

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

Address Service Requested



«Name»

«Address»

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God's Word is Eternally Trustworthy

During the 1940s, my grandfather Billy Graham spent a significant amount of time traveling across postwar Europe sharing the hope of Jesus with Youth For Christ. During this period, he often ministered alongside a gifted young evangelist named Charles Templeton. My grandfather and Mr. Templeton became as close as brothers as they co-labored in ministry. By 1949, however, their relationship was at a crossroad.

Mr. Templeton, who had begun to question the authority and inerrancy of the Scripture during his studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, tried to convince my grandfather that his views on the Bible were old-fashioned and unreliable. "Billy, you're 50 years out-of-date," Mr. Templeton said. "People no longer accept the Bible as being inspired the way you do."

But, a very Biblically focused Christian leader named Henrietta Mears was countering those arguments, impressing upon my grandfather that "all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Ultimately, my grandfather submitted himself wholly to the Bible, accepting it by faith as God's Word. From that moment on, God used him to reach hundreds of millions of people with the Gospel. I was reminded of my grandfather's dilemma while I visited with a colleague and heard his story. He shared that the rising secularism in the world and in our country has brought a rift in his family. As the world has become darker and more anti-Christian, my colleague has found his anchor in the Bible. He clings to it, is strengthened by it and matures in it.

Meanwhile, he has watched as many members of his family—years removed from attending church, and not rooted in Scripture—have become evangelists for this ungodly age, blown about by the winds of societal change. Though they still call themselves Christians, they are indistinguishable from the world, mocking the very followers of Jesus that they claim to be. The world has changed drastically since 1949, but the challenges to the authority of Scripture remain the same, if not more. My grandfather held closely to the Bible, while his friend Charles Templeton questioned and attacked it. My colleague has rooted his faith in the Holy Scripture, while his family members have walked away from it.

Of course, if the issue is the same, the answer is also the same. If you are going to grow in your faith, and stand firm against the anti-Christian movement that is spreading across our country, you need to be immersed in the Bible.

Saturating yourself in God's Word will help you to:

Be transformed. Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." There are only two options for those who call upon Christ as Savior. Either we're being transformed by the renewing of our mind (which comes through prayer and anchoring ourselves in Scripture), or we're being conformed by the persistent draw of today's culture. Please understand, if you are neglecting time in the Word, you are instead being shaped by the world. Be transformed, not conformed.

Discern truth from lies. In John 8:44, Jesus was confronting the Pharisees when He said of Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." That statement may ring more clearly today than in any other moment in human history. We live in a deceptive age, where right is called wrong, and wrong is called right. Many who claim to be followers of Jesus are quick to say "The Bible says this," or "The Bible doesn't say that," misrepresenting the Word and leading others astray. In doing so, they expose either their ignorance (at best) or their lies (at worst). Don't fall for it! Spend time in Scripture and know what it says, so that you are able to distinguish truth from lies.

Stand. It's interesting that in Ephesians 6, as the Apostle Paul is writing about the "whole armor of God," he uses the term *stand* repeatedly. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to *stand* against the schemes of the devil ... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to *withstand* in the evil day, and having done all, to *stand* firm. *Stand* therefore ..." (Ephesians 6:11, 13-14). What's the opposite of standing? Falling. Make no mistake, the days are evil, and people all around us are falling for the schemes of the devil. As you immerse yourself in God's Word, your faith and understanding of God's perfect nature is being built up and strengthened so you can stand firm.

Be encouraged and victorious. If your eyes are fixed on the world, you will find despair. That much is clear. It seems that the darkness is winning every day, and it's easy to become discouraged. However, if your eyes are fixed on the truths of Scripture, you will see the world through a different lens—one of eternal victory, regardless of temporary circumstances. You will understand that "everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4). Though we live in a dark age, where we see friends and family members pulled away by the winds of the world, it doesn't have to be that way in our own lives. Indeed, we can grow and be strengthened during this difficult time. It starts with the true, inerrant, infallible Word of the Most High God. Dig into Scripture and stand firm for His glory.

God's Blessings January 1, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$6,547.00
Lottie Moon:	\$785.00
Worship Attendance:	176

God's Blessings January 8, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$6,851.00
Lottie Moon:	\$335.00
Sunday School:	100
Worship Attendance:	170

God's Blessings January 15, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$4,552.00
Lottie Moon:	\$260.00
Sunday School:	102
Worship Attendance:	188

God's Blessings January 22, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$3,864.00
Lottie Moon:	\$50.00
Sunday School:	87
Worship Attendance:	156

God's Blessings January 29, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$3,043.00
Lottie Moon:	\$795.00
Sunday School:	101
Worship Attendance:	184

Tri-C for February: Flour (small bags) **Donations:** \$30, 16 Pounds

Ark Meal for February 21: Todd & Debbie Garner
All the upcoming months are spoken for! Way to go PRBC!

High Spirits Meeting: Monday, February 6th @ 6:00 PM.

Youth trip to Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters: We had so much fun at SWO last year that we have decided to do it again! We will leave on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 24 and return on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 26. For info on this weekend, go to www.swoutfitters.com, click on "programs", and then "Youth Winter Retreats". Please sign up in the vestibule.

Foster and Adoption Ministry Event: Anyone that is interested in learning more about how they can support the ministries of foster care and adoption is invited to an informational event in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, March 3rd at 6pm. We will serve a meal and child care will be provided. We will have multiple speakers including a rep from Wilkes County DSS. Please sign up in the vestibule as soon as possible so we can make proper preparations for meals.

LifeLine Volunteer Training: Make a difference in lives by empowering women and couples to choose life! Partner with LifeLine Pregnancy Help Center to create a culture of life in our community. We need passionate people to join us in our mission to protect life and reach those we serve with the Love of Christ. Will you "Be the One"? We will help you get prepared for the journey by providing a volunteer training. If interested, go to www.lifelinehelps.org, click on the get involved tab "individual". You will need to call us at 336-526-4033 or email sunshine@lifelinehelps.org to get registered for class. Cost is \$35. Sat. March 11, 13, 14. Please see the flyers in the vestibule for more detail. SPACE IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY!

Blood Drive: Pleasant Ridge will be having its annual blood drive on Thursday, April 13th from 2:00 until 6:30. In order to give blood on that date, **please do not donate after February 16th**. If you want to make an appointment, go online to schedule an appointment or call Pat at 336-366-0422. Thank you in advance for giving life saving blood.

Member Update: It is time for PRBC to update member contact information. This can be done one of two ways: log on to the Church Connect App to update your information or update the printed list located in the vestibule. Please fill in all information as listed - we need birthdays and emails too! Also, check your family members and any shut ins who are not able to attend and edit if possible. If you see someone's name listed who is attending another church, please let us know so they can be contacted. Thanks for keeping PRBC membership current!

Tithing Envelopes: We are still waiting for our order. Please keep in mind that the Church Connect app is available for your online offerings.

January 2023 Business Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday January 18, 2023, Pastor John Newton, moderator, called Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church into conference. There were 40 people in attendance.

The minutes from November/December 2022 were presented and approved with a motion to accept the minutes from Roger Spicer and a second from Bill Hanks. No discussion. Motion carried.

The financial report from November 2022 and December 2022 was presented and approved with a motion to accept the report from Matt Settle and a second from Steve Martin. Discussion: the question was asked why multiple line items were listed as "over budget". Examples of the Benevolence Committee, Stone's Throw, and Secretary were given. The suggestion was also made that the secretary/treasurer should be present at business meetings to answer questions. Another question was asked regarding where the money that belongs to the Baptist Men was located on the financial report. Answer given that it was on the last sheet and if something needed to be purchased by the Baptist Men, it should be discussed at their monthly meeting and not at the churchwide business meeting. Will seek answers from the secretary/treasurer. Motion carried.

The average Sunday School attendance for November 2022 was 107 and December 2022 was 99. The Teacher Appreciation Lunch will be held on Sunday, January 22.

It is time to update member contact information. There is a report in the vestibule that you can update with current contact information, birthdate, and email addresses, or you can log on to the connect app to update your information.

The signs as voted on in the December business meeting are in process of being made. There remains a need for an additional deacon to be added to the current board. Please give names of men who are willing to serve to any current deacon ASAP.

The faucet in the large sink in the fellowship hall has been replaced.

Make sure you are asking for more money for your committees as needed and allowing the church to vote to meet these needs.

The church is waiting for an appraisal on the church bus after the accident that occurred last year.

The secretary's job description is being finalized. The Personnel Committee is working on a master presentation that will be presented to the church soon.

Nine food boxes were distributed during the holiday season to families in need by the Mission Team. Groceries and Christmas gifts were taken to a single mother and her five children. A world map has been ordered so our church can track where our OCC shoe boxes are distributed. There was an NCBAM informational meeting held at the Associational office on 1/12 for anyone interested. This is a very informative meeting on how to minister to the aging population in our community. Ridgefest, and a trip to the children's home in Thomasville are currently being planned.

The Ark meal was prepared on 1/17/23 by Brandon and Regina Davis.

The dates for Vacation Bible School 2023 are June 11-15. An interest meeting will be planned at a later date.

The monthly Sisters in Christ meeting will be held at Cindy Cochran's house on 1/19 at 6:30 pm.

The Senior Saints have a Pinto Bean and Bingo Fellowship scheduled for 1/24/23 at 11:30am in the fellowship hall. Please sign up in the vestibule or on the connect app.

Secretary Dana Easton has resigned her position. The final exit date is 3/23/23. Please be in prayer about filling this vacant position.



PRBC, WELCOME TO CHURCHTRAC CHURCH CONNECT APP!

Churchtrac Church Connect App: Church Connect is designed to be the hub of communication between members and staff. By interacting with your ChurchTrac database, Church Connect gives PRBC the ability to connect by submitting forms, registering for events, recording their attendance and more! Once you scan the code it will open an app on your phone. Online access: prbc.churchtrac.com. Please see Gala or Kevin for more info.



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