



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

August 2019



“It is not wrong to go back and fetch that which you have forgotten.”

This is an African phrase that I often return to when I need to remember, to retrieve, to reconnect with my roots. The phrase takes its form and shape in the image of a bird that has its body moving forward and its neck and head looking back. The bird is known as a “Sankofa” bird, from the Akan tribe in Ghana. Sankofa translates to “go back and get.” To the Akan people, this powerful symbol was a visual reminder that learning from the past and embracing the past ensures and moves us into a strong future.



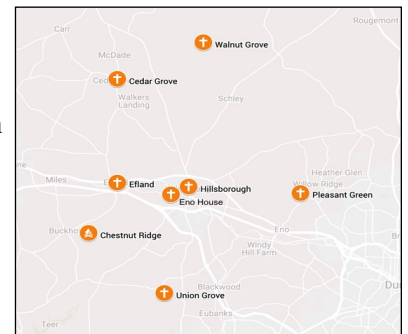
Once upon a time, at the dawn of Methodism, the church was not defined by formal structures, doctrine, or lines of authority. The church was defined by connectionalism – specifically to God and to each other. We have always been a people who have held interpersonal connections in high regard. It is the essence of who we are as United Methodists. Originally, this took shape as connections among people: connections between pastor and pastor, between pastor and laity, between laity and laity. Eventually this moved into small bands, societies, circuits, Annual Conferences, Jurisdictions, ministry networks, districts, Conferences – all tied together through a network of relationships. *It is not wrong to go back and fetch that which you have forgotten.*



Almost a year ago, several of us pastors in Orange County started getting together once a month. At the start, the purpose was simple. We wanted to be connected to each other, especially during a time when institutional angst was high (remember General Conference?); we wanted to commit to living and working together, to be in relationship together despite what happens, despite the tensions that will come. In the beginning, we simply committed to gathering and building deep trust. Over time we started asking questions of ourselves, “what would it look like to be better neighbors? To strengthen community connections? To work together for the upbuilding of our community and county?”

Over the past 8 months, what has taken shape among us is what is traditionally called a “Cooperative Parish” model of ministry – a long held tradition in our Methodist roots. The Orange Cooperative Parish is an expression of our connectional nature in which several churches work together in, in this case, an informal way in order to cultivate trust, mutual development, and more coordinated ministry among our congregations. The hope is to form a strong, faithful, missionally focused, and community centered Cooperative Parish among Walnut Grove UMC, Cedar Grove, Efland, Pleasant Green, Union Grove, Hillsborough, and Chesnutt Ridge. Some of our first shared projects have included: a booth at Hillsborough’s Last Fridays, a local youth mission week (which took place the week of July 7-13), bi-weekly lectionary group meetings among the clergy, planning for a shared youth retreat in the fall, developing a common language with an emphasis on gifts, mutuality, and “neighboring,” and finally, applying for a Duke Endowment grant to help us facilitate and implement this work.

Each time we gather, we remember something that would be easy to forget in this day and age: that we are truly more than the sum of our individual parts. That we are better together. That each time we gather, the Spirit is moving and working among us. There is energy, enthusiasm, and joy in our midst. We believe that God is working in the church and calling us to more. We believe that the Methodist Churches in Orange County have a unique opportunity to be alive and faithful as we do kingdom work together. It is not wrong to go back and fetch that which we have forgotten. Sometimes, it requires moving forward with our bodies, looking back at who we are, trusting deeply in who God has called us to be.



**PGUMC welcomes newest staff member,
Courtney Sanford,
as Director of Youth and Families
and Office Administrator!**



Courtney Sanford is originally from Boone, North Carolina. She studied Spanish at Clemson University, where she was on staff with the Clemson Wesley Foundation. Through the Wesley Foundation, she met her husband, Bailey, on a post-Katrina mission trip to New Orleans. Courtney and Bailey have been married for 5 years. Bailey is currently a medical student at UNC. Courtney spent her first 2 years of ministry working at the Methodist Student Network at the University of South Carolina and Epworth Children's Home in Columbia, South Carolina. In May she graduated from Duke University with a Master of Divinity. She was recently commissioned as a deacon in the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. Courtney loves running, traveling, hiking, walking her dog, pottery, and finding new local restaurants. She is so excited to work with the youth, especially using art in ministry and continuing the youth's involvement in missions, locally and beyond.

**PGUMC to Host Corridor District
Lay Servant Ministries Classes**

Lay Servant Ministries is offering two classes on Saturday, September 7, 2019. Each class is open to anyone interested. The two classes are excellent resources to help with leading small group studies or to enhance your understanding of The United Methodist Church, and each one is part of the courses needed to become either a Lay Servant, Certified Lay Servant, or Certified Lay Speaker if you are interested in pursuing that qualification.

There is a \$25 fee to enroll which you can pay via PayPal when you register online. The \$25 fee does not include the course book, but it does include lunch as well as light refreshments during the day.

Online advance enrollment ends on August 26, 2019. The online registration provides information on the course book and how to order. The course book must be read in advance of the class. Classes will be in session from 8:00AM until 4:30PM. Check in for the classes begins at 7:30 AM in the Narthex at Pleasant Green UMC.

The classes are "Introduction to Lay Ministry--Basic", and "Called to Preach". Advance registration and information on the course book can be found at: <https://corridoristrictnc.org/lay-servant-ministry-offerings-open/>

The 2019 Confirmand Class was welcomed

**into
our
church
family!**



Sydney Baker

Asher Nichols

Max McCurdy

Jack McCurdy



New Member Luncheon



Jack Frank



Lily Frank

*Thanks to all who saved lives
by giving blood
on July 14.*



**Pleasant Green collected
21 units of blood!**



*Thank
you to
Ed & Ian
Casker
for
manning the check-in table!*

New Corridor District Contacts:

Rev. Mike Frese: mfrese@nccumc.org

Sarah Carter: sarah.carter@nccumc.org

Corridor District Office:
corridordistrict@nccumc.org,
or phone: 919-779-9435

DID YOU KNOW??...

Starting this month, Pleasant Green UMC is expanding our ways to give. We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is also about being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and therefore, giving trends are changing with new generations. Therefore, we want to help you find a way of giving that is convenient and meets your needs. Listed below you will find three ways you may give to Pleasant Green UMC: the traditional gifts we receive in the offering plate on Sundays, online, or through text message. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC



ONLINE

www.pleasantgreenumc.org



MOBILE

**Text:
"PLEASANTGREEN"
To: 77977**



**ENVELOPE
Cash & Check**

**Pleasant Greeners lunch
with Summer Campers**

*An annual
tradition
since 1992!*



**Campers sing with Pastor
Laura on guitar, directed
by Martha Walker.**



**Michael Larbi,
Duke Divinity School
Intern was welcomed
into our church family
on Sunday, June 23.**

*Michael will begin his
ordination process
while he is a member
of PGUMC.*



report from ... **Care for Creation Meeting**

More than 75 people attended a meeting on July 15 at Binkley Baptist Church in Chapel Hill that was sponsored by the Orange and Chatham Interfaith Care for Creation coalition.

The group will be focusing on Earth Friendly Practices, Environmental Justice, Environmental Advocacy, Education, Communications, and Faith Traditions Honoring Creation.

Did you know there are five ways to achieve zero waste in your household?

- Reduce** what comes into your home
- Re-use** whenever possible.
- Re-cycle** what can't be re-used.
- Refuse** anything you don't want or need.
- Rot** (actually compost – but it's not a R word!)

Did you know a recent study of Orange County trash revealed that the average person produces 4 ½ lbs. per day of landfill trash? But 78% of landfill trash was recyclable (31%) or compostable (47%)! Just think what a difference it would make if each faith community put an emphasis on recycling and composting.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS FOR A FUN PG SUMMER!

Youth June Mission Trip to Charleston, SC

Millie Nichols, Charlotte Whitfield, Chloe Whitfield, Sara Witt, Victoria Harris, Jack Frank, Sydney Baker & Micaela DeGernaro,
Cassie Lipton & Chaperones: Andrea Harris & Michael Larbi



The Youth Group had a great time during our Mission Trip to Charleston, SC in June. We met with two other churches and were split into mixed groups. The places we served included a school and assisted living facilities. It wasn't all work. We had great times of devotion and lots of fun going to the lovely Folly Beach and a water park!

Thank you for your prayers and support.

pleasant green youth group

July Youth Retreat



The YOUTH made sandwiches & filled bags for **FOOD FOR ALL** - feeding the hungry of Orange County.





Check out the pictures of our voyage
TO MARS and BEYOND

<http://bit.ly/vbs2019pics>



VBS 2019 - 48 children attended and 25 youth & 25 adults helped!
Collections for Missions:
\$175 - Anathoth Community Garden
\$180 - OCIM Meals on Wheels
185 pounds of food for OCIM
WOW!



Commander Max McCurdy with Jack Frank, Lily Frank & Laura Fister
~ the hands & voice of EP3-20

Wendy Anderson, VBS director was presented with a thank you gift by Pastor Laura.

VBS Celebration at Worship



Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
(Ephesians 3:20)

Dance Leaders:
Millie Nichols
Chloe & Charlotte Whitfield and Sara Witt.



from the Prayer Ministry...



Our Communications Circle

Ezra 3: 11 - And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Luke 6:48 - He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock; and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock.

When we read scripture about a strong foundation, we may think it applies more aptly to our church Trustees, who are charged with maintaining the building. The words of Ezra and Luke may very well apply to the Trustees and Administrative Council but there are other foundations as well. This month, we are praying for the Communications Circle, which provides the strong foundation of maintaining relationship with God among our past and present worshippers. The Communications Circle includes the Archives and History group, led ably by Terri Leonard (Church Historian and Legacy Leader), accompanied by Jo Anna and Jane Umstead. This group preserves the materials and story of our church so that those of us today may appreciate who we are and where we have come from. We have many strong people from the past, who weathered many floods, to learn from and build on. The words from the PGUMC information brochure say it best:

For more than 180 years, since 1832, there has been a Methodist presence on this hallowed ground in Orange County. Our history is all around us. From the old trading road (some say that Francis Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop, once traveled) that runs behind the church to the Eno River, to the cemetery. As you enter the church property your feet are where the saints of old have walked. When visiting our facilities, people will often comment on how beautifully the "new" sanctuary addition mirrors the "old chapel", a seamless fit, as it were. This is an interesting observation. Actually it was not seamless at all. It was the powerful result of a carefully devised, intentional compromise. It was a plan which embraced our past while keeping an eye toward the future. And that is where we find ourselves, in a between time, other-wise known as the present-time which links our past with our future. With our rich history comes the realization that we are responsible to leave a legacy for those who will follow us, a legacy of faith in Jesus Christ, a legacy of Christian community, and a legacy of living out the mandates of the gospel. All our history points us to a tremendous future. All we need do is be faithful to the present.

That is where our Audio/Video Ministry picks up. Mike Quinn is the Chair. On Sundays and other times during the week, you can see Mike Quinn, Larry Flannery, Ceil Matthews, John Micol, Jim Perry or Sheila Cook working the controls in the sound booth to make sure our liturgists, pastor, and choir are heard. At other times, they set up the microphones for special events, helping everyone present hear what is said, sung, or played. Trouble-shooting audio-visual equipment glitches is another of their specialties. Their ministry goes beyond the walls of the church; for this group records the Sunday services and burns them on DVDs for distribution to our homebound members. Is there a better way to be faithful to the present, using the technologies of today to strengthen the spiritual foundations of our members today and tomorrow? Let us pray...

Dear Great Communicator, the One who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, the One who teaches us that the strengths of the past is a foundation for our relationship with you today and tomorrow. Please bless the members of the Communications Circle and their families. Help them to know that you and we value their work and ministries. Help them to feel your presence as they fulfill the sacred responsibilities you have given them. If it is pleasing to you, give them the persistence, knowledge, wisdom, and commitment to keep building those foundations, so that people of the present and tomorrow may benefit from your compassion and planning. Amen.

Come pray with us! The Prayer Ministry meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Clyde Walker Classroom (Parlor). We pray for ministries in our church; local, state, national, and global needs; as well as the people you have entrusted to us. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30.

Look for easier to read and use prayer request cards coming soon! We want to pray for you and people/situations you feel need prayer. Please complete the cards in the pews, being sure to include your name and contact information. A member of the Prayer Ministry will reach out to you on a monthly basis to hear how God is working and whether or not you want us to continue praying for the people and situations you listed on the prayer request card.



**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, Middle & High Schools.

Please return by August 18th.

**Eleanor Walker Circle
Monday, August 5 at 7:00 pm**



Corridor District UMW Sister to Sister Event
Ice Cream Social at 6:30 pm ~ Program at 7:00 pm
Economic Inequality in our Communities
Friday, August 9 at Mt. Sylvan UMC

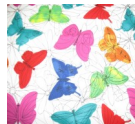
**Wednesday, August 14 - 6:30 pm
Worship Committee**

**Circle of Faith ~ Thursday, August 15
6:30 pm at George Ann's**



**Prayer Team Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday, August 21**

**Common Thread
A Ministry to Comfort the Dying
Saturday, August 24 at 9:30am.**



**Dream Weavers Circle
7:00 pm— Tuesday, August 27**

Pleasant Greeners' Lunch

Wednesday, August 28 at NOON

**Lunch provided! Please come and enjoy
food, fun and fellowship!**

Program: World Relief Durham

The goal of World Relief Durham is to work with refugees, the Church, and community partners to help refugees integrate and thrive in the Triangle. As a Christian organization, we believe the Church has a particular responsibility to work on behalf of vulnerable

**Congregations for
Children Summit**

Aug 10

Edenton Street UMC

Raleigh ~ 10am - 2:30pm

Congregations For Children (C4C) is a state-wide initiative of The United Methodist Church focused on reflecting the love of Christ to our "neighbors" by helping children in public schools who are living in poverty.

Please see full program details, guest speaker bios and registration instructions on the "Annual Summit" page of the C4C website www.nccc4c.org.



***The Baptism of Caroline Paige Clark,
daughter of Sara & Michael Clark,
sister of Carly Ann,
granddaughter of Debbie & Steven Collins and
great-granddaughter of Elaine Flannery
was celebrated on Sunday, July 7.***

HELP NEEDED!

If you have a few extra minutes, there are many areas around our beautiful church that need weeding!
Start anytime / anywhere!



Also new timbers are needed in the rose garden.
Please call the church office if you can help!



Request from Farmer Cindy... Firefly Farm would like any unwanted vases, Mason jars, or other glass jars/objects to put flower arrangements in to sell at the Farmers market. Please leave any donations in the Narthex.






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

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Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org
Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339
lthompson@nccumc.org
Director of Youth Ministry-Courtney Sanford
courtney.d.sanford@duke.edu

 Please recycle this newsletter. 




9:15 - Gathering and Breakfast
9:30 - Sunday School
Study of the "Art of Neighboring"
10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary

On Hillsborough's LAST FRIDAYS – come by and see us at the Orange County United Methodist Churches booth!




Miss Ruby's Vaudeville Follies is pleased to bring a super entertaining Fund-Raiser to benefit our very own Orange County Relay for Life. This Family-Focused performance will be held on the beautiful vintage stage at **Paramount Theater** in Burlington located at 128 E Front Street on **Friday, August 2nd from 7pm - 9pm.**

This ensemble cast brings Singing, Dancing, Juggling, Magic, Side-Show Feats, Comedy, Audience Sing-Alongs, Balloon Fun, Audience Participation and much more to entertain ... all for a great cause!
 \$10 - general admission, \$7 - children -6/adults 60+
 Tickets available online through Paramount Theater and EventBrite. <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/12794>
 Or call (800) 514-3849




RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM & PEDIATRIC UNIT AT DUKE HOSPITAL
Help family members & their children while at the hospital!

FAMILY NEEDS:	CHILDREN NEEDS:
<i>Travel toiletries</i>	<i>New / Gently used clothing</i>
<i>Shower caps</i>	<i>Sizes (Premie – 18 yrs.)</i>
<i>Men deodorant,</i>	<i>T-shirts, Comfy pants</i>
<i>shaving cream</i>	<i>Socks, Underwear</i>
<i>Women feminine products</i>	<i>Any Boy outfits/Girl dresses</i>
<i>Individual snacks</i>	




Please turn in Afterschool Applications 2019 / 2020



Celebrating the beginning of the 29th year of PGUMC Afterschool!

Website: pleasantgreenumc.org for more info



All Invited!
5:00pm ~ Sunday, August 18th
St. Mary's Chapel 67th Homecoming
Location: the corner of Schley & St. Mary's Rds

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. Regular services were discontinued in the 1930's. An annual "Homecoming Day" has been observed for the last sixty-six years.

Mark Your Calendar - HOME COMING - Sunday, September 15th
Pleasant Green United Methodist Church - 186th Anniversary Homecoming