

The Cross and Flame

www.pinegroveumc.org

TheCross andFlame

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

Church Staff

Neill Shaw, Pastor; Beverly Myers, Music Director; Peggy Williams, Secretary, Chris Nelson, Weekday School Director; Linda Houle, Director of Before and After School Program.

Contact Information
Phone: 336-765-2569
Fax: 336-765-0727
Church E-mail:
pgumc113@bellsouth.net

Pastor's E-Mail:
Pgumc_pastor@bellsouth.net
1130 Jonestown Road
Winston-Salem, NC
27103

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS?

At the beginning of a New Year, a high school principal decided to post his teachers' New Year's resolutions on the bulletin board. As the teachers gathered around the bulletin board, a great commotion started. One of the teachers was complaining. "Why weren't my resolutions posted?" She was throwing such a temper tantrum that the principal hurried to his office to see if he had overlooked her resolutions. Sure enough, he had mislaid them on his desk. As he read her resolutions he was astounded. This teacher's first resolution was not to let little things upset her in the New Year. I don't know how you are doing on your New Year's resolutions. I do know something that is more important than resolutions, though. How do you see this New Year? Is it one that you approach with anxiety or anticipation?

What concerns you for the coming year? In reality most of the things that scare and concern us never happen in real life. Most of the things that have kept me up at night and have worried me the most NEVER HAPPENED! So all of that anxiety and energy was wasted. When my worst fears have come true, those were the times when my faith grew exponentially. Those are the times in hind sight that I saw just how close my Savior was to me. Those difficult times help us to sort out what is important and what is not important. Difficult times help us to see where our true strength comes from and what kind of faith we have. In the end, after we have come through the difficult times we may even realize that they have been a blessing.

Also, to what are you looking forward, this year? What excites you about the New Year? These are the things that need our energy and planning. These are the things that need our prayers. I don't believe in New Year's resolutions, because I just don't keep them. I guess most of the time I am more like that teacher than I would like to admit. But a prayerful, positive, hopeful, and anticipatory look at the New Year... that I can do! Will you join me in a hopeful look at the New Year?

The Journey Continues,

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JANUARY 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
7:00 p.m. Disciple I Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Disciple II Bible Study

Each Wednesday

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

January 2009						
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

January 6 9:30 a.m. Visitation Volunteer meeting
6:00 p.m. UMYF/Parent meeting
January 8 7:00 p.m. Gertrude Alspaugh Circle
January 11 8:00 a.m. United Methodist Men's Breakfast
4:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids
6:00 p.m. Committees and Ad. Council
January 14 10:00 a.m. Sue Rollins Circle
January 15 7:00 p.m. UMW Executive Committee
January 18 4:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids
January 25 4:30 p.m. Kingdom Kids

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY



Birthdays

January 1 Kelly Jones
January 2 Steven Parker
January 3 Jamie Bullard
January 6 Kristopher Abshire
Martha Thomas
Lisa Read
January 7 Dustin Hunter
Michele Roberts
January 9 Shannon Bradsher
January 10 Charles Crews
January 11 Marie Kimel
January 12 Melanie Barbee
Thurmond Griffith
Olivia Shutt
January 13 Martha Wells
January 14 Daphne Murrell
January 17 James Larry Sapp
Randy Nelson
January 19 Anna Hale
Mary Manning
January 21 Jerry Wayne West
Carrow Mabry
January 22 Shannon Kisner
Mandy Stallings
January 23 Tristan Bradsher
Stan Morgan
January 25 Karan Montgomery
Jennifer Johnson
January 26 Kaye Greenwood
Richard Vogler
January 30 T. L. Griffith



Anniversaries
this
Month

January 5 Tom and Barbara Mahannah

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

January 4	Melanie Niblock
January 11	Mary Council
January 18	Peggy Brewer
January 25	Evelyn Groce

VISIT FIRST TIME VISITORS

January 4	Evelyn Groce and Peggy Williams
January 11	Charles and Dorothy Parker
January 18	Mary Council and Jean Darden
January 25	Bobby and Peggy Sizemore

USHER SCHEDULE

January 4	Roy Spach, Head Usher Chris Council Butch Hogue Dee Fair Brent Shutt
January 11	Tom Mahannah, Head Usher Scott Pugh Eddie Scott John Fonda Calvin Tanner
January 18	Roy Spach, Head Usher Chris Council Butch Hogue Dee Fair Brent Shutt
January 25	Tom Mahannah, Head Usher Scott Pugh Eddie Scott John Fonda Calvin Tanner

SANCTUARY ASSIGNMENT

January	Dee Anne Fortescue
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GREETERS FOR THE MONTH

January	Asbury Sunday School Class
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CRISIS CONTROL ITEM FOR THE MONTH

January	Applesauce
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

February	January 26, 2009
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BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Lets support our guys playing Basketball. Almost all games are on Thursday and they are played in Calvary Baptist Church's new Gym.

January	8	6:45 p.m.	Rejects
January	15	7:45 p.m.	Sunrise UMC
January	22	8:45 p.m.	Tip Top Roofing
January	26	8:45 p.m.	Deacons
February	5	7:45 p.m.	Classics
February	12	6:45 p.m.	Peace Haven Baptist
February	26	6:45 p.m.	Rejects
March	5	7:45 p.m.	Sunrise UMC

HOMECOMING, JULY 26, 2009

Mark your calendar for July 25 and 26, 2009. Pine Grove will be celebrating their 150th anniversary. On Saturday there will be a big thank you to the community for supporting us for 150 years. On Sunday our bishop will be preaching and the choir has commissioned an anthem in honor of our 150th anniversary. There will be a catered lunch after the worship service. Make your plans to be here!!!!





January Newsletter

Hello from the Before and After School. Happy New Year!!!!!! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. I can't believe the hustle and bustle is finished. I will surely miss it. The good news is after all the gift giving is over, we are left with the one gift that keeps on giving "Our Lord and Savior!"

We will be back in full swing at the Before and After School on January 5th. I look forward to welcoming back all of the children. Speaking of welcoming, we have a new addition to our program. We welcomed Ellen Gentle to our Before and After School Program. She comes to us with a Christian Education degree, and she has proved to be a wonderful addition to our program.

I want to send a special thanks to Homer Craig and Jackie Bullard. They each helped make our Christmas party in December a huge success. We had a special visit from Santa, who brought along "a very tall elf." All of the children were filled with excitement, and the looks on their faces were absolutely priceless, Even Pastor Neill and his family stopped in to take a peek. "THANK YOU" to all who helped make the day so special.

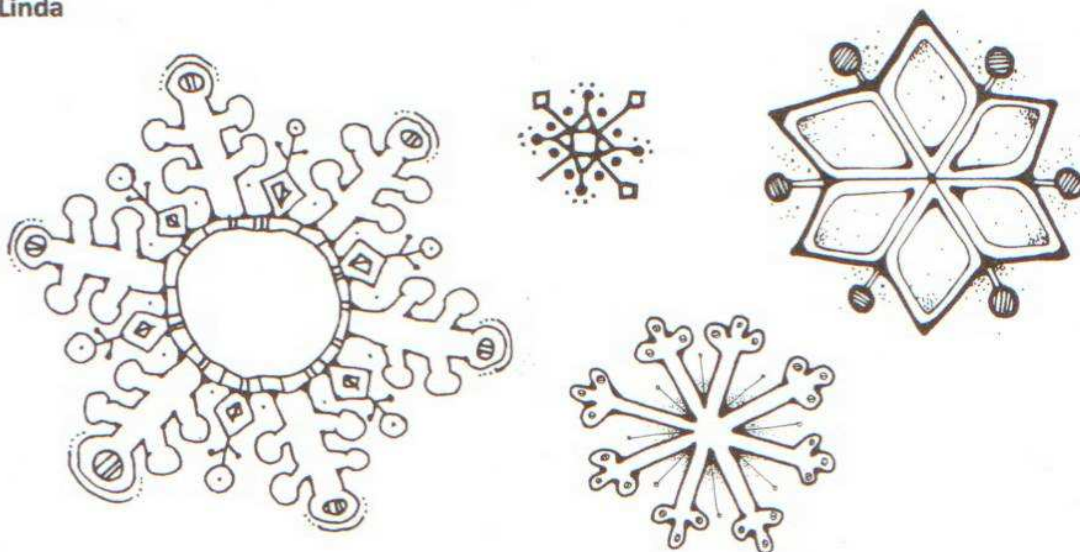
We have one birthday in January. Celebrating this month is Mikayla Smith on 1/25. We would like to wish her a very Happy Birthday.

That is all the news for now. On behalf of everyone at the Before and After School, we would like to wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.

Linda

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U Y M F T E N I A T I V E S C H E D U L E

Our mission is to further the spiritual growth of individuals as well as the whole group through worship, fellowship and service to both church and community; thus becoming one body in Christ.

PARENT/YOUTH MTG.	fellowship hall	Planning Mtg.
January 6th Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	Fund Raisers – Missions trip – etc.
Youth announcement	service-front pew	Youth designated to speak with others supporting.
January 11th Sunday	11 am. & 12pm.	Announce: Fund Raisers – Missions trip – etc.
**after service-Narthex	12 pm.	*Youth selling stock in themselves. \$ 10. per share.
	*Share holders will be invited to a dinner & video showing of missions trip.	
Spiritual Growth-	parsonage	-fellowship-dinner-scripture & discussion
January 13th Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-Bring bible
Fellowship	AMF-Jonestown Rd	-Meet at Jonestown Rd. AMF bowling.
January 20th Tuesday	6 pm- 8 pm.	-Money for 2 games & shoes +/- \$ 15.00
		* DENNIS & JENNIFER COLLECT \$ UPON ARRIVAL.
Fund Raiser arrive 3:30 pm	Fellowship Hall	Spaghetti Dinner (Garlic bread & salad)(Parents Assist)
January 24th Saturday	5:30 pm. (Serve)	Auction desserts (Ask congregation to volunteer to bake)
Spiritual Growth-	parsonage	-fellowship-dinner-scripture & discussion
January 27th Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-Bring bible
Fellowship	Mr. D's house	Super Bowl gathering. Bring a snack to share.
February 1st Sunday	5:30 pm till	*starts at 6 pm.
Service to Church-	Fellowship Hall	-Make favors for UMW Love Feast with youth.
Spiritual Growth		-Plan Dec. 15 th children's time at alter.
February 3rd Tuesday	6:30 – 8pm.	(Flowers to be handed out to all females 2-15-09 service.)
Fellowship- 'Love Feast'	Fellowship Hall	-Dinner with United Methodist Women
February 10th Tuesday	6:00 – 8pm.	(bring favors made for women)
Service to Church-	Service-*front pews	-Children's time at alter.
February 15rd Sunday	10:50 am.	(Flowers to be handed out to all females)
Spiritual Growth-	parsonage	-fellowship-dinner-scripture & discussion
February 17th Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-Bring bible
Service to Community	LEAVE CHURCH	Make & serve meal to approx. 30 people. (TACOS)
February 24th Tuesday	6 pm – 8 pm.	Van & Bus: OPEN ARMS COMMUNITY (Sprague St.)
		<small>(Vickie Sigmon – 724-0850)</small>
Spiritual Growth-	parsonage	-fellowship-dinner-scripture & discussion
March 3rd Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-Bring bible
Fellowship	hall or outdoors.	-Devotion (LEAD BY A YOUTH or TWO or THREE)
March 10rd Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-YOUTH(MAJORITY) CHOOSES WHAT WE DO.
Spiritual Growth-	parsonage	-fellowship-dinner-scripture & discussion
March 17th Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	-Bring bible
<small>(ST. PATRICKS DAY)</small>		
Fund Raiser arrive 3:30 pm	Fellowship Hall	Womenless Beauty Paget & Dinner (Parents Assist)
March 21st Saturday	5:30 pm. (Serve)	5:30-6:15 then woMEN present themselves & 1 talent.
Service to Community	THE ELMS	-PLAY BINGO WITH RESIDENCE Take: Van & Bus
March 24th Tuesday	6 pm. – 8 pm.	-Arrive 6:20- play 6:30-7:30 return PG 8pm. P/U prizes for residence.
Fellowship with Church	Fellowship Hall	Indoor Volleyball.
March 31st Tuesday	6:30 – 8 pm.	Invite Congregation – all welcome
<small>(SCHOOL VACATION WEEK)</small>		

**SEE PGUMC web site www.pinegroveumc.org - click on UMYF to left side of home page.

Children and Worship

Sunday, January 11, 2009 we will begin to incorporate children in our worship as fully as possible. While there will remain a nursery for infants through three year old children, our pre-K and older children are invited to be a part of the worshipping family during 11:00 am worship from beginning to end. .

Will this be an easy transition for our congregation? Perhaps. When a child is baptized we vow to rear them in the faith. The whole church family worshipping together is just one more way for us to live the faith with our children. Perhaps not. Children make noise. Children are active. Today's children "cut their teeth on entertainment". It is commonly objected that by keeping the children in the service, they learn to hate worship.

However, can we teach our children to love the service if they are only present for part of it? We cannot teach our children to appreciate the worship of God without allowing them to witness and participate in it anymore than we can teach them to like spinach by giving them ice cream. Staying for the entirety of corporate worship is another way to teach them to love Christ and his church. Appreciation comes by degrees. It takes time, patience, and skill. But, the work that is used in teaching children to love worshipping is well worth the effort. Even if it means that parents miss parts of the sermon, we can hardly have spent our time better if we help children sit quietly and participate in a sermon. In the long run, we and those around us will hear *more* sermons.

Some of the time, tools and skills we have to teach our children:

Worship tools - to help sit and listen in the form of a bag containing quiet materials such as crayons, pencils, chenille stems in the liturgical color of the season, etc.

Children's Bulletins - activities related to the day's scripture and blank space for creativity

Children's Time & Children's Time Readers – encourage your child to come forward to the children's message. If they are not comfortable coming alone, come with them. Children who read are invited to volunteer to read a portion of the day's scripture during the children's moments.

Prepare children for worship - assist them in marking the hymns before worship begins. Get a drink of water and take a bathroom break before coming to worship.

Ask a question - after leaving worship each week ask something like, What did you see in worship today? What was a story you heard today? Did you miss anyone in worship today that you would like to talk to this week? What word did you hear over and over today? Think of your own experience in worship and create your own question.

Other Worshipping Adults – if you feel another adult might help you in teaching your child, seek out a trusted mentor for your child to sit with on occasion. This not only gives you a break if needed, but encourages intergenerational friendships.

You may have heard it said that children are the church of the future. They are, however, the church right now. We as a congregation want to be vibrant and alive. As our children grow in grace, so shall we!

The Children's Council



NEWS FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

January, 2009

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 January 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor. Devotions will be led by Mary Bost. The program, “Who Am I at the Table?” will be led by Mary Bost. Hostess is Mary Bost.

The **Gertrude Alspaugh Circle** will meet January 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. Devotions will be led by Sally Scott. The program, “Who Am I at the Table?” will be led by Peggy Williams. Hostess is Peggy Sizemore.

UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – will meet at 7:00 p.m. on January 15 in the History room. All members of the Executive please plan to meet.

DID YOU KNOW— for 2009 the President, Vice President, and Circle Leaders meeting will be January 25 at Maple Springs UMC at the District Leadership Training at 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. We are having this together with the DLT so we can carpool with other members of our churches who will be attending other classes. We will have Program Resources available in our class.

DISTRICT MISSION STUDY will be held at Konnoak Hills UMC on March 7. the study will be “Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival. Our leader will be Daphine Strickland. She was one of the leaders for this study at the School of Christian Mission last summer. She lives in the Greensboro area and is a Native American of the Lumbee/Tuscarora tribe. The program will start at 8:30 with coffee and conclude with lunch at 12:30. Cost for the lunch is \$5.00 and can be mailed to the District Treasurer.

DISTRICT EVENT CALENDAR 2009

January 25, 2009	President, Vice President, Circle Leaders	Maple Springs UMC
February 20, 2009	Deadline for Registering for the District Mission Study	
March 7, 2009	District Mission Study	Konnoak Hills UMC
March 9, 2009	Deadline for reservations for District Prayer Breakfast	
April 25, 2009	District Prayer Breakfast	New Hope UMC
August 1, 2009	Deadline for reservations for the District Annual Meeting	
August 11, 2009	District UMW Annual Meeting	TBA
October 25, 2009	Officer Training for Local Officers	St. James UMC

LIVE NATIVITY PROGRAM INSPIRES SPIRIT OF COOPERATION

The weather did not fully cooperate with us this year, but we presented the live nativity program for four special (but cold) evenings. The program requires a considerable amount of time and talent and the Live Nativity Committee would like to thank the many individuals who were involved. We now have a “seasoned” cast and they portray the characters in the beautiful Christmas story in such a special way. The individuals who participated in the program were truly exceptional and we appreciate their spirit of cooperation to make this event a special part of our Christmas celebration.

We also want to thank the individuals who work behind the scene. Without their time and expertise, our program would be less successful.

Dee Anne Fortescue, Polly Caudle, and Selwyn Shaw were responsible for the staffing of the 22 characters needed each evening. To schedule two separate casts required a tremendous amount of telephone calls, mailings and they were on hand each evening to make sure our casts were fully staffed.

Sue Morgan, Julie Stoakley and Joyce Long worked long hours to provide us with impressive new costumes and were also available each evening to assist outfitting the 22 members of the cast.

Our participants were well nourished this year due to the delicious food prepared and served by individual Sunday School Classes. We want to thank these folks for this much appreciated addition.

The sound system was much improved this year, thanks to Kelly Hale. Also a special thanks to Greg Hall for the staging and direction of the program.

Doug Buie and his crew manned the hospitality table that served hot chocolate and coffee to visitors and participants. Doug had literature available to pass out about the opportunities for worship and about Pine Grove’s School programs.

The youth added to the event by passing out leaflets inviting residents in nearby neighborhoods to join us to enjoy the live nativity presentation and refreshments around a roaring bonfire.

Bill Burton again provided the lighting; Tom Mahannah, the Communications Committee members and other volunteers did the setup of the crèche, angel tower and the lighting.

Jay Caudle designed and built a new cloud formation on the angel tower.

The Live Nativity committee is indeed grateful to all the committed individuals who made this year’s event so special.

BITS AND PIECES

Dear Church Family;

What blessings we have received this Christmas season! You have showered us with warm embraces, generous smiles, beautiful cards and many gifts. We thank you, our family at Pine Grove for ALL that you have given to us, but more importantly for all that you are becoming to us. We look forward to sharing Christ's love with you for years to come.

Our love,
Pastor Neill, Selwyn, Bethany and Benjamin

KINGDOM KIDS—Happy New Year! All children K- 5th grade are invited to Kingdom Kids! Our meetings are Sundays 4:00—5:30 in the fellowship hall or Kingdom Kids room. Our **MISSION** for January is making care packages for the homebound and our **THEME** is forgiveness. We will have a lot of fun and games, too! We hope to see you there!

January 4 No Kingdom Kids
January 11 New Year's Party
January 18 New Beginnings: Forgiveness
January 25 Make care packages

NAVAJO INDIAN MISSION TRIP TO GANADO, ARIZONA

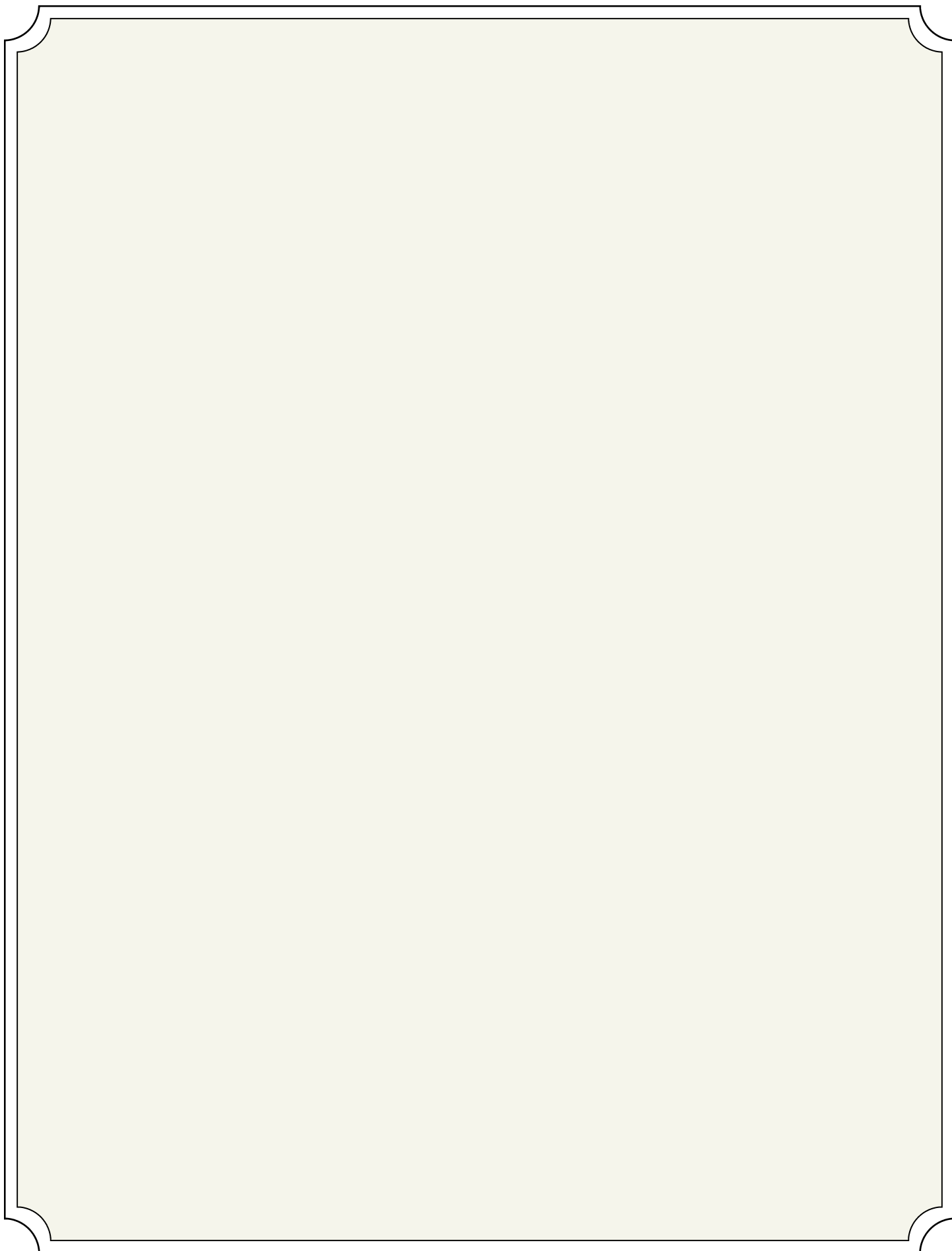
Yes, I know that I said last year was my 10th year and my last. But, I have had several inquiries from different people at other churches and in this church about going back. But, I must know if you are interested by the end of January or before. Bible School has to be planned, along with song leaders, activities planned, etc.

These are the details that I have at the present time. We will leave on July 2 and return on July 15. We must have 30 people for the Holiday Tour Bus. We will have the same bus driver as before. We will visit the Grand Canyon and Canyon de Chelley. We will teach Bible School to approximately 30-60 children. We will stay in the recently updated dorm that we have stayed in before for 6 nights. We will stay in motels in Memphis, Elk City, Albuquerque, Grand Canyon (7 nights in all). The cost will be less than \$1,000. If you are interested in finding out more about the trip, Call Polly at 766-6836 or pcaudle@bellsouth.net. A decision will be made by February 1 whether we will go.

UNITED METHODIST MEN— The reactivated United Methodist Men will have a breakfast meeting Sunday morning January 11 at 8:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted to help with the cost of the meal. All men of the church are invited to attend, please call or e-mail Doug Buie by Friday, January 9, if you plan to attend so we will know how many to prepare for. If anyone needs a ride please call or e-mail Doug or Scott Pugh. We hope to have a good turnout for our first meeting.

Doug Buie 766-4668 douglasbuie@bellsouth.net

Scott Pugh 768-7431 sctpugh@aol.com



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United Methodist Church
1130 Jonestown Road
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Phone 336-765-2569
Fax 336-765-0727
Email: pgumc113@bellsouth.net
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