

The Ambassador

January 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

As I was cleaning up from the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day festivities at home, I discovered a wrapped Christmas gift given me earlier in December that I had forgotten to place under the tree. What a nice surprise! It reminded me that Christmas is more than a day, it's a season. We've all heard and sung "The 12 Days of Christmas", right? While we may not particularly want a partridge in a pear tree or 11 lords a leaping, we wouldn't mind receiving a pair of slipper socks, three gifts cards or a dozen golf balls after Christmas Day.

The Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day and ends with Epiphany on January 6th, the day commemorating the arrival of the wise men bearing gifts for the Christ child. In some Christian traditions and cultures, Epiphany is the big gift-giving day accompanied by festive gatherings. In our culture, Christmas is mostly over. Stores are moving Christmas merchandise out with clearance sales and already focusing on the Super Bowl and even Valentine's Day. Christmas lights are going dark and Christmas decorations are coming down. All the celebrating is done.

Even so, I suggest that although Christmas Day has passed and the season is drawing to a close, there is one, big unopened gift remaining for each of us to open: The gift of a new year. God has given each of us the gift of life going into another year. It's filled with anticipations, expectations and good intentions. It holds possibilities, challenges, surprises and worries. It's also packed with faith, hope and love, along with joy and grace, and some strength, courage and determination. It's a gift we get to open every day. It's a gift to be lived to the glory of God every day. It's a gift to be shared with others every day. May you and I open, live and share this gift from God every day in the coming year.

In Christ,
Pastor Dana

FUNDRAISING TEAM \$\$

Ladies Night Out

with **Karen Stubbs** **Birds on a Wire Ministry**

The fundraising team has been busy planning some great events for our church and community in 2019. We believe this will be an exciting year for Pleasant Grove UMC!

On January 25 from 7:00-8:30 PM we will be hosting Karen Stubbs, founder of Birds on a Wire Ministry. Karen's Ministry is to help encourage, celebrate and equip moms of all ages and situations. She provides Godly practical advice and tips to help us interact in a more positive and encouraging way. The topic for the night is The Scoreboard of Life. Sometimes we can feel that life is not fair and in that unfairness we develop resentment. Birds on a Wire's founder Karen Stubbs dives into the real-life struggle of finding a restful spirit when life is not being fair.

There is a link to purchase tickets for this event below. Tickets are \$20 plus a small handling fee and there will also be light refreshments during the event. Please share with friends and moms in your life. This info is also posted on our website and social media.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boaw-moms-night-out-with-karen-stubbs-tickets-51789014336?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

If you have any questions or suggestions please see any team member: Angela & Steve Schimweg, Linda Walraven, Wendi Jones, Wanda Garmon, Amy Murphy, Mary Stark or Kim Fannin. Stay tuned for future announcements on upcoming fundraising events in 2019.

COOKBOOKS

The cookbook fundraiser was a success! We have a few books left at the Country Store at Spot Road and Hwy 9. Many thanks to Diane Gilbert who sold over 75 cookbooks! We have had requests for more cookbooks, and plan to discuss the possibility of placing another order next summer to sell at the Cumming Fair. If you know of anyone that may still be interested in a cookbook this fall, please let anyone on the cookbook committee know so we can better determine the number to be ordered.

Committee members are Anne & Bob Newton, David Smith & Kim Fannin. Many thanks also go to the Kennedy family who put many hours into this project.



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. We appreciate all of you who have helped with the very special Altars for this season of Advent and Christmas.

It is with a grateful heart that we welcome Pat Bradley and Amy Faulkenberry as new members of the Guild. The Altar Guild appreciates Linda Walraven and Beth Blalock for their service in December. The Guild members for January service are Anne Newton and Darlene Delaney.

The space to the right of the Altar Table is designated as a place of honor and is important to us. If you would like to help us celebrate and remember or honor someone or an event, we welcome your contribution. Give Diane, our church secretary, a call at the church office. She keeps the church calendar and you can call for a Sunday in advance. A reminder is that flowers must be fresh however they do not have to be from a florist.

Beth Blalock and Mary Stark, co-chairs

THANK YOU!

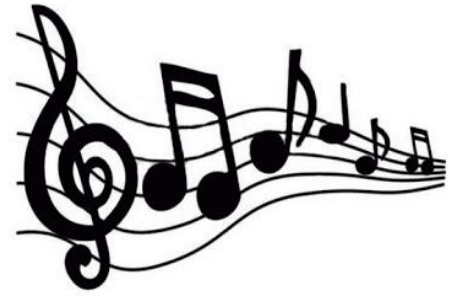
I so enjoyed sharing and celebrating the Advent and Christmas seasons with all of you at Pleasant Grove. Thank you for the cards, the gifts, the gatherings and the food – and most of all, you! Your presence, kindness and generosity brought many blessings to me. Pastor Dana

DISTRICT EVENT FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS ON JANUARY 13TH

On **Sunday, January 13th at 3:00 p.m. at St. James UMC in Alpharetta**, local church leaders in our District will join together in a time of prayer for our church and denomination in preparation for the special called General Conference coming up in February. The hour-long event will include time devoted to the study of scripture as well as prayer. Following the event, the District Training Team will share additional resources to guide our churches as we approach General Conference. Pastors and local church leaders are expected to attend.

PGUMC Music Notes

From David Holladay



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

One of the beloved stories of the birth of Jesus, is the story of Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth. A beautiful song which came out of that visit was from the words of blessing the Holy Spirit anointed Mary to utter. It is known as Mary's "Magnificat." It talks about how generations to come will call Mary blessed. It proclaims the greatness of our God and His attributes of blessing the poor and the humble and lowly while bringing down the proud and rich.

But I would like to focus on the simple greeting that Mary gave Elizabeth when she arrived at her home. When Elizabeth heard the greeting, the baby in her womb leaped at the sound. The baby in her womb was less than 6 months in development yet had the awareness to know that the mother of the Son of God had entered the room. It is a powerful nugget of wisdom from the Word of God to guide us in today's culture.

I pray that everyone had a blessed Christmas focusing on the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus the Messiah. May the joy and the music of this season fill your hearts all year!

United Methodist Women



We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will have a fantastic new year. The UMW ladies had their Christmas meeting and party on December 17. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, wonderful music, and fun game that we played.

It was decided during the meeting that we would donate money to Family Promise as our Christmas gift. It was used to buy shoes and clothing for children of one of the graduated families of Family Promise.

Our local UMW is part of the Atlanta/Roswell district UMW. The district project for 2019 will involve helping Forsyth County Family Haven, which has been providing safe, temporary shelter, individual crisis support and referral services for victims of violence since 1989.

Our next regular meeting will be held on January 21 at noon in the clubhouse. Jean Massie and Barbara McNutt will provide the program and refreshments. All women are invited to attend and help us plan for this new year.

Co-presidents

Barbara McNutt

Luna Farris



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

For the Month of January

Greeter/Usher

January 6- Wendi & Mary Jones
January 13-
January 20- Ruth Holbrook & Katie Wallace
January 27- Brad & Lindsey Schimweg

Acolyte

January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27

Liturgist

January 6-Barbara McNutt
January 13- Chris Bannon
January 20-Jennifer Wisniewski
January 27-Jason Murphy

Nursery

January 6- Sydney Stark
January 13-Terra Manton
January 20- Wanda & Emily Garmon
January 27- Wendi & Mary Jones

Children's Moment

January 6- Pete Rodda
January 13- Mary Jones
January 20- Wesley Walraven
January 27- Dianna Tribble

Those who are to count the offering for the month of January:
Rex & Denise Tallant, & Wendi Jones

PGUMC YOUTH

The Youth had a busy December!! We spent an afternoon together shopping for Christmas presents for 6 seniors on the Senior Center's Angel Tree. We enjoyed picking out items we thought they would like! Afterward, we went to see The Grinch which was a hit!

At one of our meetings, we had a one-armed ginger bread house decorating contest!! The kids paired up in teams and tied their sleeves together and decorated their houses with only one arm each. They worked really well together and were so creative!! Their houses were amazing and it was sooo much fun to watch!!

In Sunday School, we had our birthday party for Jesus where we had lots of goodies and made cards for a soldier, that we learned about through Mission Change, who was deployed overseas the week before Christmas. We had fun making him and his friends lots of Christmas and New Years cards with words of encouragement, love, and thanks.

The Youth did a great job helping with the Christmas Cantata again this year. It's such a joy to see them spending time with and telling the Christmas story with the younger kiddos. Lastly, we enjoyed spending time together at our Youth Christmas party. We ate a lot, played games and had fun exchanging gifts!

Coming up in January, we will be planning our Youth Service which will be held on Souper Bowl Sunday this year! The Youth enjoy doing this service all themselves each year and it is such a blessing to our church! Also in January, we will begin planning for Camp Glisson, Family Promise's Cardboard City, our annual lock-in, some fundraising, and other fun spring activities and outings.

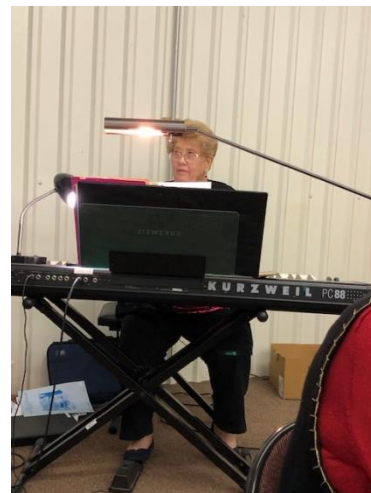
We welcome all youth grades 6-12. Our meetings include devotion, fellowship time and a light snack/supper. The Youth Group enjoys fun weekly fellowship and activities with great friends, serving in our church and community, and sharing God's love with others...So Come Join Us!!!





January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy New Year	2 7-Choir	3	4	5
6 10-Sunday School 10:30-Coffee 11-Worship 5-Youth	7 6- Girl Scouts	8 10- Bible Study 	9 7-Choir	10	11	12
Family Promise						
13 10-Sunday School 10:30-Coffee 11-Worship 5-Youth	14	15 10- Bible Study 	16 7-Choir	17	18	19
20 10-Sunday School 10:30-Coffee 11-Worship 5-Youth	21 12-UMW 6- Girl Scouts	22 10- Bible Study 	23 7-Choir	24	25 6-8:30- Ladies Night Out- Birds on a Wire	26
27 10-Sunday School 10:30-Coffee 11-Worship 5-Youth	28	29 10- Bible Study 	30 7-Choir	31		



Christmas Dinner

Food, Fellowship, Singing and
Decorating the tree.



Choir Dinner at The Station House



Baskets for our Seniors.
Delivered by the United Methodist
Women.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE TOTALS

258 pairs of socks
102 pairs of underwear
34 T-shirts
1 Gift card
1 hat/glove/scarf set

All gifts delivered to The Place of Forsyth County---- helping the needy in our community. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

PLEASANT GROVE UMC 2019 LEADERSHIP

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson: Jackie Garmon
Lay Leader: Mary Stark
Chairperson Staff Parish Relations Committee: Beth Blalock
Chairperson Finance: David Martin
Chairperson Trustees: To Be Elected in January, 2019
Treasurer: Kim Fannin
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Allison Ellis
President United Methodist Men: Elected by UMM
President United Methodist Women: Elected by UMW
Young Adult: Ben Tribble
Youth Representative: Will Ross
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett
Financial Secretary: Earl Holbrook
Nurture Team Chairperson: Linda Walraven
Outreach Team Chairperson: Bonnie McMillan
Welcome/Witness Team Chairperson: Angela Schimwig
Worship Team Chairperson: Diane Gilbert

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Chairperson – Dana Overton-Garrett	Lay Leader: Mary Stark	
2019: Emily Garmon	John Dye	Jennifer Wisniewski
2020: Rex Tallant	Richard Ashmore	
2021: Tammy McGrady		

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

Lay Leader: Mary Stark	Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Allison Ellis
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett	
2019: Cindi Pearson	Steve Schimweg Anne Newton
2020: Beth Blalock, Chairperson	Dianna Tribble Chris Bannon
2021: Jason Murphy	

TRUSTEES

2019: Wesley Walraven	John Ellis	Ruth Holbrook
2020: Anita Knight	LaRue White	Scott Jones
2021: David Smith	Gavin Delaney	

FINANCE

Chairperson: David Martin
Treasurer: Kim Fannin
Financial Secretary: Earl Holbrook
Chairperson SPRC: Beth Blalock
Chairperson Trustees: TBE
Chairperson Church Council: Jackie Garmon
Lay Leader: Mary Stark
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Allison Ellis Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett

NURTURE TEAM:

Chairperson: Linda Walraven
Sunday School/ Small group leaders
Youth Leaders: Allison Ellis and Wendi Jones
Children's Leader:
Prayer/Caring Ministry: Jennifer Wisniewski
Fellowship: Brenda Ashmore
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett

OUTREACH TEAM:

Chairperson: Bonnie McMillan
UMW President: Elected by UMW
UMM President: Elected by UMM
Family Promise: Wanda Garmon
Operation Christmas Child: Jennifer Wisniewski
Scouting Coordinator: Pete Rodda
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett

WELCOME/WITNESS TEAM

Chairperson: Angela Schemwig
Chris Bannon, Allison Ellis, Wanda Garmon, Cindi Ripley
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett

WORSHIP TEAM

Chairperson/Greeter Coordinator: Diane Gilbert
Lay Servant Minister/Liturgist Coordinator: Mary Stark
Music Director: David Holladay
Accompanist: Linda Holladay
Altar Guild Representative: Beth Blalock
Sound Technician: Rex Tallant
Acolyte Coordinator: Jennifer Wisniewski
Children's Moment Coordinator: Angela Schemwig
Pastor: Dana Overton-Garrett