



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

June 2015



Summer Time By Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson

*Summertime, and the living is easy.
Fish are jumping and the cotton is high.
Oh, your daddy's rich and your mamma's good looking.
So hush little baby; don't you cry. (George Gershwin)*

This quote is from one of the songs in the classic George Gershwin musical ***Porgy & Bess***. It is reflective of a time in history when life was simple, quiet and relaxing. It describes a kind of lazy day while sitting on the pier at the beach with your feet in the water. The words are reminiscent of a summer day when, after a long hot and hard work week of harvesting tobacco, we went fishing in the river or lake, sat on the bank of the river and enjoyed the nice breeze with our fishing rod in hand.

However, no matter how romantic this scene seems, we know that even in the summertime life holds many challenges. A major challenge in summer is one of worship attendance. Summertime, as well as all the seasons of the year, is a gift from God. All seasons have a special place in the design of God.

However, many think that God's work stops during the summertime. But it does not; we still have ministry going on during the summer. The word of God in Ecclesiastes 3:1 and following reminds us that "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Then it begins to enumerate the times: "a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what has been planted". It continues with a long list of God's activities among the human family. Therefore, we need your prayers, your service, your financial gifts, your presence and your witness; even in the summer.

Recently while riding through a community, a church sign attracted my attention. The sign read "God is not on vacation let's go to his house". Church is not closed in the summer. Have you ever noticed that people sometimes use summer as an excuse to not go to church by saying "I'm on vacation" or "I have people at my house?" When summer is here the church is still here and you still need to worship God.

When you are away on vacation or out of town, find a church and worship. When you have visitors from other towns visiting with you, invite them to worship here with you. Don't stay home and say, "I had company today." Bring your company to church with you. What if you went to God in prayer and he said, "I can't hear you today, I'm on vacation?"

Pleasant Green United Methodist Church is not on summer break. Come and worship God. Don't miss your blessing. Reach out to others you know and invite them to church.

Have a blessed summer; Pastor Jesse Brunson

From the Worship Team...

The Worship Team met recently to plan meaningful worship for PGUMC. Our goal is to have worship that makes people want to come to Church! We talked about a few things and we would love to hear from the congregation. What do you think of a series of renewal services leading up to homecoming - would you commit to attend? Would you enjoy a mid-week dinner and service - maybe quarterly? Are there any special services you'd like to see at Pleasant Green? Please email your thoughts to Wanda Edens at didleycat@nc.rr.com.

pleasant green youth group



June Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons

Sunday School 10 am



Pleasant Green Youth Mission Trip to Birmingham, AL ~ June 14 - 19

Youth theme for the summer: "Summer of Faith, Fun, and Fellowship."

The summer will be splattered activities that all come back to faith, fun, and fellowship. Dates TBA

Youth Sunday 2015 ~ Mother's Day

"Could not be any prouder of our youth – what a blessing Youth Sunday has been!" Richard Cassidy



If you missed Youth Sunday, you may pick up a DVD in the church office.

Ali DeLeo coming in August!

Ali DeLeo was born and raised in Dover, Delaware. Discipled throughout her childhood and youth at Wesley United Methodist Church in Dover, some of Ali's earliest memories of understanding of God's grace and presence were in the midst of joyous occasions like playing sports, time at the beach, Sunday worship, UMYF, and at Camp Pecometh. Ali attended Duke University on an athletic scholarship, graduating with a degree in Psychology with minors in Emergency Medicine and Religion. She earned Masters and Doctoral degrees in physical therapy, and became a clinician and professor at George Washington University School of Medicine. In addition to her vocational responsibilities, Ali served as the Director of Youth and Children's Theatre at Church Hill Theatre near Chestertown, MD.

Ali began discerning a call to leave healthcare and teaching to enter ministry while worshipping and serving at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church in Washington, DC – a vibrant church poised at the intersection of power and poverty just four blocks from Congress. In addition to worship responsibilities, Ali served as the Coordinator of Missions, which include unhoused (homeless) ministries, eco-green ministry, reconciling ministry, local & regional missions, and world missions. She also helped develop children and youth ministries at CHUMC. Drawn into life in the church, Ali both witnessed and participated in Christ's radical hospitality and was awakened to the power of the Holy Spirit afresh in her life. Relationships with unhoused friends who live on the margins expanded her vision of God's love, showed her the power of the Gospel to transform lives, and affirmed her call to ministry. As Ali continued her journey, she recognized that God was calling her out of one life and into a new one – to proclaim God's love, redemption, and healing in a broken world that so desperately needs the good news of the resurrection.

Last fall, Ali was honored to return to Duke to start a Masters of Divinity degree. In addition to her love of all things "Blue Devil," Ali enjoys Broadway musicals, running, and playing with her dog, Violet. This summer, she will be serving as a ministry intern at North UMC in Indianapolis, Indiana. She gives thanks to God for the opportunity to learn, grow, and serve at Pleasant Green UMC as the Youth Formation Director beginning in August.

Ali & children on Palm Sunday



Hillsborough Relay for Life — May 1

Youth Team: Richard, Betsy & Rick Cassidy, Hannah Kankelfritz, Bailey Anderson, Ryan Montgomery, Davis Whitfield, Joey Berini, Will Walker, Will Witt, Caeden & Corbyn Poe



The Youth Group Raised \$ 2,000!

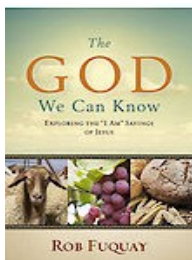
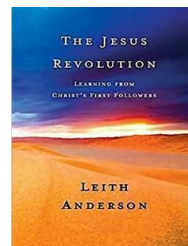


Frankie Faucet & the Drips played for Relay for Life participants (church members: Wayne Leonard, Steven Collins & Mike Quinn)

Join a Sunday School Class / Wednesday Morning Bible Study!

Clyde Walker Class: *The Jesus Revolution: Learning from Christ's First Followers* - Leith Anderson

The story of Jesus cannot be contained in a history of 33 years on an ancient strip of land along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. The group of 120 followers Jesus empowered transformed the world with the good news of redemption and reconciliation he preached. In this journey through the book of Acts, discover the leaps of faith taken by the early church to spread the news of the miracles they'd witnessed and the message they'd received. Their story carries us—his current followers—into our future. Their devotion and perseverance challenges us to step out in faith and make a difference in Jesus' name.

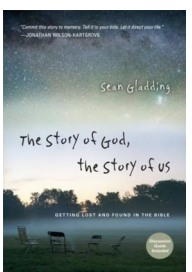
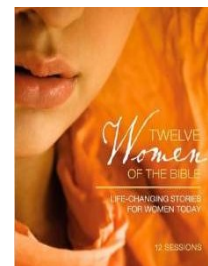


Pastor Jesse's Class: *The God We Can Know* - Rob Fuquay

The God We Can Know is designed to explore the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Perfect for Lent, this series will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?" One by one, Jesus's statements grab our imagination, reveal more about his identity and purpose, and connect us to the God of Moses, who spoke the first "I am." These images give us insightful ways to experience. The DVD, in the Holy Land, allows you to see the places where Jesus stood while disclosing his true identity.

Women's Class: *Twelve Women of the Bible* - Lysa TerKuerst

This 12-session small group Bible study looks at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. Each session focuses on one biblical character (Rebekah, Abigail, Hannah, Gomer, Leah, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, Martha, The Woman at the Well, Mary the mother of Jesus, and The Syrophenecian Woman). You'll learn about their triumphs and failures, studying their lives and learning how to apply biblical lessons to their own modern-day struggles.

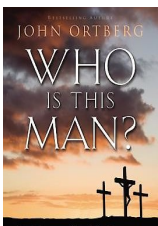
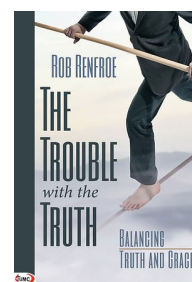


Hearts & Hands Class: *The Story of God, the Story of Us* - Sean Gladding

"The ever present ache of exile rises above the comforting sounds of the river, as the image of the house of the LORD in ruins breaks the peace. . . . Despite the warmth of the fire, he feels a chill. He wraps his cloak around him and looks into the eager faces of his people, then closes his eyes. 'Picture this scene . . .'" Before the Bible was a book, it was flesh and blood. In this book, you can travel with Sean Gladding between the lines of the Scriptures to listen in on the conversations of people wrestling with the Story of God for the first time. As much as the Bible is a story about God, it's also a story about you--and all of us--as we encounter God in a new way.

The Green Room Class: *The Trouble with the Truth* - Rob Renfroe

The Trouble with the Truth explores the truth—why it's in trouble, what the culture tells us about it, and why the church is so confused about it. In an engaging and compelling style, Rob Renfroe reminds us that the Christian life requires commitment to both truth and grace. Readers will examine the essentials about truth and grace, understand the differences between a cultural worldview and a scriptural worldview, and discover how to be of real influence in our time by following Jesus's example.



Seekers Class: *Who Is This Man?* - John Ortberg

John Ortberg reveals how Jesus made an inescapable influence on our world and you will learn how you can make one too. *Who Is This Man?* illustrates how the influence of Jesus has swept over history, bringing his inspiration to the evolution of art, science, government, medicine, and education. And how his vision for us to lead lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope continues to inspire and challenge humanity today.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: *Revival* - Adam Hamilton

Wesley's message and his faith continue to speak to 21st-century Christians—calling for a revival of our hearts and souls so that our world might be changed. Join Adam Hamilton for a six-week journey as he travels to England, following the life of John Wesley and exploring his defining characteristics of a Wesleyan Christian. Adam Hamilton connects John Wesley's contribution in 18th-century England with his legacy for 21st-century America, bringing lessons from Wesley's life.



**Congratulations
to our
Graduates!**

High School

Megan Stocking

College

Evan Lang

Davis Leonard


Christopher Martin

Callie Totten

Graduate School

Michael Clark, PA

***Graduate Luncheon
Sunday, June 7***

Summer Browning 2015 Scholarships 

In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, other family members and friends. Scholarships are offered to entering students and students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a four-year college or university.

Factors considered: Church membership & service ~ Academic Record ~ Community Service ~ Need

***Applications are available in the Church Office,
please return by June 10.***

Pleasant Green Celebrations!

Sunday, May 3
~ Jerry Riley's 90th birthday




Sunday, May 10~Mother's Day
~ Reception for our Duke Divinity School Intern,
Josiah Daniels
~
Thanks for sharing your Talents!




Roses for the ladies!

***Common Thread
A Ministry to Comfort
the Dying*** 

Pillow Cases: 8 completed/ 25 partial








**ACOLYTE & CROSSBEARER
TRAINING**

Saturday, June 6 ~ 10:30-12:00
Includes a pizza lunch!

All children who are rising 3rd graders and older who are interested in serving as acolytes and/or crossbearers during worship are invited to attend this training session. Those who are currently serving are encouraged to attend for a refresher as well.

Please call the church office or contact Gloria Perry to sign your child up so that we can plan for the number of pizzas we will need for lunch.

If your child has a conflict with this date, please let us know and we will make other arrangements.

Church office: 919-383-5764/ Gloria Perry: 919-471-0566

From the Prayer Team...

Prayer for Parents Who Have Children Who Are Ill



Matthew 19: 13-15. Some people brought children to Jesus so that he would place his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded them. "Allow the children to come to me," Jesus said. "Don't forbid them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like these children." Then he blessed the children and went away from there.

Mark 9: 36-37. Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and, whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."

As we talk to friends at church and read the prayer list on the bulletin, there are so many among us who have children and children by marriage who are suffering. Some are young; some are older. Some have children of their own. Several have cancer, others have different physical and emotional illnesses and injuries. Still others have not spoken and are suffering in silence. The sadness and hurt of their parents is so apparent. Let us combine our voices to pray for the children, their parents, siblings, friends and coworkers.

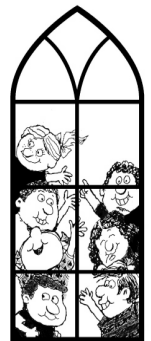
Dear Great Healer of hearts, souls and bodies; You know our hearts as we lift all of these sick children, their own children, their parents, church families, friends, co-workers; all of the people who care, up to You. On their behalf, we ask You for healing in whatever ways You know is best. We ask You for peace and comfort; a serenity beyond anything imaginable. We ask You to pave the way for anger, confusion, depression, betrayal and loss to be resolved; for differences to be worked out where ever there is disagreement. And, we ask that for those who do not know You, please give them your disciples, experiences and an open heart to accept you and Your Son as their Lord and Savior. In His name we pray, Amen.

June Prayer Ministry Meeting

The June meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30 pm. We have much to be thankful for as God answers our prayers; and, looks after those we lift up to Him.

Coming soon! Summer Vacation & Pleasant Green Summer Camp

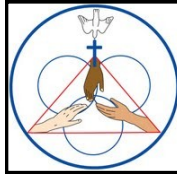
On June 22nd Pleasant Green Afterschool Care turns into Pleasant Green Summer Camp for the 24th time! School will be out and once again Pleasant Green provides a safe, fun place for elementary aged children to be cared for during the summer months. Pleasant Green Afterschool was started to fill a need for care for school aged children. It is a Mission - meeting a need. Part of that mission is to reach beyond our walls and welcome children whose families cannot pay for summer care; thus we provide scholarships to eligible families. The much anticipated Summer Musical will be the July 27 - 31. All our children are offered outings, activities and experiences that enrich as well as entertain. They are supervised and cared for by Pleasant Green Afterschool staff, Cameron Park teachers and local teenagers. Many of our youth, over the last 23 years, worked in Afterschool or Summer Camp as a first job.



The bottom line is that we are creative in how we plan, and manage to do a lot with a little; but this is a fund-raising effort. We are asking parents and grandparents to recognize and honor your children and grandchildren as the school year ends, by making a donation - large or small - in each of their names to the Pleasant Green Summer Camp, 2014. The names will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, June 21st as Summer Camp begins. There will be no poinsettia or Easter lily to take home at the close of the service but there will be satisfaction in getting one of our most vital programs off to a good start by acknowledging the hard work and achievement of the school year and the need in our community for a place for elementary children to be supervised while parents work. It's a good feeling!

Summer Camp 2015 includes 7 weeks ~ June 22 - August 7. A week's tuition for summer camp is \$155.

**Robeson County Mission Trip
September 20 - 24**



Also, we will be taking day mission trips to Nashville, NC, less than a 2 hour drive. More details later...

If you are interested in participating in a NC mission trips, please contact Kathryn Dempsey at missionkat@gmail.com or 919-644-2695.

For our Robeson trip, we will try and take some of the various kits they need (school /toiletry) and foods.

Share the Word! Keep that light shining!

We welcome the Butlers to our church family! They transferred from Methodist Temple UMC Evansville, IN.



Rob & Sarah Butler and children ~ Maddie (7), Emmie (5) and Greyson (1).

EL
SALVADOR
F
U
N
D
R
A
I
S
E
R
S

Change for Christ

Take a bottle to collect your spare change for the next several months. Return the bottle to us when it gets full. Your spare change can make a BIG difference!

EL SALVADOR
Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

**Rudino's
at North Pointe
(across from Costco)
July 1 - 31**

For the mission team to receive 10% of the total of your receipt amount, place your receipt in the "Church of the Month" box!

The El Salvador Mission Team

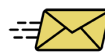


appreciates your generosity! Please take an envelope from the tree in the Narthex, donate the amount on the envelope and place in the offering plate.



Do YOU have flowers growing in your yard to share? Please call the church office if you have (or will have) flowers to provide for a Sunday, arranged by you or others.

Pleasant Green Mail...



To My Church Family,

I want to thank each of you for the cards, calls, prayers and meals during my recent health issues and surgery. Having a loving and caring church community is a gift and I am so thankful for each of you at Pleasant Green. I look forward to returning soon and being able to thank you in person.

Blessings, Martha Adams



Our Rose Garden

We are blessed with a beautiful Rose Garden, a great resource to bring beauty and a remembrance of Pleasant Green to the sick, shut-ins or for yourself!

Feel free to cut roses but please remember the following: Take a container of water to the garden and cut roses at a 45 degree angle just above a leaf on the stem that has five leaflets. It is important to cut roses correctly, as new growth forms at the place of cutting.

Special Music Needed for the Summer



If you play an instrument or like to sing, you are invited to provide special music during either of the worship services during the summer months. Or you may have a neighbor who has a talent to share or may be having summer visitors who could offer Pleasant Green a gift of music. You could promise your neighbor or friends or relatives a warm welcome.

Contact Janice Nicholson 919-682-8857 / Lesley Weaver 919-724-9542 or call the office to volunteer.

Favorite Hymn Choices at Early Service

During the summer months, the 8:30 a.m. service will begin with a sing-along of favorite hymns. So be thinking of a hymn that you wish we would sing more often and let your fellow worshippers sing it along with you. If you have a story that goes with the hymn such as "we always sang this at church camp" or "this was my mother's favorite hymn," feel free to share that memory.



Pleasant Green United Methodist Church
 3005 Pleasant Green Road
 Durham, NC 27705
 (919) 383-5764

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Durham, NC 27705
Permit No. 5

Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org
 Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339
 Church E-mail: pgumc@ncrrbiz.com

Address Service Requested

Please recycle this newsletter.

**BRUNSWICK STEW
 & PINE STRAW
 still available!**

Summer Fun for Children
PGUMC SUMMER CAMP
 June 22 - August 7
 7:30 am - 5:45 pm
 for rising 1st graders & up
*Registration forms are in the Narthex
 or on the website.*

There is no charge for children of the church and community to come to the Summer Camp musical week mornings or Vacation Bible School.

V B S
 July 13 - 17
 9:00 - 12:30
 age 4 thru
 rising 6th graders

Musical
 July 27 - 31
 practice 8:30 - 12:30
 Monday - Friday
Performance
 Friday, July 31~7pm

Pleasant Green continues to host a **toddler play group** (and Mommy conversation time)! The group is meeting on **Wednesdays, 9:45 - 11:00 am** ... or until lunchtime! For more information, please contact Anna LaBarre (919) 619-4652 or annalabarre@gmail.com

**** Great Gifts ****
(Wedding, Graduation, Birthday)
Purchase Pleasant Green UMW Cookbooks and support missions!
Cookbooks (\$16) are available in the Narthex

Join the Pleasant Greeners for a trip to the State Farmers' Market in Raleigh on Tuesday, June 16th!

We leave church at 10 am, eat lunch at the Farmers' Market Restaurant and then check out the fresh produce.

Sign up in the Narthex.

BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, June 7 ~ 9 AM - 1 PM
You can give someone a second chance at life; a second chance to be with their loved ones.
 A 24 hour number is available for eligibility questions. 1-866-562-7156
Sign up in the Narthex or on line.

April 30, 2015

An Image of the Fall of Saigon in 1975. Photo: Hugh Van Es

My April Story

This April, forty years after the fall of Saigon, reminds me of the significant event that dramatically shaped the recent history of Vietnam and the lives of many people involved. As a daughter of a South Vietnamese armed forces member, my story is inevitably intertwined with the history of this aftermath of April 30.



My story actually begins in the last days of March 1975 in Da Nang. I recall one night my mother packed each of us with a bag of dried rice, sweet potato tortillas, and our contact info in case we lost one another. My family rushed to my father's office in the night only to find that most of the people were gone. We were frantically trying to flee to the sea but we could never make it. North Vietnamese troops had entered Da Nang before we could reach the shore. That was the first time I saw North Vietnamese soldiers in person. They came in their military vehicles wearing simple green canvas uniforms and rifles.

Da Nang fell. It was raining heavily. We were left behind. We returned home but we could not live in our home long. My father was sent to a "reeducation" camp. My family left our home for a small village where my great grandparents came from. My happy childhood abruptly ended. I was nine years old then.

At the age of nine, I came to realize that I was different, having been discriminated against because of the political circumstances that came with the fall of the Saigon government. I became a daughter of "the puppet army, of the puppet government" who was rendered as "other" in the small village and the larger Vietnamese society of the time.

At age nineteen, I fully recognized myself as different from the majority of my classmates. I was denied access to college on grounds that my father was a former political prisoner and my family was Christian. It became clear to me that I was excluded from the closed system of education and therefore from the only reliable route to escape economic and sociopolitical marginalization. This reality marked my place with the "marginal," those outside the mainstream society, and part of the experience of South Vietnamese Christians in the years after the fall of Saigon.



This experience of marginalization shaped my determination to be better educated and therefore less marginalized in a society that greatly values education. It also left me with a self-awareness and an ability to relate to the marginalized. My migration to the United States as a student of theology in 1998 further deepened my interest in education, not only for me but also for Vietnamese Christians, who struggled to find accessible approaches to meet the need of theological education for church leadership.

This April, the 40th, I am grateful that I am here in Saigon, working with my fellow Christians. The early hardship shaped my worldview and my calling to work with the marginalized and oppressed whose stories I have lived through.

How to support my mission

My responsibility with the Master of Divinity Program ended last month, but my heart is still with the students and the program. I invite you to continue to support the program through another missionary.

I am now responsible for the Laity Training and the Children's Bibles and Backpacks. We will distribute the Bibles and Backpack items in **early July**. Please support the children and the lay people with your prayers and your donation to these projects:

#14932A Children's Bible & Backpack Project

#14932A Laity Training Program

<http://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/14932A>

My Advance #3021965

<http://www.umcmmission.org/explore-our-work/missionaries-in-service/missionary-profiles/Quynh-Quynh-Hoa>

Peace and grace,
Quynh

Pleasant Green Welcomed Vietnam Missionary last year on May 18.

Quynh-Hoa Nguyen is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as director of leadership development of the United Methodist Mission in Vietnam.



Quynh pictured with Kathryn Dempsey & Matt Matthews