"Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." **(Philippians 2:1-11)**

2016 Yearly Focus and Plan Booklet for the

Pleasant Plains Church of Christ.

384 Pleasant Plains Road Jackson, Tennessee 38305

armorofgodonline.com

Serving the KINGDOM

Pleasant Plains Church of Christ
Focus and Plan For 2016

Serving the KINGDOM

Bill Copeland once said, *"The trouble with not having a goal is that you can spend your life running up and down the field and never score."* The importance of setting goals is true in the realm of athletics, education, business, and even within our faith and those things that are spiritual in nature. A church without a goal or focus can quickly become a church that is stuck in place spinning its wheels without going anywhere. In order to not be this type of church, the Shepherds of this local congregation have determined to use the year of 2016 to focus on **Serving the Kingdom**. We desire for each member to join us in be dedicated to the beginning and continuing of giving effort to improve our work and service within the Kingdom of God.

We encourage each and every Christian to personally inspect and evaluate their lives and God-given talents in order to identify those places where they might be able to serve the Kingdom even more than they have in the past. We hope that each Disciple will be challenged to stretch their comfort zones in order be even more useful within God's Kingdom.

Jesus, multiple times, referred to the Kingdom of God as a vineyard during His ministry on this earth. The greatest need within any vineyard, farm, or field is that of workers to carry out the various jobs that must be done. We, as Disciples, are the workers who are responsible for making sure that the many responsibilities within the Kingdom are being taken care of. Thankfully, in our Lord's perfect wisdom and foresight, He has blessed His workers with many different talents that help these task to be accomplished. The Apostle Paul discusses this concept of us all supplying the body with the

things we are able to do in 1 Corinthians 12:13ff. Some of us can hear, some can see, some can taste, and others can speak. The talents and abilities themselves are not what are important. What is truly important is whether or not we are giving every effort to use the talents that we currently have, and that we are striving to find new ways in which we can serve. Our diligence in trying to find ways to serve our God and His Kingdom is well pleasing in His sight.

This year, our focus will be on, but not limited to, these areas of service:

Teaching of Bible Truths: teaching of congregational classes, teaching of outside class, preaching, extending invitations, etc.

Edifying the Saints: participation in worship service, preparation for worship service, leading in worship service, etc.

Spreading the Gospel: learning different methods of evangelism, seeking out Gospel prospects, setting up home Bible studies, etc

Encouraging our Guests: welcome guests to our assemblies, assist them with any needs, write thank you notes and cards, etc.

Benevolence: visit and provide needs of our shut ins, visit and serve the sick, write notes of encouragement, help those outside the church who are in need, etc.

We are excited about the studies that we will engage in this year, Lord willing! We want nothing but to be faithful and diligent in our service of God and His Kingdom. We want to grow to be even more generous and sincere in our service, and we want to exemplify love and patience in all that we do without our service in the Kingdom of God. We will strive to do these things by examining our motivations for service, our mindset in our service, looking to Jesus as the ultimate example of service, and seeing where we might be able to serve. May God be glorified in our efforts this year, and may the Kingdom be strengthened in all of our efforts in 2016!

Outside Opportunities to Grow in 2016

We recognize the great good that happens when we assemble for our regularly scheduled worship services. When we come together as a church on the Lord's Day, we stir one another up to good works and faithful service unto our Great God. (Hebrews 10:24,25) However, we seek for even more than that. We seek to find those opportunities outside our worship services where we can spend additional time growing in our faith in Jesus Christ. Listed below are our outside opportunities to grow together as disciples of our Lord.

Outside studies' time & location are subject to change

Mens' Study: The book for 2016 will be "Tender Warrior" by Stu Weber. The book focuses on helping men become that Tender Warrior which should be "every man's purpose, every woman's dream, and every child's hope." **The mens' study is regularly scheduled for the first Saturday morning of every month at 7:30am at Panera Bread on Vann Drive.**

Ladies' Study: The Ladies' study will be regularly scheduled for the first Tuesday morning of every month at 10:00am at the church house. For 2016, the ladies' study will be using "Because I Said So" by Celine Sparks. This book focuses on the advantages that the Christian life has over any other kind of life while examining many of the things that our mothers told us for years and showing how aptly they apply to the Christian woman.

Young Peoples' Study: Our young people will be using the book "The Big Picture of the Bible" by Marc Hinds as a means of establishing the foundation of their faith more strongly. **This study will regularly meet on the fourth Sunday night of each month at the Angel's home after our evening worship service.**

2016 Calendar of Special Lessons & Events

January 3 AM Service: *Jesus, Our Perfect Example of Servitude*
January 31 AM Service: 5th Sunday Guest Speaker
January 31 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service
February 7 AM Service: *Our Motivation for Service*
March 6 AM Service: *Finding Our Place to Serve*
April 3 AM Service: *Serving with Humility*
April 9,10: Weekend Study with **Seth McDonald**
May 1 AM Service: *Serving the Local Church*
May 29 AM Service: 5th Sunday Guest Speaker
May 29 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service
June 5 AM Service: *Serving Our Spouse*
June 13-17: Vacation Bible School
July 3 AM Service: *Serving the Next Generation*
July 31 AM Service: 5th Sunday Guest Speaker
July 31 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service
August 7 AM Service: Serving the Kingdom Lesson
September 4 AM Service: *Serving in the Little Things*
September 18-21: Meeting with **Max Dawson**
October 2 AM Service: Serving the Kingdom Lesson
October 30 AM Service: 5th Sunday Guest Speaker
October 30 PM Service: 5th Sunday Singing Service
November 6 AM Service: Serving the Kingdom Lesson
December 4 AM Service: *Here I Am, Send Me!*

***Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, but please consider these events when planning your calendar for 2016 so that we can all be present to support the work and efforts of our congregation.**

2016 Bible Class Schedule

While the first responsibility to teach our children is in our individual homes (Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4), we as a local church want to assist in the maturing of all of our congregation by dedicating time towards in depth study of the Bible. Our 4 youngest classes will focus mainly on the first quarter of the Bible, while our adult classes will study through a variety of topics and a survey of the Old Testament. The following is our detailed plan for congregational growth through our Bible Classes.

Nursery

First Quarter January 3-March 30: Discovering God's Way.
Amy Gailey & Holly Wilkerson

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Discovering God's Way.
Denise Cagle & Melody Brown

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: Discovering God's Way.
Amy Gailey & Amanda Cisco

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Discovering God's Way.
Denise Cagle & Melody Brown

Pre-School

First Quarter January 3-March 30: God's Mighty Hand in the Exodus.
Marty Barker & Davida Barker

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Take Time To Be Holy, Leviticus & Numbers.
Nancy Phillips

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: I'm In The Lord's Army, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges & Ruth. **Tracey Weidner**

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Measuring By God's Rule, Israel's Kings & Prophets.

Kindergarten-3rd Grade

First Quarter January 3-March 30: God's Mighty Hand in the Exodus. **Sandy Lewis & Denise Steinly**

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Take Time To Be Holy, Leviticus & Numbers.
Christy Bennett & Kelly Sheffield

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: I'm In The Lord's Army, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges & Ruth. **Amy Gateley & Tabitha Lewis**

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Measuring By God's Rule, Israel's Kings & Prophets. **Denise Steinly & Faye Spence**

4th Grade-6th Grade

First Quarter January 3-March 30: God's Mighty Hand in the Exodus. **Shanda Lewis & Rhonda Cisco**

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Take Time To Be Holy, Leviticus & Numbers.
Janet Newton & Allison Lewis

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: I'm In The Lord's Army, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges & Ruth. **Dawn Nichols**

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Measuring By God's Rule, Israel's Kings & Prophets. **Luanne Holt**

7th & 8th Grade

First Quarter January 3-March 30: Moses a Great Leader.
Marty Gailey & Billy Nichols

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Wilderness Wanderings
David Barker & Duane Steinly

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: Gender split classes focusing on gender specific topics. **Chuck Newton/Nick Angel & Denise Steinly/Katie Angel**

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Israel's New Home.
Johnathan Gateley & Bruce Weidner

High School

First Quarter January 3-March 30: Moses a Great Leader. **Jeff Cisco & Brent Holt**

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Wilderness Wanderings.
Alan Siedenstrang & Sammy Barker

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: Gender split classes focusing on gender specific topics. **Chuck Newton/Nick Angel & Denise Steinly/Katie Angel**

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Israel's New Home. **Jonathan Gateley & Bruce Weidner**

Alternative Adult (Meets in Nick's Office)

First Quarter January 3-March 30: Revelation.
Alan Siedenstrang & Duane Steinly

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: A Study of the Intertestamental Period. **Austin Lewis & Ryan McDonald**

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: Ezekiel.
Ryan McDonald & Duane Steinly

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: A Study of World Religions.
Nick Angel

Auditorium Adult

First Quarter January 3-March 30: Marriage Matters. **Chuck Newton**

Second Quarter April 3-June 29: Sunday: "I know Acts 2:38, but I Don't Know Acts 2." Wednesday: A Study of Popular False Teachings. **Nick Angel**

Third Quarter July 3-September 28: A Study of Authority.
Jason Bennett (Sunday) & Alan Siedenstrang (Wednesday)

Fourth Quarter October 2-December 28: Old Testament Survey Part II.
Various Teachers

2016 Daily Bible Reading Plan

A man cannot survive without oxygen. A fish cannot make it without water. A Christian cannot survive without being n the Word of God. In an effort to help us have a plan for reading God's Word and to be involved in the learning process of some of our children, we will be reading through the first 14 books of the Old Testament in 2016. 52 weeks and 14 books comes out to about 8 chapters a week. Some will be shorter, but none longer than 8 chapters. The Apostle Paul makes the point in Romans 15:4 that the things writing in earlier times (Old Testament times) are so very valuable to us today because we can learn from the preference and encouragement of those godly people before. May we be reminded, encouraged, and built up by the great faiths of so many that came long before us.

January 3-9: Genesis 1-8
January 10-16: Genesis 9-16
January 17-23: Genesis 17-24
January 24-30: Genesis 25-32
January 31-February 6: Genesis 33-40
February 7-13: Genesis 41-48
February 14-20: Genesis 49-Exodus 6
February 21-27; Exodus 7-14
February 28-March 5: Exodus 15-22
March 6-12: Exodus 23-30
March 13-19: Exodus 31-38
March 20-26: Exodus 39-Leviticus 5
March 27-April 2: Leviticus 6-12
April 3-9: Leviticus 13-19
April 10-16: Leviticus 20-26
April 17-23: Leviticus 27-Numbers 1-6
April 24-30: Numbers 7-13
May 1-7: Numbers 14-20
May 8-14: Numbers 21-27

May 15-21: Numbers 28-34
May 22-28: Deuteronomy 1-7
May 29-June 4: Deuteronomy 8-14
June 5-11: Deuteronomy 15-21
June 12-18: Deuteronomy 22-28
June 19-25: Deuteronomy 29-Joshua 2
June 26-July 2: Joshua 3-10
July 3-9: Joshua 11-18
July 10-16: Joshua 19-Judges 2
July 17-23: Judges 3-10
July 23-30: Judges 11-18
July 31-August 6: Judges 19 - Ruth - I Samuel 1
August 7-13: I Samuel 2-9
August 14-20: I Samuel 10-17
August 21-27: I Samuel 18-25
August 28-September 3: I Samuel 26-II Samuel 2
September 4-10: II Samuel 3-5; I Chronicles 1-5
September 11-17: II Samuel 6-8; I Chronicles 6-10
September 18-24: II Samuel 9-11; I Chronicles 11-15
September 25-October 1: II Samuel 12-14; I Chronicles 16-20
October 2-8: II Samuel 15-17; I Chronicles 21-25
October 9-15: II Samuel 18-21; I Chronicles 26-29
October 16-22: II Samuel 22-24; I Kings 1; II Chronicles 1-4
October 23-29: I Kings 2-5; II Chronicles 5-8
October 30-November 5: I Kings 6-10; II Chronicles 5-8
November 6-12: I Kings 11-15; II Chronicles 12-14
November 13-19: I Kings 16-20; II Chronicles 15-17
November 20-26: I Kings 21-II Kings 2; II Chronicles 18-21
November 27-December 3: II Kings 3-7; II Chronicles 22-24
December 4-10: II Kings 8-12; II Chronicles 25-27
December 11-17: II Kings 13-17; II Chronicles 28-30
December 18-24: II Kings 18-21; II Chronicles 31-34
December 25-31: II Kings 22-25; II Chronicles 35,36

2016 Serving The Kingdom

Charting My Progress in 2016

Having a goal is the first step in trying to improve anything for as the saying goes, "Those that aim at nothing hit it with amazing accuracy." A church without goals and aspirations is a church that isn't going anywhere quickly. We are very excited about our goals of growing greater in our service to the Kingdom in 2016.

However, we must also understand that goals only mean something if we are really aiming to meet them. One of the things that can really help us in meeting our goals is to be able to look at how well we have done at achieving said goals. Below will be some sections that will allow us all to chart our progress in 2016 so that we can be encouraged by our progress, but also see if there is anyplace where we can do better.

My Daily Bible Reading Progress. **Have I been daily reading and meditating in the Word of God?**

January_____

February_____

March_____

April_____

May_____

June_____

July_____

August_____

September_____

October_____

November_____

December_____

Serving The Kingdom 2016

My Evangelism Progress. **How many people have I talked to about my faith or invited to church?**

January_____

February_____

March_____

April_____

May_____

June_____

July_____

August_____

September_____

October_____

November_____

December_____

My Edification Progress. **How good have I don't in my attendance at service, Bible studies, & events?**

January_____

February_____

March_____

April_____

May_____

June_____

July_____

August_____

September_____

October_____

November_____

December_____