

MT. PLEASANT  
CHURCH  
4460  
LOBELIA  
ROAD,  
VASS, NC 28394  
910-245-7405

# MT. PLEASANT MESSENGER

**January, 2026**

## **NEW YEAR—SAME GOD!**

**“O taste and see that the LORD is good:  
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”**

**Psalm 34:8 KJV**

**Although we are going into a new year and everyone is trying to make better their lives, we know that God has been good and will continue to be good to each one of us!!!**

**Chandler Wilkes, Pastor**

**Mt. Pleasant Christian Church**

**Phone 910-245-7405 Text: 919-200-3216**

## **OFFICERS SERVING IN 2026**

### **DEACONS SERVING BEGINNING IN 2026**

**HAL ABSHIRE-  
THRU 2026  
910-783-9233**

**EARL WILLIAMS -  
THRU 2026  
770-639-5627**

**KENNY MACKEY -  
THRU 2027  
910-690-0386**

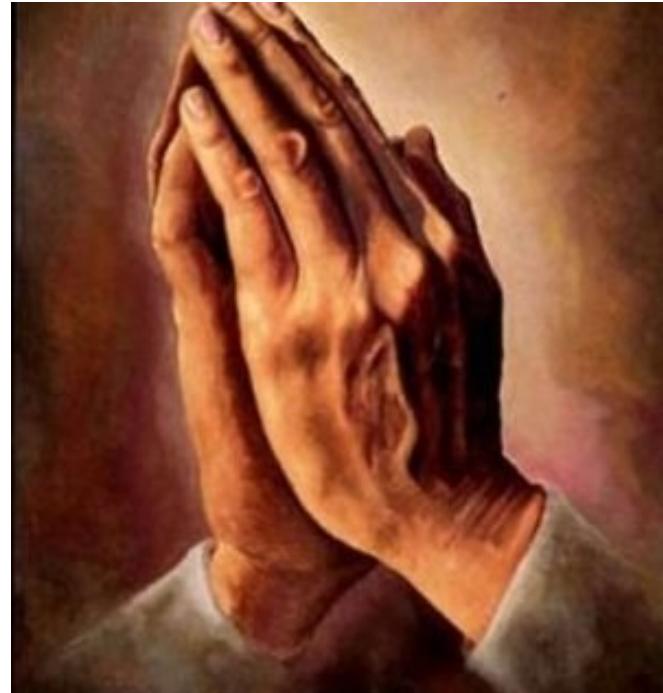
**ALLEN THOMPSON -  
THRU 2027  
910-695-5439**

**BEN HADDOCK  
THRU 2028  
919-907-9726**

**RYAN KRAMER  
THRU 2028  
910-695-8086**

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR  
BETH EVANS  
LARRY CAMERON  
TOMMY McKENZIE**

**MEMBER AT LARGE  
DENISE MORRIS GODFREY  
RICK HARRISON  
SHERRY CHATFIELD**



**Thank each of you  
who agreed to  
serve.  
Let God guide you  
as you serve!**

**LETTER OF THANKS FOR SHOE BOXES— BY: HAL ABSHIRE**

**December 26, 2025**

**I want to express my sincere gratitude for your incredibly generous support and contribution to our Christmas shoeboxes for our Military men and Women deployed during the Christmas Holidays.**

**Your thoughtful donations have made a tremendous difference. My goal has always been to ensure that our Service members know they are not forgotten during the holiday season and to provide a touch of comfort and cheer from home.**

**Because of your generosity, we were able to pack and ship a total of 393 shoeboxes! This makes a total of 5,828 shoeboxes since we have been doing this program. The items you provided will not only offer practical comfort but, more importantly, boost morale and remind our brave Troops that their sacrifice and service are valued and appreciated by the community back home.**

**I have received heartfelt messages from Military members about the impact these packages have had, with many service members noting how much these small acts of kindness lifted their spirits while they were away from their home and families during Christmas.**

**I am truly Blessed to have partners like you in our community. Your commitment to supporting those who serve our country is a shining example of compassion and true Patriotism!**

**Once again, THANK YOU for your unwavering support and kindness.**

**Respectfully,**

**Hal Abshire**



## **BACK TO THE FUTURE: BY DORIS MARKS** **REPRINTED FROM JANUARY 2007**

Monday morning, there was an unexpected knock on the door. I was a little slow in answering, since it was early in the morning and I was busy putting on my black-eyed peas and collards to cook. At first, I didn't see anyone there; but then, on closer inspection, I saw a basket on the steps, with a bundle in it. I ran to investigate and quickly realized that someone had left us a BABY! I yelled for Clarence, "Someone has made a terrible mistake; look what I've found on the steps!" Of course, we brought the little guy inside and did what we could to make him comfortable. I fretted and complained to Clarence, "What'll we do? We're too old to take care of this little baby!" "Don't worry," he said, "we'll call on the people at church to help us." You've probably already guess by now that the new baby's name is 2026 (2007 from the first printing). He's looking for a home, he wants to belong and be a part of something bigger than himself; he wants to feel included. He needs to participate in all our activities; he will love to perform in skits and plays; he will want to sing with the choir. If we love him enough, maybe he'll want to take a turn cutting the grass this summer. If we teach him the ways of the Lord, the Scripture says that when he is old, he will not depart from it. He is the future of Mt. Pleasant.

There's nothing more comfortable than feeling that you're a part of a wonderful family. We know this because of our biological families; and it's not a big stretch to enjoy our church family the same way. We can count on church family to support us when we're down to celebrate with us when we're up. Children need lots of encouragement from their church "aunts and uncles". Send them a card to let them know you appreciate them. Parents will appreciate knowing that their elders approve the great job they are doing. Let them know with a pat on the back and pray for them. Youth group leaders and Sunday School teachers are doing fantastic work for the future of Mt. Pleasant! We are so blessed to have the great young people in the church! And let's not forget the pastor; we need to remember that he's the only one in the congregation who does not have a pastor! We all need to tend to the needs of each other, because we're a family. Let's make that a resolution for Baby 2026! (2007 originally).

## **CLEANING HOUSE FOR 2026**

**Last week I threw out WORRYING, it was getting old and in the way.  
It kept me from being me; I couldn't do things God's way.**

**I threw out a book on MY PAST  
Didn't have time to read it anyway.**

**Replaced it with NEW GOALS,  
Started reading it today.**

**I threw out HATE AND BAD MEMORIES,  
Remember how I treasured them so?**

**Got me a NEW PHILOSOPHY, too,  
Threw out the one from long ago.**

**Brought in some new books, too,  
Called I CAN, I WILL, and I MUST.  
Threw out I MIGHT, I THINK and I OUGHT.  
WOW, you should've seen the dust.**

**I ran across an OLD FRIEND, I hadn't talked to in a while.  
His name is GOD the FATHER, and I really like His style.  
He helped me to do some cleaning and added some things Himself.  
Like PRAYER, HOPE, FAITH and LOVE,  
Yes, I placed them right on the shelf.**

**I picked up this special thing and placed it at the front door.**

**I FOUND IT—It's called PEACE. Nothing gets me down anymore.**

**Yes, I've got my house looking nice.  
Looks good around the place.  
For things like WORRY and TROUBLE  
There just isn't any space.**

**It's good to do a little house cleaning,  
Get rid of the things on the shelf.  
It sure makes things brighter;  
Maybe you should  
TRY IT YOURSELF.**

**BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING TO SOMEONE ELSE!**

## **A Christian Reflection on New Year's Day: By: Dennis Wright**

As another year comes to a close, many of us pause to reflect on what has passed and look forward with hope to what lies ahead. New Year's Day has become a time for resolutions, celebrations, and fresh beginnings, but its history—and its meaning for Christians—runs deeper than fireworks and calendars.

### **The Historical Roots of New Year's Day**

The celebration of the New Year stretches back thousands of years. Ancient Babylon marked the new year with spring festivals tied to planting and harvest cycles. Later, the Roman calendar originally began in March, but in 46 B. C. Julius Caesar reformed it, establishing January 1 as the start of the year. January was named after *Janus*, the Roman god of doorways and beginnings, often depicted with two faces—one looking back and one looking forward.

Over time, this civil tradition was adopted across much of the world. The Church, however, placed its own spiritual emphasis on the turning of the year. In medieval Europe, Christians often associated New Year's with the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ (celebrated on January 1, eight days after Christmas, according to Jewish custom). This reminded believers that the day was not about superstition or human traditions alone but about God's covenant and the coming of the Savior.

### **New Beginnings in Christ**

For Christians, the changing of the calendar is less about worldly rituals and more about spiritual renewal. Scripture reminds us that God is the true author of time.

- *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Psalm 90:12)
- *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

As we step into a new year, we are invited to look back with gratitude for God's faithfulness and forward with trust in His promises. Unlike the Roman god Janus, who could only look two ways, our faith teaches us to look upward—to Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (Revelation 22:13).

### **A Time for Reflection and Commitment**

Making resolutions at the New Year can be valuable, but Christians are called to more than self-improvement. We are called to surrender to God's transforming work in our lives. Instead of resolutions driven by willpower, we are reminded of commitments grounded in grace:

To grow in prayer and Scripture reading.

- To strengthen fellowship within the body of Christ.
- To serve others with the love of Christ.
- To seek holiness and set aside the sins of the past year.
- 

### **Moving into the New Year with Hope**

As we celebrate New Year's Day, let us not be swept away by the world's focus on parties and resolutions alone. Instead, let us remember the faithfulness of God in the year behind us and step into the year ahead with the assurance that He goes before us. May our prayer be like that of the psalmist:

*“You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance”* (Psalm 65:11)

The world celebrate New Year's Day as a fresh start, but Christians know that every day is a gift from the Lord. Let us use this season not just to look back and forward but to look upward, dedicating our days to Him who makes all things new.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. By: Dennis Wright  
*A Christian Reflection of Faith, Justice, and Love*

Each January, our nation pauses to remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. While many know him as a civil rights leader, Dr. King was first and foremost a Christian minister whose vision for justice flowed from his faith in Jesus Christ. Martin Luther King Jr Day is not only a national holiday but also a moment for the Church to reflect on what it means to live out the gospel in a broken and divided world.

### **The Christian Roots of Dr. King's Vision**

Dr. King was deeply influenced by the words of Scripture. He believed that the struggle for equality and justice was not merely a political cause but a spiritual calling. Echoing the prophets of the Old Testament, He declared with Amos: "*Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream*" (Amos 5:24).

He reminded America that God created all people in His image (Genesis 1:27) and that in Christ there is no division of race, class, or background: "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*" (Galatians 3:28)

For Dr. King, the fight against segregation and racism was inseparable from his call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **The Power of Nonviolence**

Dr. King championed nonviolent resistance, believing that love was stronger than hate. His conviction was rooted In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount:

*"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"* (Matthew 5:44)

In a time of hatred and hostility, Dr. King taught that the Christian response was not revenge but redemptive love. His dream was not simply for social change, but for hearts to be transformed by God's truth and love.

### **Why It Matters Today**

More than 50 years after Dr. King's life was cut short, the Church still bears responsibility to be a light in the world. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not only a reminder of what was accomplished but also a call to continue the work of reconciliation.

As Christians, we are called to:

- \* Stand for justice where there is no oppression.
- Build bridges where there is division.
- Live out Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

### **A Day to Reflect, Remember, and Act**

As we remember Dr. King, let us not only celebrate a historic figure but also recommit ourselves to the mission of Christ. The holiday is an invitation to examine our hearts, to repent of prejudice or indifference, and to seek the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)

Dr. King once said, "*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.*" As followers of Christ-the true Light of the world-we are called to shine in dark places with love, courage, and hope.

## Typical

*By Cowboy Poet: Waddie Mitcell—Provided by Dennis Wright*

Out on the cliff's edge, further than he'd ever been before  
He sat with legs a'danglin' high above the valley's floor.  
He was lost in thought while drinking in the grandeur of it all  
When a gust of wind unseated him and he began to fall.

In a drastic situation, he didn't dare think show,  
For certain death awaited in those rocky crags below.  
So he called upon a friend, I guess the only one he could,  
The one we all forget about when things are going good.

He said, "God, if you help me now, I'll quit my sinful ways,  
I'll do the things you'd have me do, I'll work hard all my days,  
I'll quit the booze and cigarettes, I'll help my loving wife,  
I'll spend time with my children, I'll turn around my life,  
I'll work to help the needy—I promise to repent!"

Just then a tree limb caught his coat and stopped his fast descent.  
And while hangin' from the tree that grew on that rocky shelf,  
He looked skyward sayin': "Never mind, I handled it myself."

We laugh, because it's funny: We sigh, because it's true.

## **Human Nature Hasn't Changed Much**

From the beginning, humanity has struggled with the temptation to take credit for what God  
Has done.

- When prayers are answered, we call it *luck*.
- When blessings come, we brag about hard work.
- When danger passes, we say it was "good timing".
- When healing comes, we thank medicine but forget the Maker of Life.
- And when god rescues us-quietly, invisibly-we often forget to even acknowledge Him.
  - Scripture gives us a sober reminder:

**"Every good and perfect gift is from above"—James 1:17**  
Even the branch that catches us in life is no accident.

## **We Call Out in Crisis, but Forget in Comfort**

Like the man in the poem, many people remember God clearly during the fall-  
But forget Him just as clearly once they feel safe again.

- \* When finances collapse, we pray.
- \* When relationships shatter, we seek God.
- \* When sickness strikes, we ask for healing.
- \* But when the paycheck arrives...
- \* or the marriage is restored....
- \* or the test comes back clean...

We quickly slip back into the illusion that *we* fixed everything.

**Typical, continued from the previous page: - Provided by Dennis Wright**

The Israelites did this repeatedly. After God parted the Red Sea, fed them manna, and led them with a pillar of fire, they still said:

“My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth.” - Deuteronomy 8:17  
God answered by reminding them that **every rescue, every blessing, every “lucky break” comes from His hand.**

**Gratitude Is a Mark of True Faith**

The humor in Mitchell’s poem becomes a spiritual warning:

**Do not forget Who save you when life steadies again.**

**Instead:**

- Thank Him for the branch
- 
- Thank Him for the unseen protections
- 
- Thank Him for the blessings you didn’t earn.
- 
- Thank Him for the mercies you never noticed.
- 
- Thank Him for the times you didn’t fall because He intervened before you even knew you were in danger.

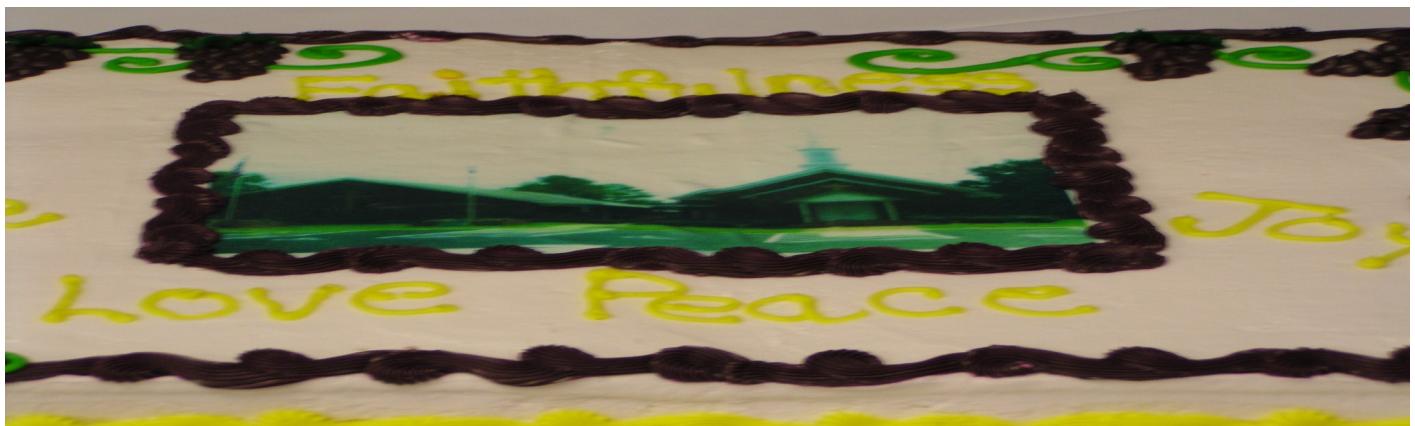
The Psalmist reminds us:

**“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”** - Psalm 103:2

Imagine if the man hanging from the branch looked up and said:

**“Thank you, Lord. You saved me!”**

How different our lives would be if that were always our response. May we be people who not only cry out to God in crisis, but also *praise Him* afterward—remembering that the branch beneath us is always held by His hand.



**PLEASANT PUPILS**  
**NEW BEGINNINGS WITH GOD**  
**BY: DENNIS WRIGHT**

Alex loved fresh starts—new notebooks, new crayons, new snow that covered everything in sparkly white. On the first day of the new year, he looked outside and whispered, “God, I want this year to be my best one yet!”

As he walked to church, he noticed a small path in the snow. It led toward a hill where the morning sun was shining bright. Alex imagined God saying, “Let’s walk this new path together!” He stepped onto the snowy trail, feeling excited. Each step reminded him that with God, he could start again, grow and try new things.

When he reached the top of the hill, he smiled. The world looked bright and full of possibilities—just like God’s plans for him!

**THE LESSON:** January is a time of new beginnings. God loves giving us fresh starts! No matter what last year looked like, God invites us into a new path filled with hope, learning, joy and His guidance.

**GOD’S PROMISE IS THIS:** When we follow Him, He leads us into good things, step by step.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “See, I am doing a new thing!... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” — Isaiah 43:19



## A New Year Gives Us A Time to Choose—Max Lucado said it best...

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is asleep. The day is coming. In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I am free to choose.

**I choose Love...No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.**

**I choose Joy...I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical...the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.**

**I choose Peace...I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.**

**I choose Patience...I will overlook the inconvenience of the world. Instead of cursing the one that takes my place, I will invite him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for the moment to pray. Instead of clinching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.**

**I choose Kindness...I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And Kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.**

**I choose Goodness...I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I accuse. I choose goodness.**

**I choose Faithfulness...Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their father will not come home.**

**I choose Gentleness...Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it only be in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it only be on myself.**

**I choose Self-Control...I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my Faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self control**

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.**

**If we at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church will just allow God to guide us and choose well then 2026 will be a wonderful year filled with God's Love for our church and everyone!**

**CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN**  
**By: Dr. Albert Simpson Rietz—provided by: Martha Blue**

I've had my first Christmas in Heaven:  
What a glorious, wonderful day!  
I stood with saints of the ages,  
Who found Christ, the Truth and the Way!

I sang with the heavenly choir  
Just think! I who long so to sing  
And oh, what celestial music  
We brought to our Savior and King.

We sang the glad songs of redemption,  
How God's Son to Bethlehem came,  
And how they called His name Jesus  
That all might be saved through His name.

We sang once again with the angels,  
The song that they sang that blessed morn.  
When shepherds first heard the glad story  
That Jesus, the Savior, was born.

Oh, how I wish you had been there!  
No Christmas on earth could compare  
With all the rapture and glory  
We witnessed in Heaven so fair!

You know how I always loved Christmas  
It seemed such a wonderful day,  
With all of my loved ones around me,  
The children so happy and gay.

Yes, now I can see why I loved it!  
And oh, what a joy it will be  
When you and my loved ones are with me,  
To share in the glories I see!

So, dear ones on earth here's my greeting:  
Look up till the day dawn appears,  
And oh, what a Christmas awaits us,  
Beyond all our partings and tears!

We have lost several loved ones this year at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church and we want to acknowledge all of them and their importance to our church family. We all grieve whether they are our biological family or our church family, we will miss them.

We look forward to another year of blessings as we grow into 2026.

Happy New Year and may you have a wonderful 2026 and beyond!

### DEATH IS TEMPORARY

**Death is nothing at all. It does not count. I have only slipped away into the next room. Nothing has happened. Everything remains exactly as it was. I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived together so fondly is untouched, unchanged. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by the old familiar name. Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolute and unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you, for an interval, some**

*Personal comment: I don't know that I agree with this but I thought some might agree so I put it in here. It's absolutely your choice to believe it or deny it. It's always your choice!*

**QUILT OF HOLES**  
**DEDICATED TO JOAN HENNINGS : Author unknown**

As I faced my Maker at the last judgement, I knelt before Lord with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined square of my life to the light.

An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then I looked upon the tapestry before. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships and My struggles.

Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you!

**MAY ALL YOUR QUILTS BE THREADBARE & WORN ALLOWING CHRIST TO SHINE!**



**QUILTERS:** Working hard on the quilt that they presented to Dan and Cecelia Smith as their remembrance gift. Needles flew with love and special care on this one.

**LEFT TO RIGHT: BACK ROW:** Brenda Smith, Joan Hennings, Effie Marks, Robert Page, Weldon Chilton, Doris Haynes, and Inez Hennings, **FRONT ROW:** Mildred Seagroves, Annie Page, and Margie McPherson

### **MT. PLEASANT QUILTING GUILD** **BY: JOAN HENNINGS (REPRINTED FROM OCTOBER, 2002)**

Our quilting guild has had our needles hot in the last few months. I don't know which has worked faster, our needles or our mouths, but I am sure good has from both or at least we hope so. We have finished eight quilts, one for the Crain's Creek Fire Department, one for the Vass Rescue Squad, one each for two lovely ladies who used to quilt and can no longer quilt due to health problems, and we made one with lots of love and thanks to Preacher Dan and Cecelia and three for our Harvest Sale.

To top that, if our doctors should lose their memory and our charts, we all know every medication each one is taking, how many hours of sleep each has, but one thing is never told—our WEIGHT. And we will never tell that because Robert Page might decide that we don't need any more ice cream and we all look forward to that treat each night. We take time away from our needles a few weeks during Vacation Bible School and a few months before Christmas—but at the beginning of the new year, our needles will begin clicking again. We look forward to it with much anticipation, for we are a group with much caring and love for each other and to be included in this, all you have to do is come join us. Our quilting nights are listed in the church bulletin.

**LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

**Dear Mt. Pleasant Church Family,**

**Thank you for your outpouring of love during Mama's sickness and death. So many people asked about her every Sunday, so many people sent cards and text messages to check on her, and on us. Your kindness, prayers and concern meant a lot to her and to us. I feel so sorry for people who go through life's heartbreak and loss of loved ones who don't have a church family. The outpouring of love for her was shown by the attendance at her homegoing celebration. Mama loved her church from the age of 15 years old until she passed at 89. Sometimes when people are elderly and came before our time, we don't realize the time and talent they contributed to making our church what it is today. Mama taught Sunday School, Bible School, youth group and helped direct many Christmas plays when she was younger. She held many different positions in the church over her lifetime. She helped make quilts and crafts for the Harvest Sale as well as her delicious chocolate pies. She sewed many costumes for our church Christmas plays, made curtains and anything else that required a seamstress. When she was elderly and I was youth leader, she and Dan still came to help and support me with youth activities, preparing food and any way they could help. She never wanted any praise or recognition for the things she did, preferring to stay out of the limelight. So many elderly people in our church have passed that laid the groundwork and the church that we are blessed with today. Let us never forget their contributions and love they gave to our church.    Love in Christ, Sherry Hennings Harrison**



**DO YOU EVER COMPARE TO OTHERS?**  
**BY: MARTHA BLUE JANUARY, 2026**

Do you ever compare people to others  
Or things to other things?  
I have many times. Take for instance  
The church we worship in.

Pastor Chandler reminds me of  
The story of David the young shepherd.  
He is also young and guides us  
As his 'sheep' and watches over us.

The children lighting the candles and doing special programs.  
Their singing, going to children's church,  
Attending Vacation Bible School reminds me  
Of the Holy Bible saying "A Child Shall Lead Them".

The Deacons reminds me of the Disciples.  
They serve communion, and collect our gifts we return to God.  
As well as lots of other things to help the Pastor and us.

The Sunday School Teachers, Children's Church Leaders,  
And Youth Leaders reminds me of the Teachers in the Bible.

The Choir reminds me of the Angels singing at Jesus' birth and in Heaven.  
Someday we will join them and sing along with the Angels.  
The ones that play the piano, guitars, sing special songs,  
Reminds me of what beautiful music we will hear in Heaven.

The men in the sound room are spreading the good news  
Of the Gospel to others that are not able to attend church.  
The ones that clean the church, do maintenance,  
Take care of the lawn reminds me of all the workers in the Bible.

The ones that work in the kitchen and furnish food for our meals we share  
Reminds me of the "Supper we will receive in Heaven".  
They are nourishing our bodies the way the Word of God does.

You are spreading the Gospel when your neighbors see you get into your vehicle  
With your children and know you are coming to Church.  
You are teaching your children your faithfulness to God.

Each one that comes and listens to the message reminds me of the people  
In the Bible that would set and listen to Jesus preach.

I may have missed someone but we are all God's Messengers  
And I hope this makes you think of others that serve as an inspiration to you!



# PILOT

Old Beth  
will hold Homeco  
Sunday. See story Pa

**Mt. Pleasant's 100th Birthday 1886—1986**

TE 692-7271

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1986

80 PAGES

PRIC



**MT. PLEASANT CELEBRATES** — Mt. Pleasant Christian Church celebrated its 100th birthday with an all-day program Sunday, featuring old-fashioned dress and customs. Shown feasting during the picnic dinner are a few of the estimated 400 persons who attended the celebration.—(Photo by Glenn M. Sides).

**VARIETY SHOW 2026**  
**BY: JANET CHILTON - JANUARY, 2026**

**Exciting news! Many important things were stopped by the bad COVID germs! And many important things have started back up! One of those we are looking forward to is our annual Mt. Pleasant Variety Show. Usually held in the spring of the year and hosted by our own talented church entertainers.**

**In years past, we have had dancers, singers, comedians, and poets, from those that are in Sunday School, Worship service, and from our community. We have great performers sharing some of their many talents for our enjoyment!**

**If you are asked to participate, please say yes! We are expecting to have a great time filled to make many pleasant memories of our times and talents shared at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. Join us to have a relaxing, fun, time of fellowship at an exact date to be shared soon. Watch for the date.**



**OFFICIAL GLOSSARY FOR RUNNING LATE**  
**CONTRIBUTED BY: RHONDA CHILTON January 2026**

**“On the way” = Still in bed**

**“In the Car” = In the shower**

**“GPS says 35 min” = Getting ready**

**“There’s traffic” = Leaving the house**

**“Parking now” = 15 Minutes out**

**“Can’t find a spot” = 5 minutes out**

**“Walking in” = Looking for parking**

**Come on now, have many of these have YOU used?**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS JANUARY 2026**

Copper wire discovered after having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year outside of New York City, New York. The New York scientists found traces of copper cable dating back 100 years. They came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years old.

Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a Los Angeles, California archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet somewhere just outside Oceanside.

Shortly after, a story in the LA Times read: “California archaeologists report a finding of 100 year old copper cable, concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers!”

One week later, a local newspaper in Lenoir, North Carolina, reported the following: “After digging down about 30 feet deep in his pasture near the community of Valle Crusis, Bubba, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Bubba has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, North Carolina had already gone wireless!

**Just gives a person one more reason to be proud to be from North Carolina!!**

**FOOD DONATIONS TO VASS PANTRY**  
**BY: EARL WILLIAMS**

**Mt. Pleasant Christian Church has stepped up during the Holidays. We donated over 40 boxes of cereal and over 50 cans of ravioli to Vass Pantry for Thanksgiving 2025. Again, for New Year's food boxes, we donated over 25 boxes of cereal and 40 of ravioli on 29 December 2025.**

**The numbers from Vass Pantry for 11-25-2025 were:**

**Families served - 240**

**Adults served - 302**

**Children served - 166**

**The numbers for 12-16-2035 were:**

**Families served - 145**

**Adults served - 235**

**Children served - 120**

**We do not have the numbers for 30 December distribution yet but the lines were pretty long.**

**Vass Pantry thanks all the Churches that donate and provide volunteers to run the distribution on Tuesdays. They have those numbers and only distribute the boxes from 10 to 11:30 on those Tuesdays. Vehicles start lining up at 7 in the morning and they serve everyone that is in line at 11:30. Several local Churches participate along with NC Regional Food Pantry out of Charlotte.**

**Again, they wish to thank Mt. Pleasant for participating in the mission.**



## **ANOTHER RAMP!!**

**By: Earl Williams**

**Mt. Pleasant's Mission 28394 is working on another ramp project. This is for one of our own, Corenia Vazquez. She is in a walker and has three steps to get out of the house. The request was put in by her daughter, Letty Garcia. We went over and measured, and our Mission 28394 agreed to fund the wood purchase. Danny Marks is the lead carpenter with me, Dan McPher-  
son, Michael Marks, Michael Lanzafama, and Dennis Wright. We have completed about 90% and still have some rails on the ground end to finish and hope to finish shortly after New Years. She is in a position to use it now and has used it a week or so.**

**The is probably the 6th ramp our Mission Group has funded, and the money comes in as a Designated Fund is not part of the Church Budget. This money is specifically tagged by people for these Mission 28394 projects. We have been blessed by the support our Church shows for these projects, and we can support 4 projects per year, one per quarter. Please see Pastor Wilkes or Earl Williams if you have a project we can support.**

**Again, thanks for all those that have contributed to the fund and those that support the projects.**





## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MT. PLEASANT**

### **WEEKLY:**

Sundays: Sunday School: 9:45 AM—10:45 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM— Pastor Chandler Wilkes

Tuesdays - Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays - Adult Bible Study

Alternate Wednesdays—Choir practice

**VARIETY SHOW: ANNUALLY**

**HOMECOMING/MEMORIAL DAY: MAY ANNUALLY**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SUMMER ANNUALLY**

**REVIVAL: ANNUALLY**

**HARVEST SALE: OCTOBER 3RD SATURDAY ANNUALLY**

**MARKS-WRIGHT REUNION SECOND SUNDAY OCT**

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: DECEMBER ANNUALLY**

New 2026 Church Directory is COMPLETED.

**ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN**  
**PLEASE REMEMBER THEM DAILY IN PRAYER**

LTC Dale Aebischer  
Kyle Badgett JBPHH Unit 183  
MAJ Trevor Barnes  
MAJ Lindsay Barnes-Turner  
MAJ Ryan Barnes  
SGT Brandon Bartz  
MAJ Andrew Berreth  
SSG Brandon Berry  
PFC Stephanie Berry  
SSG Hunter Burns  
PFC Brandon Camp  
E3 Jordan Cole  
CPT Alyssa Crandall  
ILT Michael Crandall  
MAJ Eddie Criss  
SSG Everett Davis  
Zachery T. Feltmann  
LTC Andrew Gaab  
MAJ Tanya Gaab  
SSG Mark Glenn  
SSG Triston Hatcher  
Shawn A. Haynes  
PFC Abel Kincaid  
SGT David Little  
CPT Mark Howard  
SGT Walter Kirk  
2LT Jackson Lanzafama  
Emmanuel Lenau  
E3 Madison Main  
PV2 Paxton Nash  
2LT Tyler Nilam  
Sabrina O'Connell  
Timothy O'Connell  
LTC Joey Odell  
SGT Donald Pearce Jr.  
Alivia Pemberton  
SSG Colleen Pemberton  
SSG Jonathan Pemberton  
MSG Neil Powers

These are our men and women who go to work daily in defense of the many freedoms we enjoy here in the United States of America.

We need to pray for them daily especially for their safety. Some are in places that can't be revealed to us. Their addresses do not show where they are currently stationed. Even their loved ones do not know where they are serving. They may be able to contact each other by computer occasionally, however it is seldom and doesn't involve personal information being shared with each other.

It is an honor for a family member to serve in our United States Military and we "homefolks" really need to support our military members serving and other families whose loved ones are serving. Thank you for your support of our Military Christmas Gifts which now number well over 5,000! Memories are made of those messages we receive back from them.

Thank each one of you for the contributions you have made and we ask you to continue as long as possible.  
**THANK YOU!**

SFC John Presley  
SGM Shawn P Spears  
MAJ Matt Turner

## **SOME OF THE BEST SMART ALECK ANSWERS FOR 2026**

**A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family.**

**She asked the stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"**

**The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead!"**

\*\*\*\*\*

**It was mealtime during a flight on a prominent airline and the flight attendant asked the passenger seated in front, "Would you like dinner?"**

**The passenger answered, "What are my choices?"**

**The flight attendant answered, "Yes or No!"**

## **THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE AGREED TO SERVE**

**There are those who are willing and have been chosen once again to serve our Lord and Savior by taking on a job at Mt. Pleasant. Thank you for helping. We appreciate your talents. It takes all of us to keep our church going. I never realized that bulbs burned out in the church or that sometimes the furnace quits running and it never occurred to me that there might be a problem with the kitchen stove or the refrigerator. They just always worked. The grass always gets mowed, the church gets vacuumed, the bathrooms were always cleaned and the kitchen and fellowship building was always cleaned by someone. But WHO does all the behind the scenes projects?**

**We now have some who serve and we are blessed by being able to pay them for their work but there are many jobs that are completed faithfully as volunteers and we really need to take turns and say yes when asked to help.**

**Everyone should step up and offer to serve without waiting to be asked! Its just like grade school, we take turns! So when it is your turn and my turn, we need To step right up to the bat—so to speak—and begin!**

## **DON'T GET CALLED OUT—SWING!**

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

## **January, 2026**

**One Sunday after church, Mom asked her little daughter what the Sunday school lesson was about. Her daughter answered, “Don’t be scared, you’ll get your quilts.” Needless to say, Mom was perplexed.**

**Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea. Mom asked him what that morning’s Sunday school lesson was about.**

**He said, “Be not afraid, thy Comforter is coming.”**

### **ANOTHER BIT OF GOSPEL HUMOR**

**George was spending Friday night and all day Saturday with his grandmother in the country. It had snowed overnight. Grandma couldn’t wait to bundle up George and take him walking in the beautiful, fresh snow.**

**“Isn’t it wonderful, George? Doesn’t it seem like our Lord has painted this gorgeous scenery, just for us to enjoy this morning?”**

**“Yes, Grandma! And do you want to know what makes it even better? God had to do this all with his left hand!”**

**Grandma didn’t have any idea what George meant.**

**“Grandma,” he explained patiently. “Don’t you know that Jesus sits on the right hand o God?”**

**As our schools will be returning to “active duty” soon: here you are:**

**Libby was so happy with her report card, she let everyone in church know about it by singing “Amazing Grades”!**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

2 Pam Gaddy  
14 Sherry Harrison  
14 Larry Price  
25 Helen Twining  
30 A. G. Flynn  
30 John Joyner  
31 Wendell Gaddy



## **Wedding Anniversaries**

18 Dennis & Janet Wright



# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

				1	2	3
4 Warriors 9:30	5	6 Women Bible 9:30 AM	7 Choir 5:45 Warriors Adult 7 P	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Prayer Warriors 6 to 7 PM	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Weekly Activities

Sunday School Every Sunday at 9:45 AM

Church Service Every Sunday at 11:00 AM

Women's Bible Study Starts Tuesday September 9th at 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study Starts Wednesday September 10th at 7:00 PM

Jane and Prayer Warriors at 9:30 AM (Seniors Classroom)