

The Cross and Flame

www.pinegroveumc.org

THE CROSS AND FLAME IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO INFORM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF EVENTS AND MINISTRY AT PGUMC.

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As I write this article today, I am wearing colors that I would probably never have worn together---orange and maroon---but today is no ordinary day. The date is April 20th and we have been asked to wear these colors. It is four days after the horrific tragedy at Virginia Tech. The nation, and most certainly that campus community, is still reeling from the events of that April 16th morning when the lives of so many were irrevocably changed.

We try to make sense of such things and cannot because it is a futile endeavor. Many will ask questions----“Why?” “Where was God?” “Why did God allow it to happen?”---all normal responses to such tragedy. There are never any simple answers. I do believe, however, that as Christians we have a foundation to stand upon and a hope that enables us to endure and carry on.

First of all we must understand that this was not the will of God. God, as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, would never cause such pain to His children. Why did He allow it to happen? God, who loves us so much, gave us the gift of free will, and Cho elected to use that gift for evil. Where was God in the midst of everything? Right beside every victim, holding them close to His broken heart.

We feel so helpless in times like these, but let us never underestimate the power we have in prayer---the power to help bring about healing. Let us pray for the victims’ families, the victims recovering from their wounds, the university, the city of Blacksburg, for Cho’s parents, and, yes, let us pray for all the Chos in our world who live in such darkness, whose minds are so disturbed, who need the healing light and love of Jesus Christ.

Grace & peace,
Pastor Sylvia

May CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

Each Sunday

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
4:30 p.m. Disciple I

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

May 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		

May 1	7:00 p.m.	Weekday School Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Trustee meeting in Willing Workers Room
	8:30 p.m.	Twin City vs Pine Grove—Washington Pk
May 2	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scout Committee
May 5	8:00 a.m.	UMW District Prayer Breakfast
May 6	12:30 p.m.	Senior Adult Covered Dish Lunch
May 8	7:30 p.m.	Pine Grove vs Christ Temple
May 9	10:00 a.m.	Sue Rollins Circle at Kathleen Sprinkle's
May 10	7:00 p.m.	Gertrude Alspaugh Circle
May 15	6:30 p.m.	Reynolda vs Pine Grove
May 20	11:00 a.m.	Weekday Spring Program
May 22	7:30 p.m.	Pine Grove vs Our Lady
May 28	All Day	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 29	6:30 p.m.	Samaritan vs Pine Grove

UMYF SCHEDULE

May and June, 2007

May 1	6:15 p.m.	Open Arms Community Make and Serve meal
May 8	6:30 p.m.	Plan for Mothers of UMYF Breakfast
May 13	6:45 a.m.	UMYF and Dads Make and Serve Breakfast To mothers of UMYF
May 15	NO UMYF	SCHOOL TESTING
May 22	6:30 p.m.	Plan Worship service for June 10
May 29	6:30 p.m.	Plan Worship service for June 10
June 5	6:30 p.m.	Dinner and Fellowship This will be the last regular UMYF meeting for 1006/2007 school year.
June 10	10:45 a.m.	Lead Worship Service

There will be summer mission projects. We will contact you.

Check the PGUMC web site www.pinegroveumc.org then click on UMYF on the left side of home page.

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Susan Hedrick
May 3	Burlee Jones Bonnie Moran
May 4	Dewey Bodenhamer
May 7	Patsy Bodenhamer Katie Ann Scott
May 9	Dee Anne Fortescue Rodney Joyner Vickey Lewis
May 10	Wyatt Joyner James Meade
May 12	Kathleen Sprinkle Emily Tolbert
May 13	Mallory Sutton
May 14	Rickie Shutt
May 19	Jeffery West
May 21	Paul Berry Jean Bodsford Jack Bullington Robert Mason
May 22	Polly Caudle Jeff Smith
May 23	Ray Jones
May 26	Patricia Mauney-Morris Alexander Niblock
May 27	Zachary Read
May 28	Bobi Amundson
May 29	Roy Spach



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 6	Dan and Lori Genevie Jim and Karan Mongtomery
May 7	Hiram and Irene Tucker
May 19	Randy and Chris Nelson
May 20	Brent and Noelle Shutt
May 25	Henry and Betsy Mitchell
May 28	Richard and Susan Martin
May 31	Kelly and Lisa Hale

OUR VOLUNTEERS

PROVIDE BREAD FOR 1ST TIME VISITORS

May 6	Kim Alexander
May 13	Peggy Griffith
May 20	Jean Crutchfield
May 27	Evelyn Groce

VISIT FIRST TIME VISITORS

May 6	Mary Council and Jean Darden
May 13	Bobby and Peggy Sizemore
May 20	Bill and Dee Anne Fortescue
May 27	Richard and Shirley Shutt

USHER SCHEDULE

May 6	Tom Mahannah, Head Usher David Alexander Scott Pugh Eddie Scott
May 13	Roy Spach, Head Usher Chris Council Butch Hogue John Fonda Brent Shutt
May 20	Tom Mahannah, Head Usher David Alexander Eddie Scott Scott Pugh
May 27	Roy Spach, Head Usher Chris Council Butch Hogue John Fonda Brent Shutt

SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT

May	Kathleen Sprinkle
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GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

May	Searchers Sunday School Class
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CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH

May	Peanut Butter
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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED—We need volunteers in all categories listed above. If you are willing to help in any or all of these areas please contact the church office, (765-2569) and we will add you to the schedule.

SENIOR NEWS FOR MAY

The first planned activity for the “55 and Over” will be a covered dish lunch on Sunday, May 6. We will meet in the fellowship hall following worship service at 12:30 p.m. This is the time when we will be choosing an official name for ourselves, filling committee seats and looking at outings and activities of interest to all. We invite the 55+ years young seasoned citizens of Pine Grove and the surrounding community to come, with a covered dish/dishes and ideas to share. We are looking forward to the fellowship, planning and fun on Sunday, May 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

MISSION TRIP

A building team made up of individuals from several local churches is going to Moss Point, Miss. on Monday, May 14th and returning on Sunday, May 20. The team will be traveling in church vans and private vehicles and staying at Dansler UMC. We will be repairing or rebuilding homes in the Moss Point area that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Over 1,000 teams from the WNC Conference worked in the Gulf states in 2006. If you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry, see or call Sandy Waldron (945-9620) for more information. There is space available for anyone who wants to go.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or college in this calendar year, please notify the church office by May 7. We want to recognize all of our graduates on May 20.

MEETING HOUSE

The Meeting House is now ready for use. It is a wonderful place to have Circle meetings, Bible studies, showers and many other uses. Reservations for the Meeting House will be made the same way the reservations are made for the Fellowship Hall. On the calendar you just need to indicate which location you wish to use.

NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

May, 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.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

The **Sue Rollins Circle** will meet May 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor. Devotions will be led by Margaret McLeod. The program, "How We Are Raced" will be led by Mary Bost. Hostess is Kathleen Sprinkle.

The **Gertrude Alspaugh Circle** will meet May 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor. Devotions will be led by Peggy Sizemore. The program, "Meditation—Shine, Shine, Shine!" will be led by Diana Young. Hostess is Ann Culberson.

UMW TEA

The UMW Tea was Saturday, April 21. We appreciate the support of all the women of the Church.

DISTRICT PRAYER BREAKFAST

The UMW District Prayer Breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. on May 5 at Sedge Garden United Methodist Church. The speaker will be Rev. Pamela Blackstock. 12 members are registered to attend. They should meet at our church at 7:45 to ride the bus.

SPRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

The UMW spiritual growth retreat, "Faith, Fears and Dandelions" will be held June 15 and 16 at Lake Junaluska. Nine members are registered to attend.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

The School of Christian Mission will be held July 12-15 at Greensboro College. The theme is "Sing Across the Walls." Anyone interested should contact Peggy Sizemore.

The Conference Annual Meeting, "Eyes of a Child," will be September 7-9.

READING PROGRAM

UMW members are encouraged to participate in the Reading program. Reading these books will help us to grow spiritually, teach us about social issues, help us to be more supportive of our family and friends, and enlarge our vision of mission.



Greetings from your Weekday School!!

As I am writing this letter, it is 83° outside, there is a gentle breeze blowing, and I feel the beach calling my name!☺ I love these beautiful, warm, sunny days and hope that they're here to stay for a while! Even on the cold and rainy days, the "weather" inside the Weekday School has been bright and cheery over the past few weeks as the children and staff continue to celebrate springtime by creating colorful flowers, rainbows, and butterflies. The boys and girls have really enjoyed their lessons about "growing things"! Planting their own flower seeds, learning how a caterpillar grows into a butterfly, how a tadpole grows into a frog, and how some eggs grow into chickens has been very exciting!

The first week of April was spent at home with our families as we enjoyed Spring Break. Everyone seemed to be happy to come back to school on the 9th. All the boys and girls hopped right back into their classroom routine with no problems. They "hopped 'til they dropped" on Monday, the 16th as they participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual "Hop-a-Thon". The children (and some of the teachers) hopped for 2 minutes to the beat of our favorite dance tunes. Each child was assigned a "hop counter" (a parent volunteer or teacher) who kept track of the number of times he/she hopped. Our best "hopper" (who is only 5 years old) hopped 336 times during the 2 minute time frame! That is almost 3 times per second!! (Oh, to have that kind of energy!☺) Anyway...the "Hop-a-Thon" was lots of fun and a huge success with \$461.00 (and still counting) raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. We are so proud of our students and families for their willingness to help with this important cause! The 4s and Readiness classes had a great time on their field trip to SciWorks. There are so many wonderful things to learn and enjoy at the museum. The children had a hard time deciding on what was their favorite. (Of course, the snakes are always a big hit with the boys!☺) The "Creature Teacher" was a big hit (as always) this month when she brought in her baby Wallaroo, "Simon". (A Wallaroo (in case you didn't know) is a small kangaroo.) "Simon" (who is named after American Idol's Simon Cowell due to his (sometimes) grumpy disposition) is the cutest thing and we all fell in love with him! We are so fortunate to be able to share the "Creature Teacher" program with our little ones! They learn so many wonderful things about caring for all God's creatures. Each year, as we approach the last few weeks of school, things tend to get a little hectic and "crazy"...so, I guess it is appropriate that we ended the month by celebrating "Crazy Hat Day"! The children and their parents always amaze us with the fantastic hats they design together. Everyone had a ball as we showed off our "crazy hat" creations during our "Crazy Hat Day" parade; then, enjoyed a special ice cream treat! It was a wonderful way to bring an end to our fun-filled month.

Next month will be filled with fun, as well, as we enjoy our last few weeks of the 2006/2007 school year. The 4s & Rs are looking forward to a trip to the Old Salem Children's Museum. The boys and girls love dressing up in the "old timey" clothing and playing with the "old timey" toys at the museum. Our annual "Family Fun Day" will be held on the 18th. The children and their families will have a wonderful day playing on the huge inflatable slide and bouncers, and enjoying games, special treats, and a "carry in" picnic lunch. Pine Grove's congregation will be in for a treat on Sunday, the 20th, as our little ones perform at our Spring Program during the 11:00am Worship Service. Our fantastic Music teacher, "Miss" Claire, is already hard at work teaching the boys and girls the delightful songs they will share with you during the program. Finally, the children, their families, and our staff will enjoy our annual "End of Year/Graduation Celebration" on the evening of May 25th (our last day of school). We'll share some of our favorite dishes at the "pot luck" dinner, then, cheer on our 4s & Rs during the graduation ceremony as we send them off to "BIG School". It will be a wonderful ending to a wonderful year!

A few reminders...

* "Summer Fun" enrollment is ongoing. Be sure to sign-up your children (ages 6 months – 1st grade) for our fun-filled summer activities!

- Even though our *World's Finest Chocolate* fundraiser has officially ended, we still have a few bars on hand. Be sure to get yours today from one of our Weekday School staff members!
- Don't forget to save those General Mills "Box Tops for Education" labels for us! Each one is worth 10¢. It doesn't take long for those dimes to add up to dollars!

As always, be sure to keep our important ministry in your prayers! Until next time... **Chris**

PLEASE, MOM AND DAD

My hands are small . . I don't mean to spill my milk.

My legs are short . . . Please slow down so I can keep up with you.

Don't slap my hands when I touch something bright and pretty . . . I don't understand.

Please look at me when I talk to you . . . It lets me know you are really listening,
My feelings are tender . . . Don't nag me all day . .

Let me make mistakes without feeling stupid.

Don't expect the bed I make or the picture I draw to be perfect . . Just love me for trying.

Remember I am a child, not a small adult . .

Sometimes I don't understand what you are saying, but I'm not ignoring you.

I love you so much . . Please love me just
For being me, not just for the things I do.

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**The Cross and Flame
May, 2007**

Greetings from the Library,

A new category has been created in our Library to better meet the needs of our entire congregation. This section will cover many of the difficult changes that may occur during a child's life. Hopefully the collection will offer some assistance to both caregivers and the children in their lives. These books will fall under the heading:

“Separation and Special Concerns: Children”

Initially, there were only a few books on our shelves that dealt with these issues. I needed guidance on what to purchase to better cover these concerns. When you have a sister who reviews children's books for a couple of newspapers, you make a phone call! With many thanks to Wilma Jones Snyder, we now have a shopping list to consider as well as quite a few donated books. The following are some of the titles and the subject matter of the books donated by Wilma:

The Best of Both Nests - Divorce

Daddy Doesn't Have to be a Giant Anymore - Alcoholism

Not in Room 204 - Sexual Abuse

On the Day His Daddy Left - Divorce

Promises - Cancer/Hospital

Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry - Mental Illness

When Daddy's at Sea - Military Separation

Where Is Grandpa? - Death of a Grandparent

Holding at Third - Cancer / Death of a Sibling

Angelina's Baby Sister - New Sibling

Half a World Away - Best Friends / Moving

Mystery Bottle - Children separated from Grandparents

The Secret of Love - Friendship / Anger / Love

We have some wonderful books in the Library, and our system is very “user friendly”. Do yourself a favor....make a glass of tea, turn off the TV, and enjoy a book.

Happy Reading,
Katie

May Newsletter 2007 * May Newsletter 2007 ***BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL**

Dear Parents & Church:

As we are coming to the end of another school year, I think back to how only a few months ago, we were all new to each other, and looking at the children how each of them have brought something special into my life. We have all grown this year, within our bodies, our mind and our commitment to God. I really hope that each of you have had a blessed year as I have. Getting to know the children more and more every day, helping them with homework, playing, or just chatting up the day's news. It saddens me to know my middle school children will not be back next year, but I am glad that they are moving forward with their lives. Hopefully they have learned something here as well. I wish you the best of luck in the future, and may many blessings bestowed upon you as you grow into wonderful adults.

I am saddened to announce that we will not be able to have a summer program this year. The Before and After School Committee has decided since there is not enough interest to cover expenses, we will not be able to provide care this summer. If you need care this summer, please see me and I can give you a list of other churches that will have a summer program. Again I am very sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you and your family.

Thank you very much for all the support on the changes on dropping off and picking up your children. Your continued support will keep your children safe while here at Pine Grove.

The end of year picnic will be held on June 1st 2007 from 6:30-8:30 PM. We will have a hot dog supper, and awards for your child. It sure will be lots of fun, so mark your calendars, and come for a time of fellowship and good food. However we need to know how many will attend. There will be a sign up sheet on the table out in the hallway. This is a way for Linda and I, along with the Before and After School Committee to thank you for a wonderful year.

Thanks again and have a wonderful month
Kerry A Carroll
Before & After School Director



Fill The Ark (Heifer Project)

Beginning in May, Pine Grove will have the opportunity to "Fill the Ark" "Fill the Ark" is a daily missions-giving program that spans four weeks. It offers real-life solutions to world hunger and shows that one person..one family..one congregation can make a difference in today's world. As you fill an ark with money you've saved, you'll learn how your gifts can share God's love and end human suffering around the world.

Heifer Project provides more than 20 different species. of animals and fowl, from ducks and camels to Llamas, and geese, to people in need around the world.

As it was with Noah, the ark is about hope, about a new beginning. For project families, animals can provide: food for the children through milk , eggs, or meat: income for housing, health care, school fees , other needs.

A gift ark launches a boatload of help and hope for hungry people and the earth. For \$5,000.00 , our congregation can purchase two pigs, camels, water buffalo, guinea pigs, trios of ducks, flocks of chicks, oxen cows, trios of rabbits, donkeys, beehives, sheep llama, flocks of geese and goats.

The price includes both the cost of purchasing quality animals, the training and support services. Heifer Project provides project partners.

Again, the Missions and Outreach Committee challenges each of you to help launch the Ark and put two of all the animals mentioned above in the ark and if we reach our goal of \$5,000.00, a surprise will be in store for the members of Pine Grove United Methodist Church

All arks must be turned in by July 1. If you choose not to use the ark and the calendar, you may put a check in the large ark in the Narthex and specify which animals you would like to buy on the check. See back of page for the cost of each of the animals.

