



# Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

July 2015



### **Independence or Interdependence**

By Dr. Jesse Brunson

I am for all intents and purposes a science fiction movie nut. Needless to say, I like most things science fiction, and occasionally some of them provide good theological reflection. Such is the case with the movie *Independence Day*, screened in 1996, starring Will Smith, Bill Pullman, Jeff Goldblum and a cast of many other outstanding actors. There is scene in the movie when a large group of jet pilots are about to strike against alien forces and the President of America, played by Bill Pullman, delivers a rousing speech. This is what he says: "Mankind; that word should have new meaning for all of us today. We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore. We will be united in our common interest. Perhaps its fate today is the Fourth of July, and you will once again be fighting for our freedom. Not freedom from tyranny, oppression, or persecution, but from annihilation. We are fighting for our right to live, to exist. And should we win; the day the Fourth of July will no longer be known as an American holiday, but as the day the world declared in one voice; we will not go quietly into the night. We will not vanish without a fight! We're going to live on! We are going to survive! Today we declare our Independence Day."

Well the speech was a good one and it galvanized the troops to win the battle. And if there has been an act which has galvanized Americans to deal with the issues of racism and discrimination, it has been the terrorist killing of nine Christians in Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. For this act of hatred and violence has caused a chain reaction that has reverberated around the nation and the world. People of good will are ready to say "no" to hatred among the classes and races and work to improve laws that allow so many guns to be in the hands of those who mean ill will to others.

In the Apostle's letter to the Corinth church, he suggested that if one part suffers, every part suffers with it. (*I Corinthians 12:26a*) Well we know that he spoke of the church, the body of Christ. And this could not be more appropriate than for us to acknowledge that Emanuel AME Church is a part of the body of Christ, that South Carolina is a part the body of the United States; and we suffer with them.

They are not independent but they are interdependent upon people of good will to pray for them, to pray with them and to act in any way that is reasonable for us to help bear their burden. We celebrate our Independence but we cherish our interdependence upon each other. For when one part suffers all suffers.

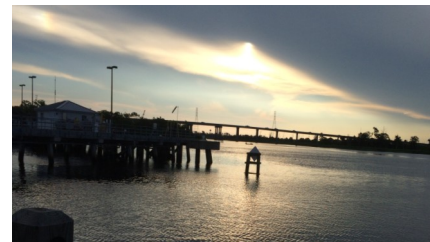
Praise be to God;  
Pastor Jesse

#### *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](mailto:didleycat@nc.rr.com).

## 2015 NCCUMC Conference Report---“Serve”

The North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church met at the Wilmington, NC convention center from June 10-13. The 2015 theme was “Serve.” During the opening, “Shall We Gather at the River” was sung by all, and how appropriate it was since the convention center is located in downtown Wilmington on the riverfront. Bishop Hope Ward was presented with a container of water from each district that was poured into a communal bowl to symbolize the joining of all Methodists from the eight districts of the NCCUMC. Bishop Ward and Bishop John Yambasu of the Sierra Leone African Conference jointly led us in the opening service.



Opening worship and communion was followed by separate meetings of clergy and laity, and then all came back together for the first business session. This was a “voting” conference, and one of the tasks in addition to the normal conference work was electing delegates to the General Conference and Jurisdictional Conference in 2016. All laity candidates who had submitted online forms were introduced during the laity session. Voting was done with electronic devices, and we voted throughout the first three days until all clergy and laity delegates were selected. Laity completed voting first, as is usual, but the clergy finished soon after on Friday evening.

Throughout the conference, a Native American Ministry Moment was held which highlighted the presence of the many Native Americans in the NCCUMC, many who are members of the Lumbee tribe. A book entitled “Meet The Lumbee Methodists—Part II,” authored by Rev. Dr. Milford Oxendine, Jr., was given to each person in attendance on day one. Short history moments, video clips, and songs provided a glimpse of Native American ministries. We were reminded not to think that Native Americans have disappeared—they are among us in greater numbers than we might think.

Statistician George Speake provided some numbers on membership: 229,744 total Methodists in the NCCUMC, which is a gain of 409 from last year. There were 2,806 professions of faith, 1,742 new members, and 1,485 new members transferring in from other conferences. Average worship attendance is 76,896, which is a decline in attendance of 1,785. Mr. Speake asked everyone to work on record accuracy for next year to ensure the numbers are correct. He mentioned data from the Pew Research Report that we have discussed at Pleasant Green connectional table meetings. While the Pew report indicates that member numbers are declining over a period of time, missions and benevolent giving are increasing. As missional churches, the NCCUMC is doing well.



Wednesday night was a mission celebration that began with Regine Jean-Baptiste speaking about Lighthouse Land missions in Haiti. Bishop John Yambasu then gave an informative talk about the 275,000 Methodists in Sierra Leone. He described his country very well, gave some interesting and informative statistics, and talked about how the people of Sierra Leone have been helped by United Methodists missions.

Morning Bible study was led on Thursday and Friday by Dr. Warren Smith, Ph.d, Associate Professor of Historical Theology, Duke University. His theme was from Matthew 25:31-46, focusing on the “Service of the Blessed Sheep,” which tells us that Jesus identified himself “with the least,” not just serving the least in a mission.

**\*\*Pleasant Green UMC sent 9 food buckets to the NCCUMC drive, and 1,800 food buckets in total were received by NCCUMC!!**

Dr. Christine Harmon gave a short report about “Moodle,” which is the NCCUMC online learning module. There are online classes held via this tool that are open to all. The cost is usually small. The classes have reading assignments then discussion boards on which participants post and interact with others. This is a great way to take a class that you might be interested in. I have used this option myself, and I find it fun and interesting. You can review classes available (there are new ones all the time) on the NCCUMC website, [nccumc.org](http://nccumc.org), click on “A-Z” at the top, then find “Online Learning” under “O.”



Two action items were voted on and approved regarding the Safe Sanctuaries policy. One change was to change wording of the policy to “provide a place where children, youth, *vulnerable adults* (added to wording), volunteers and staff can be safe to grow in God...”. The addition of the words “vulnerable adults” was approved. The second action item approved was that every congregation of NCCUMC shall have a Safe Sanctuaries policy in place by 2016 Annual Conference. Thursday night’s program was an evening of music by Christian recording artist Sara Groves. Her music is her faith-statement, and she has long standing involvement to help victims of human trafficking and the International Justice Mission.

The financial overview and CF&A report was provide by Sheila Ahler and Christine Dodson. They report that 92% of churches pay their apportionments, and that NCCUMC is one of 25 conferences that pays 100% of its share of apportionments to the General conference. The budget request of \$21,289,774 for 2017 was approved. (The NCCUMC requests the budget in advance, raises the money in 2016, and only spends in 2017 what is actually raised in 2016.)

District Superintendents were granted a raise of \$857, bringing their annual salary to \$106,010. The “minimum” salary for full time pastors was set at \$42,617 and at \$27,701 for student pastors, an increase of 1.5%. (Each church can pay more to a pastor as they are able, but must pay no less than these amounts).

The conference has a self-insured health plan administered by Blue Cross Blue Shield. An increase of 1.75% was approved for 2016, which will make the church’s portion increase to \$1,056.33 per month.

Rev. Mike Slaughter, author and also pastor of Ginghamburg UMC in Ohio, spoke on Thursday and Friday afternoon about “Servant Discipleship.” He emphasized that “meaning,” not “meetings,” are most important in a church. He stated that we need not struggle on a mission statement for our churches—we have one that Jesus gave us-- “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” He outlined five characteristics of a vital congregation: the church is seeing new disciples, there is a clear path of connection for persons coming to the church, the members participate in discipleship groups, the disciples are in mission, and disciples give (tithe) faithfully. He stated that by raising the bar and expecting members to follow these five signs of vitality creates clarity about commitment. He challenges all members to have big visions, not small ones, and to allow the Holy Spirit to take control.

Seven resolutions were presented and voted on by NCCUMC. The complete resolution list can be found on the NCCUMC website. Resolution # 4 was defeated, but all others were passed. Minor wording was changed in resolution # 2 and 6.

Friday afternoon provided some fun during the Camping Ministries report. We played badminton and “made some racket!” Since we had so much business to complete, the video report of special ministries was not shown, but it will be posted online. Pleasant Green UMC provided photos and information about our “Kids Connect” ministry. 105 churches provided information on a special ministry. This is always an uplifting report, so please review it online if you can.



Several breakout sessions offered ideas and hope for the world. Six different choices were available on Friday morning, ranging from emphasis on global missions to local children’s missions.

Saturday morning was a day of finishing up some business, setting appointments, and ordination for new pastors. Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson is returning to us this year, but we do have a new District Superintendent. Rev. Carol Goehring, formerly in charge of Connectional Ministries, has been assigned to the Corridor District. Rev. Jesse Larkin has been assigned as the associate District Superintendent to assist Rev. Goehring. We look forward to working with both of them this year.

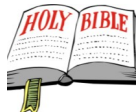
Three and a half days and three nights of work, fun, and connecting with friends we don’t see often goes by fast. It sometimes seems as though we might never get our business completed, but the Holy Spirit is with us as we take time for prayers, thoughtfulness, and consideration of all opinions and requests. There was much more reporting and activity that I can tell you about in this report. Please review the many conference-related material, videos, and information on the NCCUMC website, [nccumc.org](http://nccumc.org), for more in-depth data about NCCUMC 2015 conference. I always enjoy my time there—I hope you will go sometime as well!

One more thing—did you know we have church online??? “Everyday Grace,” 11:30 AM on Sunday mornings! Don’t stay home to watch it, though—you can see it on the website later on! But if you cannot make it to church for some reason, it is an option you might want to check out!

By: Sandy Quinn, Lay Delegate To Annual Conference for Pleasant Green UMC

***Please Sign Up in the Narthex!***

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.



We will not have a Duke Divinity School Intern this summer, the congregation is asked to sign up to read scripture for both worship services.

***Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex to help with music or reading scripture.***

**Also, please speak with Pastor Jesse or call the church office if you are available to provide the children’s sermon one Sunday at the 11:00 Worship Service.**

From the Prayer Team...



## **Prayer for People Who are Suffering from the Heat**

*James 5:13 – Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

*1 Peter 4: 19 – Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*

Make no mistake; high temperatures may be enjoyable for many people. Heat makes them soar! Spirits rise and so does productivity. Intense sunshine and 90+ degrees are gifts from God. For others, though, heat can drain our energy, make our heads fuzzy-headed, sap our motivation, give us upset stomachs, and trigger depression, flashes of anger and physical collapse. We may be suffering. Our friends and neighbors may truly be suffering. We may not have a genetic or developed tolerance for oven-like conditions. We may also not have the money or other resources to find relief...high ceilings, fans, shady trees or air conditioning.

James and Peter give suggestions on how to cope with suffering: pray, call for mature Christians to pray for us, commit our souls to God. These are all well-developed ways to relieve suffering. In addition, we can pray through our actions. Invite a neighbor to your home if it is cooler than theirs. Donate an electric fan. Help pay a power bill. Bring a bag of ice! Have an ice-cream party. These thoughtful gifts are prayer in motion. As we are giving our gifts, let us also speak to God:

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving each of us a unique love of different seasons. We appreciate your blessing us with diversity and at least one season that best suits our preferences. When you have given us a tolerance for heat; help us reach out to those who don't. Energize us to pray with our hands and feet. Show us how to help those who are suffering. Raise our awareness to those who are in danger. Let us cheerfully sing psalms as we are the Good Samaritan to neighbors in distress. We know that through your Son; all of these things are possible. It is in His name we pray. Amen.*

### **July Prayer Ministry Meeting**

The July meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **PGUMC Summer Camp**

Tomorrow, Pleasant Green Afterschool Care turns into Pleasant Green Summer Camp for the 24th time! Pleasant Green provides a safe, fun place for elementary aged children to be cared for during the summer months. The Afterschool Program 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 Afterschool Ministry Committee is asking parents and grandparents to recognize and honor your children and grandchildren, by making a donation – large or small – in each of their names to the Pleasant Green Summer Camp, 2015. It's never too late to help!*



### **Donations Received**

Jim & Becky Crawford - Memory ~ Cameron Fisher  
Janice & Dennis Nicholson – Honor ~ grandchildren ~ Andrew, Graham, Eva & Cooper  
Larry & Evelyn Morris – Honor ~ Grandchildren ~ Ellie & Julia Morris & Sawyer Nicholson  
Wayne & Terri Leonard – Honor of Joel & Davis  
Gerald Riley – Honor of grandchildren  
Elaine Flannery – Honor of great-granddaughters Faye & Lillie Allen  
Ginger & John Link – Honor of Martha Walker's retirement & Susan Burke for her service to Afterschool  
Dennis & Jean Nichols – Honor of Eric & Abby  
David Ward – Honor of Kyle & Andrew  
Wandra Whitford – Honor of Jonah & Vivian  
David Almers & Mary Beth Magallanes  
Jo Anna – Honor of all who have contributed in any way to make the Afterschool & Summer Camp Program possible for the last 24 years ~ especially the children!

### **Summer Camp Musical**

Richard & Betsy Cassidy  
Gretchen Hutt & Mike Martin



# pleasant green youth group



## July Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons / Sunday School 10 am

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.*

**Elevate: Sunday, July 12 ~ Faith Lesson #2: Barriers that get in the way of your Faith**

**Special Events: July 10 ~ Sky Zone/Sleepover / July 20 ~ Carwinds Trip**

**VBS Week ~ July 13 - 17 Volunteer Opportunity for Youth—Lunch provided**

**Afternoon Activities: volunteer at OCIM, pack dinner for FOOD FOR ALL, movies, pool party, etc.**



### Youth Mission Trip to Birmingham, AL



**Youth: Bailey Anderson, Hannah Kankelfritz, Cassie Lipton, Rick Cassidy, Ryan Montgomery, Caeden Poe, Davis Whitfield, Will Witt**



Thanks to the adults:

Kathryn Dempsey  
~~~

John Micol  
~~~

Mark Stocking





The United Methodist Women's  
**“Christmas in July”**



**Mission Project**

*Take an ornament from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex & purchase the “Back to School” items for needy children.*

The school supplies are donated to Orange County Elementary Schools.



**One last picture with Ms. Susan at Afterschool!**

**Reception for  
 Gary & Susan Burke  
 on Sunday, June 21**

New Address

P.O. Box 2198  
 Boone, N.C. 28607



Pleasant Green Family,

We are excited, yet emotional about leaving this church and community. Making the decision to move to Boone has been a bittersweet one for us. Words cannot express the feelings and love we have for Pleasant Green and its special members. We have made life-long friendships that we will carry with us on our next journey. Each of you has a special place in our hearts. We will dearly miss you all! Please come visit us in the High Country—we love you all!!  
*Gary & Susan*



**The church honored our  
 graduates on Sunday, June 7**

**Megan Stocking / Callie Totten  
 Evan Lang / Davis Leonard  
 Christopher Martin**



**ACOLYTES & CROSSBEARERS**

All children who are rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and older are invited to serve as acolytes and crossbearers during worship. If your child did not attend the training on June 6, please contact Gloria Perry to sign your child up.



Laura & Naomi Fister, Sydney Baker, Asher Nichols, Charlotte & Chloe Whitfield, Max & Jack McCurdy, Ty Walker

The participation of our children is so important to the worship service and important to our children in their faith development and assimilation into the Body of Christ. Thank you for encouraging your children in this service to the church.

**Gloria Perry - Coordinator: 919-471-0566**

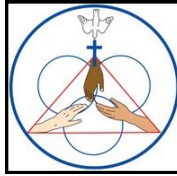


**Common Thread  
 A Ministry to  
 Comfort the Dying**

*Thanks to  
 Linda Fonville  
 for making these  
 adorable bears for children in Hospice.*



**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  
**Gene & Terry Perry**  
to our church  
family!  
They transferred  
New Bethel UMC  
In Rougemont.



**El Salvador Fundraisers**

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.

Please Return Change For Christ Bottles By July 12.

**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!

**2015 EL SALVADOR**  
Pleasant Green United Methodist Church

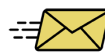
**Rudino's at North Pointe (across from Costco) July 1 - 31**

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



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...**



**Pleasant Green Church Family,**

Thank you so much for the calls, prayers, cards, food and visits during Garry's illness and passing. Thank you for the wonderful meal after the service. Our family was very glad to have a place to fellowship after the service.

Thank each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time.  
*The Garry Wilson Family*

**CHRISMONS MINI-WORKSHOPS**

Saturdays, July 11, 18 & 25 9 am—Noon

Hillsborough UMC Basement/Library

Contact PG Church Office if you are interested...919-383-5764

*All ladies invited!*

**Baby Shower for Megan Collins King**

Sunday, July 12

from 3:00—4:00 pm  
in the church parlor



Thank you for a great Blood Drive on June 7th at Pleasant Green UMC!



We finished with 19 lifesaving pints of blood including 2 double red donations.







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

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**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)  
 Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339  
 Church E-mail: [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com)

Address Service Requested

 Please recycle this newsletter. 

*The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is provided free of charge to the PGUMC congregation by the United Methodist Women. You may pick up a copy in the Narthex.*



## FESTIVAL FOR THE ENO

JULY 4 & 5 10 am - 6 pm  
 (HELD AT WEST POINT ON THE ENO CITY PARK)

### Pleasant Greeners To Be Treated by Summer Campers



*Forget about bringing a dish, just sign up to attend the special lunch planned for the Pleasant Greeners on*  
**Wednesday, July 22**  
**12 noon**

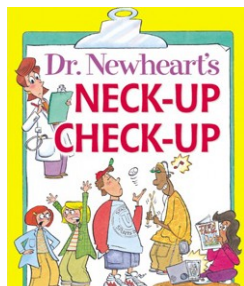
*There is no charge for children of the church and community to come to the Summer Camp musical week mornings or Vacation Bible School.*

### Musical

**July 27 - 31**

practice 8:30 - 12:30  
 Monday - Friday

Performance  
 Friday, July 31~7pm



Orange Community Players presents  
 July 23 - 26



All performances will be held at Orange High School Hillsborough, NC

*Guys And Dolls is an oddball romantic comedy, set in the 1950's.*

*Featuring Davis Leonard and Wayne Leonard*



### Vacation Bible School

**July 13 - 17**

9:00 - 12:30 age 4 and up

### Colors of the Day!

Monday- Red / Tuesday- Orange / Wednesday- Yellow  
 Thursday- green / Friday- VBS TSHIRT!

### Register on line

[2015.cokesburyvbs.com/pleasantgreenumc](http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/pleasantgreenumc)

Join us for VBS Celebration at  
 11:00 Worship on Sunday, July 19th.

Please save paper towel/ toilet paper rolls, small colorful slinkys and wire coat hangers for VBS.