



## January 2010 Birthdays!!

- 2 Joyce Arnold
- 4 Jason Jasper
- 6 Betty A. Griffin, Vicki Danford, Walter Stapleton, Nan Salmon, Cameron Upchurch, Blake Matthews
- 8 Drew Gregory
- 9 Nell Thrower
- 10 Edith Austin
- 11 Meredith Raynor, Lou Jean Peace
- 12 Rachel Sauls
- 13 Kelly Oakley, Leroy Veasey
- 14 Gregg Danford, Pat Dority, Luke Sowers
- 15 Paul Kaczynski, Donel Braxton
- 16 David Wrenn
- 17 Lora Cotton, Tim Slaughter
- 18 Barbara Stephens
- 19 April Baker, Christina Harris
- 20 Becky Williford, Jason Potvin
- 21 Tanya Cullum, Ricky Lamm, Lisa Lee
- 23 Martin Smith, Margie Thornton
- 26 Mark Daulton
- 27 Etheleen Clayton, Jim Griffin
- 28 Crystal Wiseman, Mary Rhodes
- 30 Kelly Black, Wayne Tingen, Scott Lee
- 31 Grace Sandy



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

### Tuesday Teller Teams

- Jan 5 Lora Cotton and Edna Bullard
- Jan 12 Ann Wilson and Olivia Keel
- Jan 19 Jan McRoy and Peggy Oakley
- Jan 26 Gene and Sue Kelly

### Sanctuary Flowers

- Jan 3 Open
- Jan 10 Open
- Jan 17 Jack & Zelma Rowland Family
- Jan 24 Open
- Jan 31 Open

### Deacon of the Week

- Jan 2 Ricky Lamm 552-9286
- Jan 9 Joe Bowling 779-7743
- Jan 16 Craig Salmon 329-7887
- Jan 23 Jay Adcock 552-6724
- Jan 30 Ronnie Austin 779-2376

### Wednesday Night Supper Schedule (Prepare Desserts, Serve & Clean Up)

- Jan 6 Vaughan Class & Pathfinder Class
- Jan 13 Upchurch Class
- Jan 20 Fellowship Class
- Jan 27 Frazier Class & Stapleton Class

### Minister On Call

#### After Hours

- Dec 20 – 26 Pastor Jack Lee
- Dec 27 – Jan 2 Pastor Rick Carter
- Jan 3 – 9 Pastor Chad Whitley
- Jan 10 – 16 Pastor Jack Lee
- Jan 17 – 23 Pastor Rick Carter
- Jan 24 – 30 Pastor Chad Whitley

#### Phone Numbers:

- Pastor Jack Lee (919) 285-2036 or 740-5319
- Pastor Rick Carter: (919) 217-0118 or 637-0825
- Pastor Chad Whitley: (919) 412-3541

### Average Sunday School Attendance

November 2009.....221

### Average Worship Attendance

November 2009.....279



# The Pleasant News



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

10005 Lake Wheeler Road

Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

(Address correction requested)



Rev. Jack Lee, Senior Pastor

Home Phone: 919-285-2036 Cell Phone: 919-740-5319

Rev. Rick Carter, Minister of Music & Pastoral Care

Church Phone: 919-552-4634

Rev. Chad Whitley, Minister of Youth & Congregational Services

Fax No: 919-577-9254

Carla Babb, Mother's Morning Out Director

MMO Phone Number 552-1702

Web Page: [www.pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org](http://www.pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org)

December 21, 2009



Greetings,  
 Mark 7:37: And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well."  
 An old hymn by Anna L. Waring comes to mind today:

In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear.  
 And safe in such confiding, for nothing changes here.  
 The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid,  
 But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?  
 Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back.  
 My Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack.  
 His wisdom ever waking, His sight is never dim.  
 He knows the way He's taking, and I will walk with Him.

That phrase, "He knows the way He's taking," is the basis for my remarks today. God knows what He is doing. He doesn't make mistakes, especially of this magnitude. As the people of our Lord's day put it, "He does all things well."

We don't always understand His means or His methods. He has purposes to which we are not always privy, but we know He does all things well. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts, but He does all things well. He allows winds to blow and storms to rage. Sorrows and tears befall us, and our ways may wend through darkness and difficulty. But as for God, His ways are perfect. He works all things together for good.

He does all things well, and He asks us to trust Him. We can trust Him through sunshine and shadows. When we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart.

**A Prayer for the New Year**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
 Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.  
 Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.  
 Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.  
 May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,  
 A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,  
 A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,  
 A time for growing in virtue and goodness.  
 Come, Holy Spirit,  
 Be with us today and always. Amen.

In His Service,  
 Jack

**News from Rick**

"And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in a swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."  
 Luke 2:12

Signs, signs, everywhere a sign  
 Blocking out the scenery breaking my mind  
 Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?  
 Five Man Electrical Band

For the Christian and hopefully for others, Christmas time is one of the most blessed and fulfilling times of the year. We hear this story over and over and seemingly never tire of it's message. We sing about it, see dramas portraying it and decorate our homes and ourselves with images of the Christmas season. Everywhere these are signs of the season.

It was around 1970 when the band recorded this almost anti-establishment song about rules and signs. For many of that era, there was too much "thou shalt not" and not enough of their own perceived freedoms. They saw signs everywhere.

Yet way before 1970, in that country-side near Bethlehem, God was in the process of showing a sign that would display to the world what real freedom would entail.

"You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Here is a sign that does not promote negativity.  
 Here is a sign that brings good news to all people.  
 Here is a sign that merits our offering of praise to God.  
 Here is a sign that compels us to tell others of this Messiah.  
 So many are still seeking for and looking for this sign.  
 The sign that gives purpose and meaning to life.  
 Long haired freaky people can apply!  
 Smartly dressed Church goers can discover it too!

Re-discover God's sign at Christmas and celebrate His son and the presence of His son in our lives.  
 Jesus said in John 8:36...

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

Celebrate God's sign!

**Personal note:**

Thanks to all of you at Pleasant Grove for the encouraging words, beautiful cards, delicious food and gifts of love expressed to the Carter family this Christmas. It is our joy to call you brothers and sisters in Christ as well as call you friend. Merry Christmas from the Carter's.



**Chad's Heap O'Stuff!!**

What up, my peeps? That's right—it's time once again for your favorite column, CHAD'S HEAP O' STUFF! By the time you read this, the New Year will have begun, and with it, all kinds of new possibilities and opportunities. Read about some below...

**Bullets!**

**February 7...** Superbowl Party at Salmon residence...bring your friends, especially those who don't know Jesus...also bring some money (\$5 would be great, but less is fine)...we're collecting donations for the Raleigh Rescue Mission through the Souper Bowl of Caring ([www.souperbowl.com](http://www.souperbowl.com))...

**February 12...** Childcare fundraiser for summer missions...sign-up sheet is downstairs...

**March 26-28**—Retreat at Fort Caswell...the theme is Re:Connect...we'll be talking about and practicing various kinds of prayer...it promises to be a different experience...

**in April...** Cherokee Cove...and summer holds much promise, as we move forward on mission for Christ..

I ask for your prayers as our Student Ministry Leadership Team begins meeting to discuss the possibility of a new mission and vision for our Student Ministry. Our goal is to determine who we are so that we can map a route to who we want to be. This will be a long-term project, one that will require a great deal of time and effort, but one that I believe will be well worth the investment. We will develop a mission statement, identify our core values, and construct a structure that will facilitate both while accommodating growth for the future. At key points along the way, the team will host parent/church forums to give the congregation an opportunity to hear what we've done and provide some feedback, so keep your eyes and ears open for those. Otherwise, pray for us as we seek God's will.

Thanks, and have a Happy 2010!  
 Chad

**DECEMBER SPECIAL GIFTS**



**In Memory**

**Robert Walton for the Building Fund** by Helen Walton

**Ruth Mae Pruitt (Pat William's mother) for the Building Fund** by Betty H. Griffin

**Ruby Stephens and Richard Morton for the Building Fund** by Ruby Stephens WMU Group

**Woodrow Sandy for the Building Fund** by Mary Sandy and Family

**Bill Sandy for the Building Fund** by Grace Sandy

**Sophia Wrenn for the Building Fund** by Wayne and Dot Tingen

**Fleming Williams and Hermie Williams Aiken for the Building Fund** by Edie Holleman

**In Honor**

**Warriors For Christ Sunday School Class for Lottie Moon International Missions** by Bob and Frances Wortham

**Bart and Pat Williams for the Building Fund** by Betty H. Griffin

**Jean Randall and Teresa Randall (for all of their work for Wednesday Night Suppers) for the Building Fund** by Mary Sandy

**PGBC Staff and Pastor Jack, Lisa & Mary for the Lottie Moon Offering** by Edie Holleman

**Fellowship Sunday School Class for the Building Fund** by Cliff & Jan McRoy

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\*Russ and Mylinda Tyndall in the death of Russ' grandfather

\*James and Trisha Harris in the death of James' mother

**Carla's Corner**

It's Christmas Time

Christmas is here and we are so blessed!

I am blessed Lord by Your unconditional love!!

I am blessed by the greatest gift of ALL TIME, JESUS!!

I am blessed that You thought of me when You endured the cross!!

I am blessed by the families You have placed in my path at MMO!!

I am blessed by the MMO staff and the MMO Committee that support this ministry!!

I am blessed by each hug, each smile, and the love that radiates from each child in this program!!

I am blessed by my own family! Thank You for their encouragement as I walk down the path that You have called me to! Their support is beyond words!

I am blessed by my Church and those who lift each child in this program up to You on a daily basis!

I celebrate CHRISTmas because without You none of this would be possible!!  
Happy Birthday Jesus!

Merry Christmas!!!  
Carla



**Evening activities cancelled** Wednesday, December 23 and Wednesday, December 30.

**Christmas Eve Service** – December 24 @ 6 p.m.

**The Church Office** will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 23 & 24, Monday, December 28 and Thursday, December 31.



**Mary Head is celebrating her 9<sup>th</sup> year as Treasurer on January 16.**

**Becky Ransdell is celebrating her 9<sup>th</sup> year as Financial Secretary on January 16.**

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Christy Sutton, Financial Secretary

Hi, I'm Christy Sutton. I live in Fuquay-Varina with my husband, Tony, and our three kids, Brianna, Avery and Makenna. I look forward to meeting you all soon.



Special thanks to the members of PGBC for every expression of kindness. You are very special to me. May God Bless each one.  
Clarice Tutor

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, flowers, food, visits, and cards during my recent illness. I am grateful for all the acts of kindness and support I received. It is wonderful having such a great church family.  
Thanks again,  
Linda Evans

During my period of convalescence, I am reminded of the caring attitude of PGBC members. Thanks for your prayers, cards, phone calls and words of encouragement.  
Shirley K. Lindsay

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The **Senior Citizens Happy Agers** had an enjoyable meeting Thursday evening in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed finger foods, fellowship and "fun games". We will not have a meeting in December due to the many Holiday activities. We are looking forward to a dynamic January meeting. Details will be announced soon. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From the Senior Citizens Council

**Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
Financial Report**

<b>MONTHLY BUDGET NEEDS.....\$ 68,812.97</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE BUDGET NEEDS.....746,356.24</b>
November Actual Budget Receipts.....52,949.79	YTD Actual Budget Receipts.....473,534.83
November Actual Budget Expenses.....-43,255.56	YTD Actual Budget Expenses.....-588,127.49*
<b>November RECEIPTS-EXPENSES.....-9,694.23</b>	<b>YTD RECEIPTS-EXPENSES.....-114,592.66*</b>

\*Includes Debt Retirement Expense

**FLC LOAN BALANCE AS OF November 30, 2009.....\$2,330,282.58**

**January Church Conference  
Sunday, January 10 @ 7 p.m.**

**December Church Conference Summary**

The **WMU** recommends that the WMU Sister's In Christ in conjunction with Youth Council, offer a **Parents' Night Out** on Friday, February 12, 2010, from 6 – 9 p.m. This is a childcare fundraiser designed to provide a safe and loving environment for children 6 weeks through fifth grade. Children will enjoy free play, making personal Valentine's cards for a loved one, gym time and a G-rated movie to end the evening. All proceeds will be given to the Youth Summer Missions. This will be held in the Family Life Center and the cost is \$5 per child/maximum \$15 per family. **Motion Carried.**

The **WMU** recommends that the WMU hold an outreach event, **Women's Focus Day 2010**. It will be held on April 10, 2010, in the FLC. The program will be from 8 a.m. until noon. The program will have an inspirational Christian speaker (Lisa Shearin), music, as well as info on Pleasant Grove and it's various ministries. Proposed registration fee is \$5 per person which will be used to defray the cost of the event with any remaining funds going to the WMU Budget line item. This is an outreach event to women in our community as well as a time for spiritual renewal for ladies in our membership. **Motion Carried.**

The **WMU** recommends that the Younger GA's of PGBC host a Hot Dog Stand, complete with all the fixings, during one or two Upward Basketball games in 2010 in the FLC from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. They will supply all items needed and adult supervision will be present the entire time the hot dog stand is open. The cost of the hotdogs will be \$2 and all proceeds minus the expense of the hot dogs, buns, and toppings, will go the PGBC Food Bank. **Motion Carried.**

**The Church Council** recommends that the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** be set at **\$9,000**. **Motion Carried.**



**Reimbursable Receipts:** Please turn in all of your receipts to Becky Ransdell in the Financial Office by January 4, 2010. Call Becky at the Church office if you have any questions.

**Contribution Envelopes for 2010:** If you are a Sunday School class member, your envelopes have been placed in your class. If you are not currently enrolled in a class, your box will be in the Church Office. Please make every effort to pick them up as soon as you can. Thanks!!!

**Year End Contributions:** The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the Church offering in January of 2010 cannot be deducted in 2009 even if it backdated to 2009. One exception – checks that are mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2009 are deductible in 2009 even though not received until 2010. Call Mary Head at the Church office if you have any questions.

## Managing Our Finances God's Way



Tired of living paycheck to paycheck?

Could your \$ do more?

***If the answer to both questions is Yes, then this program is for you!***

### “Managing Our Finances God's Way”

This is a seven-week, DVD-based curriculum from Crown Financial Ministries that features speakers such as Rick Warren, Chip Ingram, Ron Blue, Howard Dayton, and Chuck Bentley.

*Sponsored by Marriage Enrichment Ministry Team  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church*

*This class is great for both married couples and individuals.*

**When:** Each Sunday, Jan. 17, 24, 31 & Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28  
**Time:** 9:30 –10:30 a.m. During Sunday School Hour  
**Location:** Pleasant Grove Fellowship Hall  
**Facilitator:** Craig Salmon  
**Contact:** Rev. Chad Whitley @ 552-4634 or  
[chad@pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org](mailto:chad@pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org) by Jan 10<sup>th</sup> to sign up and order your book.  
 (Note: Couples should only order one book.)

***The cost is \$10 per book and can be paid for on January 17.***

### Parent's Night Out

Childcare Fundraiser designed to provide a safe and loving environment for children 6 weeks through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Children will enjoy free play, making personal Valentine's cards for a loved one, gym time and a G-rated movie to end the evening.

A completed registration form and payment is required for registration. The form can be downloaded from [www.pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org](http://www.pleasantgrovebaptistonline.org) or picked at the Church Office. You may bring or mail your registration form and payment to the Church Office. Deadline for registration is February 1 @ 4 p.m.

**Family Life Center  
Friday, February 12, 2010  
6 p.m. until 9 p.m.  
\$5 per child/\$15 max per family**



It is so easy to sign up for the **Bank Draft for the Building Fund**. You will find the draft cards in the pew pockets. Simply fill it out, attach a voided check, place in an envelope, and place in the offering plate or bring by the Church Office. Sign up today!!

**Need a gift suggestion?** A donation to the PGBC Building Fund is an excellent way to honor someone special and help reduce the Church debt at the same time. A donation would be great for any occasion - holidays, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, get well or as a thank you. Contributions to the Building Fund are also a wonderful way to honor a Christian friend or family member with a lasting tribute in the event of a death - in lieu of sending flowers. An acknowledgement card will be sent by the Church to the person or family being remembered.



**The Grace Sandy Mission Group** is collecting stuffed animals for the Wake County Sheriff's Department. The animals will be used to give to small children when they have been in a traumatic situation, such as a wreck, domestic violence, parents being taken to jail, children being taken from parents for whatever reason and even after drug raids. According to the Sheriff the need is great. If you have a gently used, cuddly, stuffed animal you would like to contribute to help comfort a frightened child please bring it to the Fellowship Hall by January 13, 2010. Please do not feel obligated to purchase a new stuffed animal for this outreach.

**Can this be You?**

Another couple in the Church may be looking for you and your spouse.

Find out why

**Sunday, February 14, 2010**

**Come and See**

Marriage Enrichment Ministry



Jan Grey  
2104 James Slaughter Road  
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526  
557-7466

**Deacon:**

Michael Ortega  
2616 White Rail Drive  
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

**Deacon:**

**Lottie Moon International Missions**  
**Christmas Offering**

Our goal this year is \$9,000

**Received to Date: \$2,584.56**