



Pine Grove Quarterly



Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. Philippians 3:13

Summer months bring joy to our hearts. We can look back and see how we made it through another cold winter and allergy-stricken springtime. All the while, we see the beauty of each season as it nudges us forward into the next.

Now we look to the future, for times...they are changing! While Pine Grove UMC is a church of endurance, it is important to look at where we come from before we can possibly see where we are going as a church community. The past is behind us, the future is before us. The question we now face is what's next. We can try to repeat the past and recreate what we once had, but that is not progress. The joy of celebration is acknowledging what has already taken place and looking forward. Certainly, some practices and traditions will need to continue as a part of who we are. With joy and sadness all wrapped into one big event, we now move onward to what else can be. There is something amazing happening at Pine Grove UMC. You are a church that supports each another in acts of love. There have been numerous times during my tenure here that ministries have and continue to be supported with success. I believe this is because you know the core of your faith, that God is love. How exciting to share the love of God with others!

As a child I was in church every Sunday. Being a "preacher's kid" didn't give me many options. Wednesday evening was Bible Study, and we were expected to be present for this service as well. Sunday afternoon was youth group meetings. Again, not many options. There was a transformation happening in my life that I was not aware of. I was like a sponge soaking in all the Bible I could get. I loved going to church, and I still do. Over the years worship styles and ways of learning have changed. Again, I say times...they are changing! It was mostly the new things that kept my interest as a child. I did not want to do everything the same way my parents did. I wanted my own style of worship. Years later I now realize I'm not all that much different from my parents. Perhaps it is the concept of "new" that I was looking for. Whatever it was, it worked.

Change is good when done in prayer while seeking God's guidance. What is it God offers for us to grow in wisdom so that we may become stronger faith-builders for our children, youth, and adults? I have continually been in prayer seeking God's direction. How great it is when our vision is made clear. Pine Grove UMC can grow by looking back, as long as we are willing to use the past to move us onward. Graduated faith does not mean to set aside and only remember the good times. Graduated faith is implementing the past into the future, all the while letting it become a part of something new.

My desire is for each of us to remember what was most inspirational in our journey of faith, and how it can become part of our future for those seeking to know more.

-Pastor Sandra



LEADERSHIP TEAM



Pray for your Leadership Team -that we be Bible led.

One thing that you took on when you decided to be a Christian is the conviction that God is Almighty, that God did create the universe and all things in it, and that God sent his only son, Jesus Christ to live amongst us and to die for all our sins to be raised from the dead and show us the way to eternal life.

God only gave us one set of directions and those are outlined in the Holy Bible. There are many directives in the Bible that go against what our personal wants and desires or even those of society would guide us to do. The test of personal will verses the Will of God is, after all, what our faith is founded upon. It is the ultimate proof of our faith that our lives reflect that we are led to do God's Will (as outlined in the Bible) and not ours or society's.

Your Leadership Team prays that all the things that we do in the name of Pine Grove reflect what the Word of God directs us to do. We ask that you pray for us so that as we go about our Church's business that we always keep what the Bible directs in the forefront of all we do. All the members of our church family are human and it is easy for us to get caught up in the things of the world instead of the things that God would have us focus on. God will direct us from time to time to do things that we are not comfortable with but that is part of what you signed on for when you put on the Christian hat. Please pray for your Leadership team that we are not comfortable in all that we do.

-Rickie Shutt

Team Chairman

The last Leadership Team Meeting was held on April 30, 2023. Rickie Shutt opened the meeting with prayer and then proceeded with the following agenda items:

I. Budget Line Items: Currently, revenue is not keeping up with expenses. The team decided that by July 2023 they need to come up with a new budget that reflects our current status of donations and expenses and remove some of the budget line items that are no longer pertinent to the operations of the church. Pastor Sandra will continue to look at ways to cut expenses which means getting quotes for items like insurance, etc.

II. Repair Decisions for the following: Replace broken smoke detector in hallway; repair exit signs in hallway; replace any burned out bulbs in the building; repair door to entrance of Fellowship Hall; trim trees at handicap ramp. Rickie, Susette, and Rhita Newcomb agreed to address the above items.

III. Write a new Church Policy/Covenant and/or Statement of Faith regarding same sex weddings and practicing homosexual clergy: Originally the team had decided to nominate 3 team members to pursue this assignment but then Pastor Sandra and Debbie were able to find statements from other churches as well as from the 2016 book of Discipline that will be used as resources and were able to write a submission for the team to vote on at the next meeting and then send to the district. More information is to come regarding this item.

IV. Renewal of Lease for the parsonage: The team voted to renew the lease to continue to rent the parsonage to Peggy Williams for another year.

V. Miscellaneous Business: 1) The team voted to find a realtor to look at and give an estimate on the value of the Sara Lane property before making a final vote to proceed with getting approval from the District to put the property up for sale. More information to come. 2) Rhita Newcomb will be contacting the Red Cross about giving CPR and Defib training to volunteers in keeping in step with our Safe Sanctuary plan. 3) Polly Caudle announced that she would be stepping down as the Rise Against Hunger Campaign chair and has asked for someone to take her place for 2023. 4) Pastor Sandra asked the team if the church would sponsor a Vacation Bible School this summer and the team agreed. 5) The team voted to write and send checks to any ministry that had yet to receive it's designated fund balance for the 2022-23 year.

VI. The next Leadership Team meeting will be held on July 16th following the worship service.

2nd Quarter Giving: April- \$16,655.55; May-\$6,804.60; June-\$6,703.30

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SECOND QUARTER

Here are a few pictures highlighting events with the Pine Grove family during April, May, and June. Enjoy!



Easter morning celebration to put flowers on the cross.



Aprons with Attitude! Mother's Day recognition.



June wedding! Congratulations to Sandra and John!

Mr. Juma Misandu (pictured right) is originally from the Congo and has been worshipping as part of the Pine Grove family for the past nine months. On June 25th, he gave his personal testimony about how and why he converted from the Muslim religion to embrace a faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you, Juma for sharing your witness and your faith journey. Welcome to Pine Grove.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Crisis Control Donation of the Month

July: Toilet Tissue



August: Peanut Butter & Jelly

September: Canned Greens
(Collards, Spinach, Turnip)



Thanks to everyone from Pine Grove church and the community who came out and donated blood on July 2nd. We had 19 donations.



Rise Against Hunger is a growing global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies.

Pine Grove is happy to sponsor another RAH campaign this year on **August 5th in the Fellowship Hall from 8AM-12PM.**

There is something for all ages to contribute, so please put this on your calendar and join us on **August 5th.**

Also, if anyone is interested in assisting alongside Polly Caudle this year and becoming coordinator moving forward, please call Polly at 336-766-6836.



Throughout His ministry, Jesus took time to teach His disciples about what to expect ahead when He would no longer be with them in body, but with them through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said this about prayer in Matthew 18:20: *"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."* —New Living Translation Life Application Study Bible.

We are inviting you to be a part of our praying team. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the sick, lonely, addicted, homeless, and others in need of prayer. We also pray for our world, nation, state, elected officials, and especially Pine Grove UMC. This is a Zoom gathering, and if you are interested in joining us from the comfort of your own home, call Betty Bell at 336-408-6952 to be added to the list to receive the link for joining the meeting. There is strength in numbers folks, and if you don't believe it, just remember the tug of war game that you played as a kid with two sides and a rope to prove who was the strongest. Please join our team. We need your strength.

Prayers, Betty Bell

OUTREACH MINISTRIES



Pine Grove Youth Ministry

The PGY finished the school year as of June 9th 2023. Now that summer is here, we are looking forward to several opportunities for community gatherings beginning with our VBS ice cream social on Sunday, July 23rd at 4 pm.

We are excited about VBS.

Vacation Bible School will begin Thursday July 27th and end run July 29th. We will also have our VBS celebration Sunday on July 30th at the 11:00 worship service. Our VBS theme is Food Truck Party. We will be decorating the food window in the fellowship hall according to the theme.

PGY will also be planning a youth night at the end of June. We are planning a few more gatherings for this summer, including bowling and putt-putt golf.

Finally, PGY is also planning to do a day at the park to get out doors and have fun doing some activities in an outside setting. We invite everyone to join us for each of these events.

PGY enjoyed participating in the Mother's and Father's Day services and feel very blessed to have those members in our community.

Submitted by *Makenzie Clark*



We would like to thank the youth of Pine Grove for taking on the project of giving the Blessing Box, which is located outside the Church office, a fresh coat of paint. Well Done!

As a reminder, the Blessing Box is an Outreach resource for the community and is always in need of being stocked with non-perishable food items and water.



Thursday, July 27@ 6-8PM
Friday, July 28th @ 6-8PM
Saturday, July 29th @6-8PM

VBS Celebration Sunday
July 30th during the 11AM
Worship Service

Please invite the children of your
friends and neighbors to attend VBS.
Sponsored by PG Youth.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

Rhita and I just got back from the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Lake Junaluska. It was a such a mountain top experience. The Reverend Jan Brittain delivered a message about women coming to Jesus. She gave new perspective to the stories of Mary and Martha, and most of us came away having more respect for both of these women who were among the friends of Jesus.

We had a busy quarter. We made \$500 on our pastry sale; we collected supplies to make ten sanitary kits for UMCOR; and we hosted the Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat tea to support the local Cancer Services. We sewed all year and packed up 75 sustainable sanitary kits to go to Costa Rica. These kits are washable, reusable, and last about 3 years. This is a continuing project, and we usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month on the second floor in the sewing room. Contact Jean if you would like to join us.

July 28th and 29th is the Mission U which will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. If you want more information, contact Rhita or Jean. We will also be collecting snacks for the Bethlehem Center teaching staff in the month of July.

On August 10, Betty Bell will present our program via Zoom. Everyone is invited to attend.

During September 8th-10th, several of us will be attending the Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska. We will be holding the silent auction again on September 15, 16, and 17. That was very successful last year with many of our members donating items to sell. We hope to do well again this year with the support of all our members. The monies we raise all go to support women and children, locally and throughout the world.

-Jean Wall

UWF 2nd Quarter Highlights:



Pictured above and below. UWF members and volunteers work on the Days for Girls project.



The Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat Tea was a success with over 756 hats collected for cancer patients.



THANK YOUS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank You!

The Church has received the following note from Billie Kimel as well as a donation in honor of Julian Blackburn and Richard Stallings for their help with cemetery arrangements.

Dear Pine Grove Family,

I would like to Thank everyone for the cards, special prayers, visits, and for attending the funeral service during this difficult time of Stephanie Kimel's death.

Gratefully,

Billie Kimel and Devan Bull



REFUGEE MINISTRY

Debbie and the World Relief agent recently met with the Gawar family to discuss their transition and move from the Sara Lane house. They moved to Greensboro on June 29th.

Through an interpreter, Mr. Gawar wanted me to relay the following message:

Shaffie and Shamilla Gawar and their 7 children would like to express their deep gratitude to the members of Pine Grove church for assisting them with housing during a most difficult transition from Afghanistan to the United States. They are also grateful for your generosity and all the help that you provided with transportation assistance to the grocery store and medical appointments for the children.

Please continue to keep the Gawar family in your prayers for the following: that the transition to a new home and community and new schools for the children will go well; that health issues related to a couple of the children will be resolved; and that they continue to work on learning and understanding the English language.

-Debbie



JULY

7/10 Hilda Cox	7/20 Alexander Caviness
7/12 Greg Hall	7/23 Michael Roberts
7/13 Elizabeth Bullard	7/26 Cindy Spach
7/13 Jay Caudle	7/28 Karen Cromer
7/14 Jill Bodenhamer	7/29 Sandra Ward
7/15 Jack Joyce	7/30 Kathy Joyner
7/16 Sara Scott	7/30 Phillip Hendrix

AUGUST

8/06 Colton Bodenhamer	8/25 Michael Semones
8/08 Tori Bodenhamer	8/27 Lauren Zimmerman
8/08 Erica Hall	8/29 Baxter Cromer
8/11 Janice Foster	8/30 Wilma Falls
8/13 Kimaly Forester	8/30 Carolyn Joyner
8/14 Becky Muenchow	8/31 Eunice Blackburn
8/16 Clark Pugh	8/31 Brenda Transou
8/18 Scott Pugh	
8/18 Claude Smith	

SEPTEMBER

9/04 David Fuller	9/19 Richard Stallings
9/05 Damon Pope	9/21 Jenni Council
9/07 Rollin Hankins	9/21 Chad Jones
9/07 Amy Hendrix	9/22 Stokes Aldridge
9/13 Jack Pugh	9/24 Cindy Zimmerman
9/15 Jean Baker	9/25 bobby Sizemore
9/16 Robert Niblock	9/26 Linda Hauser
9/17 Billie Sue Kimel	9/27 Barbara Mahannah
9/18 Garret O'Sullivan	9/29 Katherine Buchanan
9/18 Minnie Stump	9/29 Isaiah Holdaway



The Pine Grove Staff wishes everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July!



Please accept our apology if we missed your birthday. Please let the church office know so that the list will complete next time.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday: *Sunday School 9:45
Worship 11AM

Tuesday: Prayer Group via ZOOM 7PM

Wednesday: Chancel Choir 5PM
Handbell Choir 6:30PM

Thursday: Bible Study 10AM

*NOTE: If you can't come in person and want to join a ZOOM Sunday School class, contact the church office for a link.

*Pastor: Sandra Ireson
1130 Jonestown Road
Winston Salem, NC 27103
Telephone: 336-765-2569
pinegroveumcws@gmail.com*

Pine Grove United Methodist Church

1130 Jonestown Road
Winston Salem, NC 27103
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