

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

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LOVING WITHOUT HYPOCRISY

JOHN MACARTHUR

Music, movies, and social media all contribute to shaping the world's view of love. It is regularly confused with lust and usually driven by the quest to gratify our own selfish desires. As Christians we need to recognize the hypocrisy of that worldly mindset. The defining quality of God's love is that He set aside what rightfully belongs to Him in order to benefit those who rightly deserve His judgment and have no right to ask for anything. (Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:1-8)

New Testament Greek uses the word AGAPE to describe that kind of love. It is completely unselfish, perfectly by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. He demonstrated His great love by suffering God's wrath as a righteous substitute for sinners who deserved that wrath (Romans 5:8)- the ultimate selfless act. His call on us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23) reveals why AGAPE love is the greatest virtue of the Christian life. The authenticating mark of our Christianity, before an unbelieving world, is our love for other believers. Jesus affirmed this when He said; "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). But what does this kind of love look like? A brief survey of the **one anothers** in the New Testament gives an excellent picture. We are commanded to: Build up one another (Romans 14:19); serve one another (Galatians 5:13); bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2); be subject to one another (Ephesians 5:21); forgive one another (Colossians 3:13); teach one another (Colossians 3:16); comfort one another: 1 Thessalonians 4:18); rebuke one another (Titus 1:13); encourage one another to do good (Hebrew 10:24-25); confess our sins to one another (James 5:16); pray for one another (James 5:16); and be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9-10).

That type of love was rare in pagan Greek literature because the traits AGAPE portrays-unselfishness, forgiving, willful devotion, concern for the welfare of others- were mostly disdained in ancient Greek culture as signs of weakness. However, the New Testament declares AGAPE to be the character trait around which all others revolve. The apostle John writes, "God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). Jesus Himself attaches great importance to love in His answer to the Jewish lawyer:

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord our God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40). It therefore makes sense that the first "fruit of the Spirit is love" (Galatians 5:22), and that love for other believers is the primary way people will know that we are believers (John 13:35).

AGAPE love is so much a part of personal holiness that John asserts, "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death" (1 John 3:14).

A person who does not demonstrate real love in his life is not a believer. Without love we cannot presume to have eternal life, much less be a person of integrity.

God's Blessings March 5, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$9757.00
Sunday School:	96
Worship Attendance:	172

God's Blessings March 12, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$3871.00
Sunday School:	87
Worship Attendance:	154

God's Blessings March 19, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$5365.00
Online offering:	\$195.70
Sunday School:	108
Worship Attendance:	178

God's Blessings March 26, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$4525.00
Annie Armstrong Offering:	\$2245.00
Sunday School:	103
Worship Attendance:	167

Tri-C for April: canned meat

Ark Meal for April: Melinda and Chelsea Cockerham

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICE APRIL 5

April 6: 7 pm. We will partake in The Lord's Table in preparation for Easter.

April 9: 7 am "Son"Rise Service & breakfast

Bridal Shower: Abby Reeves and Alston Smith, April 15, 2-4 pm in the fellowship hall. The couple is registered at Amazon and Target.

Blood Drive: Pleasant Ridge will be having its annual blood drive on Thursday, April 13th from 2:00 until 6:30. If you want to make an appointment, go online to schedule or call Pat Luffman 336-366-0422. Thank you in advance.

EV Association Senior Adult Revival: April 17 & 18. 11-12 noon both days with meal provided. April 17th will be hosted by Macedonia Baptist Church and the 18th is hosted by Poplar Springs. Our Pastor John will be speaking on the 17th. Come join this revival and support our pastor.

Ridgefest: April 22, 10 am-2 pm @ Thurmond Community Center. Join us for a fun filled community service day. Games, food, music, and crafts for all!

Little Miss Proverbs 31, a program for young ladies to help them develop all the attributes that of a Proverbs 31 woman, had their first meeting this past month. The girls prepared their own dinner, rehearsed their table manners, enjoyed a lesson in modesty from Abby Reeves, completed a sewing project (pictured below) and finished off the night with a little dancing with Tybee Sikes. Look for more to come from this group!



Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church March 2023 Business Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday March 15, 2023, PRBC entered into conference. There were 48 people in attendance.

The minutes from February were presented and approved. Suggestion made that on the called business meeting portion of the previous month's meeting, a note needed to be added that a 2/3 majority was required for the vote to pass. Information added as requested. Motion carried.

The financial report from February was presented and approved. Discussion: question asked why there is a service charge? Answer given that from a business standpoint, banks charge for all their processing and this is standard practice. Noted items on the report from Chris Reeves: some of the funds are showing overages because they are paid out one time a year and should be reflected monthly. This protocol will change when the new secretary begins. Question asked why the mileage charge was so high for the secretary. Answer that it was for the conference and none had come out in January. Motion carried.

The average Sunday School attendance for February was 97. The Adult classes are continuing their study in the book of John.

Update on the Connect App: Be sure you are using the app to sign up for events. If you need to receive information regarding sign ups, please let Gala know and an account will be set up for you so sign ups come directly to your email. If you are interested in receiving text announcements, sign up on connect. Explanation for fees regarding online giving— card donations cost 2.9% of the transaction amount while bank transactions only cost 25 cents per transaction. Online giving users can choose to cover the 2.9% processing fee. The PRBC apparel store is available through March 31. There is a flier in the vestibule or link on connect. See Gala for questions or help signing up.

Deacons: The church signs have been installed. The evaluation process continues in the search to fill the deacon vacancy.

Building/Grounds: Two estimates have been obtained for repairs to the stained glass windows in the Youth building. Should be ready to present a recommendation next month.

Van Committee: The insurance company is offering to count the bus as a total loss and pay the church \$22,00 for it. Recommendation that this offer be accepted, that this money be placed into the future vehicle fund. Discussion from the floor that the name needs to be removed from the bus before it is turned over to the insurance company. Motion made to accept these recommendations by Melanie Davis. Second by Roger Wooten. Motion carried.

Nomination Committee: The committee is recommending Kacie Sparks to be added to the teller committee. There is also an opening in the toddler room on Wednesday evenings. Motion made to add Kacie Sparks by Chris Reeves with a second by Mitch Callaway. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee continues to meet regularly. Share the need for the secretary/treasurer position with your friends and family.

Mission Team: The team continues to meet every two weeks for planning of events. Upcoming events: Ridgefest is planned for April 22. Please be meeting with your teams to prepare for this event. A visitation will be scheduled before the event. InAsMuch is being planned as a summer event.

Ark Meals: The entire year has been filled with volunteers for this monthly ministry. Todd and Debbie provided the meal last month for 22 residents. Pastor John and Cindy will provide March's meal.

The Men's Conference is scheduled for April 1. Invite your friends. The theme for this year's bible school is "Keepers of the Kingdom." The dates are June 11-15. A meeting will be scheduled soon to begin preparing for this event.

The monthly Sister in Christ meeting was held in the fellowship hall March 23, 6:30 pm. The Little Miss Proverbs 31 meeting for young girls was March 24, 6-10 pm.

The PRKids children are transitioning to a larger space for their classes.

The High Spirits March mission project was to provide hygiene items to Geri Gilliam's class at C.B. Eller. The guidance counselor is completing this project on her behalf. The annual Blood Drive is scheduled for April 13 from 2-6pm. Please sign up. 44 people have signed up to donate blood. Sign up in vestibule or on the connect app.

The Senior Saints had a trip to the pottery stores in Seagrove on 3/21.

A revival meeting has been scheduled for April 30-May 3 with Rev. Randy Fair. Pray for a meeting to be held where revival breaks out!

Ron Cochran asked about the process of searching for a new bus or van. This task is usually completed by the van committee.

Mitch Callaway made a motion that we adjourn the conference, with a second by Bill Hanks. Motion carried.