resources around the world to give other people hope,” Wayner said. For the first few years, the group supported smaller projects based on whatever money they had, while they dreamed of being able to provide a community well. But the price tag of several thousand dollars seemed like something out of reach. Wayner thought, “A bunch of dirt-bag boaters can’t afford this!” However, through the Western North Carolina Conference and its missional connection to Haiti, River of Life was able to fund its first community well...and it just celebrated its 135th!!! “We never thought we’d be able to get one. It’s just amazing to see how God has worked through all of this,” Wayner said. There is now a beautiful relationship between those gathered around the crisp, clear water of the Nantahala, and the people of Haiti who struggle to find clean water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.



During the pandemic, the River of Life offerings have also supported Dr. Eugene Maklin and New Hope Hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, a ministry partner with the conference, by providing personal protective equipment. And even during the pandemic, River of Life has been able to continue to meet, as it is an outdoors service, and it runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Wayner reflects often on the beauty of River of Life, and knows that, being a Methodist pastor, he is in an itinerant position and may be reassigned at some point. If he does find himself appointed to a less-river-adjacent location, he says that he’ll always look for creative ways to do ministry. “When it feels like

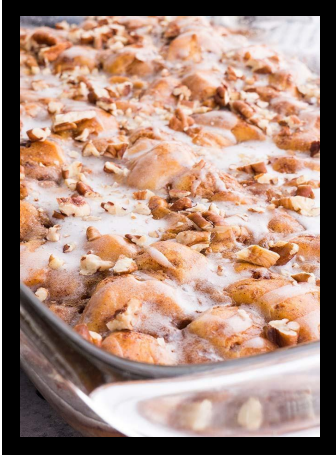
the spirit’s kind of pointing me in a certain direction, I just don’t have any better sense than to go, ‘Sure, why not? What could go wrong?’”

*Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.*

(The content of this article was originally written by Joey Butler and was produced through United Methodist News. It first appeared on the website of the United Methodist Church on August 3rd, 2021. Photos by Mike Dubose.)



The Recipe Box



Last month's recipe was pretty involved with some out-of-the-ordinary ingredients. So, we thought we would offer a simpler, easier, sweeter treat! September seems to be the month of all things apple. Many of today's retailers would like for us to push on past apple season and jump right into pumpkin-flavored everything. However, we think that once you see how easy this dish is, you will definitely want to give it a try. This recipe would be perfect for a weekend morning, an impressive brunch with friends, or a gift for someone who just needs a little pick-me-up. You could even serve it for dessert with a scoop of vanilla ice cream! Now, that's a winner, for sure!

Apple Cinnamon Roll Casserole comes to us from Pinterest! And we do hope you will enjoy making it, savoring its taste, or gifting it! (When the recipe appeared on Pinterest! It had no name...we just came up with what we are calling it!)

Apple Cinnamon Roll Casserole

- 2 cans of refrigerated cinnamon rolls, quartered
- 1 can apple pie filling
- ½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Combine these three ingredients gently and place in a sprayed or buttered 9 x 13 casserole dish. Distribute evenly across the dish. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes and then drizzle with the icing packets from the cinnamon rolls. Serve warm and enjoy!!!

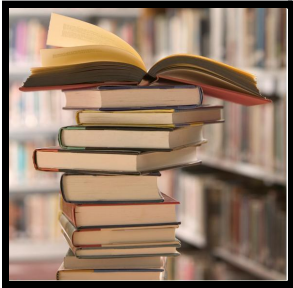


That's it! How much easier can it get?!!! Enjoy your time in the kitchen and stay tuned for October as we will offer you a recipe for something warm and savory!



Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Every Tuesday at 7:30am
Circle G Restaurant
4818 Rozzelles Ferry Rd,
Charlotte

Recommended Reading



We all know that there are very few World War II veterans remaining with us. As they leave this world, they take with them the memories and stories of what they saw, lived through, and endured during this horrific time in world history. While we need to be sure to consult trusted historical accounts of the War and its effects on so many people around the world, we can also get a flavor of the times and troubles that people lived through by reading a good selection of historical fiction. This is exactly what we are recommending to the family at Pleasant Grove this month.

[The Last Bookshop in London](#), by Madeline Martin, is the story of a young girl from the English countryside who has dreamed of a life in London, but the bunkers, sandbags, and blackout windows she finds in the city were certainly not what she expected. The dreams of nights at the theater, strolls through the parks, romance, and a thrilling career in a fashionable shop didn't come to be. In fact, Grace Bennett could have never imagined she would end up working at *Primrose Hill*, the dusty old bookshop nestled in the heart of London. It was August of 1939, and London was preparing for war as Hitler's forces swept across Europe. Through countless air raids, the decimation of the city she had grown to love, and the losses that war brings with it, Grace discovers the power of storytelling to unite people in ways that she never dreamed...a force that can triumph over even the darkest nights of war.

This thoughtfully written book has been described as, "a gorgeous story of love, friendship, and survival set against the backdrop of WWII-era London," and "a love letter to the power of books to unite us, to hold the world together when it's falling apart around our ears." It has also been said that this book is "an engaging mix of books, romance, and war, and is not without tragedy. But the unapologetically uplifting ending will find booklovers wiping away a tear or two."

Madeline Martin is a USA TODAY bestselling author of historical fiction. She lives in Florida with her two daughters, one incredibly spoiled cat, and a man so wonderful he's earned the name of Mr. Awesome. She is a die-hard history lover who will happily lose herself in research any day. She attributes her fascination with history to having spent most of her childhood as an Army brat in Germany. This recently published work from her has "countless nods to classic literature and a heroine possessed of both compassion and grit." It is a true treat for fans of historical fiction.



We heartily recommend [The Last Bookshop in London](#) to our entire church family. It is full of history, courage, friendship, and a love of literature that is sure to appeal to anyone who just loves to immerse themselves in a good read. It is available through online booksellers and is also now in Pleasant Grove's Lending Library. We hope you will pick up a copy of this lovely work...because you are sure to enjoy it!!!

Welcome, Teri Conway, New CDC Director

In July, Pleasant Grove Child Development Center welcomed a new director...well, not really new! Teri Conway has been serving as our assistant director for nearly three years and the transition to her new role as director was practically seamless. We are excited to have Teri as our new director as she represents our child development center, and in essence, our church, to the young families in our community. Teri sends the following words of greeting to the church at Pleasant Grove...



My name is Teri Conway. I am excited to be the new Director of the Child Development Center! I have been in the role of the Assistant Director for the past 2 ½ years. I previously served at First Presbyterian in Belmont where I also held the position of the Assistant Director. I have been in the field of Early Childhood for the past 16 years. I have a love for children and have been a leader in any position I have ever held.

I have been married for 25 years to my wonderful husband Mike. We have two children, Kourtney (25) and Connor (15). I was born and raised in Florida. We moved to North Carolina in 2008. I love living in North Carolina. Although I love to go back to visit my home state, I would never live there again!

A few interesting things about me. I have a fully functional coffee shop in my garage! My daughter has started her own coffee company and launched it out of our garage! I have 3 rescue dogs, who are all spoiled rotten. I love to read, travel, and spend time with my family.

I look forward to getting to know more members of the church and having a long and fruitful relationship with the Child Development Center.

Welcome, again, Teri Conway! We are very glad that you are here, and we also look forward to getting to know you and becoming more involved in loving on the children in our community with the love of Christ!



After-School Care Post

It's hard to believe but another Summer Camp season has come to an end! The kids and staff had a great time together. It was nice to be able to go on field trips again after a summer of staying in due to the pandemic. After-school is now off to a very good start! Mountain Island Charter School started on August 16th and



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools began on August 25th. Our enrollment has almost doubled from last year! This is due in part to the fact that people are now able to return to their offices instead of working from home exclusively. The students are very excited to get back to class. Now, with COVID numbers rising again, we are just praying that everyone stays safe and that the children can maintain in-person learning! We are looking forward to a great 2021-2022 school year together!!!

And News from Preschool

On another note...it is with a heavy heart that we must announce that Pleasant Grove's Preschool will not be opening this fall. This is due to low response, staffing issues, and an ongoing issue with our building. We have all worked hard to prepare for a new preschool year and are now praying that our problems can be resolved and that we will be able to reopen at a later time. Many of us know from first-hand experience the benefits of this program. Many children from our church family and from the community have come through our program and have then gone on to success in school and beyond. Please keep this vital children's ministry in your prayers and look forward to the day when we can serve children in this way again!



Nursery Volunteers Needed

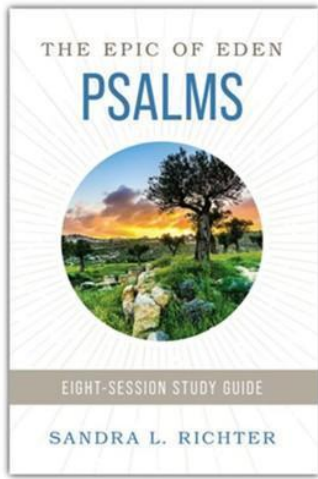
We are in the process of re-launching our nursery ministry for our 8:45 Bible Study Groups and our 10:00 worship hour on Sunday mornings. If you feel that God has blessed you with the ability to love on His children and you are willing to give an hour or two of your time once a month, please let the church office know. So far, we have one Sunday covered and we are looking to provide coverage for the other Sundays of the month. This is one way that we can communicate God's love to others that doesn't cost us a thing! In fact, we receive more than we give when we share His love! As young families begin to step back into church life, it will be exciting to demonstrate to them that we love and care for them! So, call today and sign up for your opportunity to be a blessing and to be blessed!!!



PGUMC Summer Cookout 2021



Our Next Bible Study Begins Soon!



The next installment of our Monday night, online Bible study begins later this month! And we would love to have you join us!! This Bible study group, led by Jana Alexander, is open to men and women who are eager to learn more about our Holy Scriptures. Our next book of study, *Epic of Eden: Psalms*, by Sandra Richter, will begin on Monday, September 13. We meet online from 6:30 – 8 pm using the Zoom platform. Jana makes it very easy to participate by sending out the link and once you get started it's as easy as pie! Contact Jana at janaalexander09@gmail.com, or the church office if you'd like to participate. The books are \$16 and can be ordered through the church or from wherever books are sold online. This study is for church members, as well as friends and family...in fact, we have all made new friends that we would have never met had it not been for studying the scriptures together online!

About the Study

Sandra Richter brings our ancestors in the faith to the table where we learn from them in a cross-cultural experience bridging historical and modern-day life. This eight-session study of the Book of Psalms masterfully mixes scholarly and practical teaching through the most-known wisdom Book of the Bible. The key messages of this study include: **what** the Book of Psalms is (the hymnbook of ancient Israel), **how** it was utilized in Israelite worship (the various "forms" of the Psalms), and **why** the Book of Psalms remains critical to our devotional lives today. Sandra also dives into the concrete realities of Israelite worship (the tabernacle, temple, priesthood, and sacrifice) as well as Israel's theology of worship wrapped up in their theocratic world view.

Experience the Psalms with fresh connections to contemporary worship and devotional practices. Indulge in the biblical study of the Psalms from a scholar and former pastor. Letting Sandra do the "heavy lifting" of research and translation allows you to experience the Bible in a deeply sensitive way, answering the evergreen question, "so what does this have to do with me today?"

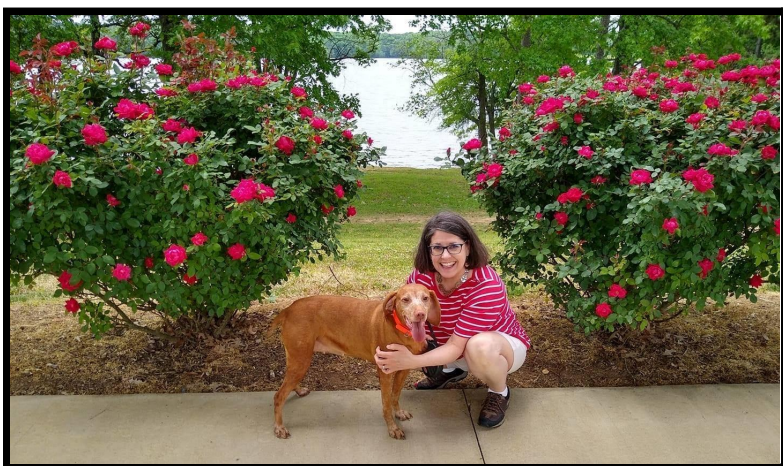


Operation Christmas Child is Coming to Pleasant Grove!



For so many years now, we have gathered shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and this year will be no exception! The green and red boxes will make their appearance in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 12th, so it is not too early to begin to make plans to fill a box or two. After you pick up your boxes, fill them with all sorts of goodness for a child and pray over the boxes and for the children. Then you can return the boxes for dedication on Sunday, November 21st! How exciting it is to be able to share God's love with children around the world! What a privilege!

Welcome, Dawn Broom, Our New Administrative Assistant!!!



Hello,

I am Dawn Broom, and, beginning September 7, I will join the ministry team of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church as Administrative Assistant. I am a North Carolina native, having been raised in Union County. Since 2002, I have lived in the Mountain Island Lake area of northwest Charlotte.

My first calling is as a church musician, and, for 40+ years, I have served a number of churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Missouri, in a variety of denominations, as Director of

Music, Music Associate, and/or Accompanist. At some of those churches, I have also filled the role of Administrative Assistant and come to Pleasant Grove from Wingate Baptist Church in Wingate.

I enjoy life with my wonderfully supportive, talented, and brilliant husband, Mark and our senior girl, Teal (A Vizsla breed dog pictured with me above). I enjoy dogs, cooking, and being in the church. I strongly feel that God has called me to ministry, and I look forward to getting to know and serving alongside the sweet family that is Pleasant Grove UMC.



Helping the Hungry!

Always remember and never forget that Pleasant Grove is a regular supporter of the food pantry at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Derita. There is always a plastic bin outside of the church office door ready to receive your donations. When shopping, just remember to put a few extra items, things you would purchase for your own family, in your cart to donate. Be sure that they are non-perishable and shelf-stable...think about canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, pasta and sauce, or boxed macaroni and cheese.

Canned meats are always needed too...beef stew, chili beans,

tuna, canned chicken. You can drop off your donations on your way to worship on Sunday mornings or any weekday that the office is open. We recently delivered a big bin full of good, nourishing food to Oak Grove and with all of our participation we can have another bin full and ready to deliver really soon! Isn't it great to have the desire to serve, the ability to serve, and the opportunity to serve?!!!

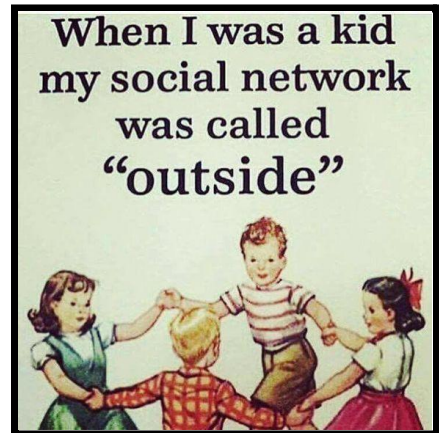
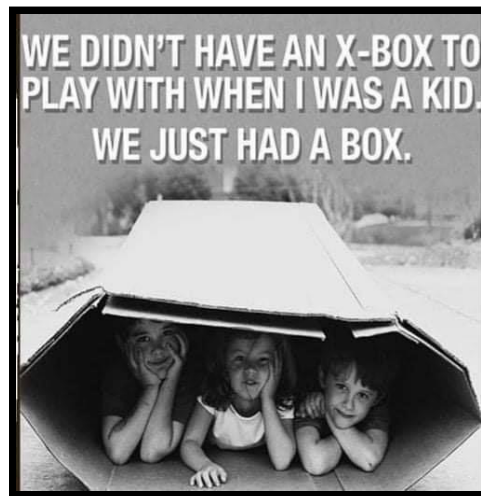
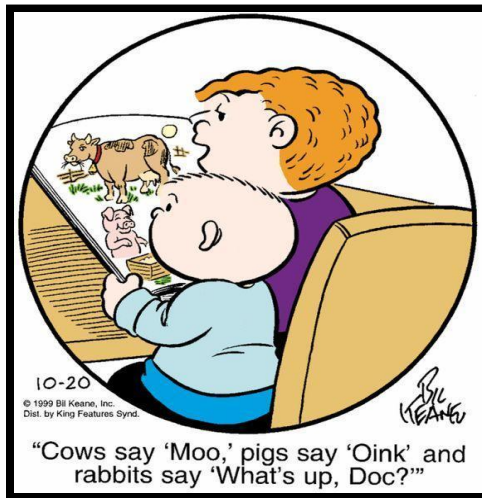
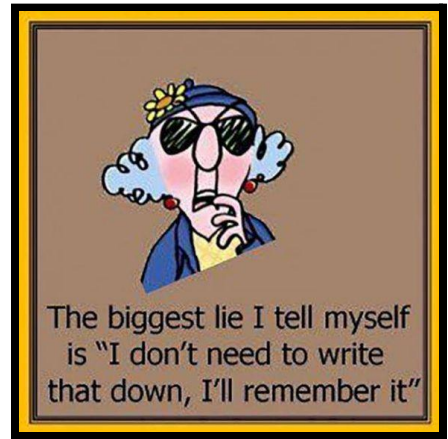
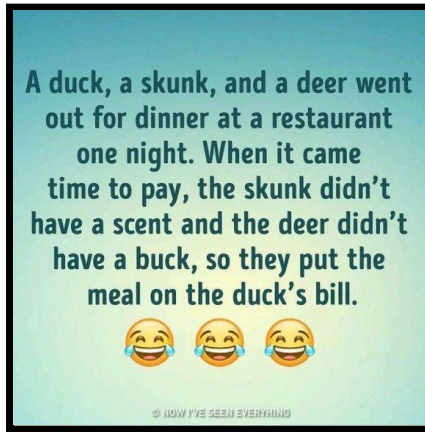


The PG Travelers Head Out Again!

The PG Travelers were on the move once again in August! We went to Hendersonville, NC, had a delicious lunch together, and then went to Grandad's Apples. There, we purchased some delectable treats...apple cider donuts, fried pies, caramel apple cookies, and apple fritters...oh! And of course, APPLES! The view out of the back of the barn was just breathtaking and seeing the apples hanging from the trees was just a marvel. We sure did have fun together and we hope that you will join us on our next outing. Stay tuned to find out about the next adventure for the PG Travelers! (Hint, Hint...it is rumored to be a trip to Riverside Fish Camp! YUMMY!)



Just For Giggles!!!





Apples

WORD SEARCH



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

APPLESAUCE	JUICY	ROTTEN	SPROUT
BASKET	LEAVES	SLICES	TART
BUY	PEELER	SMOOTH	VITAMIN
FLOWER	POUNDS	SOUR	WEIGH
GOLDEN			