

The Ambassador

February 2019

Our Mission Statement

To be disciples
of Jesus Christ
so all may know,
to educate,
to grow and
empower to serve.



Sundays

10:30- Coffee & Conversation
10:00 – Sunday School
11:00- Worship
6:00-Youth

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I attended a focus group the other day for a clergy colleague who is completing her Doctor of Ministry degree. She is in the process of writing her dissertation on positive psychology and the church. The focus group gave her the opportunity to present her findings and receive valuable feedback from the participants as she finalizes her dissertation. I was honored to be invited and learned a lot about positive psychology. Its basic premise is that people, organizations and communities thrive by focusing on their positive attributes rather than the negative. This is done by identifying, focusing and building on strengths rather than weaknesses.

More often than not, we tend to focus on the negative things about ourselves, our flaws and weaknesses, and we spend an enormous amount of time beating ourselves up over them and trying to fix them. For instance, I can remember as a kid when report card time came, and I'd get an A in every subject except math. Instead of celebrating all the A's, I obsessed over the B or C. I tried harder – to no avail. Turns out I'm just lousy at math - - but good at so many other things. Positive psychology encourages us to identify, focus and build on our strengths, which gives us self-esteem, meaning, purpose and enhances our lives at home, work and play. I definitely think this could apply to our church. Pleasant Grove has so many things going for it. We're a small church where everybody knows your name, and we're always glad you came. We're amazing at missions, taking on big projects like Family Promise and Operation Christmas Child. We're exceptional about volunteering to serve as leaders in worship. We have some strong and creative small groups. You get the idea. I'm sure you can name some other strengths. Let's identify, focus and build on those and share them with others. We've got a lot to offer.

Pastor Dana



Prayer Networking/Caring Ministry

“The revised prayer chain has been automated”.

If you have a need for special prayer, please call Jennifer Wisnewski at 404-226-0023 or 678-513-8116.

If you would like to be part of this “CHAIN” call one of the coordinators or the Church Office at 770-844-7095 and your name will be added to the list.

The Pleasant Grove UMC Altar Guild is a Service Ministry. The Guild works closely with the Pastor and the Worship Committee to provide visual elements which connect the sermon or special activity and reflects the liturgical season. Beth Blalock and Mary Stark, co-chairs



Information Session and Time of Prayer

In 2016 the Council of Bishops called for a Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of session is to receive and act on a report from the Commission on the Way Forward appointed by the Council to examine and make recommendations regarding our denomination’s stance on human sexuality and explore options to strengthen the unity of our denomination. Local congregations have been asked to be informed and in prayer for this upcoming special session. You are invited to join Pastor Dana on Sunday, February 17th, 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Club House for information, conversation and a time of prayer. Check out www.ngumc.org/GC2019.

Bible Study for Lent

Lent is late this year, beginning March 6th, but it’s not too early to make plans to observe a holy Lent. You’re invited to join our Lenten Bible study: **24 Hours That Changed the World** by Adam Hamilton. This video-based study takes us through Jesus’ final day, from the Last Supper to the cross. Pastor Dana will lead a Sunday morning group beginning March 10th at 9:45 in the Club House, and the women’s study group that meets on Tuesday mornings in the Club House at 10:00 a.m. beginning March 12th. Cost for the study book: \$10.

United Methodist Women



Our local UMW has a busy year ahead of us. We are a part of the Atlanta/Roswell District UMW. Every year, a new district social action project is presented for the year. This year, the project involves helping Family Haven, which is in Forsyth County. It is an advocate for victims of domestic violence and their families; providing shelter, programs, and community education to end the cycle of violence.

We will also help provide meals during the weeks that families involved in Family Promise are here at our church. Several of the UMW ladies also volunteer to help in various ways during those weeks.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Monday, February 18, at noon in the Clubhouse. Katie and Glennell will be providing the refreshments. A lot of planning will take place for Lenten Time Apart, which our local unit will sponsor on March 16. We will also plan for UMW Sunday, which will take place on March 17. We hope you will be able to attend.



Lay Servants = Greeter/Usher,
Liturgist, Acolyte,
Children's Church
Nursery Workers

For the Month of February

Greeter/Usher

February 3-Youth
February 10- Bob & Anne Newton
February 17-Gavin & Darlene Delaney
February 24- John & Amy Faulkenberry

Acolyte

February 3-Youth
February 10-
February 17-
February 24-

Liturgist

February 3- Youth
February 10-Pete Rodda/Scout Sunday
February 17-Don Putnam
February 24-Jackie Garmon

Nursery

February 3-Gail & Cary Bannon
February 10-Kim Fannin
February 17-Sydney Stark
February 24-Terra Manton

Children's Moment

February 3- Will Ross
February 10-Allison Ellis
February 17-Barbara McNutt
February 24-Chris Bannon

Those who are to count the offering for the month of February:
Terra Manton, Earl Holbrook, & Fay Gravitt

PGUMC YOUTH

Please join us on February 3 for Youth Sunday and Souper Bowl of Caring!! Wear your favorite sports team gear and bring canned food donations for The Place of Forsyth County. Plan to come and be blessed by this amazing group of young people as they share their love of the Lord and lead us in worship on Sunday morning. You don't want to miss it!!

The Youth Group welcomes all youth grades 6-12. Our meetings include devotion, fellowship time and a light snack/supper. The Youth Group enjoys fun weekly fellowship and activities with great friends, serving in our church and community, and sharing God's love with others...So Come Join Us!!!



PGUMC Music Notes From David Holladay

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord!
Ephesians 5:19

A couple of Sundays ago we sang a new song to me: "When Jesus Came to Jordan". Some of the words of the second verse especially caught my attention. They are: "So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began." What a wonderful truth that represents such blessing to us. We live in this "age of grace". The gulf of sin that separated us from God was being abolished by Jesus. On the cross He bridged the gulf! God was coming to live in us through the life of the Holy Spirit who is represented by the dove. "Sons of man" were becoming "sons of God". Praise the Lord!

Aren't you so glad that God deals with us in the Church Age through His grace? We have God's favor because Jesus paid the price of sin that we owed. We no longer have to strive to fulfill the law to obtain God's favor. Jesus did it all for us!

Let songs of grace fill your heart in thanksgiving to God and His Son Jesus.

The choir will soon begin working on music for Easter. We would love to have any of you who would like to sing join us

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Youth Sunday 9:45-Sunday School 10:30- Coffee 11:00- Worship	4  Girl Scouts® 6-Girl Scouts	5 10-Bible Study	6  7-Choir	7	8	9
10 Scout Sunday 9:45-Sunday School 10:30- Coffee 11:00- Worship	11	12 10-Bible Study	13  7-Choir	14	15	16
17 9:45- Information & Prayer mtng. 9:45-Sunday School 10:30- Coffee 11:00- Worship	18 12-UMW  Girl Scouts® 6-Girl Scouts	19 10-Bible Study  BE PREPARED 6:30-Boy Scouts	20  7-Choir	21	22  Boy Scouts Pine Wood Derby	23 Pine Wood Derby  Spaghetti Supper & Bingo
24 9:45-Sunday School 10:30- Coffee 11:00- Worship	25	26 10-Bible Study	27  7-Choir	28		



Birthdays

February 7- Helen Scoles
 February 8- Zoe Scott
 February 9- Pat Bradley
 February 18- Bob Newton
 February 19- Amy Murphy
 February 27- Kelley Tribble



Anniversaries

February 11- Rex & Denise Tallant
 February 14- Darryl & Robin Blalock
 February 20- Jason & Amy Murphy
 Gavin & Darlene Delaney
 February 24- David & Jane Martin

FUNDRAISING TEAM \$\$

Exciting things are happening at Pleasant Grove!

Our Ladies Night Out event on January 25 was a sellout. We had Karen Stubbs, founder of Birds on a Wire Ministry as the guest speaker with the topic of Scoreboard of Life. Karen's presentation gave us tools to use for not just dealing with the stress and resentment we can feel as moms but with jobs and other relationships. Many thanks to all those who worked and contributed for this event.

On February 23 we are planning a Spaghetti Bingo Night! This will include a spaghetti dinner, salad, desert and drink as well as 15 games of Bingo. We are finalizing the details so stayed tuned for updates on our website, Facebook page and church announcements.

Spaghetti sauce recipe to use.

Spaghetti Sauce

- 3 lbs. Ground beef (browned and drained)
- 2 packs spaghetti mix
- 1 large can tomato sauce
- 1 medium jar Ragu
- 1 can mushrooms (optional)

Cook in a crock pot and simmer.



Missions

The Missions team has some wonderful things planned for 2019. Here are the Mission opportunities that are coming up in the next few months:

In December, the UMW delivered the fruit baskets to the elderly and gave a check to Family Promise to use to buy clothes and shoes for Christmas for children of one of their graduated families.

The Atlanta/Roswell District UMW 2019 yearly project will be working with Family Haven, which is here in Forsyth County.

With the last week of January the real work of collecting for Operation Christmas Child begins. Please see the OCC article for weekly items.

February 3 is Souper Bowl Sunday and we will have a canned food collection that day.

March we will be working on a special mission project for Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 6) and continuing through Easter. Each family in the congregation will receive a giving calendar and a collection box for Heifer international. We will be collecting for a “Knitter’s Gift Basket” to provide a Llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an angora rabbit to a family to provide wool to sell or to knit.

A Game of Numbers



Over the past several years we have been packing shoeboxes. Each year we have set a goal and I have fearfully told you what that goal was. Each year, I have looked at your faces as I announced the goal and you have looked back at me with disbelief on your faces. Yet each year, with God's help we have met the goal and then some. In 2016 we hoped to pack 200 boxes and packed 200+, we doubled that for 2017 with 400+ and doubled it again in 2018 with 800+.

Yesterday, I was afraid to tell you the goal for this year. I had delayed telling you because of fear but God tells us over and over again "Do not be afraid". In fact, my favorite bible story comes from Matthew Chapter 14. Jesus has sent the disciples ahead of him in a boat while he prays. Later that night as the boat is being buffeted by the wind and the waves, Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. At first, they are afraid and think he is a ghost, but he says, "It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter replies, "If it's really you tell me to come to you over the water" and Jesus simply says "Come." Peter climbs out of the boat and, keeping his eyes on Jesus begins to walk across the water to Him but the moment he takes his eyes off Jesus and looks down at the waves, the fear returns, and he begins to sink. Jesus reaches out his hand, catches Peter and (sadly, it seems to me) says "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

I surprised when I looked up the story of Jesus and Peter (Matt 14:22-32) so I could tell you where to find it, that immediately before it (Matt 14:13-21) is the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 with a couple of fishes and five loaves of bread. I know this congregation through my work with this ministry. I know your kindness and your generosity. I cannot tell you how many times over the years things have come to me out of the blue. Someone's work gives a stack of tote bags, someone's child/grandchild donates all their stuffed animals, someone works for a dentist and gives a box of toothbrushes. Last year we had a donation of craft kits from the children's ministry. God has a way of providing for His people.

So with trembling hands and pounding heart I stepped out of the boat again yesterday and told you all that we will pack 2000 boxes in 2019 for God's glory and the glory of His son. I have a plan (although I am certain God's plan is better) which you will find on the next page. I invite you to step out of the boat with me and keep your eyes on Jesus and I ask each of you to give a little so that together we can give a lot. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, I know we will be successful. In His service, Jennifer

To pack 2000 shoeboxes we need 40 people to give or spend \$10 per week on the following schedule:

Each week January 27 through February 10:

From Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	1 Mainstays 18 washcloths	\$ 3.97 (this will be done in 3 wks)
	1 pkg 6 adult toothbrushes	\$ 1.00
From Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 12 count combs	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00
	Plus 7 % tax	\$9.56

Week of February 17:

From Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	2 pkgs of 20 unsharp pencils	\$ 1.94
	1 pkg 6 adult toothbrushes	\$ 1.00
From Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 12 count combs	\$ 1.00 (last week for combs)
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00
	2 pkgs hair doo-dads	\$ 2.00
	Plus 7 % tax	\$ 9.54

Week of February 24:

Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	2 pkgs of 20 unsharp pencils	\$ 1.94
	1 pkg 6 adult toothbrushes	\$ 1.00 (last week for adults)
Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	Markers/Colored pencils/water colors	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00
	2 pkgs hair doo-dads	\$ 2.00
	Plus 7 % tax	\$ 9.54

Weeks of March 3 and March 10:

Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	2 pkgs of 20 unsharp pencils	\$ 1.94 (last week for pencils)
	1 pkg 5 children's toothbrushes	\$ 1.00
Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	Markers/Colored pencils/water colors	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00
	2 pkgs hair doo-dads	\$ 2.00
	Plus 7 % tax	\$ 9.54

Weeks of March 17 and March 24:

Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	2 pkgs of Crazy art crayons	\$ 1.94
	1 pkg 5 children's toothbrushes	\$ 1.00 (finished this round)

Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	Markers/Colored pencils/water colors	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00
	2 pkgs hair doo-dads	\$ 2.00
	Plus 7 % tax	\$ 9.54

Week of March 31:

Walmart:	1 plastic shoebox	\$ 0.97
	2 pkgs of Crazy art crayons	\$ 1.94
Dollar General:	1 pkg Palmolive 3 count soap	\$ 1.00
	Markers/Colored pencils/water colors	\$ 1.00
	1 pkg 3 mini notebooks	\$ 1.00 (finished this round)
	4 pkgs hair doo-dads	\$ 4.00 (finished this round)
	Plus 7 % tax	\$ 10.60

By the end of March, we will have:

400 Shoeboxes
 2160 washcloths (all we need)
 1920 combs (all we need – we already have some)
 1200 Adult toothbrushes (all we need)
 6400 pencils (all we need for 3 each)
 800 toothbrushes (all we need)
 1200 notebook (all we need)
 640 hair doodad packages (all we need)
 1200 soap (all we need)
 240 colored pencils or markers or water colors
 240 crayons

That is an amazing amount of “stuff” in a very short amount of time. And we will still have seven months to go!

Please step out in faith with me.

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Women Loving Hands Ministry (Updated 1-27-2019)*

<i>MAY-JUNE**</i> <i>NOVEMBER-DECEMBER</i>	<i>JANUARY-FEBRUARY**</i> <i>JULY-AUGUST</i>	<i>MARCH-APRIL**</i> <i>SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER</i>
Group 1 Coordinators	Group 2 Coordinators	Group 3 Coordinators
Beth Blalock 770-889-8494	Mary McBrayer 770-887-2509	Anne Newton 770-490-6490 (Cell)
Linda Walraven 770-887-9513 770-757-6468 (Cell)	Amy Faulkenberry 470-297-3295 470-292-9297 (Cell)	Jean Massie 770-402-2550
Adrienne Williams 770-887-6283	Allison Ellis 404-723-2583	Barbara McNutt 678-313-3179 (Cell)
Angela Schimweg 678-488-1255	Anita Knight 678-807-8579	Brenda Ashmore 770-312-3825
Bonnie McMillan 770-250-0607	Cindi Ripley 678-274-8622	Darlene Delaney 770-781-3215
Jane Martin 678-300-1832	Diane Gilbert 404-405-1689 Cell	Dianna Tribble 770-781-9381
Jennifer Wisniewski 678-513-8116	Fay Gravitt 770-887-6163	Earl Holbrook 770-887-2512
Katie Wallace 770-887-2964	Gail Bannon 860-331-7627	Gene Scott 770-887-3325
Mary Cothran 770-889-7579	Glennell Holbrook 770-887-3751	Kathy Holbrooks 770-887-0195
Pat Bradley 770-887-1796	Jackie Garmon 770-887-2487	Luna Farris 770-205-0951
Pete Rodda 678-591-0438	Jacqui Sherman 770-294-1636	Ruth Holbrook 770-887-5554
Terra Manton 770-864-1105 770-364-8928 Cell	Kim Fannin 706-429-3071	Sarunya Dye 678-455-4001
Valerie Ross 678-910-0444	Mary Stark 678-274-2317	Wanda Garmon 770-530-6924
Wendi Jones 678-947-3544	Rex & Denise Tallant 770-597-6747	La Rue White 770-845-7228
Deborah West 719-233-3139		

****PLEASE LET ANY OF THE COORINATORS KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US—ALL WELCOME***

*****Note: The months at the top of each column designate the coordinators for the respective months.***



Birds on a Wire

Scoreboard of Life

Karen Stubbs



Angela Schimweg Welcomes and introduces Karen Stubbs.





Contact Cindi Ripley for information or events for Twitter and Instagram.