



# Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

January 2016



### ***Beginnings***

***By Dr. Jesse Brunson***

Life is filled with endings and beginnings; the birth of a child as compared to the death of a family member or friend; the budding career of a young and gifted professional compared to the retirement of a long and lustrous career of a beloved coworker. These are just a few examples of endings and beginnings.

This brings me to my real point, the ending of 2015 and the beginning of 2016. My, oh my, where have the time and days gone! It seems as if it were yesterday that we were greeting the beginning of 2015, but now we bid it farewell.

The year has gone so quietly and quickly, but now we must wait to see what this New Year will bring. As one that attempts to be proactive, I would like to address this New Year not with resolutions, but with inspiration. As we remember the words recorded in Genesis 1, ***“in the beginning was the word.”*** This word is also inscribed in John’s account of the Gospel as ***“in the beginnings was the word.”***

In this example the word is the ***Word of God*** or in the Greek, logos. The word logos simply stated means reason, logic, inspiration. Therefore, as we begin this New Year of 2016, I want to begin our worship year by preaching a series of sermons under the title ***“Beginnings.”*** I am looking forward to what God will give us in this sermon series, as well as to the direction he will take us into the New Year.

Also, as our Sunday school makes some adjustment, I will not teach a Sunday school class each Sunday. Rather I will focus my teaching on special classes for new members or for parents who wish their child to be baptized. I will, however, continue the Wednesday morning Bible Study and encourage those of you who can to attend.

God bless us Pleasant Green as we start this 2016 year together.

***Pastor Jesse***

**The Connectional Table meets on  
January 23rd at 9:00 am  
to plan for 2016. (breakfast provided)**

***Please Attend! We need everyone’s ideas  
and perspectives as we plan key goals and  
activities for the upcoming church year.***

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**The 2016 Budget and Connectional Table  
membership list are available in the Narthex.**

### **FOOD FOR ALL**

**This ministry for the Homeless &  
Working Poor of Orange County  
Needs YOU!**



***Groups within the church are encouraged to  
sponsor a FOOD FOR ALL night once a year  
and to also have a representative on our  
church FOOD FOR ALL committee.***

***Please sign up in the Narthex or contact  
the church office to help.***

**Mark your calendar now! Annual Conference 2016 ~ June 16-18 in Greenville, NC**



From the Prayer Team...

## Learning, Using and Praying

As we prepare to start a new year, many begin to think of making resolutions. Never one for making resolutions and certainly not keeping them, I prefer to focus on epiphany: "a revealing scene or moment or an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure." While I listened to a homily last week at a ceremony for interns who had just completed 3 ½ months of clinical pastoral education at Duke University Hospital, I had a moment of discovery.

I think we put too much emphasis on setting goals or making resolutions. According to one poll, the most common reason for participants failing their New Years' Resolutions was setting themselves unrealistic goals (35%), while 33% didn't keep track of their progress and a further 23% forgot about it. About one in 10 respondents claimed they made too many resolutions. That homily focused on reminding the interns to remember what they had learned and use it. The good, the bad, the happy and the sad makes us who we are and remembering helps us to be better at what we do. It is good to learn and to continue.

So often when we focus on the New Year, we forget what we have learned. We try to forget the bad and sad; but both are a part of who we are. As we enter the New Year, remember how we got to this moment. Remember that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus and that Epiphany reminds us of his divinity. As we move further into the Christian year, remember the things we have learned and use them. Remember that God is with us and pray for His guidance in all that we do.

Epiphany, also commonly known as Twelfth Night, is one of the oldest Christian feasts -- Epiphany has been celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. January 6, which is 12 days after Christmas in the Gregorian calendar, marks not only the end of the Christmas holidays but also the start of the Carnival season, which climaxes with Mardi Gras. It commemorates the first two occasions on which Jesus' divinity, according to Christian belief, was manifested: when the three wise men visited the infant Jesus in Bethlehem, and when John the Baptist baptized him in the River Jordan.

The star that guided the wise men to Christ also symbolizes Epiphany, as well as the three gifts they gave to Jesus: 1) Gold (fit for a king), 2) Frankincense (used to worship at a temple), and 3) Myrrh (used for embalming, as well as a salve for irritations such as diaper rash).

### January Prayer Ministry Meeting

The January 2016 meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 20th at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church activities, church and extended family members; and, local, national and global issues. We will also talk about how the beginnings of visitation to those who are home-bound went. Come join us! In the meantime, check out the Prayer Ministry bulletin board above the prayer letters table in the hallway, leading to the Fellowship Hall. Sign the prayer letters under the bulletin board. Signing a letter means you commit to pray for that person at least once during the week. Did you know that even though you don't know the person, he or she is so grateful that you care!

**Remember to fill out the yellow prayer cards found in the pews to request prayer for those in need.**

Dear Friends,

The love and support shown to Al & me during my illness has been overwhelming. Thank you seems so inadequate to convey appreciation for the prayers, cards, visits and food. Having a caring church family is wonderful anytime, but it is especially meaningful during times like this.



I'm happy to report that I'm noticing that I get a little stronger each day. Hopefully, it won't be long before I'm able to be physically present at church! After all, it's Advent and my favorite time of the church year. Thank you again for everything. Al & I will never forget the limitless caring and kindness extended to us as we've traveled this scary road. In Christian Love, *Wanda Edens*

Dear Congregants,

Thank you so much for your kind prayers. I'm much improved, walking a lot each day and volunteering at Cameron Park and Grady Brown. Many Blessings to you, dear friends, *Sarah Palmer*

Dear Pleasant Green,

Thank you for your prayers. The prayer letters we receive have meant so much. Please continue to pray for us.

*James & Marti Bennett*

## 2016 Leadership Training Workshops

January 30, 2016  
9 a.m.—1 p.m. at Orange UMC

Effective Meetings  
led by Rev. Dr. Tom Greener

Faith-Sharing  
led by Rev. Kathy Kirkpatrick and  
Rev. Kong Namkung

Healthy Pastor-Parish Relations  
led by Rev. Jessie Larkins and  
Rev. Jesse Brunson

Aligning and Streamlining Leadership Structure  
For Effective and Fruitful Ministry  
led by Dr. Christine Harman

Communications: External and Internal  
led by Maggie Ivancic and Jacob Blount

Rethinking Sunday School  
led by Mitzi Johnson

Sustainable Financial Management & Planning  
led by Rev. Reggie Ponder

## Thanks United Methodist Men!

Jim Crawford presented a \$7000 check  
from the UMM to the church to help  
with mortgage payments.

20 Units  
Collected on  
December 6!

Thank You from the  
American Red Cross and  
the patients who depend  
on your efforts!



Van McCay &  
Mike Brogden  
delivered  
892 pounds of  
food to OCIM  
on 12/16/15!  
(Thanks to the  
Cook Family  
elves!)

**Thanks to Jeff & Vic Witt for constructing a new swing to replace an old one in the church playground!**

*From Project Bountiful...*

## Values and Visions

Our next focus from Project Bountiful is to identify our Pleasant Green values and vision for the next five years. Values are lasting, stable, underlying, important beliefs and principals that we use to guide our lives, actions and Pleasant Green ministries. Some examples of values may be: Jesus' teachings are the center of all we do; people of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities are welcomed; everyone needs to be loved, included and respected; Pleasant Green is an integral part of the community. There are many, many more. What do you think are the core values of Pleasant Green UMC? Jot down your thoughts on the easel papers located in the Fellowship Hall.

The second step is to answer the question: If you took a magic carpet ride over our church and community in five years; what would you see? What images would be visible that show we are helping to create disciples? Church members tutoring school children? Our Sunday school classes full? Pleasant Green providing space for community civic groups? What is your vision for our church and community in five years? In the Fellowship Hall, there will be separate easel papers for you to write your snapshots of our church in 5 years.

The papers in the Fellowship Hall will be up all through December. Sunday School teachers for classes of all ages and committee facilitators, perhaps you can spend a few minutes in your classes and groups discussing values and visions. Your groups may even want to draw small pictures, instead of using words! Be sure to keep a record of what you discuss! Turn them into Andrea Harris, Pastor Jesse or Gail Pruett by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Time line for Project Bountiful activities:

**Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>:** deadline for values and visions of Pleasant Green church

**Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm:** Project Bountiful Home Team – develop our covenant and discuss our values and visions.

**Friday and Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>:** Project Bountiful Retreat in Sanford.

**Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm:** next coaching meeting (with coach, Rich Greenway)

**Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Connectional Table - Discussion of our values and vision.



# pleasant green youth group



## January Youth Calendar

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

Contact Ali DeLeo for more information: 202-744-6440 or [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)

### Youth News & Upcoming Events

**ELEVATE** ~ Sundays 5:00–7:30pm ~ January 10 - 31

To sign up for dinner, please let Ali know or go to the doodle poll at <http://doodle.com/poll/ssknxhec9ifqri49>

**PARENTS** – I would like to schedule a meeting with you all in January to check in, talk about future plans (the Youth have a great wish-list of things to do!), and get your insights on Youth Ministry at Pleasant Green. Possible dates: Sun. Jan 10 ~ 1-3pm; Mon. Jan 11 ~ 7-9pm or Sat Jan 16 ~ 8-10am or 12-2pm. Please let me know your availability before Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> ([alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com) or 202-744-6440)

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Party** - February 9th - fun for the whole church family!  
Pancakes and sausage dinner, games for all ages!

**30 Hour Famine** – Friday-Saturday, February 26-27; service projects and lock-in sleep at PGUMC

**Relay for Life Orange County**– Friday, May 6 – Ryan Montgomery for more details ([ryanm921@gmail.com](mailto:ryanm921@gmail.com))

### 2016 Confirmation Class

Are you 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Grader? If so, you are old enough to take the UMC Confirmation Class and join as a full member of Pleasant Green UMC!

We will be using the UMC curriculum “Creedo” – each student will receive a Confirmation Journal, which we will use to guide our discussions

We will begin the week of January 17<sup>th</sup> and the Confirmands will join Pleasant Green on Pentecost Sunday (May 15<sup>th</sup>)

What day and time works for your youth (and your family)? Based on your feedback, we will schedule the classes. PLEASE LET ME OR JOANNA KNOW (by January 10<sup>th</sup>) WHAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU!

If you have questions, please email Ali ([alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com) or call 202-744-6440)

### Thanks to the Youth!

- ~ Food For All on December 9th
- ~ for setting up the luminarias on Christmas Eve



### Fun Christmas Caroling



with 30 Pleasant Green Carolers!



Thanks to Santa (Ryan Montgomery) for caroling with us!



### *Come to the Manger*

Shepherds watch on a hill, on a starry night oh so still.  
Standing in a holy land, never heard a choir quite so grand.  
And the angels will sing, and the angels will sing,  
Come to the manger. Come to the manger.  
Come to the manger see the hope of the world.

From the east riding far, to Bethlehem's rising star.  
Wise men riding through the night, travel seeking heaven's  
holy light.

And the angels will sing, and the angels will sing,  
Come to the manger. Come to the manger.  
Come to the manger see the face of the king.

Seeking now on this day, look to the star to find the way.  
Children looking for the king, listen for the choir to sing.  
And the angels will sing, and the angels will sing,  
Come to the manger. Come to the manger.  
Come to the manger, see the lamb of God.

And the angels will sing, and the angels will sing.  
Come to the manger. Come to the manger.  
Come to the manger, Emmanuel.  
Come to the manger, God with us.

*Written by Dave Cook and sung at Christmas Eve Service  
by the Praise Band (arrangement by T C Adams)*

### **Human Relations Day Offering Sunday, January 17**



Honor the Christ-child and make a difference in someone's life!  
Just as the Magi honored the Christ child with gifts, we honor the Savior by sharing with others.

One way is by giving a special Christmas contribution to Human Relations Day offering. This offering helps church-based community developers work in racial- and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. It also ensures a second chance for youth offenders.

**Changing the world, one life at a time.**

*The 1972 General Conference established Human Relations Day to "recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other." Every one of God's children deserves justice and equality. Every one of God's children deserves to open doors to success.*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

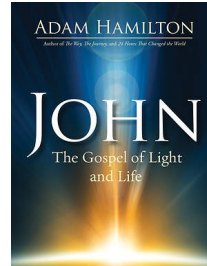
**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

### **2016 Mission Trip Planning Meeting**

There will be a meeting for all persons interested in going to El Salvador in 2016 after the 11:00AM church service on January 17th. We will be setting the date of the Mission trip, determining fund raisers and dates for fund raisers, and try to answer any questions that may be asked. Please bring a covered dish so that we can eat lunch as we are meeting. This way we will not be in a hurry and can take time to complete all tasks. If you have questions and/or wish to go on the El Salvador Mission trip but cannot attend the meeting please contact Kathryn Dempsey at [katjoyforall@gmail.com](mailto:katjoyforall@gmail.com).



### **Join Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 am!**



The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name." You can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.  
**\*Study begins on Wednesday, January 20.**



### **Youth Sunday, November 22**

The Youth presented Bibles  
to the 3rd & 4th graders

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Sydney Baker  | Jack Frank      |
| Lily Frank    | Collin Johnson  |
| Naomi Fister  | Elise Freburger |
| Hannah Bell   | Jackson McCurdy |
| Asher Nichols | Sarah Bell      |

### **The Children's Choir sang "Jesus Loves Me"**





## Thank you to Pleasant Green's Acolytes & Cross Bearers

Pleasant Green United Methodist Church recognizes the valuable contribution our acolytes & cross bearers bring to our worship services each Sunday.

We thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment to service.

*"Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded people that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the place where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is with us at home, at school and at work, as well as in the worship service. Lighted candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Many people like to think of the two candles on or beside the Lord's table as reminders that*

*Christ is both human and divine. The acolyte leaves the worship service carrying the lighted candlelighter which symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve". (Worship Matters: UM Guide to Worship Work, Vol. II by E. Bryan Anderson).*



## Common Thread

### *A Ministry to Comfort the Dying*



"Common Thread" is a ministry of compassion whose goal is to provide happy, colorful butterfly pillowcases to those dying in hospice, nursing homes and in their own homes.

***The next Common Thread workday is  
Saturday, November 21 at 9:30am.***

***We will need hands to measure, cut,  
pin and sew! Please come!***

## \* Pleasant Green Church News \*

The church newsletter ought to be about and by the church folk. This is an open announcement to any one who might like to write an article of interest for the newsletter for the next issue, or any issue. Please contact the church office anytime **before** the "newsletter deadline". Don't put it off. Without your articles there will be no news!



**Some things do not change!  
*This notice was copied from a  
1975 Pleasant Green Newsletter.***

## Books you can find in the Pleasant Green Library

***The parlor is now a gathering space, a meeting room ... and a library.***

If you enjoyed the novel The Shack, you might like Cross Roads by the same author. A cerebral hemorrhage leaves a successful self-made and self-centered business man in a coma in ICU. But he still has a chance to make choices to redeem the many mistakes he has made in his life.

If you loved "The Sound of Music" and watched the programs celebrating the 50th anniversary of the movie, you might enjoy reading Maria von Trapp's book on her personal research into the life of Christ, research that undergirded her steadfast faith.

If you have been following the discussions about whether a statue of the Rev. Billy Graham should eventually replace the statue of Gov. Aycock as a NC representative at a statue collection in Washington, DC, you might enjoy reading Graham's autobiography Just As I Am.

If you admire the simple lifestyle of the Amish and their ability to demonstrate great forgiveness, you might enjoy using Amish Prayers by Beverly Lewis in your devotions.

If you have wondered why some parents won't let their children read or watch the Harry Potter books and movies while other parents are thrilled that their children will read very long books with enthusiasm, you might be interested in reading Looking for God in Harry Potter by an author who finds much Christian meaning in the best-selling novels.

**Thanks to Janice Nicholson for organizing our church library!**

*Borrowing books is on the honor system; there is no check-out procedure to follow.*

## PGUMC Kid's Worship Volunteers Needed!



Two volunteers, a leader and assistant leader, are needed for each Sunday at 11am. Everyone has an important role in our children's Christian education and spiritual growth.

*from our District Superintendent...*

We want to include your stories, photos, events, and information in the **Corridor Connector** for the strengthening of the Church! Send this information to [jlarkins@nccumc.org](mailto:jlarkins@nccumc.org). We would especially love to share the stories of how your missional networks are working together to reach a new generation of disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Contact information:**

**Corridor District Superintendent**

Rev. Carol Goehring [cgoehring@nccumc.org](mailto:cgoehring@nccumc.org);  
919-799-9435, ext 383

**Assistant DS: Rev. Jessie Larkins**

[jlarkins@nccumc.org](mailto:jlarkins@nccumc.org); 919-779-9435, ext 393



**All Ladies Invited!**

**Baby Shower**

***for Sara Collins Clark***

**Sunday, January 31  
3- 4 pm ~ Parlor**



# Advent & Christmas at Pleasant Green



**Thanks to all who helped decorate for Christmas!**



**The youth tell the children about our Chrismon Tree. Gloria Perry presents the Star Chrismon from Carr UMC to PGUMC.**

**All ages helped make items to sell at the Mission Market!  
~ \$ 3644 was collected for missions ~**



**Gloria Perry receives a Special Recognition Pin from Ceil Matthews.**

**The UMW Christmas Dinner was a beautiful celebration — thanks to Martha Walker!**





*Christmas Concert & Children's Nativity*



**Roasting marshmallows!**







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



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**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)

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


**Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry-**  
**Alison DeLeo: [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)**

Address Service Requested

 Please recycle this newsletter. 

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

**Brunswick Stew still available ~ \$9 a quart**




**Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project**

**Coffee** - decaf & regular ground - \$8 per bag

**Chocolate Bars** - \$2.50


Dark Chocolate with Almonds ~ Caramel Crunch  
 Mint ~ Orange ~ Dark Chocolate—65% and 80%  
 Milk Chocolate with hazelnut ~ Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch

*This fair trade economic model provides opportunities for churches to support a system that nurtures, rather than diminishes, God's vision of abundant life. UMCOR's partner is the employee owned fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.*



**Mission / Vision Statement**

Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



~ Sunday, February 7 ~

**FREE TAX HELP**

**February — April 15**

[www.orangecountyvita.org](http://www.orangecountyvita.org)

You can now make your appointment online.

*VITA is a free tax service for clients of any age or county of residence with low to moderate income. Free tax preparation and e-filing are provided by trained IRS-certified tax volunteers.*