

The Cross and Flame

www.pinegroveumc.org

TheCross andFlame

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

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OUR JOB AND OUR BLESSING

A young woman and her three children came into the local food pantry at a downtown church. She hung by the door for quite some time, watching, waiting for the few that were already being served. Finally, when no one was left, she and her three little daughters came forward. It was easy to see that the mother was embarrassed to be in such a situation. She held her head up, and with her hand resting on the girls' shoulders she asked for food.

There were a few basic bits of information that needed to be gathered and written down. Finally, the woman who was waiting on her began to gather the food. Three large bags were filled and given to the mother and her children. As they turned to leave, the mother paused, looked back, a tear running down her cheek and said, "You people must be like Jesus. I always knew that he was real, but nobody ever showed him to me before."

Isn't that our job? To make Christ real for a world that is in need and hurting, a world that needs to be shown Jesus' love through our lives? Where people are hungry the people of faith need to be feeding them. Where they are thirsty we as Christ's representatives need to be digging wells. Where people are strangers, we need to welcome them as if we are welcoming Christ (according to scripture we are). Where people need clothing, those who have should be giving out of our abundance. Where people are sick we need to offer wholeness. To those in prison we need to take the hope Christ offers.

We read in Matthew's Gospel in the 25th Chapter, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (or sisters) of mine, you did for me." Making Christ real is our calling! Making Christ real is what it is to be a Christian. Helping the least, the last and the lost is our blessing. The Journey Continues,
Neill

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

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

September 2008						
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				

September 2 7:00 p.m. Outreach and Mission Committee
September 7 5:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
September 10 10:00 a.m. Sue Rollins Circle
September 11 7:00 p.m. Gertrude Alspaugh Circle
September 14 3:00 p.m. Prime Timers
4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
September 15 7:00 p.m. Children's Sunday School Teachers
September 16 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee
September 21 2:00 p.m. Navajo Mission Reunion
4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids
TBA District Laity Rally at Maple Springs
September 22 7:00 p.m. Staff Parish
September 28 4:00 p.m. Kingdom Kids

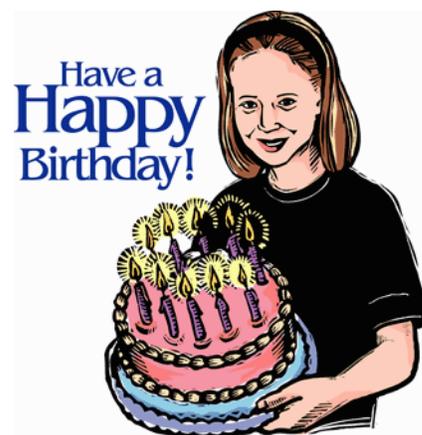


Anniversaries
this
Month

September 3 Charles and Betty Bell
September 6 Richard and Betty Stallings
September 7 Bobby and Carolyn Joyner
September 8 Don and Kate Ashe
September 11 Bill and Mildred Holder
September 12 John and Bessie Newman
September 13 Scott and Robin Pugh
September 14 Eddie and Sally Scott
September 16 Tom and Marilyn James
September 17 Larry and Renee Aldridge
September 18 Jim and Gene McGinnis
September 22 Robert and Melanie Niblock

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

September 3 Anthony Edward Bost
September 4 Jacquelyn Howard
David Fuller
September 5 Catie Brogdon
Damon Pope
September 6 Dena Terry
September 7 Ameer Smith
September 9 Jennifer Dalton
September 10 Jim Mabry
September 11 Clyde Long
Blair Weavil
Nancy DePietropaolo
September 12 R. J. Shutt
September 13 Jack Pugh
September 15 Larry Aldridge
Jean Darden
September 16 Robert Niblock
September 17 Billie Sue Kimel
September 18 Minnie Stump
Jan Holbrook
September 19 Richard Stallings
Cindy Parent
Bethany Shaw
September 20 Shirley Crews
Ashley Campbell
September 21 Jenni council
Bill Holder
Chad Jones
September 22 Stokes Aldridge
Earle Jones
Burt Flowers
September 23 MacKenzie Newsome
Jonathan Alexander
September 24 Cindy Zimmerman
September 25 Bobby Sizemore
September 27 Barbara Mahannah
September 29 Katie Marie Buchanan



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

September 7 Peggy Brewer
 September 14 Melanie Niblock
 September 21 Mary Council
 September 28 Peggy Brewer

VISIT FIRST TIME VISITORS

September 7 Richard and Shirley Shutt
 September 14 Evelyn Groce and Peggy Williams
 September 21 Charles and Dorothy Parker
 September 28 Mary Council and Jean Darden

USHER SCHEDULE

September 7 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher
 Scott Pugh
 Eddie Scott
 John Fonda
 Robert Mason
 September 14 Roy Spach, Head Usher
 Chris Council
 Butch Hogue
 Dee Fair
 Brent Shutt
 September 21 Tom Mahannah, Head Usher
 Scott Pugh
 Eddie Scott
 John Fonda
 Robert Mason
 September 28 Roy Spach, Head Usher
 Chris Council
 Butch Hogue
 Dee Fair
 Brent Shutt

SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT

September Dee Anne Fortescue

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

September Wesley Patchwork Class

CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH

September Shampoo

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

October September 22

HOPE HOUSE

Thank you so very much!!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the use of the "Hope House". It was a blessing for our family to have a place to stay during our wife and mother's illness. We don't know what we would have done without the "Hope House". It's a wonderful thing that you all do for people in situations like ours. It was truly a home away from home! Thanks again and God bless you all!

Jennis, Melinda, Shawn Mitchell
 And Tanya M. Smith.

P.S. The "Hope House" gave us the hope we needed and your prayers were truly answered.



PRIME TIMERS

Thank you to Polly Caudle and other members of the team that went to the Navajo Nation for sharing their experience with us at the August meeting.

Jean Crutchfield, Ebb Bodsford and Evelyn Groce were mentioned as our birthday honorees this past month.

There are still a few spaces available on the Great Smoky Mountain Train Ride on October 14th. The cost is \$119.00 for transportation and train ticket. Lunch is on your own. Call Polly Caudle if you wish to go along.

The trip to Shatley Springs for food and frescoes has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 18th. We will take the church vehicles, if possible. Need to know how many would like to go, so call Polly and let her know.

Please see the notice about our next event on another page in this newsletter. We want to have as many people as the Fellowship Hall will hold for **TUBALICIOUS**. Invite your family and friends.

We hope our members are reading the Prime Time News when it comes out. We try to feature an interview with a member in each edition. This is a great way to get to know things you may not have known before about people you associate with all the time. If you have email, and are not receiving the newsletter at this time, please give your web address to Sandy Waldron or Sue Morgan so we can send it to you hot off the computer. Otherwise, give us your postal address and we will send the newsletter by snail mail when it smolders off the printer.

Greetings from your Weekday School!!

That's right!! It's that time again! I can't believe that the summer break has come and gone!! Classes for the 2008/2009 school year will begin on September 2nd. We're looking forward to another great year!

The teachers returned to school on Monday, August 25th and have been busily preparing their classrooms, and meeting with students and parents for orientation before classes begin next week. Our first week of school will be spent welcoming our friends who are returning this year and getting to know our new friends who have just become a part of the Pine Grove Weekday School family.

September will be full of fun and excitement for everyone! Movement and Musicare classes, along with Chapel time and our new Spanish classes for 3s, 4s, & Rs will begin the week of September 8th. The children really love these "specials" which will be held each week throughout the year. Our annual Open House will be held on Thursday, September 11th. Our students and their families will be entertained by our friendly neighborhood pirate, "Captain Jim", who will amaze us with his feats of magic; followed by visits in the classrooms with the teachers. It is an excellent opportunity for us to get to know one another in a more relaxed setting. The 4s & Rs will travel to the Elliott's Farm on the 19th to learn all about life on a farm. "Miss" Margaret always has a great day planned for them. Everyone is anxious to see what kind of animals she has on the farm this year! The "Creature Teacher" will join us for her first visit on Monday, September 22nd accompanied by one of the many animal friends that she will share with us throughout the year. Will it be an Opossum?...a Wallaby?...a Sugar Glider?...or maybe even a snake or tarantula??? We can hardly wait to find out! As you can see, we're going to have lots of fun during our first few weeks of school!

Members of our Parents' Association will soon be hard at work preparing for our annual Fall Children's Clothing/Toy Sale which will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 26th & 27th. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and provides an opportunity for the participants to earn some BIG "BUCKS"! If you'd like to participate in the Sale, Registration kits will be available by the week of September 15th, so go ahead and start cleaning out those closets and drawers now! Then, be sure to join us at the Sale to take advantage of the great bargains on "gently used" clothing and toys for the children in your life.

It's time again to link (or re-link) your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school's code number – **4259**. It's so easy to do...just mention it to the cashier when you check out and he/she will be glad to do it for you; OR, you can link it yourself on the internet at www.harristeeter.com. Adding our code to your card costs you nothing but allows our school to earn 2% (or more) on all the Harris Teeter brand products that you purchase. Also, don't forget to keep saving the General Mills "Box Tops for Education" labels for us. Each label is worth 10¢ to our school and can be found on many products from General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Ziploc, and many other brands. With your help, it doesn't take long for those 10¢ to turn into dollars. What great (and easy!) ways to support your school!

A **BIG** "Thank You!" goes out this month to Kelly Hale, our favorite computer "fixer-upper" who has worked diligently this summer to keep our computer systems up and running, and to Homer Craig, Dewey Bodenhamer, and their work crews who have worked so hard getting our facility and grounds ready for the opening of school. I'm not sure who all of you workers are, but please know that all your efforts are much appreciated! Thanks, also, to each of you who continue to support us with your gifts, your time, and your prayers. You each help to make our school a wonderful place for the children to learn and grow.

Until next time...☺ *Chris*

NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council of Pine Grove United Methodist Church met Tuesday, August 19, 2008 with 22 in attendance. Jean Darden called the meeting to order.

Pastor Neill opened with devotions emphasizing that our youth, young families, Bible study and service should be Pine Grove's priorities. We need to be a multi-generational church, blending our youth and adults with quality as our measuring stick. He also presented the council with statistics regarding the neighborhoods surrounding Pine Grove, emphasizing the great opportunities we have for service to our community.

The minutes were read from the April, 2008 meeting. Homer Craig made a motion to approve the minutes as read with Sandy Waldron Seconded. The motion carried.

Finance Committee—Eddie Scott reported on the General Budget Contributions received as follows: Actual through 8-17-08 \$175,901.00, Budget needed as of 8-17-08 \$184,375.00. and we are under budget by \$8,474.00.

Both the Conference Apportionments and the District Apportionments are current through August. The cash in the bank is \$8,851.00 with all invoices current. The balance in the Land & Capital Improvements Fund as of 8-17-08 is \$5,674.00 which is enough for 10 monthly principal and interest payments of \$543.00. The balance in the Capital Improvements Fund is \$8,181.00 which is enough for 8 monthly payments of \$943.00. Eddie also reminded committee chairpersons that their budget requests must be turned in before 9-16-08.

Trustees—Homer Craig reminded everyone of the work day coming up on Saturday, August 23. He also noted that all previous projects have been completed and suggested that anyone who sees areas of the church building that need attention or repairs to complete the forms provided in the church office and place them in the Trustees mail box. There was a great turnout for moving day for the pastor and his family.

Parsonage Committee—Sue Morgan reported that all unwanted furniture from the parsonage has been moved to the Meeting House.

Endowment Committee—Jack Bullington reported that the Endowment Committee elected to disburse \$3,000.00 to the Trustees for the new roof on the parsonage, \$500.00 to Polly Caudle for missions, \$400.00 to our youth and \$600.00 to the Worship Committee totaling \$4,500.00 in contributions. The current Endowment Fund balance is \$85,745.00. Memorials or contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund any time.

Children's Ministry—On behalf of Sally Scott, Eddie thanked everyone for their support of Bible School. There were over 50 participants from 3rd through 5th grades. They collected food and money for the food bank as well as school supplies. Trunk or Treat will be held on Halloween this year. They are also planning a visit to South Fork Assisted Living,

Youth Ministry—With 900 youth and 200 adults attending, Dennis Houle reported that the youth retreat to Spiritus was a great experience for everyone who attended. He saw how our youth were inspired by the teaching, the visual presentations on large screens as well as the musical presentations. He has expressed the desire to try to bring some of these elements into our church for our Youth. He and Jennifer are working on plans for next year's mission trip and in their next meeting, will be preparing the next 3 months schedule. Pastor Neill will also be meeting with the youth twice a month. They are looking forward to a great year.

Outreach Committee and Scouts—Polly Caudle thanked everyone for the support of the mission trip to Arizona. She will have a power Point and DVD presentation of the trip in the future. Pine Grove will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. The shoe boxes for the children will need to be filled and turned in by November 16 so they can be delivered by November 17.

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Sandy Waldron suggested that the committee look into changing from Operation Christmas Child to the Agape Program which is a similar program supported by the Methodist Church. Polly and Sandy agreed to look into this further. They are also planning to do the Samaritan Ministries Penny Campaign which will support the Samaritan Soup Kitchen and Shelter. Bring your donations to the Narthex and place in the marked jars. The deadline for all contributions is December 6. Girl Scouts will begin again after Labor Day and will meet every other Tuesday in the Meeting House. There are two troops this year. Polly added that she and Dee Anne Fortescue will be recruiting players for the Christmas Nativity. Please contact either of them if you are interested in participating.

Before and After School—Peggy Sizemore announced that Linda Houle is our new Before and After School Program Director. They are currently interviewing for the Assistant Director Position. If any one is interested or knows of someone who would be interested in the position, please contact Peggy Sizemore.

Weekday School—Margaret McLeod reported that 40 children attended Summer Fun. 70 children have enrolled for the upcoming year. The teachers will begin August 25 and the children will begin after Labor Day.

Sandy Waldron stated that The Conference Committee for Mission and Outreach will focus on world hunger over the next four years. They are hoping to set up a “World Desk” for collecting and exchanging information on mission opportunities.

Peggy Williams reminded everyone that the deadline for getting information in the newsletter is Monday, August 25. If you would like information posted on the sign, fill out the form with the information and turn it in to the church office. Charge Conference will be on November 9. All information to be in the reports for the conference must be in the District Office by October 27 so please get the information in prior to that date.

Polly Caudle stressed the importance of the church office being closed on Mondays and asked that everyone please **NOT** visit the office end of the building on that day. This is a crucial day for recording church financial information.

Pastor’s Report—Pastor Neill brought up the idea of all committees meeting at the same time and location prior to the Administrative Council Meeting. By each committee meeting together at the same time and location, any issues that may arise in one committee that may involve another committee’s input, could be addressed or resolved immediately. The idea is to be more effective and more efficient. We could have a pot luck meal, have our committee meetings then go directly into the Administrative Council meeting. After some discussion, Dennis Houle made the motion to 1) ask the Nominating committee to avoid duplicating persons on committees with the exception of those called for in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church and 2) beginning in January, have all committees meet together at the same time and location with the Administrative Council meeting immediately following. Homer Craig seconded and the motion carried.

Jean Darden noted the next meeting will be October 21, 2008.

Pastor Neill closed with prayer. The meeting was Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Meade



PINE GROVE'S NEWS FROM CHILDREN

Kingdom Kids will be starting back for the Fall on September 7 at 5:00 p.m. All Kindergarteners through 5th graders please plan to join us. We will meet EACH Sunday for the rest of the Fall at 4:00 p.m. Watch for more information about Kingdom Kids.



Thank you to all who helped with VBS this summer. We had over 50 participants and we had a great time.



There will be a meeting for all the children's Sunday School teachers on Monday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend if you are going to be teaching this fall.

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