Pastor’s Corner:

I have been going so much lately - my schedule has been torn asunder! I look forward to a @orning@ week! And yet, with God, no week, day or even hour is ever boring. The problem is, whenever my schedule is torn asunder it messes up my routine with God. The good news is that God is not on a schedule. God is always around us, with us, under us, above us and in us. Thanks be to God.

We have so many things going on with missions right now, that I’d ask, “God, where are you in all this? What are you trying to say to us here at Gramling UMC? We have Sue and Will Maley planning a mission trip to Nicaragua with First Baptist in Inman. Catherine Gramling and Mindy Burgin are planning to go to Uganda in April to check on Mindy’s Kirabo Foundation - students in secondary education. We have Larry and Rebecca as long term missionaries in the Congo. We’re trying to do our part in stamping out Malaria in Africa. Jeff and Sarah Harrison are attending meetings with World Relief concerning refugees and how we the church may be able to help.

All these are viable missions and we need to support them with our prayers, presence and our gifts. Our Vision Team has met twice and the last meeting, though a bit chaotic, seemed to move us towards God’s Vision - we’ve not there yet! We came to a place where we know God is turning us toward the community around us, communication to the community around and within, with the focal group being children - three Cs - Community, Communication, Children. Perhaps God is turning us to look first worldwide and is gradually bringing us closer to home. How are we already a hub of the community and how can we grow in outreach and witness to those living in our backyards?

May we all be in conversation about these things as we together look towards God and what God will is for God’s church here in Gramling at such a time as this!

Pastor Rebecca

Be a Shelter in a Time of Need: Recently Jeff and I attended an informational meeting in Spartanburg about “World Relief,” a Christian organization that helps to resettle refugees in the United States and particularly in Spartanburg. (A refugee is defined as a person who has been forced to flee their home country and are unable to return because of well-founded risk of persecution due to race, nationality or membership in a political social group or political opinion.) They view the welcoming and resettlement help given to these vulnerable people as a mission opportunity given by God.

A practical way for the church to minister to refugees is to help them resettle. Refugees are some of the world’s most vulnerable people, having fled their home countries due to conflict, persecution, or threat. Every year a limited number of refugees are invited to start new lives in the United States.

World Relief Spartanburg serves with local churches to facilitate the resettlement of refugees into the local community. This includes everything from paper processing to airport pickup to doctor appointments to apartment set-up. They aim to leverage the resources and skills of local churches to welcome and serve our new neighbors. Volunteers through local churches are key to effective welcoming of refugees to their new community. Jeff and I invite you to participate in learning more about the refugees being resettled in Spartanburg and how we can help.

Please contact Sarah or Jeff Harrison if you are interested.

But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? Little Children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

- 1 John 3:17-18

- Sarah Harrison

Wednesday Night Live! Activities start in the gym with a delicious and nutritious @upper for all at 6:00. The kids have choir at 6:30. Prayer is in the Parlor at 6:30, and adult choir is at 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 6th:
One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

Lenten Prayer Time 5 p.m.: Join us for prayer and making of disciple necklaces in the social hall.

Special Guests: On Sunday, March 6, we once again welcome the girls’ chorus of First Baptist School of Charleston to our morning worship service. This chorus is directed by our own Robin Gramling, and if you were able to hear them when they came to GUMC last spring, you will agree that their heavenly voices and youthful enthusiasm are not to be missed.

Meetings (Social Hall):
Tuesday, March 8th: Vision Team 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 10th: Finance committee 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 15th: Church Council 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 13th: Senior Appreciation Luncheon after worship. Those under 65 bring potluck items to treat our Seniors to lunch.

Saturday, March 19th: Bunny Breakfast from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Come enjoy your morning meal and bring your baskets for an Easter Egg Hunt!

March 24th: Holy Thursday Service 7 p.m.
March 25th: Good Friday Service at noon. Luncheon following. Bring cold-dish items.

Sunday, March 27th: Easter Day: Sunrise Service 7 a.m.

UMYF schedule March & April:

Sunday, March 6: Leave after church to visit shut-ins. Bring money for lunch. We should be back at the church between 3:00 and 4:00.

Sunday, March 13: Training with Bible Lesson by John Gramling III. 5:00-6:30 in the Social Hall. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your Bible.

Saturday, March 19: Help with the Easter Egg Hunt at church from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 27: No meeting. Enjoy time with your family. Happy Easter!

Sunday, April 3: Leave after church to serve communion to shut-ins. Bring money for lunch.

Sunday, April 10: Training and Bible Lesson with John Gramling III. 5 to 6:30 in the Social Hall. Wear comfortable clothes and bring your Bible.

2016 General Tithes & Offerings (8 weeks):
Budget needed to date: $44,744.16 Received: $41,523
Prayer - Praises and Concerns: Call Faye Woodfin (472-8143) or Anne Carroll (472-9434)

Are any in your community suffering? They should pray. Are any celebrating? They should sing praises to God. Are any sick? They should call the elders of your church and ask them to pray. James 5:13-14a

Members of Gramling:
Diane Martin  Don Hook  Anna Gramling

Friends and Relatives:
Ken Ulmer - Sue & Rick Pruitt
Ray Mosley  T. JoAnn & Hugh Foster
Chris Culp Robinson
Hase Broom  Cindy Riddle  father
Mary Mayo  Wanda Ballenger  niece
Darrell Burrell  Wanda Ballenger  brother
Hope Wingo  Sandra Wingo
Donna Frazee  Colette Duncan

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Church:
Gramling UMC
Pastor Rebecca  Gramling Church Leaders
Bishop Holston  District Supt. Paul Harmon
Larry Prieß & Rebecca Culp

Military and Civil Defense Personnel:
Ed Hershberger  Mary Katherine Connell

World:  District 1 Schools  admin., teachers, staff
U.S. leaders/SC leaders  Immigrants  Israel  Iraq

Members of Gramling:
Diane Martin  Don Hook  Anna Gramling

Assisted Living, Nursing Homes:
Jane Fisher  - Skylyn Place Health Center
Joyce Evington  - Wesley Ct. Assisted Living
Jean Johnson  Skylyn Place Assisted Living Room 107
RebelBrackett  Lake Emory Care

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Homebound:  Barbara Runion  Marcus Johnson  Carroll & Betty Jean Campbell

Food Pantry:  Bring non-perishable items on Sundays and leave them in the narthex. Many in our community are in need every day.

Imagine No Malaria - Facts about Malaria

Fact 1: In 2013, there were an estimated 198 million cases of malaria causing 584,000 deaths, mostly among children younger than five.

Fact 2: Every 60 seconds, malaria claims an innocent life in Africa

Fact 3: Malaria is preventable and curable. Increased malaria prevention and control measures are dramatically reducing the malaria burden in many places.

Fact 4: The United Methodist Church has more than 300 hospitals, clinics, and health post in Africa, all part of a comprehensive program to fight this killer disease.

Throughout this season of Lent, join with us to raise $1 million to fight malaria and save lives. Make your checks payable to Gramling UMC marked for Malaria. For more information visit ImagineNoMalaria.org

Happy Birthday in March! 🎉

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NOTICE: Several items have been found in the sanctuary on Monday mornings. Please check in the narthex for a sweater, keys, buttons, pens, keys, one umbrella with a golf club for a handle. Thanks – Faye Woodfin

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Sun.: Classes, 10 am.; Worship, 11 am.  Wed.: Supper, 6 pm.; Children's Choir/Prayer, 6:30; Chancel Choir, 7 pm.