

The Cross and Flame

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TheCross andFlame

Is published monthly to inform members and friends of events and ministry at PGUMC.

Church Staff

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BLESSED BEDLAM

Dr. James Moore tells the story of a man and his wife who were standing on the corner of 5th Avenue and 57th Street in New York City during Christmastime, and the Christmas rush was going on in full force before their very eyes. They were waiting for the traffic light to change. The man obviously was irritated by the crowds, the hubbub, and the traffic. In frustration, he growled, "This town is totally disorganized. Look at this traffic! What a mess! It's terrible! Awful! Something ought to be done about it. It's just ridiculous!"

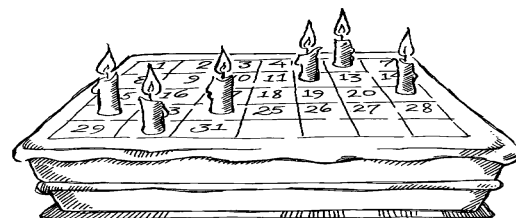
The woman, on the other hand, had a different view altogether. She responded to his outburst by saying, "You know, when you really stop to think about it, it's not ridiculous at all. It's amazing! It's astonishing! The romance of it is extraordinary! There was a baby boy born in a peasant family in a little out-of-the-way village halfway around the world from here. The parents had no money, no clout, no prestige, no social standing. Yet 2000 years later, their little baby creates a traffic jam on 5th Avenue, one of the most sophisticated streets in the world. This irritates you? It should fascinate you! It should amaze you! It should thrill you! It should inspire you!"

Dr. Moore says we don't have to choose between Bethlehem and "bedlam" because Bethlehem always happens in the midst of our bedlam if we have the eyes of faith to see it, the ears of faith to hear it, and the heart of faith to see it and celebrate it. I like that, and I'm going to try to remember it in the days ahead when things tend to get a bit chaotic. So may you, too, experience blessings in the midst of all the bedlam as you remember Bethlehem's baby boy.

Grace & peace,

Pastor Sylvia

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES



**Birthdays
This Month**

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- December 1 Janice Fulk
- December 3 Joyce Long
Julia Stoakley
Susan Martin
- December 4 Richard Burnette
Mary Council
- December 5 Andy Buchanan
- December 6 Brandon Weavil
- December 7 Nancy Hughes
Marilyn James
- December 10 Taylor Day
Chris Nelson
- December 13 Max Kimel
- December 15 Brenda Smith
- December 18 Kathleen Greenwood
Rachel Sellers
- December 20 Ann Culberson
Wesley Moran
- December 24 Anne Sellars
- December 26 Bailey Weavil
- December 27 Ben Genevie
S. R. Kimel
E.L. Thomas
- December 29 Christi Council
Joe Hughes
Todd Mercer
- December 30 Becky Meade
- December 31 Sandra Morgan

Each Sunday
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Each Monday
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Each Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Handbell practice
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- December 2 4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
- December 5 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Committee
7:00 p.m. Before and After School Committee
- December 9 3:-00 p.m. Prime Timers
4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
- December 16 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
11:00 a.m. Worship/Love Feast
- December 23 11:00 a.m. Worship/Choir Cantata
- December 23 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

MERRY CHRISTMAS— Greetings of the season and warm wishes for the Year ahead. To the members of Pine Grove, May you have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and wealthy New Year. I think of you great folks often. Love to all, Olivia Roberts

NEW BABY—We would like to welcome Reece Anthony Pleasant, born on November 24, 2007. He weighed in at 6 pounds and 8 ounces. He is the son of Jenni and Anthony Pleasant and the grandson of Alton and Rosemary Jones.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS AND WORSHIP TIMES

- December 16 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Program
11:00 a.m. Worship/Love Feast
- December 23 11:00 a.m. Choir Cantata
- December 24 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

*Anniversaries
this
Month*

- December 18 Paul and Irene Berry
Michael and Michele Roberts
- December 19 Jerry and Ruby West
- December 20 Ray and Jennie Jones
- December 22 Don and Catherine Swaim
- December 27 Hoyt and Nancy Hughes
- December 28 Andy and Katie Buchanan

OUR VOLUNTEERS**PROVIDE BREAD FOR 1ST TIME VISITORS**

December 2 Peggy Sizemore
 December 9 Dee Anne Fortescue
 December 16 Lisa Hale
 December 23 Sally Scott
 December 30 Peggy Brewer

VISIT FIRST TIME VISITORS

December 2 Richard and Shirley Shutt
 December 9 Evelyn Groce and Peggy Williams
 December 16 Charles and Dorothy Parker
 December 23 Bobby and Peggy Sizemore
 December 30 Mary Council and Jean Darden

USHER SCHEDULE

December 2 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher
 Eddie Scott
 Scott Pugh
 John Fonda
 Robert Mason
 December 9 Roy Spach, Head Usher
 Chris Council
 Butch Hogue
 Dee Fair
 Brent Shutt
 December 16 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher
 Scott Pugh
 Eddie Scott
 John Fonda
 Robert Mason
 December 23 Roy Spach, Head Usher
 Chris Council
 Butch Hogue
 Dee Fair
 Brent Shutt
 December 30 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher
 Scott Pugh
 Eddie Scott
 John Fonda
 Robert Mason

SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT

December Richard and Shirley Shutt

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

December Friendship Class

CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH

December Potato Flakes

STAFF LOVE OFFERING

As we reflect on the many blessing in our lives, let's also remember our wonderful staff for their leadership and the many gifts and talents they provide to our church family throughout the year.

In recognition of our staff, a special love offering is being collected now through December 16. You may give your gift to any Staff Parish Relations Committee member (see list below) or mark an envelope "Staff Gift" and put it in the offering plate during the worship service.

Let's show our Pine Grove staff how much we appreciate them!

(On a personal note, I wish to thank all of the SPRC members who have served with me these past three years. It has been indeed a privilege and an honor to work with you in this capacity).

Tom James, Chairperson
 SPRC

2007 Committee Members

Polly Caudle	John Newman
Jenni Pleasant	Gina Abshire
Lisa Hale	Marilyn Mercer, Lay Leader
Rickie Shutt	Tom Mahannah

CHURCH OFFICE WING TO BE CLOSED ON MONDAYS BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Beginning January 7, 2008, the church office wing will be closed on Mondays for general business. If you have an emergency or an urgent need to reach the pastor or church secretary, please call 765-2569 to leave a message, and your call will be returned promptly. This change is necessary to provide for better efficiency in carrying out church business.

HOORAY FOR SNOW! In a northern community, it snowed consistently for so long that the schools had to be closed for the better part of a week. When classes resumed, a teacher asked her students if they had used their free time constructively. One little girl said, "I did. I was enjoying my free time so much that I prayed for more snow."



NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

December, 2007

OUR PURPOSE: The organized unit of the United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through JESUS CHRIST; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the Church.

It
 came
 to pass
 in those
 days that
 there went
 out a decree
 from Caesar Au-
 gustus that all
 the world should
 be taxed: and this
 taxing was first made
 when Quirinius was gov-
 ernor of Syria, and all
 went to be taxed everyone
 into his own city. And Joseph
 also went up from Galilee, out
 of the city of Nazareth, unto Ju-
 dea, unto the city of David which
 is called Bethlehem, because he was
 of the house and lineage of David, to
 be taxed with Mary his espoused wife,
 being great with child. And so it was
 that while they were there, the days were
 accomplished that she should be delivered
 and she brought forth her first-born son,
 and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and
 laid him in a manger because there was
 no room for them in

The
 inn.

Luke 2:1-7

Prime Time News

Victoria House Inn and Restaurant—We have reserved the church bus to go to the Victoria House Inn and Restaurant on Friday, December 14th. The cost per person for dinner is \$10.00 and transportation is \$3.00. We will leave the church at 4:00 p.m. Please let Polly Caudle know by December 10th if you want to go.

BILLY GRAHAM LIBRARY— The trip to the Billy Graham Library on December 1 was a huge success. It was a trip enjoyed by all who went. The production of “The Real Christmas Story” was great and the food was good. What else can you ask for in a one day trip?

PGUMYF FUNDRAISER CALENDARS FOR SALE!!

The 2008 wall calendars have arrived and will be for sale as long as they last. PGUMYF will be selling the calendars for \$8.00 beginning Sunday September 23. Calendars can be purchased each Sunday immediately following worship service at a table set up outside the entrance to the narthex. They may also be purchased through the church office. As in years past, the proceeds go to support PGUMYF activities and missions. Thanks in advance for your support!!



POINSETTIAS

It is time to order poinsettias to go in the sanctuary for Christmas. They will be in a 6” pot with paper and ribbon and the cost is \$10.00 each.

Please call the church office to order as we need to have the orders in no later than December 12 as we would like to use them in the sanctuary for two Sundays. There will also be a form in the bulletin you may fill out and put in the offering plate.



LIVE NATIVITY SCENE

As part of Pine Grove’s Christmas activities, the Communications Committee is coordinating a live nativity scene to be held on Sunday through Thursday Evenings, December 9 through 13. Times will be from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

At present, 47 adults and youth are scheduled to be a part of bringing the beloved Christmas story to the community. We will be using two separate casts each evening which will require two separate sets of costumes. Sue Morgan, Julie Stoakley, Joyce Long and Beverly Myers are busy pulling together the costumes needed. We have a dedicated group of our church family working on this project.

For additional information, please contact Barbara Mahannah, Communications Chairperson at 766-2346 or 408-4906



Greetings from your Weekday School!

Thanksgiving has come and gone and, as I am writing this letter, I realize that there are only 29 days until Christmas and only 36 until 2008! (There will be a lot less by the time you receive it!) If the old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun" is true, then, I must be having lots of fun because it sure is flying by for me!! I hope all of you are a lot more prepared for the upcoming holidays than I am!☺

The month of November was filled with fun as we learned all about Pilgrims, Indians, maize and turkeys, and prepared for our annual Thanksgiving Feast. The lead teachers and office staff began the month with some learning of our own as we attended the UMC Weekday Conference in Matthews, NC on the 8th & 9th. We enjoyed two wonderful keynote speakers and returned to school with lots of new and useful ideas for our classrooms from the many workshops that were offered. The new Clemmons Children's Librarian joined us on the 14th for a special story time. The boys and girls loved her entertaining stories about Thanksgiving and had a great time doing the "Turkey Hokey-Pokey"! Our annual Thanksgiving Feast was a huge success (as usual) with 200+ enjoying the delicious meal that was prepared by members of our Parents' Association and PGWS Staff. Even the children helped out with the meal by preparing yummy Pumpkin Muffins for their guests to enjoy. Before the meal, the boys and girls entertained their families and friends with some darling Thanksgiving songs while dressed in the Pilgrim and Indian costumes they had created in class. It was a great day for us all!

December promises to be filled with fun, as well! The 4s & Rs will travel to the Old Salem Candle Tea on the 6th to learn about how Christmas was celebrated by our area's early Moravian settlers. The boys and girls especially enjoy the "Putz", the tiny replica of Old Salem that is on display. Santa will visit our school on December 10th and the children are already "making their lists and checking them twice". This is always a fun day for our staff, too, just watching the children's reactions to "the jolly old elf"! Wednesday, December 12th will be a day of celebration as our staff is treated to a special Christmas Breakfast by members of our Weekday School Committee, then later in the day, we'll enjoy our annual "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party. The children and staff will celebrate Jesus' birthday by bringing toys and non-perishable food items that will be donated to the Fox 8 Children's Toy Drive and the Rescue Mission. After the gifts are placed under the tree, we'll enjoy a delicious "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cake and punch. It's sure to be a fun-filled day! Our Christmas Program will be held on the evening of December 13th at 7:00pm in the church Sanctuary. I hope you will plan to join us for an evening that is sure to put you into the true Christmas spirit. The 3s, 4s, & Rs will make up our Angel Chorus who will entertain you with some wonderful Christmas songs while our little ones (PMOs & 2s) present The Nativity. This is an event that you won't want to miss! Be sure to mark your calendars! Last, but certainly not least, members of our Parents' Association will be honoring our staff with a delicious Christmas Luncheon after school on the 14th. We can hardly wait!☺ There are some mighty good cooks at PGWS! School will be closed December 17th through January 2nd for the Christmas/New Year Break. We'll return to school on January 3rd, rested and ready for an exciting and fun-filled 2008!

When we return to school in January, we'll be looking forward to school pictures being made by Teddy Bear Portraits on the 10th & 11th, to our annual "P.J. Day" which will be held on the 18th, and to just being back with our friends, "loving to learn and learning to love".

Since December is such a busy month for all of us (and such a short month in regards to school days) this is our last PGWS newsletter for 2007. On behalf of the children and staff of Pine Grove Weekday School, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Until next time...Happy Holidays!!

Chris

YOUTH NEWS (6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE).....

**Tuesday Dec. 4th - NO REGULAR MEETING.

**Friday Dec. 7th 6:15 pm. overnight till Sat. Dec. 8th. 8 am. PROGRESSIVE DINNER & LOCK IN.

****WE MUST KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING & IF YOUR BRINGING A FRIEND (must be of same gender 6th grade to 12th grade).** We have to give numbers attending to the families preparing food. (Jennifer will be contacting families preparing food with number attending.)

WE WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT AT 6:15 pm..

Schedule will be something close to this: Appetizers at the Hales home 6:30 till 7:05.

Soup & Salad at the Young's home 7:15 till 8 pm

Main meal at the Houle home 8:15 till 9:15

Dessert / gift swap at the Abshire's 9:30 till 10 pm.

**Gift for gift swap - please bring WRAPPED unisex gift - MAX. VALUE \$ 10.00

LOCK IN - PGUMC fellowship hall 10:30 pm till 8 am.

**Tuesday Dec. 11th - NO REGULAR MEETING

** Dec. 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13 LIVE NATIVITY PLEASE CHECK SCHEDULE THAT WAS MAILED.
(BRING HOMEWORK.....YOUR ONLY OUTSIDE (2)- 30 MIN. SESSIONS.)
(PLEASE -IF CAN'T DO IT- MUST LET COMMITTEE KNOW.)

**Tuesday Dec. 18th - Deliver gifts to sponsored family (This day might change to accommodate family - stay tuned)
6:30 till 8:30 pm.

Tuesday Dec. 25th **MERRY CHRISTMAS – NO UMYF

Tuesday Jan. 1st **HAPPY NEW YEAR – NO UMYF

SUNDAY Jan. 6th **PARENT / YOUTH PLANNING MEETING.
4:00 PM. Spaghetti dinner / dessert auction fund raiser (Jan. 26th)

**Tuesday Jan. 8th VACATIONS - NO UMYF

**Tuesday Jan. 15th Youth class room.
6:30 till 8 pm.

**Saturday Jan. 26th Spaghetti dinner / Dessert Auction fund raiser.
-Dinner 5:30 till 6:15
-Auction 6:15 till all desserts auctioned
- Youth 3 pm. till end (9 pm ?)

**Tuesday Jan. 29th Youth room for devotion
6:30 till 8 pm.

****LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU - THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING****

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

The Administrative Council of Pine Grove United Methodist Church met November 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. with 14 in attendance.

Jean Darden called the meeting to order and Mary Bost gave devotions. The minutes were read with 1 correction. Peggy Sizemore made a motion to approve the minutes as read and Dee Anne Fortescue seconded. The minutes were approved.

Finance Committee—Eddie Scott reported that the current cash balance is \$17,000.00. The bills are current with some bills due to be paid in December. All apportionments are current. One monthly insurance payment is due in December. The balance on hand for the land fund is \$4,160.00 and the balance on hand for the Capital Improvement fund is \$34,780.00 with some more to be paid on the principle before year end.

Trustees—Bobby Sizemore reported that the security system has been installed in the parsonage. The septic line has also been repaired. One tree needs to be removed from the parsonage property. There was an accident with the church bus with some damage done to the door. The trustees are waiting for estimates from the insurance company. Work on the bathrooms began on Monday noting that part of the drainage system will have to be replaced. Bobby added that a dead bolt lock will be added to the coded doors at the fellowship hall, since in the event of power failure, the coded locking system will not work.

Children's Ministry—Eddie reported for Sally Scott that the Kingdom Kids visited South Fork Assisted Living Center on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Their Christmas program will be held on December 16th during the Sunday School hour. Kingdom Kids will be returning to a normal schedule after the first of the year.

Youth—Eddie also reported that the youth group has 25 possible participants averaging 14 in attendance for each meeting. On November 17th, 14 youth and 3 adults attended the Casting Crowns concert. A Thanksgiving meal was delivered to their sponsored family on November 20th. November 27th the youth are attending the Master's Loft where the conversation will be youth choice. Upcoming events are: December 1 set up luminaries, Christmas tree and shop for sponsored Christmas family. December 7th and 8th progressive dinner and lock in. December 11th through 13th—live Nativity. December 18th deliver gifts to sponsored families. February 8th, 9th and 10th 14 youth and 4 adults will be attending a retreat/ski weekend at Lake Junaluska. The theme is "Christ and Culture".

Staff Parrish—Tom James reported that the committee had their annual staff evaluations. It is the recommendation of the committee that the church office wing be closed 1 day a week to allow the staff to more efficiently complete church business. Staff will still be accessible by phone if needed. Tom made a motion to close the office 1 day a week and Eddie Scott seconded. The motion carried.

UMW—Peggy Sizemore noted that the women's bazaar was successful. Some canned goods are still available to anyone interested. Although the women have lost 4 members this year, they have also gained 2 new members. The UMW will be having a reception for the Music department on December 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Before and After School—Peggy Sizemore reported that the Pumpkin Patch was the biggest success ever. The School sold over \$10,000.00 in pumpkins of which they made 33% which was approximately \$3,500.00. She expressed her deep appreciation of all those who made this possible by their dedication and support.

Scouts—Polly Caudle reported that they have 2 troops. The Brownie Jrs. will meet twice a month. There will also be a Daisy troop starting soon.

Continued on Page 10

Administrative Council continued from previous page.

Polly also mentioned that the Prime Timers will be going to the Billy Graham Library with 54 out of 55 seats on the bus filled. The next trip will be to The Victoria House. There are plenty of seats available. Please sign up by December 10 if interested. There have been 13 Pine Grove members to sign up for the Navajo Mission trip and 3 from other churches. 30 people are needed to reserve the bus. Please let Polly know if you are interested in going on this mission trip. Polly reported that the Live Nativity is well under way. The cast members have been selected and the costumes are being prepared.

Sandy Waldron brought up the necessity of our church to have a disaster plan in place. This plan would involve having all computer information backed up and kept off site as well as a complete inventory of church assets in the event of a disaster. It was suggested that the Trustees look into this further

Worship Committee—Pastor Sylvia reported for Carolyn Joyner the following dates for the advent season. On December 16 Love Feast will be served during the worship service. December 23 the choir will perform a Christmas cantata and December 24 at 10:00 p.m. is our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Pastor Sylvia reported that this year has been a very good year for Pine Grove and we can all look forward to a successful 2008.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Meade, Secretary

MISSION TRIP TO GANADO, ARIZONA NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION

- Who?** Anyone that is interested in being of service to some of God's children that need our help. No talents needed. All ages can apply.
- When?** July 3—July 15, 2008. Leaving from Pine Grove United Methodist Church.
- Where?** Ganado, Arizona. Also visits will be made to Canyon de Chelley, Window Rock, Hubbell Trading Post, Fluted Rock, Monument Valley, Durango and a train ride to Silverton, Colorado.
- How?** Travel by Holiday Tour coach with overnight stops in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and New Mexico and six nights on the reservation at the Sage Memorial Hospital Complex.
- Why?** To teach a Vacation Bible School to the Navajo children and work projects with the Hospital, Presbyterian, and the Methodist churches.
- Costs?** From \$889.00 (4 to a room) to \$1,019.00 (2 to a room). Includes lodging, food, and entrance fees. It does not include six dinner meals at stops at the motels while traveling.

For additional information, come to a meeting on January 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall to find out more about the Mission trip. Contact Polly Caudle at 766-6836 or pcaude@bellsouth.net for additional information. A deposit of \$100.00 will be due at that time, if you are interested in going.

Money making projects will be held to help finance the trip for youth and members wishing to go.

We
find
so many
ways to say
it. But the old
familiar words are
somehow always best:
so from every member of
the staff we pray that you
will have a very blessed and
Christ-centered Christmas season
and for God's richest and choicest
blessings for you and yours both
now, as we pause with the world
to remember the birth of our
Lord, and through out every
day in
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Christmas Greetings
to our
Members
and
friends

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