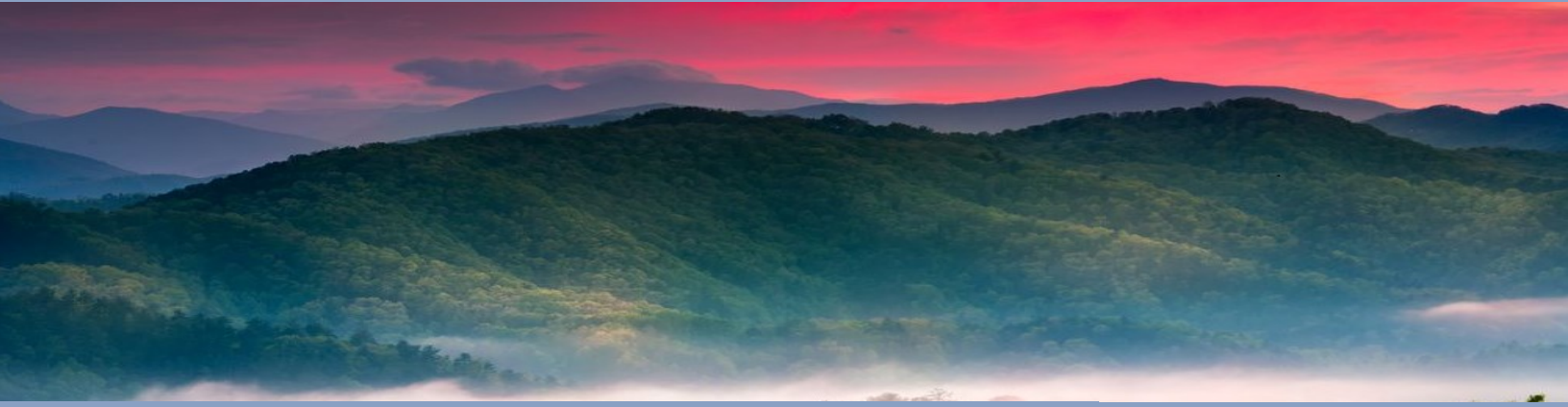


News In The Thicket



“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.”

- 2 Corinthians 3:17

A Letter From the Pastor

*- Mickey Adams,
Pastor*

I have been greatly encouraged by the activity of our people preparing for VBS. I anticipate a great week with children. I am also reminded that VBS lasts one week.

As our numbers increase post covid, so does the need for teachers and other helpers to provide a quality experience for children, youth, and adults. The same energy I witnessed in VBS preparation could have an amazing impact on our Sunday School.

Thank you to some wonderful people who spent hours in the hot

sun replacing the weathered and dangerous playground for our children. The sweetness of that fellowship was inspiring. The children will enjoy hours of play, but I have already been blessed to see the loving work done.

There is much to be done on our buildings and so our deacons and I are beginning to establish a plan to repair and replace that which is needed.

In spite of the difficulty of covid, I have become very excited for our future. I am praying that God will send a great revival and am looking forward to seeing what He will do.

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Sundays

Sunday School: 9:45 AM

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Wednesdays

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20 GA Highway 315

Fortson, GA, 31808

(706) 323-3170

Deacon's Notes

- Mike Hudson,

Deacon Chairman

You are aware that we meet once a month to discuss our church's business. We discuss expenses, the finances, the needs of our church and other things. However, we mostly discuss our church families. This is a serious time that we do not take lightly as we share the concerns of our membership. Even though we meet monthly we are in communication with each other constantly. We make every attempt to keep each other up to date on issues and especially of our family members.

The discussions we have are mostly amiable but there are times when we disagree. The discussions can be lengthy, but they are always respectful, and each person has as much

time as needed to share their thoughts. Sometimes we change our direction and sometimes we do not, but at the end of every meeting we are in agreement that we will be together with one voice.

I am reminded of the early church after Jesus's ascension and the excitement was abounding. The sermon that Peter shared stirred the hearts of the people and more than 3,000 souls were saved. Acts 2:43-47 tells how the people were in "awe and wonder", "those who had believed were together", "with one mind" and most important "praising God and having favor with all people". Their focus was not on individuals but on Jesus. The common focus on our Lord Jesus and being in one mind is essential for the prosperity of any church. I ask that you ponder on these things and pray for Piney Grove and the leadership of your church.

In Loving Memory...

Our wonderful new playground is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Danny Dickens who served at Piney Grove as an Usher and a Deacon. He loved working in the AWANA program with the children. When he died in 2011 the playground was built in his memory, and we have updated it and want to continue to preserve his memory.

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Women's Ministry

- Michelle Helms

I am so excited with all that the women's ministry is planning and doing. This month, PGBC women's ministry fed the Harris County sheriff's office, all 4 shifts and office staff. I want to say thank you to all that helped make this happen. We will have ladies night out on July 16th @6:30 at my house. We are having bingo night with a potluck dinner. If you would love to become a part of this fun-loving group, please let me know.

Michelle Helms

706-604-9833

Sunday School

- Bruce Moore

(706) 341-7575

bruce.moore3@charter.net

Happy July to our Piney Grove Church Family.

Our Sunday School program appears to be growing slowly each Sunday. But there is always room for more growth.

Sunday School is a great place to learn and fellowship with other members of the program.

As we continue to grow, we need a teacher for an adult class for parents with school aged children. By starting this class, it will increase the number in our Children's Sunday School department. Please let me know if you are interested teaching/facilitating a class. I will be happy to help you get started.

If you have any questions, please feel free contact me. I look forward to seeing you at Piney Grove Baptist Church every Sunday School morning at 9:45 AM.

Outreach

- Pam Carlisle

The outreach committee has a visitor's sign in book on the table in the foyer.

It is our hope that visitors will sign their information in so we can visit and give them information on the church. We will also have a sign-up sheet for greeters on that table. We would like to have greeters of all ages at each door before each Sunday service. Pam Carlisle is making a tri-board that will display the ministries of the church for visitors to see where they can plug in at Piney Grove. That will be displayed in the foyer of the church.

Children's Ministries

- Cheri Corser

Vacation Bible School 2021

Destination Dig was a wonderful success. Mrs. Emilie really knows how to organize a great event. She recruited an army of volunteers, and we all came together and provided a wonderful ministry to our children and community. Seeds have been planted, fruit is blossoming, and lives were touched as a result. If you were not able to participate, come on to Piney Grove any Sunday or Wednesday and get involved. Dig into the Word by fellowshipping and serving with us.

Camp Hosana

Have you heard about our group of children that attended Camp Hosanna the week before VBS? Well, they not only made some great memories, but they spent a week learning about God's word. We rejoice that some of our own made the decision to accept God's gift of forgiveness and dedicate their life to following Him. HOSANNA!

Playground

We have been blessed with a wonderful new playground. This will be utilized mostly by the children in pre-school to about 1st grade but is available for older children too. Adults should always check for wasps and hazards before allowing the children to play. Children should always be supervised on the playground.

Fruitylicious!

We continue to have fun practicing the fruit of the Spirit while playing games. Check out the Piney Grove Facebook page to see pictures. Wednesday July 14, we will enjoy some water fun during Fruitylicious. Plan to wear t-shirt and shorts and water shoes or flip flops so we can enjoy water squirters, slip and slide, sprinkler games, etc. We will also enjoy eating watermelon! I could use some extra help that evening so please let me know if you would like to help.

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Hospitality

- Marilyn Buice

We had a wonderful GOSPEL SING and HOMEMADE ICE CREAM Sunday night! Thank you for the great turn out and thanks to those who shared their talent with us! We have many more talented singers/musicians, and we are looking forward to hearing some of them at the next Gospel Sing! What a treat it was to have a guest singer/songwriter Mark Vann, nephew of Ronnie & Jacque Childs. We even had guests from Thomaston, Georgia and we look forward to being invited to events at their church (Thomaston, Georgia - Riverbend Catfish Restaurant - road trip!).

We are always open to ideas to get our church family together and at the same time have an event to for our community to enjoy. However, remember that hospitality involves much more than fun events. Definition: "Hospitality is the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers." We should treat everyone, members, and non-members, as a guest at our church... make a point to meet people you do not know, welcome visitors at our services, invite new neighbors to our services or events, and check on members you have not seen at church recently.

I FOUND THIS AND LOVE IT – it is a reminder of how we, as

a church family, can show hospitality. We do this at our homes when we have guests over – we should extend the idea to our church.

How to Show Hospitality Without a Perfect Home

1. Keep your home in good shape, whenever possible. (There is always something around the church that needs to be done)
 2. When you have advance notice do a bit of extra tidying. (We always have a little extra housekeeping to do before Easter & Homecoming)
 3. Have some welcoming touches. (Beautiful flower arrangements in the sanctuary and wreaths on the doors are always inviting)
 4. Have something to offer your guests. (Visitor bags)
- Remember it is not about your home. (It is about the fellowship of friends and family)
5. Remember it's not about your home. (It is about the fellowship of friends and family)

Plans are being made for Homecoming (October 3rd). We will have a Hospitality committee meeting on Monday, July 19th at 6:00. Please put this date on your calendar and I will also send a reminder. If you are not on the hospitality committee but would like to help in some way with the plans for food and/or decorating or have any ideas to share regarding Homecoming, we would love to have you at the meeting.

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Children's Choir

- Joy Solomon

If you missed our Spring program of Kids Praise, it is still available to watch on YouTube, Piney Grove Baptist Church Hwy 315 Live Stream, May 23. In Children's Choir we have two goals - give God all the glory and make a joyful noise. During the summer, Mrs. Cheri does Fruitylicious from 6:30 to 7:30. Choir and Missions will return on Wednesday, August 18th. All children from 3 years old to 6th grade are welcome.

Wednesday Night Suppers

- Joy Solomon

We will return to our regular suppers on Wednesday, August 18th. There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers for clean-up crews. Please consider volunteering - the more volunteers we have, we can spread out clean-up duty. We also welcome all volunteers wanting to help cook - it really is a wonderful time of fellowship. As requested, (hopefully) we will kick-off the dinners with Poppy Seed Chicken - you're welcome! Cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 6 to 12, kids under 5 are free, and a family max of \$15.00. If you have not joined us yet for dinner, give us a try - it's a great time of fellowship - and good food cheap!

Loaves of Love

- Joy Solomon

What do you get when you gather a group of ladies in the church kitchen baking pound cake loaves? A lot of talking, a lot of laughing, a lot of "Loaves of Love." We have baked over 250 mini loaves and pound cake which we delivered to our widows, those who have been hospitalized, those affected by Covid, cancer, surgeries, just needing a lift. We have delivered to the Sheriff's department, a fire station, neighbors, and even stood on the corner of 315 and River Road and given to those driving by. This has become a ministry to those in our church needing a lift, as well as an outreach. You do not have to bake to join us - just come and enjoy the fellowship and time together.

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Healing and Restoring Hearts

- Charlotte Bush,

Coordinator of the Healing and Restoring Hearts Ministry

Greetings! Our ministry hosted an

event in June which consisted of our widows participating in a craft that Lain Stowe provided (see attached photos) and a lunch. There were 10 total in attendance and our widows are continuing to enjoy the time of fellowship with each other.

Our next scheduled event, "Singspiration" (aka a gospel sing), is planned for July 10th, starting at 10

a.m. We are inviting the church family to attend this special event. We have several musicians lined up to perform including but not limited to: Nick Cummings, the Men's Trio, the Lady's Trio, Karen Ferguson and many more. Come worship with us!

We will be taking up a love offering to help our local women's shelter.



Additional Information

If you would like to see additional information in the newsletter, please email
newsletter.pgbc@gmail.com.

If you would like to receive future copies of the newsletter via email, please email
newsletter.pgbc@gmail.com.

In the near future, our aim is to provide the newsletter on a revamped website and phone app. The goal is to provide comprehensive information, calendars, notifications and much more! More information will be coming your way soon!