

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

1997 Pleasant Ridge Road

State Road, N.C. 28676

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March 1, 2023

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Billy Graham: The Door is Still Open

We do not know at what hour the Lord Jesus is coming back. But we are told in Scripture that there will be signs pointing toward the return of the Lord. I believe that we see those signs in the world today, and I believe that the coming of the Lord is near.

The Bible tells us, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ... Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:36, 42). We read in the Scriptures about Noah and the flood. It was the greatest catastrophe in the history of the world. Scripture says that the flood destroyed everything. The importance of Noah and the flood is emphasized by the many references in the Bible. The flood was both a warning and a promise. God warned that He would not always strive with man. Then He made a covenant with Noah and his sons that He would never again destroy the world by flood, and He gave the rainbow as a promise. The Apostle Peter wrote that in Noah's day "the world that then existed perished" (2 Peter 3:6). But he also wrote that "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). The world is under the partial control of the devil. He is called "the god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). This is the age of evil, and God says it's so terrible and so awful that He has to destroy it. Let us look at man's condition at the time of the flood. The Bible tells us that the people gloried in sin; they loved it. Jesus said, "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). Today, every form of perversion recorded in human history is being practiced on an even greater scale. In Noah's day, the world was filled with violence. And today we see films in which people are doing all kinds of terrible things. Listen to some of the conversations on talk shows. As some of those people are expressing themselves, we can't believe that human nature has sunk so low. God said He will judge the world. God is still a God of love, but He is also a God of judgment. He is going to judge the world, and He is going to judge you, unless you repent of your sins and receive Christ into your heart.

The Bible says there is a limit to God's patience: "The Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever'" (Genesis 6:3). He said there was a time limit for the people of Noah's day. The flood was not a natural catastrophe. It was a moral catastrophe. It came as a result of God's judgment on the attitudes and actions of the people in the world of that time. God has set a time limit for our day as well. God has "appointed a day on which He will judge the world ... by the Man whom He has ordained" (Acts 17:31). That Man is Jesus Christ. We don't know when it will happen, but Jesus said the hour is coming. Today the Holy Spirit is at work showing you your spiritual need. The Scripture says, "When [the Holy Spirit] has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). We are not on trial. The trial is over. We have already been found guilty in the sight of God. We are not being tried. The court is finished. The jury has said, "You are guilty." The penalty is death—spiritual death and physical death.

What can we do?

We have to make a choice. We have to make a personal commitment to Christ. We can't go on our mother's faith or on our father's faith. We can't go on the faith of the church. We can be baptized, we can be confirmed, we can live a decent life and still not know Christ, still not be saved. On the other hand, we may come from families with no Christian background or influence. We don't have to have Christian parents to come to Christ by faith. Either way, we come just as we are. The Scripture says, "Whoever will, may come" (see Revelation 22:17). Noah was a righteous man. He was a kind man. He did things that were right in the sight of God. "Noah walked with God" (Genesis 6:9). He was a man of faith. He feared the Lord. In his life there was obedience to God. So God came to Noah and told him His plan. He said, "Noah, I am going to cause it to rain 40 days and 40 nights. The flood will destroy the whole world, because the world has become so wicked" (Cf. Genesis 7:4). God gave him all the specifications to build an ark. It would have one window. It would be designed to float, not to navigate. There would be no sails. It wouldn't capsize. Noah started building the ark, and as Noah built the ship, his work was a sermon to the people of that day: "Repent, believe. Let God come into your heart. Let God take control of your life. Come into the ark and be saved." But no one repented. Then one day God said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household" (Genesis 7:1).

The Bible says a great deal about entire families coming to Christ. The Philippian jailer was saved with his entire household. The entire household of Cornelius, the Roman centurion, was saved. That could be true in your family too. You may be the one who could lead your family to Christ. If you take your stand for Christ, they may come to Him, too. God told Noah to come into the ark, along with a male and female of every kind of animal. Noah went into the ark, and nothing happened. This must have been the greatest test of his faith. People outside were probably laughing. Maybe they came from miles around to see the folly of Noah. He had told everybody that it was going to rain. He told them that God was going to destroy the whole world with water. They didn't believe it. This tested Noah's faith, but He believed, in spite of what the people said: "By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household" (Hebrews 11:7).

No one could ever say, "We didn't know the flood was coming," because they had heard Noah's preaching. God had extended His love and mercy and righteousness in every possible way, but they had rejected it. The Scripture says that one day God shut the door (see Genesis 7:16). Noah didn't shut it; God did. And one day God will shut the door as far as we are concerned: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24). Today you can pass from death to life. You can be saved from that which is yet to come. The Scripture says that Christ will come back, and every eye shall see him. A day will come when Christ will return, and there will be the Judgment. Eternity will be before you: Heaven or hell. You will be in one of them, according to the choice that you make about Jesus Christ. God said, "Come into the ark, you and all your household" (Genesis 7:1), a personal invitation to Noah. And Noah acted on it. And it's a personal invitation to us to come to God—come to the cross, come to the empty tomb.

Noah was shut in; God had shut the door. Noah's salvation was totally up to God. "Look!" someone yelled. And there was a cloud, no bigger than a man's hand; and the cloud grew and it grew and it grew. And finally, the waters came—a torrential downpour. The earth also broke up, and great floods came out of the earth. And people began to cry, "Let us in, let us in, let us in! We were wrong. We repent. Please let us in!" But it was too late. The only door was shut! There is only one Door to Heaven, and that is Jesus. I am glad to tell you that Door is still open. Jesus said, "I am the door" (John 10:9). In Revelation 4:1 we read, "I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was ... saying, 'Come up here.'"

Are you ready for that Day that is certain to come? We don't know when it will be, but we should be ready at any moment. Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42). **Are you ready? You can make sure today. You ask, "What do I have to do?" Three things: First, repent of your sins. To repent means to change, to turn to God and say, "I'm sorry I've sinned."**

Second, come to Christ by faith. You may never understand all about salvation, or all about God, or all about the Bible, but you can come by simple, childlike trust and put your faith in Jesus Christ.

Third, be willing to obey God as best you can. You can't live the Christian life by yourself, but the Holy Spirit will come into your heart and help you to obey God. I can't live the Christian life without the daily help of the Holy Spirit. And even then, sometimes I fail. But the Holy Spirit helps me, and God forgives my sins and my failures. He can do the same for you, if you will let Him. Today you can make your commitment to Christ. ©1992 BGEA

God's Blessings February 5, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$7,774.00
Sunday School:	101
Worship Attendance:	178

God's Blessings February 12, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$7,986.00
Sunday School:	90
Worship Attendance:	119

God's Blessings February 19, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$3,883.00
Cemetery:	\$100.00
Sunday School:	93
Worship Attendance:	175

God's Blessings February 26, 2023

Budget Needs:	\$7,486.20
Budget Receipt:	\$5,346.00
Online Giving for Feb:	\$3,539.00
Online Lottie Moon:	\$450.00
Sunday School:	105
Worship Attendance:	165

Tri-C for March: Shampoo Donations:

Ark Meal for March 21: Pastor John & Cindy

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.

Ridgefest Meeting: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Sunday, Mar. 5th directly after Worship service there will be a planning meeting for Ridgefest 2023. This meeting will be brief and organized so as to not keep you long and we will provide light snacks to hold you over until your lunch. Please join us to see how you can help in this outreach to our local area. See Annette for more.

Bridal Shower: Honoring Lydia Cook and Matthew Tharpe on Sunday, March 5 at 2-4pm in the PRBC Fellowship Hall. The couple is registered at Amazon & THEKNOT.com/LYDIAANDMATTHEWWEDDINGDAY.

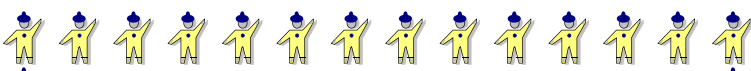

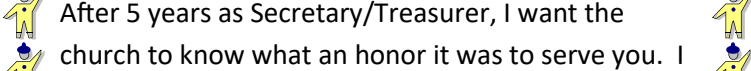
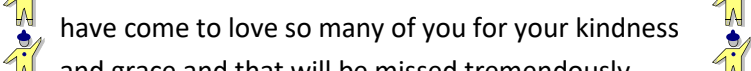
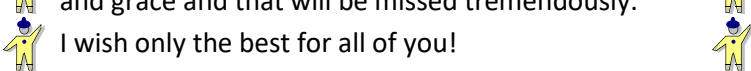
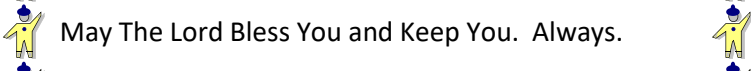
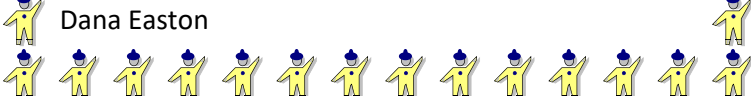
Widow's & Widower's Dinner: March 18, 4pm. Info to come.

Chili Cookoff & Cake Auction: CALLING ON ALL COOKS!! Wed. night Mar. 22at 6pm there will be a Chili Cookoff & Cake Auction. All proceeds will go to kickoff our Annie Armstrong offering for Home Missions. We need people to cook chili, provide desserts for that evening meal and bakers for cakes to be auctioned. Please sign up in the vestibule or ChurchTrac. See Annette for more info.

Men's Conference: "The Man God Uses" My Purpose. SAVE THE DATE: Men please join us Sat. April 1 from 7am to 1pm, breakfast and lunch will be served. Pastors Danny Dodds & Chris Alford are speakers. Contact Mitch Callaway for more info.

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 an appointment or call Pat at 336-366-0422. Thank you in advance.

Ridgefest: April 22, info to come.


 Dear PRBC Members,

 After 5 years as Secretary/Treasurer, I want the church to know what an honor it was to serve you. I have come to love so many of you for your kindness and grace and that will be missed tremendously.

 I wish only the best for all of you!

 May The Lord Bless You and Keep You. Always.

 Dana Easton



Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church February 2023 Business Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday February 15, 2023, Pastor John Newton, moderator, called Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church into conference. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. The average Sunday School attendance for January was 99. The Adult classes are continuing their study in the book of John.

Update on the Connect App: 70 people have signed up for the app, and 22 are signed up to receive text messages in addition to the phone tree announcements. Continue to check the app for sign up sheets, announcements, events, and links to other websites such as wedding registries.

Update from Deacons: The widow/widower banquet is on March 18 at 4pm. The church signs are being installed. Two names have been submitted as deacon candidates.

Estimates are being obtained for repairs to stained glass windows in the Youth building.

The church is waiting for appraisal on the church bus. It is still driveable.

Personnel Committee discussion: Review of the information from the business meeting held on 2/8 with discussion.

The mission team continues to meet every two weeks for planning of events. Upcoming events: A Missions Rally is planned for February 23, Ridgefest is planned for April 22, a planning meeting will be held on March 5th immediately after the morning service, the Chili Cook-off and Cake Auction to benefit the Annie Armstrong Offering for Home Missions will be held on March 22, the church met the goal for the Lottie Moon Offering.

The entire year has been filled with volunteers for the monthly Ark Meal ministry.

A burn day on the new property behind the cemetery was held on February 12 by the Baptist Men.

The Wednesday night toddler class will be working on a missions project to collect food and fill the blessing box outside the church.

On 2/11, the High Spirits delivered throws to widows On Monday, they went to Stone's Throw to help assemble 160 food boxes. The Blood Drive is scheduled for April 13.

There is a need for more workers in the bereavement meal ministry. Please see Sue Blackburn if you are interested in signing up. We are doing well! Thank you for your continued support of the pastor and ministry. Be sure you are inviting people to church.

Sue Blackburn asked people to sign up for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast meal to prevent food waste. A signup sheet will be placed in the vestibule and on the Connect App.

Called Business Meeting

On Wednesday, February 22, 2023, a special business meeting was called to order by Pastor John Newton, moderator. There were 50 people in attendance. The stated business was to vote on two items that were brought before the church two weeks ago, and discussed at the regular business meeting on February 15: The revised job description for the secretary/treasurer AND a constitutional change allowing the church sec./treas to be a member of PRBC.

Discussion held before the vote. Once the discussion ended, a vote by raised hand was taken. Results of the vote were: 21 votes in favor of making the constitutional change, 14 votes to leave the constitution as is, 15 people who did not vote. The constitution will remain as currently written with no changes.

Announcement! Attention PRBC Family- we now offer ONLINE GIVING! This can be accessed through the Connect App. There are printed instructions in the vestibule to assist if needed.

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.



<https://prbc.churchtrac.com>