



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

September 2015



What is a Church Homecoming?

Dr. Jesse Brunson

On September 20 Pleasant Green United Methodist Church will celebrate its one hundred and eighty-third year in ministry and mission. It has gone from being a two point charge with a student pastor to now being a station charge with a full time Pastor and a clergy as a Director of Youth Ministry; additionally staff serving as Musicians, Business Administrator, Program Coordinator and After School Director.

The vision of this church is to maintain a healthy active congregation focused on the future, as it grows numerically and spiritually. Therefore, as we celebrate Homecoming on September 20, we have much to give God praise for. We invite our members to come and celebrate this wonderful church's life in ministry. Invite family, friends and neighbors. Invite community.

But what is Homecoming? Traditionally, Homecoming has been a celebration focusing on the church's anniversary. It is a time when former members come back home to see old friends, worship together and share a fellowship meal. Members will remember the past and envision for the future. Some have suggested that the idea to have a church Homecoming was borrowed from the college homecoming. Accordingly, the first college homecoming was held in 1911 by Missouri State University around their football program. Shortly after then the first church Homecoming was held by an African American church in our state of North Carolina.

Like the college Homecoming, the church invited the members past and present to come home to celebrate, eat and enjoy the festive occasion. But unlike the college, the church worshipped and praised the God that had brought them through many dangers, toils and snares. They celebrated the God that had been with them through sickness, child births, death, job loss, marriage breakup, wayward children and stress.

So as we celebrate this homecoming, let us give thanks for the God and his church that has been with his people through it all.

Praise God; Pastor Jesse

183rd Anniversary Homecoming

September 20th

11:00 am Worship Service

Preacher ~ Pastor Jesse

Music ~ Choir & Praise Band

**We will be "one worshipping congregation" on this special day.
(no 8:30 am service)**

We invite you to attend this celebration of building of new relationships and reunions of old friends. And plan to stay for the annual covered dish lunch following worship.

from Finance...

Special Homecoming Offering

Happy Birthday, PGUMC! In celebration of our church's 183rd birthday, we're asking our church family to consider a special offering for this year's Homecoming. May we suggest a special offering in any of the following forms to further the ministry and missions of Pleasant Green UMC:

1. A gift of \$183 per family celebrating 183 years of worship at PGUMC
2. A gift of \$1 per person for every year that PGUMC has been a part of your life
3. A memorial or honorary gift to recognize someone in PGUMC's past or present who has helped you at some point along your walk with Christ.

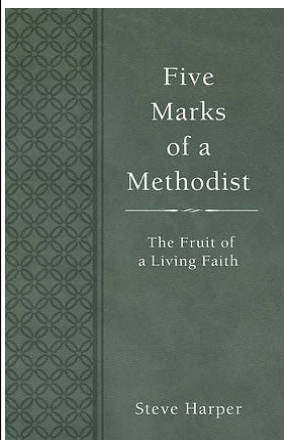
Thanks to the generosity of its family and friends, PGUMC endures, providing encouragement, enlightenment and spiritual growth to so many people, near and far. We've accomplished a lot in 183 years, but have so much left to do!

from Pastor, Jesse...

We are always excited to welcome new members here at Pleasant Green. A class for the month of September is planned for Sunday mornings 9:45—10:30 am. This class, open to all in our Pleasant Green congregation, will help you become more familiar with your church. We will share the basic belief, denomination structure of the UM Church and you will hear from some of the leaders of Pleasant Green about our focus for ministry and mission.

This will be a time to share with others new to Pleasant Green, as well as long-time members, and become more connected to the life and ministry of your church. May God bless as you continue your faith journey.

New Member Orientation Class ~ All are invited!
September Sundays 9:45 - 10:30 am
Five Marks of a Methodist - The Fruit of a Loving Faith
by Steve Harper will be the book used in this class



This concise and compelling summary helps every United Methodist learn and remember the five identifiers that John Wesley set forth in *The Character of a Methodist*. A gem of a book, it answers in plain language, "How should United Methodists live?" and provides the people called Methodists with a clear and memorable unifying focus. As followers of Jesus who reach out to serve their neighbors, United Methodists:

- Love God • Rejoice in God
- Give thanks • Pray always • Love others

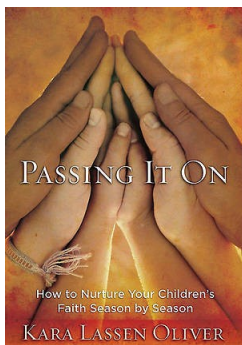
This book is perfect for explaining what it means to live in the United Methodist way. "Steve Harper goes to the very heart of faithfulness as he describes and then calls upon all those who follow Wesley to live. It is lives of integrity that are the result of following these marks. He goes on to identify the "marks" or "practices" that when followed will result in a life of righteousness, goodness, peace, and joy. It is a way of living in God's gracious presence that he encourages for everyone, and it is a way of living I choose for myself."

Passing It on: How to Nurture Your Children's Faith Season by Season

Parents have the most direct impact on their children's spiritual formation. But often they lack confidence in their biblical knowledge, theological understanding, and grasp of Christian tradition.

With gentle humor and faithful insight, Kara Oliver encourages parents by providing practical ideas for passing on their faith to their children. She suggests that parents incorporate weekly gatherings into their family schedules for short periods 4 weeks at a time during 4 times of year: Advent, Lent, summer, and back-to-school.

Copies of this book are available in the church office at the cost of \$7.



I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing praise. (Psalm 101:1)

The **Voices of Praise** will start practicing at 8:00 a.m. on **Sunday, September 6th** downstairs in the choir room. This group introduces the congregation to some of the new music in the *Faith We Sing* book as well as presenting old favorites and group choruses. If you like to sing, please join us! Call Janice Nicholson (682-8857)



The **Chancel Choir** provides sacred music during our traditional service at 11:00 and is directed by Lesley Weaver. The Chancel Choir practices are on **Wednesdays** starting on **August 26th** at 7:00 in the Choir Room. This is a perfect time for anyone who enjoys singing and fellowship to join the choir. There is no audition, and the ability to read music is not required. Call Lesley Weaver (724-9542)

The Hearts & Hands Class invites all to join them on the 2nd Sunday on each month as they volunteer at the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner.



The group will be leaving the church at 8:30 am in time to arrive to transport the residents to the Center's Worship Service. Contact Van McCay with any questions: 919-477-9692.



From the Prayer Team...

You Matter to God

Psalm 139: 14-16 I give thanks to you that I was marvelously set apart. Your works are wonderful – I know that very well. My bones weren't hidden from you when I was being put together in a secret place, when I was being woven together in the deep parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my embryo, and on your scroll every day was written that was being formed for me.

The Clyde Walker class is studying Max Lucado's series *Fearless*. Recently, the class focused on fearing we do not matter. There are many contributing factors to that fear: being laid off; being young and not yet purposefully contributing to the world; being a teenager, with all its social, emotional and physical changes; being ill and home bound; among many others. While the causes of our belief that we do not matter may vary, the resulting reactions are very similar. We may feel not valued, used up, rejected, thrown away by our family, friends, co-workers and society. Those reactions take away our energy and sparkle. We start to believe what others tell us, which only pulls us down further.

Did you know that God is more powerful than anything any group can tell us? And, what is more important, you matter to Him! His good news is that he created us and loves us more than anyone ever could. How we think and feel matter to him every day of our lives. We don't have to prove ourselves to him. We don't have to keep giving and giving and giving to earn his favor. We just need to keep him in our sight and talk to him daily (better yet, hourly or more) to know that he is with us. He is always with us. We stray from him, which is where we get into trouble and sink to where we believe we do not matter. Let him boost you up and draw you close to him. And, if it is difficult to do that right now, we will pray for you.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for creating us and loving us. Thank you for knowing the number of hairs on our heads and knitting us together in your image. Thank you for having a plan for each of us that we may or may not already have completed. Thank you that we matter to you. We praise you for all of your persistence in wanting a relationship with us, as well as your glory, wonder, compassion and hope. No matter where we are in life, help us to stay close to you so that you sustain us by showing us that we matter to you. And, help us to believe that whatever the world says about us, as long as you are with us, we are at peace. No one shows us these things better than your Son. It is in His name, our Lord Jesus Christ, that we pray these things. Amen.

September Prayer Ministry Meeting

The August meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church, church and extended family members and, local, national and global issues. Come join us!

Robeson County Mission Trip ~ September 20 - 24

For more info contact Kathryn Dempsey ~
katjoyforall@gmail.com or 919-644-2695.




For our Robeson trip, we are taking school kits in T-shirt bags. Donations of used T-shirts are needed as well as the items listed below for elementary school children. Place items in the box in the Narthex.

- Packs of wide ruled notebook paper
- #2 Pencils / Pencil Sharpeners
- Large Erasers or Pencil-end Erasers
- Crayons / Washable Markers
- Colored Pencils / Rulers
- Construction Paper Packs
- Blunt Point Scissors
- Hand Sanitizers
- Travel Size Kleenex Packs



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many prayers,  and special thoughts you sent my way during this difficult period in my life. Because of you, I stayed positive and strong. I am so lucky to be part of this very loving community.

Sincerely, Colleen St. John

The Women's Sunday School Class sponsored FOOD FOR ALL in August.



Encouragement to Join the Prayer Ministry

Come join us! Here is reassurance that you that you have all that you need to pray with us.

Concern	Encouragement
I don't know how to pray.	Prayer is talking to God about what is on your heart. Just as you would talk to a family member or friend, you can talk to God in the same way. No special words or approaches are needed.
I don't like to pray out loud.	We have had members who pray silently during our meetings. Your presence gives strength, meaning and support. You also help us live God's word, "When two or more people are gathered in my name..."
I don't know who or what to pray for.	There may be meetings where you don't know what to say. No person or situation may come to your mind. As you are with us and let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit, eventually, you will be able to add prayers. Truly!
What is expected of me if I participate in the prayer ministry?	Ideally, it is helpful if you come to the monthly meetings, agree to contact prayer requestors, pray at home at least once a week for the people on our prayer list; and, help out with various projects from time to time. It is okay to do all or some of these things.
You mentioned calling prayer requestors. I don't like to call people.	We do try to reach out to our prayer requestors (the people who have requested prayer for others) to see if the person we are praying for needs continued prayer or not. There are other ways to get this information; such as seeing the person in church or sending a quick email. If you are not able to reach out at all; there are other ways to contribute to this ministry.
When do you meet?	Our meetings are on the 3 rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Some of us may need to leave early to practice with the choir, attend Tai Chi class or some other activity...that is fine.
What do you do during meetings?	Our typical agenda includes an opening prayer to praise God and to guide us through the meeting; discussing people on the prayer list to see which people still need prayer and which of our prayers God has answered; planning for any projects we are led to do; and, praying for all of the people and situations we are led to pray for.
I don't know how much time I can give to the prayer ministry.	We have had people come and go from participating in the monthly meetings. As family, health and other issues need attention; some prayer ministry members withdraw for a while, then come back. And, as mentioned above, it is possible to contribute fully to all of our prayer ministry activities or just some of them.
Who do I contact if I have questions?	Our current members are: Pastor Jesse, Nell Andrews, Cindy Fox, Ginger Link, Ceil Matthews, Matt Matthews, Janice Nicholson, Gloria Perry, Gail Pruettt. Please talk to any one of us. The facilitator is Gail. Feel free to contact her at pruettg@frontier.com or 919-696-7283.

The Prayer Ministry would like to thank members who served with us and needed to leave the ministry. We appreciate Al and Wanda Edens and Gary Burke.

~ 1st Class Free! ~
We would love for you to join us!

pleasant green youth group



September Youth Calendar

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

from Ali...

Welcome back to school! Blessings on your studies!!!

I would like to offer a prayer as you begin the new year:

God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body and spirit. Be with our youth as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- We are having ELEVATE each Sunday in September. We are going to spend a couple of weeks “getting to know” one another. I am especially excited to hear about what you all love about youth group! Then we are going to dive into a series about Spiritual Gifts...[click here for a short & funny video](#) about the “spiritual gift of dodgeball” – just to get you geared up!
- Can you help? We are looking for people to host dinner (at the church) for the Youth. You can contact Ali to sign up for a Sunday. Thank you for being willing to serve in this way.
- Looking Ahead: Halloween Carnival (Oct 31st) and Pilgrimage (Nov 13-15th)
- For questions, comments, prayers, ideas, or to get involved in youth activities contact Ali at 202-744-6440 or alideleo@gmail.com



Welcome Ali DeLeo!
Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry



Save the Date!

Thursday, September 3



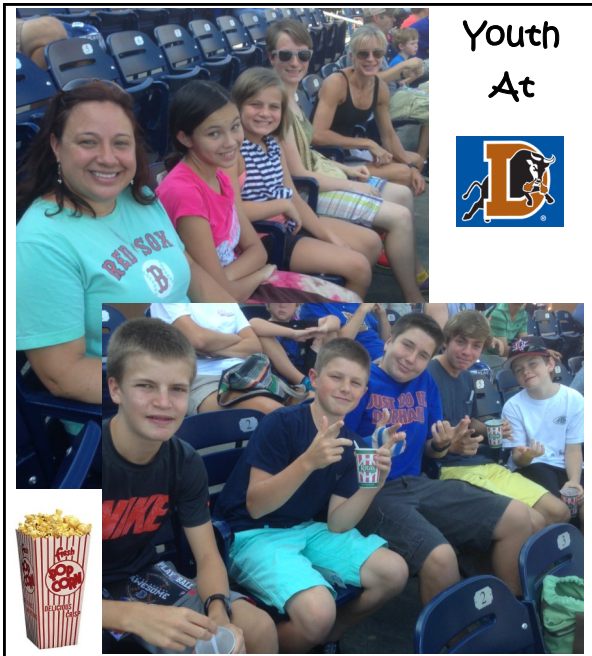
Back to School Kick-Off Celebration!
6 pm - Tom Carr ~ GOT GRIT School Pointers
6:30pm - Dinner provided

G - Getting Along With Others

R - Responsibility **I** - Integrity **T** - Tenacity

Tom Carr is an author, a marathon runner and retired Cameron Park Elementary School Counselor. His goal continues to be a preventive one: to create and implement programs that steer kids toward the kind of behavior and choices that would help them succeed.

Youth
At



**Thanks to
Martin Ferris, Jim Perry & Van McCay
for their work on our church building
and grounds!**



**Thank you to those who have so
generously given scholarships to
our Summer Camp & Musical!**



Mark Your Calendar

September 13th

Church Clean-up at 8am

Everyone's help is needed!



**PGUMC Kid's Worship
Volunteers Needed!**

Two volunteers, a leader and assistant leader, are needed for each Sunday at 11am.
Contact: andrea.harris68@yahoo.com



**How is God calling you
into His service?**

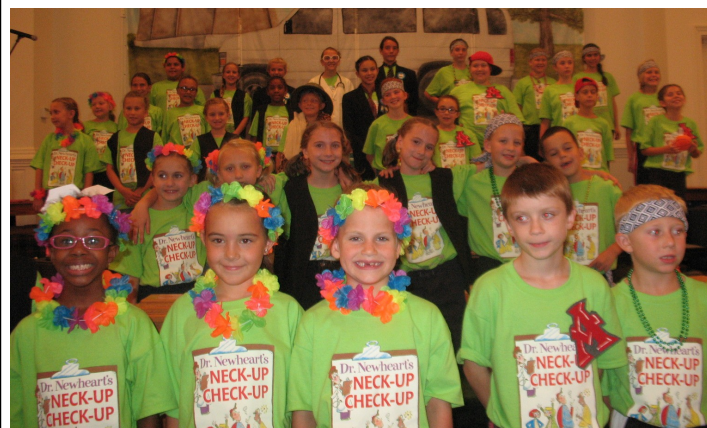
*Please speak with a member of
Lay Leadership as to how you would like to
serve your church in 2016.*

Pastor Jesse Brunson-Chair	383-2339
Sandy Quinn - Lay Leader	382-8442
Janice Nicholson	682-8857
Steve Collins	309-0345
Charlotte Overaker	383-2775
Patsy Stranger	471-8370
Van McCay	477-9662
Lisa Best	732-4035
Gretchen Hutt	383-3398
Millie Hunter	732-4779
Billy Totten	471-4455

**Committee budget requests for 2016 are needed!
Give requests to Betsy Cassidy or Evelyn Morris**



Dr. Newheart's Neck-Up Check-up



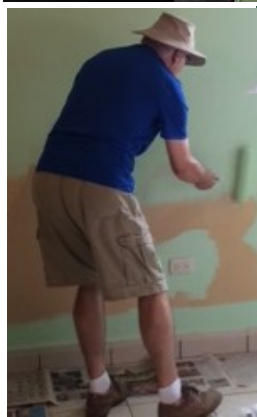
All Ladies Invited!
Baby Shower
for Kelly Brown Lee
Sunday, September 27
3- 4 pm ~ Parlor



Share the Word! Keep that light shin-



El Salvador Mission Trip



The El Salvador Mission Team had another successful ministry this year. We had three days of Bible School in El Shaddi. The average attendance was 60 children plus adults. We painted four rooms in the Pastor's parsonage. We also painted the inside walls of the El Shaddi Methodist Church. Some of us helped remove dirt from the side of the sanctuary so that a cement drainage system could be constructed. We delivered 40 bags of food to people in La Gloria. One bag will feed a family of four for a week. We visited each resident, talk with them thru our interpreter and Wendy, and held a prayer. The El Salvador Mission Team thanks the people of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church for their prayers and their financial support. Without you none this would have been possible.



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



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Pastor - Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339

**Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry-
 Alison DeLeo: alideleo@gmail.com**


Address Service Requested

 Please recycle this newsletter. 


Charles Wesley Concert
September 26-27
at Duke Memorial UMC ~ Durham
Saturday at 7 pm / Sunday at 3 pm



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

Dinner to honor Eno Volunteer Fire Department
Monday, September 14th
 Please sign up in the Narthex to help! 
The Eno volunteers appreciate this show of support and look forward to the dinner each year!

Fall Fundraisers
 ~
Your help is needed!

Brunswick Stew & BBQ Chicken Dinner
 November 7 4 - 7 pm
 Reserve Brunswick Stew Quarts (\$9)
 sponsored by the United Methodist Men
Potato Peeling Party in the multi-purpose room on Friday, November 6 at 6:30 pm.

UMW Silent / Live Auction
October 17th
at Pleasant Green UMC
5:00 — 7:00 pm
 Silent Auction 5 - 6pm ~ Live Auction 6— 7pm
Browse & bid on silent auction items while enjoying appetizers/desserts.
 **Everyone is invited!**
Donations of items are appreciated!!
 Suggestions for donations: gift cards/certificates for items/services, pottery, jewelry, vacation homes/retreats, baked goods, other handmade items (please include description of item and value)
****vacation homes/retreats are especially popular****
Ladies are asked to bring an appetizer and dessert .

ALL ARE INVITED!
St. Mary's Chapel
Homecoming
established 1759
Location: the corner of Schley & St. Mary's Roads
Sunday, September 27
4:45 pm— Pump Organ music
Evensong Service at 5:00 pm
followed by a covered dish dinner (BBQ provided)
 St. Mary's Chapel was established in 1759 for the purpose of holding Anglican services in Orange County for the homesteaders who lived in the vicinity of the "Trading Path." The Gothic Revival Style Chapel that now stands was constructed of hand-made brick in 1859.

